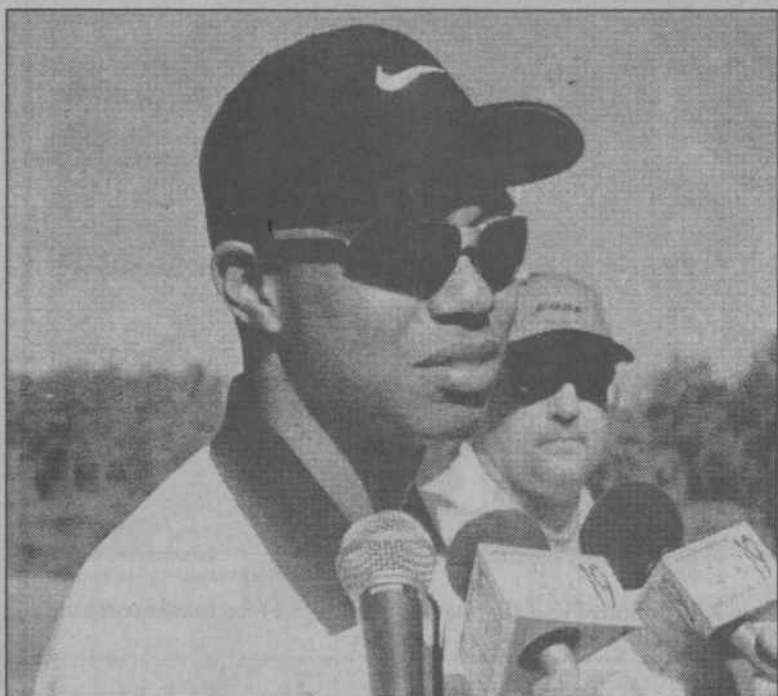


Tiger storms Columbia at Hootie's golf event



asst. sports editor **NATHAN BROWN**

The University Club came alive on Monday with the buzz of over 20,000 spectators who came to see the celebrities and golf pros participating in the fourth annual *Hootie and the Blowfish* Monday After the Masters Pro-Am golf tournament.

The event raised over \$200,000 for such charities as the National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association and the South Carolina Junior Golf Association.

Of all the well-known performers and celebrities in attendance, which ranged from Wendy's founder Dave Thomas to the professional tennis twins of Murphy and Luke Jensen, pro-golfer Tiger Woods drew the largest crowd, playing in his first Monday After the Masters.

"I came out here to help out a friend," Woods said. "It's nice to be able to do it. Hootie and the Blowfish are friends of mine, and I'm in a position to help out my friends now."

While Woods had the largest following on the course, Green Bay Packer QB Brett Favre was a close second whose entourage was comprised mostly of go-goo eyed women and Packer Backers.

"Coming here is a no-brainer," Favre said. "There are all sorts of celebrities here and guys from a lot of different sports."

USC was well-represented at the event, with three head coaches participating. Men's golf coach Puggy Blackmon was paired with PGA pro David Duval. Blackmon coached Duval while at Georgia Tech. Men's basketball coach Eddie Fogler showed much improvement from last year's event and football coach Brad Scott hit the ball in the water at 18. Unfortunately, Scott and his group were on the 17th hole.

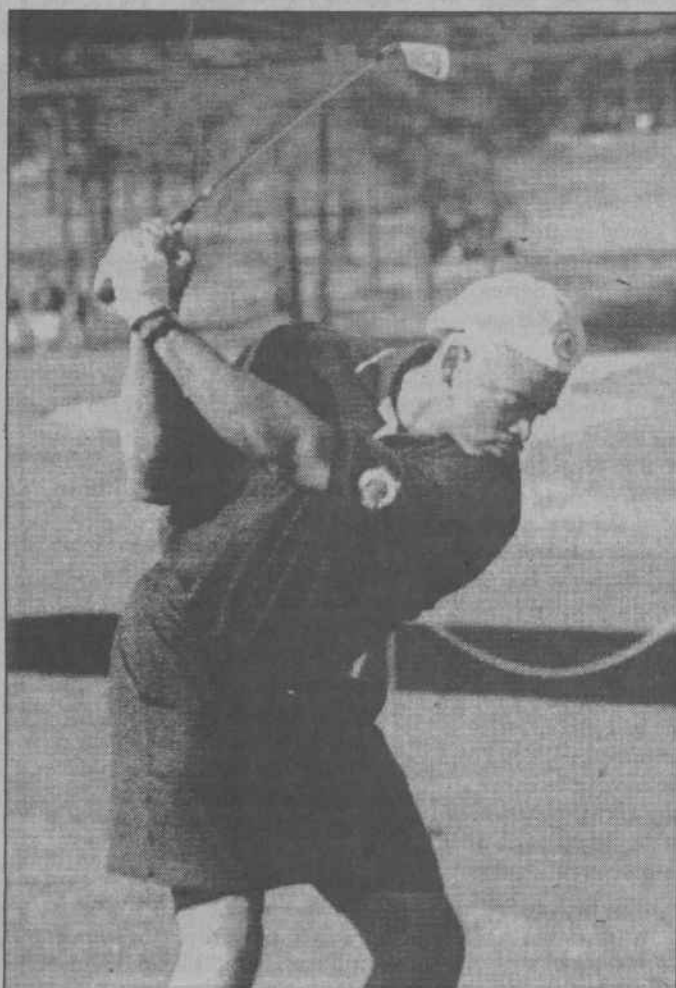
Hootie drummer Jim Sonefeld said it wasn't easy getting all of the celebrities to show up.

