

Get in the hole

Young golfers strive for the perfect stroke at Texas A&M's John Jacobs School of Golf

BY GRANT HAWKINS
Staff Writer

It is 6:30 a.m. and it is time to play golf. That is what 75 teen-agers are saying this week as they attend the Texas A&M John Jacobs School of Golf.

"We wake up at 6:30 and eat breakfast," Kevin Noe (a 15-year-old from Albuquerque, NM) said. "One group goes to the golf course at 7:45, and the other group goes to the range at 8:45."

A&M Men's Golf Coach Bob Ellis is the head instructor of the school which began with orientation on Sunday and runs through Friday. Ellis, along with Matt Glenn, Mic Fiengan and Primo Gonzalez, try to improve the golf game of each student individually.

"There really isn't a primary focus of the school," Ellis said. "We try to look at each student individually and improve his game. What works for one golfer isn't always going to work for another."

The students play at the University Golf Course on campus and hit balls at the driving range located next to the polo fields. It is a great chance for the students to see what they need to do to improve their game.



Golf tips from Coach Ellis ...

Three keys young golfers should concentrate on according to Texas A&M's Bob Ellis are:

- ◆ Seek out a teacher who can help you with your game.
- ◆ Three important words — PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.
- ◆ Get all the competitive experience you can by playing in many tournaments.

"We are learning more about the basic skills of golf," Noe said.

When 1:15 p.m. rolls around, after an hour of lunch, it is back to hitting golf balls for the students. Those who played in the morning, go to the range. Those who hit range balls are on the course. At 5 p.m., it is time for dinner and free time. Meetings are held at 8 p.m. where the

mental side of golf is discussed.

However, the students are not the only ones who go through a learning experience. The instructors said they learn things while teaching at the school.

"When you work with other golf instructors, you are able to increase your communication ability by learning new ways to say the same thing," Fiengan (who works as a golf instructor at the John Jacobs School of Golf in Phoenix, Ariz.) said.

The John Jacobs School of Golf was named the best golf school in the world by the *Marcus Book of Best*. A&M has the junior program for that school. Monday began the first of four consecutive weeks of instructing young golfers from all over the Southwest.

These young golfers want to be the next Justin Leonard, the next Fred Couples or the next Davis Love III. Ellis said they are learning how to believe in those dreams at the Texas A&M John Jacobs School of Golf.

"Watching a kid hit a shot he didn't think he was capable of hitting and watching his facial expression afterwards is the best part about the school," he said.



FORE! British Columbia native Nathan Beninger practices Tuesday at A&M's John Jacobs School of Golf as Bob Ellis looks on.

AGGIE SPORTS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

Canadians beat USA Baseball 8-5

The Canadian National Team used third-baseman Colin Dixon's pair of two-run doubles to stake a 8-5 victory over the USA Baseball Team. The loss dropped the Americans to 7-2 as they head into the World Championship Qualifier that begins on Wednesday, June 17.

Texas A&M pitcher Casey Fossum carries a 1.00 ERA and 1-0 record in two appearances for the Americans and A&M's John Scheschuk is batting .85 with a .500 on-base percentage for the USA team.

Palmer tees off Thursday at Open

Texas A&M golfer Ryan Palmer begins play at the U.S. Open with a Thursday Central Standard tee-time of 11:50 a.m. and a Friday tee-time of 4:10 p.m.

Palmer's group on the first day will include Gary Hallberg and Chip Beck.

On Thursday, NBC is televising the Open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with ESPN picking up the coverage from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The time slots are the same on Friday with ESPN's coverage lasting an hour later.

If Palmer makes the cut he will continue play on Saturday and Sunday.

NBC is televising the Open on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 7 p.m.



FOSSUM



PALMER

Dallas Cowboys release Tolbert

IRVING (AP) — Bad knees and a big contract have cost defensive end Tony Tolbert his job with the Dallas Cowboys.

Tolbert, who played in all 159 regular-season and playoff games of his nine-year career, was released Tuesday in a move that had been discussed for months. He had arthroscopic surgery on both knees in April and would've counted nearly \$3.5 million against the salary cap this season.

Team owner Jerry Jones said Tolbert could be back this season if his knees can handle it and if he's willing to play for less money.

"Tony has not made a decision to retire and he is still under consideration for a roster spot with the Dallas Cowboys for 1998," Jones said. "We are certainly leaving the door open for his future involvement with the club."

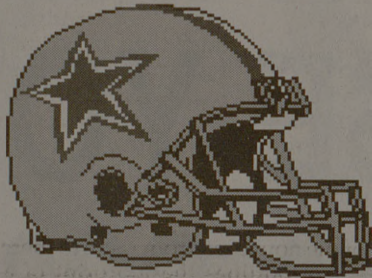
Dallas began making plans for life without Tolbert in April by choosing North Carolina's Greg Ellis with the eighth overall pick in the draft. He is the third de-

fensive end Dallas has selected with its first pick in five years.

Tolbert, 30, is the Cowboys' second high-salary, bad-health casualty of the offseason. Offensive lineman Mark Tuinei was cut in April and was also told he'd be welcomed back if he's in good enough shape and willing to take a payout.

The team said the decision was "reached in a mutual fashion." Tolbert, who seldom speaks to the media, declined releasing a statement through the team and was not immediately available for comment. A message left at the office of his agent, Jean Fugett Jr., was not immediately returned.

The 6-foot-6, 263-pound Tolbert was a fourth-round draft pick from Texas-El Paso when he joined the team in 1989 along with Troy Aikman, Daryl Johnston and Mark Stepnoski. All four went on to become Pro Bowlers and were key contributors on three Super Bowl champions this decade.



Rangers designate Witt for assignment after struggles

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Bobby Witt's poor season has finally earned him a ticket out of Arlington.

The Texas Rangers designated Witt, their most tenured player and the second-winningest pitcher in team history, for assignment Tuesday and recalled lefthander Matt Perisho to take his place.

The move means Texas has 10 days to trade, release or send Witt to the minor leagues.

Witt, 34, went 16-12 in 1996 and started 7-0 last year before stumbling to a 12-12 finish.

He looked even worse this season, struggling in nearly every outing despite his 5-4 record. His 7.66 ERA in 13 starts is the highest

among qualifying American League starters.

In Monday's 8-5 loss to Anaheim, Witt allowed six runs and eight hits over 3 1/3 innings.

Over his Rangers career, Witt was 104-104 in 276 games from 1986-92 and 1995-98. Witt is second in team history in victories, innings (1,680.2) and strikeouts (1,405). He also has played for Oakland and Florida.

Perisho, 23, was 7-5 with a 4.00 ERA in 13 starts at Class AAA Oklahoma. He was 0-2 with a 6.00 ERA in 11 games with Anaheim last year. That is his only major-league experience.

Texas made Perisho its starter Tuesday against Oakland.

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