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GOLF NORTHEAST

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THE JEFFERSON LEHIGH VALLEY CLASSIC PREVIEW

By Pete Kowalski

ALLENTOWN, Pa. – The waiting is over.

The Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic presented by Sodexo arrives in Pennsylvania at Lehigh Country Club September 28-October 4 bringing a field of 78 PGA Tour Champions players to the greater Philadelphia area for the first time in more than 50 years.

The last PGA Tour visit to the region was the IVB-Golf Classic at Whitemarsh Valley C.C. in Lafayette Hill from 1969-1980.

"I'm not sure (the PGA Tour) or the rest of the country knew what they were missing out on," said Jefferson's Executive Vice President and Chief Communications Officer Nick Ragone said. "The Lehigh Valley is a special area."

Jefferson Health has a five-year agreement with the PGA Tour and Lehigh C.C. to stage a community-friendly competition that will support three local charities – Valley Youth House, the Eagles Autism Foundation and Stop Hunger.

"Our commitment right from the get-go when we came together with Lehigh (Country Club) was reinvesting in the community, reinvesting in charities that are meaningful and to really be part and parcel to the community," said Dr. Joseph Cacchione, CEO of Jefferson Health during a promotional event in early September that included appearance by Justin Leonard, Dicky Pride and Glen Day. Jefferson Health, according to Ragone, gives \$2.7 trillion to charity and community benefit every year.

"This is all about giving back," Ragone said. "The PGA Tour model is wonderful in that all proceeds go back to the community and that's what Jefferson is all about."

Early commitments include the 2025 Schwab Cup winner and current leader Stewart Cink, and other past Major champions such as Retief Goosen, Leonard and Darren Clarke. Miguel Angel Jimenez and past Schwab Cup champion Steven Alker are also in the field.

The three-day 54-hole stroke play competition begins with the Eagles & Friends Celebrity Pro-Am on Monday, Sept. 28. Practice rounds on September 29-30 and October 1's official Pro-Am precedes the official competitions dates.

Lehigh C.C. has not hosted a professional event before but Leonard,

who is a fan of Golden Age architecture, sees great possibilities from the renowned William Flynn design that was built in 1927.

"I love all different kinds of architecture but going back to the classics that resonates more with me," said the 1997 Open Championship winner, who also capture the U.S. Amateur in 1992.

At most regularly set Tour stops, the players know the courses. Leonard anticipates many early arrivers because most have not seen Lehigh C.C. before.

"We tend to play the same courses so coming to a new venue like this you are going to see a lot more guys playing on Tuesday," Leonard said. "Most guys, myself included, like to see a golf course twice to really get a feel for it. The first day you are getting the lay of the land and lines off the tees and that second round that you



Dicky Pride, Glen Day & Justin Leonard at Media Day

play in practice you get more into the details of it."

Watching the familiar list of players in practice and competition rounds isn't the only entertainment on the schedule.

An early evening Junior Clinic is set for Thursday, October 1 and Folds of Honor Friday (10/2) pays tribute to our nation's military with an opening ceremony at 8:15 a.m.

In addition to upgraded hospitality, spectators and families are encouraged to visit the Wind Creek Tailgate Zone, located on Lehigh C.C.'s 19th hole where a jumbotron will share enhanced scoring and other visuals. A "Kids Zone", sponsored by B. Braun, features golf among its list of activities.

Ticket options include weekly, daily and upgraded hospitality options. Public parking, October 1-4, will be at Dorney Park.

The event offers complimentary admission for children 17 and under with a ticketed adult as well as U.S. Armed Forces active duty, veterans as well as military reserve, National Guard, military retirees, and first responders.

Local golf fans can be more involved as a tournament volunteer positions are still open.

"We have had extremely strong support from the local business community throughout eastern Pennsylvania, and we know the hospitality crowds will be strong around the grounds," said tournament director Tommy Sullivan.

LANCASTER CC TO HOST 5 MORE USGA EVENTS

By Pete Kowalski

LANCASTER, Pa. – Following the raucous successes of the 2015 and 2024 U.S. Women's Opens at Lancaster Country Club, the United States Golf Association recently announced that five more its national championships will be played on the iconic William Flynn designed layout from 2028 through 2044.

Calling the series of championships a multi-generational commitment to women's golf, the USGA will bring the 2028 U.S. Girls' Junior, the 2033 U.S. Senior Women's Open, the 2037 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, the 2040 U.S. Women's Amateur and the 2044 U.S. Women's Open to south central Pennsylvania.

