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FALL 2019

29 YEARS OF THE BEST COVERAGE OF GOLF IN RI, MASS & CONN

Local Women Megan Khang and Brittany Altomare Represent U.S.A



Megan Khang of Rockland, MA and Brittany Altomare of Shrewsbury, MA both played on this year's Solheim Cup in Scotland.

TEE TO GREEN

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Two Local Golfers Almost Lift USA to Victory in Solheim Cup

The United States lost the Solheim Cup to Team Europe 14 ½ to 13 ½ in a thrilling match that went down to the last putt of the three-day event. Suzann Pettersen, who has not played hardly any competitive golf in the last two years as she recently had a new baby boy, made a sliding six-foot putt on the 18th hole at the beautiful Gleneagles Golf Club in Scotland.

It didn't matter that Pettersen, a former star player from Norway, who is now ranked 635 in the world ranking of women's professional golf, has recently seen more of diapers, little spoons and cups than she has seen of her golf clubs. When it came time to show her clutch play, she hit a great wedge shot to the green on the difficult 18th that almost went in the hole and spun six feet away. After Maria Alex missed a 10-footer that would have given the U.S. the win, Pettersen stepped up and hit her putt into the center of the hole. She was already fist-pumping when the putt still had two feet left to travel.

What made the matches so compelling to this reporter was that two local women golfers that we have been following for many years were making their debut in this international competition. Twenty-eight year old Brittany Altomare from Shrewsbury, near Worcester, who is rated number 33 in the Women's World Rankings had earned her spot on the team in the last event before the Cup.

The other local who made the team was Meghan Khang, 21, who was born in Brockton and grew up in Rockland, Mass. We have had Meghan on our cover (May 2016), and we have been following her career closely since she ventured out into professional golf as a seventeen-year-old. Meghan is currently ranked 45 in the rankings, but she had earned her spot with high finishes in some of the bigger events.

The event, named after Karsten Solheim, the founder of Ping Golf and a driving force in creating this women's event, was super close. Neither team could build a commanding lead

through the first four team events. The second day's matches were held in very cold and damp weather with winds blowing at up to 40 mpg. Not sure that Brittany or Meghan had ever seen weather like that. Going into the last day the United States team just needed to tie the match at 14 points each to keep the Cup, because they had won it two years ago in Iowa.

The last day was perfect weather. Altomare had a great putting day and won holes 2,5,8,9,10 and 12 to close out her match on the 15th with a win. Khang won her first two holes against Carlotta Ciganda of Spain, tied the next seven, but lost 10 and 13 to even her match. She lost the 16th hole to go one down, but managed to win the last hole to tie her match. For the event Altomare was 2-1-1 and Khang was 0-2-1.

The stars for the U.S. were the Korda sisters (see pix p. 21). Both Nellie, who is currently ranked 10th in the world, and her sister, Jessica, who is 18th finished with identical records

of three wins, no losses and one tie. The stars for the European team besides Pettersen were Charlie Hull from England who finished 2-2-1 and Carlotta Ciganda who finished 3-0-2.

The U.S. team was definitely the favorite going into the match as they Lexi Thompson, ranked 3 in the world, Lizette Salas who is 16, Danielle Kang who is 17 besides the two Korda sisters. The highest ranked European was Ciganda at 12.

American captain Juli Inskster, who was captain for the last two wins, decided to put her strength in the middle of the 12 person lineup on the last day. The European squad opted to have their strength at the bottom, and that was the winning formula as with matches still out on the course near the end, the U.S. needed only one tie to take home the Cup.

The next Solheim Cup will be held in Toledo, Ohio in two years. Let's hope that Altomare and Khang will be part of the team. Sure makes for a better rooting experience.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the third online-only issue of Southern New England Golfer. I think we are finally getting the hang of it. I know I'm sleeping better not having to raise all the cash to pay for printing and delivery of this issue.

We are so excited to see our vision of having an online newspaper, that reads like a newspaper with page after page, is being so highly praised by our readers and advertisers. The announcement that we have just added over 100,000 emails (mostly in New England) to our distribution list is wonderful news, especially for our advertisers who are seeing so many open rates. The six online issues are now being emailed to over 150,000 golfers.

I think it was the fact that we had two of our local women golfers playing in the Solheim Cup in Scotland that made for must-see TV. I watched almost every shot for all three days—maybe that is a little obsessive! It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting with Meghan Khang after a U.S. Challenge Cup event at Wannamoisett C.C. I asked her where she was thinking of

going to college. She hesitated a bit and then said I'm thinking of turning professional. She was still only 17! She obviously made the right decision for her and there she was playing with the best women from America in the most prestigious women's event in the world.

Last June I was in Birmingham, Alabama for a travel story and we were watching the final round of the Women's U.S. Open. There was Brittany Altomare on the first tee with her boyfriend standing just outside the ropes. Brittany came over for a picture with her boyfriend for our publication. I talked to him for about five minutes and found out what a wonderful and sweet young lady that Brittany was, and also what an accomplished golfer she had become. Jay Gearan has been covering her for many years, and he always talks about how nice Brittany, from Shrewsbury—not Worcester as it said in the stories, was as a person.

Again we have a full issue of interesting stories from around southern New England and further. Todd Campbell talks about dialing in your wedges so you have the right distance for each

shot. Steve Zariello talks about getting in better shape over the winter months. Bruce Berlet gives us five pages of Connecticut golfing news. Jay Gearan has a nice story about how a former star golfer is dealing with the loss of most of his sight. Mike Kirby talks about the winner of the Attleboro Open who has been trying for over 30 years. Tom Gorman gives us a good review of the World Amateur in Myrtle Beach with a surprise winner.

Enjoy the publication. Please tell your friends to read it and send them the link to the publication. We would love to have more subscribers. We send out different stories between issues to our subscribers and will be offering them some other benefits. There will never be a charge for a subscription.

Keep your head down and swing easy. We will be publishing another issue on December 15 with players of the year in all our coverage areas as well as many other fun stories. Our 2020 publishing schedule will begin in the beginning of March.

Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and welcomes your comments at bruce@snegolfer.com.



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Trivia

1. What year was he born?
2. What decade was he named AP's Athlete of the Year?
3. How many PGA Tour victories?
4. Year of first PGA Tour victory?
5. Where?
6. How many Masters titles?
7. How many U.S. Opens?
8. How many British Opens?
9. How many PGA Championships?

1. 1929
2. 1960
3. 62
4. 1955
5. Canadian Open
6. Four
7. One, Cherry Hill in 1960
8. Two, 1960 and '62
9. None, but he finished second three times

ANSWERS

NGF Releases Report on \$20.5 Billion Golf Travel Industry

The old industry saying is that all golf is local. While this is mostly true – more than 80% of rounds are played within an hour of home — golf travel is a significant and vital part of the golf industry.

The NGF's 2018 Travel Report finds that a total of 8.2 million golfers played 57.6 million rounds of golf while traveling for business or leisure in 2017. The golf travel industry overall in the United States is a \$20.5 billion business, a robust market that ranges from playing fees and accommodations to travel costs, food & beverage, and entertainment expenses.

Whether it was buddies' trips, couples getaways, family vacations, business travel or a solo journey to a bucket-list destination, 39% of adult golfers in 2017 took a trip for business or leisure with an overnight stay during which they played at least one round of golf. There are plenty more golfers who aspire to take that special golf journey every couple of years. This reflects the almost 4 million golfers who didn't play while traveling in 2017, but say they are interested in doing so in the coming year.

While the incidence of golf travel is down slightly compared to the NGF's last measurement in 2007 (prior to the Great Recession), travel golf rounds represented approximately 13% of total golf rounds played in 2017. Eleven years

ago, that percentage was 14%.

The more passionate a golfer is, the more likely they are to try to squeeze in a round during a work trip or vacation. The statistics bear this out, with the more avid golfers playing more rounds while traveling.

Like travel in general, the incidence of golf travel increases with income — 52% of golfers with a household income of \$100,000 or more took a trip in 2017, compared to 35% of golfers with a household income of less than \$100,000.

From buddies' trips in Myrtle Beach and bachelor parties in Las Vegas to golf getaways at ballyhooed resorts like Pebble Beach and Bandon Dunes, 72% of golf travelers said their journey was leisure-related. One-third of those surveyed said they took both a business trip and a leisure trip involving golf. While this balance holds true for all age segments, the share of leisure trips increases with age – as retirees and those with grown families typically have more free time for golf.

The NGF's latest look at travel takes a holistic look at the market, examining who plays and why they play. The report then delves into how much golf travelers spend and how they research golf travel, along with when they play and, ultimately, both where they go and where they would most like to go.

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The Wedge Matrix

Having a formula to control your wedge distances inside of 100 yards will go a long way in helping lower your scores. I have four wedges in my bag: PW (46*), 50*, 54* & 58*. You will notice that there are 4* loft gaps between each wedge. My testing is done at our short course at Mulligan's Island using the ball I currently play (Pro V1) & using a Rangefinder to measure out exact distances.

The first step in wedge mapping is to determine how far you can hit each wedge with a full swing. A full swing for me is represented by a full-length backswing with the golf shaft stopping just short of parallel to the ground and an overall swing effort level of around 70-75%. I will hit 10 full swing shots with each wedge making note of the carry distance and total distance. In my case, I have about a 20-yard gap between all my wedges: PW: 120 yds, 50*: 100 yds, 54*: 80 yds, & 58*: 60 yds. I can hit my wedges longer

distances if I jump on them, but you need to understand that there is a tradeoff between distance and accuracy. I look at my higher lofted irons as scoring clubs so there needs to be an element of precision involved to get the result you are consistently looking for.

The next step is to break down your backswing into 4 different lengths: ¼, ½, ¾ & Full. Like putting, if you have a shorter distance, you will make a shorter length stroke with a complimenting pace. You wouldn't make short backstroke for a long putt and hit it harder, nor would you make a long backstroke for a shorter putt and hit it softer (decelerating). I apply the same concept to the Wedge Matrix. Use your left arm (right-handed player) as a guide on a clockface to help control the length of your stroke. So, a ¼ backswing length would be left arm stopping around 7:30, ½ swing is 9:00, ¾ swing is 10:30 and full swing is 12:00. Your goal is to find the proper

Club	Full	¾	½	¼
PW 46*	120 yd	90 yd	60 yd	30 yd
50*	100 yd	75 yd	50 yd	25 yd
54*	80 yd	60 yd	40 yd	20 yd
58*	60 yd	45 yd	30 yd	15 yd

swing pace for the backswing length you are creating.

It's amazing to see how many distances are covered inside of 100 yds once you have the proper wedge setup! As noted earlier, I use the same golf balls (Pro V1's) for all of my testing and short game practice to get the most consistent results. For help establishing

your own personalized Wedge Matrix, come see me at the Golf Academy at Mulligan's Island in Cranston.

Todd Campbell, PGA, is affiliated with the Golf Channel and is a Golf Channel Academy Instructor. toddcampbell@pga.com, cell: 508-951-4371

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Rising Star

Joaquin Niemann

Age: 20
Birthplace: Santiago, Chile
Family: Single
College: None
Turned Pro: 2018



Joaquin Niemann---remember the name. You will be hearing a great deal from the golfing phenom from Chile who won his first event recently at the Greenbrier in West Virginia

Joaquin had planned to attend the University of So. Florida, but he did not have the grades to attend. Instead he turned professional at 18 years of age. A gifted golfer at an early age, he was given an invite to the Greenbrier event at age 17 and finished tied for 29 against a full field of professionals.

After turning professional he won \$1.4 million in 2018 to keep his card and finished 67th in the FedEx points race. His best events were a tie for fifth at the Greenbrier and two sixth place finishes at the Memorial and the Valero Open.

This fall's win at the Greenbrier earned him a two-year exemption and a trip to the 2020 Masters. He has already earned \$4,009,000 on Tour in his career and he is currently in second place in this year's

McIlroy Wins FedEx Cup and Player of the Year

Just before Labor Day Rory McIlroy walked off with the biggest paycheck in golf history when he won the Tour Championship event at East Lake CC in Atlanta, Georgia. He took home a check for \$15 million dollars as the Tour Championship winner was also going to be the FedEx Cup winner as they used a unique scoring system.

For the first time in FedEx Cup history, the players started the last event with handicaps. Since Justin Thomas was the leader heading into the finals he had a handicap of 10. That meant that he was already ahead of most of the field by 10 strokes before he put his peg in the ground on the first hole. Not a bad way to start!

What the Tour had decided was that the determination of the winner of the FedEx Cup had always been as difficult as post-graduate physics. You'd watch the Golf Channel's Steve Sands after almost every shot played on Sunday afternoon talking about who was leading the field and was in line to cash the big paycheck.

Rory McIlroy was given a handicap of 5 strokes before he hit his first shot. He proceeded to play very well as his putting was so much better than it had been throughout 2019 (maybe Brad Faxon's tutelage really helped). McIlroy pulled ahead quite easily near the end, and you didn't have to do any major calculations to see who was winning.

Thomas, who was looking down at the field at the start finished third and ONLY took home a check for \$3.5 million. His good friend, Xander Schauffele, who had started with a handicap of only four, passed him down the stretch to finish in second and take home a check for \$5 million.

Brooks Koepka, who started with a handicap of 7 tied Thomas for third and also earned \$3.5 million. Paul Casey rounded out the top 5 and earned \$2.5 million. Chez Reavie, who had won the Travelers Championship in Connecticut in June, finished eighth and was last person to win over a million as his check totaled \$1.1 million.

The top 150 people cashed FedEx checks, but it was only the top 30



Rory McIlroy

point-getters who got to play at East Lake for the big money. Players ranked 126 to 150 all received checks for \$70,000-and they were not even in the top 125 in FedEx Cup points for the whole year. Number 126 was Massachusetts' own Richy Werenski who had finished 125 to keep his card for the 2019-2020 season. He is off to a great start this year and is in the Top 10 in FedEx points currently. But, alas, the big boys have mostly put their clubs in storage while they take a break and enjoy spending all that FedEx cash.

McIlroy Player of the Year?

Usually you have to win a major or two to earn the title of Player of the Year on the PGA Tour. Not this year. It must have been the money that swayed Tour players to vote for Rory McIlroy as their 2019 Player of the Year. We realize that McIlroy did win the PLAYERS and we've just wrote about the FedEx Cup, but shouldn't there have been more?

The Tour does not give the results of voting. We don't know how many players even voted. McIlroy tweeted (first time this reporter has ever used that term in a story) that he had voted for Brooks Koepka.

Koepka would have been my vote. Koepka won the PGA Championship and also a WGC event. He finished tied for second

at the Masters, was second at the U.S. Open and tied for fourth at the British Open. Pretty strong credentials to be considered the best

player for the whole year in 2019.

McIlroy was tied for 21 at the Masters, tied for 8th at the PGA and tied for ninth at the U.S. Open. He failed to make that cut at the British Open that was played less than 20 miles from his hometown in Northern Ireland.

Those comparisons are rather lopsided. The PGA Tour's choice of McIlroy as Player of the Year was the first time that they differed from the vote of the PGA of America (they voted for Koepka) since 1991. The tabulations remain secret on the PGA Tour. Maybe someday they should make them public!

Bruce Vittner is a long-time member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and a member of the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

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Maccario Laps Field at Mass. Mid-Amateur

NEWTON, Massachusetts – Nick Maccario (Bradford CC) slowly pumped his right fist down as he tapped in on the 18th hole during the final round to win the 36th annual Massachusetts Mid-Amateur Championship, which took place on a picturesque morning and afternoon Thursday at Brae Burn Country Club.

Maccario, who set the competitive course record with an 8-under 64 on Tuesday, was unstoppable during the three-day event as he claimed the Ted Bishop Cup for the first time. He posted a final score of 8-under 208, 15 strokes ahead of his Thursday playing partner, Herbie Aikens (Old Sandwich GC), and David Spitz (South Shore CC). Aikens and Spitz tied for second place, as Maccario's winning margin ties Matt Parziale's record from the 2015 Mid-Amateur at Marlborough Country Club.

"Ultimately to get this is awesome," said Maccario, who shot a final



Nick Maccario

round of 1-under 71, sinking five birdies and an eagle. "Anytime you can tie Matt Parziale in anything, I think it's a good thing."

This is Maccario's second Mass Golf victory of the year, as he won the 2019 Massachusetts Four-Ball Championship with Mike Calef

(Pine Oaks GC) in May. "This would probably be my best year of golf," Maccario said.

Maccario took a four-stroke lead into the final round with Aikens, who shot a 68 on Wednesday. He stretched the lead with a birdie on the first hole, and he pumped his fist when he hit the green with a 3-iron on his second shot of the par-5 fifth hole. He missed the downhill eagle putt but made birdie to add another stroke to his lead. "The birdie on one got my feet under me, and I said, 'Alright, it's actually so I can play under a little bit more pressure,'" Maccario said.

Aikens followed up his 68 on Wednesday with an 82 on Thursday. He parred the first six holes, but

he fell apart with a 9 on the par-4 seventh hole. Aikens tried to chip his third shot from the base of the steep hill in front of the green. He scuffed the first shot, and it rolled farther away downhill. After his two subsequent shots also rolled back, he finally flopped onto the green and putted out from there.

"The smart play would have been to beat a putter up on the green and make five and leave, but I was trying to get up and down," Aikens said. "Unfortunately, I just made a mess of it, and it got in my head."

