

# Clarion Sports Roundup

Articles On Pages Seven and Eight

## The PGA Tour

by Bobby Hayes

Spring brings more than just sunshine to the south. Its advent also brings the PGA Tour. On consecutive April weekends the professional golfers swing into our neck of the woods, first for the Greater Greensboro Open (GGO), and then on the following weekend they head for Augusta, Georgia, where the famous Masters Tournament is held. I was privileged enough to obtain tickets to both and I would like to share some of my impressions about them.

Most recently, I drove to Augusta for the Masters. This tournament is considered to be one of the most prestigious sporting events held in the United States. Tickets are extremely tough to obtain; a man from Greenville, South Carolina told me he had attended the Masters for 12 years before having to miss the tournament one year. By missing one tourney, he had to resubmit his name for tickets the next year and he was put on a waiting list by the Ticket Committee. Unfortunately, he has been on this list for the past eight years, unable to get tickets.

My ticket was for the second round to be held on a Friday. Leaving Brevard that morning, in a torrential rainstorm, my prospects for seeing any action did not look good. However, after driving for about two hours in the rain, about 50 miles outside of Augusta the skies cleared, answering my prayers.

When I finally reached Augusta I could not see any indication that a golf tournament was to be played there. No direction or any advertisements promoting the tournament could be found anywhere, but after asking for directions a couple of times, I finally arrived there. Things really started out with a bang when a police officer directed me to park in such a way that I ran over a bottle. Wonderful.

At last, I was on the golf course. The place was immaculately kept. There was not even so much as one blade of crabgrass. The fans seemed to be mostly middle-aged and older people; very few youngsters were visible. The crowd was very well behaved and seemed to be quite knowledgeable about the game of golf. No marshals were needed to control this crowd.

As the big-name players walked right beside me, I couldn't help but to be slightly awed. Legends of the game such as Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer turned out to be mortal people. They actually spoke to their fellow competitors. The biggest ovation of the day was given to Arnold Palmer as he walked up the 18th fairway toward the green. Fans will always remember their heroes.

After watching play on the 16th green for about an hour, suddenly on the scoreboard this message was posted: "Tornado Watch". Knowing they weren't talking about Brevard College, I began to look at the darkening skies and wonder how much longer play would continue. My answer came in the next minute - cars came to pick up the players from the course to take them back to the clubhouse while the fans were left to await their fate amidst the elements. As the rain began to fall harder and the lightning began to crack around me, I began to question the sanity of a person who would pay money to stand out in a storm for over an hour. After this wait, I slogged up the hill toward the parking lot. I had really had enough.

Although the trip was enjoyable, in retrospect, while the Masters is very prestigious, I believe it is too prestigious. The attitude of the tournament staff seems to be one of total unconcern for the fans. The staff seems to feel that the fans should greatly appreciate the fact that they got to come in the first place with no frills attached. Next year I believe I will just stay here and put my money into my own unappreciated golf game.

The week before, I attended the G.G.O. in Greensboro and had a much more enjoyable time. Tickets are sold on an unlimited basis which makes the G.G.O. more of a "people's tournament". Signs can be found throughout Greensboro directing visitors to the tournament site. Parking is also not a problem. The crowd is much younger and the atmosphere is much more relaxed. As I walked around the course, I noticed the crowd at the 17th hole was quite boisterous. Apparently golfer, Tim Simpson also noticed. On his way to shooting an 81 for the day, Tim asked the gallery there, "You people aren't drinking beer, are you?" "Yeah!" came the reply. "Well, I'll be joining you after one more hole," Simpson added.

Another situation which endeared me to the GGO occurred at the 15th hole on Saturday's third round. The three leaders (Jack Renner, Gary Player, and Jim Thorpe) were all standing at the tee in a very tense situation with only three shots separating them. First to play, Jim Thorpe hit a tremendous drive. One of the fans shouted out sarcastically, "I like it, Jim". Next to play was the supposedly dour Gary Player. Player addressed the ball, then he backed away and addressed the fan, "It certainly doesn't take much to please you, does it?" After the laughter died down, Player then hit a drive that flirted with trouble, but stayed safely in play. As Jack Renner

tied his ball up, he commented on Player's drive: "He's not strong enough to hit the ball into trouble." It all just goes to show that at the G.G.O. the game is still fun and not merely a business transaction. While Augusta made me think that golf had become too aristocratic, the memories of Greensboro disprove that theory.



Now for some sport's shorts.

The conclusion of the Masters was quite stirring to say the least, with Fuzzy Zoeller winning a three-way playoff. Poor Ed Sneed, Sneed bogeyed the last three holes to send the tournament into a playoff. Maybe he started taking the green jacket off the hanger before it was his.

Here are my dependable predictions for the upcoming baseball season. In the American League, the Eastern Division winner will undoubtedly be the New York Yankees, while in the West the Kansas City Royals will also repeat. In the National League East, the Pittsburgh Pirates will gain revenge on the Phillies to win, and the Los Angeles Dodgers will win in the West. Now if any professor asks you on his final exam to name the division winners of the 1979 season, you will know the answers.

I was appalled at the reaction of Victor Galindez following regaining his WBA light-heavyweight boxing championship recently. After the bout was over, Galindez, who broke Mike Rossman's (the former champion) hand, came over toward Rossman's corner and began taunting him. With such a display of poor sportsmanship, I hope next year I will have the pleasure of reporting the demise of Victor Galindez.

## Golfers Improve

By Alan Baker

Coach Lee Bratton's golfers have found the going rough on the links during the recent season. But the Tornados have steadily improved, even without the help of scholarships and much needed experience, which is required to have a successful golf squad.

Due to the recent vacancy left by John Meryerhoff's departure as basketball and golf coach, Bratton was asked to fill in and has done a respectable job.

The Brevard match record is now at a disappointing 1-6. The victory came against A-B Tech on April 6th, due to a forfeit. But Bratton is quick to point out that the Tornado top three soundly defeated the Atomic top trio, so the victory was richly deserved.



## Wade Named All American

Tornado roundballer Benton Wade was recently named to the junior college All-American squad. The 6'7" sophomore averaged 19.1 points and 10.2 rebounds per game as he led Brevard to a 26-10 record. Wade is the first Tornado player to be named All-American since Tom Barber was selected in 1961.

Benton is the holder of the all-time career school rebound record with 656 and is second in career scoring with 1152 tallies. He was named first team Western Carolinas Junior College All-Conference, first team WCJCC All-Tournament and first team Region 10 All-Tournament. Wade is currently being hotly recruited by major universities and is making the rounds visiting several campuses before making his decision as to which one to attend.



Chip Smith blasts from bunker during recent round.

Photo by Grenier