

RODNEY MORROW...After spot on PGA tour...

## Rodney Morrow's Goal: A Spot On The PGA Tour

(ED. NOTE - Thursday, Gary Stewart will tell you how he played after a short lesson from Rodney Morrow.)

For Rodney Morrow of Bowling Springs, the next six months will be one of the most important periods of his life.

A pro golfer, Morrow will be spending around 12 hours each day tuning up his game for the next PGA qualifying tournament, at which time the former Crest High and Gardner-Webb standout will be attempting for the second time to earn a tour card.

The 28-year-old Morrow attempted to qualify for the tour two weeks ago in Pinehurst, but missed by five shots. His downfall was a round of 80 which he shot on the fifth day of the event.

His other rounds included a 78, 66, 78, 72 and a final day 71.

"That one round of 80 killed me," he recalled. "It seemed like everything I did that day was wrong.

"Other than that," he added, "I was real satisfied with the way I played. I made all of my mistakes in one day."

Morrow stayed within a shot or two of the lead until the fifth round, and that eight over par score eventually cost him a player's card. Of 425 golfers participating, only 25 received tour cards.

Until the next qualifying round six months from now, at a site not yet determined, the Cleveland County man will be tuning up his game at area courses, as well as giving lessons at the Challenger Three course near Shelby. Persons interested in making appointments for lessons may call the Challenger Three at 482-5061. He will be giving lessons from 5 p. m. until 11 p. m. each day.

Morrow's also probably going to return to the PGA mini-tour for a while after a highly successful first year when his lowest finish was sixth. He had three second place finishes.

Morrow, who helped lead Gardner-Webb to the NAA national championship a year ago, recently set a new course record at Kings Mountain Country Club with an eight under par 64. He was playing with his cousin, Del Morrow, Darrell Austin Sr. and Darrell Austin Jr.

"I didn't realize I was shooting the course record there," said Morrow, who calls the KMCC course the toughest in the county. He hit 17 of the 18 greens in regulation and hit the 475-yard first hole in two shots.

He also holds the course record at Riverbend (61), and he came within a shot of the record of 62 at Lan Yair Country Club in South Carolina.

A golfer since age eight, Morrow spends about 12 hours each day on the golf course.



GARY STEWART

His daily routine includes getting up at 7 a. m., eating a fast breakfast, then working on his chipping game for one hour and a half.

After that, he plays nine holes, then practices for three more hours, then plays 18 more holes, and then caps his day off by practicing more in the late afternoon and early evening hours.

His long hours of work are paying off, however, and he's confident he'll earn his PGA card the next time around.

"If I ever get in the position I was the last time," he noted, "I'll play a lot differently. Had I only thought, I would have my card right now. The day I shot the 80, I was in 15th place but went out there trying to break par. If I'd thought a little bit and just tried to hit the greens and come in with even par, I would have been a lot better off."

Morrow feels he can be a winner on the pro tour and can be among the top 20 money winners simply by playing par golf.

"I'm not saying how I'd stack up against the big stars," he said, "but a lot of people I know who got their cards last year are doing pretty good on the tour and making a lot of money. And when they were playing the mini-tour, I was doing just as good as they were."

Morrow feels a lot of the PGA tournaments, like the Kemper Open, are relatively easy par breakers, and many of the others, like the Jacksonville Open, can be won with an even par and sometimes higher.

"If a player could go out and shoot even par in every tournament," he said, "he could make \$100,000 a year, win at least two tournaments and place in the top 20 money winners."

With that goal in mind, Morrow will be doing a lot of practicing the next six months, waiting for another chance that he feels sure will make his work worthwhile.



Darrell Austin misses birdie putt on 15th hole...

## Mickey Powers Golf Champion

Mickey Powers fired a four-over-par 76 Saturday to win the Brian Bickley Benefit Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Over 100 area golfers participated in the one-day, 18-hole event. All proceeds went to Bickley, who is hospitalized with a heart attack.

A total of \$3,882.17 was raised for the Bickley fund.

