

Rodgers new ruler of MGA

Kem Rodgers overcame the field's largest disadvantage to emerge as the most advantageous of all golfers in last weekend's annual Mooresville Golf Association's Club Championship.

Rodgers, a former state high school individual champion who also tested his game in the professional ranks before regaining his amateur status, posted the two-day tournament's lowest round with a seven-under par 65 Sunday, earning the player in the lower 40-man field with the lowest handicap a nine-stroke triumph to reign as this year's club champ.

The two-day, 36-hole stroke place affair that crowned gross and net champions in three flights took place on the MGA's home Mooresville Municipal Golf Course.

In one of the event's most competitive fields in recent years, Rodgers broke free from the pack in the most-challenged Championship Flight by bagging his score of 65 Sunday that was the best of any golfer during any of the two rounds by a four-stroke margin. He used the last-day charge to make up a two-stroke deficit that existed after the first round.

Rodgers entered the tournament practically assured of being out of the running for any net recognition. That was the case as, based on his plus-handicap, he was giving five strokes back to the course instead of being able to get some in return as was the majority of the others in the field.

The eventual champion opened play with a round of 73 Saturday that was two shots off the pace set by the eventual flight's net champion. Rodgers then used his sizzling round Sunday to take command for good.

With Rodgers setting the pace and earning the nod of this year's club champion in the process, second-place in the Championship Flight's gross division belonged to Winn Haire. He finished as runner-up following rounds of 74 and 73 on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

In the net scoring, Steve Harwell, a scratch golfer on dead even terms with the course as far as strokes were concerned, followed up his one-under 71 Saturday with an even better three-under 69 Sunday, earning him the net title. Jason Meadows shaved six strokes off his first-day score of 78 with a 72 on Sunday, using his three handicap to take second outright in the net department.

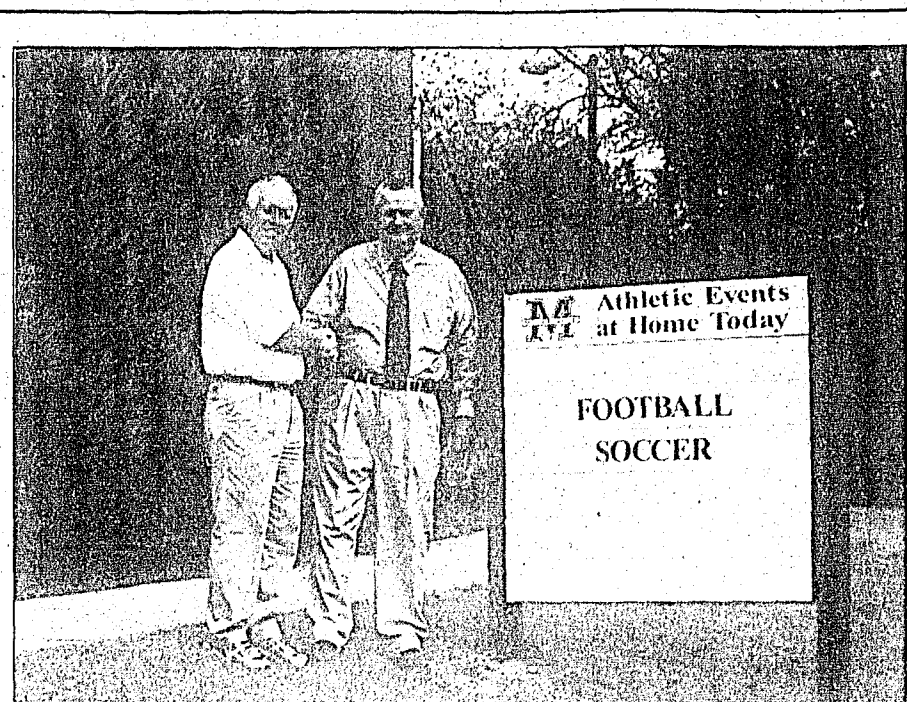
In the first flight, top gross honors based on the actual scoring came courtesy Matt Hilton, who improved by five pops his opening-day score of 77 to close with a 72 Sunday, it giving him a 149 two-day total. First day leader Matt Ray, who shot three-under 69 Saturday, stumbled to an 83 Sunday but still placed second in gross.

In net scoring that took into effect the handicaps of the players, Virgil Ehler finished first with a score of 144, followed by Thomas Thompson with his 148.

And in the third and final flight, gross accolades were cradled by Tommy Wingate, who earned that right with rounds of 82-89, for a 171-stroke total, with Tommy Rinehardt taking second after scores of 87-92, 179.

In net scoring, the 144 stroke tallied by Herman Thompson placed him first, followed in second by Larry Brawley's 153.

Play in the MGA Club Championship accounted for August's event on the golfing group's calendar. Plans are already in progress for the September attraction, a staff revenge affair called Tough Day that will be held Sept. 21. Registration is underway for that challenge that will be played under a two-person, best-ball format that will also recognize gross and net winners.



