





NATIONWIDE TOUR | P12
Showtime for red-hot Gore

PGA TOUR | P7
Mile-high relief for Retief

AMERICA'S BEST | P30
Beefed-up Baltusrol

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– Greg Norman, when asked if he knew what caused back problems that eventually required surgery

Oh, when the Shark bites . . .

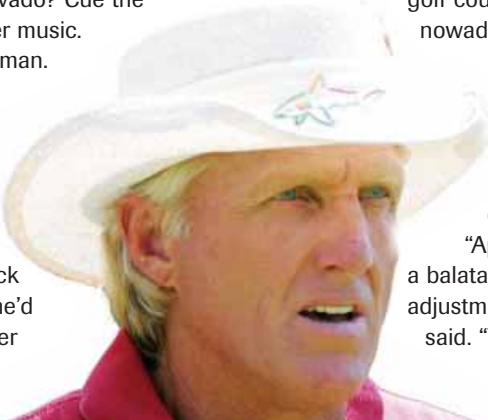
For years, the world has had great fodder for heated 19th-hole debates: Coke or Pepsi? Ford or Chevy? Mary Ann or Ginger? But in today's PC society, few have had the bravado to wade into golf's great time machine query.

As in, both players in their prime, who's better: Jack or Tiger?

Did we say bravado? Cue the Western gunslinger music.

Enter Greg Norman.

“I would say with the technology we have today, with the equipment, if you put that in Jack Nicklaus' hands, he'd be a superior golfer than Tiger



Woods,” the Great White Shark said at The International last week in Colorado. (And no, it wasn't the high altitude talking.) “You've got to remember the equipment Jack used in those days were balata balls that never went anywhere – you had to smash the hell out of it to get anything out of it – and we played long golf courses then. We played 7,100-yard golf courses. So put the technology that we have nowadays in Nicklaus' hands 30 years ago, he'd eat him for lunch.”

Eat him for lunch? Interesting. And what if, instead of fast-forwarding a prime Golden Bear into the 21st century, we put a Tiger Woods, oh, circa 2000, back into Jack's crew-cut heyday?

“Apples to apples, equal equipment . . . give Tiger a balata golf ball and all of that and let him make the adjustments, I think still Jack would beat him,” Norman said. “That's apples to apples.”

Wow. How 'bout them apples?

Practice makes perfect?

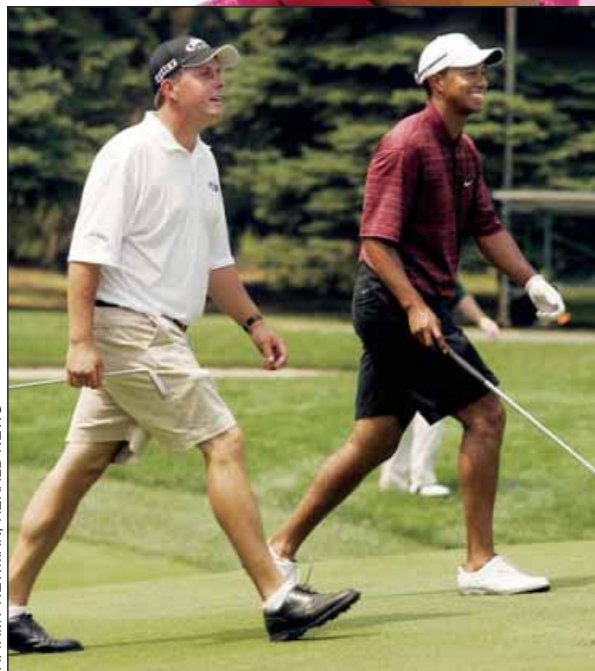
After three consecutive Walker Cup losses to Great Britain & Ireland, the U.S. Golf Association and captain Bob Lewis decided to try something new. And all indications are, the U.S. team's get-together at Chicago Golf Club July 28-30 was a big success. The three-day practice session – the first for an American squad at the host site prior to the week of the event – gave the U.S. players the chance to learn the course and play a lot of foursomes, and it allowed Lewis to try plenty of different pairings.

The real proof, of course, will come this weekend, but Lewis says he thinks the session “paid dividends.”

In addition to three full practice days in perfect weather conditions, the American squad did plenty to build camaraderie, including several team dinners and a trip to Rush Street in downtown Chicago.

“It was a great week of the guys bonding and getting to know each other,” Lewis said. “We've got a lot of good personalities, and I think we're going to mesh well together.”

For the first time, the U.S. team has no mid-amateur, but Lewis doesn't think lack of experience will be a problem. And Lewis says those who thought the selection of 18-year-old Brian Harman (the youngest-ever U.S. player) might have been a mistake don't need to worry – something the Man Out Front already could have told you. “I would match him up against anyone,” said Lewis, calling Harman, who will be a freshman at the University of Georgia this fall, a bulldog who “doesn't have any backdown in him.”



AP/AMY NEWMAN, HERALD NEWS

Shortsighted

OK, so they didn't look so chummy at Oakland Hills playing alongside one another at the Ryder Cup last autumn – and Tom Lehman has said he doesn't plan a 2006 reunion tour at The K Club in Ireland – but Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson managed to play a couple of holes without incident at Baltusrol Aug. 1. The high-powered duo flew in separately and used the off day as a tuneup for this week's PGA Championship.

Interestingly, both golfers played in shorts, which the members at Baltusrol are not allowed to do. When you're Tiger and Phil, apparently, it's rules, schmules.

But if you ever wondered what the PGA Tour might look like if it waived its long pants-only requirement, see photo above.

Tap-ins and Lip-outs

▶▶ E-mail from inside the ropes: One of the more enjoyable characters on the **PGA Tour** is **Fred Funk's** caddie, **Mark Long**. Long played for Funk on the University of Maryland golf team and later played professionally on mini-tours.

Long's latest playful endeavor is that he sends regular e-mails to friends from the Tour. The notes are both informative and entertaining.

For instance, after Funk played with **Tiger Woods** in the first round of the **Buick Open**, Long wrote that Woods missed only three fairways but “hit two spectacular snap hooks – you've never seen a snipe hit so hard – and was talking, going up the last hole, about how good he was hitting it and how he's turning a 65 into a 71. Kind of reminds you of **Gary Player**. I hear he could shoot 80 and only tell you about how perfect he hit his drive on 14. I think that's a lesson in how a champion thinks.”

Long also seemed a bit clairvoyant in that e-mail when he wrote, “Watching (Woods) shooting a 71, you just *know* that a 63 or 64 is coming.” Close. Woods shot 11-under-par 61 the next day.

▶▶ **Morgan Pressel's** caddie, **Sam Hinshaw**, couldn't wait to speak with the media after her 17-year-old boss defeated **Maru Martinez**, 9 and 8, to win the **U.S. Women's Amateur**. Before reporters asked anything, Hinshaw had a few words for **Johnny Miller**, who was critical of her club selection during **NBC's** telecast of the **U.S. Women's Open**. Several times Pressel flew the green during crunch time and Miller chastised Hinshaw for poor decision making. “Tell Johnny I don't pull clubs,” Hinshaw said. “I just give yardages.”

▶▶ With purses that peak at \$75K and scarce endorsement dollars, scratching out a living on the **Futures Tour** can be a challenge. Given this sparse economic environment, the Man Out Front has to give **Meredith Duncan** an entrepreneurial salute. Seems the Shreveport, La., native has been making ends meet by buying and selling grave plots. And just in case the grave gig doesn't work out, Duncan jokingly said she has a backup plan: “I think I could hold a mud-wrestling match between a couple of our really attractive players and I could completely pay for my season at \$10 a ticket!”

▶▶ The Forecaddie has learned that the four-year run of the **UBS Cup** has ended, even though the event is on the Tour's '05 schedule for Nov. 17-20. UBS has decided not to re-up with the Silly – pardon, **Challenge Season** event that pitted the **U.S. vs. the Rest of the World**. With its new \$4 million relationship with **The Players Championship** and a smaller sponsorship with the **Bay Hill Invitational**, UBS has decided to spend its sports marketing dollars elsewhere. ○

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Wednesday Aug. 10

Jeff Rude writes **live** from **Baltusrol** on the eve of the **PGA Championship**.



Michael Vitmas looks at **Tim Clark's** steady climb up the **PGA Tour** ladder.

Thursday Aug. 11

The Brawl at Baltusrol

Our team of **Jeff Rude**, **Jeff Babineau** and **Rex Hoggard** kicks off daily coverage from the **PGA Championship**, where **Vijay Singh**, right, looks to defend and keep **Tiger Woods** from winning his third major championship of 2005.



Weekend Aug. 13-14

Windy City Walker Cup

Ron Balicki, **Alistair Tait** and **Dave Seanor** are on the scene at **Chicago Golf Club**, where the **U.S. Walker Cup team** looks to halt its recent slide and prevent **Great Britain & Ireland's** fourth consecutive victory.

Monday Aug. 15

Jack Nicklaus and **Gary Player** announce their **captain's selections** for next month's **Presidents Cup**. Find out **who they picked** and **why**.

Tuesday Aug. 16

James Achenbach proclaims that golf should be a 15-hole game.



Inthisissue

Competition ... p7 **America's Best** p30
Scoreboard ... p23 **Our Opinion** ... p35
Business ... p28 **Perspective** ... p36

Onthecover

There was no match for Morgan Pressel at last week's U.S. Women's Amateur.
GOLFWEEK/SCOTT A. MILLER

Callaway chief: Sale talk is 'hype'

By *Martin Kaufmann*

As the new chief executive of Callaway Golf Co., George Fellows is in the hottest seat in golf.

Fellows took office Aug. 1, charged with the job of continuing Callaway's turnaround while apparently dealing with at least two bids to acquire the company.

Bain Capital Inc. and Barry Schneider, CEO of

MacGregor Golf, made an all-cash offer of \$16.25 per share, or slightly more than \$1.2 billion, to acquire Callaway, according to an Aug. 4 report in the *Los Angeles Times*. That followed an earlier bid of \$16 per share by Thomas H. Lee Partners and William Foley II, chief executive of Fidelity National Financial Inc.

In an interview with *Golfweek*, Fellows, 62, dismissed the buyout offers, saying, "The uncertainty about the ownership situation is more hype and conjecture on the part of the marketplace than it is reality, frankly." He insisted that his mission is to "help restore (Callaway) to its level of profitability and dominance in the marketplace."

Fellows' employment contract calls for a salary of \$850,000, an annual bonus potentially equal to his salary, and 160,000 restricted shares of common stock. He was granted the option to purchase another 400,000 shares, with accelerated vesting "upon certain change in control," according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

Whether that change of control occurs remains to be seen.

The bids to acquire Callaway, both apparently unsolicited, have highlighted sharply divergent opinions about the company in the financial community. The



Fellows

Callaway bulls see a strong brand that is posting improved results and has a big upside; the bears reason that golf has not been a growth industry since the 1990s, and the commoditization of products is squeezing profitability.

"For the first time in a while, I'm excited (about Callaway)," said Bud Leedom, president of LSI Equity Research and publisher of the *California Stock Report*. "After all these years of talking about the potential of the brand, you get the chance to possibly see it."

Even if the acquisition bids were withdrawn, it's "safe to say Callaway's not going to get back to \$11 (per share)," said James Hardiman, a Midwest Research analyst. "They've proved that they're better than that, and it's already been demonstrated that people are willing to pay more than that for the company."

But Gilford Securities analyst Casey Alexander suddenly turned bearish Aug. 4 and issued a "sell" rating on Callaway. With Adidas-Salomon AG focused on its recent acquisition of Reebok, Alexander doesn't see any obvious strategic buyers for Callaway. He reasons that if a deal is made, "it will be done by a private-equity buyer, which means any premium will be much more modest."

At press time, the company's shares were trading at about \$1 less than Bain's bid, seeming to suggest that many investors doubt Callaway will be sold.

Schneider, managing partner of The Parkside Group, a San Bruno, Calif., private-equity firm, acquired control of MacGregor Golf in August 1998. MacGregor's president, Dana Shertz, is a former vice president of sales at Callaway. Schneider declined via e-mail to comment on his reported bid.

