



Time To Take It Easy

Jones: Now he'll have time to play golf (photo by James Parker).

Winston Lake's E. Jerry Jones: He's leaving with peace of mind

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

When E. Jerry Jones steps down as director and golf pro at the Winston Lake Golf Course Sept. 1, he'll leave behind a legacy of achievement. While he has had to weather many storms personally and professionally during his tenure at the course, Jones says he is satisfied with what he has done there.

Twenty-two years ago, when Jones first came to Winston Lake, the course was probably the worst in Forsyth County. Today, however, he's proud that he helped mold it into one of the area's finest.

"When I came to Winston Lake, the course was a nine-hole tract built to keep blacks from going to Reynolds Park," says the outspoken Jones. "It was built so poorly that you had to almost thread a needle just to play a round of golf."

"In fact," he says, laughing, "we used to put chicken wire down the side to keep the ball in play. We didn't have sand traps when I first came. There weren't even any correctly-built tees on the course."

Opportunities for black professional golfers in Jones' early days were also limited. Yet, of the few black golfers around, Jones was able to lure the nation's best to the course for his tournaments.

Among the players Jones has attracted to Winston Lake are current PGA touring professionals Calvin Peete, Lee Elder, Chuck and Jim Thorpe, George Johnson and Pete Brown.

In fact, Jones was one of the first to recognize the talent of Jim Thorpe, who won the U.S. Open recently, and his brother Chuck. Both Thorpe brothers worked under Jones' direction at Winston Lake.

Jones also managed to attract more local golfers to the course during his 22 years at the helm, using new ideas to bring new business.

"I've always tried to do things to help build

Winston Lake," says Jones. "About 13 years ago, I suggested that seniors be allowed to play without green fees. I also recommended that students from Winston-Salem State, Wake Forest and Salem College be allowed to play for only \$2.00. It paid off for the city because it helped to bring in more funds to improve the course."

At the same time, Jones has honed his skills periodically to keep pace with other course pros. In 1971, he was the only black in a class of more than 300 at the PGA school in San Francisco. He also participated in a PGA school in Orlando, Fla.

As for his brushes with the law, Jones, who most recently was arrested and charged with buying a pair of stolen designer jeans, says the time and money investigating him could have been much better spent.

"I've had to deal with some aggravation, accusations and investigations," Jones says. "A lot of the taxpayers' money has been used to investigate me, but they have never found me guilty of anything."

"I don't know why I've been the target of these things," Jones continues. "This latest thing was pure and simple entrapment and was in no way related to my job."

Still, when Jones leaves his post in September, he says, he will leave with peace of mind.

"I have never really had any time off since I took the job," says Jones. "Now I'll have time to be with my family and to play golf. I'll leave proud of the things that we have accomplished at Winston Lake Golf Course -- not only for myself, but also for the people that have worked with me because we work as a team."

Jones says he also will continue to run the E. Jerry Jones Amateur and Professional Open, which was held last Saturday and Sunday. The tournament, formerly known as the Winston Lake Amateur and Professional Open, was founded by Jones 20 years ago and is held annually.

Black College Briefs

Florida A&M president resigns

BY BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida A&M University President Dr. Walter L. Smith, who was largely responsible for millions of dollars worth of athletic facility renovations and additions at the school, has resigned.

Smith, 49, told supporters and aides that he will remain on the job for the next academic year, or until a successor can be named.

The Florida Board of Regents, who oversee state-supported universities in Florida, has named a search committee.

Smith will thus end a seven-year tenure that saw him secure some \$3 million to renovate and expand the Rattlers' Bragg Stadium and acquire money for other sports and projects as well, including a new baseball diamond, swimming pool, women's complex and softball diamonds.

He managed to get those things from the Florida Legislature even though the state does not generally fund university athletic programs.

But, for all his accomplishments -- he also secured millions of dollars for academic buildings and programs -- Smith was continually a subject of controversy at FAMU.

Recently, he stood solidly behind his athletic director, Roosevelt Wilson, on the decision to discontinue playing arch-rival Bethune-Cookman College in football.

That decision has turned into a public relations nightmare for the Rattlers, who can't seem to put the matter behind them. It is believed that the controversy has affected fund-raising efforts and could have an adverse affect on attendance for the coming football season.

Smith also was behind the Rattlers' bold move to leave the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. That has caused other problems, such as scheduling in men's and women's basketball. Both of the Rattlers' teams are expected to play as many as 20 of 28 games on the road this season.

One thing about Smith is certain, however. He is thick-

skinned and unafraid to make tough decisions. In the end, harassment and declining support from alumni proved too much, and Smith announced his resignation.

It is uncertain what the Rattlers will do as far as the Bethune-Cookman series or conference affiliation is concerned. Most likely, both areas will be put on hold until Smith's successor is named.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Tennessee State's 1984 football schedule: Sept. 1 -- at Hampton Institute, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 8 -- vs. Jackson State in Memphis, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 15 -- vs. Alabama A&M, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 22 -- vs.

Florida A&M, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 6 -- at Grambling, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 13 -- at Tennessee Tech, 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 20 -- vs. Kentucky State at Louisville, 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 27 -- vs. Southern University (homecoming), 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 3 -- vs. Bethune-Cookman College at Tampa, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 10 -- at Louisville, 1:30 p.m.; Nov. 17 -- vs. North Carolina A&T, 1:30 p.m.

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