Pressbox: *The Masters will have a different feel this year*

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other than golf.

For those that don't know, the Masters, held at the all-male Augusta National Golf Club, has long held itself up as a pinnacle of class and dignity, as sort of the junior-senior prom of the golf season. The tournament seems to be nearly as much about aesthetics as about competition – it has been said that the club's famous azaleas are often iced through some of the late winter and early spring to ensure that they will be in full bloom for the tournament, and that the water in Rae's Creek is dyed to achieve just the right shade of blue. Run mostly by rich, white southern men, the Club maintains a nearly totalitarian control over all things having to do with it, often at the expense of gaining less profit. Ticket prices, if you are able to somehow get one straight from the club, are among the most reasonable in sports, concessions are both good and cheap, and Augusta charges CBS, the network which broadcasts the Masters, much less than what it could get if the contract was up for bids. In return, CBS gets only a one-year contract and nearly no control over the broadcast – commercial breaks are limited to three minutes per hour and footage, at least before last year, was limited to the back nine. The iron fist of the members even reaches to the broadcasters, who are required to refer to the fans as "patrons," and the two sides of the course as the "first" and "second" nines.

Since the 1930s, the Masters did it's best to keep its doors shut, happy to put on a tournament each April for the world's best golfers and try to stay out of the public eye the other 51 weeks of the year.

But this year there is a drunken reveler threatening to ruin the prom. A letter from Martha "Don't get fresh with me!" Burk, the head of the aforementioned National Council of Women's Organizations, has thrust the club smack dab into the middle of the nation's consciousness, at least whatever consciousness the nation has outside of the war in Iraq.

After receiving a letter from Burk in June urging Augusta to admit women members so that it would not be an issue during the Masters, club chairman Hootie "I ate the blowfish" Johnson responded with a three-page press release stating that the club might admit women as members at some time, but that it would be by the members' choice not "at the point of a bayonet." (It is not known whether Hootie stopped to put down his shotgun and pull out his chaw before penning his response). And so, as the kids say these days, it was "on."

While Burk was busy muckraking her way through the CEOs of the country, Johnson was announcing that no commercials would be aired during this year's telecast in order to distance the sponsors from the growing controversy. (In the wake of this announcement, I have decided to make it my quest to find a legitimate enough cause to protest at every major sporting event in the country, in hopes of creating a kinder, gentler, commercial-free sports world. Donations to the cause can be sent to me c/o the *Old Gold and Black*).

As the fracas gained momentum, other groups decided they were feeling left out. And here's where the real fun began. Never one to miss the prying eyes of TV cameras, the good Reverend Jesse "Have I mentioned that I knew Martin Luther King, Jr.?" Jackson announced that he and his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition would pick up Burk's banner and protest if the club did not admit a woman member.

But all of this, as far as I'm concerned was just a prelude. The real coup de grace in this merry-go-round of ridiculousness was when Joseph J. "equal shmequal" Harper, apparently feeling that this country's view of white males wasn't low enough already, decided to join the fray. Harper, imperial wizard of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, fired his opening sortie in defense of the club's right to choose its members by saying "This equal rights stuff has gotten out of hand." You could almost hear the stream of expletives coming from the Augusta courthouse.

And, just when you didn't think it could get any better, it did. Apparently, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Harper is the sole member of his "organization," which he started "after a falling out with national Klan organizers in January," according to *SI.com*.

Does anyone else find it odd that all these crusaders for justice have nothing more important to focus their energies on than a golf tournament? I mean, if the most outrageous violation of human rights currently occurring is that some Southern Boys won't let girls play with them, shouldn't Burk, Jackson, et. al. be looking for new jobs?

Whatever the case, there's just something wrong about all this. The Masters has always been as much a rite of spring as snow in Winston-Salem. But this year, Tiger Woods is going for his third straight green jacket, the golf world is clenching in anticipation to see if this is the week that Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson, David Duval or anyone else finally challenges Woods for supremacy of the golfing world, and all I can think about is whether I can convince CBS to show three minutes of footage per hour of the protestors in place of the rescinded commercials. With Burk's women, Jackson's folks and Harper's one-man band of psychotics, I might be more interested in what's happening on the street corner than what's going on at Amen Corner.

Defense dominates Miami's scrimmage

By Nate Johnson
U-Wire

CORAL GABLES, Fla. - Despite the fact that Miami's scrimmage of April 5 failed to answer any of the pertinent questions facing the Hurricanes this spring, the team made sure it entertained its fans.

On a day when tempers ran as high as the scorching temperatures on the Orange Bowl field, the 'Canes treated the crowd with a high-profile quarterback battle, a hungry, opportunistic defense and a scuffle between teammates.

The game didn't help coaches decide whether Brock Berlin or Derrick Crudup will start at quarterback, but each player had his bright spots.

"I could call it today, but I'm not going to do that," Head Coach Larry Coker said. "I don't think it's fair to do that."

Crudup lit up the defense on his first series, completing his first four passes during a nine-play drive featuring a perfectly placed 39-yard pass to Kellen Winslow II and a four-yard touchdown pass to tight end Kevin Everett. Crudup threw for 100 yards on 7-of-8 passing in the game.

After a dismal start, Berlin redeemed himself with a touchdown drive on his last possession. The score came on a clutch, fourth down 36-yard pass to freshman Darnell Jenkins. Berlin completed 8-of-16 passes for 129 yards. Neither quarterback threw an interception.

The two freshman quarterbacks, Marc Guillon and Kyle Wright, finished 3-of-7 and 1-of-5 with 25 and two yards respectively. They worked exclusively with the second and third teams.

The defense recovered four fumbles on its way to a 49-41 victory over the offense. The defense received one point for holding the offense to a three-and-out possession, six points for a turnover, and 10 points for a defensive touchdown. In addition to normal offensive scoring, the offense earned one point for a first down. One of the highlights of the day came on a punt, as Winslow tore through blockers to easily block the punt. Jevon Nanton picked up the loose ball and waltzed into the end zone for a touchdown. Defensive end Baraka Atkins also made an all-star play as he ripped the ball right out of running back Quadtrine Hill's hands and scored another easy touchdown.

"The most disappointing thing is that we didn't protect the football," Coker said. "Our running backs are not going to play at this university if they don't protect the football."

Nate Johnson writes for the The Miami Hurricane *at the University of Miami.*

Tennis: *Deacs win first match in over two months*

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"It was so great to get over the hump and get two victories this weekend," Schwartz said. "Everyone played well in singles and doubles, and it showed. It was especially nice to get the win over N.C. State since they are in our conference, and ACCs are coming up pretty soon."

Smith said, "It has sure given us a lot of confidence, especially with that ACC victory. We have been really close this whole year, but have just not been given any lucky breaks. This weekend we finally took advantage of our opportunities. Everyone stepped up on our team this weekend. It wasn't just a few of us here and there. It was a true team effort this weekend. I look forward to carrying this confidence into our final ACC regular season and the ACC tournament."

The Deacs played their final home game of the season April 9 against the No. 5 Duke Blue Devils.

While the Deacons lost to the Blue Devils, 6-0, Schwartz and Martzolf upset the 10th-ranked doubles pair in the country of McCain and Adams by a score of 8-4.

However, both of the other Deacon pairs fell to their Duke counterparts, and the Deacons were also winless in the singles matches. The Deacs forfeited the No. 6 singles match. Knight was the only Deacon to even win a set in her singles match.

The Deacs' record now stands at 3-19. They are 1-5 in the ACC.

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