

Whealdon wins Grand Champions; Tennant takes title No. 9

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — It was “rally time” on the golf course Saturday at the Astoria Golf & Country Club, on the final day of action in the 105th annual Oregon Coast Invitational.

One rally fell a bit short in the Women’s division, but another came up big time in the Grand Champions.

When all was said and done, Lara Mack Tennant walked away with her ninth Women’s title, while Jack Whealdon made it 2-for-2 in both of his Coast appearances.

After rallying from 3-down to win a semifinal Friday, Tennant lost a 5-up lead to Amanda Jacobs in the afternoon round of the Women’s championship flight final, but won on the 37th hole after Jacobs had rallied to tie.

Whealdon was 5-down to Riley Elmes in Saturday’s afternoon round, pulled even with a putt on the 29th hole, then went 1-up with three holes remaining and held on for the championship.

Whealdon last won the Coast Invitational in 2012, his only other appearance.

It was Tennant’s first OCI championship since 2010.

“It’s been a while,” she said. “I don’t even know how many I’ve won (nine). They all mean a lot. It’s hard to win a golf tournament, and so whenever you win one, you have to cherish it and be thankful for it.”

She added, “It’s always fun to win this tournament, but it’s more fun just having my family caddy for me, and watching and cheering everybody else on,” said Tennant, whose sisters (Cappy and Renee), father (George) and extended family have something over 20 Coast Invitational Championships. “That’s really what the week is about. Winning is a bonus.”

She almost didn’t make it to Saturday. She was 3-down after 13 holes in Friday’s semifinal against Ale Kirakossian.

Tennant won that match, and was 2-up after Saturday’s first 18 holes against Jacobs. The lead eventually reached 5-up.

After that, “Amanda had

four or five birdies on the back side,” Tennant said. “I was getting pars, and she was getting birdies, and I just kept saying to myself ‘just keep paring out,’ and things will go my way. She tied it up going into 16, and we tied 16, 17 and 18 with pars (both hitting nice third shots).”

Replaying the 18th hole, Tennant was able to make a short putt to close out the win — ironic, because she had missed a similar putt last year, giving the title to Jacobs.

“I just tried to stay shot-by-shot, and not think about the past,” Tennant said. “There’s been lots of times I’ve won on 18. Last year, I happened to lose on 18. I just tried to put a good stroke on it this time, and hope that it goes in.”

Whealdon wins second title
The men’s Grand Championship ended shortly before the Women’s match, with Whealdon closing it out on the 35th hole, when Elmes missed a putt.

Elmes was 5-up after the morning round and maintained a 3-up lead through 26 holes, before Whealdon’s consistent play finally caught up with Elmes, who had six birdies in the morning round.

Elmes golfs out of the Oregon Golf Club and will compete for Loyola Marymount University this fall.

In the afternoon round, “we tied (holes) one, two and three, and four was the first hole I won on the second 18,” Whealdon said. “I didn’t have any bogeys on the second 18. I knew there were a lot of holes still to play. I was hitting good putts on the first 18 — they just weren’t dropping. I knew it would even out, and I would make a few on the back. Fortunately enough, I got a few to go.”

Including one on the 11th hole (29th overall) to tie, and he made another tough shot five holes after that, on the 16th fairway.

“On 16 I drove it a little left and hit the cart path, and it ended up on the lip of the bunker, so I had a real funny lie, with one foot in and one foot out of the bunker,” he said. “I hit it to about five feet below the hole, which was a pretty decent shot. That was my best shot of the day.”

