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**Golf News For Carolina Golfers**

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See Mike's Tip for Nov. on Page 2

## **How 'bout dem Trojans!**



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# Lets Talk Golf!



## Mike Carter Coach and Professional Instructor

*In 2010, I traveled to Houston, Texas to study under Jim Hardy and Chris O'Connell.*

*Hardy is a member of the PGA Teachers Hall of Fame.*

*Both Jim and Chris are listed in the Top100 instructors in America.*

*Everything I teach in the long game I learned from Jim and Chris.*

*I am part of their INNER CIRCLE instructor group.*

*Each year we have a summit at Watters Creek where Chris teaches in the winter months.*

*Our instructor mantra is to always get better...always improve.*

In this article I want to describe the beginning of the backswing and the beginning of the downswing. Precisely I'll be describing the pressure shifts a golfer should feel in the feet as the backswing starts and the downswing begins.

Imagine you are 30 feet tall and can place one foot on one end of a seesaw and the other foot on the opposite end of a seesaw. At address you should have more pressure on your front foot than your back foot. The front side of the seesaw will be tilting toward the ground, and the backside of the seesaw will be off the ground.

The backswing should begin with a slight LATERAL MOVE OF THE BODY toward the back foot. This lateral move should be no more than an inch and a half.

The lateral move shifts the pressure off the front foot to the back foot. Now the back side of the seesaw will be tilted toward the ground, and the front side of the seesaw will be off the ground.

The downswing begins with a conscious effort to move the pressure back to the front foot before the grip reaches it's pinnacle in the backswing. This is called transition. You will be lowering the front side of the seesaw to the ground. The backside of the seesaw will come off the ground.

About 85 percent of your weight/pressure will be on your front foot before the top of the backswing is completed. You never want the pressure on the back foot at the top of the backswing. You are now in a position to naturally use ground forces to increase club head speed.

I hope you find this article helps you get the backswing and downswing started correctly. Start with the low irons, and work your way to the driver. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Come see me at HAAS FAMILY GOLF if you need help with any part of your game. Wishing you fairways, greens, and great bunker shots.

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## Upstate events and aces

### Events you can Play

**Cranberry Classic Dec 3-4th Boscobel.** The tournament is open to all golfers and flighted after the first round.

The event will be played using a two-man captain's choice format with a shotgun start at 10 am each day.

Entry can be made by calling the Boscobel golf shop at 864-656-3991.

**Holiday Classic Dec 10-11, Southern Oaks.** The tournament is open to all golfers. The field will be flighted after the first round.

The two-man tournament will be played using a 9-hole Captain's Choice and 9-hole Best Ball format each day.

Entries can be made by calling the golf shop at 864-859-6698.

*If you have an upcoming event that accepts public play, please send us the information to include in this section. Most important, the date and if it benefits some charity and, who to contact. We want to include your next Hole-In-One in our Upstate Aces Send your name, course, hole number, distance, club used and any witness to us at [golfclubsc@gmail.com](mailto:golfclubsc@gmail.com)*

### Upstate Aces

**Nathanael Caughman, Cobbs Glen, #7, 168 yds.** (Made during the Seawell Junior) Witnesses, Ben Sanders, James Sullivan.

**Oconee Country Club Holes-In-One** in October.

**Walter Ruff #6,** Witnesses Dennis & Glennis

**Grayson Edmonds #14,** Witnesses Mel, Willie & Claire.

**Evan John (Double Eagle) #8,** Witness Hunter.

**Bruce Mills, Links O'Tryon, (First Ace) #15, 102 yds. A-Wedge,**

**Jack Coker, (2nd Ace) Links O'Tryon, #7, 133 yds. PW.**

**Andrew Stamper. Links O Tryon, #4, 167 yds. 7 iron.**

**Gregg Moore , Links O Tryon (during the Scratch-Scramble), #15, 154yds. 5-iron.**

**Regina Henderson (first ace) Links O Tryon, #7, 100 yds. 9-iron.**



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**Murray's Mulligan reaches goal**

**Boscobel tourney helps raise money for kidney transplant**

The tournament to help Ken Murray cover some of the extra expenses involved in his upcoming kidney transplant not only met the fund-raising goal, but did better.

"I did a Lou Gehrig," said Murray, referring to the famous speech given by the Yankee great as he battled the illness that eventually became known by his name, "I told all the people who came to play that I felt like the luckiest man in the world to have so many people care about me and want to help," he said.

Murray is at or near the top of a list for a kidney transplant at MUSC.

The tournament hosted at Boscobel and a fund raising effort at [www.helpopelive.com](http://www.helpopelive.com) hoped to reach \$90,000, the amount of extra expenses, outside of insurance, that transplant patience often are responsible for after the operation.

"It is pretty unbelievable, but we raised around \$98,000. We are so glad and thankful," said Murray.

There is no timetable for when a kidney could be available for the procedure, Murray continues dialysis.

"I've been called twice, but both times someone else was a better match, my turn will come," he said.



Long time Boscobel member and upstate championship amateur golfer Ken Murray needs a kidney transplant. His friends and Boscobel organized Murray's Mulligan a tournament that helped raise the extra funds needed to help cover non covered expenses for the procedure.

**Links O'Tryon holds Scratch Scramble**

The Links O'Tryon held their annual Scratch-Scramble and Oyster Roast and after regulation play it took a "chip off" between two teams who each shot 57s to force the "chip off."

The team of John Williams, George Oliver, Dave Long, Jr. and Matt Clement out chipped the team of Stan Cannon, Randy Woods, Jeff Hyatt and Ron Kountz for the victory.

The team of Matt McKenzie, Debbie Huff, Rick Oyervides and Louis Hoskyns finished third with a 58.

**Hamilton to head up SC Jr. Foundation**



Alex Hamilton is the new SCJGF Director

Alex Hamilton grew up playing in South Carolina Junior Golf events and now he will lead the organization that provides the opportunities for young golfers around the state.

The Aiken native has been named the new Executive Director of the South Carolina Junior Golf Foundation.

"We have a very rich tradition of golf in South Carolina and have one of the best junior golf programs in the country. I'm looking forward to helping the Foundation continue its mission to grow the game in our state and help junior golfers of all levels," he said.

After a successful Junior career Hamilton played college golf at USC

As a competitor Hamilton won the 2004 SCGA Amateur and played professionally before returning to South Carolina to begin his coaching career.

He served as Wofford College coach and most recently was the college and amateur development representative for Callaway.

He joined the SCJGA in November.

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# Spartanburg keeps the Cyder Cup

## Big lead on day one helps Spartanburg repeat as champs

By Jed Blackwell  
Associate Editor - Publisher

Needing just five points to secure a repeat victory in the Cyder Cup Matches, Spartanburg put it away early.

The defending champs scored wins in four of the first six matches on the card and tied another, taking 4.5 early points to edge closer to the win.

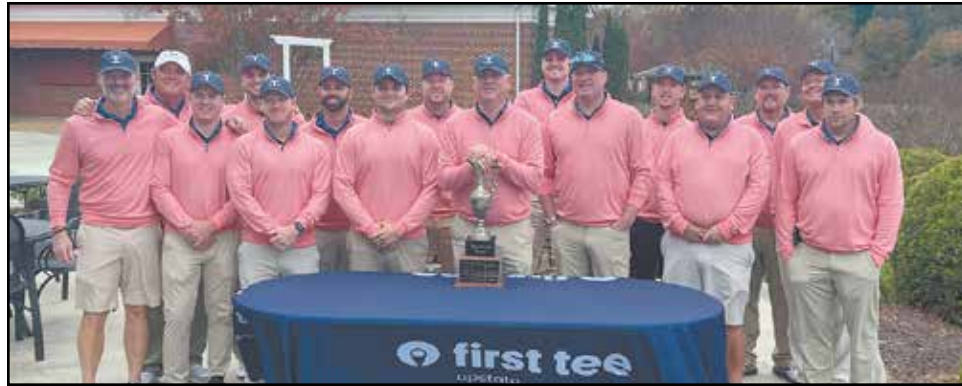
Down the lineup, Brad Thorne's 4&2 win over Jared Crane proved to be the winner, pushing Spartanburg over the top on the way to a 20-12 victory.

"I got up and down where I needed to, made a couple of putts, and was able to close it out early," said Thorne.

Despite Spartanburg's big win, there were plenty of tight matches on Sunday, beginning with the captains' match.

Todd Whitehead and Terry Willis saw the lead in their match change four times before Whitehead went 2-up at No. 13 and won the 16th and 17th holes to close it out 3&1.

"It was very important this year for me and Terry to play each other with us being co-chairmen of the board. We really enjoyed it. It went back-and-forth



Team Spartanburg won the Cyder Cup for the second year in a row. The team members included Captain Todd Whitehead, Ronnie Pruitt, Max Fain, Brian Kennedy, Nelson Dickson, Jeffery Horton, Landon Hames, Steve Calicutt, Hunter Parks, Andrew Hall, Brad Thorne, Carter Ridgeway, Robbie Biershenk, Reed Bentley, Kyle Milner, Dustin Adair. (GolfClub Photo)

and luckily he gave me a little bit of a break at the end," noted Whitehead.

Other winners from Spartanburg on Sunday included Ronnie Pruitt, Max Fain, Jeffrey Horton, Hunter Parks, Thorne, Reed Bentley, and Dustin Adair. Nelson Dickson halved his match.

For Greenville, Yancey Johnson, Jeremy Revis, Matt Mead, Brian Newton, Spencer Cole, Chad Siefert, and Doug Appleby notched individual victories on Sunday.

"We couldn't do this if we didn't have the sponsorships and the golf courses and the clubs that participate with us. We just couldn't do it. With their help, it's been awesome," said Whitehead.

The real winners, though, were the

young golfers who will be impacted by the programs of the First Tee Upstate programs, the beneficiary of funds raised by the Cyder Cup Matches.

First Tee Upstate Executive Director Michael Pius said this year's event raised more money than any event in the past five years, at least.

"We raised more than \$35,000," he said. "I think we have a couple more checks to come in, so it might be a little bit more than that. It's huge."

That number will help the organization pursue a national challenge grant from Charles Schwab which will award \$32,000 for a new donor and an increase of \$25,000 over past donations.

"Events like this help us to bring

new donors to the table. We don't just ask the players to cut a check. We ask them to raise funds through their colleagues and friends. That's what I love about this event the most. It brings more people to our mission and lets them know more about what we do. A portion of the funds go to the betterment of the entire chapter. Next year at this time we're hoping to be in Greenwood and Oconee. Events like this help us expand our mission."

