

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

GOLF NORTHEAST

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Summer 2021

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U.S. SENIOR OPEN AT SAUCONVALLEY



Saucon Valley Clubhouse

By MIKE KERN

So, just how many things do you think you can buy right now for the same price that you paid for them two decades ago?

Thought so. Even in my world, the prices of two tacos at Jack in the Box have gone up from 99 cents to a buck 39. It happens.

But no so with the 2022 U.S. Senior Open, which will be held June 23-26 at Bethlehem's Saucon Valley Country Club, without a doubt one of the top 54-hole facilities anywhere. In 2000, the last time it hosted this championship, the price for a weekly package (Tuesday through Sunday) was \$225. Next year, it will be the same. At least for those who take advantage of the early-bird option, which will be available to the general public beginning June 15 until the end of July.

There's actually a package for \$135 that just gets you onto the grounds. For the extra \$90 you get the premium 19th hole offering, which is an outdoor festival-like setting in the middle of the three finishing holes on the Old Course, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The are will feature a variety of interactive activities, including golf simulators, a 9,000-square foot putting green and live music from a local band during Tuesday and Wednesday's practice rounds. There's also going to be seating areas with a Jumbotron, and maybe even a few more perks/surprises that are still in the working stages. Hey, you never know. But any way you look at it, that's a deal that's hard to pass up. If you enjoy getting out and watching the best 50 and older golfers on the planet do their thing.

Mimi Griffin, a Saucon member, pretty much is in charge of running this event. Just as she did in 1992, and 2000. Ditto the 2009 Women's Open. And just about every year she oversees the merchandise/concession for the USGA at the U.S. Open. So she knows what she's doing, and the USGA trusts that she will do it right. And she's excited

about the possibilities, once again.

Saucon, by the way, is the first course to ever host this event three times.

"I think we're uniquely poised to take advantage of (the current landscape, coming out of the pandemic) like crazy," she said at a recent media day there. "They respect the fact that we've been here before, and done this, and know the market. We know it will sell. And this is a frugal market. But they will pay for value. In order to entice them to jump into the water, we've got to give them something that is eye-opening. And we think a 22-year-old price is that.

"What (the pandemic) has done is ramped up the energy. It's helped with corporate clients. We're having another preview day next week, and like 40 companies are coming. That would be good for a U.S. Open. We're getting them from Philadelphia, Harrisburg, as well as the Lehigh Va

"Our outreach has been even much more well received than it has in the past. I think what people have been going through the last year has a lot to do with it. They haven't really spent their budgets like they would have. So they've got some money to spend. And they're looking for something that's at a high level and close by. It doesn't get any better than this."

They started recruiting volunteers in January. Some 2,000 are needed. They've already just about reached that number, which Griffin says is almost unprecedented in such a short timeframe. But this event has regional appeal, in an area that's far enough from the big city that it promises to be treated as nothing less than a major-league endeavor. As it should be. In many ways, places like Saucon are the perfect venue for this tournament.

Cont. on page 5

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Griffin is hoping to get close to 25,000 people in daily. But she also wants to make sure that they all have a worthy experience.

“I learned from (former chairman Bruce Davis), and his favorite mantra was, ‘If they come, make sure they can see golf,’ “ she related. “The nice thing about Saucon is, for the most part, there aren’t a lot of places where you can’t see. We want to make sure they’re not 10, 12, 15 deep around some holes.”

There are other tickets available. One is the Flex Book, which is designed for people who want to commit but don’t know yet about specific days. For \$300 you can get 10 coupons, which are redeemable at the admissions gate. Four must be used, in any combination, on Tuesday or Wednesday. The remaining six may be used, again in any combo, Thursday through Sunday. Free parking and shuttle service from the lots are of course included. So that’s \$30 a day. And that’s near-impossible to beat too.



Saucon Valley Old Course

If purchased separately, daily gallery tickets are \$25 for the practice rounds, \$40 for the first two rounds and \$50 for the final two days. Juniors (age 18 and under) can get in free, and can be obtained at Will Call during the championship. The limit is four per ticketed adult. Still quite a bargain. How do you get better than free?

For any further information, please go to us.senioropen.com/2022 starting on June 15.

You need more enticement? Well, there’s always the chance that Phil Mickelson could decide to play. He of course has finished second in the U.S. Open a record six times without winning. The last time it happened was in 2013 at Marion. It’s the only major he hasn’t won. While a Senior Open might not be the same, it still would represent something special in his Hall of Fame career.

“No question, we’d very much love to have him come here,” Griffin said. “But we’re also praying Jim Furyk is coming. He’s a Lancaster

guy. And Steve Stricker, Fred (Couples) and Ernie (Els). We’re going to do our part. We’re starting a letter-writing campaign with Phil to get him to understand what it would mean.

“We’re going to reach out and personally invite him. Not me but the Lehigh Valley. We’ve got groups working on it. High-school golf teams, using social media to make sure he knows how much we’re looking forward to potentially seeing him ...

“Think about the population we can draw from, within 50, 60, 70 miles. That’s a day trip, easy. We want to appeal to people whether they’re casual fans of golf, or could care less. The golf geeks are going to come. It’s going to be a cool experience. That’s what the 19th hole is all about. I remember in 2002 at Bethpage (for the Open), the fans at the 17th hole were yelling, ‘Less Filling, Tastes Great.’ They were entertaining themselves. We want to give them that. They will be entertained. But they will have the opportunity to entertain themselves as well. We don’t want it to be a dark, stuffy environment. It’s going to be a fun summer day, in so many ways. I know they’re going to want to come. So they should make sure they can before it sells out. That’s the goal.”

And if you know Griffin at all, you know she usually gets what she wants. In a good way. After all, this is far from her first rodeo. Nor is it Saucon’s either. It figures to be a winning combination. And these days, we could all use some more of that. Hope to see you there.



Saucon Valley Old Course

Wyoming Valley Country Club to Celebrate Tillinghast Design and Club's Place in History During 125th Anniversary Year

Marianne Tucker Puhalla

As the fifth oldest golf club in Pennsylvania and the 45th oldest club in the U.S., the Wyoming Valley Country Club (WVCC) in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, has plenty to celebrate in 2021. The club is honoring its 125th Anniversary with a series of golf and social events to recognize its charter on June 16, 1896 and its design by world renowned golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast.

Among the plans for the year are special Charter Day Tournament, a special edition of its annual McCarthy Tournament, a junior golf clinic by PGA Tour Professional Ted Tryba, a family picnic, an Anniversary Tournament on September 11-12, and a black-tie gala scheduled for October.

To start things off, the story of the club's history was captured in a video created by the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP) that can be viewed on the GAP YouTube channel, GAPGOLF09.

WVCC Golf Professional Pete Korba, who joined the staff in 2003, reports more than 200 golfers took part in the McCarthy Tournament, which launched the anniversary year celebration June 4-6. The 2021 Ladies McCarthy Tournament was held June 1, with more than 60 competitors.



Wyoming Valley Country Club is planning a series of events to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. Pictured is the 351-yard Hole #18.

Some WVCC members dressed in 1890's period clothing for a special Charter Day Tournament held on June 16. The day-long event featured a stroke play net score tournament, with many members walking and making good use of caddies, who were available for the day. Stuart Wolffe, Rick Wolffe and John Burnes, representatives of the Tillinghast Society, that are also club historians at Baltusrol and the Philadelphia Cricket Club, presented a history talk that evening, sharing details of the life of Tillinghast, and his impact on golf course design.

According to Korba, a family picnic, featuring music, food trucks and children's games, is scheduled for the Fourth of July weekend. The celebration will continue with a special edition of the annual Anniversary Tournament on September 11-12 and wrap up with a black-tie gala scheduled for October. In addition, WVCC is in the process of designing a memorial at the site of the original clubhouse, and will hold a dedication later in the year.

Known for its undulating tightly bunkered small greens and manicured fairways, the original course was 2,821-yard, nine-hole course established on a tract of land leased from the Glen Alden Coal Company. Early members took a trolley along the Wilkes-Barre Railway, which ran along what is now the Sans Souci Parkway, getting off and climbing the hill to the original clubhouse located near to what is now the Hole #5 green. The clubhouse opened on Oct. 17, 1896, with a gala that was considered one of the social events of that year in the region.

The course was rebuilt as an 18-hole-course by world renowned golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast, and opened for play in 1925. Tillinghast is the architect of record at such heralded courses as Beth Page Black, Baltusrol, and Winged Foot.

In addition to golfing, social activities at the early club included tennis, bowling, trap-shooting, cycling and horseback riding. Shortly after the turn of the century, the interest in bowling faded and the bowling alleys were turned into a golf shop. Tennis was played until the mid-1930s. A devastating fire destroyed the original clubhouse in 1935, at which point the clubhouse was rebuilt in its current location.

The land lease agreement lasted until 1957, when the membership purchased the property under the direction of prominent Wilkes-Barre Judge Michael Sheridan, with equity as prescribed by the current by-laws. Although most of the holes have been lengthened, trees have been planted and ponds added or enlarged over the years, the course is true to the Tillinghast original, and currently measures 6,178 yards from the longest tees with par of 71.

WVCC is a member of the GAP and the Anthracite Golf Association. The club currently has several hundred members across a variety of membership classifications and a robust junior golf program. Among the club's most noteworthy members is two-time PGA Tour winner Ted Tryba, a Hanover Township native who grew up playing at WVCC. He will present a junior golf clinic and a fireside chat as part of the anniversary celebration.

The Club has established a 125th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Dennis J. Puhalla, a member for 49 years. In addition to Korba and Puhalla, the 25-member committee includes Board of Governors President Joe Butcher; former presidents Ed Nork, Ted Patton, Henry Pennoni and George Stozenski; the longest serving WVCC member, Joseph Hritzik, who joined the course in 1964, and Carol Lippincott, a member since 1968.



The original clubhouse for the Wyoming Valley Country Club was built in 1896 on the hill adjacent to the #5 green.

