

SPRING 2023 | VOL 13 NO 1

SNEGOLFER.COM

# SNE GOLFER

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**HOW DID YOU  
FIND GOLF?**

**OR DID IT FIND YOU?**

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Southern New England Golfer | SNEGOLFER.COM

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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of 2023. This is now the 34th year of this publication that began as Ocean State Golf in 1990. When I was young I thought anybody 34 years of age was getting old. I hope this publication is not getting old to you.

This is now our fifth year of publishing online-only. The cost savings have helped everyone, including our advertisers who saw the rates cut in half. The advertisers also see a huge benefit as their ads are linked right to their websites. Isn't it nice to see an ad and click right on it to book a tee time, purchase a product or get information?--Ahhh the 21st Century.

I've probably heard our headline from the June 2020 issue a hundred times—Covid-19 was the Vaccine for Golf. I can't take credit for the quote, it was Glenn Bourque owner of Chemawa Golf Course in No. Attleboro who mentioned it to me. But the rounds of golf has been booming the last few years after the states figured out that golf in the outdoors was probably the best sport to be playing.

Men and women have found, or refound, the joys and benefits of playing golf and socializing with friends. Golf really is the sport of a lifetime.

Back to this issue! Maybe it's me just getting old, but I find myself doing much more introspection, hence the title of this issue. How did you find golf? Who was your mentor? What made you like the sport? Have you passed your love of the game onto others?

Many of our writers were asked to write about their experiences. Maybe you have some of the same things in your lives. Make it a point to say thank you to people that introduced you and helped you along in this wonderful game.

We've got other good stories in this issue. Jay Gearan was at the awards presentation for Ernie Els and has a story. Bruce Berlet has some good information about Connecticut happenings already this year. We were out in Scottsdale in December for great golf, and the spring is also a great time to visit this great golf location. The PGA Golf Show in Orlando in January was back to almost full capacity and we have some good stuff from that event.

Keep your head down and swing easy, and we'll be back on June 12 with our next issue.

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# How I Found Golf

I asked most of my writers to give the account of how they found golf. Figured I should probably include my own beginnings. I was 12 years old when my father invited me to play for the first time at a mini course in Manchester, Conn. that is still there some 65 years later.

My dad had three brothers, two of whom had recently taken up golf. The two challenged my dad and I to a match. They were all gamblers, so obviously they had to bet on the match. I was much too nervous. The stakes were five dollars to the winners and a dollar for birdies and a whopping ten dollars for a hole in one on the holes that ranged from 25 yards to about 100 yards.

Being left-handed and not having any clubs—there were none to rent, I was lucky that one of my uncles was left-handed, and he let me borrow his. On the third hole I made a hole-in-one. I'll never

forget it. My dad and I won the match and he made enough money to take the family out for ice cream.

I was hooked. My uncle bought a new partial set and gave me his old 3,5,7,9 irons and an old driver and a putter. Those were my tools for the first two years. He then bought a full set of clubs and gave me his old 3,5,7 and 9 irons that were heavier, so those became by 2,4,6 and 8 irons.

Those clubs lasted me until I was 19 and had saved up for a new full set. My brother is also left-handed and my folks would drop us off at Willamantic GC and we could play all day for \$3 sharing the same clubs. What a great childhood.

This reporter has been playing golf for 65 years and he hopes to be playing many more years. Getting involved with this publication has allowed me to play golf all over the world and at many unbelievably beautiful courses. It is great game, and wonderful to pass along to your family members. My grandson and I try to play together as often we can. It is truly a sport of a lifetime and provides wonderful memories—even some of the bad rounds are fun! ■

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# The Three Pillars of Golf

It is a long-standing belief that if you work on swing mechanics, swing problems will be solved, and you will go on to shoot the scores you think you should. This system is flawed; only working on swing mechanics will never get you there.

All great players consistently use the Three Pillars to play their best golf: Swing Mechanics, Pressure Management, and Course Strategy. Each section makes up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of your total golf game performance. So let's now take a look at each one.

**1. Swing Mechanics:** While this is an essential topic regarding how it affects the ball and club-face interaction, the main driver of faulty swing mechanics is TENSION. I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "Tension kills the golf swing." So when students come in for a lesson, I need to evaluate whether they have a "swing" problem or a "tension" problem. If it is a tension problem, we need to address the root cause of that tension. Trying to fix a swing problem caused by stress, anxiety, pressure, or strain does no good.

**2. Pressure Management:** How many golfers have a stress-free warm-up session, hitting the ball well, then get up to the first tee and hit the ball into the trees, water, or Out of Bounds? If I ask that player how they felt on the range when hitting the ball well, they typically say they felt relaxed. And if I then asked what changed stepping onto the first tee, they would tell me that it's different because there are more consequences for a bad hit. The student then begins to feel pressure and grips the club tighter, which leads to an aggressive tempo and poor results. If you don't practice pressure on the range, simulating first tee moments, you will unlikely overcome the first tee jitters.

**3. Course Strategy:** We are all hoping to start a round of golf on a positive note. Do we always need to hit a driver off the first tee? Not necessarily. Sometimes dropping down to a "Go-To" club to have a better chance of keeping the ball in play off the tee is a much better option. And I can hear the

Objections now - Students tell me they don't want to be embarrassed or look weak by not hitting a driver. Those students would rather risk starting off with a triple bogey due to pride and ego rather than sanity. Find a club that will keep the ball in play, and you will be much happier! So the bottom line is that each Pillar will affect the other two.

Therefore, all three must work to achieve the consistent results you desire. We work on these Pillars through our Coaching Programs here at the Golf Academy at Cranston Country Club. The Programs are put together within "groups or teams" of students. They are a combination of on-course situations working through strategy, understanding your strengths & weaknesses, and establishing tailored practice programs. ■

*If you want more information about our 2023 Coaching Programs, please contact me at Cranston Country Club or [www.toddcampbell@pga.com](http://www.toddcampbell@pga.com) or call 508-951-4371.*

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<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WEEKENDS</div> <p><b>\$58</b> After 1 pm 9 Holes, Cart (was \$70)</p>	
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# Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association Awards

The Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association awarded \$36,000 in scholarships for the year 2023 to the worthy students. This is the highest amount ever given out in a single year. Each student received a scholarship of \$2,400. The C. Richard Skogley Memorial Scholarship recipient will be determined at a later date.

Each year the RIGCSA hosts a golf tournament in which all proceeds go into providing scholarships to deserving students and funding research at the University of Rhode Island. This year they will host their 40th Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament at Kirkbrae Country Club on September 28, 2023. ■

*If you would like more information or to contribute to this fund, please contact Julie Heston, RIGCSA Chapter Executive at (401) 934-7660, [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net) or visit our website at [www.rigcsa.org](http://www.rigcsa.org).*

## RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients

**Matthew Antunes**  
University of Connecticut

**Catarina Bettencourt**  
Northeastern University

**Scott Cromack**  
University of Massachusetts

**Lauren Cummins**  
University of Tampa

**Rebecca Drohen**  
Fairfield University

**Jordyn Ferrantino**  
Babson College

**Abigail Gerrish**  
University of Puget Sound

**Kyle Marino**  
University of Maine

**Daniel McNeil**  
Belmont University

**Kelly Medeiros**  
Sacred Heart University

**Ryan Parks**  
University of New Hampshire

**Julia Rickard**  
Messiah University

**Spencer Thys**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Riley Whitehead**  
University of Rhode Island

**Ryan Reynolds  
Legacy Scholarship**

**Margaret Coen**  
Mount Holyoke College

**C. Richard Skogley  
Memorial Scholarship**

**To Be Determined**  
at a later date

## Life in Golf Had an Icy Start

Everyone has that recollection of how they were introduced to the game of golf.

For many it began when their fathers took them, or when they got a job caddying. For many of the younger players they were introduced at a clinic or in a junior program.

I dare say that my introduction to the game is as unique as can be imagined. It occurred 53 years ago and at the same course I play today, Triggs Memorial in Providence. I was a senior in high school and we were on February vacation. Rhode Island had been hit with a severe ice storm and the course, about a mile from home, was covered with a sheet of ice, perfect for skating. A group of us decided to walk to Triggs and do some skating, including the current Mayor of the City of Cranston, Ken Hopkins, who lived one street over from me.

I had my hockey skates, a pair of CCM Super Tacks. We pulled on our skates when we got to the course and discovered that another kid, who played golf regularly, had brought a bag with a few clubs and some balls to hit. So the first time I ever hit a golf ball with an actual golf club (I had hit a few with a baseball bat) it was on skates and I'm here to tell you that you can hit a pitching wedge shot a good 250 yards when it lands on ice.

I was hooked. That year I began playing and I was so fortunate to have some really good players who allowed me to join them and help me adjust to the game.

Leo Marcotte Jr., who later became the first player to ever win both the R.I. Public Links and State Amateur title in the same year, was a classmate at LaSalle. Leo, who I played a lot of playground basketball with, would often invite me to play in his group. He was an All Stater at the time and I couldn't break 100. He and the other two guys, often Chuck Silvestro and Steve Cole, sometimes Joe McDonald or Jack Beaulieu, would be either at par or close to it.

I stunk, but they were encouraging as was Triggs pro, Mike Mollis. Leo kept telling me it would come. It did but it took a while. It was almost three months before I broke the 100 barrier. I can still envision it, a 20 foot putt on the 18th hole that fell in for a 99. You would have thought I had won the Masters.

Golf has been my passion for most of my life. I've met so many wonderful people because of golf. As a long-time member of both the Golf Writers Association of America and also the International Network of Golf, I've had the opportunity to play some of the finest courses, including the Dunes Club in Myrtle Beach, The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, Newport Country Club, Bulls Bay in Charleston, The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.

Because of golf I've had the opportunity to meet such luminaries as Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Tom Watson, Curtis Strange, Fred Couples, Gary Player, and Annika Sorenstam.

But the highlight was being invited to have a private drink with the King. I had played in a team event that day in Myrtle Beach with Arnold Palmer's long time publicist, Doc Giffin. Doc, myself, Bruce Berlet (who is a regular contributor to this publication) and a fourth who I can't remember, combined to win the Buster Bryan/Joe Greenday Memorial event, which annually proceeded the GWAA Championship.

