

at travelers in a PGA Tour
Conn./Page B3 playoff event in
September that

will be held at Bellerive. Fans
in St. Louis haven't seen him in
person since a practice round
for a World Golf Championship
on Sept. 11, 2001. The tourna-
ment was canceled the next day.

"Everything was going great
— until yesterday," tournament
director Jon Kaczowski said
Thursday. "If you're a golf fan
in St. Louis, you've got to feel
snakebit."

That goes for everyone else in
a golf industry that will have to
do without its biggest star the
rest of the year. Woods said
Wednesday he would miss the
remainder of the season to
have reconstructive surgery on
his left knee.

Television networks no longer
can count on higher ratings
driven by the world's No. 1 play-
er. Woods had planned to com-
pete nine more times this year,
and organizers must try to put a
positive spin on any tournament
that no longer has him as a head-
liner. His departure even affects
bookmakers, who are making
refunds on wagers that Woods
will win two majors this year.

Maybe the biggest reminder
that Woods is done for the year
is that British-based William
Hill lists Ernie Els and Sergio
Garcia as the betting favorites
for the British Open at 12-to-1.

A week ago, Woods was listed
at 5-to-2.

"When he plays, everyone in
golf benefits," Kaczowski said.

This is not the first time
Woods has been on the disabled
list. He missed two months in
2006 when his father died, and
two months this year when he
had surgery on his left knee to
clean out cartilage.

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Todd Dudek photo

Megan Leineweber, who won by five shots, hits from the 18th fairway at the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club.

Tigress guts it out

Despite stomach bug, Megan Leineweber wins 3rd straight title

By **Anthony Spaulding**
Staff Writer

QUANTICO — Megan
Leineweber headed into
Thursday's final round of the
Pepsi Invitational Women's
Golf Tournament at the
Green Hill Yacht and Country
Club worrying about more
than just her three-shot lead.

"Thursday, I had a stomach
virus going on," the soon-to-
be Radford University junior
said. "So, it was a little bit of a

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struggle playing."

Despite her illness,
Leineweber continued play-
ing her game, finishing with a
153, five strokes better than
second-place finisher Diane
Herndon, to earn her third

■ **LPGA ACTION:** Seven tied for
lead at Wegmans/Page B3

straight title at the event.

"I really wanted this one
because of the 50th anniver-
sary of it," Leineweber said.
"I just love this tournament."

Leineweber played the final
day with Herndon, Vicki
Huggins (165) and Betty
Carneal (171), who were all
within four shots of her at the

See **PEPSI**, Page B4

seven games above .500, in what
the fans have deemed a success.

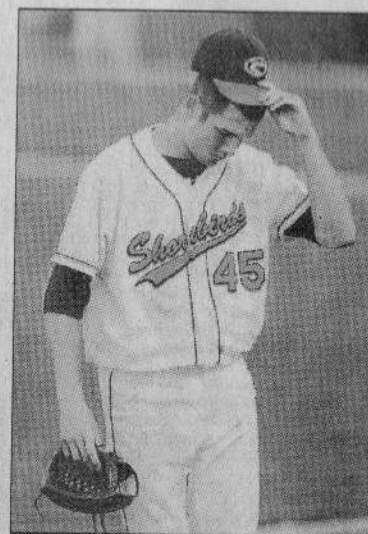
One of the biggest differ-
ences in this season's edition of
the Shorebirds was the change
in the third-base coaching box.

"Playing as a team (was the
best aspect of the team in the
first half)," said Sheldon White,
70, of Salisbury "Most of the
time in this league, it takes the
first half to get playing as a team,
but they actually started out
playing as a team, and I would
give a lot of credit on that to the
new manager [Ramon Sambo]."

For Jeff Bacon, it's not just
about the way the team has
stayed together, but the style of
play Sambo has his team exe-
cuting.

"I think they played exciting
baseball," said Bacon, 59, of
Snow Hill. "The last couple
years under Gary (Kendall), the
style of play had gotten to be a
little stale, I thought, or boring.
I like Ramon a lot. I like his
style of offense — run, hit-and-
run, bunt — mix it up a little

See **SHOREBIRDS**, Page B6



Matthew S. Gunby photo

Shorebirds starter Tony Butler
heads for the dugout after giving
up a three-run homer in the second
inning Thursday. *Story on Page B3.*

Pepsi

From Page B1

beginning of the round. Leineweber felt that all she needed to do was play steady golf.

"Being that I felt so awful yesterday, I just kind of came in hoping that I would play normally," she said. "I just kind of came out just taking one hole at a time, one shot at a time."

Leineweber started off slow on the first nine holes, bogeying three out of the first five to finish with a 3-over-par 39, while Herndon made two birdies to cut Leineweber's lead to one. Then Herndon tied Leineweber on the 12th hole with a par putt, while Leineweber made a bogey.

Leineweber struggled with her chip shots and her putting throughout the contest.

"I was really frustrated because my short game is really good," she said. "I kept hitting good shots, but then they just wouldn't pan out, and putting was really frustrating, because just (putts) kept lipping out or I just couldn't get it in the hole."

On the 13th hole, Leineweber capitalized on her struggles, hitting her second shot onto the back of the green and spinning the ball back to less than five feet from the pin. She would go on to make her birdie putt and take the lead.

Herndon tried making a comeback, but she fell short after taking a triple bogey on the par-3 14th hole.

"I hit too much club,"



Todd Dudek photo

Second-place finisher Diane Herndon, right, congratulates Megan Leineweber on her victory.

Herndon said. "I was in the very back of the bunker and I don't have that shot. I was just trying to get it on the green, and you're worrying about winging it (off the green)."

Leineweber capped off her performance with a tap-in birdie on the 18th hole.

Leineweber found it tough to defend her title.

"Diane came back today and played really great, and so did her daughter," Leineweber

said. "It just gets harder, because you feel more pressure and I just like coming through for all the people that support me here and my family."

Leineweber did not know if she was coming back to defend her title, but she did learn a valuable lesson from this tournament.

"Consistency pays," she said.

Stephanie Herndon, Diane's daughter, won low gross in the championship flight, with a 161.

Val Vares was the overall net winner, with a 133, and Carneal was the first-place net finisher with a 145 in the championship flight.

In the first flight, Patti Bennett-Brown won low gross with a 170, while Carol Mears (140) won low net. Karen Wood (175) was the gross winner in the second flight, and Dixie McNaney (138) scored top net. In the third flight, Jinny Vega (181) was top gross, and Val Vares was top net, with a 133.

Softball

From Page B1

downstate coaches prompted the cancellation of the Delaware South team.

"We're just going to have to suspend it for the year and be more aggressive next year," he said. "Hopefully, someone will take it over."

Streets, who deals with the two Delaware repre-

sentatives, said he waited to the last minute for someone to step up, but the phone call never came. So, as of June 7, Streets said he had to make a call to the Philadelphia Phillies to inform them that Delaware South wouldn't be sending a team.

"That's what's so disturbing to me," he said. "This has become such a franchise and I felt bad waiting so late to tell them."

He doesn't know if the current state of gas prices or the amount of time it takes to coach the team had an affect on the lack of interest, but, as a former coach, he knows the dedication it takes.

"Can you imagine the cost of gas from Delmar to Philly at \$4 a gallon," he said. "Plus, it's very time-consuming. You really have to enjoy coaching to do that."

The coaches duties, Streets said, includes set-

ting up practice times and locations at a centralized location a week or so before the tournament kicks off, and three days in Philadelphia coaching the team in the event. The position isn't just limited to high school coaches, as any softball coach could be accepted.

