

FREE

OCT

**VOL 30
No.8**

Golf News For Carolina Golfers

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See Mike's Tip for Oct on Page 2

PGA Tour Bound!



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Championship Season

Do You Know?



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.

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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.

Let's talk Golf

The worst instructional advice you have ever received could very well be to HIT TWO OR THREE INCHES BEHIND THE BALL when playing a standard green side bunker shot.

You will always struggle in a bunker if you hit that far behind the ball, and concurrently the point where the club head enters the sand represents the lowest part of the swing.

The best bunker players take as little sand as possible by only hitting an inch or less behind the ball.

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At contact with the sand, the grip should be in front of the ball when playing a normal green side bunker shot.

Don't raise the grip on contact with the sand.

Keep the grip down as the club head swings down and under the ball, and allow the club head to then swing upward.

MAKE A FULL SWING!!

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.

Upstate events and aces

Events you can Play

Upstate Fall Two-Man, Three Pines Country Club, October 15-16. Entry deadline is October 12th.

The tournament is open only to amateur golfers and limited to 60 teams. The field will be flighted after the first round.

The tournament will be played using the Texas Scramble format. Entries can be made online at www.upstategolfclub.com.

The 16th Jimmie Evatt Texas 2-Man, Saluda Valley Country Club, October 15-16th. Open to all golfers!

The tournament is open to all golfers. A 9am shotgun start both days. Flighted after round 1 & play in your flight in final round.

Limited to first 60 teams. Call Saluda Valley Country Club to register by calling 864-847-7102.

"The Henry" Transou Memorial Junior, Cherokee National, Oct 15-16th.

The tournament is open to juniors, boys and girls ages 8-18 competing in age group divisions. Applications are available online at www.cherokeernationalgolfclub.com.

Hillbilly Clan Shrine Tournament, 2-Man Captain's Choice, Oct 16th, Oconee Country Club. Shotgun start at 9AM on course beverages and lunch included. Proceeds go to the Hejaz Shriners. Enter by calling the golf shop at 864-882-8037.

Scratch-Scramble and Oyster Roast, Links O'Tryon, Friday, November 28th, Four person teams, open to all golfers, amateurs and pros, men and women. Two Divisions, Open and Senior.

Call the golf shop at 864-460-5099 to register for the tournament.

Folds of Honor at Stoney Point

The Folds of Honor tournament at Stoney Point in Greenwood on Memorial Day raised \$14,000.

The Captain's Choice team event awarded a top prize to the branch of the military that wins the tournament.

The four branches of the armed services were represented. This year the Army marched away with the win over the teams representing the other branches of the service.

Upstate Aces

Ben Sterling, Village Greens Golf Course: #11, 130 yds 8 iron; Witnesses, Thom Carney, Derrell Moore, Bob O'Neil.

Tim Buchanan, Walker Course, #4, 105 yds, Callaway, 7 iron. Witnesses: Charles Cucius, Chip Voyles, Steve Smith.

Brad Roberts, Cobbs Glen, #7. Witnesses Jim (Doc) Carson and Al Groves.

Teresa Tucker, Oconee Country Club, #6, 120 yds. Witness Barbara.



Walter Echols on #4 and Bobby Humphries on #7 each made an ace playing in the same group at The Links at Stoney Point.

A pair of left-handed golfers scored holes-in-one in the same round at Stoney Point in Greenwood. Walter Echols (left) made his ace on the 4th hole, while Bobby Humphries (right) aced the 7th hole.

Mia Carles, Boscobel #1, 120, 7-iron. Carles made the hole-in-one and went on to win the girls championship at the Orange Jacket.

Bradley Styles, Links O'Tryon, #15, 158 yds. 7-iron. First Ace.

Steve Jones, Oconee Country Club, #6, 122 yds. 8-iron.

Rebekah Demars, Southern Oaks, #4, Made her H-I-O during the Lady Hurricane tournament..

Tom Chevalier, Oconee Country Club, #16, 145 yds. 7-iron.

John Fulton, Carolina Springs, #5 135 yds. 7-iron. Witnesses Gary Knight, Paul Brezinski.

Cleve Nicholes, Links O Tryon, #7, 110yds. PW. This was Nicholes sixth hole-in-one.

Jim Gardiner, Carolina Springs, #5, 85 yds. PW. Witnesses Mike Clement, Charles James.

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

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The Golf Club

is published 10 times per year
March thru December
by the
Palmetto Sports Network, LLC
Founded April 1992

The Golf Club would like your
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SCJGA Match Play at Congaree

New junior event set for the exclusive Congaree Golf Club

The Congaree Golf Club in Ridgeland is among the most exclusive and highest rated golf clubs in the state.

This month the Tom Fazio designed course at the club is hosting a second PGA Tour event when defending champion Rory McIlroy and an international field come to the course.

In the 2020-2021 season the club hosted the Palmetto Championship, a PGA Tour event that was in the place on the schedule usually occupied by the RBC Canadian Open.

The Canadian national championship was not played because of Covid restrictions in Canada.

The SCGA will play the state's first junior Match Play championship at the course starting on May 23, 2023.

The field of 32 boys and 16 girls will be selected for the event based on the Heritage Foundation Junior Rankings.

The SCJGA and the Congaree Foundation have joined together to begin the new event.

The Congaree Foundation has a mission to positively impact the lives of young people locally and around the globe by providing educational and vocational opportunities through golf.



The exclusive Congaree Golf Club in Ridgeland will host the first SCJGA Match Play championship in May of 2023.



Haas wins Creed Junior at Camden

Kyle Haas from Winston-Salem held on for a one-shot win at Camden to claim the 10th annual Creed Boys Championship.

Carson Bertagnole from Pinehurst matched Haas' opening round 65 in the final round to finish second by a shot.

Greenwood's Spence Hagood was the top Palmetto State junior in the field finishing in a tie for sixth place.

Haas shot rounds of 65 - 69 and 71 for a 205 total and his first CGA event championship.

Harwell wins CGA Senior Amateur

Steve Harwell from Mooresville, NC won the 61st Carolinas Senior Amateur championship at Rock Barn Country Club.

Harwell edged out Larry Cloninger from Gastonia by a shot for the win.

Duff Wagner from Taylors finished in a tie for third place.

Rock Hill's Rick Cloninger and Siimpsonville's Yancey Johnson tied for eighth place.



Biershenk and Derby win Players 4-Ball

Greer's Parker Darby and Boiling Springs Robbie Biershenk teamed up to take the title at the SCGA Players Four-Ball championship.

The two upstate golfers shot a 2-round total of 16-under par 128 to win the event at the Columbia Country Club by 2 shots.

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Floyd is first SCGA Public Links champion

Sumter golfer wins new SCGA Championship at the Charleston Muni course

When the names went up on the first round leader board at the South Carolina Golf Association Public Links Championship there were not any of the usual names.

Golfers who regularly appear in contention at SCGA events were not among the leaders and SCGA Executive Director Biff Lathrop could not have been more pleased.

“We wanted to open the tournament to new golfers who might not have the chance to play in one of our other championships,” said Lathrop.

The SCGA joined with the Charleston Municipal course to begin the tournament modeled after the old USGA Public Links championship.

“We had a lot of interest from golfers around the state, but not all of those who wanted to play could match our entry requirements,” said Lathrop.

The old “Publinks” championship was only open to golfers who did not have a primary club affiliation.

Golfers who were in e-clubs or members at semi-private clubs that allowed public play were included among the eligible golfers.

The SCGA wanted to play on a public course and Charleston Municipal was an easy choice for the state association.

“They had just done an amazing remodeling job on



Sumter's Colin Floyd won the first SCGA Public Links championship at the Charleston Municipal golf course. Floyd scrambled back from out of bounds on the second playoff hole to win the title. (SCGA Photo) the course and it is certainly one of the best municipal golf courses in the state,' said Lathrop.

The USGA ran the Public Links championship from 1922 to 2013 when it was discontinued in favor of the USGA Four-Ball championship.

Clemson golfers D J Trahan won the national championship in 2000 and Corbin Mills was the champion in 2011.

One of the perks that came with a win in the Public Links championship was an invitational to play in The Masters.

“We call our Mid-Am the working man’s championship, but we may have to change that title to this event,” said Lathrop.

The field for the championships included 72 golfers who met the public links eligibility requirement.

“The atmosphere was very different. The golfers all had a great time even if they didn’t play very well. They enjoyed the course and the competition and after the round they enjoyed a beer with their buddies,” recalled Lathrop.

After the first round Colin Floyd from Sumter and Wade Wawner from Charleston had the lead after shooting rounds of 3-under par 69.

In the second round Floyd, who played college golf at Francis Marion, and Wawner finished even again as each golfer shot a 3-over 75 to be tied at the end of regulation.

