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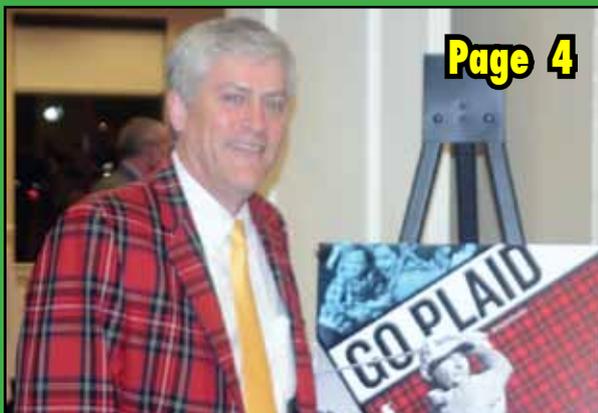


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Another Win!



Phillips wins DJ World Junior... Page 13



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Heritage Chairman



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Not So Easy At Greer



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Johnson reaches the top

Win at Riviera puts Johnson on top of World Golf Ranking

A runaway victory at Riviera moved Dustin Johnson into the top spot on the World Golf Rankings.

Johnson took over the top spot from Jason Day who held the World #1 position for almost a year.

The Columbia native won three times last year including a victory at the US Open. He is currently ranked 6th in the Fed/Ex points standings.

Johnson recently hosted the Dustin Johnson World Junior Championship in Myrtle Beach.

During an interview on The Golf Channel, Johnson talked about the development of young golfers in his home state.

At Riviera, where Johnson won, three other golfers who grew up playing junior golf in South Carolina, Scott Brown, Wesley Bryan and Bill Haas, finished in the top-11.

The junior golf program has produced PGA Tour players, Lucas Glover, Jonathan Byrd, Ben Martin, Mark Anderson, Tommy Gainey, Kevin Kisner and many more.

Johnson remembered that he began playing golf in the summer Monday tournament series sponsored by the SCJGA.

"The South Carolina Junior Golf Association does a great job with tournaments in the state," he said.

Johnson, who has contributed to the SCJGA and sponsored events, is proud to be associated with the game in the state.

"Obviously I try to give back and since I became a pro I contribute some money and help sponsor some tournaments. They are first class," he said.



Country Club of Spartanburg PGA teaching professional Kevin Britt received the CPGA Junior Leadership Award. Britt was joined by his wife Leslie and children Casey and Isabella at the presentation.

Britt honored as top Junior leader

The Country Club of Spartanburg PGA teaching professional, Kevin Britt, was honored by the Carolinas PGA as the top junior leader in the two states.

Britt has helped many young golfers develop their skills and become college golfers.

In addition to Britt's work with top juniors, he has always worked to help all levels of young golfers learn to play and enjoy the game.

Britt has been a PGA professional since 1994.

BMW volunteer sign up underway

The BMW Charity Pro-Am is seeking volunteers for the annual Web.com Tour event in the Upstate.

Volunteers do not need to know anything about golf as the tournament has many opportunities for non-golfers to help with the tournament.

Volunteers pay a \$40 registration fee that covers a shirt, headwear, volunteer credential, guest credential, food and beverages during volunteer days and more.

Volunteers have the opportunity to earn \$20 per day for one of the tournament charities.

They may choose the course they wish to staff. This year the tournament will be played at Thornblade Club, Furman Golf Course and The Preserve at Verdae.

Online registration is available at www.bmwcharitygolf.com.

Hickory golf club enthusiasts group

Do you know how to use a niblick or a mashie or a cleek? Want to turn back the clock and play golf the way Bobby Jones did in the early 20th century.

Mike Gravley has put together a group of golfers who enjoy playing old fashioned golf with hickory shafted golf clubs.

Hickory clubs were the standard for golf until the late 1920s.

The group tries to play at least once a month and is looking to find new players to join the group.

Interested golfers who have hickory shaft golf clubs can contact Gravley at m.gravley@icloud.com.

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Smith named RBC Heritage Chairman

RBC commits to sponsor the Heritage through 2023

Doug Smith will be busy at this year's RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing. Instead of watching golf and enjoying the spectacle of South Carolina's only PGA Tour event, he will have some specific duties to perform.

The former South Carolina Golf Association President has been appointed the Chairman of 49th Heritage Classic.

"Usually I hang around number 16 fairway and see a lot of great golf shots and then meet some friends. This year it is going to be different," said the new Chairman.

Being the Chairman has some ceremonial duties like leading the parade to open the tournament and acting as master of ceremonies at the opening and closing of the event.

However, Smith has been much more than a ceremonial member of the Heritage organization for many years.

"Doug was named a Heritage Classic Foundation trustee in 2011," said Simon Fraser, Heritage Classic Foundation chairman. "His influence and connections in the



Spartanburg attorney Doug Smith is the new Chairman of the RBC Heritage presented by Boeing. This is the first time in the 49 year history of the PGA Tour stop at Hilton Head has been headed up by a chairman from the Upstate. Smith and Tournament Director Steve Wilmot announced that RBC will continue as the presenting sponsor of the tournament through 2023.

upstate have helped us spread the mission of the Heritage Classic Foundation, which is to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of South Carolina through signature golf events," he added.

Smith joined the trustees during a difficult time for the Heritage. The tournament had lost its title sponsor and was in jeopardy of losing its PGA affiliation.