As it turned out, Arnold was scheduled to be the guest speaker at our dinner, the 50th anniversary of the GWAA tournament.

During the cocktail hour I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was Doc. "Come with me."

I followed him down the hall of the elegant Dunes clubhouse and we entered a small room.

There sat Arnold Palmer, alone in a chair, a glass next to him (a real Arnold Palmer).

He got up and Doc introduced us and Arnold shook my hand and said, "So you're Tim Geary. Doc tells me you're quite the player,"



I laughed, said it was a pleasure to meet him and replied, “Doc is quite the liar.” That was Arnold. He treated everyone he met like he was thrilled to meet them. Two years later we ran into each other at the CVS Charity Classic at Rhode Island Country Club. He actually remembered me, by name. Amazing.

Over my 53 years I’ve played a lot of bad golf, some good and with some great people. I’ve played with pros such as Brad Faxon, Billy Andrade, Lee Elder, Patrick Sheehan and a few others.

I once sat at a bar after a round in South Carolina with John Daly on the stool to my left and Darius Rucker on my right.

I’ve met Willy Nelson at the golf course, Nash Crosby and Steven Stills. It’s been a blast, and it all began because of an ice storm in 1970. ■

*Tim Geary is a retired golf writer for the Fall River Herald and writes a column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)*



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**Age:** 30  
**Birthplace:** Chico, Cal.  
**Family:** Single  
**College:** UNLV

## Kurt Kitayama

Kurt Kitayama was on the UNLV Golf team in 2015 and 2016. He admits to being the worst player on the team when he started, but he was the best by the end of 2016.

He decided to head overseas after college and won two tournaments on the European Tour in 2018 and 2019.

Kitayama came back to the PGA Tour in 2021. He has made the cuts in 26 of 54 events during that time. His breakthrough came last month at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando. That win was worth \$3.6 million as it was designated a preferred even—a new PGA Tour category that started this year on the PGA Tour where eight events have been greatly increased in total purses.

His smiling personality and diminutive size (he is 5 feet, 7 inches) has made him a fan favorite. His earnings this year are over \$5.7 million and his overall winnings are \$8,439,548—not bad for a guy who was rated last on his college golf team.

**RISING STAR**

## Golf—From Caddie to Single Handicapper

**G**olf. It's a great sport. My first introduction to golf was at the age of 10. It was the summer between 5th and 6th grade and I decided to follow in the footsteps of my older brother Brian and some of his friends and become a caddy at Haverhill Country Club in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Being slight of build, I was only equipped to do singles that first year where the going rate was \$7 per bag. There was one, let's call him, frugal member of the club who paid kids only \$5 to carry his bag for 18-holes. All of the caddies generally ran and hid when he came calling. I was lucky enough to have a member by the name of Dr. Ed Ornstein who preferred to have me carry his bag, and he was very generous giving me \$10 for 18-holes.

I caddied for two summers where one of the benefits was being able to play for free on Monday or "Caddies' Day." I have to say that I was absolutely awful at the game, but I thoroughly enjoyed playing it. I borrowed my brother's golf clubs and I did this for two summers before eventually getting my first full-time job summer job which was unrelated to golf. Golf was not part of my high school and college experience as I played other sports

Following graduation from Syracuse, my first job was, ironically, in Haverhill, Massachusetts at a radio station named WHAV. I was the sports director doing sportscasts Monday-Friday in the mornings and afternoons. I hosted a weekly sports talk show on Monday nights and broadcast many different Haverhill High School athletic events.

Working a split shift, I would have the middle of the day off so, to quench that competitive thirst, I would play pick-up basketball at a local community college during the lunchtime hours. It was there that I met a man named Dick Foustoukas. He was the assistant basketball coach at the school and also owned a bar.

Dick gave me a job tending bar, and most of the people who worked there and visited the bar were all golfers.

With basketball being my sport of choice to quench my thirst for competition, Dick asked me if I would like to play golf with him and two others. They were playing at a beautiful private course in Danvers, Massachusetts called Tara Ferncroft where the Ping-Welch's LPGA Classic was held each year. How could I say no?

I showed up wearing my brother's old patent leather golf shoes that were two sizes too small while also using his clubs. The three of them were good golfers whose handicaps ranged from 4-16. We played the blue or back tees and I struggled to say the least. While their scores were in the 70's, 80's and 90's, I was well into triple digits. But I realized something that day. That I really did like the sport.

The next day I visited a local golf pro by the name of Ted Murphy who owned the Garrison Par 3 course in Haverhill and told him that I would like to buy a set of golf clubs, and good ones at that.

He fit me for a set of Ping Eye 2 blacks which he then ordered and the rest is history.

I would play two to three times a week with my friends and, without taking a lesson, learned to self-correct and improve my game by leaps and bounds over the years.

I received much advice from friends on how to improve my game and there are two that really stand above the rest. The first was from then PGA Tour pro Brad Faxon who told me to practice my short game.

He said that while most amateurs go to the driving range and use their driver to hit an entire bucket of balls, about 80% of our shots in a round take place from 100-yards and in. That resonated with me which is why I spent a lot of time hitting wedge shots, chipping and putting. It can really help improve your game.

Maybe the best bit of advice that I received

that really shaved strokes off of my handicap was from Billy Zuber who, himself, was a 3-handicap. He taught me course management or, in other words, where and where not to hit the ball. The gist of his advice was to know where the trouble was and be certain to stay away from it.

That advice and playing a few times per week helped me at one point get my handicap down to a very respectable 7. Now, having gone from playing 100+ rounds of golf each year to maybe 10-15 due to raising a family, my handicap is somewhere in the 10-13 range.

But I still love the sport. And I recently introduced my son Jack to it which has given me a great excuse to get out on the course even more. It's a great game and I have fond memories of how it began for me. ■

*Scott Cordischi, writes a column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)*

## Better Golf, Better Life

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Rhode Island psychiatrist Dr. Richard Goldberg, MD, addresses the mental game of golf in his new, recently published book "Better Golf, Better Life." The book contains 34 essays on the mental aspects of golf and is 154 pages long. Goldberg adds, "This is also a book about and for the human spirit, helping golfers connect with something beautiful and powerful that is at the heart of this remarkable game we call Golf." The book is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). ■

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### Sponsor of You Make the Ruling

Jordan and Justin were competing in a stroke play tournament. Justin had just hit a poor chip on a hole, and decided to practice chipping next to the tee on the next hole while he waited for his turn. Is this a penalty?

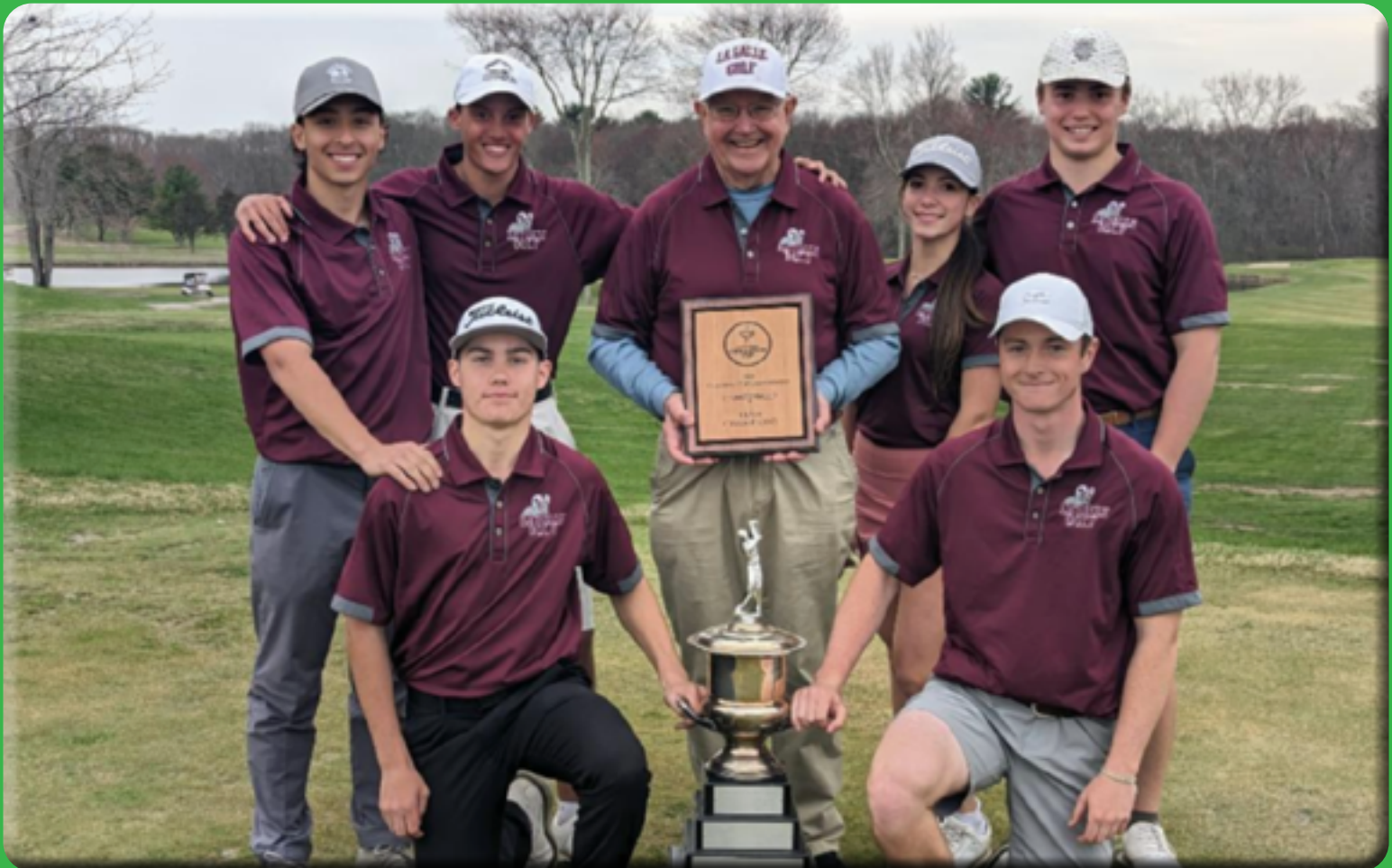
**Ruling:** Yes. Justin would be disqualified. Rule 7-1 says that no practice shots may be made on the course once a round has begun. The exception is putting or chipping near the first teeing ground before a start of the round. The same rule applies in match play except for practice putting or chipping on the hole just played.

