

SPORTS

Tying it up for UNC

Golfer Moore keeps shoes laced and play loose

By H. BROCK PAGE
Staff Writer

If a golfer could win the Iowa high school individual championship tripping on his shoelaces all over the course because his shoes were untied, doesn't it figure that he would be an outstanding player in college when his shoes were laced up?

Well, with sophomore Pat Moore on the UNC men's golf team, coach Devon Brouse has found out that the answer is yes.

"I left my shoes untied because it brought me good luck," Moore said. "Coach Brouse made me drop it real quick. I also liked to wear tennis shoes but he won't let me do that either."

Although his shoes are all tightened up now, Moore has kept the loose style of play that has made him a success on the links.

"Pat is very much his own person," Brouse said. "He has a carefree, reckless style. It allows him the ability to do some extraordinary things sometimes. He can have rounds where he'll really turn it on and get a lot of birdies. His game gets elevated to a different level."

When he was still a freshman, Moore worked his way into the starting lineup and contributed heavily. In his first fall season, Moore won the College of Charleston Invitational. During the spring of his freshman year, Moore provided consistently good performances as he finished in the Top 20 in five out of the seven tournaments he played. In one qualifying round, he used his reckless style to shoot a 64, a low for UNC.

During his sophomore fall season, Moore led the team in greens hit in regulation with a 70.6 percentage and also led with birdies per round at a 3.3 average. Earlier this spring season, Moore won his second tournament at the East Carolina Invitational. Currently, Moore holds the lowest stroke average for the team at 73.47.

Instead of idolizing the more popular golf professionals such as Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson, Moore admires Bill Glasson. Moore likes



Pat Moore

Glasson's style of wearing his hair long and loves the way that Glasson rips into the ball. Using the same style as Glasson, Moore just lets himself go on the course. When he's not playing, however, Moore can sometimes be too casual.

"Pat's really laid-back," teammate Tom Scherrer said. "He can be real forgetful. He's always losing his wallet or his retainer and locking his keys in his car. I'm always there to bail him out. Coach Brouse keeps saying that it's a good thing I'll be rooming with him next year so that someone will take care of him."

Growing up in North Dakota, Moore played football and hockey during the school year and then hit the golf course during the months between April and August. The fact that he did not play golf year-round kept up his interest in the game. Having to get enough playing time during those months forced Moore to play fast.

"I'm a quick player," Moore said. "That's the way I grew up. I'm used to playing 36 holes a day seeing how many holes I could get in. Playing that way, I don't worry about having too much time to get bad thoughts. But I

also learned to concentrate hard right before hitting a shot and then talk to the other players between shots.

"It's too hard to think for five hours."

When Moore realized that golf could earn him a scholarship to a major university, he started working harder. Brouse saw him playing in Florida for the American Junior Golf Association, and Moore wound up a member of the UNC golf team where he continues to play strong golf.

"I have average length off the tee," Moore said. "I hit a lot of greens. If I putt well, then I can shoot some low scores. If I don't, then I'll shoot about 73, 74, 75."

One problem plagues Moore that could be devastating on any hole.

"The 70-yard wedge shot," Moore said. "I have no confidence in that shot. People need to watch out, because the ball could go anywhere when I hit it."

Moore's ultimate ambition is to become a professional golfer after he graduates from UNC. But for now, he has set the goal for himself to finish in the top 10 at the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. He'll get the chance this weekend when the Tar Heels travel to Rocky Mount for the ACC Tournament which will be held at Northgreen Country Club.

North Carolina had a good showing last year, taking third place as a team. Junior Tee Burton tied for third and senior Brendan Kennedy tied for fifth as individuals. Nevertheless, Brouse feels a little uneasy going into this weekend.

"It has been hard this year," Brouse said. "Most years I'll have a good feel of the attitude of the team and how well they'll play. This year, I'm undecided. Usually, I'll be able to set up a consistent lineup but I have not been able to do that."

Although Brouse has doubts going into the tournament, he should take some comfort in knowing that Pat Moore will be on the course, with his shoes tied.

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