

LARRY EUGENE BECK, SR. – Posthumous



You just have to wonder, back in the day when Larry Beck was giving golf lessons in Davidson County, whether his clients had any idea they were picking up swing tips from a man who once defeated Jack Nicklaus in a golf match that mattered.

True story.

Beck, then 17 years old, defeated Nicklaus 4-3 in the quarterfinals of the National USGA Junior Championship, held at Manor Country Club in Norbeck, MD, in 1957.

A lifelong member of the Professional Golf Association, Beck competed in the 1964 U.S. Open, finishing in 39th place, and the 1966 PGA Championship, where he finished 72nd.

He shot a course record 63 at Ponce de Leon in 1961 in the Championship of Golf Club Champions.

Off the course, Beck was an innovator in golf instruction. He served as a teaching pro at Whispering Pines Golf Club in Pinehurst for 15 years, and then he managed the Knollwood driving range.

He created “Heads Up Golf” instruction principles, designed to help clients understand how position and balance can help their individual game.

Beck passed away on June 3 in Sanford at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Ellen M. Mood, and his son, Larry E. Beck, Jr.