## Rhode Island Junior Golf Round-Up

The La Salle Rams eaked out a win in the Challenge Cup team title by two shots over Barrington and three shots over Prout at Alpine Country Club in Cranston recently. The Rams posted a two-day total of 624, while Barrington carded 626 and Prout 627. La Salle was led by Max Jackson, who finished fourth overall after rounds of 72 and 71 for the week. Joseph Earley finished 28th at 159 for the two day tournament, while Olivia Williams finished sixth in the girls division with a score of 160.

### Team Championship Top 5

1. La Salle Academy - 624
2. Barrington Eagles - 626
3. Prout School - 627
4. North Kingstown - 635
5. Moses Brown - 647



LA SALLE WINNING TEAM

The Challenge Cup Boys Individual Championship was won by New Hampshire's Josiah Hakala at five-under par. He carded rounds of 67 and 71 to win by four shots over Prout's Mark Roberts Jr. and Massachusetts' Ryan Keyes. The Challenge Cup Girls Individual Championship was won by Connecticut's Laniah Moffett with a score of 10-over par. Moffett fired rounds of 78 and 76 to win by three shots over Kylie Eaton and Lily Dessel.

In other Junior News Rhode Island's Vinny Papa finished in a tie for 23rd at the Mid-Atlantic Girls Championship in Maryland at Worthington Manner Golf Club. The tournament is part of the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour. Playing the course from 6,000 yards, Papa carded a first round 78 and followed up with a second round 79 to finish 13-over for the weekend. Maryland's Abigail Avallone won the tournament at three-under par.

In the Drive, Chip and Putt national event at Augusta National the Sunday before the Masters, East Falmouth Massachusetts' Maya Palanza Gaudin won the Girls 12-13 age group. Gaudin finished with a total of 26 points to win her division by four. Rhode Island's Hazel Hegstrom finished in a tie for fifth in the Girls 7-9 division with 17 points. ■



HAZEL HEGSTROM



VINNY PAPA

### Boys Top 10

1. Josiah Hakala - 5-Under
- T2. Mark Roberts Jr. - 1-Under
- T2. Ryan Keyes
4. Max Jackson - Even
5. Will Owens - 2-Over
- T6. Ronan Mooney - 6-Over
- Caleb Smith
- T8. Ryan Willey - 9-Over
- Andrew Dunn
- Nick Gebhardt
- Nick Emery
- DJ Bruno

### Girls Top 10

1. Laniah Moffett - 10-Over
- T2. Kylie Eaton - 13-Over
- T2. Lily Dessel
4. Adriana Eaton - 15-Over
5. Olivia Williams - 16-Over
6. Aoife Devaney - 20-Over
7. Elizabeth Kue - 28-Over
8. Isabelle Chen - 33-Over
9. Claire McTaggart - 37-Over
10. Kamryn Kue - 43-Over

## Hazelton Golf Club Returning to Glory



Spring is here and it is time for golfers in the Massachusetts / Rhode Island area to tee it up. If you are looking for a premier public course for tournaments or a league, you should consider Hazelton Golf Club in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

Sun Valley was a popular golf course designed by the legendary Geoffrey Cornish back in 1959. It was a challenging but easy to walk course that was a favorite of many golfers including Joe Moniz. Joe is a prominent businessman who owns Crestwood Country Club, a private course about a mile down the road from Hazelton.

But lack of maintenance left Sun Valley in disrepair, and eventually it closed. Joe shared the disappointment of area golfers. "I had such fond memories of Sun Valley that I wanted to make an investment necessary to provide a great course for area public golfers that I myself enjoyed for so many years, he said in a recent interview." And now that course is back to life with a new name: Hazelton Golf Club.

They have made a number of major improvements at Hazelton with the help of Tim Gerrish who worked with Cornish on some of the

finest courses in the country. That expertise has converted Hazelton into one of the finest public courses in the area.

Hazelton is the perfect course for golfers of all levels. From the tips the course plays to 6,740 yards. There are six sets of tees, with the front tees playing at only 3,145 yards suitable for junior and novice golfers.

In addition, Hazelton has constructed a magnificent clubhouse. The building is made from a light-colored stone, with sweeping arches framing the entrance to the restaurant and bar. This upscale clubhouse is the perfect place after a round of golf for a delicious meal. The restaurant is open to all, seven days a week.

A new driving range is being constructed next to the course so you can warm up before you tackle this classic golf club. Both the weather and golfing is great at Hazelton Golf Club. ■

**Contact Hazelton Golf Club today to make arrangements for your golf league and/or tournament. Phone 508 557-1856 and the website is [www.hazeltongolfclub.com](http://www.hazeltongolfclub.com).**

## Combining two Loves— Work & Golf

**M**y father wasn't much of a sports fan. He seldom watched the Red Sox, as I did passionately, warning me that they will break your heart. He preferred to work on cars or visit an airport to watch Cessnas take off and land over viewing the exploits of Yaz and Tony C.

But he liked golf. He and I watch "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf," a 1960s series pitting star golfers on courses around the globe. He and my grandfather concocted mini-golf courses in our yard using odds and ends like an elbow from a roof gutter for my brother Dan and me to play.

He especially liked playing in a golf league at Locust Valley Country Club in Attleboro with my Uncle Roger, then having a few beers after. I don't blame him. Uncle Roger was a funny guy.

I never played on a real golf course until I was a high school freshman when I joined a couple of buddies for nine holes at Locust Valley. Soon, my mother would drop Dan and me off at Locust Valley at least once a week early in the morning, picking us up in time for family dinner. Those summer days seemed perfect, well worth the money we earned mowing lawns.

I was hooked on golf. I never thought of making money from golf. But I did think about working in the world of sports. Playing games, watching games, even listening to games was what I enjoyed most, "the human drama of athletic competition," as Jim McKay described it.

I figured out a path to a sports career when I took Creative Writing in my junior year at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro. On the first day of class, the teacher, Chris Servant, tossed paper banana peels he had drawn down an aisle of desks and declared, "Writing is like climbing a hill on a trail of banana peels. It can be slippery and you may fall, but it's all worth it when you get to the mountain top."

I'm not sure the metaphor worked, but it's an example of how much energy Mr. Servant would

bring to the class for the entire semester. It rubbed off on me. I enjoyed the climb and getting to the mountain top, or at least successfully completing an assignment.

I was hooked on writing. And I wanted to join my two passions into a career as a sportswriter. That led me to Emerson College in Boston, a school that offered multi-media writing opportunities. I wasn't sure which medium I wanted, only that I wanted to write.

The push toward journalism came from Marsha Della-Giustina, a producer for WCVB-TV in Boston who taught news writing at Emerson. Here's an example of Marsha's strong, driven personality: When I first introduced her to my future wife, Carol, they shook hands. Marsha quickly but kindly scolded Carol that a firm handshake, even for a woman, made a stronger impression on strangers.

That same aggressive demeanor was on display when I asked Marsha to be my academic adviser. In our first meeting, we talked about my goal of becoming a sportswriter. "Where do you live?" she asked.

"North Attleboro," I answered. "What's your hometown newspaper?" "The Sun Chronicle."

Within minutes, she was on the phone with Doug Reed, the top editor at The Sun Chronicle, asking whether he needed a smart, local college kid for an internship in the sports department. Within days, I was answering calls on rotary dial telephones and taking high school sports results on manual typewriters in The Sun Chronicle's newsroom.

I remember one night, in particular. I was asked to work a Friday night in winter when the sports department was loaded with a schedule of high school basketball games and other sporting events. As usual, I took results over the phone, typing up the agate – the results in small type – as well as short summaries of game.

But this time we were on a deadline. The Sun

Chronicle was an afternoon paper on weekdays, so the sports results from the night before were printed and published in the morning. On Saturdays, it was a morning paper, meaning the paper went to press around midnight.

That meant a four-hour rush to call every coach and get every result in time for the next morning's paper. A short time after we finished, I could hear the roar of the press, and then someone came around and handed a paper to everyone in the newsroom.

I opened the sports section and found the words I had written just minutes earlier. It was a rush I can't explain, but I knew what I wanted to do. I was hooked on working for a newspaper.

That wasn't a guarantee, especially with the high unemployment rates of the late 1970s and early 1980s. It took a year and a half after I graduated from Emerson, but a news reporter position opened at The Sun Chronicle. I was working at a newspaper, just as I had hoped.

In the early 2000s, one of the big stories in the Attleboro area was the opening of TPC Boston, the PGA Tour-owned golf course in neighboring Norton. Deutsche Bank teamed up with Tiger Woods to launch a PGA Tour event in Norton every Labor Day weekend starting in 2003.

The sports department was resistant to covering it, with some justification. Labor Day was the start of the high school football season, and a dozen or more previews had to be written for a massive special section. Besides, none had much of an interest in golf.

"You cover it," Ned Bristol, the Editor-in-Chief at the time, told me. He knew that I loved golf (although he was an excellent player), and that I had always wanted to be a sportswriter. I couldn't say no to that.

So, each Labor Day weekend for the next 17 years, I covered the Deutsche Bank Championship, filing dozens of previews, attending news conferences (which included an annual round of golf at TPC Boston) and, of course, spending hours in Norton covering the tournament. It made me remember what I had dreamed about back at Feehan.

Soon, I was writing a weekly golf column, which included a Look Who's Buying segment on local folks who had gotten a recent hole-in-one.

One day while in a store buying golf balls, the cashier looked at me and said, "My dream is to be in Look Who's Buying in your column.." That made me feel good.

After 37-plus years, I left The Sun Chronicle, on St. Patrick's Day 2017. The owners offered buyouts amid rumors they would sell to buyers less willing to invest in journalism. The industry was spiraling downward, and employment in the newsroom had nearly been cut in half in the dozen years I supervised it.

A friend owned a local heating company, and though I didn't know the difference between a boiler and a furnace he hired me. But I kept a side gig writing for The Sun Chronicle and this Southern New England Golfer, and I've also contributed to Mass Golfer, the quarterly magazine of the state's governing body. Retirement looms soon, but I will keep writing, mostly about golf, I hope.

