

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXXII No. 14

Spring 2024

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WOMEN'S U.S. OPEN RETURNING TO LANCASTER COUNTRY CLUB MAY 30 - JUNE 2

By Pete Kowalski

Returning to Lancaster Country Club this year for the 79th U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally is warmly welcomed by the good folks at the United States Golf Association.

At the last Women's Open there in 2015, when record crowds greeted the best 156 female players in the world, then 20-year-old In Gee Chun carved out a 4-under-par 66 in the final round to erase a four-stroke deficit to beat 54-hole leader Amy Yang by one stroke at 8-under-par 272 at the classic William Flynn design.

That 72-hole score matched the championship record of Hall of Famers Annika Sorenstam (1996) and Juli Inkster (1999) and allowed Chun to join Birdie Kim (2005), Kathy Cornelius (1956) and inaugural winner Patty Berg (1946) who claimed the title on their first attempt.

In addition to a final-day leaderboard that included two-time Women's Open winner In-Bee Park and Stacy Lewis at 5-under, Brooke Henderson and 2011 winner So Yeon Ryu at 3-under and 2014 winner Michelle Wie at 2-under, corporate hospitality and media coverage reflected the enthusiasm and energy of the south-central Pennsylvania community.

"Obviously one of the most memorable things about the week were how the community supported the championship and the record-breaking attendance," said Shannon Rouillard, the USGA's senior director of the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Women's Open, whose assignment was assisting in setting up the golf course. "I kept telling myself when I was out on the course that this is the way a Women's Open should be. It should be with this many fans. It was fantastic to see the crowds and the juniors. It was an all-around fantastic week. The golf course was in fantastic condition and provided a wonderful test."

A host of factors have changed in the nine years since the Women's Open first came to Lancaster C.C., but all are charged with optimism and energy.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, CHANGES SINCE 2015

The last time the U.S. Women's Open scorecard was a par-70 was at Lancaster C.C. in 2015 but the 6,629-yard layout, will be slightly

different in 2024.

Rouillard notes the rolling nature of the property that features a number of semi-blind approach shots and downhill tee shots with subsequent uphill approaches as well as strong flexibility in the lengths of the par-3 holes. She calls it a "big golf course."

"The course has undergone some changes since 2015 but there are some really positive ones," said Rouillard, who was an honorable mention all-conference choice and team captain in her senior year at the University of Oregon in 1995 and coached the Ducks from 2000-2008. "They've added about a dozen bunkers. They've done quite a bit of tree removal – there are sightlines through the golf course now. They've added a lot of native areas, which we are starting to see at many courses as resources are becoming more limited. And they've done some tee work. They've combined some tees; they've added some tees. Lancaster is a big golf course with a lot of elevation changes and is a championship test of golf."

To bring out the best in the William-Flynn design, the USGA will carefully watch weather and course conditions when it takes its tactical

approach to course set-up.

"The USGA set-up always demands the best of every part of a player's game," Rouillard said. "Length does play into that but also accuracy and physical and mental resolve, and course management. You can run it up but must play aerial game too. It provides a complete test, for sure."

She was quick to note the effective work of Lancaster C.C.'s superintendent/director of grounds Josh Saunders.

"He is extremely enthusiastic about his role and that the Women's Open is coming back to Lancaster," Rouillard said. "He loves championship golf, and he has been working hard with his team to prepare for June.

I have no doubt it is going to be in some of the best shapes it's ever been in."

Entries for the championship closed on April 3 and 23 qualifying sites (April 15-May 20) are set for 36-holes of stroke play including sites in Canada, Japan and Germany.

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CORPORATE SUPPORT

With Mike Whan now serving as the executive director of the USGA, the national governing body has funneled more resources toward the Women's Open, highlighted by its affiliation with ALLY, which became the second presenting partner of the championship in 2024. The multi-year agreement raises the U.S. Women's Open purse to \$12 million, the largest in women's professional golf.

Corporate hospitality sales for the 2024 Women's Open are easily categorized as brisk with the premium suites/facilities selling out in late 2023.

"The corporate investment from the Lancaster community has been exceptional," said Allison Lee, USGA director for the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Women's Open, who supervises all championship aspects outside-the-ropes. "We sold out a few months ago all of our premium spaces and are now focused on an individual upgraded hospitality ticket, the Penn Club. The success of the corporate program exemplifies a true testament to the energy and support the community has about the U.S. Women's Open coming back to Lancaster."

FAN EXPERIENCE AND TICKETS

With a total of 80,000 spectators expected for the week, the USGA will look to harness the grassroots enthusiasm of the surrounding regions.

"We plan to have a few different activation experiences for all of our fans on site that will look a little different than 2015," Lee said, highlighted by a USGA Museum experience, a junior activation area with activities for all juniors on site including a clinic (details to come), grandstands with premium views of golf and upgraded concession areas.

Tickets, mirroring corporate hospitality, are selling fast.

Lee notes that the 1761 Club and Penn Club, upgraded ticket options may sell out based on the capacity of the structures. More information on tickets can be found [here](#).

"Both of these options offer fans an up-close view of golf central to the course," Lee said. "1761 is upgraded food and beverage for purchase and Penn Club is all inclusive."

PENNSYLVANIA AND CATHEDRALS OF GOLF

John Bodenhamer, the USGA's chief competitions officer, often uses the moniker 'cathedrals of golf, when he talks about USGA championship venues. After last year's first U.S. Women's Open at Pebble Beach and a future schedule that includes Riviera, Oakmont, Pinehurst, Chicago G.C., Oakland Hills and Merion in the next decade-plus, there's truth to those words.

Lancaster C.C., while not a brand-name like the like above, is every bit the golf course.

"We are in a really good place coming off an inaugural Women's Open at Pebble Beach and coming back to another very successful site," Rouillard said. "We are just looking to build on that momentum and believe that this year's championship is going to be another great success."

The Commonwealth is currently the leader in hosting USGA championship with 91 before the 2024 season that will add three more to the tally – U.S. Amateur Four-Ball at Philadelphia Cricket Club (May 24-29), Lancaster C.C. for the Women's Open (May 30-June 2) and the U.S. Senior Women's Open at Fox Chapel Golf Club (August 1-4).

"Golf is very rich in Pennsylvania," Rouillard said. "We like to go to classic golf courses. There is a lot of classic architecture in Pennsylvania. It is truly one of the hubs, the Philadelphia area where there is so much incredible golf. It's no surprise that we continue to go back there."

Embracing the moment is in the DNA of Lancaster C.C., according to Lee.

"Everyone has truly embraced the championship as part of the community and is so excited and proud to show off the Lancaster community and surrounding area," Lee said. "Having that support is the foundation to the success of our championship. Our volunteer program going to a waitlist, selling out of corporate hospitality and the success of general ticket sales so far are a testament to why the USGA knows Lancaster Country Club will host a successful U.S. Women's Open for a second time."



Hole #3 Lancaster Country Club

Golf History Is Reborn At Cabot Citrus Farms

By TONY LEODORA

When the World Woods golf destination opened in the '90s, with two Tom Fazio-designed courses, it was the talk of the golf world. Both courses debuted in the Top 100.



While much of the Caroo course is reminiscent of hallowed Pine Valley, this particular hole brings the famous Hell's Half-Acre to mind.

Please pardon a person drift into fond memories of the property.

I attended the grand opening, along with a group of golf writers. To a man, they were overwhelmed with the immense nature of the project.

In rapid succession, there were re-visits with a few other golf writers ... mainly ones who were unavailable for the grand opening.

And that was followed by hosting a few members of the Philadelphia Phillies coaching staff. They were golfaholics and had been lobbying for a guided visit, ever since my first stories about World Woods.

Finally, there was a trip with a bunch of golf-starved snowbirds from the frozen north. They were convinced they had found golf heaven in central Florida.

All of that, of course, was at the height of the golf course building boom. For a short stretch of time, answering a false narrative that America needed a massive amount of golf course construction to meet increased demand in the industry, we were seeing a new golf course opening almost every day of the year.

After the turn of the century, a series of events brought golf's boom time to a screeching halt.

First, there were the tragic events of 9/11. Then the financial collapse in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Shortly after there were two blazingly hot summers that destroyed much of the grass on courses in the East, especially in the Southeast. Many courses experimented with a new

strain of bentgrass that, unfortunately, was not heat-tolerant.

Courses started to close, much faster than new ones were being built. Others struggled to stay afloat. World Woods, situated in Brooksville, a rather remote area of Florida, was a classic example. Ownership fell on hard times and never recovered. The property deteriorated from its original lustre.

Would there ever be even a glimmer of golf excitement in Brooksville, Florida again?

Thankfully, a sale took place and now, ownership with a recognized brand has revived the property under a new name — Cabot Citrus Farms. Make no mistake about it. The project is not a renovation ... it is a total rebirth. And excitement abounds.

The Cabot name has made its mark internationally, with heralded destination golf at places like Cape Breton (Nova Scotia, Canada), Castle Stewart (Scotland), Cabot Pacific (British Columbia, Canada), Point Hardy Golf Club (St. Lucia). Now, they bring their high-end style of golf and lifestyle to Florida.

The old courses are gone. Architect Kyle Franz has worked his magic on the first of two new courses — Karoo.

Franz got immediate acclaim when he did a major renovation of the old, tired municipal golf course near Pinehurst, NC – Southern Pines. He brought the same rugged, craggy bunker style of design to Cabot Citrus Farms – and the look is a perfect fit for an inland natural setting.

“It was very exciting to work with the piece of property I found here in Brooksville,” said Franz, during a well-attended media day and grand opening in late January. “The site is tucked between two state forests. There were so many natural features and a variety of sand pines, palmetto trees and very old moss-covered oaks. It inspired me to create dramatic holes.”