That mission, integrating golf with life skills, is at the core of the matches.

"I'm getting ready to start my 13th year on the board. "I love that we take care of the kids. That's all we try to do," said the Spartanburg captain.

Thorne said the players enjoy the competition, and are happy to help the First Tee.

"Being able to help these kids and raise some money for them and see what this program does is pretty fun," he said. "And it is fun to play team golf. This is a great bunch of guys and I wouldn't trade that for the world," said Thorne.

In Saturday's opening rounds, Team Spartanburg set the stage for their second straight win when they took an 11.5-4.5 lead over Team Greenville.

The series between golfers from the two upstate counties now stands at Greenville 10 Spartanburg 8 and 1 tie.

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# Fredricks beats the odds twice at Saluda Valley

**The odds of making two aces in four holes, 65 million to 1**

**By Stan Olenik  
Editor-Publisher**

The pictures tell the story. Look at them and you will see Donnie Fredricks after his first hole-in-one during the final round of the Evatt Memorial tournament at Saluda Valley.

As the picture is being taken you can almost hear Fredricks saying “yeah I got me an ace, way to go, I’m pretty good,”

Glance at the second picture and you see a different look on Fredrick’s face.

He looks like he is saying, “is this real, I just made a second hole in one in four holes, don’t wake me up,” he may have been thinking.

Fredrick’s two aces runs his career total up to 6. He plays to a five or six handicap, so the hole-in-one wasn’t made by somebody who never played the game.

“The first one was great, but the second one was unbelievable,” said Fredricks. “The odds are like around 65 million to one, so why did this happen to me. Is it just amazing,” he said.

Fredricks’ playing partner in the tournament, Travis Rankin, said they were stunned and it affected the way they played the rest of the round, carding boogies on the next couple of holes.

“When he made the first one there was a lot of hollering, but the second one it was more disbelief,” said Rankin.

Teeing before Fredricks, Rankin put



*Donnie Fredricks made two holes in one in the span of four holes while playing in the Evatt Memorial tournament at Saluda Valley. He used an eight iron to hole out on hole number 2 and number 4 to start the final round of the tournament. His playing partner in the two-man event was Travis Rankin and the two were paired with Harry Hankins and Robbie Hammond for the final round. (Photos from Travis Rankin)*



his shot about 4 feet from the pin and Fredricks jokingly asked him if he could mark his ball.

“We were putting so bad we laughed we just needed to make holes-in-one. How his shot didn’t hit my ball was amazing,” added Rankin.

Fredricks, who is retired, played

from the Senior tees and used a Ping 425 8-iron on both holes.

In between the two aces on the 2nd and 4th holes he birdied the 5th hole.

Now a part time shop helper at Boscobel, Fredricks beat some pretty long odds to do what he did.

The odds of an average golfer mak-

ing a hole-in-one are about 12,500 to one. Actually better than your chance to win the lottery.

If you are a low handicap golfer you have a better chance, your odds come down to 1 in 5,000.

If you are a Tour player the odds drop to about 1 in 2,500.

Now think about that and add in the second ace and the odds are better you will be struck by lightning than make two aces in the same round or about 1 in 67 million.

It has only happened three times on the PGA Tour.

The last time was in 2015 when Brian Harmon did it in the fourth round of the Barclays.

While the odds are unbelievably long on making two holes in one in a round, there are no odds on making two holes-in-one in the same round with the same golf ball.

Yes, Fredricks used the ball for his first ace, the birdie he made on the next hole and another hole-in-one.

Most people would have taken the Bridgestone RBX out of play after the first hole-in-one.

“I played a lot of golf with that ball, it was old and kind of beat up when I stopped using it after the second hole-in-one,” he joked.

The two aces didn’t make Fredricks and Rankin rich, instead they got their entry fee back with two of the six Sunday skins and finished runner-up in the second flight.

“It sure was amazing,” concluded Fredricks.



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# Swanson wins Ka'anapali championship

## Clemson soph goes 18-under par for first college victory

It has been somewhat of an uneven start to the season for Clemson.

From a season opening 12th place finish at the Maui Jim Intercollegiate to a second place finish in Hawaii at the Ka'anapali Classic Collegiate the Tigers have posted a 9th, a 10th and a 4th.

The result was an unusually low ranking for the Tigers in the first Golf Stat fall poll.

The Tigers were ranked 62nd in Golf Stat.

The Golfweek/Sagarin rankings were a little better putting Clemson at 48th, but that was before the Tigers finished 2nd in Hawaii.

Not only did the Tigers earn their highest finish at the tournament in Hawaii, their opening round 267 total featured all five Tigers carding rounds in the 60s.

Sophomore Andrew Swanson continued his upward improvement from a 75th place finish at the Maui Jim to a win in Hawaii.

"Andrew's performance shows what hard work can do," said Clemson coach Jordan Byrd. "He has put in the time all fall and it paid off," added the Tigers' coach.

Swanson led all the Tigers in the first round when he shot a 7-under par 64 to tie for the individual lead with Oklahoma's Drew Goodman.

Swanson finished the second round in second place 2-shots out of the lead.

In the final round Swanson carded

five birdies on his front nine.

On the back he eagled the par-4 12th hole from the fairway with a wedge and put two more birdies on his card before his first bogey of the day.

He finished with an 8-under 63 and the win.

"It was a great way to finish the fall," said Swanson, who established a new Clemson scoring record versus par with his 18-under par 195 total.

The Tiger from Bluffton thought his game had different strengths in each round.

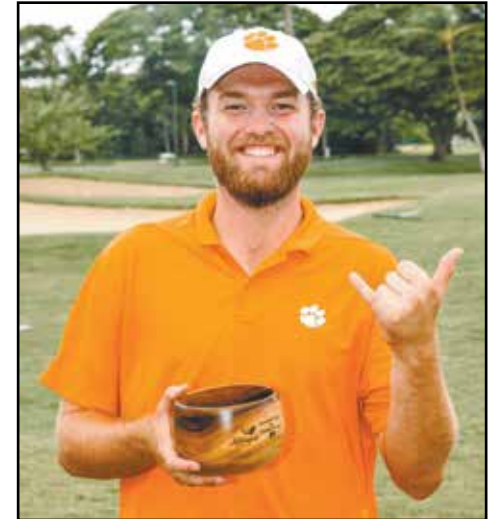
"I did well in different phases of the game over the tournament. Today (final round) it was putting. I had 22 putts over 18 holes. Earlier in the week it was driving and ball striking," he said.

Swanson joined former Tigers Lucas Glover, Kyle Stanley and Doc Redman with a win in the Hawaii tournament.

"Andrew was playing with some highly ranked, experienced golfers, but he was not fazed by anything. Maybe he was, but he didn't show it," said a smiling Clemson coach.

11th ranked Oklahoma shot the best round of the tournament putting a 19-under par 265 on the scoreboard for the tournament title.

The trip to Hawaii completes the Tigers fall season. Clemson will next be on the tee February 19th when the Tigers play in the Watersound Invitational at Shark's Tooth Golf Club in Panama City Beach, Florida.



Clemson sophomore Andrew Swanson shot a final round 63 to earn his first college victory at the Ka'anapali Classic. (Clemson Photo)

# Morlan shares second victory

## Paladin soph shares a win for the second time this year

Earlier this fall, Will Morlan shared medalist honors at the Old Town Collegiate played in Winston-Salem.

Fast forward a few weeks to the Furman Intercollegiate and Morlan shared a first place finish in his home tournament.

Morlan's 9-under par total for the 54 hole event was another shared victory for the Furman sophomore.

"Two Co Champions," said Morlan. "I wish I was medalist, but never the less its very exciting," he said.

Morlan opened the tournament with a

6-under par 65 to take a three shot lead.

"This tournament was kind of like my other win. I had a great round to start out and that set me up for the rest of the tournament," recalled Morlan.

The Paladin golfer lost the lead in the second round, but got off to a fast start on Sunday.

He birdied two of his first three holes to pull even with James Madison's Daniel Cheng by the third hole and stayed even to the turn.

The two leaders played about even the rest of the way to share the title.

"We played phenomenal golf coming down the stretch. Being neck and neck the whole day, we both had phenomenal week's" said Morlan.

Chattanooga won the team title.



Furman's Will Morlan earned a share of his second first place finish at the Furman Intercollegiate. Earlier in the fall he was the co-medalist at the Old Towne Collegiate in Winston-Salem. (GolfClub Photo)

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# Phillips advances to Q-School finals

## Georgia grad from Boiling Springs is one step away from full Korn-Ferry status

By Stan Olenik  
Editor - Publisher

If you have lost track of Trent Phillips and what is going on in his golf career, you have got some catching up to do.

Let's start with the latest and the best news.

Phillips has earned a trip to the Korn-Ferry Tour Final Stage Qualifying tournament next month.

He finished fourth at the Second Stage Korn-Ferry Tour Qualifying held at the Robert Trent Jones Trail Highlands/Marshwood courses in Dothan, Alabama.

Phillips shot rounds of 68, 66, and 67 to be tied for the lead going into the final round.

"I had been playing good golf and I went out there with the expectation that I was one of the best players there and I played great golf," said Phillips.

He was in a position to win the Qualifying tournament, but two bad holes in his final round made him change his thinking from winning to making sure he advanced.

The two bad holes didn't take Phillips out of contention to win the qualifying tournament, but it caused him to make a "business" decision, one that was different from decisions he would make as an amateur.

"This was different from a regular tournament. In a regular tournament if you don't do well there is another one. In this one, if you don't do well there isn't another tournament to play," he said.

Phillips got back on track with a birdie and an eagle, but decided it wasn't the time to try to be a hero.

There wasn't much breathing room between the top of the leaderboard and the last player to make the cut to advance to the Final Stage.

"There was a little pressure and I was not going



Trent Phillips played the PGA Tour Canada last year. He had five top-5 finishes in eight events. He followed up the end of the Tour season in Canada by advancing to the Korn-Ferry Q-School Final Stage next month in Savannah.

to play myself out of advancing. I finished with 10 straight pars," he said.

Phillips finished in fourth place at 13-under par, two shots out of first, but comfortably advancing to the final stage.

He will be one of the competitors at the Landings Club in Savannah starting on November 4th.

"I've got a Korn-Ferry Tour membership, but you want to get full status so you can play all year," he said.

The way the Final Stage works is the medalist is exempt for the full season.

Players who finish 2 through 10 are guaranteed 12

events for the season.

11 through 40 get into the first eight events of the new season.

