

Feel Your Way Around The Green

Those short, stroke-saving shots around the putting green are born of a good imagination and a touch with the short clubs. Seve Ballesteros, one of the acknowledged masters of the short game, has said that being able to conceive or imagine the trajectory and roll is the most important aspect of executing these delicate little shots.

Try This Toughie

Let's say you have left an approach shot ten feet right of the putting surface on a steep upslope in high grass. The pin is tucked in close to the same side of the green, which is not only fast but runs downhill to the pin. Tough shot? You bet. As you begin to analyze the shot you recognize that if you carry the ball to the putting surface, it will surely roll well past the pin.

The high grass will all but eliminate the possibility of putting any spin, and therefore control, on the roll of the shot. The depth of the grass also demands that you make good contact with the ball in order to eliminate the possibility of chilly-dipping it and leaving it in the tall grass. Therein lies the dilemma: the ball must be struck solidly and yet it must not carry too far.

The ball must be struck such that it floats on a high trajectory and lands softly in the fringe of the green which will help to reduce the first bounce and deposit the ball lightly on the green with just enough momentum to carry it down to the pin. Now that is a mouthful, but it is what your imagination demands.

Explosion From Grass

Believe it or not, there are at least two techniques for executing this shot. If you are a good bunker player and confident with explosion shots, you may elect to use those skills to pop the ball up and down on the fringe of the green. You will want to take an open stance on the uphill slope with the sand wedge laid wide open to minimize bounce. You will need as much of your weight on the forward foot as the slope will allow and play the ball off the arch of your leading foot.

The swing will actually be a miniature explosion shot. Take the club away to the outside and aim the blade of your wedge an inch or so behind the ball. You need to scoop the grass underneath the ball and loft it high in the air with no spin on the ball. It will land almost dead on the fringe and not take a very big bounce on the green. The uphill stance and the forward ball position will both assist in getting the blade under the ball for desired trajectory. The part that you must practice to obtain the correct feel for the shot is the length and speed of the swing. These two variables will control how far the shot travels.

Since the explosion swing is relatively wristy and dependent on good timing of the blade through the ball, you need to be comfortable with explosion shots to execute this little dandy with any degree of consistency. Otherwise, you stand a good chance of blading the ball into the next county.

Swing With The Slope

A second and less risky technique which any golfer should be able to master is a shoulder and arm swing. The key to this swing is your set-up and the desired plane of the swing. First set up to the ball with your stance open just enough to encourage a slight outside-inside swing. The ball should be in the middle of your stance and your weight should naturally be balanced on your rear foot due to the uphill slope. The leading edge of your wedge should face in the desired direction of flight for the ball.

The plane of your swing will be along the incline of the upslope. This adds even more loft to your club to produce the high "pop up" shot your imagination has conceived. The swing is almost identical to a chip shot around the green. It is therefore easy to execute, with very little, if any, wrist cock and no adjusted aiming point. Swing the club back with the arms and shoulders keeping your weight on the rear foot throughout the swing. On the forward swing keep your wrist firm and do not allow the clubhead to pass your hands.

With your weight to the rear and the head steady, your hands and then the clubhead will pass your chin delivering a very lofted nip to the ball which will pop up in the air and land softly in the fringe. The key to this shot is the necessity to swing along the incline of the slope. If your weight or your head gets forward or your wrists cross over, you will deloft the club and blast the ball across the green.

When you experiment and practice these two shots, pick a really tough slope and aim at a close pin placement. You can simulate the pin placement with a tee stuck in the green. Experiment with several similar shots which demand varying distances for your carry. You will soon be producing delicate lob shots which land softly and roll only a few feet. By fiddling around with the shot techniques described you will discover a small adjustment will easily produce shots with intermediate trajectories and slightly longer rolls on the ball.

There are also a couple of valuable bonus effects when you practice these shots. The motor skills which you are polishing have the effect of improving your feel on all the little shots around the green. In addition, it creates a new storage file in your old memory bank which improves your ability to conceive and imagine all sorts of shots.

Putters To Compete May 4

The 5th Annual Southport-Oak Island Masters Putting Tournament is set Saturday, May 4, at the Oak Island Golf and Country Club in Caswell Beach at 9 a.m.

Entry fee is \$65 per two-man team. The fee includes lunch and beverages. Registration deadline is May 2 and is limited to the first 64 teams. More than \$3,000 in cash prizes will be awarded with the

first-place team receiving \$2,000.

