



Staff Photo

John Preston Shoots His Age

John Preston, 84, Still Enthusiastic

By **BOB McLELLAND**
Metro Sports Editor

You might well take the top four finishers in the fifth annual Roanoke Valley Hall of Fame Golf Tournament this weekend and total their ages and still come out on the short side of John Preston.

Preston, who has smacked golf balls in many parts of the world, is 84 and still enjoys his days on the links. He lives at his home, Greenfield, in Botetourt County and is a lively sight as he makes his rounds at Botetourt Country Club.

Because of his long enthusiasm for the game and the many enjoyable moments he has contributed and because of the inspiration he has served for others, Preston has been voted into the Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame for 1978.

He becomes the seventh member of the Hall. Only two other members are living — George Fulton Jr., a 1975 inductee, and Buddy Clement, who was inducted last year. The other members are the late Paul Jamison, Clarence King, and Gary and Alvis Hyinton.

Preston is just a little fellow — he stands 5-8 and weighs 135, some 20 pounds lighter than he was during his competitive days. He spent his professional life as a refinery manager for Standard Oil of New Jersey and has worked and played golf in such places as Spain, Argentina, Dutch West Indies, Trinidad and various spots in Europe.

"Golf is a wonderful game for us old fellows," Preston said. "It helps us

keep our enthusiasm for life and gives us something to do."

He is a native of Botetourt County and received his early education at the old Daleville Academy. He later received his engineering degree from Louisiana State, where he met his wife.

The couple has three children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Preston, in addition to his golf, still works around the farm mending fences, mowing hay and digging post holes.

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Friday's Pairings

10:00 a.m.—Ken Hill, OM; David Kidd, BH
10:00—Joe Stewart, HV; Sam Woody, RCC; 10:12—Lee Roger, C; Don Meredith, B; 10:18 Ted Pugh, HH; Paul Housman, BH; 10:24—Jon Pace, HV; Jeff Conner, OM; 10:30—Roger Cabiness, C; Dr. Barry Wolfe, HH; 10:36—John Griffin, B; Bill Burton, RCC; 10:42—Mark Smith, HV; Landon Buchanan, RCC; 10:48—Bob Linkous, HH; Dennis Wiley, B; 10:54—Jackie Buckley, OM; Jack Gregory, C
11:00—Kersey Harper, OM; Pete Stampler, OM
11:06—Steve Hinchaw, C; Glenn Thomas, HV
11:12—Charlie Snipes, RCC; Connie Seiers, HH
11:18—Don Ragland, BH; George Muth, HH
11:24—Charlie Reese, C; Randy Combs, HH
11:30—Walter Evans, HV; Don Finch, OM; 11:36—Gary Reynolds, BH; Roy Sommaroani, RCC
11:42—Clarence Wheeling, B; Howard Thompson, OM; 11:48—John Newton, HH; Mike Smith, RCC
11:54—Eddie McClelland, BH; Ron Cox, B
12:00—Rick Firebaugh, C; Steve Caldwell, HV
12:06—Doyle Vaught, OM; Keith Myers, HH
12:12—Dr. Curt Mull, RCC; Dick Shepard, BH
12:18—John Wilkes, HV; Craig Powers, C; 12:24—M. C. Hess, B; Robbie Horsk, HV; 12:30—Richard Jones, B; Danny Carter, OM; 12:36—Winston Carter, BH; Dr. Mike O'Keefe, HH; 12:42—Dr. Jack Ketter, RCC; Sonny Kirkwood, C; 12:48—Don Foyler, BH; Jim Griffin, B; 12:54—John Poole, HV; John Hauser, RCC
1:00 p.m.—David Tolley, C; John Minor, HH
1:06—Tommy Rogers, OM; Bob Penn, HV; 1:12—Mike Keller, OM; Tommy Giles, B; 1:18—Bill Jennings, BH; Jason Perdue, C; 1:24—Dr. Rick Bendall, HV; Ned Baber, RCC; 1:30—Barry Wirt, HV; Frank Smith, RCC; 1:36—Ray Barton, BH; Dick Linkous, HH; 1:42—Chuck James, B; Arman Fletcher, OM; 1:48—Earl Gillespie, C; Danny Ketter, RCC; 1:54—Dr. Phil Kistler, HV; Frank Moore Jr., C
2:00—David Mankin Jr., B; Randy Keen, OM; 2:06—J. D. Sisson, BH; Chip Hill, HV