

Women's golf tourney hopes to build on success

CHAD ROBERTS
THE CHRONICLE

Geneva Brown, the vice-chair of the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission, says she has been playing golf since the 1970s. And she didn't get much help when she started learning the game — she saw it played on television, watched other people play and took it from there.

"I taught myself," said Brown, who is also a long-time member of the city-county school board.

Since 2007, Brown has combined her love of playing golf with a spirit of service to organize the Winston-Salem Women's Golf Classic. During those two years, the money raised at the tournament has been donated to the Winston-Salem Police Benefit Fund and the Sara Lee Center for Women's Health at Forsyth Medical Center.

Recently, Brown and Tim Grant, director Recreation and Parks, presented a \$2,000 check to Winston-Salem Police Chief Scott Cunningham and a check for \$1,704 to representatives from Sara Lee and Forsyth Medical.

"They were glad to get the money. And I was glad to give it," Brown said.



Geneva Brown, second from right, presents a check at the Sara Lee Center for Women's Health at Forsyth Medical Center.

The tournament will be held again this year at the Winston-Lake Golf Course, most likely in late September, Brown said. The 18-hole Winston-Lake course is a total of 6,263 yards long.

In 2008, the team of Dee Adams, Mary Adams, Charlene Curtis and Michelle Dorster won first place in the tournament. Katie Reaves recorded the

longest drive on hole 18, and Charlene Curtis, Michelle Fontier, Michelle Dorster and Dee Stokes won the closest-to-the-pin competition.

The number of competitors has increased since the tournament's beginning. In 2007, there were 25 entrants. That number rose to 41 in 2008.

Brown cited the work of the tournament's organizing committee — Deborah

Reaves, the wife of Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Harold Reaves, Donna Oldham of Dell, former police chief Pat Norris, WSSU women's basketball coach Dee Stokes, professor Carolyn Thomas and consultant Maurice Jackson — for effectively communicating and helping the tournament to grow in 2008.

"We talked about the prizes to give and the format



Geneva Brown presents a check to Police Chief Cunningham. Also pictured is Tim Grant, left.

for the tournament ... this is what makes it successful," Brown said.

Brown also commended Harden "Butch" Wheeler and his wife, Janet, for catering the event.

The details of the 2009 tournament are still coming together, and Brown said she is thinking about suggesting some changes to the tournament's format, such as expanding it to include a competition for men, and possibly using the husbands of women competitors for golf caddies.

But Brown said there's a

potential drawback to that idea.

"A husband being a caddy is sometimes like teaching a wife how to drive. Sometimes it doesn't work," Brown said.

She also said that while she realized the economy is making it harder for businesses and people to donate time or money, she said the nation's recession would not stop her from trying to rally corporate and community support for the event.

"We're gonna get it together, do it and hope for the best," Brown said.



Elizabeth City State University after the big win.

Lady Vikings claim CIAA bowling title

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

DURHAM — On the brink of elimination, Elizabeth City State University battled back to capture its first ever CIAA Women's Bowling Championship on March 23 at AMF Durham Lanes.

Led by most valuable bowler Tiffany Johnson, the top seed Lady Vikings knocked off No. 2 seed Bowie State University 4-1 and 4-0 in the finals after being nearly ousted from the tournament. The Lady Vikings advanced to the finals only after edging third seed Virginia State University 4-3-1 in the semifinals.

"They wanted to win," said Lady Vikings' head coach Jody Williams about his team. "The girls stayed together and stayed focused."

The Lady Vikings entered the morning unbeaten in the winner's bracket of the double-elimination baker championship format after two victories Sunday, but they were stunned 4-2 by Bowie State.

The loss sent the Lady Vikings to the elimination bracket where they barely held off Virginia State. The seven-game match went to a tiebreaker game.

By CIAA rules, the tiebreaker in the elimi-

nation round is a modified baker game in which both teams play the last five frames instead of the 10 frames in a normal baker game.