PITTSTON NATIVE BRANDON MATTHEWS WINS ON LATINOAMERICA TOUR

WESTON, Florida –Standing on the 10th tee, coming off a missed two-footer for birdie on No. 9 to shoot even-par on the front-nine, Brandon Matthews knew he was running out of time at The Club at Weston Hills Open. With only nine holes left to make up a lot of ground, he went on to make five birdies, three of those over the final four holes, lifting him to a one-shot win over fellow American Sam Stevens.

Playing a group ahead of Matthews, Stevens carded a bogey-free 66, making pars on the final four holes to take the clubhouse lead, at 21-under. Matthews needed one more birdie, at the 72nd hole, to avoid a playoff and clinch the win.

“I just felt good. It’s kind of hard to describe that feeling when you are in the moment and you are feeling really good about things,” said Matthews about his mindset playing the 585-yard par-5 final hole. “I felt really good over that third shot. I knew I was going to hit it solid. I knew I was going to hit it close.”

That third shot came with a gap wedge from 138 yards, and his ball landed within three feet for a stress-free birdie. Matthews carded a final-round 67 that moved him to 22-under, good for his second victory in his last three starts. As the only two-time winner this season, the 26-year-

old charged into the top spot of the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Points List, moving past Mexico’s Alvaro Ortiz, who missed the cut this week.

“This one was really great for me because I didn’t really have the putter over the weekend, and I still grinded it out,” said the Temple University alum. “The fact that I was able to put trust in myself for (the last) nine holes, making some great putts coming down the stretch, words really cannot describe how much confidence that gives me to keep doing that at a high level.”

Did you know Brandon Matthews is the second-quickest PGA TOUR Latinoamérica champion to get to three career wins? It took him 17 starts to get to this point, only trailing Fabián Gómez, who reached his third PGA TOUR Latinoamérica victory in six starts. Gómez, who went on to win on the PGA TOUR, won the Argentina Classic in three consecutive seasons in 2013, 2014 and 2015.



Brandon Matthews became only the 14th player with three or more wins on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. In addition to his three wins (2017 Molino Cañuelas Championship and the 2020 Puerto Plata Open), he was also the runner-up at the 2019 VISA Open de Argentina, where he lost a playoff. He also finished solo third at the 2017 Puerto Plata Open

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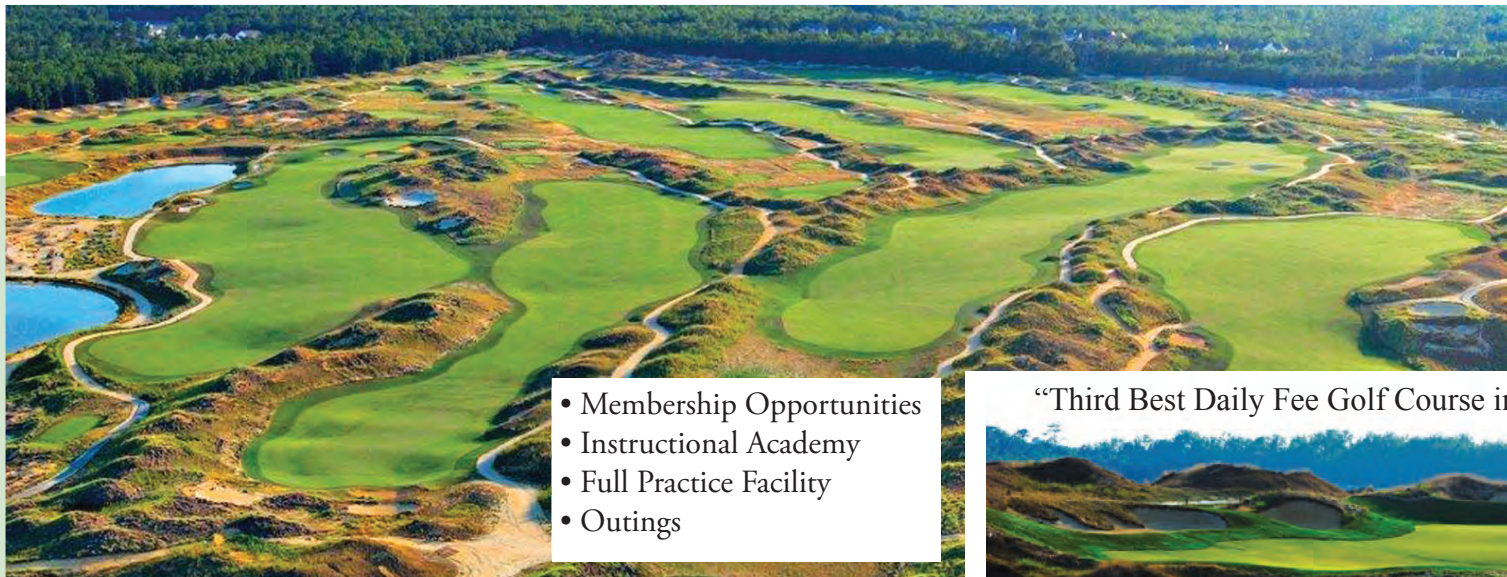
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Edison Forged Wedges are Designed for Average Joes, not Tour Pros!

By Holly Geoghegan

Terry Koehler is one of the golf industry's most passionate and dedicated club designers. For more than 40 years, Koehler has designed wedges for stand-out brands such as Ben Hogan Golf, Eidolon Golf, and SCOR. After a brief stint in retirement, Koehler launched his custom design signature wedge company, Edison Golf, in the Spring of 2020.

Bad timing one might think as COVID19 was shutting down the golf industry? Not for Koehler, aka: "The Wedge Guy," who is on a personal and professional mission to challenge the decades of old school, traditional wedge design and boldly reinvent wedges designed for the average golfer, not for Tour pros.

Sound too simple for complicated golf minds?

Koehler is a data-driven, self-proclaimed "stats junky," who has studied and analyzed all the major wedge brands for years through robotic testing, along with surveying thousands of customers. His quest was to scientifically prove and develop the most forgiving, accurate and longest-hitting wedges ever brought to market. Edison Forged wedges are the realization of his life-long obsession.

"Over time, I kept seeing the same results over and over," said Koehler. "High launch. Inconsistent distance. Erratic spin. It kept me up at night. No wonder most golfers are frustrated and resigned about improving their short games. That's simply not a good recipe to grow the golf wedge category or the game for that matter."

One of Koehler's wedge innovations is his patented "Koehler Sole" design. The Koehler Sole incorporates both a high and low bounce angle into the sole of each Edison Forged wedge.



Here's how it works. The main rear portion of the sole has a low bounce so it can handle tight lies, firm turf and shallow swing paths, while the leading portion of the sole has a high bounce so that same wedge can handle softer lies and steeper swings. It was recently disclosed that the greatest player in the modern game grinds his personal wedges in much the same way. "I wonder where he got that idea?", mused Koehler.

At its very core, any club's forgiveness and distance control is all about the "smash factor." Robotic testing proves that traditional 'tour design' wedges are much less forgiving than even tour blade irons. That's because the smash factor changes by 15-20% or more as impact moves just a half inch from the sweet spot. Edison Forged wedges distribute the mass more evenly across the back of the clubhead -- both top-to-bottom and heel-to-toe -- in order to deliver more efficient impact on those shots missed high on the face or toward the toe.

Success is in the numbers. Edison Forged wedges deliver up to 58% tighter long and short dispersion, and up to 26% more spin than other mainstream wedges. Edison's vertical and horizontal weighting technology allows golfers to hit more penetrating trajectories and "stick it" on the green - something average golfers struggle with and dream to do - just like the pros.

"Traditional 'tour design' wedges don't benefit the vast majority of golfers; they are the most fickle clubs in your bag," explained Koehler. "A half inch miss can be up to 52 feet short. We've carefully studied the impact pattern of recreational golfers and by positioning more mass behind the ball, Edison Forged wedges scientifically turn your 'not-so-good' shots into better ones and that's fun."

Another unique innovation is Edison Golf's proprietary WedgeFit® Scoring Range Analysis. WedgeFit dives into each golfer's strengths and weaknesses in their short game to provide the best custom fitting. In just a few minutes, this easy assessment allows Edison to recommend the right lofts, shafts and specifications to optimize your scoring range performance.

"We don't do what the major brands do. Because we care more about the average golfer than tour players," said Koehler. "I created Edison Forged wedges to help the average golfer play better and feel more confident about their short game. We'll even build you a custom Edison wedge with your choice of loft and shaft to show you the difference. If you don't like it, we'll buy it back."

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LAGUNA OAKS GOLF CLUB

By Bob Oliver

Not bragging, but I've played more than 950 golf courses. Can't tell you exact number without counting, but soon will have more than 1,000 courses played in a mediocre golfing career.

I love the game.

Been lucky enough to have played some of the finest courses in the world. Have also played courses which most would call dirt tracks, including a couple having sand greens that required manicuring before you putted. But hey, they are all golf courses, and each holds a little something special for everyone.

One type of course I've always liked are the par-3 layouts, especially those which aren't cookie cutter "shorties" that don't have a lot of challenge or character. There is something to be said for short courses which bedazzle a player and actually makes one think while only carrying a few clubs because of lack of length.

Which brings me to a recent discovery which isn't a find for Cape May County New Jersey residents but was for me: Laguna Oaks Golf Club. From the tips, it's just a shade under 1,300 yards in length, and for most players a par-27 layout although there's a little asterisk there as the course currently has 10 holes making it really a par-30.

But it's not a cakewalk. It's situated on 200 acres of serene land, with a bag full of challenges that include stately oak trees, natural vegetation, ponds, a waterfall and even an island green.

It's creator, local architect Fred Langford, made his living by building water parts throughout the world. These days he's found constantly upgrading his South Jersey facility just off Exit 10 of the Garden State Parkway in Cape May Courthouse.

"It has been a labor of love building Laguna Oak, I'm constantly looking for ways to improve the experience," explained Langford, 92-years young. "One of the upcoming changes is eliminating two holes and designing a new hole that would have great views



of the bay. We are blessed with outstanding soil, and we have five acres of lakes, so there were and are lots of opportunities to design."

The course features three sets of tees, set to tantalize everyone from those new to the game to veterans. There's a little something for everything on the course that see

yardages from as little as 59 yards to 150 yards.