After all, I'm hooked on it. ■

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## Hillside Country Club has Three New Partners



**H**illside Country Club located in Rehoboth, Mass. is one amazing facility. It is not just an enjoyable 9-hole golf course open to the public, but is also a facility that has something for the entire family.

Last year three new partners, Mike Talbot, his wife, Renisha Silva Talbot and Ryan MacDonald joined the Gateman brothers, Jack and Bill, as owners of this growing golf course just ten miles from Providence and about the same distance from Taunton. The new partners added new life and changes to the course.

Mike Talbot recently retired after a 34-year career as a Boston sergeant detective. His wife, Renisha is in the process of retiring as a detective in Boston also. "We knew the Gateman brothers and approached them about becoming part owners after visiting the course last year. Jack said, "Why don't you and Renisha run the course, and we said 'yes,' said I smiling Mike as they've seen the golf revenue improve by 30 percent.

Mike used to run golf events for the Boston Police at Brookmeadow C.C. in Canton for more than a decade, and he became good friends with

the Director of Golf at the course, Ryan MacDonald. "Why don't you come and join us as owners," said Mike to Ryan who had been friends for over twenty years. "Ryan has done a great job with the course that has improved immensely with the help of superintendent, Eric Souza," said Mike in a recent interview.

Ryan talked about some of the changes. "When we got here it was basically a Tiki Bar with a course attached. We saw many scorecards that started 7-6-7. People want to have fun when they play golf, and the start of our nine was much too difficult for many, especially women." The owners took out the bunker in the middle of the first fairway and put a forward tee at 110 yards on number 2. We are continuing to make changes on the course to make it more enjoyable and compliments keep coming in," said MacDonald who has seen league play, lessons and overall play continue to rise.

The facility is exceptional. Last fall the owners put it two cabins with high-tech simulators and they were an instant hit. "We had families and groups rent out the cabins all winter, said a smiling Talbot. There is also a huge area for weddings and

also and excellent restaurant

Just imagine, you feel like playing a quick nine holes, but Mom does not play golf and the kids want to go swimming. Pay a visit to Hillside Country Club where the non-golfers in the family can swim in a heated salt-water pool. The pool is only 100 yards from the first tee. After an enjoyable round on the challenging course you can put the clubs in the trunk and walk over to the pool and join the family for lunch at the beautiful Tiki Bar lounge.

Hillside Country Club has been in existence since the 1970's but in the last few years there have been some excellent renovations. If you are a golfer, the course plays to a par 72 that stretches to 5,800 yards from the tips. Recently a new irrigation system has been installed which has greatly improved the conditions on the course.

Everybody is welcome at Hillside. In addition to a golf course and swimming pool, Hillside has a Tiki bar that overlooks the ninth green. There is an extensive menu, and live music at the Tiki Bar with a capacity of 187 adds to your enjoyment while you watch the sun set over the lush fairways. The food is also available poolside if you wish. And there is much more.

Above the pro shop is the luxurious Cristallo Spa. Imagine you want a relaxing massage, pedicure, golf and a day by the pool. You can do all three in one place. And again remember everybody is welcome at Hillside. They have created a place that provides private country club amenities for the public to enjoy."

If you have a wedding, or other special event planned, the staff at Hillside can help to make the affair a great success. There are also a number of special deals available for the golfer, so call Ryan at the pro shop and ask for the details 508-252-9761 or visit [www.hillsidecountryclub.com](http://www.hillsidecountryclub.com). Remember Hillside has something for the whole family. ■

***Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com) and a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at [bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com).***



## Travelers Championship Has 'Designated' Status This Year

The 2023 PGA Tour schedule has dramatically changed on numerous fronts, caused largely by the new renegade, Saudi-funded LIV Tour that tossed outlandish amounts of money at some stars and even more marginal players.

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan, a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, faced a battle to keep his players, and, as usual, money was the No. 1 factor with subplots of getting the top individuals to compete together more often and provide more appeal for the pros and fans. It resulted in 17 "designated" tournaments, including the Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell on June 22-25. The special events have minimum \$20 million purses and are all but assured of having most of the Top 20 ranked players in the world and the top 20 in the Player Impact Program. Tiger Woods won the PIP two years in a row despite not being able to fulfill a full playing schedule owing to his physical limitations following in a horrific car crash in 2021. Monahan said Woods would not be docked money from the 2023 PIP despite not being able to participate in every "designated" event.

Woods and Rory McIlroy were the keynote speakers at a players meeting in Wilmington, Del., last August after each took strong public stances against LIV Golf and its commissioner, 1995 Canon Greater Hartford Open champion Greg Norman. Woods reportedly turned down a \$700-800,000,000 offer from the controversial upstart series, citing such exorbitant money was harmful to the game, especially curtailing incentive.

"I talked to the whole gamut of players," Woods said. "There were mixed emotions, but at the end of the day, we're trying to create the best product and how we do that. The important aspect is top players are in agreement as to what needs to be done. Because it's always the top players who drive interest, whether media interest, television

interest or other forms of communication, they realize they need to be in agreement, and they needed to show up. That's what we're trying to do."

By mid-April, the Travelers Championship was already well on its way to its best field since the tournament began as the Insurance City Open in 1952 as the highly-ranked McIlroy, Scottie Scheffler, Patrick Cantlay, Collin Morikawa, Justin Thomas, Tony Finau, Vermont native Keegan Bradley and defending champion Xander Schauffele had committed to the biggest sporting event in Connecticut that will have a record purse (\$20 million) and first prize (\$3.6 million). A year ago, Schauffele birdied the final hole for a 72-hole total of 19-under-par 261 and a two-stroke victory over J.T. Poston and Sahith Theegala, who made double-bogey 6 at No. 18. The winner earned \$1,494,000.

"Being a 'designated' event really puts the Travelers Championship on another level," said Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Travelers. "Over the years, we've seen this tournament go from good to great, from better to best, all aimed at helping the community. We've appreciate the support of the players, and we're proud that the PGA Tour felt we earned this opportunity. We intend to show everyone, once again, why the Travelers Championship is one of the top stops on the schedule."

The PGA Tour will soon return to a calendar-based schedule, so more meaningful golf will be played over eight straight months instead of players working their schedules around the four major championships. Players are allowed to skip one "designated" event if they wish. McIlroy sat out the first "designated" event in January at the Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii, won by Jon Rahm, who later won the Masters.

When McIlroy withdrew from the RBC Heritage the week after missing the cut in the Masters, he

forfeited \$3 million, or 25 percent from his PIP bonus of \$12 million from 2022. Those players eligible for the distribution of the PIP are subject to the mandatory participation requirements, which states they must play the “designated” events, if eligible, and three additional FedExCup tournaments. The PGA Tour policy board adjusted that requirement to state a player would be allowed to miss one of those “designated” events for personal or professional reasons only. They may count one of the fall events towards one of their three FedEx Cup requirements.

The penalty for not satisfying all elements of the mandatory participation requirement is limited to the bonus distribution for the Player Impact Program.

Many players exhibited little sympathy for McIlroy considering the Irishman had been instrumental in helping make the new rules. But now he had made his own bed and had to lie on it. The only way McIlroy might recoup some of his losses this year would be if Monahan, using the discretion granted to him as commissioner, decided extenuating circumstances existed for McIlroy to miss the RBC Heritage.

“Rules are the rules,” Schauffele said. “So, I mean, for the most part, a lot of what he wanted is what's happening. And the irony is he's not here. ... It's a lot of money. It's a big deal. A lot of people want to know what's going on.”

Besides the Travelers Championship and Sentry Tournament of Champions, the “designated” events include the major championships, The Players Championship, the World Golf Championship-Dell Technologies Match Play, FedEx St. Jude Championship and Tour Championship. The Travelers Championship, one of the last four “designated” events this year, is expected to be one of the four that will rotate around the schedule. The other 13 will happen every year, though the WCG Match Play has reportedly been scrapped for 2024 due to sponsorship reasons.

Qualifying for the FedExCup will be even more difficult. As many as 55 fewer players will qualify for the 2023 playoffs, with only the top 70 players advancing to the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Those 70 players will be fully exempt for the following season, and from there, 20 players will be cut for the BMW Championship, with the final

30 players competing in the Tour Championship.

The wraparound season began in 2013-2014 but is coming to an end after 10 years, and players who don't qualify for the smaller FedExCup playoffs or are not previously exempt for 2024 will compete for their PGA Tour cards in a new fall series consisting of seven official Tour events that will provide greater drama and more immediate consequence than previously.

For the 2022-23 season, all fully exempt players who compete in 15 tournaments will be guaranteed \$500,000 through the creation of the Earnings Assurance Program. That money will be paid up front, with the players drawing against it during the season from their earnings. Players who come up short of earning \$500,000 will be paid the difference by the Tour at the end of the season.

The Travelers Championship, named a “designated” event in October, has generated more than \$25 million for nearly 900 local charities since the insurance magnate became title sponsor in 2007. A record purse and better field will likely bring more fans and sponsors and surpass the record charity sum of \$2.5 million last year. Individual tickets, corporate packages and club tickets are available, with multiple venues expected to sell out on certain days. There will be many enhancements to tournament hospitality venues at TPC River Highlands, such as larger Champions and Mohegan Sun clubs.

“Our fans have seen some of golf's biggest stars in years past, and this year's event will include even more,” tournament director Nathan Grube said. “We're working hard to make sure that everyone coming to TPC River Highlands will be treated to another unforgettable, world-class experience.” ■

***For tournament updates, ticket information and announcements related to the player field, visit [TravelersChampionship.com](https://www.travelerschampionship.com). Fans will first be allowed on the course on June 21 for the Celebrity Pro-Am and can also follow the tournament's social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok for news and information.***

## Peter Ballo To Shoot For Third Consecutive Conn. Open Title

The biggest and most cherished golf title in the state besides the Travelers Championship is the Connecticut Open. On July 24-26 at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington, Peter Ballo will shoot for a third consecutive victory after an extremely emotional win a year ago.

Moments after signing for a second win in a row at New Haven CC, Ballo departed the scoring tent behind the 18th green and had a lengthy and hearty embrace with older brother Mike that quickly turned into a crying fest. The tears continued to flow as several friends then embraced Peter, who had shot a closing, bogey-free, 4-under 66 for a 54-hole total of 7-under 213 and a three-stroke victory over three players. Ballo was eventually able to compose himself after becoming the first repeat winner since Nick Cook in 2005-06 at the course where his father, Mike Sr., won his first of two Connecticut Open titles in 1969.