Phillips played in one Korn-Ferry Tour event after he finished school. He qualified for the Rex Hospital Classic.

He missed the cut and then for reasons that still have never been fully understood did not receive an exemption to play in his hometown BMW tournament.

Phillips finished the year on the PGA Tour University ranking outside the automatic qualifiers for Korn-Ferry guaranteed starts, but at number 7 on the ranking, Phillips would have been a popular choice to be added to the field.

Without Korn-Ferry status, Phillips played last summer on PGA Tour Canada.

In eight events Phillips had 5 top 5 finishes. He led several of the tournaments and posted some great scores.

At the CRMC Championship, he made 7-straight birdies for a 28 on the nine and a 61 for the round.

In the season-ending Fortinet Cup Championship, he was under the weather when he traveled to Kitchener, Ontario for the tournament.

He shot his way into the lead, but his condition didn't improve and he fought through his illness to a fifth-place finish.

The season-long points race ended with Phillips ranked 13th and looking forward to playing closer to home this year.

"Canada was all right, but I would rather not go back, The accommodations were not great, the travel was difficult and there wasn't much money to play for, but it was golf and I gained experience," he said.

In between trips from his home to events in Canada Phillips got to play at St. Andrews in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on the DP Tour.

St. Andrews can be a challenge any day, but when you tee it up at the "Old Course" and the weather is

Phillips... continued on page 22

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# Eagles fly away with the AA Championship

**Roberts wins SCHSL AA individual title to go with the Chesnee team game**

**By Stan Olenik  
Editor - Publisher**

Chesnee held a 30 shot lead over the field after the first round of the AA state championship at Cheraw State Park, but Eagles' coach Kyle Scruggs told his team not to be happy with their first round.

"We still had golf to play. I knew we were in really good shape, but golf can be funny sometimes," said Scruggs. "I didn't want them to go out and just hold the lead, I wanted us to try to extend the lead," he said.

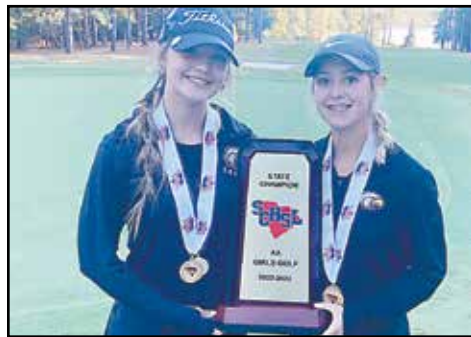
The Eagles responded. Chesnee shot an opening round 333 and cut 9-shots off that total in the second round to win their second straight state championship, this time by 69 shots.

As a Class AA school Chesnee had played up a weight class last year when the Eagles won the combined South Carolina High School League AAA-AA-A championship.

This year the SCHSL brought back the AA championship for the first time since 2015 as more schools in the classi-



The Chesnee Eagles added a South Carolina AA Championship Trophy to the their 2021 AAA-AA-A Championship. The Eagles included Medalist Olivia Roberts, runner-up Addy Parker and Abigail Watson, Abby Harrington, Olivia Shields and Jada Flynn. (Chesnee Photo)



Olivia Roberts was the winner of the AA Individual championship. Addy Parker was the championships runner-up. (Chesnee Pictures)

Parker for medalist honors.

"I knew our team had a big lead, but I wanted to play my best," said Roberts, who last year finished third in the championship. "We thought we needed to have another good round just to make sure we could win," she said.

Four of the five Chesnee golfers improved in the second round.

The biggest improvement came from Olivia Shields, who cut 9-shots off her first round total.

Addy Parker cut 4-shots off her first round total and challenged Roberts for medalist honors. The Eagles' sophomore finished as the runner-up two shots behind her teammate.

Parker was one of the success stories for the relatively young Chesnee golf program.

As someone who was always involved in athletics, Parker began as a First Tee golfer at the age of 6, but when she got to middle school was ready to leave the game.

"Coach Scruggs told me about the golf team at Chesnee," said Parker. "Playing on a team was much different and I loved it and love my teammates, we are all very close," she said.

The second straight win comes in just Chesnee... continued on page 20

fication supported girls golf teams, and the Eagles won again.

"Everyone on the team played better today (second round). It showed up in some scores while others may not have scored as well, but found ways to improve. Every one of our golfers got better this year," said the coach.

Olivia Roberts entered the second round trailing Akiera Sanchez from Academic Magnet in Charleston by a shot.

Roberts shot a 2-over par 74 to pass Sanchez and hold off teammate Addy

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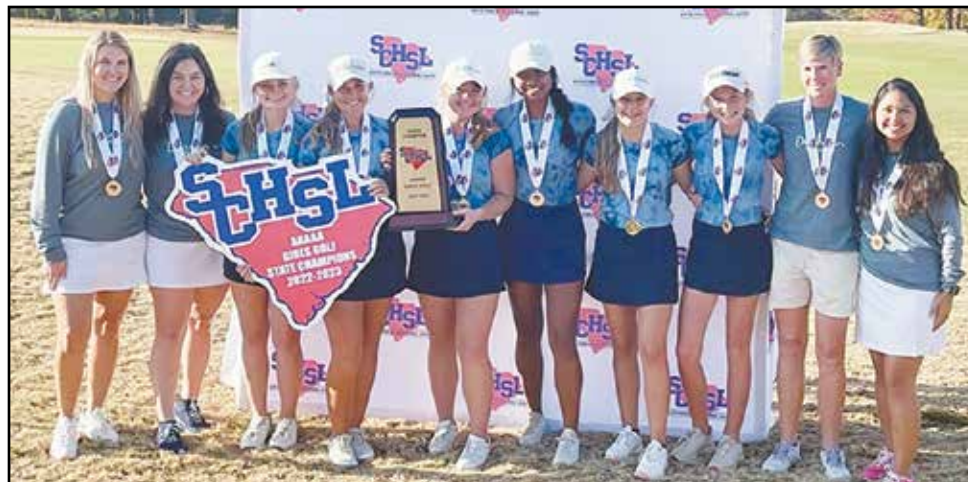


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Dorman seniors Maddie Grace Peake (l) and Abby Franks (r) snap a selfie coming off their last hole as a high school golfer. The Cavaliers (l-r) Laura Maurer, Olivia Herring, Maddie Carraway, Maddie Grace Peake, Abby Franks, Londyn Rath, Ava Romansky, A.C. Peake, Kristen Duncan, and Arista Edwards. Abby Franks (right) finished as the runner-up in the AAAAA championship. (GolfClub, Dorman and SCHSL Photos)

# Dorman completes a perfect season

**Cavaliers won every tournament they played, and the state championship**

**By Jed Blackwell  
Associate Editor - Publisher**

The AAAAA golf season has largely felt like a coronation for Dorman.

At Holly Tree, the Cavaliers finally got their crown.

Dorman capped a remarkable season, one in which the Cavaliers won every single event the first team entered, with a score of 365 and a 29-shot victory over second-place Chapin in the state championship match.

Dorman entered the day with a 20-shot lead, saw it dwindle a bit on the front nine, but roared back for the victory.

In a season that demanded championship expectations, the Cavaliers could

be forgiven for feeling a little bit of relief with the title win. Coach Olivia Herring said that wasn't the case.

"It's joy," she said with a wide grin. "If you'd asked me on the front nine, I probably would have said relief. But watching them come in, it made it all the more sweet. We made the turn, and I talked to each one of them and told them that this is the time to turn it around. The front nine wasn't our best, but we knew we had a chance to really make a difference there."

That they did.

Every score that counted for the Cavaliers was better on the back nine, and they finished strong.

Seniors Maddie Grace Peake and Abby Franks both had looks at eagle on the par-5 18th, and both finished with birdies.

"To have your two seniors finish

their high school careers with a birdie, you could just tell we had turned it around," Herring said.

Both seniors, who first played for the Cavaliers when they were seventh-graders, knew the finish was something special.

Peake barely held her emotions in check as her putt dropped, and was sobbing when she walked off the green.

When Franks' birdie fell moments later, the seniors embraced and cried together. Both said the raw emotion came from the realization of how far the program has come, and the work they put in.

"For younger players, I would just tell them to soak it all in," Peake said. "It goes by in the blink of an eye. This was a very emotional season for us."

"It's really sad to leave everybody," Franks said. "But this is a huge accom-

plishment, we worked really hard, and we're all really proud."

The two seniors were backed up all year by the championship team contributions of Ava Romansky, Londyn Rath and Maddie Carraway.

There was plenty of drama on the course, despite Dorman's dominance.

Blythewood's Caroline Hawkins made three birdies on the back nine to finish at even par for the day and as the only golfer under par for the two-day event, edging Franks by one stroke for individual medalist honors.

"I feel like I played pretty well," Hawkins said. "There were a couple of shots I feel like I could have improved on, but overall I played great. My putting and chipping were working well. I got up and down quite a bit, and my misses weren't bad. I just feel like my AAAAA... continued on page 16

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The Pickens girls golf team won the AAAA State Championship. The team opened a 10 shot lead early in the first round and finished 13 shots in front of May River, the defending champions and tournament host for the state team title. Seneca survived a scare from Blue Ridge in the final round. The Bobcats made a series of critical pars on the last few holes to hold off Blue Ridge to win the first girls golf championship for Seneca. (SCHSL photo) Blue Ridge senior Lindley Cox won the AAA individual championship. (GolfClub Photos)

# Pickens wins AAAA, Seneca claims AAA

## The Blue Flame wins a second state golf title by 13 shots

Pickens spent the year as the top AAAA golf team in the state coaches poll, so it should come as no surprise in the state championship tournament the Blue Flame quickly got to the top.

Pickens opened the 36 hole championship at the Hilton Head Lakes course and jumped out in front by 20 shots over the defending champions, May River.

“We had played well all year so we expected to do well in the finals,” said Pickens coach Lem Blackwell. “When we finished the first round and saw we had a big lead I talked to the team about not being satisfied with what we had done,” said the coach.

It would have taken an amazing effort from one of the teams chasing Pickens to get close or for the Blue Flame to back up and be caught, neither

happened in the final round.

“We talked about not just holding the lead, but seeing if we could add to it, and the team responded,” said the Pickens coach.

But not without a small scare.

Pickens lead golfer Natalie Turner had a rough first nine holes. She had a first round 78, but had a 43 on the front nine in the second round.

“When I got to her I could see she was determined to get things turned around. She told me “I’m not finishing my career this way.” Natalie is a senior and has been an important part of the program,” said the Blue Flame coach.