The two played the first playoff hole, (no 18) even and would have to play it a second time.

The second time around neither golfer played the hole well, both had trouble.

Floyd had to scramble back from out of bounds and needed to drain a 30 foot putt to win the championship with a bogey.

“I’m very happy to win,” said Floyd. “It is nice to know my name will be the first one on the trophy,” he said.

The first “Publinks” winner plays his golf mostly on the weekend at Beech Creek in Sumter when he is not coaching his daughters baseball team.

“When I can I try to play in some SCGA partner events, but to be able to play in a championship like this and win is pretty special,” said Floyd.

The success of the first tournament has already guaranteed a return to the Charleston muni for the second SCGA Public Links championship next fall.

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Melena Barrientos (left) finished fourth individually while Annabella Pancake (right) shot a final round 4-under par 67 to help the Tigers finish as the runner-up. Clemson head coach Kelley Hester celebrates with her team including Savannah Grewal, Sydney Roberts, Annabella Pancake, Melena Barrientos, Chloe Holder and assistant coach Erica Popson. (Clemson Photo and GolfClub file photos)

Tigers finish strong at the Cougar Classic

Clemson's fine start earns the Tigers a spot in the top-20

With a group of experienced players returning and adding two South Carolina high school state champions and an experienced transfer who already had a college win on her record, Clemson coach Kelley Hester felt comfortable enough to make a prediction about this year's team.

"With so many returners, I predict this will be our best year yet in my tenure," she told The Golf Club newspaper back in July.

It ain't bragging if you can do it, and after the first big event of the new season Hester's team backed up her prediction.

In a field that included 14 teams from Power-5 conferences, Clemson closed with two outstanding rounds to finish in second behind Ole' Miss at the season opening Cougar Classic at Yeamans Hall in Charleston.

Clemson almost chased down the 2021 NCAA champs in the final round for the tournament title.

The Tigers shot the best round of the tournament in the second round when they posted a 275 total to shave a few strokes off the Ole' Miss lead.

Clemson entered the final round trailing the Rebels by 8-shots.

Ole Miss finished with an even par round of 284 while Clemson posted a 7-under 277, one shot short of catching the leader.

"I know we have a great group of ladies who are talented, work hard, and

are a joy to coach. Should be exciting to see this relatively young group compete this year," added the Tiger's coach.

Hester's season opening lineup was a mix of experienced players and some talented newcomers.

Sophomore Melena Barrientos helped Clemson make its run toward the lead and finished the tournament at 7-under par in fourth place.

Barrientos was the top Tiger last year at Yeamans Hall when she finished sixth in her first college tournament.

"Meléna just missed out on some playoffs this summer for the US am. Her iron play is a strength and that was on full display on those tricky Seth Reynor greens," said the Clemson coach.

Annabelle Pancake carded a 4-under par 67 and Savannah Grewal finished at 1-under 70 for the 12 under par team

total.

Grewal is a senior who this summer, along with junior Annabella Pancake, made the round of 32 at the US Amateur. She has been ranked as the top amateur in her native Canada.

Pancake became the first Clemson women's golfer to advance to the round of 16 at the US Amateur.

Her summer resume also included second place finishes at the Texas Open and the Western Amateur as well as getting a start in an Epson Tour event in her home state of Indiana.

"Annabelle (t-13) and Savannah (t-21) did have exceptional summers and I'm proud of them for not skipping a beat and just continuing along that same trend. Both can hit it a mile and when the putter gets going, look out!" offered

Tigers... continued on page 22

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Coastal's Upstate golfers earn top finishes

Cooper and Taylor help Chants get off to fast fall start

Coastal Carolina is off to a fast start this fall and a pair of Upstate golfers have helped contribute to the early success of the team.

Garrett Cooper from Chesnee was the individual runner-up in the first event of the season at the Gopher Invitational.

Seth Taylor followed up Cooper's outstanding play in Minnesota with his own runner-up finish at the J.T. Poston Invitational helping the Chants get their first win of the fall campaign in the tournament played at Sapphire Valley, NC.

A third Coastal golfer from closer to Charlotte than the Upstate, Trey Crenshaw, playing as an individual in the Golfweek Fall Challenge at True Blue on Pawleys Island set individual and program records with his 18-under par 198 total.

His record setting win pushed Coastal's most famous alum, Dustin Johnson's 54 hole scoring record set in



Coastal Carolina's Seth Taylor from Gaffney and Garrett Cooper from Chesnee got the season off to a great start with a pair of runner-up finishes as each helped the Chanticleers win. (Coastal Carolina photo)

2005 to second place in the record book.

Chant's senior Garrett Cooper battled the final two rounds for the individual championship before finishing as the runner-up.

"I was a little nervous going into the final round," said Cooper. "I had never been in that position before, but it was a good experience," he said.

Cooper got to the lead on the strength of a 5-under par 66 in the second round



on the first day.

"I chipped and putted pretty well and I was able to keep it going for 54 holes," he said.

Copper finished the event with a 1-under par 70 for a 9-under par 54 hole total.

The second place finish was the best individual performance for the former Chesnee Eagle golfer.

In the next tournament for Coastal

at Sapphire Valley, Taylor shot identical 3-under par rounds of 69 to put his Coastal Carolina team in position to win the J.T Poston Invitational.

"I was able to score," he said. "I chipped and putted pretty well and kept the ball in play," said Taylor.

With Taylor leading the way, Coastal finished the tournament with a 1-under par team total to top the hosts from Western Carolina by 2 shots for the team title.

Taylor was named the Sun Belt Conference golfer of the week for his efforts.

Taylor believes there is a great deal more success ahead of his Coastal team this year.

"We have a very deep team with a lot of guys who can play. Qualifying to play is pretty tough, but that makes us better when we get in tournaments," he said.


The early win and fine play of his teammates has Taylor believing this could be a very good year for the Chants.

"The conference is tough with Georgia Southern, but we can compete with them and maybe even make a run at a Regional," concluded Taylor.

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The Lady Paladins win The Lady Paladin

Furman wins their own event for second straight years

By Stan Olenik
Editor/Publisher

The Lady Paladins won their own Lady Paladin Invitational for the second year in a row.

The win was a combination of outstanding play from the two senior members of the team and a very good contribution from three freshmen who were in the Furman lineup.

2022 SoCon Player of the Year Anna Morgan came within a shot of winning her second straight Lady Paladin individual title.

Her second place finish combined with Furman senior Sarah Eve Reheum's fifth place finish put the Lady Paladins in position to claim the team win.

But it was the three freshmen who put Furman over the top for the win.



Furman won their second straight Lady Paladin title on their home course. This year's team included three freshmen as well as Anna Morgan the So-Con Player of the Year, last year. Lady Paladin Head Coach Jeff Hull, Assistant coach Mackenzie Raim, Faith and Chloe Johnson, Caroline Crumrine, Liza Lapeyre. Sara Eve Rehume and Anna Morgan. (GolfClub Photos)

Twins Chloe and Faith Johnson along with another freshman Liza Lapeyre each contributed counting rounds during the 54 hole championship and made some key birdies down the stretch.

"Anna and Sarah being our anchors you still need the rest of the lineup to play well and our freshmen played great," said Furman coach Jeff Hull. "Especially coming in, they made some

a final round 4-under par 68 to pass Morgan on the final few holes for medalist honors.

Morgan only made two bogeys in the tournament, but had trouble making birdies the final day.

Minnesota's Mariana Mesones may have used them all up.

Mesones set a new final round scoring record by carding an 8-under par 64 to jump up into a tie for second with Morgan at 7-under par for the tournament.

While disappointed at missing out on a second straight Lady Paladin individual title, Morgan knows this year presents some special challenges after her outstanding season a year ago.

The Furman junior finished 9th in the NCAA Championship, won two college tournaments, played in the US Open and on the Palmer Cup team and topped it off as being the SoCon Player of the Year and the Furman Athlete of the year.

"You have to play good golf to win any tournament, so I was just trying to focus on my own game," said Morgan.

Furman... continued on page 20

Video interview and highlights from the Lady Paladin can be seen at www.scgolfclub.com

birdies and that was a key," he said.

Faith Johnson had the best finish for the newcomers. She shot a final round 71, which included an important birdie on the 18th at Furman to finish in a tie for 17th.

Individually, Christin Isenbeiss shot

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Oyervides wins the GGO

After missing the last several years for course renovations the GGO is back.

**By Jed Blackwell
Associate Editor - Publisher**

Derrick Oyervides spent some time in the clubhouse at Greer Golf on Sunday afternoon talking about some of his near-misses in the Greater Greer Open through the years.

He won't have to have that conversation again without talking about a win.

Oyervides fired a final-round 69 to take the championship at the 43rd edition of the tournament, shooting a two-day total of 139 to beat Sam Merrell by two strokes.

