

IN WACCAMAW CONFERENCE

West Brunswick Golf Is Alive And Well

A couple of months back this golf coach had assessed this year's West Brunswick High School golf team as a third place team in a seven-team conference. The Waccamaw Conference added two teams, West Columbus and North Brunswick, to the old five-team conference which included South Brunswick, Whiteville, Fairmont and East Bladen.

My conservative assessment was based on the fact that we had graduated the top four players on our team last June and really only had two experienced players returning to the squad, Sonny Leggett and Joey Stadick. The balance of the returning team members had limited playing time last year and were yet to prove themselves in competition.

The early season highlight was Jeremy Grainger. When he returned to West Brunswick this year he was a certain varsity player with a solid game that can only get better with maturity. Matt Pait had worked hard all summer on his game and showed promise. Jeremy Stanley, another returnee, is a big belter who needed to add some finesse to his game. Tony Shreve, the lone freshman, has the potential to shoot some really good scores and is also a hard worker.

The other six members of the team, Ronnie Bradley, Pat Polson, Dan Martin, Chad Allman, Donnie Warren and Mark Logan are working on the basic swing and still in search of scores in the 80s. Of these, Ronnie Bradley shows the most potential. Ron has been in and out of the 80s so far this year. He has a solid, aggressive swing and is a grim competitor on the course.

Over the first four conference tournaments I worked a variety of combinations of players into our six-man team. Grainger, Stadick and Shreve were the only players to compete in all four of those tournaments.

Entering last week's tourney at East Bladen on the White Lake Country Club we were 30 strokes behind first place South Brunswick and 11 strokes ahead of third place Whiteville. This year the conference championship is determined by total team strokes over the conference season.

The Shakedown Is Over

Since we were within striking distance of first place I decided to go with the players with the six best averages from the top seven players. Ronny Bradley and Matt Pait would be the swing men. I also decided it was time for my mid-year "pep talk" which is always administered in writing to allow it to sink in. That talk focuses on the treachery of double bogies, bad shots and dumb shots.

Everyone who is playing the game of golf is still learning so we are all familiar with bad shots. The trick is not to follow a bad shot with a dumb shot. That particular shot sequence leads to treachery, ie, doubles. Doubles caused by penalties do not qualify as being treacherous.

I don't know if it was the pep talk or that we finally got to play in nice weather for a change, but the team shot their best score of the year, a 322 for the four low scores. Grainger put together a very nice 74 to move into first place in the conference individual competition for All Conference honors. Joey Stadick finally broke 80 with a solid 79. Sonny Leggett and Jeremy Stanley tossed in 84 and 85 respectively.

West Still Trails South

Unfortunately, South Brunswick also shot their lowest score of the year, a 322 to tie us for the day and keep the West golf team 30 shots behind. We did manage to put some distance between us and Whiteville which is now 56 strokes back in third. This week we play at Flag Tree Golf Club in Fairmont, a course that has been friendly to our team in the past. If we can toss in another score in the 320s we just may be able to put some heat on the Cougars from South.

South has five very steady players. Four of them, Kopp, Howard, Jones and Broadwell, are averaging under 85, and Brandon Vannoy is nipping at Jeremy Grainger's heels with a 79.3 average. If we catch them by the end of the year, we will have to stick to pars and bogies for the most part.

I don't expect the Cougars to beat themselves. Their coach Gene "GQ" Doane hates double bogies as much as I do, but he can holler louder than I can.

Stay tuned for further reports. This team may prove me to be the biggest dummy of all for thinking they were a third place team.

Cougar Golfers Increase Lead

South Brunswick's golf team increased its lead in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference race Monday with a tournament win at Fairmont's Flag Tree Golf Club.

Led by medalist Daniel Kopp's 80, the Cougars posted a team score of 333 to win the event by eight strokes.

West Brunswick, led by Jeremy Grainger's 81, finished second with a team score of 341.

Whiteville was third with 350, followed by East Bladen, 363; Fairmont, 366; North Brunswick, 399; and West Columbus, 421.

The victory Monday gave the Cougars a comfortable lead in the conference standings with two tournaments remaining.

South Brunswick leads second-place West Brunswick by 38 strokes. Whiteville is in third place 73 shots off the lead.

The next conference tournament will be Monday at Land O' Lakes Golf Club near Whiteville. West Columbus is hosting that event.

West Brunswick will host the Waccamaw Conference Tournament April 27 at The Gauntlet at St. James Plantation.

Nifty Niners Hold Scramble In Jacksonville

The Carolina Shores Nifty Niners held a couples scramble at Rock Creek Country Club in Jacksonville last Thursday.

Finishing first with a 79 was the team of Jean Shields, Nancy Bradbury, George Taubel and Paul Martin.

They won on a match of cards over the foursome of Trudy Bunt, Martha Lovaty, Dick Merrick and John Romero.

Third place went to the team of Marilyn Anderson, Cynthia Swanson, Ray Erickson and Vince Arlotta with an 81.

Long drive honors went to Shields for the women and Erickson for the men. Closest to the pin winners were Swanson and George Anderson.

Brierwood Ninettes

Members of the Brierwood Ninettes golf group dropped scores on their two worst holes in last Friday's tournament.

Helene Baker parred the first, second and ninth holes and posted the low round with 22.05.