Aikens' lone birdie came on the par-3 12th when he and Maccario hit right near the pin off the tee. Still, Maccario followed up on the 13th by hitting a recovery shot with his 3-iron onto the green and sinking an eagle putt. "I love playing with Nick," said Aikens, who won the Massachusetts Mid-Amateur in 2014. "You just enjoy watching someone play well and then close it out."

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This reporter was a paperboy at 12 years old. I didn't have my own route, but I used to help my buddy most every day—especially Wednesday's when the Providence Journal was really thick and heavy. Not the case anymore, but that is another story.

In 1990 I became a paperboy again. Dave Adamonis, Sr. and I started a golf publication. It was printed of course. Nobody had heard on online information, especially putting a newspaper online. So each issue I would go over to the printer and pick up thousands of papers and begin the delivery process. So many miles—so heavy were the papers.

This process continued until June of this year. Why don't you put your publication online? was the common question for the last few years. We did put it online starting a few years ago, but we also printed and delivered it because that is what we always did. The cost for printing kept going higher, the delivery charges increased as gasoline prices went higher. It was to the point that we were struggling to get enough advertising to meet our rising costs.

It was last Fall that this reporter/paperboy/editor/publisher had an epiphany. It happened in Alabama. Alabama Tourism was represented by a very intelligent and capable woman who said that she would pay for Alabama Golf ads if I ran some online issues during the winter months. I had stopped printing during the winter because I couldn't get enough advertising to pay the bills.

Our graphic designer had already created online issues in conjunction with our printed issues, but we had never charged for the online ads. It had just been an extra bonus for our printed advertisers.

Could we get enough advertising dollars for online issues only? That was the key question. The first thing we did was cut the advertising prices about in half. I then went to the advertisers with the lower prices and asked their thoughts. How many emails do you have? Where are they located?

We coordinated with a person who had been collecting emails from all the golf shows in southern New

England and at different golf events. He had a list of almost 40,000 golfers. "I'll be happy to send out your publication as part of my weekly emails whenever it is completed," he said. "It will help my open rate because it is an excellent publication and my subscribers will enjoy reading it," he added.

The key for us has become the fact that all the ads are linked to the advertisers' websites. When you are reading the paper online with your computer or tablet and you see an ad that you are interested in, you can just click on the ad and it goes right to the advertiser's website. You can't do that with a paper!

I've found that reading a paper online is quite enjoyable. The white background makes it easier to read. The online paper reads just like a paper. You just scroll down, page after page. The print is bigger on my computer than it was in the physical paper. I've also been reading it on my tablet. It is not quite as large a print as the computer, but is easily readable while sitting in my easy chair watching a game. And just think of all the trees we are saving!

The reason this story is in the publication is that this week we just contracted to send the online paper out to over 100,000 more emails, mostly in New England. Including our own email list, we will now be sending the publication to over 150,000 certified golfers. Who would have thought that possible? Not this reporter.

Our publication will be read by so many thousands more golfers than it ever did in print. Our advertisers are thrilled in seeing the clicks to their website, the readers are happy because the print is larger, and the access to the publication is right in their home.

We guarantee that there will never be a charge for the publication online. Some of the websites that I have visited have started for free, but then a charge was made if you wished to continue to have access.

We would love to have you subscribe to snegolfer.com. The publication is produced six times a year starting in 2020. We will have issues in March, May, June, August, October and December. Our next online issue will be December 15

that will feature players of the year in all three states and much more.

Thank you for reading our publication. Please feel free to write in with any thoughts, questions or concerns. We think this vision of an online paper that looks and reads like a paper is something that will be successful. If you are an advertiser and think this might be a good place to run your ads and reach new customers, than we are happy to help.

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

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As the leaves start to change here in southern New England, it's time to clean out the golf bag. Here goes:

First, a few thoughts on Rory McIlroy. Fresh off of his FedExCup title, the megatalented 30-year-old from Northern Island overcame some of his demons to become the only golfer not named Tiger Woods to win the FedExCup twice.

What's interesting to note is that he did so by not only pounding drives in the fairway in the final round at East Lake, but he made clutch putts as well which has not necessarily been a strength of his. Maybe that work he did with Brad Faxon is finally paying off? Whatever the case, if McIlroy can figure things out on the greens, he will be as good as it gets on the PGA Tour and beyond.

**Many people, including yours

truly, assumed that Brooks Koepka would find a way to grind out a victory over McIlroy in Atlanta but it was not to be. Then again, the Tour Championship is not a Major, so you'll have to excuse Koepka for being something less than his best. Despite losing to Rory in the chase for the FedExCup, Koepka remains the world's top-ranked golfer.

**The PGA Tour's decision to wrap up the race for the FedExCup before the NFL season kicks off was a very good one. Even though the Tour continues to hold weekly events throughout the fall, is anyone really paying attention?

**Costco's attempt at offering a much cheaper alternative to the high-end golf balls on the market

drew favorable reviews when it was introduced in 2016. Their Kirkland Signature golf balls were sold for \$29.99 for a two-dozen pack and were received well by many. However, that same ball is now the subject of a refund by Costco due to numerous complaints about the ball's lack of durability. File this one under "If it looks to good to be true...."

**Most serious golfers usually look to Titleist's Pro-V1 as their ball of choice, which is the ball of choice on the PGA Tour. I prefer the Pro-V1X which is a bit firmer and offers a lower spin rate off the driver. I have also found that an excellent alternative to the Pro-V1 is the Callaway Chrome Soft which is a great-performing ball as well.

**While we're on the subject of Callaway, one of the company's biggest stars – Phil Mickelson – also happens to be one of the sport's biggest social media stars, despite being one of the elder statemen on the PGA Tour. If you haven't checked out Mickelson on Twitter, do yourself a favor and do so. @PhilMickelson does a social media interview series called #PhiresidewithPhil. He recently interviewed "Seinfeld" co-creator and the star of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" Larry David. Needless to say it was a lot of laughs and pretty, pretty, pretty good!

**If you're looking for a relatively inexpensive golf getaway in the summer or early fall and don't mind the heat, south Florida may just be the place for you. The natives generally play less golf during the warmer months and the snowbirds have yet to arrive. That combination leads to extremely inexpensive tee times at most courses.

**Can someone please tell Tony Romo that he should stick to broadcasting NFL games on Sunday?

A PGA Tour Pro he will never be.

**Was I the only one rooting for Georgia Tech's Andy Ogletree to win the 2019 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst? Vanderbilt's John Augenstein seemed a little too confident bordering in cocky, whereas Ogletree's mannerisms seemed to project more humility. Just one man's opinion.

**Congratulations to Wannamoisett's Bobby Leopold for capturing the 2019 Rhode Island Mid-Amateur Championship – the 4th of his career. Can you name the only person who has won more RI Mid-Am's than Leopold? I'll have the answer at the end of this column.

**Speaking of the Mid-Am, it brings up some interesting memories for yours truly. One year, I attempted to qualify at Rhode Island Country Club where I proceeded to hit my first two tee shots right into the parking lot. I ended up taking a 9 on the opening hole prompting then Providence Journal golf writer Paul Kenyon to nickname me "Teddy Ballgame" after former Red Sox legend Ted Williams who wore the number 9. I am proud to say that I went on to birdie the next hole but, as you might expect, did not qualify. **A more pleasant memory of the Mid-Am for me was the year that I did qualify at Point Judith Country Club. Unfortunately, I had to withdraw as I was scheduled to travel to Miami for business (& pleasure) with the radio station that I worked for along with hundreds of Patriots fans.

-Quiz answer: Charlie Blanchard won 7 Rhode Island Mid-Amateur Championships (1999, 2001-2003, 2006, 2009, 2010).

Scott Cordischi has a weekly sports talk show and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

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Brooks and Rory were playing a match. They were both on the green and Rory dropped his putter. It hit his ball causing it to move. Rory said there was no penalty because he had planned to mark his ball and was not planning to strike it. Patrick disagreed. What is the ruling?

Ruling: The new ruling is no penalty. Before this year Rory would have incurred a one-stroke penalty under rule 18-2a. The movement of the ball was not directly attributable to the specific act of marking the position of, or lifting the ball.

Leopold Wins R.I. Mid-Amateur Championship

Bobby Leopold, an RIGA stalwart who last triumphed in the 2016 Rhode Island Golf Association Mid-Amateur at Metacomet Golf Club won again this year. The Wannamoisett Country Club aided by a steadfast game and attitude claimed the 26th Rhode Island Mid-Amateur at Pawtucket Country Club (par 69, 6,420 yards) after a final-round 67.

His two-day total of 134 (4 under) was good enough for a three-shot victory over Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club's Seamus Fennelly. He and Fennelly dueled for 21 holes at the Rhode Island Amateur in June at Shelter Harbor Golf Club with Leopold prevailing.

"This year has been good and bad at the same time," said Leopold, 34, of Coventry, R.I. "I've played well enough a few times to have chances to win and have a couple of second-place finishes. I also get reminded of it when my kids ask where my trophy is and I don't have one. It is nice to get this one and take the monkey off my back."

Leopold was the only person to shoot both rounds below par. He also has dominated the Mid-Amateur at Pawtucket. He won the previous edition at the Willie Park, Jr. design in 2012.

On a day where the wind was blowing and the greens were quick, Leopold's prodigious ball-striking remained steady. He raced out of the gates with a birdie on No. 1 (par 4, 389 yards) after stuffing a lob wedge to three feet from 100 yards.

He made a miraculous par on No. 6 (par 4, 414 yards) after hooking his drive into the trees off the tee and leaving himself 253 yards in for his second. A poor chip and clutch 20-footer still resulted in a par. Fennelly made a bogey. Leopold regained a one-shot advantage. He then separated himself with an eagle on No. 8 (par 5, 542 yards). A blistered 3-iron from 240 yards in the ninth fairway to 20 feet put him three ahead. Leopold never looked back.

A lot has changed since Leopold won his first Mid-Amateur at Carnegie Abbey (now The Aquidneck Club) in 2011. Leopold and his wife Taylor have added three kids to their family and his ability to compete and put in the time to practice like he used has changed as well.

"When I won the 2011 Mid-Amateur I was coming off of making it to the



Bobby Leopold

Round of 16 at the U.S. Amateur at Erin Hills Golf Club," said Leopold. "I didn't have a kid at the time and I was playing and practicing five to six times a week. Now I have three kids and maybe get to Wannamoisett once a week."

The only person who stands in his way for the most Mid-Amateurs is clubmate Charlie Blanchard, who has seven (1999, 2001-03, 2006, 2009, 2010). "This event proved that I don't need to hit a lot of balls and play a lot to compete. Golf can be a stupid game. It puts a lot of things in perspective for me. Golf is not the end all be all. You forget how hard it is to win."

Senior Division

Last June, Valley Country Club's Dr. George Pirie had a life-altering experience with vertigo. He's dealt with a mild version of vertigo for several years. But one day in June changed everything.

He got extremely dizzy at Valley C.C. before playing. After vomiting uncontrollably, my friends called 9-1-1 and they thought I had a severe stroke. But it turned out to be severe vertigo."

Pirie couldn't drive for three weeks and couldn't hit golf shots longer than 50 yards. "The doctor said I would have permanent damage because of my severe vertigo," said Pirie. "They were right. I needed to learn how to play golf again."

After taking frequent lessons from Mike Harbour, who teaches out of Alpine Country Club, Pirie found ways to deal with his vertigo and still play solid golf. It took Pirie a while to get

out of his funk.

Pirie, aided by a classy short game, carded a final-round 66 to win the Senior Division of the Rhode Island Mid-Amateur at Pawtucket (par 69, 6,175 yards). His 138 total was

good enough for a two-shot victory over Metacomet Golf Club's Darren Corrente, who fired a final-round 67.

Pirie carded four birdies and a bogey on the back nine after making nine pars to start his round.

Pirie, the 2000 Rhode Island Mid-Amateur champion, closed in style on No. 18 (par 4, 365 yards). A beautifully judged pitching wedge from 118 yards to three feet was the medicine the doctor ordered.

"Doc," as his peers call him, is back in the winner's circle, a remarkable and unexpected journey for the Rhode Island Golf Association Hall of Famer. "It's a small enough group of guys that we can all influence each other and impact each other," said Pirie. "We all know what each other is doing. These events are about the only time we get together and compete. I had to put together a good round and I was happy to do it when I needed to. I love being around everyone and competing. It means a lot to win again." Results on page 30.

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Boston Golf Club Hosts Dream Week for Junior Golfers

The John D. Mineck Junior Cup has become the annual highlight of the season for junior golfers throughout New England. The competition, which was the brainchild of former Deutsche Bank Americas CEO Seth Waugh, who is now the Executive Director of the PGA, saw a change in format in 2015 with 16 New England junior golfers representing Team Mineck and Team Waugh in a best ball competition.

The "Dream Week" teed off on Friday of Labor Day weekend, as each 2-player team joined forces with a member from the highly acclaimed Boston Golf Club in Hingham, Massachusetts. The team of BGC member John Coffey and junior Jonathan Elkins carded an 8-under par 63 to earn top honors.

On Saturday the players competed in a team best ball format. Team Waugh held a 7-stroke margin entering the final round and increased it to a 9-stroke victory. The team of Liam Gill and Eric Boulger defeated the duo of Jack O'Donnell and Max Hutter in a sudden death aggregate play-off to earn low 2-ball honors.

While Seth Waugh and Deutsche Bank no longer serve as sponsors of this event, the former CEO remains connected to his vision. "It is a special weekend," stated Waugh. "The players are picked based on character first. The competition is secondary. It is more about the camaraderie than anything. The players and their families meet new people and develop relationships that will last a lifetime."

On a personal note, as the director of the Challenge Cup, yours truly would like to acknowledge the many folks who make the week possible. The folks at Boston Golf Club are unrivaled. Boomer Erick and his staff treated our players and their families like they were on Tour. The same can be said about the membership at BGC and John Mineck's Foundation. The impact this tournament has on our players and families is life-lasting. The Challenge Cup, its players and all of New England are fortunate to have such

wonderful friends.

Charitable Chip In

In a tribute to Boston Golf Club co-founder, John Mineck, Challenge Cup players and their families contributed \$4,000 to the John D. Mineck Foundation. John passed away in 2007 in a tragic accident at the club. His memory lives on through a foundation in his name. The foundation supports many charities throughout the area.

Paik Receives Mineck Award

In yet another tribute to John, Allison Paik was presented the 12th annual John D. Mineck Award. The award is annually presented to an outstanding young man or woman, who best exemplifies John's many outstanding qualities. Paik has committed to Columbia University in the Fall of 2020. Former recipients include Evan Harmeling (Princeton), Tony Grillo (Harvard), Ryan Gay (St. John's), Cameron Wilson (Stanford), Andy Mai (Boston College), Nick McLaughlin (Virginia), Danny Guise (Wake Forest), Jake Shuman (Duke), Megan Khang (LPGA Tour), Chris Butler (Boston College), Davis Chatfield (Notre Dame), Andrew O'Leary (Notre Dame), Addy Douglas (Lehigh University).

Nation Representation, Alums Fall Short at Solheim Cup

In arguably the most impressive achievement by Challenge Cup Nation, three former Cuppers headlined Team USA in the recently contested Solheim Cup. Eight-time Challenge Cup Player of the Year Megan Khang, Brittany Altomare and Annie Park represented the US of A in their Solheim Cup rookie debuts. While the outcome was crushing (Team USA lost on the final shot of the competition), the Nation is most proud of this trio's accomplishments. It is likely this trio will be back on the team in 2021 to represent Team USA and Challenge Cup Nation.

Thorbjornsen, James Headline Junior Presidents Cup Squad

2017 USGA Junior Amateur champion and two-time Challenge Cup Player of the Year Michael Thorbjornsen and Connecticut phenom Ben James will headline a talented USA team at the 2nd edition of the Junior Presidents Cup. This year's competition will be contested at the Royal Melbourne Club in Melbourne, Australia (December 8-9).

The duo will be joined by ten more boys from the United States. Like the Presidents Cup, the Junior Presidents Cup is a biennial contest between the United States and an International Team of players from throughout the world excluding Europe. The event is held over two days, with six Four-balls and six Foursomes matches on the first day, and twelve singles matches on the second day. Former PGA Tour greats Justin Leonard (USA) and Stuart Appleby (International) will be the official team captains for each squad.

Finard, Dumas, Paik Victorious at Spinal Tech Match Play

Weston, Mass. junior Jacob Finard earned his first Challenge Cup title by defeating Plaistow, N.H. resident Jack Pepin 5 & 4 in the finals of the Boys 16-18 Division at the Spinal Technology Junior Match Play Championship at Ledgemont CC.

Finard, who qualified as the #5 seed in medal play, was almost eliminated in the first round at Agawam Hunt, as he overcame a 4-down deficit with 4 to play against Freddie Curtis to win in 19 holes.

The competition in the Girls Division was played to form, as the #1 seed Allison Paik defeated #2 seed, 12-year old Gianna Papa 5 & 4. Paik's record in this event has been impressive as she has been a finalist in this event the past four years, winning the last two titles.

In the Boys 15 & Under Division newcomer Spencer Dumas won nip and tuck battle with Jack Spencer 3 & 2 to secure his first Challenge Cup title.

The Spinal Technology Junior Match Play Championship is one of the top attractions on the Challenge Cup's docket. Players are treated to

rounds of competition at Rehoboth CC, Agawam Hunt, Willowbend CC and Ledgemont CC.

