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Six new champs in Coast Invitational

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

WARRENTON — It was some sort of record Saturday at the Astoria Golf & Country Club, where six first-time champions were crowned in all six divisions of the Oregon Coast Invitational.

Pretty impressive, considering the annual tournament has been around since 1910.

A few previous champions came close to winning again, but all came up short in Saturday's championship flight finals.

A few of the new champions had waited a long time for their titles, including Super Senior winner Gaylord Davis and Women's Seniors champ Mary Jacobs.

The men's Seniors champion, Tom Mulflur, avenged a tough loss to his opponent of two years ago to win Saturday's final, while Jim Alder of Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club was a first-time champion in the Junior/Seniors division.

Twenty-year-old Jon Holzgang of Tigard had a big week on the North Coast. He earned medalist honors in the qualifying round a week earlier in the Grand Champions division, then won the match play title Saturday against former champ Anthony Arvidson.

And the third time was the charm for 33-year-old Gretchen Johnson, who had the feel-good victory of the tournament, winning the Women's title over 11-time champion Lara Tennant after coming close the last two years.

"This is my third year playing in (the OCI)," said Johnson, who trailed for most of Saturday's match with Tennant. "I was medalist and got to the finals my first year, and couldn't quite close the door. And last year, I was up in the semis and in a good position, but couldn't close it out. This year I was fortunate enough to come out on top."

She held a 1-up lead through the first three holes, before Tennant pulled even on the fourth, then led (by as much as 3-up) for the remainder of the morning round.

Johnson trimmed her deficit to 1-down over the first six holes of the afternoon round, and the two were even for most of holes 25 through 30.

Johnson took a 1-up lead on the 13th hole (31st overall), but nearly lost it on the 16th.

Tennant's second shot rolled within feet of the cup, while Johnson's second shot landed on the side of a sand trap.

Her shot out of the bunker was still farther away than Tennant's ball, but Johnson hit a long putt from the edge of the green, while Tennant narrowly missed her putt, leaving Johnson with her 1-up lead still intact.

Johnson hit another nice putt on 17, then was able to play the 18th safely to



Gary Henley/The Astorian
Gretchen Johnson raises her hat to the crowd, following her championship win over Lara Tennant, left. See more photos online at DailyAstorian.com/sports

end the match.

"I had two great up-and-downs on 16 and 17," Johnson said. "I had kind of a 'hanger lie' on 16 that I thought would go right, but I closed it a little bit and pugged it left," into the bunker.

"Then I hit a pretty good bunker shot, and a 20-footer for par," she said. "Then on 17 I thought I hit a great iron, but the wind pushed it over the green. I had a pretty good chip after that, then made another eight- or 10-footer."

Even Johnson had to admit, it was "pretty clutch."

Johnson has been clutch the last two weeks, after scoring a win over Amanda Jacobs in the final of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association's mid-amateur tournament, held at Arrowhead Golf Club in Molalla.

"I was fortunate enough to come out on top against my best friend (Jacobs)," Johnson said. "It's been a couple weeks of some good competition."

Johnson used a hole-in-one on the 12th hole to win in Molalla. She topped Jacobs again in a Friday semifinal to reach the title match of the Coast Invitational.

Johnson had been the runner-up the last two years of the mid-amateur event as well.

In the men's Grand Champions final, Arvidson (the 2013 OCI champion) and Holzgang traded the lead or were even for much of the morning round, before Holzgang took the lead — for good — on the 17th.

A freshman golfer last season at Northwest Christian University in

Eugene, Holzgang held leads of 2-up or 3-up for most of the afternoon round, before ending the match with a 4-up lead on the 34th hole.

In Junior/Seniors play, Alder defeated Jim Parks of Evergreen Golf for his first OCI title.

The men's Seniors championship flight was a rematch of the 2017 final between Mulflur and Astoria Golf's Bret Stevens.

Stevens won the 2017 match, which went 20 holes, and Mulflur won Saturday's rematch on the 18th.

Still, it was a good week for Stevens, who had wins over Robert Tennant and No. 1 seed Paul Gulick to reach Saturday's final.

The Super Seniors came down to a match between two Astoria Golf members, Jack Cartwright and Gaylord Davis.

Seeking his eighth overall title in the Coast Invitational, Cartwright had a big week with wins over Fred Hamel, Russ Taggard and John Lewis to reach the title match, but Davis had a better day Saturday for his first OCI championship.

Davis also had the top score (a 2-under par 70) in qualifying, then topped the No. 2 seed Cartwright in Saturday's final.

And exactly 100 years after a golfer named Frances Jacobs won the 1919 Women's championship, Mary Jacobs of Waverley Golf won the 2019 Women's Seniors title with a victory over No. 1 seed Wendy Storlie in Saturday's final.

Warriors 0-for-2 in state tourney

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

For the second day in a row, the Warrenton Warriors faced another outstanding 5A pitcher in the Junior Baseball state tournament, held Friday through Sunday in Corvallis.

After losing a 7-0, two-hitter to West Albany in the first round, the Warriors were held hitless in a 3-0 loss to host Crescent Valley in a Saturday morning contest.

Raider pitcher Ethan Jenssen struck out 14 batters, walked one and did not give up a hit in leading Crescent Valley to the consolation win.

Warrenton pitcher Austin Little gave a pretty good account of himself as well, allowing eight hits with nine strikeouts and one walk.

Crescent Valley — a quarterfinalist at the 5A level last spring — clung to a 1-0 lead through six innings before tacking on two insurance runs in the seventh.

