



# Guilford's G

By Dave Walters

## ROBERT LINVILLE '80

**J**ack Jensen learned his golf team won Guilford's first NCAA Division III Championship from an unlikely source – the coach of Greensboro College. “He told me we won before we won,” Jensen recalled.

While this scenario seems strange, it makes more sense when one learns Greensboro's coach is **Robert Linville '80**, one of Jensen's former players and one of the first in a line of outstanding Jensen-coached golfers.

Greensboro finished second to the Quakers by six strokes in the May event in Lincoln, Neb.

“Robert was genuinely happy that if they didn't win, we could win,” Jensen said. “I don't know if he was happy for Guilford, but he certainly was happy for me.”

Linville could relate to Jensen's joy as he directed his squad to the 2000 Division III crown for the Pride's first national title. Jensen hugged Linville afterwards and was very happy for his friend and rival. The national crown represents the high mark of Linville's coaching career, which includes a pair of national coach of the year awards and the privilege of coaching a team of college all-stars in an annual competition with Japan.

Not bad for a part-time coach who only sees his players one or two times a week and admittedly doesn't recruit as aggressively as his former coach and cross-town friend and competitor. Linville's full-time job is director of golf of the Greensboro-based Precision Golf School, a well-regarded instructional program he started 13 years

ago. The school operates at three different facilities across the Piedmont Triad and gives Linville a chance to help others increase their enjoyment of the game he's been playing since his youth. Members of the Carolinas Professional Golfers Association (PGA) named him the Teacher of the Year in 1993.

Last September Linville followed in the footsteps of his friend and former teammate **Jay Kennedy '83** by making an appearance on The Golf Channel's “Golf Academy Live” program. “Golf pros sometimes take themselves a little too seriously, so I wanted to have a light attitude,” Linville said of his television appearance. “I like to help people keep a perspective where golf isn't always mundane and serious. Instruction is about building relationships and helping people learn to do things. We're teaching people how to play golf, not solve the world's problems.”

After Linville's solid career at nearby Northwest Guilford High School, his uncle, fellow Guilford Athletics Hall of Famer **George Parker '35**, called Guilford Athletic Director Herb Appenzeller on behalf of his nephew.

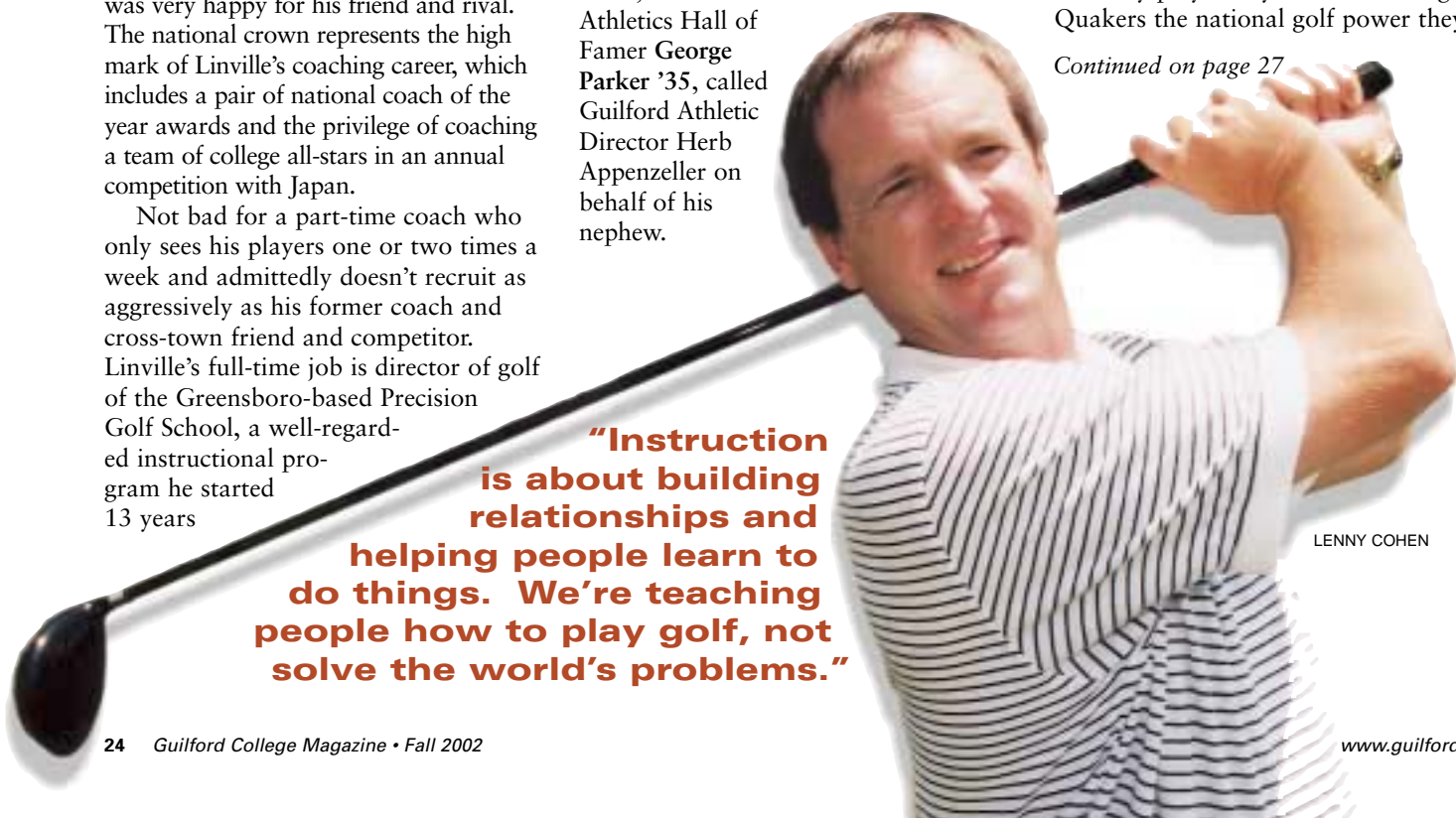
Appenzeller met with Linville and encouraged him to meet with Jensen and assured him that Guilford was the place for him. After considering other options, including nearby rival Elon, Linville chose Guilford. “This is where I was at home,” he said.