Agawam Hunt to Host Inaugural DeSantis Cup

Agawam Hunt will play host to the inaugural DeSantis Cup November 2-3. The completion will pit two Challenge Cup squads (North vs. South). Each team will consist of 20 players 16 boys and 4 girls. On the opening day players will compete in team matches (Four-ball and foursomes format). At the completion of play on Day 1, a pairings party will unveil the matches for the final round of singles competition. The tournament was established in recognition of the late Steve DeSantis, who was a long-time tournament administrator for the Challenge Cup.

Fall Finish

With eight tournaments left on the Challenge Cup calendar, the Northeast Junior Classic at Bethpage State Park takes center stage. The prestigious competition is the final event on the Challenge Cup calendar before final selections for Team New England are announced. Players ranked in the top 30 of the Spinal Technology Challenge Cup Player of the Year Standings will have the opportunity to earn the final spot on Team New England at the qualifier. In late December, Team New England will match shots with Florida's finest junior golfers in the Dave Adamonis Sr. Challenge Cup Matches at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa. One day later the same group of players will join 600 other junior golfers in competition at the Doral Publix Junior Classic.

Date Tournament Site

9/28 Presidents Cup
Agawam Hunt
9/29 Doral Publix Junior Qualifier
Rehoboth CC
10/5 – 10/6 Northeast Junior
Classic
Bethpage Red & Blue

JUNIOR GOLF

By DAVE ADAMONIS JR.

10/12 – 10/13

FCWT

New England Open

Great Horse CC

10/19 – 10/20

Cape Cod Junior Classic

Willowbend CC

10/26 – 10/27

Ocean State Junior

Championship

Cranston CC

11/2-11/3

DeSantis Cup

Agawam Hunt

11/10

Junior Roundup

Connecticut National GC

TBA

Fall Finish

New England CC

TBA

Holiday Shootout

Agawam Hunt

12/20

Dave Adamonis Sr. Challenge

Cup Matches

Doral Golf Resort & Spa

12/21 – 12/23

Doral Publix Junior Classic

Doral Golf Resort & Spa

1/2 – 1/6

Orange Bowl International

Junior

Biltmore GC



John D. Minick Champs, Team Waugh



John D. Minick Award Winner Allison Paik with Matt Parziale and Megan Khang

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The price for the Passport remains at \$64.95, and there are discounts for multiple purchases of the passport if you want to buy it with your golfing buddies. The Golf Season Passport will include discounts at many of the best public courses in New England including Allendale, Beaver River, Blackstone National, Country View, Cranston, Cranwell, Crystal Lake, Crumpin Fox Club, Foxborough, Fox Hopyard, Gardner Municipal, Green

Mountain, Fenner Hill, Laurel Lane, Manchester CC, No. Kingstown, Portland, Quarry Ridge, Rehoboth, Shattuck, Swansea, Tekoa CC, Triggs, Winnepaug and dozens more. There are also some nine-hole courses for those that would rather just play nine including Kings Crossing, Louisquisset, Midville and Pinecrest in Rhode Island. New this year is the fine Brattleboro CC in Vermont. The Golf Season Passport can be used through December 31, 2020.

Each course will be allowed to have up to three deals, and offer up to four plays per deal. This gives golfers an opportunity to not only save money, but also play their favorite courses more often.

Thousands of golfers from around New England have enjoyed the Season Pass and Season Passport and have

saved hundreds of dollars while golfing. You can purchase your pass at www.golfwesternmass.com or at www.snegolfer.com. or call **401-464-8445**.

While you are on the website, please register for information about golf events for your area. The Massachusetts group runs tournaments from time to time at some great courses, and regularly has over 100 players per event. We have played The Crumpin Fox Club, The Ledges Golf Club, Metacomet Country Club, Crestwood Country Club and Blackstone National GC along with many others. You can also get a \$10 off coupon from the Golfers Warehouse stores in New England and also a \$25 off putter fitting from Spargo Golf in Cranston.

Harley Magrath who has a large group of golfers that play every Wednesday had this to say about the Season

Passport. "We save hundreds of dollars each year on our golfing fees with the Season Passport. Each week we look at books and decide where we are going to play the following week. Since some of the courses have more than one coupon, we often go back to the courses we like the most."

There is a coupon code attached to the ad below. You can use that code at either www.golfwesternmass.com or at www.snegolfer.com to save \$15 if you order the book by December 31. The book makes a great gift for the golfers in your life and you will definitely save money on your golfing experiences next year with the Season Passport.

Please call or visit the websites for more information or to make a purchase. The Season Passports are mailed the same day.

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The Travelers Championship Just Keeps Getting Better

The biggest sporting event in Connecticut set a new tournament record for money raised for charity of more than \$2.1 million despite heavy rain that caused some logistical problems at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell and several marquee players failing to make the cut.

The funds were distributed to representatives from participating nonprofits at the annual Travelers Championship Charity Celebration at TPC River Highlands. This year's total surpassed the \$2 million generated last year, when Bubba Watson donated \$200,000 of his \$1,260,000 winnings to tournament officials after his third victory, one shy of the record of Hall of Famer Billy Casper.

"I look forward to this event every year because, ultimately, this is what the tournament is all about," tournament director Nathan Grube said. "The Charity Celebration is a culmination of the work that goes into the Travelers Championship and the support we receive from volunteers, fans, players, sponsors and the PGA Tour. Everything we do is to benefit worthy organizations that are making a difference in peoples' lives."

The tournament donates 100 percent of its net proceeds to charity, and this year's record effort brings the amount generated since Travelers became title sponsor in 2007 to nearly \$20 million. At least 750 charities have benefited over the time, and the current chief beneficiary is The Hole in the Wall Gang in Ashford, founded by the late actor Paul Newman.

"The Travelers is committed to taking care of our communities, and the money we generate from the Travelers Championship is just one way we are making a positive impact on nonprofits in the region," said Andy Bessette, executive president and chief administrator officer of the Travelers. "Today's event gives the tournament's charitable beneficiaries a chance to

tell their story, and we are proud to support them in their pursuit of helping others."

Chez Reavie rallied to earn his second PGA Tour win in June, holding off Vermont native Keegan Bradley for his first title since the 2008 RBC Canadian Open in his rookie season. "I want to congratulate Travelers and the Travelers Championship on generating over \$2 million for 150 charities," Reavie said. "I feel very privileged to be a part of that and look forward to doing it again next year."

Preparations are already underway for the 2020 Travelers Championship on June 25-28, and it's off to a great start with the extremely early commitment of Rory McIlroy, the No. 2-ranked player in the world who was named the PGA Tour Player of the Year after winning the 2018-19 season-ending Tour Championship and the FedExCup title for the second time.

Another record amount was raised for charity this year because advance ticket and corporate sales were ahead of their 2018 pace. And the tournament was ahead of three areas that are measured – merchandise, concessions and the gate. The new record take was realized despite the weather having an impact from Tuesday through early Friday afternoon.

In keeping with Bessette's rallying cry "the status quo is unacceptable," the tournament's latest major improvement was a new 40,000-square-foot clubhouse, four times the size of the original building. It drew rave reviews from players and fans and came after a \$5 million state-of-the-art practice facility, which included The First Tee of Connecticut Learning Center and adjacent four-hole mini-course geared toward more than 70,000 youngsters involved with the program, opened in 2014 and \$3 million in course renovations focusing on the fairways and bunkers were done

after the 2016 tournament.

"The new clubhouse provides players with modern, world-class locker rooms, a dining area for them and their families, spacious protection if the weather turns bad and other necessary services," Bessette said. "From the practice area to the golf course to the clubhouse, we want to provide PGA Tour players the best facilities we possibly can."

"We always look at everything, and we've already turned the page and begun preparations for the 2020 Travelers Championship. There are no details too small when we analyze and discuss ways to make next year's tournament an even better experience for everyone: players, volunteers, sponsors and the fans."

For more information on the tournament, visit www.travelerschampionship.com.

JAMES NAMED TO U.S. TEAM

Ben James was the story of the Connecticut golf scene this summer. The 16-year-old from Milford won state, New England and national titles and was honored for his stellar play by being named to the 12-person United States team that will compete against the International side in the second Junior Presidents Cup hosted by the American Junior Golf Association and PGA Tour on Dec. 8-9 at famed Royal Melbourne Golf Club, kicking off Presidents Cup week in Australia.

The junior event will include players from 10 states, Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Korea and South Africa, which has the most representation on the International team with five players. North Carolina and Texas will be represented by two players each on the U.S. team, which includes several players who competed in the Boys PGA Junior Championship at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford in July.

James tied for ninth as the best

Connecticut finisher in the PGA of America national championship and is the only member of the 2022 high school graduating class on the U.S. team. He finished second by a shot in the AJGA Wyndham Invitational in Charlotte, N.C., won the AJGA Killington Junior Golf Championship in Vermont, rolled to four easy wins in five matches in capturing the Connecticut State Golf Association Amateur Championship, finished third and low amateur in the Connecticut Open and shot 6-under 134 for 36 holes to win his second consecutive Northern Junior Championship at New Haven CC by five strokes.

James then shot 7-under 203 for 54 holes to win his second consecutive title in the 50th New England Junior Championship at Mill River CC in Stratford, leading Connecticut to its second straight team title with a 15-under 1,035 total that outdistanced runner-up Massachusetts by 17 strokes for the second year in a row. James won the New England individual title by a shot over teammate Chris Fosdick of Middlefield and Massachusetts phenom James Imai, the 2017 winner whose closing 66 nearly caught the champ.

James, who plays out of Great River GC in Milford, clinched his spot on the Junior Presidents Cup team when he tied for 19th in the AJGA's Junior Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Fla., home of The Players Championship. The Junior Players Championship was by invitation only, and Smith, who entered the season finale 11th in the points standings, was the only player from Connecticut in the 78-man field.

"Making the team would be amazing, a once-in-a-lifetime experience," James said after his Top-10 finish in the Boys PGA Junior Championship. "I'm really looking forward (to the Junior Players Championship). It's a reward in itself just to be there."

CSGA executive director Mike

Moraghan said James deserves all the rewards he can get.

"I think Ben James could be the best junior golfer in Connecticut history, and I don't know if any junior has had a better summer than Ben did," said Moraghan, the University of Virginia men's golf team coach from 1989 to 2004. "It's been fun to watch Ben grow and develop. I remember looking over at our table of boys at the New England dinner (in 2016), and Ben was half the size of some of our guys. He looked like a little kid next to boys like A.J. Ouimet and Jason Liu. But he really fit right in and had everyone's respect.

"It was obvious even then that Ben was mature beyond his years and had all the qualities you want to see in a champion golfer. He is patient, focused, thoughtful in his decision-making and never seems to be overwhelmed by the moment. And he loves to play and compete. Combine his mental strengths with physical talent and you have a very special player."

James, whose father Don has been his coach since Day One, is a sophomore at Hamden Hall Country Day School. But he has already committed to Virginia thanks in part to help from Moraghan after he originally committed to the University of Connecticut when he was 11, which is two years younger than when Woods committed to Stanford.

At 13, James qualified for the Connecticut Open and was the state's best player in the New England Junior Invitational when he tied for ninth. Last year, James was medalist in the CSGA Junior Championship at Watertown GC with 67, won the Computer Merchant Cup at Wintonbury Hills CC in Bloomfield with 68-65, won the Northern Junior at Great River with 68, won the New England Junior at Longmeadow (Mass.) CC with 68-70, was runner-up in the AJGA Killington Invitational with 66-72-68 and reached the Round of 32 in the U.S. Junior Amateur at Baltusrol GC in Springfield, N.J.

The U.S. team qualification for the Junior Presidents Cup team was determined by the Rolex AJGA Rankings, while International team selection was based on the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR). The 24 players will compete in six four-ball matches followed by six foursomes matches on Dec. 8. The competition will conclude with 12 singles matches on Dec. 9.

Justin Leonard, an AJGA alum who won 12 PGA Tour titles and made his pro debut at TPC River Highlands on a sponsors' exemption, will captain the U.S. team. Nine-time PGA Tour winner and five-time Presidents Cup participant Stuart Appleby of Australia will lead the International side.

KONG HOLDS ON IN CONN. OPEN

The overriding question during the first two rounds of the Connecticut Open was: What's hotter, the heat wave or Rasmey Kong? While temperatures hit the mid-90s, the red-hot Kong was basically turning the cozy Torrington CC course into his personal pitch-and-putt. The 22-year-old from West Haven who said he likes the heat and is in search of a regular tour on which to play carded 14 birdies and only one bogey over 36 holes while amassing a four-stroke lead.

The dominating performance elicited the cry of "Kong Is King," which might have been a bit corny but also was emphatically true. But Kong had to gather all of his inner strength and heed beneficial advice from his father/caddie Soweth in the final round after several bad breaks helped lead to him falling a stroke behind Paul Pastore with seven holes to go.

Kong's 35-foot putt at No. 12 matched Pastore's birdie 4 and got him even, then the two battled to the finish with Pastore's bogey at No. 17 off a miss-club enabling Kong to claim the \$12,500 first prize. Kong's closing, 1-under 71 gave him a 54-hole total of 202, one better than Pastore, whose 67 tied the low round of the final round.

"I didn't play my game and got some bad breaks, which kind of got to me," Kong said after his first victory since turning pro on Dec. 18. "But I stuck with it and wanted to make sure I shot under par because then someone would have to shoot 66 or better to beat me. I wasn't nervous at all, but I just didn't have it and got the bad breaks and lipped out a few putts.

"But I just tried to stay with it, and my dad helped calm me down. Being able to overcome so many bad breaks is what makes this so special. It feels great because I almost let it slip away on the front nine, but I felt good to finish strong. Paul gave me a good run at it and made me work those last few holes, but I was able to pull it together."

After signing his scorecard, Kong playfully chatted with cheering junior buddies he grew up with and still competes against and proved to be prophetic.

"I told these guys I was going to win this, and I did," Kong said with a smile. "I caught so many bad breaks, but it's golf, and as long as you know who you are inside and you keep grinding, it's OK."

Pastore, an assistant/teaching pro at Fairview CC in Greenwich where he grew up caddying, made birdie putts of 30, 10, 5, 5 and 3 feet on the fourth, fifth, eighth, 10th and 12th holes to take the lead. Kong got even with his long birdie putt at No. 12 and regained the lead with a sand-wedge shot to 3 feet at the 14th hole, where Pastore just missed a 5-footer. But Pastore got even when he chipped to 10 feet and made the putt for birdie at No. 16 before the decisive 17th hole, a 188-yard par-3 into the wind.

"I completely ballooned a 7-iron (about 30 yards short of the green) when I probably should have hit a 5-iron," said Pastore, 23, who turned pro in 2018 after one year at the University of Hartford and two more years as an amateur. "But I wasn't nervous all day because this is what you want. I didn't have any real game plan starting five back. I didn't have my best the first two days and just hoped to make some more putts. I did make a few more,

but I also left some out there.

"But I'm definitely happy with the way I played, and I had a good time being in contention," added Pastore, who pocketed \$6,250. "I just played golf for the first 12 holes but then looked at a leaderboard on 13. I wasn't surprised. I kind of figured he played two great rounds, but it's hard to back it up. Props to him."

Pastore, who lost a playoff in the New Hampshire Open, also had a good time with his mother, Laura, caddying for him the last 15 holes. "I carried my bag the first three holes and got a little tired from the heat, so I asked mom to take over and she did her usual great job," Pastore said.

And what did mom want in payment? "Love and affection," she said with a smile.

James made eagle 3 at No. 16 in shooting 67 for 205 that earned low amateur honors and third overall worth \$500 in merchandise credit.

The CSGA played the tournament on a weekend for the first time and made two classy moves. It had an American flag on the flagstick on the 18th hole attended by Staff Sgt. Rob Derwitsch, a Torrington native who served in Afghanistan, and there were 28 posters of former champions lining either side of the driveway leading to the clubhouse. The posters included former PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions player Ken Green, Henry Ciuci, the inaugural winner in 1931, Jimmy Demaret, Dick Siderowf, Frank Staszowsk and Kyle Gallo, whose four wins are tied for the most with John Golden.

The 2024 CSGA Amateur Championship will be played at Torrington CC in honor of the 50th anniversary of club member Dick Weigold's victory in the state's biggest amateur tournament.

AMAZING DEBUT; TALLMAN WINS

Kyle Puzzo provided another Ripley's Believe It Or Not moment in the first round of the Connecticut PGA Championship at Keney Park GC. Puzzo, the assistant pro at The

Orchards GC in South Hadley, Mass., became a registered PGA of America associate member and entered his first Section tournament five days before the event. And on his first swing as a professional in the final group the first day, Puzzo made a hole-in-one on the 330-yard, downhill par-4 first hole.

"I thought the guys on the green were upset with me," Puzzo said after his round. "They were waving their hands, and I didn't realize until I walked about 40 yards from the green that they weren't pulling my leg and the ball actually went in."

Unfortunately for Puzzo, it was all downhill from there as he made two birdies, four bogeys and two double-bogey 6s the rest of the way in shooting a 4-over 74. Things got worse in the second round as he shot 83 for a 17-over 157 total that was 24 strokes behind his boss, Chris Tallman, the general manager at Orchards GC.

Tallman's opening 66 shared the lead with Bill Street, the head pro at Whitney Farms GC in Monroe. Tallman, the 2018 Connecticut Section PGA Player of the Year who played in the Travelers Championship, heard about Puzzo's heroics while on the course.

"Before he started, Kyle said he was coming after me," Tallman, winner of the 2018 Connecticut Section Professional Championship, said after his four-birdie, no-bogey first round. "I guess he really meant it."

