

Your Community Voice for 50 Years
PONTE VEDRA

Recorder **INSIDER'S**

Tournament Guide

LOOKING BACK

20 years ago, Tiger Woods made an astonishing putt on the No. 17 en route to the title, and other major milestones

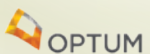
RORY STILL REIGNS

McIlroy remains defending champ after 2020 cancellation

A NEW HOME

PGA TOUR opens state-of-the-art global headquarters

THE PLAYERS[®]



Morgan Stanley



PROUD PARTNERS

Only

First Coast | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



For those ready for
whats next

Only one real estate brand gives you that feeling. The feeling that you're in the presence of the world's best. The feeling that you left the ordinary world and have arrived somewhere exceptional. Beyond the beautiful properties and the personal touch of our agents, only one brand can deliver a lifestyle that caters to you, and transforms you. For those who seek an exceptional home and life, there is only Sotheby's International Realty.



Jane Chefan
Realtor®/Owner
904.463.1179



Brian Moorman
Broker/Owner
716.783.1878



Jennifer Candelino
Realtor®
904.631.1116



Nicholas Eklund
Realtor®
904.575.1197



Jack Floyd
Realtor®
904.343.5196



Michelle Floyd
Realtor®
904.343.5067



Roberta Gjeloshaj
Realtor®
904.571.7966



Christie Graziosi
Realtor®
917.605.0383



Merrill Engelhardt
Broker Associate
908.346.4255



Rosemary Jackson
Realtor®
904.728.3986



Christy Lawson
Realtor®
615.945.6600



Deborah Morfis
Realtor®
386.871.4752



Alexander Pervaza
Realtor®
904.571.7288



Erin Spalding
Realtor®
774.219.2860



Pristine Waterfront Immaculately maintained home located on a cul de sac on the largest lake in Marsh Landing features a spacious floor plan, first floor master, and expansive 180-degree water views showcased throughout. **4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths**



"Model" Home in Alta Lakes Lightly lived-in and beautifully maintained, this house looks & feels like a model home with tall ceilings, a neutral palette, and an open floor plan ideal for everyday life. Featuring water to woods views along with smart home features & premium upgrades. **3 bedrooms, 2 baths \$290,000**



Sophisticated Coastal Luxury A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, this custom beach home was thoughtfully designed by Nesting Place Interiors 7 Heritage Homes and offers a neutral coastal palette with panoramic views of the Ocean and Guana. **4 bedrooms, 3F/2H bathrooms**



Atlantic Beach Retreat Ideally located in Atlantic Beach, this 3-story townhome is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. Enjoy the home's rooftop deck or the easily maintained backyard oasis complete with a 6-ft. privacy fence, covered patio, and relaxing hot tub. **3 bedrooms, 2F/2H baths \$810,000**



Oceanfront 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 \$1,585,000**



Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd. Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, an office, loft area, ample storage & a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom. **4 bedrooms, 5.5 baths \$2,150,000**

SARAH ALEXANDER
Sarah Alexander, REALTOR®
904-334-3104 cell
Sarah@SarahAlexander.net
www.SarahAlexander.net



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
'From Cottages to Castles'

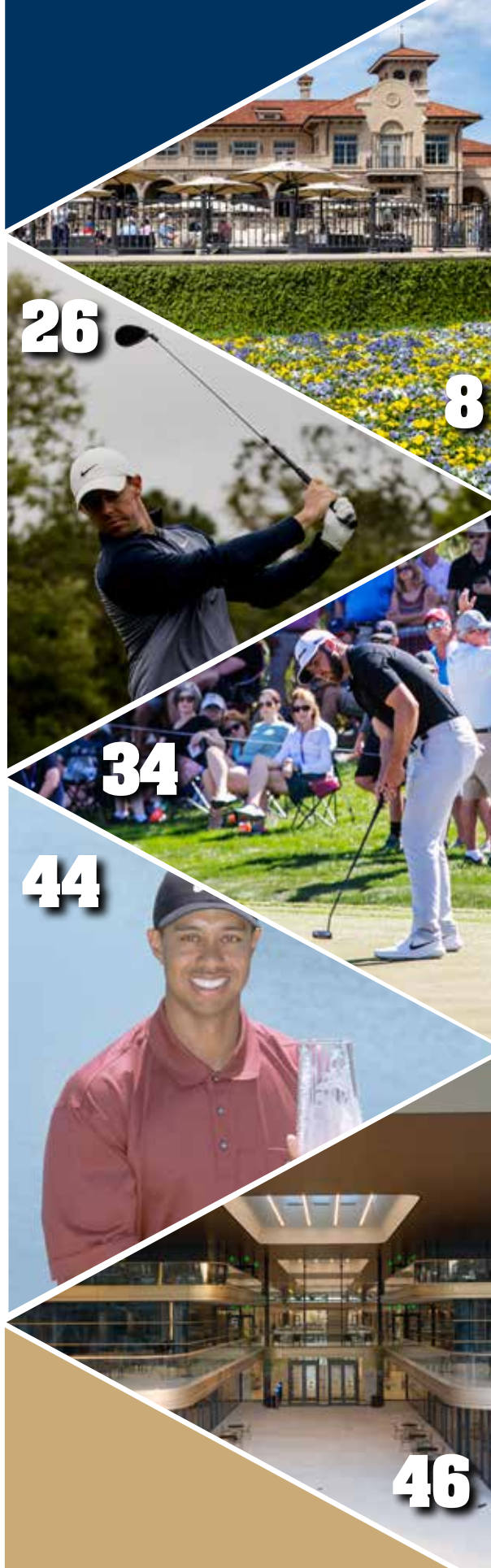


ELIZABETH HUDGINS
Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®
904-553-2032 cell
Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com
www.ElizabethHudgins.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 6 WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS
- 8 NAVIGATING THE PLAYERS
- 22 THE PLAYERS: BY THE NUMBERS
- 24 PLAYERS WEEK EVENT SCHEDULE
- 26 MCILROY STILL DEFENDING TITLE
- 34 NEW NAMES & FACES WHO HAVE A SHOT
- 38 PREDICTION: WHO WILL BE THE 2021 CHAMPION?
- 44 THE PLAYERS: A LOOK BACK
- 46 PGA TOUR OPENS NEW GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS
- 50 PGA TOUR LEADS THE CHARGE IN SAFE RETURN
- 57 PRO GOLF ENTERS GAMBLING ARENA
- 60 NEW LIMITS ON DISTANCE FOR DRIVERS, BALLS?

Cover Photo: Micah Green



Recorder

Your Community Voice for 50 Years
PONTE VEDRA

PUBLISHER
Susan Griffin
susan@opcfla.com

FLORIDA MARKET MANAGER
Hugh Osteen
hugh@opcfla.com

PUBLICATION DESIGNER
Paris Moulden
paris@opcfla.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Kathy Bissell

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Ed Johnson
ed@opcfla.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Kristin Flanagan
kristin@opcfla.com

SALES ASSISTANT
April Snyder
april@opcfla.com

PHOTOS
Micah Green, Craig O'Neal,
The PGA TOUR and
Recorder file photos

AD DESIGN
Lisa Murphy
lisa@opcfla.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Jonathan Bueno
jonathan@opcfla.com



OPC NEWS

Something for Everyone at Sawgrass Village

Explore Shopping and Dining in The Heart of Ponte Vedra Beach

Located at the entrance to TPC Sawgrass, you'll find a fabulous selection of fashion, shoes and accessories, along with home decor, galleries, specialty gifts and local surf shop.

Satisfy your cravings at our hometown and award-winning restaurants.

Come experience incredibly delicious eats while relaxing on a lakefront deck or patio and enjoy live music, drink specials and more.



Matus Foris Photography



Shop Sawgrass Village during
THE PLAYERS Championship
and receive a FREE Tote with
\$100 or more in-store purchase.**

***Participating retailers only,
one per customer, while supplies last.*

*Visit our Facebook or Instagram for more details
Promotion runs March 10 - 14, 2021*

*Sawgrass
Village*

215 Tourside Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
SawgrassVillagePVB.com





Photo provided
by the PGA TOUR

Welcome to **THE PLAYERS**

One year ago, during THE PLAYERS Championship, history unfolded in a way no one could have predicted or imagined. The PGA TOUR's flagship event, and our community's signature event, was canceled following the first round of play due to health and safety threats from COVID-19.

No one could have predicted that we would still be navigating the challenges of the pandemic. Each of us have had to practice more patience, determination and creativity over the last 12 months. Whether it involved learning how to work from home, serving as interim schoolteachers for our kids or becoming Zoom experts, each of us found ourselves taking on new roles and responsibilities in order to keep moving forward.

During his press conference on Friday, March 13, 2020, Commissioner Monahan stated, "The one thing that this sport does better than any other sport is it uses a moment like this, and it turns it into a positive."

Over the last year, the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS have found ways to keep moving forward in a thoughtful and safe manner, so that we could continue to make investments that benefit our citizens, local economies and charities.

It's no surprise that THE PLAYERS 2021 will look different. In response to health and safety protocols, on-site capacity will be reduced. While tickets to the 2021 championship are sold out in light of these protocols, our team has worked incredibly hard in order to continue to engage the entire Northeast Florida community, including the following initiatives:

- **Military Appreciation:** THE PLAYERS has a long-standing commitment to honoring our Northeast Florida military members, veterans and their families. While on-site celebra-

tory activities for 2021 have been amended to reflect safety standards and protocols, we maintain our commitment to honoring the brave men and women who protect and preserve our freedoms. On Tuesday, March 9, THE PLAYERS, with support from Proud Partners and media partners, will host a daylong fundraising campaign, #Match4Military, to generate support and awareness for Northeast Florida military organizations like K9s for Warriors, Fire Watch, Greater Jacksonville Area USO, Wounded Warrior Project, Operation New Uniform, and so many others. THE PLAYERS will match, dollar for dollar, all donations up to \$250,000. We encourage you to join us in being champions for our community's military heroes and their families.

- **Every Shot Live:** We are pleased to share that Every Shot Live will return this year, showcasing more than 32,000 live golf shots over the course of the week, accessible via PGA TOUR LIVE on NBC Sports Gold. We are especially excited to offer all fans free access to Every Shot Live on Thursday, March 11. Additionally, 2019-20 ticket purchasers of THE PLAYERS will receive free access all week long!

Thanks to your continued support, we will produce an incredible 2021 event that we can all be proud of. One that will showcase our community's resiliency, collaboration and creativity, and one that continues to generate charitable and economic impact throughout Northeast Florida.

Thank you,

Jared Rice

Executive Director, THE PLAYERS Championship

New!

Announcing Ponte Vedra Beach's *Ultimate Retirement* Community



State-of-the-art Clubhouse with beautiful, open views

Bridging Gorgeous Homes With A Resort Lifestyle

Announcing an exciting, new community truly worthy of the Vicar's



Spacious Flats with up to 2,125 sq. ft. of living

Landing name that bridges safety and security with freedom, fun, and convenience. From housing and



Located in beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach

dining to transportation and health care, you'll be covered through every phase of living. Learn more about luxury living at the all-new Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge. **Hurry, phase one is selling out fast!**

VICAR'S LANDING AT OAK BRIDGE



Quality on-site health care services



904.285.6000 | VicarsLanding.com

Navigating THE PLAYERS

PAGES 8-24



Photo by
CRAIG O'NEAL

TICKETS

Tickets are mobile-only and day-specific tickets: They can be purchased exclusively online at www.THEPLAYERS.com.

Tickets available (prices below do not include tax):

Day-specific Stadium Pass:

- Tuesday – \$25
- Wednesday – \$25
- Thursday – \$70
- Friday – \$80
- Saturday – \$80
- Sunday – \$70

Hospitality: Fans interested in upgraded experiences should visit THEPLAYERS.com/hospitality for more information.

Youth tickets: Up to two (2) youth, ages 15 and under, will be admitted free with a ticketed adult on Tuesday and Wednesday only (Presented by Nemours Children's Health System). Thursday

through Sunday, ALL youth will need a ticket in order to attend the tournament. In order to access a hospitality venue, ALL youth must have the proper ticket Tuesday-Sunday.

Military tickets: In support of heightened military restrictions limiting large gatherings and adherence to comprehensive health and safety protocols, this year's tournament will not include a Military Appreciation ceremony, concert, or hospitality venue (Patriots Outpost) that traditionally hosts thousands of military members and their families; however, THE PLAYERS maintains its commitment to welcoming Northeast Florida military members.

Complimentary admission will be provided to active duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard members, and one dependent, on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10, while supplies

last. Valid identification and credentials are required.

Veterans with valid identification can purchase discounted tickets on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10, while supplies last. (Limited to two tickets per veteran per day.)

To receive and redeem vouchers for tickets, military members and veterans must follow these steps:

Go to THEPLAYERS.com/tickets (Military dropdown icon) to access the verification system.

Upon verification, a voucher will be issued for each day (Tuesday and/or Wednesday).

The voucher must be printed and redeemed at Will Call (new address in 2021): 13000 Sawgrass Village Circle, Building 1, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082. (Note: No vouchers will be redeemed at on-site entry gates.)

A big **THANK YOU**
to all of my customers who
helped support me in 2020!

*Whether you were buying, selling
or referring me - I appreciate YOU!*



Jennifer White

REALTOR

**Over \$30 Million in Production
in 2020!**

Ranked #7

On the Jacksonville Business Journal's
List of Top 100 Real Estate Agents



904.446.0495

JenniferWhiteSellsPVB@yahoo.com



RE/MAX
SPECIALISTS PV



Each office independently owned and operated.

PARKING

Parking is purchased separately at THEPLAYERS.COM parking. New in 2021, the parking experience will be completely digital.

General Parking Lot address:

5360 Palm Valley Road
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Parking passes are required on all tournament days, Tuesday-Sunday.

All parking passes are daily passes and must be purchased in advance via THEPLAYERS.com/parking.

Volunteers will not sell parking passes in the lot, and parking will not be sold at Will Call.

"Four or more for free" parking vouchers are not available in 2021.

Tuesday and Wednesday parking costs \$15 per day and Thursday- Sunday costs \$40 per day.

RIDESHARE INFORMATION

Rideshares will drop off and pick up at the Couples Entry off of ATP Boulevard, which is just steps from the 15th hole. Ride-share vehicles will be staged outside the Couples Entry making this one of the easiest modes of transportation for spectators.

Rideshare instructions:

Getting to THE PLAYERS Championship

Enter Destination – THE PLAYERS Championship

Enter the tournament through the Couples Entry

Leaving THE PLAYERS Championship:

Exit tournament grounds through the Couples Entry

Follow the tournament signage to the designated rideshare pick up area outside the Couples Entry

Get in available rideshare and head to preferred destination

OTHER

Pedal to THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS offers complimentary bike parking during the tournament, from the time entries open until end of play. Spectators can ride their bikes to Gate B located inside the Sawgrass Gates off of PGA TOUR Boulevard in the back of lot 5 only (110 PGA TOUR Blvd.). Bike racks are available free of charge. Bike parking is not available in the general parking lot.

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 only (110 PGA TOUR Blvd.). Golf cart parking is free of charge and is available from the time entries open until end of play. Golf cart parking is not available in the general parking lot.

Disabled Guest Services

THE PLAYERS Disabled Guest Services program provides shuttles during the championship. Fans who have handicap parking access are still required to purchase a parking pass in advance for THE PLAYERS general parking lot (off CR 210).