"I think it was just a case of us running out of gas," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe. "Over the last two weeks, we were one of just a couple teams still playing. And we've got a small roster going up against some pretty good 5A programs."

All in all, he said, "I could not be happier with how the spring and summer seasons went. Would we liked to have won today? Sure. But even had we played (Sunday), my assessment of our program would still be the same."

"We've got some young players on the way who saw a lot of action this summer, and I'm real excited about the pitching we'll have back next spring," Wolfe said. "One weekend doesn't define our season. We still finished the summer 12-6, and we were playing some tough 5A programs."

Jenssen and the Raiders took a slim 1-0 lead into the seventh inning, when Jenssen led off with a bunt base hit, stole second, and scored on Noah Dewey's base hit to left.

Crescent Valley added one more run, plenty for Jenssen to close out the no-hitter.

Bulldogs 7, Warriors 0

After their successful playoff run in the spring season, the Warrenton baseball program opened the summer season playoffs with a loss to West Albany in a Friday afternoon game in Corvallis.

Three Bulldog pitchers struck out 17 batters and combined on a two-hit shutout, helping West Albany to a 7-0 win over the Warriors in a first round game of the Junior Baseball state tournament at Crescent Valley High School.

Bulldog pitchers Chase Reynolds, Wyatt Javage and Porter Phillips allowed two hits (Jake Morrow and a double by Austin Little) and walked four, but 17 of Warrenton's 21 outs were strikeouts.

The Warriors did not help themselves defensively, committing seven errors.

Warrenton starter Devin Jackson "pitched well — we just didn't help him," said Warrior coach Lennie Wolfe. "And of our 17 strikeouts, 10 were called third strikes. We did not swing the bats."

Reynolds started and pitched three innings, before giving way to Javage, who also pitched three innings. Both struck out seven.

Offensively, West Albany opened the scoring in the top of the first, putting two runners on base following a Warrior error and a single by Reynolds.

Phillips followed with a two-run double to center field, and Simon Mathios continued the two-out rally with a double to left to plate Phillips for a 3-0 lead.

In the bottom of the first, Warrenton's Gabe Breitmeyer drew a one-out walk and Breitmeyer singled to center, but Breitmeyer was thrown out at the plate on Morrow's base hit, in one of the Warriors' few scoring opportunities.

The Bulldogs tacked on a run in the third, a double by Nathan Marshall that scored Michael Cale.

Wagner gets \$54 million deal with Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Rather than hearing it through an intermediary, Bobby Wagner wanted to be told directly where he was viewed to have shortcomings.

Why his employer valued him at only a certain number. What restrictions the Seattle Seahawks faced in fitting him into their long-term plans.

None of that is easy to hear at times. But when the All-Pro middle linebacker of the Seahawks decided to handle his own contract negotiations, he knew sitting and listening — without getting emotional and upset — was going to be part of the job.

"My goal was to challenge myself and if anything I want players to leave wanting to educate themselves. Whether they want to do it themselves or have an agent, no matter what the situation is, you got to know the business and you got to educate yourself to what's in your contract, how they got there, how they got to those numbers," Wagner said on Sunday.

"I feel like there's two negotiations: there's one between the GM and the agent and there's the agent and the player, because you're not in that room. You might miss some things that's not being talked about. My thing is, how I looked at it, I didn't want them to say all the bad stuff to the agent, I wanted them to say it to my face. I could take it."

Wagner was back fully practicing with the Seahawks on Sunday, two days after finishing up his \$54 million, three-year extension with the Seahawks that on a yearly average basis makes him the highest-paid middle linebacker in the NFL.

The \$85 million, five-year deal C.J. Mosley signed with the New York Jets in the off-



AP Photo/Rick Scuteri
Bobby Wagner reacts during a game against the Arizona Cardinals.

season reset the entire market and challenged the Seahawks to create a compensation package that rewarded one of the top players in the game at his position.

The sides finally hammered out the final details on Friday, ending a long and eye-opening education for Wagner in the process of how a deal gets done.

"Being the highest-paid was dope," Wagner said drawing laughter. "It was dope but my thing was to just make sure we got a deal done and that's kind of what I was really focused on was getting a deal done and just trying to do better than the last one. In everything in life you want to be better, so I wanted to do better than my last deal and I feel like I accomplished that."

Wagner said his decision to represent himself wasn't meant to be a slight on agents and

their role in contract negotiations. But entering his third deal with Seattle, Wagner sought the challenge of learning how the system works and figuring out for himself what he wanted and how to get it done. The personal education was more important than any statement he may have been making.

"This was me trying to educate myself before I get out there in the real world and actually have some real world experience," Wagner said.

"Not everybody's going to sugarcoat stuff, not everybody's going to tell you stuff that you want to hear and you've got to be able to handle that. So that's kind of what it was for me."

One person thrilled with Wagner's contract situation being settled was coach Pete Carroll. The first two days of training camp seemed awkward with Wagner a spectator, especially the first day when he came to the practice field without his jersey. Carroll noted the distraction of the contract hanging over Wagner and said he would be eased into the start of camp.

"If a guy is going to get paid you want it to be a guy like this. He just stands for so much positive, so much good," Carroll said.

NOTES: Seattle brought back former defensive back DeShawn Shead on a one-year deal. Shead played last year with Detroit after spending his first six seasons in the league with Seattle. Shead felt he was still recovering last year from a major knee injury suffered in the 2016 playoffs with Seattle. No longer in rehab mode and with the chance to get into football shape, Shead said he feels as if he's back to his pre-injury status. "I was telling everybody this, 'I'm back home,'" Shead said. Carroll said Shead will initially work at safety, but could be used at cornerback as well.