

dream of, unless they cared to consult me on hitting windmill blades.

This was rapture. Rats. I had not worn a hat just in case this happened, thinking frying my brain would chase me back to the clubhouse, my car and life as a golf teetotaler — Tees! — free of pin-placement palpitations, compulsions to count dimples on my Dunlops and other obsessions that 30 years ago had plagued me ... but no such luck.

“The mind is a terrible thing to lose,” said Dan Quayle, a better golfer than politician. But to give up a game you love — Davis Love! — because it is driving you nuts, is crazy.

I accept this thing that I cannot change. Golf has a Vardon grip on my jugular. I stayed till the 22-hole match I had been following was complete, shadows swallowed paradise, and mowing crews came on to shave stray-grass whiskers and prepare the next day's perfection.

Why fight that?

Scott Sullivan is Editor, Michigan Runner magazine, and can be reached by email at scott@glsp.com MG

Kelly Cavanaugh Makes Michigan Women's Open Her First Win

By Michael Patrick Shiels

Kelly Cavanaugh, a 22 year old from Palos Verdes, California, made the 12th Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open her first professional victory Wednesday at Crystal Mountain Resort. The touring professional, who confessed to not having won any tournament since playing junior golf, shot a final-round 68 on Crystal's 6,150-yard Mountain Ridge course, which, added to her first two rounds of 71 and 70, gave her a 209 (7-under-par) total and the \$5,500 first-place check.

“It feels great,” said Cavanaugh, who began the final round a shot behind LPGA veteran Tracy Hanson. “I played one shot at a time and tried not to pay attention. I just wanted to see what would happen without forcing anything.”

But Cavanaugh forced the issue by making three-straight birdies on the 10th through 12th holes, holing putts of six, 24 and 21 feet to push her way in front of Hanson.

“She played a really solid round of golf today. Three birdies in a row

definitely gave her some momentum. I made par putts, but I couldn't get the birdies to go in,” said Hanson, 33, who spends her summers in Holland, Michigan and has played 11 years on the LPGA Tour. Hanson did hole a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-three 17th to put the heat on Cavanaugh, who was then forced to hit her tee shot on the 18th with a tenuous one-stroke lead.

“I was so nervous, but I decided to go for it and hit my driver. I'd been doing it all week,” said Cavanaugh, who turned professional in 2003 and has been cherry-picking mini-tour events wherever she could qualify. She was rewarded with a closing birdie while Hanson, forced to play aggressively, double-bogeyed to close with 73 and slip to third place.

“I'm going to phone my grandfather Gene Parana, back in Palos Verdes. He got me into golf,” said Cavanaugh, who was also congratulated with cheers and hugs from her fellow mini-tour players behind the 18th green.

“I'm working really hard to get

This is definitely the best state open in the U.S. I love this golf course - it's wonderful.

to the LPGA Tour. I really want it bad.”

Cavanaugh's triumph made her the first non-Michigan resident to win the Michigan Women's Open, which first began welcoming players from outside the state in 2003. Almost immediately, LPGA Tour players and other touring professional from around the America and Canada began traveling to Michigan to compete.

“This is definitely the best state open in the U.S. I love this golf course - it's wonderful,” said Cavanaugh, who finished T-14 in last year's Michigan Women's Open. This year, she came to Crystal Mountain after competing in last week's LPGA Canadian Open in Nova Scotia. “I shot 81-79 in that event, so this is a really nice turn around.”

Brooke Tull, an LPGA rookie from Fort Worth, TX, closed with a tournament-best 67. Her three-round total of 70-75-67 - 212 (-4) made her runner-up, she collected \$4,000. She began the final round five strokes out of the lead.

“I was just going out there to try to have fun,” said Tull, 22. “It was my best round of the year and ties my best round ever. It helps. It's a real confidence boost.”

Sara Brown, from Tucson, AZ, who plays golf at Michigan State University, finished as low-amateur after shooting rounds of 73-75-73-221 (+5). She received a gift certificate for \$750.

Fifty professional and 39 amateurs from around America and Canada competed in the \$40,000 Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open on Crystal Mountain Resort's Mountain

Ridge course. Fifty-nine players were from Michigan. First prize was \$5,500.

Final Results, 2005 Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open. July 25-27. Mountain Ridge Course, Crystal Mountain Resort

- 1st Kelly Cavanaugh, Palos Verdes, CA \$5,500.00
- 2nd Brooke Tull, Ft Worth, \$4,000.00
- 3rd Tracy Hanson, Holland, MI \$3,000.00
- 4th Emily Bastel, Upper Sandusky, OH \$2,500.00
- 5th Marie Josee Rouleau, Ft Lauderdale, \$2,000.00
- 6th Dodie Mazzuca, Scottsdale \$1,600.00
- 7th Janice Olivencia, Austin, \$1,500.00
- 8th Cortney Reno, Grosse Ile \$1,400.00
- 9th Ria Quiazon, San Francisco, CA \$1,300.00
- 10th Misia Lemanski, Grosse Ile \$1,100.00 **MG**