As a former State Legislator and community leader in the Upstate, Smith was able to work behind the scenes to help the

tournament develop strong sponsorship.

"Doug is an excellent ambassador for the Heritage Classic Foundation," Tournament Director Steve Wilmot said. "His connections and reputation across South Carolina are second to none. It's an honor for the RBC Heritage to have a stand-up professional, colleague and friend like Doug to represent and support our tournament this year," he said.

While the RBC Heritage is played at Hilton Head, the reach of the tournament

has grown from supporting charitable causes in the low country to helping communities around the entire state.

"The tournament is really a state wide event. The benefits from the tournament are distributed around the state and we want everyone to feel a part of the tournament," said Wilmot.

Last year the Heritage Classic Foundation distributed \$2.4 million to non-profit organizations around the state.

The RBC Heritage has added Mike Ivester as the Director of Corporate Sales to reach into the upstate business community.

Ivester spent 11 years as director of sales at the BMW Charity Pro-Am, one of the premier Web.com events.

Smith is looking forward to seeing many of the players who participated in the junior tournament he helped start, The Bobby Chapman Junior at The Country Club of Spartanburg, now playing at Harbor Town.

"The SCGA has done a great job of promoting junior golf in the state and you only have to look at the leaderboard at PGA Tour events to see the impact our golfers have made on Tour. We have some of the best golfers in the world and the RBC Heritage is one of the best tournaments," concluded Smith.



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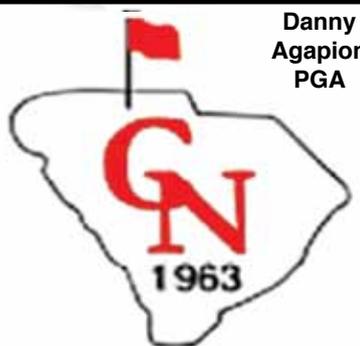
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First Tee Chapters join forces

New Upstate First Tee combines three county programs

A merger of the two First Tee programs in the Upstate has been in the works for several years.

Now after a great deal of planning and with the encouragement of the National First Tee organization, The Greenville First Tee and The First Tee of Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties are forming The First Tee of the Upstate.

"The Upstate of South Carolina continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the country, and as our area continues its population growth, we made the strategic decision that by consolidating both of our organizations' resources we are better positioned to serve the youth of the Upstate now and in the future," said Ron Rasmussen, Board President of The First Tee Upstate.

The merger will mean a new yet to be announced Executive Director will be in charge of working with advisory boards in all three counties to execute the First Tee programs and build on the 9 Core Values that are the backbone of The First Tee.

"We started talking about this three or four year ago, but until recently the time was not right," said Todd Whitehead, the Vice President of The First Tee of the Upstate. "Both counties had to get some things organized to make sure when we got together we could mesh as one for the benefit of the kids," he added.

There have been some changes to courses and the people who had been involved with the First Tee Programs.

Spartanburg director Fran Dunn retired after helping to build an outstanding operation in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

The Creek Golf Club, which housed the initial First Tee program in the Upstate has withdrawn from the program.

In Greenville, Molly Perkins will move



The Golf Body Fitness Invitational is a fundraising tournament to benefit The First Tee of The Upstate and RezMissions.

It will be played on
April 17th at
Carolina Country Club
1PM Shotgun
Captain's Choice
4 players per team
Entry information is available online
www.golfbodyfitness.com

to a volunteer role from her programming position.

"We are thankful to the wonderful board members, programming coordinators, coaches, mentors and volunteers that have made The First Tee chapters in the Upstate a success for a long time. Their contributions have helped get us to this point," said Rasmussen.

Woodfin Ridge, Willow Creek Golf Club and Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg County; Cherokee National Golf

& Recreation Club in Cherokee County; and Carolina Golf Club at Botany Woods, Legacy Pines Golf Club, Carolina Springs Golf Club and Green Valley Country Club in Greenville County will all serve as hosts to First Tee programs.

The Spartanburg program has received national recognition for its operations and Greenville will benefit from the experience gained by Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

By joining with Greenville, the Spartanburg and Cherokee County First Tee will have access to more children and potentially the ability to reach more sponsors who can support the goals and operation of The First Tee of The Upstate.

"We look forward to being able to instill the values of respect, integrity, and honesty through the game of golf to more Upstate youth than ever before," said Whitehead.

The First Tee is looking for adult volunteers to help the program staff at each location. While golf knowledge is helpful, it is not necessary for the volunteers.

"When you get out there and spend an hour with the kids, the time really goes by quickly and the experience of helping kids learn the values that come from golf is rewarding," said Whitehead.

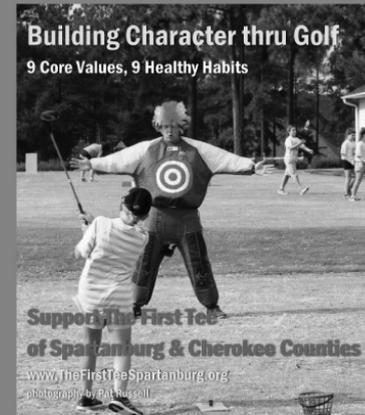
Volunteers can contact The First Tee at www.thefirstteeupstate.org.

Spring programming is just around the corner and will begin later this month.