Peter matched his dad's winning total four months after the man and Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer who got he and his brother interested in the game died. Despite Mike Sr. death, he was very much in Peter's mind and sight throughout the tournament. Before each round, Peter said a prayer in front of his father's poster that was among 25 past champions that lined the pathway to the first tee. The chat with dad was especially meaningful for Peter after his first nine holes.

"I was really struggling and lucky to be even par, and as I went from the 18th green to the first hole, I said, 'I need to talk to my dad,'" Ballo recalled. "I needed a little help and guidance with my concentration, and that gave me kind of a calming feeling. That was definitely someone else there calming me down and making me feel better. It helped my brain relax and to be happy with whatever happened."

Ballo, 31, also shot even par on the front nine for 70, tacked on a 67 in the second round that got

him within a stroke of the lead and then played brilliantly for 15 holes the final day, shooting 4 under that included a wind-aided, 186-yard, 9-iron shot to 10 feet to set up an eagle 3 at the 507-yard 10th hole and a knockdown wedge from 103 yards to 2 feet for birdie at No. 13.

Then Ballo's short game and a putting tip from his mother, Page, after the second round solidified the victory and \$14,000 first prize. He hit a deft chip from the right rough above the 16th green and sank an 8-foot putt for par. Then after hitting his tee shot into a bunker on the par-3 17th hole, he blasted to 8 feet for another saving par. A routine par on the 18th hole made Ballo the 10th repeat champion in 88 State Opens a year after the assistant pro at Connecticut Golf Club in Easton became the first son of a former champion to win.

"This is a lot more than I can explain right now," said Ballo, who finished second in 2020. "It has been a rough year with the passing of my father and the struggles that I had with my game early in the year, so I really can't explain how much this means. Winning once is tough, but winning twice is very special considering the difficulties that the family has been through. There definitely was someone else there helping me. It took a lot of courage and a lot of support that I have from my friends and family because I'd had a lot of emotions.

"In mid-April, I didn't really like golf, felt really uncomfortable. I was hitting enough good shots that my game was OK, but I wasn't there emotionally. I've felt a little different with the putter, especially after the tip from my mother, so while it has been very emotional with the death of my father and not playing well, it's great to be able to pull it all together. I'm not the most spiritual person on planet earth, but this week I kind of relied on it. I think that played a huge part in how I played."

When asked what his father might have said

## Paladino Opens With Another Victory

about this win, Peter said about the same as he did a year earlier only two months after the Ballos were recognized as the 2020 Family of the Year by the Metropolitan (N.Y.) Golf Writers Association and four months before Mike Sr. was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame. The Met writers didn't hold the 2020 awards dinner until October due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ballos all worked and competed in the Met Section, which serves Fairfield County, New York and northern New Jersey. Mike Sr. was too ill to attend Peter's win at the Country Club of Darien in 2021, following his progress online. Then Mike Jr. accepted on behalf of his father at his Hall of Fame induction in December.

Mike Jr., 33, who shot 211 to tie for 13th, certainly understood why he and his brother were teary-eyed. "This is an unreal moment for Connecticut golf and the family," said Mike, an assistant at Westchester (N.Y.) Country Club. "It's like you can't make this stuff up. This is where dad won his last Connecticut Open in 1978, so we had marked the calendar and hoped one of us would do something big. You can't help but think of divine intervention."

Emotions also flowed for Madison native and former PGA Tour player Brett Stegmaier, who battled thyroid cancer for three months earlier in 2022 and was back in Connecticut playing on the course where he learned the game. Stegmaier, who now lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., shot 70 to tie for second with Matt Shubley and Jason Thresher.

"April and May were not a good time for me," said Stegmaier, 39, whose father Bruce was in his gallery wearing a hat with a logo of the University of Florida, where his son attended college. "The one good thing is the cancer that I got was the best kind you can get, and now I'm happy to be back playing. I'm disappointed with how I played (in the final round), but it's kind of neat that Peter won after all that he and his family have been through."

Reinstated amateur Cody Paladino, whose five different state titles include the 2015 Connecticut Open, was low amateur after shooting 207 and a tie for fifth with 2020 champion Max Theodorakis. It helped Paladino earn the CSGA Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year Award for the third straight year. ■

Paladino kicked off the 2023 season with an eagle and four birdies in a 3-under 69 for a five-stroke victory in the CSGA One-Day Tournament at Stonington CC. He also was to play on the CSGA team looking for a sixth consecutive win in the first major event of the year, the Julius Boros Challenge Cup Matches against the Connecticut Section PGA at New Haven CC on May 11. The state's leading amateurs won 40.5-31.5 last year, but the pros lead 34-17 in the Nassau-style competition.

Other notable events this year, with the 2022 winner, include the Russell C. Palmer Cup, May 15-16, CC of Waterbury, **Paladino**; Connecticut PGA Championship, May 22-23, CC of Farmington, winner earns an exemption into the Travelers Championship, **Geoff Gelderman**; Connecticut Women's Open, June 5-6, Rolling Hills CC in Wilton, amateur **Alexsandra Lapples**; Connecticut Women's Golf Association Championship, June 27-30, Stonington CC, **Leslie Li**; CSGA Amateur Championship, July 12-15, CC of Darien, **Ben Carpenter**; Connecticut State Women's Amateur, July 17-18, Tashua Knolls GC in Trumbull, **Meghan Mitchell**; Hartford Women's Open, July 24-25, Keney Park GC in Hartford, amateur **Angela Garvin**; and **Jen Holland** will shoot for a record 11th title, and fourth in a row and sixth out of seven years, in the Southern New England Women's Golf Association Championship at Hunter GC in Meriden on Aug. 7-8.

The SNEWGA wins helped lead to four consecutive CSGA Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year Awards for **Holland**, who will also be a leading Connecticut contender in the New England Women's Amateur Championship on June 12-14 at Manchester CC. ■

*Bruce Berlet is the retired Hartford Courant sportswriter who writes a Connecticut column in each issue of [sngolfer.com](http://sngolfer.com).*

## Having Hookers in Your Life is a Good Thing

Can you remember who first got you hooked on golf? For many, it is their parents: fathers who shove a golf club in their kids' hands when they can hardly stand up; mothers who drive them back and forth for their lessons; or maybe a friend who pulls you into the game luring you with thoughts of after golf margaritas.

In my case it certainly wasn't my Dad. To him, a wedge was a piece of pie. And as for mom, her idea of fun was to stencil the kitchen cabinets. Golf was simply not on our family radar.

I got the hook one hot July day when I was 12 where Larry Bartosek, our club pro, was running kids' clinics. These were the days before video analysis, cavity-backed irons and graphite shafts. Slowly he moved down the line, showing us how to grip the club and hit balls which frequently did not fly as far as the divots.

When he got to me he said, "Ever play golf before?" "Nope," I said probably with a snotty what-do-I-care attitude. "You should. You have a natural swing." That did it. The hook. He had played to my oversized ego. I'm not sure which came first, the huge crush I had on him or my parents saying yes to golf lessons.

But my interest in the game grew as Larry patiently led me through the fundamentals, encouraging me when I groaned at a miss-hit ball. "That's O.K. Try again. Then "Good shot." I obviously needed a lot of back scratching to soothe my insecurities.

I started playing in some junior tournaments and actually won a couple. I remember my first golf gear well: a set of Patty Berg clubs and a green nylon bag with tan leather trim. For the next couple of years, Larry was there boosting my morale, analyzing my swing when it went totally south and reminding me how to get out of bunkers.

I still hear him saying, "Weight on your left side; follow through." He even tried to get me to practice. I hated practicing. Endless phone



KATHARINE DYSON

conversations with girlfriends, dates with my boyfriend and school stuff didn't leave much time for practice. And since I could hit the ball farther than most of the other girls I played with, I had acquired an obnoxious cocky smugness.

Of course the fact that I seldom knew where it was going, or why I lifted up and topped the ball, did challenge my confidence. Consistency? My drives on the 2nd hole landed way too often in the horse pasture, an out-of-bounds running along the right side of the fairway. I was afraid of horses, so I lost a lot of balls.

Still golf was fun those years, playing with friends, competing in the club tournaments and the social fun afterwards. But eventually, life took over; became more complicated: cheerleading practice, waterskiing, parties, homework. It didn't take long for my green nylon golf bag and Patty Berg clubs propped up against the wall in the basement to acquire a patina of dust.

I made a thousand excuses why I couldn't go out and play. Too cold, not enough time, had to mow the lawn, shop...you name it. In college, just for kicks, I tried out for the college golf team and surprisingly made it. Not that it was any big deal. I think everyone that went out for the team at Denison, got on.

In those days, girls golf was not a major sport. But I started playing again, practicing, trying to recall the things Larry had told me. Gradually it dawned on me that indeed, Larry had given me something very precious: a confidence that it was possible for me to play golf, and even play it well if I was willing to take the time to hone my game.

Some years I played a lot, joined the women's leagues and saw my handicap creep down. Even the years when I didn't play much, I knew that whenever I did get out there, I could enjoy hitting the ball without totally embarrassing myself. That was a great help as I entered the business world and played at company outings.

While most of the girls headed to the spa or outlet stores, I was able to spend quality time with those in our industry who called the shots. And in my head, Larry was there, looking over my shoulder, still smiling, still encouraging. For sure, whatever Larry had set in motion when I was a kid, continued to enhance my life.

Chances are if you love golf, you too will recall with fondness, even joy, the person who first got you hooked on the game. For my friend Sue, our League champion, it was her father; for my grandson, Doug, it was his father and his grandfather who spent countless hours with him on and off the course from the time he first hit apples in the back yard with a plastic kiddie club.

Starting early is a great thing. And perhaps like me several years later, you will still be trying to figure out how to hit the ball consistently, how to avoid shanks and three-putts. (Where is your mentor when you need him or her?.) Some things just don't change. ■

***Katharine Dyson is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and has her own golf publication in New York.***

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## How I Got Into Golf

In high school and college, I played golf only once or twice a year, and looking back I wish I had played more often because my hometown of Chicopee, Massachusetts has a top-notch municipal course, Chicopee Country Club.

