

# GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

# GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXXII No. 6

Spring 2021

## DESTINATIONS:

**Kiawah Island - A Charleston Gem**

**Spring Golf at the Shore**

**Valley of the Sun - Arizona**

## RESULTS:

**Philly PGA**

**PPGS**

**GAP/Anthracite Golf Associaton**

Cover Picture: Kiawah Island Ocean Course  
Site of 2021 PGA Championship



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 SPRING GOLF AT THE JERSEY SHORE
 

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McCullough's Emerald Golf Links

By Mike Kern

True story.

One of my best friends tested positive for Covid back in October. He developed pneumonia, and had to spend a week in a hospital. Doctors had to take an x-ray of his chest, as part of the treatment. And they discovered that he had aneurysm near his heart, which would require him to undergo surgery a few months later.

So, the Corona Virus ended up saving his life. Imagine the irony of that.

There hasn't been much good that's come from this pandemic. But don't tell that to the golf industry, which for the last decade or so has more or less been in a steady decline. Less people playing, almost no new courses being built, too many courses being closed, not enough money being spent on greens fees and equipment. And there really wasn't a light at the end of the tunnel. But when the world was forced to shut down last March, it changed a lot of things. And one of them, eventually, turned out to be golf.

All of a sudden, when the doors started to reopen, people were looking for almost anything to do. And golf became one of those outlets. Ask anyone who tried to get a starting time. It could be next to impossible. Seriously. And it remained that way throughout the rest of the season, with no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

So now the question becomes, as we start to slowly yet inevitably come out of this mess, can that trend continue?

Tom Sullivan is the longtime General Manager at McCullough's Emerald Golf Links in Egg Harbor Township, one of the many places at the South Jersey Shore that help make it a destination worth checking out. He actually battled the virus earlier this year, so he's seen both sides of it. And while he like everyone else would much rather none of us ever had to experience what's happened in the last 12 months, he understands the reality of the situation. And yes, he

thinks the shot in the arm that the game has received will not be a one-season blip on the radar screen.

"It's funny, because I didn't have an initial thought about it, and I don't think any of us really did," Sullivan said. "Nobody knew it would blow up the way it did, or what would be the impact once the restrictions were pulled."

Those restrictions lasted six weeks, into early May. After that, in the state of New Jersey, players could only play in twosomes with 16-minute intervals between heading out. That would last another two weeks. So it wasn't an immediate change. But once it did, there was no looking back.

"At first, they weren't real clear about what we were going to be able to do," Sullivan recalled. "But it didn't take long until it became pretty evident that we were going to be pretty busy."

"June was a huge month. And July and August were very strong. But for a shore resort, we kind of can't do any more rounds (in the summer) than we were doing anyway. We didn't break records, but it was really good. Then September hit, and we were doing just as many rounds as we had in July and August. We had our best September ever."

"Then it was our best October ever. And best November. And best December. Even January. It didn't really end until the weather hit in February."

For an industry that has struggled lately, especially with some bad weather years, it was certainly welcome. And it wasn't just from the people down in that area.

"When everything was shut down, I'd go out in the parking lot and see nothing but Pennsylvania (license plates)," Sullivan noted. "They were coming down the shore to get away already."

"It was awesome. We've had good years before. But what we hadn't

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## VALLEY OF THE SUN - ARIZONA GOLF

By Bob Oliver

If you are an avid golfer and if you enjoy a wide variety of top-notch venues at your disposal during a resort-based golf vacation, there are a cornucopia of opportunities.

No matter what you desire in a golf excursion, you won't find many better than can be explored in the Valley of the Sun, the Phoenix/Scottsdale destination of Arizona.

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The Copper State has long been a favorite of those in cool weather climates to come to feel the warmth of the sun, but many will tell you that Arizona beckons all year round. Yes, summer temperatures are oven like but the courses aren't crowded and an early tee time gets you through the golf course before the heat bakes you.

Of course, it doesn't hurt to have spacious pools, fine dining, professional and college sports, museums and countless things to do that make the greater Phoenix area a can't miss destination.

"Hate to make this so simple, but seriously one can't beat the Arizona golf scene," states Bill Huffman, a host on Backspin the Golf Show and a long-time golf reporter for a variety of publications and a Valley resident since 1982. "Of course, first and foremost, is the weather."

Yes, one finds year-round golf in this desert destination. Add to that a wealth of world class venues with challenge and beauty. With a wide array of price points to keep one's bank balance in the green on the greens.

Joe "Shoe" Shershenovich, is Director of Golf at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, and traces his roots to Northeastern Pennsylvania. He's spent years in Arizona, winning PGA of America Merchandiser of the Year among his team's numerous awards while echoing Huffman's comments

"There is nothing earthshattering about it, no magic potion, it's all about the weather," says the 'The Shoe', who notes Grayhawk will host the 2021 NCAA Men's and Women's Championships. "It's great here at a time when throughout the nation it isn't. And the rest of the year is great too."

But while the Valley of the Sun is the place to be in winter, it's a destination that sparkles throughout the year. A place which is called home by numerous PGA and LPGA golf professionals.



Greyhawk Golf Club

"Thinking of Scottsdale, there is a great diversity of golf courses," adds Shershenovich. "Of course, I'm partial to Grayhawk, we have 36 holes of stellar golf. Our Talon and Raptor courses are totally different designs. Visitors sampling them would never say they were playing the same course twice. Talon is more of a desert type course while Raptor has more of a traditional feel. Both are great rests."

In the area Raptor is the only course other than the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale to have hosted a recent PGA Tour event, serving as the site of the 2007-2009 Frys.com Open.

Shershenovich is quick to point out there are a wealth of challenges in the Valley of the Sun, courses with all kinds of chops that will bedazzle players of all abilities.

"The area has a great list of courses including ours, including two fine courses at We-Ko-Pa, Kierland, Papago, TPC Champions at all kinds of price points," added Shershenovich. "It's a great family destination and a wonderful buddy destination."



Kierland Golf Course

A recent visit saw the uncovering of a gem less than an hour from Sky Harbor Phoenix airport – the Ak-Chin Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club. The drive was pleasant, mostly on interstate, and the

## Darkness Limits PGA Merchandise Show - But Light Shines on Top New Products

By TONY LEODORA

Gentlemen and Ladies of the golf industry ... start your engines.

Every year in the golf world, the busiest business week always has been the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. It is the Daytona 500, the Super Bowl and the World Series of the golf industry.

To say it is an exhausting week – walking the miles of aisles at the mammoth Orange County Convention Center – would be an understatement. To say that it is an important revenue generating week for many companies in the golf industry also would be an understatement.

Gentleman and Ladies of the golf industry ... your engines have stalled.

This year proved to be a very different experience for those trying to get a flying start on the golf season.

The pandemic of 2020 spilled over to 2021 and resulted in the cancellation of the traditional PGA Merchandise Show. In its place, the organizers worked hard – maybe harder than ever – to replace it with a Virtual PGA Show.

It turned out to be something like replacing the honeymoon night with virtual sex. Hope that example is not too graphic ... but you get the idea.

The goal was to create a platform that presented opportunities to connect with other people in the golf industry and still drive forward business.

The Virtual Experience & Marketplace offered engaging presentations and education sessions, thought-provoking dialogue, networking events, virtual appointments, and the discovery of products from nearly 400 participating brands.

Of course, the first thing that strikes regular attendees is the drop in participating brands, from the normal number of around 1,000. Then there was the frustration of navigating the techno-maze in order to communicate with people that were normally available in their booths for face-to-face personal encounters.

“If you really needed to get important meetings accomplished you could do it ... but it wasn’t always easy,” commented Frank Carroll, CEO of Greenkeepers, the company that specializes in a number of golf accessories. His highly visible booth at the Show, recognizably marked by a massive model of his 4 Yards More Tee, is always a beehive of activity.

“When you’re used to people visiting you all day, every day, it’s quite different to interact through an occasional virtual meeting or two a day,” Carroll reasoned. “We did some business but we are still trying to catch up with people.”

From the media’s point of view, there were two things missing from this year’s experience:

1. Human contact. The PGA Show is the annual opportunity to reinforce old relationships and build new ones. Picture a reunion for writers and broadcasters. It is extremely hard to do that virtually.

2. A number of companies did a good job of sending information in advance of the Virtual Show, touting new product releases. Some

discovery was available there. But there were so many other new products that went unnoticed. There was just no way to discover the same amount of new technology and innovation that comes to light every year in a live setting.

Martin Armes is a veteran golf publicist who attended – and intensely worked – the PGA Show every year. He missed that experience this year.

“I missed seeing all of the people I work with all year and meeting new people,” said Armes. “There’s no replacing the value of walking up to someone with a smile on your face and pressing a pound of flesh. You can’t get that from a virtual show.”

Despite those handicaps, a combination of using the virtual PGA Show portal, e-mails, text messages and good old-fashioned phone calls compiled enough information to create this year’s Product Review section. Some are new, breakthrough products. Others are refinements to older products. But all are guaranteed to make the lives of avid golfers easier, more productive and more fun.

With that in mind, here is this year’s list of exciting new products:

### BRIDGESTONE E12 CONTACT GOLF BALL



Bridgestone Golf had a major product launch planned for 2021 – their new e12 CONTACT golf ball. Staring in the face of this major investment was the challenge presented by the absence of a PGA Show for the launch.

