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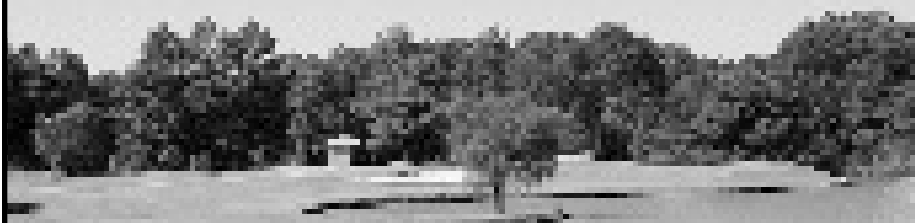
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Roberts wins Champions title

Chesnee C.C. golfer wins SCGA Champions event

Kevin Roberts of Boiling Springs shot a final round 71 to hold off Brent Roof of Columbia to win the SCGA Tournament of Champions.

The event was played at the Tradition Golf Club on Pawleys Island and featured club champions from the 2007 golf season.

Roberts, the defending club champion at Chesnee Country Club, trailed defending Tournament of Champions champion T.J. Hines of Woodfin Ridge by a shot after the first round of the tournament.

Roberts moved into the lead early in the second round. The tournament leader made a series of pressure putts down the stretch to claim the victory.

The Chesnee club champion made long par putts on the final three holes.

Brent Roof of Columbia finished second in the tournament after suffering a double bogey when he was penalized for hitting the wrong ball late in the round.

This was the second year in a row that a golfer from Spartanburg County won the championship at the tournament.

Hines finished the championship tied for third with Raymond Wooten of



Kevin Roberts of Boiling Springs is the SCGA Tournament of Champions winner. Roberts, the club champion at Chesnee, won the title at the Tradition Golf Club on Pawleys Island. (File photo)

Clemson. Justin Hornick of Roebuck and Walter Todd of Laurens tied for sixth place in the 36 hole tournament.

In the Men's Senior Club championship, Joe Vignati of Bluffton topped Spartanburg's Randy Mahaffey by one shot for the division title.

Ric Cobb of Taylors and Pebble Creek won the One-Day Senior division title by three shots over Frank Williams of Greenwood.

The tournament field consisted of 123 golfers, men and women, club and one day tournament champions from all over South Carolina.

Eagle Zone named top 100 golf range

The Eagle Zone has been named as one of the top-100 golf ranges in the country. The ranking of golf ranges was done by the Golf Range Association and published in the winter 2008 issue of the Association's magazine.

The Eagle Zone has won club fitting awards from Ping and other manufacturers in addition to the 2008 top-100 range ranking.

Steve Goforth of The Eagle Zone was also named one of the top-100 club fitters in the world by KZG.

Poppa Puff returns to the radio in Feb.

Southern Oaks golf professional Wayne Myers' radio program returns for a new season. The weekly golf show is broadcast on WCCP-FM, 104.9 and returns to the air this month.

The Perfect Drive is broadcast on Saturday mornings from 8-10 AM.

Myers hosts the program featuring interviews with local and national golfers as well as contests and golf trivia.

The show also includes a popular segment on the rules of golf and information on upcoming events in the area.

Dave Warren's Broken Club Repair Shop is now located at Golf Headquarters!

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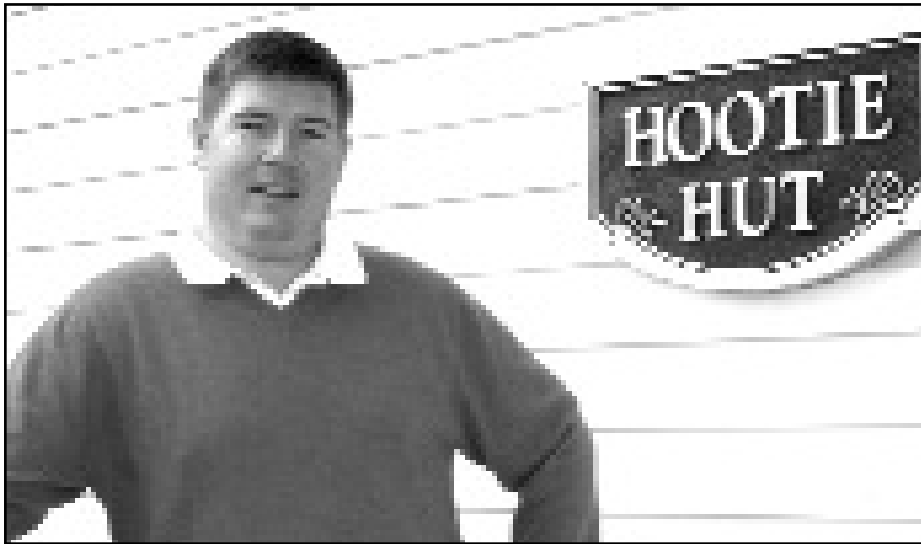


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Spartanburg's Mike Byce has been named the junior golf leader of the year by the Carolinas Golf Association. Byce has been the leader of the Spartanburg Junior Golf Facility at The Creek Golf Club. Byce came through the junior ranks in the Carolinas and is a former Carolinas Junior Champion. The long time area PGA Professional will receive his award at the Carolinas PGA annual meeting this month in Myrtle Beach.

Byce named Carolinas top junior golf leader

The Creek golf pro honored by CPGA for work with kids

The Carolinas PGA has named Mike Byce of The Creek Golf Club as the Carolinas Junior Golf Leader of the Year. Byce has been instrumental in the development of The First Tee of Spartanburg and the expansion of the junior golf program in the county.

"I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to play golf as a young person. Now I enjoy working with The First Tee of Spartanburg to create opportunities for more children to be exposed to the game and the valuable life skills that it teaches," he said.

Byce has gone from being a top junior golfer in the county to the leader of a program that helps more than 2,000 youngsters enjoy the game each year.