He definitely created dramatic holes, as a large amount of trees were cleared on Karoo, allowing for magnificent vistas throughout the course. And he also created dramatic green complexes. With wide fairway corridors greeting golfers off the tee, the defense of the course comes from its severely undulated greens. Putting is an exciting adventure at Karoo.

The second course, The Roost, is under construction now. It is co-designed by Franz and Mike Nuzzo. Placed on the site of the original Oaks course, it is more of a walk through corridors of live oaks – but the major feature is a 40-foot-deep sinkhole that has been incorporated into the design.

It is scheduled to open in 2025.

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There are also two other courses.

The Squeeze, designed by Nuzzo, is a nine-hole course with holes that range from 100 yards to 550 yards. Inspiration is drawn from a collection of the world's best short par 4s.

The Wedge, also designed by Nuzzo, is a 10-hole short course with a collection of par 3s that feature huge waste areas, greens with dramatic slopes and a variety of varied lies. The most interesting feature is the fact that lights are being installed to allow play after dusk.

The final component to the Cabot Citrus Farms picture is an assortment of high-end lodges and housing. Current pricing for the real estate starts at \$1.75 million for the two-bedroom cottages and goes to almost \$3 million for a four-bedroom cottage.



No. 3 is a ruggedly impressive par 3 hole over water.

Benefits of being an owner include access to a rental program, housekeeping services and a variety of amenities.

While the original World Woods property claimed great golf, it never had all of the other components needed to ensure success in a rather remote part of Florida. Now, with the addition of the proven Cabot touch, the equation for a total golf destination is complete.

It is safe to say that the new Cabot Citrus Farms easily will eclipse the stature of the original golf experience that occupied the sprawling property. The story will unfold over the next couple of years ... and the buzz is spreading fast

through the avid golfers of America, and the world.

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IN MEMORIAM: CARLYLE ROBINSON, MACK SAUNDERS & RICHARD MASLOW



The GAP/AGA mourns the loss of a pair of influential figures in 2023.

Carlyle Robinson, a longstanding Anthracite Golf Association supporter, died May 25 at the age of 76. Mack Saunders, a former Executive Committee member (1999-2005) and tournament volunteer, died Oct. 8 at the age of 84.

Robinson is among a collection of golf enthusiasts that envisioned the Anthracite Golf Association's purpose. Since 1951, the organization has promoted golf in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Anthracite Golf Association merged with GAP in 2018.

Robinson, a Fox Hill Country Club member, emerged as an administrative linchpin throughout the organization's formative years. He dedicated 30 years to the Anthracite Golf Association's Executive Committee (1978-2008).

In 1972, Robinson adopted a competitions coordinator role. He oversaw all AGA tournaments, distributed entries, made pairings and starting sheets and compiled score sheets. Robinson, in essence, set a precedent for the organization to create an Executive Director position in 2002.

In 2015, the Anthracite Golf Association inaugurated the Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball in Robinson's honor. It is a better-ball-of-partners event that takes place every fall.

In addition to his administrative influence, Robinson compiled a commendable amateur career. He earned individual medalist honors in the 1980 GAP/AGA Men's Coal Scuttle Championship and captured the John Moore Memorial Tournament alongside Ron Pieczynski on six occasions (1984-85, 1988, 1990-91, 1993). Robinson won the Potentate Tournament at Irem Country Club 10 times and the John Allan Tournament at Fox Hill five times. Robinson, a seven-time men's champion at Fox Hill, teamed with fellow AGA advocate William Lawler to win the GAP Senior Four-Ball Stroke Play in 2003 at Green Valley Country Club.

A Wyoming Area High School alum, Robinson attended Wilkes University, where he played basketball and golf. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business and marketing. He became an instructor in the Wyoming Area School District, then a permanent substitute teacher at the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center. Robinson taught at Luzerne County Community College, where he also coached golf, for 25 years.

Robinson is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia; children, Caryn and her wife, Ava, Reading; and Carlyle, West Pittston; grandchildren, Carlyle T., Juliet, Henry and Elliott; and several nephews and nieces.

Saunders, a former green chairman and president of Glen Oak Country Club, served as an instrumental voice on the Anthracite Golf Association's Executive Committee. In 1997, he initiated the Scott Saunders Memorial Scholarship in honor of his late son. The scholarship, which ceased in 2017,



was awarded to a Junior golfer who participated in the Lawler Junior Tour.

Saunders' advocacy for the game extended to its governing body. Saunders served on the USGA Green Committee from 1999-2007. He also volunteered as a starter and rules official for the Pennsylvania Golf Association. Saunders served on that organization's Executive Committee from 2010-13.

A Hobart College alum, Saunders worked for 29 years at AT&T. He retired to Florida, where he continued to enjoy the game as a member of The Preserve at Ironhorse in West Palm Beach, Fla. Longtime friend Martin Hall, host of Golf Channel's "School of Golf," was his instructor.

Saunders is survived by his sister Ginger; son Greg and his wife, Kate; and grandchildren, Clark and Lindsay

Richard Maslow, founder and owner of Huntsville Golf Club, died March 20. He was 92.

"His love of the game [stands out]," Matt Occhiato, Huntsville's golf professional of 11 years, said. "I couldn't tell you how many times he did it, but he shot his age more times than I can count on one hand. He would never admit to any of it, so it was always an inside joke with Mr. Maslow. 'I shot my age, but if you tell anyone, you're fired.' And I don't think he really meant that, but he didn't want you to tell anybody. He was a very humble man. He was instrumental to this golf course and this area."

In 1994, following a 40-year career with InterMetro Industries, a food services company founded by his father Louis, Maslow set out to create a golf course. He hired accredited architect Rees Jones to make his vision a reality.

"Going back to when Huntsville was built, there was Fox Hill Country Club, Wyoming Valley Country Club and Irem Country Club in Luzerne County here. All of those courses were full. They had waiting lists. Clubs were busy," Occhiato, 45, of Dallas, Pa., said. "He felt the need for another club to be in our area, so that's why he came up with the idea for Huntsville."

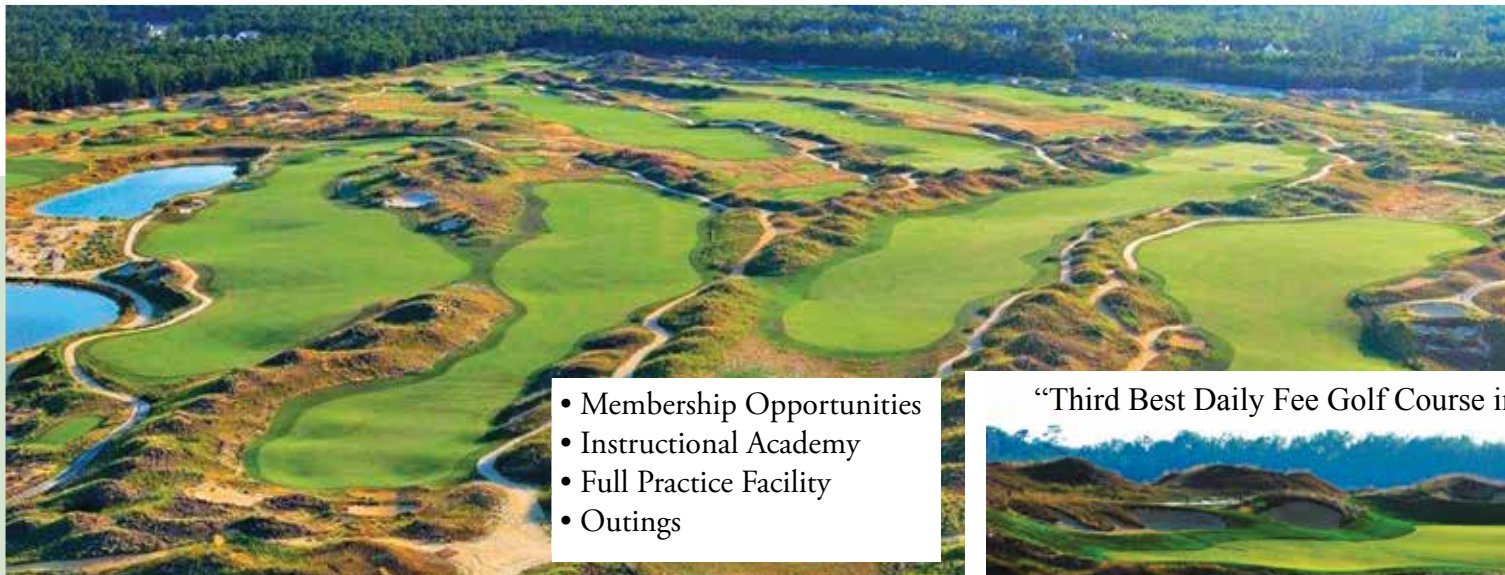
Scott Burnside, a bondholder since Huntsville's inception, played golf alongside Maslow a few times per year. A business relationship through Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises facilitated a lifelong friendship.

"I used to tease him a bit about the designs of a few holes at Huntsville, where he actually overrode Rees Jones and did things the way he wanted them done," Burnside, 79, of Edgartown, Mass., said. "On the 11th hole, there are two fairways. When I had a chance to meet up with Rees Jones, I asked him about the design. He said, 'That second fairway was all Maslow. I never design a par 4 where two shots — the tee shot and the approach shot — are hit over hazards. And Dick really wanted to have this fairway down the left side, so I did it for him.' And every time I played with Maslow, I'd say, 'You can save a lot of money by letting this fairway of yours grow in, fill in the bunkers.' We had a lot of fun with that over the years."

