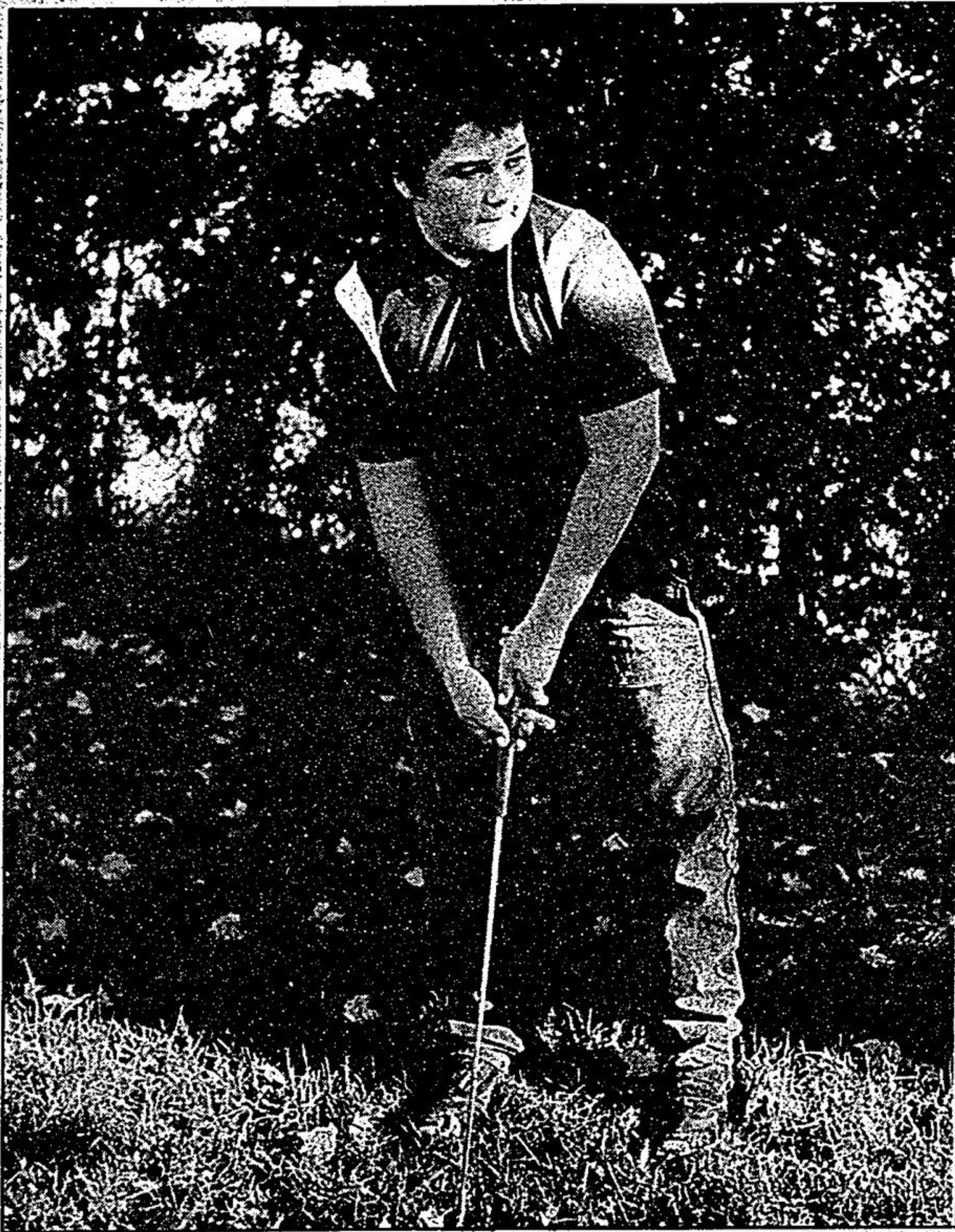


11-year-old Claremont boy

# Adjusting to life as a CHAMP

JEFF CARD  
Adjusting wellBy PAULA CROWELL  
Staff Reporter

What does an 11-year-old boy do when part of both his legs have been amputated?

He golfs, swims, enjoys camping and the outdoors.

Jeff Card of Claremont was injured in a farm accident in May, 1983. He fell from a tractor into a lawn mower and had to have his right leg amputated above the knee and his left removed below the knee.

Last week he participated in a fund-raising golf tournament in Ottawa. Although a first-year golfer, he fired a 140 for the 18 holes.

The tournament was sponsored by Chimo Hotels. Chimo is opening a new location in Markham this fall, in aid of the War Amputations of Canada's Child Amputee Program (CHAMP). This was the second annual event.

The competition is held to benefit specific children who belong to CHAMP. This year proceeds will go toward paying for new artificial legs for Jeff and an artificial arm for a 14-year-old boy from Killaloe, Ont.

Since his accident, Jeff is on his fourth set of legs. He outgrew the ones he was using and received replacements in the early summer.

Artificial legs for Jeff cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000. The Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan covers 75 per cent of this cost, and CHAMP contributes the remaining 25 per cent.

Amputees can also buy artificial limbs designed for recreational use, for instance, legs for swimming or bowling. But the cost of these is not subsidized by OHIP. Nor does the health plan pay for artificial limbs for amputees older than 18 years of age.

Jeff's mother, Patti, pointed out that although her son may not stop growing until after he reaches 18, his artificial limbs won't be subsidized.

Mrs. Card has nothing but good things to say about the CHAMP organization. She explained that representatives be-

gan working with Jeff soon after his accident. Amputees are encouraged to be active and are invited to attend CHAMP functions to meet others facing the same frustrations and problems.

Mrs. Card said of the program, "It brings them out. And once they're out they never get a chance to go back into their shell."

She cited meetings with other amputees, parades, and other get-togethers as examples of how the organization helps the children in other ways, besides the financial support.

There's so many questions I can't answer and his doctor can't answer. Only another amp can answer those questions."

But over and above being an amputee, Jeff is a boy like many others his age. He's not too keen on school and isn't too sure what he wants to do when he's older. But he has an interest in electronic gadgets like video cameras and video cassette recorders.

His good looks are enhanced by his freckles and he's a man of few words.

"Jeff has been learning to live with the effects of his accident for the last year and a half. He participates in many sports and knows his limitations."

"I don't feel I'm being held back," he said.

"He sets his own pace and gives everything one shot anyway," his mother added.

At school there are certain sports in which he cannot participate. But between Jeff, his mother, and his teachers it was decided that whether or not he can join in the physical activity, he can still learn the rules of the game.

"You can make a call even if you can't run the bases," Mrs. Card explained.

As for his future, Jeff isn't too sure. He's taking guitar lessons this winter and hopes to get into golfing more seriously next year.

He has considered being an RCMP officer and has played with the idea of becoming a pilot. But he knows he has lots of time to decide on his career.

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