As a junior golfer, Byce showed his ability on the course. He won both the Spartanburg County Junior Amateur and the County Amateur. He also was the Carolinas Junior Champion and won a number of South Carolina junior champi-

onships.

"I benefited from playing golf as a kid and I learned a lot of great lessons from the game that I hope can be shared with the young golfers who participate in the programs we have here at The Creek," he said.

Byce played golf at Clemson for four years and was the captain of the team as a senior.

After graduation, Byce worked as a PGA professional at several area clubs before joining the staff at The Creek as the director of the junior program.

As a professional Byce has earned a spot in the Nationwide Tour's BMW Classic and has been a consistent top finisher in section events, but it is his work with junior players that earned him the respect of his fellow professionals.

"The nice thing about this award is that it comes from other professionals who know what it takes to get things done. They were able to recognize what we are doing for junior golfers and I am very proud to accept it on behalf of everyone with our program," he said.

The Creek has hosted the Spartanburg Junior Golf Facility since it was opened in 2002. During that time, the facility has

been used to help young players get a start in golf. "We would love to produce another Tiger Woods from these kids but the most important thing we can do is give them a chance to enjoy the game. If we get a great player out of our program that will be exciting, but we want as many kids as possible to learn from the game," said Byce.

The program at The Creek is one of the model junior golf programs in the state. Recently the Spartanburg program has added Laura Parris as the director. "We have grown so much we needed more help and Laura is a perfect addition to the program. We still have room to grow and we want more junior golfers to take advantage of our facility and the programs we have here," he said.

A large part of any junior golf program is to make sure that young golfers who have not had the opportunity to enjoy the game have a place to play. Much of Byce's work at the Spartanburg facility has been to make organizations and clubs aware of the facility and its role in the game.

"There still are a lot of people who don't know about the work that is being done for junior golfers in the area. There

are a lot of great programs and very good people who have given their time to make these opportunities available and there is room for many more," he offered.

The Creek Golf Club and the Spartanburg Junior Golf Facility operate a par-3 course that is ideal for junior golf development.

The club also features a Hootie Hut contributed to the program through the efforts of Hootie and the Blowfish, Monday After the Masters tournament.

Funding for the junior program is always critical for the continued development of young golfers. Byce and The Creek have given a great deal of time energy and funds to make the program a success.

"I know a lot of people like to talk about life lessons that are learned on the golf course but it is even more important than learning how to swing a club. Junior golf has made a difference in many young people's lives and I'm very proud of what we have been able to do here," he said.

Byce will be honored at the Carolinas PGA Awards presentations held this month in Myrtle Beach.

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Makeover at Meadowbrook

Course will remain open during major renovation project

Most remodeling projects require golf courses to be closed for several months but Meadowbrook Golf Club will reshape its course without closing down.

Club pro and owner William Deck has hired noted golf designer Rick Robbins to redesign the existing course and blend in some new property recently acquired by Meadowbrook.

"When we finish we will have six new holes on the course," said Deck. "We will still be an 18 hole course but we will have the new holes and many redesigned holes for golfers," he said.

The renovation and remodeling of the course was made possible by the addition of some adjacent property that had Meadowbrook locked into its present location.

The course was built by Deck's father and uncle 45 years ago. It has operated as a friendly family golf course in the area.

"There has been a real boom in golf course development around here in the last few years. We have seen several high end courses open in the area. We are not trying to be one of those, but we want Meadowbrook to be as good as it can be," said Deck.

The Robbins family developed golf courses in Boone and Blowing Rock. Beech Mountain, Hound Ears Club and Elk River are several courses developed by the family.

Robbins has been involved in the design work at Deer Brook in Shelby, Crow Creek and Mill Creek among other area courses.

"We chose Rick because his ideas really fit into what we hoped for the course," said Deck.



Meadowbrook Golf Club near Rutherfordton will begin a major remodeling project in the spring. The club has added land around the course and will redesign the existing course and begin a residential development at the course. Club professional and owner William Deck (below) said the course will be open during the remodeling project.



The six new holes will be designed from the existing holes on the course. The additional property added to the course will allow construction of new holes while play continues.

"The way our plan is set up we will always have 18 holes open. When we finish the course will be very different than it looks now and we will have some golf course residences," said Deck.

Among the changes made to the course will be some subtle changes in the greens and tees. Both will be enlarged to

help course maintenance and also increase the options on how the course will be played.

Safety of players and visibility of where shots should be played will be stressed in the design.

"The task we have been given is to try to retain as much of the character of the Meadowbrook course as possible, while improving on the aspects of the course that will bring it more into the type of facility expected at a nice resort," said Robbins.

When the renovations are completed the course could be played from a distance of 6,900 yards. Some bunkers will be added to provide "carry bunkers" that will encourage golfers to play their shots for strategic advantages. The design will create a greater risk & reward for play.

"We are looking forward to starting the improvements this spring. We are going to make sure the changes keep the course the friendly place to play it has been since it opened in 1963," concluded Deck.

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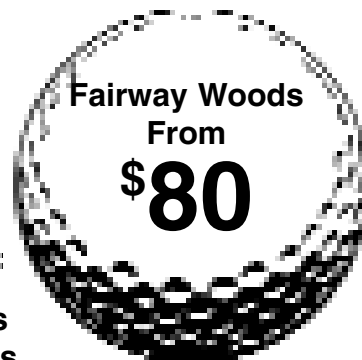
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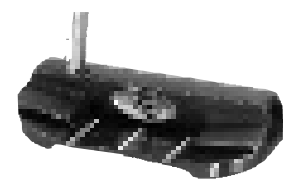


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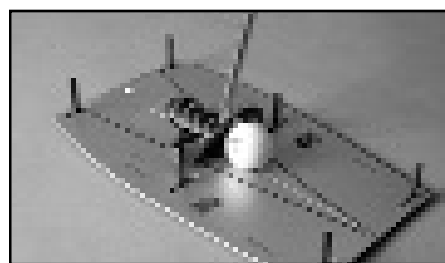
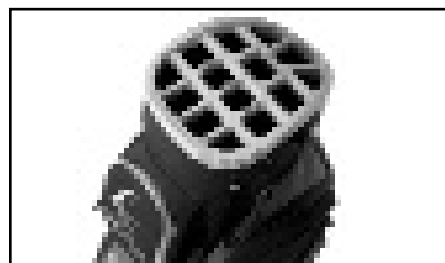
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Nickent (above-left) is leading the way with their new interchangeable shaft driver the Evolver. Adams golf has introduced a new line of drivers and some high powered Tour stars Aaron Baddeley and Rory Sabbatini as spokesmen.

