

# It all started with a shortcut through a golf course



**Ralph Gaillard**  
**Golf-N-Around**

Jim Dent turned professional in 1966 and joined the PGA Tour in 1970. He was born in Augusta, Ga., and last May celebrated his 60th birthday. As a youngster growing up in Augusta, he'd take a shortcut through a golf course on the way home from school.

One day he stopped and watched a golfer hit a beautiful shot. The shot impressed him so that he vowed to learn how to hit a

shot like that himself.

He started playing hooky from school, going to the golf course and became a caddy. The rest is African American golf history. During the 1970s and 1980s Dent was one of the best golfers on the PGA Tour not to win a tournament. However, he did earn a very respectable living.

His best results on the PGA Tour came in 1972 when he tied for second place at the Walt Disney World Open Invitational. Dent joined the Senior PGA Tour in 1989 and was named Rookie of the Year. He was the longest hitter in driving distance from 1989 to 1994.

He won more than \$950,000 in 1994, and in 1996 he had 11 top-10

finishes in 34 starts. Dent recently exceeded \$6 million in earnings on the Senior Tour and has won 12 tournaments. Jim most recently won the 1997 and 1998 Home Depot Invitational at Piper Glenn Country Club in Charlotte. He likes to play golf in North Carolina. He was a contender and almost won the Vantage Championship at Tanglewood several times.

This writer has had the privilege of playing with Dent in two pro-am tournaments. He is an outstanding individual, and he knows the rules of golf.

Did you know that the "quiet" signs held up at professional tournaments are illegal, according to the rules?

The Lonnie Wellman, B.G. Norman and Mike Robinson rematch results are in. Norman once again lost to Wellman. Norman says he would rather beat Wellman than own a Rolls Royce. However, Robinson picked up some serious bragging rights as he defeated Wellman. Richard "The Mailman" Harrison joined the match and also was defeated by Wellman. "The Mailman" got his nickname because he is a postal worker for the U.S. Postal System.

According to Harry Transou, he got his nickname "Dirty Harry" from golfing companions when he would make a "birdie" and/or a "par" to beat them. They would exclaim, "That's dirty, Harry!"

Harold "The Masked Man" Hairston got his "handle" several years ago when he had an allergy and would play golf while wearing a surgical mask. The things people will do for the love of the game.

Leon "Popcorn" Sutton got his nickname when he was a youngster. Sutton and his friends would spend all day at the movies. On one occasion he ate eight boxes of popcorn, hence the nickname. The nickname has been with Sutton ever since. It even stayed with him during his professional boxing career.

"Popcorn," you will always be

my idol!

Seems as though Linda "Lady Pro" Davis got her nickname as she has developed her golf game over the years. Beware, Linda can play.

It's been reported that Amos Lewis' real nickname is "Major." No one will give us the details. Amos, we want an explanation?

Until next time, "keep it in the fairway".

If you have ideas for Golf-N-Around call The Chronicle at (336) 723-8428 or e-mail Ralph Gaillard at [ralphg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ralphg@bellsouth.net)

## Invitational track and field meet to be held at Carver on July 24

The Tri-City Relays Track Club is hosting an invitational track and field meet July 24 at Carver High School.

The meet gets under way with registration at 8 a.m. It is open to athletes from 4 years and up. Participants will compete in 11 age classifications with competition in both male and female divisions. The competition will be divided into the Pee Wee (ages 4-6), Primary (7-8),

Bantam (9-10), Midget (11-12), Youth (13-14), Intermediate (15-16), Young Women/Men (17-18), Adults (19-23, 24-29, 30-39, 40-59, 50 and over) classifications.

Track teams and individuals are welcome to participate in the meet. Included in the field will be more than 30 athletes from the Tri-City Relays Track Club who have qualified to participate in the Junior AAU Olympics, which will be held

in Cleveland, Ohio.

Meet organizers encourage recreation center teams and other organizations to come out and be a part of the meet.

Teams may bring their own stickers in order to facilitate time. Entry fees are \$2 for up to three events and \$8 per relay. Visiting coaches are also encouraged to assist with all events. Track events include the 1,500-meter run, 200-

meter dash, 80-meter hurdles, 100-meter hurdles, 110-meter hurdles, 60-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 800-meter run, 4x100-meter relay, 400-meter dash and 4x400-meter relay. The field events include the shot put, long jump, triple jump and high jump. Athletes should furnish their own shot put and batons.

For more information, contact Lemuel Johnson at 336-725-7642 or Buddy Hayes at 767-0853.