Oyervides started the day in a tie for fourth, and got off to a quick start with a birdie at the par-5 first.

He birdied No. 7 for a two-under 34 on the front, and added another at 11 to get to 3-under on the day.

He gave one back at 13, made back-to-back birdies on 14 and 15, and bogeyed 16 before a routine par at 17.

His approach at 18 settled on the front of the green, and he made an easy two-putt par for the victory.

"Hitting a quality 6-iron on 15 was big," he said. "I hit hybrid on the par-5 teeboxes, just to keep it in play," he said. "I used my length to my advantage



Longtime GGO participant Derrick Oyervides earned the win in the 43rd annual Greater Greer Open. Oyervides credited a putting grip change that made the difference. (GolfClub Photo)

because I knew I could still get there. I stiffed that 6-iron, and it was really rewarding. I just tried to get home from there."

His work on the greens helped make the difference for Oyervides, and credited a recent swing change for the success.

"I switched to a left-hand-low grip," he said. "I changed about a month ago, and at first I didn't trust it, but I stuck with it and from five or six feet it's helped me keep the ball on line. I made a lot of putts. I made a huge putt on 11 that really kept me going. Trey (Bridwell, the first round leader) putted it off the green, and I was scared of it. I just tried to roll it up, and it went in. That was a huge momentum change."

Oyervides said he's happy to have won the tournament at Greer, where he has years of experience.

"I'm not a member for now, but I've been a member here for over 30 years," he said. "I grew up here and played in the event a bunch. I dropped out about two years ago, we were building a house and the golf course was changing hands. I wasn't playing enough golf to make a membership worth it. I got back into it a little bit these last few months. Work events got me back out playing."

Those work events started the itch, and Oyervides got an understanding push from home to help him prepare for the tournament.

"We just had a baby," he said with a smile. "A month old. I owe it all to my wife, she let me practice for a week straight. That helped me knock off a lot GGO... continued on page 16

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Bennett Scaletta from Belton needed two extra holes before he could win the boys title at the Harvey Brock Orange Jacket Classic. Scaletta is believed to be the youngest boys overall winner in the 15 year history of the championship. Mia Carles from Clinton won the girls title by 2-shots and like Scaletta is believed to be the youngest girl to win the overall girls championship. The tournament was played at Boscobel. (GolfClub Photos)

They are getting younger all the time

Carles and Scaletta are the youngest to win Orange Jackets

It doesn't just seem like winners of important junior tournaments, or maybe any tournaments are getting younger, they really are getting younger.

The Harvey Brock Orange Jacket Classic played at Boscobel in Pendleton often has been won by junior golfers who had a resume of top performances and added a win at the Orange Jacket to solidify their place as an up and coming young player.

This year a pair of junior golfers, who were closer to the minimum age, 13, to play in the older age group, than the maximum age 18 to play in the championship, took home the Orange Jacket trophies and they are both just 8th graders.

Bennett Scaletta, from Belton, needed two extra holes before he could claim

See the playoff for the Orange Jacket Boys championship and hear from the winner at www.scgolfclub.com

the boys 13-18 year old championship with a playoff win over Gabe Schmitz from Okatie.

Mia Carles, from Clinton, won the girls 13-18 age group championship by three shots over Olivia Ireland from Inman and Bridget Wilkie from Bluffton.

The first hole in one recorded by the home schooled 8th grader had a lot to do with her victory.

"It was pretty exciting. I had my first hole-in-one on my first hole of the day, so I think that gave me some momentum," said Carles.

She used a pitching wedge to ace the 120 yard par 3 10th hole to help her shoot a tournament best 3-under par 68 in the first round.

Carles was the only golfer in the two-day tournament to post a round in the 60s.

"My putting was really good yesterday (first round). The course is in great condition, especially the greens, and that helped my putting," she said.

Her second round score was a 5-over par 76, but only a half dozen golfers did better and only Wilkie, who started the final round trailing by 8-shots, was able to make up enough ground to apply a little pressure to the tournament winner.

The victory was the second in a row in a SCJGA event. In August, Carles was her age group winner in Rock Hill at the Thomas D. Todd All-Star championship.

"It feels great to be the champion, I learned a lot this weekend and know this win is going to help my future," she said.

Three golfers tied for fourth place.

Ansley Bryson from Seneca, Maddie Peake from Pauline and Xinyan Li from Waxhaw, NC all finished at 6- over par for the 36 hole tournament.

Scaletta, who also is a home schooled

8th grader, opened the tournament with a 1-under par 70 to trail the three golfers tied for the lead by 2-shots.

Starting the second round, the three first round leaders struggled on their front nines opening the door for Scaletta.

With birdies on his first two holes and another on number 9, Scaletta took over the lead.

"It is crazy thinking that I'm playing against the top players in the state," said Scaletta. "They hit the ball 50 to 75 yards further than I do and I'm able to compete with them. I'm happy about that," he said.

Playing a couple of groups in front of the Belton junior, Schmitz matched Scaletta's three front nine birdies and added two more, with a bogey to tie.

When Schmitz birdied his final hole, he took the clubhouse lead at 4-under par.

Scaletta made a 15 foot par putt on his final hole to match Schmitz at **Orange Jacket...** continued on page 18



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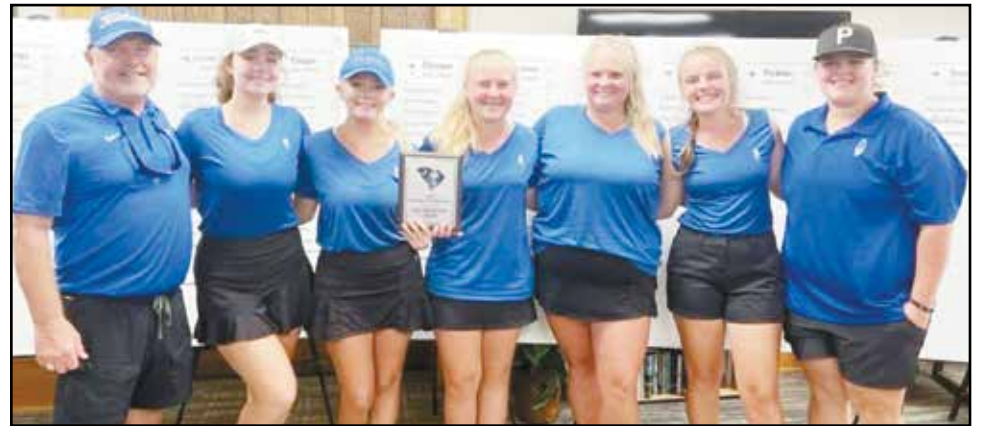
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The South Carolina Golf Coaches ranking has the Seneca Bobcats as the top AAA team in the state. The Pickens Blue Flame is the Coaches Ranking pick for the top AAAA team in the regular season. In October Seneca and Pickens along with all the other teams in the state will be competing for a championship on October 24th and 25th at four locations around South Carolina. (GolfClub and Twitter photos)

High School girls play for titles this month

Championships set for October 24 - 25 around the state

There were smiles from teams in AAA and AA when the South Carolina High School League announced there would be separate championships for each classification this year.

Many of those smiles were in Chesnee where the defending AAA state champions, but competing in the AA Classification, are pleased they don't have to "play up" with much bigger schools.

Last year it didn't matter, as the Eagles won the combined AAA-AA-A title behind current Clemson golfer Sydney Roberts.

Still, Eagles coach Kyle Scruggs thinks the separate championship is a

AAAAA

- 1 Dorman
- 2 Chapin
- 3 Lexington
- 4 Hanna
- 5 Wando
- 6 Byrnes
- 7 Blythewood
- 8 Car Forest
- 9 Spartanburg
- 10 Mauldin

AAAA

- 1 Pickens
- 2 Hilton Head
- 3 Cat' Ridge
- 4 May River
- 5 AC Flora
- 6 N M. Beach
- 7 W Florence
- 8 S Aiken
- 9 Aiken
- 10 Easley

AAA-AA-A

- 1 Seneca
- 2 Chesnee
- 3 Waccamaw
- 4 BHP
- 5 Blue Ridge
- 6 Daniel
- 7 Aynor
- 8 Landrum
- 9 Swansea
- 10 Chapman

The South Carolina Golf Coaches Association produced this poll for the 2022 High School season and the rankings have been very close to the way the season has played out so far with the playoffs this month.

major positive for the sport. "I think it's great for girls' golf in general," Scruggs said. "It's another classification being represented. Maybe it's something that leads to more smaller schools starting programs. AA is definitely where Chesnee is supposed to be from an attendance standpoint, since we

do pull from fewer athletes and fewer students. We always want to compete at the absolute highest level that we can, but it's also about playing where you're supposed to be. This will lead to a more level playing field for everyone, not just Chesnee."