Applications are available at the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce office and other area golf courses. The event is sponsored by the Chamber and other area merchants.

For more information contact Chairman Darryle Hodges or the Chamber of Commerce staff, 457-6964.

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Brierwood Ninettes Drop Two Worst Holes

GOLFING ACTION

Members of the Brierwood Ninettes golf group dropped scores on their two worst holes and used half handicaps in their season opener last Friday.

Margaret Pingo had the low net of 22.5, followed by Lois Martocci with a score of 23.5.

Four golfers tied for third place. Pat Narazinski, Pierrette Tompkins, Ruth Hierman and Liz Bruce each shot 24.5.

Gerry Parsons and Mary Lamb had low putts for the tournament. Mrs. Bruce had the only chip-in of the day.

Carolina Shores

Rose Marcisyn and Emily Sharpe teamed up for a score of 150 and won the Carolina Shores Ladies Golf Association blind partners tournament last week.

Second place went to the team of Dot Meader and Ruth Rice with a score of 153. Other top finishers were Betty Kibblehouse and Flo Warren at 154, Sally Manifold and Irene Crane at 156 and Dot Russo and Edith Grice at 157.

Chip-ins were recorded by Mrs. Meader at the third hole, Ginny Derickson at the 13th and Ruth Radcliffe at the 16th. Mrs. Kibblehouse had low putts with 29.

Brierwood Men

The team of Roy Havenga, Howard Scutt, Rick Rickbeil and Straud Maerker fired a 16-under-par 128 and won the Brierwood Men's Golf Association best ball tournament last Thursday.

Each foursome counted the two best balls on each hole, and golfers

Ruth's Renegades

Ruth's Renegades golf group held crossover tournaments last Thursday at Carolina Shores and Brierwood.

In the crossover format, golfers use half handicaps and count the lowest scores from the front nine and back nine. Each golfer must count their score on either the first or 10th hole, second or 11th hole and so on.

Mabel Kassner had the low net at Carolina Shores with a 90. Winners of the crossover event were Peg Schedley with a score of 27, Sue Baer with a 29 and Jenny Briggs with a 33. Mrs. Schedley made a birdie at the sixth hole.

At Brierwood, Marion Corbin had the low net of 72 and finished second in the crossover tournament with a score of a 31.5. She had a chip-in at the fourth hole.

Toni Kobos won the crossover event with a round of 30.5. Third place went to Ruth Jacobs with 31.5.

Ginny Bingham had the only other chip-in at Brierwood. It came at the 10th hole.

event, which was played on the Jones course at Sea Trail Plantation.

lers shot an 81 and took second place.

Sea Trail Men

Bob Brossia and Dick Zinzer had the low net in the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association scratch and scramble tournament last Tuesday.

Doug Mehne and Clarence Brown had the second low net. Twenty-two members competed in the event, which was played on the Jones course at Sea Trail Plantation.

Brierwood Ladies

Mary Schaack fired a net 53 and took first place in the top flight of the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association tournament last Tuesday.

Golfers dropped scores on their four worst holes and used half of their handicaps. Runners-up in the first flight were Ann Hierman with a 54 and Bobbie Maples with 54.5.

Second flight winners were Nearle Einstein with 54.5, Lois Beato with 55 and Ellie Scutt with 55.5.

Lou Akers won the third flight with a net 60. She was followed by Esther Smith with 61.5 and Pat Strauss with 62.5.

Fourth flight winners were Peg Steiner with a 61.5, Margaret Pingo with a 63.5 and Louise Blizzard with a 65.5.

Low putts winners were Doris Dunfee and Mrs. Hierman, 30, first flight; Marian Johnson and Ruth Linder, 30, second flight; Marian Corbin, 32, third flight; and Mrs. Steiner, 32, fourth flight.

Chip-ins during the event were carded by Mrs. Linder and Mrs. Corbin at the first hole, Jane Flieg at the fourth and Rose Reiter at the 15th.

Brick Landing

Two teams tied for first place in the Brick Landing Plantation Ladies Golf Association captain's choice tournament last Thursday.

Martha Cullen, Debbie Rupp, Pat Collins and Barbara Kosanke shot 80 to tie the foursome of Mildred Thomas, Betty Grabb, Joan Berhle and Betty Squire for first.