Instead of battling the challenges of launching via the Virtual Show, they reacted early with a multi-million dollar publicity campaign that included shipping samples of the new golf ball and an interactive video box to members of the media across the country.

“The product box was the brainstorm of our president, Dan Murphy,” said Adam Rehberg, Bridgestone’s golf ball fitting manager. “It was a brilliant move to get something tangible in the hands of the right people. The feedback has been great.”

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A recent visit saw the uncovering of a gem less than an hour from Sky Harbor Phoenix airport – the Ak-Chin Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club. The drive was pleasant, mostly on interstate, and the destination simply spectacular.



Ak-Chin Indian Reservation

Located on gently rolling terrain of the Ak-Chin Indian Reservation and operated by Troon Golf, this Brian Curley and Fred Couples layout was designed in the spirit of the Australian Sand Belt. The course has impeccable conditioning on challenging holes, each test in their own right that beckon not only a need for strong play but creativity as one manages the course. A true thinking person's

layout, there are tees for varying levels of ability.

Golfweek annually recognizes the course as one of the Top-Ten you can play in the entire state of golf crazy Arizona. That's saying a whole lot.

Another selection is Scottsdale's Kierland Golf Course, on site of a Westin Resort, which features 27 holes of a Scott Miller design which offer fun and challenge and a customer is correct theme.

At Kierland in the heart of Scottsdale one can expect a warm, can do atmosphere that is felt throughout the entire resort. Service is job one, and each and every associate has it at the top of their job description ensuring the ultimate in customer satisfaction.

Kierland is surrounded by world class dining and shopping, and unparalleled activities such as hiking, jeep tours and hot air balloon excursions are nearby. The Westin has all the accoutrements for everything from buddy trips to family vacations to conferences. Its spa is world class, and golf, well, superb.

"At Kierland you can expect excellent service, outstanding course conditioning and a fun golf experience," explained Director of Golf Nancy Dickens. "Post round check out our super top-100 pro shop or stop by the Battlebush Bar and Grill for post round libations."

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seen was the growth in golf that we saw with Covid. We saw much more women coming out, and people who hadn't played in years were starting to play again. I think people had a lot of patience. They were just happy to be outside, especially in May, June and July. As long as we had all our safety precautions in place, they were easy to satisfy. By August, when people kind of got back to normal a little bit ... but that was still great.

"We have to see what happens going forward with businesses and their employees. That could make a difference too. We'll have to see. But I expect it to be another very good year, I really do. Maybe not as great as last year. People aren't at that 100 percent comfort level yet, even with them getting the vaccine and whatnot. I think they're still going to want to social distance, so to speak."

And he believes that once people make an investment, in themselves and the game, it makes it harder to turn back away from it.

"If you're paying attention, from what I've heard equipment sales apparently had their best year ever. People that spend that much money on clubs are going to keep playing. You don't spend it not to play. So I'm optimistic. I'm not sure it's going to level off for the next couple of years. I hope not. I'm sure tennis was through the roof. And I'm sure boating and fishing had great years.

"I saw a lot of guys tailgating in our parking lot. The restaurant part of it lagged behind a few months. But it's getting there. I saw some new faces, and so many that just hadn't been around in awhile. And our core people, after six weeks, were just so happy that we were open again and they had some place to go. Jersey did it a little different, and it was weird at times. That hurt some things. But bills were still coming in. The maintenance crew was still out there working. So you do the best you can, hope for the best and just keep thinking that things are going to get back, that it was only a matter of time."

Fortunately, he was right. Golf at the South Jersey Shore is always a good idea. And while you can play there year-round, the best seasons are the spring and fall. The weather's never better, just right, and it's usually better than back in Philly. The biggest problem, again, might just be finding a way to get out. But once you do, be ready for four hours or so of heaven. It's that good.

I've been golfing down there for the last three decades, so I know my way around. I'm sure all of you have your favorites, just like me. But just in case, here's a sampling of some of the best of the bunch. Remember, options are good. And there's plenty for everyone, of all abilities and means. You just have to find the ones that work for you.

McCullough's is a place I've come to enjoy more and more every time I go back. It was built on a landfill, but you wouldn't know it. And nor should you. It has a real good mix of holes. There are many that believe me you're just glad to walk off with a bogey. And then there's others where you can probably have a birdie opportunity.

Nothing wrong with that. There's some blind shots, and a few where you can see exactly where you're going but you'll learn to dread anyway. I love the short par 4 midway through the back nine that dog-legs 90 degrees to the right. You can go for the green if you're good enough. Since I'm not, I just try to put it somewhere in the fairway and leave myself a wedge into the green. I almost made an eagle there once. But for whatever reason I always seem to then screw up the next hole, a 125-yard par 3 that looks so inviting. The closing two holes on the front nine are real good stuff too, with a par 3 of about 175 over water taking you back to the clubhouse. I could play here three times a week and not get tired of it, which is about the top compliment I can hand out.

Here's the Cliff Notes version of the other courses I can say the same thing about.

**ATLANTIC CITY COUNTRY CLUB** — This is the place that if I knew I was going to be playing it, I started getting excited about before I ever left my house. It's that special. It's changed a little through the years, but all for the good. It's got a great clubhouse, but the golf is even better. And it's always in pristine shape. Not every course can always make that claim. And it's by no means a minor detail. Quite the opposite. And the layout is enticing. It has more than its share of challenges. But again, there are spots where you can maybe get the best of it. The holes on the back nine by the bay are to me the highlight. I especially like the par-3 15th, which is a 165-yard carry over all bad stuff. And when the wind is up, it can get hairy. I've hit wood there, to about 10 feet. Go figure. I've also screwed it up with an iron. It happens. And the short par-4 dogleg right that precedes it is also a keeper. Particularly for guys like me who don't hit it nearly as far anymore. I still have a chance. If I can just keep the ball in play. Isn't that usually the rub?



Atlantic City Country Club

Seaview Resort — Two courses, one a Donald Ross, and each of them uniquely inspiring. The Bay is where the LPGA holds an annual event, the Shop-Rite Classic, which once again this year will be held in October instead of early June due to the Covid concerns. This is a shotmaker's paradise, where length isn't the key but finding the smallish greens is. A lot can depend on the wind. There's a bunch

Cont. on page 6

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## KIAWAH ISLAND PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

### 2021 PGA TO ADD TO OCEAN COURSE LEGACY

by Reid Nelson

CHARLESTON, S.C. – In a game that dates back centuries, The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island is still a relative infant. But the youngster has already amassed a rich and storied history.

And come the third week of May, the aptly named seaside gem just south of Charleston will add another chapter when the 2021 PGA Championship is contested over the late Pete Dye's masterpiece layout that offers a view of the Atlantic from all 18 holes, as well as the clubhouse and spacious practice ground.



PGA Championship Trophy

Collin Morikawa will defend the title he won last year at Harding Park when the 102nd PGA Championship is contested at Kiawah Island May 20-23. It will mark the second PGA to be played at Kiawah's Ocean Course in nine years, but moreover, the 2021 PGA will be the eighth national or international tournament to be played at the course that didn't even exist – literally – when it was named to host the 1991 Ryder Cup Matches.



#12 Ocean Course

Since the 29th Ryder Cup Matches, played just weeks after The Ocean Course first opened for play in the summer of '91, Dye's demanding seaside layout – a course that can be among the most difficult in the game when the wind howls off the Atlantic. It's combination of slope (155) and course (79.6) ratings was the highest in the country when Golf Digest used to publish its list of the Toughest Courses in America, a rankings list that The Ocean Course annually topped.

Expect the course to play in excess of 7,700 yards for this year's

PGA. (The tournament website is showing a yardage of 7,848.) But that's still short of the maximum length Dye built into the layout back in 1990-91. Back then, the ball wasn't flying near the ridiculous distances it's going on today's Tour. But Dye, ever the genius, said then, "I don't want this course to become obsolete in a few years."

Because of Dye's foresight, The Ocean Course has required little or no alterations as it repeatedly has been prepped to host the tournaments that have shaped its legacy, including two World Cups (1997 and 2003), the 2001 UBS Warburg Cup, the 2005 PGA Professional National Championship (formerly the Club Professionals Championship), the 2007 Senior PGA and, most recently, the 2012 PGA.

In that 2012 PGA – the first major championship ever to be played in South Carolina – Rory McIlroy turned in a record-setting performance when he shot 13-under-par 275 to finish eight shots ahead of runner-up David Lynn of England. It broke the record seven-shot margin Jack Nicklaus posted in winning the 1980 PGA, his 17th of 18 major championships.

But even McIlroy's dominating march to victory wasn't exempt from the ire of the diabolical layout. The course, which officially measured 7,676 yards for the PGA, hung a 75 on the eventual champ in the second round, or the margin could have been even greater. But then, only one player who would go on to finish in the top 10 that year – Ian Poulter, who shared third with three other players – bettered par in that second round and he did so by only a single shot. Four of those same top-10 finishers posted scores between 75-79 on that Friday.



#16 Ocean Course

But it was the 1991 Ryder Cup, dubbed "the War by the Shore," that instantly and indelibly marked The Ocean Course's place in golf's history book, thanks to a dramatic United States victory.