"There's no question that Huntsville is his lasting legacy."

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EXCITEMENT CONTINUES TO BUILD IN GOLF WORLD AND IT IS REFLECTED IN PGA SHOW'S NEW PRODUCTS

By TONY LEODORA

It was not too many years ago that people were wondering if golf was headed for extinction. Players were leaving the game regularly. Golf courses were closing in record numbers. And new courses were not being built.

All it took was a pandemic to reverse those trends.

Now, golf's death plunge has taken a sharp turn upwards. Public courses are packed. Private memberships are full ... and there are wait lists to get in.

Buoyed by the news in January from the National Golf Foundation that more than 1 million new golfers joined the American ranks in 2023 and an all-time record 531 million rounds of golf were played, the 2024 PGA Show reflected an industry-wide display of excitement.

More than 31,000 golf industry professionals and executives from 89 countries and all 50 states came together to meet with more than 1,000 companies at the 71st PGA Show in Orlando.

Navigating the miles of aisles and sorting through all of the new products was not an easy task but, once again, a list of the Top Ten items to catch the eye at the PGA Show has been prepared. Included are products – big and small – that are certain to help every golfer.

The buzz from the PGA Show now continues with the buzz about the new products.

American Fit Golf Apparel

From the foundation of Valgroup International, an established textile company that made a name for itself by providing full manufacturing services to other brands, comes American Fit.

Developing their own brand in the golf industry was a logical extension of the business. American high-fashion design, combined with recognized high-quality fabric production in Peru, has produced an outstanding line of apparel, not only for golfers but also for athletes who want the best styles ... in addition to body protection with UV filters, anti-microbial elements and rain-resistance qualities.

American Fit provides a full line of men's and women's shirts and tops, manufactured with the finest blends of materials, as well as high-quality 100 percent Pima Cotton outerwear.

That activity at the American Fit booth throughout the PGA Show was indicative of the enthusiastic reception the new line of golf apparel received from the many interested buyers.

www.americanfit.com

BRIDGESTONE GOLF



No golf ball company delivers more performance innovation on an annual basis than Bridgestone Golf. And this year is no exception.



The breakthrough development is MINDSET, a proprietary visual technology available on all four of the 2024 TOUR B Series golf balls – X, XS, RXS and RX. For the first time Bridgestone has allowed an imprinted graphic on the cover of their golf balls, making the exception in an attempt to help golfers improve their focus.

The process was developed by Bridgestone staffer Jason Day, along with his mental coach Jason Goldsmith. The process consists of three easy steps that work with the MINDSET graphic: Identify, Visualize and Focus.

The first step, in which players look at the outer, red circle of the MINDSET graphic, involves making critical decisions regarding the upcoming shot. This step requires the player to Identify the target and gather information regarding distance, wind conditions, club selection, and shot shape. Once these decisions have been made, the inner yellow circle prompts the player to move to step two, which is to Visualize the shot path. This step is about connecting to the target and includes visualizing the shot to the target. In the final step, the green dot prompts full FOCUS on execution.

www.bridgestonegolf.com

CERTIFRESH CIGAR FOUR-PACK



CertiFresh Cigar, the individually packaged premium cigar that guarantees a quality, fresh cigar every time, is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The company has made its reputation on providing individually packaged cigars to golf shops everywhere, guaranteeing that their product stays fresh for one year, thanks to their patented humidor pouches. Success has followed wherever CertiFresh goes.

Cont. on page 10

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So, if one fresh cigar breeds success, four fresh cigars should be four times as successful. That's the theory behind the new CertiFresh four-pack.

Now, customers can purchase a four-cigar pack that proved to be hugely popular during a test market last year. The pack includes four different brands – Rocky Patel Disciple Half Corona, Ashton Half Corona, Romeo Petite Bully, and Oliva Series O #4. The one thing that all four brands have in common is that they are a premium, fresh cigar. The other thing they have in common is that they are all short, quick smokes – perfect for on the golf course or during the after-golf rehash of the game.

www.certifreshcigar.com

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Now, Copper Tech has gone one step further. They have combined all of their proven quality and technology into a golf training glove that actually can help those who wear and practice with the glove become better golfers.

The gloves include knuckle alignment guides on the top of the glove to prevent golfers from developing too weak or too strong of a grip. They also include an alignment arrow that points to proper shoulder position.

On the bottom side of the glove, in addition to the patented non-slip grip, there are gripping guides to keep the club grip in the proper position in the inside of the fingers, rather than slipping into the palm of the hand.

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www.coppertechgloves.com

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The core of the system is the Swing Trainer – a training bar, resistance bands with handles and an optimized heavy warmup club that promotes thoracic mobility and ideal pre-round prep. An app provides the daily instruction.

The complete kit, with carrying case, is available for \$199.99. When combined with the permanent mounting stand – for use in a gym, at the golf club fitness center, or in the home gym, GolfForever becomes the most complete golf-specific training system ever created.

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GREENKEEPERS - DRI MARK



Greenkeepers, the Philadelphia-based injection molding plastics manufacturing company, was founded in 1996 and has created a diverse line of golf accessories over the years. Most noted are the Four Yards More Tee, the Survivor Tee and the Line-M-Up golf ball marker.

Now, the Line-M-Up – used by golf professionals, Tour players and top amateurs everywhere – has a new partner. The Dri Mark marking pen is the perfect complement to the Line-M-Up.

It is so perfect that it is even sold in a blister pack containing the Line-M-Up and two marking pens. For those who already have



the Line-M-Up, the Dri Mark is sold separately in a two-pack – red and black ink -- for a retail price of \$3.99.

The beauty of the Dri Mark – unlike other marking pens – is that it provides excellent adhesion, superior durability and is moisture resistant. In golf, it is often the little things that make a difference – and Greenkeepers

Cont. from page 10

accessories for more than 25 years.
www.gkspikes.com

LAGMASTER



The great majority of avid golfers have a garage full of training aids. The overwhelming reason they sit in the garage is they are too complicated to operate ... or to provide overall and lasting improvement to the golf game. Unless they come with your own personal golf instructor, who also can be kept in the garage, it is doubtful the training aid will be put to successful use.

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and stage fright associated with a live fitting session.

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Now a golfer can provide some basic stats and get an entire fitting system sent to his or her home. Provide a deposit and keep the kit as long as necessary – until the perfect fit is assured. Return the kit and the deposit is returned.

There is a \$20 charge for use of the fitting system, which is immediately applied to the cost of the purchase of a Makefield Putter. The kit includes two club heads and four shafts with different hosel configurations, lie angles and grip styles. It also includes extra weights, washers, wrenches and screws needed to get the perfect fit.
www.makefieldputters.com

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Tour Edge Golf, the company that has continually gained market share over the years in the highly competitive equipment market, made huge strides at the top end of golf's hierarchy with its Tour Edge Exotics line of premium clubs. The best professional and amateur players have discovered the quality and performance.

Now the company is once again making waves in the equipment industry by bringing a bit of that high-end technology to their line affordable line of Hot Launch drivers.

Adjustability, in addition to high-tech materials, in an affordably priced driver is not found anywhere else in the market. The new Hot Launch drivers are available in the C524 model, for a lower, boring trajectory, or the E524 model, which produces a higher launch angle.

And, as with all Tour Edge clubs, they are covered by a lifetime guarantee. The best feature may be the astonishing \$249.99 suggested retail price.

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Cont. from page 11

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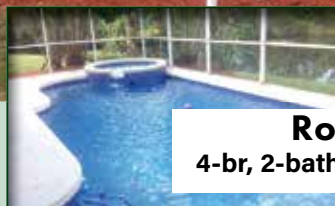
That activity at the American Fit booth throughout the PGA Show was indicative of the enthusiastic reception the new line of golf apparel received from the many interested buyers.

www.americanfit.com



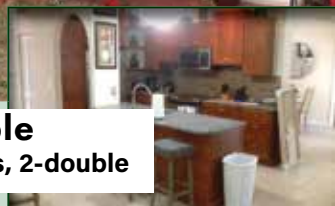
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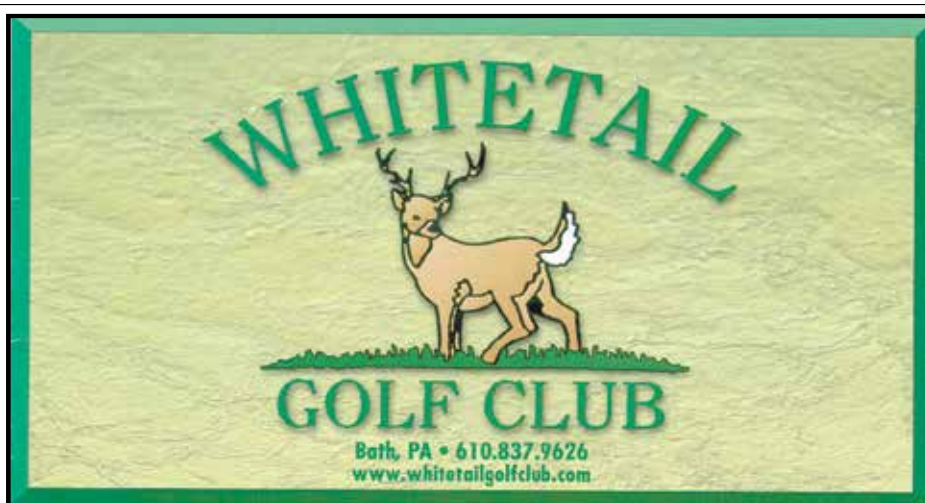
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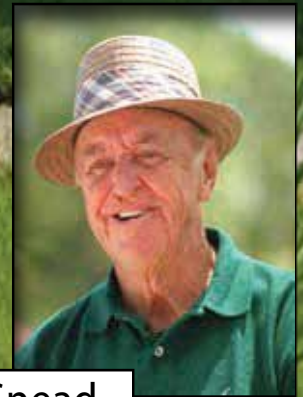


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USGA RETURNS TO PINEHURST

When the winner of the 124th U.S. Open Championships raises the trophy at Pinehurst No. 2 in June, it will be four days short of 25 years since the late great Payne Stewart struck his iconic pose after sinking a 20-foot par putt to take the title in 1999.