Those interested in enrolling their children in programming at any of the locations can go to the organization's website at www.thefirstteeupstate.org to register.

The First Tee Upstate is a nonprofit organization dedicated to impacting the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Programs are designed for young people ages 6 to 18. The organization touches the lives of nearly 50,000 Upstate area youth each year.

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Not as easy as it looked

Reeves and Taylor win Tuff/Easy Days at Greer in playoff

The team of Crawford Reeves and Cory Taylor made the easy day in the Tough/Easy Day tournament at Greer look easy until the last hole.

The pair of former college golfers looked to be in position to wrap up the win when Reeves drove the 18th green and had his ball land just off the putting surface.

The hole was one of the easiest ones of the day with the tee well up from the regular tees and an 8-inch cup on the green.

"You have to wonder how we didn't eagle or birdie that hole," said Taylor after the two golfers took a par to finish regulation in a tie.

"We messed up our chip and then missed a very makable putt. We made things a lot harder for ourselves. We felt like we gave it away on the last hole," said Reeves.

On the course the team of first round leaders Tucker McDonald and Josh Gallman didn't match Reeves and Taylor's 56, but their 59 was good enough to force a playoff.

On the first playoff hole Taylor rolled a fifteen foot putt to win the championship after almost giving it away.

"That putt was a lot more difficult than the one we missed on number 18. I was glad we had another chance because we really played great in the final round," said Taylor.

The winners had carded a pair of eagles on numbers 14 and 15 to bounce back from a tough bogey on the twelfth hole.

The best score of the final round was turned in by the team of Tadd Gosnell and Chad Davis. The two shot an impressive 54 to move into a tie for fourth place with two other teams.

The second flight was won by the team of Eric Magera and Danny Myers.



Crawford Reeves (left) and Cory Taylor (right) needed an extra hole to win the Greer Tough/Easy Day tournament. Taylor rolled in a 14 foot eagle putt on the playoff hole to win the tournament.

Kennedy, Taylor and Howell win Frostbite

Instead of handwarmers and heaters the golfers playing in the annual Frostbite Tournament at Boscobel needed sunglasses and shorts.

Temperatures reached into the middle 70s for the two-day, three-man captains choice tournament.

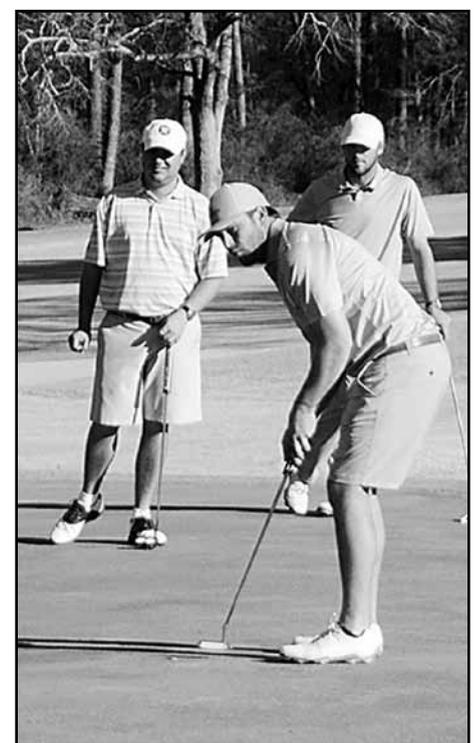
The team of Cory Taylor, Justin Howell and Blake Kennedy shot an opening round 14-under par 57 to be tied for the lead with John Land, Jon Guenther and Danny Day.

In the second round, the team of former college golfers shot a 12-under 59 to win the tournament by a shot.

The team of Josh Gallman Tyler Comer and Kyle Mathis shot the best round of the tournament carding a 15-under par 56 in the final round to move into a tie for second place.

Ron Clontz, Todd Hendley and Duff Wagner also finished at 117 to share runner-up honors.

Flight winners included, Second Flight - (tie) Russell Coakley, Chris Fitting and Kevin Smineuski tied with Steven Reid,



The team of Justin Howell, Cory Taylor and Blake Kennedy shot a final round 59 to take the top spot at the Frostbite tourney at Boscobel.

Josh Chay and Tucker McDonald. Third Flight - Ryan Lynn, Gregg Moore, Ken Lynn. Fourth Flight - Randy Cisson, Elliott Keller, Shannon Leonhardt.

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The Clemson women's team won their first ever golf tournament with a victory in the UCF Challenge played in Orlando and followed it up with a sixth place finish at the Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate. The men's team brought home the championship from the Puerto Rico Classic. It was the third win of the season for the Tigers and boosted them into the top-20 of the Golfweek-Sagarin rankings. (photos from Clemson)

Tigers start the spring with two victories

Women get first tourney win in program history

After several near misses in the past three years, the Clemson women's golf team got their first tournament championship. The Tigers finished in a tie with Miami for the top spot at the UCF Challenge in Orlando.

While the Hurricanes and Tigers finished with identical 14-under par totals of 280, Clemson brought home the championship trophy on the strength of the score of their fifth player.

"This was a big win for the program. The first victory in our history," said Kelley

Hester, the Clemson head coach. "I am so proud of this team and the way they have worked," she said.

Clemson had finished second in four tournaments during the past three seasons. The Tigers just missed a victory in the very first event they played as a team when Florida edged Clemson by one shot at the Cougar Classic in 2013.