But Tallman was the main story the final day, carding five birdies, including three in a row at Nos. 12-14, in a 3-under 67 for a seven-stroke victory over five players that earned him \$4,200. The man with a sizable lead in the Player of the Year race this year was the only one of 54 players to finish under par. The \$19,150 championship was played at the site of the Girls and Boys PGA of America Junior Championships in July.

MARRELLO WINS SENIOR PGA TITLE

Fran Marrello of Canaan CC

shot 2-over 142 for 36 holes to win the Connecticut Senior PGA Professional Championship at Yale GC in New Haven. Marrello closed with 12 consecutive pars in a closing 72 that extended his Section record for Senior titles to seven and individual major wins to 24, nine more than runner-up Adam Rainaud. Marrello also has won a record nine Match Play Championship titles and has been Player of the Year seven times and Senior Player of the Year eight times.

Marrello finished one stroke ahead of Joe Cordani (Hop Meadow CC-Simsbury) and Mark Farrell (H. Smith-Richardson GC-Trumbull), who shared the first-round lead at 69 but closed with a bogey for a 5-over 41 on the back nine in a closing 74. Kevin Giancola (Golf Quest-Southington) and Jeff DelRosso (Prospect Driving Range) tied for fourth at 146, but they weren't entered in the qualifier for the Senior PGA Professional Championship Oct. 3-6 at Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin, Texas. The fourth qualifier was Dan Benedetti (Springfield CC), who finished sixth at 147. The alternates, in order, were Mike Martin (Tashua Knolls GC-Trumbull, 148), Ted Perez (East Mountain CC-Westfield, Mass., 149) and John Vitale (GolfTEC-West Hartford, 150).

GIAMPAOLO, ROSENGRANT EARN NATIONAL BERTHS

James Giampaolo shot a course record-tying 5-under 67 in the morning and tacked on a 69 in the afternoon to capture the Connecticut Section PGA Assistant Championship at Timberlin GC in Berlin. Giampaolo, of Shuttle Meadow CC in Kensington, finished five strokes ahead of 2012 champion and PGA Active Member Kyle Bilodeau. Matt Rosengrant of Rock Ridge CC in Newtown was third at 148.

With the victory, Giampaolo advanced to the National Car Rental Assistant PGA Championship on Nov. 14-17 on

the Wanamaker Course at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. He will be joined by Rosengrant, who earned the second spot for eligible professionals in the 132-man field representing the PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections that will play for \$150,000.

LACAVA WINS TITLE, ENTERS HALL OF FAME

Longtime PGA Tour caddie Joe LaCava of Newtown and his son, Joe Jr., won the CSGA Father-Son Net Tournament at Redding CC. Joe Sr., a 7 handicap, and his son combined to shoot a best-ball net 6-under 65 for a three-stroke victory over Michael and Joe Gianatti of Southington CC.

LaCava, 55, currently caddies for Woods after previously carrying for players such as Leonard, Fred Couples, Davis Love III and Dustin Johnson, whom he worked for before joining Woods in 2011. LaCava helped Woods win the Masters in April, 27 years after he did likewise with Couples. On Aug. 14, on the eve of the BMW Championship, LaCava was inducted into Caddie Hall of Fame that already included the likes of Jim "Bones" Mackay and Connecticut natives Joe "Gypsy" Grillo and the late Bruce Edwards. Woods was on hand for the ceremony.

"I don't know if I deserve it, but I'll take it," a smiling LaCava said during his acceptance speech. "It's a wonderful honor. I was hesitant about doing it, but Bones said, 'You've got to do it.' And I respect Bones obviously, so once he said you should do it, I was all in. ... I'm just not comfortable with the attention. I've always been a guy who, I want Tiger to be the show. I want him doing the interviews and everything else. So that's just not a comfortable role for me, but I think it's terrific that they did it and that they thought that much of me to do it."

LaCava began his caddie career working for cousin Ken Green, who won five PGA Tour titles, was a member of the 1989 U.S. Ryder Cup Team and played on the PGA

Tour Champions before his RV accident.

DAY WINS CSGA MID-AMATEUR

Ben Day survived a late scare and then parred the first playoff hole to defeat Rick Hayes and win the CSGA Mid-Am Championship at Shuttle Meadow CC in Kensington. Day, 38, of the Country Club of Waterbury, thought he had lost after holding a five-stroke lead entering the final round, but Hayes missed a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to create overtime. Hayes, of Silver Spring CC in Ridgefield, hit his drive on the playoff hole into the trees and was on his way to a bogey but never putted out as Day captured the title with his birdie.

"I thought it was over," said Day, who closed with a 2-over-par 73 for a 54-hole total of 4-under 209. "I thought he would make (the birdie putt). But as I say that, it's kind of a cool feeling to go from me thinking that I'd lost, I mean Rick played a great (final) round, and to come back and be sitting here the winner is a cool feeling."

Hayes, the reigning Russell C. Palmer Cup champion, closed with 67, one of only two rounds in the 60s in the final round, but the 5-footer to win stuck with him. "I thought it would curl a little right, but it was just dead straight," he said. "If I went back there right now, I'd hit it the same way. It's just one of those things. It's golf."

Peter Tomlinson of Orange Hills CC shot a bogey-free, 5-under 67 to score a five-stroke victory in the Tettlebach Division (Under 55) of the CSGA Tournament of Champions at Bull's Bridge GC in South Kent. Tomlinson easily outdistanced runner-up Nicholas Waddington of Manchester CC. In the Siderowf Division (55 and Over), Eric Litke of Keney GC had five birdies in a 2-under 70 for a three-stroke victory over Bob Murphy of Brownson CC in Stratford and Jim Romaniello of Shorehaven GC in Norwalk. Moraghan, of the Country Club of Waterbury, shot 74 to finish in a

five-way tie for fourth.

HANLON NAMED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Jim Hanlon of The Farms CC in Wallingford was named recipient of the Section's highest honor, Professional of the Year. The award is given for overall performance as a golf professional, leadership, service to his/her Section, the ability to inspire fellow professionals and the promotion of the game.

Hanlon will join 2019 Hall of Fame inductees Chuck Lasher, Lindsey Hansen and Mike Bailey as headliners for the Hall of Fame and PGA Special Awards Dinner on Nov. 24 at Lake of Isles in North Stonington.

"Jim has been a consummate golf professional," Section president Howie Friday said. "He's as deserving as any PGA professional and one who has been admired for years by his members and peers alike."

Hanlon, who was elected to PGA of America membership in 1997, has served as head pro at The Farms for the past 20 years. Before taking on the lead role at the Wallingford club, he was an assistant pro at the Country Club of Waterbury and Race Brook CC in Orange. It was at Race Brook under the tutelage of Frank Selva that helped shape Hanlon's professional philosophy that he carries with him today.

"Frank taught me that if I greet people properly, get them to the tee on time and with ease, make sure they play in a reasonable amount of time and show interest in their experience, they will reward me by continuing their membership at the club," Hanlon said.

Other Special Awards winners were Michel Painchaud, Mohegan Sun Golf Club-Uncasville, Teacher of the Year; Tony Rowe, Rolling Meadows GC-Ellington, Bill Strausbaugh Award; Ron Beck, Lake of Isles, Horton Smith Award; Josh Detmer, Go Golf Academy-Madison, Player Development Award; John Dipollina, Golf Center at Lyman Orchards GC-

Middlefield; David DiRico, Dave DiRico's Golf & Racquet-West Springfield, Mass., Merchandiser of the Year (public); Justin Foster, Ridgewood CC-Danbury, Merchandiser of the Year (private); Richard Bray, Hartford GC, Assistant Professional of the Year; Philip Krick Jr., Mohegan Sun GC-Uncasville, Patriot Award; Jeff Dibona, Golf Representative of the Year.

WHALEY ADVANCES IN LPGA QUALIFYING

Former Farmington resident Kelly Whaley took her first step toward reaching the former working home of her mother/caddie Suzy. Kelly shot a 2-over 290 for 72 holes at two courses in California to tie for 45th and be among 96 players to advance in Qualifying School Stage I for the LPGA and Symetra Tour.

Whaley was tied for 82nd among 151 players who made the 54-hole cut after shooting three 73s at the Dinah Shore Tournament Course and Arnold Palmer Tournament Course in Rancho Mirage and Shadow Ridge GC in nearby Palm Desert. But she had two birdies and one bogey in carding her low round of the week to advance to Stage II on Oct. 14-17 at the Panther Course and Bobcat Course at Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice, Fla.

A to-be-determined number of players from Stage II will qualify for the finals at Pinehurst No. 6 on Oct. 23-26 and Pinehurst No. 9 from Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Pinehurst, N.C., not far from where Whaley recently graduated from the University of North Carolina, her mother's alma mater. The 96 players who advanced will play 72 holes in Stage II, and a to-be-determined number of players will qualify for the Q-Series finals. All other players who complete 72 holes will receive Symetra Tour cards for the 2020 season.

Players who advance to the Q-Series will be cut to a to-be-determined number after six rounds, and at least the top 45 and ties for 144 holes receive LPGA

Tour cards. Players who complete 108 holes will receive Symetra Tour cards.

Suzy, the first female president of the PGA of America, caddied for her youngest golfing daughter. She played on the LPGA Tour in 1990 and 1993 and became the first woman in 57 years to qualify for a PGA Tour event, the 2003 Greater Hartford Open, when she won the 2002 Connecticut Section PGA Championship.

Kelly, winner of the 2017 Hartford Women's Open, started in every tournament at UNC for four years, had the two lowest scores in school history and was the only Tar Heel to shoot all three rounds in the 60s in winning the Briar's Creek Invitational (68-67-69). She also was a three-time winner of the Connecticut Women's Amateur, a CIAC champion and All-State and Player of the Year in her freshman year at Farmington High School. She transferred to the International Junior Golf Academy in Hilton Head Island, S.C., where she was a member of the National Honor Society.

Kelly turned pro in July and earned \$2,800 in her Symetra Tour debut, which was more than her mother made in 21 events during her two stints on the LPGA Tour.

53 COURSES IN 50 DAYS

You would be hard-pressed to find someone who likes to play golf more than Ryan Cherry, especially for a new cause. Cherry, the assistant boys golf coach at The Morgan School in Clinton, played 53 courses in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in 50 days, concluding with a round with Morgan High golfers at Clinton CC, his home course. Then as if that wasn't enough in what he jokingly called his "summer lunacy," Cherry had an encore round with friends at Portland Golf Club the next day.

Cherry's goal for the trip was to create awareness about the disparity between golf programs for high school boys and girls and create opportunities for girls and young women to become involved

with and participate in the game. Connecticut high schools sponsor 639 boys' teams and only 64 for girls, while the enrollment ratio for the two sexes is 1:1. And there is not a single girls' team in the Shoreline Conference in which Morgan School competes in all sports.

The only chance that hundreds of girls in Connecticut have to compete at the high school level in golf is on boys' teams. The only way these girls can participate in high school competitions is to outperform male teammates and qualify for one of the top five positions on their team, which is rare. So thousands of girls are invited to be included on the rosters of boys' teams but never get to participate in matches.

Opportunity and money are the cause of the major disparity. Sports, other than golf, encourage girls and boys to become involved at an early age. "Girls Golf Too" that Cherry and his three daughters founded before the trip would like to provide these opportunities since most schools are cutting budgets and programs to save money, making it difficult to justify new programs. GGT also would like to provide the justification and financial means to create new golf programs for girls and give every girl who wants to compete with her peers the same opportunity that boys have.

Cherry, 53, who teaches at Jared Eliot Middle School in Clinton, started planning for his monumental journey two years ago during a conversation with Dr. Steve Mings, a friend in Boise, Idaho, who was trying to play all 50 states in his lifetime. Cherry suggested 50 states in one year and then progressed to 50 in 50 days.

"My daughters said if I was going to attempt something that crazy, I should do something good with it," said Cherry, who also began saving for his adventure two years ago. "That's when my daughters (Andi, 24, Kylie, 22, and Caroline, 19) and I came up with Girls Golf Too."

GGT is a non-profit foundation

CT NOTEBOOK

that did not fund Cherry's trip, which cost about \$300 a day. Cherry got help from friends along the way in the form of a tank of gas, a hotel, a round of golf or a meal. He paid for most of the trip, and GGT has a GoFundMe account that had raised \$3,535 by mid-September. The goal is \$15,000, and donations can be made at girlsgolftoo.org. Cherry's journey is on his Facebook page or Instagram at [girls_golf_too](https://www.instagram.com/girls_golf_too).

"My trip is over, but Girls Golf Too is just getting started and the trip was a way to kick it off and promote it," Cherry said. "We'd like to sponsor some golf clinics for girls and hope to keep GGT active and productive for years to come."

Cherry played in his 50th state at Clinton CC with former and current members of the Morgan High golf team, Jack Bugg and Jason Cohen, host Steve Bugg and Mike Powers and his daughter Olivia and son Ryan. A day later, Cherry played his encore round with colleagues at Jared Eliot Middle School – Chris Horan, Jared Steven and Steve Mendelsshon.

Cherry, who has a 9 handicap, drove 11,785 miles and flew 6,903 miles

while playing in seven different time zones and averaging 84.5 per round. He did all the driving and had friends or family along for the ride for 29 rounds in 28 states, including two in Connecticut. He played with 39 strangers, who are now friends, and one dog, Cujo, at Black Thorn Golf Club in Indiana. "This summer has been a world wind for our entire family, but I can say that I have never been more proud of my husband of 26 years for saying what he is going to do and doing it," said Cherry's wife, Mariellen. "Go Girls Golf Too!"

FIRST TEE HEAD RECOGNIZED

When Mark Moriarty was named executive director of The First Tee of Connecticut 20 months ago, he had mighty big shoes to fill. Bruce Wilson had been president and chief executive officer since TFTCT's modest origins in 1999 as the The First Tee of Hartford at Goodwin Park GC until March 2010, when David Polk took over as the head of the youth development organization whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs

that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through golf.

Turns out Moriarty has done just fine so far, with lots of help from a hard-working staff of eight full-time, one part-time and three seasonal (summer interns and camp director) personnel. He has increased sponsorships to almost \$800,000 from more than 1,000 unique donors, including local foundations, corporations and individuals, as well as support from the Travelers Championship, CSGA and Connecticut Section PGA. TFTCT has increased from approximately 100 youngsters to 49,800 under Wilson to nearly 70,000 under Polk and Moriarty, who now is involved with 20 sites and 160 schools statewide. The national First Tee began in 1997 and is headquartered in St. Augustine, Fla., with programs in all 50 United States and select international locations.

TFTCT has four main learning facilities at TPC River Highlands, Alling Memorial GC in New Haven, Prospect Driving Range and Fairchild Wheeler GC in Bridgeport. Others are located in

Hartford, East Hartford, Waterbury, Danbury, Stamford/Norwalk, Pawcatuck/New London, Madison and Woodstock. Moriarty's current interaction focuses on being involved with TFTCT's Scholarship Committee, which awarded 30 scholarships totaling \$37,000 this year.

WATKINS CAPTURES CWGA TITLE

Gia Watkins of Brooklawn CC in Fairfield shot 13-over 159 for 36 holes to win the Connecticut Women's Golf Association Senior Championship at Hop Meadow CC in Simsbury. Watkins finished five ahead of Carol Galbraith (Hartford GC) and Myra MacMillan (Oronoque CC-Stratford). In the juniors division, Leah Ayers of Wethersfield CC shot 169 for a three-stroke win over Riley Carey (Glastonbury Hills CC). In the seniors division, Pam Zanetto of Torrington shot 11-over 84 for a four-stroke victory over Tori Langen (Black Hall Club-Old Lyme).

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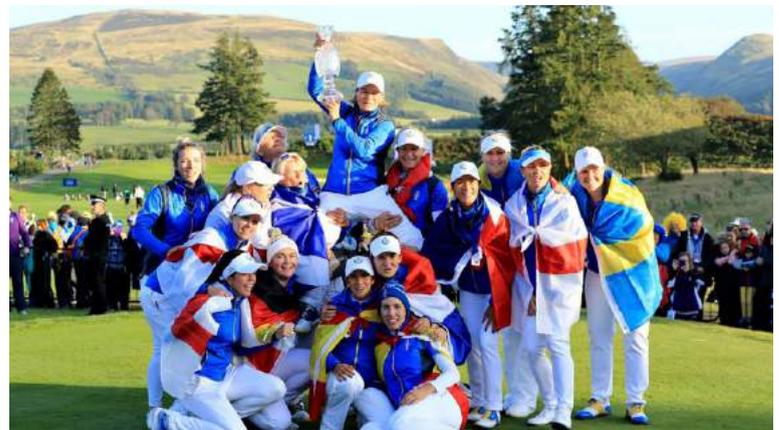
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Juli Inkster prayed, but it didn't help



This was the largest attended Solheim Cup



The winning European Team on the 18th



The captain holds the Cup



The Korda sisters starred

Piddle Piddle up the Middle: Wisdom from an Irish Golf Master

This week I received a very special package in the mail: Pat Ruddy's new book, "Holes in my Head" about the dreams rolling around in his brain for the past 50 years as he designed golf holes. It is a large hefty, book filled with pictures along with Ruddy's comments about not only golf courses but golf in general. What a wonderful achievement from one of Ireland's best-known course architects.

