GOLF NORTHEAST

Philly Cricket Club Hole#1

FEATURES:

2025 PGA SHOW WRAP-UP AGA MENS - SENIOR - WOMENS - LAWLER JUNIOR SCHEDULES POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES SCHEDULE GAP MENS & WOMENS SCHEDULES PHILLY PGA SCHEDULE

SHOPRITE - US OPEN OAKMONT - TRUIST TOURNEY PREVIEW

GOLF COURSE ARTICLES STREAMSONG & AUGUSTA WOMENS NATIONAL

Spring 2025

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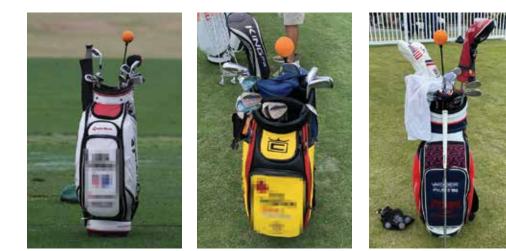
Jim Hackenberg's award-winning training aids have become a standard in the bags of Tour Pros, Top Teachers, and Golfers all over the world.

Trusted by the tour's best.

The bright Orange Ball you see sticking out of golfers bags on driving ranges and golf courses across the world was developed by PGA Golf Professional, Jim Hackenberg, over 15 years ago. The Orange Whip Swing Trainer was designed to encourage better rhythm, balance, sequence, and power by improving a golfer's tempo and swing plane. The initial model was designed as a training tool for amateur golfers, but the Tour Pros and Top Teachers quickly began to see and feel the benefits of swinging the Orange Whip. The simple, patented design has made it the most popular training aid for golfers of all abilities, and it's why you see it in the bags of the best golfer and coaches in the world.



Personalize Golf's #1 Swing Trainer



The award-winning, patented design is what separates the Orange Whip from other swing trainers and copycats. The design consists of the counterbalance on one end, a heavy orange ball on the other end, and a whippy shaft. Together, these three components train the perfect, on plane golf swing that you can feel as you swing it back and forth. It allows the weekend golfer to develop and feel what it's like to swing like Fred Couples or Ernie Els.



Spring 2025

2025 PGA SHOW AT THE ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

By Pete Kowalski

ORLANDO, Fla. – Despite nearly frigid weather in the Sunshine State in late January, the 2025 PGA Show at the Orange County Convention Center was the largest since 2009.



"Every year the PGA Show leaves us energized and inspired, setting a positive tone for the new golf season," said PGA of America President Don Rea Jr., PGA Master Professional and Owner/ Operator of Augusta Ranch Golf Club (Arizona). "With more than 33,000 in attendance, including over 6,000 PGA of America Golf Professionals, this is our 'Member's Major.' The Show offered a wealth of business opportunities, but equally important were the mentoring, networking and career development moments. I love seeing our younger professionals at their first PGA Show walking side-by-side with their seasoned mentors. The true essence of this week are the relationships and collaboration within our industry to advance the game of golf and leave it better than we found it."

According to the PGA of America and PGA Golf Exhibitions, the teeming convention space was populated by 1,100 participating brands and attendees from all 50 states and 94 countries. The PGA Show, grew in several categories – the number of attendees, the number of exhibitors, the net booth space, and the total event space. There were also 400 new exhibitors in the 1.1 million square feet of space at the trade-only without Joe Q Public PGA Show.

"We had a feeling heading into the PGA Show that this year's event was going to be special, and we couldn't be more pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response from attending golf industry professionals and exhibiting brands – many who called it the 'best show ever'," said PGA Golf Exhibitions Vice President Marc Simon. "The largest PGA Show in 15 years, combined with really strong industry attendance, is a tremendous start to the new year for the golf industry. Our global golf community relishes the opportunity to connect in person and we leave the PGA Show with renewed friendships, new business opportunities and a recharged outlook moving into 2025." The Show began with an outdoor Demo Day at Orange County National Golf Center under cloudy and occasionally rainy weather. The day-long event highlighted education and coaching, fitness, club-fitting and hands-on testing of new equipment and technology.

The three-days of indoor activities and exhibits is the place to scour the golf market for the latest innovations in products and services for any golfer or for any person who calls the game their business.

For the purest of golfers, the club manufacturers offered opportunities to take full swings at the practice area.

On six Show Floor stages, attendees were offered expert advice and professional development in teaching and coaching, executive management and operations to include technology solutions, food & beverage operations, retail strategies, marketing practices, facility branding, and public relations among the wide spectrum of offerings.

New products had the opportunity to share their wares in the New Product Zone. A panel of PGA of America golf professionals and buyers judged the entries and chose three overall "Best New Product" Award winners – Pinned Golf portable GPS golf tablet, Heathlander golf shoes and knitwear, and Volle Golf/ GreenUp biodegradable golf tees made from coffee.



The Inventor's Spotlight Pavilion housed the new products from more than 50 exhibitors. The United Inventors Association (UIA) presented these awards: Most Innovative to UpSwing Golf, Best Marketing to PuttBuddies, Best Product Pitch to VannyVee Sports, and the Overall Award to Tübr Storage.

The new year of golf in 2025 and the energy it brings with it was highlighted by news from all corners of the industry. More than 1,100 media, including approximately 200 content creators and social media specialists from 22 countries reported on the newest stuff.

The PGA Show dates for 2026 are January 20-23.

Cont. from page 3

STEAMSONG RESORT CLOSE TO PGA SHOW

By Pete Kowalski

The golf industry gathers every January in Orlando for its annual conclave called the PGA Show but only an hour's drive away is the internationally acclaimed Streamsong Resort in gently isolated Bowling Green, Fla.

During the 2025 PGA Show, Streamsong, through its operator/ partner Kemper Sports, announced that native Scotsman David McLay Kidd would be the architect of its fifth golf course on the hardscrabble mining site in a sand-based landscape.

Opened in 2012, Steamsong has quickly earned a place on the "go-to" itineraries of winter bound golfers.

The Red Course and the 19-hole short course called The Chain were designed by the tandem of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. Tom Doak was the architect for the Blue Course and Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner designed the Black Course.

With the addition of the still-to-be-named design by Kidd, Streamsong is the world's only golf resort to feature this grouping of world-class architects.

"I have read many times how great players have a special love for the Majors," Kidd said. "I'm not sure I understood what that meant when I was younger, but now I get it. In the world of golf design, there are certain properties, locations and even owners that working for can be like playing in the Majors. Streamsong, for me, is a Major. The destination is world renowned and KemperSports 'gets it.' To be included in that group of architects requires my team and I to do something exceptional. That opportunity both excites me and makes me nervous, but in a good way. My team and I are so excited to add to the history of a place so young and yet so rooted in a tradition of exceptional golf architecture."

Kidd came to golf world's notice with his design work at Bandon Dunes, the first course at the recognized venue on the Oregon coast. His other designs include Mammoth Dunes, Tetherow, Gamble Sands, Nanea, and The Castle Course at St. Andrews.



Swing Like a Pro in the Hitting Zone!



The *HZ Swing Trainer* from DrillFreak Golf is a *game-changer* for golfers looking to perfect their swings within the *hitting zone*.

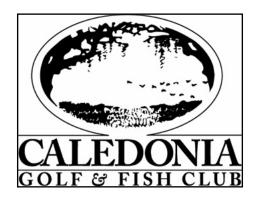
Our innovative training aid, combined with our PYGO video drills on YouTube.com/DrillFreakGolf, offers immediate results in refining your golf swing. Regardless of your swing style, our trainer delivers Pro-like positions at a fraction of the cost of traditional swing trainers. Generate more efficient body movement for improved ball flight and longer distance. Access over 300 training videos for free to elevate your game. Take on the PYGO Challenge & Transform Your Swing with the HZ Swing Trainer! Book a PYGO Challenge for your golf members

Caledonia Golf & Fish Club and True Blue Golf Club Earn Prestigious Platinum Award by Chris King

Caledonia Golf & Fish Club and True Blue Golf Club Earn Prestigious Platinum Award from the Association of Golf Merchandisers

Myrtle Beach, S.C. – Caledonia Golf & Fish Club and True Blue Golf Club have earned the prestigious 2025 Platinum Award from the Association of Golf Merchandisers (AGM), marking another national honor for the two golf facilities. The coveted distinction recognizes the Top 100 golf shops worldwide, celebrating excellence in merchandising, customer service, and retail operations across public, private, resort, and off-course golf facilities.

The AGM Platinum Awards are regarded as the pinnacle of achievement in golf retail. Winners are selected through a rigorous review process conducted by an impartial panel of judges, evaluating factors such as merchandising innovation, promotional strategies, operational excellence, and customer satisfaction. The honor reflects Caledonia and True Blue's unwavering commitment to delivering an exceptional shopping experience for golf enthusiasts.



"This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our teams at Caledonia and True Blue," said Bart Romano, PGA, Director of Operations for Caledonia and True Blue. "Our mission is to provide not only outstanding golf but also a retail experience that matches the quality of our courses. Earning the Association of Golf Merchandisers' Platinum Award and being ranked among the Top 100 golf shops worldwide is an incredible honor and reinforces our commitment to excellence."

The 2025 AGM Platinum Award winners will be celebrated during a special ceremony at the PGA Show in Orlando, Florida. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10:00 AM on The Retreat Stage, Hall E.

Caledonia Golf & Fish Club and True Blue Golf Club are both ranked among America's Top 100 Resort Courses by Golfweek and among the top 5 public layouts in golf-rich South Carolina. Their golf shops continue to set a high standard by offering premium apparel, equipment, and accessories, alongside personalized service that enhances the overall experience for players. For more information about Caledonia Golf & Fish Club and True Blue Golf Club, please visit CaledoniaGolfandFishClub.com or TrueBlueGolf.com.

About Caledonia Golf & Fish Club

Caledonia is celebrated for its breathtaking Lowcountry setting and unforgettable layout. Designed by the late Mike Strantz, Caledonia seamlessly blends natural beauty with strategic design, providing an unforgettable experience for golfers of all skill levels.

