

## Scottsdale resident sets sights on golfing title

**Russ Christ**

Special for the Republic

Sept. 25, 2007

SCOTTSDALE - Home-schooling a 7-year-old son and winning a United States Golf Association championship in the same week would be a tall order for anyone.

But north Scottsdale resident Kerry Postillion, who also lives in a suburb of Chicago, will attempt to pull it off this week at Desert Forest Golf Club, where the reinstated amateur golfer has been a member since 2003.

The private club in Carefree will host the 2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship beginning Saturday through Oct. 4.



Kerry Postillion hits from the sand trap at the 11th green at the Mesa Country Club last year.

Postillion never would admit it, but she will be one of the favorites when 132 of the best female amateur golfers in the world (over 25) tee it up for two days of stroke-play qualifying Saturday and Sunday. While most of the competitors will be eliminated by next Tuesday, the final two players will survive six match-play rounds over four days.

A year ago, Meghan Bolger of Oxford, Miss., beat Tui Selvaratnam of Tempe, 5 and 4, in the final match at Old Waverly in Mississippi.

Postillion and Selvaratnam, also a member at Desert Forest, have another thing in common. Twice, the 44-year-old Postillion has been runner-up in this national event, losing the final match in 1996 to Ellen Port and again in 2005 to Mary Ann Lapointe.

### **Mom first, golfer second**

Postillion has more balls in the air than a juggling circus clown on stilts.

Balancing the demands of three boys (Victor, Vincent, and Drew) and a girl (Samantha), all under 20, is a taxing proposition for even the best of golfers.

Drew, Postillion's home-schooled second-grader, and Vic, the caddie/husband, will lead her cheering section during the championship.

Drew will require his mom's help as well.

"I'll be teaching (him) and playing golf," Postillion said. "His attention span isn't great at this age, so it's not always easy."

Drew will get mom's scores sooner than his siblings will. Victor, a student at the University of Arizona; Vincent, a freshman at Santa Clara University; and Samantha, a high school sophomore; will follow the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur on the Internet or via cellphone.

September has been hectic for mother and son. "Everyone in our family plays golf, to some extent, so it's part of his life," Postillion said. "Drew just goes with the flow."

Drew traveled with his mother earlier this month, first from Chicago to Arizona, so Postillion could defend the Arizona Women's Stroke Play Championship (Sept. 10-13). She won the title in 2005 and 2006 and finished third this year.

Last week, she represented Illinois at the USGA Women's State Team Championship at The Club at Carlton Woods at The Woodlands, Texas.

Postillion said if she weren't home-schooling Drew there's no way she would be able to leave for three tournaments in one month. Fortunately, he enjoys being on the go. "He loves to fly, travel, and stay in hotels," she said. "It's pretty funny, really."

### **Reinstated amateur**

Postillion grew up in Washington state and started playing golf at 12.

After graduating from the University of Washington, she turned professional, playing for a couple of years part-time on the Future's Tour.

When she married Vic, a 2-handicapper, the couple opted to start a family, which put to rest any LPGA aspirations.

Twenty years ago, Vic started a business out of the Chicago area repairing storm and fire damage.

"At that point in my life, I decided it would be better to be an amateur," she said. "It was a good medium between being a mom and still trying to play competitively. There is a lot of juggling."

For the Postillions, the game and family are often synonymous.

"I think of my golf as a family affair," she said. "It's never just me going somewhere."

Barry Poupore, general manager at Desert Forest, where Kerry is the reigning women's club champion, said the Postillions are the quintessential golfing family.

"Kerry is a very accomplished golfer," Poupore said. "(She's) a true contender for the upcoming 2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship."

### **Hoping for the best**

Citing the busy schedule, Postillion didn't return to Arizona until last week. Because of the match-play format, she said the championship is anyone's game.

"I've changed a few things with my swing this summer, and I'm still working on them," she said. "I hope everything falls together. By the end of the week, everyone already knows the course so well so everyone is usually pretty confident."

With Vic (who won the 2007 Quail Cup with Ben Hayes at Desert Forest) as her caddie, Postillion is more self-assured.

"It's nice having someone who knows your swing," she said. "He can say, 'Kerry, you're lining up left or right.' There's something about having him there. It's good for my confidence."

### **Russ Christ is a correspondent for the Scottsdale Republic.**

### **Kerry Postillion**

- **Age:** 44.
- **Residence:** North Scottsdale, Burr Ridge, Ill.
- **Golf memberships:** Desert Forest, Forest Highlands (Flagstaff), Ruth Lake Country Club (Hinsdale, Ill.).
- **Family:** Husband, Vic; sons Victor, Vincent, Drew; daughter Samantha.
- **Education:** University of Washington.
- **Hobbies:** Reading, working out, walking, her children.
- **Golf résumé:** Won the Illinois Women's State Amateur four times and the Illinois Women's Open three times. Won the Arizona Golf Association's Women's State Stroke Play Championship (2005, 2006). Won the 1997 North and South Women's Amateur Championship at Pinehurst Resort. Twice was a runner-up at the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship.

### **U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur**

#### **Quick facts**

- **Who can play?:** The 2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur is open to at least 130 amateurs (132 this year) who have reached their 25th birthday on or before Sept. 29 and who have a USGA Handicap Index not exceeding 9.4. It's one of 13 national championships conducted by the USGA.

- **Par and yardage:** Desert Forest Golf Club will play at 6,209 yards with par of 37-36-73.
- **Architect:** Desert Forest, widely considered the first desert-style course ever built, was designed by Robert "Red" Lawrence and opened in 1962. Lawrence carved the course from existing desert landscape, with virtually no soil having been removed or shaped during course construction. There are no fairway bunkers or water hazards on the course.
- **Course rating and slope:** The USGA course rating for Desert Forest Golf Club is 76.5; slope rating is 143.
- **Course layout:** The fairways will measure ½-inch in height. The intermediate rough will measure 1-inch, with a width of approximately 6 feet (with adjustments as needed). Depending on density, the primary rough will stand at approximately 1.75- inches high. The goal is to have the putting greens run 10.5-11 feet on the USGA Stimpmeter.
- **Tickets:** Admission for all six days of the championship is free of charge. Spectators are invited to walk the fairways behind the players, but no cameras are allowed during the days of competition.