Back then, baseball was my favorite sport. My father and three brothers loved baseball. So I did as well. We never even watched golf on television.

I played youth baseball and kept score for the Chicopee Comprehensive High School baseball team for three years after I didn't make the team as an outfielder. My senior year, Comp reached the Division 1 state finals, although I don't think my scorekeeping had anything to do with it.

Back then I played golf with clubs that I shared with one of my brothers. We purchased them from the Spalding plant in Chicopee and got a discount from a relative who worked there.

Golf became a larger part of my life after I moved to Worcester in 1980 to work as a sports writer for The Evening Gazette. Yes, it's true. There actually were newspapers that were delivered in the afternoon back then and they contained news from that same day as well as the day before.

Because I was a sports writer, I was invited to play in media days to promote various golf tournaments. The first was for the 1981 Marlboro Classic at Marlboro Country Club. That event took place during the second season of the PGA Senior Tour, forerunner of PGA Tour Champions. Even though I was an inexperienced golfer, I helped our foursome from The Evening Gazette win a prize at that media day. We won the "Take Up Another Sport Award." By finishing in last place, we each received a set of plastic horseshoes.

The following year, we successfully defended that honor by finishing last again, and we were awarded plastic paddle ball sets. Arnold Palmer won the Marlboro Classic that year, but I don't remember much about that. What I'll never forget is



BILL DOYLE

what nearly happened to Palmer the following year at the Marlboro Classic. He thought his opening round tee time was 1 p.m. when it was actually at 8:30 a.m. So he had to be awakened at his hotel at 7:45 a.m. and had no chance to eat, wash or practice before he arrived on the first tee only 10 minutes before he was scheduled to play. He still managed to shoot an even-par 71, but he wasn't happy that he wasn't informed that the tee sheet had been updated.

Maybe it was just a coincidence, but the following year the Marlboro Classic moved to Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord. Don January repeated as champion even though the tournament was held at a different course.

A year or two later, I played golf more regularly by joining my newspaper's golf league at Pine Ridge

Country Club in North Oxford. Some of the best times were spent after our rounds in the clubhouse ranting about our errant drives and missed putts. The shots were certainly better at the bar than on the course.

One of the best reasons to play golf is the ability to enjoy it no matter how old you become, as long as you're healthy enough.

Palmer, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Annika Sorenstam are some of the super star golfers I've interviewed over the years at PGA Tour Champions, PGA Tour and LPGA Tour events, but one of the best quotes I ever got came from a priest, Father Walter Riley, who used to be associate pastor at Christ the King Parish where I attend, and who is now pastor at St. Anne Parish in Shrewsbury. Father Riley comes from a Worcester family of 16 children, many of whom were standout athletes. He starred in baseball when he was younger and became an accomplished golfer who played in Massachusetts Golf Association events.

When I asked Father Riley if he said a prayer while he stood over a 5-foot putt, he quickly replied, "Oh no, that would be cheating." Apparently, he saves that pipeline for more serious matters.

I played golf off and on for about 45 years before I carded my only hole in one, on the par-3 eighth hole at Green Hill. Unfortunately, I didn't see the ball roll into the cup, but thankfully I only had to pay for drinks for my playing partners afterward because no one else was in the clubhouse restaurant.

Even better than the hole in one is the fun you have and the friends you make while playing golf. As I tell Bruce Vittner, publisher and editor of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com), it's always a good day when I see him because it's always - or at least nearly always - on a golf course. ■

*Bill Doyle is a member of the Golf Writers of America and writes a column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)*



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## PGA Golf Show In Orlando Was Booming

In January we had the opportunity to spend four days at the PGA's Merchandise Show in Orlando, Fl. Last year the show was still quite small as the country came out of the COVID nightmare. This year is almost back to its booming self.

A few of the major manufacturers were not there, but Titleist, Callaway and Cobra had a huge presence as well as many other smaller manufacturers. The gigantic auditorium was filled from one end to the other.

The Show is a chance to catch up with many friends in the golf industry. We hold our annual meeting of the Golf Travel Writers of America and this year we are heading to the Poconos (no, not to get remarried, for a chance to play some fine golf and hold our annual meeting of International Network of Golf. We will have that story for you in the June 12 issue.

There are a myriad of new products and we tried to get to most of them. One of our advertisers, the cannon that shoots golf balls as a fundraiser at tournaments was voted one of the top five innovative products at the show. Dan Frost of England, the designer of many new products over the years, was there showing new gadgets to help players lower their scores and his booth was always busy.

Scotland was there with about 20 representatives highlighting the amazing golf in their country as was Ireland who even held a special forum for media folks after hours. Italy will be hosting the Ryder Cup this fall and they had representatives at the Show as did Mexico and a



TOM SPARGO

few of the Caribbean countries.

It's always a great time to run into friends and people that you don't see often. I ran into Tom Spargo who has moved to live and work in The Villages with his wife. "I'm just helping out and not working too hard, said Spargo.

Last year I had met a nice lady from Nahant, Massachusetts that had a new design for gift cards. Her name is Nancy Hamson and her company is 4U Designs. I told her I would do a story for her because she was from Southern New England. Alas, I misplaced her card and no story. Well she was there again this year in a much better location and she said she was doing wonderfully. Her cards are partially in three-dimension and they are adorable. My wife loves them and you would be wise to check out her website at [4udesignonline.com](http://4udesignonline.com).

The Golf Show is really divided in two parts with one being equipment and travel and the other being clothing and products for pro shops like clocks and belts and other things noted for golf courses. The audience is really divided with professional golfers who also attend classes as part of the show, course owners and managers looking to stock up on carts, clubs and other equipment needed at their courses. Another sector of the show is the media, and we are treated quite well as most every booth wants us to write about their products and services.

It is an amazing event. I know I have not walked that far since last January. If you ever get a chance to go to the Show, it will really open your eyes to the gigantic business that is GOLF. ■

***Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of Southern New England Golf and has attended over 20 PGA Shows.***



**DAN FROST DEMONSTRATING ONE OF HIS MANY GOLF INVENTIONS**

## Golf Simulators Gain Popularity in Residential and Commercial Spaces

### TOLEDO, OH

Playing indoor golf is one of the hottest trends in the golf industry. A recent report by Straits Research valued the golf simulator market at \$1.3 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach \$3.3 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 10.1%. Golf Simulators are not just for commercial businesses or the rich and famous. The simulator space has been dramatically expanding and becoming more affordable in the last ten years.

Indoor multi-sport and golf simulator commercial play is booming. Food and entertainment businesses like Topgolf Swing Suite, X-Golf, and 5-Iron Golf have seen remarkable growth, with Topgolf indoor suites growing from 29 stores in 2019 to 120 plus locations. Including a huge Topgolf facility in development in the Garden City area of Cranston, R.I. The development of indoor golf is not limited to commercial businesses. Recent technology advances in launch monitors have made home golf simulators more reliable and affordable, driving growth in residential installations as well.

One company, Ace Indoor Golf, a leading golf simulator manufacturer and retailer in the United States, grew its business by more than 50% last year due to the popularity of home golf simulators. The company designs, sells, installs, and provides maintenance of golf simulators to businesses, golf clubs, individuals, golf teams, sim manufacturers, and the prominent golf retailers like PGA Tour Superstores and 5-Iron Golf. The company offers turnkey custom-designed solutions and “Do-It-Yourself” (DIY), off-the-shelf packages that fit golfers’ needs at every price point.

Trevor Faust, Ace Indoor Golf’s president, has some excellent advice for golfers looking to put a simulator in their home. “For the DIYer, take your time, do the necessary research, and ask a lot of questions to be sure all of your components



ACE INDOOR GOLF SIMULATOR

will work together correctly. The launch monitor, computer, hitting bay, projector, and screen must work together to provide a safe and enjoyable golf experience. Last, if your skills aren’t in building and technology, I’d suggest hiring a professional installer to prevent mistakes in your simulator setup that can cost you thousands of dollars.”

The combination of consumer demand, affordability, and technological improvements has made simulator golf more popular than ever. ■

*Are you looking to install a residential or commercial golf simulator? Ace Indoor Golf offers a variety of options and brands to accommodate every need. For more information, visit [aceindoorgolf.com](http://aceindoorgolf.com) or call (888) 517-3398.*

## The Big Easy Is Honored in a Big Way

**W**orld Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els was honored in early April for his lifelong contributions to the game of golf at the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund's Annual Banquet.

In attendance at the event at Encore Boston Harbor with his wife, Liezl, Els, known as "The Big Easy" on the PGA and PGA Champions Tour, joined a long line of distinguished Ouimet honorees dating to Arnold Palmer in 1997. Some other notable honorees over the years have been Chi Chi Rodriguez in 2003, Barbara and Jack Nicklaus in 2007, Tom Watson in 2009, Gary Player in 2008, Nick Price in 2017 and Jim Nantz in 2021.

The 53-year-old Els, who lives with his family in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, notched his 75th career victory in mid-March, winning the PGA Tour Champions Hoag Classic. A former World No. 1, owns four major championships, two World Golf Championships and a record seven World Match Play titles.

Larry Dorman, writing in the New York Times when Els was only 25 years old and stirring up the golf world with his victories, penned this memorable description of the soon-to-be superstar: "He exudes an ease, an evident genius, and it comes first from the power he generates. It looks effortless, from the swing itself to movements that are so fluid that Els seems to glide across the fairways with the sleek grace of a lion stalking prey in a savannah."

There's a lot more than golf in the life of Ernie Els, however. He has uniquely transcended his sport by virtue of his groundbreaking charitable endeavors and fundraising. He and his wife founded the Els for Autism Foundation and a campaign that led to the opening of the Els Center of Excellence in Florida, a world-class site housing leading-edge programs and services for individuals with autism.

Els and his wife became deeply involved in helping people with autism shortly after their



ERNIE ELS WITH RICHARD CONNELLY

own son, Ben, now 20, was diagnosed with the developmental disability. Said Els, "My wife Liezl and I were determined as parents to help Ben and others like him reach their full potential. We were fortunate to start a foundation and it's been an absolute joy for us."

In a touching essay last year in Golf Journal, Els wrote, "At the end of the day, I am a golfer, but I'm first and foremost a dad." Speaking at the Ouimet Banquet, Els noted that his family's world, including his wife and daughter, Samantha, started changing when they became focused on what would make Ben happy. "My relationship now with Ben is fantastic," Els said. "We're the best of friends. He loves golf and he loves people."

