

Amateur golf champion credits practice, practice, practice



Ralph Gaillard
Golf-N-Around

He grew up in East Bend and attended Yadkin High School. Baseball and basketball were his sports of choice when he was growing up. As a young adult, he played semi-pro baseball for the Blanketeers baseball team in Elkin. He never caddied and did not get into golf until after moving to Winston-Salem in the 1960s. And since finding golf, Lester Kimber has won 64 amateur tournaments. Few amateur golfers have that kind of record or credentials on their

golf résumé.

Kimber received a set of starter golf clubs as a present and headed for Winston Lake Golf Course. As Kimber puts it, "Like a lot of other beginner golfers, I started playing and worked myself up from one group at a time, to the best players."

During that time, he got lessons and tips from the guys he played golf with. Kimber was known to head for the practice range after receiving "my whipping in practice." Like most novice golfers, he got a lot of ribbing from his playing partners. Nobody teases Kimber about his golf game now. He attributes his success in golf to practice, practice and practice.

Likewise, Kimber says he has always had a "tenacity" that does not allow him to give up.

In 1976, Kimber won his first golf tournament, the Boonville Jaycee Golf Tournament. He began playing in the Forsyth Invitational Golf Tournament in the late 1970s and over the years has posted four wins in this prestigious event. Kimber and Joe Johnson are the only two African Americans to have won the Forsyth Invitational. Kimber says he has won just about every tournament played at "The Lake." He has played in such tournaments as the NAACP-Sarah Marsh and the E. Jerry Jones Pro-Am, just to name a few.

Over the years, Kimber

always admired Calvin Peete, an African-American PGA and Senior PGA Tour pro.

Kimber says that Tiger Woods is "absolutely awesome." Kimber added, "I never thought I would be around to see someone like him in the professional golf ranks."

Kimber reiterated, "You can only be good in golf, or any sport, if you practice, as nothing comes for free. Golf is more than a game. Golf teaches you about yourself personally, as well as the individuals you play with."

Kimber says he will play golf as long as he is able.

If you know Kimber, you know he does not have any "quit" in him, and no matter

what the conditions or the situation on the golf course, he will be out there competing and giving his all to the game he genuinely enjoys and loves. For that matter, Kimber does not have any "quit" in him in anything he does in life.

In other local happenings, the Winston Lake Senior Golf Association will have its regular monthly meeting tonight, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the E. Jerry Jones Clubhouse at Winston Lake Golf Course. Association president Robert Bethea urges all members and potential members to attend this important meeting. Bethea says entry forms for the association's 14th annual and fourth annual James E. Blaylock Senior Golf Tour-

nament can be obtained at the clubhouse at The Lake.

The dedication of the E. Jerry Jones Clubhouse at Winston Lake Golf Course has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 20, to allow for additional improvements at the course such as repaving the parking lot. Last week, it was reported that the dedication would be Saturday, April 27. Accept this writer's apologies for this mis-information.

If you want to improve your game, follow Lester Kimber's advice and spend as much time as you can on the practice range. It will be to your advantage.

Until next time, keep it in the fairway.

Hairston's 16 leads Rams past Wildcats at Hanes Hosiery

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Devaun Hairston scored 16 points and the Rams slipped past the Wildcats last Wednesday in the 16-18 division of Hanes Hosiery's Youth Basketball League.

Monté Mitchell scored 11 points, Tay Stokes added 8 and Haywood Richardson added 5. Kevin Coleman led the Wildcats with 12 points, and Vincent Marsh backed him with 8. Eugene Galoway scored 7, Matt Fagan tallied 5 and Anthony Green added 4.

Jayhawks 43, Spartans 37

Greg Glenn and Jamar Peterkin scored 12 points each to pace the Jayhawks. Duke Quick scored 7 points, Terry Law chipped in with 5, and Chris Archie scored 4.

Dedrick Carpenter led the Spartans with 13 points, Reggie Price reached double figures with 10, while Joe Smith scored 7 points and Marcus Rhodes scored 5.