"I was especially happy for Jessica Hoang. She was on the very first Clemson team to play in a tournament and now she was on the team that won the first tournament," noted Hester.

The Clemson senior's birdie on her second to last hole was the difference in finishing in a tie for first or alone in second place.

Clemson women.. continued on page 12

Men win in Puerto Rico for third victory of the year

The Clemson Tigers started the spring the way they left off in the fall, with a win. Clemson earned the victory at the Puerto Rico Classic and victimized the Georgia Bulldogs again.

Clemson trailed the Bulldogs just as they did in their last victory in Hawaii. The Tigers raced past Georgia and NC State to record an 11 shot victory.

"We are pretty good and we played well," said Clemson coach Larry Penley. "We made 63 birdies during the tournament

and that is very special," said the coach.

The victory was the 71st for the long time Clemson coach putting him in second place for wins among all-time ACC golf coaches.

The Tigers were again led by Bryson Nimmer and Doc Redman. Redman was added to the Ben Hogan Award watch list and showed why with his performance in Puerto Rico.

Nimmer came within a shot of winning the individual title, while Redman finished at 4-under par in a tie for fifth place.

"Both Nimmer and Redman came back ready to go. They played some tournaments over the break and their games were really sharp," said the coach.

Clemson men.. continued on page 12

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The Lady Paladins opened the spring portion of their season with a second place finish in Puerto Rico and followed it up with a win at the Central District Invitational hosted by Michigan State. Haylee Harford (left) tied for top honors at the Puerto Rico Classic. Alice Chen (right) got her first college victory when she finished one stroke ahead of the field in the tournament at Port St. Lucie. The winning team included coaches Jeff Hull and Laura DeMarco, Alice Chen, Taylor Totland, Natalie Srinivasan, Haylee Harford and Reona Hirai.

Purple Power at Furman and Converse

Furman starts the spring where they left off in the fall

The Furman Lady Paladins earned their second team win of the season with a dominating performance at the Central District Invitational hosted by Michigan State in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Furman finished the first round with a 5 shot lead and led the field by 14 shots after the first 36 holes. The Lady Paladins didn't let up in the final round and finished out the tournament with a winning margin of 23 shots over Louisville.

Furman had just missed a win in the opening tournament of the spring season at the Women's Puerto Rico Classic.

The 7th ranked Lady Paladins had finished in a tie for second place keeping their season long string of finishing no worse than third place in every tournament alive.

"I am very excited about this win," said Furman head coach Jeff Hull. "After com-

ing so close last week, I was very pleased with the focus and determination to get the job done. Finishing the event at even par and winning by 23 shots is something to be very proud of," he said.

In addition to the team win, Alice Chen was able to gain her first college victory. Chen was the only golfer to finish the tournament under par.

"I was also very excited for Alice, as she gained her first collegiate win," Hull added.

Chen started the final round one shot behind teammate Taylor Totland. The Lady Paladin junior finished one shot in front of Michaela Fletcher of Memphis for the victory. Chen was the only golfer to finish under par for the tournament.

"My teammates and coaches have seen me at my worst and at my best and have loved me the same, and this win would not have happened without them or my family and friends encouraging me every step of the way," said Chen.

The two-time All-SoCon golfer has finished second three times including earlier

this year at the Lady Paladin.

"God raises us up in due time, and that there's a time for everything. I'm looking forward to the rest of what God has in store this season," added Chen.

Furman placed four golfers in the top six places and all five golfers finished in the top-15. Totland finished in third place while Natalie Srinivasan finished in fifth place. Haylee Harford shot a 1-under par 71 to claim sixth place and Reona Hirai finished the tournament in a tie for fourteenth place.

At the spring opener in Puerto Rico, Harford was co-medalist, but the team came up one shot behind NC State.

Five golfers tied with the Lady Paladin sophomore who won her second tournament of the year. She won the season opening tournament in Minnesota.

"We played well, finished second in a strong field, and Haylee was co-champion. It is always our goal to have a chance to win with nine holes to play. Unfortunately, we couldn't finish it off. It has been a while since we competed, so it is nice to start the spring with a good finish," said Hull.



Marley Felthousen led Converse College to a victory at the Converse Spring Invite. Felthousen won the individual championship in the event.

Converse wins its Spring Invite tourney

The Converse Valkyries put together their best team round of the season as the host team won their own Converse Spring Invite presented by Founders Federal Credit Union at the Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg.

Converse started the final round in third **Converse wins..** continued on page 12

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Boiling Springs has won three straight South Carolina AAAA titles and this year will try to win the first AAAAA championship. The team returns all but one golfer from the squad that won the title in 2016. Christ Church is ready to repeat as a state champion. The Cavaliers have been moved up to AA this year. The team returns all but one starter from last year's team which won its fourth straight state Class A championship.

Can Boiling Springs and Christ Church keep winning?

Preseason HS poll picks last year's champs to repeat

If you believe the preseason South Carolina Golf Coaches poll you can just send the trophies to all four of last year's champions again in 2017.

There is good reason to believe that the defending champions are likely to repeat when you look at the rosters and history of each champion.

Boiling Springs won their third straight AAAA title and now moves up to the AAAAA Classification.

The Bulldogs return every member of the team that won the title at Furman last spring.