Fans with a handicap parking hang tag, as well as a PLAYERS parking pass, will be directed to park in a specific part of the general parking lot. From there, golf carts will take them to one of the designated Disabled Guest Services locations on the golf course.



ORDER ONLINE • TAKE-OUT • PICK-UP WINDOW
GRUBHUB • UBEREATS • CATERING

BONOSBARBQ.COM

@BONOSBBQ





JUST SOLD

24586 Harbour View Drive
Harbour Island
4 BD / 3.5 BA
4,740 sq ft
MLSID: 1082904

Lisa Barton Team - (904) 465-9139



UNDER CONTRACT

694 Ponte Vedra Boulevard
Old Ponte Vedra
5 BD / 5 BA / 5,213 sq ft
Price: \$2,445,000
MLSID: 1092689

The Volen Group - (904) 314-5188



JUST SOLD

905 Pinebrook Court
Plantation Oaks
6 BD / 4.5 BA / 5,050 sq ft
Price: \$1,039,500
MLSID: 1089178

Joni Zwick - (904) 910-7607



JUST LISTED

189 Admirals Way South
Harbour Island
5 BD / 7.5 BA / 7,841 sq ft
Price: \$3,600,000
MLSID: 1092622

Lisa Barton Team - (904) 465-9139



UNDER CONTRACT

13 La Vista Drive
Old Ponte Vedra
5 BD / 4.5 BA / 4,066 sq ft
Price: \$3,199,000
MLSID: 1089568

The Volen Group - (904) 314-5188



UNDER CONTRACT

506 Tournament Road
Fairfield
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 Car Attached Garage
Price: \$295,000
MLSID: 1094598

Joni Zwick - (904) 910-7607

Visit Our New Luxury Office in Ponte Vedra
Beach Opened Spring 2020

2020: \$220M+ Sales Volume
2021 YTD: \$24M+ Sold &
\$25M+ in Pending Sales

190-1 A1A North
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
(904) 247-0059

Carts will run from the time gates open until 30 minutes after play ends and will only pick up and drop off from the below designated locations. They will not stray from the official route under any circumstances.

- Behind 16 Green by Couples Gate and The Bier Garden
- Behind 17 Tee adjacent to the Welcome Experience and the Food Court
- Players left of 9 Fairway by Wine & Dine on 9.
- Players left of 9 Green by Past Chairman Hospitality.
- Clubhouse area behind 3 Tee
- Players right of 16 Tee
- Players right of 15 Fairway at Taste of JAX

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

POLICIES

PLAYERS PRIDE

THE PLAYERS PRIDE stands for showing personal responsibility when enjoying the best fan experience in golf. We ask that all attendees help make this event our Gold Standard by keeping the course beautiful, clean and safe. Have fun and enjoy the ultimate experience this championship provides, but remember to show the same respect to those around you as the players show each other.

Help keep THE PLAYERS clean and safe.

Fans can text THE PLAYERS from anywhere on the course to notify a staff member of an on-site issue. Text 69050 to reach a staff member while at the tournament.

Fan Code of Conduct

Spectators will be subject to expulsion and the loss of ticket privileges for the following breaches of etiquette:

- Making rude, vulgar or other inappropriate comments or gestures;
- Verbal or physical harassment of players, volunteers, officials or spectators;
- Distracting a player or any disruption of play;
- Behavior that is unruly, disruptive, unsafe or illegal in nature;
- Failing to follow the instruction of a championship official, volunteer or security personnel.

Fans can text THE PLAYERS from anywhere on the course to notify a staff member of an on-site issue. Text 69050 to reach a staff member while at the tournament.

Mobile Device Policy

Spectator Mobile Device Policy for PGA TOUR Tournaments (please see ticket for complete terms):

- Devices must be on silent at all times; flash may not be used.
- Devices may be used to capture video, audio and photos (content) in all areas throughout tournament week.
- Content may be used for personal purposes (e.g., personal social media); no commercial use.
- No live streaming or real-time coverage (e.g., no shot-by-shot coverage).
- Data use (e.g., texting) is permitted in all areas throughout tournament week.
- Phone calls are allowed only in designated areas.

Clare Berry

- A Northeast Florida Native
- Real Estate Broker here for 30+ years
- **THE PLAYERS Volunteer** for 30+ years

Welcoming our TPC guests to a **fabulous** place to live!

BEST AGENT TODAY
CAPTURED TOP PRODUCER

BEST OF BEST
2021
RECORD

2021
PROFESSIONAL REAL ESTATE AWARDS
#20th Place

BERRY & CO.
REAL ESTATE
904-382-5875

Clare Berry, Broker/Owner Clareberryrealestate.com
clare@clareberry.realtor

metro
-diner-

★

Join us at either beaches location!

PONTE VEDRA | **JAX BEACH**
SAWGRASS VILLAGE | 1534 THIRD ST. N.

★

Catering Available | Easy Online Ordering | metrodiner.com

f i g t

TRY OUR Award Winning CHICKEN & WAFFLES TODAY!



ROLL DOWN SHUTTERS CLOSED

STORM SHUTTERS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY



BAHAMA SHUTTERS

**Storm Ready in Seconds
Protect your home from
wind driven rains
Plus added Security**



ACCORDIAN SHUTTERS



ROLL DOWN SHUTTERS OPEN



ROLL DOWN SHUTTERS CLOSED



Since 1982



LANAI ENCLOSURE CLOSED



LANAI ENCLOSURE OPEN

“Preventing water intrusion through windows and doors is far less costly than repairing structural damages. Additional benefits of shutters are protection from flying debris, increased property value, decreased property insurance, elimination of the need to remove furniture from balconies, control of light and UV fading damage, improved thermal insulation, increased security, and reduced exterior noise.” Steven T, Ashwell, Architect

**Call Today for your
FREE ESTIMATE**

386-677-5533

1-800-223-6283

305 Division Avenue – Ormond Beach FL 32174
WWW.WEATHERGUARDSHUTTERS.COM

Please be respectful of play and do not interfere with players, caddies or media.

All posted signage and instructions from tournament staff must be observed.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the revocation of your ticket.

Food Policy

THE PLAYERS allows fans to bring in their own 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. THE PLAYERS will allow reusable plastic or metal cups up to 32 ounces at entries, as long as they are empty.

Alcohol Policy

Strict adherence to alcoholic beverage consumption laws will be enforced on the course and in all hospitality areas.

Alcohol will not be served to anyone younger than 21; proof of age will be required for anyone younger than 35.

Only two drinks may be purchased at a time; spectators are not allowed to carry more than two drinks at any given time.

Bags + Permitted/Prohibited Items

Opaque bags measuring 6x6x6 inches and smaller or clear bags 12x6x12 inches and smaller are allowed inside the course grounds.

THE PLAYERS allows fans to bring in their own food in a 1 gallon clear, plastic bag where food items are also wrapped in clear wrap.

THE PLAYERS will allow reusable plastic or metal cups up to 32 ounces at entries, as long as they are empty.

APPROVED BAGS



Bags smaller than 6" x 6" x 6"



Clear Bag smaller than 12" x 6" x 12"



1-Gallon Plastic Freezer Bag



Medically Necessary and Diaper Bags*

*Infant and Medical supplies will be permitted after proper inspection.

NON-APPROVED BAGS



Backpack



Camera Case



Mesh Bag



Purse



Seat Cooler



Clear Backpack



1-Gallon Plastic Bag



Duffel Bag



Messenger Bag



Printed Pattern Plastic Bag



Folding Chair (Folding Chair is Allowed)

Premier Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Services at the Beaches

Experience and compassion you can trust.




FIRST COAST
VETERINARY SPECIALISTS

Mon.-Fri.
7:30a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
904-853-6310
www.FCVets.com

W. Thomas McNicholas, Jr., DVM
Diplomate, American College of
Veterinary Surgeons

Megan L. Wilson, DVM, MS
Diplomate, American College of
Veterinary Surgeons-SA

Daniel Linden, DVM, MS
Diplomate, American College of
Veterinary Surgeons-SA
ACVS Fellow, Surgical Oncology



We are located at
301 Jacksonville Drive
Jacksonville Beach



Emergency service
available
24 hours a day
7 days a week
including holidays

First Coast

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



1205 PONTE VEDRA BLVD
\$8,995,000
6 Bd | 9 Ba | 10,284 Sq Ft.



1407 PONTE VEDRA BLVD
\$5,500,000
9 Bd | 9 Ba | 9,081 Sq Ft.



8652 CATHEDRAL OAKS PL W
\$5,490,000
5 Bd | 7 Ba | 11,733 Sq Ft.



2669 HOLLY POINT RD E
\$4,950,000
9 Bd | 11 Ba | 11,860 Sq Ft.



319 1ST ST S
\$3,490,000
7 Bd | 6 Ba | 6,214 Sq Ft.



88 FAIRWAY WOOD WAY
\$1,275,000
5 Bd | 5 Ba | 3,885 Sq Ft.



TOP PRODUCER IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Since purchasing the Sotheby's franchise in 2009, Jane and Jeff and their partners have opened five additional offices in Northeast Florida. Jane along with her husband Jeff, who is the Managing Broker, and daughter/Broker Associate Jessica Chefan Hansen, work together as a team to bring to every relationship an emphasis on exceptional service and a practiced eye for recognizing the unique value of a property. Jane's sales from 2015 through 2020 were over \$130 Million.

Jane Chefan | Licensed Real Estate Salesperson/Owner
m. 904.463.1179 | jane.chefan@firstcoastsir.com
janechefan.firstcoastsir.com | sothebysrealty.com

MISC. INFO

Remember: Fans can refill up their empty water bottles at the filtered water stations: No. 10 tee, No. 9 fairway, behind 16 green, behind 12 tee). In addition, THE PLAYERS will allow reusable plastic or metal cups up to 32 ounces at entries, as long as they are empty.

Permanent restroom facilities

(filtered drinking water also available)

- Near No. 10 tee/No. 16 tee
- Wine & Dine on 9 (near No. 5 green/No. 9 fairway) behind 16 green (near The Grove)
- Taste of JAX (Located behind 11 green and 12 tee)

WELCOME EXPERIENCE

Family Care Suite presented by Wolfson

Children's Hospital: As part of Baptist's program as the on-site provider of medical services, the Family Care Suite — located within THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience — will extend its services to attendees of THE PLAYERS with the venue serving as a comfort station for mothers and fathers to care for their babies and have a comfortable venue as needed during tournament week. The venue is open to all ticketholders and will also be providing diapers free of charge.



• ST. AUGUSTINE • ART ASSOCIATION *Since 1924*

The St. Augustine Art Association is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 1924. The gallery is open free to the public Tuesdays through Fridays 1-4pm and is located at 22 Marine Street in historic district of downtown St. Augustine.

Monthly Themed & Juried Exhibits | Local & Regional Artists
Online Exhibits & Art Sales | Education & Outreach Programs
And More!

CURRENT EXHIBITS

March 5-28 ♦ View Online & In-Gallery
Tuesdays - Fridays 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Free Admission

- Miniature Marvels
- 16th Annual St. Johns All-County High School Art Show

@StAugArtAssoc



www.staaa.org | (904)-824-2310



"Mourning" by Lizzi Stevens, 2019 High School Show Award Winner

RING SIZING • WATCH REPAIR • WATCH BATTERIES



FINE ESTATE JEWELRY
MAKE PART OF THE PAST
YOUR PRESENT



"WE BUY"

ESTATE JEWELRY • GOLD • SILVER • ROLEX • COINS

Espling
JEWELERS
Family Jewelers Since 1972



2 JACKSONVILLE LOCATIONS

PONTE VEDRA
355 MARSH LANDING PKWY.
904.280.7700

MANDARIN
9825-4 SAN JOSE BLVD.
904.268.7975

EsplingJewelers.com

"Where Expert Service Meets Your Jewelry Needs"

RING SIZING • WATCH REPAIR • WATCH BATTERIES

BAND ADJUSTMENTS • APPRAISALS • FREE WRAPPING • LASER WELDING

BAND ADJUSTMENTS • APPRAISALS • FREE WRAPPING • LASER WELDING

Del Webb®



THE NATION'S LEADER IN 55+ LIVING

3 PROMINENT JACKSONVILLE LOCATIONS

Rethink 55+ living at our three Jacksonville communities – Del Webb Wildlight, Del Webb Nocatee and Del Webb eTown. Join a community with a thriving social life. Connect with friends, take classes, learn to make a new cuisine or master your pickle-ball skills! Del Webb offers a wide variety of products starting from the low to mid-\$200s including Villas, Condos and Single-Family Homes. Choose from versatile home designs with open flowing spaces in every plan, focused on the ease of living. Find which location fits you best at DelWebb.com/Jacksonville.

DelWebb.com/Wildlight | DelWebb.com/Nocatee | DelWebb.com/eTown

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. ©2021 Pulte Home Company, LLC. All rights reserved. CGC1519936 2/19/21



MERCHANDISE

There will be a PGA TOUR Fan Shop within the Welcome Experience (main entrance) as in years past. In addition, the Welcome Experience and Fan Shop will be open to the public the weekend before the tournament (March 5-7), so that our Northeast Florida community can come check out the unique merchandise collection and purchase commemorative items and apparel. No ticket is required, and guests can park in the public parking lot off CR 210.

Friday, March 5: Noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 6: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cashless experience: Payment processes at the PGA TOUR Fan Shop, all vendors and all concession stands will be digital, contactless and cashless throughout the entire tournament property.

What's New in 2021

Vineyard Vines custom PLAYERS-inspired T-shirt designs for men, women and youth

T-shirts embellished with the local color and culture of Ponte Vedra Beach and Northeast Florida – sun, surf, palm trees, golf and the PGA TOUR's flagship event.

Trendy prints on polos with the sought after swinging Goldman logo by Peter Millar.

Best Sellers and Key Offerings

Large selection of apparel for men and woman in comfortable fabrications and trend setting colors and prints



Life is better at the beach!



OCEANFRONT CONDO ~ JACKSONVILLE BEACH

- 1301 1st St. 507
- \$575,000 | MLS#1094648
- 2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,232 sq. ft.
- Garage space AND storage unit included
- Community Beach Access, Pool, & Fitness

OCEANFRONT HOME ~ NEPTUNE BEACH

- 1842 Strand St.
- \$2,895,000 | MLS#1078924
- 4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths | 2,751 sq. ft.
- 2-car Attached Garage
- Upscale Finishes | Spacious Lot




Here's to home financing from the ground up.

We're here for you and your home homebuyers.



Ricki Taylor
Market Sales Leader, Mortgage
NMLS 664168
904.382.1607 (cell)
rickitaylor@synovus.com

SYNOVUS®

 Synovus Bank, Member FDIC. Loans subject to approval, including credit approval.



For more information please contact

Anita Vining
(904) 923-1511
www.AnitaVining.com



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty



More than 20,000 hats available. Choose your fabrication, color and style.

Cheers to THE PLAYERS! Enjoy your favorite beverage in a PLAYERS logo tumbler, barware, mugs, coffee mugs, koozies and more.

Exciting gifts and souvenirs for the youngest fans. Toys, apparel and headwear available from newborn to youth.

Over 10,000 T-shirts for that casual lifestyle.

