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PONTE VEDRA

Recorder

INSIDER'S

MARCH 2020

*Tournament
Guide*



WILL RORY REPEAT?

Looking back
at Pete Dye's
storied designs

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Tiger Woods: Hot
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Stunning Riverfront Estate

Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes this home instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Featuring 5 bedrooms, 6 full baths and 5 half baths. **\$5,995,000**



The Perfect Beach Escape

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. 3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms. **\$1,625,000**



Oceanfront Oasis

Stunning 210-foot oceanfront estate on private gated 2-acre lot with 27 ft elevation. Impeccable, quality home with spectacular views throughout. 5 bedrooms, 6 full/2 half baths. **\$5,250,000**



Oceanfront Luxury

Comfort and elegance blend effortlessly in this Anglo-Caribbean inspired oceanfront home with the highest level of detail and quality, the beauty of this home is enhanced by the property's premier location 7 bedrooms, 7F/2H bathrooms. **\$9,995,000**



Guana and Ocean Views

With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability. The ideal beach retreat. 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths. **\$2,600,000**



Private Oceanfront Estate

Private gated 1.24-acre estate, lovingly referred to as Turtle Hall, exemplifies luxury oceanfront living. With 165 ft of ocean frontage this custom-built Tudor offers old world charm with modern conveniences throughout this 11,000 sqft home. 5 bedrooms, 6 full /2 half baths. **\$8,900,000**



Steps from the Ocean

Located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, this 2 bedroom / 2 bath Carlyle condo is your opportunity to experience resort-style beach living. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. **\$660,000**



Spectacular Water to Golf Views

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views and offers ample space to entertain. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. **\$1,575,000**



Custom Built Oasis in the Plantation

GREAT VIEWS AND GREAT VALUE! Comfort and elegance merge in the thoughtful design of this custom-built home situated on a premium lot in the premiere Plantation community. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. **\$1,525,000**



Design Ocean Dream Oasis

Own over 2 acres of oceanfront property situated on one of the highest dunes. North of Mickler's Landing, this 6,047 sqft home with 248ft ocean frontage is the ideal place to design your dream oasis. 5 bedrooms, 4F/3H baths. **\$3,425,000**



Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip

Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and a 20x50 boat slip. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. **\$765,000**



Design Oceanfront Oasis

Design your dream home on this oceanfront estate with over 230 ft. of ocean frontage, this lush property will inspire your inner visionary and designer. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. **\$3,650,000**



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The Montclair Estate
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Offered At \$9,989,000

The grounds of Montclair Estate beautifully blend a bit of Old Europe and Old Florida, from the grand entrance and Georgian architecture to bountiful azaleas and oak trees dripping with Spanish moss.



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Small enclave of 11 homes ♦ Only 4 homes left ♦ \$689,000 to \$769,000 ♦ Includes boat slip

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Saturday, April 18, 2020 RAIN DATE Sunday 19th | 3:00-8:00 pm

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You have a chance to win \$6,000 if you sink a hole-in-one on our famous "island green!"



TWO LUCKY WINNERS LAST YEAR!

Last year one contestant pocketed \$6,000 for his hole-in-one. The Pajcics matched it with \$6,000 to JALA. Local celebrities had a shootout to win \$6,000 for the charity of their choice.



\$50 / PRIVATE ATTORNEYS & \$25 / EVERYONE ELSE

The Pajcics match all donations and prizes dollar for dollar which doubles the fun and the donation to JALA.

CHILDREN WELCOME FREE



Join the celebrity competition at 6pm at the 6th tee followed by the hole-in-one shootout for your chance to win \$6K!



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Matus Foris Photography



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Promotion runs March 10-15, 2020.

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SawgrassVillagePVB.com



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Photo provided
by the PGA TOUR

Welcome to THE PLAYERS

From March 10-15, the world's top players will travel to Ponte Vedra Beach to square off against the strongest field in golf at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. As defending champion Rory McIlroy put it, "It's an event that everyone wants to win."

THE PLAYERS is the ultimate showcase of all that Northeast Florida has to offer, and our staff and our incredible volunteers work year-round to produce a championship that will showcase our great community to more than 1 billion homes worldwide in more than 226 countries and territories.

The move to March last year was just the start of a new era of expansion for THE PLAYERS. From the emerald green grass to the cooler, more comfortable temperatures to the incredible competition that took place inside the ropes, the 2019 PLAYERS was record-setting in more ways than one. We are meticulous about improving all aspects of this championship with a fans' first mentality in everything we do.

Ultimately, we are driven by so much more than producing a world-class event. THE PLAYERS operates on a core mission — to positively impact the community where we live, work and host this championship. Last year, we generated a record \$9.25 million for charities, and this impact is only possible thanks to our Proud Partners, our more than 2,000 volunteers led by a team of Red Coats, as well as our sponsors,

vendors, business and civic leaders, media and you - our fans. Thanks to our collective efforts, this championship is impacting thousands of lives, 365 days a year.

As you make plans to attend THE PLAYERS 2020, remember that there is something for everyone, whether you're a golf fanatic, foodie, family with young kids, military member, college student or socialite. THE PLAYERS Stadium Course was designed with you in mind, and I encourage you to come experience everything we have to offer.

Additionally, here are the top things you need to know:

Mobile-only and day-specific tickets: THE PLAYERS has moved exclusively to mobile-only for all tickets, including day-specific Stadium Passes. Tickets start as low as \$25 and can be purchased at [THEPLAYERS.com/tickets](https://www.theplayers.com/tickets). Be sure to add them to your wallet right away!

Parking pass required every day: Parking passes must be purchased separately and are now required Tuesday through Sunday. All parking passes must be purchased in advance via [THEPLAYERS.com/parking](https://www.theplayers.com/parking). As in years past, THE PLAYERS will offer fans free parking passes if they carpool with four or more people. These passes are limited and must be downloaded in advance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ■

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1299 PONTE VEDRA BLVD
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51 SOUTH ROSCOE
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Michelle Floyd/Jack Floyd
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24717 HARBOUR VIEW DRIVE
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8200 JOSE CIRCLE W
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12799 CAMELLIA BAY
\$1,900,000
6BD/7BA • 7,109 sq ft

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1469 LE BARON AVE
\$889,000
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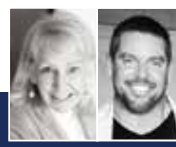
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117 TWELVE OAKS LANE
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8652 CATHEDRAL OAKS PL W.
\$6,495,000
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121 BRISTOL PLACE
\$4,250,000
5BD/7BA/2HB • 9,489 sq ft
Michelle Floyd/Jack Floyd
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125 THACKER AVENUE
\$750,000
3BD/3BA/1HB • 3,000 sq ft
Ritter Soares Team
904-222-2224/904-449-6648



8020 MERGANSER DR
\$1,349,000
5BD/4BA/2hb • 4,469 sq ft
Nicholas Eklund
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105 LANTANA CT
\$789,000
4BD/3BA/1HB • 3,269 sq ft
Moorman & Rowe Group
904-810-8744/904-834-0356



14402 MARINA SAN PABLO PL 701
\$1,525,000
4BD/4BA/1HB • 3,345
Michelle Floyd/Jack Floyd
904-343-5067/904-343-5196



2203 MILLER OAKS CT
\$1,995,000
6BD/4BA/2HB • 5,800 sq ft
Jane Chefan
904-463-1179



1217 PONTE VEDRA BLVD
\$8,970,000
5BD/6BA/2hb • 8,983 sq ft
Michelle Floyd/Jack Floyd
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6730 EPPING FOREST #106
\$1,649,000
3BD/3BA/1HB • 4,226 sq ft
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6533 SPYGLASS CIRCLE
\$1,775,000
3BD/3BA/1HB • 2,716 sq ft
Leslie Tanner
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Military Appreciation Day Concert: Grammy-Award winning duo The Chainsmokers will take the stage on Tuesday, March 10, for our Military Appreciation Ceremony and Concert on the iconic Island Green 17th hole. Tuesday tickets cost just \$45 plus tax and include access to the concert.

FREE admission for Kids 15 and under: Aligning its policy with TOUR-wide practices, kids 15 and younger are admitted free to THE PLAYERS when accompanied by a ticketed adult.

Exclusive Merchandise: Stop by the 30,000-square-foot PGA TOUR Fan Shop to stock up on exclusive gear. The Fan Shop will also be open to the public the weekend before the tournament—from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday March 7 and Sunday March 8—so that you can stock up before items sell out.

We look forward to seeing you at THE PLAYERS from March 10-15 for what promises to be another record-setting week.

Jared Rice
Executive Director,
THE PLAYERS Championship

ADMISSION TIMES

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- Practice Day for professionals (Course closed to the public)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- Entries open at 7:30 a.m.
- Practice Day for professionals

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- Entries open at 7:30 a.m.
- Practice Day for professionals

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- Entries open at 7:15 a.m.
- First round of competition begins at approximately 7:35 a.m. (threesomes off of No. 1 and No.10)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- Entries open at 7:15 a.m.
- Second round of competition begins at approximately 7:35 a.m. (threesomes off No. 1 and No.10)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- Entries open at 8 a.m.
- Third round of competition begins at approximately 8:30 a.m. depending on the size of the cut (twosomes off No. 1)

CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- Entries open at 7:15 a.m.
- Final round of competition begins at approximately 7:45 a.m., depending on the size of the cut (twosomes off No. 1)



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Top 10 Ways to Survive TPC:

1. Stay hydrated
2. Wear comfortable shoes, sunglasses and a hat
3. Bring sunblock and a small purse; backpacks and large purses are not allowed
4. Save your appetite for a plethora of delectable food options
5. Find a few favorite spots where you can see multiple holes
6. Bring your chair and have a way to identify it
7. Get your photo taken in front of the clubhouse and/or hole 17
8. Take an Uber, Lyft or a shuttle
9. Do not feed the gators unless they are friendly football fans
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NAVIGATING THE PLAYERS



Photo by MICAH GREEN

TICKETS

THE PLAYERS Stadium Pass provides access to nearly 20 venues, numerous local food and beverage options, rope-side access to the best players in the world and more. New to 2020, all passes are now mobile-only and day-specific passes. Tickets can be purchased via the PGA TOUR App or THEPLAYERS.com. Parking is purchased separately at THEPLAYERS.COM/parking.

Tuesday passes cost \$45 and includes access to The Chain-smokers concert after the Military Appreciation Ceremony at 5 p.m. Wednesday passes cost \$25; Thursday and Sunday passes cost \$65; and Friday and Saturday passes cost \$70. Taxes are not included.

CAPTAIN'S CLUB

Experience a premium club space with views of the 16th and 18th holes at TPC Sawgrass. Beer, wine and soda are included; full bar and food are available for purchase. Soft seating, full bar, televisions and outdoor viewing creates an elevated environment to experience THE PLAYERS. Tickets cost \$250 per day for Thursday through Sunday.

THE PLAYERS CLUB

THE PLAYERS CLUB is an ultra-VIP, all-inclusive hosting and hospitality experience at THE PLAYERS Championship,

featuring exclusive access to the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, which is completely reimaged during tournament week, as well as all-inclusive hospitality venues on the famous island green 17th hole and the finishing 18th hole. Members of THE PLAYERS Club can take advantage of valet parking, hand-crafted food and specialty cocktails from top chefs and bartenders across the country and private shopping experiences featuring merchandise and collections from luxury brands that are only available to members of THE PLAYERS Club during tournament week.

Tickets to THE PLAYERS Club cost \$6,000 for the week, Tuesday through Sunday, with the ability to transfer the daily tickets to another individual.

FAMILY PLAN PACKAGE

The Family Plan package offers additional savings and benefits for families wanting to enjoy a day out at THE PLAYERS. Families get two adult Stadium Passes, unlimited youth admission at the entrances (for kids 15 and under) and two \$10 food and beverage vouchers redeemable at all general concession stands and food venues on site. Parking passes are not included. Cost for the package is \$130 for Thursday or Sunday or \$140 for Friday or Saturday (taxes not included). Family Plan packages are available through March 1.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 ■

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At least one resident must be 55 years of age or better, a limited number of residents may be younger and no one under 19 years of age. Some residents may be younger than 55. Prices shown are estimated base prices, do not include lot premiums or options and are subject to change without notice. Community Association fees required. Additional terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Photographs are for illustrative purposes only, are not intended to be an actual representation of a specific community, and depict models containing features or designs that may not be available on all homes or that may be available for an additional cost. This material shall not constitute a valid offer in any state where prior registration is required or if void by law. Please see a sales associate for details. ©2020 Pulte Home Company, LLC. All rights reserved. CGC1519936 2/10/20



MILITARY PASSES

Complimentary admission is provided each day of the tournament to active duty, military retirees, military reserve, National Guard, military spouses and accompanied dependents with valid credentials and identification. Veterans are provided an exclusive offer, permitting them to purchase one ticket for themselves and one ticket for a guest at a discounted rate per day (\$20/each – Tuesday and Wednesday; \$30/each – Thursday through Sunday). All military personnel must verify their military status online through birdiesforthebrave2.sheerid.com/theplayers2020. Valid military identification is required.

STUDENT PASSES

College and graduate students can purchase a discounted \$55 ticket for Thursday through Sunday with a valid student ID. To purchase, visit THEPLAYERS.com/tickets and then click on “College Student Offer.”

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

General parking is located off County Road 210/Palm Valley Road. For GPS directions, enter this address: 5387 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. There will be a dedicated turning lane into the general parking lot off of CR 210 to speed up the entry/exit process. Peak traffic times are from noon to 2 p.m. To avoid traffic, plan to arrive before noon or after 2 p.m.

New in 2020, parking passes are now required on all tournament days for Tuesday-Sunday. Parking passes are daily passes and must be purchased in advance via www.THEPLAYERS.com/parking. Parking is expected to sell out. Parking passes will not be sold in the lot nor at Will Call. Tuesday and Wednesday parking costs \$15 per day and Thursday through Sunday costs \$40 per day.

FOUR FOR FREE

Fans with four or more guests in a vehicle can park receive free parking Tuesday through Sunday with the “Four for Free” parking voucher. Fans can go online to www.THEPLAYERS.com/parking to download the voucher, which allows free parking in the general lot off of CR210. A new voucher must be downloaded and printed for each day or saved on an electronic device.

GOLF CART PARKING

THE PLAYERS offers complimentary Golf Cart parking services Tuesday through Sunday at Gate B, located inside the TPC Sawgrass Gates off of PGA TOUR Boulevard in the back of lot 5. Golf cart parking is free of charge.

UBER

From 2018 to 2019 alone, THE PLAYERS saw a 63% increase in the number of Uber rides to and from our tournament, and this number is expected to continue to grow. Uber is the preferred ride sharing partner of THE PLAYERS and will drop off and pick up at the Couples Entry off of ATP Boulevard, steps from the 15th hole. Rideshare vehicles will be staged outside the Couples Entry to make transportation as easy as possible for spectators.

PEDAL TO THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS offers complimentary bike parking during the tournament, from 7:30 a.m. until end of play. Spectators can ride their bikes to Gate B, located inside the Sawgrass Gates off PGA TOUR Boulevard in the back of lot 5. Bike racks are available free of charge.

DOWNTOWN SHUTTLES

Shuttles from downtown Jacksonville by the Omni Hotel, Hyatt Regency Hotel and Lexington Hotel will be available to hotel guests and for residents to “park and ride,” providing a convenient and cost-effective way for fans to get to and from the tournament. Shuttle passes cost \$20 (excluding tax) and can be purchased at Shuttle passes can be purchased online. To purchase or see the schedule, visit THEPLAYERS.com/shuttle.

COOPERATION WITH AREA OFFICIALS

THE PLAYERS is working closely with officials from St. Johns County, SJCSO, JSO and Florida Highway Patrol in the development of a streamlined traffic flow pattern and improved traffic light management on Florida A1A. THE PLAYERS continues to partner with The Florida Department of Transportation to encourage traveling fans to use FDOT’s 511 Traveler Information System for information on crashes, congestion, construction and more. FDOT provides up-to-date information on traffic conditions throughout the Jacksonville area, including I-95, I-295 and I-10. Motorists in the area can get information by calling 511 toll free, visiting www.FL511.com, downloading the free Florida 511 mobile app on Android and Apple devices, or following @FL511_northeast, @FL511_I95 or @FL511_I10 on Twitter.

DISABLED GUEST SERVICES

THE PLAYERS Disabled Guest Services program provides shuttles during the tournament. There will be 14 shuttles on course. A wheelchair-accessible van shuttle is available to and from Accessible Parking in the General Parking Lot and Shuttle Row, adjacent to Davis Love III Entry, for spectators wishing to access the Practice Area, Clubhouse or No. 1 Tee. Carts will run from the time entries open each tournament day until 30 minutes after play. Cart shuttles will pick up and drop off from only the designated locations below and will not stray from official routes under any circumstances.

1. Behind 16 Green by Couples Entry and The Courtyard.
2. Behind 17 Tee by the Food Court
3. Players’ left of 9 Fairway by Wine & Dine on 9.
4. Players’ left of 9 Green by Greenside Lounge and Past Chairman.
5. Clubhouse area behind 3 Tee
6. Players’ right of 16 Tee in front of Patriot’s Outpost
7. Players’ right of 15 Fairway at Taste of JAX

If disabled guests need assistance from a location without shuttle access, contact any tournament official with a radio.