Led by the South Carolina Junior Golfer of the Year, Trent Phillips, the Bulldogs have experience and talent at all five positions, and even more talent on the bench.

South Carolina Golf Coaches Pre-Season Ranking

AAAAA - 1 BoilingSprings, 2 Gaffney, 3 Wando, 4 Byrnes, 5 Dorman, 6 Lexington, 7 JL Mann, 8 Easley, 9 Spring Valley, 10 Sumter.

AAAA - 1 AC Flora, 2 Wren, 3 N Myrtle Beach, 4 Hilton Head, 5 North Augusta, 6 Eastside, 7 Myrtle Beach, 8 Hartsville, 9 South Aiken, 10 Chapin.

AAA - 1 Waccamaw, 2 Bishop England, 3 Pendleton, 4 Gilbert, 5 Bluffton, 6 Emerald, 7 Mid-Carolina, 8 Aynor, 9 Camden, 10 Oceanside Collegiate.

AA-A - 1 Christ Church, 2 Ninety Six, 3 St. Joseph's, 4 Fox Creek, 5 Andrew Jackson, 6 Buford, 7 McBee, 8 Southside Christian, 9 Bamberg-Ehrhardt, 10 (T) Saluda & Barnwell.

The Blade Junior Champion and future Gamecock golfer Harrison Corbin and his brother Graham are joined by Josh Sprouse and Cole Hair ready to make another championship run.

"We expect to win and we are going to work this year to make sure we are ready to win," said Josh Pruitt the Boiling Springs

head coach.

In addition to a difficult region schedule which includes four of the top five teams in the state the Bulldogs will play in top-flight tournaments all year.

"I want us to play against the best competition and we can get better. I want to make sure we don't let up," Pruitt said.

Christ Church will be attempting to win their fifth straight title and their eighth championship in the last ten years.

However, this year the competition will be a little different as the Cavaliers move up to play in the AA classification.

"We lost a very good player, Stephen Reynolds, to graduation, but we gained a couple of pretty solid young golfers," said Christ Church coach Kristen Rooke.

Members of last year's championship team are still very young. The projected lineup ranges from juniors to 7th graders.

Rafe and Harry Reynolds, Jack Walker, Sumner Haney and Walker Jennings helped win the title last year.

Peyton Gillespie, who finished as the runner-up in the Girls AAA-AA-A championship last fall adds another top golfer to the team.

"Things are pretty solid for the future of the program. We are going to play in big tournaments and I believe we will be ready for the challenges in AA," added Rooke.

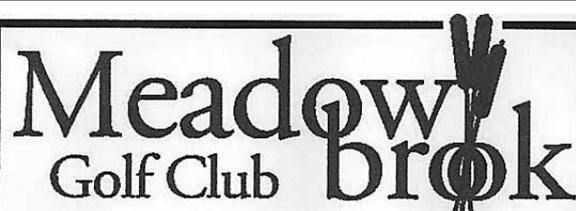
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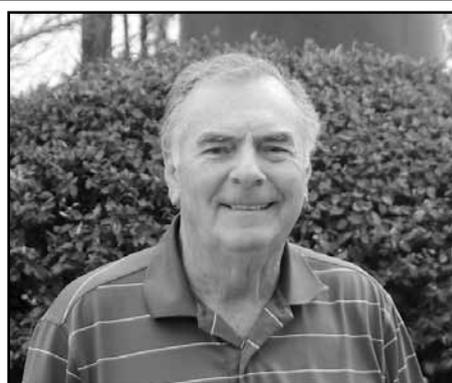
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Guy Porter recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as a PGA Professional. Porter grew up in Simpsonville and spent time as a professional in New England and Florida. As a young professional he worked for legendary Henry Picard at Seminole Golf Club in Florida.

Golden anniversary

Porter celebrates 50 years as a PGA professional

Do you remember Whippoorwill Golf Club? Do you remember when the name was changed to Carolina Springs?

Guy Porter does because he was the one who changed the name of the course near Simpsonville.

Porter recently completed his 50th year as a PGA Professional. His life in golf began in Simpsonville and carried him to the northeast and to Florida and then back home to South Carolina.

"I can remember being on a couple of high school championship teams when I was a kid," recalled the 78 year old lifetime pro.

Porter was recently honored by the PGA with a special award for his half century of service.

"I've had the good fortune to work for and with a lot of great people over the years," he said.

Porter was the head pro at clubs in Connecticut and most recently in Florida. However, his impact on golf in the Upstate is centered around Carolina Springs.

"In 1975 the course became available and three of us bought Whippoorwill with the intention of making it a first class golf club," he said.

The course had fallen into disrepair and needed a facelift and some work on the bones.

Porter's group installed the Bermuda greens that served the club until recently and restored the clubhouse.

"We picked the name because of all the springs that are around the course. It just seemed like a natural name for the place," he said.

Porter stayed at Carolina Springs for 13 years. Among the people who worked with or around the course are several fixtures in Upstate golf.

Long time area instructor and pro Bob Bell got his start at the course. Club repair specialist Dave Warren began his business at the shop.

"Chris Patton used to work on the course when I was there. It was no surprise to me to see his success in golf," said Porter about the 1989 US Amateur champion.

Porter's return to the Upstate was to be back in the area with his family. He is helping his great-grandson Aiden pick up the game.

