

Stroble got a late start on the PGA mark, but he is still making his mark



Ralph Gaillard Golf-N-Around

Did you know that Bobby Stroble turned professional in 1967 and joined the PGA Tour in 1976? He joined the Senior Tour in 1995, and his best finish on that tour came in 1996 when he finished third in The Trans-America.

the last third of the season with five of his six top-10s. His best 1998 effort came in the Pittsburgh Senior Open, where he tied for fifth place. Stroble usually plays in every official Senior Tour event for which he is eligible. Last year his 36 starts tied him with Walter Morgan for most appearances. He recorded his first Senior Tour hole-in-one at the Ralphs Senior Classic, winning a Cadillac for his effort. Stroble has recorded nine career holes-in-one. He has not won a tournament on the PGA Tour or the Senior PGA Tour, but he has been in contention several times. In 1996 he had

10 top-25 finishes in his last 15 starts. He also played a limited schedule on the Nike Tour in 1990. Before joining the Senior Tour, in 1994 he was the leading money winner on the Senior Series Tour, where he has won three tournaments. He is an avid fisherman. He once shot a 58 in a golf tournament. In early August he tied for eighth in the Novell Utah Showdown and has five top-25 finishes this year. You don't hear much about Stroble or see much of him during televised tournaments. However, he

is competitive and has earned a living from the professional game. It would be great to see him win on the Senior Tour. He does have game. The recent Forsyth Invitational, which is played over three days at Winston Lake, Reynolds Park and Hillcrest golf courses, was again a success for the Recreation and Parks Department of Winston-Salem. It was impressive to observe several hundred golfers from this area participating. "The Lakes" gave the golfers all they could handle and more. There were complaints about the difficulty in the pin placements at "The

Lakes." Earnest Morris, head professional, said, "Those complaining should perhaps have not played. After all, it was a golf tournament." Morris and Bobby Wofford, assistant professional, and the volunteers are to be commended for their handling of the tournament. The Wednesday "Gangsome" at "The Lakes" has not had an overall winner in several weeks. However, Charles Heilig, during a recent "Gangsome," had five birdies and took bragging rights. Robert "Heavy" Bethea has been

boasting that he has beaten Muhammad Herb the last six times they have played. "Heavy" has gone so far as to say that Herb can't beat him at all! Herb, we're waiting for your comeback. By the way, both of these guys are good. Watch out for Lonnie Wellman. His game has been sharper than a razor recently. 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.

Black, troubled sports agent, names Ware to oversee players' contracts

From the ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Sports agent William "Tank" Black has chosen a high-profile agent to oversee his company's NFL player contracts. David Ware, whose clients include recently retired Detroit Lion Barry Sanders, will work with Professional Management Inc. as contract adviser, Black

announced Tuesday. The National Football League Player's Association proposed suspending Black's agent license for three years after determining his company made improper payments to college players at the University of Florida and elsewhere. Black said he would appeal the ruling through the NFLPA's arbitration process. But he said

he brought in Ware for the well-being of his clients. "I do not intend to allow these allegations, which are false, to be detrimental to PMI's clients," Black said. Athletes represented by Columbia-based PMI include Fred Taylor of the Jacksonville Jaguars, Reidel Anthony and Jacquez Green of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Ike Hilliard of the New York

Giants. Ware said he has known Black for 15 years and respects what he's done for the industry. "I am especially looking forward to working to ensure that the company does not skip a beat in taking care of business for our players," he said. Ware, of Atlanta, has represented athletes for 20 years, including Sanders since 1989.

Stealers capture third place at girls AAU National Invitation Tournament

The Winston-Salem Stealers' girls 10-and-under AAU basketball team finished third in the National Invitation Tournament in Orlando, Fla., at Walt Disney World.

The Stealers won their first three games in the tournament before losing to the Orlando Miracle 26-16 in the semifinals.

LaShaunda Pratt poured in 14 points and Katherine Lyons added 10 as the Stealers outscored East Gaston (Gastonia, N.C.) 25-4 in the second half to overcome a 15-10 half-time deficit and earn a 35-19 victory in their opening game.

The Stealers rallied from a 10-point deficit in the next game to take a 44-41 upset victory over the number one-seeded Kentucky Angels. Pratt, who lost a tooth in the first quarter, scored 14 of her team-high 16 points in the second half. Pratt had one of her front teeth knocked out as she dived for a loose ball when she collided with another player. Katrice Teal chipped in with 15 points to back Pratt.