Finishing second with 24.8 was Margaret Pingo, who parred the second, third, fourth and eighth holes.

Harriet Schuler placed third with 27.18 and tied Ann Polson and Dede Havenga for low putts with 16 each.

Pingo and Baker tied for second with 17 putts apiece. Marion Allen had a par at the eighth hole.

Brick Landing

The team of Pat Sneyers, June Beck, Rosemary Dobson and Pat Taylor won the Brick Landing Ladies Golf Association two best ball event last Thursday.

Finishing second was the team of Alice Grossman, Martha Cullen, Betty Squire and Joan Behrle.

Marie Barry chipped in at the first and seventh holes and Sue Houston chipped in for birdie at the 15th.

C.S. Travel League

Bob Wilckens, Ed Jacobs, Vic Hahn and Al Storm combined for a 144 to win the first flight in the Carolina Shores Men's Travel League event April 3.

Each foursome counted one low net ball and one low gross ball on each hole to determine their team score. The event was held at Colonial Charters.

Second place in the top flight went to the team of Bob Johnson, Joe Giamalva, Dick Powell and Ernie Koepfel with a 145.

John Farley, Pete Terzo, Charley Abarno and Jim Mahony took third place with a 146.

Top honors in the second flight went to the foursome of Tom Brendgord, Dan Cuomo, Jack O'Connell and Bernie Anderson with a 149.

Finishing three shots back in sec-



birdied the 10th hole led the way in the crossover tournament with a 22.

Dot Frey was second with a 24 and Phyllis Harding was third with 25. Mary Ahearn had low gross with 102. Harding chipped in at the first hole and had low net with 66.

Carolina Shores Men

Bill Marsh, Bob Russo, Bill Higgins and Bill Rice fired a 139 to win the Carolina Shores Men's Golf Association tournament last week at Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course.

Teams counted the one net ball and one gross ball on each hole. On a match of cards, the foursome of Bill Haupt, Russ Nickens, Cec Spearin and Chuck Radcliffe finished second with a 141.

Third place went to the team of Ray Kennedy, Charlie McDonald, Hank Hettinger and John Serafin.

Closest to the pin winners were Curly Anzich at the second hole, Jim Gilroy at the fifth, Bob Flack at the 13th and Russo at the 15th.

Sea Trail Ladies

Golfers competed for closest to the pin and low putts in the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association tournament last Wednesday at the Maples course.

Closest to the pin winners were Jackie Roy, Henri Moulton, Pam Allen and Kitty Smoker.

Low putt winners were Nancy Williams with 31, Ruth Kivett with 34, Betty Geesey with 35 and Louisa Cileto with 36. Betty Street and Ann Holman had 38 putts each.

Brierwood Men

Don Redding and Paul Keeley both had 24 points and tied for first in the Brierwood Men's Golf Association points tournament last Thursday.

Jerry Smith and Ned Dye tied for second with 22 points each. Third place went to Howard Bayne, John Cowie and Bill Goldsberry with 21 points apiece.

The team of Bob Tompkins, Jeff Baker, Dede Havenga and Carol Soucie shot 32 to win the nine-hole mixed scramble last Wednesday.

Second place in the captain's choice tournament went to the foursome of Jerry Lula, Al Hierman, Margaret Pingo and Ruthmary Buzzell with 34.

On April 6, the foursome of Bob Tompkins, Dick Pulliam, Jim Kelleher and Bill Goldsberry shot a 131 to win the team event at Brierwood.

Teams counted the low gross ball

and low net ball on each hole. Finishing two shots back in second place was the team of Jim Crosby, Don Redding, Straud Maerker and Jerry Smith.

Third place went to the foursome of Dave Harper, John Martocci, Ned Dye and Paul Keeley with a 143.

Carolina Shores Ladies

Members of the Carolina Shores Ladies Golf Association were allowed to reduce three holes to par in their weekly tournament last Thursday at The Gauntlet.

Top finishers in the first flight were Pat Reardon with 58, Sally Manifold with 59 and Jean Sperry with 63.

Pat Soule led the way in the second flight with a 58. Runners-up were Barb Brooks with 63 and Gloria Lucas with 64.

In the third flight, Flo String shot 58 to finish first. Jean Palmer placed second on a match of cards over Doreen Spearin after both shot 60.

Leading the fourth flight were Ducky Rice with 61 and May Robertson and Cissie Fleming with 63.

Lynn Jerr, Ann Hierman and Manifold tied for low putts with 29 each. Manifold birdied the first hole and chipped in for birdie at the eighth.

Other birdies were carded by Irene Crane at the fifth hole and Ginny Dorshimer at the 14th.

Chip-ins were recorded by Lucas at the seventh hole, Thelma Speidel at the 12th and Reardon at the 17th.

Vets Developing Golf Association

Local veterans are forming a new golf association that plans to play area courses each Friday starting the first week in May.

The Calabash Veterans Golf Association is open to card-carrying members of any veterans' organization. Membership dues are \$5.

"The purpose is to get some competition in the veterans' associations in the area," said spokesman Bill McDavit. "Eventually, we may be able to establish teams for each veterans' association."

The group will play every Friday for 48 weeks. Organizers are trying to line up six area courses where members can play for reduced rates.

The group will establish its own handicaps. For more information, call McDavit at 579-2409.

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