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Dave Marr III, from SiriusXM Radio, whose father, Dave won the 1965 PGA Championship and was also a familiar golf broadcaster on television

for many years. Marr praised Ernie and his wife for raising over \$50 million to help with services for people with autism. "It's all because of what happened to our child," said Els.

In a statement about the unique generosity of Americans, Els, a native of South Africa, said: "Liezl and I have lived in other countries and the way you guys raise money and give back, there is nobody near you, and I believe that is why this is such a great country." A huge applause followed Els' words about the U.S. "The core of your values comes through in your giving back," he added.

The Ouimet Fund's Annual Banquet has grown to be the largest annual golf dinner in America. According to officials from Encore Boston, there were 1,460 in attendance for this year's dinner in the grand ballroom.

Selected to be the student speaker for this year's Ouimet Banquet was scholarship recipient Anthony Adelizzi, a current sophomore at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC. In his touching, inspiring and informative speech, Anthony told the crowd about how he was given a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder at an early age and turned to golf for help. Describing his childhood, Adelizzi said, "I tried to fit in, but I was laughed at, ridiculed and bullied."

Then Adelizzi said that playing golf and working at golf courses changed his life, and he praised the care and tutelage he received from his mentors in the game, PGA Professionals Bob Miller and Dave Wilson from Hyannisport Club, where he worked in outside operations. "They made such a great difference in my life," Adelizzi said.

Immediately following Anthony's speech, which garnered a standing ovation, he was told that he would receive an additional Ouimet Scholarship for the year to cover his entire unmet need. The great news made Anthony drop to his knees in stunned happiness.

The 2003 Richard F. Connolly Jr. Distinguished Service Award recipient was Susan Curtin, a frequent competitor in Mass Golf and USGA championships and a founding member of Boston Golf Club. She also helped launch the John D. Mineck Memorial Foundation.

Connolly, who was a personal friend and financial advisor to the late, great Arnold Palmer, noted that in 1994 when Els captured the U.S.

Open, which was Palmer's final one, Palmer told Connolly that Els' swing was probably the greatest one he had ever seen."

Jeff Murphy, Ouimet Director of Events and Club Relations, reported that for 2023, the Ouimet Fund received 183 new scholarship applicants for next fall, the most in the 73-year history of the organization. The Fund has now awarded more than \$46 million in need-based scholarships to 6,500 Ouimet Scholars since its inception in 1949.

William L. Healy, MD, the President of the Ouimet Scholarship Fund, noted that in 2022 scholarships were awarded to students who attend 135 college and universities across the country. The scholarship winners have worked in golf as caddies, in pro shop operations and course superintendent operations. The scholarships are renewable and average \$30,000 over four years with some totaling up to \$80,000. ■

**Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com).**



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## A Father's Guidance

Like many sons and daughters with the response to the question of who inspired them to take up golf, yes, my answer is my father. I did not gravitate to the game initially, as proven by tagging along with my dad, Leon, for a nine-hole round at Westover Golf Course in Ludlow, Mass., when I was 10, showing the impatience typical of a young boy at the time more interested in football and other hobbies.

It wasn't until my freshman year of high school when I started to show a knack for the swing on trips to Annie's Driving Range in Chicopee. My dad wasn't overbearing with any tips, rather just letting me swing away and enjoying time spent together.

The golf bug did bite more and more that year, as I got hooked, finding a copy of Jack Nicklaus' book "Golf My Way." I ended up going out for the high school golf team, just happy to be on the practice team, but not talented enough yet to crack the match roster sophomore year.

Being a man of few words, my dad wouldn't come out and say it, but I think he was pretty thrilled I was loving golf more and more. Always supportive of my interests, my parents surprised me on my 15th birthday with a new set of Spalding Executive woods and irons. That was 1986, which as any golf fan knows was also historic when Nicklaus won his sixth Masters, a final round Sunday afternoon that my dad and I spent glued to the television.

In the spring of 1987, maybe to get me more acclimated to the golfing scene, my dad asked me if I would like to join his Wednesday evening golf league. He worked six days a week as a local truck driver, and Wednesday nights were a much-needed break for him. To be asked to join him, I felt like I had made the big time.

It was the James River Golf League, made up of fellow truck drivers, warehouse workers and other hard-working blue-collar employees. For a

young 16-year-old, it was a great way to learn more about the real world and meet my dad's friends while getting in some match play experience at the same time. After school on Wednesday afternoon, I had the golf bags ready to be loaded in the trunk of the maroon Buick Regal, and off to the course we went – homework be damned. Fun rounds of golf and the drive home made for bonding talk with dad. Priceless.

Again, dad was always ready to support my golf pursuits, as I was lucky enough to get a junior membership to The Orchards in South Hadley in 1987. I remember I was struggling with my game, and my dad just went to walk along with me for nine holes on a Sunday autumn afternoon. He had a great knack of just keeping me calm, one swing at a time. That was a pivotal afternoon as I shot my lowest round for nine holes at that point.

Yes, dad is the one who inspired me to take up the game and stick with the game. Dad, mom and I trekked to Oak Hill in Rochester, New York in 1989 to see Curtis Strange defend his U.S. Open title. One of my favorite memories during a practice round was realizing how much my dad liked Larry Nelson, who won the U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club in 1983. After Nelson striped a tee shot off the tenth tee, my dad hollered "Yeah go Larry!" Mr. Nelson pointed right at my dad, acknowledging his cheer. Dad was fired up.

My dad's favorite player was Arnold Palmer, as it was for many every day, hardworking, Arnie's Army members. Mr. Palmer passed on Sept. 25, 2016. My dad passed a week later. I know somehow, in the great golf beyond, he has or will get nine in with The King. ■

*Chris Miracle writes a Western Mass. notebook in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)*



## Myrtle Beach World Am to Celebrate 40th Year



WINNER TERRY REAM

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.** – The 40th annual [PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com](http://PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com) World Amateur Handicap Championship will begin accepting entries for the milestone event now. A 72-hole, net stroke play tournament, the World Am will be played Aug. 28 – Sept. 1 with more than 3,200 players from across the world are again expected to participate.

Early entry into the tournament, which includes at least four rounds of golf, nightly admission to the World's Largest 19th Hole and a gift bag. The cost for the event is \$699 "The World Am is the game's premier recreational tournament, and the fact we have arrived at Year 40 and continue to

attract a robust field is a testament to the event's enduring appeal," said tournament director Scott Tomasello. "We can't wait to welcome golfers back to Myrtle Beach and provide them the opportunity to compete like a pro over the course of 72 holes and earn the title of World Champion. With everything we have planned for this year's tournament, especially at the World's Largest 19th Hole, 2023 will be a great for our players."

The World Am, which will be played on more than 50 Myrtle Beach area golf courses, flights players based on age, gender and handicap and is open to all golfers 17 years of age and older with a verifiable USGA handicap.

The World Am flights players into 12 divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women (59 and under), senior women (60+), the gross division, senior (50+) gross division, mid-senior (60+) gross division and women's gross division. There is also a "Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experience without the pressure of competition.

After four days of tournament play, all flight winners and ties advance to the World Championship Playoff, an 18-hole shootout that crowns the event's winner. While the competition is initially what lures players to the tournament, it's only part of what keeps them coming back. At the heart of the World Am's appeal is the camaraderie among its participants and much of that kinship is fostered at the World's Largest 19th Hole.

Each night of the event, the 19th Hole overtakes all 120,000-square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, providing participants with free food and drinks, live entertainment,

celebrity guest appearances, a golf expo and more. Among the big names that have appeared at the 19th Hole in recent years are David Feherty, Brandel Chamblee, Charlie Rymer and John Daly.

Players also receive a gift bag that includes a polo, pullover, golf towel, logo'd hat, PGA Tour Superstore gift card and an assortment of other goodies valued cumulatively at \$250. ■

**Editor's Note:** I have attended this event at least a dozen times, and it is a wonderful experience. The people you meet and the fun you have will be with you for a lifetime. I normally drive down (about 850 miles), but there are many flights (including some non-stops) the fly in and out of Myrtle Beach. Going with friends or family makes it even more fun.

For more information, please visit [www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com](http://www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com).

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## Golfing in Scottsdale, Arizona



THE PHOENICIAN COURSE IS TRULY BEAUTIFUL

Last fall we knew we were heading to Scottsdale, Arizona in December for a golf writers event. We did not have a winter issue, but wanted to give our readers a chance to know about the great golf and consider a visit over the winter. What a wonderful time we had, and we needed to plug this wonderful golfing destination that is very enjoyable, and less expensive in the Spring and Fall.

The event was held at WeKoPa in Fort McDowell, Arizona, twenty-five minutes from downtown Scottsdale. They have two of the finest and well-conditioned courses you will ever find. The courses are on an Indian Reservation, so the water supply is not limited

and the courses are always plush. The routing for both of the courses is outstanding. The very nice hotel on the property also has a casino, so there is plenty to do after golf.

We went out a few days before the event and stayed at the magnificent Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale that sits right along Camelback Mountain. We played the course and some of the holes actually go slightly up the mountain. The course is lush and the holes are fun and not too difficult if you play the correct tees, that range from just over 4,500 yards to just over 6,500 yards.

The Phoenician is a Marriott property that has almost 600 rooms and 65 suites and many dining options. The rooms were exquisite and

watching the sun come up each morning made for a wonderful memory. The food and the treatment from the staff is truly world-class.

The Phoenician is also very close to the wonderful Scottsdale shopping areas that makes my better half quite happy. The property opened in 1988, but it was redesigned and upgraded in 2016.

There is so much to see and do in the Scottsdale area. Many of the writers bring their better half to enjoy the weather, the shopping, the golf and the beautiful scenery and wonderful dining. We flew from Boston with one stop in Denver. There are also flights from Providence and Hartford for us in southern New England. You definitely will not be disappointed.

Scottsdale was selected as the North American Golf Destination of the Year in 2019 by the International Association of Golf Tour

Operators. There is some 330 days a year in the area. TPC Scottsdale is home to the Phoenix Open and it is a public golf course. You could play a different course every day for two months in the Greater Scottsdale area. This reporter wouldn't recommend doing that many, but would sure encourage you to consider visit to this wonderland for golf in the United States.