Did we say 'a dramatic ...?' Make that THE most dramatic Ryder Cup in the long history of the storied international matches and arguably, according to some, the most dramatic finish in all of golf. Three days of foursomes, four-ball and singles play came down to the last putt ... on the last hole ... of the last match ... on the last day. Even now, a full three decades later, all who witnessed the 1991 Ryder Cup – either in person or on television – remember Bernhard Langer's agonizing missed six-footer as a setting sun cast long shadows across the 18th green late Sunday afternoon. Had he holed



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holed the putt, Langer would have halved his match with Hale Irwin and the half-point would have given the European team a 14-14 tie, a tie that would have added two more years to the Europeans' already-six-year hold on the Ryder Cup.

While all remember the grimace that etched Langer's face as his deciding putt failed to drop, some may not recall an equally anguishing finish for America's Mark Calcavecchia just a few hours earlier. Going out in the third match of Sunday's singles lineup, 'Calc' looked to be in control of his match with Colin Montgomerie when he stood on the 15th tee "dormie" – four up with four to play. A mere halve on any of the remaining holes and a full point was his. It didn't happen.



# 2 Ocean Course

Without making a single birdie, Montgomerie won each of the last four holes, including winning the par-3 17th with a double bogey when his visibly unnerved opponent put a sleeve of Titleists in the pond that separates tee and green. Calcavecchia was so distraught at his own undoing that he sat alone in the surf and wept, even as the matches were still being contested just a few yards behind him. His still-reddened eyes were testament to his pain, even as he and his teammates met with the media well after they had secured the Cup. Thus began the legacy of The Ocean Course. A beauty by nature, a beast by design, Dye's paradoxical layout seems more comfortable not in deciding who wins, but in deciding who loses.

Even The Ocean Course couldn't seem to make up her mind in 2005 when the Mike Small won the first of his three PGA Professional National Championships, dishing out punishment to the entire field throughout the 72-hole tournament. In fact, Small's 1-over-par 289 remains the highest winning score in the history of an event that dates back to 1968.

It certainly left no doubt who the unfortunate "loser" would be two years later when the PGA of America brought its Senior PGA Championship to Kiawah as a sort of dress rehearsal for the 2012 PGA. For three days and 12 holes, Eduardo Romero had gotten the better of gusty winds, as well as his opponents, to hold a two-shot lead with only six of the 72 holes remaining.

But Romero followed a bogey at the par-4 13th with a marginal tee shot at the long par-3 14th. The ball drew only slightly left of a back left pin, but it was enough to doom the big Argentinean with the equally big smile. But "El Gato," his nickname which in Spanish means the cat, wasn't smiling when he reached his ball and found

it plugged – make that buried – in the severely steep face of a deep bunker only a few feet from the pin.

"I knew from tee that it would (be plugged)," Romero would tell the media following the round. "I thought 4 would be good. But I make double."

And when his playing partner, Denis Watson, holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the same hole, the three-shot swing propelled Watson to his first Champions Tour victory at 9-under 279 and left Romero alone in second just two shots – the double on 14 – behind the winner.

But again, this is The Ocean Course, a place where the punishment doesn't always fit the crime and even a marginal infraction can receive the death penalty, as Romero found out.

It's accepted fact that Dye's courses – from TPC Sawgrass to Oak Tree, PGA West, Crooked Stick and Whistling Straights, all of which have hosted and confounded the pros on occasion – are penal designs, demanding sound strategy and precise execution. But nowhere is Dye more demanding than at Kiawah. The Ocean Course has little tolerance for anything less than perfection.

However, every rule has its exceptions. Remember that final match of the 1991 Ryder Cup, the singles contest between Langer and Irwin. That match-up, and the overall Ryder Cup that year, might have had a completely different outcome, had it not been for a completely coincidental twist of fate. Dye, himself, may be the best story-teller for this anecdote:

"Really, Hale hit a bad drive on the 18th hole and hit the young lady that was the general manager of the tournament," Dye recalled, referring to Tournament Director Kathy Boles. "... She had worked and put all of this together and hadn't come out to see any of the tournament. And so she finally came out on the last hole, the last day and Hale hit that drive and it would have gone into that alligator pond if it hadn't hit her. So that's what happened."

(You can hear Dye tell the story for yourself in a video on Kiawah's website, [www.kiawahresort.com](http://www.kiawahresort.com).)

Who knows what will happen at this year's PGA Championship? Whatever it is, you can bet it will only add to the legacy of The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, a course whose expanding place in golf's history book belies its youth.

IF YOU GO ...

According to a Feb. 23 news release, the PGA of America has "announced that the 2021 PGA Championship will be contested with a limited number of spectators on-site, May 17-23, at The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island ... The decision to play with a spectator capacity of approximately 10,000 per day was made in coordination with the state of South Carolina, MUSC Health (the official medical services provider of the 2021 PGA Championship) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

The tournament had been sold out prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, necessitating a re-allocation process to decide who will and who won't attend. ("Those who are not provided an opportunity to retain their ticket order or elect to forfeit their opportunity will receive a full refund," according to the PGA statement, provided tickets were not purchased through an unauthorized third-party vendor.)

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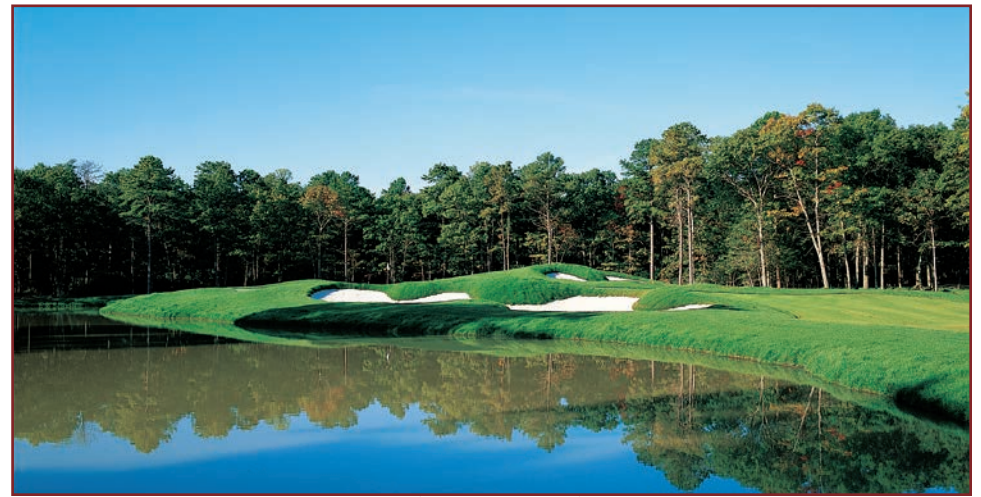
Seaview Bay Course Hole #2

of doglegs, and par 5s you can maybe reach in two (or at least get to within chipping distance), but there are par 4s that are sometimes nearly impossible to reach in regulation. The Pines, situated across Route 9 on the other side of the hotel, is totally different. It winds through woods, which makes it a tougher assignment off the tee. If you're spraying the driver it would be a long day. The closing stretch includes back-to-back par 3s that will test you. And perhaps even ruin your scorecard. There's also consecutive par 5s at 9 and 10 that can do likewise. I say you play them both and compare notes afterward over a nice lunch in the grill room. Aren't much better ways to spend a day.



Twisted Dune #16

**TWISTED DUNE** — This has always been high on my list, mostly because there's nothing like it. At least not in these parts. It's like going to Scotland or Ireland. And since I've been over there close to 10 times, I love that. The fairways and greens are wide enough, but there's trouble all around, mainly in the way of high rough that you really don't want to have to deal with. It's no fun. So bring some extra balls. The set of par 3s are tremendous. One of them demands a shot to a well-protected green with water down the right. Ouch. The 16th has a carry over a gorge of about 160 yards depending upon where you hit from. You make 3 on either of them and you've done well. The 17th, a par 4, also has a carry over a piece of no-man's land that will grab your attention. In a good way, I hope.



Shore Gate Hole #5

**SHORE GATE** — As I've explained many times before, this might be the toughest course at the shore. So please don't try to play it from the wrong set of tees. This is not the place to bite off too much, trust me. It's hard enough playing it from the distance that's right for your game. But that's something to be appreciated. You can't fake your way around here. It demands more. In some spots, even more rewarding. There are more than a few holes that are downright memorable. You will definitely feel like you got your money's worth.



Blue Heron Pines #15

**BLUE HERON PINES** — They used to have two courses. The newer East even hosted the 2003 Amateur Public Links Championship, for a reason. The West still remains, as attractive as ever. Ron Jaworski took this one over close to a decade ago, and it's only gotten better with age. Because Jaws simply wouldn't have it any other way. It can be user-friendly in places. But don't let that fool you. There's a few holes that are borderline nasty. The par-4 15th is one of the best at the shore. A slight dogleg left to a peninsula green. Good luck. The 10th, another long par-4 that moves gently left, always gets me. I don't know if I've ever been on in two. Not that I'm complaining or anything. I almost aced the par-3 fourth once. Honest. A foot to the right, from 150 or so. And I think I hit a 7-iron. Now I'd use a 7 wood. Yo. And if you're lucky maybe you'll run into Ron. Tell him I said hi. Speaking of faves, he's obviously near the top.