"From a teenager playing Junior to a veteran Senior Women's competitor in the Open, Lancaster ground for female age over the next John Bodenhamer, championships have the history, the community support of responsibility, already proven it on the game's biggest stage."



teenager playing Junior to a veteran Senior Women's competitor in the Open, Lancaster ground for female age over the next John Bodenhamer, championships have the history, the community support of responsibility, already proven it on the game's biggest stage."

In Gee Chun claimed the 2015 Women's Open title and Yuka Saso, who won the Women's Open in 2021 at The Olympic Club, earned her second title at Lancaster C.C. in 2024.

"I will never forget the incredible support I received from the LCC members and the Lancaster community," said In Gee Chu in a video message from Korea. "I look forward to seeing the next generation of women's golfers creating their own special memories there."

Both championships were marked by large crowds and deep community engagement and across-the-board player positivity about the course.

"What makes this announcement so meaningful is what it represents for our entire community," said Lauren Stadel, president, Lancaster Country Club. "These championships will inspire young girls to come out and watch the game's best compete — and see champions crowned right here in their own backyard. That experience can leave a lasting impression, and its impact will be felt for generations. Welcoming five championships through 2044 extends Lancaster's championship legacy for another 20 years, creating a stage for every generation of women's golfers—from the teenager chasing her first national title to the veteran competitor pursuing her next. We're incredibly proud to be a home for women's golf at every stage of the journey."



#18 at Lancaster CC

Bodenhamer said seven-time USGA champion and World Golf Hall of Famer Carol Semple Thompson, who is from the Pittsburgh area "represents that whole journey that we are about to undertake at Lancaster Country Club."

Semple Thompson won three U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, three U.S. Senior Women's Amateur and one U.S. Women's Amateur title and competed in an astonishing 122 USGA Championship.

"I am always thrilled that I came from Western Pennsylvania because Arnold Palmer was such an important part of the world of golf," she said. "And my parents were both USGA people, so I always considered myself a USGA brat. I traveled to 30 championships with my mother."

"I can't say enough about Pennsylvania in general. There are so many places all through Pennsylvania that are great. We are so lucky to have Lancaster join this group of clubs that are hosting multiple championships. It's going to a wonderful 16 years."

Arguably the best female amateur of her time, Semple Thompson said that winning the 1973 U.S. Women's Amateur holds a special place in her long list of accomplishments. "The U.S. Women's Amateur trophy is the most gorgeous trophy I have ever seen," she said. "I won it 53 years ago at Montclair (N.J.) Golf Club. I was 24 years old at the time. I finally came into my own and I did hypnosis to learn how to think about golf and how to play golf that year. I learned how to relax and visual my shots and then I won the U.S. Amateur. It was a shock to me because I had never come close before."

Rory Connaughton, Lancaster C.C.'s championship committee chair said that the 2015 and 2024 Women's Open were "eye-opening experiences" and that the club's biggest takeaways were relationships with the USGA and the champions and players themselves.

"It's a path that once you start you don't want to get off," he said. "As we were attempting to identify where we might fit into the game going forward, our experience with the women's game has been so enriching and so rewarding for our community, we knew that is where we wanted to be."

He also noted that Lancaster Country is both willing and eager for this upcoming lineup of championships, including the 2028 Girls Junior which will bring "new universe of players" to the club and Pennsylvania.

The club's pedigree in hosting larger events includes the 2002, 2007 and 2018 Pennsylvania Opens, the 1990 and 2005 Pennsylvania Women's Amateur and eight Pennsylvania State Amateurs.

Bodenhamer called the agreement a "truly remarkable 16-year commitment of five national championships across five different chapters of a woman's golfing life. This is Lancaster Country Club walking the talk about supporting the women's game in the strongest way in the world of golf."



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GOLF COURSE REVIEW - UNION LEAGUE NATIONAL

by Phil Sokol
Course Architects: Dana Fry and Jason Straka (2022)
Year Opened: July, 2022
Location: Swainton, New Jersey
Slope: Meade/Sherman 147, Meade/Grant 150, Sherman/Grant 143
Rating: Meade/Sherman 74.2, Meade/Grant 74.6, Sherman/Grant 74.8
Par: 72
Yardages: Meade/Sherman (7,089), Meade/Grant (7,173), Sherman/Grant (7,274)