The threesome of Alice Grossman, Edna Hollowell and Terry Eh-

lers shot an 81 and took second place.

Sea Trail Ladies

Shirley Helmke won the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association nine-hole low putts tournament last week with 15 putts.

Rosemary Walker took second place with 16 putts. Tied with 17 putts each were Eva Baham, Pat Burkhardt, Dinah Gore, Jane Bye and Dorothy Cambria.

Fifteen golfers competed in the

Lanes Posts High Scores

Little River Lanes at Little River, S.C., have announced the top bowling scores for the week of Feb. 18, as follows:

River Rollers: Dot Neat, 500; Netherland Hall, 504; Marty McDowell, 506; Mary Sheraff, 512.

Survivors: Andy Revella, 509; Harvey Shield, 513; Bob Karl, 511; Rupert Bellamy, 529; Bill Rudden, 500; Pete Callahan, 516; Frank Chibi, 513.

Monday Madness: Bill Cramer, 535; Joseph Livingston, 500; Donald Erickson, 503; Shawn Griffin, 504; Ernest Schubeck, 503; Bryan Bellamy, 501; Buddy Stone, 597; Teresa Morton, 535; Steve Garrick, 520; Ricky Watts, 528; Charles Chestnut, 525; Bruce Mitchell, 529; Mike Stanley, 504; Bob Krause, 521; Tim Goggin, 570.

Dixie Men: Steve Buck, 237, 545; Ken McNutt, 527; Mal Evans, 541; Wilbert Batten, 539; Ray Neat, 541; Bill Rudden, 520; Gary O'Connell, 509; Grady Hardwick, 505; Frank Marvaso, 557; Johnny Johnson, 620; Mark Evans, 235, 597; Larry King, 541; Tony Magnotto, 521; Rupert Bellamy, 533; Deck Hall, 500; Bill Zerfass, 525; John Hamvus, 521; George Galitz, 577.

Hi & Dry Doubles: Shirl Good, 510; Gene McKelvey, 520; Arthur Fortier, 506.

Coffee/Donut Lg.: Bob Krause, 201; Arty Karlson, 513.

Carolina Shores: Robert Kilgore, 204, 515; Tom Kennedy, 202, 557; Bill Miller, 521; Chick Weingarten, 200; Chuck Schilling, 202,

508; Gary Mott, 212; Donald Erickson, 506; Gary Mott, 563; Marilyn Seaby, 511.

State of Confusion: Dave Haddock, 225, 565; Cecil Suggs, 520; William Gaiter, 524; Walt Brumer, 512; Tim Smith, 507; Lindsey Walton, 545; Mike Allsbrook, 519; Bill Shoemaker, 552; Pete Thomas, 567; Karen Moshoures, 258, 608; Karen Haddock, 517; Lynn Ford, 507; Steve Simmons, 519; Harvey Schild, 531; Waddell Evans, 536; Wilbert Baten, 511; Jerry Ocello, 516; Joe Raitano, 506; Kelly Todd, 551; Ray King, 598; Mimi O'Sullivan, 504; Jackie Schull, 511; Laura McIntyre, 520.

Superstars (Youth): Glenn Bellamy, 173, 427; Jeff Ballou, 170, 169, 487; Tammy Adams, 161, 411; Terry Decker, 184, 166, 483; Amanda Stone, 175, 415; Jason Ferguson, 127; Aaron Ballou, 315; Brian Livingston, 333.

Mama's Nite Out: Joyce Freeman, 234, 541; Betty Johnson, 525; Lou Hewett, 222; Laura McIntyre, 518.

Wholly Bowlers: Andy Revella, 222, 526; Roy Hardee, 522; Steve Bishop, 516; Jack Whetstone, 524; Wilbert Batten, 529; Danny Shirler, 597; Joe Spautz, 520; Howard Hudson, 506; Michael Bishop, 529; George Galitz, 548; Steve Bishop, 564; Bob Davis, 532; Eddie Reed, 526; Cecil Suggs, 574.

Mama's & Papa's Too: Myron Cumbee, 509; David Hill, 561.

TGIF: Lorrie Moreau, 518.
Baytree: Carl Rogers, 520.