Cont. on page 17



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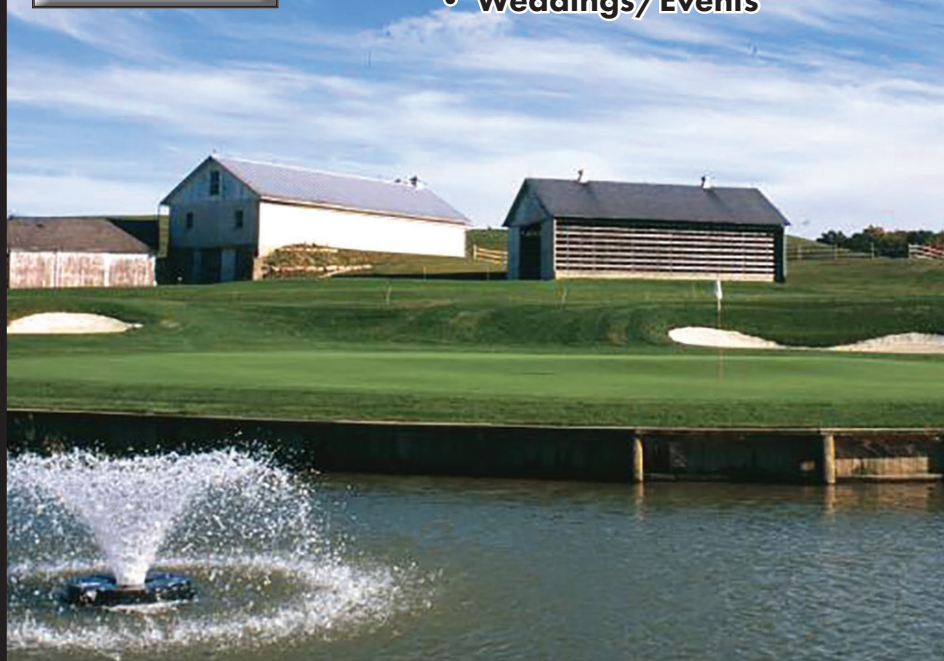
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Cont. from page 15



Balamore

**BALLAMOR** — What stands out most about this course is the topography. There's an abundance of natural hills. And also the fact that nearly every green has a tier running through or across it, meaning you can three-putt a lot if you're not putting your approaches on the proper side of the cup. It's built through woods, but you still have a lot of room to navigate your way around. The 18th is a reverse of Pebble Beach's closing hole, a par-5 with water all down the right side. So it can come into play on all three of your shots. And the green is long enough that the pin placement can determine how much club you might need on the way in. I always feel like I've put in a full day's work when I walk off here. It makes you think. And it makes you play. But that's what it's supposed to do, right? Hey, I've never been disappointed. And that's even after it's eaten more than a little bit of my lunch. After all, it wouldn't be any fun if I went out and had my way with it. As if that ever happens. But I can dream.



Harbor Pines #12

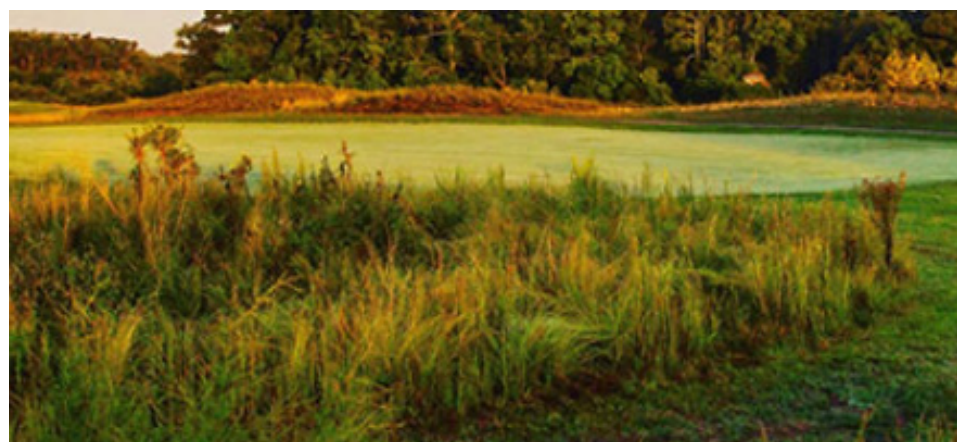
**Harbor Pines** — I haven't been there in too long, so I'll have to do something about that. But I've had my share of fun there. It's always in top shape. The setting is beautiful, something it's taken a lot of pride in given the accolades that it's accumulated in that regard. It's well bunkered, with undulating greens. The ninth is particularly stout, a straightaway par-4 with water on the left and trees guarding the opposite side of the fairway. The wet stuff does come into play. But there's a par-5 that I once almost reached in two. And I don't do that too often. And there's some par-3s where maybe you can do some damage, or make a double bogey if you're not careful. I like that, even if I sometimes end up making the double. It sometimes plays tougher than it might look, which to me is a good design. Keeps you on your toes.



Vineyard National #13

**VINEYARD NATIONAL** — Located at the Renault Winery, it came under new management before the pandemic hit and they had big plans. They do offer a variety of membership packages. I played this course when it first opened, with designer Ed Shearon, and it's only grown on me since then. There's also a hotel and award-winning restaurant, for those that want it all. The interesting thing is that the nines got reversed by the owner at that time, so the 18th would come back to the clubhouse in full view. But the ninth might actually be a harder hole. Whatever. It works. There's a hole with two fairways, another that wraps around grape vines. The 17th green has a false front. In short, it has a lot of nuances to it. And it pulls everything off. There's a par-3 where the teeing area keeps wrapping around from like 200 down to 130 yards, to suit any type of golfer. And yes, water is involved. It is nothing if not interesting. And if you're a fan of Raven's Claw in the Philly suburbs, well Shearon did that one too. Give him two As.

**CAPE MAY NATIONAL** — Another place that I don't get to often enough. I can only blame myself. It's more than worth the little extra drive for me to get there. They call this one The Natural, for reasons that become obvious once you're there. There are no houses. I mean, how can you not enjoy that? It really is soothing. At least until you have to hit some of the shots that are necessary here. And whenever they do a survey of the best holes at the Jersey Shore this course always has two or three make the cut. What more do you need to compute? That has to mean something. And I would heartily concur with those assessments. I just need to find a way to re-familiarize myself with those snapshots.



Cape May National

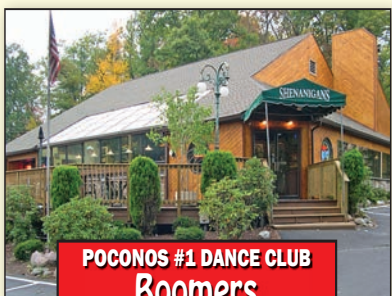
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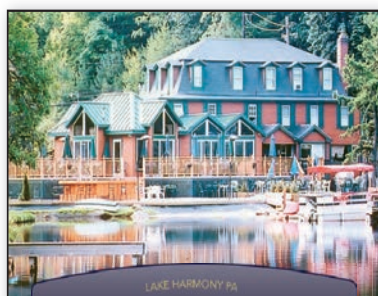
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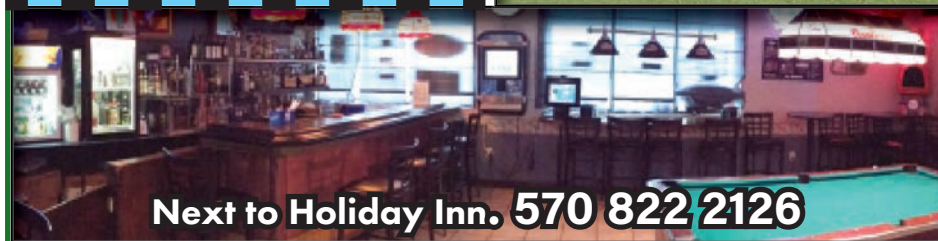
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Cont. from page 6

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The entire line of e12 CONTACT balls are available in white, matte green, matte red and matte yellow colors. The best news is that these high-performance golf balls retail at a mid-range price of \$29.99 per dozen.

[www.bridgestonegolf.com](http://www.bridgestonegolf.com)

## CERTIFRESH CIGAR



There is nothing worse than paying \$10, \$12, \$15 for a cigar in a golf shop, only to take it out on the course and discover that it is dry and stale. To many golfers, that is even worse than a double-bogey.

The CertiFresh Cigar company ended that frustration a number of years ago when they came out with high-quality cigars, individually wrapped in their own humidity-controlled package. No longer was the golfer's moment of satisfaction dependent on a shop clerk faithfully adding water to a humidor.

"Not only do we package premium cigars and match them up with the course that is selling them, but we guarantee them to stay fresh for more than 12 months," says Eric Nelson, president of CertiFresh Cigar.

The popularity of the CertiFresh Cigar has grown to the point where they are now available in more than 3,000 golf shops. Each course gets custom artwork with a course photo and logo on the label inside the sealed, clear plastic package.

"We've always carried nothing but premium cigars," stresses Nelson. That claim is supported by a lineup of cigars from Oliva, Ashton, Davidoff, Arturo Fuente, Rocky Patel, Romeo y Julieta, Montecristo and more. Every cigar in the CertiFresh lineup has been rated at 87 or higher by Cigar Aficionado or Cigar Snob Magazine, which represents the top ten percent of cigars made.

Now CertiFresh has announced an expansion of that line. They include the top cigars from Drew Estates – Acid Kuba Kuba, Undercrown and Liga Privada T52. That is an example of adding quality to an

already top-end lineup ... and, once again, guaranteeing freshness. [www.certifreshcigar.com](http://www.certifreshcigar.com)

## COPPER TECH PLUS GOLF GLOVES



Copper Tech golf gloves have a long history of bringing the Three F's to the golf glove world – Friction, Function and Fashion.

