

National Checkers' Tournament Returns to Winston for First Time Since 1979

By JEROME RICHARD
Chronicle Sports Writer

The room was as quiet as an empty church despite the presence of 50 or so men. Facing each other in pairs at long wooden tables, they easily could have been mistaken for a prayer group with their heads bowed in concentration and their shoulders hunched forward over the table. The clue that this was not a devotional service was the large green and white mat in front of each pair of men.

The 64-square mat was just one item being used at the 29th annual American Pool Checker Association national championship at the Holiday Inn North last week. The others, besides the round checkers, were cunning, guile, guts, intense concentration, and mental toughness.

"It is a very tiring game. I'm mentally drained after a match," William Smalls of the host Piedmont Pool Checker Association in Winston-Salem said. "To play well against a good player you are under stress the entire time, especially mental stress because this is a game of move, countermove and strategy, counterstrategy. You have to always be thinking and concentrating. I relate to checkers like football with the offense trying to score and the defense trying to stop them."

Pool checkers is a hybrid of straight checkers and chess. In straight checkers a checker can't jump until the piece is kinged. In pool checkers a single piece can jump one square in any direction, provided there is an open landing space, before being kinged. Once kinged in pool checkers, the king

has power similar to the queen in chess in that it can move unhindered forward, backward and diagonally. The game is very popular in foreign countries, most notably Russia and Brazil, and has been a staple among blacks dating back to the 1920s.

"We, as blacks, have been accustomed to playing pool checkers in the streets, under the shade trees and in barber shops," said Smalls, a serious checker player for 40 years, who began playing with his father and brothers as a youngster using pop tops and a hand-drawn checker board.

"We were too poor to afford anything else," he said, causing APCA public relations director Wardell Moore of Flint, Mich., to nod in agreement, saying, "We used turn the pop tops up for one player and down for the other so we could

tell them apart."

Playing in a barber shop was the inspiration for the birth of APCA said Dr. Nathaniel Leach of Detroit, one of the founders of the organization and this year's Tournament Director.

"We had a spot in a barber shop in Detroit where we played and we wanted to get out of there and become organized," he said of the early 1940s. "I feel we have made progress, but I would like to see the game spread more. We hope to have a world championship in two years." Echoing Smalls' comments, APCA president Dr. Ervin Smith said, "Pool checkers is primarily an African-American game because of the difference with straight checkers. It is a cultural difference in our society."

"We think our game is a little more exciting than regular checkers,

because there is more strategy," said Smalls, who plays in the Junior Masters Division, the middle rung on the five-tier pool checker ladder. The highest rung is Top Masters, followed by Masters, Junior Masters, Gold Bar and Blue Ribbon.

Pool checkers consists of three games within a game - the opening game, middle game and end game - each requiring mental strategy says Moore, noting that pool checkers "is an intellectual past time that develops skill, calculation, foresight and discipline. It's like algebra - it challenges and disciplines the mind."

A player doesn't just plop down at a board and start playing checkers if he expects to be any good.

"If you want to be good you better study the game and your

opponent," Smalls said. "In our game, you go as far as the opponent - defense allows you to go and if you can use your offense to break his defense, you'll have a good chance of winning. Most of the good players in pool checkers are defensive players. The good players realize their opponent's mistakes and never let them recover."

Vladimir Kaplan, a six-time world champion from Russia and an American and European Grand Master, who has written four books about checker strategy, says the key to succeeding at pool checkers is starting young because of the strategies and intellect involved in the game. And that is the rub for further growth of the sport.

"Young people don't like to sit down and use their brain," Leach said. "Mental concentration is not advocated as a sport."

Four Inducted Into Black Golf Hall of Fame

By JEROME RICHARD
Chronicle Sports Writer

Four new members were inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame Saturday during ceremonies in Greensboro.

Enshrined during a dinner banquet at the Holiday Inn Airport in Greensboro were Maggie Hathaway of Los Angeles; Billy Gardenhigh of Asheville; David Gibson of Atlanta; and Wiley Williams of East Orange, N.J. The Pete Brown Physical Achievement Award was presented to Charles Owens of Tampa.

Hathaway has been a civil-rights activist for over three decades, starting in 1960 when she petitioned Los Angeles County to hire black golf starters. She helped golfer Charles Sifford to become the first black professional golfer to play in the Bing Crosby Pebble Beach Open and assisted Harold Dunovant of Winston-Salem, the founder and director of the Black Golf Hall of Fame, to become one of the first black assistant pros at a Los Angeles golf course.

Gardenhigh had an outstanding amateur golf career and is known as a pioneer in black golf. He has had a long association with the Skyview Open Golf Tournament and has been a member of the Skyview Golf Association since 1961. He now serves as its president and tournament director.