About True Blue Golf Club



Also designed by Strantz, True Blue is a striking complement to Caledonia. Its expansive fairways, rugged waste bunkers, and bold design make it one of the most unique courses in the region, consistently ranking among the best public golf courses in the United States.

CALEDONIA GOLF & FISH CLUB CLIMBS GOLF MAGAZINE'S 'TOP 100 COURSES YOU CAN PLAY' RANKINGS

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. – Caledonia Golf & Fish Club has risen to No. 76 on Golf Magazine's biennial list of the "Top 100 Courses You Can Play," moving up an impressive eight spots from its previous ranking.

Mike Strantz's first solo design, Caledonia masterfully blends South Carolina's Lowcountry beauty with the late architect's vivid imagination to deliver a course that players from across the nation flock to.

"Being recognized by Golf Magazine as one of America's top public courses is a tremendous honor," said Bart Romano, PGA, Director of Operations for Caledonia and its sister course, True Blue. "The ranking is a testament to Mike Strantz's visionary design and to our team's ongoing commitment to delivering an exceptional experience to every golfer who steps onto the course."

Caledonia has long been a standout on the Myrtle Beach golf scene, offering a layout that is both visually striking and a delight to play, culminating with the unforgettable 18th hole that requires an approach shot over water to a green that resides in the shadow of the course's stately clubhouse.

This latest accolade adds to Caledonia's extensive list of honors, reinforcing its place among the nation's best golf destinations. Caledonia is also ranked among "America's 100 Greatest Public Courses" by Golf Digest, and Golfweek has ranked it among the nation's top 100 resort courses and as a top 5 layout in golf-rich South Carolina.

Two premier courses. One unbelievable trip.

Book your golf getaway with Caledonia Golf Vacations today.

Experience priority tee times, exclusive packages and golf memberships to two of America's most celebrated courses.

Golf Magazine

Top 100 Courses You Can Play South Carolina's Best Public Golf Courses

Golfweek Best Courses You Can Play: South Carolina

Golf Channel Matt Ginella's Top 50 Public Courses





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Golfweek Best Courses You Can Play: South Carolina

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Onsite at True Blue 1-800-397-2678 dressergolf.com

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TALL STRUM

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF GOLF'S JAN STEPHENSON ENTREPRENEUR AWARD





ORLANDO, FL – Veteran, multi-talented golf media member Tony Leodora became the second recipient of the International Network of Golf's Jan Stephenson Entrepreneur Award at the PGA Show in Orlando.

World Golf Hall Of Famer and ING member Jan Stephenson was on hand to present the award to Leodora. The announcement came in front of a large crowd during the 31st Annual ING Media Awards Presentation in the PGA Show Media Center.

The ING Jan Stephenson Entrepreneur Award recognizes a person who has successfully utilized innovative and leadership abilities to develop a business idea into a successful venture in the golf industry. The first recipient was Stephenson, who followed a Hall of Fame LPGA golf career with several successful business ventures under Jan Stephenson Enterprises, including golf course design, wine and spirits and golf course ownership.

The non-profit International Network of Golf is "where media connects with the golf industry." Members include golf media of all types and executives from all aspects of the golf industry.

Leodora is the second recipient of the Jan Stephenson Entrepreneur Award and was totally surprised by the announcement. The glowing introduction by Stephenson left him speechless ... almost.

Leodora is known as one of the hardest working individuals in the golf media business. The Villanova graduate enjoyed a long, awardwinning career as a sports columnist and editor at the Norristown Times Herald near Philadelphia before turning his love for golf into a second career in the golf business.

He learned the business side of the industry, working for a few golf businesses and magazines in the 1990s, before starting his own PR

& Marketing firm, TL Golf Services in 1999. His company provided counsel to national golf businesses of all types, and Philadelphia-area golf courses. Some of those still turn to Leodora for advice today.

During that span Leodora created and hosted two successful media shows. The Golf Talk Live weekly radio show in Philadelphia became one of the first all-interview, syndicated radio shows in America. It ran for 15 years and won a number of national awards. The Traveling Golfer TV Show, one of the most widely distributed golf TV shows in America, is now in its 14th year and has won national awards in almost every year of its existence. Four times it was named the No. 1 Golf Television Show in America.

The TV show still airs today, with 18 annual episodes available on-demand (www.travelinggolfer.tv) to more than 170 million subscribers on OTT, Connected TV, and Smart TV applications.

Leodora is embarking on his version of a farewell tour. Hosting a number of Traveling Golfer shows throughout 2025 will be his last, as he views retirement from fulltime involvement with the show. Managing Partner Jeff Gilder has taken over ownership of the show and will steward it into future successes. Leodora will continue his involvement with golf through freelance writing assignments with a number of publications, including Golf Pennsylvania-Golf Northeast. "My involvement in the golf industry has been a wild and exciting ride," commented Leodora. "I have resisted doing my swan song for a while but the Jan Stephenson Award seems like the perfect way to take that final stroll down the golf highway." 8

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WOMEN'S FOUR-BALL JOINS GAP/AGA SCHEDULE

The inaugural Women's Four-Ball will take place May 7 at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit, Pa. It is an 18-hole better-ball-ofpartners event that will feature three divisions: Amateur (18-54 years of age), Senior (55-64 years of age) and Super Senior (65 years of age or older).

"We're excited to add the Women's Four-Ball to the championship calendar this year," Patrick Lloyd, GAP Director of Northeast Operations, said. "This is a great way to expand our women's programming specifically in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Women's Four-Ball is the perfect forerunner to our Women's Coal Scuttle Championship."

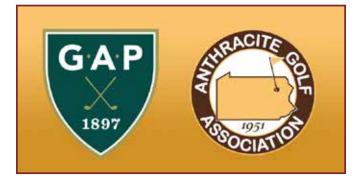
Event	Date	Venue
Modified Stableford	April 16	Huntsville
Inaugural Women's Four-Ball	May 7	Glen Oak
Spring Stroke Play	May 20	Irem
Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball	May 29	Wyoming Valley
Over/Under 50 Tournament	June 23	Elmhurst
Sam Spencer Four-Ball	July 9	Glen Oak
23rd Stroke Play Championship	July 14	Country Club of Scranton
11th Super-Senior Coal Scuttle Championship	July 23	StoneHedge
33rd Women's Coal Scuttle Championship	Aug. 8	Berwick
Founders Four-Ball	Aug. 20	Elkview
43rd Senior Coal Scuttle Championship	Sept. 10	Fox Hill
75th Men's Coal Scuttle Championship	Sept. 27-28	Huntsville/Wyoming Valley
Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball	Oct. 13	Fox Hill
Volunteers Day (Northeast)	Oct. 16	Valley
Player's Dinner	Nov. 14	Elmhurst

Registration for most GAP/AGA events is now open. Registration for the Stroke Play Championship will open at a later date. Limited availability is expected for that event.

The Coal Scuttle championships illuminate the GAP/AGA calendar. StoneHedge Golf Course welcomes the Super-Senior Coal Scuttle Championship on July 23. The Women's Coal Scuttle Championship will take place at Berwick Golf Club on Aug. 8.

Fox Hill Country Club reclaimed hosting rights of the Senior Coal Scuttle Championship by virtue of its playoff victory over Olde Homestead Golf Club in 2024. The event's 43rd edition flocks to Fox Hill Sept. 10. And it's a milestone for the Men's Coal Scuttle Championship, which celebrates its 75th playing. Huntsville Golf Club will host Round One on Sept. 27. Round Two heads to Wyoming Valley Country Club on Sept. 28.

For more information regarding the GAP/AGA schedule, contact Patrick Lloyd, GAP Director of Northeast Operations, at 610-687-2340 ext. 0017 or via email at plloyd@gapgolf.org.



	>		GAP WOMENS SCHEDULE			
OPEN closes on WED, APR 23 12:00 PM EDT	V	GAP/AGA WOMEN'S FOUR-BALL Wed, May 7, 2025 Glen Oak Country Club	OPENS TUE, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	23RD DEEG SEZNA Tue, Aug 5, 2025 North Hills Country Club	
OPENS MON, MAR 31 9:00 AM EDT		7TH WOMEN'S SPRING SCRAMBLE Mon, May 12, 2025 Cobblestone Creek Country Club	OPEN closes on MON, JUL 28 9:00 AM EDT	* 6	33RD WOMEN'S COAL SCUTTLE CHAMPIONSHIP Fri, Aug 8, 2025 Berwick Golf Club	
OPENS WED, APR 23 9:00 AM EDT	G A P ×	4TH WOMEN'S MID/SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Wed, Jun 4, 2025 French Creek Golf Club	OPENS THU, JUL 03 9:00 AM EDT	V Q	10TH DELAWARE SUPER-SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Aug 11 - Tue, Aug 12, 2025 Next Round: Mon, Aug 11, 2025 The Rookery Golf Club	
OPENS THU, APR 24 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	4TH NET CHAMPIONSHIP Thu, Jun 5, 2025 Schuylkill Country Club	OPENS MON, JUN 30 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	114TH PARENT/CHILD (MIDDLE/OLDER) Mon, Aug 11, 2025 Talamore Country Club	
OPENS WED, MAY 14 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1897	30TH FOUR-PLAYER TEAM Wed, Jun 25, 2025 Moselem Springs Golf Club		USGA.	63RD U.S. SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR QUALIFYING (TAVISTOCK CC) Tue, Aug 12, 2025 Tavistock Country Club 74TH DELAWARE SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	
OPENS WED, MAY 21 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1897	68TH PARENT/CHILD - YOUNGER Wed, Jul 2, 2025 Medford Lakes Country Club	OPENS THU, JUL 03 9:00 AM EDT	V O	Tue, Aug 19 - Wed, Aug 20, 2025 Next Round: Tue, Aug 19, 2025 Rock Manor Golf Club	
	USGA.	7TH U.S. SENIOR WOMEN'S OPEN QUALIFYING (HONEYBROOK GC) Mon, Jul 21, 2025 Honeybrook Golf Club		USGA.	38TH U.S. WOMEN'S MID-AMATEUR QUALIFYING (KENNETT SQUARE G&CC) Tue, Aug 26, 2025 Kennett Square Golf & Country Club	
OPENS TUE, JUN 17	۳ ک	4TH BMW GAP WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Tue, Jul 29 - Wed, Jul 30, 2025 Next Round: Tue, Jul 29, 2025		USGA.	11TH U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR FOUR-BALL QUALIFYING (BENT CREEK CC) Thu, Sep 11, 2025 Bent Creek Country Club	
9:00 AM EDT	GAR	Wilmington Country Club	OPENS TUE, SEP 02 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1807	7TH MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP Tue, Oct 14, 2025 The 1912 Club	
TUE, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT		Tue, Aug 5, 2025 North Hills Country Club	OPENS TUE, AUG 26 9:00 AM EDT	()	33RD DELAWARE MID-OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Oct 20, 2025 Bear Trap Dunes - Black - Grizzly	



THE SHOPRITE LPGA CLASSIC RETURNS TO THE JERSEY SHORE

The ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer Returns to the Jersey Shore for its 37th Year in 2025, taking place June 6-8 at Seaview, A Dolce Hotel in Galloway, N.J.