PAM HENRY



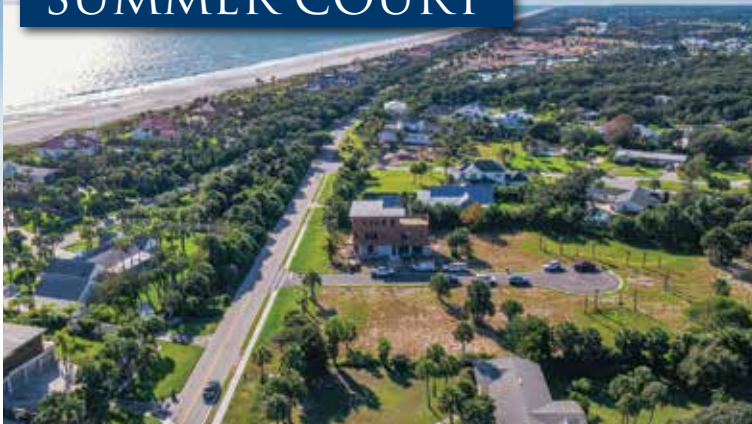
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MARBELLA

Located at the county line of Ponte Vedra & Jacksonville Beach. A vanishing opportunity! This great lot is located on Ponte Vedra Blvd., just steps from one of the most beautiful wide beaches of North Florida. Included is a full set of plans by renowned architect Cronk Duch!

Home to elegance on the oceanfront. Unequivocally one of the top luxury properties available in North Florida! Enjoy the privacy of just 22 homes with only 2 homes per floor. Elevator service directly to your private alcove & double door entry. Step into 5,315 sf of luxury with panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean & white beaches. Upgrades too numerous to list include porcelain tile flooring in living areas, A/C systems, kitchen complete redesign & upgrades plus much more!

LUXURY AWAITS!



Enjoy forever views from your 3 balconies. The eastern balcony includes summer kitchen with wine cooler & ice maker — great for entertaining! The kitchen was replaced in 2014 with Julie Shulte designer. Enjoy the beautiful quartz & granites, Dacor oven, Subzero refrigerator drawers, built-in wine coolers, osmosis water filter & more! Come enjoy the best of beach life in luxury!

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Beautiful estate on Marsh View Court!



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Photos provided by the PGA TOUR

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15% OFF 12 bottles +



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904.395.3520
www.coastalwinemarket.com

Recipe & Pairing

COASTAL WINE MARKET
THE PLAYERS CLUB *from Chef Destiny*



*Delicious, healthy,
uncomplicated
and guaranteed to
kick up your
game anytime!*

- 1-4oz. chicken breast, butterflied
- 1 tbsp blackening seasoning
- 2 slices sourdough bread
- 1 tbsp honey mustard
- 1/4 cup fresh arugula
- 1/4 cup avocado mix
- 3 slices hickory smoked bacon
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp oil
- 4 cherry tomatoes
- 4 extra long golf tees

Directions:

Place chicken breast on a sanitized work surface.

Slice each in half with a sharp kitchen knife. *Be careful!*

Coat both pieces in blackening spice.

Heat skillet on medium high heat and add oil.

Add chicken breasts and cook for 2 minutes each side.
Set aside.

Make Avocado Mix. *(see CWM Chef Destiny)*

Make Honey Mustard *(see Steve at CWM for recipe)*

Cook Bacon in oven at 400 degrees, 10-15 minutes until crispy.

Toast 2 slices of sourdough bread in 1 tbsp of butter.

Build sandwich bottom to top:

Bread, Honey Mustard, Arugula, Chicken Slices, Bacon.
Spread Avocado Mix on top slice. Spear Cherry tomatoes on golf tees
and place in the middle of each side of the bread, one inch from crust.
Cut with a serrated knife from corner to corner.

Place on serving plate and enjoy!

Recommended Pairing

Hess Shirttail Ranches Pinot Noir or
Tavernello Prosecco will nicely enhance
and balance this zesty Players Club.

WHAT'S NEW 2020

ENHANCED WIFI

With the move to digital tickets, THE PLAYERS will also have amplified WIFI at all tournament entries and throughout the course.

NEW HOSPITALITY OFFERING

The Island Suite is a new private hospitality venue with a patio to enjoy premium views of the 16th and 17th greens at TPC Sawgrass. It features outdoor seating, all-inclusive food and beverage, full bar and TVs.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

THE PLAYERS continues to work on enhancing the transportation experience to and from THE PLAYERS. Enhancements for THE PLAYERS 2020 include a new, dedicated turning lane into the general parking lot off of CR 210, bringing spectators directly to the tournament's main entry, the Nicklaus Entry; a designated Uber pickup and drop off area outside the Couples Entry and continued partnership with the City of Jacksonville to provide shuttles to and from downtown hotels to the tournament.

EXPRESS LANES

Spectators without bags can enter through a separate line at the Nicklaus and Couples entries, speeding up the entry experience. In addition, for the first time at THE PLAYERS, there will be designated exit lanes for spectators to leave the tournament easily.

EVERY SHOT LIVE

For the first time ever in golf, every shot by every player will be live-streamed during all four rounds of THE PLAYERS, with 120 cameras will be placed throughout the Stadium Course to live stream more than 32,000 shots on PGA TOUR LIVE via NBC Sports Gold.

THE KIDS ZONE PRESENTED BY NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Nemours Children's Health System will sponsor the Kids Zone, which has been enhanced and also relocated near the 8th green.

SELFIE SCREENS

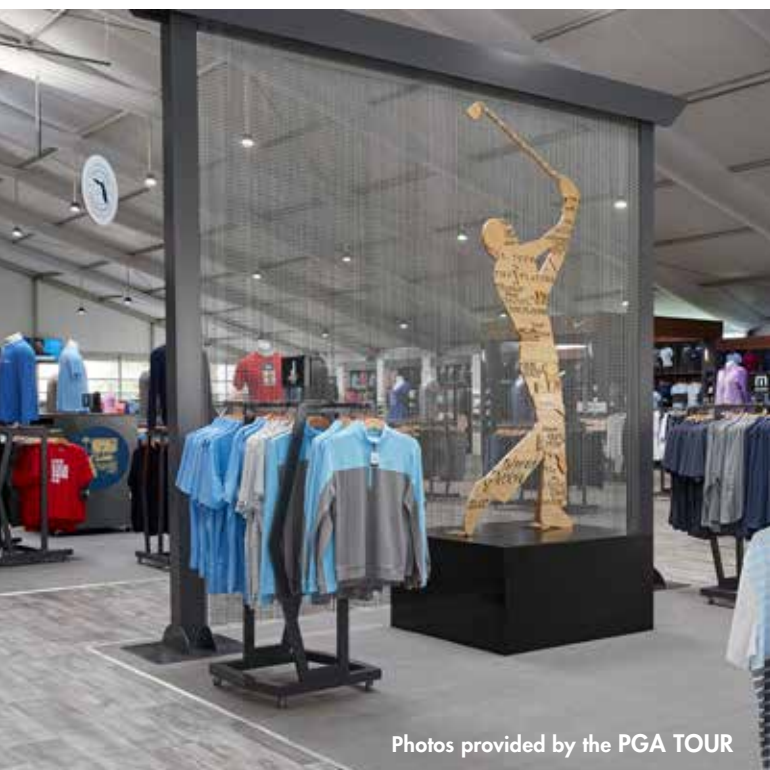
Fans can take a selfie with their favorite PGA TOUR players via life-size 'selfie kiosks' at various fan venues on-site. All the kiosks will feature touchscreen digital displays and give fans the opportunity to share their selfies directly on their social media platforms.

INTERACTIVE PAST CHAMPION VIDEO WALL IN SAWGRASS SQUARE

Fans who stop by Sawgrass Square near the Davis Love III entry will be able to check out a digital videoboard displaying images and highlights of all past champions.

STADIUM VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

Stadium Village, the popular expo area and fan venue within THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience, now has an indoor-outdoor bar and has moved just across the Nicklaus entrance, adjacent to the 17th Hole Challenge.



Photos provided by the PGA TOUR





Photos by VINCE JOHNSON



OTHER THINGS TO DO

THE PLAYERS WELCOME EXPERIENCE

Upon entry into the 2020 tournament, spectators entering through the general parking lot will walk through a bridged pathway through the woodlands into THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience which includes:

THE PGA TOUR FAN SHOP AT THE PLAYERS WELCOME EXPERIENCE

THE PGA TOUR Fan Shop at THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience is the ultimate shop to gear up for THE PLAYERS, featuring new 2020 product lines and exclusive gear that are only available while supplies last.

STADIUM VILLAGE

Stadium Village has moved just across the Nicklaus entrance, adjacent to the 17th Hole Challenge, and now has an indoor-outdoor bar. Stadium Village also features the Lexus, Mayo Clinic and PGA Tour “Must-See Moments” fan experiences.

17TH HOLE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY OPTUM, MORGAN STANLEY AND GRANT THORNTON

This replica of the famed 17th hole gives fans a chance to take two free shots at the Island Green. Fans can purchase an additional chance for a \$5 donation to The First Tee of North Florida. Fans can make a donation of \$20 or more for a “The First Tee Fast Pass” to bypass the queue, take five shots and receive a free sleeve of golf balls. All proceeds will benefit The First Tee of North Florida.

KIDS ZONE PRESENTED BY NEMOURS CHILDREN’S HEALTH SYSTEM

The Kids Zone is an interactive destination for kids and families attending THE PLAYERS Championship. It will provide lots of unexpected fun for the whole family.

INTERACTIVE GOLF EXPERIENCE

Fans can practice their swing with hitting bays and a putting experience open to the public.

MORGAN STANLEY EAGLES FOR IMPACT

In its new location along the 18th fairway, the Morgan Stanley Eagles for Impact tent will feature a golf simulator and the chance to win customized hats.

THE GROVE

Located behind the 17 tee and 16 green, The Grove is an outdoor, shaded and turfed area that is open to the public. It includes a large video board, showcasing the Golf Channel and NBC broadcast, so fans won’t miss any tournament action while taking a break. The Grove will also feature a social media board covering THE PLAYERS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds. The area is in close proximity to the large permanent restrooms located behind 16 green and 17 tee.

PALM VALLEY VILLAGE

Palm Valley Village is near 9 green, adjacent to the Green-side Lounge presented by GreenWise Market and is open to everyone with a Stadium Pass. This area provides fans with a comfortable spot featuring local food from vendors ABBQ (Atlantic Beach BBQ) and Bonefish Grill available for purchase.

FAMILY CARE SUITE PRESENTED BY WOLFSON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL (BEHIND 8 GREEN)

As part of Baptist’s program as the on-site medical service provider, the Family Care Suite, located near THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience, extends services to attendees of THE PLAYERS. The venue will serve as a skin-screening center and comfort station for parents to care for their children and have a private, comfortable venue as needed during tournament week.



Photo provided by the PGA TOUR



FOOD & DRINK



Photos by VINCE JOHNSON



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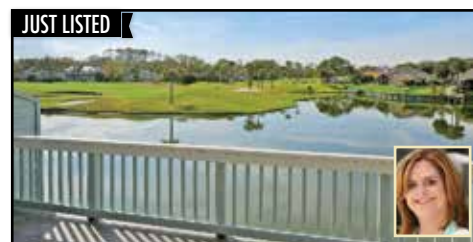
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Pristine 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1476 sq. ft. cottage on a quiet cul-de-sac across the street from the ocean. Surrounded by natural beach oak and palm trees, just 397 steps to the pool & tennis, 700 steps to "toes in the sand"!

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Call Rosemary Kristoff (904) 333-4841



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Fall in love with this amazing 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1680 sq. ft. home in Little Bay Harbor. Water to golf views are waiting for you!

Offered for \$475,000
Call Tina Webster (904) 982-7330



MARSH LANDING

The wait for your 5 bedroom, 4 bath, 4098 sq. ft. dream Marsh Landing Estate home is over! From the moment you walk in the front door you will fall in love with this light-filled home with soaring ceilings & gorgeous water views throughout!

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SAWGRASS COUNTRY CLUB CONDO

Enjoy this Little Bay Harbor 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1974 sq. ft. condo with amazing views of water, golf and a private nature island sanctuary where the sound of birds chirping will keep you entertained for days while enjoying the screened-in porch.

Offered for \$569,000
Call Tina Webster (904) 982-7330



NORTH COVE

This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2556 sq. ft. home is one not to be missed behind the gates of Sawgrass Players Club in sought-after North Cove.

Offered for \$639,000
Call Tina Webster (904) 982-7330



SOUTHERN DREAM, PONTE VEDRA STYLE!

When the current owners decided to repaint & redesign their beautiful home, they took their inspiration from The Southern Dream, 2019 Idea House on Cranes Island, FL. This majestic 5900sf home lives large on 1.73 acres with stunning water views that lead to the Intracoastal Waterway surrounded by sweeping oak trees & natural palms. Offered for \$1,399,000

Call Janet Westling (904) 813-1913 or Heidi Zawacki (781) 883-4849



COSTA VERANO TOWNHOUSE

Live the beach life dream in this gorgeous furnished two-story, 3BR/2.5BA, 2424sf townhouse-style condominium with your very own private terrace! Attached two-car garage. Costa Verano has the best amenities at the beach! Offered for \$600,000

Call Willie Lane (904) 710-8152



WALK TO THE BEACH!

Wrap-around lagoon views from every room. Beautifully updated. Southern exposure floods the home with light. Enjoy ocean sounds & breezes. Huge lanai, paver patio & Jasmine pergola. Exceptional site.

Offered for \$2,300,000
Call Judy Law (904) 553-5306



SOLANO CAY

Come and see this 3BR/2.5BA, 1501sf home located in the heart of PVB! Short walk to the beach, community pool & A-rated St. Johns County School District.

Offered for \$338,000
Call Wally Sears (904) 610-9771



OCEANFRONT ON DUVAL DRIVE

Built in 2017, this sophisticated custom oceanfront home showcases smart features & thoughtful design throughout with an emphasis on sustainability & energy efficiency. With an abundance of natural light this 5-bedroom home offers two master suites along with an office & media room.

Offered for \$4,250,000
Call Sarah Alexander (904) 334-3104



LUXURY RIVERFRONT CONDOS

Escape to a world of panoramic river views and luxurious comfort. Enjoy morning coffee or a glass of wine in the evening where you can admire breathtaking views of the St. Johns River and spectacular sunsets. Convenient location with short commute to downtown and close to shops and restaurants.

Ranging from \$589,000 - \$890,000
Call Anita Vining (904) 739-1626

FOOD POLICY

THE PLAYERS allows fans to bring in food in a 1-gallon clear, plastic bag where food items are also wrapped in clear wrap. Fans can refill their empty water bottles at the filtered water stations. This policy does not allow fans to bring in outside water bottles and/or beverages.

THE BENEFACITOR FEATURING THE ULTRA CLUB

The Benefactor featuring The ULTRA Club is situated behind the tee box of the world-famous 17th hole at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course and has sold out since 2012. The 14,500 square-foot, climate-controlled venue has a 4,500 square-foot patio and allows spectator access to The Benefactor, The Turn and Tournament Grounds. There is upscale food and a premium bar available for purchase, including Michelob ULTRA, the official beer sponsor of the PGA TOUR, along with private restroom facilities.

THE TURN

The Turn is the perfect place for the golf-centric crowd to watch the action. The interior features the GREY GOOSE 19th Hole with GREY GOOSE signature drinks, including the Sawgrass Splash, and soft seating. Flat-screen televisions surround the interior lounge, providing coverage of six-plus broadcasts at a time. The back wall provides a view of No. 9 green and the front provides outdoor seating and spectator views of the 18 fairway and green. GREY GOOSE is the official spirit of the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and Web.com Tour.

SAWGRASS SPLASH – THE SIGNATURE COCKTAIL OF THE PLAYERS

The Sawgrass Splash is made with GREY GOOSE L'Orange vodka, fresh lemonade, orange juice, lime juice and simple syrup. It's recommended to be served tall and over ice. Stop by The Oasis (21+ only), a public, air-conditioned venue located between 9 and 18 tee boxes to sip on the Sawgrass Splash while enjoying the views of No. 9 tee.

THE OASIS

Located between 9 and 18 tee boxes and open to the public, (21+), The Oasis features signature cocktails made with GREY GOOSE Vodka, the official spirit of the PGA TOUR. The Oasis is an air-conditioned venue with signature cocktails, food and drinks available for purchase.

THE PATIO

A fan favorite since its debut in 2011, The Patio, located between 10 tee and 18 green/16 tee, offers a shaded fan zone that includes open-air seating and a videoboard to keep up with tournament action. The Patio features food from V Pizza, founded by Jacksonville natives, with the goal of bringing true Neapolitan pizza to their hometown.

