GOLF 04/27/2016 T.GAUTHIER

The 31st annual Don Page Memorial Golf Tournament will be held in River Falls on June 20. The tournament honors the former U-W River Falls coach and athletic director. Organizers have been trying to find ways to get more people involved, but it just may not be enough. Trenten Gauthier has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:45 O/C: STD.

Trenten Gauthier: The don page memorial golf tournament is on year number 31, and for the second straight year, women’s athletics has a special invitation. but david page, son of the late don page, says this is not a new push. they’ve always wanted women involved.

David Page: And it made me angry, because dad would never turn down anyBODY’s check. So the next year, I sponsored a foursome of women, and I paid for them all. with the stipulation that the next year that they would each get their own foursome and then we’d have at least 16 women’s golfers up there. and those guys didn’t come through.

Trenten Gauthier: there were fewer women’s athletic programs at the start of this event that the booster club known as the Falcon Club runs, and page says he knows age has a factor.

david Page: And i think that one of the things that has been going on the past couple of years is that women’s ahtletics is more recent. so the athletic graduates, from any women athletic program, are younger than SOME the guys that have been coming to their tournament for 31, 31 years. And they are in a stage in their family lives, where they can’t afford to do that. So it is not necessarily a new emphasis, and it has been an emphasis of mine for at least eight years.

Trenten Gauthier: Page says the numbers have decreased in recent years, and the absence of his father may have a part in it.

David Page: the numbers are down a little bit. In days when my dad was up there running it, it was not uncommon to have 144 golfers and you’d have two foursomes on each tee. and of course he was a pied piper and knew people all over the state.

Trenten Gauthier: The event was nearly not held a year ago, and they received enough submissions to continue the event this year, but page says the event could be reaching its conclusion.

David Page: I think that we have to accept the fact that the event may dwindle to its demise. it is just a matter of reality, when the honoree hasn't been on campus in 24 years, that means that no one on campus that is going to school there, or very few, were even born when he was there.

Trenten Gauthier: For Falcon News Service, I’m Trenten Gauthier.

 The tournament also has the option of just coming to dinner as well for a fee of 50 dollars. Businesses and people can also sponsor a hole for 100 dollars.

###