Tickets Now on Sale and Volunteer Registration Now Open

ShopRite Price Plus Club Card Holders, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Braven Health Members to Receive Two Complimentary Daily Grounds Tickets

All Military and First Responders to Receive Complimentary Access Courtesy of SERVPRO

Ticket Offerings Include Exclusive Hospitality Access and General Grounds Passes

Tournament officials announced today the return of Atlantic City's largest sporting event – the ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer – entering its 37th year and taking place Friday-Sunday, June 6-8 at Seaview, A Dolce Hotel in Galloway, N.J.

A variety of ticket packages are now on sale for purchase exclusively at www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com/tickets.

ShopRite, the longest-running title sponsor on the LPGA Tour, will once again offer ShopRite Price Plus Club Card holders two (2) free daily grounds tickets with a valid ShopRite Price Plus Club card. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey members and Braven Health members will also receive two (2) complimentary free daily grounds tickets, valid during competition rounds.

Returning this year will be the Acer eCycle Program, collecting used or outdated electronics—including computer equipment, cell phones, MP3 players, and game consoles—in exchange for complimentary entry into the tournament. Recycling bins will be located at the main entrance Friday-Sunday of tournament week.

Tournament officials also announced all military (active, retired, reserve and veteran), first responders (police, fire, EMS) and accompanying family (4 tickets maximum) will receive complimentary admission to the three days of competition at the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic (June 6-8), courtesy of SERVPRO. In addition, they will receive admission into a special hospitality area – the Hero Outpost presented by SERVPRO and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Complimentary tickets are available at www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com/tickets. All military and first responders must show proper identification at the main gate and at the Hero Outpost to gain entry. Children ages 17 and under will also be admitted free into the tournament with a paid adult.

"The ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer is a Jersey Shore tradition, serving as the kickoff event for the summer in Atlantic City. We are excited to once again return to Seaview to host one of the longest-running events on the LPGA Tour," said Jeremy Friedman, media director for the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer. "We look forward to welcoming our great fans during tournament week, as well as celebrating our military and first responders for everything they do to keep our country and families safe."

The 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic will be a 54-hole championship Friday-Sunday, June 6-8, featuring a field of 144 of the world's best female professional golfers competing for a share of the \$1.75 million purse.

Linnea Strom recorded the largest comeback in LPGA Tour history to win the ShopRite LPGA Classic in 2024 by one stroke at 14-under par. Strom's final round 11-under par 60 was the lowest round in ShopRite LPGA Classic history. She rallied from seven-strokes down and in 52nd place at the start of the final round to win the tournament.

For more than three decades, the ShopRite LPGA Classic has been a launch pad for several of the game's preeminent players to kick start their LPGA Tour careers, including Paula Creamer, Brooke Henderson and Lexi Thompson. The tournament annually boasts one of the strongest fields on the LPGA Tour and has featured many of the game's greatest players as past champions, including Juli Inkster, Betsy King, Dottie Pepper, Seri Pak, Annika Sorenstam, Cristie Kerr, Stacy Lewis, Karrie Webb, Brooke Henderson and Lexi Thompson.

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Cont. from page 12

Ticket packages: Ticket packages for the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic include exclusive hospitality and general admissions tickets offering a wide degree of entertainment and access. All 2025 tournament tickets will be completely digital and will be emailed after purchase. Tickets can be viewed on either a mobile device or printed out where they will be scanned at the main gate.

There are four ticket options for fans interested in attending the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic (**Ticket prices do not include taxes and fees**):

DAILY GROUNDS:

General admission daily grounds, valid for one round Friday-Sunday, June 6-8 (tournament rounds).

\$20

WEEKLY GROUNDS:

General admission daily grounds, valid Friday-Sunday, June 6-8 (tournament rounds)

\$40

HARD ROCK SUITE - 17TH GREEN:

Luxury greenside suite offering exclusive views of the 17th green. Includes upgraded food and beverages and cash bar. Each purchase valid for one round of competition rounds, Friday-Sunday.

\$175

CHAMPIONS CLUB – 18TH GREEN HOSPITALITY:

Luxury greenside suites overlooking the 18th green. Includes upgraded food and beverages and open bar for alcoholic beverages. Each purchase valid for one round of competition rounds, Friday-Sunday.

\$275

The ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer continues its tradition of supporting many charitable organizations. Since 1992, more than \$40 million has been donated to area hospitals, food banks, education and youth programs. At the 2024 ShopRite LPGA Classic, dozens of nonprofits received grants and donations totaling more than \$1.5 million during a luncheon hosted by Wakefern Food Corp., the logistics, merchandising and distribution arm for ShopRite stores.

Volunteer Registration Now Open: Volunteer registration is now open to support the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer. Each year, hundreds of volunteers donate their time to serve critical needs such as marshaling, scoring, transportation, hospitality services and many other important roles. In 2025, the tournament is seeking more than 600 volunteers to fill a variety of roles tournament week. The \$65 volunteer package includes one official tournament branded golf shirt, a hat or visor; volunteer pin; one volunteer badge allowing grounds access and free parking all week; two any-day grounds passes and one round of golf on Seaview's Bay Course (\$25 cart fee). For more information on volunteering at the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic, visit www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com/volunteer.

For more information on the ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer, visit www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com, and on social media @ ShopRiteLPGA on X, @ShopRiteLPGA on Instagram and ShopRite LPGA Classic on Facebook.

ABOUT SHOPRITE

ShopRite is the registered trademark of Wakefern Food Corp., a retailer-owned cooperative based in Keasbey, NJ, and the largest supermarket cooperative in the United States. With nearly 280 ShopRite supermarkets located throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware and Maryland, ShopRite serves millions of customers each week. Through its ShopRite Partners In Caring program, ShopRite is dedicated to fighting hunger in the communities it serves. Since the program began in 1999, ShopRite Partners In Caring has donated nearly \$62 million to food banks that support more than 2,200 worthy charities. As a title sponsor of the ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer, ShopRite has donated more than \$40 million to local organizations, hospitals and community groups. For more information, please visit www. shoprite.com.

ABOUT ACER

Founded in 1976, Acer is one of the world's top ICT companies with a presence in more than 160 countries. As Acer evolves with the industry and changing lifestyles, it is focused on enabling a world where hardware, software and services will fuse with one another, creating ecosystems and opening up new possibilities for consumers and businesses alike. Acer's 7,700 employees are dedicated to the research, design, marketing, sale, and support of products and solutions that break barriers between people and technology. Please visit www.acer.com for more information.



Linnea Strom holds Shoprite Trophy

ABOUT SEAVIEW

Set on 670 acres of Galloway, N.J., coast and woodlands, Seaview is home to two world-class golf courses and a 296-room hotel. The Bay Course opened in 1914 and was designed by Hugh Wilson and Donald Ross. The 6,300-yard layout is less a test of length, and more a test of imagination, accuracy and short game. The Bay Course presents a Scottish-links feel, dramatic seaside views, deep pot bunkers and small undulating greens. It is the current host of the ShopRite LPGA Classic, as well as nine holes of the 1942 PGA Championship.

The Pines Course opened in 1929 and was designed by William Flynn and Howard Toomey. Unlike the Bay Course, the Pines winds its way through New Jersey woodlands, presenting elevation changes and bountiful doglegs. The course measures 6,800 yards, and it features large bunkers and expansive, sloping greens. The 16th hole was the site of Sam Snead's miraculous 60-foot chip-in to win the 1942 PGA Championship – his first major.

For more information on Seaview, visit www.seaviewgolf.com. Troon Golf, the resort and daily-fee division of Troon, manages the golf operations at Seaview

ABOUT THE SHOPRITE LPGA CLASSIC PRESENTED BY ACER

The ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer is one of the largest and most prestigious events on the LPGA Tour. It is held annually in Atlantic City on the Bay Course at Seaview, A Dolce Hotel, and features the world's best female professional golfers competing over three rounds for a share of the \$1.75 million purse. The ShopRite LPGA Classic is owned and operated by Outlyr, a global sports marketing and event management agency. For more information on the ShopRite LPGA Classic, visit www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com.

ABOUT THE LPGA

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) is the world's premier women's professional golf organization. Created in 1950 by 13 pioneering female Founders, the LPGA, whose Members now represent nearly 40 countries, is the longest- standing professional women's sports organization. Through the LPGA Tour, the Epson Tour, the LPGA Professionals, and a joint venture with the Ladies European Tour, the LPGA provides female professionals the opportunity to pursue their dreams in the game of golf at the highest level. In addition to its professional tours and teaching accreditation programs, the LPGA features a fully integrated Foundation, which provides best-in-class programming for female golfers through its junior golf programming, and its LPGA Amateurs division, which offers its members playing and learning opportunities around the world. The LPGA aims to use its unique platform to inspire, transform and advance opportunities for girls and women, on and off the golf course.





