

Saucon Valley wins environmental award

Country club and its superintendent are honored by GCSAA.

By Mark Wogenrich
Of The Morning Call

Saucon Valley Country Club received another national honor this week as the club and superintendent Jim Roney were named overall winner of the 2008 Environmental Leader in Golf Awards.

The awards, co-sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest Magazine, recognize golf courses for "commitment to environmental stewardship," according to a GCSAA news release.

Courses in four categories (public, private, resort and international) were honored, with Saucon Valley being named the private and overall winner.

"This year's winners are to be commended for their commitment to environmental stewardship on the golf course," GCSAA President David S. Downing II said in a statement. "They, along with their facilities, have

demonstrated that golf courses can be compatible with the environment, and in many cases enhance it."

In December, Saucon Valley received the best remodel award from Golf Digest. The club was honored for its renovation of the Old Course, which will host this summer's U.S. Women's Open.

"This [environmental] is usually given to superintendents at newer courses, because rules and regulations in place today to protect riparian corridors and

GOLF

other ecologically sensitive areas are so stringent," Roney said in an e-mail. "So for a golf course built 89 years ago, it's a huge accomplishment."

Last fall, Saucon Valley restored 1,700 lineal feet of streambank along the Saucon Creek, which flows through course property. The project, completed through state Growing Greener grants, helped reduce creekside erosion and lessen the impact of flooding of the entire Saucon Creek watershed.

In addition, Roney and the club's Saucon Sanctu-

ary Committee converted more than 20 acres of non-playing area to naturalized, low-maintenance meadow. According to the club, the wild turkey population in those areas has tripled.

The club also established a 12-mile nature walk that includes 26 bluebird nesting sites, 12 bat boxes and 22 owl boxes.

"The buy-in by the membership to embrace and participate in programs like our annual Christmas bird count, the biological survey we conduct on the Saucon Creek with help from Wild-

lands Conservancy and streambank plantings utilizing indigenous plant material is inspiring to me and my staff," Roney said.

Saucon Valley has been an Audubon International certified wildlife sanctuary since 2000. The club has partnerships with Wildlands Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Trout Unlimited, Land Studies International Engineering and the Saucon Creek Watershed Committee.

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Johnson takes Sony Open by two strokes

From Call wire services

Zach Johnson closed with a 5-under 65 on Sunday for a two-shot victory in the Sony Open at Honolulu, ending his two-week stay in Hawaii by playing his final six rounds in 30-under par.

Johnson, whose 64-67 finish last weekend at Kapalua gave him a tie for sixth, outlasted David Toms in a well-played duel along the back nine of Waialae to build a two-shot lead, then eliminated any drama with a two-putt birdie on the 18th for the second victory in his last six starts.

Tadd Fujikawa, the 18-year-old from Honolulu trying to become the youngest winner in the PGA Tour history, started the final round two shots out of the lead, but never got any closer as he struggled to a 73 and tied for 32nd.

"I just couldn't get anything going," said Fujikawa, who resumes his senior year in high school today.

Johnson finished at 15-under 265 to earn his fifth career victory.

Toms, who won the Sony Open three years ago, had to settle for a strong start to his season. He finished out of the top 125 on the money list last year and is trying to qualify for

big events that for years were a regular part of his schedule.

He kept the pressure on Johnson over the final holes, making a 4-foot birdie on the 15th to pull within one shot and saving par from the bunker on the 17th with a 12-foot putt to stay one shot behind going to the last hole.

But he tried to take too much off the corner of the dogleg and left it in the bunker. Then came an aggressive play with a hybrid that went only about 80 yards into the rough, eliminating an easy birdie from the equation.

Johnson reached the green in two and lagged his putt within 18 inches to eliminate any drama.

Toms closed with a 66 and tied for second with Adam Scott, who gave himself a late chance with a 64. Scott left a 10-foot birdie putt short on the 17th, and he knew his birdie on the 18th to finish at 13-under 267 would not be enough.

Charles Howell III also had a chance, with three straight birdies around the turn and back-to-back birdies late in his round, a chip-in on the 16th and an 18-foot birdie on the 17th. But he missed the 18th green well to the left, chipped to 15 feet and three-



ZACH JOHNSON shot a final-round 65 to finish at 15-under 265 to win the Sony Open by two strokes.

putted for bogey to finish alone in fourth.

EUROPEAN TOUR

Casey wins Abu Dhabi Championship again: At Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, England's Paul Casey won the Abu Dhabi Championship for the second time in three years, closing with a 2-under 70 for a one-stroke victory over Louis Oosthuizen and 2008 winner Martin Kaymer.

Casey finished at 21-under 267. The victory was his first since the 2007 tournament.