The Eagles look to be in pretty good

shape, too. Scruggs said if his team can be consistent, they could be tough to deal with down the stretch.

"If we get everybody playing well at the same time, I think we can be a really strong team," he said

One thing the division of classifications will ensure is that the Eagles, currently ranked No. 2 in the AAA-AA-A combined rankings, will not contend with top-ranked Seneca in the postseason. The Bobcats will be among the favorites in the AAA championship race. They're led by Ansley Bryson, who has been playing well and who already has a pair of prestigious individual wins, taking medalist honors at the Palmetto Preview and at the Lady Hurricane at Southern Oaks.

In AAAAA, Pickens sits atop the poll, bolstered by a strong group of returning players.

Ranking... continued on page 20

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The Dorman Cavaliers won six tournaments in a row and are ranked on top of the AAAAA SC Golf Coaches Poll. The Cavalier line-up has been consistent and successful this year as the varsity team has won six straight tournaments. Coach Olivia Herring's team includes Abby Franks, Maddie Grace Peake, Londyn Rath, Ava Romanski and Maddie Carraway. (GolfClub and Dorman Photos)

Can the Cavaliers do it again?

Dorman was the last team, not from Columbia, to win the SC big school title in 2015

**By Jed Blackwell
Associate Editor - Publisher**

It's been seven seasons since a team from outside the Columbia area won the AAAAA girls high school state championship, when Dorman took the crown in 2015.

Don't look now.

There's a lot of season left to play, but the Cavaliers sure seem to be in championship form. Dorman is a perfect 6-for-6 in tournaments in which the same starting five played this season.

When the Cavaliers opened the season with a win at the Lady Rebel they sent notice to the other AAAAA teams in the state they would be in the hunt.

When Dorman finished at the front of the field in the Women's South Carolina Golf Association Junior Golf Foundation High School Invitational the teams finishing behind the Cavaliers were the other top AAAAA teams in the state coaches ranking.

Dorman won the WSCGA sponsored event by a



The 2015 Dorman Cavaliers were the last upstate team to win the big school title in South Carolina. Led by future ANNIKA Award winner Natalie Srinivasan the Cavs knocked off the defending champion Lexington. (GolfClub Photo)

comfortable 8 shots over Chapin with Hanna finishing third.

Abby Franks finished second in the event that included the top teams and the top individuals from all classifications in South Carolina.

While Franks has given the Cavaliers a consistent golfer capable of winning an individual title at any tournament, the Dorman lineup is stacked with golfers whose record, this year shows, they also have the ability as a team to win any tournament they play, and

they've done it.

Franks and Maddie Grace Peake have been consistently near the top of the team scores, with Franks taking a couple of medalist honors and only finishing out of first or second place once this year.

But the play of Londyn Rath, Ava Romanski, and Maddie Carraway in the other three spots is what has made Dorman so tough to deal with.

"It makes a big difference having that three and four who can come in and put up those numbers," Dorman coach Olivia Herring said. "Ones and twos are usually pretty consistent everywhere, but those threes and fours really make a huge difference for our scores."

Herring said she didn't envision the particular success of six wins in a row for the Cavaliers, but she could tell from her team's habits and level of commitment that something special could be on the horizon.

"I'm beyond impressed with their dedication and the work they've put in," Herring said. "I shouldn't be surprised. They've all worked so hard. We had a great end to our season last year, and we knew this was going to be a special year."

Herring said the Cavaliers drive each other to get better, competing regularly within the team.

"They want to go practice against each other," she said. **Dorman...** continued on page 22

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Martin gets back to full PGA Tour status

Greenwood's Martin completes his return to the PGA Tour

By Stan Olenik
Editor/Publisher

Ben Martin's four-year old daughter, Ann Pearce, may have had the best explanation for what her dad had accomplished when she talked with her kindergarten teacher.

AP: "My dad got a card."

Teacher: "What kind of card?"

AP: "A golf card."

Teacher: "What does that mean?"

AP: "It means he has a job."

Ben Martin has been there and now he is going back.

The Clemson grad picked up his PGA Tour card after the Korn-Ferry Tour Championship completed the third end-of-the-season qualifying tournament for the last 25 PGA Tour cards available this year.

"At the start of the year I wrote down my goal to make it back to full status on the Tour," said Martin. "It has been the same goal for a few years, so making it back gives me a lot of satisfaction and validation that my game is back," he said.

Martin has been wandering in the zone that many players occupy around the PGA Tour.

As a past winner, Martin had PGA Tour status, but it was so low he had to play when his number came up.

"I had a stretch of playing in seven straight weeks last year and that wasn't ideal, but with my status when you get called you have to go play," he said.

The long stretch did not produce the kind of results Martin would have hoped for, but it may have actually set the stage for his play in the Korn-Ferry Qualifying tournaments.

"I missed the cut in those tournaments and when I had a week off at home I got some confidence back playing and practicing here," he said.

Martin played Greenville Country Club's Riverside course one day carding a 59.

He went out the next day and shot a 61 at Chanticleer.

The two rounds gave Martin reason to change his approach to the upcoming tournaments.

"When I shot those scores I was



Ben Martin's finish in the Korn Ferry Championship earned him full status on the PGA Tour after battling injuries for the last five years. Martin had played 14 events last year as a past champion, but now he can set his own schedule and play the full range of events on the Tour. (PGA Tour Photo)

playing offense. I saw the shot I wanted and hit it and made birdies. You have to play smart, but I decided I could attack more," he said.

The more aggressive approach showed up in the three tournament Korn-Ferry qualifying.

Martin turned in rounds of 63 or better in each of the three events, the only golfer to do so.

His 62 at the Boise Open helped him take a 10th place finish.

At the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Martin shot a third-round 62 to move up the leader board and eventually finish in a tie for 15th place.

At the Korn-Ferry Tour Championship, Martin shot a second-round 63 to move him well above the cut line to assure he was back on the PGA Tour.

"When I came back from the medical leave I had some good tournaments. I gave myself the opportunity to get back, but when I didn't follow through it was disappointing. So I have a lot of satisfaction after getting it done the last three weeks," he said.

Now with his card in his pocket, Martin can pretty much set his schedule for the early part of the year.

Golfers coming off a successful Korn-Ferry Championship have had some good performances and wins in the early season events when PGA Tour players are not out in full force.

Martin won his PGA Tour event at the

Shriners' Hospitals for Children Open which was played in October of 2014, with Martin just being a full-time tour member for a little over a year.

Now he can lay out his plans for the start of the season with several Tour events on the schedule before the holidays as part of the PGA Tour's wrap around season.

While Martin has been around the block a few times (on the PGA Tour for 9 years) and is a little older he is convinced he has the right process for getting ready for tournaments.

"I would go to the golf course early in the morning and stay all day. I would leave after 10 hours and think, what had I accomplished," he offered.

Martin, who is now 35, and knows he is different from the golfer he was in his 20s when he began his pro career.

"Now I go to the course, play nine holes and practice and go home. Getting enough rest is just as important as practice," he said.

And with his PGA Tour card and the ability to take advantage of the options it affords, Martin has a renewed excitement for getting back on the Tour.

"I lost a little of that playing injured in 2018 and 2019. I wasn't loving the game and you can't play that way. I think I have regained that love for the game and I think good golf is going to follow. I'm looking forward to the year," concluded Martin, who according to his daughter once again has a job.



Ben Martin through the years (Top to Bottom) Won the PGA Tour's Shriners Classic for Children in 2014. Two-time All-State at Greenwood. Won his home town Festival of Flowers title. A three-time All ACC selection at Clemson, won the Furman Invitational and was a finalist in the 2009 US Amateur. (GolfClub File Photos)



Carson Young has built a golf career that began as a Pee-Wee, aged into junior competition and won a high school individual championship. At Clemson Young earned all kinds of honors from the ACC and won a college tournament. Young won two South Carolina Golf Association State Amateur championships and early last year Young won the Panama Championship to help him secure his PGA Tour card. (GolfClub Photos)

Young is ready to live his dream

By Stan Olenik
Editor/Publisher

Clemson grad from Pendleton will play on the PGA Tour

Carson Young has just completed a year long quest to move up from the Korn-Ferry Tour to the PGA Tour.

It was a major accomplishment for Young, who had spent the last few years chasing his dream of playing on the PGA Tour.

"It was an emotional time for me," said Young. "It wasn't just the last four or five years it was really my whole life. I have always wanted to play on the PGA Tour," he said.

His finish at the Korn Ferry Tour Championship earned him his PGA Tour Card, which he received at the end of the tournament.

