



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Toski Talks Golf

When Bob Toski talks, people listen, especially if the subject is golf.

The former PGA great, now known world-wide for his ability to teach the greatest golfers in the world, was here Friday to look over Kings Mountain's newest golf course, Woodbridge Country Club, and took a few minutes to discuss golf's past history and its bright future.

Toski says the game's changed a lot since his tour days in the fifties, but that players aren't any better. "They're better in some aspects of the game," he noted, "but their overall consistency as players isn't better. I would say their finesse or the number of shots they can play aren't as great as the players of 20 or 30 years ago."

The main differences in golf, he says, are equipment and the strength of the performers.

"Today, the clubs are built for them to perform with," he said. "We used to be able to perform with fewer types of clubs. Take the sand wedge. In Bobby Jones' days, they used to play sand shots with a pitching niblet or a nine iron.

"The only thing today's players have that the players of 20 or 30 years ago didn't have is strength. They hit the ball farther now. And, I would say the majority of the younger players are better putters. But they aren't the shotmakers that these players were 20 or 30 years ago. They simply boom the ball off the tee, grab some club and knock it on the green and hole it. The artistry of the game is not nearly what it was when I started playing.

"I've been in two generations of golfers," he continued. "I started young with the great players like Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson and Sam Snead. And, I've seen the modern players like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Lee Trevino. And I would say that outside of the real good players like those four, the rest are just good strong hitters. They're not the great shotmakers like Nicklaus and Palmer and the others."

— Could Still Play On Tour

Toski, who played on the tour from 1949 until 1957, has very little time for the playing phase of golf now. He spends most of his time teaching, writing, commenting for Hughes Sports Network and speaking.

And, he's entered a new business venture which brought him to Kings Mountain. He's part of the Tate, Toski and Gibson architectural firm which plans golf courses. "We have only started in this field in the last three or four months," he said, "and we have very fortunately started out quite fast."

Although he averages playing only about 18 holes a week, he hasn't lost his touch.

"I think I'm as good a player if not a better player than I ever was," he says. "I'm a much sounder player. My swing is sounder. And I'm a much more of an intelligent golfer."

"To give you an idea," he went on, "I hadn't played in a tournament in over a year and I played in the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head Island and shot a 66 the final round which was just one shot off the course record on one of the toughest golf courses in the world. And I finished up shooting a 289, which is a pretty good score."

Toski feels he could rejoin the tour with no trouble. "Competitively and fundamentally, and psychologically I'm still a good striker of the ball," he said. "I could go on the tour right now and still play and possibly win if I wanted to go out and sacrifice the time and effort. But, of course, desire is the most important thing."

Although Toski wouldn't choose a best player of all-time he did say Sam Snead is the most consistent golfer to ever play the game.

"I don't think there ever will be a player who will play as long and as well as he has," Toski declared. "Sam is over 60 years old and he shot a record 268 score in the Seniors Tournament about two weeks ago. That's better than the score Nicklaus shot when he won the PGA on the same course. The course was a little shorter but still the hole doesn't get any wider."

— Helped Hinson Win NO Open

Toski told of a Scot—"a fellow Oetalani"—who built the hickory shaft clubs, recognized as some of the best in the world.

"He came over to this country on tour," recalled Toski, "and he said if some of these old players who played when golf first began would play Nicklaus and Palmer with the hickory shaft clubs they'd beat the hell out of them. So that shows that every man has his era and picking he greatest golfer of all time would be impossible."

Toski foresees new courses being built shorter, as they were in the Jones - Gene Sarazen era, as compared to the long, wide courses of today.

"Many of the English and foreigners think that American courses are too wide and too long," he said. "You just get up on the tee and belt the hell out of the ball and hit it anywhere, then hit an iron onto the green."

"I agree that there isn't enough accuracy placed off the tee, so that the player has to concentrate on hitting the ball in the playing area."

Toski spoke of the fine young golfers, including Larry Hinson, whose grandmother, Mrs. Grady Rhea, and other relatives live in Kings Mountain.

"I have instructed Larry," Toski recalled. "He and I are very good friends and, incidentally, the year he won the New Orleans Open I happened to be teaching him that week. On the practice tee, he came over and asked me for some advice and I think I contributed to his success in that tournament."

"How great a player Larry becomes depends on him. He certainly has all the tools to become a real fine player. I think some people are just destined to be great players and I don't think Larry is one of them. There are very few people who are destined to become great like Palmer or Nicklaus. The rest are real fine players and Larry could come to the point of close to greatness. But that will depend on how much Larry wants to pay the price for success. He has all the shots. He is a fine competitor and he's a good putter but Larry has the tendency to become a worrier and psychologically he puts too much pressure on himself."