MEADE	SHERMAN	GRANT
Hole-by-Hole: 1 - Par 4 401 Yds	1 - Par 4 395 Yds	1 - Par 4 401 Yds
2 - Par 4 370 Yds	2 - Par 3 194 Yds	2 - Par 5 541 Yds
3 - Par 4 397 Yds	3 - Par 4 466 Yds	3 - Par 3 135 Yds
4 - Par 4 325 Yds	4 - Par 4 434 Yds	4 - Par 4 443 Yds
5 - Par 3 161 Yds	5 - Par 4 431 Yds	5 - Par 5 571 Yds
6 - Par 5 581 Yds	6 - Par 5 558 Yds	6 - Par 3 196 Yds
7 - Par 4 480 Yds	7 - Par 3 247 Yds	7 - Par 4 495 Yds
8 - Par 5 585 Yds	8 - Par 4 340 Yds	8 - Par 4 442 Yds
9 - Par 3 194 Yds	9 - Par 5 530 Yds	9 - Par 4 455 Yds
Par 36 3,494 Yds	Par 36 3,595 Yds	Par 36 3,679 Yds

Key Events Held: Southeast PA Golf Tournament (2024-26).

Awards Won: Voted 2nd Best New Private Course by Golf Digest (2022),
Ranked 13th by Golf Digest - Best in the State of New Jersey (2026).

Web site: www.unionleague.org

HISTORY: The property that Union League National resides upon was originally known as Sand Barrens Golf Club, which debuted in 1996. Dana Fry and his previous construction partner, Dr. Michael Hurdzan crafted this 27-hole layout, which featured more than 100 acres of sand and plenty of waste areas.

The course was originally going to be a tree-lined venue, but after moving plenty of dirt, they uncovered a natural layer of sand beneath the property and so the plans changed.

The duo crafted some memorable layouts, including Hamilton Farm Golf Club, Neshanic Valley Golf Course and the championship venue of Erin Hills to name a few. Hills, which has hosted the 2017 U.S. Open won by Brooks Koepka, has also been the layout for the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Women’s Open. However, in 2012 the pair amicably split, as they went their separate ways.

Just 21 years after opening, Sand Barrens was purchased by the Union League of Philadelphia in an effort to serve its over 4,000 active members visiting the Jersey Shore. Union League National is part of a growing strategy in the golf business to acquire several venues for its members. The National is one of three courses in its

portfolio, joining Union League at Torresdale and Union League at Liberty Hill.

It made sense for the Union League to bring in Fry and his new partner, Jason Straka to reimagine, renovate and redesign the property into what it is today, one of the best new private courses when it opened in 2022.

Straka, who started with Hurdzan/Fry back in 1995, maintained his association with Fry and has helped to create some of the finest layouts in the world. “I love creating beautiful golf experiences that can be enjoyed around the world and across many generations,” said Straka. “Golf offers genuine pleasure to friends and families, amateurs and professionals, and is a sport which can be played by young and old alike. I appreciate the chance to contribute to the enduring legacy of this great game.”

After purchasing the land in 2017, it took five years for Fry and Straka to complete this massive project, but at no time was the property closed for play, as they always left 18 holes playable for the members.

The task of creating a memorable experience was huge. More than 1.6 million cubic yards of earth were moved on the 268-acre parcel of land. In fact, it rose 78 feet above sea level, more than 56 feet above the original grade.



Cont. from page 6

"We deployed The Big Fill at Calusa Pines in Florida, and Yas Acres in Abu Dhabi, among other properties, but never on this scale," commented Fry. "This is honestly the only course project I know of, anywhere, that combines the two crucial elements: this massive earth-moving style and a Pine Valley-style palette — the soil and vegetation that we associate with great golf."

The three nines of Meade, Sherman and Grant are named after the Civil War generals, thus honoring the historic roots and founding purpose of the Union League. The Union League of Philadelphia was founded in 1862, during the height of the American Civil War.

When Sand Barrens opened, the nines were called North, South and West. The Union League chose to rename the nines after Generals Ulysses S. Grant, George Meade and William Tecumseh Sherman as a tribute to the military leaders who commanded the Union Army. By naming these generals, the club honors its foundational 1862 motto, "Amor Patriae Ducit" (Love of Country Leads).

How good was the finished product? It was rated as the second best new design of a private club when it opened and it's already ranked in the top-15 in the state of New Jersey. Pretty high praise since the Garden State boasts Pine Valley, Baltusrol, Plainfield, Ridgewood, Liberty National, Galloway National, Bayonne and Somerset Hills.

HOLE BY HOLE ANALYSIS: Meade Nine - The opening hole on the Meade Course is a straightaway par four that can be stretched to 401 yards from the black markers. Waste area runs down the entire left side with trees and rough down the right. As with most holes at Union League National, the fairway is fairly wide and your tee ball should favor the right side to leave the best angle to approach. The sloping green is guarded on the right and left by sand and will slope away to the back and right of the surface. What you will learn is that it is imperative that you stay below the hole for any shot at birdie, let alone par.