Aerial Cradle View

It can be argued that his victory began an unprecedented quarter century of growth and popularity for the Resort in the Sandhills of North Carolina. Much of that grand impetus is related to the Resort's relationship with the United States Golf Association and its national championships but an equal part is ensconced in upgrading the daily life of its guests/visitors as well as an innovative vision for the future.

In the time between Stewart's jump into the arms of his caddie Mike Hicks and the influx of 156 of the world's best players for the 2024 U.S. Open – the fourth U.S. Open at No. 2 – June 13-16, the flourishing escape in Pinehurst has earned the title of the "Home of American Golf."

Under the leadership of Resort CEO Bob Dedman Jr. and President Tom Pashley, the list of happenings, buildings, renovations, and business enterprises has been impressive in its impact and financial return.

"There's a line I like to think about and that's 'always Pinehurst, always better,'" Dedman said.

His family acquired the Resort from a bank foreclosure in the mid-1980s and then embarked on a steady march back to his prior prominence.

Pashley who came to the Resort from Pinehurst Championship Management, the company's event arm, rose to title of President in 2014 and is well-known for his innovation and relationship-building prowess. Guided by strategic enhancements, the Resort has remained future focused with an enviable 'track record.'

"Pinehurst is not a time capsule," Pashley said. "This is not a place where you come and just look at how things used to be and celebrate the past. You can do that here, but you're also celebrating the present, and looking forward to the future."

New Zealand's Michael Campbell captured the 2005 U.S. Open title

as the USGA made a swift return to Pinehurst after it experienced a wholly successful championships just six years earlier. The partnership between the New Jersey-based governing body and the Carolina golf epicenter was blossoming.

Upgrades and additions accelerated as the 2014 golf season appeared. A critical piece in this developmental journey was the decision, in 2010, to hire the architecture team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore to restore the venerable No. 2 to reflect the Golden Age work of designer Donald Ross. With the goal of presenting the natural elements of the North Carolina Sandhills, large swaths of manicured rough were replaced with a natural sandscape and its rudiments of wiregrass and pine straw.

It was quite a different look, but it was well received, particularly by the USGA, which had scheduled its U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open back-to-back at Pinehurst in 2014. No. 2 held up brilliantly as first the world's best men and then the world's best women tackled the Ross masterpiece. USGA CEO Mike Davis was fond of saying that only Pinehurst could have hosted this unprecedented fortnight of golf.

"All the changes and evolutions and innovations that happened here in the last 10 years were really sparked when the Dedman family made that decision to restore Pinehurst No. 2," Pashley said.

In the 10 years after 2014, the Resort opened or enhanced many of its offerings for golf and accommodation and food and beverage – to wide acclaim.

In 2016, the Deuce, a restaurant with huge windows to view the activity on the 18th green of No. 2, opened. A year later, everywhere-all-the-time architect Gil Hanse designed The Cradle, a nine-hole, par-3 golf culture sensation that now includes a food and beverage station with upbeat music. Hanse was simultaneously working on redesigning Course No. 4, that opened in 2018 and was used as the stroke-play co-host course for the 2019 U.S. Amateur. Also in 2018, Pinehurst Brewing Co., a micropub/brewery for guests and locals was opened in the old bones of the steam plant that serviced the Village of Pinehurst back in the day.

Other updates in that decade were the re-do of the Manor Inn and the purchase of Donald Ross' Dornoch Cottage, adjacent to hole 3 on No. 2. A three-phase renovation of the historic hotel, The Carolina, will be completed in 2024. And, the debut of Pinehurst No. 10, designed by Tom Doak, is set for spring of 2024.

It doesn't seem possible that 25 years have passed since the resplendent Payne Stewart departed with the U.S. Open trophy in tow. He left us in October of 1999, but Pinehurst has erected a statue depicting his momentous fist pump and leg kick near the 18th green of No. 2. No doubt, he is admiring the work of the Resort, saying: "Well done, my friends, well done."

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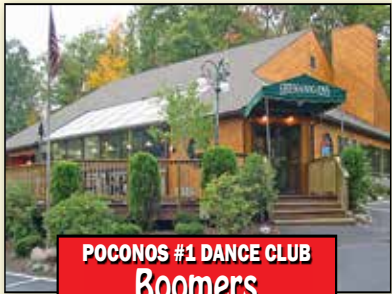
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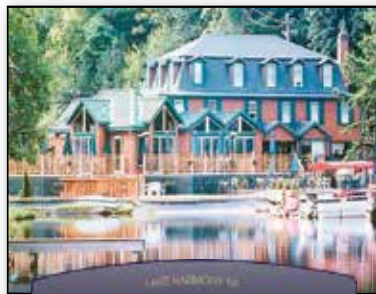
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U.S. AMATEUR FOUR-BALL AT PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB

By Pete Kowalski

Bill McCarthy has been the United States Golf Association's director of the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship since it began in 2015. In that role, he supervises everything from a course set-up standpoint – among the most evident -- length of holes, hole locations, grass heights, green speed, playability firmness, pairings, and Rules. For the 2024 U.S. Four-Ball, at Philadelphia Cricket Club in Flourtown (May 25-29), McCarthy has the pleasure of a simple job in his wry words: "Philadelphia Cricket Club is one of those amazing places where all you have to do is hold on to the reins, do your best not mess it up and have a great championship".

McCarthy, a 28-year veteran of leading competitions at the USGA, knows that this facility, the oldest country club in the United States established in 1854 by University of Pennsylvania students of English heritage, has all the necessary ingredients for a memorable championship.



USGA Bill McCarthy

The two courses, Wissahickon (designed by A. W. Tillinghast and opened in 1922) and Militia Hill (designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry and opened in 2002) are championship ready and the quality of conditions, provided by director of agronomy Dan Meersman, smooth the runway to the first tee shots in May.

"Absolutely it makes our job easier," McCarthy said. "Dan and his team are amazing. For the championship we can just plug and play for the most part and make sure you've got some variety in the approach shots. We need to make sure we are stretching it out where it needs to be stretched out. There is a great natural variety of holes on Wissahickon."

Both courses will be used in the stroke-play portion of the 128-side field on May 25-26. The Wissahickon Course, renovated by Keith Foster in 2013-2104, will be used for single elimination match play, when 32 sides vie for a national championship.

"The strength of the golf course (Wissahickon) is in its entirety, honestly," McCarthy said. "It challenges players off the tee. It's a

bit forgiving off the tee but at the same time because of the strength of the bunkering and the green complexes you have to be smart off the tee. Militia Hill is solid, but it is more of a traditional parkland golf course with the bunkers being a little flatter and a little less intimidating for member play."

McCarthy, a well-respected set-up veteran, loves that you can 'short side' yourself in the fairway making approaches much more difficult and the chances of making up and downs from off the green at 25 to less than 50 percent.

"I'm so enthralled with the golf course that I have a hard time telling you what a specific strength is," he said. "But, if I was forced to, I would say the green complexes. The bunkering and the topography of the greens challenge every shot, whether you have a flip wedge or a hybrid to the green, which you will. That's another piece of the variety of the course."

The USGA is returning to Philly Cricket for the first time since 1907, when Alex Ross, son of famed architect Donald Ross, won the U.S. Open on the club's St. Martin's course.

The club is primed and energized to serve as host, four years later than originally planned. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the championship in 2020 but there was mutual drive to bring the Four-Ball back.



Uphill par three at Philly Cricket

"We were incredibly disappointed that we got 'covid-ed' out," McCarthy said. "There was so much hype and energy from the players, the club and the USGA....so to have to pull the plug was really disappointing. But it wasn't long after that and '24 was our first available and (Philly Cricket) just jumped right back on board. There was no hesitancy on the part of the club, not much discussion. It was like 'Yeah, we were ready to go; we are excited to do it; let's get right back on the horse and do it.'"

Pennsylvania is a hotbed for USGA champions, hosting 91 prior to

Cont. from page 19

2024, more than any other state.

"When you talk about the great clubs in the area and even the country around, you've got to throw Philly Cricket into the mix of that conversation," McCarthy said.

He cites the format, the strength of the field (juniors, collegians, mid-amateurs (25 and older) and senior amateurs (55 and older) as the reason for the championship's success since Pittsburgh's Nathan Smith and South Carolina's Todd White hoisted the trophy at The Olympic Club near San Francisco in 2015.

The next four host sites were Winged Foot G.C., Pinehurst No. 2, Jupiter Hills Club and Bandon Dunes, and McCarthy said: "That caught traction with the players and clubs immediately."

The upcoming sites are Plainfield (N.J.) C.C. in 2025 and Desert Mountain Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. in 2026 and Bandon Dunes again in 2037.

"It has not been hard to maintain an incredibly high level of host sites," McCarthy said. "our future sites are only continuing that high level."

Each member of a side cannot have a USGA Handicap Index® exceeding 5.4. A record total of 2,638 entries were received for the 2024 championship. Qualifying is held in an August-to-December window of the year before and McCarthy stresses that great scores only will make the field.

"In qualifying, you have to stand on the first tee thinking 64," he said. "If

they make a bogey they've got to light up it or head to the parking lot."