Wolverines 53, Bruins 28

Dedrick Springs led the way with 13 points and the Wolverines topped the Bruins in a big upset. David Smith scored 13, KaRon Hairston scored 9, Charles Rashwan had 7 and Marcus Bowles had 6 to support Springs.

Val Bethea led the Bruins with 13 points. Kevin Nelson scored 5, Antwoine Hairston and Corey McCann tallied 4 each, and Jerry Posey scored 2.

Terps remain unbeaten in 7-12 league at Hanes Hosiery

Tristan Martin scored 14 points to help keep the Terps' unbeaten record intact. GeJuan Hardy scored 10 points and Grady Hardy added 5 in support of Martin.

Demario Blockson led the Wolfpack with 11 points. Trashawn Blockson scored 10 and James McKeever scored 4.

Tarheels 30, Cavs 19

Trey Bailey scored the game-

winning free throws to lift the Lakers to victory. Bailey and Steven Gamble both scored 11 points to lead the Lakers' scoring. Wilbert Johnson scored 9, Debo Smith scored 6 and Ervin Moses scored 3.

Edward Rosenberg's 14 points led the way for the Spurs. Devaun Harriston scored 10, Myron Hairston had 8, Jasmine Perry 4, and Malcolm Springs and Alphonso Smith scored 2 each.

Deacons 27, Blue Devils 24

Vonderick Davis poured in 14 points and the Deacons held on for a slim victory. Ladarus Williams scored 7 points and Steve Brown scored 3 points in the win.

Malcolm Springs scored a game-high 19 points to pace the Blue Devils. Antoine Simmons scored 4 and Wes Harrison added 1 point.

Seminoles 30, Yellowjackets 20

Casey Felder broke loose for a game-high 14 points and the Seminoles rolled to victory. Lawrence Manns and Johnathan Noah scored 6 points each. Bryant Nash and Lavone Manns scored 2 points each. Donté Penn led the Yellowjackets with 9 points. Chris Brooks had 6, William Miller scored 3, Kevin Clark chipped in with 2 and Anthony Davis tallied 2 also.

Russell leads balanced attack as 76ers defeat Sonics in 13-15 division

Tyrell Russell's 10 points led the way in a 45-37 victory over the Sonics. Corey McCann and Tristan Martin scored 7 points each while Fred Turner, Tremaine Clement and Jerry Summers scored 6 each. Dock Summers had 2 points. Jay Switzer scored 22 points to pace the Sonics. Jerry Posey chipped in 9 and Cedric Braddy added 6.

Lakers 43, Spurs 42

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Raptors 37, Jazz 29

Wayne Crowell's 13 points paced the Raptors, who used a last-minute surge to take a victory. Donnez Johnson scored 9, Fred McClure 7 and Dwayne Penn added 4 points. Brandon Horne and Rashard Brooks had 2 points each.

Craig Amos scored 11 points to lead the Jazz. Rico Dodd added 9, Torrie McIlwain had 5, and Tim McIlwain and Matt Edwards scored 1 each.

Pistons 36, Hornets 34

The Pistons, led by Whykette Morrison's 9 points, used a second-half surge to remain unbeaten. Johnathan Williams scored 8 points, Bernard Lyons and James Squire added 7 each, and Patrick Hall scored 4 points in the Pistons' balanced attack.

Matt Fagan scored 12 points to lead the Hornets. Vonderick Davis scored 6, Ronnie Gist had 5 and Adrian Mitchell tallied 4. DeAron Smith and Sherrod Branon both scored 2 points.

Hosiery spends day with Lady Deacs



Hanes Hosiery gym director Art Blevins and his kids: Wilbur Johnson, Jermaine Bailey, Tristian Martin, Tony Pitts, Nick Brittain and Kayla Blevins with WFU Women's coach Charlene Curtis.



Art Blevins with his kids and two of his volunteer coaches who help: Ken Wicks and Steve Gnash. Blevins spends a lot of his weekends taking the kids to ball games and special events.

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