PGA Show stoppers

New products will be arriving soon at your local shop

The PGA Merchandise show in Orlando has always helped get the golf season started. The introduction of new products and new technologies give golfers a nudge to get back on the course using the newest equipment.

The buzz at this year's show surrounded interchangeable shaft technology. Several companies, lead by Nickent, want to convince golfers that two shafts are better than one, especially if you can change the shaft at home.

The Evolver comes with two shafts, a wrench and a head of your choice. A wide range of shaft models will be available so in theory golfers could have a multitude of clubs with just one club head.

The USGA has opened the door for interchangeable technology but keep in mind any change to a club has to be made before the round begins.

Callaway Golf and Taylormade are also introducing interchangeable shaft model clubs this spring.

Adams Golf may have the complete line of clubs golfers will be talking about this year.

The company that helped bring hybrids into iron sets has new drivers and irons as well as a new presence on Tour. Aaron Baddeley and Rory Sabbatini will promote the Adams line.

Fybrids are part of a well received new look from Wilson. The combination hybrid and fairway wood may give golfers more shot options with fewer clubs.

The Skylz driver training aid is promoted by noted teacher Rick Smith. The club has a computer in the head and lets you know when your swing is not correct.

Cleveland Golf will help you keep track of your clubs with the Club Count bag. The new bag has built sensors that trigger a light on the outside of the bag if you don't return all your clubs to the bag.

Esoteric Golf has introduced a putting trainer that lets you keep your eye on the ball. The alignment plate is also a mirror and gives you a visual confirmation of your eye position over the ball.

Callaway could have a new hot competitor to golfs number one ball.

The Tour ix is Callaway's first four piece ball. The company says the ball generates less spin and improved feel.

Some products are in shops now while others will start arriving in March and April

(Top-Bottom) Wilson's new Fybrids combine hybrids and Fairway Woods. Noted golf instructor Rick Smith is promoting Skylz a training club with a computer in the head that lets you know if your swing is off. Cleveland has introduced the Club Count bag. The bag reminds you if you left a club behind on the course. Esoteric Golf has introduced a putting improvement aid that lets you keep your eye on the ball. Callaway may have the next hot golf ball. The Tour ix.

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Trahan wins second Tour title

Clemson grad tops Leonard for title at Bob Hope Classic

DJ Trahan earned his second PGA Tour victory with an amazing come from behind victory at the Bob Hope Desert Classic. Trahan fired a final round 65 to come from four shots off the lead in the final round to win the tournament by three shots.

"I obviously knew starting the day it was going to be a long, hard fought day with Justin having a four-stroke lead. However, I did what I knew I had to do. I knew I had to go out and shoot a low number, and fortunately, I was able to put some good shots together and make some putts, and it is a wonderful feeling," he said.

The former Dorman standout won the 2006 Southern Farm Bureau Classic in a three hole playoff. While he earned his second win in regulation play, it did feel a little like match play down the stretch.

"Four shots is not an insurmountable lead by any means. You certainly don't feel optimistic playing against a guy like Justin Leonard. He's won a Major Championship, Ryder Cup, I don't know how many times he won on Tour, but it's definitely more than me," he said.

While Trahan made up ground on the par-5 holes, he got some help from Leonard who three putted the tenth hole while Trahan birdied nine and ten to cut the lead to one shot. Leonard made another bogey on the eleventh hole to fall back into a tie with Trahan for the lead.

"The birdie on nine was what really sparked me. I would have never thought that after 11 holes we would have been tied up," he said.

Trahan took a one shot lead to the final hole. The former Clemson All-American split the fairway with a perfect drive while Leonard drove his tee shot



D.J. Trahan won his second PGA Tour title with a three shot victory over Justin Leonard at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. Trahan came from four shots off the lead in the final round to win the championship in the 90 hole tournament. (file photo)

into the water on the right side of the fairway.

The miss-fire by Leonard opened the door for Trahan to safely play the difficult finishing hole. "When he hit the ball in the water, obviously the only thing that it meant to me was my game plan was going to change, because par would win me the golf tournament. I didn't need to do anything stupid," said Trahan.

The win gave Trahan a much different feeling than his first victory. "It's probably not quite as satisfying as the first one because the first is always the sweetest. Now I feel like hopefully that I can use this as a stepping stone to take my game to where I feel like it can be," he said.

After an outstanding amateur career, which included helping Clemson win an NCAA Championship, winning the USGA Public Links title, earning a spot on the Walker Cup team and being named the top college golfer in the country the 27-year-old Charleston resident's PGA Tour success has taken longer than he expected.

"I was disappointed when I didn't

make it through Q-School when I first came out. I felt like I belonged out here and that I could play. I had high expectations and hopefully now I'll continue what I'm doing you can't meet higher expectations than winning. That's pretty awesome today," he said.

Trahan earned over a million dollars in 2006 and 2007 and is less than \$200,000 from topping his individual season earnings so far this year.

Last year he earned three top-ten finishes including a second place finish at the Frys.com Classic.

The victory was the third overall win in Trahan's five year professional career. His first victory was on the Nationwide Tour at the 2004 Miccosukee Championship.

