

Albus warms to task, captures Lowney title

By RICHARD BRUSHETT
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

While the near record temperatures had many of the players — professionals as well as amateurs — literally wilting as the mid afternoon heat took its toll, Jim Albus rose to the occasion to post a one-under par 70 to capture the 17th Bob Lowney Pro-Am Golf Tournament yesterday at a sweltering Richmond County Country Club, Dongan Hills.

"The hotter it gets, the better I seem to play," said Albus. "These old muscles just seem to loosen up and let me hit the ball harder and I play pretty well."

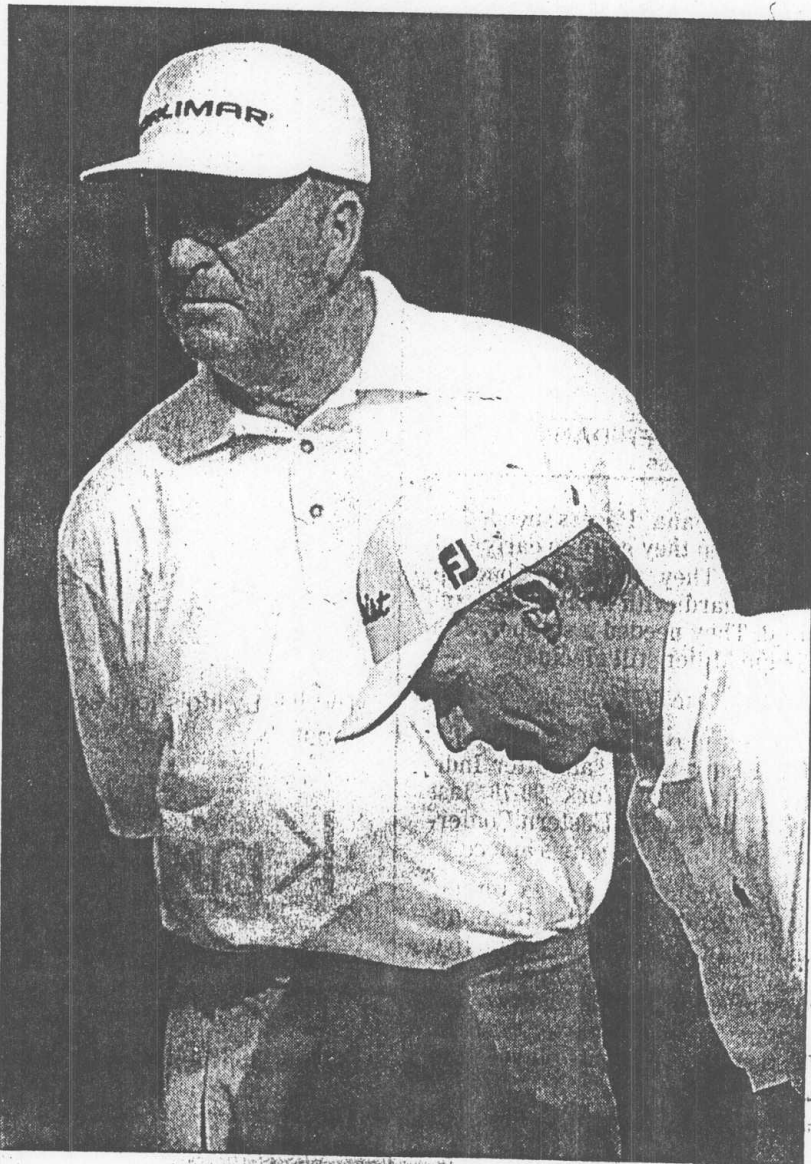
While the Oakwood native and club professional at LaTourette admits to playing in most of the previous events — "I've only missed a few over the years," he added — this was his first "low pro" accomplishment.

With the traditional shotgun start, following the highly entertaining and instructional clinic conducted by Bill Britton and Albus, the fivesomes have only an inkling as to what the other pros and their groups are doing on the course. Not until the last scores are brought to the scorers table and all the numbers are posted and rechecked do the participants know how well they've done.

And in typical unselfish fashion, Albus was more concerned with how his partners had fared than with his own success. "Where did my team finish?" he asked.

After a matching of cards, second place was the response, relayed to the air-conditioned clubhouse where most of the players retreated as soon as they had finished their 18 holes on the demanding Dongan Hills layout.

The first-place team was composed of professional Steve LaMontagne, Artie Port, David Vota, Kenneth DeTora and John Giacinto, which posted 27-30-57, 14-under par in this best-ball handicapped event.



ADVANCE PHOTOS ■ HILTON FLORES

Jim Albus surveys the crowd as Bill Britton lines up a shot during the pre-tourney clinic.

FAXED
6-8-99
to
Debbie R