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TOT HILL FARM, A PUBLIC-ACCESS COURSE

by Reid Nelson

Anyone seeking insight into the creative genius embodied in the late Mike Strantz need look no further than the name of his course design and construction business.

Maverick Golf.

A true renaissance man, Strantz was without question a maverick who looked at a landscape – be it an oceanfront coastal plain or rugged and rocky mountain range – and saw a canvas on which to create art. Boldly dramatic, yet aesthetically beautiful art.

And arguably, nowhere is his artistic talent more evident than at Tot Hill Farm, a public-access course less than an hour's drive from Pinehurst and North Carolina's famed Sandhills, yet worlds away from anything one could ever imagine finding so close to the golf mecca that will again host this year's U.S. Open in June.



A restored 1840s farmhouse serves as the clubhouse at Tot Hill Farm. "The first time I saw the golf course, I kept thinking to myself, 'Where are we?' And I say that in the most positive way," said Greg Wood, director of golf operations since Charleston, S.C., businessman Pat Barber acquired the property two years ago. "It was hard to believe what we were seeing. It was like being transported somewhere, almost like the feeling you get going to Disneyland for the first time."

In the very short time since taking ownership, Barber has invested untold dollars in Tot Hill Farm, making it a must-see, must-play for any golfer who appreciates the game's inherent ability to not only challenge one's skill but excite one's senses. With only one exception, everything has been done in accordance with Strantz's original design, that exception being the conversion of the greens to Prism Zoysia, a turfgrass that provides perfect putting conditions –it's almost impossible to find a ballmark on the tight, grain-free surfaces – in summer, winter, sunshine and shade.

Everything else Barber and his excellent staff have done and are continuing to do at Tot Hill is guided by the intentions of the late architect.

In a career cut far too short when he lost his long battle with oral cancer in 2005 at age 50, Strantz designed and built just nine golf courses – seven original designs and two renovations so major in scope as to be recognized as 'Strantz originals.' And while his portfolio includes layouts overlooking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Strantz called Tot

Hill Farm "the best piece of land" he ever worked with.

Set in the Caraway range of the ancient Uwharrie Mountains in central North Carolina, Tot Hill is a gallery-worthy piece of artwork sculpted from sprawling meadows, rocky crags and clear-flowing mountain creeks. Stark in its contrasts, the site features more than 250 feet of elevation change, most of it tumbling down from the hilltop site of an1840s farmhouse that's been transformed into a welcoming clubhouse that sets the tone for what can only be described as the "Tot Hill Experience."

Located just 10 minutes from Asheboro, since 1976, home to the North Carolina Zoo and its more than 250 species of animals, Tot Hill Farm opened in 2000, giving travelers, at least those who love golf, a new reason to visit Randolph County. And depending on the individual tastes of the critic, the course quickly drew polarized reviews, some heaping praise and others serving equal portions of disparagement. (What do you expect of a course designed by a self-proclaimed Maverick?)

In 2007, Golf Digest named Tot Hill the seventh toughest course in the country. However, playing the course today, one has to question that appraisal.

Over the years, Tot Hill's original ownership group ran into financial difficulties and the course suffered accordingly. The once gallery-worthy piece of art began to fade. Maintenance suffered as greens shrunk and bunker faces eroded or grew over. Mother Nature didn't help either, as trees and other growth encroached, narrowing playing corridors and altering sightlines. The real estate recession of 2008 only exacerbated the problems.

Fast forward to 2022 and enter Barber.



The par-3 third hole at Tot Hill Farm, played downhill to a boomerang-shaped green, has been named as one of the best 18 holes built in America since 2000 by Golf Digest magazine. The green is guarded by a scenic mountain creek that wraps three sides of the huge putting surface, which is dominated by a fittingly large "nose" pushing into the green.

A highly successful medical staffing professional, Barber already owned two courses in South Carolina – The Links at Stono Ferry and The Plantation at Edisto, both just south of the historic port city. He immediately saw the potential represented in Strantz's vision for Tot Hill and upon purchasing the property, set about restoring the course to its original glory.

Wood, director of golf operations for all three of Barber's properties, Cont. on page 17

Cont. from page 16

Wood, director of golf operations for all three of Barber's properties, emphasizes the word "restoration," as opposed to renovation. And Barber's team had plenty to draw upon as they set about their labors – the operative word in the phrase being "draw."

Blessed with numerous drawings by the architect, many of which now adorn the walls of the farmhouse/clubhouse, as well as videos showing the architect at work in the field, often on horseback, the new owner has spent untold dollars to faithfully transform Tot Hill Farm into a showplace that is sure to add to the ranks of the "Strantz Fantz Club" – devotees with their own Instagram address.

In addition to installing the new Zoysia greens, more than 1,500 trees have been removed, restoring (there's that word again) fairway widths and playing angles. Bunkers were completely rebuilt or, if not part of Strantz's original design, eliminated. On two holes, bunkers that had been lost were re-established, and Wood added, another lost bunker will be rebuilt on the demanding par-4 17th hole later this year And since we mentioned it, what a hole the 17th is.



Sporting the No. 1 handicap, the par-4 17th hole at Tot Hill Farm, name The Road Hole, plays across rolling meadowland, culminating with a deep, narrow green guarded by a steep false front, a pronounced depression pushing into the left side of the putting surface and a stacked stone wall tight to the right, reminiscent of another great hole with the same name.

A long par-4 stretched over rolling meadowland and boasting the No. 1 handicap, the Road Hole – every hole at Tot Hill is named – is punctuated by a green that is true Strantz all the way. From the steep false front to the deep 'thumbprint' depression that presses in from the left to the stacked stone wall and the eponymous road tightly guarding the entire right side, the green demands a precise approach. Anything less and you face a tough up-and-down chance.

But much can be said of just about any hole at Tot Hill. While the fairways are wide – generous, even – green complexes require precise, well-struck shots if you're seeking birdies. Even hitting the greens, pars can be hard earned, if you put yourself on the wrong side of Strantz's sweeping elevation changes that are best measured in feet, not inches.

Think about the bold contouring architects C.B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor built into their greens at classic courses like National Golf Links, Chicago Golf, Fox Chapel and Yale Golf Club. The greens at Tot Hill are that dramatic ... and that much fun.

More than once, Strantz offers greens with distinctly different targets. For example, the par-5 fifth green has a tiny, narrow and much lower front protrusion leading to a broad upper section, much of the right side of which hidden by tall rocks surrounded by artistic bunkers. At 13, a short par-3 set between a rocky creek to the right and a gentle up-slope to the left named "Strantz's Back Yard," the larger, more inviting part of the putting surface is at the front, with a very small adjunct climbing up and around a

huge rock face to the rear. Knowing Strantz – as this writer did very well – it's not by accident that the smaller target also requires the longer tee shot. And any review of Tot Hill wouldn't be complete without a mention of the 10th and 12th holes, two par-4s that share a double green that cascades down a very steep slope like a stair runner in your grandmother's house.

The short 10th, called "Great Wall," gives players the option of driving over another of those stacked stone walls – think Irish links courses – or playing left and skirting the wall entirely. But the real excitement starts when you approach the two-level green. Higher in the front, the putting surface drops rapidly to a lower rear section before tumbling completely off the hill, down to the 12th green, which is surrounded by water. The grass connecting the two formal putting surfaces is mowed at fringe height, but it won't prevent a misjudged or poorly struck approach from going all the way down to the 12th, appropriately labeled "Old Dam."

And we haven't even talked about "The Rock," the par-3 third hole, which Golf Digest recognized as one of the 18 best holes built in America since 2000.

The fact is, any review of Tot Hill Farm could devote countless words describing any and every hole. But short of that, suffice it to say that every hole is its own canvas, most not revealed until you leave the previous green and reach the next tee. And no hole dictates strategy but instead presents options. As Wood is quick to point out, every hole offers multiple ways to play, depending on how one chooses to utilize corridor width, slopes and their own skill

"The more you play this course, you realize that Mike gives you 10 ways to play a hole," Wood said. "If you want to shoot a score, you have to take on more risk. But he always gives players a 'safe route.' It's up to the player to decide which route they want to take."

Risk vs. Reward. Isn't that what great golf courses are all about? If so, then Tot Hill truly deserves the far-too-often used title of "Modern Classic."



The unique two-tiered green at Tot Hill Farm's par-5 fifth hole at Tot Hill Farm features an extremely narrow front portion that is much lower than the broad upper section, much of which is guarded by bunkers and rock outcroppings.

For more about Tot Hill Farm, take a visual tour of the course or to book a tee time, go to the club's website, tothillfarm.com. And if you're heading to the U.S. Open and want to test Strantz's work of art during your trip, hurry. The tee sheet is filling quickly.

(Long-time Charleston resident Reid Nelson spent more than 40 years in golf-specific public relations, working with more than 25 courses that earned "Top 100" and/or "Best New" accolades from major national publications. Over the years, he worked with Mike Strantz on several projects and was a founding member of Strantz's Bulls Bay Golf Club, just north of Charleston. Now retired and living in the North Carolina foothills, he is very happy to still be within easy driving distance of his late friend's designs.)



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Sam Snead

PGA TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP COMING TO PHILLY CRICKET CLUB

By Mike Kern

Once upon a time, which some of us can actually recall, the PGA Tour made a stop in Philadelphia every year. For nearly two decades, from 1963 to 1980, the IVB Classic was held at Whitemarsh Valley in Lafayette Hill. And it created some lasting memories. Arnold Palmer won the inaugural event, which was held in early October, taking home what at the time was the biggest first prize ever offered in professional golf. Imagine that. It was officially called the Whitemarsh Open. The name was changed to the Philadelphia Golf Classic two years later, before IVB took over as the title sponsor in 1969.