You can call the Phoenician at 480-941-8200 or visit their website. To call WeKoPa, the number is 480-789-5300. ■

***Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and considers the Scottsdale area to be the best golfing destination in America. He can be reached at [bruce@sneoglfer.com](mailto:bruce@sneoglfer.com).***



18TH HOLE AT WE-KO-PA'S 18TH HOLE ON CHOLLA COURSE

## YMCA of the North Shore Offering Four Outstanding Golf Fundraisers in 2023

The YMCA of the North Shore, serving 380,000 residents in 25 communities with seven facilities north of Boston, will conduct four major golf fundraisers on five-star courses in 2023.

The first of the three 18-hole tournaments will be held at Turner Hill, the acclaimed Dana Fry design and former venue for the New England PGA championship, in Ipswich on June 5.

The second event will be held on June 12 at Tedesco Country Club in Marblehead. Tedesco is one of the top courses in the state and recently underwent a major renovation to improve an already outstanding layout with great conditions, tight fairways and small sloping greens which have allowed them to play host to many state and higher-level tournaments.

The third event will be held September 11 at Essex County Club in Manchester By-The Sea, the famed Donald Ross design ranked among the top 100 courses in America by Golf Digest and Golf magazine. The first private golf club founded North of Boston (1893), Essex has hosted two Curtis Cup Matches, most recently in 2010. The final tournament is set for October 2 at Bass Rocks Golf Club in Gloucester, site of a U.S. Women's Senior Open qualifier in 2021.

The individual entry fee for each of the three tournaments are: · Turner Hill \$500 · Tedesco \$500 · Essex County Club \$500 · Bass Rocks \$350 All entries include: · Lunch · Use of practice range · Golf with Cart · Contests · Hors d'oeuvres · Optional raffles and online auctions will be available with many golf specific prizes, including threesomes at many local private golf courses A variety of sponsorships are still available as is special pricing for foursomes.

The YMCA of the North Shore provides

services for more than 50,000 members, including access and support to children and families in the areas of education, health, wellness, mental health, children's care/programming, and summer camp.

Over the last couple of years, the gaps that existed relative to health, wellness, access, and childcare have increased dramatically. The result is that these YMCA's are providing more and more financial support to children, adults and families across all programmatic areas of our facilities. The rapidly expanding need factor is what spawned the YMCA of the North Shore Golf Series as a means of fundraising to eliminate cost as a barrier to access so that support can be provided where needed in these communities.

The North Shore Y started with one event for its Greater Beverly Y at Essex County Club nine years ago and it has become an annual success. Now, it's been expanded to include an event at Turner Hill, Tedesco and Bass Rocks Golf Club. Each club has a storied history and has opened its course to these events in support of the YMCA of the North Shore.

These three events combined will host more than 500 golfers, as well as other individuals who attend lunch, cocktails and or dinner. There will be online auctions, raffles and other non-golf fundraising activities. The collective 2023 target fundraising goal is in excess of \$500,000. ■

*For more information about these YMCA of the North Shore golf tournaments, contact Arthur Athanas at [athanasa@northshoreymca.org](mailto:athanasa@northshoreymca.org)*

## Looking Back May 2008

Volume 15 No. 1 of Ocean State Golf as it was known then, had an aerial picture of Alpine Country Club on the cover. Both pages two and three were about Alpine's early history and the many changes that were currently being made at Alpine. There were a lot more trees then than there are now.

Nick McLaughlin was the insert picture on the cover as he was the Challenge Cup Rookie of the Year. Andres Romero was our Rising Star for the issue—we sure missed on him as he was never heard much from again. There was an article about John Rainone of North Kingstown Golf Course being named the President of the RIPGA. John still holds court at NKGCC.

In a nice article by Bob Dickson, the RIWGA opened its events to all Rhode Island women. It had always been just for members, but Lori DiPersio and her board of directors voted to allow all to compete in their major events. Nancy Chaffee and Gale Hanna were selected to be co-chairmen of those events.

In another story, this by Tim Geary, George Fowler was elected President of the RIGA succeeding Donald Lamb. Mike Vrabel of Patriots fame was interviewed by Bob Dickson. His thoughts were that golf is a relaxing sport and something to do to take his mind off football for a while.

We have a story in this issue about LaSalle winning the Challenge Cup. In 2008 it was the Barrington Eagles who prevailed. The team was led by Jeff Ray and Jared Adams who both tied for second. The winner was Brian Hughes from Fairfield Prep in Connecticut.

This reporter was at the 2008 Masters and we had many pictures from the Wednesday at the Masters. Ian Poulter is pictured with his son, Luke, who was three. Gary Player was playing in his 51st Masters and he also did well in the Par 3 tournament. Justin Leonard had his three

children, Avery, Reese and Luke with him at the Par 3. We spotted a few Rhode Islanders at the event. Nancy and David Chaffee were there as well as four Rhody superintendents—Wayne Zappo, Mark Richard, Richard Lombardi and Jim Piquette who posed in front of Butlere Cabin.

The PGA Merchandise Show had many locals. Brad Faxon (who is still there every year), the late Frank Maio from Northeast Golf Sales, Matt Adams and Larry Lembrecht were also spotted and pictured.

The CVS Caremark Charity Classic was getting set for its 10th year. Nick Faldo would be making his first appearance and others include Paul Azinger, Bubba Watson, Davis Love III and Boo Weekley. ■

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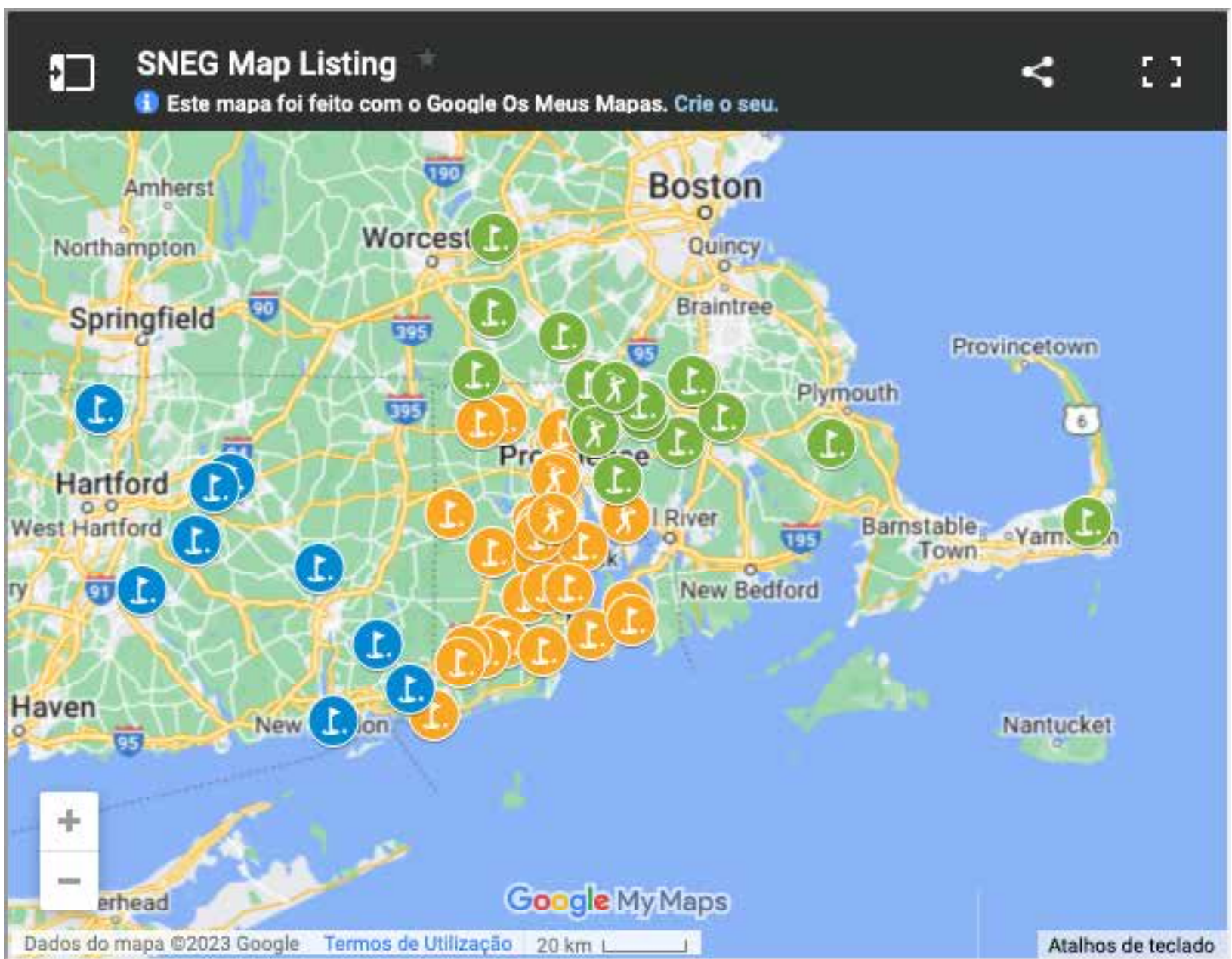
many travel and personal stories. The last issue is always similar to what you are reading now. Ryder Cups and Presidents' Cups always seem to be a staple. We always feature travel stories in every issue. We are looking for places where our readers would enjoy visiting and playing golf. If you have a resort or destination golfing area that you wish to promote, we can do a great job for you. The medical field, financial industry, travel and so many other industries should certainly see the benefit of reaching this demographic of dedicated golfers who read our publication from cover to cover every issue. Each issue of the publication is sent to 80,000 emails. Many people forward it to friends and relatives. You are certainly welcome to see our very competitive advertising rates or set up an advertising schedule for 2023 by visiting [www.snegolfer.com](http://www.snegolfer.com) or calling 401-464- 8445. ■

Regards,

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## MAP KEY

( ) = Holes

P = Public

SP = Semi-Private

X = Executive

CR = Cart Rental

DR = Driving Range

PS = Pro Shop

CH = Clubhouse

O = Outings

SB = Snack Bar

CL = Club Rental

R = Restaurant

L = Lessons

LG = Leagues

S= Simulation

