

Plymouth Club

Chin followed with an excellent second shot, putting himself close to the hole. While the putt nearly lipped out, the ball eventually settled.

“I hit a good shot, and then the putt I set up on the left edge ... I didn’t give it enough, [but] it curled in. That was the break I needed.”

Chin completed his championship run with a par on 18, securing his first Amateur title in 15 years. “It felt good,” Chin said. “You get that adrenaline rush, that excitement. And then to pull off a shot [like I had on 17] that I knew I was capable of doing...feels pretty good.

“I was proud of myself. I made some good shots down the stretch.”

Chin got off to a strong start on the first four holes, picking up a birdie on hole one and then collecting par on holes two, three, and four.

Varner, on the other hand, struggled mightily out of the gate, bogeying on three of his first four holes, putting him three strokes behind in the early going.

“I got off to a horrible start,” Varner said. “You can’t bogey three of the first four holes out here, and that gave [Todd] a cushion.”

However, a bogey on the fifth hole from Chin seemed to change the momentum, and Varner was able to take advantage.

“I started out pretty decent, but my first putt on five kind of rattled me,” Chin said. “I obviously missed that, and I was reeling after that.”

Varner shot par on hole five, six, and seven, and then, just before the turn, collected his second birdie to force a tie with Chin heading into the final nine



Andrew Varner watches a putt as it approaches the hole.

Photo by Sean Douglas

holes.

Following a bad hole, golfers struggle to regain confidence in their shot. It can take time for golfers to rediscover their confidence.

But for Chin, once the back nine got underway, he started to find his groove.

From the final hole of the front nine to hole 15, he finished with seven straight pars, keeping his championship hopes alive.

“On 12, I made par, but that was the best tee shot and best fairway shot I hit all day,” Chin said. “That kind of got me into a rhythm. I hit a good shot on 13 and just kept playing it one shot at a time.”

All knotted up after 13, an unfortunate error cost Varner the lead, and it was one he would not regain.

“I hit a good drive [on 14,] and it nicked a [tree] limb and came back 30

yards,” Varner said. “That’s golf.”

Moments later, his second shot glanced off another tree limb and fell just 30 yards ahead of him. Varner was able to salvage the hole with a bogey, but another par from Chin put the latter in the driver’s seat.

Chin followed with another big par on 15, before finishing off his fifth title run with pars on the final two holes.

Over his last 10 holes at Meshingomesia, Chin finished with eight pars, one birdie, and only one bogey.

In first flight action, Scott Weaver took home first place honors with a score of 307, Adam Corrigan won the second flight with a score of 311, and Andrew Jarck was crowned the third flight champion with a score of 344.

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the great managers that they had...but it was also sponsorship dollars,” McCord said. “Kerry Clevenger embraced that and said, ‘I’ll sponsor the team.’ It’s a combination of those three things – talent on the player’s side, good leadership, and [Kerry’s sponsorship.]”

As is the case with all great teams, each player played a crucial part. Whether one was a pitching ace, a clutch batter, a stolen base specialist, or a great fielder, each player who wore the Bomber uniform throughout those 10 years played their role to perfection.

“Everybody had a role, and everybody understood their role,” McCord said. “You look at the 90’s Yankees, and you look at the success that team had. [Those teams] had a lot of success because there were no egos. They were managed well, but they were there to win.

That’s how the Bombers were. They were there to win. They weren’t worried about egos or anything of that nature. They were just out to win, and that is why they were successful.”

Despite the passing years and the resulting obscurity of fast pitch softball leagues, the Bombers are

still remembered and beloved, and their legacy is woven into Marion’s rich athletic history.

“[The Bombers] prove that you don’t have to be a professional athlete, a college athlete, or a high school athlete to be successful,” McCord said. “Some of these guys played in high school and college and obviously had that skill, but these are guys that were in their late 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s. The Bombers were special, and you can put those guys [right] along with the high school and college teams in this county that have had success.”

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Eastbrook soccer looks to build on success

By Sean Douglas

While the 2019 season was full of ups and downs, the Eastbrook Panthers put together another solid campaign.

Behind stellar play from senior Collin Burman, together with sturdy contributions from players like Bryan Popoca, Jake McKim, Bryce Dmyszewicz, Elijah Shutt, Lucas Shilts, and countless others, the Panthers collected seven wins, all while playing a tougher schedule than they had in years past.

With a strong class of returners, many of whom gained a plethora of valuable varsity experience a season ago, Eastbrook looks poised for another successful season.

“I wouldn’t call it a down year. I think it was what our years usually look like – we just had two really good ones before that,” Hallis said. “Those guys, I thought they played well to fill some of those roles that we lost from those seniors from two years ago, and it was good to get them out there and get some experience for them.”

As has been the case for every school in the state, COVID-19 has affected nearly every aspect of off-



Collin Burman battles with Oak Hill’s Thommy Seybold.

Photo by Sean Douglas

season work. Everything shut down in March, and the team was not able to meet for the first time until July 6 due to state and health department guidelines.

Hallis is glad that the team is able to meet and work with one another after four months off.

“Giving these kids an opportunity to see each other is a big thing right now,” Hallis said. “They don’t just like soccer, they like being around each other. Giving them a chance to come out in a controlled environment and see other people (has been beneficial.) With school being closed, it’s almost been like two summer breaks.”

In the early stages of the offseason, the Panthers

have focused on conditioning and light skill work, giving the players a chance to get back into game shape and reacclimate themselves to the rigors of the game of soccer.

Eastbrook lost their top scorer from a season ago in Burman, who finished with a team-high nine goals, but have plenty of firepower to pick up the slack. Popoca, McKim, Dmyszewicz, and Shutt combined for 15 tallies in 2019, and they will be called upon to produce at or above that level in 2020.

“This team is a little bit different,” Hallis said. “While we have good players, we don’t have, like we had two years ago, five or six guys. We have a lot of

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