Highlighting the last qualifiers were Philadelphia raised Tug Maude (41) and John Sawin (39) who attended the Haverford School. The rest of the qualifying results are listed here.

University of California teammates Samson Zheng and Aaron Du claimed the title last year at Kiawah Island Club.

"From day one – we've had junior sides, collegiate sides, mid-am sides, senior am sides and all sorts of mixture throughout," McCarthy said. "That is the overall strength of the championship. And when 90 percent of the field is different from last year, it speaks to the strength of the qualifying, the strength of the players, the strengths of the sides from around the country, there is such a great energy with this format."



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














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		62ND COMPHER CUP MATCHES Wed, Apr 24, 2024	Union League Golf Club at Torresdale
OPEN closes on MON, APR 15 11:59 PM EDT		90TH FRANCIS B. WARNER CUP Mon, Apr 29, 2024	Laurel Creek Country Club
CLOSED		MIDDLE-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING (OUT DOOR) Tue, Apr 30, 2024 Are you exempt? Clickhere	Out Door Country Club
CLOSED		2024 PRO-PRESIDENT Wed, May 1, 2024	Aronimink Golf Club
CLOSED		MIDDLE-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING (IREM) Thu, May 2, 2024 Are you exempt? Clickhere	Irem Country Club
OPEN closes on WED, APR 24 11:59 PM EDT		BMW PHILADELPHIA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING (BALLAMOR) Wed, May 8, 2024 Are you exempt? Clickhere	Ballamor Golf Club
OPEN closes on WED, APR 24 11:59 PM EDT		BMW PHILADELPHIA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING (COATESVILLE) Mon, May 13, 2024 Are you exempt? Clickhere	Coatesville Country Club
OPEN closes on FRI, MAY 17 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - EAGLES MERE CC Wed, May 22, 2024	Eagles Mere Country Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - BUCKNELL GC Mon, Jun 10, 2024	Bucknell Golf Club
OPEN closes on FRI, JUN 07 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CC Wed, Jun 12, 2024	Susquehanna Valley Country Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - SHADE MOUNTAIN GC Mon, Jun 17, 2024	Shade Mountain Golf Course
OPEN closes on FRI, JUN 21 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - COREY CREEK GC Wed, Jun 26, 2024	Corey Creek Golf Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - INDIAN HILLS GC Mon, Jul 1, 2024	Indian Hills Golf Club
OPEN closes on WED, JUL 03 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - INDIAN HILLS GC Mon, Jul 8, 2024	Indian Hills Golf Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - COREY CREEK GC Wed, Jul 10, 2024	Corey Creek Golf Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - MOUNTAIN VIEW CC Mon, Jul 15, 2024	Mountain View Country Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - BELLES SPRINGS GC Mon, Jul 22, 2024	Belles Springs Golf Course
OPEN closes on FRI, JUL 19 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - TYOGA GC Wed, Jul 24, 2024	Tyoga Country Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		GAP CENTRAL JUNIOR SERIES - SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CC Mon, Jul 29, 2024	Susquehanna Valley Country Club
OPEN closes on FRI, AUG 09 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - BUCKNELL GC Wed, Aug 14, 2024	Bucknell Golf Club
OPEN closes on WED, AUG 21 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - WILLIAMSPORT CC Mon, Aug 26, 2024	Williamsport Country Club
OPEN closes on WED, SEP 11 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - LEWISTOWN CC Mon, Sep 16, 2024	Lewistown Country Club
OPEN closes on FRI, OCT 04 11:59 PM EDT		GAP CENTRAL TOURNAMENT SERIES - SHADE MOUNTAIN GC Thu, Oct 10, 2024	Shade Mountain Golf Course





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PGA OF AMERICA HONORS JIM SMITH JR., PGA, AND DEAN KANDLE, PGA, WITH NATIONAL AWARDS



by Matt Frey

PGA of America Golf Professionals Jim Smith Jr., Philadelphia Cricket Club, and Dean Kandle, St. Davids Golf Club, have been honored as members of the Class of 2024 PGA of America National Awards honorees.

In all, 13 Award recipients will be recognized at the 71st PGA Show today, Jan. 24, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, at 4 p.m. ET on the PGA of America Industry Stage presented by CapTech. All 13 recipients are scheduled to attend the ceremony.

“Our 2024 PGA of America Award recipients have dedicated their lives to helping countless individuals enjoy this game we all love, and they do it exceptionally well,” said PGA of America President John Lindert, PGA Director of Golf at the Country Club of Lansing in Lansing, Michigan. “I have had the opportunity to get to know several of our winners over the years and they truly are a great representation of what our more than 30,000 PGA of America Golf Professionals do on a daily basis. To stand out among their peers is an incredible achievement.”

In addition, the recently announced 2023 PGA of America Professional Players of the Year presented by Rolex award recipients will be celebrated on the Industry Stage, including: Men’s PGA Professional Player of the Year Michael Block of Mission Viejo, California; Women’s PGA Professional Player of the Year Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth of Jacksonville, Florida; and Senior PGA Professional Player of the Year Bob Sowards of Dublin, Ohio.

JIM SMITH JR., PGA – Bill Strausbaugh Award – Philadelphia Cricket Club – Flourtown, Pa.

Jim Smith, Jr., a 29-year PGA of America Member in the Philadelphia PGA Section, and Director of Golf at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, in Flourtown, Pa., is the 2024 Bill Strausbaugh Award winner, which recognizes a PGA of America Golf Professional who demonstrates exceptional character, integrity and leadership through teaching

and mentoring other PGA of America Golf Professionals. A native of Jenkintown, Pa., and a resident of Rydal, Pa., Smith, Jr. graduated from Temple University in 1990 with a BS in Finance & Economics. In 1992, he became the Head Golf Professional at The Abington Club in his hometown of Jenkintown, where he worked for four years. In 1996, he became the Director of Golf/General Manager at Talamore Country Club, in Ambler, PA., where he spent 10 years before moving onto his current role at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. A decorated PGA Member, Smith, Jr. has earned numerous awards and accolades in the Philadelphia PGA Section, including PGA Golf Professional of the Year in 2005, Merchandiser of the Year, Private in 2002 and the Bill Strausbaugh Award in 2006, 2013 and 2022. He is also a dedicated leader of the Philadelphia PGA Section, having been elected President from 2007-2009, and serving as a member of the Section Board of Directors/Executive Committee from 2000-2011.

DEANKANDLE, PGA – PGA of America Professional Development Award – St. Davids Golf Club – Wayne, Pa.

Dean Kandle, PGA, a Philadelphia PGA Section Member and the General Manager at St. Davids Golf Club in Wayne, Pa., has earned the 2024 PGA of America Professional Development Award. This honor recognizes a PGA of America Member who displays commendable contributions to the education of PGA of America Golf Professionals. A multi-award winner on the Section level, Kandle is a 3-time recipient of the PGA Professional Development Award (2019, ‘20, ‘21), as well as winner of the Bill Strausbaugh Award (2018) and the PGA Golf Professional of the Year (2020). Kandle twice served as a member of the Philadelphia Section Education Committee (2011-13, 2018-22) and represented the Philadelphia Section Board of Directors as the District VI Director (2019-22). He is a regular host and contributor to PGA of America Education seminars and workshops, and a strong supporter of PGA REACH programming. Kandle is passionate about delivering continuing education to help improve the lives of PGA of America Members. One of his most successful projects was the creation of Golf Professional Growth (GPG), a professional-development website that delivers a wealth of content

Cont. on page 28

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while covering a wide range of important topics, all designed to help PGA of America Members "Work Smarter and Live Better." Kandle demonstrates his commitment to education by hosting two successful podcasts, "Getting Better Now" and "The Golf Professional Growth Project," both dedicated to helping PGA Professionals grow as golf professionals and leaders.