Number two on the Meade is one of my favorites, a sharp dogleg left par four from an elevated tee which features water fronting the tee box and down the left side of the landing area. After a successful tee ball, you're left with a short iron to wild putting green that slopes hard from back to front. This several tiered surface is quite tricky and features sand left and water right.



The third is another sub, 400-yard par four that plays straight to the green. Water flanks the entire left side of the hole, while the rolling fairway boasts and deep bunker down the right. The green is one of the widest on the course with an enormous amount of slope. A back-left pin is to be avoided at all costs, as it not only brings the water in play, but a deep fronting bunker.

A real birdie chance lies in waiting at the fourth...well, maybe. From the tips it's just 325 yards, but don't be fooled, this is anything but easy. A bunker down the middle of the fairway is a good aiming mark and is easily avoided off the tee. Here is where the tricky part lies. You're now left with an uphill approach to another wide putting surface that slopes hard from left to right and back to front. Oh, did I forget to mention that bunkers guard the front of the green, so any shot mishit will end up in one of the 16 sand traps. Not so easy now!

Ranging from 90 yards to 161 yards, the par-3 fifth is a beaut. Playing downhill from the tee, a medium to short iron should suffice to this long, undulating green. Water guards the front and left, with sand right and deep. Although this is the shortest hole on the course, its handicap rating is four!

The sixth is a behemoth of a par five, stretching to 581 yards. Water guards the entire right side, not to mention a 100-yard bunker which pinches the fairway off the tee. Your layup is of utmost importance, as you must avoid the trio of traps down the left and of course, the water down the right. The green is a slight kidney shape with sand left and waste area on the right. This might be one of the easier putting surfaces that you'll find at The National!

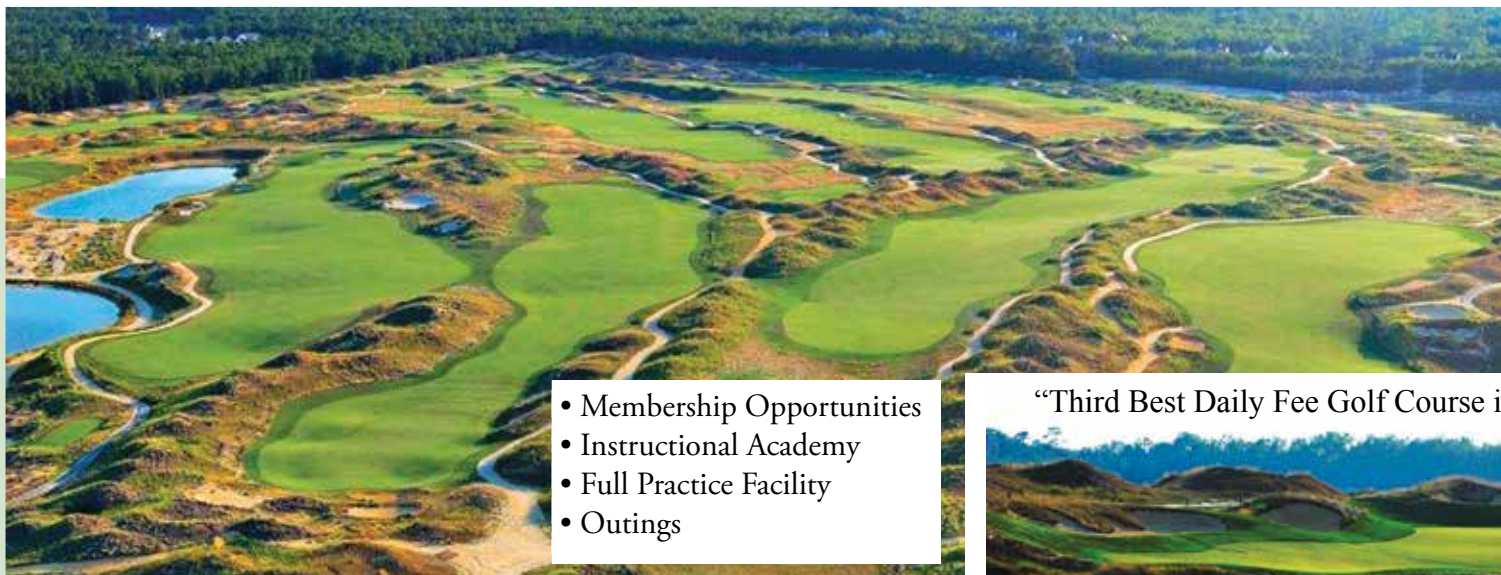
If you thought six was tough, wait till you get to the hardest hole on the nine, the 480-yard, par-four seventh. For us mere mortals, it's driver and then 3-metal in hopes of getting home in two. Chances are you'll be short and need a miraculous pitch to make par. Out of bounds left and sandy waste area protect the right. The green is very long and slopes hard from back to front and right to left, so as was mentioned before, stay below the hole.