The actual course scorecard has three different "pars" as Langford bases scoring on handicap and difficulty. So those with a 0-16 handicap are playing to a par of 30, while those in the 16-22 range have a par of 37 and those whose handicap is 23 or above have a par of 44.

Langford, a Wildwood native, constructed water parks throughout the United States and throughout the world in his career, and used that construction knowledge to build Laguna Oaks. He also was fortunate enough to play golf on off days while traveling, keeping notes of the good and bad he saw.

"I think of it as a sculpture of sorts, and one of the most satisfying things for me is hearing the comments from players leaving the course," said Langford. "Almost to a person they say they love the course, it's challenges, its scenery and its conditioning. We have numerous return visitors."

In the COVID era, his tee sheet has been packed with golfers looking to breeze through a challenging round in under two hours, leaving plenty of time for the beach and boardwalk.

"The pandemic has not hurt us from a playability perspective, we've been very busy. We offer a whole lot of fun for all levels of play," said Langford.

No question that if you are looking for a challenging short course, Laguna Oaks may be the place for you.



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PINELANDS GOLF CLUB

By Bob Oliver

One can't help liking the Pinelands Golf Club.

It's a challenging 18 holes of golf where players find a fun set of holes carved out of towering pines requiring a strategic approach to score well. Long knockers are welcome, but it's the "smart" thinking golfer who can consistently score well on this South Jersey gem.

Cozy, friendly and offering challenge to golfers of all abilities.

Designed in the early 1960s Pinelands has bedazzled local players and those on their way to the shore for a first day or last day of vacation stroll around a challenging layout. Recent years saw a bit of a decline in conditions, but under the new ownership of the DiDonato Family the hidden opportunity called Pinelands has regained some of its luster. And more polishing is on the way as the new owners are ensuring change is not merely window dressing but true enhancements of all areas of the facility.

Not leaving well enough alone, area golf course architect Stephen Kay has walked the course and recommended numerous improvements, while superintendent Barry Anes, formerly of highly ranked Hidden Creek, has been implementing a number of improvements.

"There is obviously work to be done, as the course has been around a half century without a lot of change other than Mother Nature doing her work," explained Kay, whose singular designs include Blue Heron Pines (West), Harbor Pines, The Architect's Club, Scotland Run and McCullough's Emerald Links among others. "There has already been some work removing overgrown trees and extending some fairways, and we are finalizing an overall design recommendation."

Pinelands has long been a fun layout, and the renovations will undoubtedly improve the overall experience. It's situated on a serene setting near the Wharton State Forest away from the hustle and bustle of traffic and in touch with the aforementioned Mother Nature.

"In some respects, it's a work in progress because our master plan has a whole lot of improvements on the horizon. We are finalizing it to bring out the best," explained head golf professional Brian Bakic, brought in from Trump National – Philadelphia, and someone who also has worked at Ballamor closer to the shore. "We've taken a long look at the entire facility, and you already see enhancements to the course and the rest of the facility." Pinelands is a compact par-72 of 6,145 yards. Long known as a course that requires some precision to score well on its tantalizing greens, the Pinelands team has left no stone unturned in the planning for the facility. It reviewed player comments and experiences in addition to having a professional look from Kay.

Along the way the team realized that some holes didn't survive the test of time. Oh, they were playable, but the years had changed things as trees, ponds and other environmental things changed the course from its original design intent. Drainage and cart paths were not at the top of the to-do list prior to new ownership. Now it is. Thus, revisions to the design of several holes, number one is a good example, are required.

Kay's experience is critical in this regard. His minimalist philosophy which has at its core hopes of having a playable test which makes thinking and strategy important as well as a course where nature is enhanced awaits. He also considers challenge, safety and fun in his calculations. Oh, and a course that tantalizes all levels of players.

Pinelands was confounding to today's longer hitters, as while a par-5 needing a big drive and short iron might look nice for scoring purposes it's not all that challenging. Such is the case with the 465-yard ninth hole (472 yards from tips). A few more yards and a strategic hazard/bunker would make it a hole that could bedazzle.

Initial thoughts are that a number of trees which made perfect sense from a design standpoint a half century ago now may hamper play and reject good shots. Maybe too confounding for some. This isn't unusual for mature courses, but most recognize some of those arborist wonders need pruning or removal.

"The layout is not a big bangers course by today's standards," explained Bakic of the Ralph Leopardi design which opened to play in 1964. "We want the course to challenge a player, and have an authentic feel that had each hole providing a test. We have a bit of old school feel with tree lined fairways and small fast greens that demand respect because of its potential bite.

"The course sets up in a way that requires one to use all your clubs, and it places a premium on the tee shot, short game and putting stroke. When thinking of shots, number 10 provides a good example of the thought process. A short dogleg left there is all kinds of trouble on the left side of the tee shot, and long is bad as well. Assuming perfect positioning, the approach shot has a premium on hitting to the correct yardage."

Hopes are that with a little work there will be more possible pin positions while maintaining difficulty. Adding a few more yards and reworking a couple holes will improve the challenge. And spending a few bucks on maintenance will enhance the entire player experience. There is not much variation in the yardages of the par three holes, a fact that could change in the next iteration of the design.

The Pinelands Golf Club, while in a bit of new ownership transition and a work in progress, is clearly taking steps to be a must play opportunity. The course found just off Mays Landing Road are a changing!

CHIP SHOTS: Pinelands has a new 5,000 square foot maintenance facility, just one more behind the scenes enhancement to improve the experience... There is room to add a few yards to number 18, making a good finishing hole even better...The practice "drive zone" facility will offer top tracer technology and provide a golf experience for the entire family...Pinelands offers an array of food and beverage opportunities...Telephone 609-561-1800 for more information or check out www.pinelandsgolfclub.com



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PINEHURST GETAWAY

By Sean Fawcett

Every golfer, no matter their playing ability or experience, must play in Pinehurst, North Carolina at least once in their lives. For me, it took more than 30 years to get to go, but it was absolutely worth the drive and it won't be even two more years before I go back.

Two of my favorite golf courses I got to play on my trip last November were Tobacco Road Golf Club and Pinehurst No.1.

Tobacco Road, located just north of the iconic Pinehurst in Sanford, North Carolina off historic Route 1, is, without a doubt, a golfer's dream come true. From the rustic log-cabin clubhouse to the peaceful and pleasant wood-lined fairways and funland-style practice putting green, Tobacco Road is an absolute delight. Simple and naturally beautiful, Tobacco Road, designed by the late-great golf course architect Mike Strantz, TR is a player's playground highlighted by 18 completely unique and unforgettable holes that any golfer from anywhere, and any time, would be proud to play.

Tobacco Road's concept is carved from a quarry in the heart of the Carolina Sandhills. The course challenges traditional golf design with huge dunes, desert-sized waste areas, bunkers, deep ditches and terrific elevations. Some rare, and often daunting, blind tee shots and uphill approaches are another significant feature.

A Golf World "Architect of the Year", Strantz called his architectural style "functional artwork". Strantz who also designed two of Myrtle Beach's most beautiful tracks, True Blue and Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, created one of the most spectacular golfing experiences ever with Tobacco Road with a course that's always, and consistently, ranked among the Top 100 courses to play in America in leading publications from Golfweek to Golf Digest.

"Mike(Strantz) was one-of-a-kind," said Tobacco Road's Director of Golf Operations Chris Brown. "He designed courses like a painter paints. The golf course was like a gallery to him and each hole was like a different painting.

"He lived to challenge good golfers while also making courses for everyone to play, enjoy and remember forever."

Tobacco Road is definitely, and undeniably, a close front-runner for me for my all-time favorite places to play. Hole No.11, in particular, is in my Top 18 holes. Uphill, and anywhere from just over 500 yards to 360 from the second set of forward tees, #11 is shaped like a giant C and requires precision from tee-to-green to avoid hundreds of yards of sand all the way up the right.

"There isn't a bad hole out there," Brown said. "You'll use every club in your bag and your imagination. I've played it hundreds of times and I'm always finding new ways to play it."

"Eleven is just a terrific par five," said Brown. "Like a lot of Mike's holes, and especially here at Tobacco Road, you have to play one shot at a time, but also thinking a shot or two ahead like you're playing chess."

Another terrific example of this chess style of golf is the Par 4 Fifth. As short as only about 300 yards from the Front, players have to make a choice of either pounding their very best, and longest, drive to carry 220 to 240 yards of sand or play out to the fairway way to the right which sets up a difficult side-ways approach to a treacherous green that's tilted severely from back to front(and right to left as the player looks at it).

Divided, fairways, sharp dog legs, and visually stunning shots up and down hills and over water and sand make for an interesting, and often thrilling, round at Tobacco Road Golf Club.

Thrilling is, also, a more than appropriate word to describe a round at Donald Ross' Pinehurst No.1. Afterall, it all started on No.1.

Renovated and reconceived by Ross back in 1901, the prelude and predecessor to his iconic No.2 which has hosted multiple major golf tournaments like the North South Open and several US Men's and Women's Opens, No.1, built upon Dr. Leroy Carver's original 9 and John Dunn Tucker's Second 9 to provide recreation to guests staying at Boston Soda businessman James Walker Tufts' Carolina Hotel, No.1 has everything you would expect and love in a Ross and Carolina pines golf course. Quick, crowned putting surfaces with shaved run-off collection areas around the greens with rolling fairways and angles and elevations abound making solid ball-striking and deft chipping and touch putting an absolute necessity.

Right from the start, No.1 challenges you with a long par 4 from an elevated tee. A par 70(34-36), playing a round at No.1 will get you thinking back some 120 years, and later, to the days when the game's giants like Jones, Sarazen, Hogan, Nelson, Palmer, Nicklaus, Player and Trevino, and many others, roamed it's, and all of the Pinehurst Resort's world-famous fairways in competition or for fun. It kind of gives you goose bumps.

Included in it all is the Tour quality driving range, hundred yard putting green and putting course called Thistle Dhu(which you could, if you wanted to, spend like hours and hours just rolling putts on all day), and the historical and legendary clubhouse. The pro shop is amazing, too, and I dare anyone not to leave without at least a No.2 ball marker or towel or pin flag or putter cover or bag tag(I got all of them).

