

Focus Concentration On The Golf Course

Look folks, if you have watched as much football as I have in the past two weeks, you have to admit that there are other sports out there to be enjoyed. I also must confess that I have become a far more diligent participant as a spectator in other sports than I was when I was a player and participant in football, basketball, and baseball.

During my high school days I played all three major sports and after a brief flirtation with football in college, I recognized that I would have to settle for competition in other arenas. Golf did not appear on my agenda until age 31. So I know full well that there other sports out there.

It also occurs to me that there are some things we golfers might be able to pick up from other sports which would make our mundane sport a bit more interesting to play. Concentration is an important aspect of golf, but have you ever thought about its role in other sports? It seems to me that the more physical a sport is, the more difficult it would be to keep a high level of concentration.

I know that when I played football and was knocked on my can by some guy running up my numbers for a first down, I tended to lose some of my concentration. Actually my concentration was divided. I wanted to return the favor and put a hit on that guy the first chance I got. I actually began to watch for him on every play, whether he had the ball or not. I should not have been surprised that I did not make the cut on the freshman football team at Clemson. Everybody was knocking me on my can, and I could not keep track of all of them.

Focus, Don't Divide Your Concentration

In golf, one must learn how to avoid distractions and focus on the next shot. I try to teach my high school golfers to internalize the frustrations of a bad shot or an unlucky bounce and use those competitive juices to focus even harder on the next few shots.

Every golfer has been the victim of gamesmanship and some good humored needling from time to time. I have a small habit which I have adopted over the years. When I am fortunate enough to play with a really good golfer over a period of time, I feel a need to test his metal with a well aimed "needle" or two. I know he has his game under control, I just want to see if his head is centered on his shoulders and he can focus his concentration.

I have played with and coached against Bill Hewett of South Brunswick High School for a number of years going back to his days as football and golf coach at Whiteville. Under Coach Hewett, Whiteville became a near dynasty in football, and always had highly competitive teams in all sports. He won state championships in both football and golf. Moreover, Bill Hewett, the man, is a class act in everything he does.

Over the years, I have lined his pockets with more than a few bucks on the golf course. His game is long and strong, with an aggressive putting stroke. He plays with and exudes confidence on the golf course. And like all fine golfers he is never completely satisfied with any round of golf he plays.

A Case Study In Concentration

Several years ago we were playing at my course on the 18th hole with several presses to be settled. Bill had really hit a rocket off the tee with a following wind and was in position to reach the green of the par 5 finishing hole in two shots. There aren't many golfers who can reach that hole in two shots. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Bill would go for the green on his second shot. The situation was a perfect time to run a "head check" on Bill Hewett.

Bill was looking over his shot with a three wood in his hand and I set the needle by reminding him that he would need to carry the water hazard to reach the green, although we all knew he could carry the water with a five iron. He did not respond, did not blink, and stepped up to address the ball as if he had not heard me. At that point I tapped the needle just once, by saying, "Splash!"

Bill backed away from his shot and issued me a set of instructions that could only come from a football coach. His instructions were clear, concise, complete, and to the point. Simply put, he did not entertain any further commentary or interruptions to his shot.

More importantly, he immediately settled over his shot again. I stood very still and very quietly watching his shot as it not only reached the green, but came to rest so close to the pin that I began to tally up my losses on the scorecard.

Next to Bill's name on the scorecard, I wrote, "Focused."

Brierwood Team Hits 17 Under

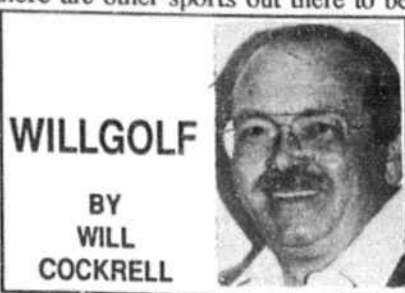
The threesome of Dave Harper, Morris Hall and Emile Vrydaghs finished at 17 under par and won the Brierwood Men's Golf Association two best ball event last Thursday.

Second place in the full-handicap tournament went to the team of Roy Havenga, Bob Tompkins, Don Seitz and Jerry Smith at 13 under par.

On New Year's Eve, Odie Johnson and Ed Thieman teamed up to win a best ball tournament with a round of 61. Paul Keeley and Barney Martin took second place with a 76.

The foursome of Bob Tompkins, Bob Meek, Ann Causer and Olive Seitz fired a 61 to take top honors in the recent 18-hole mixed scramble.

