

SPORTS



Club at North Halton member Bill Swartz tees off at the 10th hole on his home course during the opening round of the Toronto Star Amateur golf tournament Tuesday. Swartz shot a 75 and followed Wednesday with an 82.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Bulldogs in deep hole

It's going to take something special for the Halton Hills Bulldogs to dig themselves out of a 2-0 hole in their best-of-5 playoff series against the Akwesasne Indians.

The second-place Bulldogs lost 10-6 and 6-5 in Akwesasne on the weekend in their Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League East Conference semifinal series and must now win three straight games at home beginning Friday in order to advance.

The good news for head coach Blaine McCauley's side is that they are 10-0-1 at home so far this year, but they're also facing an Akwesasne team that has frustrated a usually offensively potent Halton Hills' side.

In both weekend games, the Bulldogs took an early lead but couldn't hold on to it. On Saturday, three Akwesasne goals in a 44-second span in the first period put the hosts ahead for good, and although the 'Dogs cut the lead to

8-6 with five minutes remaining in the final frame, they couldn't get any closer.

Luke Laidlaw (2), Seth Laidlaw, Mike MacDonald, Theo Dol and Connor Brown scored for the visitors.

In game two Sunday, the teams traded leads before the third-ranked Indians netted the winner midway through the third period. Luke Laidlaw (2), Brown (2) and Jayson Crawford tallied for the Bulldogs. Dustin Hanzelka was in goal for Halton Hills in both contests.

In the other East Conference semifinal series, the top-seeded Green Gaels of Clarington are also down 2-0 after a pair of one-goal losses on the weekend to the fourth-place Oakville Buzz.

The Gaels and Bulldogs have met in the playoffs the past six years, but both are in danger of being eliminated before the conference finals.

"Quote/unquote"

'This is going to be the biggest tournament of my career so far.'
— Golfer Samantha Spencer...see story below

By caddying at Star Amateur Spencer prepares for biggest test

By EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Even though Georgetown South golfer Samantha Spencer decided to take a break from her busy summer schedule this week, the 17-year-old still can't stay away from the top of the leaderboard.

Spencer pulled out of this week's Ontario Women's Amateur Championships in Tottenham in order to be better prepared for what will likely be her most prominent tournament since taking up the sport nearly a decade ago.

Yet she's caddying for Hamilton's Luke Attack, who was the first-round leader at the Toronto Star Amateur Championships at her home course, The Club at North Halton, after shooting a five-under-par 67 on Tuesday.

The soon-to-be Grade 12 Christ the King Secondary School student has enjoyed a solid run of results of her own in 2013, including a victory at the Quebec Spring Open in May and a runner-up finish at the CN Future Links Ontario Championships in Listowel.

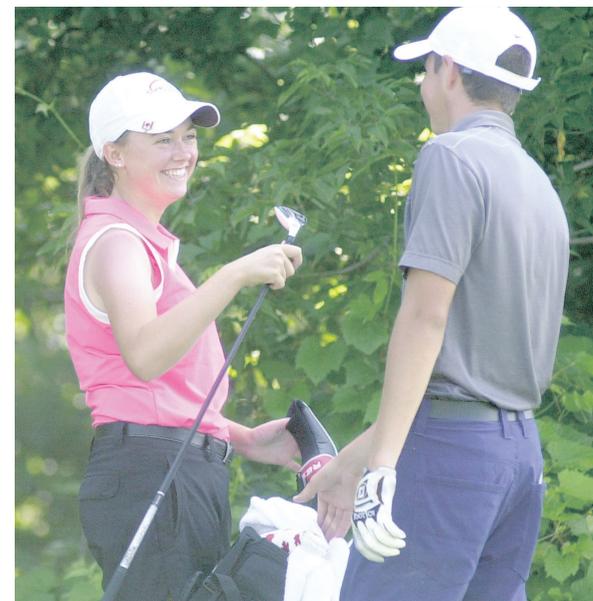
Last month, she received an invitation to the prestigious USGA Junior Girls' Championship, featuring many of the world's top teenage players, which begins Monday at the Sycamore Hills Golf Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

"I think this is going to be the biggest tournament of my career so far," she said at the recent PGA Women's Championship at North Halton last month, in which she placed eighth among the amateurs entered.

"There were more than 1,200 girls who tried to qualify and only 160 get to go, so it's a privilege to play in that and experience it. It's probably going to be more of a learning experience than anything to go down there."

Following the USGA event, Spencer will play at the Canadian Junior Girls' Championship in Pickering July 30 to Aug. 2 and the Canada Games in Sherbrooke, Que. Aug. 14-17. She has also already committed to attend North Carolina State University on a scholarship starting in Sept. 2014 to play for the Wolfpack's varsity team.

"It takes a load off me with the pressure of having to choose a school," she added.



Samantha Spencer of Georgetown is the caddy for Hamilton's Luke Attack at this week's Toronto Star Amateur tournament at The Club at North Halton and her home course knowledge helped him to the first round lead.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

"I wanted to commit early because this year I just wanted to focus on my game and not worry about what college coaches are saying, so I'm glad it happened the way it happened. To be able to play year round was a major factor because I didn't want to play inside a dome for six months of the year. It does get a little cold there, but you can usually still play outside."

Tressel top local at Star Am

Acton's Andrew Tressel was the top local on the leaderboard after two rounds of the Toronto Star Amateur Championship at The Club at North Halton as of press time on Wednesday afternoon.

The Blue Springs Golf Club member recorded rounds of 74-73 for a three over par score through 36 holes of the four-day event.

North Halton had a few of its members in the field, including Jamison Cass (75-77), Adam Salisbury (75-78), Callum Biehn (74-80) and Bill Swartz (75-82).

Great start for Albany

Georgetown's Joel Albany of the Trafalgar Golf & Country Club had an excellent opening round of even-par 71 on Tuesday at the Golf Association of Ontario's Junior Boys' Championships at the Ambassador Golf Club in Windsor.

The 17-year-old was tied for fifth, five shots back of the leader. North Halton's Robbie Johnson shot a 76.

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