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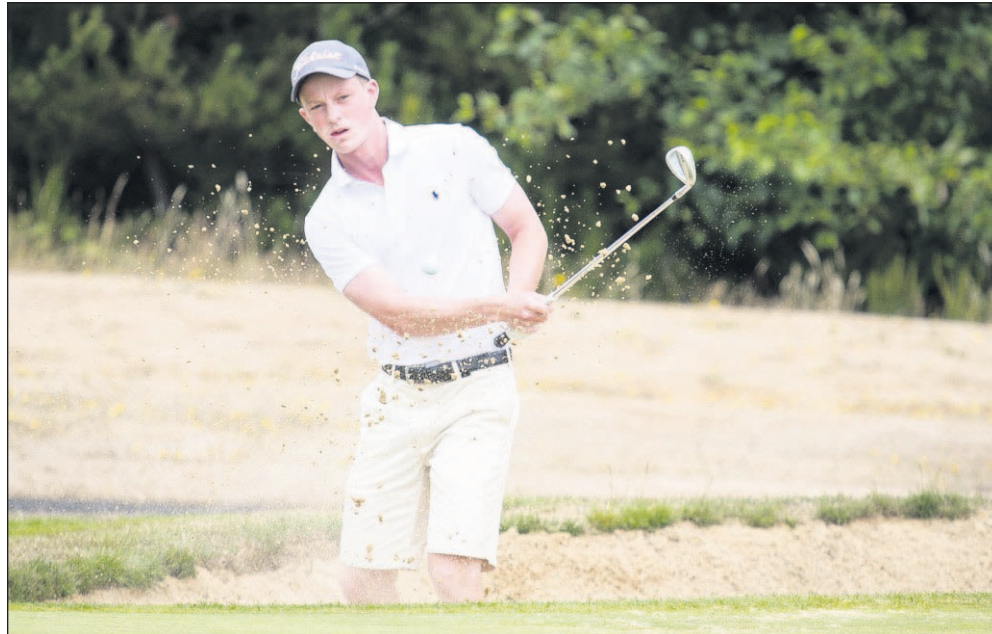
Saturday’s 35 holes of golf for Whealdon came one day after going 22 to defeat Harrison Moir in the semifinals. Moir had earlier qualified for this year’s U.S. Open Sectionals, and still has hopes of making the University of Oregon golf team as a walk-on.

“I walked yesterday’s round, and I knew I’d be playing 36 today, so I decided to take a cart,” Whealdon said of Saturday’s final. “Then I kind of got the adrenaline going on the back to keep me going.”

Whealdon will compete in the upcoming Tacoma Open (Sept. 11-13), and may not be back at the Coast Invitational next year. Turning professional may be an option in his near future.

However, “If I stay amateur, I’ll definitely be playing this tournament every year,” he said.

The day wasn’t a complete



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jack Whealdon chips a shot out of a bunker on the fourth hole during the Oregon Coast Invitational Saturday at the Astoria Country Club.

loss for the Elmes family.

Riley’s father, Matt, scored his first championship flight victory in 28 years, as he downed Bill Winter, 3 & 2, in Saturday’s final of the Junior Seniors division. The elder Elmes, who golfed for Seaside High School, won the Grand

Champions in 1987.

Elmes hit a few big shots early in the match, then maintained a 2-up lead through most of the round.

He finished the match in fine style, draining a 25-foot putt on the 16th hole.

In the Seniors division, Michael Healy of Columbia Edge-water defeated Tom Mullfur in the finals of the championship flight; and Astoria Golf’s David Vistica got past Larry Wobbrock in the title match in the Super Seniors division.