2024 PGA of America National Award Recipients

PGA of America Golf Professional of the Year

Tony Pancake, PGA – Crooked Stick Golf Club – Carmel, Indiana

PGA of America Teacher & Coach of the Year

Joe Hallett, PGA – Vanderbilt Legends Club – Franklin, Tennessee

PGA of America Golf Executive of the Year

Kelly Williams, PGA – Greenbrier Golf & Country Club – Lexington, Kentucky

Bill Strausbaugh Award

Jim Smith Jr., PGA – Philadelphia Cricket Club – Flourtown, Pennsylvania

PGA of America Professional Development Award

Dean Kandle, PGA – St. Davids Golf Club – Wayne, Pennsylvania

Deacon Palmer Award

Mark Egly, PGA – Des Moines Driving Range – Des Moines, Iowa

Patriot Award

Jon DePriest, PGA – Sunset Hills Country Club – Edwardsville, Illinois

PGA of America Player Development Award

Crystal Morse, PGA – The Legends Golf Club – Franklin, Indiana

PGA of America Youth Player Development Award

Connie DeMattia, PGA – Cantigny Golf – Wheaton, Illinois

Herb Graffis Award

Iowa PGA Section

PGA of America Merchandiser of the Year – Resort Category

Robert Koontz, PGA – French Lick – French Lick, Indiana

PGA of America Merchandiser of the Year – Private Category

Morgan Jewell – Floridian National Golf Club – Palm City, Florida

PGA of America Merchandiser of the Year – Public Category

Jason Loomis, PGA – Great River Golf Club – Milford, Connecticut



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Philadelphia PGA Section

SCOREBOARD



Day	Date	Event	Course
Sun-Wed	3/10-3/13	2024 Pinehurst Pro-Am	No. 6, No. 8, No. 4, No. 2
Mon	3/25	Spring Meeting	Rivercrest G.C. & Preserve
Mon	3/25	Spring Meeting (Alternate Facility)	Bellewood G.C.
Mon	4/1	Chapter Spring Meeting	
	4/8	PAO Spring Meeting	
Thurs	4/18	Southern Delaware Pro-Am	Cripple Creek G. & C.C.
Mon	4/22	TPD Championship	Laurel Creek C.C.
Sun-Wed	4/28-5/1	54th PGA Professional Championship	Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco - E. & W.
Mon	4/29	Spring Pro-Pro Championship	Atlantic City C.C.
Mon	5/6	TaylorMade Classic	Tavistock C.C.
Tues	5/7	Head Pro Championship	North Hills C.C.
Mon-Tues	5/13-5/14	Pennsylvania Sr. Open	Sewickley Heights G.C.
Tues	5/14	Spring Pro-Lady Championship	Lehigh C.C.
Mon	5/20	Delaware Valley Open (DVO)	Bellewood C.C.
Tues	5/28	Haverford Classic	Sunnybrook G.C.
Sun-Mon	6/2-6/3	38th Burlington Classic	Burlington C.C.
Tues-Wed	6/11-6/12	Phila. Senior PGA Prof. Championship	Sandy Run C.C.
		Pro-Parent/Child	
Mon	6/17	Conestoga Classic	Conestoga C.C.
Wed	6/19	The Hutch	Berkshire C.C.
Thurs-Sun	6/20-6/23	KPMG Women's PGA Championship	Sahalee C.C.
Mon	6/24	Pro / Assistant-Pro Championship	The Shore Club
Mon	7/1	William Hyndman III Memorial Classic	Huntingdon Valley C.C.
Mon-Tues	7/8-7/9	GALV Lehigh Valley Open	Brookside C.C. (Allentown)
Tues	7/16	Team Stableford Pro-Am	Ledgerock G.C.
Tues-Wed	7/16-7/17	Philadelphia Open	Applebrook G.C.
Mon	7/22	Pro-Scratch Championship	C.C. of York
Mon-Wed	7/22-7/24	New Jersey State Open	Plainfield C.C.
		Pro-Junior Team Championship	
Fri	7/26	Doylestown Open	Doylestown C.C.
Mon	7/29	Phila. Asst. PGA Prof. Championship	White Manor C.C.
Tues	7/30	Skee Riegel Senior Open	Blue Bell C.C.
Sun-Mon	8/4-8/5	48th Pro-Am for Wishes	Penn Oaks G.C.
Mon	8/12	Team Stableford	Hartefeld National G.C.
Mon-Tues	8/12-8/13	Delaware State Open	Fieldstone G.C.
Mon-Wed	8/12-8/14	Pennsylvania Open	St. Clair C.C.
Thurs	8/15	Partner Day	Woodcrest C.C.
Tues	8/20	DeAngelis Pro-Am	The 1912 Club
Wed	8/21	Summer Pro-Lady Team Championship	Sunnybrook G.C.
Mon-Wed	8/26-8/28	103rd Phila. PGA Prof. Champ.	Rolling Green G.C.
Mon-Tues	8/26-8/27	103rd Phila. PGA Prof. Champ.	Chester Valley G.C.
Mon-Sun	9/9-9/15	31st PGA Cup	Sunriver Resort (Oregon)
Mon	9/9	Jack Jolly & Son Championship	Moselem Springs G.C.
Wed	9/11	Women's Section Championship	Union League GC at Torresdale
Mon	9/16	Silvercrest Cup	Union League Liberty Hill
Wed	9/18	Match Play (Rd. of 16 / Quarterfinals)	Trump National GC - Philadelphia
Mon	9/23	Philadelphia Players Championship	Lookaway G.C.
Thurs	9/26	A.B. Thorn Memorial Pro-Am	Lancaster C.C.
Thurs-Sun	9/26-9/29	36th Senior PGA Professional Champ.	Sunriver Resort (Oregon)
Mon	9/30	PGA Reach Foundation Pro-Am	Laurel Creek C.C.
Mon-Sun	9/30-10/5	3rd Women's PGA Cup	Sunriver Resort (Oregon)
Wed	10/2	Match Play Champ. (Semis & Finals)	Merion G.C.
Sat-Sun	10/5-10/6	Women's Maryland Open	Woodmont C.C.
Mon	10/7	Fall Pro-Pro (27-holes)	Union League National G.C.
Tues-Wed	10/8-10/9	Bedford Springs Pro-Am	Omni Bedford Springs Resort
Tues	10/15	32nd PPGA/GAP Challenge Matches	Saucon Valley C.C. - Grace
Thurs	10/17	McQuiston Sr. Pro / Jr. Pro Championship	Bala G.C.
Wed	10/23	Fall Finale Pro-Am	Bulle Rock
Mon	10/28	Fall Meeting	Medford Village C.C.
Fri	11/1	Pro-Superintendent Championship	Saucon Valley CC - Old
Sun-Thurs	11/3-11/7	2024 Las Vegas Pro-Am	TPC Summerlin, SouthShore CC, Reflection Bay
Mon	11/4	Chapter Fall Meeting	Hershey CC

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





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











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GAP WOMENS SCHEDULE

OPENS THU, APR 18 9:00 AM EDT		17TH PARENT/CHILD-MIDDLE Thu, May 30, 2024 Heidelberg Country Club
OPENS MON, APR 22 9:00 AM EDT		6TH WOMEN'S SPRING SCRAMBLE Mon, Jun 3, 2024 Chester Valley Golf Club
OPENS WED, APR 24 9:00 AM EDT		DELAWARE FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP Wed, Jun 5, 2024 Heritage Shores Club
		6TH U.S. SENIOR WOMEN'S OPEN QUALIFYING (WHITE MANOR) Tue, Jun 18, 2024 White Manor Country Club 2
		75TH BOYS' & 75TH GIRLS' U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR QUALIFYING (HUNTSVILLE) Thu, Jun 20, 2024 Huntsville Golf Club
OPENS MON, MAY 13 9:00 AM EDT		3RD BMW GAP WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Jun 24, 2024 Overbrook Golf Club
OPENS MON, MAY 20 9:00 AM EDT		67TH PARENT/CHILD - YOUNGER Mon, Jul 1, 2024 Chesapeake Bay Golf Club Rising Sun
OPENS WED, MAY 29 9:00 AM EDT		40TH JOCK MACKENZIE MEMORIAL Mon, Jul 15, 2024 Sandy Run Country Club
OPENS TUE, JUN 11 9:00 AM EDT		73RD JUNIOR BOYS' & 41ST JUNIOR GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP Tue, Jul 23 - Wed, Jul 24, 2024 Next Round: Tue, Jul 23, 2024 St. Anne's Golf Links
OPENS MON, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT		22ND DEEG SEZNA Mon, Aug 5, 2024 Blue Bell Country Club
OPENS MON, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT		9TH DELAWARE SUPER-SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Aug 5 - Tue, Aug 6, 2024 Next Round: Mon, Aug 5, 2024 Plantation Lakes Golf & Country Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		32ND WOMEN'S COAL SCUTTLE CHAMPIONSHIP Wed, Aug 14, 2024 Elkview Country Club
		37TH U.S. WOMEN'S MID-AMATEUR QUALIFYING (LOOKAWAY) Wed, Aug 14, 2024 Lookaway Golf Club
OPENS WED, JUL 10 9:00 AM EDT		73RD DELAWARE SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP Wed, Aug 21 - Thu, Aug 22, 2024 Next Round: Wed, Aug 21, 2024 Bear Trap Dunes - Black - Grizzly
OPENS FRI, JUL 26 9:00 AM EDT		6TH MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP Fri, Sep 6, 2024 Medford Lakes Country Club
		10TH U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR FOUR-BALL QUALIFYING (RADLEY RUN) Tue, Sep 24, 2024 Radley Run Country Club
OPENS FRI, AUG 09 9:00 AM EDT		113TH PARENT/CHILD - OLDER Thu, Sep 26, 2024 Philmont Country Club
OPENS MON, AUG 26 9:00 AM EDT		35TH DELAWARE MID-OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Oct 7, 2024 Bayside Resort Golf Club
OPENS THU, AUG 29 9:00 AM EDT		DELAWARE SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP Thu, Oct 10, 2024 Wild Quail Golf & Country Club

GAP SENIOR SCHEDULE

OPEN closes on MON, APR 15 11:59 PM EDT		90TH FRANCIS B. WARNER CUP Mon, Apr 29, 2024 Laurel Creek Country Club
OPENS WED, APR 17 9:00 AM EDT		16TH FRANCIS B. WARNER CUP - SUPER SENIOR Wed, May 29, 2024 Bellewood Country Club
OPENS TUE, APR 23 9:00 AM EDT		19TH FRANK H. CHAPMAN MEMORIAL Tue, Jun 4, 2024 Radnor Valley Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAY 14 9:00 AM EDT		19TH FRANK H. CHAPMAN MEMORIAL - SUPER SENIOR Tue, Jun 25, 2024 Talamore Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAY 28 9:00 AM EDT		17TH BREWER CUP Tue, Jul 9 - Thu, Jul 11, 2024 Next Round: Tue, Jul 9, 2024 French Creek Golf Club
OPENS MON, JUN 17 9:00 AM EDT		34TH SENIOR FOUR-MAN TEAM Mon, Jul 29, 2024 Indian Valley Country Club
OPENS THU, JUN 20 9:00 AM EDT		64TH SENIOR FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY Thu, Aug 1, 2024 Schuylkill Country Club
OPENS MON, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT		9TH DELAWARE SUPER-SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Aug 5 - Tue, Aug 6, 2024 Next Round: Mon, Aug 5, 2024 Plantation Lakes Golf & Country Club
OPENS WED, JUL 10 9:00 AM EDT		73RD DELAWARE SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP Wed, Aug 21 - Thu, Aug 22, 2024 Next Round: Wed, Aug 21, 2024 Bear Trap Dunes - Black - Grizzly
OPENS TUE, JUL 16 9:00 AM EDT		19TH SUPER-SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP Tue, Aug 27 - Wed, Aug 28, 2024 Next Round: Tue, Aug 27, 2024 North Hills Country Club
OPENS TUE, JUL 23 9:00 AM EDT		54TH SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP Tue, Sep 3 - Wed, Sep 4, 2024 Next Round: Tue, Sep 3, 2024 Rolling Green Golf Club
OPENS WED, MAY 01 9:00 AM EDT		42ND SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE CHAMPIONSHIP Thu, Sep 12, 2024 Huntsville Golf Club
		35TH SENIOR CHALLENGE MATCHES Tue, Oct 8, 2024 Bidermann Golf Club
OPENS THU, AUG 29 9:00 AM EDT		DELAWARE SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP Thu, Oct 10, 2024 Wild Quail Golf & Country Club

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Quiet and Reserved Nelly Korda's Game Screams "Winner!"