Previous Winners of Truist Championship

For trivial pursuit fans, Lionel Hebert would finish second that first year, one stroke back. Jack Nicklaus lifted the trophy in '64, finishing one better than Gary Player, who had won the 1962 PGA Championship at Aronimink. Nicklaus repeated in '65, and would win again in '78. The tournament was played in August, September, July and June. Yes, the landscape was different back then. Tom Weiskopf won twice. Hubert Green and Tom Kite were also champions. So there was certainly no shortage of major-champion star power. By the way, Palmer collected \$26,000 for that victory in the inaugural. Times have changed.

The U.S. Open came to Merion in 1981, and the IVB was put on hold. It never came back. Our loss. For a region like Philadelphia, it's been an ongoing question: why hasn't the PGA Tour returned? The answers are complicated. You need a viable date on the schedule, and the financial backing to make it work. For whatever reasons, it hasn't happened. The 2010 and 2011 AT&T Nationals were held at Aronimink, with Tiger Woods serving as the host. The year he played, you couldn't get near the place. The year he couldn't, because of an injury, it wasn't the same. Aronimink was also the venue for the 2018 BMW Championship, part of the Fed Ex Cup playoffs, but the weather didn't cooperate. And don't forget the Pennsylvania Classic, which was held from 2000–06 at three different Pennsylvania courses. One of them was Waynesborough Country Club, in Paoli, just down the road from Aronimink, but the September dates in 2000 and '02, coupled with a less-than-stellar field, just didn't have

enough appeal. It happens.

But now the Philly area is entering a window where the fans should be treated to some big-time golf. Next year the PGA Championship is finally returning to Aronimink. And the U.S. Amateur will be back at Merion for the first time since 2005. That of course is a prelude to another U.S.Open there, in 2030 to help commemorate/celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bobby Jones clinching the Grand Slam there at the U.S. Am. But everything will get started this May 8th to 11th, when the Truist Championship comes to the Wissahickon Course at Philadelphia Cricket Club, which hosted the Senior Players Championship in 2016 and the U.S Amateur Four-Ball last year. So Cricket is no stranger to the spotlight. But this will obviously be its biggest stage yet. The Truist is a PGA Signature event, meaning only the 70 top players will be there with no cut.



Clubhouse view of Philly Cricket Club

And it happened quickly. Truist made the first phone call in January of 2024, not long after it had acquired the tourney. A site visit soon followed, and then the negotiations began. A deal was finally reached in July. Chitwood soon came aboard. Then came the task of getting volunteers, corporate support and selling tickets. It's been a win-win-win. Ticket sales will be capped at around 17,000, about 8,000 fewer than most PGA events. But the club's longtime director of golf, Jim Smith, says that should only make the fan experience that much more indelible and fulfilling. There's a lot of good sight lines throughout, and the viewing access should be first-rate. And in the final analysis, that's probably what matters most to the people doing the supporting.

Smith doesn't really see this as a Cricket event. It's more of a Philly event. Because they're all in it together.

"All you want is (everyone) to leave and go, 'What a great city, what a great golf course,' " he noted, correctly. " 'What great hospitality.' That's the goal."

The course will play to a par 70, which isn't the norm on the PGA Tour, since there's only two par 5s. It will play to about 7,100 yards. When Cont. on page 21

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Cont. from page 20

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Iconic Hole at Philly Cricket Club

The course will play to a par 70, which isn't the norm on the PGA Tour, since there's only two par 5s. It will play to about 7,100 yards. When the seniors were here, Bernhard Langer won by shooting 1-over par. So there was that. But remember the Tour can set things up pretty much any way they want. And nobody controls the weather. So we'll see. As it was with the Seniors, the holes will be re-routed so there are better viewing areas coming home. The closing four holes will be the usual seventh, fifth, sixth and fourth. That stretch, which includes a par 3 over water and two difficult par 4s, played particularly tough.

"We know the great history of golf here (in Philly)," Chitwood said. "We want to embrace that. It's an exciting time for us. We're creating a small army (to make it work). The Philadelphia element (to all this) will be recognizable. The economic impact, the visibility, the global spotlight, the charitable impact (is all there)."

The CEO of Truist, Bill Rogers Jr., added: "It's a unique opportunity for us to have a one-time stab here in Philadelphia. To start here at

this club is really special. It's incredibly historic. If we're going to deliver then a lot of things have to come together. We want it to be a memorable experience for everyone involved with the process. This is a starting point.



Hole #3 at Philly Cricket Club

"We recognize what an incredible sports town this is, with a great golf community. We want to be part of that history. We think it's a great marriage. And it will have a great charitable impact. That to me will be the legacy to leave behind."

The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia is a signature partner. And there are deals in place to allow two children to get in free with a paying adult, and veterans to register for a lottery to receive free tickets as well. So far, of the 1,600 volunteers some 21 states and three countries ranging in ages from 13 to 86 are already represented. Like the men said, it's a start. About time. Because we deserve it. So make sure to take advantage of it, if you can. We will have even more on this event in the next publication. So stay tuned.

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The Newest Breakthrough In Putters: Reverse Face Balanced Technology

Discover why golfers are saying "the feel is incredible."

A rnold Palmer, four-time Masters champion, owned something like 2,500 putters at the time of his death.

That says two things. Arnie never stopped searching in his quest to make more putts. And Arnie never found his "Holy Grail."

So when a guy from India who majored in film study at New York University showed up at his first PGA TOUR event, at the Bay Hill Golf Club on the eve of the Arnold Palmer Invitational, it made counter-intuitive sense. Nakul Sood, the aforementioned gent from India, has a unique line of new putters from his company, Incred Golf (short for Incredible).

India? Film study? Say what?

Arnie never saw a putter he wouldn't try. If he was still with us, you can bet The King would have grilled Sood about his clubs and worn a path on the practice green trying them out. Arnie's only question about the putters would have been, "Do they hole putts?" That is the only question that matters.

My answer to that question, after I took a recent test drive using the Incred SK-1 model is, yes! But I'm no expert, obviously, since my fleet of putters is approximately 2,477 fewer than Arnie's.

Sood took a break from chatting with assorted tour players and caddies to explain Incred Golf to a golf writer. The idea for his putters came from a strange place—video of several players famously hitting putts with the toe of their putters from awkward lies around greens, including Vijay Singh remarkably holing a "putt" from the rough dangerously near the bulkhead at TPC Sawgrass' famed 17th green. (You can see the video on YouTube.com by searching for Eureka Putters.)

Swinging a regular blade putter with the toe forward as the hitting surface feels oddly easy to keep on plane (on target) and has a pendulum-like feel, Sood deduced. So why not make a putter designed to do that? It took two hours of inspiration to design, and about 12 hours of machine-work to produce a prototype.

That's the short version, anyway. The longer version is that Sood, after NYU, returned home to India, made a few documentaries as a budding filmmaker (because he didn't want to produce Bollywood-like movie musicals) and suddenly noticed a niche. Cameras and stabilizers routinely cost tens of thousands of dollars for film productions. He was able to develop better versions of Steadicam that cost only \$1,000 when models on the market went for \$50,000-plus. He also created the first Ambisonic (surround sound) micro-

By Gary Van Sickle

Cont. from page 24



Incred's line of putters displayed on the putting green at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando.

phones for VR (used by several Oscar winners), which captured the sound field for any venue, and he improved camera dollies (and reduced their cost) by using roller-blade wheels. Sood had little training in engineering, but he started working with technicians who knew metals in a small shop in New Delhi, India, across the Yamuna River, a Ganges River tributary.

Sood played golf since the age of 19. His father had access to a course and Sood received ten lessons as a youngster, just enough to get hooked on the game. After the success of his equipment business and with some idle time during the pandemic, Sood returned to golf.

Two years ago, he developed his Face Down putters. The most popular model, the RFB-SK1 model (Reverse Face Balanced), so named because Shiv Kapur, an Indian player who was a successful tour player, helped inspire it. The SK stands for the Sood-Kapur affiliation. The putter's shaft angles into a tube-shaped piece that connects with the back center of the putter blade. Picture that short tube structure as the toe of a putter and you get the idea. After that, it comes down to weight and balances and different materials for feel.

Sood calls his putter Reverse Face-Balanced and Face-Down putters due to their unique design. I didn't have to stay at a Holiday Inn recently to recognize the putter's pendulum feel. I started to tell Sood that the "putter practically swings itself" but he finished that sentence for me before I could get it out. He said that is a common comment about the model.

His second model is the Blade Legacy, which looks fairly similar to standard blades but with a low back-side line. It is machined out of steel and copper billets with a standard 3-degree face angle that some tour players flatten to 2 degrees when playing on fast greens.

The third member of Incred Golf's big three is the RFB Black Mallet, a large rectangular-shaped mallet for players who like bigger putter heads. It has the same pendulum feel as the other, just with a little more mass.

Incred Golf is still in the early stages of becoming a golf business. Step one

is to get it in the hands of tour players, whose use helps with validation and marketing. Imagine, for instance, if Rory McIlroy were to win a Masters with one of these putters. Any putter model he used would lead to thousands of instant sales, ala the 1986 Masters when Jack Nicklaus used the oversize MacGregor Response putter.

Sood showed his putters to McIlroy and Tommy Fleetwood in Dubai earlier this year.

"They were both very cool about it," Sood said. "I went up to Rory and said, "Whenever you have five minutes, I'd like to show this to you. Rory said, I won't have five minutes today, but I'll come by tomorrow. Tommy did the same. And both came back. I wasn't even at my putter bag when Tommy came. I was eating a popsicle. I rushed over to talk to him; I was holding the popsicle behind my back, and he laughed. He said, 'You're having a lolly!' or something."

Several players from PGA TOUR Champions have asked Sood to build

putters for them. Another player had their interest piqued was Bryson DeChambeau. One of his techs did some ro-

botic testing with it and said Sood's putter got the balling rolling (versus spinning) two to three times better off the face than a standard blade putter.