## Myers, Tate lead Hoyas past Deacons in Hanes Hosiery 11-14 league

Darryl Myers and Dwayne Tate combined for 38 of their team's points to boost the Hoyas to a 40-27 victory over the Deacons in Hanes Hosiery's 11-14 Hot Hoops action. Myers scored 22 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, including 14 points in the decisive second half, to lead the way. Tate added 16 points and Ashley Haynes added two points.

Volario Betha led the Deacs with 20 points and Marcus Harris added seven points.

**Tarheels 45**  
**Rams 38**

Jamar Pitts scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in a battle between the league's top teams, who both came into the game undefeated.

Pitts hit a three-pointer with 40 seconds remaining and then

converted four free throws to secure the victory for the Tarheels.

Ken Holley scored 11 points to back Pitts. Antwan Mitchell contributed seven and Sam Moses added four for the Tarheels.

Sean Lampkins led the Rams with 13 points and Joe Smith added 12.

**Huskies 41**  
**Blue Devils 40**

Terry Law scored 12 points to lead a balanced attack as the Huskies held on for a victory over the Blue Devils.

Jermaine Pitts scored 11 points; Billy Terry, 10; and Kas-san Geddings, eight.

Ben Scott scored a game-high 17 points to lead the Huskies, including five three-pointers. Duke Quick added 11 points to

support Scott, followed by Tim McIlwaine and Tanisha Davenport with five points each.

**Johnson, Bortins lead 76ers past Bucks in Hanes Hosiery 15-18 league**

Robert Johnson scored 12 points and Robert Bortins added 11 to pace the 76ers to a 45-40 win in the summer finale of Hanes Hosiery's 15-18 Hot Hoops league.

Reginald Price added nine points for the 76ers, and Dedrick Carpenter, Tim Edwards, Eric Banks and Brian Smith played outstanding defense to help limit the Bucks' offense.

The Bucks jumped out to an early 14-4 lead, but Johnson's buzzer-beater, which ended the first half, evened the score at 22-22 and gave the 76ers momentum

going into the second half.

The Bucks were led by Kevin Stout with nine points, Greg Glenn with eight points and Jamar Peterkin with eight points.

**Spurs 50**  
**Kings 44**

Dale McQuinn scored 14 points and the Spurs held off the Kings to take a victory. Jimmy Butler and Tony Elliott also reached double figures, scoring 11 and 10 points, respectively. Jeremy Lipscomb added eight points and Roger Edwards chipped in with seven.

McQuinn scored 10 of his 14 points in the second half to lead a late run by the Spurs. The Kings were led by Brione Johnson with 19 points and Santini Brim with 17 points.



Hanes Hosiery Huskies



Hanes Hosiery Blue Devils

### Duckett

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man served on an interim basis last season after Mike Bernard was forced out last summer.

The program at Norfolk State reached several high points under Bernard, including two CIAA tournament championships. However, after the program left the CIAA and moved up to the Division I level, it struggled to post a .500 record.

Duckett said the instability of the program would not be an impediment for the incoming new coach. However, it is far too early in the process to rule out anything.

"They're going to talk with some more people and then I think they're going to make some recommendations," Duckett said. "I think once they finish their interviews they'll be able to put together the nuts and bolts and figure out just what they want to do."

Since returning to Winston-Salem he has talked with Dr. Alvin Schexneider, Winston-Salem State's chancellor, about the future of the Rams' program.

"We've sat down and talked about what he sees ahead for the program," Duckett said. "You really have to make sure that his vision for the program and what is going on are moving in the same direction."

According to informed sources, Norfolk State has already interviewed three other candidates

in addition to Duckett. They include Wil Jones, the longtime head basketball coach and athletics director at the University of the District of Columbia; Malcolm "Zeke" Avery, a former coach at Hampton University; and Randy Peele, the former head coach at UNC-Greensboro.

Jones has close ties to Moss. Moss named Jones to the head coaching job at UDC when Moss served as UDC's athletics director. Jones then led the Firebirds to the No. 1 position in Division II basketball. The program has slipped some in the past decade, but much of that is a direct result of UDC's continuing financial problems.

Norfolk State is expected to name a coach by the end of the month. Duckett said he is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"That's probably the best thing to do right now," he said. "If they call back I'll continue listening to what they have to say. I have to continue to put this in perspective. The fact that people called is a credit to the people on the court and the direction in which you're going."

"You would think that the people you're with now would be proactive," Duckett added. "You're not holding them hostage, but you have to find out if there is a hidden agenda. In the climate of college athletics today people can show if they're happy with you. If they're not happy with you they certainly will show you."



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