Pat Ruddy has designed more than 36 courses including his own European Club, as well as Druids Glen, Ballyliffin, Glashedy and Rosapena and Sandy Hills. He is a writer, publisher, raconteur and industry pacesetter and enjoys the company of elite golfers like Tiger Woods, Henry Cotton, David Duval, and Padraig Harrington along with local folks.

While in Ireland a few years ago, I rented a car in Dublin drive to The European Club on the east coast on Brittas Bay, Wicklow. The realized dream of Ruddy, who designed and built this unique 20-hole beauty, opened in 1992. I got there with the sea and coastline in sight to be welcomed warmly by Sidon, Ruddy's daughter.

I found The European Club challenging yet fair. It's a course where metal spikes are recommended "for your safety" and the approach is "fundamentalist" with "no fussy furniture on the links." You are challenged to "go out and do battle with a golfscape that requires no artificial adornment."

And do battle I did. All the balls found new homes in the grasses, dunes, and sand at this wild and wonderful links track punctuated by more than 100 really testy bunkers, many shored up with rail ties.

My golf that day took me through high dunes, marshlands and along a wild and exposed beach, up onto the cliffs of Mizzen Head and deep into the valley at the 17th. I also got to putt on the 127-yard 12th green, arguably the longest green in the world. I needed a driver! This green's length allows it to be set up to play from 348 to 520 yards. When he saw it, Nick Faldo remarked, "What a neat idea."



Pat Ruddy outside his home

Ruddy lives and breathes golf. He has a home in Glenageary where he lives with his wife, Bernadine, but his apartment over the clubhouse is a golfer's promised land with details like elaborate moldings of crossed golf clubs, wrap-around windows looking out to the fairways and sea, and a spacious library with floor-to ceiling shelves holding his vast and growing collection of close to 7,000 golf-related books and curious exhibits such as a pair of size 13 Johnny Miller shoes.

Ruddy's book is filled with enlightened wisdom gleaned from his lifetime in golf. Here are some you might find useful or at the very least, amusing.

Why 20 holes? (7A and 12A)

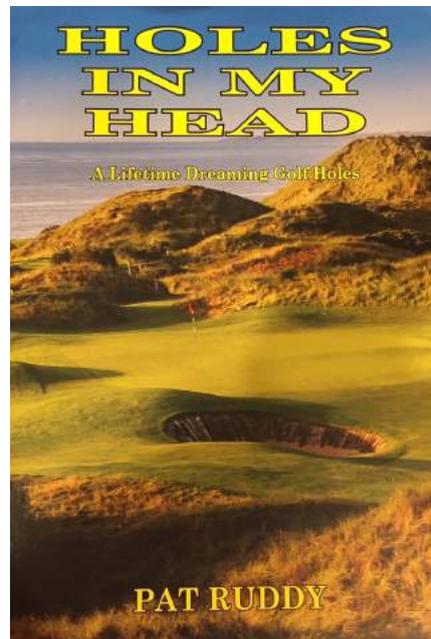
"If there are 20 to 25 fine golf holes out there, why stop at 18? We are here to play golf."

Bunkers

"They were playable then (19th century) so don't complain they are unfair. They are not meant to be pleasure beaches. They are places of penance. Why have them if they do not punish." (Rail ties wall many of his bunkers.)

Solace for a tough round?

At the 10th hole look along the left side of the fairway for the Cursing Stone or "Dolmen." Legend has it you can put a curse on your enemies if you revolve the seven small stones on the top of the rock in a counter-clockwise direction.



Blind Holes

"It is best not to build blind shots into the modern golf course now that so many people, strangers in many cases, wander the fairways and some are thoughtless enough to blast shots over hills without checking what is on the other side.The game is difficult enough without playing blind." Ruddy goes on to say some famous blind holes such as the 154-yard shot up to The Dell at LaHinch is, "poor design, of course. But it is also a work of genius enshrined by history.....a sacred monument."

Slow Play

"The wise player takes time to relax and enjoy being in a lovely place with friends. What a great way to ENJOY YOUR TIME! As a 54-holes-a-day youth, I was never in a hurry and I wish those days never went away." Ruddy raises the question concerning the attitude of those who are in a huge rush to get around the golf course, but then these same people can be seen waving their colors at a football game and drinking their pints for hours.

Searching for balls

"The true golfer loves to find a golf ball." (Pity we are only allowed three minutes to do so by the new rules.)

Terror on the tee

"The carry to the fairway is no more than a medium to long par 3so why grip the driver like a rattle snake to do just a little bit better? Realize

that if you are capable of flying the ball a given distance, all of the hazards from the tee out to that distance do not exist unless the shot is dismal.

Tee choice

Choosing the correct tee is crucial. "If you choose unwisely...please call it suicide rather than murder!"

Incorrect alignment

"You should have learned from men like Jack Nicklaus who left nothing to chance but stepped behind their ball, even on the tee, every time to pick an object over which to send the shot. Piddle Piddle up the Middle (course management)

"A majority of players throw caution to the wind....and have a go at the heroic shot. The penalty can be death by golfing suicide." Ruddy suggests you make a personal route around a golf course. "If there is real danger about or of if there is nothing to be gained from an attempted big blow, it is best to fall back on the wise old verse: Piddle Piddle, Up the Middle"

There are times Ruddy says, "You have to suck-it-up and lay-up. An astonishing number of people attempt to layup in the narrow part of the fairway, which is strictly a No Go Zone, and call all the curses or hell onto the designer's head when the ball topples into the reeds. Golf requires thought and prudence and the wiles of a fox." He also points out that hitting over a hazard may require taking a path that is shorter even though it is to the right or left of the green, not directly to it.

There is so much in Pat Ruddy's book, you will find having it on your coffee table will be a great source of constant enjoyment. Open any page and read on. You'll see photos Ruddy, now 75, is always smiling or laughing. You gotta know, a man who says, "You don't add yardage, you add fear," is bound to have plenty of surprises up his sleeve.

You can order the book at theeuropeanclub.com.

Katharine Dyson is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and writes a Women's Column in each issue of snegolfer.com. This column is for men as well as women.

The leaders of the Attleboro Area Golf Association are quite proud of their annual tournament, now in its 59th year. They believe theirs is the most challenging – and fun – regional tournament in New England. They have a case.

The AAGA Championship is contested over four days at four different courses, the last two years at public Wentworth Hills Golf Club and Heather Hill Country Club in Plainville as well semi-private Foxborough and Norton country clubs.

“That means there are 72 different holes, 72 different fairways, 72 different greens,” said Kolby Simmons, the 2018 champion. “Green speeds vary from day to day. It’s really challenging.”

Besides champions that have included Jim Renner, who spent three years on the PGA Tour, the tournament produces stories. Here are two from this year’s event.

The Best Man

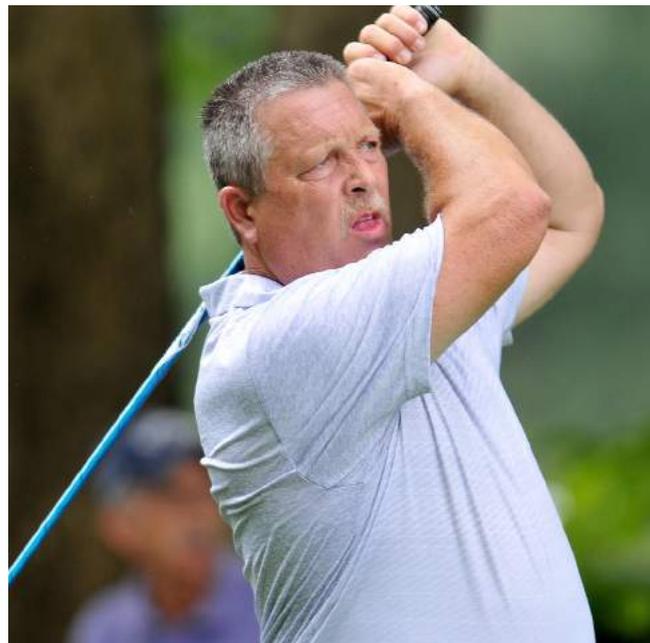
Simmons, a 32-year-old Attleboro resident who grew up in North Attleboro, was thrilled when he captured the AAGA crown last year. And he was just as overjoyed when his younger brother Todd asked him to be best man at his wedding.

Then he found out when the ceremony would take place: The night of Aug. 18, 2019.

The same day as the final round of the AAGA. His decision was quick: I won’t play.

But family and friends urged him to change his mind. It was Todd who finally convinced him to tee it up. “Todd told me, ‘You’ve GOT to play, you’re the defending champ,’” Simmons said.

So, shortly before the deadline to enter, Simmons decided to compete. He immediately had second thoughts about his decision. “It was definitely stressful,” he said. “For four days in a row, I’m trying to focus on playing but I’m



Derek Johnson

thinking about the wedding and what I’m going to have to do.” Weighing most heavily on his mind was his best man toast, which he had yet to compose. “I actually would have a thought about what I was going to say while I was out on the course so I would write them down on a scorecard,” he said.

Simmons was scheduled to be in the third-to-last group for the final round. Traditionally, the AAGA sends the last groups out around 10 a.m. This year, however, the start was pushed back to allow Norton CC members to play before the tournament began.

Simmons persuaded the AAGA to let him tee off with the second group of the day, giving him plenty of time to finish his round, shower and still make it to the hotel to meet the wedding party. Relieved of the stress of being late, he had his best round of the event, shooting one under par on the back nine to finish tied for seventh.

“It was a really nice wedding,” he said. “Everyone had a great time. At first, I thought I made a mistake but now I’m really glad I played in it AND got to be my brother’s best man.”

The Best Player

Anyone who needs motivation to achieve a long-sought goal can use Derek Johnson as an inspiration.

In his 30th try, Johnson finally captured the AAGA Championship, shooting 12-over-par to win by six strokes. For years, he has been the epitome of close but no cigar. The Attleboro resident has finished second five times and third nine times. He’s

been in the top 10 in 26 of his 30 attempts to be called the best golfer

in the Attleboro area.

And he finally managed to achieve this feat at the age of 57. He is a grandfather; most of his opponents were not yet married or were at Norton with their wives and toddler children. Let’s face it, no one well into their AARP years can be expected to compete in the PGA or even the AAGA.

Finishing second was Jared Winiarz, a college sophomore nearly four decades younger than the winner. But what Johnson may lack in sheer athleticism he more than made up for it with grittiness, experience and, most of all, hard work.

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Parajeckas Wins N.E. PGA Senior Am

“Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”—

Satchel Paige

Paul Parajeckas, the popular head professional at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton will turn 70 years old on April 26, 2020. Still, at 69, after being away from professional tournament golf for nearly two full seasons, he’s back in the winner’s circle.

In late August, Parajeckas captured the 2019 New England PGA Senior Championship at Woodstock Country Club, climbing to the top of the leaderboard with an opening 4-under-par 66 and staying there as the solo champ by a two-shot margin when the final round of the 36-hole tournament was rained out.

This special win for Parajeckas came exactly 10 years after his 2009 NEPGA



NEPGA's Mike Higgins (l) with Paul Parajeckas

Section championship victory when he won with a remarkable three-round performance at age 59 at Worcester Country Club.

With the win, Parajeckas collected

\$1,450 and qualified for the 31st annual Senior PGA Professional Championship Oct.3-6 at the Fazio Foothills & Coore and Crenshaw courses at Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Austin, Texas. (snegolfer.com will post results on our website).

Interviewed about his winning round at Woodstock, Parajeckas, who looks years younger than his age, said, “I shot 32 with three birdies on the front, and then I eagled the 10th,” he said. “I made one bogey on the par-3, 13th after hitting an 8-iron off the back of the green. I chipped it up to about three feet and just missed the putt.”

Other than the 13th hole, Parajeckas played pretty much flawless golf, touring the four par 5 holes in 4-under par and sinking additional birdies on holes 6 and 8.

“It was just one of those days when I really felt like I was in the zone, and it’s been a while,” said Parajeckas, who won three straight NEPGA Senior Championships from 2004 to 2006 at Woodstock.

“I know the golf course well, and I just felt great out there,” said Parajeckas who admitted that, because he was so busy at Pleasant Valley all summer, he had played only about three rounds. “I shot that good first round and I was prepared to play the next day, but the conditions were just unplayable and they made the call.”

Parajeckas then made a call of his own—to his son, Jason, a top-notch professional golfer in his own right. “I pretty much broke down,” Parajeckas said. “We met for dinner later and had a little celebration. And the members at Pleasant Valley were great when I came back to the course.”

After his win at Woodstock which qualified him for the National PGA Championship Tournament in Austin, Parajeckas, even though he hasn’t lost too much of his driving distance, said he wasn’t sure if he wanted to go, but the members urged him to register and make the trip South.

“There will be 265 seniors in the field at Austin and I’m probably going to be the oldest there, but I’m going to go. Many people have convinced me to go,” he said. “This will probably be my last one. I’ve been blessed to be able to

compete in golf for so long.”

And the lesson of his most recent win: “Never, ever give up,” said Parajeckas. “That’s what I truly believe in. And God is on my side.”

Parajeckas, a member of the NEPGA Hall of Fame, is a Worcester native and former Burncoat High School star in golf, baseball, football and basketball. He began his golf career in 1969 at Green Hill Municipal in Worcester under the direction of head pro Bruce Dobie.

His first head pro job was at Indian Meadows CC in Westboro, and he later played on the PGA Tour before becoming head pro and superintendent at Woburn CC, working there for over two decades. Parajeckas also qualified and played in numerous Champions Tour tournaments and has won every major tournament in the New England PGA section.

Joining Parajeckas in Austin will be five other NEPGA professionals who qualified: Kirk Hanefeld, John Paesani, Jeff Seavey, Rick Karbowski and Thomas Tobey. Bill Andrews will be the first alternate.

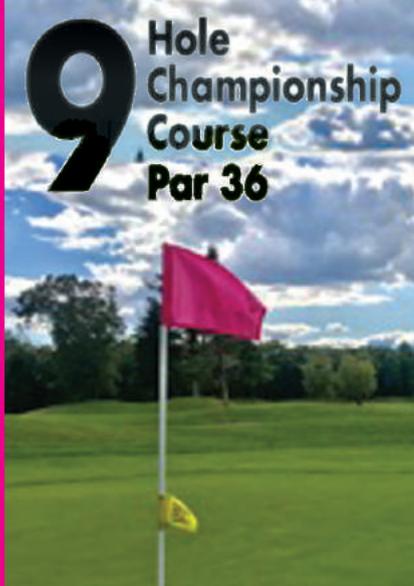
Altomare Excels at Solheim Cup

Although it ended with a disappointing, one-point loss to the European team, in her rookie appearance at the Solheim Cup, USA team member Brittany Altomare, a Central Mass. native from Shrewsbury, MA, played superbly in the much-publicized matches held in Scotland in mid-September.

After Altomare, a 2009 graduate of Shrewsbury High and 2013 University of Virginia graduate, and her partner Lexi Thompson lost a close match, 2 and 1, to Europe’s Georgia Hall and Celine Boutier to begin the matches, Altomare did not lose again.

In the Friday afternoon Four-Ball match, Altomare, with a clutch 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole, playing with Nelly Korda, halved the European twosome of Charley Hull and Azahara Munoz.

In the Saturday Four-Ball competition, Altomare and Annie Park defeated Suzann Pettersen and Anne van Dam, 1 up, and in the singles finals on Sunday, Altomare defeated Jodi Ewart Shadoff, 5 and 4.



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Birdies for the Blind Tournament at Gardner Municipal

Golf began for Shane Stewart when he was only six years old, when his vision was sharp and clear. He played hockey and baseball too, but in golf he showed the most promise, developing into an outstanding high school player. A four-year starter for Gardner High, Stewart qualified for the MIAA state championship in 2006 and the GMGC October Cup. Twice, he finished in the top-10 of the club championship.

At age 21, though, after his handicap had dropped to single digits, and he was loving his job as a pro shop assistant at Cyprian Keyes GC in Boylston, Stewart's life took a dramatic turn. His vision suddenly began to deteriorate, and specialists at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary determined he had Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON). He eventually lost his central vision and became legally blind.

"I was very depressed and went into a dark spot for a long time," recalled Stewart, who is now 30. "I stopped playing golf. I didn't know how to deal with it." His friends, though, especially Mark Landry, Joe Coller and Brendon Riley knew what to do—get Stewart back on the golf course, and somehow get him to love the game again.

"They dragged me back on the course, and I'm glad they did," said Stewart, who soon realized that he could still—with the help from his friends—play again and even regain some of the sport's joy he had cherished before being stricken by LHON, a very rare disease.

How rare? "I believe there are only about 10,000 people with it in the United States and maybe 50,000 in the world," Stewart said.

"I can still hit the ball about 280 yards off the tee, but I have no idea where it goes, and the short game is the toughest part for me," said Stewart, who sees only shadows and blurs with no definition and, when on the greens, needs directional help from his golfing partners when

putting toward the cup. "When I look down at the ball, I can barely see it. It's like a little blur. "But I still have the same swing I always had," he said.

Steadily, since coming back to the golf course, Stewart's game has improved. Last summer he shot an 84 at GMGC, breaking 100 for the first time since he lost his vision. He walked off the green that day with a smile and the same good feelings about golf that he had when his father, Mike, cut down some of his own clubs and brought Shane to the driving range back in 1994.

These days, Stewart is a profile in courage. Besides returning to the game, he, in 2012, began a charitable golf tournament at GMGC, "Birdies for the Blind," and its eighth annual edition was held in September at GMGC with donations dedicated for research for LHON.