Linville entered the program with a cast of talented freshmen and transfers in Jensen's first year in charge of the golf team. The Quakers reached the NAIA national tournament in Linville's freshman season, which served notice that the youthful Quakers were on the rise in the challenging District 26 race. Linville's sophomore season ended in a bitter NAIA regional tournament and gave the team motivation for a strong 1979 campaign when Guilford hosted the NAIA national tournament at the Cardinal.

Linville enjoyed his best season that year and his highest national tourney finish, 11th, which led to All-America recognition. The Quakers finished third as a team and started a string of 10 top-six national tournament efforts in 12 years. A veteran of three national tournament appearances, Linville and Kennedy played key roles in making the Quakers the national golf power they

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LENNY COHEN

# olf Legacy

JIM DUNCAN '84

**J**im Duncan '84 is a man who has always worn many hats. From his days as a three-sport athlete at Guilford to his role today as a rules and compliance director for the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour, Duncan has been a busy man.

Duncan is especially busy from March-October during the PGA's Buy.com Tour season, a 'minor-league' of sorts for golfers who aspire to play on the lucrative and competitive PGA Tour. The Wilmington, N.C., resident travels to each Buy.com Tour venue where he directs all elements of the on-site competition staff.

Golf was one of the games Duncan grew up playing, but not the only one. Duncan's father played professional football for the New York Giants and later coached the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League. While growing up in Canada Duncan played hockey, golf and lacrosse. The family moved to North Carolina where in the absence of

Guilford on a golf and basketball scholarship for coach Jack Jensen.

"I recruited him to play basketball and golf," Jensen recalled. "He was a tough guard, played good defense in basketball."

"I went through a spell playing golf well as a freshman and sophomore in high school, but went through a growth spurt that affected my swing," Duncan said.

Duncan played golf for two years and basketball for one year at Guilford. He also spent three seasons on coach Geoff Miller's lacrosse team. He took advantage of an additional year of lacrosse eligibility while he completed requirements for his sport management degree after earning a business management degree in 1983.

"I wasn't really a business or finances kind of person," Duncan said. "I grew up around sports and enjoyed the sport management side of things. I ended up going to the Carolinas PGA where I worked for 10 years. I was for-



to increase the Tour's presence.

"We've probably snuck into neck and neck with the European Tour as the next-best place to play, competition wise, to the PGA Tour," said Duncan. "Other than a bit more bang, they're pretty much done identically. It'll take a while, but we'll close the gap."

Jensen says Duncan could end up running the PGA Tour by the time he's 50 years old, but for now Duncan is content with his present position. He cites the Buy.com Tour's increasing popularity and the addition of Nationwide Insurance as the tour's umbrella sponsor as harbingers of continued growth.

