## Vantage Championship, Coca-Cola

Clinic at The Lake to be held soon

Ralph Gaillard Golf-N-Around

The Vantage Championship will come to town next week. Seventy-eight Senior PGA Tour professionals will compete for a total purse of \$1.6 million. The tournament will be held at Tanglewood Park on the championship course in Clemmons Sept. 14-16.

Best get on out to Tanglewood next weekend as this will be perhaps your last time to see some of the legends of golf play in our area. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco recently announced it has canceled its 14-year sponsorship of the tournament.

Larry Nelson, last year's tournament winner and player of the year on the senior circuit, is scheduled to play, as are Jim Dent, Hale Irwin, Lee Trevino, Raymond Floyd, Arnold Palmer and Jim Thorpe.

Senior PGA tour professionals will return for the third year to Winston Lake Golf Course on Tuesday, Sept. 11. Pros Walter Hall, Jim Holtgrieve, Walter Morgan and Larry Ziegler will conduct the Coca-Cola Clinic at

The Lake at 4:30 p.m. at the driving range. After a golf demonstration the pros will provide upclose-and-personal instruction to youngsters, in attendance. Refreshments and plenty of Coca-Cola products will be served, and a one-day free ticket to the Vantage Championship will be given to all in attendance.

Over the past few weeks we have provided biographical information on the pros conducting the clinic. This week we will feature Walter Morgan. Morgan did not travel to professional golf utilizing the traditional methods. Morgan spent 20 years in the U.S. Army, including two tours in Vietnam. Morgan, a selftaught player, did not take up the game of golf until he was 29 years old. He spent most of his youth and spare time playing baseball. One of his cousins is baseball great Joe Morgan. Walt Morgan wound up on a golf course in Hawaii and shot a 79 the first time he ever played. While in the service, Morgan was the All-Service Golf Champion in 1975 and 1976. Morgan also took up boxing in the Army and

won all 13 bouts by knockouts. Morgan was born in Haddock, Ga., and lives just down the road in the Lake Norman area in the off-season. His wife,

Geraldine, is from the Winston-Salem area, and they have many friends and relatives in the Triad area.

Morgan retired from the Army in 1980 and tried for his PGA Tour card but missed obtaining his card at the PGA qualifying tournament by one stroke. Morgan was a club professional in Texas until joining the senior circuit in 1991, 1996 was Morgan's best year on tour thus far; he posted two wins (FHP Health Care Classic, Ameritech Senior Open) and won more than \$800,000 for 10th place on the final money list. He also won the 1995 GTE Northwest Classic and was voted by his peers as the Comeback Player of the Year. He carded his first hole-inone as a Senior Tour player during the third round of the 1995 Vantage Championship.

This year, Morgan has earned more than \$400,000, posted a tie for second at the TD Waterhouse Championship and tied for sixth at the SBC Senior Classic.

Morgan credits golf legend Charlie Sifford with helping Morgan make the transition to the Senior Tour and Morgan's wife, Geraldine, for being the most influential person in his





career. A true family man, a consummate professional, Morgan has accepted the challenges life has offered, has overcome most of them and is a model for us all to follow.

So get on over to The Lake on Tuesday, Sept. 11. at 4:30 p.m. and see Walt Morgan, Walter Hall, Jim Holtgrieve and Larry Ziegler do things with a golf ball you rarely get to see in person. And don't forget to bring the kids

Until next time, see you at The Lake on Sept. 11 and keep it in the fairway.



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