On the web

For more on Callaway CEO George Fellows, read the full transcript of his interview with *Golfweek* at the industry's only all-business Web site - golfweekbusiness.com



Amateur milestone

A young, naive Carol Semple stepped on the first tee of the 1963 U.S. Girls' Junior and wasn't sure she would get the first ball airborne. It was there at Wolfert's Roost Country Club in Albany, N.Y., where a 13-year-old Semple played in her first U.S. Golf Association championship. Carol Semple Thompson, now 56, failed to advance to stroke play last week at the 105th U.S. Women's Amateur but the accomplishment was still significant because she was playing in her 100th USGA event.

"I tried not to let it be a big deal," Thompson said Aug. 2. "I think it's amazing that I've played in 100 but it is just a number. I'm much more interested in winning than playing in my 101st."

A humble Thompson was honored at a pre-tournament players' dinner where she was given a scroll that documented all 100 USGA events. The ceremony included video clips from family members, colleagues,

USGA officials, members of the media and fellow competitors, including Arnold Palmer. There were three standing ovations.

To put the achievement into perspective, Anne Sander played in 92 USGA events and next is Barbara McIntire with 62.

William Campbell and Chick Evans top the men's side with 69 each. Jack Nicklaus has played in 67 and Arnold Palmer in 62.

Thompson's record doesn't include 12 Curtis Cup Matches, five Women's World Amateur Team Championships and five Women's State Team Championships, which would push her total to 122.

Thompson has played in four Girls' Juniors, 40 Women's Amateurs, 32 Women's Opens, 18 Mid-Amateurs and six Senior Women's Amateurs. During the streak, Thompson has won seven championships - the 1973 Amateur, the 1990 and 1997 Mid-Amateurs and the Senior Amateur in 1999-2002. Thompson tied for ninth at the 1972 Women's Open.

- Jay A. Coffin



GOLFWEEK/SCOTT A. MILLER

Watchdog

▶▶ **Best bet:** An all-star cast gathers at Firestone for the WGC-NEC Invitational (ESPN/CBS).

▶▶ **Channel surfing:** Allow the Watchdog to count the weekend snafus. Oops No. 1: The 'Dog saw promos for TNT's coverage of the British Open, played three weeks earlier, on TNT Saturday night and The Golf Channel Sunday. Oops No. 2: Twice within a half-hour of the U.S. Women's Amateur, TGC

showed the same clip of a 10-year-old Morgan Pressel calling into TGC's "Academy Live." And while it apparently was intentional and doesn't qualify as an "oops," it seemed excessive for CBS to air the same

footage of a dinner honoring Castle Pines founder Jack Vickers on Saturday and Sunday. . . . While Pressel was drumming the field at the Women's Amateur and the phlegmatic Retief Goosen was collecting The International title, the weekend's most compelling viewing was the Nationwide Tour's Cox Classic on TGC. From Jason Gore's second-round 59 to Steve LeBrun's consecutive eagle hole-outs Saturday to Gore prevailing in a Sunday playoff against Roger Tambellini to earn a battlefield promotion to the PGA Tour, it was great golf theater.

▶▶ **Blips:** The 'Dog has been known to snap at CBS' Lanny Wadkins at times, so it's only fair that Wadkins get credit for his pointed weekend comments about Phil Mickelson. On Saturday, Wadkins said Lefty's recent spotty play "almost says early exit" from this week's PGA Championship. And when Mickelson was making a late charge Sunday, Wadkins dismissed Mickelson's chances of winning, chirping, "He's good for a bogey or double bogey coming in somewhere." Mickelson subsequently missed a 2-footer to bogey No. 15. Later Sunday, with the tedious Ben Crane dawdling over his approach on No. 18, Wadkins said hitting from the rough shouldn't be a problem for Crane, but then quipped, "Of course, the rough could grow some before he hits it." Lanny, if you keep feeding the 'Dog nuggets like that, he might stop growling at you.



Our view from the couch

Ontheair

THIS WEEK (Aug. 11-14)

PGA Tour ▶▶ **PGA Championship**

TNT: Thursday-Friday (1-7 p.m.), Saturday-Sunday (11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.);

CBS: Saturday-Sunday (2-7 p.m.)

Miscellaneous ▶▶ **Walker Cup**

Golf Channel: Saturday (11 a.m.-1 p.m.), Sunday (4-6 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK (Aug. 18-21)

PGA Tour ▶▶ **WGC-NEC Invitational**

ESPN: Thursday-Friday (2-6 p.m.); **CBS:** Saturday (2-6 p.m.),

Sunday (2:30-6 p.m.)

PGA Tour ▶▶ **Reno-Tahoe Open**

Golf Channel: Thursday-Sunday (9-11:30 p.m., taped)

LPGA ▶▶ **Safeway Classic**

Golf Channel: Friday-Sunday (4-6 p.m.)

Champions Tour ▶▶ **Boeing Greater Seattle Classic**

Golf Channel: Friday-Sunday (6-8:30 p.m.)

Nationwide Tour ▶▶ **Xerox Classic**

Golf Channel: Thursday-Sunday (1:30-4 p.m.)

Olsen: Rankings don't add up

This will only hurt for a moment. Like a flu shot or a bite of haggis.

The Byzantine nature of the Official World Golf Ranking is one of life's curious complexities. A handful of brainy folks get it, and the rest of the herd nervously nods its approval and hopes there won't be a quiz.

There are times, however, when convoluted reality becomes costly. So costly, in fact, that a handful of people without degrees from MIT have taken interest.

Dan Olsen never intended to become the Norma Rae of the Nationwide Tour. He's not a mathematician. He's a locker room philosopher with a quick, cutting wit and one of the purest swings in the game. He's also angrier than hell.

"It's a gross injustice what the World Ranking system does to the Nationwide Tour," Olsen says. "It's blatant, it's gross and everybody knows about it but nobody does anything."

To understand Olsen's concerns requires a crash course in World Ranking minutia.

Players earn points depending on where they finish in each event and the strength of that tournament's field. Points are doubled then devalued by 25 percent every 13 weeks over a two-year period. A player's ranking is based on his points divided by the number of events he's played over the last two years.

Olsen's problem with the system is twofold. First, the winner of the Nationwide's Chitimacha Louisiana Open earlier this year, for instance, earned a meager three points, and this week's PGA Championship winner will pocket 50 points. Secondly, when dividing up ranking points, tournaments count the same whether they're played in Broussard, La., or at Baltusrol in New Jersey.

Add 15 to 20 Nationwide Tour events to a player's record and you end up with a World Ranking well south of the Mendoza line.

"As you play better on the (PGA) Tour, the (Nationwide) points you carried with you – because they are lower – start to drag you down," says Nationwide Tour chief of operations Bill Calfee.

The Titanic didn't get dragged down like that. This year's 20 Nationwide grads have played a combined six majors so far in 2005, getting into those events primarily through qualifying. Breaking into the top 50 in the World Ranking – which assures spots in the four majors – is too difficult with a Nationwide noose.

Last month, the World Ranking board did little to improve the inequity of the system by increasing the points awarded to Nationwide Tour champions from three to seven beginning next year.

"We're moving in the right direction," Calfee



GETTY IMAGES/ANDY LYONS

Dan Olsen says the Nationwide Tour gets slighted by the Official World Golf Ranking points system.

says. "But we still have a ways to go."

At the heart of the issue is where the Nationwide Tour ranks among the world circuits.

Currently, the Nationwide Tour ranks behind the PGA Tour, PGA European Tour, PGA Tour of Australasia and Japan Golf Tour according to the World Ranking system. The Asian Tour, which has purses that are a fraction of that on the Nationwide

Tour, receives the same number of points as the Nationwide Tour.

According to the *Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index* – which ranks players only on who they beat, not which tournaments they've played – the Nationwide Tour is easily the third-strongest circuit on the planet.

"No question in my mind we're the second- or third-best tour in the world," Calfee says.

To support his argument, Calfee points to Jason Gore, the prince of Pinehurst who was ranked 818th in the World Ranking when he teed off in Sunday's final group at the U.S. Open.

"Jason Gore was ranked what, 800th in the World Ranking? Give me a break," Calfee says.

Play better. That's the most common lament when it comes to access on the PGA Tour. For Nationwide Tour grads, a better solution is not to play. When he locked up his card in 2003, Joe Ogilvie sat out four of the last five events to protect his ranking, and Olsen said he'd do the same if he's assured a Tour card.

"Chris Couch (No. 2 on the money list), who already has got his (2006) card, needs to call the Nationwide CEO and say, 'It's not wise for me to play your tour because of the way it buries me in the World Ranking,'" Olsen says. "You think Nationwide wants to lose him?"

Of course, that would require Couch to explain the intricacies of the World Ranking system. And nobody wants that.



Rex Hoggard

rhoggard@golfweek.com

Inbrief

▶▶ **Campbell earns bonus:** Michael Campbell's victory at the **U.S. Open** in July got marginally better Aug. 2, thanks to a 12-year-old deal with an insurance company.

Returning home for the first time since his victory at **Pinehurst No. 2**, Campbell was told that the first professional contract he signed with an insurance company in 1993 contained a clause that said he would receive 10,000 New Zealand dollars (\$6,800 U.S.) if he ever won the U.S. Open.

Campbell, who said he had forgotten about the agreement, donated the money to junior golf.

▶▶ **Whitworth to end playing career:** First, Jack Nicklaus called it a career at the **British Open**. Then, Arnold Palmer said so long at the **U.S. Senior Open**. Now, **Kathy Whitworth** is finished.

Whitworth, whose 88 **LPGA** victories are the most of any American professional golfer, retired from competitive golf Aug. 7 after playing in a **Women's Senior Golf Tour** event.

Whitworth, 65, stopped playing the LPGA in 1990 but has continued to play in a few senior events.

"It's just time for me to move on," Whitworth said after teaming with **Susie Berning** to shoot 72-65 at the **BJ's Charity Classic**, finishing in a tie for 21st (Results, p23). "I don't have anything else to prove. This is going to be the end."

Whitworth won at least one tournament from 1962 to 1978, and her last victory was in 1985 at the **United Virginia Classic**. She also won six majors, although her career was defined by regular tour victories – six more than **Sam Snead** on the **PGA Tour** and **Mickey Wright** on the LPGA.

"I'm looking forward to not competing," Whitworth said. "Pride takes over after a while. You remember how you used to play and how you used to perform shots that you can't play now. That's what's frustrating – knowing you were at a certain level at one point in your career, and you're not there."

▶▶ **New women's tour starting:** A new professional women's golf tour will start in January. **The Cactus Tour**, based in Phoenix, will be run by **Bruce Condon**, a Class A PGA professional who played three years at **Arizona State**.

Yearly membership is \$750 with tournament entry at \$950. The 54-hole tournament will be limited to 120 players. Information on the tour is available at www.thecactustour.com.

Earlier this year, the **West Coast Ladies Golf Tour** ceased operations and left a void for professional women's golf in the western U.S. The **Hooters Tour** recently announced it will begin a women's development tour in Central Florida next year, and the **Grey Goose Gateway Tour** has expressed some interest in a women's professional tour.

In other news . . .

▶ The **Presidents Cup** will be played at **Royal Montreal Golf Club** in 2007. The PGA Tour was to make an official announcement Aug. 15. Royal Montreal is the oldest club in North America and recently played host to the **Canadian Open** in 2001.



GETTY IMAGES/SCOTT HALLERAN

A clause in an early contract earned U.S. Open champion Michael Campbell a bonus.

▶▶ The PGA Tour's official Web site, **pgatour.com**, has been honored with an **Emmy** nomination for Outstanding Achievement for Advanced Media Technology. The National Television Academy has recognized **pgatour.com** for its interactive feature, **TourCast**.

▶ The **LPGA** and **Ladies European Tour** announced that defending champion **Japan** and host country **South Africa** will receive automatic exemptions into the second Women's **World Cup of Golf**. The two-person, 54-hole event is Jan. 20-22 at **Gary Player Country Club** in Sun City, South Africa. The rest of the field will be filled by the top nine countries from each of the LPGA and LET money lists. The tours may invite additional teams to fill the 20-team field. Player selections for each team will be determined by Oct. 15.

