

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."

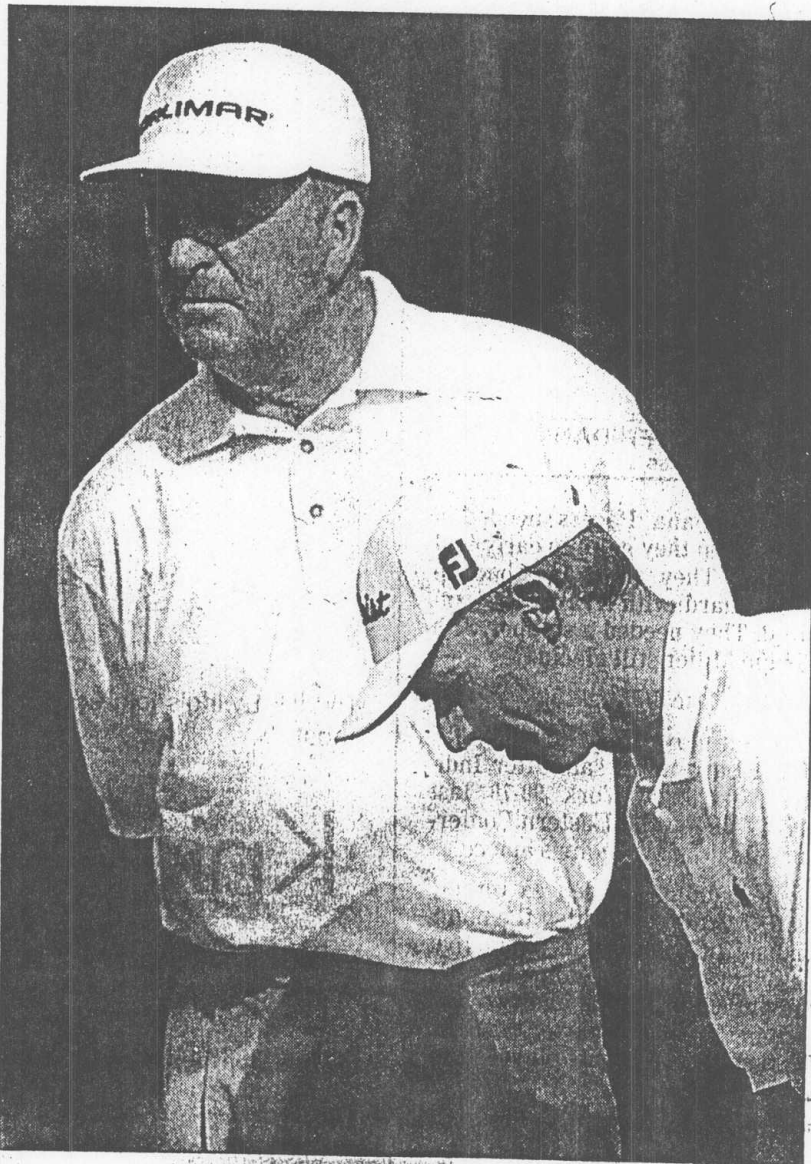
While the Oakwood native and club professional at LaTourette admits to playing in most of the previous events — "I've only missed a few over the years," he added — this was his first "low pro" accomplishment.

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.

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Page 2

Skip Tellefsen, the Lowney Committee chairman; Peter Salas, John Swedberg and Ned Sithian made up Albus' squad, which had matching nines of 29-29-58, for a minus 13.

