

# Open titles on line

Roth, Snider are defending champs

TRAVERSE CITY — J.R. Roth entered the final round of the Michigan Open one shot off the pace.

Stacy Snider found herself two shots back in the Michigan Women's Open on the last day.

Both, however, rallied to win championships in two of the state's most prestigious tournaments.

The Michigan Open returns to Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in June, followed almost a month later by the Michigan Women's Open at Crystal Mountain Resort.

Roth claimed his second Michigan Open title against a field of up-and-coming mini-tour golfers — and with his 13-year-old son, Justin, as his caddy.

"I can't believe it," said Roth, who fought back tears after claiming a three-stroke victory over Eric Jorgenson and Mike Austin last year. "I never take anything for granted.

"The competition is getting stiffer and stiffer every year," he said. "I appreciate the quality of the field I beat. There are just so many good young players.

"You can name six or seven guys who are going to be great players, so to catch them when they're playing well and to beat them, that's really special for me."

Roth, 46, entered the round in second place, one stroke behind Grandville's Jorgenson. But he quickly leap-frogged the former Michigan State standout with birdies on his first two holes, and Roth pushed his lead to three strokes by the time he reached the turn. No one ever got closer.

Roth finished with a bogey-free 68 on The Bear, dropping his tournament score to 12-under 276. Mini-tour players Jorgenson, who shot 72, and Austin, who matched Roth with a 4-under 68, finished at 9-under 279.

"To shoot a 276 on this golf course is, I think, just remarkable, and for it to be me is even more

remarkable," said Roth, of West Bloomfield's Knollwood Country Club. "I'm just thrilled to win, especially with that score."

With the victory, which was worth \$13,000, Roth pushed his state tournament winnings to more than \$250,000 since 1990. He has four Michigan PGA Championship titles and three Tournament of Champions crowns in addition to his two Open titles.

Snider, energized by some putting tips from Brad Dean, Crystal's director of golf, rallied to win the 11th annual Women's Open by defeating Californian Amy Malinaric with a birdie on the first hole of a playoff.

Asked if she would have won the tournament, and the \$5,000 first-place check - without Dean's help, Snider's answer was a succinct "No."

"I really appreciate his help," said the 24-year-old Snider, a Futures Tour player who has conditional (alternate) status on the LPGA Tour.



Stacy Snider

Continued on Page 13

Introducing...

## Lakeview Ridge at Agaming Golf Resort

14 Private Residential Homesites overlooking beautiful  
Torch Lake

Offered exclusively by Exit Realty of Elk Rapids  
Call The Exit Team for more information



231-264-9833 or 866-366-EXIT  
www.exitrealtyofelkrapids.com