He keeps his hand in the golf business by selling a line of golf gloves to local golf shops.

"I hope he can enjoy the game as much as I have. I've always tried to grow the game and help the PGA in any way I could," concluded Porter as he celebrates his golden anniversary in golf.



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Converse College coach Patty McGowan celebrates with her team after the Valkyries won their own tournament at the Carolina Country Club. Converse won their home event by four shots. Marley Felthousen of Converse won the individual title.

Converse wins...continued from page 9

place trailing first round leader Kings University and the second place team from Lincoln Memorial. Converse shot an opening round 318 to trail the leader by three shots.

In the final round the Valkyries combined to shoot a 309 total to finish the 36 hole event at 627. The outstanding final round allowed Converse to climb into first place and win the tournament by 4-shots over the first round leader.

The Valkyries were led by Marley Felthousen. The Converse senior held the first

round lead by shooting a 73 and earned the individual title with a final round 76. She finished one shot in front of Alexa Rippy of Trevecca Nazariene University.

Felthousen won the tournament as a freshman and finished as the runner-up last year.

Tyler Dawson had the best final round for Converse shooting a 2-over par 74 to help her team to the title. Megan Dresser finished in 12th place and Ansley Vaughan and Grace Magera helped get the win.

First win...

continued from page 7

Clemson was led by Alice Hewson. The Tiger sophomore shot rounds of 68-73-68 for a 7 under par total and a tie for a fifth place individual finish. Hewson finished four shots behind individual champion Chich Jessica Peng of Mississippi State.

“I really felt like Alice would make a good showing as she came back from the break with a conviction to really work hard and help lead the team,” the coach said.

The Tigers got an important contribution from the newest member of their team.

Kennedy Swann enrolled at Clemson for the spring semester and played in her first tournament as a Tiger. Swann, from Austin, TX, shot a 54 hole total of 4-under par to finish in a tie for 12th. All three of the freshman’s rounds counted towards the team score.

“Kennedy played well in practice before the event and continued her great play at the tournament,” said the coach.

Ana Paul Valdes, and Sydney Legacy all contributed counting rounds during the tournament in New Orleans. Marisa Mesana also had a good outing playing as an individual.

The Tigers finished in front of eight teams ranked higher than Clemson in the Golf Stat ranking. Texas, Wisconsin, Kent State, Auburn and the host team from UCF all finished behind Clemson.

“We were the 9th best team in the field at UCF so we were able to compete with some really good teams. This should give the girls some confidence as we head into a strong spring schedule,” said Hester.

The victory coupled with a strong sixth place finish at the Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate has given the Tigers a strong start this spring.

Clemson Men...

continued from page 7

Senior Carson Young also earned a top-10 finish coming in one shot behind Redman in a tie for seventh place.

Austin Langdale, who has recovered from some first semester injuries, finished in 22nd and Josh Fickes rounded out the Tigers five players with a 40th place finish.

“We have not had the best from our two seniors and we are not getting much from the five hole and those spots should be a real strength for us,” said Penley.

The fifth spot has been a real battle for playing time so far this year. Jonathan Recctor had a good tournament in Hawaii and Fickes was solid in Puerto Rico.

“We have some depth at that spot, but we are going to have to make a decision soon on who is going to play for the rest of the season,” he said.

After playing in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Nebraska so far this year, the Tigers will play their next three tournaments in the state.

Clemson will play in Aiken, at the Furman Intercollegiate and in their own tournament at the Cliffs at Keowee Falls.

“One of the reasons we did the schedule this way was for our seniors, Austin and Carson. It will be nice for their families and local fans see them finish out their career here at Clemson,” Penley said.

The win in Puerto Rico gave the Tigers a big jump up in the college golf polls. Clemson moved into the top-20 and currently holds the 16th spot in the poll.

“Our guys are going into the rest of the season with a lot of confidence, they have no reason not to be confident the way they have played. I don’t think we have played our best golf yet,” concluded Penley.



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Phillips wins another Major

Inman golfer runs away with title at Dustin Johnson Jr.

Trent Phillips is making this golf thing look too easy. The Boiling Springs High School golfer earned another major title capturing the title at the Dustin Johnson Junior World Championship.

The two-time South Carolina Junior Golf of the Year opened the 54 hole event with an impressive 67 to jump into the lead.

"I had a really good finish the first day and that set me up for the rest of the tournament," said Phillips. "Shooting a 31 on the back was really a good way to start," he added.

On his last 13 holes, Phillips carded 5 birdies an eagle and didn't make any bogeys.

"My chipping was really working well for me. I was able to get the ball close and took advantage of it," said Phillips.

In the second round, the future Georgia golfer shot 1-over par while Teddy Tetak from Limbach, Slovenia shot a 2-under par 70 to pull within a shot of the lead.

Phillips didn't change the approach he had to each round of the tournament.

"I really didn't think too much about the other players. I just wanted to play my



Trent Phillips won another major junior championship when he earned a six shot victory at the second annual Dustin Johnson Junior World Championship played at the TPC Myrtle Beach.

game the way I usually do and just play the game," he said.

Phillips played a steady final round finishing at 1-under par. His lead ballooned to six shots as the rest of the field was unable to make a charge at the Carolinas' top junior golfer.

"I was in the group with the golfers who could have come after me, but they kind of fell back and I just kept playing steady. I was pretty relaxed both days. Shooting that opening round 67 helped a lot," he said.