THE ISLAND SUITE

The Island Suite is a new private hospitality venue with a patio to enjoy premium views of the 16th and 17th greens at TPC Sawgrass. It features outdoor seating, all-inclusive food and beverage, a full bar and TVs.

THE BIER GARDEN PRESENTED BY HOPTINGER

THE PLAYERS will feature the Bier Garden, back and presented by Hoptinger, adjacent to the Couples Entry. Spectators will have a variety of craft beers on tap to choose from. Craft beers include:

THE PLAYERS YETI (PINT CUP NEW IN 2020)

YETI is the official insulated cup and cooler of the PGA TOUR. New at THE PLAYERS this year, fans can purchase 16-ounce PLAYERS-logoed YETI pint cups in all open-to-the-public draft beer locations including Beer Garden presented by Hoptinger, #18 Landing Refreshment, #16 Green Refreshment and #8 Green Refreshment. The pint cup can be refilled, with beer only, on the day of purchase at any of the above locations. Fans will not be able to re-enter the grounds with the cup throughout the week for security purposes.

WINE LOUNGE PRESENTED BY MEIOMI WINES

Meiomi Wines, the official wine partner of the PGA TOUR, will sponsor the fan bleacher located behind the no. 8 green for fans ages 21 and up. In addition to providing a bird's eye view of the par-3 8th hole, the lounge features Meiomi's Pinot Noir, Rosé, Chardonnay and sparkling wine selections, as well as a live succulent wall with putting green and clubs for interactive photo moments, a personalized pro-shop with premium giveaways, on-site embroidery (golf towel, bag tags for golf bag - initials embroidered on-site), customized golf decor, branded championship cups and flight trays and live viewing on TVs throughout the lounge area.

GREY GOOSE BLOODY MARY BARS (FROM ENTRY OPENING TO 11:30 A.M.)

The bars are located near the Couples and Nicklaus entrances and are open from entry to 11:30 a.m.

Michelob ULTRA Mobile Build-a-Bar
Near trucks on 10 and behind 16 green.

TASTE OF JAX

Located behind 11 green and 12 tee, this public venue offers flavors from local, favorite restaurants, a GREY GOOSE open-air bar, permanent restrooms and video boards to keep up with the tournament. Taste of JAX restaurants include Cousins Maine Lobster, MOJO BBQ, Zoe's Kitchen and new to 2020, Homespun Kitchen.

FOOD COURT

Located in THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience at the Nicklaus Entry is the food court, filled with a variety of selections for hungry fans. There's also a permanent restroom and shaded seating nearby.

Restaurants featured in the Food Court include Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Hawkers Asian Street Fare, Firehouse Subs, M Shack, Tropical Smoothie Café, and CJ Bibigo.

WINE & DINE ON 9

The popular fan venue, presented by Meiomini Wines, is located left of 9 fairway. Fans can enjoy small gourmet plates prepared by Matthew Medure, one of Northeast Florida's renowned chefs, in a garden setting, taking in THE PLAYERS surroundings in style. And what's a gourmet meal without a glass of wine? New in 2020, Wine & Dine on 9 will feature Meiomini Wines, the official wine partner of the PGA TOUR. Freshen up at the permanent restrooms there as well.

TRUCKS ON 10

Located between 10 fairway, 11 fairway and 15 green, this public venue offers flavors from local, favorite food trucks, an upgraded restroom and an open-air, centrally-located Michelob ULTRA Mobile bar. Returning food trucks include Mama's Food and Tikiz, with multiple newcomers like Valley Smoke, Pie95 Pizza, Cackylacky's, What's the Catch and Chaunie's Coffee.



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TACOS ON 12

Tacos on 12, located between 11 tee, 12 green and 13 tee, features TacoLu, Jacksonville's popular "Baja Mexicana," which will be serving food and beverages. This public venue includes seating and shaded areas.

SAWGRASS SQUARE

Located at the Davis Love III Entry, Mini Bar will be serving up its signature mini donuts alongside 4 Rivers Smokehouse, a local barbeque favorite.

FAN BLEACHERS PRESENTED BY PUBLIX

Located on 12 green and 13 fairway, these double-sided Fan Bleachers presented by Publix offer a covered public bleacher and deck with concessions available for purchase. Publix will be serving its signature sub of THE PLAYERS that includes Boar's Head rotisserie chicken breast, cheddar jack spread, bacon, lettuce, tomato and jalapeño on a white sub roll. THE PLAYERS sub will be sold at all Jacksonville area Publix locations starting March 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD AND BEVERAGE

BUBBA burgers will be served throughout the course as an added fan enhancement. BUBBA Foods has partnered with events and venues across the country and is proud to be a part of THE PLAYERS 2020.

New Listing! Sawgrass TPC



Gorgeous 4 bedroom 3.5 bath home located in the coveted Cypress Creek subdivision.

Details & Photos visit: CypressCreek.info



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- PGA TOUR FAN SHOP
- WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
- FAMILY CARE SUITE PRESENTED BY WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PROPER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED

- CHAMPIONSHIP CLUB
- COMMISSIONER'S SUITE
- DYE'S PAVILION
- EXECUTIVE CLUB
- ISLAND SUITE
- PATRIOTS' OUTPOST PRESENTED BY UNITED RENTALS
- PROUD PARTNERS
- THE PLAYERS CLUB
- PAST CHAIRMAN'S LOUNGE
- THE PLAYERS MARQUEE
- PERFORMANCE CENTER

DISABLED GUESTS

- DISABLED GUEST SERVICES SHUTTLE STOP

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A THE PLAYERS WELCOME EXPERIENCE

Activities for the whole family, plus food and drinks for purchase

- PGA TOUR Fan Shop
- 17th Hole Challenge
- THE PLAYERS Hitting Experience

B STADIUM VILLAGE

Tented, climate-controlled venue featuring a variety of fun activities

- GEICO
- Lexus
- Mayo Clinic
- Michelob ULTRA
- PGA TOUR Must See Moments

C FOOD COURT

Local food and drinks for purchase

- bibigo
- Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q
- Daily's
- Firehouse Subs
- Hawkers Asian Street Fare
- M Shack
- Tropical Smoothie Café

D THE WINE LOUNGE PRESENTED BY MEIOMI WINES

Public bleacher with views of 8 Green and drinks for purchase. Must be 21+

E THE OASIS

Featuring the Sawgrass Splash and signature cocktails made with GREY GOOSE® Vodka. Must be 21+

F WINE & DINE ON 9 PRESENTED BY MEIOMI WINES

Shaded venue with open-air seating and upscale food and drinks for purchase

- Meiommi Wines
- Restaurant Medure
- Permanent Restrooms
- Video Board

G PALM VALLEY VILLAGE

Enjoy food and beverage available for purchase from ABBQ and Bonefish Grill

H THE PATIO

Shaded venue with open-air seating, with food from V Pizza and drinks available for purchase

I SAWGRASS SQUARE

Local food and drinks for purchase

- 4 Rivers Smokehouse
- Mini Bar
- Fan Shop Express
- Past Champion Display

J MORGAN STANLEY EAGLES FOR IMPACT

Open to the public. Test your financial knowledge and your golf swing in a simulation of TPC Sawgrass' iconic 17th hole.

K FAN BLEACHERS

1. Public covered bleachers and deck with views of 16 and 10
 2. Public bleachers with covered deck and views of 16, 17 and 18
- Concessions available at both locations

L TRUCKS ON 10

Local food and drinks for purchase

- Cackylacky's
- Chaunie's Coffee
- Mama's Food
- Pie95 Pizza
- Tikiz
- Valley Smoke
- What's the Catch

M TACOS ON 12

TacoLu, Jacksonville's most popular Baja Mexicana, serving food and beverages. Venue includes seating and shaded areas

N FAN BLEACHERS PRESENTED BY PUBLIX

Public covered bleachers and deck with views of 12 and 13. Beverages available for purchase

O TASTE OF JAX

GREY GOOSE® open-air bar, seating, permanent restrooms and shaded area, plus local food and drinks for purchase

- Cousins Maine Lobster
- Homespun Kitchen
- Mojo Kitchen
- Zoe's Kitchen

P THE BIER GARDEN PRESENTED BY HOPTINGER

Featuring a variety of craft beers on tap located behind 16 Green

Q COUPLES ENTRY

Uber and rideshare pick-up and drop-off location

R KIDS ZONE PRESENTED BY NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Open to the public featuring activities for kids and families

- Learning Lab presented by CDW

PROPER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED

S GREENSIDE LOUNGE PRESENTED BY GREENWISE MARKET

Adjacent to 9 Green with soft seating, HDTVs, upgraded food and premium-bar options available for purchase

T THE TURN PRESENTED BY GREY GOOSE®

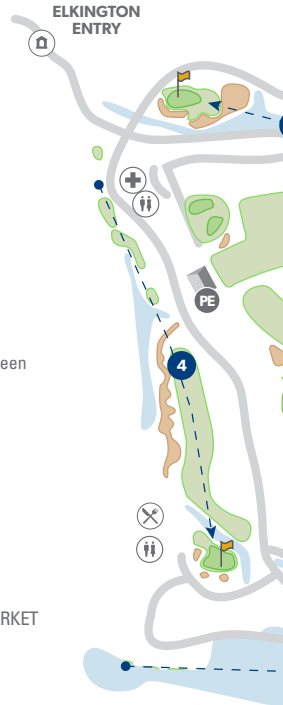
GREY GOOSE® signature drinks available for purchase, soft seating and HDTVs

U THE BENEFACTOR FEATURING THE ULTRA CLUB AND MEDITERRA LOUNGE

The ULTRA Club, located on the first floor, and the MEDITERRA Lounge, located on the second floor, will feature upgraded food and beverage available for purchase with unforgettable views on hole 17

V CAPTAIN'S CLUB

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YARDS	423	532	177	384	471	393	451	237	583	3651	YARDS	424	558	302	181	481	470	523	137	462	3538	7189



RORY ON A ROLL

McIlroy's great year started at THE PLAYERS

Photos by MICAH GREEN

by KATHY BISSELL

Rory McIlroy was not expected to win The Players last year. He wasn't even invited for pre-tournament interviews. More than 10 golfers found their way to the Media Center early in the week. Not McIlroy. And he was 10th in the world at the time.

Players brought in on the Tuesday before the tournament included Tiger Woods, Justin Thomas, Adam Scott, Justin Rose and Jason Day. The next day included Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Henrik Stenson and several others. Many great golfers. All worthy of a media date.

A special press conference even took place involving Jack and Barbara Nicklaus, representing their foundation, and John Lauck of Children's Miracle Network, announcing that together they would try to raise \$100 million in the next five years to help children with medical needs.

Nobody, however, wanted to talk to McIlroy, a four-time major champion. The main reason was he hadn't won anything in a while. His last victory had taken place a year earlier, at the 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational, his 14th title on the PGA TOUR. Before that, he had not won since 2016. It had been a drought.

People had begun to question McIlroy's psyche. His swing. His putting. His attitude. Everything. In other words, when he came to THE PLAYERS in 2019, he was not deemed the golfer most likely to carry off the gold-plated trophy.

However, those who questioned his resolve had not been to the pre-tournament press conference at Bay Hill a week earlier, where he was defending champion. There, he explained what he was focused on doing. There, he said he was bringing a different

attitude and focus for 2019.

"There's little mini-goals that you need to set yourself," he began. "I'm very happy with where everything is. It's about trying to take the little personal wins."

He had close calls in Mexico, San Diego and Los Angeles, but no victory. What he said next was amazing in golf.

"Even though I didn't win the golf tournament, I left happy with where my game was when I left and was in the frame of mind that it was a step in the right direction. So that's all I can really do," he added.

Nobody says they are happy with their games if they haven't won recently. McIlroy said he'd been impatient in the past, but that in 2019 he was doing his best to preach patience to himself.

"If someone were to tell me you have to go through 12 or 18 months or 24 months of this, but come out the other side of it and you will have those five-win seasons, six-win seasons, these 12, 18, 24 months will have been worth it," he said with conviction.

He pointed to 2012, when he won five times but had five or six missed cuts. Consistency, he explained, was what he was after.

"So, I don't know which I would rather have, this sort of consistent run of play or somewhere where it's a little more volatile," he said. "But I think I'm more comfortable playing the sort of golf I'm playing right now, where I'm consistent and just waiting for any given week where it is my turn to win."

As it turned out, he didn't have to wait long.

In the first round of THE PLAYERS, McIlroy shot a 67 and was tied for third with Vaughn Taylor and Ryan Moore. McIlroy had five birdies and no bogies. He avoided all of Pete Dye's trouble. Meanwhile, Keegan Bradley and Tommy Fleetwood were tied at the top with 65s.

Since he was in third, McIlroy was brought to meet the media. He credited some of his play to the change of the tournament from May to March.

"I think the course over the last 10 years or whatever it's been in May, it hasn't lent itself to aggressive play," he said. "I hit drivers on holes today that I would never have hit drivers the last few years."

He said not having the Bermuda rough helped because the rye grass wasn't as unpredictable.

"When you miss the greens, you're not having to contend with that Bermuda," he explained. "You're not having to guess how is this going to come out."

He was asked about putts that had lipped out.

"It's just reads here and there, or the speed might be just slightly off," he said. "I've worked hard on making sure that I can aim the putter correctly and that I can start it on-line, and then the only two things you have to worry about after that is your read and your speed."

If only it were that easy for the rest of us.

The average score for the field was 71.80 strokes.

On Friday, the second round was played in more of a breeze than the first, but, really, the conditions were not calm

any day. McIlroy, posting a 65, vaulted into a two-way tie for the lead with Tommy Fleetwood at 12-under par. He was 88% in greens in regulation and 78% in driving accuracy. Those are good stats anywhere but would prove to be his best for the week in any single round.

He was asked about his chances for victory.

"It would be wonderful, but I think it's too early to start talking about that," he replied and later added, "I'm not putting myself under pressure to — again, winning is a byproduct of doing all the things that I'm doing well."

Jim Furyk was just three back, tied with Ian Poulter, Brian Harman and Abraham Ancer. Jon Rahm had shot 68 and, combined with his first-round score of 69, that put him at 7-under par.

Tiger Woods was 1-under par for the day and 3-under for the tournament. His second round was just about destroyed at the 17th. There, the play-by-play went as follows:

- Tee shot in the water
- Penalty stroke
- Second tee shot in the water
- Penalty stroke
- Drop in penalty drop area.
- Shot five to the green, 21 feet from the hole
- Two putts
- Scores of 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ■

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It was a cataclysmic series of events on a hole where Woods has made history with great shots. Fortunately, because of five birdies during the round, Woods was 1-under par for the day and was at 3-under par for the tournament after he finished. Unfortunately, he was nine back of the lead. But as golf fans know, tournaments have been won from 10 shots behind the lead after round two. Paul Lawrie won the British Open starting 10 shots back in the final round, but of course, he had help from other players who collapsed.

The average score for the field was 71.34.

Saturday brought a new name to the top: Jon Rahm. The highlights of his round of 64 — just one higher than the course record -- included an eagle at the 11th when his second shot landed three feet from the hole. He also birdied the two par threes on the back, the 13th and the 17th, no easy feat. As a result, he blasted his way to the top of the pack.

“Once I hit the shot on 10 — made the turn and hit the shots I did on 10 and 11, I knew I could post a number,” Rahm said. “I was hitting my irons very, very well, very confident. I think the key part today was 14 and 15. I didn't let the frustrations get to me.”

At the end of the third round, he was two ahead of McIlroy and Fleetwood, who were tied at 14-under par. Both shot 70. Jason Day was at 12- under; Abraham Ancer, at 11-under.



Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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Fleetwood had a tough time on the front nine starting with a double and adding bogeys at the 4th and 7th. He came back from that with birdies at the 2nd, 8th, 11th, 12th, 16th, and 17th, where he came within three feet of the hole with his tee shot.

McIlroy's driver took a day off, and he hit just 28% of the fairways. Somehow, he still managed to hit 78% of the greens. He bogeyed the first two holes, but straightened his score out after that, posting three birdies on the front and one on the back. The course played a little tougher for the field. Part of the reason is that it was 15 degrees cooler, and the wind switched, coming from the north instead of the south.

"I don't mind bogeying the first, that's fine. But then the bogey at the second hole was a little disappointing," he said. "But I showed some character out there, showed some grit. Got a few back."

The average score for the field was 71.51.

Round four was a challenge for everyone. It was cool with a high of 59, and there were winds from 8-22 MPH. Despite that, average score for the field in the final round was 71.26, the lowest all week.

McIlroy seemed to have a good start, but then doubled the 4th hole with a second shot that found the creek fronting the green. Then he bogeyed the 7th. However, birdies at the 6th and 9th meant that he had dropped just one shot on the front side.

Meanwhile, Jon Rahm, who started the day in the lead, was having problems. He bogeyed three of the first four holes. Then he seemed to right the ship with birdies at the 6th and 8th, the

latter of which is practically impossible to play in two shots. That put him at 1-over for the front side.

Fleetwood started with a bogey but had a clean card the rest of the first nine. It was definitely going to be a contest.