Cont. on page 9

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Cont. from page 7

Although it's rated as the second hardest on the Meade Course, the eighth is a definite birdie hole, despite its 585 yard length. Once again, OB and waste area guard both sides off the tee, but a modestly wide fairway can be attacked. Your layup should favor the right side, as sand comes into play down the left landing area. Now you're face with a short iron in hand to a very accessible green, one of the smallest on the course. Oh, by the way, missing right with your approach will get very wet!

Number nine is rated as the easiest on the Meade, but this par three can be stretched to just under 200 yards. Water guards the right and deep as you play towards the clubhouse. With everyone watching, you'll need to be quite accurate with your approach, as the putting surface slopes hard from left to right and features sand and chipping areas, short and right. A par here will garner plenty of applause.

Sherman Nine - The Sherman Course opens with a solid, straight par four of 395 yards. The landing area off the tee is quite generous, with just one fairway trap down the left. The difficulty is now your approach, as the green is surrounded on three sides by water and guarded in the front by a pair of traps. The putting surface is long and slopes front to back and to the left.

The roller coaster green on the second is the defense of the hole. The putting surface is fronted by water with a bunker left and right. Sloping hard from back to front, this green features plenty of slope and at 194 yards, it's hard to believe that this is the easiest hole on this nine.

From the easiest to the hardest, that's what awaits at the par four, third. Reaching 466 yards in length, this hole features a wide fairway, however the big hitters will have to deal with a trio of traps on the right and a waste area on the left. Now the fun begins, as the approach to the green is a difficult one with water guarding the left side and an expansive chipping area on the right. One of the few greens devoid of sand, this surface slopes from front to back and hard, right to left.



Number four is another difficult par four, one of three consecutive 400-yard-plus holes. A very expansive landing area awaits off the tee, but the trouble is with the approach. The green is set off to the left with waste area surrounding most of the surface. The green is long and lean and runs hard to the front. A long iron or fairway metal second will be hard to hold the green. An additional putting surface is available to the right, which is sometimes used.

The fifth is another difficult par four at 431 yards. As is the case with many of the holes here, the fairway is quite generous, however a deep bunker protects the left side of the landing area and three trips guard the right. A medium to long iron is needed to reach the large putting surface, fronted by a deep trap. Miss long and you'll stuck in sand and left is flanked by a chipping area that sits below the surface.

The longest hole on the Sherman Course is the par-5 sixth at 558 yards. Accuracy is the key here, as a large waste area down the left encroaches on the fairway. Your lay up must now avoid a fairway bunker that sits in the center of the landing area, roughly 100 yards short of the uphill green. With a short iron, you must be deadly accurate to one of the most difficult putting surfaces at Union League. This boomerang shaped surface runs hard from back to front and right to left with several tiers and three guarding traps. A short, left shot will carom back off the green, so be aware.

Now it's time for the longest par three at Union League National, the robust 247 yard seventh. From an elevated tee, most players will move up a marker or two to a reasonable yardage, which I did! Water is your nemesis on this hole, as it protects the entire right side and behind the long and undulating green. No sand is needed here, as length and a difficult putting surface is certainly enough to discourage even the best.



One of the shorter holes comes by way of the eighth on the Sherman nine at 340 yards. Playing uphill from tee to green, the key here is finding the fairway, as water right, bunker in the center and scrub left will keep you honest. Your uphill approach will need to be spot on, avoiding the seven bunkers that guard the right of the green and sit well below the surface. The promised land is long and narrow and slopes hard from back to front and left to right. It's a definite birdie chance, but par is a good score.

Another elevated tee, the ninth is an average-lengthed, par-5 of 530 yards. Avoid the bunker down the left fairway and the long trap on the right and you might be able to reach in two. You'll have to avoid the bunker 50 yards short of the green, right in the center of the fairway, but it's possible. The green is long with a bunker left and a long trap protecting the right of the surface. The green is uphill, with a back pin playing as the most difficult.