This tournament really took off, and it's crazy how much it's grown. We've had so much support from the Gardner community, 22 hole sponsors and over 50 raffle prizes," said Stewart who played in a foursome with his friends Travis Jaillet, Alek Dernalowicz and Ryan Pasakinskas.

"I'm very proud of what we have done. We've donated the money to research for a cure," said Stewart. "There's a company in Newton, Stealth Biotherapeutics that is working on trials using medication that tries to regenerate the cells in the optic nerve."

Stewart said that this year's tournament will be the final one, though. "It's really a lot of work for everyone, especially my Mom (Chris) and my stepdad (Gerry Michaud). We've had a great run, and I'm very proud and very grateful." The tourney drew 108 players on a beautiful day for golf, and the donations made the eight-year total eclipse \$50,000.

"In my early 20s, I always said that I would love my eyesight back by the time I turned 30, so I could



Shane Stewart

play softball and hockey with my friends again," said Stewart, who is still very hopeful for a cure. "I'm not giving up because so much has happened with research just in the last 10 years."

And what else would Stewart do if his eyesight returned? "Definitely start working at a golf course again," he said.

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Athletes Improve in the Offseason

Golf is a sport, but many people don't think of it as being "athletic". Whether it's because there's no running involved, or because many people indulge in adult beverages while playing, for some reason it's not viewed in the same light as many other sports.

For those who really want to improve though, they should view it as any other athlete would look at their sport. For many people the cool weather comes around and they immediately put their clubs in the basement, not to be seen again until their annual spring trip to a course down south, or the first sunny New England day in April. However, if golf is truly YOUR SPORT and you want to get better, the winter should be welcomed with open arms.

In every sport, athletes look at their off season as the time to improve. Many sport's seasons and practice schedules are far too grueling to put an emphasis on building strength, speed, and skill, so most athletes focus on these qualities during the offseason. Golf should be no different. In golf we need practice, and not just from April to October.

We need to be able to create speed and strength to create distance, and we need balance and core strength to be consistent and prevent injury. So this winter don't just sit there staring at the snow longing for April so you can work on your game. Take advantage of the fact that you can't play, and work on something that needs improvement.

As Gary Player said, "the harder you work, the luckier you get". This is your time to put in that work. Go address that back pain, take a few lessons on straightening that driver out, or to get in the gym and add some distance to your clubs. Whatever you do, don't waste your valuable offseason.

Steve Zarriello B.S., CSCS, TPI Certified, is the Owner of Olympia Fitness and Performance in Cranston, R.I and writes a conditioning column in each issue of snegolfer.com. He has been a strength and conditioning coach for 10 years and has trained athletes of all sports and levels, but his passion is training golfers to keep them injury free and help them improve their game.

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Garvin Sweeps Mass. Women's and Junior Am. Championships

Angela Garvin of Feeding Hills had one great summer. Garvin, 18, claimed the 116th Massachusetts Women's Amateur Golf Championship, winning in wire-to-wire fashion at Weston Golf Club.

Garvin's crowning moment came when she posted a 4-and-3 victory over Anne Walsh of The Country Club in the 18-hole final. The victory also helped soften the sting of a defeat for Garvin in the championship's 2017 final.

She had qualified for match play as the No. 1 seed. She earned medalist honors after posting a 36-hole, onsite qualifying score of 1-under-par 145. Garvin's success came a week after she won the Massachusetts Girls' Junior Amateur Championship at The Ridge Club in Sandwich.

The two titles marked the fourth time the state junior champion has won the Women's Amateur Championship during the same year. Joanne Goodwin (1954), Loren Milhench (1985) and Chelsea Curtis (2005) are the others.

The University of Maryland freshman had won junior titles in 2015 and 2016 and with her third crown she became the first champion to win three junior titles in nearly 50 years (Ruthann Donahue won in 1968, 1969 and 1970). Garvin also won the Mite Division title in 2010.

Earlier in the summer, Garvin qualified for her sixth Girls Junior PGA Championship. She missed the cut by two strokes there, at Keney Park GC in Hartford.

Senior moment

Jack Kearney, who plays out of Westover Golf Course in Ludlow, won the Massachusetts Senior Amateur Championship at Cohasset GC. Kearney, 64, won by four strokes to add to a title he won in 2010.

He trailed three players by one stroke entering the final round, before he posted a 2-under-par 68 - the lone subpar round - to finish. He was tied for the lead with four holes to play, before runner-up Don Reycroft of Bayberry Hills GC bogeyed four of his last five and Kearney birdied the 18th to extend a two-shot advantage.

Connecticut PGA

Chris Tallman of Orchards GC in South Hadley was a seven-stroke



Angela Garvin

winner at the Connecticut Section PGA Championship at Keney Park GC in Hartford.

Tallman, the Section's Player of the Year in 2018, followed an opening round 66 with a 67. He shared the opening round lead, but his five birdies in the final round included the 12th, 13th and 14th holes to help him pull away.

Werenski update

It took a little extra, but South Hadley's Richy Werenski earned his way back to a fourth year on the PGA Tour.

He had finished 126th on the final, official money list, one spot from retaining his card at that point. But thanks to a strong finish on the Korn Ferry Tour, Werenski was back in business. In the Korn Ferry Tour series finale, Werenski rallied by playing his last four holes at 2 under to tie for seventh place and finish tied for 24th in the series. He needed a top 25 finish to earn playing status for 2020.

20 aces

Walt Niejadlik of Oak Ridge Golf Club in Feeding Hills made the

19th hole-in-one of his career in late August, and needed less than three weeks to make No. 20.

His most recent aces came at the semiprivate club's 13th hole, site of his first hole-in-one 40 years ago. On a bigger scale, Niejadlik matched Jack Nicklaus (20), and moved past Arnold Palmer and Gary Player (19 apiece). Niejadlik, 74, has made 11 of his aces at Oak Ridge, where he routinely shoots his age as a 3-handicapper and his best score at Oak Ridge was a 5-under 65. He has made an ace with all clubs in his bag except a sand iron (and putter).

NENY Match Play

Waubeeka Golf Links pro Erik Tiele reached the final of the NENY PGA Senior Match Play at The Edison Club in Rexford, N.Y. Tiele dropped a 6-and-4 decision to Peter Gerard, a teaching professional at Mill Road Acres GC. A week earlier, Tiele won the NENY Senior Professional Championship in a playoff and qualified for the national championship in October.

Local notes

Billy Walthouse of Longmeadow

finished 53rd at the Canada Life Championship, and with it placed 60th on the tour's final Order of Merit ... South Deerfield's Jacob Zaranek did not qualify for match play at the U.S. Amateur Championship at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort. Zaranek made five birdies during an opening round 75 at Pinehurst No. 4, before he carded a 78 at No. 2. The University of Fairfield junior was making his U.S. Amateur debut ... Wyantenuck CC's Kathy Sullivan won the Ladies Allied Singles Championship after topping a 60-player field at her home course. Sullivan posted a 3-over 75, edging out by two strokes defending champion Kathy Duguay of Taconic GC.

Junior notes

Ryan Downes of Longmeadow capped a terrific season on the Connecticut Junior PGA Tour by winning by a wide margin its Player of the Year honors in the Boys' Players Tour division ... Galen and Reilly Fowles of Northampton helped their PGA Junior League team win their regional championship. The team prevailed at Cranberry Valley Golf Club in Harwich. Annie Dai from Longmeadow is also a team member. The team advanced to the national championship at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, Oct. 12-14.

Family affairs

Joe Brosseau and Joe Brosseau Jr. of GreatHorse came "this close" to winning the 43rd Massachusetts Father & Son Championship at CC of Halifax. The pair birdied five of their first 10 holes, and six overall, to finish at 2-under 70. They were matched atop the leaderboard by home course players David Pierce and David Pierce Jr., who birdied No. 18 to force extra holes. The Pierces won in a playoff ... Christine Casagrande and daughter Anna Casagrande won the Massachusetts Mother-Daughter Tournament (Age 19-plus division) with a team score of 79. They won by four strokes at Milton Hoosic Club in Canton.

Russ Held is the former sportswriter for the Springfield Republican and writes a Western Mass. Notebook in each issue of snegolfer.com.

William Welch of West Islip, N.Y. shoots net 69 to win Flight Winners' Playoff at the PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship

3,200 Players Enjoyed Beautiful Weather, Banner Week at World Am
MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. -- William Welch (West Islip, N.Y.) shot a net 69 (gross 85) to win the Flight Winners' Playoff at the 36th Annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship Friday at Barefoot Resort's Dye Course.

Welch bested James Juden (Lancaster, Calif.) by a shot to emerge from a field of 3,215 golfers and claim the title of World Champion. Patrick Yoe (Athens, Ga.), Michael Thompson (Columbia, S.C.) and Paul Carrier (Cumming, Ga.) finished in a three-way tie for third at 1-under par on a day when only five players broke par.

[Final Leaderboard]

Christopher Reina (Frisco, Tex.) shot a final-round 75 to secure a one-stroke victory over Kyle Rector (San Diego, Calif.) in the Gross Division. Steve Humphrey (Ocala, Fla.) shot a 76 en route to an eight-stroke win in the Senior Gross Division.

Nigel Palmer (Birmingham, England) and David Palmer (Uncasville, Conn.) combined to win the Club Choice Ireland Pairs Competition, shooting a combined, net team score of 146. By virtue of winning, Long and Johnston



William Welch

won a six-night, five-round trip to Ireland, courtesy of Club Choice Ireland.

"Congratulations to William Welch, who played great golf all week and certainly earned the title of World Champion," Tournament Director Scott Tomasello said. "The 36th Annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World

Amateur Handicap Championship enjoyed a spectacular week on and off the course, and we are already looking forward to next year's event."

The 2020 World Am will be played Aug. 31 - Sept. 4.

A 72-hole, net stroke play event, golfers were placed into tightly grouped

flights based on age, gender and their handicap index. After 72 holes of competition, all flight winners and ties advanced to Friday's Flight Winners' Playoff at Barefoot Resort's Dye Course, an 18-hole shootout that crowned the 2019 World Champion.

There were 67 flights in this year's tournament and 33 Myrtle Beach golf courses hosted tournament play each day. In total, 55 area courses hosted at least one round of the World Am.

As appealing as the competition was, it's only half the fun at the World Am. Each night players gathered at the World's Largest 19th Hole, which consumed all 120,000 square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Tournament players and a guest enjoyed free food and drinks, a 70-exhibitor golf expo, live entertainment, demo areas, celebrity appearances and more.

Among the celebrity guests who appeared at the 36th annual event were Charlie Rymer, Golf Channel stars Damon Hack and Chantel McCabe, billiards legend Ewa Laurance, and media personality Paige Spiranac.

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World Am a Wonderful Experience

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina – From scratch golfer to 38 handicaps, the 36th annual Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship is a unique and fun golf tournament experience you can't get anywhere else.

The World Am is open to any player with a valid USGA handicap index and each player is flighted into one of 67 divisions based on age and handicap, playing 72-holes on four different courses over four days. The flight winner then advances to a final 18-hole playoff to determine the prestigious title of World Amateur champion.

This year 3,215 players from 49 states and 20 countries competed with 245 players registered from the six-state New England region. Among the finalists was a first-time contestant from Massachusetts.



Janet Gorman

For recreational golfer and Dedham-resident Janet Gorman, the trip to Myrtle Beach proved to be the thrill-of-a-lifetime. In a typical year the White Cliffs Country Club member plays about 30-40 rounds and only handful of tournaments, but this year she made a decision to test her golf skills against some of the best amateur players in the world in her age group and handicap level. Flip-flopping about whether to play in the 36th annual Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship, held August 26 – 30, she registered on August 2, the deadline date.

It was a big commitment that meant playing 72-holes of competitive golf, four rounds on four different and difficult Myrtle Beach area golf courses, playing in the women's division vying

against 48 players. The tournament had 3,215 players from 49 states and 20 countries.

"When I signed up to play the last thing on my mind was the possibility of winning," said Gorman, who maintains a USGA handicap of 24. "I had low expectations and even thought about playing in the "Just For Fun" division where they don't keep formal scores. Matter-of-fact if I played bad the first three days and it was really hot and humid I was going to the beach or shopping the last day. Four days of competitive golf seemed like a good challenge, so I said why not."

In round one Gorman brought her "A" game and fired an impressive net 75, finishing high on the leaderboard in a tie for second place.

"I was shocked to be one-stroke off

the leader after 18 holes thinking at the time that even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while," she said in an interview a few days after the event. "Myrtle Beach has some tough courses so I knew the real test was ahead of me, still not grasping that I had a chance to win my flight."

In round two Gorman posted a net 2-under par, 70, becoming the outright leader and winning merchandise credit as the day's low round. Round three proved a bit rocky shooting net 71, but losing ground to Toyoko Odom, a skilled Korean woman who shot 5-under par net 67, and who would maintain a one-shot lead starting the final 18 to determine the women's flight champion.

The 2019 edition of the Myrtle Beach World Amateur Championship features 3,215 players, 67 flights hosted by 55 area golf courses. After 72 holes of competition, all flight winners advanced to Friday August 30 in the Flight Winners' Playoff at Barefoot Resort's Pete Dye Course, in an 18-hole shootout that crowned the new World Champion.

In a clutch final round performance Gorman stepped up her game, stayed focused and shot a sizzling 2-under par 70, to top her nearest competitor – Toyoko Odom – by two strokes. The 72-hole scoreboard showed Gorman first with a 286-net total to Odom's 288.

So, it was the shock-of-shocks for

Gorman to win her flight and to play another 18 holes competing as a finalist in the 2019 World Amateur Flight Winner's Playoff on August 30.

"It was an exhausting week getting up early every day and playing five-hour rounds, then going to the World's Largest 19th hole every night to eat and drink and mix it up with new friends that you meet from all over the world," said Gorman who pocketed a \$600 gift certificate from the PGA Tour Superstore as flight winner. "Don't get me wrong, it was a fabulous week, but I ran out of gas in the playoff. There was more pressure and The Dye Course at Barefoot Resort was set up brutally hard. Let's just say I wasn't last but toward the bottom

in the playoff."

The Flight Winners Playoff is quite a unique experience for all contestants. The tournament gives players and their guest the royal treatment with the environment similar to a PGA Tour event, from the minute they enter the parking lot to hospitality suite. Each foursome has a rules official and live scoring is available on the Internet to follow each player's hole-by-hole score.

It was memorable week of golf for Janet Gorman, who was accompanied by her husband Tom who finished T-19 in his flight. Until next year's tournament, scheduled August 31 – September 4, Janet Gorman holds the prestigious title of World Amateur Flight Winner Finalist.

World-Am - A Fun Event

The World Am in Myrtle Beach is one of my favorite golf events every year. Chris King, who works with Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, the promoter of the World Am, had been asking me to come and play since the 1990's. "You have to come and see it," was his request. My reply was "Why would I want to head south the end of August when it is summer in New England?"

Seventeen years ago I succumbed, and I've only missed two years since. The event is a wonderful experience and should be on most golfers "bucket list" of golf events to compete in. It has become my only competitive event in any sport.

It is not only the competition, but also the people you meet from around the country and even the globe with whom you play with and against.

The truly marvelous feature of the World Am is that all the people you play with in your flight have almost exactly the same handicap, and I've met only two people I didn't really enjoy playing with in 15 years.

You compete in four rounds (five if you win your flight), so you meet 12 players every year. What a joy. We are all competing, but more importantly, we are all playing a game we love even though sometimes we're not sure of that relationship.

The tournament allows you to play practice rounds before the event begins at a reduced rate. This year I played the Wizard, part of the trifecta of courses (Witch and

Man-O-War are the others owned by Claude Pardue), and Willbrook Plantation, one of my favorites on the whole Grand Strand.

We have written about the Wizard often as Mr. Pardue used to run a press trip each October to play all three and write about them. The course is relatively flat and is very fair. The last two holes, a par 3 over a pond to an island green, and a par 4 with a huge pond in front of the green will stay in your memory.

Willbrook Plantation is south of Myrtle Beach near Litchfield Beach. It has always been rated as one of the top courses for women in the country. It is very scenic, with many markers from the 17 and 1800's depicting the use of the land as slave sites and different plantation uses. Kevin Maguire from New Jersey is the general manager and he almost sounds like a New Englander.

It's always the case that you play better in the practice rounds, and this reporter can attest to it. No pressure making those three-foot putts.

Day 1 of our tournament was at Blackmoor, a Gary Player design in Murrell's Inlet. It is tree lined with a few ponds and wet areas, but it was fair. My foursome included Keith from Kentucky who was playing in the World Am for about the 25th time. Al who lived near Greensboro and had made the last seven, and Joe from Pennsylvania who was playing in his fifth.

Each night at the 19th hole they have results sheets. The scores in our

flight were high and this reporter and Keith were near the bottom of the 50 golfers in our flight that had handicaps ranging from 16.0 to 17.1

The next day we played the Pinehills course at Myrtlewood right in Myrtle Beach. Ironically this is where I played my first course in MB in 1987 with three friends who drove down during schools' spring vacation. One of the group of three (our fourth had gotten sick and withdrew) was Joe from upstate New York originally, but had settled in Ft. Worth, Tex. where he worked for Southwest Airlines for 40 years. He was working at a golf club in his retirement years as a starter and there were five buddies who were with him that also worked at the same course and all have played in the World Am about 15 years. Joe was a Navy Vietnam veteran and we spent most of the day with military talk. The last member of our threesome was Enzo from Italy who was playing for the first time. I knew I was in trouble when I asked Enzo his score after the first hole and he said, "Cinque." My score was better on day 2, and I wasn't near the bottom of the leaderboard anymore.

