



Photo Courtesy of UNCA Athletics

Men's basketball assistant coach Nicholas McDevitt, second from left, looks on at his team at the Eddie Biedenbach Golf Classic.

Charity golf tournament raises \$50,000 for UNCA Athletics

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The Cliffs at Walnut Cove once again hosted men's basketball **Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach's** yearly golf tournament to benefit UNC Asheville athletic programs.

Biedenbach invited more than 30 of his closest friends to the fundraising event last Tuesday, where a star-studded field of personalities known throughout the national sports landscape participated in the second annual Eddie Biedenbach Golf Classic.

"Biedenbach has a lot of contacts in the athletic world, as he's been involved with intercollegiate athletics for over 40 years," said **Mike Gore**, UNCA's associate athletics director for external affairs.

This year's tournament featured some of the more recognizable names in college basketball. Many have been in acquaintance with Biedenbach throughout his longstanding career as a player, assistant and coach.

College of Charleston's coach, **Bobby Cremins**, who played and coached against

"It was just a fantastic group of people. We had a lot of great guys and a lot of great players."

— Eddie Biedenbach,

men's basketball head coach

Biedenbach, as well as Davidson's **Bob McKillop**, highlighted the college coaches in attendance.

Former North Carolina State University basketball icons **David Thompson** and **Tom Burluson** also participated in the event. Thompson and Burluson were a pivotal pair in N.C. State's 1974 National Championship squad, when they played for Biedenbach, who was the Wolfpack's assistant coach.

"Most of these people played in the '60's and '70's," said **Ken Hogue**, UNCA direc-

tor for development and alumni affairs.

"It was like going back in time for most of the attendees. They just love hearing the stories told about games that were played in the old days."

"It was just a fantastic group of people," Biedenbach said. "We had a lot of great guys and a lot of great players."

CBS Sports' longtime college basketball staple **Bill Packer**, as well as former NBA player-turned-ESPN analyst **Jon Barry**, also took part in the tournament. According to Hogue, Packer was among those

who stole the stage at the event's reception on Monday night at The Ramble's Living Well Center.

"Billy Packer is just an entertainer," Hogue said. "He's unbelievable."

The reception, which Hogue referred to as the "Night of Legends," allowed the celebrity guests to take the podium and roast Biedenbach, as well as answer questions from the numerous local supporters of Bulldog athletics.

Jack Nicklaus designed the Cliffs Walnut Cove establishment, located south of Asheville. According to Hogue, the course also fielded the legion of local UNCA backers, who pledged \$500 each to golf alongside Biedenbach and his celebrity invitees.

"We had just over 100 players, which was a little short of a full field, but we're pleased with what we did," Hogue said.

Biedenbach, who will enter his 15th season as the men's head basketball coach this year, said he was equally satisfied with the outpouring of support from the community.