On the back side, Fleetwood played like he had an evil twin on one shoulder and a good twin on the other. He bogeyed the 11th but birdied the 12th. He bogeyed the 15th and 17th but eagled the 16th. A par at the final hole put him for 1-over par on the round.

Like Fleetwood, Rahm had an up and down second nine. He parred 10 but bogeyed 11. He parred 12 and birdied 13. Then he parred 14 and bogeyed 15. He was unable to birdie the 16th, which is typically a must in a close race. Then the horrible island green got him.

Rahm's first tee shot at 17 went into the water, and after taking a penalty, he finished the hole with a double-bogey five. His par at the 18th meant he was 4-over for the round. It was not what he wanted.

McIlroy, though, had birdied the 11th and 12th to improve his position, but fell back when his second shot at the 14th found the bunker to the left side of the green. It took him two more shots to get into the hole. Bogey.

"I'm just really proud of myself, the way I played the last few holes, especially after bogeying the 14th from the middle of the fairway," he said later.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 ■

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The 15th was another birdie for McIlroy, and he said his second shot there was the best shot of the day. It was a good putt as well, a 13-footer, pin high from the right.

He also birdied the 16th, which many winners have done, if they don't eagle it, and was faced with two of the most nerve-wracking holes in golf to finish.

"Kept telling myself on the way to the 17th tee, just make three more good swings," he admitted later. "To step up and make those three good swings, it's very satisfying knowing that it's in there when it needs to be. Very proud, very honored to be able to call myself a PLAYERS champion."

The shots he meant were the tee shots at 17 and 18 and the shot to the green at 18. All fraught with danger from water.

After the finish, McIlroy said it was easier said than done to stay patient that week, particularly after a disappointing Sunday at Bay Hill the week before, where he was not able to catch Francesco Molinari.

"That's the great thing about golf, you can get straight back on the horse and you have another opportunity the very next week, and not a lot of sports or sports people have that luxury. So, I just wanted to take advantage of it," he said.

The other thing he learned was that controlling his emotions was paying off.

"One thing that I used to do in the past is I'd shoot — I'd let what I shot that day influence who I was or my mood



or — and to try and keep those two things very separate is something I've worked hard on because who I am as a person isn't who I am as a golfer, and it took me a while to get to that point where I realized who those two people were."

The PLAYERS Championship victory, he said, was "a massive win." As it turned out, it was a springboard for the rest of 2019. He went on to win two more times in the 2019 season — the RBC Canadian Open and the Tour Championship.

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At the end of the golf calendar, McIlroy was voted PGA TOUR Player of the Year by his peers. Rightly so. He won the two biggest PGA TOUR tournaments and the FedExCup. For the membership of the PGA TOUR to put that much value on THE PLAYERS, the TOUR Championship and the FedEx Cup upgrades their status in ways that were unexpected, even by McIlroy.

The Player of The Year award, named for Jack Nicklaus, was announced to a surprised McIlroy by Nicklaus himself as they

were having lunch at the Bear's Club. Jay Monahan walked to the table for the surprise. McIlroy said he had goosebumps.

"I couldn't be more proud of what I've achieved this year," McIlroy said. "I wanted to try and bring my best every single week that I played, and I feel like I did that to the best of my ability."

Now he's looking to improve on 2019 in 2020. He has looked at his stats and set mini goals. Right now, he's paying special attention to his play on and around the greens.

"I think those are the two stats that helped me play as consistently as I did last year," he explained at the Farmers Insurance Open. "Making that key up-and-down for par to keep some momentum going or holing that 6-footer when you need to just to ... you know, if things are getting a little bit squirrely at certain points, those are the little things in the rounds of golf that add up over the course of a season and turn those 72s into 70s and just those few shots each and every tournament can make a huge difference."

Last year, according to McIlroy, his short game was top 20 on tour, and his putting was top 25.

"If I can keep those at a very high standard like I did last year, those are very important to me," he added. "I've always driven it well. I've always hit my irons pretty well, but if I can keep those two around the green and on the greens as strong as I did last year, I'll be pretty confident about the season."

In February, McIlroy regained his status as No. 1 in the world rankings.



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TRACKING TIGER

Here's how Woods passes
Nicklaus' 18 majors

Photos by MICAH GREEN

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Tiger Woods is, without a doubt, the most influential golfer of his generation, and perhaps will become the best who ever played, no matter what measuring stick is used. He recently tied Sam Snead's total of 82 PGA TOUR victories. It's just a matter of time before he gets to 83 and beyond.

Woods also has 15 major championship trophies. That's just three short of Jack Nicklaus' 18 majors, the most won by any golfer ever. Period.

In Ponte Vedra Beach, we like to credit THE PLAYERS as a major, in which case Woods' total would change to 17 and Nicklaus' would be 20. But many in the golf industry are still resisting us, so we'll go with 15 and 18 for ease of understanding.

Now, believe it or not, there is a case to be made for Woods getting to or exceeding 18 majors in the next two seasons. Honest. It will take a little bit of luck, which any golfer has to have to win any tournament. And it will take Woods' skill and knowledge of golf courses. In his favor is the "horses for courses" theory of winners winning where they have won before, just like Woods has won eight times at Torrey Pines and eight times at Bay Hill.

So, how to get to 18 and beyond?

First, we must consider the Masters, which Woods has won five times, one short of Nicklaus's six green jackets. The Masters is a limited field event with winners from the last 12 months, and the top 50 in the world and some past champions, like Fred Couples, Bernhard Langer and others. The field is typically not even 100, and the Augusta National membership is said to be happier to have it under 90. Last year there were 87 players. They probably thought that was too many. What that means is the champion has fewer golfers to beat, never mind that they are pretty much very good golfers.

The cut at the Masters is top 50 and ties and anyone within 10 shots of the leader's score. So, if the leader is at 7-under par after two rounds, those at 3-over par make the cut and those at 4-over par and above aren't playing the weekend rounds. Woods, most likely, only has to beat between 50 and 60 golfers, and that's easier than beating 70 or more on a weekend or 144 to 156 to start the week. The lower the number, the easier it is for the best to rise to the top.

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It's not a lock that he will win one of the next two Masters tournaments, but with the goal of getting to 18 on his mind, he's going to be more focused than ever. Let's say he wins one of them, either 2020 or 2021. That's 16. He has two more majors to tie and three to surpass Nicklaus.

Next up, with the change in major scheduling that started last year, is the PGA. Typically, the PGA Championship set up is fair, not goofy, like the U.S. Open can be. That's in any golfer's favor.

Woods has won four PGAs, most recently in 2007 at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a course where I thought he would not have enough patience to win. Southern Hills has angles that drive long hitters nuts, to be honest, but Woods overcame his desire to blast his driver as far as possible and snaked his way around all the doglegs to win there.

Importantly, the 2020 PGA is at Harding Park, a place where Woods won the WGC Accenture Match Play in a playoff over none other than John Daly. It was 15 years ago, in 2005. So again, he knows the course. It has "poa annua" greens, which he understands, and he has won there. Does that mean he will win it this May? No, but you have to like his chances, particularly if it gets him to No. 16 or 17.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44 ■



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The U.S. Open this year is at Winged Foot, which can be made as hard as they want to make it. Forget about that one. The last time the U.S. Open was there, Phil Mickelson wrecked his chance to win by hitting his tee shot on the 18th hole way left and then not pitching out with his second shot, and then muffing the rest of the way to the green. He was not the only one who folded under the pressure. Colin Montgomerie also couldn't make a par. Geoff Ogilvy won it.

"I just can't believe I did that. I am such an idiot," Mickelson said to media after the loss. (Note to Phil: The media couldn't believe it either.)

Then the last major of this year, the British Open, or as they prefer, The Open Championship, is at Royal St. Georges, where Sandy Lyle, Greg Norman and Darren Clarke posted popular victories. That's also where, in 2003, Ben Curtis finished ahead of the leaders and watched them fall apart one-by-one, leaving him as the last man standing and the one holding the Claret Jug. Woods can win anywhere, but if I were a betting person, and I'm not, I wouldn't pick Woods for this one.

Then we turn the page to 2021. The Masters looms large again, and it may be Woods' 16th, 17th or 18th major victory, depending on how successful he has been in his stalking the biggest trophies in 2020. If it's for 18, I say there's no way he loses. Other people may have trouble playing for history, but Tiger Woods does not. Sure, he gets nervous, but somehow, he conquers it. If we knew how, none of us would lose a tight golf match with buddies!

The 2021 PGA Championship will return to Kiawah Island, where the locals are saying that the terrible traffic problems of 2012 were overstated. Well, there are a bunch of media people who told me that it was one of the worst snafus they have ever seen with cars and trucks and busses and whatnot. Heavy on the whatnot. They should never have allowed the cars on the island is what I heard.



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I was on the sofa at home with a broken ankle, thanks to the 8th hole at Olympic Club.

The good news about the PGA is that it will be spring, and a great time of year to be on the coast in South Carolina. Rory McIlroy won in 2012, and Woods finished tied for 11th. He might win it. However, he has two better chances coming up.

Regardless, the PGA organizers would be wise to call Chris Cole, who saw that the 1991 Ryder Cup traffic was handled by keeping cars away and utilizing an enormous bus system. I asked him where he got all the busses and he said, "Don't try to go to Columbia or anyplace else in South Carolina by bus until this is over." You cannot get 40,000 in and out on one two-lane road and have it work smoothly as was apparently proven in 2012.

But back to the Woods saga.

After the 2021 PGA, stuff you can't believe starts to happen. I mean, the stars literally had to have a conference call to align for the next two major tournaments.

Amazingly enough, the 2021 U.S. Open is at Torrey Pines, where Woods beat Rocco Mediate in a playoff, where Woods has seven additional victories. If he has his mojo, I really like his chances, especially if he's getting close to 18 or getting ready to pass it.

And finally, the grand finale of the 2021 major season finds the British Open at St. Andrews, where Woods won in 2000 by eight shots and where he won again in 2005.

I really, really feel good about that one for Woods.

So, as you can see, the golf calendar is all but set up to practically carry Woods to 18 majors if not 19 or 20. It all depends on him.

Will he? Won't he? Well that's the fun. One thing is for certain, Tiger Woods has a great opportunity to leap a few tall buildings in the next two seasons.

If it's up to his fans, he'll make it with room to spare.

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WHO WILL **WIN?**

by KATHY BISSELL



Photos by MICAH GREEN

If you are a regular reader of my PLAYERS predictions, you already know I am absolutely horrible at them. And yet, every year, they want me to go ahead and take another stab at it. All I can say is where's my Advil?

When it comes to making the pick, I do everything I can to avoid it. In the last few days, I put down Bayer 3-in-1 on the lawn. I watched several reruns of *Downton Abbey* and thought about watching the *Downton Abbey* movie DVD which I got for donat-

ing to PBS. It goes well with my Maggie Smith Dowager Countess of Grantham mug with her snitty and pithy sayings like:

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Who doesn't love that? But so far as I know, Maggie Smith has no expertise in golf predictions, unfortunately, because I'd go with whatever she says every time.

Just when I was afraid that I'd have to start writing, there was the George Washington mini-series on History Channel which popped up and saved me from having to make a commitment for a little while longer. Anything to keep me from starting it.

As soon as I discovered Washington, I actually began to hope for an entire series of presidents. I would even have watched something on Millard Fillmore if it kept me from picking a winner. As I know nothing about Fillmore whatsoever, it would also have been educational. But sadly, he did not materialize.

I did answer a couple of robo calls, just to keep away from the keyboard, but even a robo call can only take up so much time before you hang up. You know, about 10 seconds. My patience, like yours, is pretty thin on that sort of thing. But it shows you the limits to which I'll go to avoid writing about who will win THE PLAYERS. When I'm answering robo calls, I know it's time to face the music and dance, or in my case, get predicting.

Now, the real problem is, I cannot find the cracked crystal ball. It has gone AWOL. I even looked in the back corner of the garage. It's serious when I go there. Of course, the darn thing has been spitting oil for a few years and just



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Adam Scott

can't be counted on to come up with anything more than a hazy cloud, like cars do when they have an oil leak.

I decided to try the Magic 8-Ball. There's now an on-line version, believe it or not, and it has answers!

I asked:

"Will Rory McIlroy repeat?" It said: "It is decidedly so."

"Can Tiger Woods win his third PLAYERS this March?" It said: "My sources say no."

"Will this year's PLAYERS champ be a first-time winner?" It said: "Very doubtful."

"Could Dustin Johnson win the Players this year?" It said: "Yes."

Hmmm. The Magic 8-Ball also seems conflicted. I feel its pain.

But one answer is sure to be popular. I asked it if the weather the second week of March would be good. It said: "Yes definitely." Well that's enough for me.

Going back to last year's prediction, the only thing I can claim is that I at least mentioned Rory McIlroy as a possible winner. But I didn't declare with him emphasis. I did say, "I still think he can get it done." And I liked him for a win on St. Patrick's Day, the Irish connection and all. So that should count for something, kind of like the year when I said an Aussie was due and Adam Scott won.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52 ■



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Last year, I leaned toward Tiger Woods because of what his caddie Joe LaCava had said in that ESPN special about Woods' comeback. LaCava said Woods' game was so good after the 2018 Tour Championship victory that he was sure Woods had a couple more victories at THE PLAYERS in him in the next five or six years. However, this time La Cava led with his heart, although he may still be right. We have several years to go. However, for me, it was just one more ignominious prediction. Sigh. That's why I put this off as long as possible. I do plenty of foolish things on a regular basis, but like most people, I try not to make them public!

Now, there are some golfers you can't rule out as candidates for being the next PLAYERS champion, and that's anybody who already won. Guys like Rickie Fowler, Webb Simpson, Jason Day, even Si Woo Kim and Martin Kaymer. The problem, though, with picking anybody who won it between 2007 and 2018 is that the golf course played completely differently in May than it does in March. Even Rory McIlroy said that he would never have hit the drives he hit last year if the tournament was still being held in May. The course was fast then, and the rough was too penal. He's brave, but he's not an idiot.

Looking at the last two years' average scores for all four rounds, it didn't make much difference when it was played: 71.409 in May of 2018 and 71.513 in March of 2019. In fact, it was 73.291 in May 2017, 72.055 in 2016, and 72.083 in 2015.



Brooks Koepka

However, there were some March years when the scoring average and single round scoring average skyrocketed. In March of 2006 the average score for all players was 73.529, but the final round average score of 75.378 was one of the highest average round scores all year. In 2005, the average score was 72.841, but the final round average score was 76.512. That was higher than any round in any PGA TOUR event played that year. Those higher averages are due, no doubt, to weather and wind.



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Dustin Johnson

One way to determine if the weather was a beast or a beauty in any year is to review the number of golf balls in the water at the 17th hole. Last year, there were 45, some of them second shots. But that's a drop in the proverbial bucket compared to the highest year, which was 2007, which was the first year the tournament was in May. That week, 93 golf balls failed to hit land and stay on the green or fringe or anything dry. In the May years, there were plenty of tournaments with upwards of 50+ and 60+ balls that found the alligator playground.

The stats only go back to 2003, though, and since 1982, we all

know about a gazillion balls have gone into that hazard, wrecking both lives and fortunes. I would have said sacred honor, but really, that's Declaration of Independence overkill for a golf hole.

After past champs, you have to look at who's been playing well.

Adam Scott, who happens to be a past champ, just won at Riviera, a ball-strikers course if ever there was one. Now the thing is, TPC Sawgrass is also a ball-striker's golf course. Tiger Woods, great ball-striker. Fred Couples, great ball-striker. Greg Norman, great ball-striker. Tom Kite, great ball-striker. Henrik Stenson. Sergio Garcia. Fred Funk. The list goes on and on. That's because you cannot win THE PLAYERS without really golfing your ball. You just can't. Having a good short game is pretty important, too because everybody is going to make an oops.

However, looking at recent winners, you can't look at the guys who won last fall. That's six months ago. Anything can happen in that amount of time. And nobody is a machine, however much he might like to be one.

So, other than Adam Scott, the earliest of the recent winners you could start is with Justin Thomas at the Sentry Tournament of Champions. Now, I have to say that when he was winning a bunch, I thought he would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54 ■

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Jon Rahm



Tommy Fleetwood

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

win every tournament he entered. He was that good for a while. His best finish here has been T3. I still like him, but not as much as I did before the wrist injury. Even though it has healed, and he's won twice in the 2020 season, there's that feeling of being less than indestructible that lingers for a while after coming back from an injury. However, the victory in Hawaii does mean he's got his mojo back.

Webb Simpson already won this year, and even though he knows how to play this course, his PLAYERS victory was in May with Bermuda grass. Simpson is a southern guy, raised on Bermuda. That was one advantage he had in 2018. That, plus his new long putter with the arm lock grip. I'm not saying he can't. I just don't think he will. But Webb Simpson sneaks up on you when you are least expecting it. He's more dangerous than the Spanish Inquisition on old, old, old reruns of Monty Python.

I keep thinking Dustin Johnson should win, but his best finish is T12 during May. So just because I like his chances doesn't mean I'm right. In fact, based on past performance, I'd be wrong. Of course, the Magic 8-Ball likes him. Crystal ball? Still emitting fumes.