Health and Safety

The PGA TOUR Fan Shop will be complying with a strict set of health and safety protocols in order to maintain a safe environment for all guests. These protocols include:

Open air

- One way in, one way out
- Electronic counter at the entrance and exits to ensure capacity is not exceeded at any time
- Social distancing decals on the ground throughout the Fan Shop
- Directional signage to guide fans throughout the Fan Shop
- Face masks required
- Cashless and contactless payment system
- Hand sanitizing stations throughout the Fan Shop
- Plexiglass guards at all checkout counters and at bag check
- Staff will be sanitizing the counters and their hands after each transaction
- Health screening checks for all staff, volunteers and vendors upon arrival

**CALL TO MAKE YOUR
BOARDING & DAYCARE
RESERVATIONS TODAY!**



**DOGS
BIG &
SMALL
WE ❤️
THEM ALL**



DOG BOARDING AND DAYCARE
www.Sawgrasspetresort.com

Find Us  

904.834.2198
— 8050 Sawgrass Village Cir. —

FOOD & DRINK

Taste of JAX – 11 green/12 tee

Cousins Maine Lobster – serving up its 100% premium, wild-caught, sustainably harvested lobster from Maine.

MOJO BBQ – a premier barbecue, Southern food, and craft cocktail destination with eight locations in North and Central Florida.

Wine & Dine on 9 presented by Meiom Wines – 9 fairway

Enjoy food from Bonefish Grill and a glass of wine from Meiom Wines, the official wine of the PGA TOUR, in a beautiful garden setting. Freshen up at the permanent restrooms here as well.

Relax, unwind and discover the unrivaled taste of Meiom Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Rosé. Cheers! (Please enjoy Meiom wines responsibly.)

Food Court – THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience

Homespun Kitchen – Healthy fast food. Whether you are vegan, gluten free or paleo, you will find tons of options at Homespun.

Firehouse Subs – This sandwich shop was founded in Jacksonville.

Daily's – Since 1997, Daily's convenience stores have served communities throughout the state of Florida.



EXCLUSIVE EVENT: CELEBRITY CHEF ART SMITH

For one week only, Sawgrass Marriott hosts Chef Art Smith, Oprah's personal chef for more than a decade, for a preview of his new Chicago restaurant, Reunion.

Reserve your tickets today for this exclusive pop-up taking place during the week of THE PLAYERS Championship, March 9-14, 2021.

Purchase tickets on Eventbrite.



MARRIOTT RESORT
SAWGRASS

MEMBER OF MARRIOTT BONVOY™

Trucks on 10

This venue offers flavors from local, favorite food trucks and an open-air Michelob ULTRA Mobile bar.

Twisted Okie; Carolina Jax; Mama's; Tikiz

Tacos on 12 – 12 green

One of the most well-trafficked food venues on the course, featuring food and drink from TacoLu, Jacksonville's most popular Baja Mexicana.

Sawgrass Square – 10 tee

Located at the Davis Love III Entry, grab a doughnut from Mini Bar and/or some BBQ from 4 Rivers Smokehouse.

Mini Bar – Jacksonville's first mini doughnut shop will be serving up a set menu of mini-sized doughnuts in more than a dozen unique flavors. Some examples include fruity pebbles, samoa, pop tart, maple bacon and coffee cake.

4 Rivers Smokehouse – a sophisticated Texas-style smokehouse

Sawgrass Splash – The signature cocktail of THE PLAYERS. The Sawgrass Splash is made with vodka, fresh lemonade, orange juice and lime juice, as well as simple syrup. It's best served tall and over ice.

YETI pint cups

Fans can purchase 16-ounce PLAYERS-logoed YETI pint cups in all draft beer locations, and the YETI can be refilled with beer only and for the price of a regular draft beer, on the day of purchase. Locations include: Bier Garden, Oasis Refreshment and #18 Landing Refreshment.

Founded in 1951, Child Guidance Center (CGC) is the largest provider of outpatient and community-based mental health and behavioral health services to children, adolescents and their families in Jacksonville. CGC offers an entire spectrum of counseling and social services. Some benefits of treatment are:

- Reduction in behavioral/emotional problems
- Fewer discipline problems at home and school
- Increased self-esteem
- Improved parent-child relationship
- Early intervention which can prevent more severe emotional or substance abuse problems
- Promotes positive youth development

During this COVID-19 pandemic we are seeing many families struggling with stress, depression and financial difficulty resulting in mental health and relationship issues. CGC has experienced an increase in the demand for our services. Please consider donating to CGC by mail (5776 St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207) or through PayPal via www.cgjax.org. The money raised will be used to provide life changing mental health services to Duval County families.



PARTNERS NEEDED ... TO HELP WITH ...

- Failing Drain Field at our West Duval site – Engineer and Plumber and/or donations
- Replace failing light ballasts with new LED lighting – Electrician and materials and/or donations
- Power washing our three buildings

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED ...

- To help provide therapeutic services to over 5,000 clients
- Our therapists also need supplies for their art and sand therapy.

YOUR donation will go a long way to help our families who are in need of mental health services.

Donations can be gift in-kind, monetary or via Pay Pal.



For additional information, call 904-448-4700 or visit our website at www.cgjax.org.



#tacosontwelve

WHO IS LU?

Open for BRUNCH Saturday & Sunday at 10 am-2pm

Mon - Closed • Tues - Thurs 11 am to 10 pm
Fri 11am - 11 pm • Sat 10am - 11 pm • Sun 10 am - 10pm

www.TacoLu.com

Follow us!   

904.249.TACO

1712 Beach Blvd. • Jax Beach, FL 32250



GRACIOUS LIVING A WORLD APART
**DISCOVER ACTIVE
 SENIOR LIVING**

A stunning and serene natural setting are just the beginning at Westminster St. Augustine, offering active, independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, therapy and rehab. Our beautiful community of quiet neighborhood streets has it all: A convenient location at World Golf Village, beautiful residential apartments and single-family homes, a maintenance-free lifestyle and more. Best of all, you'll enjoy the assurance of a strong partner for your retirement and a full range of supportive and healthcare services should you need them.

*Visit WestminsterStAugustineFL.org
 or call (877) 277-1244 today
 for more information.*



**Westminster
 St. Augustine**

Live Well. Be Happy.

235 Towerview Drive | St. Augustine, FL 

Active Living | Assisted Living | Skilled Nursing | Rehabilitation

BY THE NUMBERS

Course

\$1 – Amount that former PGA TOUR Commissioner Deane Beman paid to purchase the 415 acres of swampland where TPC Sawgrass now sits

15 – minutes it takes to cut a hole location and replace the old hold location

84 – number of bunkers on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course – 52 on the front nine and 32 on the back. No. 17 is the only hole on the course that has one bunker.

2.5 – rough height, in inches

137 – distance, in yards, of the Island Green 17th hole

Agronomy

105 – full-time agronomy employees who oversee the maintenance of both the Stadium Course and its sister course, Dye's Valley.

12,000 – approximate number of man hours worked by the agronomy staff during tournament week alone

Overseed Process:

4 – kinds of seed are spread throughout the entire Stadium Course, including the practice grounds: Rye/Fine Fescue on the fairways and rough; Velvet Bent/Poa Trivialis on the greens.

25 – tons of seeds spread

125 – acres of land the overseed covers

Equipment the agronomy team uses:

15 – John Deere 2500 Triplex mower used for fairways

18 – John Deere 180SL mowers used for greens

16 – John Deere 260SL mowers used for tees and approaches

6 – John Deere 2653 mowers used for intermediate cut

66 – John Deere Turf Gators

6 – TruTurf greensrollers

40 – 20-invh Honda Rotary Mowers used for the rough

60 – Blowers to clean

Competition

51.77% – percentage of players who find the fairway off the tee on the par-5 2nd hole (since ShotLink began in 2003); this is the toughest fairway to hit at TPC Sawgrass.

STOP SMOKING
 With hypnotism and Acupuncture
2 SESSIONS \$175
 Only 2 people have ever returned for the second treatment!
Constance Wulf A.P.
 Acupuncture Physician • Medical Hypnotist
 904.994.3709
 acuwulf@yahoo.com • acuwulf.com
 6000-A Sawgrass Village Circle, Suite 10
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

7,189 – tournament yardage

15 – international players who have won THE PLAYERS

6 – number of players that have won THE PLAYERS at least twice (Jack Nicklaus, Steve Elkington, Hal Sutton, Fred Couples, Davis Love III and Tiger Woods)

0 – number of back-to-back winners of THE PLAYERS

15 – number of international winners of THE PLAYERS, from 11 different countries

(Australia, Canada, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe)

7 – widest victory margin. Steve Elkington won by 7 strokes over Scott Hoch in 1997.

6 – largest come-from-behind victory. Raymond Floyd, 1981, Sawgrass Country Club. At TPC Sawgrass, the largest come-from-behind victory is 5 strokes (Justin Leonard/1998 and Henrik Stenson/2009)

100 feet, 1 inch – length of the longest putt made at THE PLAYERS (Ben Crane/R1/2007/14th hole)



17th Hole

679 – total number of balls in the water on 17 since 2003

45 – number of balls that found the water on the 17th hole at the 2019 tournament

802 – balls in the water on #17 since 2003

4 feet, 8 inches – length of Rickie Fowler's winning putt on the 17th hole in 2015.

69 feet, 7 inches – distance of Jhonattan Vegas' birdie putt on the 17th hole, marking the longest putt ever made on the 17th hole

78 feet – length of the island green

50,000 to 60,000 – the number of golf balls that are retrieved from the surrounding water every year

137 – length of the hole from the tournament tees

60 feet – distance of Tiger Woods' "better than most" birdie putt in 2001

Nine – number of holes-in-one on the 17th

3,912 – square footage of the green (compared to a course average of 4,500)

12 – the highest score posted by a professional golfer; Bob Tway in 2005.



First Coast | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

As the owner of Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage, Tim has developed an extensive base of satisfied customers and achieved the distinction of being one of the largest franchises in the US and Canada. Tim looks forward to applying the comprehensive knowledge of the local real estate market he's acquired through his current company to establish the foundation of his real estate business.

Tim Blin

Realtor®

904.234.1699

Tim.Blin@firstcoastsir.com

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

Monday, March 8

Practice Day for professionals
Course closed to the public

Tuesday, March 9 – Military Appreciation Day

Entries open at 7:30 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Charity of the Day: Fire Watch

Noon: Military Appreciation Day Flyover

THE PLAYERS Baby Onesie initiative: Every baby born in Northeast Florida during the entire week of THE PLAYERS receives a special onesie.

Wednesday, March 10

Entries open at 7:30 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Practice Day for professionals

Charity of the Day: Nemours Children's Health System

Thursday, March 11

Entries open at 6:40 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

First round of competition begins at approximately 6:40 a.m. (threesomes off of No. 1 and No.10)

Charity of the Day: Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation

Friday, March 12

Entries open at 6:40 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Second round of competition begins at approximately 6:40 a.m. (threesomes off of No.1 and No.10)

Charity of the Day: Book Trust

Saturday, March 13

Entries open at 7:30 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Third round of competition begins at approximately 7:50 a.m., depending on the size of the cut (twosomes off No.1)

Charity of the Day: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville

Championship: Sunday, March 14

Entries open at 7:30 a.m.

Will Call Hours: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Final round of competition begins at approximately 7:50 a.m., depending on size of the cut (twosomes off No.1)

Charity of the Day: Feeding Northeast Florida

DON'T MISS OUT: EVERY SHOT LIVE

Every Shot Live will showcase more than 32,000 live golf shots over 72 holes from a field of 144 players. All of the coverage will be available to PGA TOUR LIVE subscribers on NBC Sports Gold, with opening-round play free to everyone for the first time.

*Endless ocean views...
...and a straight drive to the 17th!*



Endless, stunning ocean and waterway to Guana Preserve views surround this exquisite, oceanfront estate, built on incredible 200' x 430' private lot with sea wall and a gated, stone circular driveway. Truly one of a kind. 959 Ponte Vedra Blvd. SBR, SBA, 11,000 sq. ft. Offered at \$8,600,000.

For more information contact



Jan Shields (904)891-6331
REALTOR® (904)853-2003



*There's a Six-Way Tie
on the Luxury Leaderboard*

FIELDS AUTO GROUP

1 CADILLAC

1 JAGUAR

1 LAND ROVER

1 LEXUS

1 MERCEDES-BENZ

1 PORSCHE

FIELDSAUTO.COM



PROUD PARTNER OF
THE JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS



COVER STORY

RORY MCILROY DEFENDS

... this time
for sure

by KATHY BISSELL

photo by MICAH GREEN



Last year, Rory McIlroy was all set to defend his PLAYERS title, one of his five most prestigious victories, the other ones being the 2011 U.S. Open, the 2012 and 2014 PGA and the 2014 British Open.

Then, in the middle of PLAYERS week, the COVID-19 crisis began, and the tournament, which had been all systems go on Wednesday, began with an announcement that after Thursday, there would be no spectators. We still anticipated a Sunday finish.

After one round was played, McIlroy might have made the best prediction of all when he said, "I think we just have to play it by ear and take it day by day, and as someone said to me yesterday, today's overreaction could look like tomorrow's underreaction. So just got to take it day by day and see where this thing goes."

Where it went was down a horrible rabbit hole.

There was a domino effect. In the U.S., the NBA canceled games. The NCAA tournament was canceled. When Disney and Universal closed down, that was the siren call to stop everything. The PGA TOUR cancelled the rest of THE PLAYERS and postponed any golf for three weeks. St. Johns County had one case of COVID.

Three weeks quickly became three months. Thousands became ill across the country. Many, tragically, died. However, many more had mild symptoms, like Jack Nicklaus, and his wife Barbara, who tested positive but felt fine.

Millions of people were stranded at home trying to figure out how to work, what to do about schooling for youngsters, what to do about older relatives. You know. You were doing the same thing.

McIlroy was like everybody else. He worked jigsaw puzzles and took joy from the little things. His wife was expecting their first child, so if there was ever a time to be at home more than normal, this was it.

While there, McIlroy launched a new career of sorts by becoming a Peloton superstar, reaching No. 1 status with his rides. Billy Horschel, Justin Thomas, Charley Hoffman, Ian Poulter and Jimmy Walker chased. Poulter actually had two Pelotons (golf-week.usatoday.com/2020/03/24/pgs-tour-stars-push-each-other-on-peloton-during-coronavirus-pandemic).

When Florida golf courses in his area opened up, McIlroy kept his hand in, playing with the PGA TOUR players in the area: Dustin Johnson, Rickie Fowler, Justin Thomas and Shane Lowrey.

McIlroy's coach, Michael Bannon, based in Ireland, sent him a video camera. Bannon couldn't easily travel to the U.S. and get back home without quarantine on each end.

"Michael and I will probably be on FaceTime quite a bit," McIlroy explained in May. "I'll be sending him a lot of swings, and, you know, we are just going to have to do it remotely for the time being, which is, you know, it's a new normal for a lot of people."

Also, in May, McIlroy became one of the first four players



to return to televised golf in a charity match with three other PGA Tour players, the TaylorMade Driving Relief event supported by United Health. Money went to the American Nurses Foundation and the CDC Foundation.

He had Dustin Johnson as a partner and they faced Matthew Wolff and Rickie Fowler, both of whom were Oklahoma State grads.

"It's going to be fun, but I'd like to think that there will be a little bit of trash talk," McIlroy said before play. "Rickie, DJ and I go back a long ways. We played against each other in the Walker Cup in 2007 and then fast forward 13 years, and we're doing something like this. We've got a bit of history."