As Guilford continues to produce top-notch golfers, perhaps Duncan will encounter more Guilford alumni as he continues his work with the PGA Tour. He briefly worked alongside Steve Wilmot '83 in the Carolinas PGA and knew Lee Porter '89 before Porter's four years on the Nike/Buy.com Tour. Duncan says Porter is almost a perfect example of the type of player for whom the Buy.com Tour exists.

"This would've been a perfect place for a Robert Linville '80 or Jay Kennedy '83 to play," Duncan said. "When they came out, the PGA Tour was pretty much it. Unless you were rich or had access to a lot of money, you couldn't play. Pro golfers don't mature until 28 or 29. Back then you needed a lot of money. They would've been prime candidates (for the Buy.com Tour)."

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extensive hockey and lacrosse competition, he picked up what many consider the state game, basketball.

"I had never played basketball until I moved to North Carolina," Duncan said. "I literally didn't even shoot a basketball in Canada."

Duncan ended up starting on West Carteret High School's state championship team as a junior and came to

tunate with the Carolinas section to do a lot of different kinds of jobs, which I basically do now, only then I did them on a smaller scale."

Duncan enjoys working with up-and-coming golfers whose dedication and hard work sometimes lead to PGA Tour cards. He says the Buy.com Tour has steadily improved since its inception in 1990 and believes there's a great chance

## Other Guilford Golf Notables

**O. Gordon Brewer '60** of Clementon, N.J., president of Pine Valley (N.J.) Golf Club and captain of the U.S. men's golf squad for the 2002 World Amateur Team Championship. He has won two USGA Senior Amateur Championships.

**David Bulluck '77** of Greensboro, co-owner of Advantage Golf Shop, producer of custom-made golf clubs.

**Jay Kennedy '83** of Maitland, Fla., head pro for Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, Fla.

**S. Mike Elliott '84** of Pinehurst, N.C., president of Izod Club of Oxford Industries, distributor of International Tour by Izod Club and Izod Club labels.

**Keith King '85** of Virginia Beach, Va., director of golf and club pro at Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club. Guilford Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee in 2002.

**Michael Hutcheon '89** of High Point, N.C., head pro for Jamestown (N.C.) Park Golf Course.

**Mitch Clodfelter '90** of Denver, N.C., course superintendent for Cowans Ford Country Club. He has won two national superintendent titles.

**Chris Haarlow '91** of Greensboro, head instructor, Precision Golf School. He was a three-time All-American at Guilford and played six years professionally. He competed in the 1994 U.S. Open.

**Matt Caruso '98** of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., is an assistant pro at the Crooked Creek Golf Club.

## LEE PORTER '89

Jack Jensen has a pretty good memory, and he's coached some good players so it's not surprising that he readily recalls a recruiting visit made by a local golfer nearly 20 years ago. The recruit was **Lee Porter '89**, who has gone on to become Guilford's first representative on the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour.

"I remember him specifically on a recruiting visit he made in December of his junior year. I told him we had one of the top three golfers in Ontario coming (**Michael Hutcheon '89**) and didn't know how many spots would be available. He would have to beat out a really good player.

"I remember him clearly asking me, 'If I shoot the numbers, will I play?' I said, 'Yes.' And he did."

After qualifying for Guilford's first fall tournament in 1985, Porter played in all but one event during his four years, missing that one by his own choice. He left Guilford with a business management degree and the school's career scoring record (75.053). Porter helped the Quakers to their first national golf championship, the 1989 NAIA title, and earned All-America honors in 1987 and 1988 to become the sixth of Guilford's 13 two-time golf All-Americans.

"There's nobody that outworked him while he was here," Jensen recalled. "He's one of the most organized people I have ever been around – people, not just golfers. That's really served him well. There's nobody we've ever had that's outworked him."

Porter credits fellow Guilford alumnus **Robert Linville '80** for instilling that work ethic in him shortly after Porter turned pro.

"He said, 'If you're going to be a professional golfer, you have to realize that your job is to put eight to 10 hours a day on the golf course.' That's what I did."

Porter's efforts helped him through seven seasons on the Asian PGA Tour, five seasons on the Hogan/Nike/Buy.com Tour and two years on the European PGA Tour. He has reached the PGA Tour four



PGA TOUR

times through the rigorous PGA Tour Qualifying School. Porter enjoyed his best season in terms of earnings in 2001 and has spent five of the past six years on the PGA Tour. He attracted national attention with 32nd-place finishes in the 1998 and 2000 U.S. Open Championships.

Porter considers his time at Guilford instrumental in his professional development, especially Jensen's willingness to give him a shot on the team.

"When I was coming up, coach Jensen believed you earned your spot, period," Porter said. "At other schools, if you qualify, you might not play (because of scholarship players). I don't think I would've progressed the way I did if I didn't have that opportunity."