A living museum, No.1 and the entire Pinehurst golf experience is simply one that's very hard to describe and is something that any golfer from the Tour player and golf professionals to low handicappers to those of us who aren't, will enjoy and remember forever.

My favorite hole was the last, 18, a short par 5 teeing adjacent to Gil Hanse's newly remodeled No.4. A good tee shot sets up a chance to go-for-two or it an iron over a fairway bunker setting up a wedge or a chase-and-run or chip to the green.

You could, and you should if you can, play the Pinehurst Resort and any of its revered 9 courses like the iconic Donald Ross masterpiece, No.2, or Pine Needles, host of several US Women's Opens, but if you only get to play just one course on a trip to "Golfer's Heaven", make sure you play Tobacco Road and Pinehurst No.1. You certainly won't regret it if you do.



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PANDEMIC 2021 - GOLF IS BACK!



Bensalem Township Municipal Golf Course

By Bob Oliver

Is there any, seriously any, normal anymore?

Oh, as that noted philosopher Jerry Garcia once crooned, “what a long, strange trip it’s been.” That’s a pandemic given, as for more than a year the world has battled the bug, suffering and surviving.

We’ve worn a mask, social distanced, washed our hands, disinfected and shooed away germs in any possible way while attempting to maintain some sort of sanity. Along the way we stopped shaking hands in favor of a fist bump, elbow bump or shoulder bump. Safety first, safety wins.

The golf world didn’t collapse when we removed bunker rakes, prohibited sharing of a cart or were prohibited from removing flagsticks while putting. Heck, a large percentage of players – including some on the PGA Tour – continue the latter practice with the approval of golf’s governing body.

Throughout it all, strangely enough, there has been good news on the golf front. Played in the great outdoors, with proper precautions, the game has not only survived but in a few from 10,000 feet, flourished. We have learned that:

- --Tee sheets and play has been robust
- ---People have learned true meaning of “working from home”
- ---Play has been completed in a safe manner
- --- A diverse group of new players have sampled the game

Through times where personal safety and employee safety were at a premium, golfers adjusted and packed fairways throughout the region. It wasn’t all rosy, but golf course operators saw an opportunity and ran with it.

The game grew for the first time in years, and golfers were enjoying the great outdoors while other sports were severely hampered if not

shuttered.

Bottom line, golf has emerged from the crisis with a renewed sense of optimism and excitement not seen in years. Let’s call it a new normal, as the pandemic is in the rearview mirror and the future is exciting. To a person, golf professionals have commented there has been a surge in play and nationwide rounds played have increase more than 20 percent compared to 2019 and well more than that year-over-year

“I’m not sure what the ‘new normal’ is or will be but is surely is an exciting time to be in the game of golf,” said Seaview Golf Club Director of Golf Alex McGann. “We are still promoting safety and advice of precautionary actions but on the whole we are a far cry from the early days of the pandemic when many had to shutter fairways for a while. Once opened our tee sheets booked quickly, the (Bay and Pines) courses are in great shape and we are optimistic of a great rebound.”



Seaview Bay Course # 2

Seaview has seen nearly a 30 percent increase in play, and that’s from the shoulder season before summer vacationers fill beach houses.

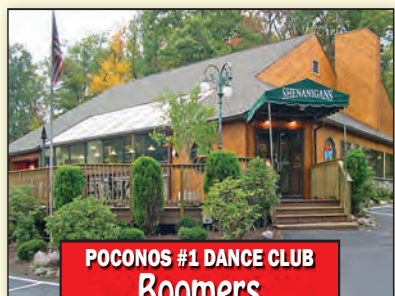
“Obviously, there are not a lot of positives in our world from the pandemic,” adds McGann, “but golf has survived and I believe it has flourished. We’ve welcomed back regulars and there has been a new

Cont. on page 19

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Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst)	59
Eric Kennedy (Overbrook)	62
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	63
Chris Mathews (Irem)	64

Low Professional

1 st	Brian Fruehan	71
2 nd	Eric Kennedy	73
3 rd	Jeff Fick	74
T-4 th	Terry Hatch	75
T-4 th	John Kulhamer	75
6 th	Dustin McCormick	76
T-7 th	Greg Wall	78
T-7 th	Jim Muschlitz	78

Low Amateur

William Mirams (Shawnee)	78
Mike Guro (Southmoore)	78
Mike Muncy (Royal Oaks)	80
Greg Hartman (Shawnee)	81

Low Senior Amateur

Dylan Spadt (Southmoore)	73
Bill Briggs (Irem)	75
Brock Smith (Pocono Manor)	77
Shane Gunning (Southmoore)	77

PENNSYLVANIA STATE OPEN
QUALIFYING RESULTS
Results from story on page 21

Pos.	Player	To Par	Total
1	Pilliod, Ross (a) LedgeRock Golf Club	-1	71
T2	Texter, Jarred (a) Conestoga Country Club	E	72
T2	Brown, Ross Fox Hill Country Club	E	72
4	Noonan, Brian (a) The Links at Gettysburg	+1	73
T5	Vecellio, Nicholas (a) Moselem Springs	+2	74
T5	Wilson, Jason (a) Olde Homestead	+2	74
T7	Snyder, Logan (a) Briarwood Golf Club	+3	75
T7	Cerminaro, Christopher (a) Glenmaura	+3	75
T9	Przystup, Jason Crossgates Golf Club	+4	76
T9	Watters, Andy Talamore Country Club	+4	76
T9	McClure, John (a) Country Club of York	+4	76
T9	Perrino, Eddie Eagle Rock Golf & Resort	+4	76
T9	Sandercock, Tucker (a) Steel Club	+4	76

Cont. from page 17

batch of players hitting our fairways.”

Want to see professional golf up close and personal, or play the course the LPGA pros play? Seaview is the place to be as October will see the ShopRite LPGA Classic sponsored by Acer returns to Seaview’s Bay Course, presenting a challenge to the world’s best female players. Mel Reid won the 2020 event under COVID19 conditions, but a full gallery of fans is expected for this year’s edition.

“We love having the ladies on site, and showing off the challenging Bay Course off for the world,” added McGann. “The players tell us they love the course and love coming back to the area. We are excited to have the tournament expected to host fans once again.”

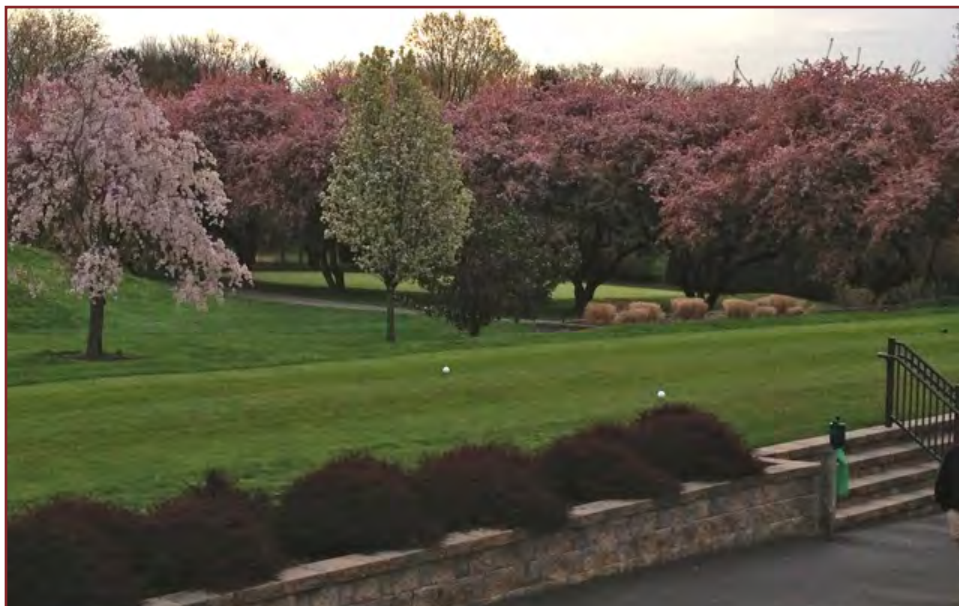
The rebirth of golf can be found throughout the area. Public play is up, and private course memberships are as well.

“It has been one heck of a year and a half, crazy,” added Jack Frost National head professional Keith Devos.

“Last year we started all the safety protocols, the were derailed by the governor’s shutdown. Once we reopened, we expanded the safety protocols and the golfers started immediately coming back. We have a lot of (second) homeowners who came to get out of the city, and they found time in their schedules to play some golf.

“That trend has continued as we’ve also added some new golfers to the fold. The tee sheets have been more robust and we’ve seen an increase in shop sales and lessons. Overall, business has been very good, and we as an industry need to build on that growth.”

In his storied tenure at Bensalem Township Municipal Golf Course near Philadelphia, Jim Bogan has seen it all.



Bensalem Township Municipal Golf Course

“Golf survived the pandemic, we are actually saw an increase in

rounds played, saw some players shut out of their favorite team sport such as softball transition to golf, and saw an increase in newcomers to the game,” said Bogan, celebrating his 50th year as head professional at the Bucks County course.

“This has been bigger than the Tiger effect as players from all walks of life have been sampling the game. It has been a true resurgence as golf’s popularity has soared.”

It’s not as if golf hasn’t had ups and downs in the past. “We had to deal with the financial crisis a couple times, but nothing like the pandemic and yet at this point golf has seen a rebirth,” explains Blue Heron Pines head pro Wally Tittelmayer. “Right now we are riding the wave, and it is robust. It is so nice seeing so many players gracing the fairways.”

Patrick Keefe, head professional at Frog Hollow in Middletown, De., has seen a large increase in business over the last couple years, first due to the pandemic and the desire of people to get outdoors but also since 2019 saw a pair of lightning strikes destroy numerous green complexes. All was corrected, and last year when nearby states were closed to golf Frog Hollow fairways were welcoming until government actions prohibited out of state play.

There was a blessing in disguise through, in that newcomers to the game began to visit.

“We saw a large influx of new golfers – those new to the game or those who were coming back after being away from it,” said Keefe. “We used the



Frog Hollow Middletown Delaware

opportunity to hold more clinics, give more lessons, and introduce a whole bunch of newcomers to the game. Now that we’ve emerged from many of the restrictions and play is pretty much back to normal our challenge as golf professionals is to keep those people in the game.”

