

2007 season is now a memory

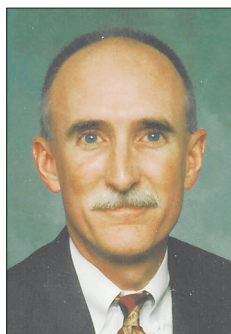
BY CARR McCALLA

With the 2007 LGA Championship season now a memory, 2008 can't be far behind. You'll see a listing of our 2008 Championship schedule at the end of this column. Our hope is that you'll plan on participating in as many of our 2008 Championships as your schedule will allow.

2007 SENIOR 4-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The weekend of Sept. 15-16 saw the Atchafalaya Golf Club at Idlewild host our final event of the season, the Senior 4-Ball Championship. The Robert von Hagge design in Patterson had been inundated with rainfall over the month prior to the event and was still extremely wet when play commenced on Saturday. Fortunately, the weather on the weekend was gorgeous, as was the golf.

The teams of Glenn Jumonville and Jeff Johnson of Patterson, Sam Lavigne of Gonzales and Sid Harp of Donaldsonville, and Lew Ward and Scott Rabenhorst of Baton Rouge, all shot rounds of seven-under-par 65 to lead a closely bunched field after the first day of play. On Sunday, Darell Benoit of Belle Chasse and Wiley Conn of Mandeville got off to an unbelievable start, shooting a five-under-par 31 on the front nine to grab the lead, then had to hold on for dear life when John Davis and Bill Land of Lafayette played the final six holes in six-under par, including eagles on the final two par-5s. Benoit made a pressure-filled 4-footer for par on the 18th hole to allow he and Conn to take home the title by one shot over Davis and Land. Benoit and Conn ended up shooting 15-under par for 36 holes at 66-63-129, while Davis and Land ended at 66-64-130. Age-group



McCalla

championships went to Todd Lusk and Randy McGee of Baton Rouge (134 in the 60-64 age group), Keith Mire of Shreveport and Paul Frederickson of Baton Rouge (139 in the 65-69 age group) and Toni Toniette of Youngsville and Kirby Guidry of Lafayette (157 in the 70-and-over age group).

INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR 4-BALL INVITATIONAL

Two of the LGA's top junior golfers represented the LGA in the third annual International Junior 4-Ball Invitational in Savannah, Ga., in mid-August. Hosted by the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa, this event is fast becoming one of the top junior 4-Ball events in the nation. 2007 LGA Junior Amateur Champion Austin Gutsell of Mandeville and Andrew Noto of Luling, our 2006 LGA Junior Amateur runner-up and third-place finisher in the 2007 LGA Junior Amateur, represented Louisiana in this prestigious event. This was the second consecutive year that Noto had participated in this event. Our team fared well, finishing in a tie for 10th place with a 36-hole score of six-under-par 138.

USGA STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Every other year, the USGA conducts its State Team

Championship. This Championship was conducted to commemorate the USGA Centennial in 1995 and was originally only planned to be conducted that one time. The event was such a huge success that the USGA decided to conduct it in every odd-numbered year and it has been conducted every other year since 1995. Some of the nation's most prestigious clubs have hosted the championships, including

Lake Nona CC, Golden Horseshoe GC, Berkeley Hall GC, and Hazeltine National GC. This year's Championship was

conducted just down the road at The Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands, Texas. The LGA compiles a points list based upon how individuals finish in LGA and USGA Championships over the two-year period leading up to this event, with events in the year of the championship being weighted more heavily. Our team is selected based upon their placement on this points list at the conclusion of our LGA

Mid-Amateur Championship in early August. This year's team was composed of Tommy Brennan of Covington, Robby McWilliams of Bossier City, and Robby Going of Lake Charles. Teams play 54 holes over three days, counting the best two of three scores each day. Our Louisiana team finished in 19th place out of 52 total teams (50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia) and represented us well. Brennan and Going both had rounds of one-under-par 71, while McWilliams finished with our low 54-hole total of 221.

Congratulations are also due the Louisiana Women's team. The team of Kyndall Ardoin, Julie Harrison, and Kay Daniel finished in 6th place overall after leading the field after the first day of play. Kyndall's 71 on the first day was one of only seven scores under par during the entire event.

2008 LGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Find below a listing of our 2008 Championship schedule. We continue to be indebted to our LGA Member Clubs for their kindness in allowing us to visit their facilities for our championships. We are also pleased to report that we will again refund \$100 to those individuals that fail to qualify for championship rounds play in the LGA's Amateur and Mid-Amateur Championships.

LGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 19-20:* Club Team Championship (Atchafalaya Golf Course at Idlewild, Patterson)
- May 17-18:* Net Amateur Championship (Santa Maria Golf Club, Baton Rouge)
- June 5-8:* Amateur Championship (Gray Plantation, Lake Charles)
- July 9-11:* Junior Amateur Championship (Santa Maria Golf Club, Baton Rouge)
- July 19-20:* Four-Ball Championship (Carter Plantation, Springfield)
- Aug. 1-3:* Mid-Amateur Championship (Ellendale Country Club, Houma)
- Aug. 14-16:* Senior Amateur Championship (Farm d'Allie Golf Club, Lafayette)
- Sept. 20-21:* Senior 4-Ball Championship (Lake Charles Country Club)

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