Now the function portion has been improved with the introduction of the Copper Tech Plus model – infusing even more copper technology into the material of the glove. That copper could improve the health and performance of golfers. This takes place through increased blood circulation and oxygenation of the working muscles.

Think of those cold, damp days ... when each swing creates anywhere from mild discomfort to major pain. Then think of Copper Tech Plus.

"If your hands are hurting, you should try our new Copper Tech Plus gloves," says Lloyd Cohn, president of Copper Tech. "People are amazed at the difference they make."

The best part about these new golf gloves is that they do not give golfers the feeling of wearing an orthopedic shoe. The gloves are attractive and they also are durable and very playable.

"For all of those people who want a nice, fashionable golf glove, we've got one for you," continues Cohn. "We have lots of different colors, lots of different choices."

The Copper Tech line of golf gloves now is a veritable rainbow of colors. From subtle pastels to bold colors, just about everything is available in both the men's and women's line of golf gloves.

"There is a lot of emphasis toward having fun on the golf course these days," Cohn adds. "With our gloves, you'll definitely be seen on the golf course. Not only will you look great but you will play great."

Currently there are 18 different colors of golf gloves available in both the men's and women's lines.

[www.coppertechglove.com](http://www.coppertechglove.com)

## COVEL MEN'S GOLF APPAREL

Founder/designer Tricia Covell hit a home run when she introduced her exciting line of women's golf apparel – SwingDish – a few years ago. The line of clothing was so successful that it made her husband jealous. He wanted his own line of men's golf apparel.

Since that husband happened to be





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Cont. from page 19

country music star Toby Keith, that wish became Tricia's command. Her new line of men's golf apparel – Covell – is simply the most comfortable golf apparel on the market.

Horatio Nieto is a designer for the new Covell line and he explained how the breakthrough into the competitive men's golf apparel market was achieved.

"The vision for Covell was simple," said Nieto. "We wanted a men's line that outshines the competition in all categories – fit, fabric and design."

The technology that is built into every Covell shirt or piece of outerwear is amazing. They use nothing but high-tech, luxury performance fabrics that provide SPF 50 protection from the sun and moisture wicking.

Nieto summed up the company's philosophy when he said, "Made to live, work and play, the brand offers essentials for every man."

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## HIGH HEAT 257+ TGS



Amateur golfers are always looking for something magical to turn their game around. Steve Trattner and inventor Dean Knuth co-developed the line of High Heat golf clubs five years ago. Their story of success has been an incredible one but, up to now, it was built on research and high-tech innovation.

With Trattner's latest statements, it seems a bit of illusion has entered the equation. "People who have tested our clubs feel the Turf Glider Sole is really magical," reports Trattner. "It eliminates fat shots and thin shots, which amateurs hit on a regular basis."

Of course, there is not really any magic to the High Heat story. From the first High Heat driver, five years ago, Knuth embarked on a year-by-year expansion of the line and improvement of the product. At all times, creating the best drivers, fairway woods and hybrids for the amateur golfer was the company mantra.

In 2019, the major improvement was 257+ face technology, which provided a greater trampoline effect on off-center hits. Now that technology has been augmented by the new "Turf Glider Sole" -- an innovation that adds even more playability to the clubs.

"The Turf Glider Sole raises the face of the club when hitting a fat shot, so that it glides right through to the ball without hitting the turf first," explains Trattner. "And on a thin shot, it's so magical because it raises the back part of the head so that it glides and hits the ball square, for more distance than on a normal thin shot."

There's that word again, "magical." Here's one additional bit of magic: all High Heat clubs come with a 30-day full-refund guarantee. [www.highheatgolf.com](http://www.highheatgolf.com)

## BEN HOGAN'S SECRET PUZZLE - REVISITED



Dave Hamilton has displayed successful, well-recognized products in the past at the PGA Merchandise Show – most notably The Putting Arc, the No. 1 putting training device in golf.

Now he has turned his attention to the literary world with his new book, *The Final Missing Piece of Ben Hogan's Secret Puzzle – Revisited*.

Hamilton wrote a book, examining Ben Hogan's swing secrets a few years ago. But continued research, both on and off the golf course, opened a new segment of fascinating information and all of it is included in the "revisited" version of the book.

"It's written from the viewpoint of a 78-year-old golfer who discovered a few things recently in the Hogan secret and they made amazing improvements in my game," reveals Hamilton, a career-long single digit handicapper. "I think most people who are Hogan fans will really enjoy it. There are some great stories, as well as some new discoveries about his swing that I have never seen anywhere before."

The best part about the book is that it is written in an easy-to-read, easy-to-understand format that breaks down the complex and sometimes confusing facets of the golf swing into simple maneuvers that will produce a consistent, repetitive swing. And that always was the key to Hogan's success on the PGA Tour.

In a very self-confident fashion, Hamilton provides the bottom line: "If an age 78 golfer can use these techniques and greatly improve his game, I think most golfers can do the same."

The book is being distributed through The Putting Arc platform. [www.theputtingarc.com](http://www.theputtingarc.com)

## NEXBELT – FAST EDDIE X-FACTOR



Nexbelt, the Belt with No Holes, has been one of the hottest stories in golf apparel for a number of years. The success of the

Cont. on page 27



In a ranking by The Sun News, golf experts voted two holes, #2 and #13, as part of the "Dream 18," a compilation of the best 18 holes on the beach



## New Clubhouse

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Cont. from page 7

Golf at Kierland is challenging and fun, with a collection of three complementary nines, each featuring its own flavor and strategic initiatives. "We offer a true walkable course, along with carts and hoverboards, ATV-style ELLWEEs and work our best toward excellent conditioning with beautiful views of the McDowell Mountain range. Kierland is imminently playable and less penal than some other "target golf" options in the Valley."



The Phoenician

Troon Golf manages a number of area courses in addition to Southern Dunes and Kierland, like the superb tandem at Troon North (Pinnacle, Monument courses), The Phoenician and Eagle Mountain among others.

Two favorites of many golfers are the Coore-Crenshaw designed Saguaro Course at We-Ko-Pa, ranked number one of the Best Courses you can play in Arizona by Golfweek Magazine, and its sister course Cholla ranked eighth. Others on the list include Verrado and Victory in Buckeye, Talking Stick, Camelback and the nearby North and South courses at the Boulders Resort in Carefree.



Saguaro Course

"What is so cool about the Arizona golf course portfolio is that you have three distinct types of courses, parkland, desert and hybrid," added Huffman, "out of about 400 layouts. And what that promotes is variety, value and spectacular views. A golfer has options!"

And it is not a stagnate sport, it's growing as witnessed by the increase in rounds played during the pandemic. Golf is growing.

A fact of the pandemic is that the Canadian visitors have slipped to near zero from what is normally 20% of the winter visitors. Yet the Valley courses have been packed with those "work from home" players getting onto the course more often.

Beware though. Do your planning not only by resort and golf course, but also by location, as the more than 200 courses in the Valley of the Sun can involve driving a bit. The Wigwam, for instance, is a far jaunt from We-Ko-Pa, so planning is essential. Take the time to play each day's golf and one thing is for sure...at the end of your visit you will want more, more and more.

Once you've planned prepare to be bedazzled. The courses, especially those of the "desert" variety, present a whole new challenge to east coast visitors who marvel at and look in awe of cactus flora, canyons and the occasional rattler. Talk about challenges! And there is one thing for sure, the Valley of the Sun is continually changing for the better.



Southern Dunes

"The big deal these days in the Grand Canyon State is the opening of Sterling Grove, a mid-to-high end semi-private Jack Nicklaus Design on the west end of the Valley," explains Huffman. "Right now, the public can play the Troon Golf managed 18-hole course for just under \$100 and that's a real steal because within a projected five-year window it will become completely private. Just don't miss playing its putting course as well, it's a solid 10."

With a cornucopia of golf presentations, as well as superb resorts and a wealth of activities, the area is always ripe for a visit. Memories are made here.

A great destination that has everything a golfer could want, from outstanding golf courses displaying variety and challenge, a great nightlife, and flexible price points. The Valley of the Sun is a can't miss goal for your golf bucket list.



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## 2021 AGA/GAP Schedule released

Time to build your AGA/GAP tournament season. Registration for the entire 2021 AGA/GAP Schedule opens Thursday, April 1 at 9 a.m.

The playing slate tees off April 21 with the Modified Stableford and finishes up in October. In between those dates lies a plethora of playing opportunities for all ages, genders and playing abilities.

Back for its second year, the GAP Central Stroke Play Championship, which runs in conjunction with the GAP Central Series, takes place Aug. 2 at Frosty Valley. The Central Series Stroke Play joins the 13th Spring Stroke Play Championship (June 3 at Glenmaura National Golf Club) and 19th Stroke Play Championship (July 12 at Fox Hill Country Club) on the list of AGA/GAP highlights.

All AGA/GAP events, besides the Coal Scuttle Championships and GAP/USGA Qualifying, are sponsored this season by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management – Erickson, Hudacek & Leibman Group.

A formidable collection of Four-Ball championships is once again back in 2021: Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball (April 29 at Wyoming Valley Country Club), Spencer Four-Ball (July 14 at Glen Oak Country Club), Founders Four-Ball (Aug. 5 at Glenmaura National), George Montgomery Four-Ball (Sept. 20 at Frosty Valley) and Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball (Oct. 11 at Irem Country Club).