While on the Bay Hill practice green last month, a tour rep for another golf company told Sood, "You've got the best four putters on this green right now."

Compliments are nice but the real validation is seeing players use his putters and have success. Sood got his first win on the PGTI Tour (Professional Golf Tour of India) this past November.

Golf is ultimately about greens in regulation and making putts. Especially at Augusta National. Golfers chase that ideal today, just like Arnie did once upon a time.

Incred's Eureka SK-1

ON POINT 3D Ball Marker Improves Putting Accuracy By Up To 44.3%

by Holly Geoghegan

G olfers know that a good putting stroke is only as good as your alignment. If you're not aimed properly, even the best stroke won't lower your scores.

The science behind how our eyes and our brain effectively gather the data to read a putt has influenced the implementation of strong visual cues on putter heads and even golf balls in recent years such as Callaway's Triple Track Odyssey putters and Chrome Soft golf balls.

The miracle of our depth perception comes from our brain's ability to put together two 2D images in such a way as to extrapolate depth. This is called stereoscopic vision. Each retina in our eye produces a slightly different image. When those two images are assembled in your brain, they are interpreted as depth perception. In putting, we need our vision to identify our aim point (target), to aim our putter face to it, and to visualize the distance between the ball and the hole. Unfortunately, our peripheral vision can be a distraction in the process.

Enter ON POINT 3D golf balls markers to connect those dots. Briston Peterson, the creator and CEO of ON POINT ball markers, solved the missing link that helps golfers dial-in their focus, creating a "tunnel vision" effect, that allows golfers to visualize and improve their alignment and make more putts.

The patented, ON POINT 3D marker has a unique three-dimension-

al dome-shaped design that sits slightly elevated behind the ball when placed on the green. The top of the dome comes with single and triple alignment guides that engages golfers' depth perception and visual acuity for precision putting.

And there is scientific proof. In a recent study, just released by renown optometrist and fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, Dr. Bruce Levinson, golfers ranging from high handicaps to touring pros, showed a dramatic improvement in putting accuracy: 44.3% at 3 feet, 20.7% at 6 feet and 34.4% at 10 feet.

Based in Jupiter, Fl, Dr. Levinson is a 0 handicap who has consulted and performed research for several major golf companies. When using the ON POINT 3-dimensional marker, he discovered that ON POINT helps the eyes to determine four key factors for better alignment: length, width, height and depth perception.

"When lining up a putt with a 2-dimensional marker, golfers only engage length and width; we are only using our eyes on a rudimentary level," stated Dr. Levinson. "ON POINT 3D markers engage our visual perception system which is how the brain tells the eyes what it is seeing."

Best-selling author and international golf instructor Nick Bradley, who's pupils have included PGA Tour champions Sir Nick Faldo, Brad Faxon and Justin Rose, firmly believes ON POINT takes alignment one step further by connecting the putter, marker and ball

In one seamless visual image that produces a better putting stroke.

"The dome shape on the ON POINT marker promotes a slight upward strike on the golf ball," Bradley stated. "This gets the ball rolling end-over-end and improves your putting because the face is square at impact and stays on its intended line."

ON POINT 3D ball markers conform to the Rules of Golf and are endorsed by U.S. Open and FedEx Cup Champ and Ryder Cup Captain, Jim Furyk.

Shortly after, the ON POINT ball marker became USGA-APPROVED, Furyk using the 3 D marker, finished runner-up at the 2019 Players Championship, ranking 2nd in Putts Per Green in Regulation.

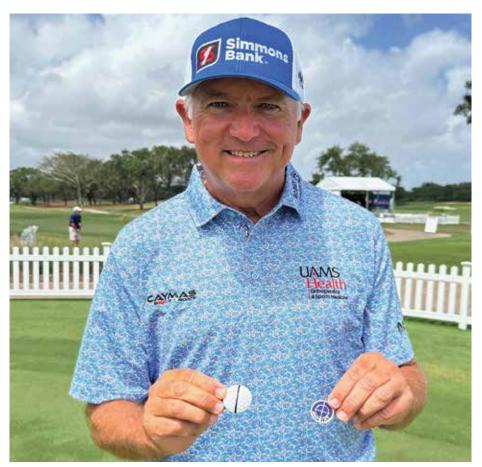
"If I had the ON POINT marker earlier in my career, who knows how many more tournaments I would've won." said Furyk, a native of West Chester, PA.

ON POINT has helped several players on the Champions Tour claim victories, including Ken Duke, who in his 100th start, rolled in a 6-ft putt on the 18th hole to win the 2023 Shaw Charity Classic.

"Our overall findings revealed that the ON POINT 3D marker is statistically 33% more accurate than a traditional flat marker," concluded Dr. Levinson. "In my opinion as an optometrist, researcher, and scratch golfer, ON POINT should be considered the fifteenth club in the bag."

Transform your game where it matters most, on the green, with the ground-breaking ON POINT 3D ball marker. The proof is in the numbers: on the green and ultimately, on your scorecard.

For more information or to purchase, visit onpointgolf.us.



After beginning to use the ON POINT 3D Ball Marker, Ken Duke, in his 100th start, rolled in a 6-ft putt on the 18th hole to win the 2023 Shaw Charity Classic.

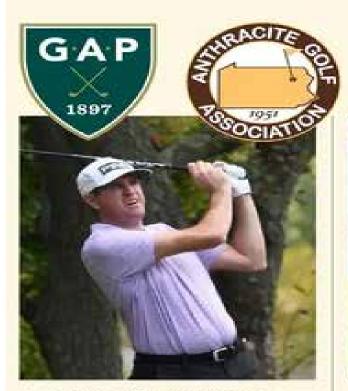


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OPEN closes on ON, APR 21 00 PM EDT	SPRING PRO-PRO CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Apr 28, 2025 Atlantic City Country Club	OPEN closes on MON, JUN 30 5:00 PM EDT	GALV LEHIGH VALLEY OPEN Mon, Jul 7 - Tue, Jul 8, 2025 Next Round: Mon, Jul 7, 2025 Berkleigh Golf Club • Moselem Springs GC
OPEN closes on DN, APR 28 DO PM EDT	TAYLORMADE CLASSIC Mon, May 5, 2025 Ballamor Golf Club	OPEN closes on MON, JUL 07 5:00 PM EDT	PRO-ASSISTANT PRO CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Jul 14, 2025 Seaview Hotel & GC - Bay
OPEN closes on HU, MAY 01 OO PM EDT	SPRING PRO-LADY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP Thu, May 8, 2025 Lehigh CC	OPENS MON, JUN 16 8:00 AM EDT	PARTNER DAY Mon, Jul 21, 2025 Hartefeld National Golf Club
IUST Closes on JN, APR 27 DO PM EDT	27TH HAVERFORD PHILADELPHIA PGA CLASSIC Tue, May 27, 2025 Sunnybrook GC - Gordon Routing	OPEN closes on TUE, JUL 15 5:00 PM EDT	LEDGEROCK TEAM STABLEFORD PRO-AM Tue, Jul 22, 2025 Ledgerock Golf Club
OPEN closes on IN, MAY 25 00 PM EDT	39TH BURLINGTON CLASSIC PRO-AM Sun, Jun 1 - Mon, Jun 2, 2025 Next Round: Sun, Jun 1, 2025 Burlington Country Club	OPEN closes on MON, JUL 21 5:00 PM EDT	NCR PHILADELPHIA ASSISTANT PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMP Mon, Jul 28, 2025 Whitemarsh Valley CC
OPEN closes on RI, APR 25	MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP - SEASON LONG Sun, Jun 1 - Tue, Sep 30, 2025 Next Round: Sun, Jun 1, 2025	OPEN closes on TUE, JUL 22 5:00 PM EDT	SKEE RIEGEL SR. OPEN Tue, Jul 29, 2025 Blue Bell Country Club
OPEN closes on pN, JUN 09	Merion Golf Club - East • Commonwealth National Golf Club CONESTOGA CLASSIC Mon, Jun 16, 2025	OPEN closes on SUN, JUL 27 5:00 PM EDT	YENNOWS 49TH PRO-AM FOR WISHES Sun, Aug 3 - Mon, Aug 4, 2025 Next Round: Sun, Aug 3, 2025 Penn Oaks G.C.
	Conestoga CC THE HUTCH Wed, Jun 18, 2025	OPEN closes on MON, AUG 04 5:00 PM EDT	PRO-SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP Mon, Aug 11, 2025 Rolling Green Golf Club
PED, JUN 11 00 PM EDT		OPEN closes on TUE, AUG 05 5.00 PM EDT	DEANGELIS PRO-AM Tue, Aug 12, 2025 The 1912 Club



MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR Eric Plisko Wyoming Valley Country Club

Once the fervor settled from a thrilling victory in the Men's Coal Scuttle Championship, Eric Plisko checked the POY standings. He suddenly led and needed to cross the finish line.

"I wasn't planning on playing in the [Carlyle Robinson) Fall Four-Ball. Then I was looking at the Player of the Year standings, and I said, 'Oh, I have to play. I didn't even think I had a chance at [Player of the Year], but obviously you get a lot of points for winning the Coal Scuttle individually," Plisko, 38, of Hanover Township, Pa., said.

Plisko, the 2020-21 Men's Player of the Year, leapfrogged Tyler McGarry atop the standings following his Coal Scuttle win. A dramatic one at that; Plisko holed out for eagle on No. 1, the first playoff hole at Glen Oak Country Club, to defeat Nick Werner for the event's individual title. Plisko soon enlisted clubmate Frank Schiel, Jr. for the Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball at Irem Country Club. The team finished third, a Plisko POY secured with 832.5 points.

"I put a lot of hard work in. It helps that my kids (Juliette, 6 and Nolan, 3] like golf. We go over at night to Wyoming Valley to practice, whether it's hitting balls or taking them out to the golf course. They really enjoy it, and I love watching them grow and pick up the game," Plisko said.

A tip of Plisko's cap to his Wyoming Valley family, ton.

