

Illinois State Graduate Made Run at British Open Title in 1985

By TOM EMERY
Enquirer-Democrat Contributor

This weekend (July 16-19) will mark the 154th playing of the British Open, formally known as The Open Championship, the oldest and most historic major in men's pro golf.

Many of the sport's biggest names have either won or contended in the Open, including one from Illinois State University.

D.A. Weibring, a 1975 ISU graduate, made a serious run at capturing the 1985 Open title at Royal St. George's (Sandwich) as he was just one shot off the lead after 36 holes.

He eventually finished tied for eighth, his best-ever result at the event. Weibring recorded five top-ten finishes in PGA Tour majors between 1985-88.

A Quincy native, Weibring won five times on the Tour, with victories at the John Deere Classic in 1979, 1991, and 1995 as well as the 1987 Western Open. His final Tour win was at Hartford in 1996.

Weibring, who finished second at the 1985 Players Championship, also won once on both the Japan and Australian golf tours.

The 1985 British Open was

the first time that Weibring had played the event since turning professional a decade before. He opened the tournament with a one-under 69, which tied for seventh.

Conditions tightened on Friday, but Weibring managed them well enough to card a 71 and enter the weekend at even par, one shot behind the lead.

Weibring was still in contention after a 74 on Saturday that left him in a tie for ninth, five shots back.

He improved to a 71 on Sunday and a three-way tie for eighth, three shots behind Sandy Lyle, the winner. The leaderboard at Sandwich was loaded, with six past and future major winners in the top ten.

Weibring was in contention during two of the more famous finishes in major championship history. He was fourth at the 1986 PGA Championship at Inverness, where Bob Tway famously holed out from a green-side bunker on the 72nd hole for the title.

At the 1987 Masters, Weibring finished in a three-way tie for seventh with Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, four shots out of a playoff. The champion of the tournament was Larry Mize, who dramatically chipped in for

a birdie at the 11th, the second extra hole, to seize the win.

Weibring was tied for the 54-hole lead at the 1987 PGA Championship after firing a 67 on Saturday, the low round of the day. He finished tied for third, one shot out of a playoff. In addition, Weibring tied for third, two shots out of a playoff, at the 1988 U.S. Open.

He later won five tournaments on the PGA Tour Champions, including a major, the 2008 Senior Players Championship. Weibring recorded fifteen top-ten finishes in senior majors from 2003-08.

A successful golf course architect, Weibring's design company is credited with work on over 100 golf courses worldwide, including TPC Deere Run in the Quad Cities, which has hosted the John Deere Classic since 2000.

Weibring's credits include the redesign of the ISU golf course in 2000-01. On Sept. 7, 2007, the course was named in his honor.

An active alum, Weibring has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Illinois State, particularly the men's and women's golf teams. He was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 1980.

The HAP Foundation highlights Pediatric Parent Advisory Committee

Leading with a parent-focused lens on helping providers care for seriously ill children

The HAP Foundation is proud to highlight the Pediatric Parent Advisory Committee with leadership from parents of children with a serious illness or medical complexity to ensure their voice is a pillar of our work.

"At HAP, we understand that parents know their child best," said Joseph Matty. "That is why, we are leaning into the Pediatric Parent Advisory Committee for guidance as they are a part of their child's journey every step of the way. A parent's strength and leadership often during uncertain circumstances makes their input an invaluable resource for The HAP Foundation."

The Pediatric Parent Advisory Committee is comprised of seven parents that have been affected by childhood cancer or medical complexities across a life span. They are knowl-

edgeable in the experience of having a child receive a terminal or life-limiting diagnosis, extensive and overwhelming hospitalizations, parenting siblings and maintaining personal responsibilities, managing medical bills and more, while tending to a medically complex child, and the emotional distress associated with the entire experience. The members of the Pediatric Parent Advisory Committee are Carissa Belasich, Raquel Cahill, Ellie Clark, Kaycee Jakubowski, Krystal Myers, Rachel Singleton, and Iyonna Wright. The Lynda P. Bollman Pediatric Program aims to embody this understanding by having our Parent Advisory Committee involved in programming. Our Parent Advisory Committee meets each month to review trends in hospice and palliative care at state and national levels, identify ways to support patients and families throughout their medical journeys, evaluate professional development trainings, participate in educational sessions, and help cultivate relationships with practitioners throughout the state. The Parent Advisory Committee also utilizes their

experiences to expand HAP's reach, through eliciting partnerships and collaboration with specialists and programs that benefit children and their families. To learn more about the Lynda P. Bollman Pediatric program, visit our website: thehapfoundation.org.

About The HAP Foundation:

The HAP Foundation is an independent nonprofit that provides education, advocacy, workforce development, and research on hospice, palliative care, and grief for all ages. With four decades rooted in direct patient care, it currently focuses on educating communities and professionals on hospice and palliative care; engaging in community-based research to better understand and impact disparities in hospice, palliative care, and grief support; increasing the Community Health Worker workforce to strengthen and share serious illness resources and education in the community; and advancing policies that assist individuals and families during end of life. Also, The HAP Foundation offers association management and consulting services.

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