Grant Nine - The Grant course starts off with one of five 400-yard par 4s. The fairway is quite generous with sand on the right side. A medium iron will remain after a successful tee ball. The putting surface is quite large with sand guarding both sides. A back-left flag could be quite difficult to attack, so play toward the center of the green to set up an easy par.

The first par-5 on this nine is the second hole, running 541 yards from the black markers. A horseshoe bunker raps around both sides of the fairway all the way through the green. The landing area is quite generous and the layup area is also wide, leaving a very short approach to a putting surface that's set off to the right. The green is long, but quite narrow, but a definite birdie opportunity.

The shortest hole at the National is the third hole on the Grant Course, just 135 yards in length. It's all carry over a sandy waste area to the green. The putting surface is very long and narrow, which a chipping area short of the surface and a drop off to the right. With a short iron in hand, another birdie chance, as long as you negotiate swale in the center of the green.

Number four is a wonderful, dogleg right par four reaching 443 yards in length. Large mounding down the right side protect the corner of the dogleg, thus forcing the player down the left side where water lurks. A medium to long iron will remain to an elevated green that is very long and runs hard from back to front. One of the more difficult holes at the National.

The fifth is the second par-5 on the nine, stretching to a robust 571 yards. From an elevated tee, favor the left side of the wide fairway, as you avoid the sand down the right. Although the fairway tightens as you move down the hole, there is plenty of room for a quality layup. Water does come into play as you get closer to the green, but as long as you play down the left, you'll have an easy approach to an undulating putting surface that has plenty of slope.



The second par-3 is a beauty of 196 yards from the black markers. Water again comes into play, as it covers the entire right side and deep. In addition, a massive bunker stands guard for a back-right flag. If the pin is up front, you'll have a better chance at par, otherwise, bogey or worse is a distinct possibility.

The most difficult hole on the Grant nine is the 495 yard, par-4 seventh. Sweeping from right to left, you'll need to favor a draw around the corner of the dogleg, thus avoiding the waste area from tee through the landing area. Even if you negotiate your tee ball, you're left with a long iron or fairway metal to you guessed it, a long, wide undulating green. Sand protects the right side and left, so you'll need to be spot on.

The eighth is another massive par four that features a 70-yard wide fairway, although it tightens the further you hit your tee ball. Another long club will be needed to reach the putting surface that has plenty of movement. Favor the right side, as the ball will move from right to left towards the hole.

Your closing hole on the Grant nine is another rugged par four that reaches 455 yards. From an elevated tee, everything is right in front of you, as it plays straight away to the green. As with most holes, sand is the protector of each layout. The landing area is generous, but the putting surface is very undulating and depending upon pin placement, a three-putt or dare I say worse could be an issue.

FINAL ANALYSIS: If you think that this course reminds you of Sand Barrens, you are surely mistaken. Although Fry designed the original course with his then partner Hurdzan, Fry and Straka completely reimaged this layout.

From tee to green and everything in between, Union League National is a completely different course when it was originally crafted in 1996. Fry and Straka have really elevated this track into an amazing venue.

As I always say, pick the correct tee markers to play from, as the nines can play anywhere from 4,600 yards to over 7,100 yards. The fairways are quite generous, but this is a second shot course, as you must negotiate the greens properly. Long in most cases will leave you with a difficult two-putt and short will engage your short game to the utmost difficulty.

The defense of the course is no doubt the putting surfaces. Most of the greens are extremely long with plenty of pin placement options. Not only that, your putting prowess will be tested at the highest level.

All three nines feature distinct qualities. The Meade nine boasts strategic bunkering with island-like features, which require accurate distance control. The Sherman holes are a classic risk-reward with massive sand features and severely contoured greens, while the Grant nine is the longest and most difficult, with five par-4s over 400 yards and plenty of elevation changes!

Union League National is defined by its massive and undulating greens, its enormous bunkers and beautiful and well-maintained waste areas. There is no doubt that this course is the flagship property in the portfolio of the Union League.