The biggest thing, looking back, was the Coal Scuttie. That means so much to us as a team, as a club," he said. "It's not just one guy; it's five of us playing. To capture it with those guys is special."

SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR **Ken Bolcavage**

Elkview Country Club

Bolcavage is like a Steve Winwood song.

Back in the high life again.

The three-time Senior Player of the Year rode a wave of impressive performances to capture his fourth Senior POY honor (2020-22).

"It feels really great. Last year, I missed [the Senior Coal Scuttle Championship and Stroke Play Championship], and that played a big part in why I finished fifth instead of possibly winning [Senior Player of the Year]," Bolcavage, 61, of Crystal Lake, Pa., said. "I really take this seriously, and I try to win every event. I just feel like I'm very blessed."

Bolcavage won the Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball alongside Art Brunn, Jr. and the Modified Stableford Tournament alongside reigning Senior Player of the Year Mark Bartkowski. His "most rewarding" performance came in the Spring Stroke Play Championship, when Solcavage birdied the 18th hole at Wyoming Valley Country Club to defeat Brunn by a stroke.

Bolcavage more than made up for absences a year ago. He finished third in both the Senior Coal Scuttle Championship and Stroke Play Championship. He amassed 1168.5 points.

"As I get older, I stay in pretty good shape. I workout mostly in the winter. My preparation has pretty much been the same for a number of years," Bolcavage said. 'I try to focus on doing one thing at a time. Staying in the present is one of the keys to being successful in golf."

Players of the Year





SUPER-SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR **Joseph Weiscarger**

Wyoming Valley Country Club

Weiscarger won seven out of 12 tournaments in 2024. That translates to a 58.3 winning percentage.

"I'm thrilled to win the Super-Senior Player of the Year. It was my objective at the beginning of the year, to try and earn enough points to win this award. It's the first time ever I really tried to focus and stay within my age category, and then earn enough points to be the Player of the Year," Weiscarger, 66, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., said. "I always tried to play in tournaments with my kids and some of my younger friends because I wasn't mentally ready to play from senior tees. I did that to stay competitive in the [amateur division]."

Here are the Weiscarger wins: Senior Coal Scuttle Championship, Spring Stroke Play Championship, Stroke Play Championship, Ben Marshall Four-Ball and Founders Four-Ball alongside Richard Berry, and Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball alongside Tom White. Weiscarger earned runner-up honors in the Super-Senior Coal Scuttle Championship and represented Wyoming Valley in its victorious Men's Coal Scuttle campaign. He tallied 1,829.5 points.

"I like to try to build my golf game as a game that can travel and play different courses and not be one-dimensional," he said. "When I do play with my friends, we'll play individual medal play matches just for a few dollars. During those matches is when I try to hit a whole bunch of different shots under a smaller amount of pressure. I'm trying to hit different shots to see if I can execute them during those forums and try to build confidence so when bigger tournaments occur, then I'm not afraid to try those shots when they're really needed." - Tony Regina

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Pocono Professional Golf Series PGA of America – Philadelphia Section



2025 Pocono Professional Golf Series Event Calendar

PGA of America + Philadelphia Section + Updated April 3, 2025

Date	Event	Host Course	Course Contact	Host Professional
Wednesday, April 23	Spring Pro-Pro	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Wednesday, May 14	Pro-Am	Woodstone Country Club & Lodge	610-760-2777	Gregg Meyer
Wednesday, May 21	Pro-Am	Buck Hill Falls Golf Club	570-595-7730	Brian Fruehan
Thursday, May 29	Pro-Am	Great Bear Golf Club	570-223-2000	Howle Van Buskirk
Wednesday, June 4	Pro-Am	Olde Homestead Golf Club	610-298-4653	Kevin Edwards
Tuesday, June 17	Pro-Am	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Thursday, June 26	Pro-Am	The Country Club at Woodloch Springs	570-685-8102	John Pillar
Tuesday, July 1	Pro-Am	Southmoore Golf Center	610-837-7200	Jim Muschlitz
Thursday, July 10	Pro-Am	Wyoming Valley Country Club	570-825-9489	Pete Korba
Wednesday, July 23	Pro-Am	Elmhurst Golf & Country Club	570-842-7011	Mike Molino
Thursday, July 31	Pro-Am	The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort	570-424-4019	Nick Lussier
Tuesday, August 5	Pro-Am	Pinecrest Lake Golf & Country Club	570-646-4444	Jeff Garner
Thursday, August 28	Pro-Am	Pocono Manor	570-839-7110	Greg Wall
Wednesday, September 3	Pro-Am	Pocono Farms Country Club	570-894-8441	Kyle Monahan
Wednesday, September 10	Pro-Am	Green Pond Country Club	610-691-9453	John Kulhamer
Wednesday, September 17	Pro-Am	Skytop Lodge	570-257-2114	Justin Alunni
Tuesday, September 23	Pro-Am	Scranton Canoe Club	570-378-9982	Spencer Lunger
Thursday, October 2	Pro-Am	Elkview Country Club	570-222-4555	Jared Cottell
Wednesday, October 8	Pro-Am	Country Club of Scranton	570-587-3514	John Rogers
To Be Determined	Stroke Play*	To Be Determined		
To Be Determined	Pocono Cup*	To Be Determined (Lehigh Valley)		
To Be DetermIned	Fall Pro-Pro*	To Be Determined		

* Season-ending events will be announced at a later date.

For updates and results, visit the PPGS web site (www.golfppgs.com) or view the PPGS Facebook page (@golfPPGS).

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MONFRI. SENIORS \$32	\$40 \$45	THRU THUR. Before 1:00 pm cart and green fees After 1:00 pm AT. & SUN.			
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GOLF PENNSYLVANIA - GOLF NORTHEAST The Path to Oakmont Country Club Begins



LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Feb. 19, 2025) – The United States Golf Association (USGA) today announced that online entry applications are now available for the 125th U.S. Open Championship, to be played from June 12-15 at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club.

Thousands of golfers are expected to qualify for the championship through a two-stage process, with a final field of 156 players advancing to Oakmont, where a U.S. Open champion will be crowned. Nonexempt players will compete in one of 110 local qualifiers (108 in the United States and one each in Canada and Mexico) between April 16 and May 19.

Nearly 1,000 players will then compete in 36-hole final qualifying, scheduled at 13 sites worldwide. Final qualifying is set to be contested in England and Japan (May 19) and Canada (June 2) as well as 10 U.S. sites, one on May 19 and nine on June 2, which also is known as Golf's Longest Day.

There are 25 categories for exemption into the U.S. Open, including the following: The top player who is not otherwise exempt and in the top 3 of the 2025 LIV Golf Individual Standings as of May 19, the 2025 NCAA Division I men's individual champion (must be an amateur) and the top 5 players in the 2025 FedExCup standings as of May 19, who are not otherwise exempt. Players can also gain access by being among the top 60 points leaders (and ties) in the Official World Golf Ranking as of May 19 and those who move into a second OWGR top 60 on June 9. The top player in the DP World Tour's Race to Dubai as of May 19 who is not otherwise exempt also will gain entry into the field.

Entry applications, along with a list of qualifying sites, can be accessed at champ-admin.usga.org, and entries will be accepted through Wednesday, April 9, at 5 p.m. EDT. To be eligible for 2025 U.S. Open qualifying, a player must have a Handicap Index® not

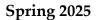
exceeding 0.4, or be a professional.

Allied Golf Associations (AGAs) in the United States, as well as the DP World Tour, Japan Golf Association, Golf Canada and Mexican Golf Federation, are working with the USGA to provide thousands of entrants from all backgrounds with the opportunity to compete for a spot in the year's third major championship. This collaboration with AGAs allows for an open qualifying process in all five USGA Open Championships. Since 2004, an average of 78.3 players (virtually half) in the U.S. Open field has advanced through one or both stages of qualifying.

Entry applications for four other USGA Open Championships are also now available. The 80th U.S. Women's Open Championship Presented by Ally will be played May 29-June 1 at Erin Hills, in Erin, Wis. The 45th U.S. Senior Open Championship will be contested June 26-29 at The Broadmoor's East Course, in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the 7th U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship will be held Aug. 21-24, at San Diego Country Club, in Chula Vista, Calif. The 4th U.S. Adaptive Open will be held from July 7-9 at Woodmont Country Club's South Course, in Rockville, Md.

The U.S. Open was previously contested at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club in 1927, 1935, 1953, 1962, 1973, 1983, 1994, 2007 and 2016. World Golf Hall of Famers Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Ernie Els, Tommy Armour, Larry Nelson and Johnny Miller are among the champions. As an anchor site, Oakmont will also host the U.S. Open in 2033, 2042 and 2049.





Golf Pennsylvania - Golf Northeast

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LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR

OPEN doses on WED, JUN 11 12:00 PM EDT	W 🥥	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: HONESDALE GC (D2) Mon, Jun 16, 2025 Honesdale Golf Club	OPEN closes on THU, JUL 03 12:00 PM EDT	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: POCONO FARMS CC (De Thu, Jul 10, 2025 Pocono Farms Country Club
OPEN closes on WED, JUN 11 12:00 PM EDT	90	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: BERWICK GC (D1) Fri, Jun 20, 2025 Berwick Golf Club	OPEN closes on WED, JUL 09 12:00 PM EDT	Image: Skytop Lodge Image: LawLer JUNIOR TOUR: Skytop Lodge Image: LawLer JUNIOR TOUR: Skytop Lodge
OPEN closes on WED, JUN 18 12:00 PM EDT	90	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: IREM CC (D1) Tue, Jun 24, 2025 Irem Country Club	OPEN closes on MON, JUL 14 12:00 PM EDT	Country Club
OPEN closes on MON, JUN 16 12:00 PM EDT	90	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: IREM CC (D2) Tue, Jun 24, 2025 Irem Country Club	OPEN doses on WED, JUL 16 12:00 PM EDT	We country Club
OPEN closes on WED, JUL 02 12:00 PM EDT	₩ ⊚	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: FROSTY VALLEY CC (D1) Mon, Jul 7, 2025 Frosty Valley CC	OPEN closes on TUE, JUL 15 3:00 PM EDT	Image: Construction of the second state of the second s
OPEN closes on WED, JUL 02 12:00 PM EDT	W ()	LAWLER JUNIOR TOUR: FROSTY VALLEY CC (D2) Mon, Jul 7, 2025 Frosty Valley CC	OPEN closes on TUE, JUL 15 3:00 PM EDT	Image: Construction of the second state of the second s



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BERNAT ESCUDER GROWS SPANISH LEGACY WITH AUGUSTA NATIONAL WOMEN'S AMATEUR VICTORY



by Paul Rogers

Performing with poise on a stage where her countrymen have shined, Carla Bernat Escuder authored a new chapter Saturday in the history of Spanish brilliance at Augusta National Golf Club.

