

National Car Rental hosts youth golf clinic

GREENSBORO, N.C. — National Car Rental Systems Inc. hosted The R.L. Wynn 1997 Invitational Golf Tournament's (RLWIGT) Third Annual Youth Golf Clinic this August at Bryan Park Golf Course.

Forty children of all ages watched in amazement as internationally famed pro-golfer Thad Daber placed drive after drive exactly where he said they would go. "I try to teach the kids the fundamentals and get them interested in the game," said Daber, of Greer, S.C.

The children paid close attention as Daber showed off the talents that placed him in the Guinness Book of World Records for the lowest round of golf played with one club. Daber said that it was good to see a prestigious company like National Car Rental get involved in introducing golf to today's youth, because playing golf can contribute to their growth and development.

"National is proud to sponsor the clinic," said Paul Tuttle, station manager of National's Triad Regional Airport location. "We wanted to help do something fun for the youth of our community."

Only four of the 40 children in attendance had ever played golf before. "We wanted to give the kids exposure to something that they may not otherwise try," said Leroy Holland, a National maintenance manager from Charlotte. Holland added, "When I was growing up I was one of the few black kids in my neighborhood that was exposed to golf. This



Children ages 3-13 participated in the R.L. Wynn Golf Tournament sponsored by National Car Rental.

clinic is my opportunity to give that experience to some at-risk children, as well as many others."

The support of corporate sponsors has made the RLWIGT and Youth Golf Clinic a much talked about and highly regarded event. "In the past we literally had to go into our own pockets to pay for the tournament and clinic," said RLWIGT executive director Bob Wynn. Wynn is a prominent lawyer from Madison, Wis. and the son of world renowned African-American dairy scientist R.L. Wynn and Margaret H. Wynn, for whom the Memorial Scholarship is named.

Wynn expressed appreciation on behalf of the RLWIGT board of directors, stating that the corporate support from National Car Rental System made it possible for the youth clinic to have even better equipment and instructors.

The RLWIGT Youth Golf Clinic is one of several events that were held this year as part of the 15th Annual R.L. Wynn Invitational Golf Tournament Weekend. The proceeds from the golf tournament as well as corporate and private donations benefit the R.L. Wynn & Margaret H. Wynn Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Unforced errors costly for Williams

BY HAL BOCK
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) - A missed chance here, a double fault there. An overshot in an open court, an easy return hit into the net.

They added up to 38 unforced errors Sunday, far too many for Venus Williams to have any real chance against Martina Hingis in the U.S. Open championship match.

Williams had sailed through six opponents in two weeks, always overcoming the mistakes you'd expect from a 17-year-old playing just the third Grand Slam tournament of her career. Against Hingis, she couldn't get away with it.

"I wasn't surprised," Williams said. "One of my only weaknesses is I will start hitting unforced errors. I'm just going to have to keep working hard. Maybe in the future, six months from now, that will be something that will pass."

For two weeks, Williams had juggled questions about her race, about the heritage of Arthur Ashe, whose name is on the stadium where the Open was played, and Althea Gibson, the first African-American to win this title 40 years ago.

"If someone wants to play the sport, they

shouldn't be put out because of their race or religion or social status," she said. "That really is part of the American belief. It really should be part of the world's belief."

Her father said the ugly bumping incident with Irina Spirlea in the semifinals was racially motivated and that his daughter had been a target of racism on the Tour. Throughout it all, Williams maintained her cool, dismissing all that talk.

"I don't think that's even part of it right now," she said.

None of that mattered against Hingis. What did, however, was the sea of errors that doomed her chances.

The match had started so well. Williams won three of the first four points on her serve. The only unforced error had been committed by Hingis on the first point of the game. And then, trouble.

Leading 40-15, Williams committed four straight unforced errors and in no time, Hingis had the first game break. How important was that for the No. 66 ranked player in the world facing the No. 1 player?

"It was a turning point of the match," Williams said. "I think that I just thought I had to do too much. Maybe I wanted to end

the points a little bit quicker. Sometimes, I'll tend to play like that."