In a playoff, McIlroy and Johnson won. With what the sponsors put in, \$5.5 million was raised in all, \$1.1 million pledged by viewers.

About three weeks later, tournament golf returned for McIlroy when the PGA TOUR restarted at the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial CC in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I'm excited to be back on the road and doing what I'm supposed to do, play golf and compete," he said before the Schwab. "I think that's the one thing I'm looking forward to the most and the one thing I've missed the most over the past few months is just the competition."

Between mid-June and the end of August, McIlroy played nine tournaments out of the 13 that were held. He played tournaments on courses that may not have been best suited for his game, like Colonial, like RBC Heritage, both of which are very tight and not exceptionally long.

After the Travelers, he seemed unhappy with his play.

"Just over the last few weeks I've made too many mistakes, too many bogeys, too many loose shots, and that was sort of what it was this week, as well," he said. "The way I'm feeling right now, I feel like a couple weeks off."

He finally saw Michael Bannon just before The Memorial, which was mid-July, but after the PGA Championship in August, he sounded a bit like he was searching.

"Maybe I'm just not as good as I used to be. I don't know," he said after the final round of the PGA. "I can't really put my finger on it. I go out there and try my best every single day. Some days I play better than others, and just got to keep going and keep persisting and see if you can do better the next time."

This is not the thinking of a recent world No. 1 player.

However, things were looking up at home. The McIlroys' first child came into the world in the last week of August. Poppy Kennedy McIlroy. Does that sound Irish or what?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 ■

“ I think we just have to play it by ear and take it day by day, and as someone said to me yesterday, today's overreaction could look like tomorrow's underreaction. So just got to take it day by day and see where this thing goes. ”

– Rory McIlroy following last year's cancellation of THE PLAYERS after one round



photo by MICAH GREEN

Shop Locally Grown Produce - Straight from the heart of Palm Valley!

GYO GREENS
FISH • FARM • FORK

CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE:
Wednesday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Popular items include:
Petite Salad Blends, Pea shoots, Sunflower shoots, Chimichurri, Wheatgrass, and Living Microgreens Seasonal Farm Baskets

COME VISIT OUR AQUAPONICS FARM!

- Educational Tours
- Field Trips
- Scouts Projects
- Volunteering

For more information visit our website

Shop our web store and join our newsletter at:
www.gyogreens.com | Gift cards available

New Listing! Marsh Landing CC



Gorgeous 4 bedroom 3 bath home with large bonus room and screened-in Pool & Spa overlooking the beautiful marsh. Must see!
Details & Photos visit: 149indianCove.info



JAKE BESTIC
Your BEST Real Estate Move!

904-712-6444 ~ jake@pvbeach.com

www.PVBEACH.COM



COLDWELL BANKER
VANGUARD REALTY, INC.

McIlroy was back on the golf course for the TOUR Championship, right after the baby was born. He finished 8th, his best since the June restart.

Then, the McIlroy family took a few weeks off to have some family time. Who wouldn't want to do that?

Near the end of October, he played the CJ Cup and the ZOZO both of which had been moved from Asia to the U.S. because of COVID. His last tournament of 2020 was The Masters, which was held two weeks before Thanksgiving. He finished fifth. It was progress.

"I'm trying not to be impatient," he said in Abu Dhabi in January. "I try to stay as patient as possible, but what I will say is that last win does feel like quite a long time ago at this point."

It was, in fact, the 2020 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, which was played in the fall of 2019.

He cited his problem stats from 2020.

"One of the things was approach play out of the rough, which is sort of random, but I hit 60% of fairways, so that means 40% of the time I'm hitting out of the rough, which is quite a lot," he explained.

In 2019, he hit the fairways 61.82% of the time. In 2020, it was 56.34. So far in 2021, he's 58.43%.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ■

VS | Valerie Shaw
 "Relocate with Val"
 904.612.4121
www.relocatewithval.com
valerie@relocatewithval.com

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL?

VALERIE SHAW, REALTOR®
 Consistent Top Producer in your
 area for over 22 years!

www.relocatewithval.com

Ponte Vedra Club Realty
 280 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 904.285.6927 | www.pvclubrealty.com

SOUTHSIDE DERMATOLOGY & LASER COSMETIC CENTER

GENERAL DERMATOLOGY • SKIN CANCER SURGERY
 COSMETIC SERVICES • LASER SERVICES

Skin Cancers? Thinning Hair? Sun Damaged Skin? Wrinkles? Red Face? Excessive Fat?

Accepting most insurance • Online scheduling at southsidedermatology.com
 Telehealth appointments available • Saturday appointments available

Quality dermatology and cosmetic services at one convenient location.

☞ **ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS** ☞

572 Jacksonville Dr., Jacksonville Beach

904.400.7772

www.southsidedermatology.com



Mary Pentel, M.D.



Ivette Sosa Seda, M.D.



Kristin Dub, APRN



Carmen Ramirez-Boyd, APRN



Dr. Erika R. Hamer
DC, DIBCN, DIBE
Board Certified
Chiropractic
Neurologist
Practice Founder/Owner

Family Chiropractic Care Serving St. Johns County for 17 Years - In Network for Most Insurance Companies



Drive Better Back Health through Chiropractic with this New Patient Special Offer!

\$39 Initial Visit and Exam - Valued at \$260!
*Offer also valid for reactivating patients - those not seen at the office in the previous six months.

Ponte Vedra Beach/273-2691

100 Corridor Rd South, # 220, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Nocatee Town Center/834-2747

205 Marketside Ave, #200, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT WHICH IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT. CAN NOT BE COMBINED. MAY NOT BE VALID FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS INCLUDING MEDICARE. WITH THIS AD AND ONE TIME USE ONLY. CANNOT BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY TO ALREADY BOOKED APPOINTMENTS. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/2021.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Getting better out of the rough is a challenge.

“Who goes and drops a bag of practice balls in the rough?” he questioned. “You go to the range and hit off a perfectly manicured piece of turf, and that’s nice but that’s not what you’re always doing on the golf course.”

His second shots — the ones to the green — he thought, were similar to the previous season, but his putts from four to eight feet had been off.

“Obviously if I get those better, my game will become better,” he added.

One change he recently made is to put an alignment line on his golf ball which he also did in 2014, one of his best years.

“I won a tournament with it. I won Wentworth during that stretch. I had my best-ever strokes gained putting round at Memorial using the line,” he said. “It’s something I’ve sort of went back and forth with over the years.”

He also won The British Open and the PGA that year.

Whether the line on the ball is the magic key to future success, whether he stays with it for more than a day or even a week remains to be seen, but as golfers will tell you, when you aren’t playing the way you want to, you’ve got to change something. Who knows, maybe drawing a line on the ball will help him win THE PLAYERS again. Maybe it will even help him win the Masters which would complete his career grand slam. The fate of a career could hang on a Sharpie marker.



233 Rivershore Lane



Nestled along the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway, each day begins with views of the sunrise across the marsh and ends with a joyful brilliance this 4BR/4.5BA “Island House” was designed to capture every moment of. \$1,950,000



630 Carcaba Road



Enjoy your slice of waterfront paradise! 488 feet on the Intracoastal, this exclusive homesite offers 2+ acres of buildable uplands with picturesque views and your own private beach at low tide, as well as 6.41 acres of conservation land. \$2,499,000.



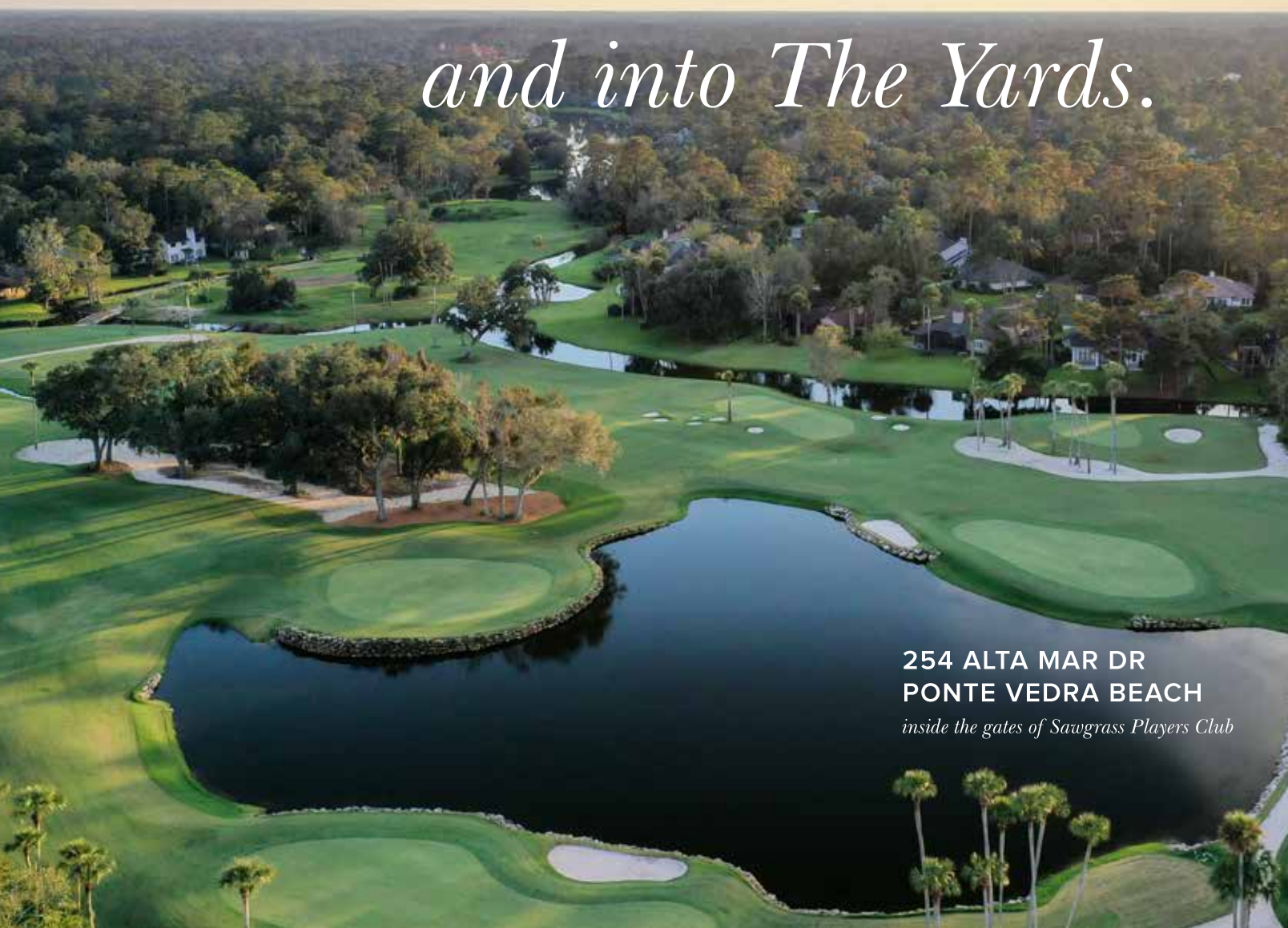
Noah Bailey
GROUP

kW ATLANTIC PARTNERS
ST. AUGUSTINE
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

904-878-4447 | noahbaileygroup.com

step out of your yard

and into The Yards.



254 ALTA MAR DR
PONTE VEDRA BEACH
inside the gates of Sawgrass Players Club

EST. 2020 **THE**  **ARDS**

Tee times available Wednesday through Sunday PLAYERS week!

904.395.2101 | PLAYTHEYARDS.COM

First Coast



LIVE



Kristen Seay
(904) 607-1426
kristen.seay@sothebysrealty.com



Angela Renn
(904) 465-0357
angela.renn@sothebysrealty.com

EKLUND LU

RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES



5384 CHANDLER BEND DR.
2.92 million



4439 CATHEYS CLUB LN.
1.645 million 19 days / full ask



5015 RIVER POINT RD.
\$1.225 million 32 days



5396 BENTPINE COVE RD.
\$2.75 million



24729 HARBOUR VIEW DR.
\$4.525 million



24756 HARBOUR VIEW DR.
\$3.91 million 39 days

"Specializing in Every Level of Luxury from the Ocean to the River"



LUXURY PROPERTY GROUP

Nicholas Eklund
(904) 575-1197

nicholas.eklund@sothebysrealty.com



AVAILABLE PROPERTIES



3600 DARNALL PLACE - 7500 sq. ft. main house, 12730 detached heated cooled. 4bd/9ba/4hb. \$7,950,000



6647 EPPING FOREST WAY N - 5539 sq. ft., 5bd/5ba/1hb. \$1,289,000



3013 SUNSET LANDING DR. - 9046 sq. ft., 7bd/8ba/2hb \$2,099,000



3404 SAINT JOHNS AVE - 5279 sq. ft., 4br/3ba/2hb \$2,100,000

"Be Represented with the Highest Degree of Dedication, Honesty, and Integrity"

NEW NAMES & TRACES

Who could challenge at THE PLAYERS



Patrick Cantlay



Viktor Hovland



Collin Morikawa

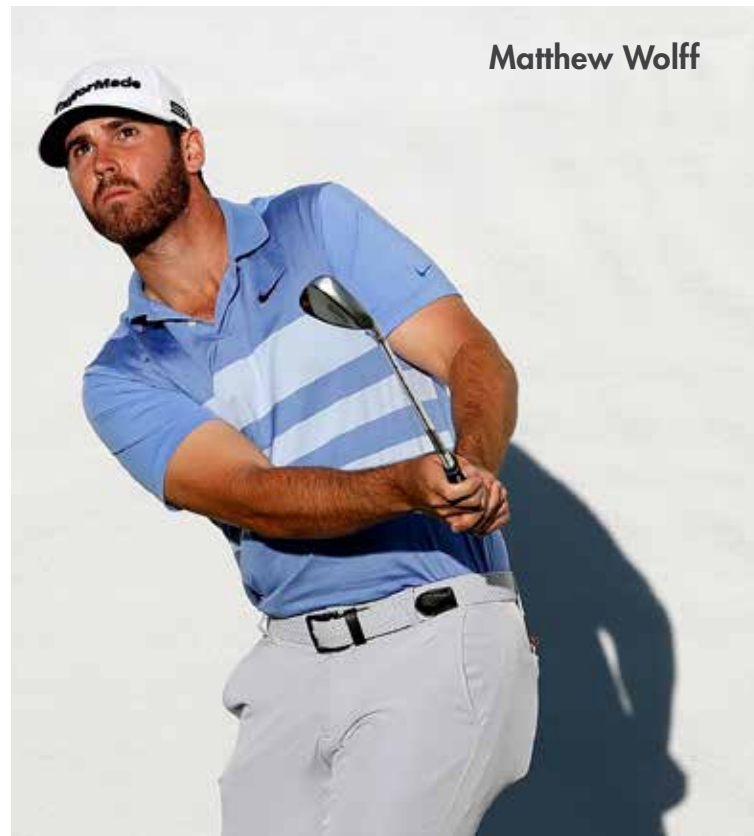
LEFT: Collin Morikawa plays his second shot on the 14th hole during the Omega Dubai Desert Classic at Emirates Golf Club on Jan. 29 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

FAR LEFT (TOP): Patrick Cantlay plays his second shot on the first hole during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am at Pebble Beach Golf Links on Feb. 14 in Pebble Beach, California.

