

Traditions to host national youth golf tournament

By Kevin Stevens

kstevens@gannett.com

TOWN OF UNION — A national championship of junior golf will be contested on Broome County soil next month.

Traditions at the Glen will host the United States Golf Local League National Championships on Aug. 7-9, in which a six-player Conklin-based squad will compete against opponents from California, Pennsylvania and Texas.

The event was contested for its first two years in Long Beach, Calif. The shift east comes as result of a successful presentation to the national board spearheaded by Rob Warholic, founder and director of the Conklin-based Youth Golf Association, a USGLL affiliate.

"I think for the game of golf and for these kids it's a great experience," said Warholic, who also serves as USGLL East Coast Regional Director. "...

It's a great opportunity also from a relationship standpoint." As host team, the YGA is granted an automatic berth into the nationals.

Each USGLL affiliate selects an all-star team based on golf skills as well as etiquette, attitude and comportment on and off the course. All-star teams are made up of two players in the 8-10 age group, two 11-12 and two 13-14. One eligibility requirement for regional and national competition is that af-

filicates must have completed a 10-week season.

The Conklin affiliate's "Tour Division" has 78 players ranging in age from 8-14, and others in the "Mini-Tour Division" for younger participants.

Next month's event, to be preceded by Aug. 6 practice rounds, will be contested in a match-play format akin to the Ryder Cup competition from modified tee boxes positioned between the senior and women's tees. Round-robin

qualifying matches will determine the two teams that will compete for the national title.

Comprising the local entrant for the competition will be, in the 8-10 age group, Amanda Bucko and Michael Bucko of Johnson City; in the 11-12 age group, Riley Brown of Montrose, Pa., and Tim Buchek of Windsor; and in the 13-14 age group, Devon Buckland of Chenango Bridge and Kory Harder of Conklin.