Along the way of changes he’s seen with the newbies is a bit of relaxation of dress codes, seeing more music on the golf course, and interest in games within the game.



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Cont. from page 19

A lot of people like our shootouts, nine-hole king of the hill kind of play. Competitive and fun,” added Keefe.

And music, as long as it’s okay within the foursome and not bothering other groups, is no problem. As for outfits, there is a need for appropriateness obviously, but not as prohibitive than the country club days of the past.”

One trend noticed by professionals is a number of former golfers coming back into the fold.

“You know it, people have dusted off their clubs and have come back to the game,” explained Klay Knorr, head professional at New Jersey’s Running Deer Golf Club. “We have been doing very well from a golf traffic perspective, and many of those players are folks coming back to the game after years away. We offer socially distanced competition outdoors, and our challenge now is to keep those players coming back down the road.”

At Jack Frost National, Director of Instruction Ryan Kearn like many pros has seen both newcomers flocking to golf as well as seasoned players wanting to elevate their games.

“The pandemic has brought players back to the game and to the game, and we’ve attempted to promote that interest,” said Kearn.. “We have a variety of expanded teaching opportunities from private lessons to group lessons

to lessons for newcomers and juniors. There is a lot of interest in learning the game and improving.”

Devos added that the club has hosted numerous demo days and has even added eight single person Finn

Scooters that once tried are generally loved. “Great reception by the players who use them.”

Clearly, the pandemic was a horror but the game of golf not only survived but has gotten stronger. While there hasn’t been an influx of new courses opened in the United States there has been a reduction of courses facing financial difficulties.

Tee sheets have been getting filled in, and prime times are difficult to get. Shoulder times have started to fill as players enjoy a quick nine-hole jaunt. Instruction has increased and a sense of being back to normal prevails.

Hard to believe, but the pandemic has allowed golf an aura of resurgence similar to the kick starts it received from early television, the era of Arnold Palmer and later Tiger woods. It’s once again cool to be a golfer. Golf is indeed back and in an era we should just call the latest “new normal.”

Play away!

Lehigh Valley Business Announces 2021 Women of Influence Mimi Griffin of MSG Promotions Among 21 Award Winners

Mimi Griffin of MSG Promotions Among 21 Award Winners Bethlehem, Pa., (March 29) — Lehigh Valley Business has selected Mimi Griffin, President, and CEO, Founder of MSG Promotions, Inc., as a 2021 Women of Influence recipient.

Griffin boasts a career steeped in sports. Her company has sold corporate hospitality for the U.S. Open as it crisscrosses the country since 1995. Her business acumen and results have produced genuine long-term relationships that fuel financial success.

Griffin’s Allentown-based company, MSG Promotions, is the lead event management firm handling all aspects of the U.S. Senior Open Championship, June 23-26, 2022, at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem. These responsibilities include ticket and corporate marketing, community relations, operations, and volunteer management. It marks the fourth time that the United States Golf Association has entrusted MSG Promotions with the overall business and operations plan ‘outside the ropes’ for Saucon Valley Country Club’s championships.

The three other championships include the 1992 U.S. Senior Open, the 2000 U.S. Senior Open, and the 2009 U.S. Women’s Open. Each produced large-scale local economic impact and hometown ‘Valley’ affinity that was truly ‘the talk of the town.’

“Mimi is a dear friend and incredibly deserving of this honor,” said Robin Roberts of ABC’s Good Morning America, who often worked with Griffin on ESPN’s telecasts of women’s college basketball. “As a woman of influence, she selflessly lowers the ladder and helps others climb to the heights she has achieved.”



Griffin unveils the 2022 U.S. Senior Open logo in August of 2020.



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

Arcadian Shores Golf Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was designed by renowned golf course architect Rees Jones.

Arcadian Shores was Jones' first solo project and combines enticing lakes, tree-lined fairways, large bunkers, and some distinctive contouring to present the ultimate golf challenge for golfers of all levels of experience.

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RETURN TO OMNI HOMESTEAD RESORT BROUGHT BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES

By TONY LEODORA

Hot Springs, Virginia

It had been more than 30 years since my first visits to this little piece of paradise in the mountains.

The visits were:

- In 1987 – for a newspaper story.
- In 1988 – to cover the U.S. Amateur Championship.
- And in 1989 – for a magazine story.

The first question upon my recent return ... why did I wait so long? The Homestead Resort – now the Omni Homestead Resort – is home to one of the grand old hotels in America. It is a testimonial to charm, sophistication and style. The term “hospitality” wasn’t invented here ... but it certainly was raised to a higher level.

Adding to the glory of this resort, it also is home to the famous Cascades Golf Course – a William Flynn-design that was carved out of the rugged rocky cliffs of the Virginia mountains and opened in 1923. It is a testimony to perseverance and ingenuity, as the grueling work was not done by power equipment. Instead it was accomplished by hand and horse-power.



Cascades Course

Other architects turned down the job because the terrain was too rugged. Flynn not only accepted the challenge, but created what went on to be regarded by many as the finest pure mountain course in America.

Seven USGA championships have been contested on the course – including the 1988 U.S. Amateur. The 2004 NCAA Division 1 Men’s Championship, won by Ryan Moore, was held at the Cascades.

And, to add a bit more lure to the property, the legendary Sam Snead was born in Hot Springs and learned to play golf on the courses.

The term “courses” is used because, at one time, there were three courses affiliated with the property. In addition to the Cascades, there is the Old Course, with the oldest first tee in continuous use in America. And there used to be the Lower Cascades Course, a Robert Trent Jones design, which was closed in 2013 after the economic downturn.

It was on that Lower Cascades course, where the tale of my visits to the Homestead took an interesting turn.

John Guzzola, the longtime public relations director at the resort, who died in 2005, always was looking for a story. On one of my visits to the Homestead, he said he wanted me to meet Sam Snead. A young golf writer, I was a bit intimidated but agreed to the meeting. What Guzzola didn’t tell me was that the meeting would take place on the first tee of the Lower Cascades course ... before we teed off in the same group.



Homestead Course

During a very short introduction, Snead said, “I usually never play for less than a hundred dollars. But I know you golf writers are cheap, so I’ll play you for \$10.”

Those were the last words Snead said during the round. He rode in his own golf cart, along with his golden retriever dog.

We halved the front nine and were even on the 18th hole. When I tapped in for a two-putt par, I was very proud of the round of 76 I had shot. Snead, then age 77, hadn’t made a putt longer than five feet all round. He had two kick-in birdies and another two-putt birdie on a par 5. He never came close to making a bogey.

He had a 30-footer for birdie on the last hole. I felt no need to worry. After he stroked the putt, it wasn’t halfway to the hole when he said, “If I needed more, I would have got more.” The ball found the center of the cup for a match-winning birdie and a round of 68.

Snead then took me into the locker room, where he proceeded to drink a couple of Grape NeHi sodas, spin stories and tell off-color jokes for more than an hour. The column that was inspired by that visit was published in Golfweek magazine and led to my first national golf writing award.



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live

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Elmhurst's Pabst, StoneHedge Pair Earn Titles



Billy Pabst got his revenge.

The Elmhurst Country Club member carded a 2-under-par 69 to take the 13th AGA/GAP Spring Stroke Play Championship June 3 at a gorgeous Glenmaura National Golf Club (par 71, 6,308 yards).

In last year's Spring Stroke Play at the same venue, Pabst tied for sixth with a 3-over-par 74.

"It was nice to redeem myself this year," Pabst, 17, of Roaring Brook Township, Pa., said. "The difference between this year and last year was maturing in my shot selections and getting used to better course management."

Pabst took care of business early by carding birdies on Nos. 1 (par 5, 557 yards), 4 (par 4, 374 yards), 7 (par 3, 173 yards) and 14 (par 5, 543 yards).

"Glenmaura is a very demanding course," Pabst, the 2019 Junior Sportsman of the Year, said. "The key is to keep everything in play, and that's the focus I had throughout the day. I thought I lost momentum after missing a putt for par on No.15. However,



making an eight-foot putt for par on No. 16 gave me the necessary momentum to finish the last two holes strong."

Pabst, a junior at North Pocono High School, looks to build off the momentum from his Stroke Play win in the upcoming 121st BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship at Cedarbrook Country Club.

"My focus right now is to make the Top 32 and go from there," Pabst said. "The field is loaded with all good players, so

I'm looking forward to competing with everyone."

Senior & Super Senior

A pair of AGA/GAP veterans and StoneHedge Golf Course members with plenty of Glenmaura National experience also earned hardware Thursday.

Bob Andrejko, the 2019 AGA/GAP Senior Player of the Year, carded an even-par 71 to take the Senior Division (par 71, 6,120 yards) while Robin Bonda carded a 4-over-par 75 to capture the event's Super-Senior (par 71, 5,506 yards) title.

Gardas, Williams Take John Moore (again)

Glenmaura National Golf Club's James Gardas and Honesdale Golf Club's Eric Williams secured their 12th victory as a duo in the John Moore Memorial Tournament May 15 at Elkview Country Club (par 72, 6,546 yards) and May 16 at StoneHedge Golf Course (par 71, 6,644 yards).

Gardas and Williams opened with a 7-under-par 65 at Elkview, good enough for a two-stroke over Glen Oak Country Club's James Egan and Wemberly Hills Golf Club's Mike Mancini.

The team replicated that performance at StoneHedge. Gardas and Williams posted a 7-under-par 64 on Day Two to prevail by eight strokes over Towanda Country Club's Eric Aeppli and Ryan Knolles.

In addition to the 12 victories, Gardas himself also won twice alongside his late Honesdale High School golf coach, Walter Marowski.

"Walter was a big influence for me in golf and was a big part of my life," Gardas, 44, of Hawley, Pa., said. "He was an accomplished golfer and took me under his wing and got me playing not only in the individual events, but also the team events."

Marowski's confidence in Gardas impacted his golf path. Gardas and Williams, friends of 25 years, continue to impact the John Moore Memorial Tournament.

The team stated its intentions immediately. Both Gardas and Williams birdied No. 1 (par 5, 489 yards) at Elkview.

