

The Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic is a local annual mainstay



Ralph Gaillard
Golf-N-Around

Vic Johnson gives back to our community and is a model for us all to follow. Johnson grew up in Winston-Salem, where he attended Atkins High School and Winston-Salem State University. He played football and excelled as a center and linebacker in high school and college. He also played in the U.S. Army for the 82nd Airborne football team. Johnston taught in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools for 32 1/2 years where he rose to the positions of assistant and interim principal. Johnson was elected to the Winston-

Salem/Forsyth County School Board and has served on this board since 1996.

After his football days, Johnson says that he "did not have anything else to do to hurt himself," so he took up bowling and golf. He had caddied as a youngster and found golf and bowling a little easier on the body than football.

Johnson recently reflected that he never forgot some of the recreation center directors - Roscoe Anderson, Lonnie Rice and "Dusty" Montgomery. Johnson said, "These men got kids involved in sports and other activities and kept them off the streets."

Several years ago, he and good friend and local golf pro Jim Conrad started talking about the feasibility of conducting a

free junior golf clinic. In the summer of 1996, the Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic began at Reynolds Park Golf Course. Every year since, Johnson has had from 60 to 80 youngsters in the program. The clinic will start the second week of June and will be for four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Reynolds Park Golf Course. There is no cost for the youngsters to participate in the clinic. Golf clubs and balls will be provided to all participants. Parents are obligated only to get their kids to and from the clinic.

Johnson and Conrad have contacted several organizations and kids will participate from the Reynolds Park Recreation Center, the Sims Center, and Emmanuel Baptist Church. However, the program is open to all

youngsters in the community.

Over the years, Johnson and Conrad have had four volunteer instructors help them with the program: Don Adams, Robert Bethea, Dan Frazier and Sam Puryear Sr. Hats off to these fine individuals for giving their time to such a worthwhile community service. Johnson is also quite pleased with the dedication that his wife, Constance, has devoted to the program. Mrs. Johnson does not play golf but is very involved with the clinic. In fact, last year Mrs. Johnson bought all of the youngsters T-shirts, which were given out at the closing ceremony.

Johnson said, "We could not have the clinic without Constance's involvement and dedication."

Johnson said that about six

kids from the program are playing on area high school golf teams. Johnson also visits area schools during the year and checks on the kids from the program. Many are outstanding students. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Martin also gives his support to the clinic. Martin attends the closing ceremony and presents awards.

In all, Johnson is gratified by the accomplishments of the kids on the golf course and in the classroom. Johnson said, "Somebody helped me while growing up; therefore, I want to help somebody else. Who knows? We may have another Tiger Woods in the making."

For more information on the Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic, contact Vic Johnson at (336) 722-2189. Although not a must, any

contribution of money, or of golf clubs, golf balls, etc., will be graciously received and most certainly will benefit the youths who participate in the clinic. Thanks, Vic and Constance Johnson, Jim Conrad, Don Adams, Robert Bethea, Dan Frazier and Sam Puryear Sr., for making a difference.

In other local happenings, the dedication of the E. Jerry Jones Clubhouse at Winston Lake Golf Course has been postponed from this Saturday, Feb. 16, to Saturday, April 27. Mark your calendars accordingly and plan to be on hand for this memorable recognition of Mr. Jones and his contributions to Winston-Salem golf.

Until next time - keep it in the fairway.

Raptors hold off Switzer, Sonics in Hanes Hosiery Youth League

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Jay Switzer poured in 40 points, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Raptors from taking a 53-49 double-overtime victory over the Sonics in the 13-15 division of Hanes Hosiery's Youth Basketball League last week.

Fred McClure led the Raptors with 17 points, Wayne Crowell scored 14, Donnez Johnson had 9, and Brandon Horne scored 8 to back him. Rashard Brooks and Dwayne Penn had 3 and 2 points, respectively.

Switzer's 40 points led the way for the Sonics, who also got 3 points from Devin Harrison and 2 each from Red Crosby, Lemark Barren and Coco Penn.

76ers 39, Hornets 26

Tristan Martin scored 13 points to lead the 76ers to an upset win over the Hornets in the 13-15 division. Martin was backed by Corey McCann and Tyrell Russell with 8 points each. Fred Turner scored 5, James Johnson added 3, and Dock Sanders chipped in with 2.

Ronnie Gist led the way for the Hornets with 12 points,

Sherrod Brannon scored 6, Matt Fagan and Adrian Mitchell added 3 points each.

Pistons 36, Spurs 31

Jonathan Williams scored 14 points to lead the Pistons past the Spurs in the 13-15 division. Whykette Morrison scored 11 and James Squire tallied 10 to support Williams.