The victory all but assures Trahan a place in the season ending Fed-Ex Cup playoffs and more importantly a trip to the Masters in April.

"It's very special. I played there as an amateur and had not been able to get back so I'm really looking forward to that," he concluded.

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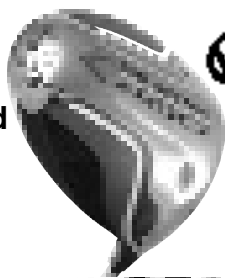
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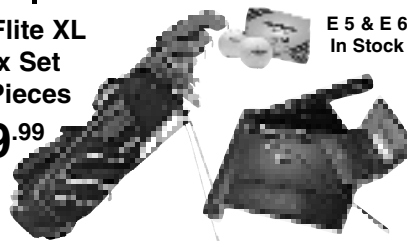
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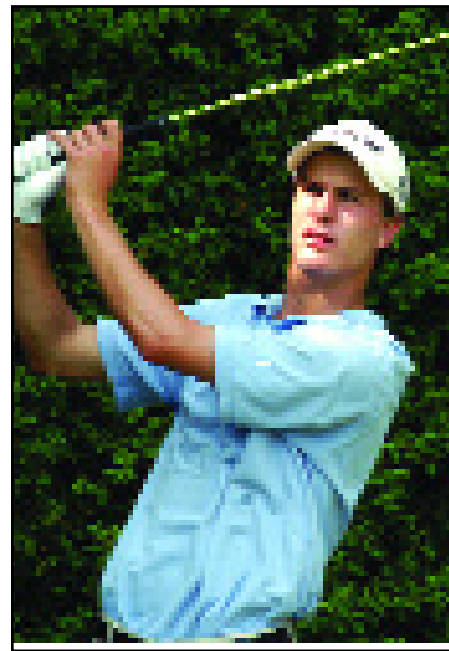
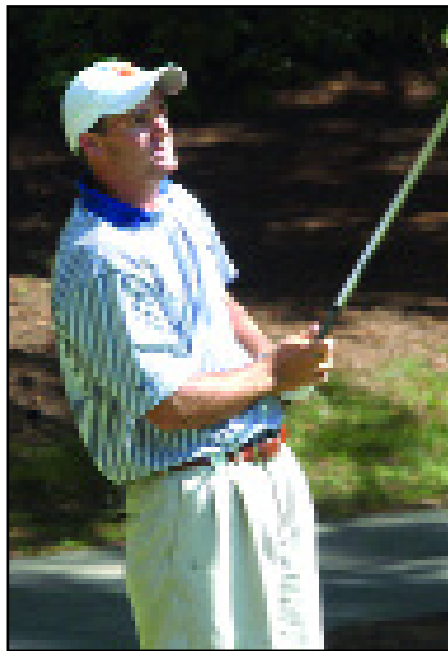
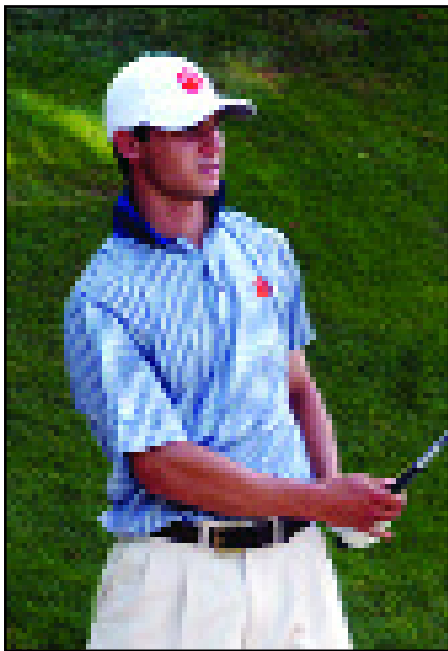
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Clemson golf coach Larry Penley has two fixtures in his starting line-up for the spring portion of the golf season. Kyle Stanley (above-left) and Sam Saunders (above-left, center) will anchor the Tiger's lineup. Phillip Mollica (above-right, center) and Luke Hopkins (above-right) are among a group of talented golfers who will compete for the remaining three spots in the Tigers tournament lineup.

Tigers ready to surge in the Spring

Clemson golfers aim for a return to the NCAA Finals

When Clemson won the 2003 NCAA Golf Championship it changed the level of expectations for every Tiger team to follow the champions.

This spring the expectations will again be high and with good reason. Clemson finished a solid fall campaign with a pair of second place finishes in tournaments with outstanding fields.

Now the Tigers are ready to see if they can take the tremendous potential on the team and produce results.

"I don't know if we are ready to win a national championship, but I do know we are real close," said Clemson golf coach Larry Penley.

The Tigers return a young but talented team for the second half of the season. The team features one of the three best players in the country and enough top

notch players to make a qualifying round the equal of some college events.

Clemson started the fall portion of the year badly according to their coach. They did not play well in Japan or at the first event of the year, but slowly the team started to put things together last fall.

"I think we finished well. We got off to a horrible start but the last two tournaments we finished second at The Brickyard and Isleworth. The tournament at Isleworth was against the best field we will play all year," said the coach.

The Tigers who are used to a spot near the top of the national rankings finished the fall portion of the season ranked 17 in the Golfweek/Sagarin poll.

"We clawed our way back and got headed in the right direction. The last two tournaments gave us some momentum into the spring. We got to find out how good our golf team can be and that should give us some confidence," said the coach.

The time off between the fall and spring portion of the season was used wisely by the Tigers according to Penley.

"They needed to stay active but they also needed to recharge their batteries. We had some guys who needed to turn it up in the weight room and they did. It also was a chance for them to be regular students and they all finished very strong academically," said the coach.

The spring portion of the season starts with the Hilton Head Classic early in February. It is a series of intersquad matches that will be an ingredient in helping Penley decide on which of the many talented players get to start for the Tigers.