After the front nine 43, Turner got to three-under par on the back nine to finish with a 77 for a two-round total of 155 and a tie for fourth place.

She joined teammate Asheton Moseley on the All-State team for AAAA.

The Pickens team was able to increase  
**Pickens ..** continued on page 14

## Bobcats hold off Blue Ridge to win, Cox is AAA medalist

With two Upstate teams in the AAA championship, it could have been held in the upstate instead of traveling to the Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina.

The Bobcats held off a final nine hole charge by the Tigers to win the first golf championship in the history of Seneca High School.

“We have been pointing to this year for a couple of years as we built the team,” said coach Kevin Padgett. “Last year we knew we would have a hard time trying to beat Chesnee and Gilbert in the AAA tournament, but we showed up and tried,” he said.

The Bobcats were competitive in last year’s event, but the order of finish wasn’t as important as the experience being gained by the Seneca golfers, who had never been in that kind of game day

atmosphere.

“We finished fourth last year. We played okay, but when we began planning for 2023 our goal was to get back to the championship and use that experience,” said Padgett.

During the year the Bobcats played in every major tournament from The Jack in their home town to the Lady Blue Jacket in Aynor.

“We didn’t play any 9 hole matches, only 18 and 36 hole tournaments, we wanted to do everything to prepare for the state championship.

After finishing second behind Blue Ridge at the Upper State Qualifying tournament, the Bobcats first needed to get healthy before thinking about the state championship.

“We had two girls, including my daughter, who had the flu. They were out just about all last week and we really didn’t have any time to prepare the way we wanted,” said the coach.

**AAAA...** continued on page 22

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# Hartman goes wire to wire for Chapman win

**Class of 2025 junior from Charlotte wins prestigious title by 3**

**By Jed Blackwell  
Associate Editor - Publisher**

Will Hartman's final round at the Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational at the Country Club of Spartanburg was a bit of a rollercoaster.

His finish was just what everybody expected.

Hartman finished a phenomenal weekend at the tournament, firing a third-round 70, a three-day total of 204, and a finish of 9-under-par to win the event in wire-to-wire fashion, taking a three-stroke win over William Jennings from Greenville, SC.

"I honestly played about as good as I could," said Hartman, a high school sophomore at Charlotte Catholic. "Playing against these amazing golfers, that's what it takes to win. I'm just glad I had my best game this week."

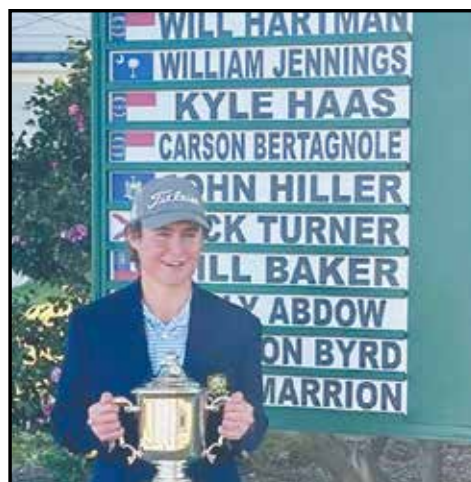
Jennings came into the final round in third place. When he triple-bogeyed the Par 5 first and Hartman had a par, the final round looked to be a formality.

However, Jennings started to climb back into it after another bogey with birdies at Nos. 5, 7, and 9, while Hartman gave two strokes back with a four-putt at the par-3 sixth.

"He made me a little nervous," Hartman said of Jennings. "If not for a bad first hole, it would have been a lot closer there at the end. I'm glad he



Will Hartman tees off on the 17th hole in the final round of the Bobby Chapman Junior. The junior golfer from Charlotte shot an opening round 7-under par 64 to set the pace for the championship. William Jennings (left) from Greenville tried to catch the leader in the final round. (GolfClubPhoto)



played well. It made it a lot more fun."

Both made bogey early on the back nine, setting the stage for a finish that was all over the scorecard.

Jennings played the final five holes in four-under, with birdies at 14, 16, 17, and a bending putt of more than 30 feet on the 18th that found the cup.

Hartman, meanwhile, was even through the final four, going bogey-birdie-bogey-birdie. He stuck his approach at the par-4 18th to six feet, and calmly answered Jennings' birdie with one of his own.

"It was about six feet, maybe eight," he said. "I thought I hit it in the bunker. I got a little lucky that it carried it, and it turned out to be a good shot."

His work on the greens was a key to his win, Hartman said.

"I putted really well," he said. "It's probably the best I've ever putted in a tournament. Before today, I didn't have any three-putts. I had the four-putt and two three-putts today, but I was still able to come out on top. I'd say my putting is what helped me win."

Hartman said he enjoyed his second appearance in the tournament.

"It's awesome," he said. "It's a really well-run event, a really hard course, and it's just a lot of fun."

That fun was evident on Sunday, with a big crowd of spectators turning out to watch the golfers.

The last two groups drew a large group of followers, and the youngest spectators found some heroes to follow.

Future Clemson golfer Will Baker, for example, posed for photos with young fans and was happy, if a little taken aback, to field interview requests.

South Carolina Junior Golf Association Senior Director Justin Fleming said scenes like that one underscore how much the Chapman means to junior golf in the state.

"When it was started 27 years ago, junior golf was not what it is today," Fleming said. "There wasn't a tournament every weekend in every town. It was started for South Carolina kids to have their own national-type event that they could play. Now, it's a national event that draws kids from all over. There's a good crop of young kids out here who will be some of the next ones playing in it. They'll be the future in a couple of years."

Fleming said the strength of the field is something that keeps those spectators, both young and old, coming back.

"It's almost like a mini-PGA tour event," he said. "We were at a tournament yesterday, and heard the stat that 99 percent of college golfers won't play on the PGA Tour. In this event, though, I'd be willing to say that 40 to 50 percent of these guys will. Nationally, the strength of field here is always a Top-20, usually a Top-10 event in the country."

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# Honoring the legacy of Jackie Seawell

By Stan Olenik  
Editor - Publisher

Looking around at almost 130 junior golfers playing the Cobbs Glen course he grew up on, Daniel Seawell allowed himself a moment to reflect on what his father, the late Jackie Seawell would have thought of the Junior tournament held in his memory.

"He would have been excited to see so many juniors playing golf," said Daniel "My dad loved helping get kids started playing, but he would have wanted somebody else's name on the tournament," said Seawell's son with a chuckle remembering how unassuming his Hall of Fame father was about his contributions to the game in Anderson and later in Aiken and around South Carolina.

No other name would have brought the Anderson community together last year to begin the tournament and this year to help it grow to serve even more young golfers in the name of the first PGA professional at Cobbs Glen.

Seawell was the soft spoken, ever positive golf professional, who taught the game to hundreds if not thousands of golfers in and around Anderson.

Matt Harbin, who along with Cobb Oxford and other community leaders developed a love for the game that began when Jackie Seawell gave them their first lesson.

"It's been a great two years since we began. The support we have received from the Anderson community and from Mr Seawell's following in Aiken has been overwhelming," said Harbin..

The financial and volunteer support has allowed the local organizers to put on a junior event at the least the equal of other two-day tournaments in the state.

"We have been able to take care of the juniors and their parents at the tournament and our support has allowed us to join with the South Carolina Junior Golf Association to develop a scholarship," noted Harbin.

Harbin is an example of the lasting influence Seawell had with a number of people in Anderson.

Harbin learned to play under Seawells' direction. He helped the TL Hanna team win a state championship and went on to be an All-American at USC Aiken.

After school he worked for Mr. Seawell, as he always called Jackie, for



Jackie Seawell was the first PGA Professional at Cobbs Glen in Anderson. A couple of generations of golfers learned the game from the SCGA Hall of Fame member. Seawell was widely recognized for his special devotion to junior golf. The tournament at Cobbs Glen was started to honor his legacy. Seawell passed away in June of 2021. (GolfClub Photo)



Charles Cauthen (center) won the Jackie Seawell Junior at Cobbs Glen in Anderson. Harrison James from Chapin tied with Erik Erlenkeuser from Anderson for second place. Jackie Seawell's wife Claire and son Daniel helped present the awards at the tournament.(GolfClub Photo)



Davis Petty (left) from Spartanburg won his second straight 10-12 year old title. Claire Seawell helped hand out the awards to the top finishing junior girls in the tournament. The girls 13-15 year old title was won by Marissa Scaletta (left) with Robin Zetrouer, second and Mia Carles from Clinton in third. (GolfClub Photo)



20 years before moving into a business of his own.

Two years ago as Seawell's health began to fail, Harbin headed up the group that developed, funded and produced the new junior tournament for the first time last fall.

At Harbin's urging Seawell allowed his name to be connected to the event.

Seawell passed away in June of 2021 before the first tournament was played.

While the boys and girls tournaments are divided by age group competition, any junior playing can win the overall championship.

Charles Cauthen, from Columbia,

carded a sizzling 5-under par in the final round to make up a shot on the first round leader, Dawson Szabo from Greer, and go on to win the Jackie Seawell Junior.

Cauthen, who was a member of the outstanding AC Flora High School team that dominated play in the state and won the South Carolina High School League AAAA title last year, shot rounds of 70 and 67 for a 137 total and an 8 shot margin of victory.

Playing for Flora last spring Cauthen was the runner-up for medalist honors in the AAAA tournament.

He enjoyed the team win, but with the

Jackie Seawell junior individual title under his belt and with the belt given instead of a trophy Cauthen got to experience another form of victory.

"I mean it feels a little better (than the win with the team) and I know I could get used to it," said the high school sophomore.

Harrison James and Erik Erlenkeuser tied for second place with first round leader Szabo, Casey Kosney from Spartanburg and Dylan Park from Easley sharing fourth place.

The girls championship was won by Anderson's Marisa Scaletta, who shot identical rounds of 76 for the win. Her 152 total earned her a three shot victory over Robin Zetrouer from Bluffton

"My iron play was good and my chipping and putting around the green also helped," said Scaletta.

A pair of scrambling pars turned out to be a big part of the difference between Scaletta and the second place finisher.

Mia Carles, from Clinton finished in third place at the championship.

In the girls, 10-12 year old division, Zoey Meldrum from Aiken topped Kinley Brazil from Blythewood for the title. Arlen Jennings from Spartanburg just missed winning a medal.

In the boys 16-18 division, Chuck Stanley from Warrenville finished 1 shot in front of Greenville's Henry Hall for the age group title.

Davis Petty won his Seawell 10-12 year old title last year and he did it again in 2022.