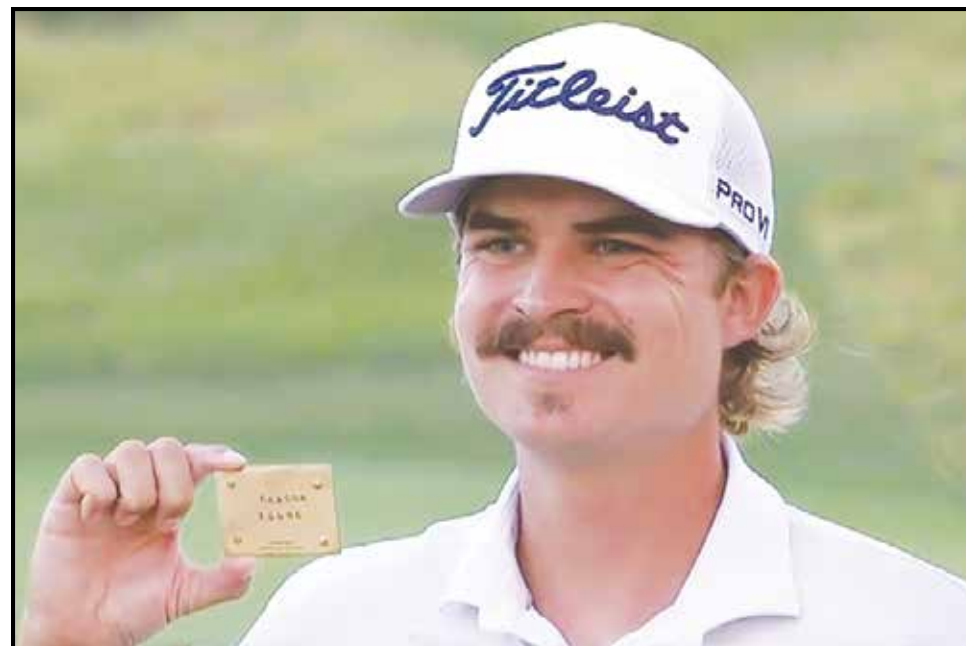
"It is really pretty cool. They actually give you a card with your name engraved on it. It will be something I will have forever," he said.

Young wasn't sure if he was going to frame his brand new PGA Tour card or keep it in his wallet to occasionally show it off.

With the wrap around PGA Tour season starting almost immediately Young didn't have much time to celebrate his accomplishment before he was back on the road.

As a rookie, Young was required to attend a rookie orientation session before playing in the Fortinet Championship in Nappa, California.

"The told us how the Tour works and gave us some tips on how to use social media, the retirement system and a few other things we will need to know," said Young. "It felt like I was back in



The PGA Tour actually gives its new members an engraved card. Carson Young earned his card and ticket to full status on the PGA Tour for this upcoming year after only a season on the Korn-Ferry Tour. (PGA Tour Photo)

school," he added.

When the session was over Young checked his phone and took a look at his banking app.

"I looked at it and there was \$500,000 more in it than before," he said.

Young, as part of this year's rookie class received, in effect, an advance on their season earnings of a half million dollars.

"I guess this was a pretty good year to make it," he laughed.

Young's path to the PGA Tour is a familiar one for many.

He put together a golfing resume that looked like the foundation of a PGA Tour professional.

High School championships, a pair of SCGA Amateur titles, a college win and All-ACC recognition set the stage for a spot on the PGA Tour.

But like all but a few young aspiring Tour players Young had to survive the

lean years to get to the opportunity he had to earn his PGA Tour Card with his 12th place finish in the final.

Since graduating from Clemson Young played anywhere he could.

He played and won the local Budweiser Classic on the course he grew up on at Boscobel.

He played on the PGA Canada Tour, and when Covid took away golf in Canada, Young played on the PGA Tour sponsored Local IQ Series.

He advanced out of Korn-Ferry Tour school in 2021 to play the Tour full time.

Early in the 2022 season Young won the Korn-Ferry Tour stop in Panama.

He played in 25 events and made 11 cuts. In addition to the win, the pro from Pendleton had a top-10 finish, but earned his card with consistent top 30 finishes in the events he completed.

Young shot a 15-under par total in the final event to finish in a tie for 12th place to wrap up his Tour card.

"After Canada, if I didn't make it through Q School, Korn-Ferry, I was going to quit golf," said Young. "So to make it through that and then in one year make it to the PGA Tour, I don't even know. It is unreal, I can't even think to believe that what is going to happen after a year ago today," he said.

Now back to the money, the PGA Tour calls it the Earning Assurance Program.

Until he earns the \$500,000 his checks will all come from that starting amount.

Young can use the money for just about anything, but the idea from the PGA Tour is to help young players get their footing on the Tour.

"I'm not going to do anything crazy with it. I've got a little boat and that is good enough for now. When I get going I am going to want to do some things for my family," he said.

As of the first week in October Young played in two tour events and made the cut in one.

"I've got to play whatever I can get into, I know how important the fall season is for rookies," he said.

While Young is a newcomer he already has a fan club, or better stated, his mustache has a fan club.

"The best mustache on the tour, I guess I'm going to have to keep it, its my trademark now," he joked.

After some time to let everything sink in, Young still had trouble deciding between his real feelings and those of his dreams.

"I guess its pure excitement and some disbelief. I think my body is still in shock. It is just a crazy feeling and one I'll never forget, and thats what we play for, it is the dream," concluded Young.

Record setting start for Converse

Valkyries first two fall tournaments produce a new scoring record and a win

The Converse Valkyries have won golf tournaments before, but their win in the second event of the new season followed a record setting performance in their first event of the year.

The Converse University team shot a 209 first round and a 303 in the second round of the Montevallo Full Moon Invitational to finish with a school record two round tournament score of 602.

The score was good enough for a record, but left the Valkyries in second place behind the host team from Montevallo.

Two weeks later the Valkyries posted another very good team score of 605 and this time the score was enough to secure a win at the Kings Invitational.

Converse golf coach Patti McGowan credits an increased effort to improve athletics at the school as the major reason for the early success this year.

“The Valkyries athletic director Jennifer Bell and Converse President Boone Hopkins believe in athletics at the school and the golf program like other sports has enjoyed an increase in support,” said McGowan.

The Converse coach knows that to improve the school needs to recruit more accomplished players and several of McGowan’s recent recruits are taking a spot



The Converse Valkyries have put a new page in their record book and added a win in their second tournament of the season. Members of the team that won the King Invitational included medalist Ava O’Sullivan, runner-up Stina Voigt, Lizzie Madden, Helen Noel and Phai Inpan. Freshman O’Sullivan has twice been named the Conference Carolinas Golfer of the Week so far this season. (Converse Photo)

in the Valkyries lineup and having success.

“We only had one freshman in our first tournament, but Ava O’Sullivan played great and finished second when we set our new record,” said McGowan.

The first year Valkyrie comes to Converse from

Exton, PA, a little out of the usual recruiting area for the school.

Expanding the recruiting base has been a goal of McGowan since she came to the school in 2015.

The increase in support has allowed McGowan to find golfers in Pennsylvania or in Hamburg, Germany freshman Stina Voigt’s home town.

“We have a vision for the program to help them reach their goals and as I coach I know I have the experience to help them do it,” said the coach.

Recruiting has picked up because of McGowan’s efforts, but the Converse coach gives credit to a major change at the University.

“When Converse decided to go co-ed it really changed recruiting. It has been a positive for our program,” she said.

One of the new challenges facing McGowan and the Converse program is assimilating the varied backgrounds of the players and building a team.

“We want them to compete with each other on the golf course, but away from the course we want to make sure they all understand that diversity and inclusion at Converse are part of our University’s values,” she said.

The teams schedule includes hosting the Converse Fall Invite at the Carolina Country Club on October 31st.

“We are off to a very good start and now we want to keep the momentum gong our way,” concluded McGowan.



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- June 25-26 (Monticello GC & Tara GC)
- July 2- Cherokee National CC
- July 23- Etowah Valley GC
- July 30-31- Riverbend GC and Deerbrook GC
- August 13- Clemson Walker Course
- August 27- Apple Valley GC
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Assistant golf coaches move on and up

Siefert joins staff at Ole' Miss, Eckstein goes to High Point

A pair of coaches who left their mark in the Upstate have moved up the coaching ladder.

Zach Siefert, who for nine years led the Limestone men's and women's golf programs has returned to the south to be an assistant at Ole' Miss after a year in Wisconsin with the Badgers.

Todd Eckstein, who served as an assistant coach at Furman before moving to the same position at Virginia Tech recently was named the head coach at High Point University.

"I had nine great years at Limestone and loved the community and the school," said Siefert. "We were able to accomplish a lot and put the program on a firm footing nationally," he added.

Eckstein has much the same feeling about his days in the Upstate at Furman.

"We have family and friends in the Upstate," said Eckstein. "I'm sure I will see many of them when we play in upstate tournaments this year," he mentioned.