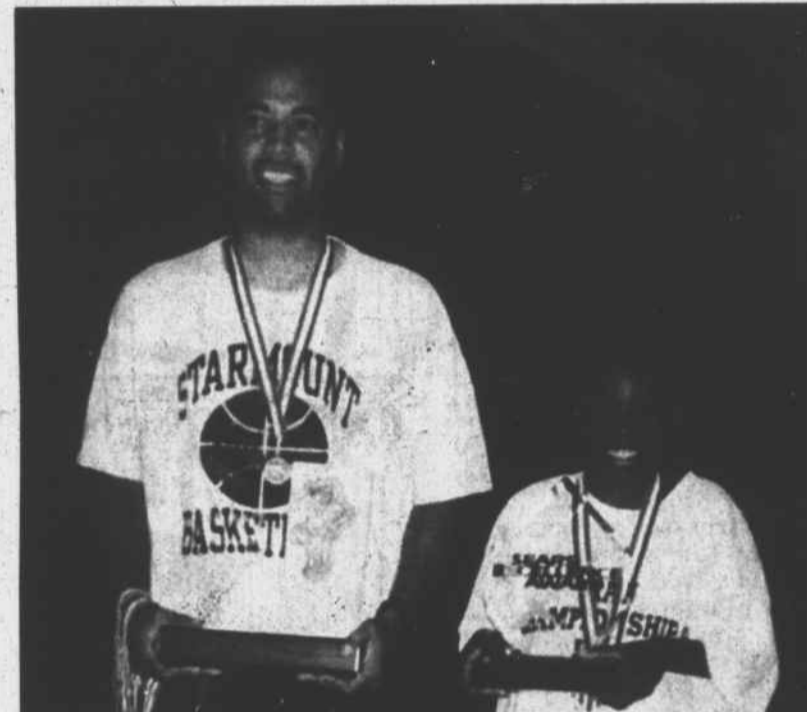
Teal led the way for the Stealers in a 40-33 win over the Charlotte Monarchs. She was one of three players in double figures

for the Stealers. Katherine Lyons scored 11 and Pratt added 10. The Stealers held on to the win with the help of outstanding free throw shooting, making 17 of 28 from the line.

The Orlando Miracle played great defense in handing the Stealers their first loss. The Miracle's defense stifled the Stealers' offense. It was the lowest scoring total of the tournament for the Stealers. Lyons led the way for the Stealers with eight points against the number two-seeded Miracle.

In the final game of the tournament for the Stealers, the Tennessee Tigers made clutch shots down the stretch to hold on for a 38-31 win. The Tigers opened up a 10-point lead down the stretch to earn the victory. Pratt and Lyons scored 10 points each for the Stealers as they took home the third-place trophy.

Members of the Stealers are: Yolanda Samuels, Casey Jones, Katrice Teal, LaShaunda Pratt, Katherine Lyons, Erin Bledsoe, Kayla Lawson, Janel Nicholson, Brittany Strachan, Brittany Smart, Tisha Henderson, Natalie Herbstritt and Cara Friende. LaShaunda Pratt took home the tournament's Sears Excel-



Brian Robinson receives his team's third-place trophy. LaShaunda Pratt accepts her Sears Excellence Award.

lence Award. The award is based on sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment and academic achievement. The award is sponsored by Disney World, the AAU and Sears. Pratt was select-

ed from a group of 900-plus participants at the tournament. She is now eligible for the National Sears Award, which will go to the top AAU athlete in the nation.

Press Box

from page B1 it pays off in improved teams and attendance at games, it is well worth the investment. And that's the bottom line. From the standpoint of 14-year-old Chris Leak being able to make a decision on his future at such a young age, it must be looked upon as an individual case basis. Most 14-year-olds aren't capable of making a decision that will directly impact their futures. But anyone who has met Chris Leak and the Leak family will come away with a new appreciation of the situation. The young Leak has been around athletics all of his life.

His father, Curtis Leak, played at Johnson C. Smith before pursuing a professional career with the Green Bay Packers. For most of his young life, Chris Leak has directed his focus on pursuing a career as an athlete. It began in Pop Warner football, then middle school. Next came high school, which he is currently pursuing. The next level, obviously, is the collegiate level.

Why then shouldn't Leak make plans, announce his intentions and proceed to accomplish those goals? By Wake Forest offering a scholarship, the Leak family doesn't have to worry about where the funds for his college education will come from. All of their attention can now turn to making sure their son meets the academic require-

ments to enter Wake Forest. Not only that, but now Chris Leak doesn't have to worry about the distractions of the recruiting process. He can focus more on the task at hand and have fun as a freshman high

school football player. He has seen firsthand what his brother had to endure and has chosen to sidestep it completely. That in itself is a sign of his maturity and ability to make good decisions.



Hall of Fame inductees Lawrence Taylor (right) and Ozzie Newsome.

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