



# June 2009

**Wildwood Green Golf Club  
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**As we near the beginning of summer (June 21st), I thought long and hard on what I could share with all my Wildwood Green Members. I didn't have to look very far after all. I got a call early in May from a longtime friend & Golf Writer, Tom Berry. Tom wanted to know if I could help him contact Roger Watson. I told Tom he could talk with Roger for two hours or more, because he had just left an all day meeting with me and was heading back to Myrtle Beach. I'm sure all the Members of Wildwood Green Golf Club are as proud of Roger as his Staff and golf friends throughout the country are. This article was published by High Point Enterprise Sportswriter Tom Berry.**

**Willis Denmark  
General Manager/Golf Director**

### *Watson welcomes call from N.C. Hall*

**By Tom Berry  
May 10, 2009**

In December, Roger Watson received a phone call from long-time friend and fellow High Point native Charlie Bryant.

Bryant couldn't wait to tell Watson the good news.

Watson, 65, who has spent most of his life in golf as an accomplished player, club professional and businessman, had just been voted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

What was Watson's first reaction?

"How could a guy from High Point who caddied at Blair Park make it into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame?" Watson recalled asking himself. "It's something I never thought would happen. I didn't know there was a North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame until Jeff Mullins was inducted several years ago."

There is an N.C. Sports Hall of Fame, and Watson will officially join the elite group of 266 members on Thursday during an induction ceremony at the North Raleigh Hilton.

This year's inductees also includes ACC commissioner John Swofford, Appalachian State football coach Jerry Moore, former Wake Forest and South Carolina basketball coach Dave Odom, North Carolina women's basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell and former N.C. State running back Willie Burden.

Watson is probably the least recognizable name of the group, but he may have the most amazing and varied accomplishments. The 1961 graduate of High Point Central became an All-American golfer at High Point College and spent time at some of the best golf courses in North Carolina as a club professional. His first job was as an assistant pro at Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, then he was head pro at Sapona Country Club in Lexington and MacGregor Downs Country Club in Cary.

Watson considered trying to become a full-time member of the PGA Tour after graduating from college. But he already was married and could not turn down a job offer to work with legendary head club professional Buck Adams at CC of NC.

"It wasn't much of a decision," Watson said. "That was the best assistant's position in the golf business. I wasn't rich enough and didn't have the sponsors to make a run at the PGA Tour."

A few years later, while at MacGregor Downs, Watson began playing more golf and won the 1974 and '75 National PGA Club Professional Championship. His memorable triumph in 1974 was capped by a sudden-death playoff victory over legendary Sam Snead at Pinehurst No. 2.

"It was very exciting," Watson recalled. "I took it as a challenge because I was told that no club pro who had never been a full-time member of the PGA Tour had a chance to win. Because of that, it was even more thrilling to me."

While remaining as head pro at MacGregor Downs, Watson would play about 15 tournaments a year, including many PGA Tour events. He participated in two PGA Championships and the 1976 U.S. Open at Atlanta Athletic Club.

Jerry Pate was the eventual winner in Atlanta, but Watson was on the leaderboard early in the first round after being 2-under through seven holes.

"Then I realized where I was and went bogey, double-bogey," he said.

Through 1976, Watson won numerous pro tournaments. He captured the North Carolina Open, two Carolinas PGA Championships and twice was a member of the victorious United States PGA Cup Team (the club pro version of the Ryder Cup.)

Although Watson eventually participated in several Senior PGA Tour events, back problems prevented him from playing much golf for 14 years (1977-1991). No problem. He stayed in the game as a businessman by developing, managing and owning more than 60 golf courses over the years. Any list of the most influential people in golf must include Watson.

"Roger is an even better businessman than he was a player," said High Point resident Willis Denmark, a former head professional at James-town Park who serves as general manager for the Watson-owned Wildwood Green Golf Club in Raleigh.

Through his Carolinas Golf Group and other partnerships, Watson purchased or constructed Lochmere Golf Club in Cary, Devils Ridge in Holly Springs, Nags Head Golf Links, Oak Valley Golf Club in Advance, The Currituck Club on the Outer Banks and many more.