On the Junior side, the AGA Lawler Junior Tour Series, sponsored by Abington Center for Cosmetic & Family Dentistry and Community Bank, is set to begin in June. The cost is \$10 for nine-hole golfers (Division II), \$15 for 18-hole golfers (Division I). The Lawler Junior Tour, which began in 1983, is open to boys and girls 10 to 18 years of age. The Series concludes with the Tournament of Champions, set for July 26 at Fox Hill and July 27 at Huntsville Golf Club.

In addition to its regular championship events, the AGA/GAP schedule also includes Qualifying events for the GAP Majors (Middle-Amateur Championship, BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship, Open Championship and Joseph H. Patterson Cup) and U.S. Open (Local Qualifying (May 17 at Elmhurst Country Club)).

The 71st Men's Coal Scuttle Championship will take place Sept. 25-26 at Glenmaura National and Wyoming Valley Country Club, respectively. Fox Hill will once again host the 39th Senior Coal Scuttle Championship on Sept. 1. The 7th Super-Senior and 29th Women's Coal Scuttle championships will also take place at Fox Hill on Aug. 25.

The first four events on the schedule are now open for registration.

If you plan on competing in any AGA/GAP events, then you must first create a Golf Genius account through GAP's registration form. Once a Golf Genius account is created, then the online registration process can begin.

For more information, contact Patrick Lloyd, Director of Northeast Operations, at 610-687-2340 ext. 17 or via email at [plloyd@gapgolf.org](mailto:plloyd@gapgolf.org).

### 2021 AGA/GAP SCHEDULE

MODIFIED STABLEFORD	April 21	HUNTSVILLE	JOSEPH H. PATTERSON CUP QUALIFYING	July 20	FROSTY VALLEY
BEN MARSHALL SPRING FOUR-BALL	April 29	WYOMING VALLEY	JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS RD. 1	July 26	FOX HILL
GAP MID-AM QUALIFYING	May 4	VALLEY	JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS RD. 2	July 27	HUNTSVILLE
JOHN MOORE MEMORIAL RD. 1	May 15	ELKVIEW	GAP CENTRAL STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP	Aug. 2	FROSTY VALLEY
JOHN MOORE MEMORIAL RD. 2	May 16	STONEHEDGE	FOUNDERS FOUR-BALL	Aug. 5	GLENMAURA
USGA OPEN LOCAL QUALIFYING	May 17	ELMHURST	SUPER-SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE	Aug. 25	FOX HILL
BMW PHILADELPHIA AMATEUR QUALIFYING	May 19	ELKVIEW	WOMENS COAL SCUTTLE	Aug. 25	FOX HILL
SPRING STROKE PLAY	June 3	GLENMAURA	SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE	Sept. 1	FOX HILL
GAP OPEN QUALIFYING	June 23	SCHUYLKILL	GEORGE MONTGOMERY FALL FOUR-BALL	Sept. 20	FROSTY VALLEY
OVER/UNDER 50	June 28	ELMHURST	MENS COAL SCUTTLE RD 1	Sept. 25	GLENMAURA
STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP	July 12	FOX HILL	MENS COAL SCUTTLE RD 2	Sept. 26	WYOMING VALLEY
SPENCER FOUR-BALL	July 14	GLEN OAK	CARLYLE ROBINSON FALL FOUR-BALL	Oct. 11	IREM CC
JOSEPH H. PATTERSON CUP QUALIFYING	July 20	FROSTY VALLEY	N.E. TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS	Oct. 6	HUNTSVILLE
JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS RD. 1	July 26	FOX HILL	N.E. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY	Oct. 13	ELMHURST
			AGA CHALLENGE CUP	Oct. 30	TBD



## ANDERSON MEDALS IN #GAPMIDAM QUALIFYING AT FIVE PONDS

WARMINSTER, Pa. – GAP is back.

The GAP (Golf Association of Philadelphia) Major circuit officially teed off Saturday at Five Ponds Golf Club (par 71, 6,464 yards). After a year hiatus from conducting Qualifying events, medalist honors were back up for grabs in the first of four Middle-Amateur Championship Qualifying events.

That honor went to LedgeRock Golf Club's Josh Anderson, who fired a 1-under 70 — the day's lone sub-par round — to secure the top spot.

A windy, overcast day hosted 95 players vying for the championship proper, set to be played May 26-27 at Lookaway Golf Club. The cut line stopped at 4-over 75, meaning 26 players punched tickets to the 38th #GAPMidAm.

Anderson, 41, of Morgantown, Pa., began his debut GAP event on No. 10 (par 4, 375 yards) with "one of the worst tee shots I've ever hit in my life." Despite the miscue, he scrambled for an up-and-down par after a flushed 4-iron approach that settled the swift swinger. Anderson then got his first birdie to fall on the par-4, 357-yard 13th after his approach wedge shot nestled to 10 feet and was jarred. Next up was a birdie on the par-5, 540-yard 15th which dropped from 25 feet. Before the turn, another birdie fell after a wedge from 85 yards nestled up to three feet and was knocked in. A 7-iron dart on the par-3, 167-yard 7th hole led to another 20-foot red digit and his last of the day. Despite a bogey on Five Ponds' finisher, it all equaled the impressive 1-under 70 round for Anderson.

"After the shaky start with the tee shot, I knew I needed to grab a birdie and I was able to," said Anderson. "Once that fell, I knew that if I made a few more, that I would have some comfort coming in. I was able to kind of just focus on pars and avoiding creeks and things like that once I made the turn. I was kind of cheering on the rest of my group because they were all right around par. It was really fun out there."

The GAP neophyte, who moved to Morgantown from Ohio in 2019, made a big splash in his first competitive season in the Keystone State. Anderson captured both the Berks Country Golf Association Amateur and Public Links Championships in 2020. He was unable to compete in GAP events due to no Qualifying events on tap in 2020. However, 2021 is a different story, as evidenced by today's medal performance.

"When I moved here, I was trying to figure out what I was going to compete in. Obviously, I wasn't able to do any Qualifying events for GAP last year. So I'm excited for that chance this season," said Anderson.

Now, after today's medal honors, he'll turn his attention to chasing a GAP Major trophy. His debut will come at Lookaway in a few weeks, a course he's never seen before. However, after joining LedgeRock in November, he's more than familiar with Rees Jones-designed courses. It fits his style — and his scores.

"I've played a lot at LedgeRock so I know that style well," said Anderson. "I played well today without seeing the course beforehand. Plus it's always nice to have your name at the top of the leaderboard. I'm excited to play in a few weeks at Lookaway now."

Cont. from page 21

company is due in part to a commitment to update the technology and innovate the style.

This year's newest model, the Fast Eddie X-Factor belt, has drawn rave reviews everywhere – including the PGA Tour. A number of the most stylish professional golfers are sporting the new look from Nexbelt.

"The X-Factor currently is being worn by Marc Leishman on Tour," says Eddie Rowland, president of Nexbelt. "It comes in two colors – a lucky blue and the other is a popular silver. The belt buckle has our iconic X on the front but the nice addition is that the buckle holds a divot tool, a ball marker and a bottle opener inside."

In addition, Nexbelt has turned its attention to the junior golfers.

"The new Youth Series is a line that is attracting a lot of attention. It is a ratcheting belt that is made proportionally to fit a child," explains Rowland. "Although our entire line of belts are cut to fit, so they fit anybody, these youth series belts are not only a bit shorter but they are narrower. They come in three colors – black, white and grey – and include our signature "Go in" ball marker. It's a great gift for parents and grandparents to buy for their juniors, without having to know their size."

From golf belts, to work belts, to the ultimate in dress belts ... Nexbelt is the apparel leader both on and off the golf course. [www.nexbelt.com](http://www.nexbelt.com)

### P-3 PHARAOH WEDGE

The Pyramid Putter took the golf industry by storm two years ago when it was launched at the PGA Merchandise Show. The popularity and growth of this putter line since then has been nothing short of amazing.

Now the company has expanded with the introduction of the revolutionary P-3 Pharaoh Wedge.

This new wedge is designed specifically to improve the chipping portion



of the game for amateurs. It is so simple, the designer guarantees "instant improvement."

"This new wedge is something a little different," says Matt Stephens, co-inventor of the original putter and, now, the wedge. "There are what we call slide rails on the sole of the club and they help the club from digging in to the turf. They will slide through a variety of different kinds of turf and sand. It's very versatile, so you can use it from all different types of lies out on the course.

"We also did something we did on our putters, which was an alignment guide that we put on the top line of the club. That is something new -- something that really hasn't been done before. A lot of people are loving that feature for the fact that you really can zero in and pick where you want to hit your chip shot."

The combination of the alignment guide, an upright lie and shorter shaft that bring eyes right over the ball for accuracy, a head that's 20 percent heavier than standard and a super-low center of gravity all contribute to a club that is certain to cure chipping woes for most golfers.

[www.pyramidputters.com](http://www.pyramidputters.com)

### Tour Edge Exotics C 721 Driver

For the last five years Tour Edge has set a personal record for sales. The growth of this equipment company, based in Batavia, Illinois, is no surprise. Attention to technological advances and promotion through sensible marketing strategies has led to unparalleled success.