"We just really wanted to get off to a good start," Williams, 48, of Honesdale, Pa., said. "I figured if we could shoot a good number on the front, then we would be tough to beat because we've been playing together for 25 years."

An eagle on No. 8 at Elkview (par 5, 512 yards) ignited the Gardas and Williams team. The latter launched a hybrid to two feet.

"After that hole, we were off and running, which allowed us to finish well," Williams said. "We know each other's games very well. He's going to make pars somehow, which frees me a little bit and allows me to get more aggressive with my putts and shots."

On Day Two at StoneHedge, the Gardas and Williams team took care of business. Williams, a nine-time AGA/GAP Men's Player of the Year, birdied Nos. 3 (par 5, 601 yards), 5 (par 4, 382 yards), 9 (par 5, 596 yards), 14 (par 3, 129 yards) and 17 (par 5, 533 yards).

"Eric and I play so much together we are obviously very comfortable with each other's game, and he's been playing very well right now," Gardas added. "Both courses were in great shape, and I'm glad they were able to host us."

As a team, Gardas and Williams competed in the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship (2016-17). The pair also won the Pennsylvania Golf Association's Four-Ball Championship in 2008 at Country Club at Woodloch Springs.

Complete results on page 30



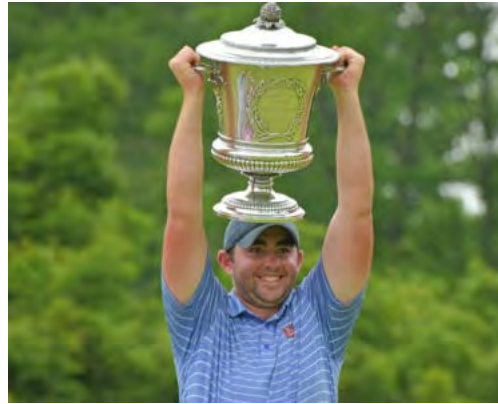
McGrath defeats Irons, 3&2, for 121st #BMWPhillyAm Title

BLUE BELL, Pa.— Conor McGrath and Brian Quinn, his Temple University coach, had a heart-to-heart about a year ago. McGrath had asked for a lesson and was planning on heading to the shore soon after. Quinn wasn't pleased. He knew McGrath's talents wouldn't flourish without a change. Since then, a more dedicated pupil emerged. On Saturday at Cedarbrook Country Club (par 72, 7,015 yards) before a large gathering of friends and family, McGrath, with trusted caddie Matt Beck on the bag, put his skills on full display to defeat Jack Irons of Little Mill Country Club, 3&2, for the 121st BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship title.

"It took me a little while to understand what needed to be done practicing and the time spent on your game," said McGrath, a rising senior. "As I got older, growing through Temple, and seeing all the good players around me I knew I had to step it up. I've definitely ramped things up [beginning] last summer. It's been 1,000-percent better with the amount of time I'm putting in and I would say my focus as well. You have to be willing to put in the time." McGrath says he puts approximately five to six hours of work in daily.

All that added time proved historic. McGrath's victory gained him access to the most exclusive brotherhood in Philadelphia golf – Amateur champions who call Huntingdon Valley Country Club home.

He is the 16th HVCC member (25 titles) to hoist the championship trophy.



McGrath joins legendary figures O. Gordon Brewer, Jr. (1967, 1976), William Hyndman, III (1958, 1965), Harold McFarland (1904, 1907, 1912-13), Lincoln Roden, III (1949-50) and William P. Smith (1898, 1901-02), amongst others. The club's last victor was Jeff Osberg in 2014. Huntingdon Valley's 25 Amateur Champions are more than double that of the next closest club, Whitmarsh Valley at 12.

"It's special. I'm at a loss for words," said McGrath, 21, of Huntingdon Valley, Pa. "It's really cool to join that list and kind of make my mark on Huntingdon Valley history and get my name on [the J. Wood Platt Amateur Championship Trophy]."

It's been a whirlwind last 12 months for McGrath, who has become a steady face on leaderboards. Late last July in the Pennsylvania Golf Association Amateur Championship, he set a Lookaway Golf Club course record in the second round with an 8-under 64. He finished tied for seventh. A few weeks later, McGrath tied for third in GAP's Stroke-Play Championship, the Joseph H. Patterson Cup, with a 2-under 68 at The 1912 Club. COVID slowed the fall collegiate season, but in the spring McGrath was the American Athletic Conference Men's Golf Player of the Week that ended April 13 courtesy of co-medal honors at the Temple Spring Invite, followed by an even-par 140 (71-69) performance at the Wildcat Spring Invitational (April 11-12). He tied for second overall in the Wildcat. In late May, he was named to the 2021 Division I PING All-Northeast Region team.

LedgeRock's Pilliod Pops in Open Qualifying

ORWIGSBURG, Pa. — Given his impressive march to the 121st BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship Quarterfinals a week ago, one may assume that momentum carried Ross Pilliod into Open Championship Qualifying Wednesday at a serene Schuylkill Country Club (par 72, 6,770 yards).

But you know what happens when you assume.

"I was exhausted. I practiced Thursday and played Friday, and honestly, the game felt really bad," Pilliod, 24, of Reading, Pa., said. "You're so focused and locked in for 100 holes of golf or whatever. I think I was so just drained. The club felt really weird in my hands."

The good kind of weird Wednesday. Pilliod, a LedgeRock Golf Club member, carded a 1-under-par 71 to earn medalist honors as well as one of 12 qualifying positions and ties available for the Championship proper.

Pilliod, who shared medalist honors in BMW Philadelphia Amateur Qualifying last month at Heidelberg Country Club, knows the mindset necessary to make cuts.

Pilliod grabbed three in his first five holes Wednesday. His 9-iron did the trick on Nos. 1 (par 4, 395 yards) and 2 (par 4, 368 yards): from 158 yards to 10 feet on the former, from 162 yards to seven feet on the latter. A "burner cut" pitching wedge on the par 4, 400-yard No. 5 resulted in a 12-footer for birdie. A pair of bogeys thereafter threatened to unravel an otherwise even-keeled Pilliod. He missed No. 6 (par 3, 214 yards) green left with a 5-iron. Tree trouble

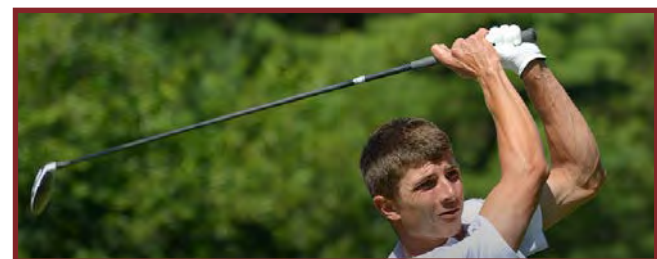
off No. 7 (par 4, 436 yards) tee complicated Pilliod's approach. He failed to get up-and-down from the left bunker.

Pilliod's inward tour proved far less eventful: a bogey (albeit a tense one) and a birdie. He splashed an 8-iron into the water on the downhill par 3, 168-yard 11th hole.

"That hole was playing really hard today. It's 165 yards but it played down 10. And it was dead into the wind," Pilliod said. "I pulled it. I was lucky it landed over the penalty area and rolled it into the water." Consequently, Pilliod's relief area made bogey more attainable.

On the par 5, 486-yard 14th hole, Pilliod's 4-iron from 215 yards landed flag-high in the right rough. He nudged a chip to three feet for birdie.

"I think competition brings out the best in me, for sure," Pilliod said. "If you put me within 150 yards, then I'm feeling really confident. I need to clean up the tee shots. Others it's right miss, left miss. There's still a lot of work to do. But it feels good to know that I can still come out, shoot a good round and rally my way around the course."



Complete results on page 18

STASI WINS MID-AMATEUR, INGRAM CAPTURES SENIOR AMATEUR USGA Champions Claim Inaugural LPGA Titles

ANTHEM, Ariz. (April 21) – The winners of the inaugural Mid-Amateur and Senior Amateur Championships of the Ladies National Golf Association have a combined seven USGA titles in their competitive resumes.

In windiest conditions of the event at Anthem Golf and Country Club's Ironwood Course, Meghan Stasi, of Oakland Park, Fla., a four-time U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion fired an even-par 72 Wednesday for a 54-hole total of 222 to win the LPGA Mid-Amateur Championship by five strokes, and three-time U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion Sarah Ingram, of Nashville, Tenn., shot 76 and won the LPGA Senior Amateur Championship at 226 by six strokes. Stasi fashioned an even-par round of 72 that featured three birdies on the front nine and four total against four bogeys for the best round of the day among the Mid-Amateurs.

"This win is right up there with them all," said Stasi, who has won numerous titles in Florida and Pennsylvania in addition to her USGA wins. "A win any time is great now. There are just so many great players now."

The eight-time Florida Amateur Player of the Year finished five strokes ahead of eight-time South Carolina State Amateur champion Dawn Woodard, of Greer, S.C., and two-time U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur quarterfinalist Amanda Jacobs, of Portland, Ore. Woodard is the other member of Stasi's side at the 6th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championships, which will start Saturday at Maridoe Golf Club in Dallas.

"Ball-striking wise, I was a lot better today," Stasi said. "I hit 3-wood a little more and I played well. I had four birdies, three on the front and I had a lot of chances on the back – five or six chances within 20 feet. I just wanted to make a lot of pars."

Past U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion Kelsey Chugg, of Salt Lake City, Utah was fourth at 230 and first round co-leader Gretchen Johnson of Portland, Ore., was fifth at 234. Another U.S. Mid-Amateur champion, Lauren Greenleaf of Ashburn, Va., tied for sixth.

Ingram, the current USA Curtis Cup captain, showed the temperament of an experienced by shaking off a double bogey on the 12th hole. She finished her round with two birdies, three pars and a bogey.

"To me it's a big deal," said Ingram, who holds a place in the Tennessee Golf and Duke Athletics Halls of Fame. "It's my first big win in my second career since I took 22 tears off and now I have been back at it for three years. To break through and win is exciting. I finally have a Trans/LPGA title, which is exciting."