Bernat Escuder holed a downhill five-foot putt for par on her final hole, in front of a sizeable gathering, to win the Sixth Augusta National Women's Amateur by one stroke over Asterisk Talley. The Spaniard shot 4-under 68 in all three rounds of the championship to finish at 12-under par, breaking the scoring record by two.

"It feels amazing," said Bernat Escuder, a 21-year-old senior at Kansas State University. "I feel over the moon."

As soon as she stepped out of the scoring building where she had signed her card, Bernat Escuder received a congratulatory hug from Jose Maria Olazabal, the two-time Masters champion and one of four Spaniards to win a Green Jacket, along with Seve Ballesteros, Sergio Garcia and Jon Rahm. Besides the United States, no other country has had as many Masters winners.

"She handled the pressure really well," Olazabal said, "and fantastic for Spanish golf and for women's golf."

Asked to account for Spaniards' success at Augusta National over the years, beginning with the first of Ballesteros' two victories, in 1980, Olazabal said the course demands distance control and finesse and that Spanish players tend to have good hands. Bernat Escuder said she was thrilled to see Olazabal and receive his words of praise. "It means everything because he's such a symbol for Spain," she said, adding bashfully that a year ago she mistakenly called him by the surname of another Spanish professional golfer, Pablo Larrazabal.

Bernat Escuder started the round in a tie for third place, one stroke behind the 36-hole leaders, Kiara Romero and defending champion Lottie Woad of England. With four birdies and a bogey on her first nine, she moved into the lead by one.

Her first major test came on the par-4 10th. After a strong drive down the middle of the fairway, she pushed her second shot right of the greenside bunker, on a grassy slope where the ball was well above her feet. Drawing on a tip she learned from her friend and fellow Spaniard Jose Luis Ballester, who as the reigning U.S. Amateur champion will play in the Masters next week, she placed her hands low and behind the ball at address to generate loft.

"I was like, if there was one shot that you're going to need the hands back to hit it higher, as he tells me, it's this one," she said. Her pitch landed softly below the hole, and she sank the 15-foot putt to save par.

Bernat Escuder faced a similar lie on her second shot at the par-5 13th. Rather than lay up in front of the snaking tributary of Rae's Creek, she chose a hybrid and with a hard, quick swing carried the water and reached the green. She two-putted for birdie and added another birdie at the par-5 15th, where she hit a 7-iron from 160 yards just long and got up and down.

Spring 2025

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Cont. from page 36

Talley, a 16-year-old from central California who was playing in the championship for a second time, began her round auspiciously, holing her approach at No. 1 for eagle. In the 88 editions of the Masters, there have been only five eagles made on the hole.

Later in her round, Talley birdied Nos. 16 and 17 to move to 11-under par, two behind Bernat Escuder, whose bogey at the 17th in the group behind reduced the deficit to one.

Before her final putt on No. 18, Bernat knew just where she stood. "I looked at the scoreboard, and I was like, you need to knock this in because she's right behind you."

During a practice round the day before, she gave her caddie for the week, her assistant coach at Kansas State Rinko Mitsunaga – a University of Georgia graduate – the day off and took an Augusta



16 year old Asterisk Talley

National caddie instead. On the 18th green of that Friday round, anticipating the hole location for the final round, she said he insisted she practice the putt that would end up winning her the championship.

The scoring was low all week, aided by rain-softened conditions and gentle breezes during the first two rounds at nearby Champions Retreat.

Megha Ganne, who first competed at Augusta National as an 11-year-old in the 2015 Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals, opened with a 9-under 63, two better than the previous low round in the championship. Overall, the scoring average through 36 holes was 72.03, more than a one and a half strokes lower than the previous mark.

Since its inception in 2019, when Jennifer Kupcho defeated Maria

Fassi in a spirited duel symbolized by their fist bump in Amen Corner, the Augusta National Women's Amateur has captured the attention of golf fans and inspired a generation of female golfers.

The players in this year's field ranged from 15 to 24 years old, meaning they were ages 9 through 18 when the championship was first held. Many of them this week recalled watching on television, dreaming of getting the chance to compete at Augusta National.

Bernat Escuder became the second international champion, after Tsubasa Kajitani of Japan, who prevailed in a playoff in 2021 after a one-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her countryman Hideki Matsuyama won the Masters the following week and credited Kajitani with inspiring him.

Anna Davis, the picture of youth in a bucket hat, won at age 16 in 2022. Now a sophomore at Auburn University who, like other past champions, has gone on to play in women's professional majors, she advanced to the final round again this year.

In 2023, Rose Zhang, the No. 1-ranked amateur at the time, won in a playoff on her fourth attempt in Augusta. Less than two months later, after winning the individual title at the NCAA Division I championship, she turned professional – and proceeded to win in her debut on the LPGA Tour. Her victory, at the Mizuho Americas Open, came in a playoff against Kupcho.

In all, alumnae of the Augusta National Women's Amateur have won 52 times on the LPGA Tour and the Ladies European Tour. Four of those victories have come in major championships.

Bernat Escuder is the pupil of Victor Garcia, father of the 2017 Masters champion Sergio Garcia. She said the elder Garcia sent her a text message on Friday, encouraging her to keep giving herself chances for birdies and saying the putts would drop.

Bernat Escuder, one of six Spaniards in the field, said she was delighted to be the first from her country to win the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

"Hopefully," though, she added, "it doesn't stay like that, because I want more Spaniards to get here and keep pushing our country up and up. Yeah, hopefully I'm not the last one."



A Masters Celebration

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Spring 2025



Golf Pennsylvania - Golf Northeast

GAP MEMBER PLAY DAYS

OPEN doses on MON, MAR 24 1L00 PM EDT	Mon Apr 7 2025	OPENS TUE, MAY 27 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 WHITE MANOR COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jul 7, 2025 White Manor Country Club
OPEN closes on WED, MAR 26 11:00 PM EDT	P 2025 BLUESTONE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Wed, Apr 9, 2025 Bluestone Country Club	OPENS TUE, JUN 10 9:00 AM EDT		2025 TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB - PHILADELPHIA MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jul 21, 2025 Trump National Golf Club - Philadelphia
OPEN closes on MON, MAR 31 11:00 PM EDT	2025 ST. DAVIDS GOLF CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Apr 14, 2025 St. Davids Golf Club	OPENS TUE, JUN 10 9:00 AM EDT		2025 NORTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Tue, Jul 22, 2025 North Hills Country Club
OPEN	2025 ARCHITECT SERIES (CONCORD, MANUFACTURERS', ROLLING GREEN, LEHIGH) Mon, Apr 21 - Mon, Oct 6, 2025 Next Round: Mon, Apr 21, 2025 Multiple Courses ①	OPENS TUE, JUN 10 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 SPRINGDALE GOLF CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jul 28, 2025 Springdale Golf Club
OPEN closes on MON, APR 14. 11:00 PM EDT	P 2025 BLUE BELL COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Apr 28, 2025 Blue Bell Country Club	OPENS TUE, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 BENT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Aug 4, 2025 Bent Creek Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAR 25 9:00 AM EDT		OPENS TUE, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 THE RIDGE AT BACK BROOK (FALL) MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Aug 4, 2025 The Ridge at Back Brook 2025 RADLEY RUN COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY
OPENS TUE, MAR 25 9:00 AM EDT	P 2025 THE RIDGE AT BACK BROOK (SPRING) MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, May 12, 2025 The Ridge at Back Brook	OPENS TUE, JUN 24 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1897	Mon, Aug 11, 2025 Radley Run Country Club
OPENS TUE, APR 22 9:00 AM EDT	P 2025 VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Tue, May 27, 2025 Valley Country Club	OPENS TUE, JUL 08 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 PHILMONT COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Aug 18, 2025 Philmont Country Club
OPENS TUE, APR 22 9:00 AM EDT		OPENS TUE, JUL 08 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1887	2025 FRENCH CREEK GOLF CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Tue, Aug 19, 2025 French Creek Golf Club
OPENS TUE, APR 22 9:00 AM EDT				2025 KENNETT SQUARE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB Mon, Sep 15, 2025 Kennett Square Golf & Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAY 06 9:00 AM EDT	P 2025 BALA GOLF CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jun 16, 2025 Bala Golf Club	OPENS WED, JUL 30 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1887	2025 WOODSTONE COUNTRY CLUB & LODGE MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Sep 22, 2025 Woodstone Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAY 06 9:00 AM EDT	P 2025 LAUREL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jun 23, 2025 Laurel Creek Country Club	OPENS WED, AUG 27 9:00 AM EDT	GAP	2025 LEBANON COUNTRY CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Oct 6, 2025 Lebanon Country Club • Lebanon Country Club
OPENS TUE, MAY 06 9:00 AM EDT	P 2025 HERSHEY COUNTRY CLUB (EAST) MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Jun 30, 2025 Hershey Country Club (East)	OPENS WED, AUG 27 9:00 AM EDT	GAP 1807	2025 MOSELEM SPRINGS GOLF CLUB MEMBER PLAY DAY Mon, Oct 13, 2025 Moselem Springs Golf Club

Spring 2025



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