Newest sign of athletic times

Claiming ignorance over the knowledge of scheduled home athletic contests involving Mooresville Senior High's varsity programs will no longer be an acceptable excuse courtesy of this newest sign of the school's athletic times. Placed along the Magnolia Ave. side of the high school, the daily updated MHS Athletic Events grid will have in place a list of all planned home contests by any of the school's varsity teams. Dr. Frank Fields, second from left, is the one who came up with the idea and presented a donation to the MHS Athletic Program to help with its funding. Offering appreciation to Fields for the sign on behalf of the school's athletic department is Mike Carter, athletic director.

Auten a participant in State Games nationals

With St. Louis as the backdrop, a Mooresville competitor was among the country's top amateur athletes competing in last month's State Games of America.

Considered the Super Bowl in the amateur sporting world, Mooresville's Jordan Auten will be among the 99 State Games of North Carolina athletes in the field. Auten is the only athlete from Mooresville in the field that also includes several entries from Statesville to round out the Fredrick County connection.

State Games of North Carolina athletes who won a medal in either the 1999 or 2000 games earned an invitation to participate in the SGA. That latter event is taking place in St. Louis, Missouri, B-1 State Region.

The festival will feature competition between medalists from 40 state games across the country. These athletes will participate in one of 15 sports that will be included in the 2001 SGA.

The sports are: basketball, bowling, diving, figure skating, gymnastics, ice hockey, 5K road race, soccer, softball, swimming, tae kwon do, tennis, track & field, volleyball and wrestling.

North Carolina has athletes participating in figure skating, soccer, swimming, tae kwon do, and track & field.

The State Games of North Carolina, wrapping up its 15th annual competition this past

June. The 2001 Games broke participation records with 13,528 athletics and coaches taking part in the event. Competition in 16 sports saw numbers increase in 11, including all-time highs in cycling, disc golf, in-line hockey and soccer. Medal winners from this year's competition and 2002 champions will be invited to the Hartford, Ct., site for the 2003 State Games of America.

"The State Games of America," praised chuck Hobgood, president of the North Carolina Amateur Sports organization that conducts the state-level Games, "is a wonderful opportunity for out local athletes to compete on a national level. North Carolina continues to produce a number of athletes, and we are proud to cheer them on in St. Louis."

The organizers of the 01 SGA are preparing for over 8,000 participants in this summer's competition. Opening ceremonies are being planned and will include the traditional parade of athletes, as well as fireworks, entertainment, celebrities, music and more. State Games of America is unique in that it offers a national stage on which athletes of all ages can compete.

During the '99 event, the age of participants ranged from five to 85 years old. SGA is a national celebration of grass roots sports and offers an Olympic experience to athletes of all ages and skill levels.

War Memorial hosting fitness sessions galore

There is no excuse needed because none is necessary when it comes to a host of fitness activities available at the War Memorial Building.

Practically every day of the week, events of some sort are being held, a number of them available free of charge.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10-11 a.m., the Fitness Zone takes place. It is a program designed to share fitness information and challenges. Also offered is a video aerobics featuring various dance aerobics and other fitness tapes. There is no charge.

On Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 6-7 p.m., and again on Saturdays from 9-10 a.m., a Low Impact Aerobics class is offered. Amy Rankin serves as instructor. Cost is \$2 per person payable at the door.

Monday through Fridays, from noon until 1 p.m., Rock-n-Roll Walking is featured. At no cost to participants, those attending can walk around the facility's gym to the beat of the best music from the 1950's through the 1990's.

Open volleyball takes place on Monday through Friday, again at no cost, held from 10 a.m. until noon.

Shag Lessons are offered for beginners on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m., and for intermediate level dancers from 8-9 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person, per five-week session. Benny and Sandra Brown serve as instructors.

Angela Wood is the instructor of the Ballroom Dance classes, taking place Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginners, and from 7:30-9 p.m. for intermediate level.

Two sessions of Square Dancing are held. On Mondays, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Spinning Moors

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Most fundamentally sound of basic fundamental campers

There are those who are sound. And then there are those who are most fundamentally sound. Consider this group members of the latter. They're the ones, based on their respective performances within age and gender divisions, who proved to be just that following their participation in this past summer's Basic Fundamental Basketball Camp. During three days of camp activities held in the Mooresville Middle School gym that featured learning drills and competitions testing those skills, these are the ones who emerged as the best of the best. As such, all were presented with trophies and/or plaques to acknowledge their accomplishments by camp directors. Those in charge of the annual camp wish to thank all participants as well as area businesses and individuals serving as sponsors that helped make the youth fundamental basketball camp a success.

Moors use revenge to help capture tournament title

It was the best of both situations for the Mooresville Moors 18-and-under fall baseball team last weekend.

