

Rain plays havoc at Pan Am golf tourney

BY: By BILL NANCE

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In just four short years of existence, the San Angelo Pan-American Golf Association's Dos Amigos partnership tournament has earned the nickname of San Angelo's fourth major.

Saturday afternoon saw 66 teams tee off at Quicksand Golf Course in the two-day event. But before day's end, rain, lightning and thunder forced the course's closure. The early scratch sets up a long day of golf today as most teams will play 27 holes. A handful did not tee off to start Saturday's round and will be playing 36 holes today.

"We have some strong teams entered in the Championship Flight this year," tournament director Ramiro Rodriguez said. "Brandon Sanders and Jason Ball won the Bentwood Partnership last month, and they are always capable of winning.

"Charlie Garcia and Ryan Rodriguez from Big Spring should be tough, as well as two guys from Temple - Gilbert Mojica and Steve Susticia."

Garcia recently took top honors in the Big Spring city championship tournament at the Comanche Trail Golf Course, his third consecutive and sixth overall title in the event.

A modest director yet talented golfer, Rodriguez did not mention his team with partner Mark Vega. Rodriguez won the Pan-American National tournament in 2007.

Also in the Championship Flight are the teams of Albert Trevino Sr. and Johnny Perez Sr., Cory Adams and Gilbert Velez, Kevin Dusek and Jason McMillan, along with the father-son team of Joe Arzate Sr. and Joe Arzate Jr. Dusek and McMillan won the First Flight at the Bentwood partnership.

Through nine holes Saturday, seven of the eight teams were within a single shot of each other. The eighth team was just two back.

"It really poured on us today," PAGA Vice-president Marc Gonzales said. "I felt bad for the guys who didn't even get started today."

"We're in for a whole lot of fun (today) if it doesn't rain any more," added Gilbert Velez as a large group of players waited around trying to figure out their evening social calendars.

The San Angelo Pan-American Golf Association was founded in 1966. Charter member Ernest Perez, who was inducted into the PAGA Hall of Fame in 2003, is playing in this year's event.

"Pete Gonzales had the idea to form an association back then," Perez said. "He was in the Air Force and had seen associations in San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

"We had about 30 to 35 members to begin with. It has grown over the years to what it is now. I'm the 'old man' now, and I'm really proud of the job the younger guys have done leading our chapter.

"We have given over \$90,000 in scholarships in the last 10 to 15 years or so. The younger guys in the leadership roles now have really worked hard in that area and have earned a great deal of respect for San Angelo from the national association."

Current president Rick DeLaCruz is a third-generation member. His grandfather, Sonny Perez, was one of the founding members.

"We have 110 members now," DeLaCruz said. "Per capita, we are one of the largest

chapters in the nation.

"We were able to give out nine \$1,000 scholarships to local area students last year because of the work of our membership," he added.

The stated goal of the Pan-American Golf Association is to promote sportsmanship, friendship, education and to give back to the community.

Play will continue today with the day's first groups teeing off at 8 a.m.

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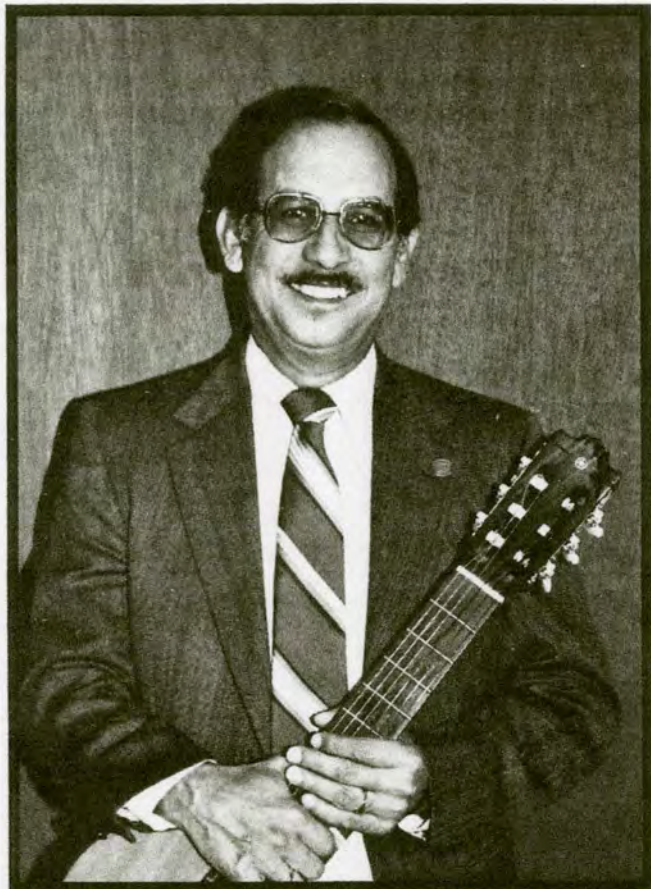
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Nat. VICE-PRESIDENT

*at the P.A.G.A. NAT. CONVENTION
at Houston in August*

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1989 Officers Pan American Golf Association of San Angelo -
(left to right) Sergeant-At-Arms, Arthur Torres; Reporter,
Ernest Perez; Treasurer, Johnnie Ramirez; Secretary, Mrs.
Carolina Luna; Vice President, Max Guerrero; and President,
Alex Rodgers.

BEST WISHES TO VICTORIA P.A.G.A.

SAN ANGELO PAN AMERICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

1982 -2015

1982 -1990	\$9,000.00
1991—2000	\$20,000.00
2001—2005	\$25,000.00
2006---2008	\$18,000.00
2009---2014	\$63,000.00
2015	\$18,000.00
TOTAL	\$153,000.00

THIS REPORT MADE May 21ST 2015
ERNEST PEREZ