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EAGLE DUNES G.C. - Opened in 2003, Eagle Dunes is uniquely known for its picturesque elevation changes and the truest, well maintained putting surfaces in Central Florida. With gently rolling fairways, four sets of tees, and generous landing areas, this layout challenges the pros and regular joes. Eagles Dunes was designed by golf course architect Mike Dasher, member of the ASGCA, whose portfolio includes several recent award-winning course renovations in Central Florida. The 7024-yard, par-72 design was awarded four stars in Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play." EAGLEDUNES.COM

HIDDEN LAKES G.C. - Don't let this New Smyrna Beach par-69 golf course fool you. Hidden Lakes will surprise and delight you. The course has six par-3s, nine par-4s, and three par-5s to challenge every part of your game. Hidden Lakes winds through large pines and stately oaks along the pristine Turnbull Bay estuary and around beautiful lakes and winding creeks. Expert golfers will enjoy the back tees and have the chance to use every club in the bag. The wildlife loves to play here too including osprey, sandhill cranes, roseate spoonbills and bald eagles. Our practice facility has top quality turf and range balls including our short game area, the "Scoring Zone." We offer lessons and have four PGA and LPGA instructors on staff. HIDDENLAKESGOLFCLUB.COM



KISSIMMEE BAY C.C. - Kissimmee Bay was designed by renowned local architect Lloyd Clifton and opened in 1990. Cut out of a dense majestic forest with oak trees that date back over a century, Kissimmee Bay's true Florida charm are the stands of stunning cypress trees along its fairways. The par-71 gold tees tip out at 6,830 yards with a challenging slope rating of 132. Kissimmee Bay earned national acclaim when Golf Digest nominated it as one of America's "Best New Courses." For the true golfaficionado, the Langley Golf Museum, located inside the clubhouse, showcases a private collection of more than 1000 rare golf artifacts, vintage clubs and memorabilia. In 2024, Kissimmee Bay was honored as "Best Course in Osceola County." GOLFKISSIMMEEBAY.COM

MAYFAIR CC - Opened in 1927, this historic 18-hole municipal course was designed by preeminent golf course architect, Donald Ross. The medium-length par-72 layout stretches to 6,400 yards with a course rating of 68.7 and slope rating of 117. From 1955 to 1958, the Mayfair Country Club was the site of the “Mayfair Inn Open”, a golf tournament on the PGA Tour. Mayfair also hosted the “Sanford Open” on the LPGA Tour in 1959. A new 8,000 sq. Ft contemporary clubhouse opened in 2025. Along with its ‘Wall of Fame’ commemorating much of Mayfair’s history and sports legends who played there in the early days, the clubhouse has a full service restaurant, bar and fully-stocked pro shop. MAYFAIRCC.COM



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OTTER CREEK - Tight and tree-lined with Loblolly and Sand Pines, Otter Creek completed a major renovation in late 2023. All 18 greens have been rebuilt and increased to their original size featuring many undulation changes that allow for a fun and challenging golf experience every round. You’ll need your straight shots and a cool head on holes 13, 14, and 15, better known as “Otter’s Revenge.” The 6,264 yard par-72 Otter Creek has a course rating of 70.0 and a slope rating of 127 on Bermuda grass. Arrive early for your tee time and enjoy tuning up your game at our renovated practice area including a new 9000 sq. ft practice putting green and enlarged chipping green. GOLFATPLANTATION.COM

REMINGTON G.C. - Remington GC is a strikingly beautiful golf course with its abundant water features, generous landing areas and scenic landscaping. Graced by meticulously kept hardwood trees and graceful palms, the course combines a mix of classic and tropical flora. The four-star, award-winning par-72 course is home to prestigious tournaments year round. Designed by Clifton, Ezell and Clifton, Remington GC measures an impressive 7,111 yards and offers a classic park-like setting where golfers can unplug and truly enjoy a stress-free day on the links. GOLFREMINGTON.COM



STONEBROOK WEST G.C. - Stoneybrook West, is a beautiful blend of the natural landscape of West Orange County creating one of the top public championship courses in the greater Orlando area. The par-72 7100 yard course has dramatic rolling fairways touched by water on fourteen holes, encased by towering berms and strategic bunkering. Stoneybrook West also offers a complete practice area with two practice greens. After your round, stop in at SB PRIME Bar and Grill for a drink or a meal and enjoy panoramic views of the entire course. STONEBROOKWESTGOLFCLUB.COM





SWEETWATER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB - Nestled along Wekiva State Park and dotted with timeless elegance, Sweetwater Golf and Country Club provides a truly memorable experience with each visit. Meandering through the natural splendor of mature oaks and grassy terrain, our 18-hole Course is a 6,238-yard, par-72 championship layout with Tiff-Eagle greens designed to challenge every skill level. To that end, our Course boasts one of the longest par fives in the southeast a 611-yard, tree-lined hole that double doglegs around a beautiful lake. Recent capital improvements that include a stunning new clubhouse featuring the Tuscan Lounge and Grill, provide an upscale semi-private club atmosphere for members and non-members playing or dining at Sweetwater. SWEETWATERGOLF.COM