Tommy Fleetwood threatened last year and had three of four rounds in the 60s. He led the second round and played in the final group on Sunday. Through 63 holes, he was a threat. The back nine on Sunday really got him. If he were able to conquer TPC Sawgrass this year, it would be his biggest win.

Now here's a dark horse of the first order: Lee Westwood. While we don't know if he will play, he did win the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship in January. He's ranked 30th in the world as of this writing. Westwood is a ball-striking machine. His biggest challenges have been with his putter, but TPC Sawgrass



Jim Furyk

greens are not the hardest on the PGA TOUR. They aren't poa annua like Riviera and Pebble Beach. They are over-seeded rye on top of Bermuda. That can be a very clean putting surface. Will he make the trip? Who knows? His best ever finish was T4 in 2010. The 8-Ball said, "Ask again later." Harrummph.

Dark horse No. 2 is Graeme McDowell, who beat Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia at the Saudi International. Any time a former PGA TOUR winner gets a victory, it does something to their inner psyche that's immeasurable. However, McDowell's best finish at TPC Sawgrass is T9 in 2016, and he didn't play last year. He's currently 47th in the world golf rankings, and if he can hold that place, he will be here.

There's another who could surprise. That's Jim Furyk, who, if I read THE PLAYERS entry regulations correctly, would be eligible to play based on finishing 34th in official money in 2019. And why shouldn't he play? He finished SECOND last year at age 48. He's 49 now and will turn 50 in May. What a victory that would be. He'd definitely be the oldest winner of the tournament. While he doesn't love the course, he has learned to play it. Maybe this is the year. I didn't have the guts to go to the 8-Ball to check. You can do it (magic-8ball.com/).

One player who has been overlooked since his victory at the British Open is Francesco Molinari. However, he does have a five-year exemption with that win, and there's always a tendency to coast a bit once you have one of those.

One who isn't troubled by a five-year exemption is Brooks Koepka. He was so unbothered by the first one at the U.S. Open in 2018 that he won another one at the PGA that same year. Then he followed it up with another PGA and

another U.S. Open. Last year, though, he was hiding a knee problem. A torn patella tendon. He disguised it pretty well if you ask me. He had stem cells injected after the Tour Championship, but then tore the tendon again in Korea and is just now getting semi-normal on his left leg.

As much as Kopeka is to be feared, if his knee is an issue, then he's not, as the late, famous, sportswriter Dan Jenkins used to say, "a mortal lock to win."

Patrick Cantlay is so quiet that you never know he's around until he sneaks up the leaderboard. He's been on the rise over the past few seasons and is now No. 6 in the world. He's only played in THE PLAYERS twice, but was a collegiate standout, winning the Jack Nicklaus Award as Division I Player of the Year. Despite college success, he struggled to find his footing on the PGA TOUR, but within the last couple of seasons, he has shown marked improvement with victories at The Memorial and Shriners. His driving average for 2019 was 304.7 yards and his scoring average was second at 69.306. Keep an eye out.

You've probably noticed that I haven't mentioned Tiger Woods yet. Here's the deal with him: He can win any time, any place, anywhere. You cannot underestimate his skill, even at the age of 44. Maybe he gets No. 83 here.

Ok, now for the two big guns. I really like these two. I don't have a preference. Honestly it could go either way. Heck, it might be a playoff.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56 ■



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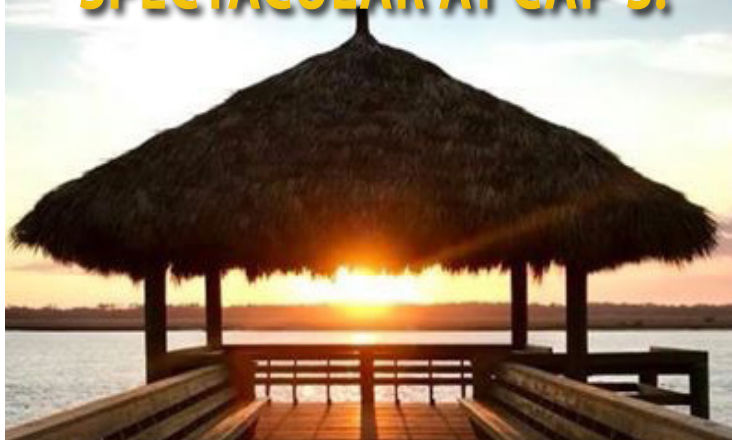
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You have to look at Jon Rahm. He had the lead on Sunday last year but couldn't get to the barn. I'm going to call it a nervous round. These things happen at big tournaments. They particularly happen when you don't have a lot of experience in that position. He had a final round 76. I seriously doubt if that would happen to him again if he finds himself in the last group or two on Sunday.

Rahm has learned to manage his emotions, mostly. Let's face it, hardly anyone really ever does that, except perhaps Woods.

Rahm hits it far enough. He putts well enough. He's a smart enough player to stay out of trouble most of the time. He just needs to pretend it's the third round instead of the final one. Easier said than done. As Rory McIlroy said about going to the 17th tee on Sunday, he only needed three more good shots. And that's a great way to look at it, but it's hard to do.

Finally, there's Xander Schauffele, the guy who's overlooked by everybody but sneaks up and wins things like the Tour Championship. Last year, he had a horrible second round at THE PLAYERS, which I'm going to call out of character because he finished second in his first year at THE PLAYERS in 2018.

In his first season on the PGA TOUR, 2017, he won twice, at Greenbrier and at the Tour Championship. In his second year, he was second at THE PLAYERS and the British Open.

In the 2019 season, he won the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges

Xander Schauffele



and the Sentry Tournament of Champions, was second at The Masters, third at the U.S. Open and second at the Tour Championship. In the 2020 season he's had two seconds, at the HSBC Champions and the Sentry.

I mean, this is impressive for a guy in his fourth season. If he doesn't win THE PLAYERS this year, then just keep an eye on him. He's sly, quiet, and stalks leaderboards like a panther. When no one is watching, he pounces.

So, there you have it. My agony of picking is over for this season. But it's just beginning for the PGA TOUR players who are getting ready to tee it up at TPC Sawgrass.

Somebody will hold up the gold trophy at the end of the week. More than likely it won't be anyone I mentioned!



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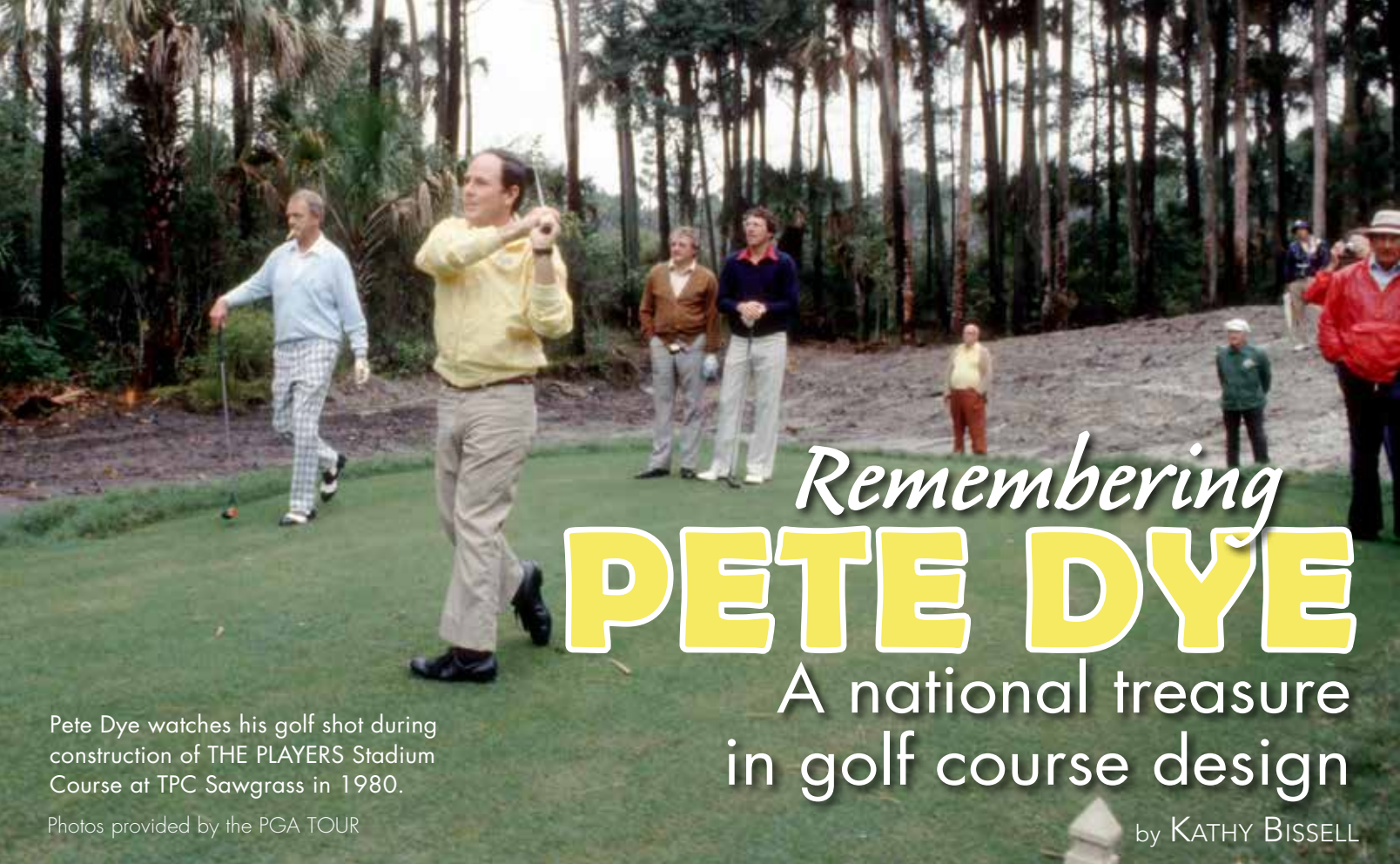
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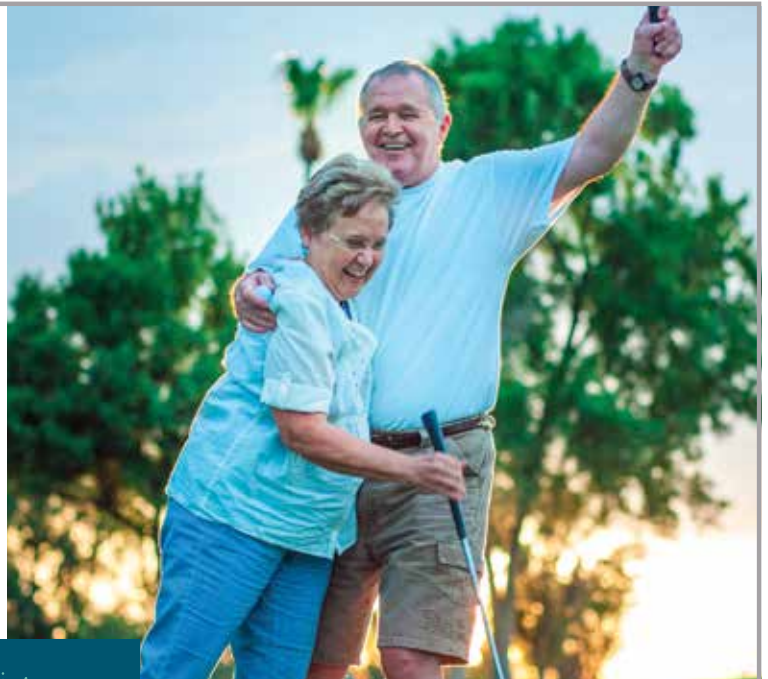

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Modern golf course design is divided into two parts: Before Pete Dye and after Pete Dye. Dye is gone now, he died Jan. 9, 2020. But his legacy lives on.

Before Dye, most modern courses in the United States — and by modern, let's say the second half of the 20th century and forward—were gently rolling places, often with many trees for shade. Some were built on hillsides and some in valleys and some in the flatlands. They were, for the most part, parkland style courses. There were few, if any, links courses, particularly if your definition of links requires a course to be by the ocean. Oceanfront property was too expensive to use for golf.

Before the 1960s, most U.S. golfers never saw a pot bunker. And railroad ties on a golf course? Ridiculous. Everyone wanted what they saw on television, particularly after color television came into most homes. Golfers wanted a course that looked like Augusta National or Baltusrol or Pinehurst No. 2 or Firestone CC.

Now, scattered around the globe and the country, there were older courses designed by what are called golden age architects — H.S. Colt, C.B. Macdonald, Alastair Mackenzie, A.W. Tillinghast, Donald Ross, Seth Raynor and others who paid homage to the Scottish links with designs like Cypress Point or Shinnecock Hills.

And there were the historic courses of Scotland and Ireland that started with 10 holes or 12 holes and grew from there. But in the post WWII golf expansion, particularly in the U.S., the vast majority of golf courses were more vanilla looking. You had a fairway that might meander. Bunkers that might occasionally infringe on the green, but basically, it was easy-to-understand golf. Nothing really frightening.

Then along came Dye, originally from Ohio, but by the early 1950s an Indiana resident after marrying Alice O'Neal. Pete and Alice were excellent amateur golfers, something they had in common their whole lives. The duo met at Rollins College, where Alice was the captain of the women's golf team and where Pete enrolled on the G.I. Bill and captained the men's golf team. Pete, along with Alice, would go on to change the shape of golf for the future.

Both Pete and Alice were in the insurance business in Indianapolis and doing well. Golf was their hobby. Pete won the Indiana amateur in 1958, after having been runner up in 1954 and 1955. Alice won 11 Indianapolis city titles, nine Indiana state amateur titles, three state amateur championships in Florida, two USGA Senior Women's Amateur titles in addition to two Canadian Senior Women's Amateur tournaments and more. In other words, they knew golf.

For whatever reason, Pete decided that he wanted to start designing golf courses. Alice said okay to the idea, which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 60 ■



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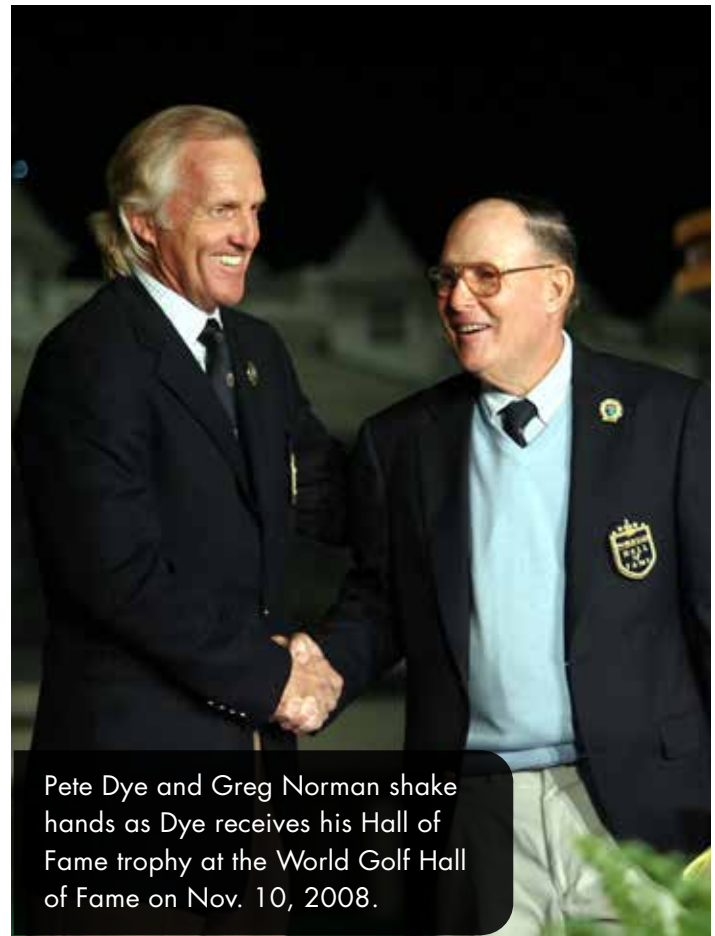
shows you the kind of relationship they had. How many spouses would support someone who wanted to chuck a successful career to dig in the dirt all day? A career with little known upside? For them, it was all about the golf.

They started working on the Eldorado Country Club, which would become a 9-hole facility south of Indianapolis. Alice drew the course routing. They grew the grass for the course in their front yard, and as Pete described it one time, they would roll up the sod and put it in the trunk of a car and drive it to the course with the car so back-heavy that the bumper nearly dragged on the road. The year was 1959, and that was the beginning of a career that would span more than five decades of designing world-famous golf courses, with more including their sons, Perry and P.B. Dye, who are still in the family business.

El Dorado, now called Royal Oak, still exists south of Indianapolis. However small, it was an important cog in the designing empire that the Dyes would go on to create.

In the early 1960s, Pete and Alice had several design assignments, and soon decided to build their own 18-hole course. It would eventually become Crooked Stick GC in Carmel, Indiana. But first, the Dyes took a trip to Scotland, and what they saw in the Scottish courses would change Pete's thoughts on golf course design.