Two years after facing an uncertain future, she is dominating the LPGA Tour in a way rarely seen before.

By Holly Geoghegan

Photo credit: Jack Hirsh / GOLF

Nelly Korda, though quiet and shy on the inside, made a lot of noise out on the golf course as a standout junior player beginning when she made the cut at the 2013 U.S. Women's Open, one month prior to her 15th birthday. She continued to build her junior golf resume, becoming a member of the 2015 U.S. Junior Solheim Cup team and being recognized as an AJGA Rolex Junior All-American that same year.

The daughter of retired Czech professional tennis players, Petr Korda and Regina Rajchrtrova, Korda often comments on how grateful she is for her family's unconditional support and for "her team" that includes long time swing coach Jamie Mulligan and her caddie Jason McDede who has carried her bag for five years.

Her two siblings inherited their parents' athletic genes as well. Korda's younger brother Sebastian is a professional tennis player who won the 2018 Australian Open and her older sister, Jessica, five years her senior, joined the LPGA Tour in 2011, and has six career wins.

"Our parents are our rocks," according to big sis Jessica. "They've taught us everything."

Given her talent and family support, Korda chose not to attend college and began her professional golf career on the Symetra Tour (now the Epson Tour) in 2016 where she won her first pro event, the Sioux Falls Great Life Challenge. Finishing 9th on the money list that year, she qualified for her LPGA Tour card for the 2017 season.

Korda's first LPGA win came in her second season on tour at the Swing Skirts LPGA Taiwan Championship in October 2018. Notably, she joined her sister in becoming the third pair of sisters to win on the LPGA Tour, along

with Annika Sorenstam and her sister Charlotta, as well as Moriya and Ariya Jutanugarn.

Her success continued over the next two years. She was a member of the U.S. Solheim Cup team in 2019, posting a 3-0-1 record, and had a career-best 12 Top 10 finishes including two victories that year.

Then came her breakout year in 2021 that included four LPGA wins, her first major championship (KPMG Women's PGA), a gold medal at the Summer Olympics in Japan and becoming a second-time member of the U.S. Solheim Cup. Korda claimed the world #1 ranking in the Rolex Women's World Golf Ranking following the season ending CME Group Tour Championship that November. Her accomplishments were recognized beyond the world of golf where she placed 23rd on the *Forbes*'s '30 Under 30' list.

Korda was on top of her game and her profile was soaring on the LPGA Tour. On January 3, 2022, Korda surpassed LPGA superstar Stacy Lewis' record for consecutive weeks as number one in the Rolex Rankings. Her golf and life took an abrupt detour, however, on March 13th, a day that would turn out to be a very lucky one for Korda, despite what it seemed at the time.

While in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida doing a photoshoot for one of her sponsors, Korda started feeling an unusual pain and swelling in her left arm. On the advice of her doctor, she went to a nearby emergency room, where an ultrasound revealed a blood clot in a subclavian vein.

The subclavian vein is one of the major veins of the arm, moving oxygen-poor blood from the upper back to your heart. Several days later, she underwent a three-hour surgery to remove the clot, which turned into a four-month recovery period, and a complete break from competitive golf.

"I did a lot, a lot of rehab," Korda said. "I went out to California for a

month, did rehab there and worked with my coach...just made sure that I was ready and 100 percent going into my comeback."

And come back she did. As she continued to heal from her surgery along with a slight back injury that forced her to miss several tournaments in May 2023, Korda won the Aramco Team Series tournament, a Ladies European Tour event, in London in July. She played in 18 events and made 16 cuts in 2023, recording nine top-10 finishes.

But there was more, much more to come in 2024. While Iowa Hawkeye Caitlin Clark was shaking up the collegiate women's basketball world and making sports history, Korda was quietly going about her business and carving out her own historic streak in women's golf.

On January 28, Korda won her ninth LPGA Tour event capturing the LPGA Drive On Championship in front of a hometown crowd in her native Bradenton. She went on to win three consecutive events in March and April: Fir Hills Seri Pak Championship, Ford Championship, and T-Mobile Match Play. The wins were significant not only by virtue of the different venues Korda played, but also the weather conditions, and the different formats she played including a dominant 4&3 final round performance in the Match Play at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas to seal her fourth consecutive victory.

Within hours, history was staring the top-ranked Korda straight down another fairway. Korda's next stop was The Woodlands, Texas for the Chevron Championship, the LPGA's first major of the year where she would attempt to tie an LPGA Tour record with her fifth consecutive win.

Speaking to the media ahead of the Championship, Korda was asked about her role as the current face of the LPGA Tour and her potential place in the history of the game.

"I'm so in the present, I don't let myself think about that too much," said Korda. "There's nothing better than seeing the little kids say I inspired them to pick up a golf club or that I'm their favorite golfer, there's no better feeling than that. Hopefully, I get to inspire the next generation for the love of the game."

Korda entered the final round one shot off the lead after completing the weather-delayed third round early Sunday morning. Overcoming nerves that began to set in on the back nine, Korda nearly aced the par-3, 17th hole. She hit a perfect drive that split the par-5 18th fairway then boldly ripped her second shot across the lake in front of the green putting herself in position for an

easy up and down birdie to close out the championship by two shots.

"That back nine felt like the longest back nine of my entire life," Korda said immediately after the win. "I can finally breathe now and enjoy the



Nelly Korda, with her 2024 Chevron Championship trophy.
Photo credit: Thoms Shea, USA TODAY Sports

moment. It's a major; I was definitely nervous. I feel sick to my stomach."

Korda joins Nancy Lopez (1978) and Annika Sorenstam (2004-05) as the only players to win five consecutive LPGA events.

"When I first started watching her, I remember shaking my head thinking what a great player she is and if she ever figures out how good she is, she's



Nelly Korda in her hospital bed following a three-hour surgery for a blood clot in the subclavian vein in her left arm. "I did a lot, a LOT of rehab," said Korda. (photo credit - @Nelly Korda/Instagram)

going to dominate this tour," Lopez said. "And it's coming true. I hope she keeps doing what she is doing."

Interestingly, Nelly Korda and Scottie Scheffler are dominating women's and men's professional with similar games and mindsets. Both have won in nine of their last 10 combined starts. Korda has won five consecutive events; Scheffler has won four. Both have won majors. Both seem remarkably calm, cool, and collected on the course. While in moments, both appear to be equally uncomfortable being in the limelight with their low-key, reserved personalities.

Much like Scheffler, when asked after her record-setting win to describe how she plays the game and what has led to this level of success Korda replied, "There's a key in the simplicity I have when I play... Honestly, I just take it a shot at a time. We pick a game plan. We work hard and stay in our own bubble. I think sometimes golf can get over complicated."

At age 25, Korda captured her 13th history-making LPGA title with a four-day total of 13-under (13 happens to be her lucky number she revealed in her post-victory presser). This marked her second major win and she did it demonstrating class, grit, and gratitude.

"Golf really humbled me," Korda reflected on the roller coaster of emotions and doubts she experienced in 2022 and 2023 as she healed both physically and mentally from her health scare and medical issues.

"That's sports," she said resolutely. "There's ups and downs; every athlete goes through the roller coaster. You mature, you grow so much, and learn more about yourself. You never take these weeks for granted. You try to appreciate and be grateful for them. It makes the hard work so worth it."

Keep making it simple Nelly. And keep being true to you. It's clearly a winning formula; one that is helping to elevate women's golf and women's sports today.

AGA Schedule

Lawler Junior Tour
Schedule

Event	Date	Venue
15th Modified Stableford Tournament	April 17	Huntsville
24th Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball	May 15	Fox Hill
16th Spring Stroke Play	May 23	Wyoming Valley
26th Over/Under 50	June 24	Elmhurst
24th Sam Spencer Four-Ball	July 10	Glen Oak
21st Stroke Play Championship	July 15	Scranton
10th Super-Senior Coal Scuttle Championship	Aug. 14	Elkview
32nd Women's Coal Scuttle Championship	Aug. 14	Elkview
18th Founders Four-Ball	Aug. 22	Glenmaura National
42nd Senior Coal Scuttle Championship	Sept. 12	Huntsville
74th Men's Coal Scuttle Championship	Sept. 21	Berwick/Glen Oak
11th Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball	Oct. 14	Irem

Twelve clubs in the GAP/AGA region will host events in 2024. The Lawler Junior Tour, sponsored by Abington Center for Cosmetic & Family Dentistry and Community Bank, begins in June.

