Williard's ace is worth wait

Hole-in-one is his first

Williard with ball,club responsible for memorable shot

Dick Williard hasn't bothered to count all his golf shots during his career.

But all of a sudden, there is one that definitely stands out.

Williard, a little over a month shy of his 60th birthday, made that one the most memorable during a round held at the Mooresville Municipal Golf Course Aug. 3.

Selecting a seven iron to try and cover the slightly more than 140 yards -- measured from the championship blue tees -- and combat a headwind at the public facility's par-three fifth hole, Williard deposited his Titlist ball into the hole on the fly, kissing the flagstick on the way down, for the first hole-in-one of that lengthy golfing career.

"It's my first, ever," grinned an elated Williard. "I've waited almost 60 years, and it's sure worth it. It's a shot I'll never forget."

Neither, either will several others within his group.

Among them, it was the first ever witnessed by Eric Barnhardt. Larry Sullivan, with one previous ace to his credit, also was on hand to personally watch someone else within his same group card the ace.

However, for the group's fourth member, it was simply a matter of old hat. Jim Thomas hadn't played golf at the Mooresville course in almost five weeks, that last round spiced by the witnessing of a hole-in-one at the course's par-three ninth hole by. This time, it was Williard's shot that upped to seven the number of aces Thomas has seen while a member of a group. He also has three aces of his own.

As is tradition, Williard was at the center of attention following the round, agreeing to cover the bill for the favorite beverage of any and all within earshot. He also plans to fill out the paperwork available in the host course's pro shop that will allow him to receive official authorization of his first ace.

Smith uses OT par to reach U.S. Am

After 36 holes in extreme heat, it took a precious par at the 37th to allow Mooresville's Paul Smith to qualify for this year's U.S. Amateur golf tournament.

One of a host of golfers from across the Carolinas as well as several other states competing in the day-long, 36-hole U.S Am Sectional Qualifying tournament held at Salisbury's Crescent Golf Course, Smith carded a par on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to earn the right to join two other qualifiers in the field and advance into the upcoming national competition.

Smith made it to the playoff along with three others vying for just two remaining spot after following up a first-round score of 67 with a second-round score of 71. That forged that three-way tie for second and forced the threesome back on the course to break it.

Smith was one of two players to post a par on the first extra playoff hole to make the U.S. Am field.

His two-round total of 138 strokes was just three pops off the day's medalist score, carded by an entry from Georgia.

With his effort, Smith is now eligible to compete in this fall's U.S. Am. Should he or any of the other two be unable to attend, one of the four alternates from the qualifier could take their place.

The U.S. Amateur will be held at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta later this fall.

The Crescent Golf Club was one of just five courses selected from across the state to serve as a U.S. Am qualifying site. It also accounted for last opportunity for those wishing to try and make the field to qualify, accounting for a much more competitive group of golfers.

Armstrong

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development and character, the scholarship provides funds for up to the level of half tuition and feeds.

Armstrong is a 2001 graduate of SIHS, undergoing such ceremonies this past May. While at South Iredell, she was a member volleyball, basketball and softball programs, making each varsity squad as a freshman. A knee injury her sophomore year forced her to miss all three sports. She played volleyball and softball both her junior and senior years as well.

Fielding some offers that also included the chance to play volleyball at the college level, it's softball that has attracted the bulk of her attention and, in turn, where she feels she has the best chance of succeeding. It does so through her involvement in the sport since the age of six, making the transition to the fastpitch level before her teen-age years. Seasons of play at the school level as well as facing top competition through her experience with various other organized groups has served to prepare her for the next level.

At South Iredell, the infielder was a three-time, all-Western Foothills Conference selection, practically owning that elite team's third base position during her freshman, junior and senior years. She was part of an experienced group that helped the Vikettes land a postseason berth her senior year, where they advanced into the second round.

The daughter of Ronald and Sherry Armstrong of Troutman, she is also the granddaughter of Mooresville's Doris Isenhour, and Harold and Sonja Beaver of Troutman. She plans to juggle her fall tournament and spring regular-season schedule as a member of the Greensboro College softball team with an academic agenda aimed at allowing her to major in biology.

Active in the community, Armstrong is a member of the Keywanettes Club, the Health Occupation Students of America Club; a "Big Sister" for abused and neglected children, and the Girls Athletic Association. She is also an active member of the youth group at Vanderburg United Methodist Church, a graduate of the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce Leadership Conference and a member of the Lake Norman Regional Medical Center's "Explorer Post."

Devilettes

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team also heads into this season under new conference affiliation. After wrapping up a stay in the old Western Foothills Conference with a second straight dual-team playoff berth, the Lady Devils start fresh this late summer as charter members of the seven-school North Piedmont Conference.

Other schools within the NPC include Statesville, North Iredell, Kannapolis, Northwest Cabarrus, East Rowan and West Rowan. During the course of the fast-arriving season, Mooresville will face off against each of those league foes once each. All will be in search of the just two available state dual-team postseason berths.

The Devilettes, without a senior this year's roster, will fill the season's first four weeks with non-league play, including a pair of home-and-home series and a total of three appearances against former WFC opponents.

New coach Smith plans on having four juniors fill top singles positions, with a sophomore and freshman likely rounding out the top six. The team will spend the first few matches of the season, mixing and matching line-ups in hopes of settling on one by the time critical conference play starts next month.

Mooresville will spend all of the season's first week at home, hosting South Rowan two days after the opener with Alexander Central. The Devilettes will christen inaugural NPC play at Northwest Cabarrus Sept. 12. The team's first new league home game will be against East Rowan Sept. 19.

All of the team's home matches will be held on the courts adjacent to the Mooresville Middle School campus, which is being equipped with a building that will house bathrooms and a tennis program storage room.

Beginning with Tuesday's debut, the complete Mooresville Senior High girls tennis schedule, with home matches in all capitals, follows:

Aug. 14.....ALEX. CENTRAL
Aug. 16.....SOUTH ROWAN
Aug. 20....Davie County
Aug. 22...LINCOLNTON
Aug. 27.....DAVIE COUNTY
Aug. 29...ST. STEPHENS
Sept. 4.....CONCORD
Sept. 5.....St. Stephens
Sept. 10....East Lincoln
Sept. 12.....Northwest Cabarrus
Sept. 17.....Lincolnton
Sept. 19...EAST ROWAN
Sept. 24.....North Iredell
Sept. 26...KANNAPOLIS
Oct. 1.....West Rowan
Oct. 3.....STATESVILLE

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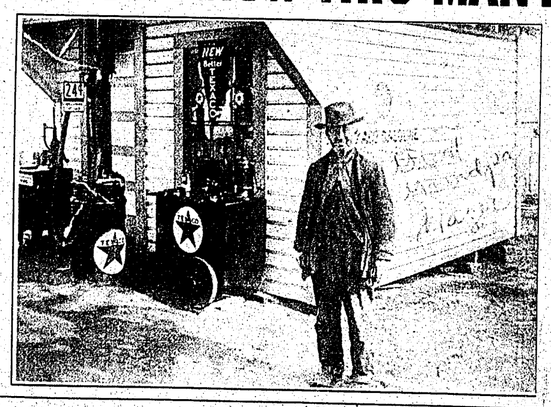

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