Shelly Haywood of Huntington Beach, Calif., the former Arizona women's golf coach, finished second at 232 and was followed by Kimberly Eaton, of Mesa, Ariz., in third at 233 with Susan West, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., former U.S. Senior Women's Amateur champion

Lara Tennant, of Portland, Ore., and 2004 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion Corey Weworski, of Carlsbad, Calif., tying for fourth at 234.

"I hit some good shots coming home that I hadn't done most of last year," Ingram said. "I really tried to make the mindset of the collegiate girls I have been watching. They just shake off bogeys and they are still going at it. I hit some good shots and it felt like when I was really good."

Both championships are 54-hole, stroke-play events in their inaugural year and are conducted by the Ladies National Golf Association. The Mid-Amateur Championship is for players 25-years-old and up with an index in the World Handicap System not exceeding 10.4. The Senior Amateur Championship is for players 50-year-old and up with an index in World Handicap System not exceeding 14.4.

"It's an honor to be part of the group," Stasi said of being an LPGA champion. "I've played in the Amateur several times. We are fortunate now that there is a Mid-Am because it's hard to compete against the young gals. It's a great start for the inaugural."

Scoring link

NOTES AND QUOTES

- Stasi won her U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur titles in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2012 and Ingram won her championships in 1991, 1993 and 1994. Stasi was a member of the USA Curtis Cup team in 2008 and Ingram represented the USA in 1992, 1994 and 1996.



PA Native Megan Stasi wins USGA Mid-Amateur

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Philadelphia PGA Section

SCOREBOARD



CONESTOGA CLASSIC Conestoga CC



INDIVIDUAL PRO - INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL			
Pos.	Player	To Par	Gross
T1	Brian BergstolShawnee Inn & Golf Resort	-2	68
T1	Zac OakleyBidermann Golf Club	-2	68
T1	Braden ShattuckBidermann Golf Club	-2	68
T4	Alex KnollGlen Brook Golf Club	-1	69
T4	John AllenPga	-1	69
T4	Trevor BenselOverbrook Golf Club	-1	69
T7	Rich SteinmetzSpring Ford Country Club	E	70
T7	Andrew TurneBerkshire Country Club	E	70
T9	Andy SignorPine Meadows Golf Complex	+1	71
T9	Steve SwartzWest Shore Country Club	+1	71
T9	Parks PriceCountry Club of York	+1	71
T9	Ross BrownFox Hill Country Club	+1	71

PRO/ASST. PRO Greate Bay CC



PGA PRO-PRO, FOUR-BALL

Pos.	Team	To Par	Gross
T1	Eric Kennedy / Ashley GrierOverbrook	-5	65
T1	John DiMarco / Stephen SierackiWoodcrest	-5	65
T3	Anthony Malizia / Dean HaltermanBidermann	-4	66
T3	David Clark / Matt EpiscopoPine Valley	-4	66
T3	Dustin McCormick / Alex KnollGlen Brook	-4	66
T3	Eric Kennedy / Derek FeinbergOverbrook	-4	66
T3	Eric Kennedy / Trevor BenselOverbrook	-4	66
T3	Mike Wood / Mike FureySaucon Valley	-4	66
T3	Mike Wood / Steven ChalmersSaucon Valley	-4	66

35TH BURLINGTON CLASSIC PRO-AM Burlington CC



Pos.	Player	Total	To Par	R1	R2	Total
1	Braden Shattuck Bidermann Golf	135	-5	64	71	135
T2	Zac Oakley Bidermann Golf	137	-3	67	70	137
T2	Terry Hertzog Merion-	137	3	65	72	137
T4	Mike Furey Saucon Valley	138	-2	70	68	138
T4	Parks Price Country Club of York	138	-2	67	71	138
T4	Chris KruegerKings Creek	138	-2	68	70	138
T4	Greg Farrow Deerwood	138	-2	66	72	138
T4	Alex Knoll Glen Brook	138	-2	66	72	138
T4	Brian Kelly Bucknell	138	-2	66	72	138
T4	Eddie Perrino Eagle Rock	138	-2	64	74	138
T4	Hugo Mazzalupi Patriots Glen	138	-2	63	75	138
SENIOR PRO						
1	Terry Hertzog Merion	137	-3	65	72	137
T2	Greg FarrowDeerwood C	138	-2	66	72	138
T2	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	138	-2	66	72	138
T2	Eddie PerrinoEagle Rock Resort	138	-2	64	74	138
T2	Hugo Mazzalupi Patriots Glen	138	-2	63	75	138
6	Mike MosesConcord Country Club	139	-1	66	73	139

SPRING PRO-LADY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP Lehigh CC



Pos.	Foursome	To Par	Net	Total
1	Caldwell / Ford / Sassaman / Sahn DuPont Country Club	-13	57	
2	Wegner / Kramer / Meenaghan / Maletto Moselem Springs	-12	58	
T3	Smith / Schultz / Bidwell / Fitzpatrick Philadelphia Cricket	-11	59	
T3	Kennedy / Aberant / Cagliuso / DeHoratius Overbrook	-11	59	
T3	Wood / Kennedy / Woolford / Watts Saucon Valley	-11	59	
T6	Pine / Petersen / Toner / Catinella Cedarbrook Country Club	-10	60	
T6	Signor / Shay / Daub / Winters Pine Meadows Golf Complex	-10	60	
T6	Mann / Lally / Finley / Stanley Aronimink Golf Club	-10	60	

2021 AGA/GAP SPRING
STROKE PLAY

Pos.	Player	To Par	Gross
1	Pabst, William Elmhurst Country Club	-2	69
2	Evans, EamonGlenmaura National Golf Club	+1	72
T3	Vonderheid, ToddHuntsville Golf Club	+2	73
T3	Steiger, GusGlenmaura National Golf Club	+2	73
T3	Plisko, EricWyoming Valley Country Club	+2	73
T6	Flickinger, JamesCountry Club of Scranton	+3	74
T6	Biscotti, TomWyoming Valley Country Club	+3	74
T8	Ciccarelli, LukeFrosty Valley	+4	75
T8	Wilson, JonathanIrem Country Club	+4	75
T8	Domanish, MikeElmhurst Country Club	+4	75
T11	Nardella, DougElmhurst Country Club	+5	76
T11	Kehres, JacobBerwick Golf Club	+5	76

SENIOR DIVISION

1	Andrejko, Bob Stonehedge Golf Club	E	71
2	Bolcavage, Kenneth Elkview Country Club	+3	74
3	Gill, Bob Fox Hill Country Club	+5	76
4	Corbett, Brian Country Club of Scranton	+7	78
T5	Boburka, Jim Green Pond Country Club	+8	79

SUPER SENIOR DIVISION

1	Bonda, Robin StoneHedge Golf Assn.	+4	75
2	White, Thomas Buck Hill Falls Golf Club	+6	77

POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES



Pocono Pro-Am
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Results

<u>Low Professional</u>		<u>Low Amateur</u>	
1 st	Brian Bergstol (Shawnee) 67	1 st	Kyle Pritchard (Southmoore)
2 nd	Kevin Edwards (Olde Homestead) 70	2 nd	Kevin Scherr (Olde Homestead)
3 rd	Dustin McCormick (Glen Brook) 71	3 rd	Jason Wilson (Shawnee)
	Terry Hatch (Royal Oaks) 71	4 th	Mike Buschta (Olde Homestead)
	Jeff Fick (Moselem Springs) 71		Trevor Buss (Olde Homestead)
	Alex Knoll (Glen Brook) 71		
7 th	Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore) 73		
8 th	Joe Ambrose (Saucon Valley) 74		
9 th	John Kulhamer (Green Pond) 75		
		<u>Low Senior Amateur</u>	
		1 st	Shane Gunning (Glen Brook)
		2 nd	Bob Andrejko (Saucon Valley)
		3 rd	Mark Arcure (Glen Oak)

37TH AGA/GAP
JOHN MOORE
TOURNAMENT

Pos.	Team	Total To Par	Gross	R1	R2	Total	Gross
1	Williams, Eric + Gardas, JamesHonesdale, Glenmaura National	-14	65	64	129		
2	Aeppli, Eric + Knolles, Ryan Towanda Golf Club	-6	72	65	137		
3	Domanish, Mike + Hinton, Tim Elmhurst Country Club	-6	70	67	137		
4	Andrejko, Bob + Bolcavage, Kenneth StoneHedge Elkview	-4	68	71	139		
5	Manci, Mike + Egan, JamesWemberly Hills, Glen Oak	-3	67	73	140		
6	Gill, Bob + Corbett, BrianFox Hill, Scranton CC	-2	73	68	141		
7	Wilson, Jonathan + Bevevino, Tony Irem Country Club	-2	71	70	141		

Continued from page 25



PPGS PRO AM @ Pocono Farms
June 10, 2020



LOW PROFESSIONAL

1st	69 Alex Knoll
2nd	70 Brian Fruehan
2nd	70 Kevin Edwards
4th	79 Chris Matthews
5th	82 Dustin McCormick
6th	84 Greg Wall
6th	84 Joe Ambrose
8th	85 Mark Monahan
8th	85 Evan Grube

LOW TEAM GROSS

1st	64 Alex Knoll (Glen Brook)	1st	62 KevinEdwards (Olde Homestead)
2nd	65 Joe Ambrose (Saucon Valley)	1st	62 Evan Grube (Woodstone)
3rd	69 Patrick Spang (Sothmoore)	1st	62 Mark Monahan (PGA)
4th	70 George Petrole (Woodstone)	1st	62 Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst)
4th	70 Chris Matthews(Irem Temple)		

LOW AMATEUR

1st	73 Mark Bartkowski (Pocono Farms)	1st	76 Tom Barlok (Woodstone)
2nd	74 William Miram (Southmoore)	2nd	76 Joe Lavenduski
3rd	75 Jonathan Wilson (Irem Temple)	3rd	77 Robert Andrejko (Saucon)
4th	76 Kyle Prichard (Southmoore)	3rd	77 Al McCormick (GlenBrook)

LOW SR. AMATEUR

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PHIL WINS PGA FOR 6TH MAJOR

By MIKE KERN

So ...