Federer taking aim at Slam record

He's one win away, but young guns are taking aim at him.

By John Pye
Of The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia | Roger Federer doesn't think he needs to be in a hurry to break Pete Sampras' Grand Slam record.

Federer is bidding to equal Sampras' 14 major titles by capturing the Australian Open.

The growing perception is that the 27-year-old Swiss will find it harder than in recent years to win a major, with Andy Murray joining Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic — all 22 or under — among the leading contenders to beat him.

"I want to do well, not only this year but many more years," Federer said Sunday, a day before opening play against Andreas Seppi of Italy. "I don't feel like this is my last chance to either win ... or pick up a few Slams more easily."

"They never come around easily. Let's not forget who I had to beat on the way."

Nadal is 22 and already has five majors — four straight at Roland Garros and the last at Wimbledon. He also snapped Federer's record 237-week reign atop the rankings last season.

No. 3 Djokovic and No. 4 Murray will both be 22 in May. Federer was closing in on his 22nd birthday when he won Wimbledon in 2003, the first of his 13 major titles.

Federer doesn't think age will start counting against him.

He won three of the four majors in three of the last five seasons, twice finishing one match short of a season Grand Slam by losing the French Open final to Nadal.

But he had to wait until the U.S. Open to secure his first major of last season. He's feeling more confident this year.

"They will be tough to

win," he said. "But I know I got the game to do it."

A bout of mononucleosis hampered his preparations for the last Australian Open and he lost in the semifinals to Djokovic.

Federer lost momentum, and lost the French Open and Wimbledon finals to Nadal, who also won the Olympic singles gold medal.

Under pressure in the last Grand Slam event of the year, Federer beat Murray in straight sets in the final to win his fifth straight U.S. Open.

He then struggled at the season-ending Masters Cup and Djokovic took that title.

"I know a lot of people are saying this seems like a tough generation right now with Murray, Djokovic, Rafa and everything," Federer said. "I don't think it's that much stronger than when I came about."

Before Federer's domination, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt, Marat Safin and Juan Carlos Ferrero were all winning Grand Slams.

Penguins stop Rangers' streak

From Call wire services

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 33 shots, Petr Sykora had a goal and an assist and Sidney Crosby returned to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-0 victory over the visiting New York Rangers on Sunday.

Fleury posted his second shutout of the season and 13th of his career, while Chris Minard and Tyler Kennedy added goal for Pittsburgh.

The Penguins have won three of their last four games and moved back into playoff position in the Eastern Conference.

Crosby was back in the

lineup after sitting out Friday's game with an apparent knee injury. He missed a penalty shot early in the second period and saw his five-game scoring streak end. Crosby was hurt during Wednesday's loss to Washington.

The Rangers' three-game winning streak ended as they were shut out for the third time this season. New York hasn't won in regulation at Mellon Arena in the past 12 games, including playoffs.

Fleury has allowed only one goal in his past two games. The Penguins traded for Mahieu Garon on Satur-

day to perhaps push Fleury, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2003 draft who has been spectacular times but inconsistent at others.

Fleury had a 2.94 goals-against average and .905 save percentage and had given up at least four goals during seven of his past 17 starts, causing Penguins coach Michel Therrien to publicly question his team's goaltending.

Avalanche 6, Flames 2: At Denver, Ryan Smyth and Milan Hejduk scored their 300th career goals in Colorado's win, becoming just the second set of players in NHL history to reach the milestone in the same game.

Blue Jackets 6, Canucks 5, SO: At Vancouver, British Columbia, Columbus captain Rick Nash had a goal and two assists in regulation and scored the winning shootout goal in the Blue Jackets' 6-5 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday night.

OTHER NEWS

Sabres' Numminen out after face surgery: Buffalo Sabres defenseman Teppo Numminen is out indefinitely after having surgery Sunday to repair a fractured bone in his face.

Numminen was struck in the face Saturday by a shot in a game against Carolina.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	27	16	4	58	123	123
New Jersey	27	15	3	57	137	115
Philadelphia	24	12	9	57	146	134
Pittsburgh	23	20	4	50	143	144
Islanders	12	29	4	28	112	161
Northeast Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	33	8	4	70	160	98
Montreal	27	11	6	60	141	118
Buffalo	23	17	5	51	129	126
Toronto	17	21	7	41	133	162
Ottawa	15	21	7	37	105	127
Southeast Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	29	14	3	61	149	134
Florida	21	16	7	49	126	125
Carolina	21	20	5	47	117	141
Tampa Bay	14	21	10	38	112	140
Atlanta	16	25	5	37	137	165
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Detroit	31	8	6	68	170	127
Chicago	25	10	8	58	151	108
Columbus	22	19	4	48	122	124
Nashville	20	22	3	43	110	131
St. Louis	17	23	4	38	126	145
Northwest Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Calgary	27	14	4	58	141	134
Vancouver	22	19	6	50	136	135
Colorado	23	22	1	47	126	134
Edmonton	22	19	3	47	122	132
Minnesota	22	19	3	47	111	101