Powers won by one shot over Kings Mountain High golfer Darrell Austin Jr., 72-year-old William (Pop) Foster, and Guy Trout, all three turning the tough layout in 77.

David Neisler and Tony Wells shared fourth place with 78's, followed by Tom Tate, Jr., and Jim Lybrand Jr., at 79 and Tommy Grayson at 80.

A complete rundown of all the scores includes:

76—Mickey Powers.  
77 — Darrell Austin Jr., Guy Trout, Pop Foster.  
78 — David Neisler, Tony Wells.  
79 — Tom Tate Jr., Jim Lybrand Jr.

80 — Tommy Grayson.  
81 — Gary Howze, Darrell Forbes Jr., Dick Bright, George Klepper, Darrell Forbes Sr., Charles Hampton.

82 — Darrell Austin Sr., Hayne Neisler, Bob Brennan, Jake Dixon.

83 — Josh Hinnant, Charles Ballard, Jack Heavner, Jim Lybrand.

84 — Delk Haigler, Mike Ballard.

85 — Dr. George Plonk.

86 — Tom Tate, Parks Neisler, Al Griggs.

87 — Charles Neisler, Jack Arnette, Jim Humphries, John Gurbuckle, Buck Cosart, Howard Johnson.

88 — Dan Finger, Wyman Haigler, Don McGinnis, Johnny Wright, Carl DeVane, Lee Goins.

89 — Charles Mauney, Mike Neely, Scott Ledford, Martin Ramsey, Margaret Williams.

90 — George Cowles, Walt Harmon, Gene Patterson.

91 — Ray Holmes, O. J. Campbell, George Bowen.

92 — Yeargin Nell, John Cheshire, Joe Speight, Dennis Comer, George Thomasson, Jim Bradley, Jerry Robinson, Robert Tutwiler.

93 — Rev. S. W. Avery, Ray Barnes, 93 — Rev. S. W. Avery, Ray Barnes, Ken

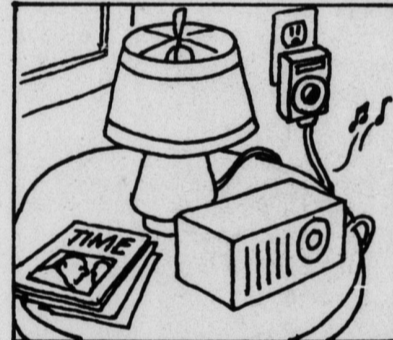
94 — Charles Rhodes, Jim Harry.

95 — Robert Wright, Ken Anderson, Jack Bailey, Dr. Paul Hendricks.

96 — Joe McDaniel, Dr. Vinson.

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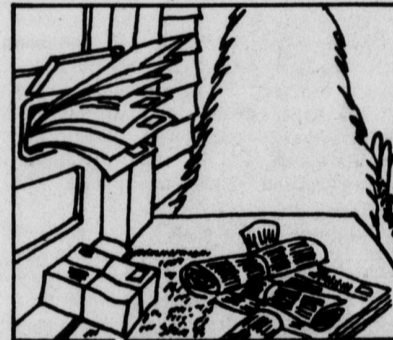
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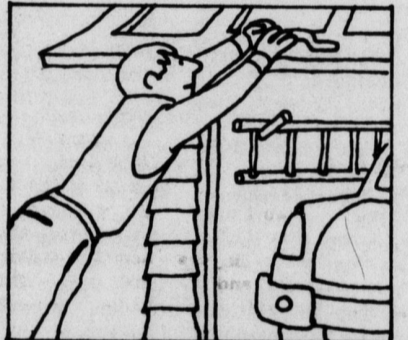
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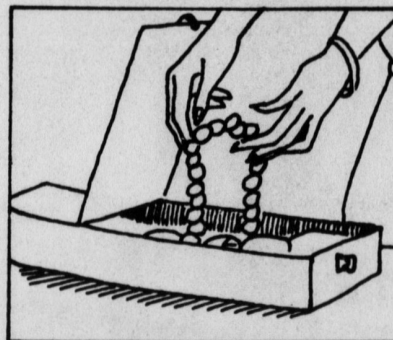
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