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Local Golf Trio heading for Senior PGA Club Pro event

By: Mike Bires, Times Sports Staff

Roy Vucinich and John Mazza, for years two of the better players in the Tri-State Section PGA, have a date at the 2007 PGA Senior National Championship.

Vucinich earned his to PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla., in October by winning the TSPGA Senior Championship that was held Thursday and Friday at Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway.

Vucinich, the former head pro at Allegheny Country Club, shot rounds of 67 and 70 for a three-stroke win. Vucinich won \$1,000.

By tying for sixth at the qualifier, Mazza would have earned a spot for the nationals, but he's already exempt. Mazza, the teaching pro at Fox Run Golf Course, shot 74-70-144 at Quicksilver.

Jim Cichra, director of golf at the Robert Morris Golf Dome, also shot a 144 with rounds of 71 and 73. He, too, is going to the nationals.

The Tri-State Section PGA will send seven qualifiers to Port St. Lucie for the Oct. 18-21 tournament.

Eiler to caddy for Seiger

When Garrett Seiger plays in National First Tee Open in California later this month, he'll bring along one of his teammates from the Blackhawk High School golf team.

Seiger has asked Griffin Eiler to be his caddy when he plays the prestigious Pebble Beach Golf Links and Del Monte Golf Course Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

Both Seiger and Eiler are among the volunteers on the staff of The First Tee program held each spring and summer at Black Hawk Golf Course.

Seiger earned the right to play in the National First Tee at qualifier last month at The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy in Manhattan, Kan.

The First Tee is a nationwide program that teaches youngsters life-enhancing values through golf.

No King's champs this year

Even though the Beaver County area has a promising crop of junior golfers, there were no local champions this year in the annual King's Family Restaurant Junior Series.

In each of the past two years, local youngsters won two of the five age-group titles. Last year, the local champs were Ian Bangor of Moon Township (boys 12-14) and Kristi Archer of Center Township (girls 16-18).

This year, however, Bangor and several other top juniors - Brock and Brandon Pompeani, the twins from Hopewell Township, and Brighton Township's David Hutchinson - played in more competitive tournaments that often attracted many of the best players on the east coast.

For example, Brandon Pompeani and Bangor played in the Smithfield Junior Championship last week at New Castle Country Club that featured 99 juniors from 22 states and Canada.

Brandon tied for 49th at the Smithfield event at 80-77-157. Bangor tied for 60th at 80-79-159.

33 TD Club outing debuts

A golf tournament that will help raise money for athletic programs at Hopewell and East Liverpool high schools will be held Aug. 27 at Beaver Lakes Country Club. It's the 33 Touchdown Club Invitational.

Organizers say proceeds will be used to help defray costs of projected artificial surface installation on the football fields at Hopewell and East Liverpool, as well as a Great Wall of Fame at Hopewell.

Entry fee is \$75 per golfer or \$340 per foursome. The day of golf will be capped off with a turkey, pig and slab roast.

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