"This was different last year because we were gone so much on the road touring and all," Sonefeld said. "This year, we were in Columbia, and we were able to do a lot more schmoozing, shall I say. It takes a lot of work to bring this together."

To cap off a long day of golf, *Hootie and the Blowfish* performed at the Township Auditorium with the opening acts of *Sister Hazel* and *Edwin McCain*. Soccer player Alexi Lalas even joined in on the concert, playing guitar for one of Hootie's earlier songs.

Other celebrities who participated were ESPN's Mike Tirico and Stewart Scott, *Hercules'* Kevin Sorbo, former NFL great Gayle Sayers, PGA golfer John Daly and South Carolina governor David Beasley.

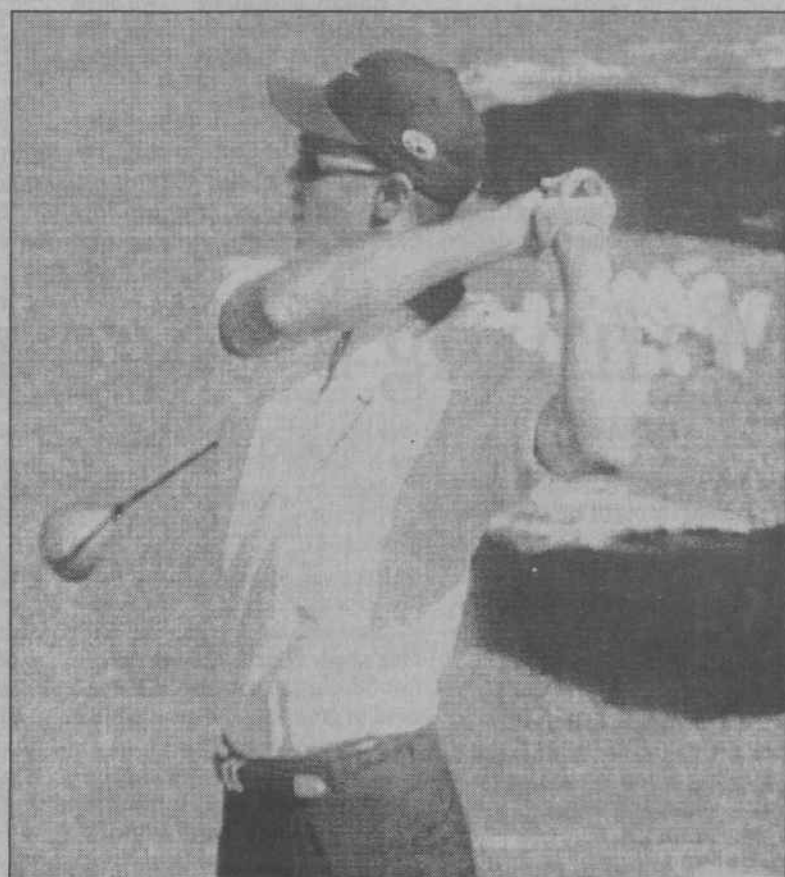
All photos by **BRYAN JOHNSTON** The Gamecock



A sea of reporters interview Tiger Woods (above, left) just moments after he arrived. At left, ESPN's Stewart Scott tees off on the driving range before the event got started. At right, John Daly of the PGA taps in a put for par on the 17th hole while barefoot teammate and *Hootie and the Blowfish* guitarist Mark Bryan socializes with the rest of the team.



Above, an excited member of the gallery meets and gets Dave Thomas' autograph. Thomas is the founder of Wendy's restaurant. Below, Tiger Woods booms a tee shot into the far distance on the driving range. Woods was paired with Darius Rucker for the round.



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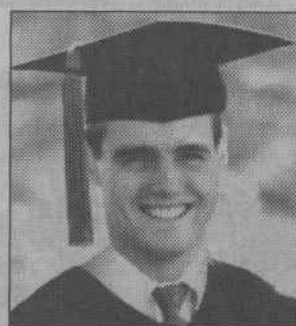


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