

Amateur wins at PGA; can't collect earnings

By Jeff Korbek
Staff Reporter

Western Open.
Those two words will probably stick out in Oklahoma State golfer Scott Verplank's mind for the rest of his life.
On Aug. 4, Verplank duelled professional golfer Jim Thorpe to a tie in the Professional Golfer's Association tour event at Oak Brook, Ill., forcing a sudden death play-off. Verplank sank a six-foot putt on the second hole of sudden death to become the first amateur to win a PGA tournament since Gene Littler in 1954 at the San Diego Open.
The name of Scott Verplank will probably be embedded in Thorpe's and other professionals' minds as a golfer to watch for.
"The kid is terrific," Thorpe said in a Sports Illustrated interview. "I'm happy for him, and I'm happy for me. He's got the trophy and I've got the \$90,000. That will buy a lot of trophies."

Amateur rules prevent Verplank from collecting any money from tour events.
Verplank is now back at Oklahoma State finishing his senior year and working toward a degree in business administration.
Verplank said he didn't expect to win the Western Open or even do as well as he did. He said he just "wanted to play well and to see what happens."
"It turned out to be a great situation for me," Verplank said. "By winning I don't have to go to (PGA) tour qualifying school."
Amateur golfers must attend the school before trying the professional ranks.
Verplank wants to become a professional golfer.
"I would like to try the tour, but I don't know when I'll turn pro," he said.
"I am hoping I will play well enough to make the tour next year," Verplank said.
As a pro, Verplank will be able to collect some of the money he missed in the Western Open. He said he is not disappointed he didn't receive the \$90,000.
"I knew I wasn't able to get it so I didn't worry about it," he said.
This year Verplank is gearing his goals toward the team's goal of winning

a national title. Last year the Cowboys finished second behind Houston. Verplank finished sixth individually.
"I want the team to play well enough to win the double A (NCAA)," Verplank said. "I want to play well and help the team and possibly win the double A myself."

Verplank came closest to capturing the NCAA individual title his freshman year when he lost it in a sudden death play-off.
The Dallas native decided to come to Oklahoma State because of the program and the coach, Mike Holder.
"He's just a great coach," Verplank said of Holder. "He knows what he is doing and is willing to put the time and effort into his work."

Verplank chose OSU over Texas, TCU, Arizona State and Oklahoma. He even advertised for the program.
"I would recommend it, but I'm a little biased," he said.

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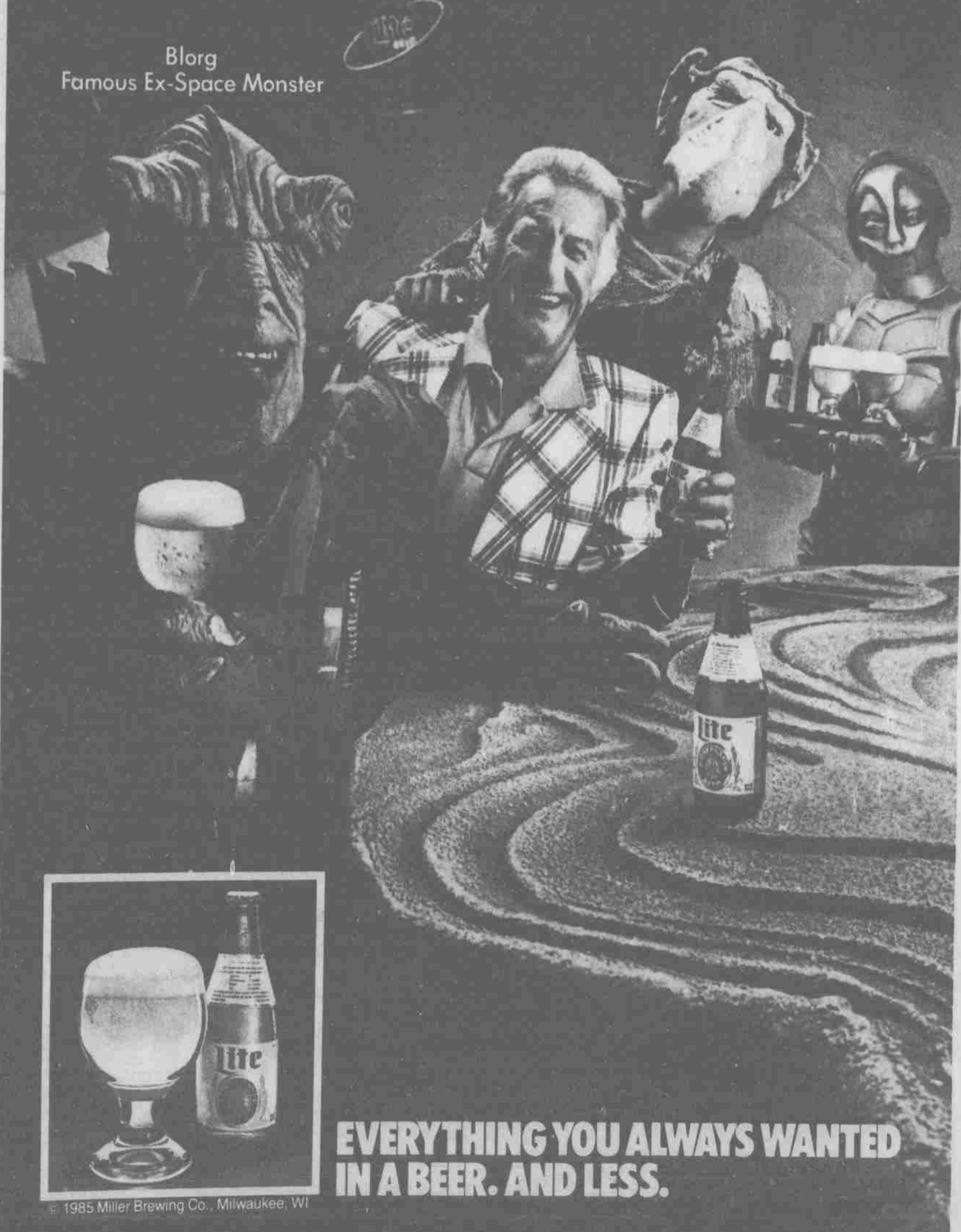
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Nationally ranked volleyball teams here for Classic

The Nebraska women's volleyball team will put its 10-1 record on the line this weekend in the Power Volleyball Classic in Lincoln.
Their only loss of the season came last weekend at the hands of Stanford, in the San Jose Invitational.
"We're disappointed we didn't win, but it was a tournament we'll benefit from later in the season," Coach Terry Pettit said.
Other teams in that invite besides Stanford, which was third in the nation, included host San Jose State, ranked second at the time and Colorado State, ranked sixth.
This weekend, the competition will be just as tough for the Huskers — Oregon, Arizona and Brigham Young, all nationally ranked teams, come to Lincoln.
Nebraska will begin play Friday night against Arizona, whose team features one of the best attackers in the country — Missy McClelland. McClelland toured with the U.S. national team this past summer.
Saturday, the Huskers play Brigham Young before the football game. For the last 10 years, BYU has had a team in the top 10.
After the football game, Nebraska will tangle with Oregon. Oregon features 6-0 All-American Sue Harbor.
"We play BYU before the football game, and Oregon after, so we might run a deal that anyone with a football ticket will be able to get in on a discount," Pettit said.
Pettit predicted an excellent tournament.
"This is probably the strongest tournament we've ever had here, and we're confident we'll be playing our best volleyball," he said.