▶ The Ladies European Tour has announced the **Volvo Cross Country Challenge**, a bonus pool that will cover the tour's three events in the Nordic region. Points will be awarded to the top 15 finishers at the **Scandinavian TPC** (won by **Annika Sorenstam**), the **Ladies Finish Masters** (Aug. 26-28) and the **Nykredit Masters** in Denmark (Sept. 1-4). A \$100,000 bonus pool will be awarded to the top 10 players on a dedicated Volvo XC Challenge Order of Merit at the end of the final event.

▶ The **Canadian PGA** and the **Royal Canadian Golf Association** announced Aug. 2 that the **Canadian PGA Club Pro** champion will receive an exemption into the field of the **PGA Tour's Bell Canadian Open**. **Ian Doig**, the 2004 CPC winner, will compete at the **Canadian Open** Sept. 8-11 at **Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club** in Vancouver, British Columbia. The 2005 Canadian CPC will be Nov. 21-23 at **PGA Golf Club (North Course)** in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

▶ **Cingular** wireless customers will now be able to access up-to-date PGA Tour information, thanks to an agreement between Cingular and the Tour.

Clarification

▶ *Golfweek* senior writer Jeff Rude wrote the "Teaching Tiger" profile of Hank Haney in the Aug. 6 issue. Rude's byline was inadvertently left off the story.

– Staff and wire reports

Pack passports for golf trips to U.S. neighbors

By Jeff Barr

Beginning Jan. 1, U.S. visitors to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean will need a passport to gain re-entry home. Until the new security measure takes effect, a driver's license and birth certificate are sufficient. Golfers who plan to tee it up in a neighboring nation should take note of the new protocol starting next year.

Some golf travel industry insiders in the affected countries say the measure, initiated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, shouldn't be a major stumbling block in the quest to attract American visitors as long as the tourists are aware of new regulations.

"Golf travelers tend to book in advance and tend to be more educated than most general travelers," said Jim Lee, executive director of the Canadian Golf Tourism Alliance, a consortium with client courses throughout the country. "We just have to make sure that when they book, we tell them a passport is necessary."

"The interest in traveling is still there, and I don't think people will avoid traveling to Canada just because they have to get a passport. It might cause some problems for the last-minute traveler, but that will be taken care of as people become aware of the requirement and get used to the idea."

Canada has had some unique travel challenges in recent years. Golf courses seeking U.S. visitors have had to deal with the consequences of Sept. 11, 2001, like all other travel-related businesses, but there also has been the SARS scare and poor weather that affected the 2004 season in some parts of the country.

"Canada continues to be a great place to play golf," Lee said. "That fact doesn't change."

Rather than hindering golf travelers, the new regulation could be viewed favorably by tourists, according to Richard Kahn of Kahn Travel Communications, a marketing and communications firm based in New York that has several Caribbean golf resort clients.

"Our research shows that a great proportion of golf travelers already have passports," Kahn said. "The passport requirement actually is a positive thing. Our clients are interested in security, too."

Kahn, however, acknowledged that it adds another facet to his company's responsibility. "Of course, part of our job is to make sure that the U.S. golf traveler is aware of the requirement," he said. "As far as I can tell, that's the main impact it will have on us." ○

Competition

Goose returns to rare air at International

CASTLE ROCK, COLO.

Retief Goosen, a two-time U.S. Open champion, is part of a somewhat odd coupling in golf lore. He has become linked with Jason Gore – who last week earned a battlefield promotion from the Nationwide Tour to the PGA Tour. The two played excellent golf for three rounds of the U.S. Open in June, but both collapsed in the final round to eliminate any chance at victory.

Gore since has won three consecutive Nationwide Tour events to make his big leap. And Goosen, on the same day that Gore earned his promotion, came through with a \$900,000 payoff after winning The International. Goosen, after taking a moment to reflect on his victory, took time to congratulate Gore on his.

“That’s great,” Goosen said Aug. 7 when told about Gore’s victory at the Nationwide Tour’s Cox Classic. “He’s such a nice guy and a powerful player as well. Obviously, that bad round (84 in the final round at Pinehurst No. 2) hasn’t affected his game. It shows you he’s got a good mental attitude, and that’s what you need in this game.”

Goosen doesn’t seem to have been adversely affected by his final-round 81 at the Open, either.

While The International is hardly a major championship, the final round was an exhausting day that separated the great players from the good ones.

It made sense, then, that Goosen finished the long afternoon with victory in hand.

Goosen overcame Brandt Jobe down the stretch and outlasted the rest of the field over 36 grueling holes Sunday to win in Colorado. To this point, it had been flops in the final rounds of the U.S. and British Opens that have defined Goosen’s season. But with his triumph at Castle Pines, he achieved the perfect launch into this week’s PGA Championship.

“I wouldn’t say I lost confidence,” Goosen said of the 81 and 74 he shot in the final rounds at Pinehurst and St. Andrews, respectively. “But I was disappointed in the way I played.

“At some stage, you figure the tide is going to turn.”

At The International, Goosen scored 15 points over the final two rounds to finish with 32, one better than Jobe, in the modified Stableford scoring system, which awards 5 points for eagles, 2 for birdies, zero for pars and deducts 1 point for bogeys and 3 for double bogeys and higher.

Jeff Brehaut opened the final round with four consecutive birdies to get in contention and finished third with 29 points. Big-hitting Hank Kuehne was fourth and Charles Howell finished fifth.

Although Goosen has played well enough to be ranked fifth in the world, he was without a victory



GETTY IMAGES/BRIAN BAHR

Retief Goosen’s grueling, 36-hole, mile-high marathon ended in a return to the PGA Tour winner’s circle.

this year. Two of his best chances were lost in the final round of majors – first in a meltdown at Pinehurst that denied him his third U.S. Open title, then in a bad round at St. Andrews that contributed to an easy victory for Tiger Woods.

The competition was nowhere near as stiff in this one – Phil Mickelson was the only other member of the Big Five who played – but there was nothing easy about this day.

The first 36-hole finish on Tour since September 2003 – played at mile-high altitude on the hilly, 7,619-yard Castle Pines course – was a complete mental and physical test.

“My legs started feeling like jelly,” said Goosen, who figured he drank a bottle of water per hole over the final 18.

As the day wore on and fatigue set in, the shotmaking suffered.

It forced Goosen to put his typically methodical spin on what is often one of the more exciting events on Tour. He hit safely into the par-5 17th green for a two-putt birdie, then saved par on No. 18 with a 4-foot putt after hitting his approach into the second cut of fringe.

Jobe, meanwhile, was all over the place.

The veteran, who grew up near Denver and

dominated junior golf in Colorado, could have won the tournament with a birdie on 18, but his chances were hurt when his drive nestled into the rough. His second shot landed 30 feet from the cup and when he left the birdie putt short, he put his hand on his hip and looked down, bemoaning the great opportunity lost.

“It felt like a marathon,” Jobe said. “It didn’t have a lot of feel to it and I’m a player who likes to play on feel.”

Jobe made four consecutive birdies – three to close his third round and one to start his fourth – to take a 9-point lead early in the afternoon. But he closed with four bogeys and one double over the last 17 holes to wind up short of his first Tour victory.

Goosen gave Jobe opportunities to win.

He missed the fairway on four of the final nine holes, but made six pars, two bogeys and one birdie to hang on for his sixth career Tour title.

“At some stage, I was sort of wondering where my golf was going,” Goosen said. “I started practicing more than I used to. I started working harder on my putting than I normally do and that started paying off.”

– Staff and wire reports



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Retief Goosen – Pro V1x
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Europeans' major wait continues

When Colin Montgomerie finished second at the Open Championship and Jose Maria Olazabal tied for third, it was a good showing for the Europeans. But not quite enough to crown a European major champion for the first time since 1999.

That's when Olazabal won his second Masters and Scotland's Paul Lawrie prevailed in the brutal examination that was the Open at Carnoustie.

Olazabal has 12 top 10s in majors and Montgomerie has nine. They have done their best to live up to the legacy established by Europe's "fabulous five" of Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, who combined for 16 major championships between 1979 and 1996.

Olazabal's 1994 Masters title was the only major during that period that was won by a European not in the "Fab Five."

Montgomerie and Olazabal's careers have had many comparisons and contrasts since Ollie topped Monty in the final of the 1984 British Amateur. Olazabal has two major championships; Montgomerie has been denied twice in major championship playoffs (by Ernie Els at the 1994 U.S. Open and by Steve Elkington at the '95 PGA Championship). Montgomerie also

finished second to Els at the '97 U.S. Open.

Olazabal and Montgomerie have combined for 50 PGA European Tour titles, and Montgomerie reigned supreme in Europe when he reeled off seven consecutive Order of Merit titles and reached No. 2 in the Official World Golf Ranking. The pair exemplifies European golf excellence, and set a solid example for those following in their footsteps.



Ken Schofield

Those rooting for the Europeans can only hope that their favorites have been watching closely. It will take some doing to match the accomplishments of Europe's grand pair, but it needs to happen if there is going to be a European major champion anytime soon.

European fans who lament the current dearth of major champions from our side of the pond should know that this isn't the first drought we've experienced. When Tony Jacklin won the Open Championship in 1969, it ended an 18-year dry spell that began after Max Faulkner won the British in 1951.

After Jacklin's Open Championship victory, it was 10 more years before another European won a major – Ballesteros at the 1979 British Open at Royal Lytham. Then began the Fab Five's magic ride between 1979 and '96, during which time the

longest drought was between Ballesteros' Masters titles of 1980 and '83.

The dry spell today has reached six years. Some look to Sergio Garcia to end it. His tie for fifth this year at St. Andrews followed a tie for third at the U.S. Open. It was his 10th top 10 in majors. Toss in six PGA Tour victories since 2001 and all the evidence points to the 25-year-old Spaniard joining the ranks of major champions.

And then there are Darren Clark, Padraig Harrington, Luke Donald and Jesper Parnevik – all winners in the United States. But the question is whether any of them they will turn from contender to champion.

And even for Europeans who might not spend much time on the PGA Tour, the chance for major victory still should be there. It's not where you play, but how you play.

South Africa's Goosen and Els have dominated the European money list for the past four years. The successes of Americans Shaun Micheel (Asian Tour) and Todd Hamilton (Japan Tour) and even Bob May (who took Tiger to a playoff at Valhalla, and had played mostly on the European Tour to that point) prove that a major can be won no matter where you're from or where you play.

The European contenders are there. It's just a matter of finishing the job.

– **Ken Schofield**, former executive director of the PGA European Tour, writes occasionally for *Golfweek*.

Shortgame

▶▶ **Monty's status uncertain:** Colin Montgomerie pulled out of the **Johnnie Walker Championship** after 13 holes of the first round because of a hand injury and was unsure whether he would play in this week's **PGA Championship**.

Montgomerie, playing for the first time since finishing runner-up at last month's **British Open**, hurt the fingers of his right hand Aug. 4 on a shot off the 18th fairway (his ninth hole).

"Hopefully, I can rest up over the next three or four days and manage to go to America on schedule. If not, I won't," Montgomerie said the day of the injury. "I hurt both my index finger and my middle finger. All three middle fingers (are) all bruised and swollen up."

Montgomerie said his grip slipped at the top of his swing.

"It's got to be one of the worst shots I've ever hit," he said.

Montgomerie underwent an MRI and X-rays, and no broken bones nor torn ligaments were discovered. The fingers are severely bruised, but by Saturday Montgomerie was planning on making the trip to Baltusrol to see if he could compete.

"The initial concerns were that Colin had broken a ligament," said Montgomerie's manager, **Guy**



Colin Montgomerie, being driven from the course by chief referee Andy McFee, made the call to withdraw after injuring his hand.

Kinning. "At least there is a chance he will be able to play next week."

▶▶ **Howell hurting:** David Howell, a **Ryder Cup** teammate of Montgomerie's, also pulled out at **Gleneagles** and was in doubt of his status for the **PGA**.

Howell withdrew after Wednesday's pro-am because of an abdominal muscle injury that he believes he sustained at the **U.S. Open** in June. He

withdrew from that event and has not played since.

Howell said he felt he could not play four consecutive rounds, which would keep him out at **Baltusrol**. He said he may target a return the following week at **WGC-NEC Invitational** in Akron, Ohio.