Gibson was the first black to qualify for the National Public Links Golf Tournament from Georgia, doing so in 1967. In 1970, he was the first black to win the Atlanta Army Depot Tournament. He won the U.S. Postal Service Tournament 24 consecutive years. In 1986, he won the inaugural National Black Golf Hall of Fame Tournament (senior pro division).

Williams has won over 50 tour-

naments in a career spanning four decades. His first tournament victory came in 1967 at the Wessex County Golf Championship. His most recent win was in 1992 at the Nat Moore/Joe Ruck Open.

A 36-hole golf tournament was held as part of the weekend induc-

tion ceremonies. The tournament was played at the Bel-Aire Golf Course in Greensboro July 16-17 where Jay Hoover beat Robert Walker in playoff to win the pro division. Both golfers were tied at 139 at the end of regulation. play. Harry Dillard claimed the Senior

Amateur Division with a 149. Edward Green won the Championship Flight at 142. The First Flight was won by Billy Thanos with a 151. Clifton Watson's 158 took the Second Flight and Chris Ingram claimed the Third Flight with a 167.



Leo Rucker, artist, is seeking models for his next painting "Breaking Bread - The Last Supper" males, age 25 or older, full beard. For more information, please call 910-643-5807

We're driven to satisfy!

SEARS

GOOD YEAR

MICHELIN

BRIDGESTONE

BFGoodrich

PIRELLI

YOKOHAMA

Great selection and low prices EVERY DAY!

ALL Goodyear tires on sale!

Passenger	Small car	Passenger	Light truck
GOOD YEAR WEATHERHANDLER	GOOD YEAR CORSA GT	GOOD YEAR AQUATRED	GOOD YEAR WRANGLER GS-A
60,000-mile wearout warranty	50,000-mile wearout warranty	60,000-mile wearout warranty	50,000-mile wearout warranty
AS LOW AS P145/80SR12BW 19.88	AS LOW AS I45SR13 24.99	AS LOW AS P175/70R13 67.99	AS LOW AS P215/70R14 81.49
P155/80SR13 \$27.99	155SR13 \$29.99	P185/70R13 \$70.99	P215/75R15 \$81.99
P185/80SR13 44.99	165SR13 34.99	P185/70R14 74.99	P235/75R15 94.49
P185/75SR14 49.99	165SR14 42.99	P195/70R14 75.99	P245/70R15XL 96.49
P205/75SR14 54.99	175/70SR13 38.99	P205/70R14 81.99	LT235/85R16 128.99
P205/75SR15 58.99	185/70SR13 44.99	P215/70R14 85.99	LT265/75R16D 130.49
P235/75SR15 63.99	185/70SR14 44.99	P205/70R15 86.99	31X10 50R15C 116.99
P175/70SR13BW 49.99		P215/70R15 89.99	
P185/70SR14BW 56.99		P205/65R15 89.99	
P205/70SR15 64.99		P215/65R15 94.99	
P215/65SR15BW 70.99			

Our best-selling tire!

GUARDSMAN Response XL	
50,000-mile wearout warranty	
AS LOW AS P145/80R12 24.99	
P155/80R13 \$27.99	P215/75R15 \$48.99
P165/80R13 35.99	P225/75R15 49.99
P175/80R13 37.99	P235/75R15 51.99
P185/80R13 38.99	P175/70SR13 45.99
P185/75R14 39.99	P175/70SR14 46.99
P195/75R14 41.99	P185/70SR14 49.99
P205/75R14 43.99	P185/70R14 50.99
P215/75R14 45.99	P205/70R15 54.99
P205/75R15 46.99	P205/70R15 55.99
	P215/70R15 57.99

NEW AT SEARS! ROADHANDLER BY RAYBESTOS BRAKE SERVICE



BRAKE SERVICES:

- A quality brake system inspection
- Up-front written estimates
- A fair price
- Quality brake products
- ASE certified technicians
- Nationwide service and warranties

READY WHEN PROMISED! SERVICE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST!

See customer service consultant for complete details. ***Price comparisons should always be based on identical services performed. Roadhandler or Standard "Plus" By Raybestos

SEARS BEST SHOCKS!

26.99
Eo. Fits most Lts
RoadHandler Performance Light Truck Gas shocks
• Huge 1 1/2-in. piston!

21.99
Eo. Fits most cars
RoadHandler Performance Gas shocks
• Large 1 1/2-in. piston for better stability and ride control!

DieHard 500
Watch the DieHard 500 this Sunday on CBS TV!