Bernard Lyons scored 8 and B.J. Dubose added 3. Marcus Harris scored 17 to lead the way for the Spurs. Myron Hairston scored 6, while Edward Rosenberg, Jermaine Wilkes, Malcolm Springs and Alphonso Smith each scored 2 points.

Jazz 48, Lakers 43

Cedric Amos scored 18 points and Eric Tate added 10 to lead the Jazz to victory in the 13-15 division. Rico Dodd chipped in with 7, Roberto Polonia tallied 4, and Matthew Edwards added 2.

Tre Bailey and Wilbert Johnson scored a team-high 16 points each for the Lakers. Dennis Cody and Debo Smith each had 3.

Felder, Green lead Seminoles past Cavs 26-22 in 7-12 division

Casey Felder scored 13 points and Alphonso Green scored 11 to lead the Seminoles to victory over the Cavs. Gerald McCloud scored 2 points for the Seminoles. Perry Rowdy led the Cavs with 12 points. Brandon Gilchrist scored 4, Bryant Forrest added 3, and Jamil Thomas chipped in with 2.

Terps 40, Deacons 34

Tristan Martin led a balanced attack with 16 points to boost the Terps to victory. Martin was supported by GeJuan Hardy with 12 points and Grady Hardy Jr. with 10 points. Deshawn Thomas tallied 2 points.

Brittany Pollock had a game-high 22 points for the Deacons. Bradley Crews, Steven Brown and Chandler Cheeks each scored 4 points.

Blue Devils 37, Wolfpack 35

Malcolm Springs scored 20 points and the Blue Devils held off the Wolfpack in double overtime to earn a victory. Antoine Simmons and Wes Harrison scored 6 each to back Springs. Fred Hawkins scored 3 and Jamie Dodd chipped in

with 2.

James McKeever led the Wolfpack with 14 points and Tyrone Dunlap was next with 10.

Demario Blockson added 7, and Rasharra Jackson and Carl Boswell each scored 2.

Yellowjackets 25, Tarheels 17

Donté Penn scored 12 points and Chris Brooks added 9 to lead the Yellowjackets in the 7-12 division. Anthony Davis and William Miller added 2 points each.

Leon Smith scored 12 points to lead the Tarheels. Marquise Pullen scored 3, and Kendall Wicks and Tyrone Taylor both tallied 1 point.

Wildcats upset Spartans 40-34 in overtime in 16-18 division

Crosby's traveling basketball teams are raising money for a trip to Orlando, Fla. Car washes will be held on Feb. 23, Feb. 24, March 2, and March 3

Eugene Galloway led the charge with 17 points as the Wildcats pulled off an upset in overtime. Devin Harrison scored 11 points, Antoine Bonner chipped in with 6, and Vincent Marsh, Anthony Green and Matt Fagan scored 2 points each.

Reggie Price topped the Spartans with 13 points. Joe Smith had 11, Dedric Carpenter had 4, and John McClean and Marcus Rhodes each added 3.

Wolverines 48, Jayhawks 45

David Smith and KaRon Hairston combined to score 29 points to lead the Wolverines to an upset win. Smith led the way with 15, Hairston scored 14, Marcus Bowles scored 8, Dedrick Springs scored 6, and

Charles Rashwan had 5 in support.

Greg Glenn's 17 points led the way for the Jayhawks. Jamar Peterkin scored 9, Craig Amos scored 7, and Chris Archie scored 6. Terry Law added 4 and Duke Quick tallied 2 points.

Bruins 49, Rams 43

Val Bethea and Corey McCann scored 13 points each and the Bruins held off a late run by the Rams. DeShawn Lampkins added 12 points, Antwoine Hairston scored 9 and Kevin Nelson had 2 points.

Haywood Richardson scored 18 points to pace the Rams. Monte Mitchell scored 14 to back him. Bobbie Peebles and Demarco Cook scored 4 each, and Tay Stokes had 3.

Crosby's traveling basketball teams raising money for trip to Orlando

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

(Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m.) at Burger King parking lot at Northpoint Boulevard/University Parkway. The teams will wash cars, sell raffle tick-

ets and food, etc. Tell your friends, neighbors and teachers to come out and support the teams. Contact coach Hubert Crosby at 722-4337 for more information.

Winston-Salem Tiny Vikings Booster Club will meet

The Winston-Salem Tiny Vikings will hold their monthly Booster Club meeting on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Carl Russell Recreation Center, 3521 Carver School Road. The topic for the meeting will be the results of the retreat. Contact Robert McCormick (918-4498) with questions and/or concerns.

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