"It's going to be touch and go. We will have to wait and see," Howell said.

▶▶ **Short shots:** **Nicolas Colsaerts'** tie for second virtually guarantees his **PGA European Tour** card for next season. The 22-year-old missed his card at the **Qualifying School** last year and entered the tournament No. 121 on the **Order of Merit**. He is now No. 94. . . . **Steve Webster** of England has never played golf in the United States, but that changes this week. Webster qualified for the **PGA** and will tee it up at **Baltusrol**. . . . Englishman **Mark Foster**, No. 122 on the **Order of Merit** coming into the **Johnnie Walker**, has been working with psychologist **Karl Morris** in an effort to be more positive on the course. "I have been too down and too hard on myself," Foster said. "I have not been good enough mentally all year. Foster was good enough in the first two rounds with 68-70, but finished 77-75. He tied for 33rd at **Gleneagles** and moved to No. 118 on the **Order of Merit** – inching closer to the top 115 and a **European Tour** card for 2006.

– **Alistair Tait** and wire reports

Driving

Pressel makes child's play of U.S. Women's Amateur

Story by Beth Ann Baldry
Photos by Scott A. Miller



ROSWELL, GA.

Morgan Pressel sent many messages with her march to victory at the 105th U.S. Women's Amateur. It turns out her runner-up performance in June at the U.S. Women's Open wasn't even her best golf. Knocking off her peers, as she did in spectacular fashion at Ansley Golf Club's Settindown Creek Course, has become a bit of a bore. No one intimidates this fiery 17-year-old, and at least last week, no one could touch her.

By the way, Pressel says she'd have taken down Michelle Wie, too, if she'd have shown up.

"I came here this week expecting big things of myself," said Pressel while chomping on a Twix bar, a shiny medal draped around her neck. "It's just been like a snowball effect. I just keep playing better."

Who could argue? Over the course of 142 holes, Pressel poured in 47 birdies and one eagle for a combined total of 36 under par. In seven days of competition, Pressel didn't have a single stretch of poor play. Her iron shots were freakishly precise and she made more than her share of clutch putts.

Pressel didn't just beat Venezuela's Maru Martinez on a rainy day in Georgia; she wore her down.

"It was like my body wasn't responding the way I wanted it to," said Martinez, who fell, 9 and 8, in the 36-hole final Aug. 7. "I can't tell you what happened."

Martinez, 21, looked alive throughout much of the morning session, but the Auburn senior came unraveled down the stretch, losing Nos. 16-18 to fall 4 down heading into lunch.

Thunderstorms allowed for an extended break, and when play resumed, Pressel went on to win seven of the next 10 holes.

"She kind of pooped out," said Auburn coach Kim Evans of Martinez. "When she got through, she said 'I'm almost glad it's over.' She's beat."

Settindown Creek uses a wooden rocking chair as



a symbol. While Martinez looked like she could sit for a spell after Sunday's final round, for the most part the miniature rockers that served as tee markers seemed somewhat out of place among a horde of a talented teens.

Which brings us to another message Pressel preached: There's more where she came from.

"The average age of the quarterfinalists, I think I read in the paper, is 17.6," said Pressel. (Actually, it's 17.75, but who's counting?)

home her point

accusing him of “trumpeting junior players” while at the same time stifling their progress. A nervy e-mail for a 17-year-old.

Last month Votaw gave Pressel permission to play in this year’s LPGA Qualifying School at age 17, but said she couldn’t earn official money until she graduated high school and turned 18. Phooey, Pressel says. That puts her well behind the rest of the rookie class of 2006 in official money and Solheim Cup points.

“It’s contradictory,” said Pressel of Votaw’s decision. “I just said, ‘You know you’re promoting this youth movement and not letting anybody play.’ . . . I used an example with Maria Sharapova winning Wimbledon at 17. That certainly didn’t hurt women’s tennis.”

Pressel knows she’s good for the game. Fans know it, players know it, sponsors drool over it. It’s no wonder the outspoken teen can’t figure out why Votaw won’t let her join “the show” as soon as possible.

With one foot in the professional arena and one dragging behind in amateur golf, Pressel has faced the best of both worlds so far this year. And beaten nearly everyone.

Pressel is 3-for-3 in AJGA major competition, including an 11-stroke victory July 28 at the McDonald’s Betsy Rawls Girls Championship. She has finished inside the top 25 in five professional starts this season, including her impressive runner-up showing at the Women’s Open. The rout in Roswell was her second amateur title of the year. In January, she won the Harder Hall Invitational and was runner-up to Taylor Leon at the Doherty Championship.

Pressel, though an amateur, has enjoyed a few perks for her efforts. A pair of size-8 Adidas shoes she wore last week came from a gracious Natalie Gulbis. There’s also a Burberry purse waiting for Pressel at her Boca Raton, Fla., home. Gulbis wanted to give Pressel a little something for making her an extra \$70,000 by finishing tied for second at the Open. (Gulbis tied for fourth but received more money because Pressel received none.)

With all that success, however, it’s still difficult to determine who the “it” girl of the summer is with Wie and Pressel going head-to-head only twice this year, at the LPGA Kraft Nabisco (point for Wie) and U.S. Women’s Open (point for Pressel). Her heart-breaking loss at Cherry Hills added more than a few fans to Pressel’s corner, but Wie’s taking on the PGA Tour also got a lot of folks talking.

Wie had an exemption into this year’s Amateur field but said she couldn’t catch a flight back from the Women’s British Open in time to compete. That didn’t stop The Golf Channel from running a promotional ad touting a Pressel vs. Wie showdown days after she’d withdrawn. It took four phone calls



Early in the final, Martinez celebrated several big chips and putts to keep it close, but Pressel soon took control.

from USGA media officials to get the ad off the air.

“She doesn’t come and play in events where she can lose (and) hurt her marketability,” said Pressel of Wie’s absence. “In that sense, she’s done a great job.”

But even without Wie, there were plenty of junior stars. Thirteen players who advanced to match play at Settindown also had reached the round of 64 at the U.S. Girls’ Junior two weeks prior. The LPGA’s Jill McGill, who served as an on-course announcer for The Golf Channel, wore a Sesame Street T-shirt during the quarterfinal round, perhaps in ▶▶▶



Morgan Pressel stood calm on the 23rd hole as the wheels were coming off for Maru Martinez.

“Hello, an 18-year-old age limit (for the LPGA) isn’t going to work. The good players are young. That’s just the way it is.”

Before teeing off in the quarterfinal round on Friday, Pressel sent an e-mail to LPGA commissioner Ty Votaw, in which she thanked him for changing his mind about allowing her to compete for official money the week of her 18th birthday (which falls on a Tuesday). She then used some brash, no-holds-barred language to chastise the commissioner,

Fiery Aussie awaits a call

Adam Scott, Alison Whitaker is awaiting your phone call.

The tall, blonde Australian figures the least you can do as one of her country's most eligible bachelors is give her a jingle to congratulate her on a spectacular week at the 105th U.S. Women's Amateur. Whitaker did, after all, vault from anonymity to reach the semifinals at Ansley Golf Club's Settdown Creek Course in suburban Atlanta.

"I'm sure he won't call in a hurry," Whitaker said Aug. 7 while in the gallery of the championship match between Morgan Pressel and Maru Martinez. "But a girl can still hope."

While Whitaker loves to joke about her crush on Scott, she certainly showed that her game is nothing to scoff about. Whitaker delivered late heroics in four match-play victories, going to the 17th hole against Ryann O'Toole, the 18th hole against Claire Dury and Maria Uribe, and the 19th hole against Amanda Blumenherst. She eventually lost, 4 and 3, to a red-hot Martinez in the semifinals.

"She took five years off my life," said Al Arnold, an Augusta National looper who served as Whitaker's caddie for the week. "They'll probably be nursing home years, so that's OK."

With each match the fiery, fist-pumping 19-year-old became a gallery favorite. However, it's not entirely clear if she was beloved more for her game or her garb. Her game was sharp and seemed to get better as the week progressed. Her garb, while quite fashionable, showed more skin than Daisy Duke. If this championship were a skins game, it is certain that Whitaker would have won in a landslide, exposing her stomach with each swing because of a short, untucked shirt. It's no surprise that Whitaker grew up idolizing Jan Stephenson, Australia's first golf sex kitten.

"She was a bit of a pinup girl," Whitaker said. "It's what Aussie girls strive to be like – in the media's eye and still playing good golf."

When Whitaker arrived on American soil for the first time two months ago, she wasn't sure if she had what it takes to play well for the entire summer. So, along with Aussie pal Kristie Newton, Whitaker played in everything she could, which included the Women's Western Amateur, a couple of Colorado state events and the Women's Amateur qualifier. (Whitaker took temporary membership at Mira Vista Golf Club in Aurora, Colo., so she could be eligible for the Colorado tournaments.)

ROSWELL, GA.

After qualifying for the Amateur, she jetted back to Australia for a two-week break before coming back to the U.S. Three days before she was to return to the States, Whitaker was involved in an auto accident when a nun slammed into the back of her car. Whitaker's mother told her it was an omen that meant she'd play well in Atlanta. Whitaker jokingly replied that she wished the nun simply would have told her she was going to play well instead of ruining her car. Still, neither Whitaker nor her mother could have imagined how well her week at Settdown Creek would turn out.



Jay A. Coffin
jcoffin@golfweek.com

"I didn't know how my body was going to hold up, and I had played 12 out of the last 13 weeks," said

Whitaker, who goes by Al. "After all that, my best tournament was at the end."

The newfound success has given Whitaker plenty to think about. Although she trains at the Victorian Institute of Sport and still has three years of college remaining, Whitaker is contemplating a move to the U.S. next year to play college golf.

"That's all dependent on the offers I get," Whitaker said. "I don't want to come over for a mediocre offer, but if it's worthwhile I'll look into



Australian Alison Whitaker's transition to American golf has been a bit less stressful than a hack in tall fescue.



GOLFWEEK PHOTOS/SCOTT A. MILLER

it. This year I've been taking in all the information I can. I wanted to see how emotionally and physically I could hold up over here. It was a good positive finish for my mind to know that I can do this."

While Whitaker was doing "this," she seemingly received support from Aussies everywhere. She turned her cell phone off during the week, occasionally checked her numerous messages and returned only those from her immediate family. Whitaker says she told only a select few that she was at the Amateur and doesn't know how so many people heard about her performance.

"It must have spread like a disease," she said.

"A good disease."

The only familiar face during the championship was that of Newton, the daughter of Australian golf legend Jack Newton who was wearing an Australian flag around her waist and had more flags temporarily tattooed on her face, arms and legs. Since Newton failed to qualify for match play, her lone duty for the week was to keep Whitaker at ease off the course. The duo killed their down time swimming and reading Harry Potter books at their host family's house.

This summer has taught Whitaker many lessons – that it's difficult to eat healthy because junk food is so tempting and that Americans possess the best life has to offer. Whitaker says she considers Americans extremely friendly but says the golf tournaments are "semi-corporate" because every last detail is handled. In Australia, Whitaker says she must buy her own drinks, find her own caddie or pull a cart around for 18 holes. Here, the only worries a player has is on the course. Happily, Whitaker didn't have many worries there, either.

"It's been interesting," Whitaker said. "I came from Australia, where a lot of people know me. I come here, where nobody knows me. I play well, and everybody knows me. Now, I'll go home and just be Alison again."

And wait for Adam Scott's phone call. ○

GOLF WEEK PHOTOS/SCOTT A. MILLER



Prange, left, and Mackenzie: opponents and teammates.

Teammates tangle

When **Sara Prange** saw that her daughter, Amber, would face **Paige Mackenzie** in the first round she couldn't believe her eyes. Of all the people **Amber Prange** could have played, she was paired against Mackenzie, her **University of Washington** teammate. The entire Prange family watched as Amber blew a 6-up lead through nine holes and lost to Mackenzie on the 19th hole after three-putting from 25 feet for bogey.

"I played consistent on the front, then we totally switched our nines," Prange said. "I stopped playing the course and I started to worry more about what she was doing. I can't do that in match play."

Prange and Mackenzie have been friends for nearly three years, since Mackenzie escorted Prange around the Washington campus during a recruiting trip.