The top of the Clemson lineup is solid and spectacular. Kyle Stanley was named All-American as a freshman. He played on the Walker Cup team and came within a few shots of winning the NCAA championship last year.

Stanley was the ACC Freshman of the Year and the Player of the Year.

"I wasn't sure he would be this good this fast," said Penley. "If you follow him around and watch him work and see his focus it is impressive. He willed himself

into a first team All-American and Walker Cup spot," noted the coach.

Stanley has put his name near the top of the list of outstanding college players. Penley is not ready to call his sophomore sensation the best player in the country, but he would not trade Stanley for any of the others.

"We just have to keep finding stuff for him to work on and he will do it. Want to and drive is never going to be an issue with Kyle," said Penley.

The other spot that is locked in for the Tigers is Sam Saunders. The sophomore had the Tigers' best stroke average in the fall. He also is the top Tiger in the classroom making the academic honor roll and posting the top GPA on the team.

"Sam is a big hitter and an aggressive player who brings a lot to the top of our lineup," said Penley.

Senior Tanner Ervin will get the nod to be in the starting line up when the Tigers tee it up in Puerto Rico later this

Clemson... Continued on Page 10

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Gamecocks ready to return to the finals

2007 Regional title lifts spring goals for USC golfers

The South Carolina Gamecock golf team might have surprised everyone in the country except their coach at the end of last season.

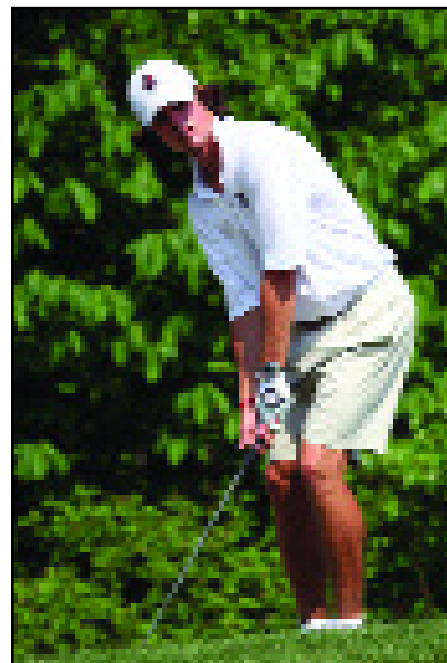
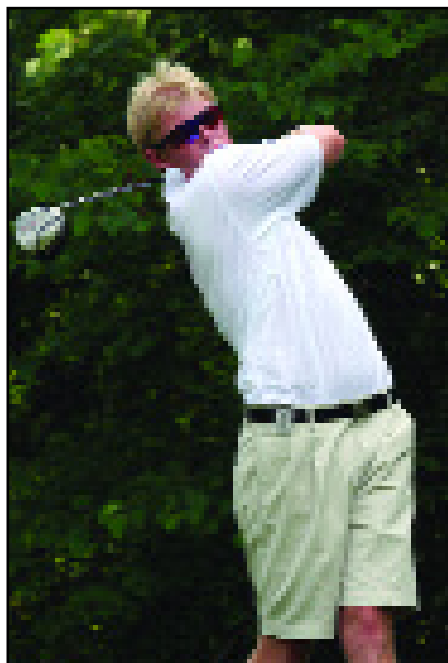
Bill McDonald had seen the signs of a solid team emerging from the spring season. The victory at the NCAA West Regional wasn't as much a surprise as expectations realized.

"I wasn't surprised we played well out West. We were outside the radar. The NCAA Tournament was a pretty good end to our season and with all these guys coming back, they understand they can play with anybody," said the coach.

The fall started off with a tie for first at The Farm. USC and highly ranked Alabama finished on top of an outstanding field at Dalton, Georgia.

"Our primary goal is to get into contention and to win golf tournaments. When we have gotten near the lead we have done a good job of hanging in there but I need to see more of it," said the coach.

The Gamecocks may have lost a little



Mark Anderson (left) and George Bryan, IV lead a strong USC golf team into the spring season. The Gamecock golfers hope to build on their West Regional title last year and challenge for the NCAA Championship later this spring. (USC photos)

focus midway through the fall campaign. The team played solid against some highly ranked competition, but McDonald and the team both expected more from the fall portion of the season.

"Last year we would have celebrated a fourth place finish but when we finished fourth in Macon at the Brickyard

this year no one was happy. It was a long ride home," said the coach.

The attitude after a tournament may be the best indication that the Gamecock golf team has set some high goals for this season.

"We can't say we are a young team anymore. We have five juniors and two

seniors. I feel like this group is close to doing some good things. We were right on the edge of it this fall," said McDonald.

The fall portion of the schedule presents a unique challenge because most college golfers come back to school after a busy summer of amateur competition. They may be tired and the most important part of the season is still months away.

"We try to keep them fresh in the fall. Not as many qualifying rounds and when we get to November we push the conditioning program. We also concentrate on academics. We got off to a good start in the classroom. Our team has had three semesters in a row with a GPA over 3.4," said McDonald.

Now McDonald is putting together a line-up that can once again play in the NCAA finals.

"We played nine guys in the fall and had eleven eligible to compete. That experience is going to pay off this spring. The lower part of our lineup really benefited from the experience," said the coach.

The top of the Gamecock lineup is set with senior captain Mark Anderson and sophomore George Bryan IV. Bryan finished tenth in the West regional last year

Gamecocks ... Continued on Page 12

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Tigers...Continued from Page 8

month, but after Ervin the line-up is wide open.

"The good news is we have a lot of great players to choose from and I'm excited about our depth. The bad news is we are going to be leaving good players at home and it is tough to keep everyone happy," said the coach.

Ben Martin, David May, Phillip Mollica Luke Hopkins and Zach Siefert all have outstanding playing resumes and will make Penley's decision very difficult.

Last summer Mollica won the North-South Championship and Hopkins, who was a red-shirt last year, ran away with the championship at the South Carolina Amateur.

