

# Fisher golf course provides pleasant surprises

PITTSFORD — Mighty Oak Hill Country Club is just down the road. Several other private golf courses are within a 10-minute drive.

Yet there is one place within this very exclusive part of Monroe County where golf enthusiasts are welcome as more than just spectators or caddies.

And the nine-hole layout at St. John Fisher College can be, in many ways, as scenic and challenging as its more notable neighbors.

"There are many, many courses that would love to have trees like I do,"



said Pat Connaughton, grounds superintendent.

According to Connaughton, the course — located behind Murphy Hall, across the street from St. John Fisher's main campus on East Avenue — opened as a one-hole operation in the early 1970s and became a nine-hole course in 1980.

St. John Fisher has always been open to the public, yet player traffic is comparatively light to other public and semi-private courses. The college's students can play for free; however, school is out during golf's peak season.

"People are pleasantly surprised by the layout, and by the fact that we're not encumbered by heavy play," said

course "starter" Paul Julien.

Greens fees are extremely reasonable. The \$7 rate during the week, which rises slightly to \$8 on weekends, allows golfers to play as many times as they'd like in one day.

"We're not in it for profit; that's why we're not into the advertisements," commented Bob Ward, the college's athletic director.

At the same time, Ward said, the course does need to generate revenue so it can be maintained properly.

"I don't think the college is looking for the course to become overpopulated, but don't get me wrong. I don't like slow days, because I have bills to pay," Ward remarked.

According to Ward, course maintenance took on an increased priority about five years ago. Prior to that time the college put about \$15,000 per year toward upkeep. Ward estimates that current figure to be between \$50,000-\$60,000.

The St. John Fisher layout spans 2,568 yards from the white tees, with a par of 33. Although par is lower than most nine-hole layouts, the distances — which include three par-4s of at least 370 yards — are comparable.

And the occasional lack of length is more than made up for by the course's extremely tight structure. Most fairways are extremely narrow due to an abundance of trees, and many of the greens are either guarded by sand traps or raised — sometimes both.

"If somebody wants to play Fisher and score well, they'd have to become proficient with their long irons. Placement is what's most important," said Connaughton.

"It's so narrow, and the greens are so small, that it becomes a challenge," Ward added. "The good players say they have to hit 1-irons off the tee (on the par-4 holes)."

— Mike Latona



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Lorraine Hennessey, graphics manager at the *Catholic Courier*, practices putting at the St. John Fisher Golf Course in Pittsford. The nine-hole course offers challenging fairways, well-maintured greens and lush surroundings.

## Holy Childhood plans annual golf tournament

RUSH — The seventh annual School of the Holy Childhood Ladies Golf Tournament will take place Monday, July 13, at Wild Wood Country Club, Rush-West Rush Road.

The tournament, which begins at 8:30 a.m., will be followed by a lunch and prize ceremony. Proceeds will benefit School of the Holy Childhood, a non-denominational, non-profit agency which serves mentally handicapped adults and children in the Rochester area.

For information on team entries, raffle tickets or sponsorships, call Helen deCruz at 716/359-3710.

## ND students place first in Big Flats golf event

BIG FLATS — Four Elmira Notre Dame High School students recently took first place in the fourth annual Chuck Ferratella Scholarship Classic golf tournament.

The event was held last month at Willow Creek Golf Club. Ladies Professional Golf Association touring professional Donna Wilkins teamed up with Notre Dame's Scott Bullock, Kevin Kelly, Andy Cain and Brian Murray for a winning score of 61.

Bullock, an ND senior, also won a \$500 scholarship based on an essay he submitted.

## SPORT SHORTS



## River Challenge events set for Rochester park

ROCHESTER — Applications are available for the MONY Genesee River Challenge, scheduled for Sunday, July 19, at Genesee Valley Park.

This three-event race features a 10K run, 22.3-mile bicycle ride and four-mile canoe race. Organizers expect more than 100 triathletes and 200 teams to compete.

Proceeds will benefit the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center. To register, contact the center at 716/244-8920.

## Mud volleyball is Aug. 8

BRIGHTON — The Epilepsy Association of Greater Rochester will host its inaugural Mud Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 8, at Canal View Office Park, corner of Winton and Brighton-Henrietta Town Line roads.

Corporate-sponsored teams are welcomed. For entry information, call Randi Numi at 716/334-6400.

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