

Gary Bowerman Dies Before Joining Tour

BY MALCOLM SCULLY
Staff Reporter

The funeral of golfer Gary Bowerman, 35, of Belleville who died suddenly at Sanford, Florida Saturday where he was preparing to join the American Professional Golfers' Association tour will be held Tuesday at 1 p.m. from John R. Bush Funeral Home.

Bowerman, one of Canada's top professional golfers, had arrived in Florida Tuesday from Toronto where he was associate professional at Weston Golf Club for the past two years. He died suddenly Saturday, apparently from a blood clot.

Fellow Canadian golfer Ken Trowbridge of Toronto was with him at his death.

"He was bothered by some congestion and apparently a blood clot formed, possibly in his leg, and came loose," said his father Steve Bowerman of Belleville.

"It wasn't his heart, his heart was fine," the elder Bowerman said.

Bowerman, born in Picton, was a Belleville resident since 1951. He started playing golf at the Bay of Quinte Golf and Country Club when he was 13 years old.

Club professional George Balazs who taught Bowerman how to play golf said today, "Gary was the best player this area has ever produced" Bowerman was club champion before turning professional in 1963. He also holds the club record score of 65.

Balazs also introduced Bowerman to professional golf and he worked at Islington Golf Club in Toronto and at Maple Downs north-west of that city.

After earning his PGA card

in a spectacular playoff with New Zealander John Lister and Ralph Johnston of the United States, Bowerman was on the tour for three years. Only 12 golfers qualified in 1969 and he was tied for twelfth spot and won out on the third extra hole.

Balazs said Bowerman shifted his emphasis to the Canadian scene where he played on the Peter Jackson Canadian tour. He was second to Al Balding in the 1970 Canadian PGA championship and won the 1973 British Columbia Open.

Bowerman's last professional appearance in Belleville was August 2 when he won the Motorland Chrysler Pro-Am Tournament for the second time.

Balazs said of Bowerman's ability: "As far as I am concerned, nobody can hit it as good as he could."

Bowerman, unmarried, is survived by his father Steve and his mother Joy.



GARY BOWERMAN

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