

Special Olympian 'Bowled Over' By South Bend Games

BY RAHN ADAMS

For 22-year-old bowler Maurice Edge, this summer's International Special Olympics competition was the experience of a lifetime.

Edge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Edge of Winabow, was one of 72 athletes from North Carolina who participated in the event.

Edge is a student in the Brunswick Interagency Program at Supply.

An estimated 5,000 Special Olympians from throughout the United States and 70 foreign countries took part in the 1987 International Summer Games, held July 27 through Aug. 8 in South Bend, Ind.

Special Olympians are athletes who have been identified as being mentally retarded.

According to Dorene Vereen of Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, Edge placed fourth in singles bowling, lacking only nine pins for a bronze medal.

"He was still happy with that," Ms. Vereen said, adding that the trip to South Bend was reward enough for Edge.

"Just to see them at the opening ceremonies," she said, "that's when you see the magnitude of having them (special athletes) all in one place.

"It was a good experience," she added. "Just think about 10 days of total exhaustion."

The Olympics offered several first-time experiences for Edge and his teammates. Ms. Vereen said

it was the first time Edge had been in an airplane, the team flying from Winston-Salem to South Bend.

"We asked them what they liked most about flying," Ms. Vereen said, "and Maurice said he liked 'going up.' The others liked it when we hit bumps—turbulence."

Other firsts included meeting other special athletes from across the country and around the world.

"It think it was great for a lot of the athletes," Ms. Vereen said. "Maurice really doesn't go out of the state much . . ."

"It was good for them to be with athletes from other countries," she said. "A lot of them made friends."

Ms. Vereen said the North Carolina athletes were especially amazed by African counterparts who participated in the Games barefoot, and by foreign athletes who spoke languages other than English.

Edge's trip to South Bend was a combination of hard work and luck, Ms. Vereen said.

He qualified for the event by winning a gold medal in February at the N.C. Special Olympics in Hendersonville. Names of gold medalists were then drawn at random to choose North Carolina's team for the International Games.

The 10-day trip was funded by county, state and national agencies, with Brunswick County paying \$323 toward Edge's expenses.



DORENE VEREEN AND MAURICE EDGE preparing for opening ceremonies at this summer's 1987 International Special Olympics in South Bend, Ind.

County Golf Courses Host World Amateur

BY DOUG RUTTER

Three Brunswick County golf courses are among the 34 clubs hosting the World Amateur Handicap Championship this week.

Carolina Shores Golf and Country Club, Sea Trail Golf Links and Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course are each a part of the 72-hole event which annually brings golfers of varying abilities and backgrounds together for one week in August. The fourth annual tournament started Monday and was to continue through today (Thursday).

As a first-time member of the World Amateur Championship, Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course pro Randy Fuquay said the course became involved mainly for promotional reasons.

"Being a part of this tournament is good because it gets a lot of people here from different parts of the country. It helps us make a name for ourselves," he said.

Ocean Isle played host to the men's 21-23 handicap group Monday and was scheduled to entertain the senior's 16-20 handicap group Thursday.

Fuquay said the course became involved with the tournament through Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, an advertising firm specializing in the promotion of Myrtle Beach and surrounding golf courses.

He said Golf Holiday contacted area courses to determine if any were interested in hosting the World Amateur. The courses get the promotional benefits of the tournament while agreeing to coordinate the event at reduced rates for competitors, he said.

Both Sea Trail Golf Links and Carolina Shores Golf and Country Club became a part of the World Amateur in 1986.

Monday's action at Sea Trail saw the first round of the men's 19-20 handicap and the women's 20-25 handicap groups.

The men's 28-36 handicap group and the women's 30-40 handicap group were scheduled for play Thursday at Sea Trail.

Carolina Shores was played by the men's 9-10 handicap group Monday and was scheduled to host the men's 0-6 handicap group Wednesday.

The tournament is jointly produced by Golf Digest magazine and Himmelsbach Communications, with Du Pont as a major sponsor.

This year's event catered to 1,849 golfers from 48 states (all except North and South Dakota) and 10 foreign countries including Colombia, Australia, Italy and France, according to a Himmelsbach Communications spokesman.

