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**Ryan Franks wins 17th Metropolitan Amateur**

**O'FALLON, MO** - Quincy's **Ryan Franks** first ventured onto a golf course as a toddler, being pulled along by his parents.

"I took up the game when I was three or four," Franks said after his win at the 17th Metropolitan Amateur Championship August 11 at WingHaven Country Club. While his first experiences with the game were as a spectator for his parents, the tables have turned 180 degrees. Now his parents, and plenty of others, for that matter, are watching Ryan play.

As the 19-year-old has progressed through the ranks, Dennis and Valletta Franks have given up the game to chauffeur Ryan to junior events around the country.

"I remember playing at a course in the Lake of the Ozarks," Dennis Franks said. "We played with

Ryan along in a stroller. We probably should have been kicked off the course."

"They used to be able to shoot in the 40s, but ever since I got serious about the game, they gave it up to get me to my junior tournaments," Ryan said.

Playing in 100-plus heat indexes all week at WingHaven, Franks posted rounds of 72-71-70-213 for an even par finish to edge Ballwin teenager **Scott Langley** in the 17th playing of St. Louis' most prestigious amateur championship.

While many struggled with the heat and demanding rough at WingHaven, Franks hit enough fairways and greens, and holed enough timely putts to beat the area's top young golfers and seasoned veterans.

Franks finished two ahead of Langley (74-71-70-215) and three better than Norwood Hills' Skip Berk-meyer (73-75-68-216).

Fox Run's Matt Hines (75-71-72-218) posted a 1-over par final round to take fourth place, one ahead of two Big 12 collegiate golfers - Kansas State's Mitchell Gregson (73-75-71-219) and Colorado's Justin Bardgett (74-73-72-219). Collin Neeman of Waterloo, Ill., finished seventh (71-76-73-220). Scott McClellan (74-77-70-221), Jim Holtgrieve (72-79-70-221), Corey Choate (74-74-73-220) and 2006 U.S. Amateur runner-up John Kelly (71-79-71-220) tied for eighth.



Langley, (pictured with MAGA President Stan Grossman) who starts his freshman year at the University of Illinois, had his chances to catch Franks.

Trailing by two shots for much of the final round, Langley hit a laser approach to the 396-yard 17th that nearly went in for eagle.

The shot hit the flagstick about a foot above the cup, left a ball impression two inches behind the hole and spun back off the green. "It could have gone in," Franks said. "It was a great shot that was unlucky for him."

**St. Louis CC to host 2008 Amateur**

St. Louis Country Club, designed by one of the game's revered masters, Charles Blair Macdonald, will host the 18th annual Metropolitan Amateur - August 7-9, 2008.

"We are pleased to announce that the members of St. Louis Country Club have accepted our proposal to conduct our oldest and most prestigious event at their club," said Tom O'Toole, Jr., Executive Director of the MAGA. "St. Louis CC now joins a wonderful list of host courses allowing us to showcase the top amateur talent in the region."

Since the inception of the Metropolitan Amateur in 1991, the event has served as a platform to recognize veteran champions such as Jim Holtgrieve, Don Bliss, David Estes and the late Craig Schnurbusch as well as identify talented young players such as Mike Sabo, John Kelly, Parker LaBarge and now Ryan Franks.

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### Bliss, Tessary advance to 53rd Senior Amateur

Chesterfield's **Don Bliss** fired a 1-over par 72 at Franklin County Country Club to earn one of two qualifying spots to the 53rd USGA Senior Amateur, to be held Sept. 1-6 at Flint Hills Golf Club in Wichita, Kan.

Collinsville's **Terry Tessary** posted a 3-over 74, then outlasted three others to earn the final qualifying spot. Tessary parred the first playoff hole to eliminate **Rod Maxwell** of Windsor, Ill., (first alternate), **Jerry Greer** of Tulsa, Okla. (second alternate), and Kirkwood's **Rick Sonne**.