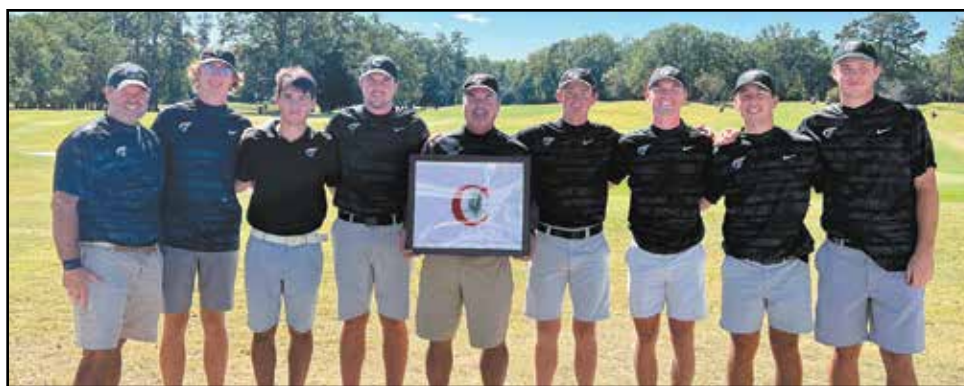
The Spartanburg 11 year old shot rounds of 35- 33 for a 68 (9 holes each day).

Greenville's Cullen Beck finished second with Greenville's Thomas Demint and Ty Childers from Gaffney all finished tied for 3rd place

The tournament uses a unique belt as a first place prize, it looks like a World Wrestling Federation belt, but it is a throw back to the original prizes at St. Andrews.

Seawell and his Mom helped hand out the awards to the winners after the second successful event played in his father and her husbands name.

"Dad would have been very proud of all of this today." Concluded Daniel Seawell with a knowing smile.



The Anderson Trojans will spend the rest of this year and the start of 2023 as the Number 1 ranked NCAA Division II Mens team. The Trojans have won four fall tournaments and finished in front of many of the top DII teams in the country. Anderson University Director of Golf Danny Neal (right) has led the Trojan program for 20 years, but this year's men's and women's teams are doing things that have never been done at Anderson. Associate Head Coach and Women's Coach Denton Moore has helped to expand the recruiting base, but has found quality golfers in the immediate Upstate area. Members of the #1 ranked Trojans are Simon Wright, Sam Norris, Parker MacDonald, Calahan Kever, Alejandro de Castro, Reece Coleman and Daniel Corker.

## Anderson men are Number 1 in NCAA DII

**Trojans are one of only three schools to have both men and women ranked in top10**

By Stan Olenik  
Editor - Publisher

There are a lot of roads that run through the Upstate. A couple of Interstates and plenty of state roads that can take you just about anywhere.

Anderson University has put its name on one road, but that road isn't on any map.

It is the road to the NCAA Division II Championship and in the last few years it has been rerouted from I-4 in Florida to I-85 in South Carolina.

Over the last 20 years Anderson University's Director of Golf, Danny Neal has had good teams and some really good players, but they have never been where they are today.

The Trojans have won 4 straight tournaments and have been rewarded with the #1 ranking in Golf Stat.

"Right now it is just special," said Neal. "You wish you could play every week. Our guys have been rolling and been beating some pretty strong fields," said the Trojans coach.

In each of the victories, the schools that were behind the Trojans at the end of each of the four tournaments, used to be the ones that were in front of Anderson in the polls.

D-II powers like Lynn, Nova Southeastern, Berry and a dozen other teams believe the DII championship is only for those few schools, who have always been in the championship hunt, but that has changed.

"Our guys are pretty excited about what they have done. They are seeing their work pay off and they all want to continue to work to get better," said Neal.

DII schools don't get battle ready recruits, instead they get golfers with potential, who may have developed late or didn't have the look the DI schools like to see.

Callahan Kever, from Greenville helped get the first win in the streak at the North Georgia Mizuno Intercollegiate, and earned a share of the medalists honors for himself.



The Anderson Women's team made the NCAA DII finals last year for the first time and hope to get back to the finals again. In the Fall the Trojans have an impressive win at the LeeAnn Noble Memorial and last year's All-American Jessica Rathbone was the medalist at the City with Spirit Classic. This year's team includes veterans Rathbone and Kennedy McGaha, Kerington Lamb, Emma Charles and Zoey Iglesias. First year Trojans Kennedy Gooding, Aly Francis and Paige Paolucci have already been in the line up. (Anderson University photo)

Kever was a late developing junior. He was a high school quarterback and played several other sports. He didn't concentrate on golf until his senior year.

He was the Greenville County High School champ and won the SCJGA Orange Jacket Classic.

In addition to the shared first place finish Kever has finished fourth, fifth and eleventh this year.

"The guys are all excited about the year so far," said Kever. "We have been in the women's shadow the last few years and it is great to get to this level," said the Greenville Eastside grad.

Kever is ranked 12th, 3 spots behind his teammate Reece Coleman in the latest GolfStat Player rankings.

"When you grow up playing junior golf in South Carolina you are always playing against golfers who go to Power 5 schools. You are not shaking in your boots when you play good people, you look forward to the challenge," noted Kever, looking ahead to the spring tournaments and regionals.

The women's team is just as competitive and ranked seventh.

Last year they made the NCAA DII Championship

Final-Four.

The top newcomer in the South Atlantic Conference last year was Kennedy McGaha from Belton and this year she is ranked 14th in the country.

The women's team started the season playing in Dallas Baptist's home tournament.

DBU is the Stanford of DII womens golf and the Trojans didn't win the tournament, but they didn't blink either.

"We know how good we are and how capable we are," said McGaha. "We can win playing those teams," she said.

The women will have a home field advantage at the end of the season because the South Atlantic Conference championship will be played on the Trojans' home course at Cobbs' Glenn.

Last year Neal was honored as the South Atlantic Coach of the Year.

Moore was named the DII Golf Pride WGCA assistant coach of the year and in the off season was promoted to head women's coach, but still helps Neal with the men.

There are plenty of stops on the road to the DII Championship in the Sunshine State, but it is no longer the only way to get there.

"Last year it was the women who had big tournament finishes over the Florida teams. They couldn't just show up and win anymore. They know there are some other teams in the Region who can play," said Moore, who besides coaching has refined the Trojans recruiting process to blend outstanding local talent with an occasional golfer from outside South Carolina or the country.

This year it is looking like the Anderson men can do the same thing the women did last year and hope to do again this year.

Make the top teams pass through the upstate.

Most coaches and athletes will tell you rankings don't mean much when you play for a championship on the field, but for the Trojan men the #1 ranking does have meaning and is important.

It not only recognizes a teams achievement playing, but it also is a measure of respect and this year the way the Trojans have played they have earned that respect and the #1 ranking.

**AAAAA...**

continued from page 9

game kind of fit together this week.”

Mauldin’s Olivia Pellerin was third, and Hawkins’ teammate Ella Stalvey was fourth.

Peake tied for fifth with Ashley Ridge’s Avery Smith.

Carolina Forest’s Mia Gray and Boiling Springs’ Madison Dixon tied for seventh, while Chapin’s Mia Andrade and Lily Reed Black were next.

In the team standings, Dorman wasn’t the only squad that leaned on a strong back nine performance.

T.L. Hanna improved by 21 strokes on the back side and used the score to move up in the team standings.

The improvement, including a combined 19-shot swing from Annaston Bell and Serra Erlenkeuser, to take a seven-shot advantage over Carolina Forest and Blythewood, which finished in a tie for fourth.

Mauldin, Byrnes, Lexington, Wando, and Ashley Ridge made the Top 10.

The last time a team from outside the Columbia area won a state title in the state’s largest classification was 2015. That, too, was a Dorman win.

Herring said bringing the title back is especially sweet.

“It’s a feeling of accomplishment, for sure,” Herring said. “This is what we’ve been working for. This is what we’ve been waiting for. It’s joy. I don’t know how else to describe it. This is everything. Winning during the season is great, and we want to get all of those that we can, but this is the one.”



Caroline Hawkins (left) from Blythewood shot an even par second round to win medalist honors by a shot. Olivia Pellerin (right) from Mauldin was tied for the lead after the first round and finished in third place for the championship. (GolfClub Photo)



The Pickens team won the state AAAA championship after being ranked as the number 1 AAAA team all during the past season. (Pickens photo)

**Pickens...**

continued from page 10

the lead to 23 shots as an indication they took the coaches words to heart.

Moseley shaved 7-shots off her first round total to shoot a 77. It was her best round ever and it came at a good time.

Also contributing to the win were Evie Harkins and Emily Hall, while Ashley Alexander played one round of the championship and Rylee Reid the other to get some high level experience-for the 7th grade.

This is the second state championship for Pickens. The first was in 2013.

Blackwell, who helped start the program, had stepped aside for a few years and during that time the first state title in girls golf was won at the school.

Several years ago he returned as coach and with the plan to build a championship team one step at a time,

“Each year we found something we needed to add or do a little different and this year we got it all put together. I missed the first golf championship and I’m glad I didn’t miss this one,” said the Blue Flame coach.

Madison Messimer from Myrtle Beach was the medalist.



The T.L. Hanna team played their way into third place with an outstanding second round back-nine effort. Team members included Marissa Scaletta, Ivy Schulze, Anaston Bell, Serra Erienkeuser, Sierra Schulze and Olivia Wallach. (Hanna Photo)

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# Smith eagles his way to Transou title

## Florence Junior adds a win at the "The Henry" to his Grant Bennett title

Taking home hard ware from any one of the highly competitive South Carolina Junior championships in a year lets you know you are a pretty good player.

When you haul the hardware away from two tournaments, you let everyone else in the state know you got game.

Jay Smith won his second important South Carolina Junior event with a convincing 7-shot victory over a solid field at the Henry Transou Junior Classic tournament played at Cherokee National Golf Club in Gaffney.

Smith, who is a senior at Trinity Collegiate School in Darlington, last spring won a pair of big high school tournaments, including the Anderson Brothers Bank Invitational.

He helped his high school team win the SCISA AAA championship and last July won his first significant SCJGA title when he edged out Spence Hagood for the championship at the Grant Bennett Junior played at the Florence Country Club.

His best tournaments have been played around his home in Florence and the Pee Dee, but his win in Gaffney shows his game can travel.

"I've played here three times and I love the course and the way the tournament is run," said the 2022 Transou champion. "I felt comfortable here and was able to play well," said Smith who improved on his 17th place finish in the 2021 Transou.

Smith opened the 36 hole championship shooting a 2-under par 70 and finished the first day in a tie with Cameron Biddle from Aiken.