Toski said youngsters today have competitive spirit and experience, due largely to good teaching pros and college coaches.

"Kids today compete at the age of 10 and 12," he said, "and by the time they're 17, they're hardened veterans. We didn't have this kind of competitive experience."

Toski, however, is afraid the continuing interest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Girls Play East Today, Boys Play Saturday

The Kings Mountain and East Rutherford girls will open the annual Southwestern Conference basketball tournament this afternoon at Burns High School but as of this writing the Mountaineers weren't sure who their opening round opponent would be.

The KM girls finished fifth in the final SWC standings with a 10-8 record while East finished one notch ahead with an 11-7 mark. They'll battle at 5 p.m. in what should be a barnburner as the two clubs split their regular season games, each winning on its home floor.

The Mountaineers finished in a tie with Burns for fifth and sixth spot, thus a coin flip will determine their seedings for the tournament.

If the Mountaineers take fifth place, they'll play fourth place South Point Saturday at 6:30. The Mountaineers and Raiders split their regular season games. South Point had a 10-8 record in league play.

If the Mountaineers take sixth place, they'll meet third place East Rutherford Saturday at 8 p.m. The Mountaineers also split regular season contests with the Cavaliers, who finished with a 13-5 conference mark.

Three games are carded for the first four nights of the tournament. The championship games are scheduled for next Tuesday night. The tourney winners will join regular season champions

Burns girls and Shelby boys in the association tournament next week at Catawba College in Salisbury. If the regular season champs win the tourney title also, the tourney runners-up will also go to the association tournament.

Final regular season standings showed two ties, one in each division, in the girls division. Chase and Lincoln tied for seventh and eighth places with 6-12 marks, so they're in the same boat as the Mountaineers and Burns, not knowing who their opening foe will be.

The Cherryville and R-S Central girls and the Cherryville and Chase boys failed to qualify for the tournament, as only the top

eight clubs in each division advanced.

Games tonight, in addition to the KM-East girls battle, will see the first place Burns girls taking on either Chase or Lincoln at 6:30 and the first place Shelby boys taking on Lincoln at 8:30.

Friday night, the Shelby and Crest girls open play at 5 p.m. Shelby finished third with a 12-6 record and Crest took sixth with a 7-11 mark. Second place South Point girls will meet either Chase or Lincoln at 6:30 and the second place Crest boys will take on seventh place R-S Central at 8:30.

The KM girls will take a 12-8 overall record into their game

today with East but the Mountaineers should rate a slim favorite as they've come on strong to win their last four contests. Last year, the Mountaineers staged a similar late-season drive and they advanced all the way to the association semi-finals before losing a narrow one-point decision to McDowell County.

Deborah Crockett has been the season-long scoring leader for the Mountaineers but Coach Elaine Froneberger has gotten double-digit scoring from Kathy Ledford, Karen Ledford and Sandra Eyers and Myra McGinnis and Joan Proctor have played well on defense.

The Mountaineers finished last also, winning five of their last

six games for a 9-9 conference record and 13-9 overall mark. The Mountaineers' only loss in the final six was to league champion Shelby.

Butch Blalock continues to lead the Mountaineers in scoring but Coach Allen Dixon has also gotten double digit scoring from several players, including Mike Thombs, Tony Fals, Randy Wingo and Wendell Dawkins.

This is the Mountaineers' best winning season in three years under Dixon. They whipped every team in the conference at least once with the exception of Crest, which ran the Mounties off the court twice in regular season play.



TALKING GOLF — Former PGA great Bob Toski, left, discusses Kings Mountain's newest golf course, Woodbridge Country Club, with Jim Hamrick of Hamrick Development, owner of the new layout near the Kings Mountain Buffalo Creek water project. Toski has very definite ideas about the future of professional golf. (see Herald Sports).

Ash Wins Association Championship, Runs Unbeaten Season Record To 21-0

Alfred Ash capped off a brilliant wrestling season last week in Salisbury, winning the Western North Carolina High Schools Activities Association championship in the 187-pound division.

The victory gave the popular Kings Mountain High School senior a perfect 21-0 record, 19 of those victories coming on pins.

Ash swept past five foes, pinning four of them, to take the top prize. In addition to winning his division title, Ash was also named to the All-Conference team for the Northwestern-Southwestern Conference and was also named wrestler of the year in the 10-team league.

Ash's coach, Warren (Bo) Goforth, was elated over Alfred coming away with the championship trophy. "This is just what we need to create more interest in wrestling here," he said, "and, of course, Alfred is very deserving of the recognition he received."