Second place in the captain's choice tournament went to Bill McCorskey, Carolyn McCorskey, Bill



WILLGOLF
BY WILL COCKRELL

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

- Captain's Choice Shootout Golf Tournament at Sea Trail Plantation, noon
- Brunswick County Men's Basketball League at Shallotte Middle School
Warriors vs. Lakers, 7 p.m.
Rockets vs. Turntables, 8:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

- South Robeson at West Brunswick; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.
- East Bladen at North Brunswick; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

- Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball League at Shallotte, Leland and South Brunswick Middle Schools; ages 8 and under, 9-11 a.m.; ages 9-13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

- North Brunswick at Whiteville; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

- West Columbus at West Brunswick; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.
- Brunswick County Co-Ed Volleyball League at Shallotte Middle School
Gene's Body Shop vs. Beach Bums, 7 p.m.
Roberto's Pizza vs. Larry's Bar, 7:45 p.m.
Tar Heels vs. Brunswick Community College, 8:30 p.m.
Richard Jones Construction vs. Milliken's, 9:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

- Brunswick County Men's Basketball League at Shallotte Middle School
Rockets vs. Young Guns, 7 p.m.
Lakers vs. Sonics, 8:15 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list your sporting contest call or write the *Beacon* with schedules and details.

South Grapplers Top West 40-31

South Brunswick edged host West Brunswick 40-31 in prep wrestling action last Wednesday. South Brunswick evened its record at 4-4 with the win.

The Trojans will resume mat action on Jan. 22, traveling to North Brunswick for a 7 p.m. match.

Results

103 Pounds: B. Johnson (WB) pinned D. Arnold (SB), 4:35; 112 Pounds: Cureton (SB) pinned Cokely (WB), 2:30; 119 Pounds: Earwood (WB) and Ammons (SB) drew, 10-10; 125 Pounds: Folding (SB) won by forfeit; 130 Pounds: Haughn (SB) pinned Andreis (WB),

1:36; 135 Pounds: Whitley (WB) pinned Bryant (SB), 5:23; 140 Pounds: Rameriz (SB) won by forfeit; 145 Pounds: Harris (SB) pinned Stanley (WB), 1:20; 152 Pounds: Branch (WB) and Joyner (SB) drew, 11-11; 160 Pounds: Hines (WB) decisioned Hewett (SB), 9-7; 171 Pounds: Jesson (WB) pinned Frazier (SB); 189 Pounds: Randolph (SB) pinned Hickman (WB), 5:45; Heavyweight: Caison (WB) pinned Deitz (SB), 1:18

North Wrestler Tops In Tourney At Jacksonville

North Brunswick wrestler Roddy Jones was named the most outstanding wrestler after winning the 103-pound championship in last Saturday's Onslow County Invitational Tournament in Jacksonville.

Other top finishers for the Scorpions included Blake Hobbs (152 pounds) and Brian Cook (112 pounds) who both took fourth place in their respective classifications. David Tan also won the consolation championship in the 125-pound division.

DIAL A CLASSIFIED AD 754-6890

Calabash Elks Set Hoop Shoot

Local competition in the 19th annual Elks Hoop Shoot, the national free throw contest for youngsters age 8-13, will be held Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 11 a.m. in the Shallotte Middle School gym.

The local contest is sponsored by Calabash Elks Lodge No. 2679.

Each contestant will have 25 shots at the hoop, said Gordon Ragsdale, event chairman. The boy and girl in each age group with the best score can advance through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals.

More than 3 million youngsters throughout the country entered last year's competition for boys and

girls in age categories 8-9; 10-11 and 12-13.

Names of national winners are inscribed on the Elks National Hoop Shoot Plaque in the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Local winners will compete against other contestants in the district event at Rocky Mount in February.

Winners last year were Deauty Daniels and Laurin Penny, ages 8-9; Scott Chestnut and Lanisha Thorn, 10-11; Tony Hewett and Athelia Lewis, 12-13.

More information is available from Ragsdale, at 579-9266 or 579-8444.

Highest Bowling Scores Relayed

Little River Lanes of Little River, S.C., has announced high scores for bowlers during the holiday week of Dec. 31.

They are as follows:

TGIF: Leo Moreau, 500.

Baytree: Carl Rogers, 221, 540.

Wednesday Nite Classic: Steve Smith, 225, 585; Jimmy Pierce, 225, 564; Waddell Evans, 226, 542; Randy Vereen, 223, 541; Buddy Stone, 573; Frank Marvaso, 560; Lee Frink, 554; Tom Kennedy, 543; Kenny Holden, 537; Chris Chappell, 530; Johnny Johnson, 526; Robbie Robinson, 523; Donald Erickson, 519; Bob Fluegel, 516; Howard Hudson, 509.

Vamps: Johnny Johnson, 235, 631; Tony Whitaker, 591.

Mama's Nite Out: Jeanette Sabiston, 234, 553; Marie Brown, 554; Doris Carter, 538; Joyce Freeman, 519; Cindy Lynch, 511; Susan Rey, 502.

Wholly Bowlers: Darius Lewellyn, 235, 544; Eddie Rowell, 225, 562; Robbie Robinson, 573; Steve Bishop, 569; Mike Stanley, 552; Jack Whetstone, 551; Gerald Weber, 550; Lindsey Walton, 549; Lois Dalglish, 548; Barry Tucker, 540; Bob Davis, 535; Bob Correll, 527; Steve Bishop, 525; George Gallitz, 520; Mary Ann Martin 512; Michael Findlay, 511; Jim Hedrick, 507.

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