

SUMMER LEAGUE TIME

Junior Golf Is On The Scene

The record-breaking success of the South Brunswick Cougar Golf Team this year is just another signal that high school golf is on a steady climb to the top in Brunswick County.

The unparalleled success of the golf industry here could only be a precursor of success for youngsters who learn to play the game at a very early age. Our numerous courses and the eagerness of the pros to help junior golf produces a happy marriage for the very fortunate junior golfers who live and go to school in Brunswick County.

North Brunswick High School fielded a golf team for the first time this year under Coach Randy Roberts. The Scorpions' home course is Olde Fort, but their players probably played more different courses in the past three months than they had played up until that time. West Columbus High School, based at Land O' Lakes Golf Course, also so joined the Waccamaw Conference golfing ranks this year for the first time. Both of these teams began the year shooting scores well above 400. At the end of the year they were posting some 370 scores. In the parlance of high school golf scoring that means that each of their players have reduced their 18-hole scores by almost 10 strokes, in just three months.

South Brunswick plays and practices at Fox Squirrel, Oak Island and The Gauntlet at St. James. Although Brick Landing Plantation is the home course for our WESTGOLF Team, our player have practice and playing privileges at Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course, Sea Trail Plantation, Lion's Paw Golf Links, Lockwood Golf Links and Brierwood Country Club. If you can't learn to play golf on courses like that, then you may need to try track, baseball or tennis next year.

Coaches Forming Summer League

This summer a number of the golf coaches in the Waccamaw Conference are organizing a Summer Junior Golf League. Most of the teams will be based at the same home courses played by their high school teams.

The league will play a round-robin schedule similar to that used in the high school golf season. The home course professional will be able to select the week and the day of that week they wish to host their league tournament.

The Junior Golf League will be open to any golfer under the age of 17 who wants to play or learn to play. There will be a clinic each week and supervised practice at a local course. It is an excellent opportunity for boys and girls in the middle schools to get instruction and some experience at competitive golf. If the turnout is sufficient, more than one team may be formed at a given team site.

Tournaments for novice golfers may be only 3 or 4 holes played late in the afternoon, but they will serve as the motivation to work on the game and to graduate to the varsity team at that course.

Those youngsters in the middle schools who already play the game well will have a medium to test their competitive skills. We are still ironing out some of the coordination problems in this fledgling endeavor. When we see a green light, details will be announced and youngsters may begin signing up for the local team in the Summer Junior Golf League.

Middle School Golf, Perhaps?

A proposal has been made to Nelson Best, athletic supervisor for the Brunswick County Schools, that our middle schools should consider offering golf as a spring sport within Brunswick County. Those teams could be composed of as few as four golfers who would compete over nine holes once a week.

The travel time to the other Brunswick County sites would be short and with just four players, the team could travel in one car and not put a strain on our already extended transportation resources.

I am fascinated by one particular departure from the norm. I would like for members of our varsity team at West Brunswick to accept the responsibility to accompany each pairing when Shallotte Middle has a home tournament. The older players could be authorized to provide advice on play of the course and use the tournament to teach the rules of courtesy and rules of play to the younger golfers.

A "Double Par" local rule would help to speed play. That rule says that when a youngsters has hit a number of shots equal to Double Par, he would pick up his ball and drop it on the putting green to finish out the hole. This would also reduce some of the frustrations of learning the game and de-emphasize total scores. The competitive young golfer will take pride in the number of holes they play without the help of the Double Par Rule.

If you have a youngster in middle school who may be interested in playing golf for their school give Nelson Best or me a call.

WILLGOLF

BY
WILL
COCKRELL



PHOTO BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Planning Chamber Tourney

The South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual golf tournament Saturday, May 30, at The Pearl Golf Links near Calabash. The captain's choice event starts at 9 a.m., and the entry fee is \$50 per player. Pictured making preparations for the event are Jay Houston (right), co-chairman of the tournament, and Bill Cramer, golf pro at The Pearl. For information, call the chamber at 754-6644.

Lockwood To Host Golf Tour

Lockwood Golf Links near Holden Beach will host the Coastal Carolina Golf Tour event June 22 and 23.

Approximately 60 pro golfers from around the country are expected for the mini-tour event, said spokesman Dara O'Neill.

This will be the second time a Coastal Carolina tour event has been held at Lockwood Links. The top finisher will receive at least \$2,500.

Spectators are welcome for the tournament, and no admission will be charged either day.

The event will kick off with a pro-am tournament Sunday, June

21. Twenty local teams will be accepted for the pro-am at a cost of \$200 per team.

Proceeds from the pro-am tournament will be donated to a local charity, O'Neill said.

The Coastal Carolina Golf Tour is based in North and South Carolina. O'Neill said events are planned later this summer at Sea Trail Plantation and Lion's Paw Golf Links, both near Sunset Beach.

For more information on the upcoming tournament, call O'Neill at 579-9904 or Scott Davis, pro at Lockwood Golf Links, at 842-5666.



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Please make reservations by mailing check to:

Mike Isenberg

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Kendall Suh

P.O. Box 5189
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