

Competition in Bay Cities Golf League Heats Up

By Garrett Ley



Alex Paxton at hole 2



Erik Thompson to finish at hole one

Photos Andy Scheck

The Bay Cities golf league is the one premier junior golf leagues in the nation, featuring 31 private and semi-private golf clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bay Cities give youth golfers a chance to compete for nine straight weeks from May to July.

The Orinda Country Club team, which was coming off a season-opening loss to Round Hill on May 30, faced Diablo on June 7 looking to pick up their first win of the season. However, OCC had an incomplete lineup to go against a Diablo team that featured the number one golfers from San Ramon Valley, De La Salle and Monta Vista.

Though Diablo prevailed 33-3, OCC got an impressive performance from Patrick Fabian, one of the top middle-school golfers in the Bay

Area who fired a team-best 81 on Saturday to pace OCC. He had to step up on a day when Miramonte standouts Scotty Williams and Jack Fernbacher were out of the lineup because they were playing in an LMYA Recreational Basketball game for the "Nads."

Team OCC demonstrated its depth on Saturday when Patrick Fabian, Brandon Caldwell and Matt Klein each earned points for OCC under the match-play settings. Factor in players like Alex Paxton, Erik Thompson and Kelsey Williams to the equation.

An element of the sport, which often is overlooked, is the presence of college players. To play in Bay Cities, a player must be under the age of 21, which allows freshmen and sophomores in college to come back and

play for their country clubs. OCC unfortunately doesn't feature a single college golfer, putting the team at a slight disadvantage.

"Even though we're not that strong, we play against some teams that show up with some of the most talented juniors in Northern California," Coach Fabian said.

Though Orinda Country Club stands 0-2 two weeks into the season, Coach Fabian believes his team has a good shot of winning a few matches and becoming a contender down the stretch.

"If we can get everyone there at the right time, we will definitely win a few matches," Coach Fabian said. "It's just a matter of us getting kids back from college, getting kids graduated, and coming together before everyone heads back to college."