This is the second year of the Dustin Johnson Junior World Championship. Phillips noticed Johnson watching him hitting balls on the range for a few minutes before the first round.

"I don't think he had a clue that I was the player of the year in his home state. I got to talk to him at the dinner and he is a pretty cool guy," Phillips said about the World's Number 1 golfer.

One of the prizes the winner of the tournament receives is an exemption into the Bobby Chapman Junior at The Country Club of Spartanburg.

Phillips will not need the exemption because he already is coming back to the prestigious junior tournament as the defending champion.

"It was a great tournament. The course was phenomenal and everything about was as good as any junior tournament I have played. I really enjoyed the tournament and the win," concluded Phillips.



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Gary Moore is the new head golf professional at Cherokee Valley. Moore is an Asheville native who has been a PGA Professional since 1993. Chip Ridley has been named the new head PGA Professional at The Creek Golf Club in Spartanburg. Ridley is a 2010 graduate of the Clemson professional golf management program.



On the move

New golf pros at The Creek and Cherokee Valley

A pair of familiar golf professionals have new jobs at their courses to start the spring golf season.

Gary Moore is the new head PGA Professional at Cherokee Valley. Moore had been the shop manager at the club for the last several years.

Chip Ridley is the new head PGA Professional at The Creek Golf Club after serving as the Director of Instruction.

Moore is an Asheville native and UNC-Asheville grad. He began his professional career working at the Asheville Country Club.

He has extensive experience as a club professional at both private and membership clubs.

Moore was the head golf professional at The Country Club of Louisiana before moving back to the Upstate.

Moore was the head golf professional when The Patriot at Grand Harbor opened for play.

One of the programs that Moore hopes to develop at Cherokee Valley is a more active Junior Golf program.

"We are in the middle of a lot of schools here and we see some youngsters play the course. I want to make sure that we are open and have programs for lots of kids to enjoy playing golf," he said.

Moore is in the process of designing a junior golf program for the spring and summer.

In addition to his duties at The Creek, Ridley had been a site director for The First Tee of Spartanburg at the club.

However, The Creek has decided to pursue its own junior program and Ridley will be involved with juniors in addition to his role as the club professional.

"I look forward to working with Mike Byce (Director of Golf) in developing a new junior program that better fits our members and guests needs," said Ridley.

As a PGA member, Ridley has seen the growth of the PGA Junior League programs and is considering adding The Creek to the growing number of clubs involved in the youth team golf concept.

"There are a lot of things we can do with our facilities here to help young golfers enjoy playing the game. I am also looking forward to working with all our members and guests to make sure they have a great experience," said the 2010 Clemson Professional Golf Management program graduate.

Amateur Schedule

Schedule picks up for Upstate Ams and Junior golfers

Please send your tournament information to us at least 6 weeks in advance of your event.

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16th Annual Cobb's Glen Junior Invitational, March 4th & 5th. Cobb's Glen Country Club. The tournament is open to all junior golfers who are still enrolled in high school.

The field is divided into two age groups for boys and girls. Ages 11-14 and 15-18 compete for division titles. Golfers from either age group can win the overall championship.

Entry forms are available at www.cobbsglen.com/junior-invitational.

Smoke-The-Oaks, March 18th -19th Southern Oaks. The two-player Captain's Choice tournament is open to all golfers.

The format for the tournament will be a Tough and Easy Day.

Entry information is available by calling the Golf Shop at 864-859-6698.

Spring Fling Scramble, March 25th, Links O'Tryon. The two player Texas Scramble is open to all golfers. Gross and Net Divisions. Senior and Ladies tees.

Call the golf shop at 864-468-5099 for entry information.

Two-Man Scramble, April 1-2, Cherokee National. The tournament is open to all golfers. Gift Certificate Pay-out, Entry fee includes lunches, range carts. Optional Skins game.

Call the golf shop at 864-489-9417 to register.

Texas-Two Man, April 22-23, Pickens Country Club, The tournament is open to all golfers and will be flighted after the first round.

Call the golf shop to register at 864-878-6083

J.P. Traynham, April 29-30th, Paris

Mountain Country Club. The stroke play tournament is open to all golfers and flighted after the first round. Senior Division available.

Call the golf shop at 864-834-4781 to register.

Festival of Flowers, June 10-11th, The Patriot at Grand Harbor. The tournament is open to amateurs only age 15 and up with a current USGA Handicap Index.

Three divisions include Championship, Club and Senior (50 and up). Gift certificates are awarded to Flight winners.

Entry fee includes golf, range, carts and lunch both days.

Entry forms are available from Craig Malone at craig@grandharbor.net



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Special Recognition to Herb Sargent of Saluda Valley. Sargent played 347 rounds of golf in 2016.

Bo Ream, Thornblade, #9, 176 yds. 6-iron, Witnesses - Bobby Ream, Greg Moore.

Jurgen Buch, Boscobel, #6, 167 yds, 5 wood. Witnesses - Chris Miller, Taylor White, Morgan Deck, Brad Bryce, Will Landry.

Clayton Taylor, (age 11) Woodfin Ridge, #5, 162 yds, 5-iron, Witnesses - Barry Taylor, Joel and Walter Greer.