I'm watching ESPN's Pardon the Interruption, which I do almost every night, the day after Phil Mickelson won the PGA Championship, and Tony Kornheiser and Mike Wilbon, as they are paid to do, are debating which was the bigger surprise: Tiger Woods winning his fifth Masters in 2019, which was his 15th major and first in 11 years, or Lefty doing what he did at Pete Dye's diabolical Ocean Course at Kiawah Island at the age of 50, which made him the oldest to ever win a grand-slam event. And, oh yes, it was his sixth major and first since 2013.

Wilbon eventually came down on the side of Tiger, by a smidge, which I'm told sometimes ESPN guys are inclined to do just because. Tony, meanwhile, kind of went with Phil. But not too strongly. I watch the show mostly because, well, I have opinions too, and I like to see how mine compare.

Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not even close. And I'm going to tell you exactly why.

Tiger, in case you forgot, had finished second in the 2018 PGA by two strokes to Brooks Koepka. OK. And at the Tour Championship about a month later, he won. And when he won the Masters, he went off at 14-1 odds, the fourth-highest number on the board. So there. And he was 43, or three years younger than Jack Nicklaus when the Golden Bear won his 18th major, and sixth Masters, in 1986, six years after he got his 17th.

Fast forward a little over two years. Phil came into the PGA not even ranked in the top 100 in the world. He hadn't really been a factor in quite awhile. Especially in the majors. And he went off at 200-1. On a particularly tough golf course. You think there was a difference? Maybe even a significant one.

Hey, they were both memorable. And great for golf. Just as Nicklaus

was in '86. And Greg Norman would have been if he'd hung on to the win the 2008 British Open, or if Tom Watson hadn't got a bad break on the 72nd hole at Turnberry a year later and had to settle for losing in a playoff. These are the kind of moments that make golf special. Because you never really do know. And when the greats can make something happen that you maybe didn't expect, it can never be a bad thing.

But let's put Phil's accomplishment into some perspective. Jack came from behind in '86, and didn't take the lead until the middle of the back nine. Tiger pretty much did the same thing. They bided their

time and pounced when they saw the opening. And we loved every second of both. But Phil led this thing virtually start to finish. Which is hard to do, unless maybe you were Tiger in his prime. And even harder to do at his age, on that type of layout, where anything was possible on any hole.

I mean, the start of the final 18 was a roller coaster. Phil started the round one ahead of Koepka, in of course the last group. But there was a two-shot swing on the opening hole, and Brooks led.

Then there was a three-shot swing on the second, when Phil birdied and Koepka doubled. Koepka, by the way, was a going for his fifth major at 31, and third PGA. He won in 2018 and '19, and had two other top fives in the previous six. But he had been bothered by knee issues, and they might have caused him to hit so many shots left on Sunday, which cost him. His putter didn't help either. He missed a short one on Saturday and a couple more on the last day. Yet he still only lost by two, tied with Oosthuizen, the 2010 Open champ who also lost in a playoff at the Masters two years later. He too had chances but just couldn't make enough happen.

Phil had built a comfortable lead by the early part of the back nine, which obviously gave him some margin for error. And he would bogey 17, the nasty par 3 that Mark Calcavecchia made infamous at the 1991 Ryder Cup. But he could afford to. And on 16 Phil had hit



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Cont. from page 33

a drive 366 yards, the longest of the tournament. Best yet, he found the fairway a lot, which isn't always his style. At Kiawah you almost have to, though, because some of the stuff to the right and left can really scuttle your chances. Anyway, he hit a 9-iron about 155 from the left rough (away from the water) on 18 and just needed a two-putt from like 18 to get his hands on another Wanamaker Trophy. The first came in 2005 at Baltusrol, where he had to return on Monday to finish up after weather got in the way the day before.

Julius Boros had been the oldest to win a major. He was 48 in 1968 when he beat Arnold Palmer by one in the PGA at Pecan Valley in San Antonio. That was the year Arnie hit a wood out of some heavy rough on the last hole to within like 10 feet on the closing hole but couldn't convert the putt to tie. Boros also won the U.S. Open in 1952 and '63, when he also beat Palmer at Brookline. So much for the history lesson. Hey, Pecan Valley isn't even there anymore. It closed in 2012, and is now a housing development. Just figured it was worth mentioning.

Phil's six majors ties him with Nick Faldo and Lee Trevino. As a wise man once said, it's all about the company you keep. Only 11 others have won more than that. Palmer, Sam Snead, Gene Saracen, Bobby Jones and Harry Vardon are next, with seven apiece. Jones also won four U.S. Amateurs, which to him was a major since he never turned professional. Oh well. Details. Snead, of course, won every major except the U.S. Open, where he came in second four times. That was the record, until Mickelson. Lefty has finished runner-up on six occasions, the last coming at Merion in 2013. Of course a month later he won his only British Open, an event not many thought he could win, which I still contend probably wouldn't have happened if he'd gotten it done at Merion. Anyway, a claret jug is still a nice consolation prize, wouldn't you agree? I bet, though, if you put Phil on truth serum he would trade that for a U.S. Open. Or, better yet, trade one of his three green jackets for the major that would give him a career grand slam, which only five can say. But hey, they all count the same when you start adding them up.

Speaking of which, Phil will now go to the next major, the U.S. Open in mid-June, which will be played in his hometown of San Diego at Torrey Pines, where Tiger won in 2008. Tiger will not be there this time. The USGA actually gave Phil a special exemption into this year's field, which he reluctantly accepted after mulling over whether he should just try to qualify. That is no longer an issue. His PGA victory earned him a five-year exemption into our national championship.

Which brings us to what does it all mean, in the overall? When Tiger

won the Masters two years ago, I wasn't sure if that was a sign he was going to win more majors, or maybe just one of those things that happen because destiny insisted. And Tiger was a lot younger. Then he had physical problems that took his game down, and now the one-person car accident that he was in earlier this year has created doubt as to whether he'll ever play again. Or, if he does, at what level. Heck, at the moment most of us are just hoping he can even walk normally going forward. But with Tiger, I learned a long time ago never to say never. So I won't. But at least Jack's record of 18 majors finally looks like it won't be beat any time soon.



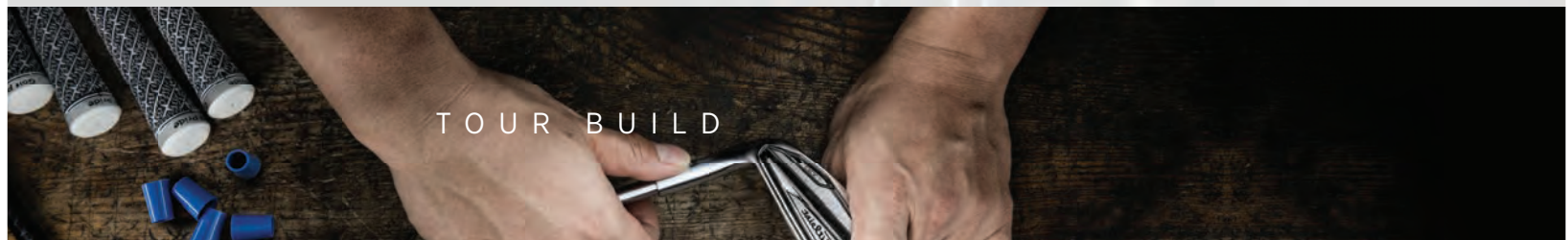
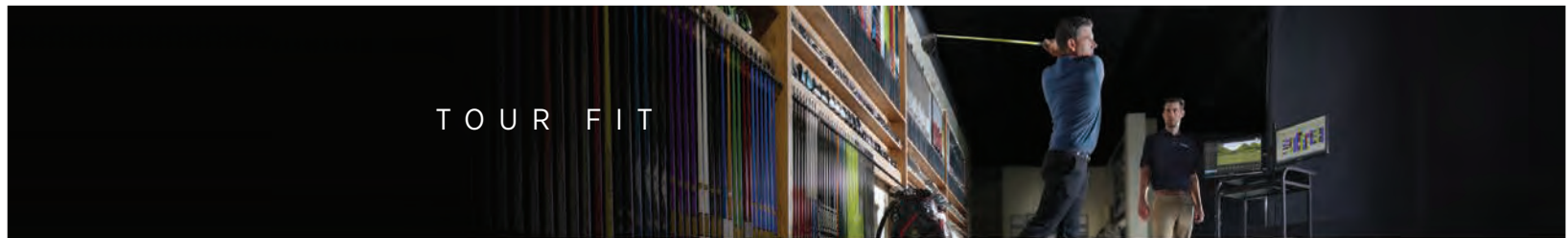
As for Phil, remember he was the next Nicklaus when he arrived in the early 90s. That was a few years before Tiger. But he didn't win his first major until he was 33. And it was a popular victory, for someone who had the misfortune to be the second-best golfer of his era. Not his fault. But Phil was like Palmer. He was the fan favorite, the guy who took chances and sometimes had it blow up in his face. Tiger was like Jack. Cool, calculating, methodical. An assassin.

But they each had their place in history. And if you're going to be like anyone, well it seems like Jack and Arnie are as good as it gets.

Should we mention that Phil will turn 51 on June 16, the day before the U.S. Open commences. But you already knew that. It's been part of the storyline for all these many years. I don't know what his odds will be, but it won't be 200-1. And maybe he won't be in the mix come Father's Day. But it sure would be fun. I'm just not sure how much it would catch anyone by surprise. Phil has won back-to-back majors, but that was 15 years back. He's spent the last year or so getting in better shape, and working on whatever he felt he needed to improve. He had told people he thought he was close, but we've heard that before too. It's only relevant when it has a happy ending.

The Phil that we saw at Kiawah was a throwback. Maybe he has more left in him. But at his age we have to be realistic. That could be a longshot. Which is why we should savor his PGA like it was Jack in '86 or even Tiger in '19. Because we don't know. It doesn't have to happen. Ask Norman or Watson about that. But when it does, it's one for the ages. I watched every shot on Sunday. I'm sure I was hardly the only one. Wouldn't have missed it for anything. The golf world has actually been blessed to have two of these in two years. Until the next one, this will do just fine. Because by this point we should never really be too surprised by anything. That's what makes sports so captivating. Golf too. The next moment is out there somewhere. We just aren't sure when. It's why we keep watching.

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