Heritage tournedy a relaxing affair

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

We were standing in line at a concession stand between the ninth and seventh holes at the NCJ Heritage Classic when we heard a noise. A big roar.

We had been following the routine of Greg Norman and Billy Mayfair for six holes when we decided to take a brief peek before the 179-yard par-three seventh at Hilton Head's Harbour Town Golf Links.

We figured we’d spot them, bunt off the tee and grab a good place to see the action. As the fans piled onto the course, however, we found ourselves further back in the gallery. We were too late to see the Norman-Mayfair contest, but we sure got to enjoy the atmosphere. Until we heard the roar.

We heard it was no mere roar. Pen only general applause. This was no brief roar, either. Bombastic roar was this!

We looked at each other and shook our heads. It didn’t happen. It couldn’t have happened. It did. Hole-in-one? Greg Norman. And we missed it.

All because I wanted a damn photo. Evidently we weren’t the only ones missing at the shot.

Norman makes a hole-in-one; the disgruntled spectator said, ‘and my wife has to go to the bathroom.’

But such is life at the Heritage.

The PGA Tour’s cross-breed of golf tournaments and Miami Grills.

The first thing you realize when you come here is that this is no ordinary golfing contest. The players are dead serious while on the course, but backstage the mood changes. The officialdom of Augusta is absent. This is one big party.

The most noticeable thing about this tournament is how much the players actually enjoy being here. They play with each other and gear up and take it easy in the clubhouse after the day’s round.

The whole Augusta atmosphere seems to carry over to the eagerness of the galleries. Rumor had it that last year, after finding out that he had not made the cut, Fuzzy Zoeller went out and got treated at a bar; it’s likely he wouldn’t have done that in Augusta.

Here’s the pitch...

The USC baseball team rallied Monday night to defeat Campbell 16-10 and improve their record to 20-10. The Gamecocks will complete an eight-day home stand tonight against Georgia Tech at 6 p.m.

Kirchner named head coach at IU

By JEFF NICHOLS

Sports Editor

USC men’s swimming coach Kris Kirchner was named head swimming coach and aquatic director at Indiana University-M介ington.

Kirchner replaces Jim ‘Doc’ Graham, who announced his retirement earlier this year after guiding IU’s swimming program for the last 23 seasons. Graham was an NCAA champion as head coach of the Hoosiers.

Kirchner, 31, is a 1982 graduate of the University of Texas. He served as an assistant coach there from 1981 until he was named head coach at USC in 1985.

During Kirchner’s five-year stint at Texas, the Longhorns won four consecutive Southwest Conference championships and finished among the nation’s top four teams each year.

In Kirchner’s five years at head coach at USC, the Gamecocks won the Metro Conference championship each year. USC had finishes of 22nd, 16th, 13th and 10th in the NCAA championships.

In 1984-85, the Gamecocks won the National Independent Championship while producing two All-Americans and six honorable mention All-Americans.

Kirchner was named Men’s NCAA Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive season.

Kirchner has coached 16 All-Americans including Wade King, the 1989 long course national champion in the 50-meter and 50 back, and Rick May, the 1987 national champion in the 100-breaststroke.

"We are delighted that we have a person of the caliber of Kris Kirchner," said Indiana athletic director Ralph Floyd. "He has an achieved coaching record in a very short period of time.

Kirchner was team captain of the Texas swim team in 1980-81 and was a member of the Longhorns’ 1981 NCAA championship team.

Kirchner was an All-American swimmer at Texas. In 1980, he won the NCAA title in the 50-yard relay team and was a member of the 400-medley and 400-yard relay teams that won national titles. He was also a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team that did not compete due to the U.S. boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Kirchner was a gold medalist in the 100-backstroke and the 400-relay in the 1981 World University Games.

Kirchner’s appointment at IU goes into effect June 1.