

No 'putts' about it, miniature golf was a success

► Local golfers discover United Way fund-raiser raises fun as well.

JENNIFER HOGAN
Special to The Citizen

AUBURN — Drive for show, putt for dough.

Hundreds of amateur golfers put their putting skills to work in Auburn Wednesday and raised some serious dough for the United Way of Cayuga County.

"It was a lot of fun," said Jesse Kline, who spent two weeks designing the 12th hole for the annual United Way miniature golf tournament. "I am very excited to be a part of it all."

According to United Way representative Gail Homick, the tournament, which drew more than 400 participants, was expected to raise more than \$5,000.

The money will be the first of the 2006 fund-raising season, Homick said.

"After a long winter, it is a great stress reliever," said Mark Locastro, competing with "The Law Dogs," a team made up of members of the Auburn Police Department. "It gets us ready for the real golf season that will be starting soon."

"It is a great way to have fun and show support for a good cause," added Dan Emmi, also a member of "The Law Dogs," which included Brian Hutchings and Cliff Bond. "The turnout shows a strong sense of support from the community."

Homick said that while the tournament was not one of the year's largest fund-raising events, it is certainly one of the most fun.

"The tournament is something of a goodwill gesture," she said. "It is our way of saying thank-you to the community for all of their support."

The tournament, which consisted of 19 holes, was sponsored and designed by area businesses and each hole was teamed up with local agencies.

Welch Allyn, teamed with the Seneca/Cayuga ARC, had quite an interesting hole which challenged participants putting their ball from a moving stagecoach.

"There is so much creativi-

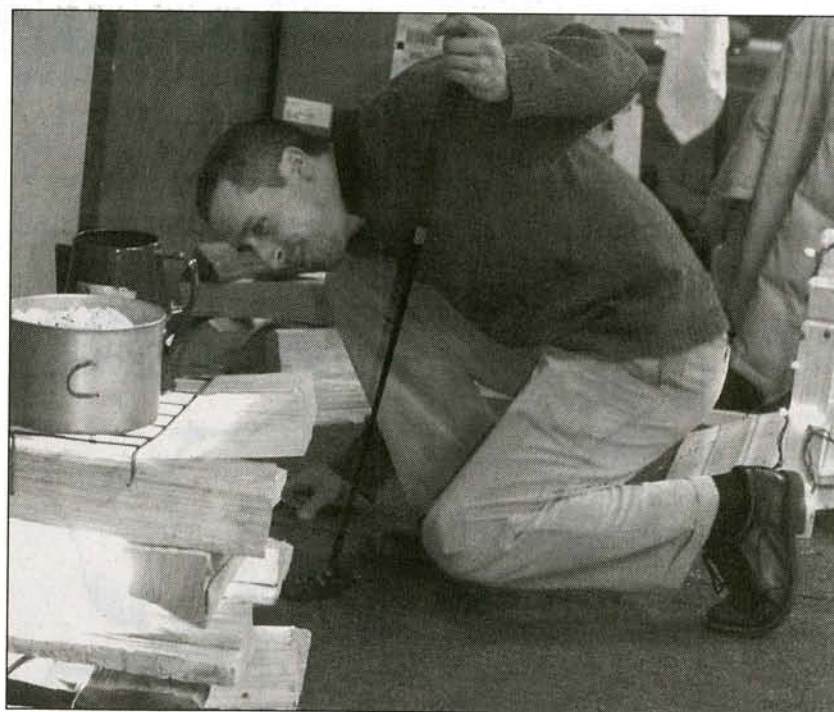


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Nancy Proper, left, and Sue Dwyer laugh with their "Passports R-Us" teammates.

ty involved," said Kline of the different holes. "It is nice to see everyone out and enjoying themselves."

In addition to the mandated holes for participants, a bonus hole, created and staffed by the Holiday Inn and Cayuga Home for Children was added for an extra chance to win a prize.

"The turnout has been great," said Nate Spieker, of the Cayuga Home. "Even though it costs an extra dollar to play the bonus hole, we have had about an 80 percent participation."



Above, Joe Odrzwolski congratulates Bernie Wallace after his hole-in-one during the 13th annual United Way miniature golf tournament at the Auburn Holiday Inn Wednesday. They participated as the "Happy Hooligans" with teammates Bob Reed, left, and Bill Martin.

Left, Rick Temple figures out his next shot at No. 17.

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