Now as things often do in life, a serendipitous event happened. The president of the University of Michigan, Harlan Hatcher, stopped off to play at El Dorado on his way to someplace else.



Pete Dye and Greg Norman shake hands as Dye receives his Hall of Fame trophy at the World Golf Hall of Fame on Nov. 10, 2008.



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Eldorado was not what you would call a golf destination. It was totally by happenstance that Hatcher ended up there. Later, according to Pete, Hatcher said he had never seen a creek crossed so many times in nine holes. Sometime after that, Pete was hired to redo the University of Michigan's course.

It would take another three or four years after El Dorado, but Pete's career designing golf courses began to take off. Keeping in mind that in the Midwest it takes at least two seasons to build a course, the University of Michigan course, Radrick Farms, opened in 1965. That means they probably started in 1962 or 1963.

Word started to get around about this new designer, Pete Dye.

Fred Jones, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, contacted Pete about building The Golf Club. Jones said his family knew Pete's family in Ohio, and they trusted him. That course, a private men's club, opened in 1967.

Developers for Hilton Head Island reached out, and the



Pete Dye during construction of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

result was Harbour Town Golf Links which also opened in 1967. Pete was always quick to credit Jack Nicklaus as an advisor there. However, the course quickly became famous when Arnold Palmer won the first RBC Heritage tournament in 1969. That's when the world first discovered railroad ties and pot bunners, although it would be decades before we knew that Alice designed the 13th hole. At that time, she was also keeping track of two

sons and winning even more amateur events.

In the mid-1970s, Pete expanded his work and built Oak Tree Golf Club, another men's club, in Edmond, Oklahoma, and eventually a 36-hole country club across the street. A few years later, for the owners of Oak Tree, he began building what would become two courses at La Quinta Hotel Golf Club, later called La Quinta Resort. It was going on at around the same time that TPC Sawgrass was being built.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62 ■

By then, Pete was known for roughing out ideas in less than normal business presentation style. A napkin, as was done for TPC Sawgrass. A placemat, as was the case for PGA West Stadium Course. Many other developers and owners who worked with him are sure to have similar stories. And while you can't get in the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse during the week of THE PLAYERS to see it, Pete's napkin drawing has an honored place in a display case on the wall inside it. You can see it the week before THE PLAYERS or the week after.

Now, when it came to TPC Sawgrass, PGA TOUR commissioner at the time, Deane Beman is said to have liked Pete's work at Harbour Town. The low-lying land where TPC Sawgrass would be built was very similar to Hilton Head Island. However, Beman had a vision for what he would call "stadium golf" because he wanted fans to be able to see their favorite golfers hit shots. Most tournament sites were very flat, and once a person was behind two others, it was impossible to see the golfers. Tiger Woods' crowds today are easily five-to-10-deep in spots. You have to be a giraffe or Michael Jordan to see.

Beman suggested that Pete and Alice go to Glen Abbey, where Nicklaus had designed a course that included spectator mounds on purpose. It may have been inspired by the Desmond Muirhead design of Muirfield Village GC—site of The Memorial—a tournament was created by Nicklaus to give back to the fans of Columbus, Ohio. Glen Abbey opened in 1976, two years after Muirfield Village GC opened.

While Muirfield Village may have had rolling terrain to start with, Glen Abbey had purpose-built mounds for spectators to use, making it easier to see tournament golf. The town is currently fighting to keep bulldozers from turning Glen Abbey into a development site. With Glen Abbey, Nicklaus deserves credit for his understanding that it was important for more people to see the stars of the day. After visiting, Pete and Alice understood the concept that Beman was going for with stadium golf.

While Pete's designs may have started on napkins and placemats, land plans and architectural drawings were done by others to meet whatever the local governing bodies required. It's unlikely that Pete ever did an architectural rendering of any golf course he designed. Ever. He figured out what would fit where, and he built on site. And things often changed during the construction process, as is well known in the case of the 17th Island Green at TPC Sawgrass.

As the story goes, it was hard to find good sand for fairways on the TPC Sawgrass site, which was probably mostly swamp before the course was built. But while under construction, they found a great pocket of sand around the area where the 17th green was to be built. Pete called Alice to talk about it. He told her he kept digging and digging the sand out, and there just wasn't much left of the original plan. She suggested he make it an island green, like the one on the 9th hole of the Ocean Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. So, he did.

Thank you, Alice, the fans say.

@#(\$%(@#%&*, Alice, the pros probably say.

When TPC Sawgrass opened, it was highly controversial. It had shockingly new, sharp-angled bunkers. It had fairways that changed direction around bunkers. And the water was in too many places,



Jerry Pate follows PGA TOUR Commissioner Deane Beman and Course Architect Pete Dye by jumping into the water hazard on the 18th hole after Pate won THE PLAYERS Championship on March 21, 1982.



Pete Dye and Alice Dye (right) along with Jack Nicklaus (second from left) at the 2018 ASGCA Annula Meeting.



Pete Dye and Rory McIlroy during the Pro-Am round for the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club on Sept. 5, 2012 in Carmel, Indiana

often flanked by railroad ties. There were pot bunkers and waste bunkers (now converted to regular bunkers). There was even a green surrounded almost totally by water framed by the hateful planks of wood. It was, of course, the island 17th, a short hole made tough by the fluctuating and gusty March winds.

After the course opened it was grown in for a time. It was put into tournament play for the first time in 1982. Only one golfer, Jerry Pate, was smart enough to seek advice on how to attack it. He and Beman went around all 18 holes in advance of tournament week, and Pate learned what he had to do to beat it. He went on to win the first PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass, after which he tossed both Pete and Beman into the pond at the 18th and then dove in himself.

After that week, Pete Dye wasn't just trending, he was infamous.

Most of the PGA TOUR golfers complained heartily about the design. The late Hubert Green said it was the only golf course that could burn.

Pros didn't want to play it, but like it or not, it was going to host their biggest tournament all year, every year. It was as though they had signed up for a very evil Groundhog Day movie.

With The TPC Sawgrass design Pete was catapulted into another stratosphere in the golf design world. So much so that when I first met him, I asked him how business was. His answer: "Kath, I've got dirt for life." And he did.

He would go on to create other TPC courses, including the one at PGA West. Which, the first time it was played for the

American Express, formerly the Bob Hope, was so hard that the pros voted to keep it out of the tournament rotation. And that lasted for about 30 years. At the time it opened, it was, according to the slope rating, the hardest golf course in the world with 22 acres of bunkers and 22 acres of lakes. Personally, I loved it. It had great ladies' tees.

Pete would continue to create courses like the ones at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin, and the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, both of which have hosted and will host PGA Championships and Ryder Cups. In addition, he and Alice would create many courses that most people have not heard anything about, like Carmel Valley Ranch Resort in California.

As time has flown, I have completely lost track of the number of courses Pete designed. By the early 1990s, he probably had more designs than Tiger Woods has victories. I'm going to guess the final number is someplace between 130 and 150 and could be as high as 200.

I've only played a few of them: PGA West Stadium Course, TPC Sawgrass, Sawgrass Valley Course, La Quinta Mountain, La Quinta Dunes, La Quinta Citrus, Weston Mission Hills, Mission Hills Dye Course, Carmel Valley Ranch, the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, Love Cove and Harbour Town. And I've seen Crooked Stick, the three Oak Trees, Palm Beach Polo Cypress, Whistling Straits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 64 ■

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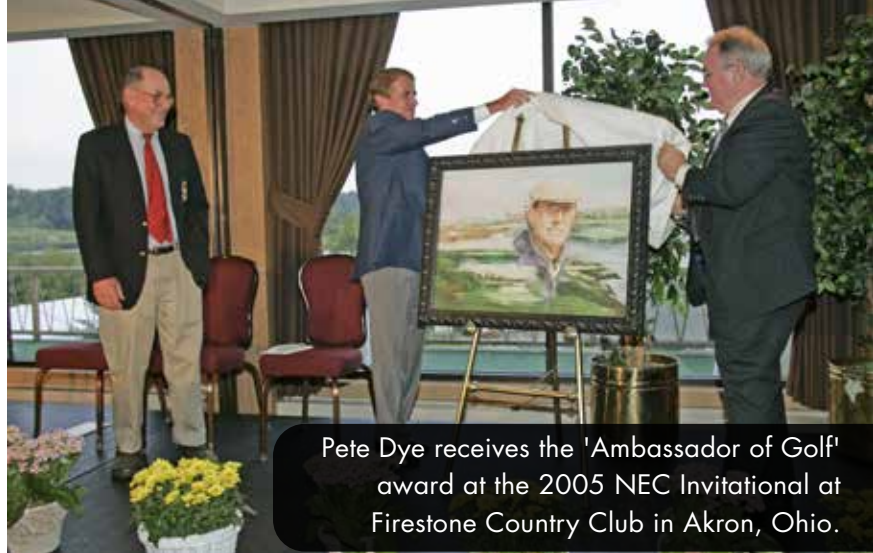
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Pete Dye looks at golf course blueprints.



Pete Dye receives the 'Ambassador of Golf' award at the 2005 NEC Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63

What I found about the courses that Pete and Alice created was that they always leave you a place to hit your shot. I stand on the tee and ask myself, where does Pete want me to put this, because I know there's a good place to land a drive or second shot. I just have to recognize it. Pete's idea was to scare the bejeezus out of you with sand and water and whatnot and make you overcome your fear 18 to 36 times during the round. Adrenaline golf.

Playing a Pete Dye course will make you a better golfer because to be successful, you must play the shot that Pete asks

you to play. He wants to challenge you. He wants you to think. His courses are absolutely not for sissies. Just ask any PGA Tour player who walks off the 18th hole during The Players.

As much as some golfers complain, we are lucky to have TPC Sawgrass designed as it is. It is so strategic that, assuming golfers aren't bombing more 400-yard drives with regularity, it will survive because of the tactics that golfers must use to play it. It is, like many of Pete's courses, a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. While Monet and Rembrandt hang in the Louvre and other grand museums, Pete's work is out there under the clouds and sun and sky, just waiting for the next golfer to test it.

He might be gone, but his legacy lives on.

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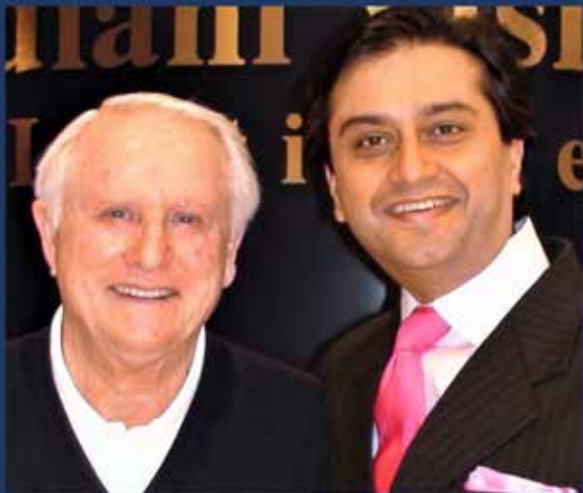
Just how good are the pros?

by KATHY BISSELL



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You know the old saying, drive for show and putt for dough. And it's true. But just how good are PGA TOUR pros at putting?

Through all of 2019, there were 14 PGA TOUR players who did not miss any putts from three feet. None. Tell yourself that the next time you have that short putt for par or even bogey. The names include a few players you'd expect, like Brandt Snedeker, but also include some you might not, like Ernie Els who is now PGA Tour Champions eligible but still playing on the PGA TOUR.

In fact, the pros are so good that 168 players made 99% of three-footers they faced. Defending PLAYERS Champ Rory McIlroy made 99.84% of them, as did Dustin Johnson. That means they only missed ONE three-footer all season. It's an absolutely amazing stat.

But as we all know, the farther away you get from the hole, the harder it is to make putts. When we think of the PLAYERS and long putts, the Tiger Woods' better-than-most putt comes to mind. The now-famous putt at the 17th in the third round in 2001 was estimated to be between 50 and 60 feet in length.

"I've had that putt before, but not quite that deep into the green. I've missed it to the right every time," Woods explained in 2001. "It started peeling back to the right. I kind of had a pretty good feeling I would have a chance."

Last year, he was asked about it again and confessed he got some help by watching Fred Funk who was playing in the group ahead.

"The truth is that I had a little teach before that putt," Woods

explained. "We had a delay there on the 17th tee, and Fred Funk was playing right in front of us. He hit it up on the top shelf, and he 4-putted the hole, and so I saw how fast that first — as it came over the rise and as it started going to the right — how much it picked up speed."

It was so fast that Funk ended up putting off the green.

Now, as dramatic as the better-than-most putt was, last year, there were actually 132 players who made putts of 50 feet or longer, including Matt Kuchar (50 feet, 3 inches) who rolled one in at the Waste Management Open and Phil Mickelson (50 feet, 4 inches) who dropped one in at the BMW in The Playoffs.

If you add 10 feet to the putt length, making it 60 feet or longer, there are 54 players who made a putt from that distance or farther. That includes a 62-foot, six-inch putt made by Justin Rose at the PGA and one four inches longer rolled in by Jon Rahm at the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

The very longest putt made in 2019 was by Mackenzie Hughes. It was an astonishing 85-foot, 8-inch putt at the AT&T Byron Nelson. I don't want to say it wasn't skill, but at that length, face it, he must have been wearing leprechaun socks and eaten four-leafed clovers for breakfast. You have to have very big greens to even have a chance for a putt of that distance, so most long putts will not happen at Harbour Town Golf Links or Pebble Beach because those courses have the two smallest sets of greens all year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 68 ■

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In the stat of makeable putts that aren't as long as your house, say 15-20 feet instead of 60 or 80 feet, the best average putter for those lengths was Denny McCarthy who converted 29.93 % of them. Second, with two tenths of a percent lower, 29.73, was Adam Scott. Noted long putt maker Jordan Spieth clocked in at 17th place with 24.03% Rickie Fowler made slightly less at 21.32%.

What that means is that the chances of sinking 15 to 20 footers is really bad.



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You'll recognize the leader in the 15-20-foot category for 2019. It's Jim Furyk. He made 61.11% of his 10-footers last season. Immediately after Furyk, it's Brandt Snedeker and then Sergio Garcia. Phil Mickelson, who by his own admission, did not have a great 2019 after winning at AT&T Pebble Beach, only made 45.45% of his 10-footers. Defending champ Rory McIlroy made less, even though he was Player of The Year and won three times in 2019. His average was 42.50%.

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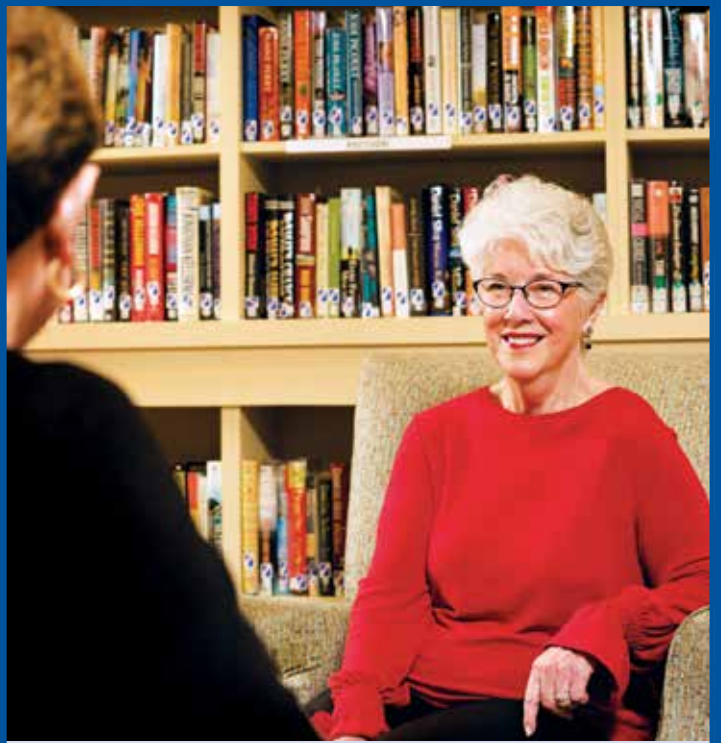
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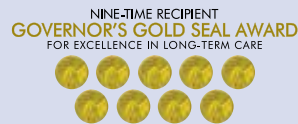
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What it also means is that the goal of every pro is to get their approach shot well inside the 20-foot mark because otherwise it's more likely to be two putts. So, when you, and they, are trying to make birdies and eagles, the best way to have a chance is to hit the ball closer to the hole. That sounds simplistic but think about it. Remember all those times that Woods hit his wedge shots within eight or 10 feet of the pin? That left him an easier putt than from 20 feet.

Now the next 2019 stat might surprise you, unless you think it was 2015 or 2017, because last year's player with the best putting average was Jordan Spieth. The way it's computed is by dividing greens in regulation hit by putts made from the green surface. Spieth leads the pack at 1.694. Rory McIlroy is tied second with Andrew Putnam at 1.701. Justin Rose is tied fifth with Wyndham Clark at 1.710, and Justin Thomas is seventh by himself at 1.710. So, if Spieth can find the green, he's dangerous. He's just had a heck of a time finding them lately.