"The Exotics C 721 driver is the most advanced driver we have ever designed," said Jon Claffey, vice president of Marketing for Tour Edge. "Company founder David Glod has done it again. But this time he has raised the bar all the way to the top. This driver is our best performing, our best feeling, our most powerful driver ever."

That is a bold claim from a company that already has a great run of success ... with tour professionals and amateurs alike. But the claim does



not come without factual support.

"Our focus on research and development has just been through the roof lately," Claffey added. "We have put the focus on sound and feel. That's why our drivers have become the fastest-growing drivers on the professional tours over the last year."

The big technological development in the C 721 driver is called "ridgeback" – a support system, surrounded by carbon wings. There is a line that goes from the trailing edge to the leading edge and is made from titanium. It is surrounded by carbon wings that use 20 percent more carbon fibers than has ever been used in a driver.

The driver also uses Diamondface 2.0 technology on the face, delivering one of the highest ball speeds on off-center hits in the industry.

All of this comes in a high-performance driver that retails for \$399. [www.touredge.com](http://www.touredge.com)

### VOLVIK XT SOFT

For years Volvik has been known for its light-hearted, fun-loving approach to the game of golf. The company gained worldwide notoriety for its bright-colored golf balls, then amped the excitement by producing special sets of golf balls with the images of superheroes from the comics and movies.

For those not aware, Volvik also makes one of the highest-quality competition golf balls on the market. They are used by many players on the LPGA Tour as well as the men's professional tours.

"We take pride in the fact that Volvik XT Soft golf balls received gold medal status from national equipment ranking institutions," said Don Shin, president of Volvik USA. "XT Soft golf balls provide outstanding performance benefits to discerning players everywhere."

The secret to the success of the Volvik XT Soft golf ball is that bismuth, a rare heavy metal, is used in the soft rubber core. It is used in the outer portion of the core to improve resiliency and promote better energy transfer. The three-piece ball also features a urethane cover with a three-line alignment stamp to assist with putting.



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# Philadelphia PGA Section

## SCOREBOARD



### PINEHURST PRO AM

Pos.	Foursome	To Par	Total
1	Laurel Creek CC 1	-16	128
2	Maple Dale CC	-15	129
3	Applebrook GC 1	-14	130
T4	Bluestone CC	-9	135
T4	Camden County G.A.	-9	135
T4	Scranton Golf Center	-9	135
T7	Saucon Valley CC 2	-8	136
T7	Overbrook GC	-8	136
T7	The Peninsula G & CC	-8	136
T10	Berkshire CC	-7	137
T10	Woodcrest CC 1	-7	137
T10	Riverton CC	-7	137
T10	Bayside Resort GC	-7	137



### SPRING MEETING GOLF ONLY ROLLING GREEN GC

Player	T1	T2	Points This Round
Total Points			
Robert Hennefer	9.00	9.00	9.00
William Smith	8.00	8.00	8.00
Brian Bergstol	8.00	8.00	8.00
Dustin Wallis	8.00	8.00	8.00
Gregory Matthias	8.00	8.00	8.00
Michael Little	1.00	7.00	8.00 8.00
Michael Ladden	8.00	8.00	8.00
William Scarborough	2.00	6.00	8.00 8.00
Adam Brigham	7.00	7.00	7.00
Benjamin Debski	1.00	6.00	7.00 7.00
Brian Kelly	7.00	7.00	7.00
Nicholas Borro	7.00	7.00	7.00
Anthony Napoletano	6.00	6.00	6.00
Michael Molino	6.00	6.00	6.00



### PENINSULA PRO AM

Pos.	Foursome	To Par	Net
1	Brian Rashley / Mike Lupichuk / Anthony Busacca / James Trait Bear Trap Dunes	-12	60
T2	Sean Gradomski / Steve Dennis / Sid Burkot / Greg Larson Bayside Resort Golf Club	-10	62
T2	Matt DiEleuterio / Mark DiEleuterio / Jerry DiEleuterio / Ronny Abrams Fieldstone Golf Club	-10	62
T2	Mark Parson / Mike Dougherty / Joe Petrini / Kyle Kirby Harbor Pines Golf Club	-10	62
5	Ian Madinger / Pat Porras / Bill Klimovich / Clark Bond Plantation Lakes Country Club	-9	63



### TPD PRO AM Little Mill Country Club

Pos.	Player	Stableford Points
1	Michael Little Lookaway Golf Club	22
2	Parks Price Country Club of York	21
T3	Jordan Shuey West Shore Country Club	20
T3	Stu Ingraham MGolf Range & Learning Center	20
T3	Alex Knoll Glen Brook Golf Club	20
T6	Mark Sheftic Merion Golf Club	18
T6	Ashley Grier Overbrook Golf Club	18
T8	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	16



## TRIO OF TEAMS TIED AT TOP IN BEN MARSHALL SPRING FOUR-BALL



HANOVER, Pa. – Home-field advantage played a big role in crowning a Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball champion. Or, should we say, a handful of champions.

A three-way tie in the Amateur Division, all at 4-under 67, highlighted a challenging day at Wyoming Valley Country Club (par 71, 6,178 yards).

Home club stalwarts Joseph Weiscarger and Eric Plisko, plus Tom Biscotti and Michael Blazik, grabbed shares of the Ben Marshall crown. Visitors Eric Williams of Honesdale Golf Club and Matt Dougherty of Glenmaura National Golf Club would also finish the day at 4 under, sharing the top prize away from home.

Battling spurts of rainfall and consistent winds, the trio of winners bested the rest of the 20-team field by five shots. The birdie-party count went as follows: Dougherty/Williams (6), Plisko/Weiscarger (5), Biscotti/Blazik (4).

Not many players know the course better than Biscotti and Blazik. Their round Thursday was boosted by big-time birdies on both Wyoming Valley's opener (par 5, 493 yards) and closer (par 4, 351 yards).

"I'd say we know this course pretty well, and I thought any score today in the 60s would have a chance to win it all. We started and ended really nicely with those birdies, which ended up mattering," said Biscotti. "The variables were the tough conditions. Of course, the rain hit us mid-round, but everybody was playing in the same conditions. Plus, the course itself was playing challenging, especially with a fair amount of back pin locations. It was a good test out there." Wyoming Valley's Weiscarger/Plisko, Biscotti/Blazik

With two Wyoming Valley duos at the top, it appeared that the home-field advantage was too much to overcome for most, besides the prevailing Dougherty and Williams.

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## ZALATORIS SHINES IN MASTERS DEBUT



By Paul Rogers /

Of all the storylines likely to endure from the 85th Masters, this one seems a sure bet: Will Zalatoris has arrived.

The lanky 24-year-old, a late entry into the Tournament field, captivated the galleries this week with his wide arc and whiplike downswing and a confidence that belied his youth. When Zalatoris rolled in an 18-foot putt for par on the final hole, the patrons at Augusta National stood and applauded. As he doffed his cap, the late-afternoon sun glowed through his blond hair.

A Masters rookie playing in the third-to-last pairing, Zalatoris shot 70 on Sunday to finish runner-up at 9-under 279, one stroke behind Hideki Matsuyama. He was attempting to become the first player to win the Masters in his debut since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979.

“It was an absolute treat,” Zalatoris said. “Obviously, to come up one short and be disappointed is motivating, but obviously very exciting.”

Zalatoris was one of the last players in the field to qualify for the Tournament, by virtue of cracking the top 50 in the world rankings in late March; coming into the week, he was No. 46. It was the latest step in a remarkable climb for Zalatoris, who, after a successful college career at Wake Forest, spent two years on the Korn Ferry Tour. Before dominating the tour in his second season — and qualifying for the 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, where he finished tied for sixth — he had to earn his way into events through Monday qualifiers.

“It was a pretty rough first year as a pro,” Zalatoris said. “A little under two years ago, I was sitting down with my coaches and my agent and talking about playing mini-tour events — and not even two years later, frustrated that I was one shot short of winning the Masters. It’s a pretty cool feeling.”

Zalatoris performed well all week. With rounds of 70-68-71-70, he was the only player in the 88-man field to break par all four days. He was tied for second after 36 holes and in the same position after play was completed on Saturday.

Starting the final round four shots behind Matsuyama, Zalatoris birdied the first and second holes to pull within two, drawing roars despite the reduced number of patrons because of the pandemic. Moments later, Matsuyama bogeyed his opening hole after punching out from the trees on the right. Zalatoris now stood a single stroke off the lead, and he knew just where he stood.

“I looked at every leader board all the way in,” he said. “I’ve seen enough coverage of this Tournament, when they put the time stamps of leader boards where at 4:15 Eastern there’s a five-shot lead and at 4:30 it turns to three and at 5:00 there’s three guys tied for the lead. So, I knew I needed to stay in it.”

After Zalatoris bogeyed the short par-4 third and Matsuyama birdied the par-5 second behind him, the lead grew to three strokes. By the time Zalatoris entered Amen Corner, the gap had widened to five. With birdies at Nos. 15 and 17, Zalatoris whittled away at Matsuyama’s margin but ran out of holes.