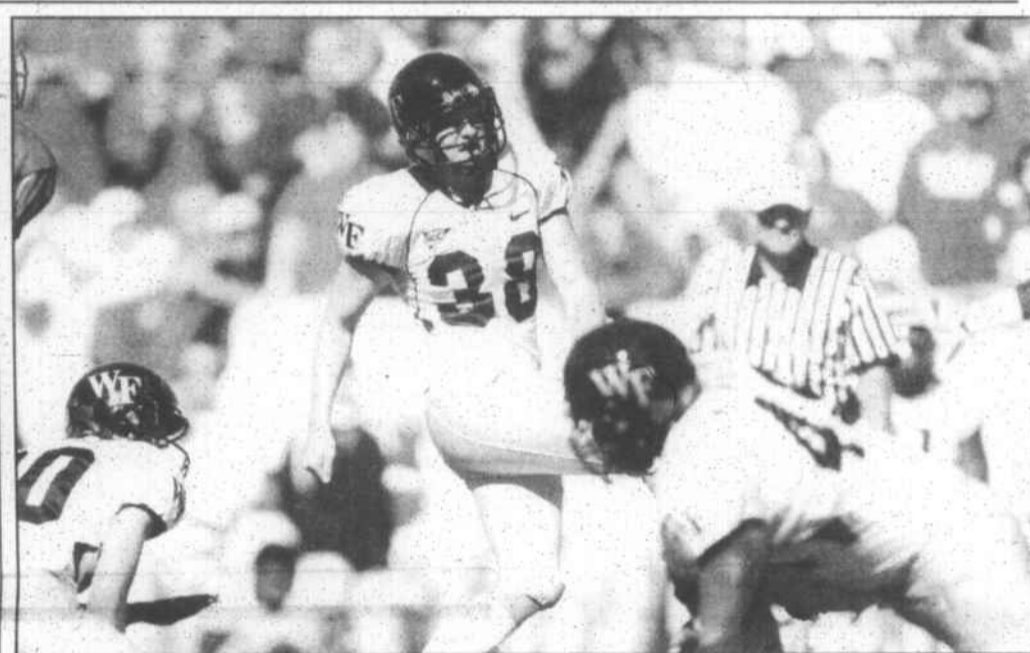
Getting four straight strikes including three in a row from Johnson, the Lady Vikings slipped past Virginia State in the tiebreaker game to reach the finals for another shot at Bowie State, which was unbeaten in the championship bracket. In the finals, the Lady Vikings dispatched Bowie State twice with ease.

Coach Williams was worried during the elimination match, but the Lady Vikings battled through adversity to win three straight matches for the 2008-09 championship.

"They had the will to win," Williams said about the Lady Vikings.

Joining Johnson on the 2008-09 All-CIAA Tournament Team was Tycora Brown of Bowie State, Keia Marshall of Shaw University, Tiffany Ball of Saint Paul's College and Danielle Gammon of Virginia State University.

During the awards ceremony, the Lady Vikings received their 2008-09 championship plaque while Bowie State was awarded the runner-up plaque and Virginia State accepted its third-place plaque.



Deac Sam Swank is looking to move on to the NFL.

NFL

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scouts that highlighted his overall ability at linebacker.

The five Wake Forest players that attended the combine in Indianapolis were at Pro Day on Monday were, along with Smith and Curry, linebacker Stanley Arnoux, safety Chip Vaughn and placekicker Sam Swank. Curry and Arnoux were the two fastest linebackers at the Combine last month.

Also in attendance for Wake Forest were wide receiver D.J. Boldin, defensive ends Anthony Davis and Antonio Wilson, defensive backs Kerry Major and Kevin Patterson, and line-

backer Chantz McClinic.

Nine players from other North Carolina universities were invited to attend the Pro Day. They included offensive linemen Joe Blanks and Michael Helton of Winston-Salem State University along with DeMarrio Deese of Gardner-Webb; defensive backs David Irizarry of

WSSU and Michael Pace of North Carolina A&T, defensive linemen Jeff Bradley of Western Carolina and Chris Dowdell of Mars Hill, wide receiver Dobson Collins from Gardner-Webb and kicker Brandon Gilbert of North Carolina Central.

The NFL Draft is scheduled for April 25-26 in New York City.

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