The two had a slim lead over Reed Burton from Shelby, NC and a little further back, but within striking distance of the lead was Jerry Bruns from Beaufort, Woodruff's Gage Howard, Andrew Gregory from



Jay Smith added a win at the Transou Junior to his Grant Bennett victory. Smith carded a pair of eagles to help him take control of the championship. The boys 13-15 age group champions Will Ruth from Moore (left) finished second while Owen Atkinson from Columbia was the age group champion. Ty Childers from Gaffney won PeeWee title at the event. (GolfClub Photo)



Boiling Springs and Major Lenning from Simpsonville, who all have show, the ability to win big tournaments

In the second round Smith found a way to break out of the tie with Biddle and put some distance between himself and the other good players in the field.

He eagled two holes, both from the fairway and both were made with a wedge in his hands.

On the sixth hole he hit driver and pitching wedge for his first eagle.

His second eagle came on the 15th hole, a 553 yard par five that required a driver, three-wood and lob wedge to put Smith's second eagle on his scorecard.

"I'm pretty sure I've never had two eagles in the same round," he said

Smith signed for a second round 4-under par 68 and a two round total of 138.

"I had two good days of ball striking," said Smith. "I was able to put the ball where I wanted it and my putting and chipping was very good," he added.

Andrew Gregory finished as the runner-up in the Transou. The Boiling Springs High School golfer matched Spartanburg High School's Connor Williams each with 71s for the second lowest round of the day.

Smith and Gregory were the two highest ranked Heritage Classic Foundation players in the field and entered the tournament ranked #2 and #3 behind Indian Land's Mason Kucia.

In age group competition Gaffney's Ty Childers won his second Transou title in the Pee Wee Division.

Pee Wees play 18 holes divided into two 9-hole rounds and Childers who won his first Transou title at the age of nine and repeated the win two years later.

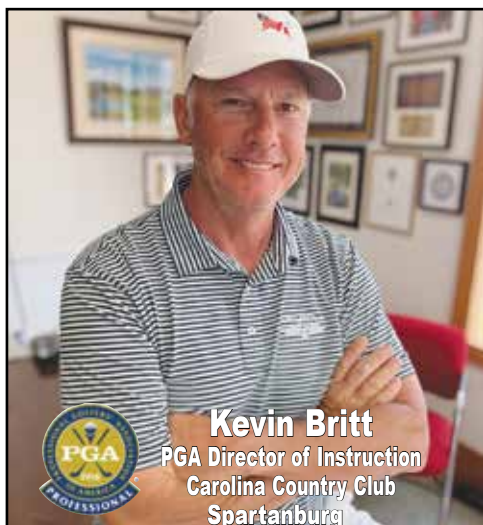
Childers shot identical rounds of 35 each day to win the age group competition by six shots over Parker Adler of Gaffney, Kingston Linder and Will Miller from Spartanburg who all tied for second place.

Childers, who thinks he has been playing golf with a scorecard since he was around 6 years old, kept control of his ball in both rounds.

"I hit a few bad shots, but not many and I made some good pars," said the young winner who finished at 2-under par for his 18 holes.

In the Boys Sub-PeeWee Davin Kozic from Gaffney topped Lucca Parker also from Gaffney for the age group victory.

## Kevin Britt wants to know - Do you want to get better?



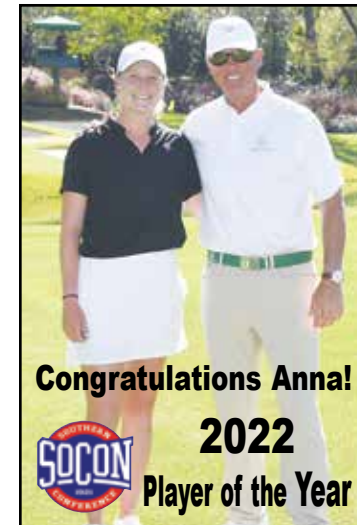
"I enjoy teaching golfers who want to get better. If I can help a 30 handicapper down into the teens, that is as satisfying as helping a junior get good enough to earn a college scholarship."



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**AAA...**

continued from page 10

The team opened the state championship holding a 4-shot lead over the Tigers, which grew during the first nine holes of the final round.

But after the turn Padgett started to feel like the lead might be slipping away. The Bobcats were struggling to keep the lead and Blue Ridge was charging.

“I give a lot of credit to the Blue Ridge players and Coach Cisson. They never gave up and they played hard. We were leaking oil,” said Padgett.

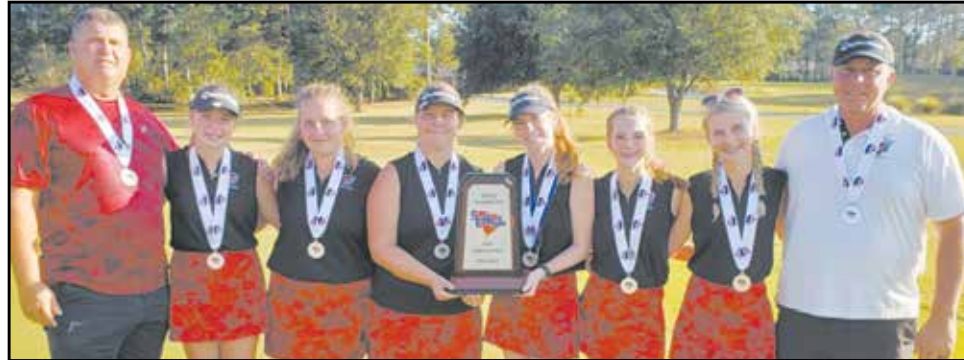
With five holes left Padgett went to talk with his daughter, Mattie, and told her the team needed to play better or the championship could get away.

“I told her we needed to step it up and as a dad and a coach I’m so proud of the way she finished the tournament and helped us win,” said Padgett.

The Bobcat senior went par, birdie, par and parred the difficult finishing hole with a big crowd watching.

“We had a great year and our three seniors led us to this championship. Mattie, Megan McConnell and Lacy Edwards all were a big part our year,” noted Padgett.

Ansley Bryson tied for third place while Padgett finished in a tie for sixth. Skylar Martin came close to matching her first round score. Hazel Martin



Blue Ridge gave Seneca a battle in the AAA final before falling a few shots short of the Bobcats. The Tigers senior Lindley Cox (above) came from 5 shots off the lead to win the individual AAA championship. Blue Ridge team members included Lindley Cox, Katelyn Cox, Haley Meredith, Melanie Meredith, Ashley Azzaro, AnnaMarie Gwinn. Coach Randy Cisson and assistant Robin Meredith. (Blue Ridge photo)



improved by a shot in the final round and Megan McConnell and Lacy Edwards each contributed not only to the win, but the success of the entire season.

Blue Ridge’s Lindley Cox came from five shots back in the final round to be the AAA Medalist.

Cox made up the shots by the turn, but had to navigate the difficult finishing hole at the Hackler Course to win the championship.

On the state championship stage with all the teams gathered to watch the final golfers, Cox overcame some adversity.

The Region Player of the Year had to execute a difficult shot from the green side bunker to save par and the win.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet,” said the state champion. “I think when I made the turn and was even with everyone I thought I



The AAA All-State team (above) included medalist Lindley Cox, Blue Ridge, Olivia Ireland, Chapman, Ansley Bryson, Seneca, Emily Davis BHP, Gracie Lee - Aynor, Ella Kate Burnett - Aynor, Mattie Padgett - Seneca, Katelyn Cox Blue Ridge, Edie-Raine Hardee - Seneca, (SCHSL Photo)

had a chance if I could play well,” she said.

She played well, and not only had a chance to win, she became the first Blue Ridge girl golfer to win a State Championship.

Cox shot rounds of 76 and 75 for a 151 total and a two shot victory over Olivia Ireland from Chapman.

“It was exciting to win and when it finally sinks in it will be very special for me,” said

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# Venable is undefeated at Southern Oaks

## Second WSCGA Match Play title for Holly Tree golfer, Bonhen wins State Division

If the USGA ever decided to hold a US Open at Southern Oaks, Lea Venable would give the field two a side and still probably win. The Holly Tree Country Club golfer is undefeated on the course near Easley.

"I won a County here and we play in some captain's choice tournaments and a few other business things and I always win," she said after accepting the trophy as the champion of the Women's South Carolina Golf Association's Match Play championship.

"I love this course, it just seems to set up well for me. I always play it well and look forward to playing here," she said.

Venable started the event as the second seed behind Thornblade's Dawn Woodard.

The limited field was pre-flighted before beginning three days of golf to crown winners in the Championship bracket and the State Bracket.

Woodard already owned 6 match play titles to go along with her 9 WSCGA state championships during the very successful amateur career of the former Furman golfer.

As two of the most accomplished golfers in the



Lea Venable won her second WSCGA Match Play championship with a 4 & 1 victory over Thornblade Club's Dawn Woodard. The win at Southern Oaks keeps a winning streak going for Venable at the course in Easley. (GolfClub Photo)

up the first round win with a victory over Taryn Dalton from River Hills Country Club.

Venable won her way into the final with victories over Margaret Olsen from the Carolinas TOC and Nancy Dodge from the Mid-Carolina Club, both by comfortable margins.

The first four holes were played even, but Venable won the 6th, 7th and 9th hole to break out of a tie and take a three-hole lead.

The two-time champion made herself a three-time champion by finishing off the match on the 14th hole to claim the win at 4 up.

Venable believed in her success on the course, but that was only part of the reason.

"Dawn is such a good player and especially a good driver of the ball. Around here (Southern Oaks) you don't use a driver very often, but your short game has to carry you because you will have to hit a lot of different shots," said Venable.

The new champion used just about every club in her bag to get around the course.

"I had a good week chipping and putting and it showed up in the scores of the matches," she said.

Venable, who like Woodard, recently played in the US Mid Am is a regular in WSCGA events.

"It's fun. I support the WSCGA. At the end of the day this is what made me a junior golfer, so why not

upstate, it was no surprise they ended up facing each other in the final match.

Woodard won her way into the final by topping Sandi Teller from Blackmore Golf Club and followed

Venable... continued on page 22

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# Summers last amateur championships

## Nielsens win at Saluda Valley, chip-off needed at Three Pines

By Jed Blackwell  
Associate Editor - Publisher

Thomas and Tim Nielsen combined to shoot a final round 57 and a two-day total of 122, winning the event by five strokes over Will Hannah and Brandon Alexander.

Mike Teasley and Lewis Wiles tied for third with Whitt Jefferson and Austin Langdale.