BELOW: Matthew Wolff chips to the 16th green during the first round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open on Feb. 4 in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Bryson DeChambeau



Matthew Wolff

LEFT: Bryson DeChambeau plays his shot from the second tee during the final round of the Sentry Tournament Of Champions on Jan. 10 in Kapalua, Hawaii.

FAR LEFT (BOTTOM): Viktor Hovland plays his shot from the second tee during the final round of the Sentry Tournament Of Champions on Jan. 10.

photos provided by the PGA TOUR

by KATHY BISSELL

You likely know Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. You'd have to be under a golf rock for the last 25 years not to. But you may not know some of the up-and-comers who surfaced in the last year and who have enough game to challenge at THE PLAYERS Championship. Here are some names to look for as you watch, whether from home or on the course.

First, there's Bryson DeChambeau, who has changed his entire body in the last year or so because he was chasing distance. DeChambeau was a physics major at SMU and is known to be a little bit of a mad scientist when it comes to golf. He uses one length for all his irons. He has larger than normal grips. He gained 45 pounds to have more mass behind the ball in his swing. However, he quieted all his critics when he won the U.S. Open last fall for his seventh PGA TOUR title. Currently, he's experimenting with a 48-inch driver. He's leading the PGA TOUR in driving distance average at 329 yards, but he has hit a Trackman measured drive that went over 400 yards.

If DeChambeau can keep his golf ball on the course at THE PLAYERS, he has a good chance. He is heat-of-competition tested.

DeChambeau is one of five golfers who have won both the NCAA and U.S. Amateur in the same year. The others are Jack Nicklaus (1961), Phil Mickelson (1990), Tiger Woods (1996) and Ryan Moore (2004). It's impossible to count him out.

Matthew Wolff is a recent Oklahoma State grad, and we saw him up close at the TaylorMade Driving Relief where he was Rickie Fowler's partner. Wolff has an unusual takeaway motion where he bends his knee in a forward press so far that you'd swear he was going to curtsy. He won his first tournament, the 3M Open, about a month after turning professional in 2019. He was playing on a sponsor exemption. He would have been the last person anyone expected to win at 3M.

Last summer, he challenged Bryson DeChambeau at the U.S. Open but finished second. One highlight of that tournament was his drive on the 9th hole that went 388 yards.

Collin Morikawa is a Southern California native who went to school at the University of California-Berkeley. While there he won the Sunnehanna Amateur, the Trans-Miss Amateur and the Northeast Amateur as well as the PAC 12 Individual Championship. He turned professional in the spring of 2019 and before the first of August had his first victory at the Barracuda Championship.

When he debuted, Morikawa started a made cut streak that lasted 22 events, just three shy of Tiger Woods' initial season. Last summer, he beat Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Jason Day, Matthew Wolff, Justin Rose and a group of other challengers at the PGA Championship. What a way to begin a career.

Viktor Hovland is a Norwegian who played collegiate golf — along with half the world it seems — at the Oklahoma

Exceptional legal counsel, proactive business advice.

125
ATTORNEYS

118
FOCUS AREAS

7
OFFICES



Lippes
Mathias
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., Bldg. 300, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 | 904.660.0200

ALBANY | BUFFALO | CHICAGO | GREATER TORONTO AREA
JACKSONVILLE | NEW YORK CITY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

LIPPES.COM



Suzanne Stephens

904.333.8843 CELL
smstephens@pvclubrealty.com



Suzanne Sells
the Beaches!
2020
President's
Club Award
15 Years
Real Estate
Experience

**Welcome Tournament Fans! Make your 19th Hole
a Tour of Homes - Call Suzanne Today!**



Marsh Landing Country Club
\$775,000

Open and bright 4BR/3.5BA home with loads of windows and natural light. Great room with FP, stone floors and 18 ft. ceiling. Gourmet kitchen with stainless appls and large island. Deck overlooks huge backyard with room for pool. MLS 1094146.



Sawmill Lakes
\$735,000

Enjoy the expansive water views from this 6BR/4.5BA home with screened pool, covered lanai and summer kitchen. Gorgeous kitchen with granite, stainless appls and custom cabinetry opens to family room with FP and built-ins. MLS 1084419

Take advantage of our powerful affiliation with Gate Hospitality. Ask about Preferred Membership Initiation Fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club and The River Club available exclusively through Ponte Vedra Club Realty.

280 Ponte Vedra Blvd. | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
www.pvclubrealty.com | 904.285.6927

State University. He won the U.S. Amateur in 2018 and won low amateur honors at the Masters and U.S. Open in the same season, the first to do that since Matt Kuchar. He also broke the 72-hole score by an amateur in the U.S. Open with 280, breaking Jack Nicklaus' record of 282, which was set in 1960.

Hovland turned pro immediately after the 2019 U.S. Open and entered the Travelers. Six months after turning pro, he won his first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open, an opposite field event to a World Golf Championship tournament. Last December, he won the Mayakoba Golf Classic, a regular full-field event, for his second PGA TOUR title. That's two victories in less than 12 months.

Patrick Cantlay is another California native. He played golf for UCLA and turned pro early. However, after doing so, he quickly had back problems which kept him from playing a solid schedule. The injury happened at the Charles Schwab Challenge in Fort Worth when he was warming up on the range. The diagnosis, which took two months, was a stress fracture in his lower back. That has healed, but it took quite a while. It caused him to make a few swing changes so — hopefully — it doesn't happen again. Now he's making up for lost time. Already he has three PGA Tour victories, the 2017 Shriners Hospital for Children the 2019 Memorial and the 2020 ZOZO.

Any one of this group could win THE PLAYERS.

Will they?

Well, you'll just have to read the prediction.

First Coast

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Since 2012, Lauren Martilli has helped home buyers, sellers, and investors navigate the real estate process seamlessly. Known for impeccable attention to detail, eye for design, and expectation of achieving perfection, Lauren provides the exceptional level of service synonymous with the Sotheby's International Realty brand. Connect with Lauren to discuss your vision and enjoy an elevated real estate experience.

Lauren Martilli, Broker Associate/Realtor®

Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist™

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty

904.400.2624

<http://laurenmartilli.firstcoastsir.com>

We Always Eat Like This At Home.



OPENING THIS SUMMER | Reserve Now!

Need directions to one of Jacksonville's hottest new restaurants? First floor, Windsor Pointe. Windsor residents will live smack dab in the middle of Jacksonville's premier dining neighborhoods, but their favorite **Latitudes Restaurant** and chef-prepared cuisine is just down the hall. Dress down and drop in at **The Hatch Bar**, our friendly neighborhood pub. For a hot coffee or cold beer after golf, hit the **Beaches Eatery** for an unhurried nosh with neighbors. Sunbathers who like to dine on the spot without getting sand in their shoes love the **Coastal Cabana**, poolside lounging with a delightful lunch menu and refreshments.

What? Doesn't Everybody Eat Like This At Home?

Then you simply must sample Jacksonville's newest and finest Vibrant Independent Living.

TAKE A PRIVATE TOUR: 904-490-6300

Windsor Pointe

VIBRANT INDEPENDENT LIVING

A Residence of Legend Senior Living®

WindsorPointeJAX.com



Welcome Center: 14333-26 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville



Going for

GOLD

by KATHY BISSELL



THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS

photos by CRAIG O'NEAL
and MICAH GREEN



Who does the Crystal Ball see as THE PLAYERS winner in 2021?

What a year.

It has been nearly 12 full months since the THE PLAYERS Championship 2020 was canceled. My Crystal Ball went into shock when that happened, and it took some serious resuscitation to bring it back. The doctors said it was a medical miracle that it hadn't disintegrated into sand. The Ball was honestly in a daze until golf came back in May with the two special events, the first one featuring Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff.

The Ball really likes Rickie and is partial to orange.

It perked up.

Then it started giving off sparks when Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson teed it up with Peyton Manning and Tom Brady for the second special event. Even Brady's ripped pants didn't upset it. And the Ball thought Peyton Manning was a blast.

Thankfully, when the PGA TOUR held its first event of the restarted season in Fort Worth at the Charles Schwab Challenge, the Ball was almost back to normal, whatever normal is for a cracked Crystal Ball. Now it's starting to sparkle, and might be ready to provide illuminating guidance as to who will win the THE PLAYERS Championship 2021.

This year will be different. Really different. There will only be 20% of the normal amount of fans. That's a shame, but necessary. It will still be more than at any golf tournament since last March. There will be some welcome cheers and shouts for good shots and appropriate moans for water balls.

Having fans may give an assist to twice-defending champ McIlroy, who admitted several times during the last year that he misses them. He thinks his game is not quite as sharp without their presence. For that reason, he's not the Ball's favorite to win, although the Ball is quite partial to Rory as are many golf fans. McIlroy has just not had a great golf year, although with the birth of his first child, Poppy, he has had a great personal year. The thing is, you never know when the switch will flip on and turn a down trend into fabulous success on the golf course. Maybe the 20% of fans at the Arnold Palmer and at THE PLAYERS will be enough to push him over the edge. That might be as many as 10,000 people each day. Can they do it? We'll see.

Phil Mickelson, who turned 50 last June, can still bash the golf egg. He's a past champ, so he's knows how to beat TPC Sawgrass, which is half the battle. He finished high enough in FedEx points to qualify for the tournament. However, his accuracy has been as off as the Crystal Ball's psyche was for a while. It's an achievement that Phil was still in the top 125 after last season. His last PGA TOUR victory was a little over two years ago at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. However, he won both events he played on the PGA TOUR Champions Tour. If he decided to take the Henrik Stenson route and play a 3-wood off the tee instead of driver, I would not count him out for a second victory. Phil's just that talented, but he's a sucker for distance.



Jordan Spieth

Now, this last 12 months brought several new players into the limelight. Collin Morikawa, who won the PGA at TPC Harding Park. Bryson DeChambeau, who took apart Winged Foot in the U.S. Open, and his sidekick and second-place finisher, Matthew Wolff, who routinely hit drives longer than Bryson did. Daniel Berger, who finally got uninjured and won at the Charles Schwab, (it's hard not to say the Colonial because that was the name for so many years). Patrick Cantlay is another who is finally healthy. Then there's Victor Hovland, the former U.S. Amateur champ, who is from Norway. And you can't leave out Brooks Koepka. He's finally healthy, too. Talk about golf tirage. Who hurts the most?

While Bryson won tournaments before he went on his chase of distance, he was hitting his drives an average of 20-25 yards shorter. If he can throttle back a bit, he's got the mental ability to challenge Pete Dye's design. Like Phil, he's got the bombs-away mentality, and every course doesn't require it. TPC Sawgrass, for instance.

Morikawa seems to be suffering from success a bit, which is not surprising. It happens to most everybody who wins a major. They get overwhelmed with offers, and it's tough to sort everything out for a while. But he'll be back. He does have the kind of game that can do well here. He's long enough, but not super long. He's in the fairway a lot, which is important at TPC Sawgrass, and he's an OK putter, according to the stats. However, he's a West Coast guy and it takes them a while to get used to playing overseeded Bermuda like we have in Florida and other places in the Southeast.

Wolff can sometimes be really off with his drives. At TPC Sawgrass, he would need to be really on. But watching him play will be interesting. He can turn the 4th hole into a par 3 with some luck. And he can almost do the same thing at the 6th and the 10th. So, like DeChambeau, on length alone, he can demolish any course. But TPC Sawgrass requires some finesse.

Daniel Berger seems to have all the shots as he showed in winning at the Charles Schwab. He said while he was out with injury, he realized that he really did love to play golf. It changed his attitude, he said. It must have because he just won again at Pebble Beach. Berger is a Florida native and



went to Florida State, so you can cheer for him enthusiastically, whether in your family room or on the course. How about a little Bergermania?

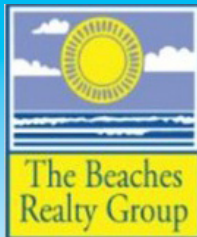
Patrick Cantlay has been a player in the making for quite a while. He, too, was sidelined with injury (his back). But this season, he's been living on leaderboards. He won the ZOZO which was played at Sherwood CC outside Los Angeles. And he had close calls at TPC Scottsdale and Pebble Beach. Cantlay is a Southern California guy so it makes sense that the West Coast swing would be good for him. Like Morikawa, coming east means overseeded Bermudagrass, which is an acquired taste. But he's a very good player who is playing very well currently.

One guy who seems to be really solid is Viktor Hovland. He hits a lot of fairways and even more greens. He's an adequate putter, and if he hits it close enough, he can rake it in for a victory. Hovland has already won twice, and he's ranked 14 in the world, which is astonishing for a guy who only turned pro after the 2019 U.S. Open. Golf is really all about hitting fairways and greens, and he's good at that. Amazingly, he also went to Oklahoma State — somebody there is great at recruiting! The Ball likes his steady style for TPC Sawgrass, but maybe it's just the OSU orange thing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 ■



904-881-6124



Melissa Scott Gann
Broker Associate



2320 Third St. S, Suite 11
Jacksonville, FL 32250
mel.gann.can@gmail.com
www.melissagann.realtor



Mission House
Compassion by the Sea

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY
THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP!

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE
JACKSONVILLE BEACHES COMMUNITY:



Our Mission is to empower individuals affected by homelessness in the Beaches area by providing food, clothing, medical care, and support services with an avenue to self-sufficiency.

During the COVID-19 crisis, we kept our doors open and our Crisis Care Rapid Re-Housing programs going, all because of our dedicated frontline staff and the generous support of our community.



Our free clinic provides high-quality care completely free of charge to uninsured adults in Duval County with the help of licensed medical volunteers and partners, like WeCare Jax.

WE  OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Opportunities include the Clinic, Kulik's Closet, and sorting donations. Please visit:
www.missionhousejax.org/volunteers



www.missionhousejax.org/donate-now
(904) 241-6767



After winning two U.S. Opens in back-to-back style, which is historically almost never done, and winning two PGAs in back-to-back fashion, which is also extra hard, Brooks Koepka has shown himself to be one tough customer. The Crystal Ball is impressed and kind of glows when Brooks flexes his biceps. (You have to admit, it's remarkable.) He has had numerous problems with his left knee in the last two years and has rehabbed and rehabbed after stem cell injections. When last asked about it, he said he felt great. And then he just showed up and won in Scottsdale. He could win anything, anytime, anywhere. He's just that capable.

Of players who have been around for a while, Patrick Reed seems to hit bullets when he's on. He's a former Masters champ and just won in San Diego at the Famers Insurance Open. He is a bit of a ruling magnet, but it will be all hands on the ruling deck at THE PLAYERS. Officials will be able to handle anything.

There's Justin Thomas who has already won the PGA Championship and 13 tournaments. However, his grandfather, who he was close to, recently died. And that may have a few lingering effects. However, the Crystal Ball likes his fighting attitude. When he's on, he's amazing. His feet actually leave the ground on his drives. That's how hard he hits it. Also, 59s don't grow on trees, and he has posted that score in a PGA TOUR event. He's definitely a go-low guy.



By March he could be ready for another challenge.