NHL ROUNDUP

Pacific Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
San Jose	33	6	5	71	158	107
Phoenix	23	18	5	51	117	130
Anaheim	23	19	5	51	133	131
Dallas	19	17	7	45	124	147
Los Angeles	17	20	7	41	106	124

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Penguins 3, Rangers 0
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 0-0
Pittsburgh 2 1 0-3
First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Minard 1 (Sykora, Gill), 7:35. 2, Pittsburgh, Kennedy 8 (Satan, Scuderi), 15:32. Penalties—Drury, NYR (hooking), 1:21.
Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Sykora 17 (Whitney, J.Staal), 7:32 (pp). Penalties—M.Staal, NYR (high-sticking), 1:08; Gomez, NYR (hooking), 6:33; Boucher, Pit (interference), 11:07; Orr, NYR (roughing), 14:03; Crosby, Pit (roughing), 14:03; Malkin, Pit (cross-checking), 15:12.
Third Period—None. Penalties—Betts, NYR (interference), 4:04; Korpi-koski, NYR (hooking), 11:32.
Missed Penalty Shot—Crosby, Pit, 1:52 second.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 7-16-10-33. Pittsburgh 9-8-6-23.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 2; Pittsburgh 1 of 5.

Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 23-13-3 (23 shots-20 saves).
Washington at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
A—17,024 (16,940). T—2:17.
Referees—Mike Hasenfratz, Justin St. Pierre. Linesmen—Andy McElman, Jay Sharrers.

Avalanche 6, Flames 2
Calgary 0 1 1-2
Colorado 2 2 2-6
First Period—1, Colorado, Svatos 8 (Smyth, Wolski), 16:33 (pp).
2, Colorado, Stewart 5 (Salei, Hensick), 18:28.
Second Period—3, Calgary, Cammalleri 20 (Iginla, Phaneuf), 10:22 (pp), 4, Colorado, Smyth 16 (Leppold), 13:00 (sh). 5, Colorado, Hejduk 15 (Liles, Clark), 17:44 (pp).
Third Period—6, Calgary, Bourque 16 (Lombardi, Aucoin), 5:30. 7, Colorado, Salei 2 (Hejduk, Smyth), 15:27. 8, Colorado, McLeod 10 (Willisie, Guite), 19:59.
Shots on Goal—Calgary 8-17-16-41. Colorado 20-10-9-39.
Goalies—Calgary, McElhinney. Colorado, Budaj. A—16,113 (18,007). T—2:21.

Detroit 1 3 1-5
San Jose 2 2 2-6
First Period—1, San Jose, Boyle 13 (Clowe, Murray), 2:59. 2, Detroit, Filppula 6 (Hudler, Kronwall), 4:07. 3, San Jose, Pavelski 13 (Michalek, Murray), 7:22. Penalties—Staubitz, SJ (tripping), 11:44.
Second Period—4, Detroit, Hossa 22 (Datsyuk, Rafalski), 1:34 (pp). 5, Detroit, Franzen 21 (Datsyuk, Holmstrom), 4:31. 6, San Jose, Ehrhoff 3 (Michalek, Clowe), 7:56 (pp). 7, Detroit, Zetterberg 17 (Cleary, Hossa), 15:37. 8, San Jose, Cheechoo 7 (Clowe, Vlasic), 18:55 (pp). Penalties—Murray, SJ (holding), 4:11; Samuelsson, Det (roughing, goaltender interference), 5:27; Grier, SJ (roughing), 5:27; Lijja, Det (slashing), 5:58; Lebeda, Det (delay of game), 17:32; Rafalski, Det (roughing), 20:00; Franzen, Det (roughing), 20:00; Thornton, SJ, served by Setoguchi, double minor (roughing), 20:00; Vlasic, SJ (roughing), 20:00.
Third Period—9, San Jose, Michalek 11 (Boyle, Ehrhoff), 10:18.
10, San Jose, Marleau 24 (Clowe, Vlasic), 13:24. 11, Detroit, Rafalski 7 (Zetterberg, Hossa), 18:04. Penalties—None.
Shots on Goal—Detroit 11-12-11-34. San Jose 13-21-7-41.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 1 of 3; San Jose 2 of 3.
Goalies—Detroit, Osgood 15-3-5 (41 shots-35 saves). San Jose, Nabokov 24-5-4 (34-29).



ROGER FEDERER needs one more Grand Slam championship to tie Pete Sampras' record of 14.