



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

Leisure Hour Golf Tourney

TEE TIME IN THE NORTHWEST

The Rippling River Resort was the site for the 41st Annual Leisure Hour Golf Club Tournament and the field was full. There were 156 golfers entered in the tournament and the scores indicated that most of those 156 came to play. The weather was perfect for three days of golf and relaxation.

Players from as far away as Houston, Texas, Denver, Colorado, and Phoenix, Arizona, came for the fun and competition. When the dust cleared and everything was settled it was Portland and Seattle that captured the gold. The great northwest proved that many of the best golfers in the Western States Golfing Association are from this part of the country.

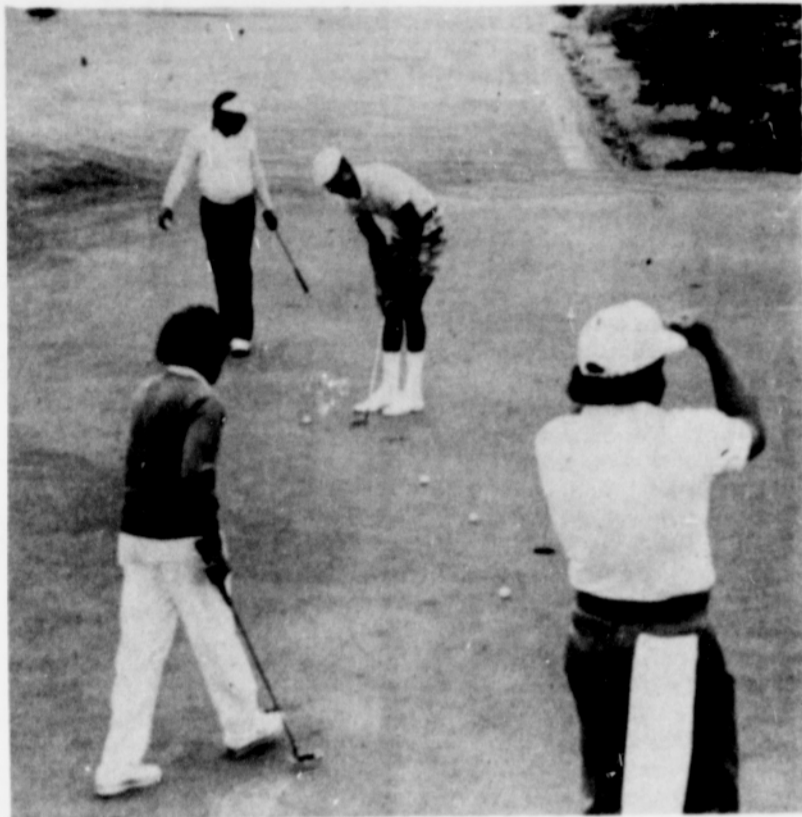
California was well represented but could only capture a small amount of the loot that Leisure Hour made available. In the Championship flight, where the best of the best gather, it was once again Ashley Smith from the Bay Area Golf Club who spurned the challenge of the young lions.

Ashley is a scratch golfer that roams the west coast with a gentlemanly gait taking tournament after tournament with masterful ease. A fitting tribute was once again bestowed upon this gentleman's shoulders as Leisure Hour honored Ashley with their Eli Harris Award.

Willie Harris, proprietor of the Sportsman Barber Shop, House of Sounds, and House Unlimited, is the sponsor of this great trophy. The perpetual trophy is in memory of the late Eli Harris who died while serving in the capacity of President of Leisure Hour Golf Club. The award began in 1969 and this year was the sixth time that Ashley Smith has won the honor. That translates into six wins in the championship division. The names of the previous winners are all inscribed on the face of the trophy and it reads like a personal tribute to Ashley Smith.

Ashley spotted Robert Clark of Leisure Hour six shots, and he spotted Sam Jennings of Seattle five and still walked off with the gold. Clark won the first low net award and Jennings was second low net.

Portland's Kevin Newborne won the Junior division and added to his trophy case. Paul Kelly placed second and brother Byron made it a clean sweep for, Portland in the Junior Division.



Al Wood of the Seattle SuperSonics gets in a few practice putts before start of round 2. (Photos: Jernigan)



Ashley Smith (right foreground) gets hits lined up for the day on the practice green prior to first round.

Golf course at Oak Brook, Illinois, to give Verplank his victory.

LEE ELDER WINS PGA SENIOR TOURNAMENT

It was the second time this season that Lee Elder was forced into a sudden-death playoff for a win and also the second time he won with a birdie putt on the first playoff hole.

The win was worth \$30,000 at the PGA Seniors Classic at Concord, Mass. Elder is a former Western States Golfing Association player and will be playing in Salem later this month to raise money for the Black Colleges Committee Inc. See ad on Page 3 for details.

PGA WESTERN OPEN

Scott Verplank became the first amateur to win a Professional Golfers Association tournament since 1954, but the money went to brother Jim Thorpe.

Verplank's sudden-death putt dropped Thorpe to second but Thorpe took home the \$90,000 first prize money because of Verplank's amateur status.

Thorpe three-putted the second playoff hole on the Butler National

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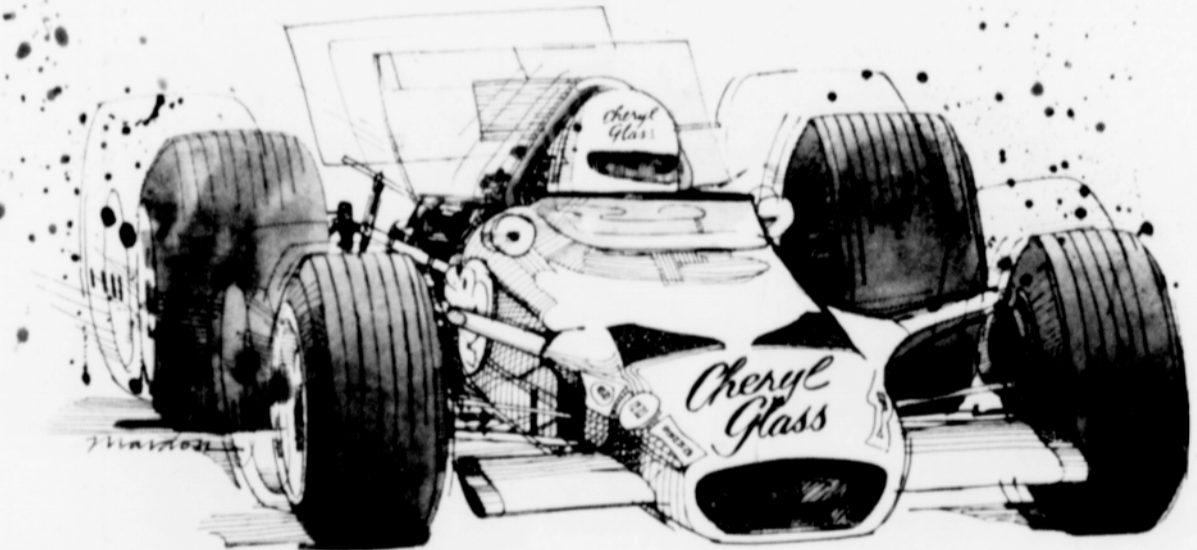
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