I'm sure you wonder why the Ball hasn't mentioned Jordan Spieth. Well, he's still hitting it off the planet every once-in-a-while on hit tee shots, and it's hard to win that way. It can be done, but it takes a lot of Tums. Hank Haney said on a podcast interview sometime in 2020 that Jordan was so far down in terms of stats performance that it was going to take him three years to recover his form. However, Haney had no doubt that Spieth would be back. He just said from where he was last year, it's a three-year climb to get anyplace near where he was. We are in year two. I have a lot of faith in Hank when it comes to knowing golfers and golf swings. If Hank says three years,



931 Spinnakers Reach Drive

Available for: \$2,300,000

3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,160 SF

Ritter Soares Team

ritter.soaresteam@firstcoastsir.com

Kasey Ritter: 904.449.6648

Catarina Soares: 352.222.2224

rittersoaresteam.firstcoastsir.com



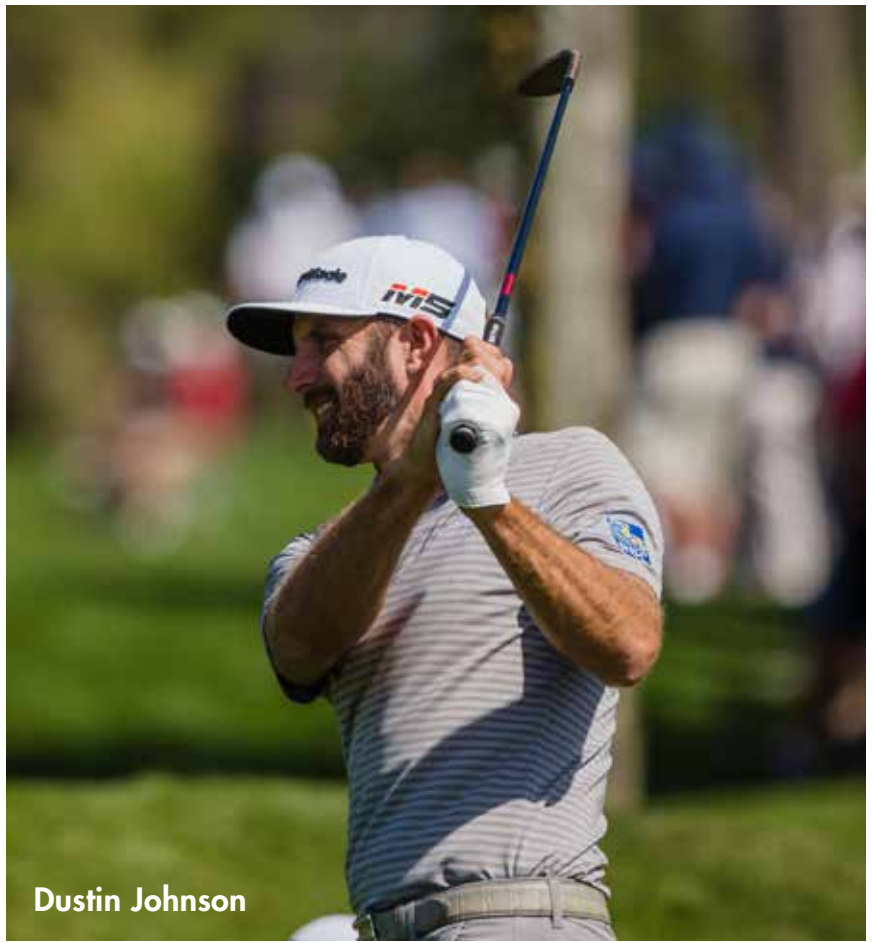
Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Sotheby's International Realty, the Sotheby's International Realty logo, "For the Ongoing Collection of Life" and RESIDE are registered (or unregistered) service marks owned or licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC.

it's going to be three years. However, there was some progress after Jordan had a tete-a-tete with Butch Harmon. That might speed it up, but not in time for THE PLAYERS. I'd like to be wrong on this, but don't think I am. The Ball is turning dark as I write this. It doesn't like it. I understand.

But my guess is none of those previously mentioned players are going to win. As much as the Crystal Ball would like for someone in orange to carry off the trophy or loves the idea of Brooks' lifting a gold golfer statue, I don't think it's going to happen.

This time around, no matter what the Crystal Ball says, I'm going with Dustin "The Dominator" Johnson. I mean move over Arnold Schwarzenegger. Dustin Johnson can eat golf courses for breakfast and crush them by dinner. He has all the shots now. He's really practiced his short game, and his putting gets better all the time. He just might be the next player to win not just THE PLAYERS this year, but in the future, the PGA and the British Open. That would make him one of three to do that. The Super Slam, let's call it. The other two? Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

The Crystal Ball is lighting up and shooting rainbows over this. I'm pretty sure this is one time when I'll be right!



Dustin Johnson

St. Augustine! The Ocean! The Reef!



Enjoy ocean views from every table.

Expanded Outdoor Seating

Serving Lunch & Dinner

Live Music Friday & Saturday

Fresh Fish, Seafood, Steaks & So Much More

Voted BEST HAPPY HOUR and BEST BRUNCH in St. Augustine

The Atlantic Ocean! A constant view that never looks the same! The Reef is one of the few remaining truly oceanfront restaurants in Northeast Florida. Unrivaled views, Great food and wine. Just 20 minutes South of Ponte Vedra on A1A.

4100 Coastal Highway A1A North • (904) 824-8008



www.thereefstaugustine.com

3/20/2020-01

MAJOR MILESTONES

by KATHY BISSELL

photos provided by the PGA TOUR

5-year anniversaries at THE PLAYERS Championship

5
YEARS



JASON DAY (2016)

Jason Day won three tournaments in close proximity to each other in 2016: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, the WGC Dell Match Play and THE PLAYERS. At THE PLAYERS, he led after every round and won by four strokes.

10
YEARS



K.J. CHOI (2011)

Choi became the first Asian golfer and first Korean golfer to win THE PLAYERS. He defeated David Toms in a playoff. Both Choi and Toms are now PGA TOUR Champions players.

15
YEARS



STEPHEN AMES (2006)

Ames is the only Canadian and Trinidad and Tobagoan to have won THE PLAYERS. He now plays on the PGA TOUR Champions.



20 YEARS

TIGER WOODS (2001)

This year is the anniversary of the “Better Than Most” putt at the 17th. It’s also the 20th anniversary of Woods’ first victory at **THE PLAYERS**. Woods is one of five who won **THE PLAYERS** twice. His first victory came in the period of time when he was playing his best, the 2000-2001 seasons, when he had the Tiger Slam.



25 YEARS

FRED COUPLES (1996)

Couples won **THE PLAYERS** twice. His first victory was in 1984. His second was in 1996. Afterward he said, “I wasn’t really planning on playing ‘til I was 46, but at least now I will be exempt if I am.” Couples still plays on the PGA TOUR Champions.



New 'Island' HEADQUARTERS for PGA TOUR

photo provided
by the PGA TOUR


by KATHY BISSELL

It's big. It's bold. It has a moat, but no alligators. (So far!)

It's the new PGA TOUR HQ on County Road 210. It would be easy to say you can't miss it, but it has berms that partially obscure it. Because of those landscaped earthen mounds, you could drive by without immediately thinking, "Wow, that's really something." But it is something. Something huge!

So, it's now official. After more than 40 years, the PGA TOUR says goodbye to the dark wood and shingled roof offices on TPC Boulevard. They aren't going to be TOUR HQ any longer. Meantime, the TOUR says hello to a sparkling, massive, 187,000-square-foot, glass-walled headquarters. That's more than twice the size of the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse.

The new offices have plenty of skylights and the facility is very "now" with 13 EV auto charging stations and more than 16,000 square feet of solar panels on the roof. The solar array is provided by PowerSecure, a subsidiary of Southern Company, which is a PGA TOUR sponsor. The panels do not provide power to the building. They send electricity to the grid and the TOUR gets a credit. (They hope to save 20% of energy costs.)


16,659FT²
SOLAR PANELS ON ROOF


13
BOTTLE
FILLERS


150
DISPLAY SCREENS


120,000FT²
ROOF OVER THREE STORIES OF
187,000FT²
ENCLOSED BUILDING SPACE


10,000
CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE



BY COMPARISON
FOOTBALL PLAYING FIELD=48,000FT²


800+
TREES PLANTED


4,250
GALLONS
OF PAINT


95
MEETING SPACES


13
CHARGING STATIONS


OVER 900
PARKING SPOTS


150+
COLLABORATIVE
& OUTDOOR SEATING
WORKSPACES


.6 MILE
OF PATHWAY ON PROPERTY



The new PGA TOUR headquarters, designed by Foster + Partners, is an open concept space. Areas have been carved out on each of the three floors for the various TOUR departments.
photos provided by the PGA TOUR


The gleaming building will house all the people who have been squirreled away in 17 or so different buildings in Ponte Vedra, mostly in Sawgrass Village. The HQ staff now numbers 750 people, and when life returns to normal, they will all inhabit the new structure.

Right now, just people who are essential to operations and THE PLAYERS are there. Many people are still working remotely.

The structure itself, designed by Foster + Partners, is an open concept space. Areas have been carved out on each of the three floors for the various TOUR departments.

You could think of the design as being like two sets of giant glass boxcars, parallel to each other and stacked three high, with staircases and bridges connecting the two stacks. Various departments are positioned inside each “boxcar.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48 ■



**Multi-Million Dollar
PRODUCER**


COLDWELL BANKER
PREMIER PROPERTIES

*Global
Luxury
Certified
Agent*

*If you watch a game, it's fun.
If you play at it, it's recreation.
If you work at it, it's golf.*

BOB HOPE


selling the florida lifestyle



REALTOR®

Robin Rawald

904.325.3720 Rawaldrobin@yahoo.com
559 W. Twincourt Trail, Suite 610, St. Augustine, FL 32095



**COLDWELL BANKER
PREMIER PROPERTIES**

Each office is independently owned and operated.



photo provided by the PGA TOUR


■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

There's also a dramatic atrium in the center, supposedly big enough to hold the entire staff, if they wanted to assemble. But they will likely be too busy.

The building is so big, they've created color-coded maps to show where all the departments are located. Commissioner Monahan, for instance, is in the middle of the second floor on one side of the building. The Monahan Boxcar, if you will. To one side of his office is communications and to the other is what may be human resources under the title of talent and culture, and then beyond that, there is legal. There's always legal.

The other side of the building, across a bridge, and also on the second floor contains all three tours in the center: PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and Korn Ferry. To one side of that is Corporate Partnerships, Global Meetings and Corporate Events. To the other side is an office for NBC and then for Championship Management, the tournament-running arm of the TOUR.

The top floor includes — on one side — International, Agronomy and Golf Course Properties, Employee Services, Finance and Accounting, Tax Services and something called Treasury and Risk Management. It sounds a bit like a country, and in a way it is. It's a country of tournament golf that happens to be located in Florida.


Cypress Village
Explore. Discover. Celebrate.

*Independent Living • Personalized Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing • Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
On-Site Rehab • Respite Care*

4600 Middleton Park Circle East • Jacksonville FL 32224 • 904-807-6190 cypressvillageretirement.com

The other side of the top floor has PGA TOUR Media, PGA TOUR Media Business Development, International Media, Broadcasting and Digital on one end. That takes up about half of a floor. The remainder is Data and Technology Solutions and then Golf Technologies.

The ground floor is full of employee comforts but there's also business. Starting with the fun stuff, one side is Fitness Center, Coffee Bar and TOUR Café. An area that will get a workout is the golf simulator. That hitting bay will be take-a-number for a chance to use, believe me.

Then the rest of that side of the building is marketing, licensing and merchandising.

The other side of the ground floor is First Tee, travel and some departments with names that don't make sense unless you work there.

Because TOUR employees are always working in groups assigned to an overall task, like running a tournament for instance, they need meeting rooms, and do they ever have them. Ninety-five in all. There's probably a meeting to coordinate meetings.

As far as getting inside, you'll need to be on some kind of business because there is a security gate, kind of like a draw-bridge for a moat, out near the entrance on 210.

Speaking of County Road 210, this building is so big it has its own turn lanes, which is a good thing because the idea of 750 people piling out at 5 p.m. is a little heart-stopping. With just a few staffers on site right now, it gives us a chance to get used to it. Of course, for those living on THE PLAYERS Club side of Sawgrass, it's a little less traffic in the mornings and evenings. In life as in golf, every shot makes somebody happy.

You can get a view of the new HQ nation from the parking lot at Walgreens, from the parking lot at the Post Office or at the southernmost 210 exit of the shopping center with the Panera's, Starbucks and McDonald's. Just don't stop in the middle of the road, tempting as it might be, to see this amazing structure.

Finally, if you are wondering what happens to the buildings at Sawgrass Village, the TOUR owns them. So, look for them to be repurposed or redesigned into something else. It will be nice, whatever it is, because the PGA TOUR is a good neighbor.

“Those who do not learn history, are doomed to repeat it.”



Scott A. Grant



WENDY PATTON
REALTOR®

Making your Real Estate Dream a Reality

904.382.0527

WPatton.FloridaNetworkRealty.com

 **BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY** HomeServices | **Florida Network Realty**

© 2021 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.™ Equal Housing Opportunity.



AT THE

by KATHY BISSELL

FOREFRONT

How the PGA TOUR led the way for golf and other sports to return amid the COVID-19 pandemic

A few weeks after the cancellation of THE PLAYERS — and nearly everything else last March — people tried to figure out ways to go forward with some semblance of their past lives, whether it be working from home, doing everything digitally instead of in person or having everything delivered instead of going to stores. After a couple weeks of that, we knew we could not live locked in houses in perpetuity, but we weren't sure what to do. Like many companies and organizations, The PGA TOUR decided to find a way to operate again.

Safely.

While the rest of us said, “thank God” for Amazon and Walmart and Target, which got stuff delivered to our doors, the TOUR rolled up its collective sleeves and went to work on solving the problem.

After initially announcing a three-week halt to tournaments, the TOUR took advice from the CDC and the Coronavirus Task Force, and soon began to understand restarting was more complicated than initially anticipated. Three weeks became three months. During that time, the brainpower at TOUR HQ asked hard questions and made plans. How could they bring back tournament golf without endangering the players or anyone else? It was not reinventing the wheel. It was reinventing the entire car.

The TOUR started on all fronts: players, sponsorships, tournament sites, employees and went from there. What would the sponsors agree to? Who would offer to be the first tournament back? What states would or could hold an event? How could it be done safely? What about television coverage? Could they test everyone involved in a tournament? There were lots of questions without immediate answers. It was harder than herding cats. It was more like herding lions.

There was the big question of whether players would be willing to get on planes and travel to courses all over the country. What about the international players? Jon Rahm, for one, had elderly relatives in Spain that he couldn't visit. Sadly, two of them died during the pandemic, from isolation it turned out, not COVID-19, at least according to press reports. Adam Scott went home to Australia and just stayed until July.

Fortunately, sponsors remained on board and many made huge charitable contributions in the communities where tournaments were eventually held. Surprisingly, new sponsors like Workday materialized, wanting to be a part of the PGA TOUR.

That was incredible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52 ■



When others can't, we can.

Providing treatment options for even the most complex neurological conditions and disorders is what we do best. In fact, patients from throughout the Southeast are referred to us for advanced care found only at leading academic health centers.

Whether helping a patient with complications from a stroke, multiple sclerosis or brain tumor, our interdisciplinary teams provide personalized care using leading-edge technology and the latest research aimed at providing the best possible outcomes.

Visit UFHealthJax.org/neuroscience to learn more or call 904.383.1022 to make an appointment.



Neuroscience Institute

UF Health accepts most major commercial insurance plans, including TRICARE.