Martin was named to the ACC All-Freshman team last year and Siefert earned a spot in the US Amateur.

"Our job is to play the best five golfers we have and their job is to show us who the best five are," said the coach.

Penley believes he has enough time before the first event on February 26 to put his team's order of play together.

"We probably have until the second week in March to juggle the lineup so we will have the chance to play our way into shape. The line-up might change every week like it did in the fall," he said.

However, there will come a point in the season when there is not enough time for qualifying and a set lineup will be counted on to give the Tigers their best chance to win tournaments.

"By the middle of April we need to know who are top five are going to be. After that we have four tournaments in five weeks, so I will have to pick our best," said Penley.

Even with a very young team last season, the Tigers were considered a contender in every tournament they played.

As Penley completes his twenty-fifth



Clemson golf coach Larry Penley is in his 25th year as head coach of the Tigers. Upstate golf fans will get to see the Tigers in action at the Furman Intercollegiate in March.

year as the Tigers coach he wants to get the 2008 Tigers back to the NCAA finals. Clemson has missed playing in the championships two of the last three years.

"We need to play better and contend in a regional. We haven't played very well in the last few regionals. It is a problem we never had before, we used to dominate regionals. We have got to find a way to turn that nob up and if we do that momentum should carry over to the finals," said Penley.

In 2003, the Tigers won the ACC Tournament, the East Regional and the NCAA Championship making Clemson the only school in NCAA history to complete that very elusive trifecta.

"We need to start with an ACC Championship. I don't know how long it will take us to learn how to win. Once we get a taste of it, there is nothing we can't do. I think this team can contend. I don't think there are many teams as good as we can be," concluded Penley.

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Robbie Biershenk helps watches as his brother Nicky rolls his putt towards the hole on number 18 at the Anderson Country Club. The Biershenk brothers took a one shot victory over the team of Robert Murrell (putting) and Len Calvert in The Blizzard tournament.

Blizzard brothers

Biershenks win second two-man title in two months

Robbie and Nicky Biershenk are starting to look unbeatable in two-man tournaments. The Boiling Springs brothers won their second tournament in two months when they took first place at The Blizzard at Anderson Country Club.

"It was pretty close right down to the finish," said Nicky Biershenk who joined with his brother to win the Holiday Open at Southern Oaks last month.

The winning team built a four shot lead over the team of Robert Murrell and Len Calvert only to see the tournament championship come down to the last putt on the final hole.

The leaders three putted the eleventh hole while Murrell rolled in a birdie putt to cut the lead to two shots.

On number thirteen Calvert hit his tee shot to within two feet on the par-4 hole. The team's eagle putt topped the Biershenks birdie to cut the lead to one shot.

Both teams birdied the next four

holes to set the stage for a dramatic final hole.

Both teams hit fine approach shots to within ten feet of the final hole. Murrell rolled in his team's ten-footer for a birdie.

Nicky Biershenk missed his ten-footer putting the pressure on his older brother to sink his putt to keep from going into a playoff with Murrell and Calvert.

"I don't think I could play on the PGA Tour because that was about all the pressure I could handle on that putt," said Robbie Biershenk.

The pressure of the putt did not affect his swing as he rolled his putt into the center of the cup for the win.

"Man that was fun today," said Robbie Biershenk. Len and Robert played great and we had to work like crazy to win this thing," he said.

The team of Chris Cushman and Jon Land finished third in the 36 hole tournament that was played at Anderson and Brookstone Meadows.

Flight winners included First Flight - Blake Williamson and Wes Jones, Second Flight - Ronnie Branyon and Scott Davis, Third Flight - Phil Tucker and Rick Wright, Fourth Flight - Bob Lytle and Tony Randall.



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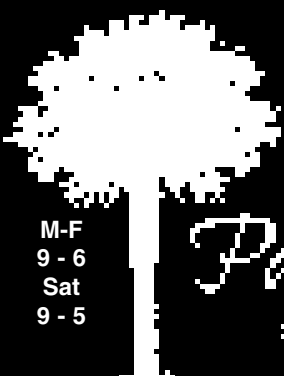
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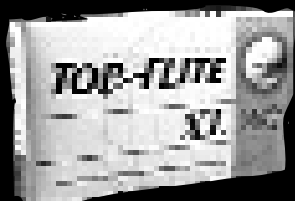
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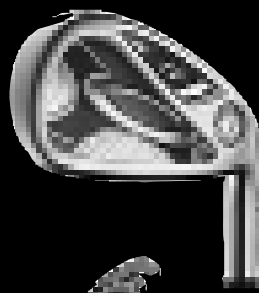


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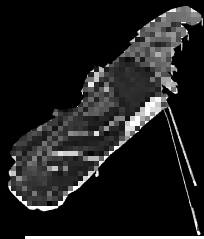
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Gamecocks... Continued from Page 9

and Anderson has been a steady leader for the team.

McDonald will have his team play a number of practice rounds at different locations to test their skills on new courses and in difficult weather conditions this winter.

"We would be crazy to go to a tournament without Mark and George. We have three spots open and I might make one pick. Based on the fall I have a pretty good idea of who may play, but there is still competition," said McDonald.

The Gamecock coach wants to keep every golfer on his roster enthused and working hard. "You want to give these kids a chance," he said.

Mark Silvers' strong finish at the end of the year should give every member of the team the hope they can work their way into the starting line up. Silvers finished as the top Gamecock at the NCAA final just missing All-American status.

The competition for the remaining spots will be between Silvers, Florian Fritsch, Allen Koon, Patrick Cuning, Warren Thomas, Baker Elmore, Paul Woodbury and the SCGA 2007 player of the year Patrick Rada.

Several players earned playing time with the starting team while others won events on the Gamecocks B team schedule.

"Paul Woodbury and Patrick Rada won B team events. I like to reward winning, that is what we are here to do, to win golf tournaments either individually or as a team. I don't care at what level, winning is important," said McDonald.