One of the nice features of the event is that you play new courses. The third day we drove into North Carolina and played Crow Creek. I had never heard of it, but it was a real joy. They had a wonderful practice area, and I thought I could figure out my wayward shot making. I did, but I should have practice more putting as I made 9 three

putts. Not good!

My playing partners were Ed from Iowa who was making his 17th appearance, Dan from Roanoke, Virginia who I had played with three years ago, and Larry, a former door-gunner in helicopters in Vietnam who now lived in Arizona. It was the most congenial group that I've ever played with. Dan suggested we stop for a beer on the way back to MB and we did.

The last day we traveled back to N.C. to play Carolina National that in Bolivia (NC)! almost near Wilmington. It was just over an hour from MB. The 27 hole course was fun and a few holes were very challenging. My playing partners were Jim and Luther from the Houston area who had come up with Joe, my partner on the second day. Luther and Jim were both playing in their 15th event. Luther was an Air Force pilot who said he only made one jump-- when his plane was shot down in Vietnam. The fourth player was Brian from New Jersey who had moved to Myrtle Beach a few years ago with his wife to get away from the taxes and the cold weather. This reporter finished the week in the bottom half of the pack. Not good, but the playing partners and camaraderie are the things that you remember most. Can't wait for next year!

Where you stay in Myrtle Beach has much to do with your enjoyment of the week. This reporter and about 100 other players stayed at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton.

It is located right on the ocean just south of the city. They have almost 500 rooms, all facing the ocean, and it made a great spot to stay as it was only minutes

from the Convention Center. The hotel provided a full, hot breakfast each morning for the golfers at no charge. Representatives were at the Convention Center each night

promoting their special rates for the 2020 event. You can find out more information at www.reservationdesk.com/DoubleTree/MyrtleBeach.

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Rochester, New York is a Premier Golfing Destination

For a modest city adorning the southern shore of Lake Ontario in western New York, Rochester has long stood as one of America's most avid golfing cities, steeped in the game's history and traditions.

The seven-county area that makes

here in Rochester," Vangellow said. "You can play high-quality courses in Rochester for an affordable price. The number of options and affordable courses that are available make this a great place to play golf."

Rochester will enjoy golf's spotlight again this year, when one of the

"Having Oak Hill in Rochester, we have major golf events seemingly every decade or more," said Vangellow, who has served as RDGA executive director for the past eight years. "That keeps us at the center of the golf world. Golf in Rochester is a very big deal and we are blessed

volunteers," Vangellow said. "It shows the level of support of golf we have in Rochester."

One of golf course architecture's most legendary figures, Donald Ross, designed more than half-dozen around the Rochester area, including both layouts at Oak Hill, the Country Club of Rochester, Monroe GC, Irondequoit CC and Brook-Lea CC, which hosts an annual Symetra Tour event, the Danielle Downey Classic.

"We have a pretty amazing collection of Donald Ross designs that are very close together, all within 20 minutes of each other," Vangellow said. "That's one of the nice things about Rochester. We don't have the bad traffic jams or huge long distances. Everything is quite easy to get to and very convenient."

Among a very small sampling of the most memorable and highly regarded public access golf layouts around Rochester are The Links at Greystone, Ravenwood Golf Club, Shadow Lake and Mill Creek. "But I can't stress enough that the list goes on and on," Vangellow said. "The vast number of really great, high-quality daily fee courses we have in the area is what sets Rochester apart from other golf destinations."

"You do not have to join a club to be a very avid golfer to do a lot of great golfing in Rochester," Vangellow said. "You could literally play a different course every week and have a great, cost-effective experience." Learn more about Rochester golf and playing options at VisitRochester.com/golf.

with a strong local golf community."

When Bryan Karns, the Championship Director for the KitchenAid Senior PGA attended the RDGA spring meeting last year, he told Vangellow that as they approach most events, his staff is typically working hard to find volunteers. Not so with Rochester, where all the volunteer spots were filled within six weeks.

"He said it was astonishing to see how there was no struggle to find



The tough 11th hole at Links at Greystone

up the Rochester District Golf Association (RDGA) — extending up to Lake Ontario, down into the Finger Lakes region, and midway to both Buffalo and Syracuse — boasts 66 golf courses, about half of which are accessible for public play.

RDGA Executive Director Tim Vangellow said the quality of golf in Rochester extends from the most exclusive private clubs to the least expensive public facilities.

"Golf really is the major sport

game's major events, the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, returns to venerable Oak Hill Country Club from May 21-26.

In 2023, the PGA Championship will be contested at Oak Hill for the fourth time. Oak Hill is the only club in the United States to have hosted all six of the men's major championships that move around the country, including the U.S. Open, Amateur and Senior Open, and the Ryder Cup.

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Golfdotz are a new generation transfer that bond with the skin of the ball when firm pressure from your thumb is applied. In five seconds or less your design will transfer from the clear sheet to the ball and you are ready to play! Compared to a marker pen, or stencils and stamps, golfdotz look stunning on the ball. Vibrant non fading color, that will not wash off, will not mark your club face, and is super durable.



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Golfdotz are extremely durable if applied correctly as above. Of course, like anything applied to a ball, they may wear or cut. The whole point is that you will know your ball, others will not play your ball. For more information or to order call 847-829-4238 or go to their website at www.golfdotz.com.

ClubGlider

Sun Mountain ClubGlider is the next evolution in golf travel bags. ClubGlider is the only golf travel bag that has extendable legs and wheels to support 100% of the weight, while eliminating the repeated bending and lifting required with traditional travel bags.

Once checked-in, the legs easily tuck away securely for carefree travel. ClubGlider offers all of the protection and storage space of a traditional golf travel bag while eliminating the heavy lifting and the need to bend over to pick up and set down every time the check-in line moves three feet.



Benefits of ClubGlider include legs that support 100% of the weight, eliminating on average over 45 pounds of pressure from the golfer's shoulders and back. ClubGlider can also be loaded while standing, eliminating the need to bend all the way over as with other travel bags. ClubGlider is available in four different models – Pro, Tour Series, Meridian, and Journey. Retail prices are \$349, \$334, \$294, and \$249 respectively. For the retailer nearest you call 800-227-9224 or visit www.sunmountain.com.

Zero Friction Gloves

Zero Friction, LLC, makes high-quality, technologically advanced products for golfers worldwide, including its award-winning line of colorful golf gloves. Zero Friction compression fit synthetic golf gloves are now available with your favorite college and NFL teams.

Each glove comes with a magnetic double-sided ball marker emblazoned with your favorite team's emblem, and a Zero Friction performance tee, color matched to the glove. Choose your glove color and get ready to show your team spirit out on the course. These gloves make the perfect gift for every golfer in your life.

"Our licensed gloves and Supertubes featuring the top teams are one of Zero Friction's hottest selling items," said John Iacono, Founder and President of Zero Friction. "It's a terrific way to show support for your favorite teams on the golf course while utilizing a quality product that will help your game."

Zero Friction's successful SuperTube packaging of color-matched glove, Spectra™ distance golf balls and tees recently won the ING Industry Honors Product Ingenuity award. The honor was awarded by the non-profit, media-based International Network of Golf at the 2019 PGA Merchandise Show. Visit ZeroFriction.com for more info.



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Golf is Alive & Well in the Dominican Republic

PUNTA CANA, Dominican Republic – With three Pete Dye-design courses, Casa de Campo has gotten its share of ink, air time and foot traffic over the last three decades, and deservedly so, but there is much more to the Dominican Republic and the nearby cities of Punta Cana and Cap Cana to attract the golfing tourist.

Most everyone knows about the Dominican Republic's cigars, brilliant white beaches and the country's passion for baseball, but with 26 golf courses dotting the countryside, the Dominican Republic (DR) is now the premier golf destination of the Caribbean.

Tourism is the country's No. 1 industry, and with over 80,000 hotel rooms, the country lays-out the red carpet to visitors from all over the world, to the tune of over 2.6 million last year. First-time visitors on a golf vacation are treated like royalty with the hope they'll become frequent guests and spread the word.

On a recent visit here, my third in the last six years, the experience was magnificent, particularly the accommodations at the all-inclusive Secrets Cap Cana Resort & Spa, located about 25 minutes from Punta Cana Airport. The variety of golf courses was impressive, replete with picture-postcard scenes and lush, manicured fairways and greens.

"Make no mistake that booking a golf vacation to the Dominican Republic will be a first-rate experience," said Teddy De Lara, President of Target Consultores, a public relations firm based in the capital city of Santo Domingo. "To each golf guest we deliver an amazing body and soul experience. From the moment a golfer arrives on the island, they can feel the vibe, enjoy the moment and appreciate the journey to whatever golf course they select."

The DR is the second largest and most diverse Caribbean country, situated two hours south of Miami, and less than four hours from



La Espana Golf Course

New York. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north and the Caribbean Sea on the south, the tropical island boasts 1,000 miles of coastline, 250 miles of the world's top beaches, over 200 magnificent resorts and hotels, and a variety of sports, recreation and entertainment opportunities.

"A golf trip to the Dominican Republic is affordable and fun," said Ty De Lavalle, President of DR Golf Vacations. "We have many types of stay-and-play packages that include playing on world-class designer golf courses by some of the best course architects like Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Tom Fazio, Nick Faldo, Nick Price and Greg Norman."

The DR claims to be the undisputed leader of golf in the tropics. Seven of the DR's courses have been ranked in Golfweek Magazine's Top 50 courses in the Caribbean and Mexico. Punta

Espada is on every top 10 list, Los Corales – where the PGA Tour holds an annual tournament, and "Teeth of the Dog" at Casa de Campo has held the No. 1 spot since 2009.

In the Punta Cana region, here is my pick-six list by rank and reason.

PUNTA ESPADA

The first word out of my mouth after walking out of the Punta Espada golf shop was "WOW." After about two dozen "WOWS" throughout the day I lost track because there are so many gorgeous, invigorating and breathtaking opportunities.

Punta Espada Golf Course, designed by Nicklaus Golf in 2006 is listed among the world's finest, with eight holes that play along and over the sea, and golfers are blessed with extraordinary views of the Caribbean, where the sea contrasts against the emerald fairways and

the perfect greens. The stunning par-4 17th requires a tee shot carry over an ocean inlet.

PuntaEspadaGolf.com

CORALES GOLF CLUB

This Tom Fazio creation opened in 2010 and features six oceanfront holes set on rocky cliffs next to the Caribbean Sea. This par 72 from the tips is 7,650 yards with a slope of 140 and rating of 76.9.

Corales is an exclusive and dramatic 18-hole course with six Caribbean oceanside holes, designed along the natural cliffs, bays, ocean coves and the thrill escalates by playing the Devil's Elbow, Corales's last three holes.

Located at Punta Cana Resort & Club, Corales Golf Club boasts one of golf's most unique finishes. The last three holes – called Devil's Elbow – end in a remarkable way with the U-shaped 18th hole playing around a narrow, rocky cliff adjacent to the bay.

The PGA Tour held its first-ever official DR tournament here – the Corales PuntaCana Resort and Club Championship – in March 2019 with Graeme McDowell winning. Next year's tournament is scheduled March 26 – 29, 2020. PuntaCana.com/Golf/Corales-Golf-Course

LA CANA GOLF COURSE

There's much to like about this 27-hole property designed by P.B. Dye in 2000, especially with 14 holes offering ocean views of the crystal blue Caribbean Sea. The signature hole is No. 7 which is a 288-yard par 4, protected by no less than 21 pot bunkers.

After one round at La Cana Golf Course, golfers understand why Golf Magazine has compared La Cana to Pebble Beach since it boasts fourteen ocean-view holes with four playing on the water's edge.

The par 5, 553-yard 18th hole has been described as a Caribbean version of Pebble Beach's 18th. With water on your left the full length of the hole, the 18th is a mix of environmental beauty and



La Cana Golf Course

Dye's landscape artistry. This hole is a digital snapshot that evokes one of those "thank goodness I brought my camera" kind of moments.

Caddies are mandatory at La Cana, which is also noteworthy because of the multi-million-dollar investment in its double-

sided driving range and expansive practice facility. Its state-of-art teaching area is equipped with video and computer analysis technology for those seeking game improvement.

PuntaCana.com/Golf/La-Cana-Golf-Course

HARD ROCK GOLF CLUB at CANA BAY

This Jack Nicklaus-designed course opened in 2010 as the first golf course to carry the iconic Hard Rock brand. The course lives up to its rock 'n' roll name since each hole is named after a famous rock song, while putts roll a bit slow on small, sloping greens.

Hard Rock Golf Club is located only a golf cart ride from the popular Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Punta Cana, where an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Design Course will "rock your game."

When you walk into the pro shop there is a sign that reads "Hit Me with Your Best Shot" by Pat Benatar. The course has wide landing areas – a Nicklaus trademark – several blind shots and the par 72 can stretch out to 7,253 yards with a 135 slope and rating of 76.1

HardRockHotelPuntaCana.com

THE LAKES BARCELO COURSE

One of the more difficult tasks for a golf resort is to provide a single course that challenges both the modest and the accomplished player and The Lakes at Barcelo does a fine job. Opened in 1991 this was the first course in the area, but Pete B. Dye redesigned it in 2010.

If you're looking for the best hotel with a golf course then The Lakes at Bavaro Barcelo is your answer, located in a prime location on the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic.

The property crosses through a lush mangrove forest with 25 inland lakes, while 122 bunkers punctuate the sculpted fairways, many incorporating Dye's trademark railroad ties.

The Barcelo Beach Resort, only 11 miles from the airport, is

expansive with over 1,100 rooms, offering one of the best beaches on the Island, and it is a favorite business destination for many US and International corporations.

BarceloBavaroGolf.net

IBEROSTAR BAVARO GOLF CLUB

Another beauty by Pete Dye opened in 2009 measuring 6,879 yards, rating of 73 and slope of 126. This course offers stay-and-play packages for about \$175 that includes hotel pickup and drop-off, golf, range balls and drinks on the course.

Iberostar Bavaroa Golf Club, in Punta Cana is located 20 minutes from the airport, and the par-72, 18-hole course offers panoramic views and is graced with an ideal climate and refreshing ocean breeze allowing golf to be played 365 days a year.

There are 105 white silica sand bunkers dotted throughout the course that create an eye-catching contrast with the intensely green Supreme Paspalum grass. On the course you'll find lakes, streams, and even some desert-like features. Golf.Iberostar.com

World Travel Tour operator members of the Global Golf Tourism Organization, IAGTO (International Association of Golf Tour Operators), have voted Dominican Republic the "2019 Golf Destination of the Year for Latin America and the Caribbean". This is the fourth time the country has been recognized as the go-to destination for golf travel by IAGTO.

There's only one way to find out how good a DR golf vacation can be and that's by visiting the "Golf Capital of the Caribbean."