The World Amateur was first played in 1984 with approximately 700 golfers competing. The tournament expanded over the next two years with the participation rate increasing to 1,154 golfers in 1985 and 1,585 in 1986.

Brierwood Women Play Nassau

August 18th's weekly tournament for the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association was a Nassau, using full handicap over 18 holes and one-half handicap for the front or back nine.

Twenty seven members played in three flights.

The winner in the first flight for 18 holes was Peg Sawyer with 86-22-64. Ann Hierman won the front nine with 39-7.5-31.5. With 42-11-31 Nearle Einstein won the back.

In the second flight Nel Justice was the 18-hole winner with 86-27-59. The front nine was taken by Toni Iossi with 47-14-33 and Anne Gentles took the back nine with 46-14-32.

Ruth Linder was the winner in the third flight with 100-30-70. Jane Flieg with 47-15.5-31.5 took the front. Maureen Farley won the back nine with 51-15-36.

Low gross for the day was Ann Hierman's 82.

Dove Season Opens Sept. 5

The 1987 dove season opens Sept. 5, with all day hunting allowed.

Details of the federal seasons and bag limits on doves and other migratory game birds usually can be obtained in late September from local license agents.

A regional hearing on the proposed regulations was scheduled by the N.C. Wildlife Commission Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bladen County Courthouse in Elizabethtown.

Among other regulations, it is unlawful to take migratory game birds with a rifle or unplugged or improperly plugged shotgun, with the aid of decoys, salt, grain, fruit or other bait, or during closed season or during prohibited shooting hours.

Violators, as of Oct. 1, will be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not less than \$150, in addition to other punishment that may be imposed by the court.

Golden Trojans Open Season Hosting Orrum

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Friday night will be a "golden" opportunity for the West Brunswick Trojans to show off.

Literally.

Sporting new all-gold uniforms which will be worn on special occasions (similar to the Clemson Tigers' solid orange used for big games), West Brunswick will kickoff the '87 prep football season at 8 p.m. against nonconference 1-A opponent Orrum.

"Friday will certainly be a special occasion for us," said West Brunswick coach Marshall Seay. "This is a new season and we expect good things to come. We'll be dressed in our all-gold uniforms and will be fired up."

The Trojans have tuned up with two scrimmages—a dual meeting with Acme-Delco and Green Sea-Floyds, S.C. and a final tuneup with North Myrtle Beach, S.C. last Thursday.

In those outings, West Brunswick

beat Acme-Delco and Green Sea scoreless and outscored North Myrtle Beach, 3-1.

At the same time West Brunswick will show off new uniforms, the Trojans will also have the opportunity to snap a seven-year season-opening losing streak. The Trojans have not won their first game of the season since a 1980 home win over North Myrtle Beach.

"Orrum is a small, quick, hard-nosed football team with winning tradition," said Seay. "They operate offensively out of a split-back veer and wishbone formation."

"Their quarter back throws the ball well. They could certainly cause us lots of problems if we are not prepared."

Orrum played only one Waccamaw Conference team last year taking a 12-0 shutout over Fairmont.

Defensively the Red Raiders will line up in a 6-2 or 5-3 formation and

are likely to stunt (blitz) from the linebacker position.

"We look for good things to happen if we execute well and play good, tough, hard-nosed football. The key to winning is execution. Whichever team is the most persistent and executes the best will come out on top."

Probable offensive starters for the Trojans will be quarterback Raymond Howard (5-8, 142, so.), tailback Ronald Lance (6-0, 185, sr.) and fullback Randy Daniels (5-10, 171, jr.).

Starting linemen include center Mark Bennett (6-3, 190, jr.), guards Charlie Eaton (6-0, 205, jr.) and Brent Robinson (5-9, 186, sr.), tackles Tommy Floyd (6-1, 285, sr.) and Jeff Russ (5-8, 200, sr.).

Likely receivers are split end Gary Gore (6-3, 185, jr.), tight end Travis Snead (6-0, 196, sr.) and flanker Joel Johnson (6-3, 205, sr.).