At the Amateur, Prange jumped to the early lead and was 4 up through the first four holes, then won Nos. 7 and 8. Mackenzie later admitted that she didn't eat much at the turn because she didn't plan on being on the course much longer, playing as poorly as she was. But Prange started to hit loose shots and Mackenzie began to find her rhythm. Mackenzie won the 10th hole with a birdie and didn't make another birdie until the 18th, yet still found herself with a chance at victory. Mackenzie won Nos. 11, 14, 16 and 17 with pars.

"Honestly, she didn't play well on the back, she didn't play her game," said Mackenzie, who bowed out in the second round with a loss to 15-year-old **Ayaka Kaneko**. "I've seen her play every day and that wasn't her game. It wasn't my game on the front either, though. I'm not sure if I woke up on the wrong side of the bed but I played horrible."

Shortgame

►► **Unlucky seven:** Standing on the 18th tee in her last amateur event, **Tina Miller** realized she had only one ball left in her bag. The recent **Miami** graduate, who opened stroke-play qualifying with a 92, snap-hooked her tee shot "into the junk." With no ball to hit as a provisional, Miller headed down the fairway to begin her search. After locating her ball, Miller punched out to the fairway and had 81 yards into the green. She tried to "get too cute" with her approach, however, and dunked her last ball into the pond guarding the 18th green. She was done.

Except the 18th hole was only Miller's ninth of the day. In eight holes, Miller lost "six or seven" balls and was 17 over par. Her first three holes included a triple-quadruple-triple stretch. And it didn't get much better after that.

"Now I can laugh about it," Miller said. "Obviously, I know I'm still a good golfer. I tried really hard."

Miller, who has a superstition about carrying seven balls in her bag, says the trouble started in May when she sprained her left ankle just before the **NCAA East Regional**. Unable to put much weight on her left side through impact, Miller says she developed a tendency to favor the left side. While her injury has fully healed, the habit has left her swing out of sync.

Needless to say, Miller plans to spend time with her instructor before making her professional debut Aug. 25 at the **LPGA's Wendy's Championship for Children**. She also plans on carrying more than seven balls in her bag from here on out.

►► **Cars and pars:** **Alejandra Martin** has spent more time selling Nissans at her father's car dealership in Guadalajara, Mexico, than she has playing tournament golf. Two years ago, Martin, 23, arrived in Tucson prepared to follow in the footsteps of good friend Lorena Ochoa at the University of Arizona. After qualifying for the fall's first event, Martin learned two days before departure that she didn't have enough credits from Mexico to play.

A frustrated Martin sat out until postseason play, where she finished 10th at the **NCAA Central Regional** in her college debut. She closed the season with a T-62 showing at the **NCAA Finals** and never went back. Martin thought about turning professional but instead



Alejandra Martin was focused enough to reach match play.

decided to divide her time between the practice range and the car lot. Martin heads the marketing department at the Nipejal dealership but drives a shiny white Volvo S40 to practice every morning.

While the athletic Martin has been diligent in her practice, tournament opportunities are few in Mexico. Martin finished third at the **Mexican Amateur** earlier this year and played in both **LPGA** events held in her homeland: the **MasterCard Classic** (missed cut) and **Corona Morelia Championship** (T-76). The only other tournament on her 2005 schedule was the **Women's World Cup**, where she teamed with Ochoa to finish eighth.

"It's hard for me to start a tournament," said Martin,



Angela Park, 16, above, lost to champion Morgan Pressel.

who hasn't played in a tournament since April. "Suddenly you're in a tournament and it's like, 'Focus!'"

So far the rust is shaking off nicely. Martin shot 75-73 to easily advance to match play, but lost in the first round to **Lorraine Ballerano** on the 18th hole. She'll remain in the United States to play in the **Women's North and South Amateur** this week, then plans to enter **LPGA Q-School** as an amateur.

►► **Short shots:** Duke senior **Liz Janangelo** shot 80-78 and Duke junior **Anna Grzebien** shot 77-83 and failed to make match play. On the other hand, incoming Duke freshmen **Jennie Lee** and **Amanda Blumenherst** both made match play. Blumenherst won one match and Lee won three. . . . Twelve of the 16 players in the third round were teenagers, and the average age was 17.75. And seven of eight quarterfinalists were teenagers. . . . **Morgan Pressel** defeated a 14-year-old (**Jane Rah**), 15-year-old (**Mina Harigae**), 16-year-old (**Angela Park**), 17-year-old (**Sooji Cho**) and 18-year-old (**Jennie Lee**). Had **Alison Whitaker** defeated **Maru Martinez** to get to the championship, Pressel would have faced a 19-year-old. Martinez is 21. . . . There were five current or soon-to-be **UCLA Bruins** at the **Women's Amateur** and all qualified for match play (**Jane Park, Hannah Jun, Amie Cochran, Tiffany Joh** and **Ryann O'Toole**).

– Beth Ann Baldry and Jay A. Coffin

On the web

Jane Rah: Plenty to cheer about

<http://www.golfweek.com/amateur/womens/308044372148436.php>

Final round photo gallery

<http://www.golfweek.com/309892812735264.php>

Moore pays tribute in Pinehurst win

Sean Moore missed a short putt on the 36th hole to win the 105th North and South Amateur Championship. He wasn't going to miss a 5-footer on No. 37.

Moore birdied the first extra hole and left Ryan Posey a runner-up for the second year in a row at Pinehurst No. 2. The Wake

Forest junior joins former Demon Deacons Curtis Strange, Billy Andrade, Gary Hallberg, Jack Lewis, Billy Joe Patton and Joe Inman as North and South champions.

As he often does, the 20-year-old Moore wore knickers and a Ben Hogan-style hat in honor of the late Payne Stewart, who won the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinehurst just months before his death in an airplane accident.

"I first started wearing them when I was 5 or 6," Moore told *The Fayetteville* (N.C.) *Observer*. "Payne was my favorite golfer and I wanted to do everything like him. . . ."

"Knowing I've won here now, where he (Stewart) won the '99 Open, well, there's a lot of emotion."

Posey – an Oklahoma State junior who fell to Martin Ureta, 3 and 2, in last year's North and

PINEHURST, N.C.

South final – led by three after the first 18 holes, but Moore won the 20th and 23rd holes to close within one, then took a 1-up lead with birdies on the 29th and 30th holes. Posey, however, rallied with birdies on the 34th and 36th holes to pull even and force an extra hole.

On the 36th hole, with the hole location in the same position as the final round of the '99 Open, Posey played an iron shot from the left rough to 15 feet below the hole. From the right rough, Moore then stuck his approach a few feet left of the hole.

Posey made his birdie putt, then Moore's slippery putt broke just below the hole and lipped out, sending the match to the 37th hole.

This time, Posey's approach came to rest 20 feet left of the hole, and Moore again hit his second shot inside of Posey, to 5 feet. Posey's birdie putt slipped by the hole, then Moore knocked his putt into the center of the cup for the victory.

Posey defeated Wake senior and U.S. Walker Cup team member Kyle Reifers, 1 up, in Saturday's semifinals. The match was a rematch of last year's semis, when Posey needed 21 holes to advance. Moore defeated Eddie Peckels, a Notre Dame sophomore, in the other semifinal, 3 and 1.

– Staff and wire reports



GOLFWEEK/SCOTT A. MILLER

Sean Moore, shown at a college event this past fall, often wears knickers to honor Payne Stewart, his childhood idol.

All Americans at British Seniors

MILTON KEYNES, ENGLAND

Alan Foster became the sixth American golfer in seven years to capture the British Seniors Open Amateur Championship Aug. 5 at Woburn Golf & Country Club.

Foster, 62 of Syracuse, N.Y., closed with a 76 for a 54-hole total of 6-over 222, giving him a one-shot victory over Alex Tarumianz of Chattanooga, Tenn. Detroit amateur John French was third at 224, as

U.S. players occupied the first nine places. Keith Stimpson of Wales and Maurice Kelly of Ireland were the nearest European contenders at 12-over 228, six shots back.

"I'm very happy but also relieved," said Foster, who was one of only two players to break 70 all week on Woburn's Dukes and Duchess courses. "This was a struggle because these courses are quite tight. I came here thinking I had a chance but I didn't think it would be mine after I started badly today."

Foster began the day tied for the lead at 3 over with Tarumianz, French and Robert Morris but got off to a slow start before finding his rhythm.

"I bogeyed the first to slip behind, but after the first four or five holes I began to hit the ball well," he said. "I didn't make a lot of putts today but I got a couple of good bounces, which is what you need."

– Staff reports

Shortgame

►► Prugh captures Pacific Coast title: Alex Prugh of Spokane, Wash., shot a 3-under-par 69 to come from behind and win the 39th Pacific Coast Amateur Championship Aug. 5 at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. The 20-year-old University of Washington junior joined his sibling, Corey, who won in 2001, as the only brothers to win the event.

Prugh's 5-under 281 (72-70-70-69) on the Bandon Dunes and Pacific Dunes layouts was good for a three-shot victory over UNLV senior Andres Gonzales (69) and four better than U.S. Amateur Public Links champion Clay Ogden (75), a BYU junior who led after each of the first three rounds but faded on the back nine in stiff winds that were present all week along the Oregon coast.

"I didn't hit the ball all that well, but I didn't get into trouble and made a lot of 6- to 7-foot par putts," said Prugh, who won the Washington State Amateur earlier this summer.

Ogden, who began the day with a two-shot lead, had three birdies on the first four holes to increase his lead to three, but could not sustain his early momentum. He followed his birdie run with three bogeys on the front nine, then made consecutive three-putt double bogeys on Nos. 14 and 15 to fall four shots behind Prugh.

Prugh's victory marks the fourth time in the past five years the title was won by a Washington resident, and the 2003 winner, James Lepp of British Columbia, attends the University of Washington.

►► Short shots: A lightning delay was the only thing that could slow down Cheyenne Woods Aug. 4 on her way

to victory in the girls' division at the 37th Trusted Choice Big "I" Junior Classic. Woods, whose uncle, Tiger Woods, twice won this tournament as a teenager, had extended her lead to eight strokes after 15 holes when the horn sounded. After her lead shrank to three strokes following the ninth hole, she gained five strokes over the next six holes to put the field away. Woods, 15, of Phoenix, finished with a 4-over 76, and shot a 12-over 300 total over 72 holes to win by seven strokes. In the boys' division, Cameron Edens, 16, also of Phoenix, shot a 3-under 69 for a 4-under 284 total to edge Dodge Kemmer, 17, of Wichita, Kan., by one. . . . Tim Jackson closed with five consecutive birdies, including a 20-foot putt on the 72nd hole, to win the 90th Tennessee Amateur Championship Aug. 5 at Memphis Country Club. Third-round leader Danny Green and Bryce

Ledford missed putts on the last hole that would have tied Jackson. Jackson's final-round 5-under 65 gave him a 6-under 274 total and his fourth Tennessee Amateur crown. He also won in 1994, '98 and 2001. . . . Amateur Nathan Smith won the 2005 Frank B. Fuhrer Jr. Invitational, a professional event, Aug. 3 at The Pittsburgh Field Club. Smith finished with a 13-under 271 (65-72-66-68), five shots ahead of Daniel Braun of Indiana (Pa.) Country Club. Because Smith is an amateur, Braun received \$25,000 for his second-place finish. . . . University of Illinois men's coach Mike Small shot a 5-under 67 in the final round for an 8-under 208 total and his second Illinois Open victory in three years Aug. 3 at The Glen Club. Small, who won the PGA Club Pro Championship in June, is playing in this week's PGA Championship.

– Staff and wire reports

Sorenstam belle of her own ball in Sweden

LODDEKOPINGE, SWEDEN

The world's No. 1 player couldn't possibly lose her own tournament, could she?

Annika Sorenstam didn't let it happen, sinking a birdie putt from 27 feet on the 72nd hole to defeat Natalie Gulbis by a stroke at the Scandinavian TPC.

Sorenstam, the event's host, closed with

72 for a 4-under 284 total at Barseback Golf and Country Club. It was her 75th title worldwide and her seventh this year, including six on the LPGA.