In 1998, Carolinas Golf Group sold its properties to another golf ownership group for \$60 million.

"We were fortunate when we sold our portfolio," Watson said. "Golf was on the way up."

Watson retired for a brief time, but now his Carolinas Golf Group owns, leases, manages or consults for seven golf courses, including Carolina National Golf Club in Bolivia, North River Club in Beaufort and the new Lonnie Poole Golf Course at N.C. State. Watson's son, Chip, manages the Poole course while serving as an assistant coach for the Wolfpack.

"Golf is in the tank now, but I take that as a challenge," said Roger Watson, who still spends "a couple of hundred" nights a year away from his North Myrtle Beach home running his courses. "I enjoy the business side of golf. I have a passion for it. I guess you can call me a workaholic."

Watson, whose father and uncle once owned Watson Superette grocery store on South Main Street, got started in golf as a kid growing up on Kearns Avenue in High Point. The neighborhood children would play on the 11th fairway at Blair Park, taking frequent breaks to get out of the way when groups of golfers came through.

Watson wondered about those golfers and how they could hit a little white ball so far and so accurately. He started playing and caddying at Blair Park, and entered the High Point Junior Championship before he was a teen-ager.

He lost in the finals.

"I couldn't handle that," Watson recalled. "I started playing a lot of golf after that."

About 55 years later, golf remains a big part of his life. And Watson is a big part of an impressive 2009 class at the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

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## Member News

### *New Members*

Bryan Dunbar  
Michael Swiger  
Tyler Wright

### *Excellent Golf Accomplishments*

- 9 year-old Ryan Gerard featured in our April Newsletter, has set a new course record from the Red Tees at Wildwood Green with a 66. His course Record occurred on May 20, 2009. Well done young man!
- On May 1, 2009 Dwight Green shot his age. He is 91 - Every year it gets easier for Mr. Green!
- On May 1, 2009, playing with the Gaggles, Arnold Ewing with a course handicap of 18, scored an Eagle 3 on the 13th Hole.
- Lenny Barton, finished 2nd in the 50 - 56 yrs old Flight of the CPSGA (Carolina Professional Senior Golf Association) Event at North River Golf Club this month. Playing in what was considered to be British Open style winds Mr. Barton shot 79, 77.
- Playing in the Harris Teeter Senior Tour at Mebane, Both Al Makaila and Bob Rudolph shot an A-Flight Best round of 76.

### *One Ace in the end of April & Three Aces in May*

- On April 26, 2009, Sougata Mukherjee aced the 6th hole which was witnessed by John Neilson.
- May 10, 2009, Ray Zafian Aced the 17th hole from the white tees, witnessing the shot was Bobby Zafian.
- On May 19, 2009, George Malindzak Aced the 17th hole from the white tees, witnessed by Frank McGarvey.
- Kevin O'Connell a member of the UNC Golf Team Aced the 12th hole on May 23, 2009 in root to shooting a 63. Witnessing the Ace were Bud O'Connell, Bill Hanks & Rob Donnel.

### **Congratulations to all of these Members!**

John Budwine  
Head Golf Professional



## Wildwood Green GC Golf Academy

*Presents this month's Focus on Fundamentals*

By  
**Zack Goldberg**



### **"Building Your Mental Game"**

There are many golfers out there who focus too much on negative thoughts when playing a round. The negative mental approach begins the moment we leave for the course. A golfer, whether, being a beginning player or a professional, should be filling their minds with positive thoughts for the day.

When you step up to the first tee, there are many influences that make us lose focus. We begin to notice the houses and O.B. stakes left, the water hazard to the right and the bunkers where we do not wish to end up. Our thought process is completely wrong the moment we begin to think this way. Rather than worrying about where we don't want our ball to go, we should be positive and think about the spots we want our ball to go.

We are all capable of executing good golf shots. We just need to believe in ourselves and our swing. The next time you are on the course, try playing a positive round. Go into every shot trusting and committing to it. Think about where we WANT the ball, not where we DON'T want it.

