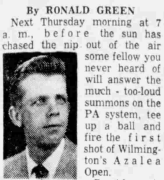


Golf's Glittering Caravan Nosing Toward North Carolina



By RONALD GREEN

Next Thursday morning at 7 a. m. before the sun has chased the m. p. out of the air some fellow you never heard of will answer the much-tooled summons on the PA system, tee up a ball and fire the first shot of Wilmington's Azalea Open.

By three's they will parade off the first tee, the unknowns fading into familiar names, the familiar names changing slowly into familiar faces as the sun gets warmer.

The touring golf professionals' annual three-week swing through our neck of the country will be underway.

They'll drive and putt and smile and fume their way through Easter Sunday, then they'll mount up in their Cadillacs, the better ones, and head for Augusta and the big one—the Masters.

There'll be no unknowns there. Only the former greats, the present greats and the middle greats are invited to the Masters.

Once that major issue is settled, the trail will lead north again, this time to Greensboro and the Greater Greensboro Open. There the pros will wrap up the winter tour and groove on, without break, to some distant point to begin what they call the summer circuit.

When they leave, they will have stashed away in their jeans the sum of \$47,500, collected at Wilmington, Augusta and Greensboro.

The Azalea tournament, Mar. 29-Apr. 1, offers \$12,500, and a kiss from Azalea Festival Queen Polly Berger.

Augusta (Apr. 5-8) is putting up \$20,000 and a membership in one of the most exclusive clubs in the world—the Masters Champions.

Greensboro (Apr. 12-15) is dangling \$15,000 in front of the golfing epiphanies.

Who will carry the largest share of the booty away from this district?

This question brings us to the meat of the subject.

Billy Maxwell, the friendly redhead from Odessa, Tex., won the Azalea last year and will defend. A fast start in the Miami Open, now in progress, hints he may be hitting his 1956 stride and able to stand off the club at the Cape Fear Country Club.

Mike Souchak, who calls Durham home, is a definite threat in all three events. He has played well at Wilmington the last two years, finishing eighth and second, and will rank as one of the topmost possible champs come Thursday.

There will be dozens more there capable of winning, stars like former National Open Champion Ed Furgol, mighty mile winner of the World Championship Bob Toski, a winner at Wilmington in 1951, '52 champ Jimmy Clark, Golfer of the Year Doug Ford, St. Pete champ Mike Feickick, and among the probables, Gene Littler, National Open Champ Flock, Art Wall Jr., Walker Inman, Dow Finsterwald, Arnold Palmer, Jay Hebert, George Bayer (longest hitter in the world), Dick Mayer, Julius Boros, Jim Turrea, most all of the name stars.

At the Augusta National Golf Club the following week, it is not quite so wide open. Gary Middlecoff might successfully defend his crown. Ben Hogan or Sam Snead, both of whom have won it, could do it again.

A new sparkler like Souchak or Littler may sneak in. Bob Rosburg, Julius Boros, Jimmy Demaret and Jack Burke stand good chances. Any one of the oldtimers could win but the favorite is limited.

Top amateur bets are Harvey Ward and Billy Joe Patton.

If Sam Snead plays at Greensboro, he will win, or come in as odds-on favorite to repeat. He's in the field, and he usually is.

To the scores of thousands who will be one of the drivers to whom it doesn't really matter who wins. They just want to be there when the first unknown is called to the tee.

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HEADING OUR WAY . . . are scenes like this one at Augusta National's Picturesque 10th hole



Just Call Dons The Greatest

Tight, Tense San Fran Got Loose

Tiger Gets Mean Again

Fins And Furs Fish Don't Have Chance

Iowa Zoomed Early, But Finally Faded

'Speed Month' Ends Owens Gunning For Third Victory Here

It's Speed Month In Charlotte

Charlotte Speedway

Stock Car Races

Van Ness

Recap

Micro-Midget

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NEW YORK (AP)—Ralph (Tiger) Jones, the speller of the middle weight division, has done it again. This time the victim was puns.

They're taking the fun out of fishing . . . Piscatorial pursuit has taken a scientific turn, and the fish don't have a chance . . . At sea they're located with electronic "fish-finders" and spotter planes . . . Their eating and breeding habits have been studied so thoroughly by biologists that bulls and babies can be predicted with phenomenal accuracy . . . And now comes two new inventions that threaten to make every nemo an Laak Walton.

First there's a doohickey, called the "Depth O Plug," that locates the aquatic living room, takes its temperature and records the depth . . . You just cast it out like a plug, let it sink, reel it in and read the figures . . . With this into the angle should know just where his fanned quarry will be . . . Now available in most tackle shops, it sells for \$2.

Once you've located the fish and you can't fill your stringer, or then try the latest fish killer. The Heddon company has come out with their new "Sonic Lure," which threatens to revamp the plug industry . . . This lure gives off frequencies pitched so fish can "feel" the plug even if they can't see it . . . It's especially good for muddy water, night fishing or nearsighted bass.

Then, if the Heddon people want to go a step further, they could develop this frequency into very waves that remind Daddy Bass of a well-rounded female fin . . . Then when all the poppas have been lured to their fate, the adjustment could be made so the frequencies tempt Mama with visions of a smooth sand-covered nest watched over by a muscular mate . . . When this happens we can replace the tackle box with a short-wave radio set.

FREE PUBLICATIONS—One of the nicest gun books we've seen in a long time comes from the Olin Mathieson Corp. of New Haven, Conn. . . The book, free to all who write in, has some beautiful colored illustrations and data on Winchester firearms . . . Aycock Brown of Manton has prepared some concise data on fishing in the Outer Banks area . . . Complete with maps, they're free . . . Drop a postcard to Lark for the publications.