Kings Mountain is in only its fourth year of wrestling and Ash is the only athlete in the school's history to participate in the sport throughout his high school career. Kings Mountain is only one of two SWC schools with a wrestling program, the other being Chase.

Although the Mountaineers finished last in the NWC-SWC with a 0-9 conference record and 1-15 overall chart, Ash raised many an eyebrow with his strength and ability to take out his opponents early in his matches. He pinned his foe within 30 seconds of the first round.

College coaches have shown a tremendous amount of interest in him, and the talk is he is leaning toward Appalachian State to further his education and participation in wrestling.

Mike Thombs continued his hot scoring spree in the nightcap, tossing in a game high 23 points as the Mountaineers avenged an earlier overtime loss at R-S Central.

The Mountaineers led most of the way but were never able to pull away from the Hilltoppers, who were led by Barry Hines with 21 markers. It was 40-32 at halftime and the Mounties maintained that eight-point cushion during most of the second half.

Three other players hit in double figures for the Mountaineers, led by leading scorer Butch Blalock with 22 points. Randy Wingo added 18 and sophomore Tony Falls 12.

It was the fourth win in five outings for the Mountaineers, who improved their overall mark to 12-9 heading into Tuesday night's regular season finale at Chase.

GIRLS GAME
K. Mtn. (55) — Crockett 19, Eyers 18, Karen Ledford 6, Kathy Ledford 8, Proctor 2, McGinnis 2. R-S Central (25) — Lyles 2, Omill 3, Littlejohn 4, Miller 8. Continued On Page Four

coming on pins.

Ash had a string of 28 straight pins broken in his regular season finale against Wilkes Central.

"He could have pinned his man in the first round that night," noted Goforth, "but we wanted him to go three rounds to get in shape for the association tournament. Then, in the third round, I guess he was tired and couldn't pin his man and had to settle for a decision."

Ash is the third athlete in KMHS history to win an association championship. John Van Dyke won the association golf tournament in 1966, shooting a record score of 147, and Dana

Add All-Conference And Wrestler Of Year Honors For Alfred Ash

Kings Mountain's Alfred Ash has been named wrestler of the year in the Northwestern-Southwestern Conference after registering a perfect 21-0 record and winning the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association championship in the 185-pound division.

Ash was Kings Mountain's only wrestler to be named to the All-Conference team and he headed a list of three in his weight division. Other All-League selections

in the 185-pound class were Robert Feimster of Alexander Central and Gill Beck of Lenoir.

Kings Mountain had the league's top wrestler despite finishing last in the 10-team league with a 0-9 record. The Mountaineers were 1-15 overall.

In wrestler of the year honors, Ash nosed out 145-pound Douglas Stanberry of Watauga and 126-pound Randy Dula of Hudson.

Ell Brown, who coached Watauga to a perfect 9-0 record in conference action, won coach of the year honors. Ron Byerly of Hudson finished second and Jerry Murray of Valdese third.

The complete all-conference team and final NWC-SWC standings follow:

ALL-CONFERENCE		
WGT.	NAME	SCHOOL
98	Marc Carroll	Watauga
105	Mickey Smith	Valdese
	Billy Reese	Watauga
112	Billy A-nette	Watauga
	Byron Alexander	Alex.
118	Mike Brittain	Central
	Rodney Butler	Newton
126	Randy Dula	Hudson
	Robert Smith	Newton
132	Vaughn Freshour	McDowell
	Eddie Taylor	Hudson
138	Gary Yates	Watauga
	Mike Eldix	Avery Co.
145	Douglas Stanberry	Watauga
	Francis Smith	McDowell
155	Larry Johnson	Avery Co.
	Greg Wilson	Hudson
	Jack Lonon	McDowell
	Quincy Roberts	Wilkes Cen.
	Michael Cook	Watauga
167	Roland Young	Newton
	Stanley Atwood	Watauga
185	Alfred Ash	Kings Mtn.
	Robert Feimster	Alex.
	Gill Beck	Lenoir
195	Darrell Pritchard	Hudson
Hwt.	Greg Lail	Hudson
	Buster Goree	McDowell
	Fred Walters	Alex. Central

Patriots Finish With 12-2 Mark, Freshmen 7-7

Central Junior High's Patriots closed out another successful season Tuesday defeating Gaston Day 45-27 for a final record of 12 wins and only two losses.

The KMHS freshmen split a pair of games last week to finish with a break-even 7-7 record.