Armed with the quick first break, Hingis breezed through the set, winning 6-0 in just 22 minutes, leaving Williams looking like a kid hitting in a schoolyard instead of playing for a Grand Slam title.

Hingis had not dropped a set in two weeks. Now Williams was faced with taking two straight from her in one day. For a brief moment, she made a small move on her, breaking Hingis to draw even at 4-4 in the second set. She was up 30-0 on her serve, trying to consolidate the break, when the errors returned, punctuated by a double fault.

Was she looking ahead?

"Probably, just a little bit, yeah," she said. "I think everyone looks ahead. It's just natural."

If that's what she was doing, what she saw could not have been pretty. Hingis took advantage of the mistakes, broke right back and then served out the match to win her first Open.

The end had to be a bit disappointing for the talented teenager with the beaded braids who had captivated the Open in just her 10th tournament of the year. She was optimistic, though, saying "I'll see you next year."

Girls in Black use comeback effort to take third in USSSA National Tournament

The Girls in Black, a 14-year-old softball team from Winston-Salem, pulled off a stunning upset in the USSSA National Invitational Tournament by upsetting the USSSA and NSA Softball champions, the Carolina Challengers, 14-13.

The Challengers had the game in control, holding a 10-3 lead, when 10-year-old Natalie Williams came to the mound for the Girls in Black. She replaced Monique Hines, the starting pitcher, and that change seem to turn the momentum to the Girls in Black.

"Monique was doing a good job but the Challengers were timing her on every stroke," said Jonne' Hayes, the head coach of the Girls in Black. "(Assistant) Coach Fred Holland and I felt that although Natalie's deliveries were slower, she could control her speed."

And control she did. In the final three innings of the game, Williams held the Challengers to only five hits and three runs and

that gave the Girls in Black a chance to get back into the game.

The Challengers took a 13-5 lead before the Girls in Black began to reach deep down inside and forge a comeback effort. Marquita Williams came in to run for Latesha Winstead, who has hit by a pitch to get the rally started. Natalie Williams then drew a walk off to put two runners on.

"She's so short, I knew it would be hard to hit the strike zone," said Holland.

The base runners pulled off a double-steal to put runners on second and third. Kim Vereen then doubled to score Marquita Williams and advance Natalie Williams to third.

With no outs in the inning, Shante' Williams and Johnna J.D. Harding



Members of the "Girls in Black" accept their trophy.

drove back-to-back triples down th' left field line. LaTrece Davis then followed with hit up the middle, but was tagged out on a controversial call at third. That play seemed to be the one that really got the Girls in Black fired up. "That play may have been the thing that set the rest of the team on fire," Holland said.

Hayes concurred.

He said: All of a sudden, the girls were off the bench, yelling and cheering each other on. I could barely hear myself think."

One by one, the Girls in Black began to punch solid hits at the plate. Roxanna Hayes and Monique Hines reach on walks and that brought Winstead back up. "I knew she was hurt but she's also tough," Hayes said. "Don't let the fact that she's only

eleven fool you. We needed her stick, but we let her make the decision."

Winstead decided to reenter the game and she calmly drove the first pitch to right field, driving in Hayes to tie the game and setting up Hines on third.

The Challengers made a pitching move, but it was too late. Natalie Williams reached on a walk and

Hines went home on a wild pitch to score the winning run.

When presenting the trophy to the Girls in Black, Wayne Pearson, the state director of USSSA, said: "I always let my officials present the trophy but this is a 'special' presentation that I wanted to do personally. Jonne' Hayes has worked hard to get this group together, it takes a lot of work and I'm glad to have met him."

Members of the Girls in Black team include Natalie Williams, Latasha Winstead, Roxanna Hayes, Halima McCaskill, Taneisha Gist, Johnna Harding, Marquita Williams, Tyra Marie Watson, Christina Parker, Cavausia Walker, Monique Hines, Shante' Williams, Erika Conrad, Kim Vereen, Laterisha Davis, Toni Lee, Jaquese Peebles and LaTorria White. In addition to Holland Hayes, the other members of the coaching staff are Harvey Barber and Eva Hines.

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