Not only did the Moors personally atone for their only loss suffered during the double-elimination segment of earlier-round play in the USSSA event held in Mocksville but used that paycheck as part of their final-day trek towards the capturing of the single-elimination portion's championship to emerge as overall winners.

Playing a total of four games in three days, the Moors fielded a 3-1 record, picking up two wins over the opponent -- the second of them in the title bout -- and splitting games with another in the process.

Mooresville used similar, 5-1 and 6-1 favorable decisions over most Mocksville, the second of them in the event's championship meeting, coupled with an 8-7 loss and retallating, 8-6 win over the West Virginia Bash to earn the first-place finish.

In the title game against Mocksville, Paul Link went the seven-inning distance to secure the pitching win, allowing the lone run on four hits with five strikeouts.

Offensively, Josh Haire, Ronald Crum and Geoffrey Ballard each drove home two runs, while being joined by Seth Graham Justin Graham and Patrick Adams with one hit each.

In the opening win over Mocksville, it was Tyler Lackey who tossed five innings for the win, allowing the run on a hit with seven whiffs. Brent Frye worked the last two innings, fanning five.

Ballard cranked a home run as one of his two hits, while Adams also paired hits, and Haire added one.

In the first meeting with the Bash, the Moors built a 7-0 lead before faltering late to suffer the loss.

Adams was the starting pitching, working the first three frames and allowing three runs and two hits with five strikeouts. Chris McDaniels also saw some mound time.

Ballard smacked a three-run home run and finished with five runs batted in. Link piled up three hits, while Crum chipped in with a double, and Haire laced a triple.

In the return meeting, a near complete-game pitching performance on the part of starting and winning pitcher Seth Graham, who worked into the seventh, combined with the last-inning relief of Lackey, enabled the Moors to get the revenge. Graham allowed four earned runs while fanning seven.

Haire paired doubles and joined Justin Graham and Crum with two hits each. Bryan Graham also contributed a base knock.

The Moors, now 6-2-1, headed into this week perhaps on track to line up an exhibition game before embarking on regular-season fall league play taking place in Mocksville beginning the weekend after Labor Day.

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MWGA pads visit

An extended weekend stay paid off for several members of the Mooresville Women's Golf Association.

Participating in the Foothills League event held at Etowah Valley County Club Aug. 12-14, of the 11 MWGA members competing, four of them fashioned top three finishes in either gross and/or net scoring, one of them also claiming an additional on-course contest prize.

Heading the cast of winners was Dolores Booth, who placed second in net scoring in the field's sixth flight while also earning a prize for hitting one of the shots landing closest to the pin on a selected par-three hole.

Elsewhere, Anne Henderson took third place gross in the 2nd third flight, Nancy Goodrum placed third in gross in the fourth flight, and Diane Huribut wound up third in net in the eighth flight.

The MWGA, home-based at the Mooresville Municipal Golf Course, competes on the Foothills and Catawba League tours. In addition, the ladies group also conducts numerous events throughout the year on its home course.

Among upcoming local events being hosted by the MWGA is an upcoming tournament benefiting breast

cancer research. Registration is underway now for the event tabled to take place Sept. 27.

Sign-ups must take place by Sept. 12. Those interested can register as individuals or complete four-player teams for the captain's choice affair. There will be divisions for men and women.

Cost is \$19 each plus a required \$15 cancer research donation.

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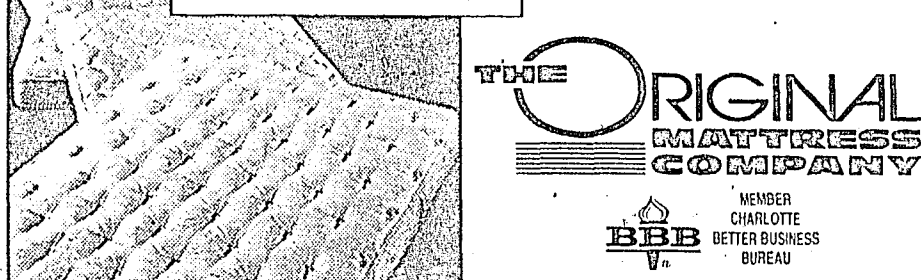
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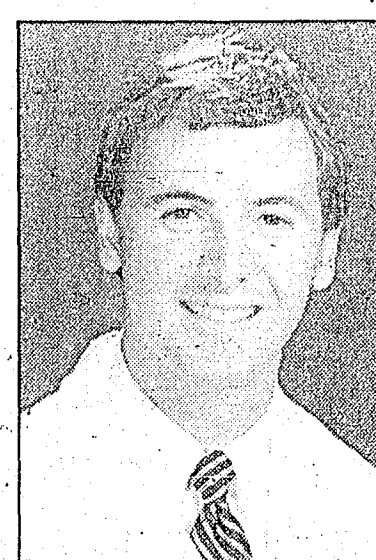
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