You'll note that Tiger Woods' name has not come up often in the stats, which is surprising because everyone always thinks of him as a



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brilliant putter, and he has been. His putting average for 2019 was 1.766. He averaged 29.2 putts per round. He made a couple of snakes last year, too, and his longest was 43 feet, 10 inches, which ranked just 217th for 2019.

He made less than 10% of his tries from longer than 25 feet, and a little over 98% of his three-footers. He made about 65% of his six-footers, 86% of his 10-footers.

So that shows you that while putting comprises is a lot, typically half of a par round, it's not everything.

If you are looking to improve your putting, and if you struggle to hit the ball close to the hole, one thing you can do is to work on your lag putting. It's important to develop feel for how hard you have to hit a long putt, and PGA TOUR players spend hours learning that skill. Of course, it's hard to find a place to practice 20 and 30-footers, but if you do, it will pay off.

PGA TOUR pros also spend time on shorter putts. Mickelson had some years when he wouldn't stop his practice until he had made 100 three-footers in a row.

Maybe you and I should start with 10 and work up to 20!




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Gary Woodland (left) and Jeff King



'Hey, Jerky Guy!'

King (left) with Webb Simpson (center) and Simpson's caddie Paul Tesori

Photos provided by JEFF KING

by KATHY BISSELL

TOUR caddie beefs up business with savory treat

They always say that successful products are created by someone who saw a need that wasn't being met. That's certainly the case with Jeff King — caddie, chef, entrepreneur and creator of Kingmade Jerky.

King, you see, is kind of a jerky fanatic. As a 22-year caddie veteran for various LPGA, Korn Ferry and PGA TOUR players, he has logged many miles between tournament stops, often in his car.

"Every time I went into gas stations, I'd see products I'd never seen, and I'd buy them. I didn't care what the price was or if there were five, 10, I bought them all," King said. "I would eat a piece, and it was always the same style: hard to eat and hard to chew, broke my jaw, and it was full of salt."

He would then toss the offending package of jerky on the floor of the car.

"After years of doing that, I was at home for a few weeks off in a break during a season and said, 'What the heck, man, I'm going to try to make some beef jerky,'" he said, explaining how it all began.

He Googled recipes. He bought a dehydrator at Bass Pro Shops.

"Alton Brown said, 'go buy flank steak and put some kitchen spices in a bowl,' and I did that. To be honest with you, the first batch I made was tragically bad," King said. "I ate less than one piece and the garbage can got full."

Initial failure didn't stop him. It became a personal mission. He was going to conquer the beef jerky. He kept trying until he got a recipe that worked and tasted good to him. Then he loaded up his treasure in snack bags and headed back out to caddie.

"I was caddying for Luke List at the time on the Nationwide Tour and I just told him. 'If you'd like some beef jerky, I made

some. It's in the golf bag, so feel free,'" King said.

They were playing a practice round and about the fourth or fifth hole, List decided to sample some of the jerky.

"He got up to the green after eating a couple pieces and looked at me and said, 'How long have you been making beef jerky? Your whole life?'"

King told him it was two weeks. They both started laughing.

Then Scott Brown, who was with them, said, "Beef jerky? I love beef jerky," King recalled.

Brown grabbed some and pronounced it the best beef jerky he'd ever had in his life.

The next day, King was on the putting green and player after player came up and asked for some beef jerky. Pretty soon he was out.

The next week, Brown reappeared and said he had four people who wanted to buy some of King's jerky, and would he make more for them.

"I absolutely started laughing," King said.

When there's something new and good on the PGA TOUR, you cannot keep it a secret for longer than a week.

"Long story short, it kept going that way. I've never asked anybody on any Tour to buy jerky. I'm not a salesman. They just kept texting me," said King, who started bringing duffle bags of jerky to tournaments. His only challenge was that security dogs in airports would sometimes go a little nuts.

The next season, List got his PGA TOUR card, and King went along. The demand for jerky did too.

"It was coming from everywhere — Graeme McDowell, Davis Love, Billy Horschel, Gary Woodland, Vaughn Taylor. The list just kept going and going, and it got to a point where my kitchen had five dehydrators in it," King said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 74 ■

Starting here creates confidence there.



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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 72

When King got to tournaments, it was like someone had rung the Pavlovian bell.

“As soon as they saw a red duffle bag, they knew what it was,” King said. “They stopped practicing went and got their wallets, and my duffle bag was empty in 30 minutes.”

His customers kept telling him to get it into stores, but he said he didn’t have that background, having gone to college on a golf scholarship. He’d not taken any business classes. So, he just kept up with the demand from Tour players.

“They all supported this because it’s kind of a family, the player and caddie relationship, and it was a good product, and it’s healthy,” he said. “It’s something they want to eat while they’re performing.”

When Stewart Cink wanted to talk about jerky recipes, King said it gave him goosebumps.

“I grew up watching Stewart Cink, respected everything he’s done for the game of golf and his accomplishments, and I go out there to caddie, and then all this happens,” King said.

On the first tee, King introduced himself to Cink and they shook hands.

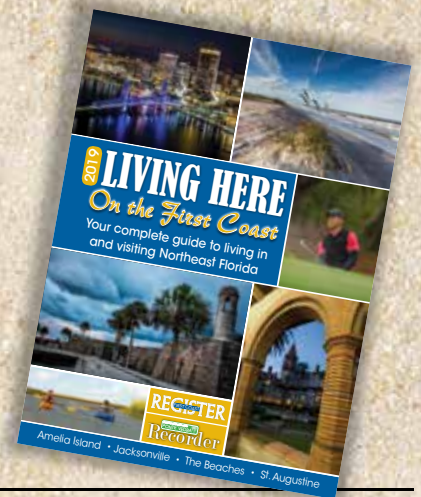
“We played 18 holes, and we got done, and we shook hands, and as we were walking to the scorer’s tent, he looks at me and he goes, ‘You know what I did the other day? I tried making some (jerky) with this and this and this.’ So, he knew exactly who I was the whole time and didn’t say one word about beef jerky. And he goes ‘Have you ever tried that? I’m going to have to get some recipes from you.’”

2020

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King (left) with Rickie Fowler

While King may end up as a meat snack maven, he said he still intends to caddie.

“The PGA TOUR saw what was happening and all the players posting pictures and supporting with tweets. I never asked them to do any of it, but they were just willing to help,” King said. “The PGA TOUR contacted me and said let’s get a deal going.”

He found contacts for turning his love for jerky into a business. He had to find a manufacturer, get a sales team, learn about distribution. He began to meet people who had some know-how to help him get started.

“I’ve never been a business owner,” King said. “I’d been a caddie. I’ve been around sports my whole life. Being a business owner is not something — it wasn’t intentional. I had zero experience.”

The relationship he has with the players converted his hobby into Kingmaster Beef Jerky which is now the Official Jerky of the PGA TOUR. King described the arrangement as a partnership, and he cannot thank the players enough.

“It’s never been about money,” he said about his new life as an entrepreneur. “It’s about doing good things for other people.”

King has caddied for List, James Hahn, Vaught Taylor, Scott Stallings, Derek Ernst and Sunjae Im. He has also caddied on the LPGA Tour for many years.

“Now nobody knows my name anymore. It’s the ‘Jerky Guy,’” he said, laughing.

And King is okay with that.

If you like beef jerky, King said the best place to find his products are at www.kingmade.com, although they are also available at Walmart.com and Amazon.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 76 ■




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
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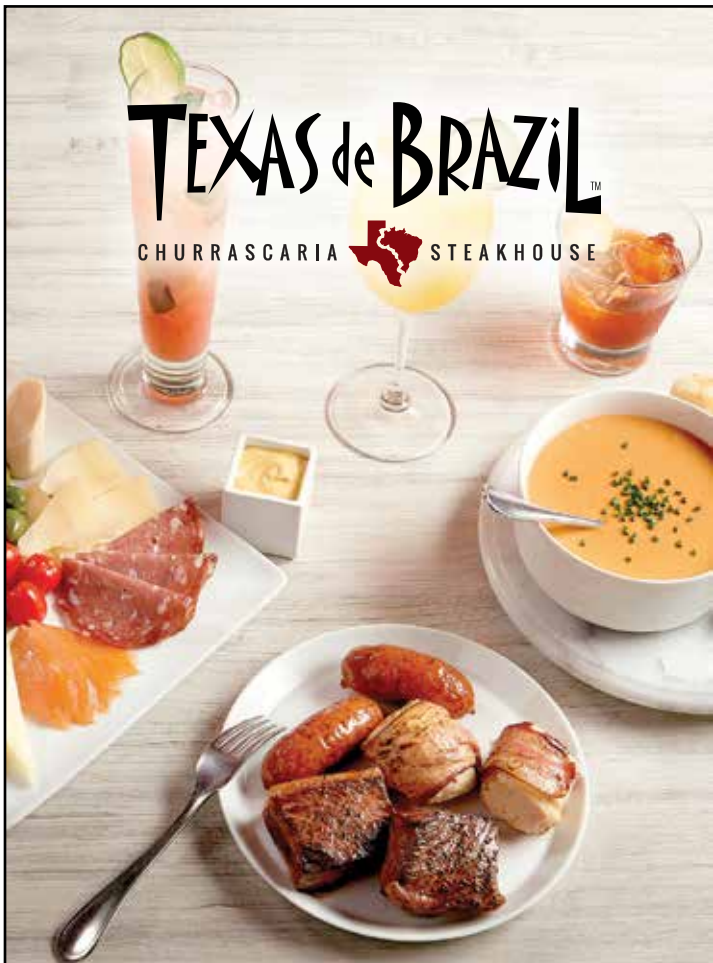
The Kingmade site often has specials. And when you order, they make sure to reach out to you later with money-saving offers.

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King (left) with
Graeme McGowell



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by KATHY BISSELL

2020

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While we don't yet know who will play golf in the Olympics, we do know that golf got a second shot at being included. In the big golf picture, that's important because, as of now, it's still a trial sport.

However, what most of us really care about is who will represent the U.S.? And will Tiger Woods play?

Well, at this writing, we do know that Woods has a shot. But he's not a lock. The team will be finalized on June 22. That's when the qualification period ends. It's also the Monday after the U.S. Open, so set your calendar accordingly.

The golfers who will compete are chosen based on world ranking points, which have their own flaws, but nevertheless, that is what is used. Point standings on June 22 will determine all players and countries that compete.

Here's how it works:

The top 15 players in the rankings can play except that no more than four from a country can participate. At this writing, the U.S. has nine players in the top 15, but only four of them will go.



Photos by MICAH GREEN
and CHRIS NORTON

Could this be the men's 2020 U.S. Olympics Golf Team?

FROM LEFT: Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas, Tiger Woods, Webb Simpson and Dustin Johnson

It's like being in line for the crown. If Tiger is fifth of U.S. players, then he's out. If he's in the top four U.S. players, he's in.

When this article was sent to press, Brooks Koepka was world No. 2. Justin Thomas was No. 4. Dustin Johnson was No. 5. Patrick Cantlay was No. 6. That would be our team. Webb Simpson was No. 7 and Tiger Woods was No. 8. Xander Schauffele was No. 9.

However, Johnson and Koepka are still reviewing their options. In a story on golfdigest.com, published the last week of January, both Koepka and Johnson said they were not sure whether they would play in the Olympics.

In a media interview done at the Saudi International golf tournament, Koepka said the majors outweigh an Olympic medal in his mind. He cited the difference between golf and other sports, like track and field, which only has the Olympics every four years to showcase best talent.

"In golf, we've got four majors every year, and now we're going to add the Olympics and you've got the Ryder Cup or

the Presidents Cup, plus the FedExCup for us, and that's a lot of weeks traveling back and forth, a lot of time zones," Koepka said.

Johnson cited scheduling as his key concern. That's typically code for "I'm not going," but sometimes it just means exactly that.

"Representing the United States in the Olympics is something that I definitely would be proud to do, but is it going to fit in the schedule properly? I'm not really sure about that," he said.

So, take it as they are still mulling their options.

Should they both decline to play, then the next two U.S. golfers in the world ranking could get a shot at Olympic glory. Right now, that would be Webb Simpson and Tiger Woods.

After the top 15, the next player from a country not in, no matter where he falls in the world ranking, is on his country's team, and whoever from his country is in the rankings also goes. So, someone who is 16th or 20th in the world might have a teammate who is 300th in the world. You just don't know until June 22.

This system of taking players from the world rankings has produced some unusual situations, too, like Rory McIlroy, who is from Northern Ireland, but said he will play for Ireland. If that happens, and it's expected to, he would likely be paired with Shane Lowry, who is 17th in the world now.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80 ■

If McIlroy played for Northern Ireland, he would play for the U.K., which in sports is now called the British Olympic Association. He would join Justin Rose, the defending gold medal champ, and, as of now, Tommy Fleetwood.

If McIlroy, Rose and Fleetwood decided to play for the U.K., they would be a three-person team because they are all in the top 15 in the world. If a fourth from the U.K moves into the top 15, he could go.

In that case, Shane Lowry could still play for Ireland and another Irish golfer would join him. However, remember, that McIlroy has said he will play for Ireland.

Jon Rahm, currently world No. 3, qualifies for Spain, and right now, he would partner with Sergio Garcia, who is 41st in the world. The only other country currently in the top 15 is South Africa, represented by Louis Oosthuizen. He would play with Eric Van Rooyten, who is No. 50.

To make up the rest of the field, the Olympic committee just goes down the world ranking. For instance, No. 23, Hideki Matsuyama, would play, and his teammate would be No. 36, Shugo Imahira. Italy's Francesco Molinari, No. 24, would pair up with No. 87, Andrea Pavan.

They keep going until there are 60 players. Then they stop.

So, it's not like they take the top 60 in the world, and it's not like they have any kind of team qualifying. It's all based on world rankings of some of the players.

The field includes a lot of players with disparate ability levels, and that means the field is not very strong compared to THE PLAYERS Championship, which has everybody who is anybody and has all the top ranked players who are not injured or allergic to Pete Dye's designs.

There are going to be some odd teams where somebody outside the top 100 plays with somebody even farther down the list. For instance, Rashid Khan, No. 180, from India, will probably play with Shiv Kapur, No. 277, as the other guy on his team. Even crazier, Kapur graduated from Purdue. You could win a bet with almost anybody trying to guess which Olympic golfer played for a Big 10 school, which is now 14 or something teams, not even close to 10. Kapur. A Boilermaker. Who knew?

What is certain is that there will not be the same reluctance to participate that there was in Rio. Many golfers declined to participate in the Olympics in 2016, citing security concerns in Brazil and fears of the Zika virus. Included in that list were:

Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy and Adam Scott, to name but a few. Tokyo is much more golf-normal than Rio. Golfers, generally, are more comfortable traveling to Japan because most of them have done it.

While the golfers from the U.S. are the U.S. team, only one player wins the gold medal. It is not a team victory. The rest of the team members do not because one person on the team does. Golf is an individual, stroke-play competition.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 82 ■

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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 80

Last time around our team included Matt Kuchar (bronze medal winner and former PLAYERS champ), Bubba Watson, Rickie Fowler (former PLAYERS champ) and Patrick Reed. Justin Rose won gold and Henrik Stenson (former PLAYERS champ) won silver. So, I'd be looking at former PLAYERS champs to do well there.

The other certainty about Olympic golf in 2020 is the location, a private facility, Kasumigaseki Country Club, which was founded in 1929. It is located in a suburb of Tokyo called Saitama, about an hour northwest of the center of the city.

The club has hosted several professional and amateur tournaments. In 1957 it was the venue for the World Cup of Golf, then called the Canada Cup. Japan's Torakichi Nakamura and Koichi Ono won the event, and the U.S. team of Jimmy Demaret and Sam Snead were runners-up.

Kasumigaseki was also the site of the Japan Open Golf Championship in 1933, 1956, 1995, and 2006, as well as the Asian Amateur Championship in 2010. It has since been renovated by Tom Fazio.

The men's golf competition in the Olympics begins July 30 and ends Aug. 2. The women's golf competition, which has a similar selection process using the Rolex rankings, begins Aug. 5 and ends Aug. 8.