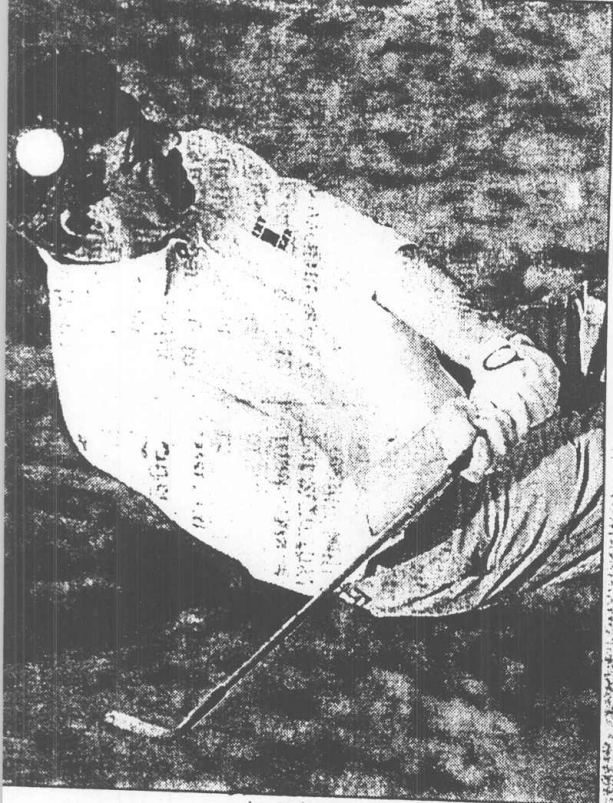
Albus' group started on the eighth hole where he missed the first of only three greens—all of which he bogeyed. He got his first stroke lost to par back on the 15th where his approach was chipped to within two feet, which he holed for his first of four birdies in his round. Similar short putts within the leather were converted for birds on Nos. 1 and 4 and the last, a seven-foot attempt on the par-5 seventh, closed out his round in red numbers.

That Albus was not aware of his final standings was hardly surprising. People would greet him on practically every hole except on the ninth green and 10th tee box, the farthest points on the course. He even took a few minutes to give an interview and what appeared to be a short lesson to a camera crew from a local network covering the event.

"It's always great to come back here," he said, "and even better when I play well."

Tim Jenkins (71), Dana Quigley (72), Don Reese (72), Michael Allen (72) and Larry Laoretti (72) completed the top-six professional scores. Michelle Dobek, one of five LPGA players in the field, shot a 36-37-73 to lead the distaff competitors who played from the gold tees, just forward of the amateur men's white tees.

The pros demonstrated that they practice what they preach. During the clinic, Quigley was giving tips on chipping from the



Dana Quigley demonstrates chipping.

received the news that from the benefits derived from the Tournament, a second Special Olympics 15-passenger van (value around \$30,000) will be provided to transport the athletes and coaches year round to SO events.

Teams

- 1. Steve LaMontagne, pro, Artie Port, David Vota, Kenneth DeTora, John Giacinto.....57
- 2. Jim Albus, pro, Skip Tellefsen, Peter Salas, John Swedberg, Ned Sithian.....58
- 3. Anne Marie Pali, pro, Joe Onco, Steve Marchetti, Richard Pinzi, John Sorkvist.....58
- 4. Bill Britton, pro, David Watson, Russell Clark, Mark Murphy, William Ithier.....59
- 5. Stiles Mitchell, pro, Bob Britton, Rodney Stillwell, Greg Falk, Doug Johnstone.....59

Professionals

- Men
- Jim Albus.....70
- Tim Jenkins.....71
- Dana Quigley.....72
- Don Reese.....72
- Larry Laoretti.....72
- Michael Allen.....72
- Bill Britton.....74
- Onville Moody.....74
- Jeff Julian.....75
- David Lundstrom.....76
- Greg Powers.....76
- Fred Gibson.....77
- Steve LaMontagne.....77
- Harold Hemming.....78
- Bernie Kosinski.....81
- Mike Joyce.....83

Women

- Michelle Dobek.....73

NOTES: Tellefsen gave special thanks to Lehman Brothers, the event's major corporate sponsor, and to Men's Warehouse, one of the tourney's newest corporate supporters... Although he was unaware of the news until last night at the awards presentation dinner, Rich Sainardi, area coordinator of Staten Island Special Olympics

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Some members of the S.I. Special Olympics watch the golf clinic.