Porter surpassed the \$1-million career-earning mark earlier this year and looks forward to his continued pursuit of a PGA Tour tournament title.

"I say I'm going to play as long as I enjoy it, as long as I keep getting better and as long as I can afford it."

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## STEVE WILMOT '83

If anyone has an extra 40 or 50 million dollars and wants to sponsor one of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour's premier events, give **Steve Wilmot '83** a call.

Wilmot is in his 16th year with The Heritage of Golf Tournament in Hilton Head, S.C., and his sixth as tournament director. Either MCI or WorldCom Inc. had sponsored the Heritage since 1987, but the Heritage Golf Foundation ended its contractual relationship with WorldCom last July in light of the communication company's financial troubles.

The news likely led to a few sleepless nights and disrupted part of Wilmot's summer vacation, but the tournament is prepared to move forward. Under Wilmot's leadership, the Heritage has grown into one of the PGA Tour's most popular stops. Scheduled a week after The Masters, the Heritage enjoys widespread popularity with players and fans alike. Now entering its 35th year, the tournament generates \$60 million in revenue for Hilton Head Island and the surrounding community each April.

"It's still early to speculate (about a new title sponsor)," Wilmot said. "We have a wonderful event and a wonderful venue for client entertainment, so our phone's been ringing. It will take some time, but we're prepared to move forward in 2002 without a title sponsor."

The tournament means so much to the local community that in August the mayor of Hilton Head Island proposed a one-percent increase on the town's hospitality tax to generate funds for the

tournament. In addition to the revenue windfall for local businesses, the Heritage Classic Foundation has contributed in excess of \$9 million to local charities and schools, including a record \$1.08 million in 2001.

Wilmot took a circuitous route to get to the Heritage, starting off as a football player and coach. He came to Guilford from Moorestown, N.J., to play football for coach Charlie Forbes. He lettered all four years, starting three at strong safety, and earned the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player Award as a senior.

"Steve was a real good football player," said Herb Appenzeller, former athletic director and chairman of sports management at Guilford. "I told him he was going to be one of my top three students (under the sports administration major). I don't think at the time he believed me."

"I wouldn't be here without Dr. Appenzeller," Wilmot said. "He gave me guidance and leadership and helped me have a great experience. I learned there's no 'i' in team, the value of working together and that it's not about me, it's about we. He spent a lot of time working with me as a person, not just as a student."

Wilmot was in the first class to graduate from Guilford with a sports administration degree in 1983. He later attended St. Thomas University in Miami where he earned a master's degree in sports management. After serving as an assistant football coach at Wake Forest, he accepted a front-office position with the Baltimore Stars of the



United States Football League before taking a job with the Carolinas PGA Section where he roomed with **Jim Duncan '84**.

"I wanted a little more than coaching," he said. "I completely respect coaches, but I just wanted to be more on the business side of sports."

Wilmot headed for Hilton Head Island in 1986 and became The Heritage's assistant tournament director in 1988 before assuming the director's chair in 1997. As tournament director, Wilmot is responsible for everything from A to Z – marketing, sales, players, sponsors, and the list goes on.

"I really enjoy what I do," Wilmot said. "I love being at work. It's not the same thing every day. I may be dealing with waste management and port-a-johns one minute and with million-dollar players and sponsors the next."

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### Robert Linville, *continued from page 24*

remain to this day.

After earning a bachelor's degree in economics, Linville pursued a professional golf career for a few years and enjoyed some success, including a win in a Florida mini-tour event. He returned to Greensboro in 1984 and accepted a position at Forest Oaks Country Club, site of the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro. After narrowly missing a tour card at the 1986 PGA Qualifying School, Linville returned to Forest Oaks as a co-head professional

where he was able to focus on teaching.

After establishing his golf school, Linville accepted an invitation to coach Greensboro's golf team in 1995 from friend and former Pride coach Steve Johnson. Greensboro President Craven Williams and Athletic Director Kim Strable gave Linville a supportive environment that helps him enhance his instruction.

"It's something I enjoy and it breaks [the teaching] up," Linville said. "Coaching is trying to develop and prepare players for competition. Teaching is

helping anyone, whether you're a competitive professional or a 15-handicapper who wants to be a better player, to increase their enjoyment of the game."

Coaching also affords Linville the opportunity to spend time with Jensen. One might expect a more competitive stance between two of the nation's top college golf teams located less than 10 miles apart, but the tension isn't too high.

"The best times are when we're paired with Guilford because then I get to spend time with coach Jensen," Linville said.