Andy Thompson, Saluda Valley, #12, 140 yds. 9-iron, Witnesses Billy Martin, Mike McCoy.

Amber Amaker, Woodfin Ridge, #5, 130yds, 7-iron.

Jim Crain, Southern Oaks, #11.

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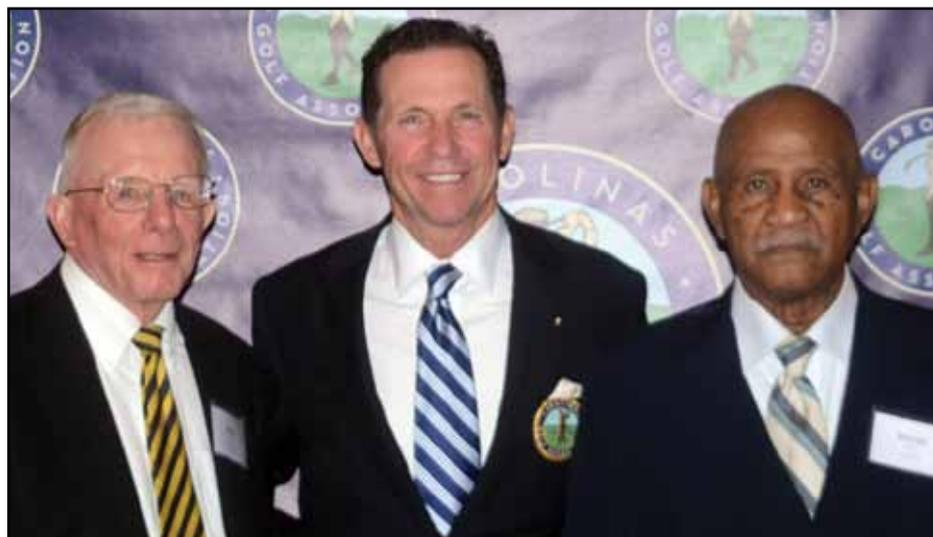
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John Gerring of Greenville (center-left) and Willie McRae (center-right) of Pinehurst became members of the Carolinas Golf Association Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame Chairman Jackson Hughes (center) of Greenville inducted the two newest members of the Hall. Kaitlyn Dambaugh (left) of Goose Creek was honored as the top women golfer in the Carolinas while Trent Phillips (right) of Inman was named the top Carolinas junior golfer. Scott Harvey (below-left) of Greensboro was named the top amateur in the Carolinas for sixth straight year. Wofford recruit Ryan Marter (below-right) of Columbia won the David Parrott award from the CGA.

Gerring and McRae join CGA Hall of Fame

Harvey, Simson, Phillips, Dambaugh also honored

The Carolinas Golf Association added two new members to its Hall of Fame.

PGA Professional John Gerring of Greenville and Pinehurst Resort Caddie Master Willie McRae were honored at the CGA Golf Night at Pine Needles Lodge in Southern Pines, NC.

Gerring, now an instructor at The Eagle Zone in Greenville, has a long list of accomplishments including already being a member of the PGA Hall of Fame and the national PGA Club Professional of the Year.

"I know there are a lot more people who are deserving," said Gerring. "I just know I owe a lot of this award to the many people who have helped me along the way," he said.

McRae has been a caddy at the famous Pinehurst courses. He has caddied for professional golfers, amateurs, US presidents and golf enthusiasts since 1943.

Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford were the



presidents McRae caddied for as well as thousands of others for more than 70 years at famed Pinehurst No. 2.

McRae's days as a caddy extend back to looping for the legendary Donald Ross who designed Pinehurst.

The new Hall of Fame member is best known for his easy going attitude and ability to relax golfers to allow them to play better.

His low key style of helping golfers didn't allow for him to ever be nervous himself no matter whose bag he was carrying.

"Presidents put their clothes on the same way as you; they don't jump into them. He may have a higher job than me, but that don't mean nothing because in



God's eyes we're all the same," he said.

Amongst Gerring's accomplishments as a golfer were an ACC Championship and being a member of two Wake Forest league titles.

In college he was a teammate of Arnold Palmer, but as a freshman was not eligible to play in college competition.

However, he and Palmer were frequent partners in side matches.

His professional career included an apprenticeship at East Lake in Atlanta where he delivered mail to the club's most famous member, Bobby Jones.

Gerring was the head golf professional at some of the most prestigious clubs in the country. The Atlanta Country Club, Bloom-

field Hills, Peachtree and Biltmore Forest.

Locally he helped build Holly Tree and was head professional at Green Valley and Greenville Country clubs.

"The associations I have had has been most important to me. Played with Arnold Palmer, was friends with Harvey Penick and Bob Toski. My brother worked for Jack Nicklaus for over 30 years, so I got to be around him too. I would not have been able to travel this path if not for golf," he said.

The two were inducted as part of the Golf Night ceremony that also honored the top players in the Carolinas.

Scott Harvey of Greensboro won his sixth straight Men's Amateur Player of the Year Award, while Paul Simson of Raleigh received his eighth senior player of the year award.

Inman's Trent Phillips was recognized as the top junior boys player in the Carolinas. Katelyn Dambaugh from Goose Creek, a member of the USC golf team, was named the top women's amateur in the two states.

Wofford recruit Ryan Marter from Columbia was presented with the prestigious David Parrot award for junior golfers in team competition.

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