Senior golfers have host of competitive options
By Chuck Harty

The unprecedented fine showing by senior golfers in the 78th Masters Tournament serves as a perfect backdrop to talk about playing opportunities for senior professionals and amateurs in Central New York in 2014. This game of a lifetime is truly alive and well in these parts for those who still have their competitive juices flowing.

However, this week, thanks to heavy rains last October in Virginia that wiped out the PGA Senior Professional National Championship, Bellevue CC assistant Rob Phelps and Liverpool G&CC teaching pro Mel Baum will finally settle their neck-and-neck race for 2013 Section Senior Player of the Year at the rescheduled tournament in Port St. Lucie Fla.

After that is decided, senior professionals 50 years of age and older will have their choice of Section tournaments in which to compete, many involving amateur partners. The main Section schedule always invites seniors to compete among their own, in addition to doing battle with the younger pros.

In addition to that, Pompey Club head professional Joe Tesori again has put together an attractive schedule of senior-only pro-ams. That schedule begins May 1 at the hospitable Afton Golf Club, where the Dawson brothers always leave their visitors well fed.

Tesori will field a team, whose youngest amateur player is the 85 years old, part in tribute to his longtime partner in the Afton event, Bucky Weaver, who passed away Feb. 26, just a week short of his 92nd birthday.

Senior amateurs and professionals alike, feast your eyes on the Senior schedule, available on the Section website, www.cny.pga.com. Connect with some friends you’ve made over the last many decades and enjoy these one-day events filled with great stories and nearly great golf.

In addition, Ken Bodley and Don Christian have finalized a fine four-tourney schedule for the 55-and-older CNY Senior Golfers association. There are three two-man better balls, at Lake Shore Y&CC, Yahnundasis GC and Timber GC and Marina, respectively, in addition to an individual match play championship at Liverpool.
That information is available on www.syracusegolf.org. The first event is a 36-hole better ball June 16-17 at Lake Shore.

The Syracuse District Golf Association’s 36-hole stroke play Senior Amateur is June 8-9 at the Pompey Club. Information on that event, and all the SDGA championships, is available on www.syracusegolf.org.

The news has been good lately for three aspiring young professional golfers, who sharpened their skills in their formative years on our fairways.

Former Christian Brothers Academy and Le Moyne College golfer Dan McCarthy continues his outstanding play on the Golfslinger.com Tour in Southeast Florida.

McCarthy, the 2005 Post-Standard Amateur Champion, won his 23rd tournament on that tour April 7-8 with back-to-back 67s for 8-under-par 134 at Fountains CC West Course in Lake Worth, Fla., and captured a $2,000 first prize. Earlier in the month, McCarthy fashioned an 8-under-par 64 at Winston Trails CC in Lake Worth for Golfslinger.com Tour win No. 22. The 28-year-old McCarthy, who scored a 12-under-par 60 last summer at the Cavalry Club in Manlius, with a ball in the water on the par-4 ninth, was the leading money winner on the tour in 2013, including a pair of two-day $10,000 wins. He’s in the midst of an important week, in Orlando, Fla., playing a 72-hole qualifier for the Canadian PGA Tour. The top five money winners on that tour will earn spots on the 2015 Web.com Tour.

Kevin Roy, the former Bishop Ludden High standout and two-time Post-Standard Amateur champion, won an EGolf Professional Tour event last week in the Southport, N.C., with 5-under-par golf over 72 holes, good for a $15,000 first prize. Though he won a $20,000 first prize the winter before in Bradenton, Fla., the 24-year-old Roy called his victory last week the highlight thus far in a 22-month professional career.

Roy, who was medalist in a U.S. Open local qualifier in Lake Wales, Fla., last year, will attempt to advance to Sectional qualifying there again in early May.

McCarthy is headed home in a few weeks and will be in the U.S. Open local qualifying field at Timber Banks GC and Marina, May 13.

Central New York Open champion Jamie Sindelar was runner-up in an NGA Tour event in Ocala, Fla, April 3-6. Sindelar, son of Champions Tour player Joey Sindelar, earned $5,580 for shooting 14-under-par 274 in the 72-hole tourney.