**For more golf advice and individual attention, schedule a lesson with a WWG Golf Academy Certified Instructor.**

## Golf Shop News

June 2009 Hours of Operation

Weekend First Tee Time will start at 6:00 AM

Weekday First Tee Time will start at 6:30 AM

*New Items in the Golf Shop*



We have new Mizuno & Adams Demo Drivers in the Golf Shop. Try them out! Our prices will match the Discount Golf Stores. Plus, we will provide you with the Professional Services needed to get you the right fitting club.

**Bionic Golf Gloves - Three Times the Life of a Traditional Glove!! Untouched Technology for Arthritic Golfers and being used by Championship Golfer Paul Azinger.**

**\$24.95**



**Member Endorser's**

**Jim Holler - Loves the Bionic Glove because it lasts very long.**

**Jim McMillan - Says he loves it, lasts forever.**

## June 2009 Tournament Schedule

### June 6

Men's 3rd Package Event - 1 Best Ball on Par 5's, 2 Best Ball on Par 4's, 3 Best Ball on Par 3's  
10:30AM Tee Times

### June 7

Couples Event - Captain's Choice  
5:00 PM Tee Times

### June 13

Ladies 2nd Package Event - Points  
10:30 AM Tee Times

### June 14

Pro - Member - Young Pros vs. Old Pros  
1:00 PM Tee Times

### June 25

Pro-Junior  
2:00 PM Tee Times

### June 27

Men's 4th Package Event - Best Ball Net & Worst Ball Net  
10:30 AM Tee Times

### June 28

Parent - Child - Alternate Shot Modified  
1:00 PM Shotgun

### Rules Tip of the Month

#### How to Use the Rule Book

##### Understand the Words

The Rules book is written in a very precise and deliberate fashion. You should be aware of and understand the following differences in word use:

- may = optional
- should = recommendation
- must = instruction (and penalty if not carried out)
- a ball = you may substitute another ball (e.g. Rules 26, 27 or 28)
- the ball = you may not substitute another ball (e.g. Rules 24-2 or 25-1)

##### Know the Definitions

There are over sixty defined terms and these form the foundation around which the Rules of play are written. A good knowledge of the defined terms (which are italicised throughout the book) is very important to the correct application of the Rules.

(Editor's Note: Online, see [rules definitions](#) or visit the Rules section of the [USGA website](#).)

##### Which Rule Applies?

The Contents pages may help you find the relevant Rule, alternatively, there is an Index at the back of the book. What is the Ruling?

To answer any question on the Rules you must first establish the facts of the case. To do so, you should identify:

1. The form of play (e.g. match play or stroke play, single, foursome or four-ball?).
  2. Who is involved (e.g. the player, his partner or caddie, an outside agency?).
  3. Where the incident occurred (e.g. on the teeing ground, in a bunker or water hazard, on the putting green or elsewhere on the course).
- In some cases it might also be necessary to establish:
4. The player's intentions (e.g. what was he doing and what does he want to do?).
  5. Any subsequent events (e.g. the player has returned his score card or the competition has closed).

##### Refer to the Book

It is recommended that you carry a Rules book in your golf bag and use it whenever a question arises. If in doubt, play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies. Once back in the Clubhouse, reference to Decisions on the Rules of Golf should help resolve any outstanding queries.

## Course Update

Greetings Wildwood Green Members. As I am writing this the maintenance staff just completed a deep verticut on the greens. This was a necessary cultural practice that was not on the schedule. I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. I truly believe you will be pleased with the end results. Verticutting is a cultural practice that is implemented when a thick thatch layer has developed. Thatch is comprised of dead roots and stems from the plant. Our thatch layer here at Wildwood Green was not allowing water to penetrate into the soil profile and reach the plant roots, thus creating wilt problems. You may have noticed some wilting at the end of April and early parts of May. With summer right around the corner, it is vital to get water into the profile to allow the delicate bentgrass plants to survive the rising temperatures that will be here soon. As always I am available for questions regarding any outside course management.

**Rick Durham**  
Golf Course Superintendent

## Pictures From Roger Watson's Hall of Fame Induction



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