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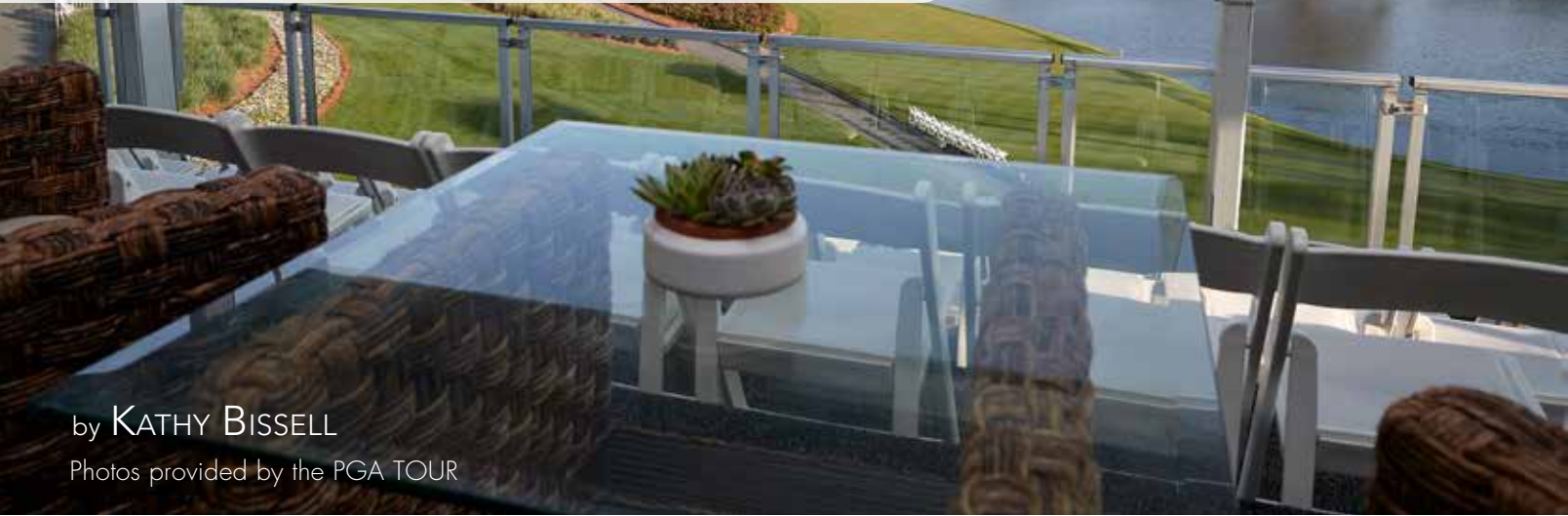
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The Masters debuted theirs in 2013 and called it Berckmans Place. At first report, the price was \$6,000 per person. Only corporations were eligible to purchase it, and there was a maximum number of 10 tickets per company. At Augusta National, it was not possible to see more than a glimpse of the building of the Berckmans' facilities from the course. It was private and provided privacy for the very well-heeled patrons. However, patrons there could not see the golf course.

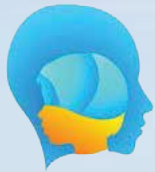
Wanting to provide a superior hospitality experience for

individuals or corporations at THE PLAYERS, the PGA TOUR decided to offer its own version of Berckmans, also for \$6,000 per person. But unlike at Augusta National, at THE PLAYERS you can buy a ticket to this. And unlike Augusta, you can also experience luxury box-seating at the last two golf holes of the tournament.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 86 ■

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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 85

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That #*%&*!%#* TPC Sawgrass!!!!



by KATHY BISSELL

Photo of the 17th hole
by TONY EUBANKS

That #*%&*!%#* TPC Sawgrass!!!! Yes. It's a golf course that gets your attention, and not necessarily in a good way.

Face it, if this were a fairy tale, TPC Sawgrass would be a wicked witch with a poisoned apple. A wolf in sheep's clothing ready to eat small children. An evil stepmother. A headless horseman. Darth Vader. You get the picture. It is not a nice place. It hides hideous trouble.

This place is quite honestly a vicious house of horrors. It has been called Dye-abolical by many. Its designer, Pete Dye, was known as the Marquis de Sod. He tortured the earth with backhoes and shovels and bulldozers, beating it into submission so it would capture and torture all who dared to enter.

And pretty much that is what has happened once a year every year since the Pete Dye spell was cast back in 1982. If you don't believe me, just look at the worst scores for the holes at THE PLAYERS.

Hole No. 1, par 4: It's upsetting to have a round ruined on the first hole, but it has actually happened to two golfers: Miguel Angel Jimenez in 2002 and Sung Kang in 2012. Kang's round was documented by Shotlink. It appears he hit his second shot over the green and got severely tangled in Bermuda rough, which must have had claws on it because his third shot only went three-and-a-half feet, his fourth went two feet, and his fifth was more of a shank than a shot, landing off the fringe, close to the bunker. He finally reached the green with his sixth shot, and he needed two putts to close out the hole with an 8. Whew! Painful.

Hole No. 2, par 5: The par five second hole is supposed to be a reasonable birdie, although not an easy birdie. In 1983, Fred Couples, the year before he won THE PLAYERS in 1984, clattered into some unmentionable stuff in his second round and probably uttered some unmentionable words when he did on the way to an unbelievable 10. Remember that the next time you have an "oops" on your scorecard.

Hole No. 3, par 3: This delightful looking par three is not super long and doesn't even look super hard, that is until you try to hit it when the wind is gusting or when you just make a lousy swing. Just ask Ben Curtis, who in 2006 made a mess of it to the tune of a triple bogey 7. Well, sometimes a hole is harder than it looks.

Hole No. 4, par 4: In 1985, the year Calvin Peete won THE PLAYERS, Phillip Hancock met an unbelievable foe. It was the 4th hole. It's short and lovely to look at, but the green is a hazard of its own. People have literally putted off the green and rolled into the water. Hancock took a 12 there, and unfortunately it was so long ago that we don't have play-by-play or we would describe every agonizing shot and penalty stroke. A 12? I'm not even sure I could score that high there.

Hole No. 5, par 4: This one is also extraordinary. One of those you'll never believe what happened to me tales, and it happened to Scott Piercy in 2017. He hit his tee shot in the water, which almost never happens on that hole. He hit his second tee shot, which was his third with the penalty, and landed on a slope to the right of the long fairway bunker. From there he couldn't see the green. His next shot landed short of the green somewhere near a pot bunker. His fifth shot, he hit over the green into gnarly Bermuda rough. Now, his sixth shot, he still doesn't get the ball to the putting surface. He's on the green in seven but more than 20 feet away and really frustrated by this time. It took him two more to get the ball in the hole for a 9. He was probably ready to bite his putter shaft in half.

Hole No. 6, par 4: Mark Calcavecchia had the scoring honors here. It was 2006, and although Pete Dye thought this was the prettiest hole on the course, Calc probably didn't when he was done with it. Some denizens of the deep came crawling out of the palmettos and got him. He posted a 9.

Hole No. 7, par 4: Well, the 7th is supposed to be a hard hole, but Andy Bean made it worse in 1992. He must have been in both water and sand to record a 10 on this par 4. Unless you know him really well, I wouldn't bring it up.

Hole No. 8, par 3: Brian Claar and Larry Mize tied for the worst scores at the par three 8th hole. Claar's was in 1992 and Mize's was in 2002. Both managed to make 7s there. Actually, it's not that hard to understand. First of all, the green is practically unhittable. After that, it's unholdable. And if you miss it long, then you are chipping back down to a putting surface

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that will throw your ball off the front. It's like a catcher's mitt comes up, snags the ball and then rolls it back off the putting surface. There's a pot bunker in front and several of them behind the green. Really, your only choice is to hit a high soft shot and pray the ball stays on the putting surface. Or you're toast.

Hole No. 9: Once again, a player in misery one year is the winner another year. In 2008 Tim Clark, who would go on to win THE PLAYERS in 2010, just got sideways of the 9th hole. There's plenty of other trouble between tee and green. Clark found so much of it, he posted a 10. That's quintuple bogey. It's like playing the hole twice in a round instead of once. Maybe he just decided to play two balls that round. (Joking.) What a difference two years make!

OK, so now adding up all that, the front side becomes:
8-10-7—12-9-9—10-7-10 for an 82!

Having looked at the years that these ridiculous scores happened, it's pretty clear that most of it was before THE PLAYERS moved to May. So, while those are some pretty amazing scores, not many of them are recent. It's the same on the back nine.

Hole No. 10, par 4: Charley Hoffman had the honors for this one. He made a 9. He pulled his 3-wood off the tee, hit a tree. He tried to pitch out, hit it thin, and lost the ball in some palm trees. He went for the green, but hit yet another tree, which kicked the ball left 50 yards. Eventually, he got to the green in seven strokes and two-putted for 9.

Hole No. 11, par 5: In 2014, Jeff Overton came to the 11th hole with a chance to make the third round cut and move up. That is until he got to the 11th hole where he had a 9. This hole always looks like it shouldn't be a problem for the pros. However, Overton's golf ball had other ideas. His tee shot drifted too far right, on the other side of the cart path. From there, he had trees in the way and only managed to advance it 30 yards. He was unplayable and took a drop. His next shot landed right of the cart path, and his next in the pond to the right of the 11th green. His seventh shot landed in the bunker in front of the green. His 8th shot landed beyond the pin. He missed an eight and a half footer for a 9 and made an 18" putt for 10. Can you say Arrrrgh!? That's twice par.

Hole No. 12, par 4: Chris Smith, not the one who used to write for the Florida Times-Union many moons ago, but the one who can actually play golf, had the distinction of the highest score for the 12th hole. It was back in 2003, before the hole was redone. At that time, the hole was a short, nearly drivable dogleg left of a little over 300 yards. It was a birdie hole unless your swing deserted you or you forgot how to putt. Somehow, he made a 9. That's playing the hole twice in regulation and tossing in another stroke for good measure.

Hole No. 13, par 3: Back in the Dark Ages before the internet — yes that time did exist — in 1983, Gary Koch, now an NBC announcer, had a tussle with the 13th hole. I'm going to guess there was a lot of water involved because

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he made a 9 on the par 3. I don't even know what kind of a bogey that was. A sextuple? Sounds like more fun that it is, for sure. Koch is not alone in his pain, however, as Andrew McGee suffered the same fate in 1999. However, in 1999, the final round of the tournament bordered on being unfair as far as the rock-hard greens were concerned. It was virtually impossible to land balls on the greens and have them stay. David Duval endured it and got the trophy, but I'm sure only Pete Dye won that year. Ask David. I'm sure he remembers it.

Hole No. 14, par 4: Back in 1997, there were vicious things that came out of the swamp on the 14th hole. They chased John Huston's golf ball until it finally fell in the hole after 10 strokes. Not the score you want to have on one of the two the toughest holes on the course. That's two pars plus two more. What a scorecard headache!

Hole No. 15, par 4: What is it with 1983? Does bad stuff go there to hide in wait? Did everyone get stuck watching Dallas? Did Magnum PI wear too many Hawaiian shirts? Was there a coronavirus on the Love Boat? Well, in golf, Jim Booros made an 8 on the 15th hole. Really? Twice par? Was he dreaming of Linda Evans on Dynasty? Who knows?

Hole No. 16, par 5: This is the hole where birdies and eagles live, and sometimes the occasional 10, as happened when Canadian Richard Zokol came to this hole in 1994. (That was the same year when Greg Norman shot a shocking 24-under par for the tournament.) Zokol did not have Norman's karma. Another twice par. As you might expect, he was

not around for that weekend.


Hole No. 17, par 3: OK, this is the one that will make you cough, choke or cringe. Not sure which. In 2005, one of the nicest guys anywhere got slammed by one of the most testy holes anywhere. It was Bob Tway vs. the 17th. Tway put four golf balls into the water around the 17th green. Then to add insult to obvious injury, after his fifth ball landed on the green, it took hm three putts to hole out. The 17th won. Golf Digest says it is called a nonuple-bogey 12. At that point, really, who cares? It's get me out of here!

Hole No. 18, par 4: The same year that Tway met his match at the 17th, Andre Stolz, an Aussie, made an 11 at the final hole, almost three times the par 4 he should have made. All things considered, he was probably lucky to only post a 41 on the back nine that day.

Now the back nine total score: 9-10-9—9-10-8—10-12-11 for 88 on the back side.

Totaled with the front side 82, that gives us a worst ringer score for TPC Sawgrass of 170.

While this is the kind of golf you never see on TV, it is the kind of golf you might play if you had to take on TPC Sawgrass. There isn't a golfer alive who has not suffered an ignominious defeat by golf at one point or another in their golfing lives. And when you see scores like this, you are just glad it's not you. But it makes you feel better about that last double bogey to know that the best in the world also have a bad score occasionally.



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by KATHY BISSELL

HOW IT ALL BEGAN:

PGA TOUR Golf Superstore's CEO Dick Sullivan



Photos provided by
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What began as two stores in Myrtle Beach, S.C., has now become the most dominant specialty golf retailer in the world, according to PGA TOUR Golf Superstore's CEO Dick Sullivan. One reason is the name on the front, which includes the words "PGA TOUR."

Originally, the business, which started in 2002, was known as Martin's Golf & Tennis Superstores. But after a license deal was arranged with the PGA TOUR a year later, the name changed.

The founders of Martin's had been executives at Home Depot, and because of their connection to the home improvement giant, they were able to arrange some financial backing from Arthur Blank, the original founder of that company. Blank put one of his trusted executives, Dick Sullivan, on the board to keep an eye on things. At the time, Sullivan was chief marketing officer for the Atlanta Falcons, which Blank owns, and before that held the same position for Home Depot.

The golf retailer grew and did well until the recession of 2008-2009 hit. Then Blank had to make a difficult decision, because golf was just beginning to experience one of the worse downturns the industry has known. Blank took control of the company, named himself chairman and made Sullivan chief executive officer of the operation.

The two reviewed the golf landscape and decided that, with a little tweaking, they could still make the company successful by following the Home Depot model. They made this decision despite the fact that many golf courses and golf retailers were closing, selling, being auctioned or just plain going out of business.

Not only did the business survive, it has thrived in an era

when many things related to golf didn't. It is a force to be reckoned with, and soon they hope to expand internationally.

"We grew by 46% over the last three years—e-commerce 91%—and we opened a boatload of stores," Sullivan said about their sales in an exclusive interview. "I think the name of the front of our building, the relationship with the PGA TOUR, helps. I often say it's not Bob's Discount Warehouse. So, we get that sort of halo effect of the top of the pyramid of golf."

That also means they must live up to the name.

The secret sauce, Sullivan says, is that they view their in-store employees, which they call associates, as one of the most important parts of their business success. Employees are at the top of their organizational chart, not at the bottom as they are in most companies.

"They're closest to the customer, and they have to be extremely knowledgeable, and they have to know how to build relationships. We're not in the transaction business," Sullivan said.

For that reason, PGA TOUR Golf Superstore hires experts in golf so that customers can trust an employee's product recommendation. And they constantly train their associates on what is new in golf.

"We just came off a week in Florida at Streamsong. We brought hundreds of our associates to learn about all the new products here," at the PGA Show, Sullivan said. "Our associates almost need to be as smart as engineers because you expect it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 94 ■



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In the sessions, in-store staff learned what the difference is between the new Taylormade SIM and the M6 or M5 lines, between the Callaway Epic and the Callaway Mavrik and what features the new products, like the Wilson D7 driver, have that make them better than previous versions.

That expertise is extremely important, Sullivan said. The chain now serves approximately eight million customers a year, and in 2019, they added 500,000 new ones. They do club-fitting, give lessons, provide advice for new golfers as well as the most experienced ones.

“We have a unique culture in our company, just like we did at Home Depot,” Sullivan said. “I think that culture resonates to the customer, and the customer gets a great experience inside our stores, not just because of all the technology, but because of the trust that they have with that associate, all the way down to what ball is the best ball for me.”

PGA TOUR Golf Superstore also hires many PGA and LPGA professionals, and many that they are top five or six in hiring.

“They’re running many of the stores, running a \$10 million businesses which is really cool,” Sullivan said. “They didn’t make their path on the PGA TOUR or the LPGA Tour, but you know they’ve got an opportunity to stay in the golf industry and run a business and stay connected to it in that way.”

In addition, many golf PGA and LPGA professionals are teaching inside the stores.

“We gave over 60,000 lessons last year inside of our stores, so it’s part of our experience,” he added.

One of their LPGA teaching pros is booked five weeks in advance for lessons.

“She is killer!” Sullivan said.

PGA Tour Golf Superstore also has a mushrooming e-commerce business.

“Being fully transparent, I don’t think our online business was very good a few years ago, so it’s easy to show big numbers, but we’re showing another 35% growth this year,” he said. “And when I looked at others, Dick’s and others, I think they’re in the low teens.”

One reason is that they focused on a web application that is compatible with desktop and mobile devices. Sullivan sees mobile as a big shopping opportunity.

“We did spend millions of dollars on this,” he said, holding



up a phone, “because a mobile application — we’re probably more focused on desktop — but now over 50% of the transactions are done online.”

Of course, the reason is that the internet has changed the way people live their lives. According to Sullivan, family patterns and activities have been modified with the cultural shift caused by living a connected life.

“It used to be an event on a Friday or Saturday. Families would go to the mall to go shop,” he explained. “People go to the mall Monday through Friday right here, on their phone. They’re sitting at their desk, and they’re shopping the mall right on their phone.”

Sullivan noted it’s likely to be different for new clubs than it is for apparel.

“Once they know their shoe size, their shirt size, whatever it is, they just want to replenish in a commodity way,” he said about online shopping.

Looking forward, the company is planning careful expansion with a variety of footprints. For example, the PGA TOUR Golf Superstore located in the St. Johns Town Center is half the size of their normal store, which is 50,000 square feet, because they believe that is the right size for our market. They will open another three stores by the end of April, one in Palm Beach Gardens, one in Birmingham and one in Columbus, Ohio.

And in the future, they are looking at expansion to Canada.



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