SCOREBOARD

GOLF	
Oregon Coast Invitational at Astoria Golf & Country Club	
Finals	
Grand Champions Championship Flight	
Championship: Jack Whealdon def. Riley Elmes, 1-up. Semifinals: Whealdon def. Harrison Moir; Elmes def. Jamie Sumner.	
First Flight	Christiaan Thorne def. Pat Wood. Semifinals: Wood def. Mark Murphy; Thorne def. Taylor Swingle.
Second Flight	Connor Jetton def. Mike Maltman. Semifinals: Jetton def. A.J. Shepard; Maltman def. Ian Kelly.
Third Flight	Scott Burke def. Robert Johnson. Semifinals: Johnson def. Nick Wobbrock; Burke def. Spencer Sutherland.
Fourth Flight	Jeff Jetton def. Austin Teague. Semifinals: Jetton def. Jason Palmberg; Teague def. Kerry Balfour.
Fifth Flight	Nick Ralston def. Doug Trainer. Semifinals: Ralston def. Maxwell Krieger; Trainer def. Daniel Sturgell.
Women’s Championship Flight	Lara Mack Tennant def. Amanda Jacobs, 37th. Semifinals: Tennant def. Ale Kirakossian; Jacobs def. Megan Roos.
First Flight	Mary Jacobs def. Mary Swingle. Semifinals: Swingle def. Helene Mayer; Jacobs def. Nancy Holmes.
Second Flight	Wanda Osgood def. Beth Jackman. Semifinals: Osgood def. Joey Ringwald; Jackman def. Melissa Larson.
Third Flight	Karen Hoffman def. Kathy Martin. Semifinals: Hoffman def. Victoria Taylor; Martin def. Lori Petersen.
Fourth Flight	Barbara Mayer def. Leslie Bickmore. Semifinals: Bickmore def. Robin Endres; Mayer def. Sandy Redding.
Fifth Flight	Sherry McNamara def. Penney Stephenson. Semifinals: McNamara def. Pat Fuller; Stephenson def. Sue Ann Bearden.
Junior Seniors Championship Flight	Matt Elmes def. Bill Winter II. Semifinals: Elmes def. Jack Cartwright; Winters II def. James Titus.
First Flight	Doug Edwards def. Allan LaPlante. Semifinals: Edwards def. Tom Heckler; LaPlante def. Bob Knutsen.
Second Flight	Steve Fordney def. Mike Ralston. Semifinals: Fordney def. Mark Tyler; Ralston def. Andy Songer.
Third Flight	Tony Peterson def. Wes Lariviere. Semifinals: Lariviere def. Rick Campbell; Peterson def. Jesse French.
Fourth Flight	James Jackman def. Bob Patton. Semifinals: Jackman def. Greg Hope; Patton def. Michael McNamara.
Fifth Flight	David Ellis def. Brian Pienovi. Semifinals: Pienovi def. Peter McGuire; Ellis def. Scott Hoodenpyle.
Sixth Flight	Patrick Regan def. Skip Nau. Semifinals: Nau def. Steve Roos; Regan def. Carl Mark.
Seventh Flight	Paul Driscoll def. Tim Regan. Semifinals: Driscoll def. Michael Greco; Regan def. Jim Franklin.
Seniors Championship Flight	Michael Healy def. Tom Mullfur. Semifinals: Mullfur def. Joe Vaughan; Healy def. Rick Abrahamson.
First Flight	Bill Bristol def. David Nygaard. Semifinals: Nygaard def. Nick Gray; Bristol def. Bob Dickey.
Second Flight	Chris Devich def. Edward Sims. Semifinals: Devich def. Buzz Campion; Sims def. Stephen Cummins.
Third Flight	Harold Buell def. Rick Nelson. Semifinals: Buell def. Scott Ehlen; Nelson def. Robert Tennant.
Fourth Flight	Jim Whittemore def. John Savage. Semifinals: Savage def. Anthony Rennie; Whittemore def. O.T. Millisap.
Fifth Flight	Phillip Patton def. John Shepherd, Jr. Semifinals: Patton def. Dan Whealdon; Shepherd, Jr. def. Joseph Benda.
Sixth Flight	Mike Capri def. John Pyle. Semifinals: Pyle def. John Cole; Capri def. Mike Barr.
Seventh Flight	Robert Hubbard def. John Mayer. Semifinals: Mayer def. Paul Kirkland; Hubbard def. Bill Replogle.
Super Seniors Championship Flight	David Vistica def. Larry Wobbrock. Semifinals: Vistica def. Jeff Leinassar; Wobbrock def. Roger Stalick.
First Flight	George Mack, Sr. def. Steve Ariens. Semifinals: Ariens def. Tom Carter; Mack, Sr. def. Joe Patrick.
Second Flight	Russ Taggard def. Bill Weed. Semifinals: Weed def. Louis Libby; Taggard def. Mike Kuratli.
Third Flight	Jon Woodson def. Lang Bates. Semifinals: Bates def. Michael Whitty, Sr.; Woodson def. Bobby McAlinden.
Fourth Flight	Jim Putterbaugh def. Fred Hamel. Semifinals: Hamel def. Marshall Gleason; Putterbaugh def. Dan Ryan.
Fifth Flight	Dale Lumpkin def. Peter Goforth. Semifinals: Lumpkin def. Roy Latham; Goforth def. Larry Veltman.
Sixth Flight	Mike Furrer def. Craig Johnson. Semifinals: Johnson def. Nick Staropoli; Furrer def. Ron Marena.
Seventh Flight	Garry Kahn def. Chuck Martin. Semifinals: Kahn def. Albert Carder; Martin def. Frank Bearden.
Eighth Flight	Bob Kaczor def. Rick Williams. Semifinals: Williams def. Miles Sweeney; Kaczor def. Stephen Moore.
Ninth Flight	Tim Doherty def. Jerry Briggs. Semifinals: Briggs def. John McLoughlin; Doherty def. David Lum.

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