Bliss made birdies at the par-5 fourth and 10th holes as well as at Franklin County's short par-4 eighth to jump into a lead. Following bogeys at Nos. 12 and 13, Bliss finished with five straight pars to secure the two-shot win and a trip to his first Senior championship.

Tessary earned his second straight trip to the nationals after making it into the second round of match play in the 2006 event at Victoria National Golf Club in Indiana.

### Brummett finds Women's Amateur to her liking

**Whitney Brummett** posted a final-round 2-over 71 to win the 15th Annual Metropolitan Women's Amateur in convincing fashion at Westborough Country Club.

The 20-year-old from the Country Club of the Legends completed the 36 holes at 6-over 144, nine shots better than runner-up **Barbara Berkmeier** (76-77-153).

A three-year standout at Florida State University, Brummett was steady if not spectacular in distancing herself from the two women who had dominated the event since its inception— Berkmeier and Sunset's **Ellen Port** (79-78-157).

After opening with a bogey at the par-5 first hole, Brummett reeled off 11 straight pars to widen her lead to seven shots over Berkmeier and 10 over the Country Club of St. Albans' **Kathy Glennon**.

Glennon (77-82-159) and St. Louis Country Club's **Ginny Orthwein** (76-83-159) tied for fourth. **Cindy Mackey** of the St. Louis Women's Golf Association won A Flight with rounds of 81-88-169 while Bear Creek's **Jan Pedersen** (below right) shot 94-94-188 to top the B Flight.

Brummett, a 2004 Eureka graduate, was an all-state golfer at Eureka High School before launching her collegiate career at FSU. She has maintained a 4.0 in Political Science with a 4.0 grade point, earning National Golf Coaches' Association All-America Scholar Team honors.



### Arizona pro Darren Fletcher wins 2nd Metropolitan Open

**Darren Fletcher** posted a final-round 71 for a 3-under par 207 to win the **2nd Annual Metropolitan Open** by one shot over Tower Tee's **Bob Gaus** (67-68-73-208) and three ahead of St. Louis mini-tour professional **Chris Naegel** (71-71-68-210) and Norwood Hills' **Skip Berkmeier** (68-68-74-219).

Fletcher (65-71-71-207) made seven birdies in an opening round 65, but really won the tournament by being one of the few to avoid costly bogeys down the stretch.

The Phoenix native captured the \$6,000 first prize, the biggest of his pro career. The event, conducted by the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association, featured the top players from the MAGA and Gateway PGA as well as a handful of mini-tour professionals.



The tournament was sponsored by **St. Albans Realty** and co-sponsored by **Midwest Bankcentre** and **Marcone, Inc.**

For more coverage and complete scoring, please visit [METGA.ORG](http://METGA.ORG)

### 2007 Handicap Revision Schedule

Revision	Transmit By*	Effective Date
Season Start		March 8
1	April 5	April 6
2	May 3	May 4
3*	May 17	May 18
4	May 31	June 1
5	June 14	June 15
6	June 28	June 29
7	July 12	July 13
8	July 26	July 27
9	August 9	August 10
10	August 23	August 24
11	September 6	September 7
12	October 4	October 5
13	November 1	November 2

### USGA RULES Quiz

**Q:** During the 1991 Doral Open, Paul Azinger attempted to hit his ball out of several inches of water within a defined water hazard. In trying to get a solid stance at the edge of the hazard, he kicked aside several stones from within the water hazard. What ruling, if any, came into play.

**A:** According to Rule 13-4, a player shall not touch or move a loose impediment laying in or touching a hazard. Azinger was unaware of his breach. He successfully extricated his ball from the water, but unfortunately recorded an incorrect score on his card and was thus disqualified.

Click on **METGA.ORG**, **Rules** to learn more about the **USGA Rules of Golf, Decisions, Rules Vignettes**. Try taking one of the rules quizzes to see how your knowledge of the rules scores.