Siefert, played high school golf at Mauldin and college golf at Clemson.

Siefert had settled in in Madison and expected to be at Wisconsin for awhile, and then things started happening.

After assisting Head Coach Kory Henkes win a national championship in 2021, Ole' Miss Assistant Zack Byrd was named the head women's coach at Purdue opening the opportunity for Siefert.



After a one year stop at Wisconsin former Limestone coach Zach Siefert is now the Assistant Women's coach at Ole' Miss. Todd Eckstein spent time as an assistant at Furman and Virginia Tech before taking over the High Point program last June.



"We had some mutual friends and word went back and forth that there was an opening," recalled Siefert.

The Badger assistant coach evaluated the opportunity to work with a nationally ranked program and an outstanding coach in Henkes and decided it was time to head back to the South.

"Oxford is a great city. It is a college town and a lot like Clemson. We are just settling in but the family loves it," he said.

A South Carolina connection also played a part in Eckstein's move from Blacksburg to High Point.

When former High Point coach Brady Gregor left to become an assistant at

South Carolina, Eckstein's name came up for the job.

"It is a good fit. High Point is close to where I grew up and with a 7 month old son we are closer to the grandparents," he said.

Eckstein was a four year letterman at Davidson and played professionally for a time after graduation, but his desire to stay in golf by coaching came quickly.

"Playing professional golf can be pretty lonely when you start. I enjoyed team golf so much and after I had a chance to be a volunteer assistant at Davidson I was convinced this was what I wanted to do," he said.

Eckstein began his coaching career at

Mercer, then spent most of three years at Furman and then three years at Virginia Tech.

"I found out that for me even a bad day coaching was better than a good day playing golf. I love the college atmosphere and the team game," he said

Siefert joining the old Miss program looks like a to be a perfect match for what Henkes needed from an assistant and what experience Siefert brought to the position.

"I loved her vision and coaching philosophy. It is so similar to mine it is a great fit," he said.

Ole Miss like many national ranked teams not only recruits in the US but also overseas and Siefert has extensive recruiting experience bring in outstanding foreign players.

Many of the best golfers on his Limestone teams where from overseas and helped the Saint's play for the NCAA DII National Championship the year after he left Gaffney.

In his first tournament with the Rebels, Siefert was on the podium with Henkes and the Ole Miss team picking up the winner's trophy at the Cougar Classic played in Charleston at Yeaman's Hall.

Ole Miss held off Clemson by a shot for the win.

"I got here at the right time," he joked. The team played great and showed what they can do this year," he added.

Siefert isn't the only South Carolina connection on the Rebel's team.

Henkes, grew up in Easley one of the three "Thompsons" who all played at **Moving...** continued on page 18

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Changes at Oconee Country Club

Mel Parson is the new GM at the club in Seneca

The Oconee Country Club is over 70 years old and has been a local favorite in the western part of the Upstate.

The club has recently undergone a reorganization directed by its Board of Directors.

One of the first changes made by the Club's Board was to bring on an experienced manager.

Mel Parson had been in charge of much of the operation at Falcon's Lair for the last four years.

"I did a little bit of everything," said Parson. "I ran the golf shop and the office and even pulled carts," recalled Parson.

Parson's experience at a nearby club with similar operating plan gives her a background that will be valuable as Oconee begins a series of improvements.

"Our club has a fantastic membership and we would like to add a few more. We've already had some of the old members who were with me before, come to Oconee," she said.

The club house has been the main focus of the first stage of improvements at the club.

Remodeling the meeting area, food and beverage area and soon the golf shop.

"During Covid golf courses did pretty good and here the Board decided to put



Mel Parson became the General Manager at Oconee Country Club last July. Parson had run Falcon's Lair near Walhalla for four years before moving to the club in Seneca.

a lot back into the club for the members," she said.

Members and guest will likely see Parson in the golf shop, snack bar and also on the course.

"I'm a golf junkie. I love to play and I enjoy making golf better for everyone who will play here," she said.

Expanding club activities for members and inviting in guests to play the course that opened in 1948 is an important part of her job.

"Some golfers in the upstate may not know much about our course, but I think once they play it they will enjoy it and come back or join us," she said.

It's not unusual for Clemson fans, spending the weekend in Tigertown to make a tee time.

The course features four sets of tees

on a friendly 6,500 yard layout.

The pro shop has rental clubs and pull carts available as well as golf essentials like golf balls, gloves, shoes and apparel.

There are two practice putting greens and a warm up range for golfers.

In addition to the clubhouse improvements there has been a lot of new sod laid around the course to improve playability.

A good way to experience the course and the golfers at Oconee is to play in the Drost Group Dog Fights on Friday and Saturday.

"The dog fights are open to all golfers. You show up around 11 am to play. We are always glad to welcome the public to play at Oconee," said the general manager.



Greer Golf GM Jim Young congratulates Ben Cox for his win in the GGO Senior Division. (GolfClub Photo)

GGO...

...continued from page 8

of rust. If I hadn't been able to do that, I wouldn't be here today. Those extra days definitely helped."

Oyervides said he's happy to have a win, and happy the tournament, which hasn't taken place for a couple of years, is back.

"I hope that people will see the quality and the investment that Greer has made into the golf course," he said. "If I join anywhere, it's going to be back here. It's in beautiful shape. Kudos to Greer, and hopefully this thing will stay and in years to come there'll be a waiting list."

With the return of the tournament came a special Senior GGO.

Ben Cox shot rounds of 1-under par 71 and 2-over par 74.

His two-day total of 145 earned him the win by three-shots over Bobby Ream.

Rob Gravley and Roger Page tied for third.

Brad Sill won the First Flight.

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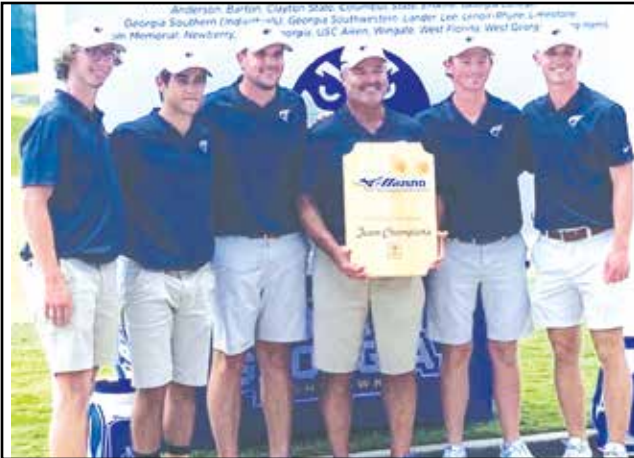
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The Anderson Trojans (left) won two tournaments to start their season. The Trojans took the top spot at the Mizuno Intercollegiate and at the AFLAC Cougar Challenge. NCAA DII All American Jessica Rathbone (center-left) got her year off to a great start with a playoff win to take the individual title at the Lee's City with Spirit Classic. Furman's Will Morlan (center-right) tied for medalist honors at the Old Town Collegiate. The Limestone Saints were the team winners (right) at the City with Spirit Classic in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Upstate college golfers start fall with wins

Highly ranked Limestone and Anderson get wins, Furman's Morlan medals

The strong finishes by Limestone and Anderson last year has both schools high up in the NCAA DII team rankings and both schools showed they deserve it.

11th ranked Limestone, last year's NCAA DII runner up, finished second at the Savannah Lakes Invitational and followed it up with a win at the City with Spirit Classic.

Saints' coach Trey Taylor had to replace four starters from a team that played for the national championship, but it looks like the new Saints are doing what the former Saints did last year.

"It was good to start off with a nice win on a difficult course," said the Saints head coach. "Coming in losing four very good players you are thinking rebuilding, but with an encouraging start we think we can be in the conversation for the final eight," said Taylor.

One of the main competitors for the Saints is just 60 miles down the road at Anderson.

The Trojans' team finished as the runner-up to the Saints in Tennessee, with All-American Jessica Rathbone claiming medalist honors for the Trojans.

The runner-up finish came after the Trojans finished sixth at the elite Dallas Baptist hosted season opening event in Texas.

"We played well, but the field was full of teams that we play against in Regionals and the National championship, so we had a good tournament," said Trojans coach Denton Moore.

The Trojans women's team has been making most of the headlines at the school, but this year the men's team may be catching up.

The Trojans have won both of their tournaments so far this year and are currently ranked 7th in the South East Region.

The Trojans opened the fall with a win at the Mizuno Intercollegiate and followed it up with an impressive win over a very good field at the AFLAC Cougar Invitational.

Reece Coleman finished second and Calahan Keever was fourth as the Trojans nipped Lee University by a shot for the title.

"The guys are really on a roll! Reece and Calahan continue to lead our squad with strong play," said Danny Neal, the Anderson Director of Golf. "Simon Wright counted all three rounds and Parker MacDonald gave us a solid round today to help secure the victory," he said.