Venue	Division	Date
Honesdale	II	June 17
Irem	I & II	June 25
Berwick	I	June 28
Pocono Farms	I	July 1
Frosty Valley	I & II	July 8
Elmhurst	I	July 15
Elkview	I & II	July 22
Valley	I & II	July 23
Scranton Canoe Club	II	July 26
Fox Hill/Huntsville	Junior Tournament of Champions	July 29-30
CC of Scranton (Falls)	II	Aug. 5

Division I is 18 holes; Division II is nine holes. Cost is \$15 for Division I; \$10 for Division II.

The Lawler Junior Tour, which began in 1983, is open to boys and girls 10 to 18 years of age. Its namesake, Bill Lawler, administered each event from start to finish. A former AGA president, Lawler died on July 19, 2021 at the age of 73.



Looking For Lightning To Strike Twice!

2THUMB's Dingman hoping for "Super" success again on his second time around.

By Holly Geoghegan

Darin Dingman's love for the game – both on and off the golf course – began thanks to his mother when she opened a retail golf shop, The Caddy Shack, in San Marcos, California in 1988. Born in Detroit, the avid, single digit golfer attended college at Grand Valley State University. But the self-starting, go-getting Dingman wasn't long for formal education or developing his future career the traditional way. At age 19, he dropped out of college and started his golf journey honing his sales and retail skills in his mother's golf store.

A few years later, Dingman got an opportunity to return to his native Dearborn, Michigan and became a store manager at Nevada Bob's. Started in 1974, Nevada Bob's had slowly defined and expanded the concept of the golf retail chain and mass merchandising through a system of franchises and ownership agreements. He became immersed in the equipment side of the game, specifically the design side, as Nevada Bob's began to manufacture and sell its own "in-house" branded golf clubs.

Dingman wanted more. Through his connections, he jumped ship and started working for a small equipment company called Pole-Kat Golf, makers of the first mass-produced long putter. He began designing and manufacturing clubs for the company in Michigan, generating 200,000 pieces a year, selling full sets of mid-price point golf clubs including drivers, fairway woods, irons and putters. Dingman handled sales and brought his brother, Dean, into

the company to handle sourcing. Sales grew from \$30,000 to \$3 million.

Five years later the brothers were off and running. And run they did, leaving Pole-Kat behind, and with the help of several financial partners, they started their own equipment company in 1998 producing beginner sets under the name Tiger Shark in the U.S. Darin focused on design and running the back-end operations while Dean developed the front-end and management of the company.

Tiger Shark found its retail niche focusing on mid-price point clubs and manufacturing packaged sets for almost a decade. The original oversized putter grip was designed by Pat Simmons. Dingman redesigned and developed a larger, lighter version of the grip to compete with one being marketed by a little-known startup in nearby Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The concept was simple—the thicker the grip, the harder it would be to break the wrists, creating a smooth, consistent pendulum stroke.

That startup was called SuperStroke, operated by Harold Roelky and his partner, Chris Doerr. The two launched the original SuperStroke grip by running an infomercial on the Golf Channel. As the story goes, six-time PGA Tour champion (at the time), KJ Choi, saw the infomercial and bought one. Choi practiced with it in his hotel room for weeks before putting it in his bag.

"That first SuperStroke grip was huge," laughed Darin Dingman. "It was round and heavy, like the size of a Coke can."

It was no laughing matter for Choi. He immediately won the 2008 Sony

Open in January and the ugly duckling, SuperStroke putting grip was on the golf map. When the grip started selling in retail stores, it was packaged in a clamshell and placed in the accessory aisle. This turned out to be a key marketing mistake and the grips struggled to gain traction.

The experienced Dingman brothers saw the potential and met with the SuperStroke owners at the 2009 PGA Show, which led to a buyout of the company later that year for approximately \$750,000.

Darin went to work on a redesign immediately, changing the bulky, heavy-weighted 230 gram rubber/metal grip, and transforming it using a light weight EVA foam underlining that weighed 67 grams, about 7 grams more than a normal grip. He called it the "Fatso" by uniquely creating a flat top with a non-tapered design in multiple shapes and sizes. Minimizing the movement of the hands during the stroke maximized the squareness of the putterhead at impact. The SuperStroke putting grip started gaining momentum on Tour.

Then came the perfect storm, beginning in 2011.

KJ Choi won THE PLAYERS Championship (held in May of that year) putting with his "original" SuperStroke grip and jumped to sixth in the FedExCup standings. Jason Dufner finished second in the 93rd PGA Championship (held in August) after losing in a three-hole playoff to Keegan Bradley at the Atlanta Country Club in Georgia.

"I didn't even know who Dufner was," said (Darin) Dingman. "I was playing in a tournament in Cheboygan (Michigan) and watched the final holes in the bar. Dufner was leading the tournament. He was playing the Fatso. We had 50-60K grips in stock and sold out that week."

The company grew from \$6 million in sales to \$20 million in five years. The company slowly divested from its golf club business and focused exclusively on grips.

The gravy train kept on rolling for Dingman, his brother and SuperStroke. In 2013, the golf world crowned its "next big thing since Tiger Woods" when former University of Texas golfer Jordan Spieth, age 19, became the youngest PGA Tour winner in 82 years, to capture his first PGA Tour victory at the John Deere Classic.

Spieth did it in dramatic style when he drained a one-hop bunker shot on the 18th hole to join a playoff with defending champ Zach Johnson and David Hearn. The epic five-hole playoff that ensued concluded with Spieth holing a 26-inch putt for the win with his black and white, can't-miss SuperStroke logo'd putting grip, getting as much TV time as Spieth did in claiming his first professional win.

But wait there's more. Fast forward to Spieth's record-setting, 2015 PGA Tour "Player of the Year" season.

Spieth won five times including two majors (the Masters and US Open), and the FedExCup playoffs.

"Spieth is the one who took it (Superstroke) to the next level; we weren't even paying him," said Dingman. "You win two majors, you're on the cover of Golf Digest. Spieth solidified us as a brand."

In 2015, SuperStroke was purchased by EG Capital, a private equity firm based in New York City. Dingman sold his stake in the business and entered a five year non-compete agreement. During COVID, Dingman got the itch to get back into the golf business. He researched the different grip companies online and started designing grips again.

Dingman had been a longtime fan of a putter grip and methodology called 2Thumb that was developed in the UK in 2004 and invented by put-



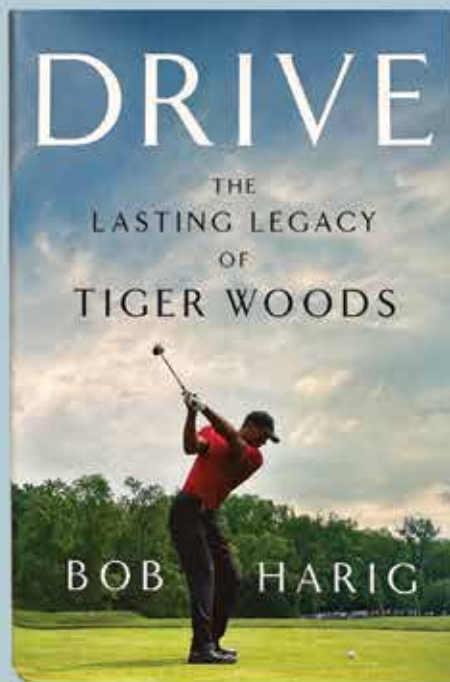
Jordan Spieth sinks another putt on his way to The Masters championship in 2015. Spieth's hot putter, topped off by the Darin Dingman-designed Super Stroke "Fatso" model putting grip, not only carried him to a banner year in 2015, but also sent Super Stroke sales soaring. (photo credit - Chris Carlson/AP)

ting coach and golf professional Phillip Gazely. It was the 2Thumb grip that had provided Dingman's inspiration for the original flat top, Fatso grip.

With golf rounds and interest in the game going through the roof during the pandemic, Dingman saw the opportunity to expand 2Thumb's product line and promote it in the United States. He became a majority owner in the newly formed U.S. company with 2Thumb's CEO Paul Homersham, who gave him full control of operations and building the brand on the U.S. professional tours.

Dingman quickly jumped back into his comfort





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zone designing new grip models, a bolder logo and consistent branding, along with improving the feel and materials of the grip based on tour players' feedback.

The Snug SQ 30 has proven to be one of the most popular grips in the 2Thumb product line. All 'SQ' models have the same depth and width and are 59mm longer than the Snug Tour models providing greater versatility in gripping styles for amateur golfers. 2Thumb will accommodate all of today's putter grip styles from Conventional, Claw, Left hand low, Prayer, etc.

2Thumb grips feature a smooth, soft and flat front to ensure consistent grip alignment; the rounded underbelly sits perfectly in the lifeline of the palms delivering the ultimate in feel and feedback in the stroke. 2Thumb's exclusive Dimax technology runs down both sides of the grip to ensure traction and less grip pressure, keeping the hands more relaxed.

Dingman understands what it takes to build a brand and the process.

"Everyone thought SuperStroke was an overnight success," said Dingman. "It doesn't work that way; today more than ever. You must be prepared for the long game."

2Thumb is starting to gain traction and believers on the PGA Tour. The company has two official brand ambassadors and is adding double digit grips in play every week. Matt Wallace from Hillingdon, England, has ten international wins and one PGA TOUR victory, the 2023 Corales Puntacana Championship. South Carolina native, Matt Nesmith, who turned pro in 2016, has nine Top 10 finishes on tour.

"Call me crazy for getting back into the golf business, said Dingman, "but like many of us, golf is a special game that just gets in your veins."

Dingman struck golf gold once and believes with 2Thumb he can do it again.

Darin Dingman, 2Thumb USA President (left) and 2Thumb CEO Paul Homersham, experienced business partners, are confident lightning will strike twice.



2THUMB
THE GRIP THAT WINS



MAJOR SPIN



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