IT LOOKS LIKE this weekend will be the season's best as far as fishermen are concerned . . . With a bright smile from the weather and the fish eager to strike, full strings should be frequent . . . Even with the weather cold and wet several anglers connected with fine catches last week . . . Top catch was Ed Batley's 10 lb., 2-oz. largemouth, caught on a minnow opposite the Plant Allen site on the Catawba . . . Bill Lineberry (Billmore) landed a 6 1/2 lb. smallmouth fishing lure and Frank Battie (Waynesville) caught a pair that weighed 8 and 7 lbs. at Fontana . . . J. B. Smith (Mount Pleasant) picked up a 6-pounder at Eric Smith's lake, near Mount Pleasant . . . Santee fishing is expected to pick up with a break in the weather . . . Lake Moultrie provided the best catches earlier in the week . . . Fishing in the local section of the Catawba is picking up . . . Plenty of crappie being taken . . . Jack Hyland, G. L. Russell Jr., C. S. Smith and C. S. Smith Jr. strung up 63 in a short time . . . Hyland says they seem to be running bigger this season.

QUICK BUSINESS LUNCHES LITTLE PEP-DELMONICA RESTAURANT 301-303 West Trade St.

Tar Heel Club Planning Trials All stakes will be amateur except one—the open puppy—when the Tar Heel Field Trial Club holds its annual spring trials at its course near Pineville March 30-31.

Micro-Midget The Micro-Midget Racing Club will hold a driver's meeting and race tomorrow afternoon at 2 p. m. on Statesville Rd.

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Hirsch Hot—Ford Homer Park Mark?

A FEW years ago, a hunk of muscle named Hubert Ford earned a professional baseball contract with his tremendous hitting power at Central High School and in Legion Junior ball.

In one afternoon, Hubert's booming bat povered four balls at Central. Five hitters split Harding's safeties.

"I was a little surprised at our getting," said Bumgarner. "We got an almost completely new infield and, although they didn't have too many chances, they looked very good. Carl Snipes, our new third baseman, has looked especially good. He's got a couple of nice hits in our two games."

Asked about Central, Bumgarner answered, "They've got Ivy and Haynes. With those two, they're hard to be tough."

Freddie Hirsch, on whom Myers Park is counting heavily this season, proved his worth yesterday in allowing only one hit and earning eight in six innings against Kings Mountain at KM, but he was tapped for the loss.

The lone Mountaineer hit was a single by Bill McGinnis that drove in the game's only run in the first inning. After McGinnis' hit, KM player got past second base.

Myers Park managed only three hits, two of them by Tommy Curdie, and couldn't quite catch up in their season opener.

Both pitchers completed the seven innings, Justice allowing seven hits, Thomas five.

Jimmy Irbry, Robbie Haynes and

Johnny Deaver, the red-hot sportsman driver, will pilot a fast sportsman car powered by a V-8 Chevrolet engine instead of a Cadillac as previously announced. The Columbia, S. C. He's picked up first prize five times in the GGO, including last year, and will be an odds-on favorite to repeat. He's in the field, and he usually is.

To the scores of thousands who will be one of the drivers to whom it doesn't really matter who wins. They just want to be there when the first unknown is called to the tee.

TIME trials will start at 1:30 p. m. and the races at 2:30. The program calls for two 10-lap races, a 10-lap consolation and a 15-lap feature event. Race Director Bruton Smith has posted a \$2,500 cash purse, with the feature race winner getting \$500.

Heading of the list of entries is Cotton Owens of Spartanburg, S. C., who won both modified and sportsmen events here earlier this month. Owens, by showing his heels in these two races, will naturally hold the favorite's role Sunday.

The Palmetto automobile mechanic will drive a Chrysler-powered Plymouth tator in quest of his third victory of the year.

HIS toughest competition may come from a lineup of drivers using Cadillac-powered racers. Joe Lee Johnson of Chattanooga, Tenn. added his name to the entry list today in a Caddy. Already known to drive them are Bill Widenhouse of Midland, the defending national champion; Tom Fenley of Augusta, Ga., and Bunk Moore of Indian Trail.

Continued from Last Sports Page smooth oval at Indianapolis. Portago and Castellotti both drive for the Ferrari factory. Gonzalez will be at the wheel of a D-Jag entered by Alfonso Mena of Havana.

Americans here are also watching closely the team of Chevrolet Corvettes. The three souped-up, lightened Corvettes are driven by a team of Detroit-picked experts, headed by ex-Mercedes ace John Fitch.

This observer's prediction: a D-Jaguar will win, with American Sherwood Johnson or Englishman Mike Hawthorne at the wheel.

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WORLD SERIES BASKETBALL THE NATION'S TOP SPORT SPECTACLE! CHARLOTTE COLISEUM--THURS., APRIL 5--8 P.M. 7th ANNUAL HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS vs COLLEGE ALL-AMERICANS PLUS WORLD FAMOUS THEATRICAL ARTISTS

It's Speed Month In Charlotte CHARLOTTE SPEEDWAY (5 MILES OUT WILKINSON BLVD.—HIGHWAY 29, SOUTH) LAST BIG RACE of the month Race • SUNDAY, MAR. 25 CHAMPIONSHIP MODIFIED and Sportsman Cars NASCAR SANCTIONED TIME TRIALS . . . 1 P. M. Races Start 2:30 \$2500.00 PURSE INFIELD \$2.00 TAX INC. GRANDSTAND \$3.00 TAX INC. Children Under 12 Admitted Free With Paid Escort CHARLOTTE FAIRGROUND RACES BEGIN FRIDAY NIGHT APRIL 13TH. A BRUTON SMITH PROMOTION