

Even Golf 'Experts' Can Learn A Few Things

When I started planning this column, I had hoped to teach some readers about the language of golf.

Like every other sport, golf has its own special jargon and lingo that people outside the sport don't understand.

I was hoping to clear some things up for the people out there who don't know the meaning of the term "golf widow" or don't know the difference between a green, greens fee and greenskeeper.

I planned to write the column for that group of people affectionately known as "golf illiterates." The group includes Susan Usher, who edits the golf roundup I write each week and consistently comes up with questions about best ball, captain's choice and Stableford tournament formats.

I felt qualified to write this column because I've been playing golf since I was 12 years old. The only reason I didn't start playing before then was because the local golf courses wouldn't let anyone play who was under 12.

Actually, I dabbled in golf when I was just 10 or 11 years old. I would act innocent at the pro shop and pretend I was just going to watch my father, brother and uncle play.

But when we were far enough away from the clubhouse that nobody could see us, I would sneak in a few shots. It's hard to believe, but they never got me for underage golfing.

My original plans for this column were shot to pieces when I opened up a book we keep in the newsroom called *The Language of Sport*.

Tim Considine wrote the book, which is billed on the front cover as "the ultimate guide to the history, definitions and usage of over 5,000 highly colorful and descriptive words and terms used in baseball, basketball, bowling, boxing, football, golf, hockey, soccer and tennis."

I knew most of the terms and phrases listed in the section on golf. But I quickly learned that even golf "experts" can learn a few things.

For instance, I learned that the term "bandit" refers to a high-handicap golfer who is able to play much better than his handicap indicates.

Golf is supposed to be a gentle-

Doug Rutter



man's game, but there are people out there who artificially inflate their handicap so they can take your money.

These people also are called "mug hunters" or "sandbaggers." I just call them liars and crooks.

A "blacksmith" is a golfer with a rough touch on the putting green. My brother, Jeff, has done his share of blacksmithing on the golf course.

He can hit the cover off of a golf ball, but get him around the green and it's a lost cause. He might as well be chipping and putting with a Louisville Slugger.

Somebody who spends a lot of time in the rough is called a "cabbage pounder." On the other end of the scale, a good or "lethal" putter is called an "undertaker" because he can "bury" the ball in the hole.

I was surprised that a few golf terms weren't in the book. I use words like "worm burner" and "lawn mower" to describe shots that roll along the ground at a high rate of speed. Depending on what course you're playing, you can also call them "squirrel chasers."

One word in the book that I was very familiar with is gamesmanship. It's defined as "the science and/or practice of causing an opponent to experience confusion, anxiety, the loss of confidence or concentration by one's words and actions before and during a match."

Translated, gamesmanship is telling your opponent after three holes that he's playing a lot better than he usually does. Just putting that thought in the mind of most people will cause them to play worse.

If you were a "golf illiterate" before you read this column, I probably haven't helped you very much. But if you think you're an expert in something, realize that you can always learn more.

On Bright Nights See Familiar Beach In A Different Mood

BY BILL FAVER

It is always interesting to me to wake up in the middle of the night during a full moon and see the beach landscape by moonlight. Such was the view on Easter night this year when the clouds lifted and the moon made a bright night out of what had been a dull gray day.



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The waves seem to take on an entirely different life. They move mysteriously in the moonlight as if on another planet and only the constant sound of wash and splash on the sand are familiar. Light catches in the cresting surf and moves along the waves almost as if neon lights were at work in the water. Reflections bounce from wave to wave and back to us in rhythmic undulations like sheet lightning during a storm. The water seems almost transparent in places, without the familiar blue cast from the daytime sky.

Along the edge some small birds continue their feeding, taking advantage of the extra light to look for food. Willets call loudly at waves coming too close to them and continue their feeding. There are no people in sight, no dogs or other animals, and nothing to disturb the birds. Several pieces of driftwood guard the empty beach like ghostly sentinels, changing shapes as the moon passes overhead. Binoculars reveal they are not large dead animals or someone sleeping on the beach.

Later in the night the light path across the water to the horizon just beyond the moon in the western sky sparkles as it is shaken by the waves. It will soon break up as the moon sets and the dawn of another day begins. The bright night will be forgotten until another full moon and richly illuminated landscape.

Bright nights are another one of the many things adding variety and interest to life along the shore. Take the time some full moon to sit out in the moonlight and watch the landscape and enjoy seeing the familiar beach in a different mood!



POSTER CONTEST WINNERS from Shallotte Middle School were (from left) Amanda Chestnut, Ashley Helms and Brandon Benton. Also pictured is principal Mark Owens.

CASH AWARDS GIVEN

Soil And Water Conservation Service Announces Poster Contest Winners

Fourteen local students received cash awards recently as winners in the Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation Service poster, essay and speech contest.

The contest for youths in grades four through eight concluded March 3. Conservation service secretary Mamie Wilson said individual school winners received \$10 each and county winners were awarded \$20.

Overall county winners in the poster contest were Ashley Helms, fourth grade, Shallotte Middle; Brandon Benton, fifth, Shallotte Middle; and Gary Lewis, sixth,

South Brunswick Middle.

Crystal Bailes of Waccamaw Elementary School was the county winner in the sixth-grade essay contest.

Both of the county's speech contest winners were from Waccamaw Elementary School. David Bowens won for the seventh grade, and Aimee Duncan was the eighth-grade winner.

Ms. Wilson said Bowens went on to win the seventh-grade speech contest at the 14-county district competition March 7. He will compete in the state contest May 15 in Raleigh.

Individual school winners included Amanda Chestnut, sixth-grade poster, Shallotte Middle; Donnie Bain, sixth-grade essay, South Brunswick Middle; Amy Long, fourth-grade poster, Waccamaw; Lee Everett Milligan, fifth-grade poster; Waccamaw; and Curtis Stevenson, sixth-grade poster, Waccamaw.

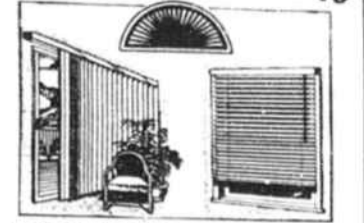
School winners from Leland Middle School were Jaqual Willis in the fifth-grade poster contest, Nathan Thomas in the sixth-grade poster contest and Ginger Pope in the eighth-grade speech contest.

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