On the final hole, a par 4 rated the toughest on the course, Sorenstam drove into the trees on the right, but managed to get her approach to the green.

"I was lucky," said Sorenstam, who was hugged by her parents after her

victory. "I was able to take a full backswing. I had an 8-iron, a perfect club, the ball went through the trees and onto the green. It was one of those shots that I probably will never forget."

Neither will Gulbis, a 22-year-old American seeking her first pro title.

"I birdied three of the last five holes and I was hoping to have my first playoff," said Gulbis (70). "Who better to have it against than Annika?"

Playing in the next-to-last group, Gulbis tormented the Barseback gallery by making consecutive birdies at Nos. 14-16 for a one-shot lead over Sorenstam. But the Swede answered with a birdie at the 16th to tie it.

"Natalie played some great golf down the stretch . . . She pushed me until the end," Sorenstam said.

Sweden's Carin Koch (71) and French players Patricia Meunier-Lebouc (71) and Gwladys Nocera (74) shared third at even-par 288.

Sorenstam won the year's first two majors – the Kraft Nabisco and LPGA Championship – and six of

her first eight events. But she had a disappointing U.S. Women's Open and was fifth at the Women's British Open the week before coming home and getting her game back in order.

"I had a great time at this party," she said. "I hope everybody else did."

►► **Short shots: The Scandinavian TPC** replaced the **HP Open**, which Sorenstam won last year at **Ullna Golf Club** near Stockholm. Next year's event will be held at Sorenstam's home course, **Bro-Balsta Golf Club**. . . **Gwladys Nocera** (T-3) and **Maria Hjorth** (T-7) strengthened their positions in the European **Solheim Cup** points race with top-10 finishes. Nocera jumped from seventh to fourth with 118.35 points, and Hjorth remained sixth with 108.5. With only two events left before seven players earn automatic spots, **Veronica Zorzi** of Italy holds down the No. 7 spot with 108 points. **Trish Johnson** of England is eighth with 90.3 points and **Minea Blomqvist** of Finland is ninth with 83.33.

– Staff and wire reports



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Table with player names and scores for AGJA Memorial Junior Dornoch GC. Includes boys and girls sections.

Table with player names and scores for Lockton Kansas City Junior Kansas City CC, Mission Hills, Kan. Par 70, Aug. 2-4

Table with player names and scores for various junior tournaments. Includes boys and girls sections.

Burgett H. Mooney Jr. Rome Classic Coosa CC, Rome, Ga. Par 70, Aug. 2-4

Table with player names and scores for Burgett H. Mooney Jr. Rome Classic.

Table with player names and scores for Callaway Golf/PGA Junior Series at Penn St. University GC, State College, Pa. Par 72, July 31-Aug. 2

Table with player names and scores for Callaway Golf/PGA Junior Series at Penn St.

Table with player names and scores for Big "I" Junior Classic Kampen Course, Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex, West Lafayette, Ind. Par 72, Aug. 1-4

Table with player names and scores for Junior Rice Planters Snee Farm CC, Mt. Peasant, S.C. Par 72, Aug. 1-3

Table with player names and scores for Optimist International Junior Golf Championship PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Par 72, July 28-31

Table with player names and scores for Maine Junior Golf Championship Val Halla Golf & Recreation Center, Cumberland Par 72, Aug. 2-4

New York 49th Junior/Boys Amateur Championship Centerpointe CC, Canandaigua Par 71, Aug. 2-4

Table with player names and scores for New York 49th Junior/Boys Amateur Championship.

Girls Amateur Championship Centerpointe CC, Canandaigua Par 71, Aug. 2-4

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Lightweight battle

Graphite shaftmakers bid for bigger iron business

By Martin Kaufmann

Jean-Francois Remesy's June victory at the French Open might have gone largely unnoticed in the United States, but not at graphite shaftmaker Aldila Inc.

Remesy's victory was the first achieved using Aldila's new NV iron shafts, and the company quickly hailed it as evidence that the world's best golfers might become receptive to using graphite-shafted irons. The thinking at Aldila and other graphite shaftmakers is that if they can garner broader acceptance on the major tours, they can begin to shift more of the consumer iron market from steel to graphite.

"It's the next real frontier in our industry," says Pete Sanchez, president of Fujikura Composites.

Their optimism is fueled by the fact that metalwood sales have been booming this year – including a 35.3 percent increase in units sold at retail in June, according to Golf Datatech – and much of that is being driven by hybrid clubs that are replacing long irons. (The research firm combines hybrid and metalwood sales.) According to Mike Rossi, Aldila's vice president of sales and marketing, roughly 80 percent of hybrids are sold with graphite shafts. It's a trend he reasons could lead more golfers, particularly better players, to try graphite in all of their irons.

Not so fast, says Chad Hall, marketing director at True Temper, which makes about 70 percent of the steel shafts used in irons globally. He points to National Golf Foundation figures indicating steel-shafted iron shipments to retail were up 11.7 percent in 2003 and 16.7 percent in 2004, while graphite was flat.

And club manufacturers remain dubious. Pat Loftus, Ping's vice president of sales and marketing, says graphite accounts for about 30 percent of his company's iron sales, "and we're not forecasting anything significantly different next year."

The steel-graphite debate is not new. Lightweight graphite has long been characterized as a product best suited for players with slow swing speeds, but it has suffered from the perception that it doesn't provide the feedback and consistent ball flight of steel, hindering acceptance among better players.

"This market is driven by what people see being used out on Tour, and most of them are using steel," says Robb Schikner, vice president of research and development at Graphite Design. While Schikner has a stake in growing graphite's share, he points out that at a typical PGA Tour

event, there are only about five graphite-shafted sets in play, and maybe twice that number on the Champions Tour. And Chris McGinley of Titleist, which generally gears its irons toward better players, notes that less than 5 percent of his brand's sets are sold with graphite.

"Until we see more graphite irons being put into play by the Tour, top club pros and amateurs, this number will probably stay the same," he writes in an e-mail.

Gidge Moody, TaylorMade's global director of product marketing, notes that shaftmaker G. Loomis made inroads on the Tour in the 1990s with graphite iron shafts weighing about 100 grams – heavier than standard graphite, but still less



Jean-Francois Remesy used Aldila's NV iron shafts in his French Open victory.



Graphite iron shafts are plentiful, but cost and other concerns have limited their popularity.

than steel.

"Tour players were definitely playing graphite and open to it," Moody says. But, he adds, "The manufacturing processes that were in place did not allow for consistency in the irons."

So graphite's first big opportunity to penetrate the Tour was lost.

Gene Simpson, vice president of operations at United Sports Technologies, says graphite makers have erred in trying to bulk up graphite shafts to make the weight more comparable to the steel shafts Tour players favor. The effect, he says, has been to "dull the feel because you have so many wraps."

Resurgent Aldila wields big stick

By Martin Kaufmann

Pete Mathewson has become that rarest of golf executives: one with Wall Street groupies.

The analysts and investors who phoned in late last month to hear Mathewson, Aldila's chief executive, deliver the shaftmaker's second-quarter earnings sounded less like hardened financial rainmakers than smitten schoolgirls hoping for an autographed 8" by 11".

"Terrific work," said one analyst.

"Great quarter," said another.

"Congratulations," chimed another.

It's good to be Pete Mathewson these days. Aldila, which was posting large losses just a few years ago, now looks more like a growth stock – another rarity in golf. Its share price has doubled over the past year and is pushing \$27, a level not seen in nearly seven years, gross margins are back up in the 40 percent range not seen since the heady days of the mid-1990s, and consumers still can't seem to get enough of Aldila's ubiquitous NV shafts.

Not bad, considering the financial hole into which Aldila had fallen. It was only a few years ago that Aldila's shares could be had for less than \$2, its average shaft prices were down nearly 60 percent from the titanium-fueled boom years of the 1990s, and gross margins had fallen into the teens.

GETTY IMAGES/RICHARD HEATHCOTE

"We've actually been taking high-tech materials and downgrading them to meet the specs of steel," Simpson says.

Adds Sanchez: "For the average player, graphite is the best product. It's convincing the lower-handicappers that's the challenge."

Graeme Horwood isn't buying this argument. Horwood, vice president of engineering and research and development at True Temper, says he used to oversee comparison tests between steel and graphite shafts, but stopped long ago because the numbers consistently favored steel. He emphasizes that he doesn't have a dog in this fight; True Temper also markets graphite shafts.

Hall, his colleague, sums up the findings: "When you compare the distance control, trajectory control and dispersion control of steel vs. graphite, there really can be no comparison between the two."

Aside from performance questions, a more fundamental issue is price. The gap between the price of sets of irons shafted with steel or graphite has narrowed in recent years, but graphite sets usually are at least \$100 to \$200 more expensive. For premium graphite, that gap could widen considerably. Rossi, for instance, says the retail price of a single NV Iron shaft is \$50, about five to six times more than a steel shaft.

While graphite marketers are trying to move in on True Temper's turf, the Memphis, Tenn., manufacturer is countering with lighter steel shafts, such as the Dynamic Gold SL, which is slightly more than 100 grams, or 20 percent less than its standard Dynamic Gold. In Japan, Hall notes that the company also markets the M80 shaft, which is slightly more than 80 grams, and is considering bringing it to the United States.

Similarly, Ray Lucas, vice president of sales and marketing at Royal Precision, which also sells steel and graphite shafts, says his company is launching a new, 80-gram steel shaft called Precision MicroLite.

Aldila's Rossi argues that these light steel shafts have their own performance issues. Specifically, thinning out the shaft walls and increasing the diameter to maintain stiffness can lead to a harsh feel at impact. Horwood acknowledges this has been an issue, but says True Temper has addressed the vibration characteristics of newer, lightweight steel shafts.

These products and other offerings, he says, have helped steel "re-establish itself with better performance in irons." Graphite marketers no doubt would argue that point, but acknowledge they still have to surmount perceptions about the performance of their iron shafts.

"Sometimes," says UST's Simpson, "that's the hardest thing to overcome."

Mathewson wasn't merely lacking for financial groupies. He wasn't even bothering to hold quarterly earnings calls.

"There wasn't enough interest," Mathewson says simply.

That's all changed. Graphite shaft manufacturers have enjoyed a revival the past two years, driven by the power of branded products, and Aldila, because it is a publicly traded company, has been the most visible example of this. It might be an overstatement to call the NV the shaft that saved the company, but it certainly provided a much-needed lifeline during difficult times.

Those financial problems came to a head in 2001, when Aldila took a staggering \$54.9 million writeoff, leading the company to report a net loss of \$51.4 million. The company still was losing money in 2003, but there were signs of a recovery. Sales of lower-margin shafts fell, as did total unit sales, but average selling prices rose 11 percent as sales of branded products jumped 78 percent compared with 2002.

By 2004, the NV product line had taken on a life of its own, propelling a 271 percent increase in Aldila's branded shafts as average selling prices rose 22 percent, and the company swung to a \$9.3 million profit.

In simplest terms, says Hank Miller, an investment adviser for RBC Dain Rauscher, "They were able to substitute a higher-margin business for a lower-margin business."

Miller jumped aboard the NV bandwagon two years ago after a friend raved to him about the shaft's performance. He looks for growth stocks with high margins, and he thought Aldila, then selling for \$3 a share, might fit the bill. He remains enthusiastic, noting that Aldila's backlog of orders was higher at the end of the second quarter than the first. If not for concerns that demand for the NV might eventually fizzle, Miller said the company's shares could be rising even faster.

Aldila's return to fiscal health, Mathewson notes, roughly coincided with the USGA's decisions to regulate

Aldila's numbers

	2005*	2004	2002
▶ Sales	\$39.6	\$52.8	\$37.5
▶ Net income	\$7.0	\$9.3	(-\$2.8)
▶ Gross margin	39.2%	34.0%	12.4%

Notes: Dollar figures in millions. *First six months.

the size and performance of drivers. Rather than focusing on sales of low-margin stock shafts, companies such as Aldila, Fujikura and Graphite Design had begun marketing much more expensive, exotic shafts that became a key selling point for metalwoods manufacturers.

"The time was right. They were needing something with the head size boxed in at 460cc and the (coefficient of restitution) at .83," Mathewson says.