Central, coached by Porter Griggs, had the best record in the Tri-County Junior High Conference, thanks largely to Grier's upset victory over Ashley on Tuesday. Central had last to Ashley Thursday, 39-38.

William Thompson topped the Patriots in scoring in both of their games, hitting 14 in the loss to Ashley and 17 in the victory over Gaston Day. Mark Mercier chipped in with 10 in the Tuesday win.

In the narrow loss to Ashley, the two clubs were even at the end of the first two periods, the score tied at 8-8 after one chapter and 18-18 halftime. Ashley outscored the Patriots 15-14 in the third period and that was the difference in the game.

The freshmen whipped Ashley 54-47 Thursday before losing to Crest 47-39 in their finale Monday.

Sarvis shared the association golf title two years ago.

In team sports, the Mounties have captured only one association title. In 1969, the KMHS baseball team won all the way, whipping Statesville 2-0 in the championship game on a two-hitter by Rocky Goforth, who won the association's outstanding player award.

The 1935 basketball team, led by George Adams, advanced to the association championship game before losing to Kunnappolis, 63-58. Several other KMHS teams have gone to the association tournament but have lost out before reaching the finals.

Girls Capture Fourth In Row, Boys Win 85-81

Kings Mountain's varsity cagers closed out regular season play Tuesday night at Chase with a doubleheader sweep, the girls winning 54-32 and the boys winning 85-81.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a final 10-8 Southwestern Conference record. It was the fourth straight victory for Elaine Froneberger's lassies.

The Mountaineers, who set a school scoring record with 106 points in an earlier victory over the Trojans, finished with a 9-9 record in conference action and tied Burns for fifth place.

Three players scored in double figures as the Mountaineers completely outclassed the Lady Trojans, who finished with a 6-12 mark. Kathy Ledford led the way with 15 points. Sandra Byers added 14 and Karen Ledford 10. Deborah Crockett barely missed double figures with nine points.

Chase was close, 24-16, at intermission but the Mountaineers continued to be a second half ballclub, outscoring their hosts 30-16 over the final two periods.

Butch Blalock had his highest scoring game of the year in the nightcap, tossing in a game-high 32 points to lead the Mountaineers to their narrow win. Randy Wingo added 17 points, Mike Thombs 12 and Wendell Jenkins 11, giving the Mountaineers four double-digit scorers.

The Mountaineers led most of the way but were never able to put the game on ice. They were up by 12, 45-33, at halftime but the Trojans came roaring back in the late stages of the game to make it interesting.

Girls Game

K. Mtn. (54) — Crockett 9, Karen Ledford 10, Kathy Ledford 15, Byers 14, Proctor 6. Chase (32) — Cromer 8, Sims 6, Hawkins 2, Bridges 2, Dedmon 1, McAddo 2, Padgett 2.

Boys Game

K. Mtn. (85) — Blalock 32, Dawkins 11, Thombs 12, Wingo 17, Falls 4, Davis 2, Smith 2, McGill 1, Adams 2, Plonk 2. Chase (81) — Hinson 23, Padgett 20, Fowler 18, Robinson 10, Harrill 18.

Little Mounties Whip Chase And R-S, End Year With 13-7 Record

Kings Mountain High's Jayvee cagers won games from Chase and R-S Central last week to end their season with a 13-7 record.

The Little Mountaineers romped over Chase, 86-42, but had to come from behind in the fourth quarter to nip R-S Central, 60-57.

Dennis Eyers and Lamar Payseur led the comeback against R-S Central and finished with 15 and 13 points respectively to lead the Little Mounties in scoring.

R-S Central held a 41-38 lead heading into the final chapter after KM had led at 15-14 after the first quarter and 32-24 at halftime. Robert Burnette of the Hilltoppers was the game's high scorer with 24 points.

Mike Williams and Eyers combined for 41 points, just one shy of Chase's team total, in the lopsided victory over the Trojans. Williams was the game's top scorer with 21 and Eyers added 20. Charles Bell was also in double figures with 10.

Kings Mountain was in command all the way, leading 16-9 after the first period, 34-15 at halftime and 53-28 heading into the final chapter.



CENTRAL PATRIOTS HAVE 12-2 MARK — The Central Junior High basketball team, above, finished their season with a 12-2 record, best in the Tri-County Conference. Kneeling is manager Noah Gardner. First row, left to right, Rick Hinnett, Leonard Roberts, Mike Bumgarner, Kenneth Bell, Al Eddins, Eddie Ingram and Tim Oliver. Back row, Don Henderson, John Roberts, Steve Lancaster, William Thompson, Mark Mercier, Arthur Morgan and Wesley Narron.



ALFRED ASH ... Association Champ