To address player health security, the TOUR decided to charter planes from tournament to tournament so no one from outside would bring “non-TOUR germs” into the “TOUR family.” They created approved hotels. They called it the PGA TOUR bubble. Everybody who was a TOUR member or who came into contact with TOUR players was in it and had special rules to follow. This included caddies, families, rules officials, volunteers, anyone who interacted with the TOUR players.

Gatherings of large sizes had already been stopped in all states and so having golf without galleries was the only decision the TOUR could make. Undaunted, some fans in Fort Worth set up bleachers in a backyard that were high enough to see over the tournament fencing at the 16th hole. They cheered shots enthusiastically. Similar things happened at other tournaments. Fans wanted players to know they were still there even if they couldn't be on the course.

While tragic things were happening for thousands of people who caught COVID, great things were beginning to happen in science. Drug and medical companies were tasked to figure out a test for COVID. Once they had a test, they were told, great job, now we don't want to wait two weeks to get results. They were asked to do it faster. And they did. One was created with results in 15 minutes.

Once there were tests available, the PGA TOUR decided to come up with its own protocols. They knew it was important to be tested often because that nasty COVID bug apparently

moves around faster than Superman's speeding bullet or Usain Bolt in the 100-meter dash. You could be fine today and infected tomorrow. Like a horrible sci-fi film come to life. The key was making a quick diagnosis, quarantining and treating affected individuals immediately.

Somewhere in the early going, PGA TOUR Champions player and ESPN golf analyst Andy North thought he knew who could help with the testing: Sanford Health. He was credited for getting Sanford and the PGA TOUR together to solve that part of the puzzle. Sanford, which was already a sponsor on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit, was tapped to handle the quick-result testing and the complicated logistics of moving testing to a new place each week. In addition, Sanford had to do it without taking any medical resources from the communities where the tournaments were played.

What the TOUR settled on for procedures were medical questionnaires, temperature checks and RT-PCR nasal swabs. (RT PCR means Real-Time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction. Say that three times fast.)

Players had to be tested before they got on the charter plane to go to a tournament and then again before they were allowed to enter each tournament. As long as they stayed in the bubble and continued to have negative tests, they were fine to continue.

Here's how Sanford Health has been getting it done: They arrive with a tractor trailer truck with all the testing equipment on Saturday before a tournament. They set up and begin to process RT PCR tests for players, volunteers, PGA TOUR



STARLING AT NOCATEE

INDEPENDENT LIVING

*Enjoy luxury,
maintenance-free
living, in a
resort-style
setting!*

*Starling at Nocatee Independent Living features
a fine dining restaurant, bistro, housekeeping,
transportation and a full calendar of activities!
Plus, NO Buy-in Fee!*

885 Crosswater Pkwy | Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

904.567.0269

www.starlingliving.com

 Follow us on Facebook

staff and so forth, staying on site until Thursday. Then the truck packs up and goes to the next site. There are three trucks in all so that test availability will happen no matter where in the country the TOUR goes. The trucks handle all three tours, including PGA TOUR Champions and Korn Ferry.

Now, if a player's test is positive, he is not allowed to enter the tournament or even the tournament area. He needs to quarantine for the required number of days per the CDC and test negative before being allowed to re-enter the bubble, get on a charter flight and enter another PGA TOUR event.

A few players did get infected, probably between 15 and 20 since June. Brooks Koepka's caddie caught it somehow, and they both stayed away for the prescribed period of time. Dustin Johnson tested positive and spent days on end in a hotel room. Both of them have won since that time, not that catching COVID is the recommended path to victory.

Several other players have tested positive, like Cameron Champ, and some have quarantined because family members tested positive, like Webb Simpson. Adam Scott got a positive test and withdrew from the ZOZO. Xander Schauffele caught it from his daughter in mid-December. They quarantined together.

When players who had tested positive returned to the "bubble," they were paired in tee times with other players who had tested positive to reduce further chance of infection. Sometimes guys played as a single. It was the belt-and-suspenders approach.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54 ■



Joseph L. Boles, Jr., Attorney at Law and William S. Masson, Attorney at Law

No Charge for Initial Consultation.
Free Wills for anyone over the age of 65.

Asset Protection • Wills & Trusts
Probate • Pre-Medicaid Eligibility
Elder Criminal Defense

19 Riberia Street
St. Augustine, FL
josephboles.com

904-824-4278



KEEP YOUR ROOF IN
PRIME CONDITION

We can rodent proof the exterior of your home

Professional Quality
at the Best Price

- Insurance Claims
- Roofing
- Roof Repairs
- Roof Maintenance Contracts
- Painting
- Chimney Repairs
- Chimney Cap Replacement
- Leak Detection Specialist
- Concrete and Paver Cleaning & Maintenance



Financing Available

Call Today For a Reroof Estimate! 904-223-6068



74 6th Street South, Suite 104 • Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
904-223-6068 • KandDRoofing.com





An Exceptional Legacy of Care Spanning 75 Years



For 75 years, River Garden has been a leading agency in service to older adults throughout Northeast Florida.

Achieving recognition as the **#1 nursing home in Florida**, being a nine-time recipient of the **Governor's Gold Seal Award**, and earning the **Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval®** doesn't happen by chance. These are the results of a deliberate and daily focus on creating the best experience for River Garden residents, patients and staff.



Save the Date to Celebrate River Garden's
75th Anniversary Day

March 21 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Visit RiverGarden.org/events/ for details.

Then came the issue of actually scheduling tournaments. The TOUR calendar was blown up by late March. In what was the greatest balancing act since the Flying Wallendas, 11 tournaments were cancelled, the rest of the events were moved around, with some dropped for a year and some added.

The 2020 PGA Championship, which was originally slotted in May, moved to August. The FedEx Cup Playoffs all slid a week later in the calendar. The Canadian Open and British Open were among tournaments that just did not happen in 2020.

Then the fall schedule of the 2021 season was put into a blender and swirled around. The CJ Cup and ZOZO, usually Asian events, were played in Las Vegas, Nevada and Westlake, California (a suburb of Los Angeles). The 2020 Masters was shoehorned into a spot two weeks before Thanksgiving. Commissioner Monahan must have needed a mountain of Excedrin by the end of the year.

Still, the TOUR continued to proceed toward semi-normalcy. After months without fans at tournaments, the Vivint Houston Open was allowed to have 2,000 in attendance. That was last October. It worked. Then 5,000 were allowed at the recent Waste Management Phoenix Open. There have been no disasters — that we know — from that.

Florida will be the next big gallery test. when 20% of the number of past fans will be allowed at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and also at THE PLAYERS. That's the first two weeks of March.

Will that work? THE PLAYERS tickets sold out in an hour on Jan. 17. There's no shortage of interest.

There will be a limited fans at the Honda Classic and the Valspar has been moved to late April, so we don't know how many will be in attendance. Of tournaments down the road, The Masters has said that it will have a limited number of fans, patrons as they like to call them.

One assumes that if the Florida swing is successful, more tournaments will be able to bring more fans in as the season progresses and as more vaccines are available. But at the outset, making all of these decisions was difficult and took a lot of precision. It required bravery by everyone involved.

After PGA TOUR golf successfully returned in June and continued into July, the NBA announced they would resume July 30. The league played all games in Orlando at a Disney facility. Major League Baseball created a shortened schedule. The NFL had a season and even a Super Bowl. From the outside looking in, it seems that they took some cues from the success of the PGA TOUR's ability to restart the golf season. That's the obvious conclusion anyway.

However, the PGA TOUR seemed to have fewer problems getting started and staying in operation and keeping to the calendar than other sports, despite having many athletes involved and traveling all over the country. That could

be just perception. But from the outside, it seemed smooth. Ducks gliding on water. Probably lots of hidden paddling.

Really, you have to tip your cap to the thoughtful leadership at TOUR HQ. They have been bold and courageous. So have the players.

This COVID learning curve we've all been traversing has been a tough path, full of potholes and roadblocks. But along the way, we discovered that golf is in many ways the perfect sport while this infection continues. It can be played safely with other people because the nature of the sport provides the ability to socially distance. You're in the fairway. I'm in the rough. You're in a greenside bunker. I'm over the green. And because sunlight is said to kill the virus quickly, outdoors is a safe place to be, so long as you remember your sunscreen!

A happy accident for golf is that it has had a tremendous resurgence. Millions more rounds of golf were played last spring, summer and fall. In fact, more people played golf last year than any other year except 2000, which was the biggest year ever for the sport.

For many, the ability of the PGA TOUR to resume play when life seemed like it would never be the same was like a beautiful light at the end of a very scary tunnel. They had solid ideas and followed through brilliantly. They showed us what it means to think outside the box and overcome adversity in a time of real crisis. It's no surprise if others followed their lead.



THE ST. JOHNS REALTY GROUP
"We're The Difference"

CORTEZ
on the water

23 Comares Ave.
St Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 669-3081

SOLD! **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!**

NOW SELLING!
* Time To Pick Your Slip! *

St. Augustine's Newest Luxury Condominiums
FREE 40FT. BOAT SLIP WITH EACH UNIT!
65' AND WIDER SLIPS AVAILABLE

- * Private Two Car Garage
- * Private Elevator
- * Private Waterview Roof Deck
- * Townhouse Style Condominiums

Walk, Bike or Boat to All. A Waterfront Lifestyle Opportunity!

23 Comares Ave. · Saint Augustine, FL 32080
cortezonthewater.com

CLUB SELECTION IS EVERYTHING



Join the PGA TOUR's flagship facility offering two championship golf courses, extraordinary service and award-winning dining experiences served in its magnificent clubhouse.

Golf and Social Memberships Available
(904) 280-2412
TPC.COM/SAWGRASS

 **TPC SAWGRASS**
HOME OF THE PLAYERS



Your Doctor A Short Drive

That's the power of +.

Flagler Health+ provides the health, wellness, and innovative care you deserve, in convenient locations you'll appreciate. We're proud to provide our friends, families and neighbors with services like primary care, orthopedics, pediatrics, imaging and laboratory services, and more. It's total wellness meets total convenience. That's the power of +.



VILLAGE AT MURABELLA

Heart & Vascular Care,
Imaging, Laboratory, Pediatrics,
Primary Care, Urgent Care,
Women's Care

904.819.3000



PALENCIA

Pediatrics,
Primary Care

904.819.3200



VILLAGE AT NOCATEE

Concierge Care, Family Medicine,
Heart & Vascular Care, Imaging,
Laboratory, Orthopedics,
Primary Care, Tech Connect+

904.819.4242



Learn more at FlaglerHealth.org



■ ■ It's the million-dollar question. That's the holy grail. The theory is if people have \$5 on the back nine, they're more inclined to watch the hole.

PGA TOUR enters gambling arena

Peeling back the curtain on the effect legal betting could have on golf and its fans

by KATHY BISSELL

I bet he can win! How many times have you heard that, no matter who the “he” is?

What are Tiger's odds for the Masters? That's asked every year.

Sports betting has been legal in many countries for years, but until recently, not in the U.S. except in certain casinos. However, as a result of a Supreme Court ruling in 2018, states can decide whether they will allow betting on sports. Currently, 25 states and the District of Columbia allow it. That court decision opened up a whole different avenue for all sports, golf included.

Rather than allowing other people to control what happens with gambling on golf, the PGA TOUR decided to find some reliable partners who had a specialty in wagering. They now have deals with FanDuel, BetMGM, PointsBet and Draft Kings. Those companies take the bets and get paid by customers. They also pay out for the winning bets.

According to Scott Warfield, PGA TOUR VP of Gaming, the court ruling changed things for all leagues, whether NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, the PGA TOUR and so on.

“All the leagues had to take a pretty hard look at what that meant, what it was going to mean for their product, what it was going to mean for their fans and ultimately their game,” he said. “The lens through which we look at this, this new discipline, it's all about engagement.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58 ■

“Engagement” might translate into watching more golf or it might translate into watching more golf tournaments. It might also produce higher TV ratings, which is very valuable whether you are Roger Goodell, the NFL commissioner, or Jay Monahan, the PGA TOUR Commissioner.

“It’s the million-dollar question,” Warfield said. “That’s the holy grail. The theory is if people have \$5 on the back nine, they’re more inclined to watch the back nine.”

No one knows for sure whether gambling helps viewership. It hasn’t been proven one way or another. However, if a bet on the outcome of a sporting event will keep the audience watching another 15 minutes, that’s important because of ratings.

According to Warfield, younger audiences aren’t as likely as the older ones to sit and watch four or five hours of any sport. They consume in shorter segments. The TikTok/ Instagram generation, if you will. Advertisers like younger viewers because it’s thought that if you can capture product loyalty early, that consumer may stay with you for a lifetime. While many audiences are fickle, the golf audience has usually been a stable, older demographic. Perhaps betting will change that, too.

As a part of this new gambling venture, the PGA Tour has added information on odds to win each week to the PGA Tour website and to the PGA Tour phone app. The phone

app has an odds tab on the leaderboard page. However, bets cannot be placed from the PGA TOUR app. Bettors need to go to one of the four official partners to place bets. (FanDuel, BetMGM, PointsBet or Draft Kings.)

The four gambling partners utilize TOUR data to create some bets, and what the TOUR likes is that they promote watching TOUR events to their customers. Warfield believes it helps raise the profile of the TOUR with more people and creates potential new viewers.

In addition to bets to win, betting partners are creating what they call unique bets each week for tournaments. An example of a unique bet or an “in play” bet for THE PLAYERS might be whether a player will miss or hit the 17th green. Anyone who has been to THE PLAYERS for any length of time has probably seen buddies sitting around the 17th hole with one guy passing a dollar to another, paying off on whether the golfer on the tee hit the island green or missed it.

“Those unique kind of in play bets are and will be offered. You would just have to be in one of the legal states to partake,” Warfield noted.

None of the network or Golf Channel telecasts of PGA TOUR golf will have betting information on them on a regular basis, at least not yet.

“We did this test with PointsBet, it was called BetCast,” Warfield explained. “It was behind a paywall.”

However, over time, if more or all states legalize sports betting, the Tour might take another look at it.

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.