The start of the spring schedule will give McDonald a good opportunity to measure the play of all of the players trying for the three remaining spots in the lineup. However, at some point in the spring the coach would like to settle on his starting five and prepare for the SEC



Patrick Rada won the SCGA Player of the Year award and will challenge for a spot in the Gamecocks starting line-up this spring.

and NCAA tournaments.

"I don't want to continue rotating the line-up but if you are in a situation where you are not getting the production you do something difference. The first few events we will have a different rotation, but leading up to the SEC, I would like to have five or six guys," he said.

While the line-up will eventually be set, McDonald wants to keep everyone working hard because they never know when they may be needed to step up as a starter.

"I learned last year not to label these kids, or not to give up on them," he said.

The Gamecock spring golf season opens with the Hayt Invitational at Sawgrass. Area golf fans will get to see the Gamecocks in action at The Furman Intercollegiate on March 28th.

"The more opportunities these guys have to win golf tournaments on the back nine, the more things will fall our way. I feel like this group is close to doing some good things," concluded the Gamecock coach.



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South Carolina Charities, Inc. is now accepting volunteer applications for the 2008 BMW Charity Pro-Am. Opportunities to volunteer include: hospitality, marshal, scoring, transportation and more.

To register or learn more about volunteering at the 2008 event, visit www.bmwcharitygolf.com and click on the "Volunteers" tab.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. EST on April 25 accompanied by the \$40 uniform package fee. The uniform package includes a golf shirt and cap or visor, two passes to the tournament (one for the volunteer and one guest pass), food and beverages for volunteers during shifts, an official volunteer pin and an invitation to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Party.

If you wish to volunteer and would prefer to have an application sent to you via mail or email, contact Director of Volunteer Programs Marshall Bettendorf at (864) 423-2994 or at mbettendorf@sccharities.org.

Volunteer Orientation will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008, at the BMW Zentrum. A post card will be mailed to all volunteers with assigned pick-up times.

The 2008 BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament will be played May 15-18, 2008, at Bright's Creek Golf Club in Mill Spring, N.C., The Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg and Thornblade Club in Greer. All four rounds will be televised live by the Golf Channel.

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Celebrities are in the process of being selected for this year's tournament, but some of the personalities that have participated in the past include: Kevin Costner, Catherine Bell, John Elway, Dan Marino, Wayne Gretzky, Jack Nicklaus, Jennifer Mills, Gary Player, David James Elliott, Kurt Russell, Johnny Bench, Jim Rice, Brett Hull, Kevin Sorbo, Brad Daugherty, Cheech Marin, John O'Hurley, Steve Spurrier, Lou Holtz, Alice Cooper and George Lopez.

For more information on the BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament; sponsorship opportunities, charitable funding or volunteer opportunities, call (864) 297-1660 or visit the tournament's website at www.bmwcharitygolf.com.

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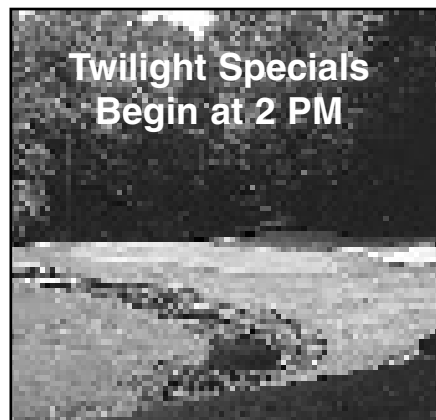
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Amateur tournaments

Parent-Child event postponed until the spring

The winter has been trouble for some tournaments but not very difficult for other tournaments.

Several area events have been postponed and rescheduled for the spring when the weather may be more hospitable to golf.

The Upstate Parent-Child was scheduled to be played on January 21 at Southern Oaks.

Extremely cold temperatures forced the event to be postponed. A new date for the tournament has not been set but it is expected to be in the spring.

The tournament will be played at Southern Oaks.

SCHEDULE REMINDER

If your club would like to have tournaments listed in our schedule section each month please forward the information to golfclub@charter.net.

Information needed to list your event is the date, entry eligibility, format, entry fee and registration contact.

www.carolinagolfinfo.com will soon have the Upstate Amateur schedule available on line.

Frostbite Open (February 16 - 17)

The annual three man team event will be played at Boscobel Golf Club. Entry is open to all area golfers.

The tournament is played in groups of six golfers (three to each team). The tournament is a captain's choice competition.

Entry information is available by calling Boscobel Golf Club at (864) 646-3551.

Tough Day (March 22)

Southern Oaks will hold its annual

tough day tournament. The tournament allows area golfers to test their skills against difficult pin placements and long fairways.

The event is open to all Upstate Amateurs. Entry information is available by calling the Southern Oaks Pro Shop at (864)859-6698.

Anderson County 4-Man (March 29-30) First round will be played at Saluda Valley and the second round at the Anderson Country Club.

The tournament is open to Anderson County residents golfers who have an established handicap at an Anderson County golf club.

Registration information will be available at all Anderson area courses next month.

Texas Two-Man (April 19-20) The unique team tournament will be held at Pickens Country Club. The tournament allow the teams to pick their best tee shot and then play their own ball through the hole.

Information and registration for the tournament can be obtained by calling Pickens at (864) 878-6083.

Furman Invitational (April 19-20) The spring tournament is open to Upstate amateur golfers. This year the Invitational is being played before the Furman course is scheduled to be closed for renovations.