Furman's Will Morlan shot a second round 63 to move to the top of the leader board at the Old Town Collegiate in Winston-Salem.

The Paladin sophomore finished the event with all three rounds in the 60s for a 10-under par 200 total.

"Coming into this week, I knew it was going to take three really solid rounds to get the job done," said Morlan. "Fortunately, I kept my confidence high and just trusted my game," said the co-medalist.

Furman finished in a tie for third place in the tournament won by Kansas State.

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Orange Jacket...

continued from page 10

4-under par and send the tournament into a playoff.

The ninth hole was picked for the playoff and both golfers made easy pars the first time they played the hole.

The second time was much different.

Schmitz crushed his drive on the drive-able par-4. His shot stopped in the center of the green, 35 feet above the hole.

Scaletta's drive didn't make the green, but from the fringe he pitched his second shot to within 15 feet.

Schmitz lagged his putt to within six feet of the hole, leaving Scaletta to believe he needed to get one more good putt from his good putting round.

"When his putt got within six feet I was telling myself, you are going to have to make this one," he said.

Taking only a quick glance at the line, Scaletta stepped into the putt and drilled it, center cup.

"I had been making putts like that all day and that one was no different. I put a good stroke on it and it went right in the middle," Scaletta said.

Schmitz 6-footer raced by the high side of the hole and Scaletta had won his first South Carolina Junior Golf Association major event.

The win at "The Bell" could either be considered the cap to the summer golf season that saw Scaletta claim a win and two second place finishes in SCJGA Summer Hootie Series events.

Or playing with the big kids in the older division, Scaletta finished 40th in both the Grant Bennett and Jimmy Self



AC Peake and Jack Coleman won the girls and boys 12 and under titles at the Harvey Brock Orange Jacket Classic played at Boscobel. (SCJGA Photo)



Invitational and 43rd in the state junior and 48th in the state AAAAA high school championship to start his move up into bigger and older competition.

His ranking at number 75 in the state certainly will go up dramatically after this win.

"It means a lot to win, I know I'm young and I knew one of these was coming (a win), but I didn't know when. I guess today was the day. My putter got hot on the back nine and it was my time," said Scaletta.

It is believed, with Scaletta's young age, he is now the youngest winner of the Orange Jacket championship.

Matt NeSmith, won the title in 2009 and went on to earn All-American honors and win the SEC individual championship while playing at South Carolina.

NeSmith has gone on to play on the PGA Tour along with the 2012 winner Andrew Novak and just recently the 2011 winner Carson Young earned his

PGA Tour Card.

First round co-leader Richardson missed the playoff by two-shots and finished third. OT Mitchell, from Rock Hill, was fourth.

Tag Graziano from Hilton Head tied with four other golfers for fifth place, but his 5-under par 66 in the final round was the best score of the tournament.

Jack Coleman from Aiken finished 3 shots ahead of Woods Weston from Columbia for the Boys 12 and under championship.

AC Peake from Pauline took home the championship in the girls 12-and under division.

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More than a handful of aspiring PGA Tour players are a step closer to earning some status on the Korn-Ferry Tour. R.J. Keur from Charleston, Easley native Trace Crowe, Riverside High grad Jonathan Hardee, former Clemson golfers Corbin Mills and Peter Mathison all advanced to second stage of Q School. (GolfClub Photos)

Palmetto State pros advance at Q School

South Carolina pros move on to the Second Stage

There will be many hopefuls at the second stage of Korn-Ferry Tour Qualifying School this month at four locations around the country.

Five golfers with ties to the area will be among the many golfers hoping to win their way into the Korn-Ferry Tour finals and earn the opportunity to play

on the Korn-Ferry Tour next year.

The order of finish at First Stage tournaments isn't as important as simply finishing inside the number set at each event to advance to the next stage.

At the Club at Irish Creek in Kannapolis, NC Furman grad Keller Harper had a top-10 finish to advance to the second stage

His 271 total included a third round 8-under par 64.

R.J. Keur from Charleston, who played college golf at Alabama-

Birmingham also shot a 64 in the qualifier to advance

Also advancing from the first stage at the location was former Clemson golfer Peter Mathison. His second round 65 allows him to move on to the final stage.

At the Rockwell Golf and Athletic Club in Rockwell, TX, Easley native Trace Crowe, who played college golf at Auburn was the only player with local connections to advance from the first stage at the club.

In Fort Myers, at the Crown Colony

Club, former Alabama golfer and Riverside High grad Jonathan Hardee shot a final round 9-under par 63 to finish at 17 under par, in third place and advanced to the second stage,

At the Magnolia Grove Crossings Golf Club in Mobile former Clemson golfer Corbin Mills earned the right to get one step closer to full time status on the Korn-Ferry Tour.

The second stage qualifiers begin on October 12th at four locations including Alabama and Florida.

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Furman...

continued from page 7

“Unfortunately it wasn’t enough today. Obviously after my year last year it was pretty hard to back up, but I’m happy with the way I played,” she said.

Morgan is on the preseason ANNIKA Watch List for the most outstanding college golfer and after last year it is a list on which she belongs.

“My expectations for this year are no expectations. Last year was honestly better than I could have asked for so maybe this year I’ll try to keep up with it. I know I can do it, but I don’t want to put pressure on myself,” she said.

The tournament was part of a weekend at Furman when golfers parents and staff members get together for a special dinner. With so many new faces on the team, Hull believed this year’s gathering was even more important than usual.

“The biggest thing was everyone getting to know each other, to mesh together. The three freshmen are awesome and it was great to see everyone just lock in this week and that was fun,” said Hull.

As for the win, Hull says winning the



Furman’s Anna Morgan from Spartanburg, finished as the runner-up at the Lady Paladin Invitational. (GolfClub Photo)

Lady Paladin is always on top of a list of team goals.

“The Lady Paladin and the SoCon are our two top priorities, if we can do those two things everything else can happen from there,” noted Hull.



Seifert got to Oxford just a few weeks before the start of the season and was helping Ole’Miss and Easley native Kory Henkes coach the Rebels to a 1-shot win over Clemson. Spartanburg High School grad Elle Johnson, who transferred to Ole’Miss from FSU before the season was on the winning team. (Ole’Miss photo)

Moving...

continued from page 15

South Carolina.

Elle Johnson from Spartanburg, was at Florida State, but transferred from Tallahassee to Oxford to play her final two seasons after being a regular contributor to the Seminoles over the past couple of years.

And former South Carolina AAAAA High School champion Molly Hardwick had relocated from Lexington to Nashville with her family.

Hardwick signed on with the Rebels and is a freshman on the team.

High Point plays in the Big South Conference where perennial power Campbell is playing its last year before moving to a new conference.

“Campbell has been the top team in the conference, but we have a chance to be good this year and I think we can



Spartanburg High grad Elle Johnson has transferred from FSU to Ole’ Miss. Johnson helped the Rebels win the Cougar Classic in Charleston. (Twitter Photo)

compete for a post season spot,” said the Panthers coach.

Both coaches and their teams will be in the Upstate this year. High Point plays in the Carolina Classic in Spartanburg starting on October 1 and then returns for the Furman Intercollegiate a few weeks later.

Ole’Miss will be in the field for the Clemson Invitational next March.

Ranking... continued from page 10

“This year, we have returned a group of seniors who are seasoned in competition,” Pickens coach Lem Blackwell said. “During the season our travel team has seen medalist honors from positions 1 through 4.”

Natalie Turner, Evie Harkins, Ashton Moseley, Emily Hall, and Ashley Alexander have the Blue Flame undefeated in region play, and have notched several runner-up finishes behind 5A power Dorman.

“This team won Upper State last year and finished fourth at State,” Blackwell said. “Each year we’ve been to State, we moved closer to first place. This year, the team has matured and seems more confident as we prepare for the postseason. It’s important that we stay humble and hungry, and it’s my job to see that happens. Rankings make you feel good, but the only one we’re concerned about is the last one,” he concluded.



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Clemson freshman wins two in a row

Alice Hewson starts her college career setting records

It did not take long for Alice Hewson to acclimate herself to golf in the United States. The Clemson freshman from the United Kingdom has played in two college tournaments and has won both events.

Hewson won the Powerade Cougar Classic at Yeamans Hall to start the college season. Actually, the new Tiger golfer shared medalist honors, but because of travel conflicts for some of the teams there was not a playoff.

Hewson did not need a playoff to determine the winner in her second college event at the Lady Paladin. She opened the event with a tournament best 5-under par 67 to help the Tigers hold the first round lead.

She followed up her very good first round with two rounds of 73 to post a 54 hole total of 213 and a two shot victory over the field for her second straight win.

"It has been a pretty good start," she said. "I came over here with high hopes, but to win two out of two is pretty special," said Hewson.