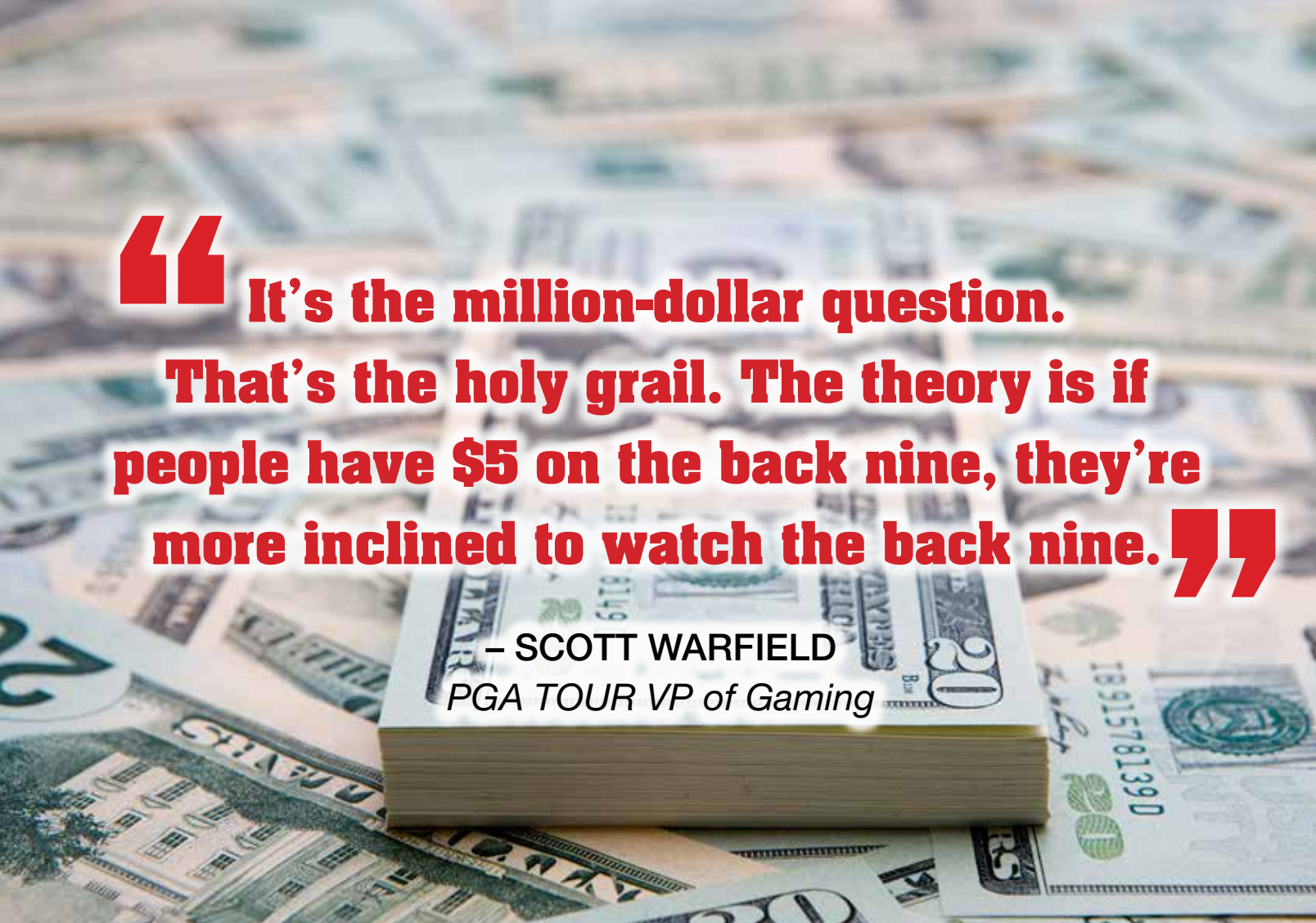
Areas of criminal law that are handled by Janet Johnson:

DUI Defense • Federal Cases • Robbery/Burglary • Assault & Battery
Juvenile Cases • Domestic Violence • Sex Offenses • Child Abuse/Exploitation
Health Care Fraud • Drug Trafficking/Possession • Shop-Lifting
Probation Violations • White Collar Crime

Please call our office for a free initial consultation.

3219 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 904.634.8991
janetejohnsonlaw.com

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.



**“ It’s the million-dollar question.
That’s the holy grail. The theory is if
people have \$5 on the back nine, they’re
more inclined to watch the back nine.”**

– SCOTT WARFIELD
PGA TOUR VP of Gaming

“Some reports are saying 35 states by 2024. You’re going to have networks that are trying to figure out the pace of that and when to do it and how to do it with their league partners,” he added.

Now, if you go to a state where it is legal to bet on golf and worry about whether PGA TOUR players could make bets on themselves or their buddies that might affect the outcome of a tournament, that won’t happen. Warfield reaffirmed that PGA TOUR players are forbidden from gambling on golf. They can’t bet on themselves or their friends on the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions or Korn Ferry Tour.

While the idea of actually putting down money on someone to win or finish top five or top 10 may be interesting to many people, as long as you are in Florida, you can’t make a legal bet. You could drive up I-95 to Georgia, though and put a dollar or two down on who you think will win
THE PLAYERS.

BEHIND THE SCENES

And now a short story about the PGA TOUR and gambling.

Decades ago, in the infancy of the PGA TOUR, it was decided that PGA TOUR players would not be able to gamble on the game. The reason was that the Tour wanted to maintain a wholesome image, and they’ve been successful with that.

Terry Hanson, former director of communications for the TOUR, told me a story to illustrate how seriously the TOUR took this position on gaming.

He and former commissioner Deane Beman were in Las Vegas for meetings. There’s a tournament there, so it may have had to do with that event. It might have had to do with the TPC at Summerlin property. Who knows?

The fastest way for the two of them to get to the meeting was to cross the casino floor of the hotel where they were staying. Hanson took a couple of steps into the casino and noticed quickly that the commissioner wasn’t with him. So, he looked back and returned to the commissioner’s side.

Hanson said that he knew about the no gambling policy, but didn’t think the commissioner would take it that seriously. But Beman did. Beman would not set a foot into the casino. They walked until they found a way around the casino floor to get where they had to go.

So, to Beman, no gambling meant no gambling and not being seen anywhere that anyone could even accuse him of thinking about gambling.

USGA and R&A may roll back

DISTANCE

on drivers and balls

by KATHY BISSELL

After 20 or 30 years of golf courses being obsoleted due in part to equipment improvements, the USGA and R&A are finally considering doing something about it. And bifurcation — two sets of equipment rules — may be part of it.

For you and for me and for most of our friends who have ever played golf, as the saying goes, we don't hit it too far. We NEED extra distance.

The distance issue doesn't affect 99.9% of golfers or 99.9% of courses. It affects the courses that host PGA TOUR events, PGA TOUR Champions events, U.S. Opens, British Opens or courses that want to host any of those events. Without monster length, they can't hold events for elite golfers because shorter courses don't offer the best golfers a challenge.

A distance rollback could definitely affect people who play golf for a living like PGA TOUR players.

WHY IS TOO MUCH DISTANCE A PROBLEM?

In 1990, the PGA TOUR leader in driving distance was Tom Purtzer with an

average of 279.6 yards. Metal woods had not yet taken hold, and wound balls were being used on TOUR. The original Big Bertha debuted in the fall of 1990 at the West Coast PGA Show. Eli Callaway was there, shaking up the industry.

In 2000, the leader in driving distance was John Daly, with an average of 301.4 yards. Metal woods were being used by nearly everyone, and larger drivers had been invented. The ProV1 ball was introduced. Balata was gone and layered synthetics were used inside balls, which, paired with metal woods, went farther.

In 2010, Robert Garrigus led driving distance with an average of 315.5 yards. And last year, 2020, it was Bryson DeChambeau at 322.1 yards. So, the average drive, by the longest player has increased more than 40 yards per driving hole on 14 holes on every course. (There are typically three par 3s where a driver is not used by men.)

For courses, this is a problem. Every 10 years, courses hosting the best players have become easier unless they were lengthened or had their par 5s turned into par 4s.

The poster child for this situation is Augusta National Golf Club, which holds The Masters. A couple of years ago the club bought land from its neighbor Augusta Country Club to lengthen the 13th hole. Again. It was forced to do it to keep up with the distance players are hitting.

Back in the day of persimmon drivers, the big question for golfers on the 13th was, "Do I chance hitting to the green with my second shot?" That was because the hole wasn't played with a driver followed by a mid-iron the way it is now. Ask Curtis Strange who hit his second shot, a 4-wood, into Rae's Creek when he was leading the tournament in 1985. By comparison, Phil Mickelson's second shot on that same hole from the pine straw in 2010 was a 6-iron, and that's with the tee already lengthened a couple times.

The distance advances, made mainly by equipment and also due to players working out, have made the 13th hole play shorter. It is just a microcosm of what has happened at many courses across the country that host PGA

TOUR events, U.S. Opens, the British Opens, PGA Championships and at professional tournaments around the world.

What's being proposed by the USGA and R&A are changes to the maximum length of clubs, a review of "spring-like effect" in drivers, revised testing of golf balls and a potential use of Local Rules to disallow certain kinds of equipment from being used at highest level of play, such as in professional and skilled amateur events.

Local Rules are common at many courses across the country. They typically deal with situations specific to that course, such as dropping away from newly planted trees or what to do if your ball lands in lava, a common problem on the Big Island of Hawaii. Now they may deal with equipment.

THE 46-INCH DRIVER

One proposal is to cap the length of drivers at 46 inches. Right now, that limit is 48 inches. This change would affect very few people. Most PGA Tour players don't use 46-inch drivers. The average is just under 45 inches.

Phil Mickelson has tested a 47.5-inch driver, and has indicated it will be in his bag at the Masters. Viktor Hovland has tested 47-and 48-inch drivers in the recent off-season. Bryson DeChambeau, recent U.S. Open champ, has said he's testing 48-inch drivers.

Webb Simpson doesn't like the idea of the maximum driver shaft length.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62 ■

The best time to plan your estate is now.



John Crawford, Shareholder | Bradley Manning, Attorney
 Estate Planning, Business Planning, Asset Protection
 904-807-2183 | JCrawford@marksgray.com
 904-285-8760 | BManning@marksgray.com
 www.marksgray.com
 Jacksonville | Jacksonville Beach



Dedicated to Excellent Results!



5070 Bentgrass Circle in Marsh Landing. Beautiful coastal traditional home with 4946SF of spacious living built by Gary McCumber. 2-story living room overlooks pool & spa.



Single Level pool home in the very desirable Old Barn Island neighborhood of Sawgrass Country Club. \$925,000



Stately 6BR/8BA 5702SF brick estate home in the very desirable Old Barn Island neighborhood of Sawgrass Country Club. \$1,300,000

*Re-Designed to Sell –
 Luxury, Lifestyle, Real Estate*



Janet Westling,
 REALTOR®, GRI, CIPS
 President's Circle Award Winner,
 Sand Castles Contributing Editor

(904) 813-1913 Cell
 Email: Janet.Westling@
 florianetworkrealty.com
 www.JanetWestling.com



"I have seen the results of homes that I have staged time and time again. And according to the real estate staging association, homes which are staged before going on the market, sell 73% faster on average than their non-staged counterparts."

“My first problem I have with the driver length is if a 6'10" really good golfer comes out, like are we really going to tell him he can't use anything longer than 46?" he said at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Simpson favors continued modifications to courses. He favors doglegs, tighter fairways, adding trees as obstacles and so on. Different bunkering. Of course, he's not paying for those modifications or buying land, either. Simpson is not considered a long hitter, but his driving average for this season is 296.2, so compared to regular humans, he's long.

DeChambeau made news in the last two seasons because he gained 45 pounds, mainly muscle, and studied the long drive contestants' techniques so he could figure out how to hit the ball farther. He's now leading in driving distance at 329.2 yards, up from 34th place in 2019.

DeChambeau pointed out at the U.S. Open that making the fairway a lot narrower doesn't always do what people think it does in terms of penalizing the long hitter.

“Let's take an example of you going like a yard wide. Nobody's got the fairway. OK, length's going to win,” DeChambeau said. “You make the fairways too wide, length's going to win. There's like this balance between widths of fairways and where they want to play it and where they're going to try to make you play it.”

In other words, length still wins most often. Most professional golfers will play out of the rough if they can hit a shorter shot to the green. Tiger Woods did it time after time, making those miraculous recoveries we all remember. Phil Mickelson won 44 tournaments playing a lot of exciting shots from the rough. They don't call him Phil the Thrill for nothing.

THE DRIVER FACE

The USGA and R&A aren't stopping with driver shaft length. They are going to retest the “spring-like effect” of driver faces. Spring-like effect, which you can think of as a mini-trampoline, is the bounciness of the clubface. In theory, it makes the ball go farther. But as Davis Love III explained one time at Bay Hill when the USGA last looked at this issue, the “spring-like” effect only works for people who have a massive clubhead speeds. It doesn't affect most golfers because the rest of us don't swing the club fast enough to make the driver face spring. But it could affect the professionals.

THE GOLF BALL

What's proposed are new tests for golf balls that use what they call Optimal Launch Conditions, instead of what they call Actual Launch Conditions. They define Optimal as between a launch angle of 7.5 and 15 degrees with backspin between 2,200 rpm and 3,000 rpm. Then, in their description, they threw in a sentence about “the limit” of 317 yards, plus or minus three yards. Clearly, they are not aware that with the current equipment and currently approved balls,

Brooks Koepka hit a drive of 359 yards at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Matthew Wolff hit one 388 at the U.S. Open.

Was that within “the limit”?

There are restricted flight golf balls. A tournament in Ohio was played with them a few years ago to see what the results would be, besides being not very satisfying for the amateurs playing it. But everybody in the field hit it shorter. So would a tournament ball shorten Brooks Koepka's drive from 359 to 300? We don't know. It hasn't been tried with PGA TOUR players.

WHAT LOCAL RULES COULD ALLOW

The big, ginormous elephant in the room of rules changes came in the middle of the USGA and R&A statement on the Local Rules that said there could potentially be Local Rules “that could specify the use of balls or clubs that resulted in shorter hitting distances.”

In other words, the competition committee for any tournament could decide whether shorter flight balls and shorter hitting clubs must be used for an event.

The key to this Local Rule idea is that it might be in effect for only one event, leaving all others playing at that course to use whatever they wanted within the regular rules of golf.

In other words, two sets of rules. Something the USGA and R&A have fought forever.

Rory McIlroy doesn't have a problem with that.

“If they want to try to make the game more difficult for us or more — try to incorporate more skill to the game, yeah, I would be all for that, because I think it only benefits the better player, which I feel like I am,” he said when asked about potential distance adjustments. “I think maybe they said that in terms of Local Rules and maybe some sort of bifurcation.”

What McIlroy is opposed to is reigning in the vast majority of golfers who are just trying to figure out a way to make par or bogey or even double bogey.

All this is currently “under study” and is in the “comment period.” The comment period for changes to the balls and clubs is the time for everyone who has an opinion to write to the USGA. Think about what you want and let them know.

LOCAL RULES BEGS SEVERAL QUESTIONS

Since Local Rules can make changes like this, to regulate driver length, driver faces and ball distances, why is nobody asking for a Local Rule that allows the belly putter and anchored putter to be used again?

Why is there not a Local Rule that says you can use any driver you want, no matter how springy the face?

Why is there a maximum on golf ball distance for regular golfers?

Those are the kinds of Local Rules the rest of us need. We're not PGA TOUR or LPGA TOUR pros. We're just struggling mightily to make the occasional par. We need some Local Rules that let us hit it farther more often.

How about THAT kind of a Local Rule?

REGISTER

FIRST COAST

The First Coast Register is celebrating over 13 years of publishing excellence!

Coverage of the First Coast's most swanky galas and events, as well as must-read features on the most prominent people and businesses are why our readers consider us the REAL DEAL!

Look for us to cover the First Coast's

- Social Life
- Charitable events
- Highly Anticipated Happenings
- Upscale Dining
- Trending Fashions
- Luxury Travel
- Opulent Residences
- Local Art Scene

And much more!

Thank You!



Be a part
of the
REGISTER
FIRST COAST
legacy!



Advertising or Editorial Submissions

Call 904.285.8831

or email pvrecorder@opcfla.com

1102 A1A N., Unit 108

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

The Moorman Group



129 Muirfield



141 Roscoe Blvd S.



14352 Cottage Lake

*Your PONTE VEDRA BEACH experts
from Pablo Creek to The Plantation & everything between*



Brian Moorman

716.783.1878

brian.moorman@firstcoastsir.com

Christie Graziosi

917.605.0383

christie.gaziosi@firstcoastsir.com

Christy Wenger

904.945.1873

christy.wenger@firstcoastsir.com