Cont. on page 37

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# POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES

## 2021 PPGS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 20	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual John Belluardo Pro-Pro @ Glen Brook	Wednesday, July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Elmhurst
April 27 <sup>th</sup> – April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open Week	Wednesday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Shawnee
Thursday, May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mountain Laurel	Thursday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Whitetail
Thursday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Southmoore	Thursday, August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pocono Manor
Wednesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Skytop	Thursday, August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Woodstone
Thursday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Stonehedge	Monday-Wednesday, Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> – Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	Philadelphia Section Championship
Wednesday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Olde Homestead	Wednesday, September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Buck Hill
Wednesday, June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pocono Farms	September 13 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
Wednesday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Brook	Tuesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Scranton Canoe Club
Wednesday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Woodloch Springs	Wednesday, September 29 <sup>th</sup>	CC of Scranton
Thursday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wyoming Valley	Wednesday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Elkview
July 7 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Week	Tues & Weds, October 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	PPGS Stroke Play Championship TBD
Friday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Green Pond	Tuesday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Pro-Pro TBD
Monday & Tuesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	GALV Lehigh Valley Open	Tuesday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pocono Cup (Lehigh Valley) TBD

\*Contact Kevin Edwards @ 610-298-4653 or kevinedwards@pga.com if interested in an open week










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"There were definitely high expectations for today, yeah. We're very proud to represent the course," said Biscotti, 43, of Mountain Top, Pa. "Plus, Mike is one of my best friends in the world, and that's special in itself to get a win alongside him."

Plisko, an accomplished player in his own right, echoed sentiments of home-club pride after joining the winner's circle.

"Honestly, it's great just to see that quality of play we have here at Wyoming Valley. I play a lot of golf with those guys, and I love those guys to death, so it was cool to see those names up there," said Plisko, 34, of Hanover Township, Pa. "We knew going into today that it would be difficult. The conditions were tough, and there were a lot of good players in the field. And obviously, [Eric and Matt], they're really good players."

Senior glory went to the team of Ken Bolcavage of Elkview Country Club and Matt Froncek of Honesdale Golf Club, who finished at 2-under 69. It was a memorable day for the champions, as their respectable round bested a talented Senior-Division field of 16. Thanks to five birdies on the scorecard, Bolcavage and Froncek came in as the lone Senior squad under par.

"You know, I wasn't making anything on the greens. I was hitting the ball well, but just wasn't making many birdie looks," said Bolcavage, the reigning AGA Senior Player of the Year. "It was great to have my partner [Matt] playing well out there. He really did."

Coming down the stretch, a frightening bogey on No. 17 (par 4, 400 yards) scared the duo. In the end, it wouldn't matter.

"Oh, we were pissed after that bogey on 17. We weren't really sure where we were [on the leaderboard] at that point," said Bolcavage, 57, of Carbondale, Pa. "But in the end, we got the win and we were definitely happy with that. I'm usually critical on myself, but you can't complain too much when you win."

In the Super-Senior Division, taking home the top spot at 1-under par 70 was the duo of The Bucks Club's John Gonsior and Saucon Valley Country Club's Gene Maginnis. A pair of balanced 35s on the card added up to the round the Supers needed for the title. They beat the field by three shots.

"We went out and really had a great time. We kind of hurt each other on the scorecard a few times, because we didn't know exactly where to hit the ball having never played here before, but we managed and battled," said Gonsior, 69, of Horsham, Pa. "Overall, we both played pretty good, and had a lot more birdie opportunities than expected."

Making the nearly two-hour drive ended up being well worth it for Gonsior and Maginnis. Their car was a bit heavier on the drive back thanks to the new piece of winning hardware in the trunk.

"We heard good things about Wyoming Valley and had never seen it before, so we decided, 'Hey, why not?' and drove up to play," said Gonsior, a GAP player of nearly 40 years. "I'm really glad we did, because it was a great experience overall. Playing in the [GAP region], we're so lucky as amateur golfers with all the playing opportunities out there. It's the best in the country."



Wyoming Valley's Weiscarger/Plisko, Biscotti/Blazick

1	Biscotti + Blazick Wyoming Valley Country Club	-4	67
2	Plisko + Weiscarger Wyoming Valley Country Club	-4	67
3	Williams + Dougherty Honesdale Golf Club, Glenmaura National Golf Club	-4	67
4	Masters + Rossi Country Club of Scranton, Green Pond Country Club	+1	72
5	Spengler + Ianieri Jack Frost National Golf Club	+1	72
6	Manley + Manley Elmhurst Country Club	+1	72
7	Lewis + Shoemaker Wyoming Valley Country Club	+1	72
8	Mikiewicz + Kacvinsky Fox Hill Country Club, Elmhurst Country Club	+1	72
9	Behm + Brunn Irem Country Club, Wyoming Valley Country Club	+2	73
10	Evans + Bonavoglia Glenmaura National Golf Club, Elmhurst Country Club	+2	73
11	Degillio + Blasi, Jr. Wyoming Valley Country Club	+4	75
12	Donatoni + Haley Fox Hill Country Club	+4	75
13	McCormick + Mancini The ACE Club, Bellewood Country Club	+4	75

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Though a surprise to those unfamiliar with him, Zalatoris' strong showing was very much in character for a player, and person, who has always seemed older than his age, said Albert Huddleston, a friend and the founder of Maridoe Golf Club in Carrollton, Texas, where Zalatoris is a member.

In recommending Zalatoris for membership, Huddleston said, a mutual friend described him this way: "When he was 11, he acted 15. When he was 12, he acted like he was 18. When he was 13, you think he's 22.' His calm maturity, from my perspective, is amazing."

Huddleston said Zalatoris regularly plays with junior golfers at Maridoe and supports a benefit event run by a foundation for wounded veterans. He also said Zalatoris works tirelessly, but not mindlessly, on his game.

"He's not a range rat; he doesn't sit on the range," Huddleston said. "He may work on something for 15, 20 minutes, but he plays. If it's 20 degrees Fahrenheit, he's playing against the guys. If it's 120 degrees, 110 degrees, he's playing."

A little under two years ago, I was sitting down with my coaches and my agent and talking about playing mini-tour events – and not even two years later, frustrated that I was one shot short of winning the Masters. It's a pretty cool feeling.

Will Zalatoris



Zalatoris also has had the good fortune of learning from golf royalty from his earliest years in the game. At age 6, he received an impromptu lesson from Ken Venturi, himself a Masters runner-up (in 1960) as well as a U.S. Open champion and longtime commentator on Masters telecasts for CBS Sports. Venturi saw him practicing at the Cal Club outside San Francisco, where the Zalatorises were members, and offered a word of advice.

"I was hitting balls on the range, and he saw me just rapid-fire, nonstop, hitting bucket after bucket of golf balls," Zalatoris said. "And he went over and taught me how to hold a golf club. He said, 'Don't ever change it,' and I've had an overlap grip ever since that lesson."

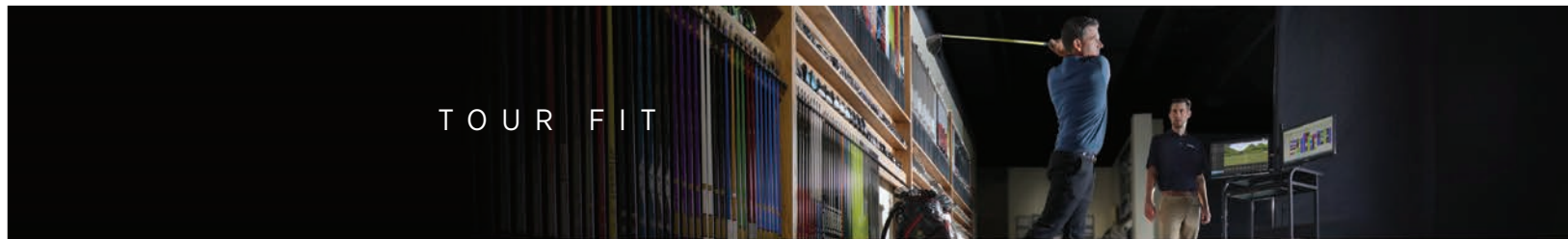
When Zalatoris was 9, his family moved to Dallas, where he competed against Jordan Spieth and Scottie Scheffler and became friends with the children of Lanny Wadkins. The Hall of Famer shared nuggets of hard-earned wisdom about to how to negotiate the subtle challenges of Augusta National.

Zalatoris absorbed them all, and he surely gained more than a few of his own in his attention-getting debut at the Masters

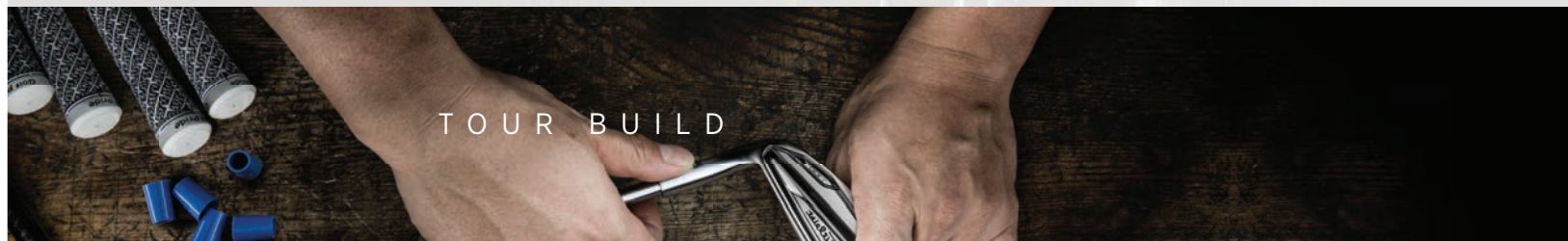


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