"We played really well," Thomas said. "I hit some drives, and Tim made a lot of good putts."

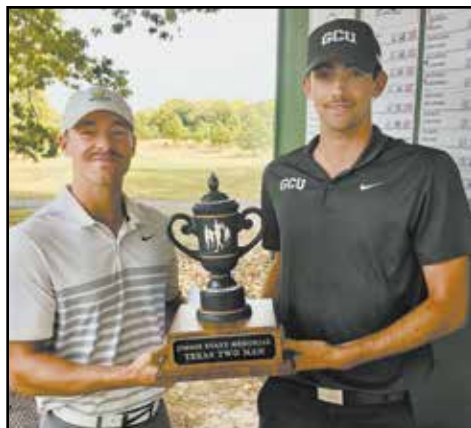
The brothers got off to a great start on Sunday, making eagle on their first hole.

"That kind of got us pumped up," Tim said. "We used my drive, Thomas hit a second shot to about 25 feet, we made the putt, and that got us on our way."

The Nielsens won the tournament in their first appearance, and said they enjoyed the event and hope to play more in the future.

"It was great getting a chance to get out here and play with Tim," Thomas said. "We had amazing weather, the course is in great shape, and the greens were rolling really well. Jeff does a good job running this tournament, and it was a great time."

For Evatt, the tournament that serves



Thomas Nielsen and Tim Nielsen shot a two-day total of 122 to win the Jimmie Evatt Memorial Texas Two-Man tournament at Saluda Valley. The event is been played in memory of Evatt. (SVCC Photo)

as a memorial to his late father is a labor of love.

"He died in 2005, and we started the tournament in 2007, so this is our 16th year," he said.

"Every year, we've been fortunate to have a full field and a waiting list. There's great support for this, and I'm blessed that players want to come out and play in honor of my father."

Evatt said he allows Saluda Valley members a few days to register first before opening the tournament to the public.

"It usually fills up in five or six days once it's public," he said. "Sixty-two teams, 124 golfers. A lot of people plan around it and come back year after year. It means a lot to me. People support it because of my dad, and they enjoy it and look forward to playing in it. It's really gratifying to see the level of support."



Tyler Croxton and Matthew Wiggins won the Upstate Fall Two-Man at Three Pines on a chip-off over Bradford Thorne and Hunter Parks. Both teams finished at 22-under. (Upstate Golf Club Photo)

## Almost dark before Croxton and Wiggins win Fall Challenge

Faced with the prospect of a chip-off to decide the Upstate Fall Two-Man Team Championship at Three Pines, Tyler Croxton and Matthew Wiggins elected not to watch their opponents.

They couldn't have seen much anyway.

After a long back nine led to two playoff holes and a finish in the gloaming, Croxton and Wiggins won a coin toss and elected to chip second. Then, they went and stood behind a tree.

"We didn't want to watch," Croxton said. "We didn't want to hear."

So, ignorant of what they were up against, Wiggins finished by nestling his chip to about six feet.

It was good enough for a win, as they defeated Bradford Thorne and Hunter Parks in extra play.

Both teams finished regulation in the two-day tournament at 22-under.

That the event was decided by the short game was ironic, as the longest holes at Three Pines had a lot to do with the pair's success on Sunday.

They played the course's four Par-5 holes in six-under-par, scores that springboarded them into the lead.

"The eagle at 13 was our first lead of the tournament," Wiggins said. "We didn't know exactly where we were, but we knew we were two up on those guys we were playing with. We had about 153 in, hit a 9-iron 20-feet right, and Tyler made a great birdie and freed me up to roll it in."

They backed it up with a birdie at 14 before Thorne and Parks went on a roll.

"Those boys got hot," Wiggins said. "We had a couple of good looks, but they birdied 15, made a bomb on 15, then birdied 17 and 18."

It took some heroics at the Par-5 18th just to salvage the playoff. Wiggins found himself on a root, under a tree, with a rock behind his ball.

"It was a tough lie, red dirt," he said. "It was just tough to make contact, honestly. I kind of just closed my eyes and hit it."

It worked, as Wiggins converted the birdie. Croxton had a tricky look at a birdie of his own, which wasn't needed.

"I joked that we didn't get to count  
**Three Pines...** continued on page 22

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# Gregory and Roberts win Fall challenges

## Roberts wins title at Stoney Point, Gregory wins at Cheraw

A pair of Spartanburg County Juniors brought home the championship from the same event, that was played on different courses.

The South Carolina Junior Golf Association's Fall Challenge was played for the boys at Cheraw State Park and The Links at Stoney Point hosted the girls version of the championship.

Andrew Gregory broke out of tie for the lead with a 6-under par 66 to win the boys SCJGA Fall Challenge at Cheraw.

The girls leader board looked like a composite of the top girls who competed at all four levels in the recently concluded high school championships.

Olivia Roberts, a week before had won the South Carolina High School AA Individual championship and helped her Chesnee team to the state title for a second year in a row.

Roberts trailed Claire Greene from Okati by a shot after the first round.

In the second round Roberts played



Andrew Gregory shot a final round 6-under par 66 to win the SCJGA Fall Challenge by 7-shots. Olivia Roberts earned her first SCJGA win with her victory in the Girls Fall Challenge. (SCJGA Photos)

an even par front nine with no birdies or no bogeys to take the lead.

"I knew I needed to grind today," said Roberts. "I knew pars would get it done, I tried to get a few birdies in and really limit the bogeys," she said.

Greene struggled from the start with a double bogey on the first hole to fall off the pace.

Roberts finished with a two-day total of 147 for a three shot victory.



Boys Player of the Year.

Gregory was able to break out of a first round tie with Luke Walmet from Mount Pleasant.

"I made a lot of putts and a lot of them were easy today," said Gregory who helped his Boiling Springs High School team to the South Carolina AAAAA championship last spring.

Gregory bogeyed his second hole, but after that it was all pars and birdies.

He shot 34-32 for his final round 6-under par 66 and an 8-shot win.

While some golfers will not admit their goal is to win the Player of the Year, Gregory has had being the P-O-Y in South Carolina as his long time goal.

"It has been my goal this year to win the Player of the Year. I needed this win and need to play well next in Hartsville to hopefully have a chance," he said.

In the last three events Gregory has played, he has finished in front of Mason Kucia who is the current points leader.

"I was trying to redeem myself for the last couple of tournaments when I didn't play as well, and I got it done today. Now I need to have another good week at The Players," said Gregory.

"It feels really good to get my first SCJGA win, and this gives me a lot of confidence going into the Players Championship," Roberts said about the next big event on the SCJGA schedule.


The boys' champion Andrew Gregory also has his sites set on the Players starting on November 12th at Hartsville.

Gregory's reason is simple, now with his win at the Fall Challenge he has a path to the SCJGA Heritage Foundation

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# Upstate wins Wofford Invitational

## Spartans go from fourth to first to win, Nontarux wins first college championship

USC Upstate knew something most of the other teams in the Wofford Intercollegiate didn't know.

They knew the course, because the Carolina Country Club is the Spartans' home course.

"Before the final round I told the team this was their course," said Upstate coach Todd Lawton. "They know it better than any of the other teams and they should go out and use that knowledge," he said.

The Spartans started the final round in fifth place and were nine shots off the pace and not playing very well in the final round.

"We just were not playing well. We had a bunch of mistakes and we were running out of holes," said the coach.

Instead of playing more conservative to avoid mistakes Lawton told team to be aggressive.

The team still made some bogeys, but there were also birdies, enough birdies for the Spartans to move up and wonder if they could win.

"I thought we would need to get to 45 over to win, we finished at 44, but we were done and South Dakota was still playing.

What gave Lawton some confidence is that everyone on his team had birdied the difficult par 5 final hole at Carolina.

"We also got a couple of birdies on 17. We turned it around and played much better, but we still had to wait for the teams in front of us to finish," said the Upstate coach.

The Spartans were getting a little help from South Dakota. While every Upstate golfer birdied the final hole only one of the Coyotes made a birdie.

The victory keeps an annual winning streak going for the Spartans, now for five straight years.

Redshirt freshman Preaw Nontarux also rallied in



USC Upstate roared back in the final round to win the Wofford Intercollegiate at the Carolina Country Club. Spartan senior Preaw Nontarux (below) also rallied in the final round to win the individual title. (Upstate Photo) The winning team included Been Pabsimma, Ashley Looper, Suwarin Yord-In, Elin Wahlgren and Nontarux. Also pictured Assistant coach Brooke Hutto.



the final round to win the individual competition.

Nontarux earned her first college win after piling up 13 top-5 finishes in her time at Upstate.

"I want to make sure everyone knows what a great job our assistant Brook Hutto did helping Ashley Looper shoot a 76. Without what those two did, we would not have won," said Lawton.

Also helping the Spartans get their first win of the year were Beem Pabsimma, Swarin Yord-In and Elin Wahlgren, Elin

Lawton hopes the Spartans can carry the momentum from the exciting come from behind win with the team when the spring season begins after the holidays.

## Chesnee...

continued from page 9

the first five years of the program.

The Eagles finished sixth in their first season and followed it up with a pair of runner-up finishes and the two championships.

The Chesnee program began when the High School League stopped Chesnee golfers from playing on the Boiling Springs golf team.

In the past, the league had allowed student athletes to participate in sports at other schools in their district if their own school did not offer the program.

At the time Scruggs had Boiling Springs on a competitive level with state powers like Lexington and Dorman, but when the SCHSL ended the opportunity for students to play within the district, Scruggs moved to Chesnee to begin the now championship program.

"I thought we were being penalized, but as time has gone by I see it as being a benefit to the kids who want to play golf. There are now more opportunities for girls to play golf and it's good for the sport, the schools and especially for the girls," he said.

With a team of all sophomores and freshmen Scruggs believes Chesnee could be in position to bring a few more championships back to the school.

"We know we have to work hard to win and I believe our players are committed and will keep doing it," he said

After the win the team and a large number of parents and Chesnee fans celebrated the victory.

"We have been so fortunate to have great support from our community. We especially appreciate the parents who understand what it takes for our program to be successful. We also couldn't do this without the support of Chesnee Country Club, Meadowbrook and Cherokee National who all help us get better and win," concluded the Eagles coach.

This year's championship team included Roberts, Parker, Shields and Abigaile Watson, Abby Harrington and Jada Flynn.