While earning the two victories, Hewson set a Clemson scoring record with a 7-under par 65 in the first round at the Cougar Classic.

"What a tremendous accomplishment



Clemson freshman Alice Hewson from the United Kingdom set individual records in each of the last two tournaments she has played. Hewson won the Powerade Cougar Classic at Yeamans Hall and the Lady Paladin at Furman. (GolfClub Photo)

to not only win once, but to win back to back tournaments," said women's head coach J.T. Horton. "She has tremendous poise and maturity for a freshman," he said.

Hewson believes her early success has been due in large part to the ability of the Clemson coaches and team to make her feel comfortable in her new setting.

"I've been relaxed. My coaches and teammates help keep me relaxed and I play my best golf when I'm relaxed. I just go out there and do my thing. I don't have to worry about anything else, its been great,"

she said.

In her first win Hewson was able to use a very effective short game to finish at 6-under par. She was not quite as good on the greens at Furman, but still played well enough to be one of only three golfers to finish under par.

"In the first tournament I putted well. Anything within 15 feet I was able to convert, not so this week, but it still was good," she said.

Hewson isn't ready to believe she has everything figured out for her first year in the States. The first two tournaments have shown her that she needs to improve her game, especially off the tee.

"I need to get the ball out there more. Some of the girls I am playing with hit it way past me. If I want to keep up with them I've got to get a bit more distance," said the two-time winner.

After leading the first round at Furman, the Tigers fell back to finish in a tie for fourth place. The team finished the first tournament in fifth place.

The new Tiger joins Ashlan Ramsey as the only golfers in the program's short history to win back to back tournaments. Ramsey won her second and third tournament in her freshman year.

With two tournaments left in the fall Hewson is hoping to keep winning. "I want to keep it going and get as many as I can," concluded the Clemson freshman.

Alice Hewson played for the Tigers from 2015 to 2019 and left her mark on the then young golf program.

Hewson's name appears at the top of almost every category in the Tigers record book.

Hewson left Clemson with four tournament titles and was honored four times as an All-ACC golfer.



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Dorman continued from page 11

said. "They want to play. The older ones do a great job of including the younger ones. They're really great friends, but they want to beat each other, too. Not in a bad way, they're just competitors."

Peake and Franks, the seniors on the team, aren't just including the younger girls. They're helping to lead them, too. Franks said the willingness to take on that role comes from experience.

"I think I've gotten a lot more confident as I've kept playing," she said "I've learned a lot of stuff like that, and anything I can do to help them learn it is what I want to do."

Rath, who has played well above her position in the lineup most times the Cavaliers take the course, is learning some things of her own. She had a sensational summer, and that performance has carried over.

"I started practicing more," she said. "It finally clicked to me that I was getting serious about golf, because before I didn't take it that seriously. I only have three years of high school left. I needed to start stepping up my game."

All of the Cavaliers have stepped up their game, and the results are obvious.

Winning has made Dorman the team to beat, but the high ranking in the coaches ranking means little as the Cavaliers prepare for the most important events of the year.

"We've been doing the same thing all year. We just keep grinding. We are

not worried about rankings. We just go out and play our game," said Franks.

The overall level of play by the Cavaliers this year has gotten the team to the point where they are considered a favorite to be a state champion and Herring knows the team needs to sustain that level of play.

"The expectations are definitely high going into the rest of our season," she said. "Our biggest events are yet to come, and as much as these tournaments mean to us, we have a lot of preparation to do moving into the end of the season. The season isn't over by any means, we will continue to work out the kinks so we play our best golf every round."

The AAAAA Upper State qualifying tournament will be played at the Chester Country Club on October 17th.

The top teams from the qualifying tournament will advance to the South Carolina High School League state championship.

The AAAAA Championship will be played at Holly Tree Country Club on October 24th and 25th.



Abby Franks has won two individual tournaments and been a runner-up three times during the year while helping the Cavs win six tournament titles. (GolfClub Photo)



Clemson coach Kelley Hester has a deep bench to call on this year. Katherine Schuster was the Carolinas Junior of the Year in high school and last year started in six tournaments including the NCAA Regional. (Clemson file Photo)

Tigers continued from page 13

Hester.

A pair of newcomers filled the fourth and fifth spot in the Clemson lineup as Augusta transfer Chloe Holder and Sydney Roberts from Chesnee each contributed counting rounds to the Clemson total.

"Chloe is such a competitor, I knew she could adjust quickly with a year of college golf under her belt. Quite simply, I feel like she is one of those players who has an extra gear when it matters, that's hard to find," said Hester after Holder's first tournament as a Tiger.

Roberts was last year's SC AAA state champion. The Cougar Classic was her first event playing college length courses and two rounds in one day.

"Sydney is adjusting well but the

36 hole day took a toll and she just didn't have much in the tank for round 3 today. She is a really good putter and will definitely be in the mix to continue traveling," Hester said.

The lineup for the first event in Charleston was determined by qualifying and Hester believes with the kind of depth she has been able to bring in to the program there are other golfers who will have an opportunity to get some playing time.

"In addition to the traveling 5 we have depth at home as well. It should be exciting to see this relatively young group compete this year. We showed that we are up to the challenge," concluded the Clemson coach.



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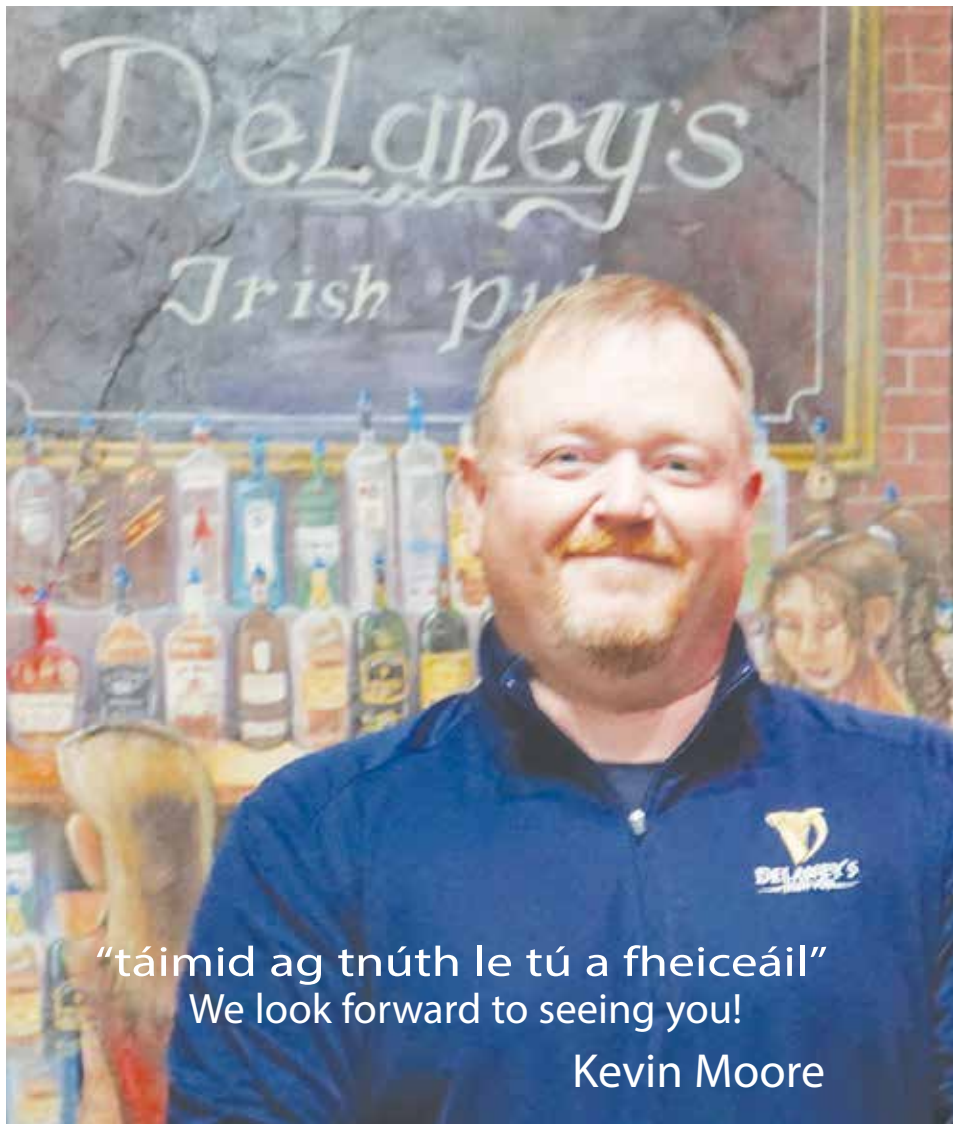
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