

**GOLF**

# Leader Balances Birdies, Bogeys

■ Tom Christian's erratic round leaves him the front-runner in the Gerry Ashe Memorial.

By JEANNE ALBANESE  
The Post-Standard

Tom Christian thought his five bogeys in Friday's first round of the Gerry Ashe Memorial would leave him enough time to make it to the races.

But six birdies pushed Christian to the top of the leader board and to the fast tee time for today's second round, making it unlikely that the ardent auto racing fan will make it to Oswego Speedway on time tonight.

Christian's one-under par 70 at the Tuscarora Golf Club left him at the top of the pack of 62 golfers who made the cut with scores of 77 or better. The 54-hole tournament concludes Sunday.

Christian made three birdies and three bogeys on the front side and three birdies with two bogeys on the back.

"I usually don't make that many birdies or bogeys out here," he said. "I only made seven pars. I'm not going to make six birdies tomorrow, so I'd better make more pars."

Christian was the medalist after the first round of the Herald Amateur and finished in sixth place.

John Bedzowski, a member at the Tuscarora club, fired a 71, followed by five players in at 72: Jason Lesch, Hank Faust, Alan Foster, Joe Oldo Jr. and Rick Jones. Seven players shot 73.

Todd Dischinger, the defending champion, shot 78 and did not make the cut. Dischinger made three birdies but also shot two double-bogeys.

"After I birdied the first two holes I thought I would shoot a 68 or 67," Dischinger said. "I didn't even come close. I didn't really play that bad, but I scored badly."

Lesch, 23, parred the first six holes of his round and then ran into trouble on the seventh hole. He drove his first shot under a tree, hit his second shot under another tree and then chipped over the green. Lesch thought he might double-



TRACY SHACK/The Post-Standard

**Jeff Wehrung sizes up a putt during Friday's first round of the Gerry Ashe Memorial. He didn't qualify for the final two rounds.**

bogey the hole, but instead chipped in for par.

"That was the point where my round really started going," said Lesch, a former golfer for Le Moyne College. "That was a tough shot. Then I played pretty consistently."

Lesch bogeyed the last hole to go 1-over par.

Lesch, of Auburn, hasn't played in a Syracuse district event in several years, but decided to try the Ashe after getting laid off from his job at an accounting firm about a month ago.

"I've got a lot of time on my hands and I usually play well here,"

he said. "I needed something to do."

**Ticker's entries with Friday's results.**  
 10-10—T. Amadio (71), J.P. Hagan (70), 10-11—P. Casanova (71), B. Brumfield (71), J. Parsons (70), 10-12—P. Fife (71), L. Gotsdiner (70), A. Lee (71), 10-13—J. Collins (71), B. Jones (71), R. Deane (71), 10-14—G. Webb (71), D. Parker (71), M. May (70), 10-15—T. McDermott (71), R. Hildebrand (70), J. DeLoach (70), 10-16—G. Berry (71), R. Banta (70), D. Campbell (70), 10-17—J. Patten (71), J. Karpinski (70), T. Cary (71).

11-18—B. Witt (71), P. Griffin (70), T. Jay (70), 11-19—J. Amadio (71), M. Luzzo (70), T. DeLoach (70), 11-20—M. May (71), J. Gotsdiner (71), J. Hagan (71), 11-21—M. Brown (70), M. Brown (70), J. Hagan (70), 11-22—J. Foster (71), J. Gotsdiner (71), T. Thomas (70), 11-23—B. Hagan (70), R. Jones (70), T. Brown (70), 11-24—B. Young (70), D. Burns (70), M. Banta (70).

Round-off groups (70): J. Carls (70), P. Corbett (70), 10-11—T. Amadio (71), B. Jones (70), S. Burton (70), 11-12—M. May (70), T. Gotsdiner (71), P. Allen (71), 11-13—T. Amadio (70), M. Brown (70), B. Jones (70), 11-14—M. May (70), J. Gotsdiner (71), J. Patten (71), 11-15—J. Lesch (71), J. Hildebrand (71), T. Corbett (70).