He also believes Aldila has benefited from the fact that it is vertically integrated, operating its own prepreg and carbon-fiber plants. Mathewson notes that Carbon Fiber Technology LLC – in which Aldila has a 50 percent stake – "was put in at the wrong time" and initially contributed to the company's financial problems. Now, with increased worldwide demand for carbon fiber and rising costs, "It's an asset," he says. Aldila produces more than 60 percent of the carbon fiber it needs.

The company has experienced some hiccups. Its One shaft, the first branded product in Aldila's comeback campaign, suffered from a "complicated message" – a broad selection of tip stiffness, weights and flexes – and poor cosmetics, Mathewson acknowledges.

But he's convinced the NV "still has incredible momentum," particularly with line extensions into hybrid clubs and irons.

If Mathewson is right, his new-found popularity on Wall Street won't be short-lived.

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Robert Trent Jones Sr. heefed up Baltusrol's fourth in the early 1950s.

Baltusrol: Longer, tougher, blander

By Bradley S. Klein

SPRINGFIELD, N.J.

This must be is what it takes to get a golf course into shape for a major these days. First you stretch it, then you narrow it at the landing areas. Make sure it's dense, lush and green from wall to wall so that no one has a bad lie. Finally, add 156 players, all trying to bash the ball as far as they can before they look up at the course.

Critics who suggest Baltusrol Golf Club's Lower Course lacks strategic variety and interest are only slightly misplaced in their concern. There is much subtlety and character in the form of canted fairways, uneven lies, up-and-over approaches into greens, complex putting contours and sharp roll offs around greens. But the course also has lost some character from A.W. Tillinghast's original 1922 design.

Prior to the 1954 U.S. Open, Robert Trent Jones Sr. toughened up the fourth hole, a 194-yard par 3 over water, mainly by making the green very hard to hold along its back shelf. Less well known is that he also softened the bite of Baltusrol's bunkers, and in subsequent years they became even more maintenance-friendly.

In recent years, with considerable input from architect Rees Jones, there has been an effort to deepen the bunkers and more carefully define lines of play so that longer hitters at least have to keep the ball straight.

It's no easy thing, juggling the needs of a golf membership that plays the course every day and the needs of a major championship that arrives every decade or so. It helps at Baltusrol that there's

sufficient room for lengthening tee shots so that intended landing areas can be recaptured – even if it means introducing a blind tee shot at the third hole, which is one of two par 4s now measuring more than 500 yards (that's not a misprint).

Extensive renovation of the roughs since the 1993 U.S. Open has guaranteed thick bluegrass rough in the 5-inch range. When the championship is over, says Rees Jones, they'll just shave the rough back and members can have a chance.

At 7,392 yards, the par-70 Lower Course certainly has length. Much of it can be found on No. 17, now 650 yards, making it the longest hole in the history of major championship golf. Interestingly, there's nothing strategic about the hole – once you thread your tee shot through a ridiculous dawn redwood that creates a narrow chute for the drive. In recent years, club officials have taken out 500 trees to promote air movement and turf growth. Too bad they didn't take out 501.

One idiosyncrasy of Baltusrol that is sure to receive much media attention is the only back-to-back par-5 finish in a men's major championship. With the 18th hole also a par 5, this one 554 yards, Baltusrol presents a 1,204-yard final march to glory. That's two-thirds of a mile if you're counting.

Baltusrol always has had tradition and history. But with each renovation, the quiriness and inherent interest of the ground features have become layered over with dross. It's like taking an Arts and Crafts cottage and covering it in vinyl siding. As for the doctoring that's gone on, some of it looks like breast enhancement surgery – especially those silicone mounds that are part of the newly installed bunker complexes on the 13th and 18th holes. Not only do these complexes not fit, they also bunker the outside of the hole and punish players who play away from the bolder line of attack. In other words, optional paths have been taken away in the name of playing the holes one way – straight. ○

Rater's notebook

► Ease and intimacy of routing: 9

Easily walkable, modest elevation throughout, with first tee snuggled up to pro shop and the 18th hole unfolding past the clubhouse veranda. Only awkward patch is a loop in the middle of the back nine.

► Integrity of original design: 6

Hole corridors and green locations are all there, but bunkers have been modernized, and course is less diverse in playing width.

► Natural setting and overall land plan: 10

Graceful setting, with a German Tudor clubhouse gently presiding. Despite suburban surrounds, a parkland feel prevails under the shadow of Baltusrol Mountain.

► Interest of greens and surrounding chipping contours: 9

A-4 bentgrass greens with some *Poa annua*, averaging 6,000 square feet, will roll at 11.6 on the Stimpmeter will lend themselves easily to misreads because the breaks are subtle, not dramatic.

► Variety and memorability of par 3s: 8

All demand mid- to long irons, and are tightly protected and hard to hold.

► Variety and memorability of par 4s: 6

They blend together visually and in terms of playing character. All are good, but none stands out.

► Variety and memorability of par 5s: 8

Some players will reach the 650-yard 17th in two. The field will gobble up the 554-yard 18th, but the two finishing par 5s make for an interesting final stretch.

► Basic conditioning: 10

Flawless manicuring. With this PGA, Baltusrol director of grounds Mark Kuhns completes a career Grand Slam of sorts, having previously presided over a U.S. Senior Open (Laurel Valley, 1989), U.S. Women's Open (Oakmont, 1992), U.S. Open (Oakmont, 1994) and U.S. Amateur (Baltusrol, 2000). Credit also goes to Baltusrol-Lower superintendent Scott Bosetti.

► Landscape and tree management: 8

Course has been significantly decluttered, with the ground cleared out and tree canopies raised so that you can feel the land.

► "Walk in the park" test: 9

Ambiance, feel and tradition are all there. Course lacks just a little on strategy, but makes up for it everywhere else.

► Overall rating: 7.5

Baltusrol-Lower is ranked No. 38 on *Golfweek's* 2005 America's Best Classic Courses list.

– Bradley S. Klein



Each month, *Golfweek* profiles a course that is on one of *Golfweek's* America's Best lists or might be a candidate for inclusion.

One yard and a cloud of dust

Here's my theory: Folks who complain most about golf course conditions probably are the ones least likely to appreciate what it takes to tame the landscape. Obviously, they don't spend a lot of time doing yard work. If they did, they wouldn't have time to play so much golf, or to sit around at the 19th hole and complain about the flawed manicuring.

You think Tiger Woods mows his own lawn? If he did, maybe he'd appreciate more what it takes to get a golf course into shape. The same goes for those perpetually grumpy club members who do nothing but hatch schemes for undermining their superintendent as soon as dandelions appear, or if fairways Stimp slower than 7.

The other day, my friend called and asked me to join him for golf. I turned down the offer, saying that I was devoting the day to yard work. "That's why they have lawn services," he said. Instead of telling him I didn't really want to spend the money, I told him the truth, which is that I actually enjoy taming our version of the great outdoors.

We live in New England, on a 2.7-acre parcel of heavily wooded, sloping land. It's not exactly suburbia, more like the rural edge of an exurban frontier. Our town of Bloomfield, Conn., north of Hartford, still has remnants of its farm days, as well as extensive swatches of undevelopable wetlands and considerable forested parks, including one across the street from us.

Our immediate neighbor to the west is straight out of "Green Acres," with a makeshift house and 6-acre lot that's home to a kennel, two horses, a large pond and a towering American elm.

It's a world we share with no shortage of critters. Among those we've witnessed in our yard this year are deer, wild turkeys, opossums, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, rabbits, a bobcat, coyotes and, on two occasions, the unmistakable evidence of a bear helping itself to our bird feeders (by ripping them off the garage wall).

My upbringing in New York City didn't exactly prepare me for the job of domesticating nature. It's been an acquired taste, encouraged by my wife, who is an avid gardener with a penchant for perennial native plant beds rather than a closely cropped lawn.

Only about 1/3 acre of our lot is mowable anyway. A 22-inch rotary push mower suffices for the open areas. But it's the closed-in areas that really claim my attention and labor, a feral jungle of aggressive plants such as multiflora rose, grapevine, wisteria, garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet and blackberry. There also is relentless growth in the form of sumac and autumn olive



GOLFWEEK PHOTO/GLEN RAPAPORT

Tree management in my yard (above) produces much the same benefits and reactions as it does on the golf course.

trees to beat back. Fortunately, we have plenty of good oaks, maples and apple trees, but also dense thickets of white pines on the lower half of the property that need thinning. Like members of a golf club facing tree management, my wife resisted my efforts. But like those members, the more I cut down the more she appreciated the open vistas and improved turf quality.

We've been here three years, and gradually the burden of my spare time has shifted from playing golf to working on the lot. Two years ago, I quit my membership in a local club that I had played 15-20 times per year. I play a lot of golf on the road, but I'm down to three or four rounds per season in Connecticut.

Not, as I told my friend, because my wife insists on it, but because I actually enjoy the incremental progress I'm making on our property, and also because it's good exercise and is a lot more exciting than lifting weights in the gym.

Of course, I don't want it to become too exciting, which is why I take precautions with powerful tools of modern violence that now comprise the arsenal in my garage. We have a half dozen different clippers, from the sublime to the oversized – good for lopping off anything up to 3 inches in diameter. I'm not averse to clambering up trees to clip limbs, or better yet to go after one of those dense vines that can grow to 100 feet

long and literally strangle trees.

My prized possession is actually on the modest size – a 14-inch chainsaw. I'd prefer to have a larger one, but I simply am not comfortable with them and so make do with what I feel I can manage easily. Even then, I am cautious to an extreme, never operating it alone, and always wearing full-length chaps, reinforced gloves and protective headgear with face mask.

The debris created goes into a 9-horsepower chipper that can't digest anything thicker than 1 1/2 inches, so as a bonus I've been accumulating more firewood than our modest fireplace could ever handle.

Among other management techniques I've developed is the meticulous separation of various fuels for these tools – standard gasoline, gasoline additive for the two-stroke chainsaw motor, bar chain lubricant and 10W30 oil.

Because poison ivy tends to creep in everywhere, we also keep a generous supply of Roundup – my wife's one concession to nonorganic horticulture. Poison ivy gets readily transmitted, so after working outdoors we go through an obligatory rubdown of arms and hands with a poison ivy counteractant lotion.

If I sometimes feel like I'm battling nature, I'm also aware that it's just a private little effort at holding back powerful forces. My efforts may lack precision and science. But they do remind me of what effort it really takes to tame a landscape into a golf course. ○



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GOLF & LIVING



A. A rendering of the unique Villas on Osprey Ridge
B. Just one of the spectacular views at the Dan Maples Course
C. A rendering of the spacious homes at Eastwood Landing



With the picturesque setting of North Carolina housing over 500 courses and 10,000 golf holes, players have an abundance of choices on where and what type of golf to play. There are the mountain courses, offering breathtaking views and challenging play, the central region courses, offering a peaceful experience meandering through nature at its best, and last but certainly not least the coastal courses, offering spectacular views of the coastline and an always refreshing breeze.

Just north of Myrtle Beach is a well kept secret, Sunset Beach, featuring more than 2,000 acres of winding creeks, man-made lakes and lush woodlands, this rich landscape surrounds three championship coastal golf courses and is fertile ground for the full-golf- lifestyle that has made Sea Trail such a popular North Carolina community.

Each of Sea Trail's three championship golf courses, named for their respective designers, is distinctively different in character and playability.

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The **Rees Jones Course**, a perennial favorite among residents and guests, was renovated in 2000 with new greens planted in L93 bentgrass. This straight-forward course features elevated greens, large expanses of bunkers and distinctive mounding with native grasses and wild-flowers lining the fairways. Water comes into play on 11 holes adding to the challenge of this extraordinary golf experience.

The **Willard Byrd Course** is built around several man-made lakes, each ranging from 14 to 20 acres, every hole of this par-72 course requires a distinctly

different approach to Byrd's undulating greens. The course follows Byrd's imaginative style of design, incorporating several of his trademark decorative sand and waste bunkers. This, combined with a constricting tree line and greenside bunkering system, makes for an intriguing challenge.

In addition to the golf courses, Sea Trail features two clubhouses with full-service golf shops and onsite dining at Magnolias Restaurant and Lounge. Additional golf amenities include practice greens, a lighted driving range and a PGA sanctioned Golf Learning Center.