Tom Gorman is a longtime member of the Golf Writers Association of America, Golf Travel Writers of America and International Network of Golf and can be reached at teetalk@aol.com



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2019 New England PGA Head Professional & Teaching Professional Championships

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Weston Golf Club (Weston, Mass.), Par 36-36--72
September 23, 2019

Head Professional Results

1	Matt Baran, Ridge Club:	35-35--70 -2	\$1,620.00
T2	Matt Zdon, Belmont:	37-34--71 -1	\$1,100.00
T2	Greg Farland, Marlborough CC:	37-34--71 -1	\$1,100.00
T2	Christopher Carter, Hillview:	36-35--71 -1	\$1,100.00
5	Troy Pare, Ledgemont:	35-37--72 E	\$745.00
6	Dan Gillis, Nabnasset Lake CC:	36-37--73 +1	\$650.00
T7	Nick Jagoe, Allendale:	39-35--74 +2	\$580.00
T7	Frank Dully, Kernwood CC:	37-37--74 +2	\$580.00
9	Peter Bracey, Woburn:	37-38--75 +3	\$500.00
T10	Shane Drury, Swansea CC:	39-37--76 +4	\$400.00
T10	Andrew Stolze, New Seabury	39-37--76 +4	\$400.00
T10	David Sibley, Larry Gannon:	38-38--76 +4	\$400.00
T10	Dieter Wiedmayer, Sankaty Head:	41-35--76 +4	\$400.00
T14	Shawn Durocher, Cyprian Keyes :	39-38--77 +5	
T14	Scott Hickey, Cyprian Keyes GC:	40-37--77 +5	
16	David Dionne, Beverly Golf&Ten:	42-36--78 +6	

Teaching Professional Results

1	Kirk Hanefeld, Salem CC:	34-37--71 -1	\$700.00
T2	Eric Barlow, Winchester CC:	37-35--72 E	\$585.00
T2	Jason Sedan, Lake Winnepesaukee:	36-36--72 E	\$585.00

2019 World Am Numbers of Interest

1	- Player who will claim the mantle of World Champion
7	- Golfers who have played in all 36 World Ams
20	- Different countries sending players to this year's tournament. Canada (51), Portugal (32) and Great Britain (13) have the most
56	- Exhibitors at the World's Largest 19th Hole
67	- Different flights
88.1	- Average score in the 2018 World Am
10,302	- Longest distance traveled by a 2019 participant
12,860	- Rounds that will be played in the 2019 tournament
19,000+	- Beers consumed at the 19th Hole
31,145	- Estimated numbers of golf balls it will take the field to complete the 2019 tournament
50,000	- Number of different players who have played during the 36-year history of the World Am
\$100,000	- In gift cards that will be awarded to players
1,100,500	- Estimated number of strokes that will be taken in the 2019 World Am

New England Players

MA - 65

CT - 39

RI - 13

NH - 11

VT - 4

ME - 10

Most players from one state--SC - 311

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SNE GOLFER LOCATOR MAP

RHODE ISLAND COURSES

- 1. BEAVER RIVER G.C. (18) P**
343 Kingstown Rd. Richmond, RI, 401-539-2100
www.beaverrivergolf.com, PS,CR,CH,SB,O
- 2. BUTTON HOLE SHORT COURSE (9) P, X**
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI, 401-421-1664
www.buttonhole.org, CL,CH,DR,PS, Lessons
- 3. COUNTRY VIEW G.C. (18) P**
49 Club Lane Burrillville, RI, 401-568-7157
www.countryviewgolf.net, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 4. COVENTRY PINES G.C. (9) P**
1065 Harkney Hill Rd. Coventry, RI
401-397-9482
www.coventrypin.es.com CR,CH,CL,SB,DR
- 5. CRYSTAL LAKE G.C. (18) SP**
100 Bronco's Hwy. Mapleville RI 401-567-4500
www.crystallakegolfclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 6. CRANSTON C.C. (18) P**
69 Burlingame Rd. Cranston, RI, 401-826-1683
www.cranstoncc.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 7. EXETER C.C. (18) SP**
320 Victory Hwy. (Rt.102) Exeter, RI
401-295-8212 www.exetercc.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 8. FAIRLAWN GOLF COURSE (9) P, X**
3 Sherman Ave. Lincoln, RI 401-334-3937
www.fairlawngolfcourse.com CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 9. FENNER HILL G.C. (18) P**
33 Wheeler Ln. Hope Valley, RI 401-539-8000
www.fennerhill.com, CR,DL,PS,CH,O
- 10. FOSTER COUNTRY CLUB (18) P**
67 Johnson Rd. Foster, RI, 401-397-7750
www.fostercountryclub.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 11. HARBOR LIGHTS MARINA & C.C. (9) P**
150 Gray St. Warwick, RI, 401-737-6353
www.HarborLightsRI.com, CR,CL,PS,DR,CH,O
Restaurant, Leagues
- 12. JAMESTOWN G.C. (9) P**
245 Conanicus Ave. Jamestown, RI, 401-423-9930
www.jamestowngolf.com CR,CL,CH,SB
- 13. KINGS CROSSING G.C. (9) P**
655 Old Baptist Rd. N. Kingstown, RI,
401-294-2872, www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com
CR,PS,CH,O
- 14. LAUREL LANE C.C. (18) P**
Laurel Lane, off Rt.138, W. Kingston, RI
401-783-3844, www.laurellanecountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 15. MEADOWBROOK G.C. (18) P**
163 Kingstown Rd. (Rt.138) Richmond, RI
401-539-8491 www.meadowbrookgolfri.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 16. MELODY HILL C.C. (18) P**
55 Melody Hill Ln. Harmony, RI, 401-949-9851
CR,PS,CH, O
- 17. MIDVILLE COUNTRY CLUB (9) P**
100 Lombardi Ln. W. Warwick, RI, 401-828-9215
www.midvillegolfclub.com, CR,CL,PS,CH
- 18. NEWPORT NATIONAL G.C. (18) SP**
324 Mitchells Ln. Middletown, RI, 401-848-9690
www.newportnational.com, CR,CL,PS,SB,O
- 19. NORTH KINGSTOWN G.C. (18) P**
615 Callahan Rd. No. Kingstown, RI,

- 401-294-0684, www.nkgc.com,
DR,PS,CR,CL,CH,O Fat Belly's
- 20. PINECREST GOLF CLUB (9) P**
25 Pinehurst Dr. Richmond, RI, 401-364-8600
www.pinecrestri.com CR,CL,CH,SB,O, Leagues
- 21. RICHMOND C.C. (18) SP**
Sandy Pond Rd. Richmond, RI 401-364-9200
www.richmondcountryclub.net CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 22. ROSE HILL GOLF CLUB (9) P, X**
222 Rose Hill Rd. So. Kingstown, RI, 401-788-
1088, www.rosehillri.com CR,CL,CH,SB, Leagues
- 23. TRIGGS MEMORIAL G.C. (18) P**
Chalkstone Ave. Providence, RI
401-521-8460, www.triggs.us, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 24. WINDMILL HILL G.C. (9) X**
35 Schoolhouse Rd. (off Rt 136) Warren, RI
401-245-1463, www.windmillgolfri.com
CR,CL,CH,O, Restaurant
- 25. WINNAPAU G C.C. (18) P**
184 Shore Rd. (Rt. 1A) Westerly, RI 401-
596-1237 www.winnapaugcountryclub.com
CR,CL,CH,DR,SB,O
- 26. WOOD RIVER GOLF (18) P**
78 Woodville-Alton Rd. Hope Valley, RI, 401-364-
0700, www.woodrivergolf.com, CR,CH,SB,O

RHODE ISLAND DRIVING RANGES

- A. BUTTON HOLE LEARNING CENTER**
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI 401-421-1664
www.buttonhole.org, target greens, 2 putting
greens, lessons
- B. IRON WOODS GOLF PRACTICE CENTER**
1081 Iron Hill Mine Rd. (off Rt.146) N. Smithfield,
RI, 401-766-1151, www.iwgolf.com, putting greens,
grass tees, covered area, bunker, lessons, repairs
- C. MULLIGAN'S ISLAND GOLF &
ENTERTAINMENT (9) X**
1000 New London Ave. (Rt 2) Cranston, RI
401-464-8855, www.mulligansisland.com
60 stall driving range, covered area, batting cages,
mini-golf, par 3 course, 18-hole pitch and putt,
PGA Golf Academy, **Spargo Golf** on premises, club
fitting and repairs

MASSACHUSETTS COURSES

- 27. BACK NINE CLUB (18) X**
17 Heritage Hill Dr. Lakeville, MA 508-947-9991
www.thebacknineclub.com
CL,CR,CH,Rest.,Lessons
- 28. BLACKSTONE NATIONAL G.C. (18) SP**
227 Putnam Hill Rd. Sutton, MA, 508-865-2111
www.bngc.net, CR,CL,CH,PS,O,DR
- 29. BLISSFUL MEADOWS G.C. (18) SP**
801 Chocolog Rd. Uxbridge, MA, 508-278-6110
www.blissfulmeadows.com, CR,CL,CH,DR,PS,O
- 30. BUNGAY BROOK G.C. (9) P**
30 Locust St. Bellingham, MA, 508-883-1600
www.bungaybrook.com, CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
- 31. CAPTAINS COURSE (36) P**
1000 Freemans Way, Brewster, MA, 508-896-1716
www.captainsgolfcourse.com CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 32. CHEMAWA GOLF COURSE (18) P**
350 Cushman Rd. N. Attleboro, MA, 508-399-
7330, http://chemawagolf.com CR,CH,O,CL
- 33. DUDLEY HILL G.C. (9) P**
80 Airport Rd. Dudley, MA
508-943-4538, www.dudleyhillgolf.net
CR,CH,Rest,O
- 34. EASTON C.C. (18) SP**
265 Purchase St. Easton, MA
508-238-2500, www.eastoncountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O
- 35. FOXBOROUGH C.C. (18) SP**
33 Walnut St. Foxborough, MA 508-543-4661X3,
www.foxboroughcc.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O
- 36. HAZELTON GC (18) P**
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA 508-557-1856
www.hazeltongolfclub.com CR,PS,CH,O
- 37. HILLSIDE CC (9) SP**
82 Hillside Ave. Rehoboth, MA 508-252-9761
www.hillsidecountryclub.com Sauna, Pool,
Courts,CR,CL,CH,Tiki Bar,O, Lessons
- 38. JOHN E. PARKER MUNI. G.C. (9) P**
17 Fisher St. Taunton, MA, 508-822-1797
CR,DR,CH,SB, Skins Thurs. at 3:45
- 39. JUNIPER HILL G.C. (36) P**
202 Brigham St. Northboro, MA, 508-393-2444
www.juniperhillgc.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,SB,O
- 40. MAPLEGATE COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
160 Maple St. Bellingham, MA, 508-966-4040
www.maplegate.com, CR,CL,PS,CH
- 41. THR LINKS AT MASS GOLF (18) P, X**
300 W. Maine Rd. (Rt 123) Norton, MA
508-222-0555, www.linksatmassgolf.org
CL,PS,CH,SB,O
- 42. NORTON COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
188 Oak St. Norton, MA, 508-285-2400
www.nortoncountryclub.com, CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 43. OLDE SCOTLAND LINKS (18) P**
695 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA, 508-279-3344
www.oldsotlandlinks.com, CR,CL,SB,DR,O
- 44. PINE OAKS G.C. (9) P**
68 Prospect St., S. Easton, MA, 508-238-2320
www.pineoaks.com, CR,CL,CH,O
Retail Store
- 45. REHOBOTH C.C. (18) P**
155 Perryville Rd Rehoboth, MA, 508-252-6259
www.rehobothcountryclub.com, CR,CH,PS,O
- 46. SHAKER HILLS G.C. (18) P**
146 Shaker Rd. Harvard, MA, 978-772-3330
www.shakerhills.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 47. SHINING ROCK G.C. (18) SP**
91 Clubhouse Way, Northbridge, MA, 508-234-
0400, www.shiningrock.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 48. WENTWORTH HILLS G.C. (18) SP 27**
Bow St. Plainville, MA, 508-316-0240
www.wentworthhillsgc.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O

MASSACHUSETTS DRIVING RANGES

- D. ATLANTIC DRIVING RANGE/
SHADOWBROOK (9) X**
754 Newport Ave. So. Attleboro, MA, 508-761-
5484, www.atlanticgolfcenter.com, heated tees,
retail shop, mini golf, chip and putt
- E. STIX GOLF & BASEBALL FUN CENTER**
582 Kelley Blvd., No. Attleboro, MA

508-695-0091, www.stixfuncenter.com, TrueStrike
golf mats, grass tees, minigolf, batting cages, putting
green, bunker, lessons

CONNECTICUT COURSES

- 49. AIRWAYS G.C. (18) P**
1070 S. Grand St., W. Suffield, CT
860-668-4973, www.airwaysgolf.com
CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 50. ELMRIDGE GOLF CLUB (27) P**
229 Elmridge Rd. Pawcatuck, CT, 860-599-2248
www.elmridgegolf.com, CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
- 51. FOX HOPYARD (18) SP**
1 Hopyard Rd. East Haddam, CT
860-434-6644, www.golfthefox.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,DR,O
- 52. LAKE OF ISLES C.C. (18) P**
Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT, 860-312-
3636, www.lakeofisles.com CR,CL,PS,SB,Rest.,O,
Golf School
- 53. MOHEGAN SUN GOLF CLUB (18) P**
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT 860-862-9230
www.mohegansungolfclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH
golf packages, Lessons
- 54. QUARRY RIDGE GOLF CLUB (18) SP**
9A Rose Hill Rd. Portland, CT 860-342-6113
www.quarryridge.com CR,CL,CH,PS,O riding
only
- 55. RACEWAY GOLF COURSE (18) SP**
205 E. Thompson Rd. Thompson, CT
860-923-9591, www.racewaygolf.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,DR,O
- 56. RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB (18) P**
259 Preston Rd. Griswold, CT
860-376-3268, www.riverridgegolf.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 57. SHENNECOSSETT G.C. (18) P**
93 Plant St. Groton, CT, 860-448-1867
www.shennygolf.com CR,CL,CH,PS,Rest.,O
- 58. SKUNGAMAUG RIVER G.C. (18) SP**
104 Folly Ln., Coventry, CT, 860-742-9348
www.skungamauggolf.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 59. WINDHAM CLUB. (18) SP**
184 Club Rd. N.Windham, CT 860-456-1971
www.windhamclub.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O

MAP KEY

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| () = Holes | PS = Pro Shop |
| P = Public | CH = Clubhouse |
| SP = Semi Private | O = Outings |
| X = Executive | SB = Snack Bar |
| CR = Cart Rental | CL = Club Rental |
| DR = Driving Range | |

Our website
www.snegolfer.com
has directions and
information for each course.

Continued from Page 8

Spitz was steady throughout, starting with a 73 on Tuesday and shooting back-to-back 75s to close out the tournament. Jordan Burke (Needham GC) shot an even-par 72 on the first day, finishing fourth after closing out with a 75 and 78. Frank Vana, Jr. (Ferencroft CC), who has won the Mid-Amateur a record 10 times, shot a 76 on the final round to tie for fifth with Brian Foley (Cyprian Keyes GC), Ryan Riley (Pine Oaks GC) and Sean Deale, the top Brae Burn finisher.

The 2020 Massachusetts Mid-Amateur Championship will take place from Sept. 22-24 at Andover Country Club.

The final Mass Golf men's championship for this year takes place next week with the Super Senior Amateur (Age 65+; 12.0 Handicap Index) from Oct. 2-3 at Woods Hole Golf Club in Falmouth.

Correction

We don't receive many letters to the editor, but I need to make a correction on a story that I had written for the Aug/Sep 2017 issue when talking about Coventry Pines Golf Course. I wrote about how Roy and Gus Anderson in 1960 converted much of their farmland in Coventry, R.I. to build a nine-hole golf course that is still operating today. The letter was from Ray Musciano with some clippings from the Pawtuxet Valley Times in 1960 that told of how his father, Nat Musciano, was very involved with the design and building of the course along with the Andersons. The elder Musciano was an accomplished golfer and a heavy equipment operator for the Town of West Warwick. It was his designing and work on the heavy equipment that had a great deal to do with the completion and success of the golf course. My apologies to the Musciano family, and I'm glad that we could set the record straight.

Name the Hole!



Last issues Name the Hole was the 17th at Cabot Cliffs in Nova Scotia.

There was No Winner for last issue.

Email bruce@snegolfer.com to name the course above.

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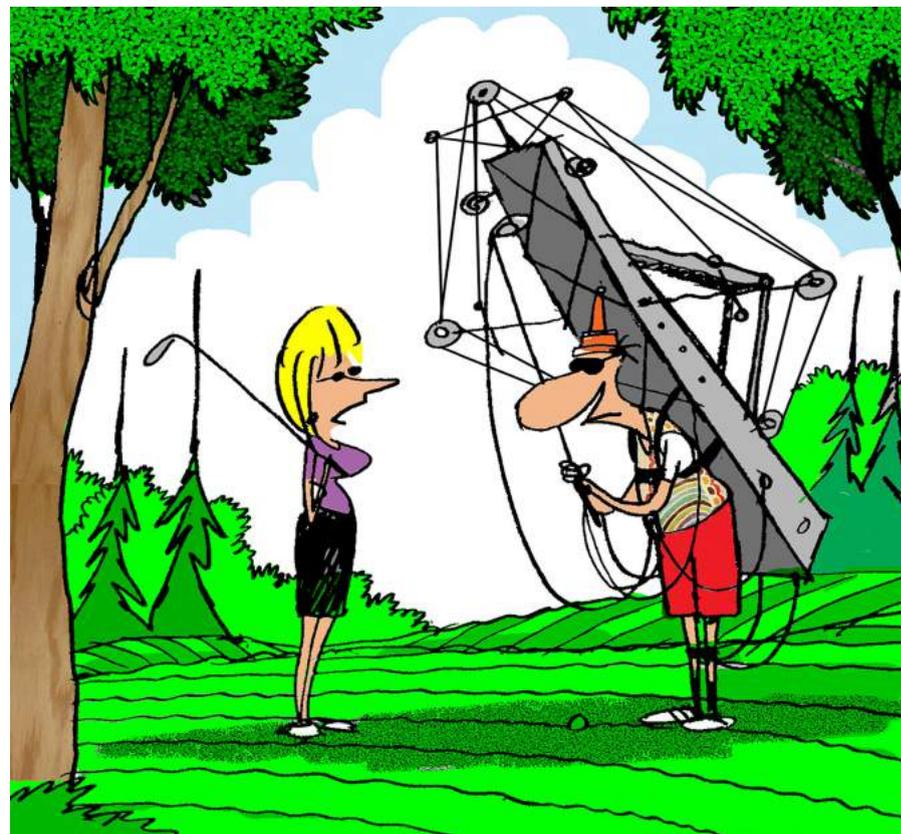
R.I. Children's Golf Course to Hold Fundraising Tournament

The sixth annual R.I. Children's Golf Course Fundraising Tournament will be held on October 21 at Valley Country Club. It will be a noontime start and play will be a Scramble Format and the cost per person is \$130 or \$520 per team. There will be four-person teams, a Ladies Division and it will be followed by dinner, prizes, a raffle and a silent auction.

The Children's Golf Course, run by David McBride at Coventry Pines G.C. is a non-profit dedicated to providing educational programs and

activities where disadvantaged and at-risk youth have the opportunity to learn vital life lessons through the game of golf.

There are tee signs available for sponsors at \$50 per sign. Donations of items to be used for raffle items are also requested. You can call David at 401-215-0776 or email him at djm vb@gmail.com to sign up or to contribute raffle prizes. This is the main fund-raiser of the year for this program that continues to grow and offer opportunities for youngsters through the game of golf.



"I don't care how much that thing helps you with your balance. You look ridiculous."

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