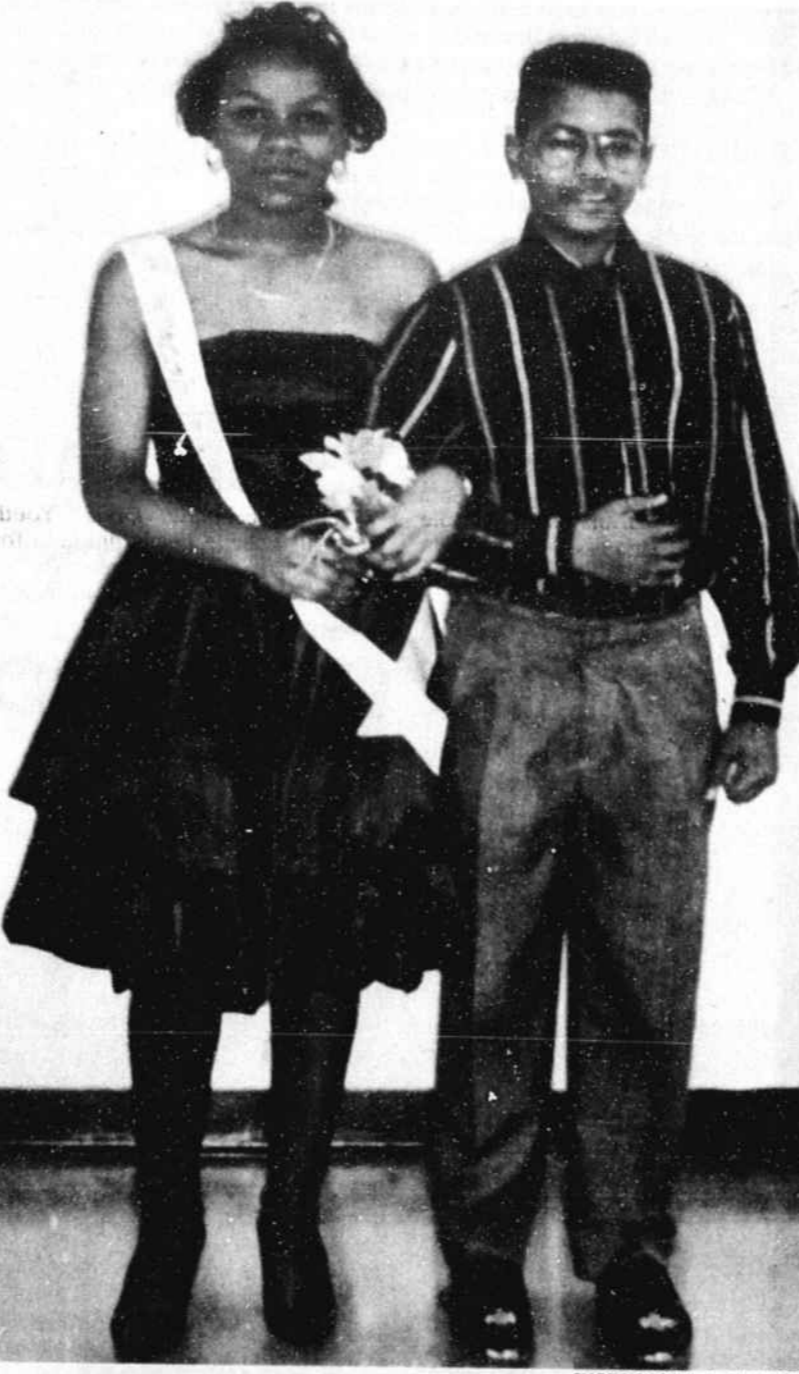


PHOTO BY SYBIL M. SIMMONS

JAKISHA BOWENS, Waccamaw Elementary School's Homecoming Queen, is shown with her escort, Corey BOWENS.

Homecoming Queen Is Crowned

Jakisha Bowens was crowned Homecoming Queen at Waccamaw Elementary School at the Ash school's last home basketball game of the season, said Sybil Mitchell Simmons, assistant principal.

Jakisha, an eighth grade student, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey BOWENS of Little Prong community in Ash.

She is active in the Career Club and student government organization. She played soccer and plays softball on the school squad, and

was a cheerleader.

Jakisha was escorted at Homecoming festivities by Corey BOWENS, son of Jimmy BOWENS of Little Prong.

The school's homecoming queen is selected by popular vote of seventh and eighth graders. Eighth grade attendants were Shannon Carter, Rebecca Hughes and Blair Milligan and seventh grade attendants were Shalana King and April Mintz.

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