Oceanside from Mount Pleasant finished second, Academic Magnet from Charleston was third, followed by Greenville's Christ Church and Landrum in fifth

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# Jay and Bill's excellent adventure

## Father and son lead US team to win in President's Cup

Half a world away from Greenville, Jay and Bill Haas were the main characters in a golf drama the equal of any final round at a major.

It could not have been scripted any better if Stephen Spielberg had penned the screenplay.

The US team retained the President's Cup with a heart stopping final round and final hole.

The score was 15 1/2 to 14 1/2 in the tournament played in Korea and watched in the USA into the early morning.

The match that locked up the win for the US was a 2 up victory by Bill Haas over Sang Moon Bae of Korea.

"When we put him (Bill) out 12th we had no idea that this was going to happen," said the team captain. "He played beautifully down the stretch, I could not have dreamed this," said the senior Haas.

It wasn't supposed to happen that way. The US team had blown away the International team in all but one President's Cup.

With Jordan Spieth, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson and Phil Mickelson playing early in the final round it seemed unlikely that the last match of the final day would produce the final outcome.

The US team got off to a great start on the first day. The International team played their way back into the match on the second day and entered the final round trailing the US by only a point.



President's Cup hero Bill Haas (left) gets some congratulations and hugs from team captain (his dad) Jay Haas and his mom Jan after wrapping up the victory for the US team. (Photo from the PGA Tour)

Before Bill Haas went out for this final round he talked with teammate Zach Johnson.

"I said to Zach I hope you guys go out and dust them so it doesn't come down to me. He said that is what you've got to want. You've got to want to be in that position," he said.

Johnson won his match with Jason Day to keep the International star winless in the competition and set up Haas to be the difference maker.

"When I was on the 13th tee I looked at a scoreboard. I was like, man, it's definitely on. My match is big, it's going to matter," said Bill Haas.

Haas had a one hole lead over Bae going into the final hole.

*The Golf Club published the story of the President's Cup and the unique Father and son story that made the event special for the Haas family.*

*The long time Upstate residents added a memorable event to the many achievements both rather and son have made to the game and shared their success with their fans in the Upstate.*

**Golf Club  
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"I was fortunate that I had a few good bounces early to get up a couple. That was the hardest position I've felt on the golf course in my career," he said.

Playing in front of his home crowd the pressure had to be unbelievable for Bae. He chunked his third shot while Haas blasted out of a green-side bunker to within 6 feet.

He made the putt to give the US team the final point they needed for the win.

"I can't even talk about it really. It was a goal of mine all year to make this team and I shouldn't even be getting emotional. It's just golf. But to be in that team room with all those guys, it means a lot to me," said Bill Haas.

While Bill was able to keep his emotions under control, it was a different story for his dad.

Jay Haas had trouble getting through a TV interview after the win without breaking into some tears.

"I believe I would have been just as nervous no matter who was out there, but I was more emotional I think because it was Bill," he said.

It was hard to tell if Haas was happier for his son's success or for the victory by the entire team.

"I was much more emotional I think than if it would have been anyone else on the team, but no less proud. They all are fantastic, I just can't say enough. I feel like, except for maybe Phil, they are all like my sons, age factor, age factor," he said with a laugh.

Bill Haas has added another pressure packed success to go along with his Fed/Ex Cup win.

"To be in this position and the way it all worked out was a very great moment for me and my dad, and certainly the whole team. I'm lucky to be a part of this team and to get picked, and I'm just happy I could help the team out with one point there on Sunday. It feels great," concluded Haas.

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**Phillips...**continued from page 10

awful the course can be almost unplayable.

"I had a good first day and shot a 69, but the second day the wind was 30 miles an hour and it was cold. I hit driver and four iron on a par-4 and was still short," he recalled.

Phillips shot a 79 in that round and missed the cut after shooting a 72 in the third round.

"It was miserable. On some holes, it was impossible to take the club back. The next time I go there it will be to play in the British Open," he said.

Phillips also got an invitation to play in the PGA Tour's season-ending Wyndham Championship in Greensboro.

It was his first PGA Tour event. He shot rounds of 72 and 70 but missed the cut.

While his finish on the PGA Tour University ranking wasn't good enough to get an exemption into the BMW, skipping the First Stage of Q-School was one of the benefits.

Like every Tour quality professional, Phillips is keeping an eye on the situation caused by the start-up of the LIV Tour.

It isn't something he is spending much time considering now, but he isn't against playing 54-hole tournaments in shorts for a lot of money.

"I know some of the guys on the LIV Tour. I think it is something to consider, and everybody should. Being closed-minded to it isn't very smart,"



Trent Phillips enjoyed having his older brother Trevor, also a former Georgia golfer and two-time Spartanburg County Amateur champion, as his caddy and companion in Canada and Q-School.

he said.

But for now, his focus is on next month and the opportunity to improve his Korn-Ferry Tour status as he gets ready for Savannah.

"I'm playing good golf and I'm not changing anything. I'm just going to play golf and breathe and get the best status I can for next year," concluded Phillips.

**Evatt...**

continued from page 18

any of my birdies," he laughed. "That one, I definitely didn't want to have to hit."

Part of that owed to the pair's strategy. Croxton's control and Wiggins' length off the tee allowed the team wedges into a lot of greens.

"We made up our minds that I was going first on every hole, to get it in play and free him up to take a swing at it," Croxton said. "It really worked out."

"I hit it in a bunker on 7, and hit my shot first, and that's the only time we switched," Wiggins said. "He went first no matter what. We stuck to it."

The teams traded birdies on the first playoff hole, as Parks hit his approach to three feet, but Croxton made a 10-foot-er. Wiggins' 20-footer for the win on the

second hole was just short, downhill. "How it stayed out, I don't know," he laughed. "It was a quarter-inch short downhill."

So, with the green lit by cell phone flashlights, the pair sequestered themselves away from the chip-off, then went out and hit it close.

Wiggins said the finish, and the win, was a rewarding one.

"It was a grind out there, and we're excited," he said. "We said this was probably our last tournament of the year. We wanted to go out with a bang."

*Flight Winners Dave Ellington and Joey Patterson won the First Flight Steve Graham and Rick Oyervides teamed up to win the Second Flight. Third Flight - Doug Tooke and Chris Zorn. Fourth Flight - Michael Jordan and Eric Grumbles, Fifth Flight - Jack Kaufer and Mike Dortch.*

**Venable...**continued from page 10

support what brought you here and that is what makes it special for me. Some people move on but this is what molded a lot of us as kids, so why not play in WSCGA tournaments," said Venable.

The State Division championship was contested between two good friends and golfing buddies.

Leah Bohnen from Three Pines Country Club and Dana Halliday from The Country Club of Spartanburg matched up in the final.

Halliday held the early lead, but after the turn Bohnen won three straight holes

and won the State title 3-1.

When the match was bouncing between the two gofers Bohnen's near miracle shot helped move the momentum to her side of the scorecard.

"I hit a bad tee shot and was near some water with a trap between me and the green. I hit a sand wedge and made it. The birdie got things going for me the rest of the round," said Bohnen.

While the championship was decided by traditional bracket play, all the golfers in the field were able to play three days at Southern Oaks.



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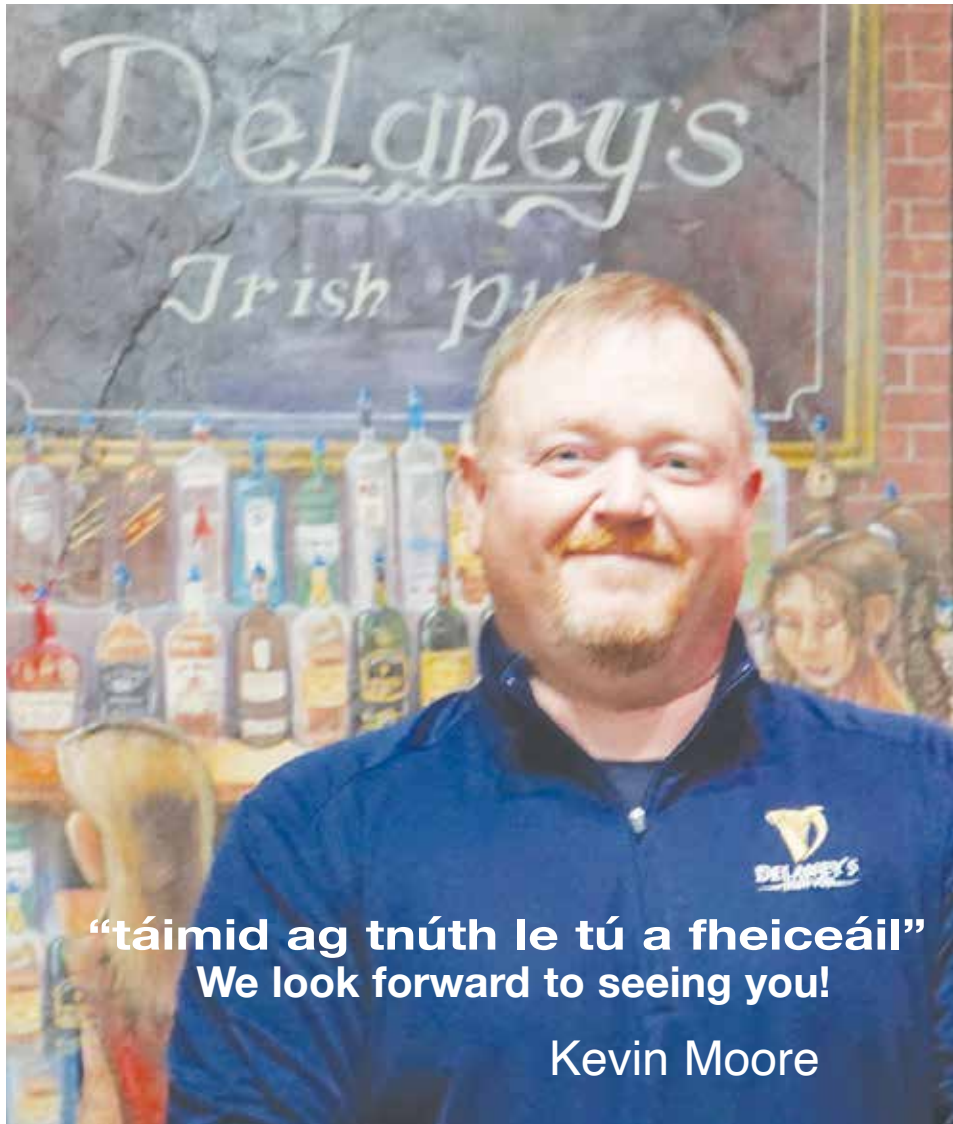
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