Small Car	Passenger	Performance	Passenger	Performance	Light truck, van, 4x4, RV
GUARDSMAN SCR	SuperGuard 40	GUARDSMAN Performance	GUARDSMAN Radial	Response Radial GT	TrailHandler LT TrailHandler AT
40,000-mile wearout warranty	40,000-mile wearout warranty	30,000-mile wearout warranty	30,000-mile wearout warranty	40,000-mile wearout warranty	35,000-mile wearout warranty
AS LOW AS 155SR12 19.99	AS LOW AS P155/80R13 24.99	AS LOW AS P175/70SR13 29.99	AS LOW AS P155/80R13 16.88	AS LOW AS P175/70SR13 44.99	AS LOW AS LT175/75R14 49.99
155SR13 \$24.99	P165/80R13 \$29.99	P185/70SR13 \$34.99		P185/70SR13 \$49.99	P195/75R15 \$54.99
165SR13 26.99	P175/80R13 30.99	P185/70SR14 45.99		P185/70SR14 54.99	P205/75R15 55.99
175/70SR13 29.99	P185/75R14 33.99	P195/70SR14 48.99		P205/70SR14 57.99	P215/75R15 59.99
185/70SR13 32.99	P195/75R14 35.99	P205/70R14 49.99	P185/80R13 \$24.99	P205/70SR15 65.99	P235/75R15 62.99
185/70SR14 36.99	P205/75R14 37.99	P215/65SR15 59.99	P195/75R14 28.99	P215/70SR15 67.99	LT195/75R14 66.99
195/70SR14 39.99	P205/75R15 38.99	P195/80SR14 55.99	P205/75R14 30.99	P215/65SR15 70.99	LT215/75R15 69.99
205/70SR14 44.99	P215/75R15 39.99	P215/60SR14 57.99	P225/75R15 34.99	P185/60R14 59.99	LT235/75R15 74.99
	P225/75R15 40.99	P195/60SR15 55.99	LIMIT 5 - NO CARRY-OUTS	P195/60R15 61.99	LT335/85R16 83.99
	P235/75R15 41.99		NO DEALERS	P195/60R15 63.99	30X9 50R15 77.99
				P205/60R15 63.99	31X10 50R15 78.99

Get a charge out of our low battery prices!

44.99
With trade-in thru 7/30 Reg. 49.99
Save \$5
675 battery
• 675 cranking amps!

54.99
With trade-in thru 7/30 Reg. 59.99
Save \$5
DieHard WeatherHandler
SAVE \$10! DieHard Gold battery (#43524R) reg. 79.99 sale 69.99 with trade-in thru 7/30 43224/424R

21.99
With trade-in
Garden tractor battery
• For riding mowers and more

49.99
With trade-in
DieHard marine battery
• 625 marine-cranking amps

64.99
With trade-in
DieHard marine battery
• 800 marine-cranking amps

24.99
Thru 7/30 Reg. 29.99
Save \$5
6/2 amp charger
• For 12v auto, motorcycle, lawn/garden

America's favorite cards at Sears

Limited warranty for months/miles specified. Lifetime Warranty Against Manufacturer's Defects. refers to the life of usable tread for tires or for as long as you own your vehicle for other products. Environmental surcharges extra. Not all products/services available at all stores. Some tire sizes and batteries available by special order only. See store for details. *FLORIDA MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR SHOPS MV-06237 TO MV-06262. ** (11995 FT. LAUDERDALE, AR 1081-MV-06276), (12106 POMPANO BEACH, AR 0972-MV-06271), (11515 PLANTATION, AR 0848-MV-06273), (11775 PEMBROKE PINES, AR 0849-MV-06266)

ANDERSON 803-261-4200	CHRISTIANSBURG 703-381-6678	EASTLAND 704-531-4200	GREENVILLE 804-237-6761	LYNCHBURGH 804-237-6761	ROANOKE 703-563-3891	SOUTHPARK 704-362-5454
ASHEBORO 919-626-7171	CONCORD 704-786-6111	GASTONIA 704-864-5411	HICKORY 704-328-2851	MARTINSVILLE 703-666-1395	ROCK HILL 803-327-8127	SPARTANBURG 803-587-5300
BURLINGTON 910-584-9779	DANVILLE 804-793-3111	GREENSBORO 919-632-3295	HIGH POINT 919-888-3428	PINEVILLE 704-541-2395	SHELBY 704-480-2058	WINSTON-SALEM 910-659-7391

SEARS TIRE AND AUTO CENTER

E'S SALON
First in Elegance & Hair Perfection
Total Salon
Appointment Only
1111 B Silas Creek Parkway
Winston Salem, NC 27127
Edith Williams
Owner-Designer (919)724-1681

K&W Cafeteria
OVER 100 DIFFERENT FRESH FOODS.
North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia