

Perry, Lehman In Lead Group At U.S. Senior Open

Golf: Senior Record Seven Golfers Tied At 67 At Omaha Country Club

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — It's never been so crowded at the top of the U.S. Senior Open leaderboard. When Tom Lehman chipped in from 45 feet on the 18th hole Thursday, he joined six others at 3-under 67 for the first round at the Omaha Country Club.

There had never been as many as seven co-leaders after the opening round of the event. The previous record was five in 1997.

"In one round, 18 holes, it's like a sprint," Lehman said. "Over the course of four rounds, which is more like a marathon, things really do spread out. The field will thin out."

Kenny Perry shot a 67 in the morning, putting together a solid start in his bid for a second straight win in a senior major. Michael Allen and Jay Don Blake also were 3 under after their morning rounds,

and Gary Hallberg, Mark O'Meara, Fred Funk and Lehman came in with the same score in the afternoon.

The hilly 6,700-yard course took a toll on the field of golfers age 50 and older, especially in the afternoon as temperatures reached the upper 80s with a light breeze. The small and undulating greens browned up in the heat and proved dicey.

"When you get tough conditions and you're playing good, you get rewarded," Funk said. "More than likely, the guy that's playing the best in these kind of conditions will be at the top. Hopefully, it will be me."

Perry, who won the Senior Players Championship two weeks ago at Fox Chapel, Pa., made five birdies against two bogeys.

The season points leader started on the back nine and had birdies on three of his first eight holes. He hit

an 8-iron to within 10 feet on the par-3 11th, drove the green on the 312-yard, par-4 13th, and hit hybrid-pitching wedge on the 319-yard, par-4 17th and made his 15-foot putt.

He birdied both par-5s on his second nine, but came away a bit disappointed after missing a 5-foot eagle putt on No. 6.

"I took care of the par 5s today and drove it nicely, kept it in the fairway, kept it in play," Perry said. "Like I said yesterday, if I hit it in the fairway, I really like my chances on this golf course."

Lehman, the 2012 Champions Tour points and money leader, overcame a bogey on No. 8 with three birdies on the back nine — none bigger than the one on 18.

His second shot came to rest in thick grass to the right of the green. He used an 8-iron for his chip and

watched it roll downhill slowly into the cup for what ranked as the shot of the day.

"The lie was a little bit squirrely," Lehman said. "The grass was growing against the ball so it's easy to kind of not catch it cleanly. I took less loft and kind of hit it a little bit thin. Once it gets out on the green, it's going to get down there."

Chien Soon Lu, Peter Senior, Rocco Mediate and 2010 champion Bernhard Langer shots 68s. Colin Montgomerie, who turned 50 last month and is playing in his second senior event, was in a pack that was two shots behind.

Defending champion Roger Chapman struggled with his putter and was seven shots behind after a 74.

Tom Watson, who played with Langer and Montgomerie and drew the largest galleries of the day, struggled with his irons while

shooting a 70 that included one birdie and one bogey.

"I hit a few good shots today, but for the most part, my shots weren't very solid," Watson said. "One good thing about it was that I got about the best score I possibly could out of my round."

Fred Couples, coming off three straight runner-up finishes on the Champions Tour, had a 1-over 71.

Couples, like others, had difficulty figuring out the speed of the greens. The recent heat wave has put stress on them, and warmer temperatures are forecast this weekend.

"They're suffering," Lehman said. "And there's differing kinds of grass. That's probably the biggest thing. It's not 100 percent pure. So the heat affects them each differently, which is why you see that spotty stuff. That kind of makes the putts really not quite as true as you would hope for."

State Softball Tourney Begins Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Three teams from Yankton, as well as teams from other area communities, will send teams to the South Dakota Amateur Softball Association's State Girls' Fast-pitch Tournament, being held today (Friday) through Sunday at Sioux Falls' Sherman and Harmodon Parks.

The Yankton Spitfire will compete in the 18-under 'A' division, with the Yankton Lightning in the 16-under 'A' division and the Yankton Fury in the 10-under 'B' east division.

This marks the first year of a divided state girls' softball tournament, with 'B' division teams playing in Rapid City July 19-21. Yankton's Xtreme (14-under), Crush (12-under) and Shamrocks (12-under) will compete in that tournament. The 10-under 'B' division was divided so that teams could choose their preferred site, allowing them to cut down on travel for the event's youngest players.

Besides the Yankton teams, area squads from Elk Point, Hurley, Jefferson, Lesterville, North Sioux City, Parkston, Platte, Scotland, Springfield, Tabor, Tripp, Tyndall, Vermillion and Wagner will participate in this weekend's event. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Other area communities may be represented by athletes playing in other communities, and by teams listed without a city.)

Play begins early Friday afternoon, and continues until Sunday. Championship games in all divisions are



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Three Yankton softball teams will be participating in the South Dakota ASA tournament in Sioux Falls on Friday. The tournament runs through Sunday.

ABOVE: Yankton Lightning pitcher Jaclyn Arens fires the ball home during a home game earlier this season. The Lightning will compete in the 16-under 'A' division.

TOP LEFT: Yankton Spitfire's Elizabeth Bye rips the ball during the team's doubleheader with the Norfolk Golden Girls earlier this season. Bye, who plays at Briar Cliff, and the Spitfire will compete in the 18-under 'A' division.

LOWER LEFT: Molly Savey, Britta Pietila and Ella Mulder of the Yankton Fury cheer on their teammates from the dugout during the squad's home game on Tuesday. The Fury will compete in the 10-under 'B' division.



Cubs, City Of Chicago Agree On Wrigley Jumbotron

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs have reached an agreement with the city that would allow the team to build a left-field Jumbotron at historic Wrigley Field while adding another sign in right field, the team announced Thursday.

The city's landmarks commission, which must sign off on any changes to historic structures, was meeting Thursday afternoon to decide whether to approve the deal.

Alderman Tom Tunney, whose ward includes Wrigley Field, told the commission that light from the proposed Jumbotron would be seen from blocks away. He asked that its size be reduced.

"I cannot support a proposal that so dramatically affects the quality of

life of my residents," Tunney said. "The Cubs often point to large signs at Fenway and U.S. Cellular. Those signs back up to expressways, not people's homes."

If accepted, the Cubs could erect a 5,700-square-foot Jumbotron in left field of the 99-year-old ball park and a 650-square-foot sign in right field.

The agreement, reached after weeks of negotiations, underlines the fact that Wrigley, famous for the storied billy goat curse and Babe Ruth's called home run shot, is unlike any stadium in the United States.

Cubs spokesman Julian Green said the Jumbotron is slightly smaller than what the Cubs initially wanted and the right field sign is significantly smaller. The biggest change is that

the Jumbotron would be 95-feet wide instead of 100 feet. That means rooftop bleachers across the street will have less obstructed views than the original design.

But the question looms if the latest deal will trigger lawsuits from the owners of the rooftops that peek over the outfield walls.

The Cubs are in the middle of a 20-year revenue-sharing agreement with the owners of the rooftops. It calls for the rooftops to hand over to the Cubs 17 percent of their gross annual revenue that they earn charging people to watch the games from bleachers they've built atop the buildings.

Cutting into their views amounts to a violation of their contracts and will devastate a multimillion-dollar en-

terprise that relies on a nice clear view of the playing field.

The Cubs have said the rooftop views would be "largely preserved," and have pointed out that most of the massive left-field Jumbotron is in front of one of the few buildings that does not have rooftop bleachers.

The Cubs recently brought in cranes to hoist mock-ups of the signs to see just how much they'd affect the views of the rooftops. The team has made it clear that minimal impact does not mean no impact.

The signs, particularly the Jumbotron, were the most contentious piece of a \$500 million renovation puzzle the Cubs have been trying to put together since Ricketts family has owned the team.

USD's Starr On Buchanan Watch List

VERMILLION — University of South Dakota senior linebacker Tyler Starr is one of 20 players named to the 2013 Buck Buchanan Award Watch List announced Thursday.

Starr is one of seven returning finalists for the 19th annual award, which is presented by The Sports Network to the outstanding defensive player in the FCS following the regular season. He was an all-MVFC honoree last season after recording 74 tackles and four sacks. That was preceded by a sophomore season in which he compiled 14 sacks and 51 stops. Starr's nine career forced fumbles lead all active FCS players.



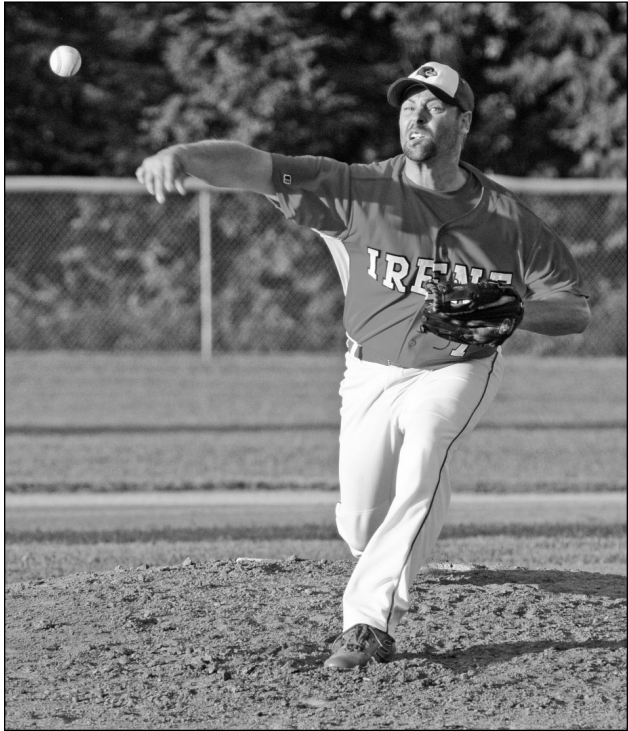
Starr

The Bucks Buchanan Award Watch List can undergo revision during the 2013 season. Ballots will be sent to a panel of about 175 sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries following the regular season. The winner will be invited to The Sports Network FCS Awards Presentation on Dec. 16.

Past Buchanan Award recipients include two-time winner Dexter Coakley, Jared Allen, Rashean Mathis, Kroy Biermann and Montana State defensive end Caleb Schreibeis last season.

The Sports Network also presents the Walter Payton, Jerry Rice and Eddie Robinson awards. The Payton Award honors the outstanding player in FCS, the Rice Award goes to the FCS freshman of the year and the Robinson Award honors the FCS coach of the year.

Balanced Expos Down Menno 12-3



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Irene Cardinals pitcher Ben Sees delivers to a Yankton Tappers batter during their South Central League amateur game Thursday night in Irene. Results were not available by presstime.

MENNO — Five different Wynot players had two or more hits as the Expos downed Menno 12-3 in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Lance Heine had a double, two singles and three RBI to lead Wynot. Lee Heimes, Matt Hames, Ryan Eskins and Mitchell Bruening each had two hits in the win.

Macon Oplinger led Menno with a double and two singles.

Brett Wiebelhaus went the distance for the win. Tom Sattler took the loss.

Wynot, 11-4 in SCL play, hosts Irene on Sunday. Menno, 4-10 in the league, hosts Crofton on Sunday.

WYNOT.....232 011 021 — 12 14 3
MENNO.....100 100 010 — 3 7 5
Brett Wiebelhaus and Steve Heimes; Tom Sattler, Doug Hall (6) and Jay Thaler

Baseball Union Head Assails Leaks On Drug Inquiry

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of the players' union said Thursday baseball's drug agreement could be undermined by leaks to the media about whether players are co-operating with an investigation by the commissioner.

Alex Rodriguez and Ryan Braun are among the players being interviewed as part of Major League Baseball's inquiry into Biogenesis, a closed Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

"Repeated leaks threaten to harm the integrity" of the drug agreement, union executive director Michael Weiner said in a statement. He added that the leaks "call into question the required level of confidentiality needed to operate a successful prevention program."

Braun is among several players who refused to answer questions about their dealings with Biogenesis, which was first reported Wednesday by

ESPN and the Daily News of New York. Braun was interviewed last month and Rodriguez is scheduled to be interviewed Friday.

"The players want a clean game and they demand a testing program that is not only the toughest in professional sports, but one that guarantees each player due process rights accompanied by strict confidentiality provisions," Weiner said.

The union said it has no information about the source of the leaks or any indication that MLB is the source.

MLB has spent most of the year investigating about 20 players for their links to Biogenesis, including Rodriguez and Braun, both former MVPs. Miami New Times reported in January the clinic had distributed banned drugs to major leaguers.

Braun and Rodriguez have said they didn't do anything that merits discipline.