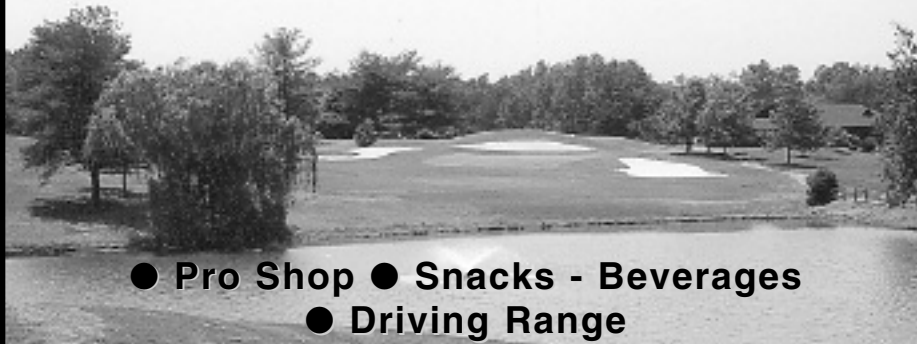
Entry information for the tournament is available by calling the Furman Pro Shop at (864) 294-9090.

J.P Traynham Memorial (April 26-27) The oldest open amateur event in the Upstate will be played at Summersett.

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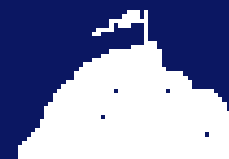
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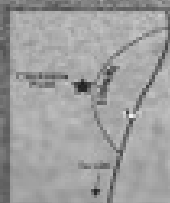
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Taylor Weaver was named the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women Sports, Golfer of the Year. Weaver won the South Carolina AAAA title and The Blade Championship during the season. The Dorman golfer will enroll at South Carolina next fall to continue her golf career.

Golfer of the Year

Weaver named top golfer by Women Sports Coaches

By Jed Blackwell
 Special to The Golf Club

Dorman golfer Taylor Weaver may soon need another trophy case. The senior, who has already committed to play college golf at the University of South Carolina, added another honor last month when she was named the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women Sports Golfer of the year. She was recognized on Jan. 20, 2008 at the Columbia Conference Center during the Winter Sports banquet.

The honor comes after a year in which Weaver won the 4A individual girls' title and helped lead the Lady Cavaliers to a second-place overall finish. She also won the Blade Junior Classic, the Spartanburg County Women's Amateur, and the Cheraw Fall Challenge.

Before the summer season began in earnest, Weaver committed to play college golf for the Gamecocks.

Weaver said she was happy to have the honor. "It's very special," she said. "There are a lot of girls out there playing. It's nice to know that the coaches have recognized me. You know when coaches look past their own players and pick you, you've done something special."

Weaver, plans on graduating early. Dorman golf coach Lewis Terry is proud of Weaver's entire Dorman career.

"This award recognizes what she's done here," he said. "She was a great assistance to us finishing second at the state championship, and she's the first female and just the second Dorman golfer ever to win an individual state title."

Terry said having Weaver on the

squad was a huge benefit to the Cavaliers.

"It was a luxury," he said. "When you're at a tournament and you have a golfer who you know can go out and set the pace for your team, it's an advantage. You know you've got a good, reliable score, and you're able to play things more aggressively."

Weaver said her performance was spurred on by the early college decision.

"That was a big thing," she said. "Carolina had been in contact with me for a while, and they were persistent. I went for one visit, the coach offered me a full scholarship, and I told her to sign me up."

Weaver said Carolina seemed to be a good fit for her. "I didn't know how far from home I wanted to be," she said. "I'm a big family girl. I wanted to go to Tennessee, and I was waiting for an offer, but two and a half hours is a long way from home for me. I considered Wofford, but that's too close to home. Carolina is a good distance, and it seems just right."

Weaver said the decision certainly made her summer better. "When that decision's out of the shooting one bad round and slipping off of everyone's list," she said.

"You stop thinking, 'Well, that was my shot at Division I'. You don't worry about having to explain a bad round to coaches because you're already committed. You're allowed a little slip-up. When they offered, 'I didn't hesitate. It allowed me to just play and actually enjoy golf.'"

With her early graduation, Weaver now wants to focus squarely on her sport.

"I'd like to do nothing but practice," she said. "I want to get into some kind of routine of going to the gym then going to work on my game."

This summer, I'm going to try to qualify for the U.S. Girls and the U.S. Women's. I want to play against some bigger fields, work hard, and improve my game before I head to college."

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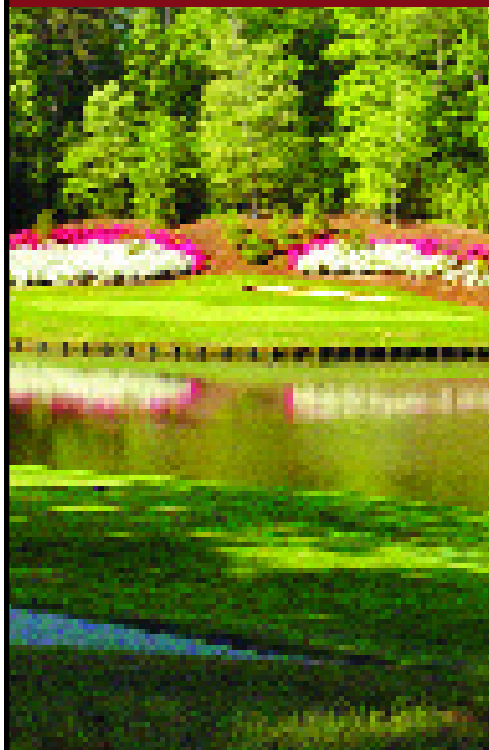
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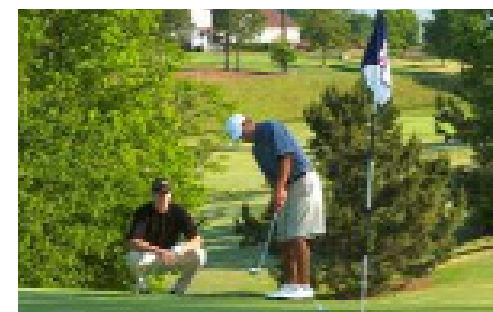
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