Three new neighborhoods within Sea Trail offer you the ability to live where you play.

Adjacent to the Byrd Course, **Eastwood Landing** features maintenance free, single-family homes that offer large master suites and open floor plans. This gated community provides all the safety and security for which Sea Trail has come to be known.

Situated on the Rees Jones Course, the **Villas on Osprey Ridge** offer scenic fairway and water views. The unique layout of these villas offer nine-foot ceilings on the ground and second floors, with vaulted and tray ceilings on the third floor. The Villas are within walking distance from one of Sea Trail's two private swim and fitness centers.

So whether you are looking for a place to live or play, or even both, Sea Trail offers options that will suit a variety of tastes. For more information on Sea Trail visit www.playseatrail.com or call 888-675-9239.



Located in Sunset Beach, just a short drive from Wilmington, NC & Myrtle Beach, SC along the North Carolina coast, Sea Trail seems miles from the rush and worry of the world around it. Three signature golf courses frame over 2,000 acres of winding creeks and densely wooded lots.

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8/13/05

Keep harping on slow play

Amen to Jeff Rude and his "How (s)low can you go" column (www.golfweek.com, July 27).

I'm so sick of playing golf behind people who watch these pros, and adopt their methods . . . which is why it takes 4½ hours to play golf in this country. Several years back, I went to Scotland to play golf. We had four guys on the trip, but at Turnberry they would not let us schedule to play together as a foursome. They would rather have two consecutive twosomes of Americans than allow a four-ball of U.S. players to clog up their course.

I play a local tournament series in Chicago. We play by the rules, except that our rules specifically sanction "ready golf." If I'm stuck with a slow player, I don't have to (indeed, am encouraged not to) wait for him – even if he's away. We don't go as far as Rory Sabbatini did at Congressional, but a guy will get the message pretty quickly if all three players in his group have hit, and he's still throwing grass in the air checking the wind!

Mark Smolens
Chicago

Jeff Rude's column appears on Golfweek.com at www.golfweek.com/outtake/283867156447248.php Ed.

Hear, hear!

The tail continues to wag the dog, and the "tails" named in your column all are slower than Jack Nicklaus. I remember Nicklaus staying over his putts a long time but not being slow on too much else in his game.

Since the "tails" are independent contractors, you wouldn't have to step on them more than once or twice to get their attention. If the door closes on a dog's tail he remembers, and I'm sure there would be the same studious attention paid to penalty strokes given to these "tails."

I can see the court cases now. The ACLU would instruct players to sue because they are being singled out for

punishment just because they are a few seconds slower than others. The expert medical witness would state that the physiological synopsis in their brains don't function as quickly as the rest of the field and that they shouldn't be punished for something out of their control. Injunctive relief will be ordered by the courts until a time in the future when this theory can be disproved and penalties then can be levied.

This makes as much sense as why they can't speed up the "tails" on Tour.
Curtis Madson
Mount Dora, Fla.

Great column. Ben Crane and Bernhard Langer are perhaps the two slowest golfers on the planet. Slow play is the most selfish thing a golfer can do on a golf course. Nothing else even comes close.

Ron Garland
Bozeman, Mont.

Jeff, please keep hammering away at the slow play "epidemic" that has gripped the PGA Tour. This syndrome, long spread throughout the local levels of golf, is now ruining our television watching. Recently, I found myself switching the channel every time Ben Crane came on (during the Milwaukee tournament). Keep singling out the "slow pokes" and keep reminding local clubs and munis that they should do everything they can to speed up play.

George F. Keves
Scottsdale, Ariz

Keep wireless off course

Regarding the "Golf unplugged" article in the July 9 issue: Just what we need to help speed play on courses. I cannot imagine what Greg Norman is thinking! If people are so busy that they must have their cell phones and computers with them to play golf, please stay at the office while we are trying to relax with a round of golf.

Mike Grady
Superstition Mountain, Ariz.

YOUR TAKE

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

With Ernie Els out of the PGA Championship, which of these "Big Five" players will have the best finish?

- T. Woods** 67% (122 votes)
- V. Singh** 23% (43)
- P. Mickelson** 7% (12)
- R. Goosen** 3% (5)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Michelle Wie's final LPGA start of 2005 will be at the Samsung World Championship in October. Will she play as an amateur or professional?

GOT AN OPINION?

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USGA exemption check

Earning a berth in the U.S. Amateur Championship has never been an easy task. It's become especially difficult in the era of the global game.

The U.S. Golf Association received 7,320 entries from around the world for this year's Amateur, to be held Aug. 22-28 at Merion Golf Club. In a starting field of 312, only 28 exempt contestants did not have to earn their spots via local qualifying.

Increasingly, those who do make it through local qualifying aren't "locals."

The top two qualifiers at Tennent, N.J., are from Australia. Two spots in Warwick, R.I., also went to Australians.

Two of the three qualifiers in Marshall, Mich., are from Spain. The third is from Ireland.

A co-medalist at Hunt Valley, Md., is from Italy. The medalist at Lake Charles, La., hails from South Africa.

There are 13 categories for exemptions into the U.S. Amateur, 12 of which are related to performance in other USGA competitions. The lone exception is the current year's winner of the NCAA Division I Men's Championship. Perhaps it's time for the USGA to consider the rest of the amateur golf universe and award exemptions to the winners of national tournaments with histories of excellence, such as the Sunnehanna Amateur, Monroe Invitational, Porter Cup, Northeast Amateur, Southern Amateur, Pacific Coast Amateur and Western Amateur. Or perhaps a points scheme could be devised, awarding exemptions to the 10 players (not otherwise exempt) who accumulate the

most points via performance in a select group of non-USGA tournaments.

Additional exemptions would go a long way toward ensuring the strongest field possible for the U.S. Amateur. With more proven players earning exemptions, local qualifying would revert to being more "local," as was the original intent of the dispersion of venues by geography.

The addition of exemptions could be applied, to a lesser extent (because there are fewer national tournaments for women), to the U.S. Women's Amateur. And certainly it would work for the U.S. Junior and U.S. Girls' Junior.

Some USGA types are miffed that high-profile youngsters are beginning to pick and choose spots to qualify for the Junior championships, presumably looking for weaker fields and thus enhancing their chances of qualifying. In reality, American Junior Golf Association tournaments and other events often conflict with USGA qualifiers.

Adding exemptions for winners of AJGA "majors" and national tournaments such as the Orange Bowl, Western Junior and the Junior PGA would accomplish the same things for the USGA Juniors - strengthen the fields and restore the "local" to local qualifying.

Never before has the amateur and junior landscape been so competitive. And never before has the tournament calendar been so crowded. For the good of the game, the USGA needs to reach out to amateur and junior golf's other constituencies. It's the only organization with the power to bring order to the chaos. ○



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Long John's long journey

Campbellsville, Ky., is about 7½ hours and 410 miles from Chicago Golf Club, but John Holmes' journey has been much longer than that.

Four years ago, the Walker Cup was a pipe dream for a player who began his golf career at the University of Kentucky virtually unheard of outside his home state and ignored by the vast majority of NCAA Division I coaches.

Despite being named 2001 National High School Coaches Association Player of the Year after his senior season at Taylor County High School, Holmes was a mere speck in the world of junior golf, having played only five junior events outside of his home state.

That lack of exposure left him with offers from only three middle-of-the-pack Division I schools – Kentucky, Louisville and Mississippi – and plenty of motivation and desire to show the rest of the SEC what they were missing.

“There were a few schools in my conference that didn't have a spot for me,” Holmes said. “But you've got to believe in yourself. I knew I could play for some of those schools. It gave me something to prove.”

Call it a quest fulfilled for the 2005 SEC Player of the Year, who led the Wildcats to a NCAA Central Regional crown (2004), back-to-back top 10s at the NCAA Championship (2004 and '05) – their first appearances at the national finals in 57 years – and the 2005 SEC title, the first in the program's history.

Those feats are made even more impressive by the fact that Holmes struggled academically through his first semester before finally receiving help for a dyslexia problem that had been diagnosed several years prior.

“It's not something you're proud of,” he said. “It's something I didn't want to mention to anybody. I was smart enough to get through in high school, but it was different in college. I finally realized it was nothing to be ashamed of, that it wasn't my fault.”

The next semester, after learning ways to cope with the learning disability, Holmes improved from a 2.3 to a 3.6 GPA and made the athletic department honor roll. His last two seasons, he was an Academic All-American.

“I think it just helped his overall self-esteem and view of himself,” Kentucky coach Brian Craig said of Holmes' decision to get help. “His first semester was really tough for him, but from that semester on, he has done really, really, really well. And it picked up his overall demeanor.”

Holmes' climb in the world of college and amateur golf has been no less impressive.

This week, the player few wanted four years ago arrived in Wheaton, Ill., as a key

member of the U.S. Walker Cup team, one of only 10 players in the most prestigious, exclusive club in the amateur game.

Only the second Kentucky native to play in the event (Jodie Mudd was the first in 1981), Holmes doesn't possess your typical Walker Cup pedigree. But in an event that suddenly has turned Great Britain & Ireland's way – the Americans lead the series 31-7-1 but have lost three in a row – maybe this good old boy from the Bluegrass State is exactly what the U.S. needs.



Kevin Adams
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Known for his prodigious drives and competitive fire, Holmes is a self-made player who developed his swing during 54-hole marathon sessions on summer days

at Campbellsville Country Club, the only golf course in a town of about 20,000. His technique – a short backswing, enormous pivot and full shoulder turn – isn't complicated (“not a whole lot to screw up,” as Holmes puts it), and his swing speed has been clocked as high as 136 mph, although he says he “uses only about 80 to 85 percent” of his power in tournaments.

But the most impressive thing about Holmes is the combination of his length *and* accuracy, something that should serve him well both at the Walker Cup and when he begins his professional

career following the U.S. Amateur Aug. 22-28.

“Even when he drives it offline,” said Craig, “he doesn't miss the fairway by a whole lot. I would say for guys in his length category, he's got to be one of the straightest out there – college, pros, whatever.”

His length can intimidate in a match-play format, and his putting touch is surprisingly soft. He can post plenty of birdies, and his tee shots should give his partner an instant edge in foursomes (alternate shot).

Holmes' longest drive is 440 yards “downwind in Ireland,” on a par-5 hole in June 2004 at Royal County Down, where he proceeded to hit a wedge to 1 foot and made eagle. He had a 408-yard smash in winning last year's Kentucky Open (his second consecutive victory in the event) and, when asked, he'll tell you his drives average 315-320 yards.

“But I'll always hit at least one 350 to 360,” Holmes says without a hint of bragging. “I have at least one of those a round, so it's no big deal.”

Such attributes and numbers make Holmes an important player for the U.S., said Walker Cup captain Bob Lewis, who thinks the host site sets up well for long hitters.

“The fairways are fairly wide open, and it's really a second-shot golf course,” Lewis said following the U.S. team's practice session July 27-30 at Chicago Golf Club. “I really think power can be an advantage for us, and John certainly qualifies. He can overpower a golf course.”

Lewis watched Holmes at the Palmer Cup held earlier this summer at Whistling Straits, where Holmes compiled a 3-1 record to lead a team of U.S. collegians to victory against their European counterparts. Holmes' length there was “downright devastating,” Lewis said.

If there is a weakness for Holmes – by all accounts a quiet guy off the course – it is that on it he has the reputation for becoming *too* emotional at times. It's something he has worked hard at improving.

“He gets so charged up and wants to win so much that it sometimes gets to the point that he needs to watch it a little bit and hold it in a little more,” Lewis said.

But hey, maybe a little more emotion and tenacity is what the U.S. team needs. After four losses in the past five matches, it can't hurt. Lewis is willing to take his chances.

“John's an extremely competitive guy, a gamer,” his captain said. “When the flag goes up, his 'A' game has a tendency to come to the surface.”

Echoed Craig: “He has a great knack for meeting the moment and rising to the occasion. When there's a great challenge or a situation that's pressure-packed, he usually plays his best golf. As soon as the lights come on, he tends to shine.”

Expect the same in the bright lights of Chicago. Along with a few more of those 350-yard drives.



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