Among the defensive starters are

ends Gore and Snead, Robinson (tackle), linebackers Corey Hankins (6-1, 190, jr.) and Ben Hankins (5-11, 236, sr.), cornerback Jeff Bernard (6-2, 183, so.) and safety Chris Bryant (6-3, 205, sr.).

North Brunswick also opens its season at home Friday entertaining Topsail.

Defending conference champion South Brunswick opens on the road as the Cougars travel to Pender. The Patriots handed South Brunswick one of only two losses in last year's record 10-2 season.

Both South Robeson and Fairmont will not open the season until next Friday.

In other games Friday involving Waccamaw Conference teams, Whiteville hosts 4-A Scotland County, West Columbus visits Acme-Delco and East Bladen entertains 1-A power Clarkton.

SPORTING SCENE

Preps Kick Off New Football Season Friday

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

High school football returns throughout North Carolina Friday night although school will not officially begin in Brunswick County until Monday.

While most teams open the season tomorrow (Friday), the remaining squads not playing will begin next Friday, September 4.

The race for the Waccamaw 2-A Conference championship is probably the closest to being a wide-open contest this season as it has ever been. As many as five teams appear ready to challenge for the league's three state playoff berths.

The conference was rocked last year with the suspension of a South Robeson player thus forcing the Mustangs to forfeit six games (all wins) and fall from a first-place to the league cellar.

The incident altered the playoff picture somewhat and helped South Brunswick to its first-ever conference championship.

While the Cougars advanced to the state playoffs, West Brunswick climbed to the top-half of the league and narrowly missed a playoff spot as well.

South Brunswick, as most defending champions go, is the team to

beat although the Cougars must find a few replacements at several key positions. Look for veteran coach Glenn Sasser to prevail over this shuffle and have his Cougars battling for the top spot once more.

Although '85 champion Whiteville lost plenty of talent from last year's 12-2 team that advanced to the eastern 2-A finals, the Wolfpack is still loaded with talent and knows how to win. Coach Bill Hewett isn't kidding anyone with his preseason blues about downplaying the Wolfpack's chances of another league title.

East Bladen may be the most improved team in the conference. Coach Lennon Fisher's team had an off year in '86 and still managed an even 5-5 finish and a state playoff berth.

The Cougars have a full roster of veteran players this season and will be a much more serious threat to the conference crown this go 'round.

East Bladen greatly expanded its strength training program in the off-season. Immediate benefits are likely to be seen in '87.

West Brunswick should be riding high when conference time rolls around. The Trojans should make quick work of their three 1-A non-conference opponents and be ready

to do business with the league's best beginning in late September.

South Robeson rounds out the conference's top five teams. Coach Russell Stone's Mustangs are surely ready to avenge last year's misfortune. Instead of a 7-3 finish, South Robeson settled with a 1-9 record.

The Mustangs finished runnerup to Whiteville in '85 and should be equally strong this season.

Look for North Brunswick, Fairmont and West Columbus to fight it out for fifth place.

All three teams are improved but have not made the giant strides of the rest of the league.

Fairmont has made a huge commitment to rebuild its football program under second-year coach Steve Hagen. The Gold Tornadoes were winners throughout the 70's and early 80's and yearn to return to those successful seasons.

North Brunswick could be a surprise. The Scorpions could come out

of their three nonconference games with Topsail, Hallsboro and Acme-Delco with enough momentum to win enough league contests to avoid the cellar.

As Scorpion coach Jim Steed put it, "We are getting there but will have a long ways to go."

Veteran West Columbus coach Dave Pless is also in the rebuilding stages with the Vikings. West Columbus has been a traditional football power advancing to the state playoffs more times than not.

However, it will take the Vikings probably another season before they are ready to move into the top-half of the conference.

Friday's season openers include Orrum at West Brunswick, Topsail at North Brunswick, South Brunswick at Pender, Scotland County at Whiteville, West Columbus at Acme-Delco and Clarkton at East Bladen.

South Robeson and Fairmont will both open the season next Friday.

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