TWIN RIVERS G.C. - Nestled between the Big and Little Econ rivers, Twin Rivers Golf Club offers a scenic 18-hole par-72 championship golf course. We are proud of the consistently great conditions of our golf course. If you want a golf experience unimpeded by development, then Twin Rivers Golf Club is just for you. We have done our best to preserve our natural environment. Twin Rivers Golf Club has been recognized and awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Environmental Planning certificate by Audubon International. TWINRIVERSGOLF.COM



VICTORIA HILLS G.C. - Located in Deland, this Ron Garl-designed championship course has received numerous accolades and awards since its opening in 2002, including being ranked 41 in the Top 50 Public Courses you can play by Golf World (2010). Five sets of tee boxes create a challenging, yet fair test no matter your handicap. The course plays to 7,149 yards/142 slope from the tips with some formidable carries over waste areas, ravines, and water hazards. Greenside collection areas, swales and deep bunkers serve to protect the many large, sloping and raised putting surfaces. A good short game is key to scoring well. VICTORIAHILLSGOLF.COM

WEKIVA G.C. - Crafted out of a wooded setting and opened in 1972, Wekiva Golf Club features many doglegs bordered by large stands of trees and no parallel fairways. With its Champion Bermuda grass greens and straight-forward layout, Wekiva is an enjoyable experience for the recreational golfer as well as a low-handicapper. A semi-private club that welcomes outside play, this 18-hole, 6,850-yard, par-72 features beautiful oaks, mature pines and palms, rolling fairways, over 80 strategically placed bunkers and gentle mounding that highlights both the fairways and undulating greens. WEKIVAGC.COM



ZELLWOOD STATION G.C. - Zellwood Station offers players a special Florida golf experience - hilly terrain, great greens, and very memorable golf holes. Zellwood Station has two distinctive par-4's that are driveable (264 & 266 yards), offering great hopes for marking an eagle on your scorecard. The ninth, nicknamed "Train Wreck," will definitely get your attention before making the turn. Holes 12 thru 16 dogleg around a cavernous dry lake dubbed "Crater Junction." Hit this hazard and it's all over! The stout par-3, 17th hole, measures 243 yards exceeding any on the PGA TOUR! Fun and wickedly challenging, once you've played Zellwood Station, you'll want to return and conquer it all over again! ZELLWOODGOLF.COM

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HUNTSVILLE RECLAIMS WOMEN'S COAL SCUTTLE

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Huntsville Golf Club captured a weather-shortened 34th Women's Coal Scuttle Championship at Wyoming Valley Country Club (par 73, 5,107 yards) Thursday.

Scuttle medalist, said. "I X'd [No. 8], which was super unfortunate. It was a great shot that got a bad bounce." Dalessandro's drive on No. 8 hit the cart path and breached the out-of-bounds stakes.

Heavy rains created unplayable course conditions. GAP officials suspended play at 1:30 p.m. before shortening the event to nine holes. Huntsville posted 45 points to prevail. Barbara Pagana (16), Kasey Saraka (15), Danielle Dalessandro (14) and Bernadette McHugh (10) represented the team.

Wyoming Valley finished second with 44 points. Its own Molly Gorman earned individual medalist honors with 20 points.



Kasey Saraka, Bernadette McHugh, Danielle Dalessandro & Barb Pagana

Once the nine-hole results calibrated, Saraka turned out to be the Huntsville hero. Her birdie on No. 9 proved to be the difference. She executed a 30-yard pitch to 10 feet.

"Luckily, the greens were slower because they were punched recently, and the water [from the rain] helped," Saraka, 37, of Shavertown, Pa., said. "It was a grind. I started with a double bogey, then came back with a par, then another double. Then I seemed to settle in, string a few

holes together and get some points for the team."

Huntsville now holds eight Women's Coal Scuttle titles, its last coming in 2024.

"We've had a pretty stable group for six or seven years," McHugh, 63, of Forty Fort, Pa., said.

"This means everything," Pagana added. "We're excited."

The low three of four scores count toward the team total.

"I don't think we go out thinking it's going to end in nine holes, so you better put your best nine forward. We're trying to play every hole," Dalessandro, 31, of Philadelphia, Pa., said.

Kasey Saraka, Bernadette McHugh, Danielle Dalessandro & Barb Pagana

"I thought it really started pouring after No. 9," Pagana, 77, of Selinsgrove, Pa., said. "I was ahead [of Saraka, Dalessandro and McHugh] and thought, 'This isn't going to work.'"

Pagana cleared No. 13 (par 3, 121 yards) when the horn sounded. Dalessandro, playing in the day's last group, just completed No. 9 (par 5, 329 yards).

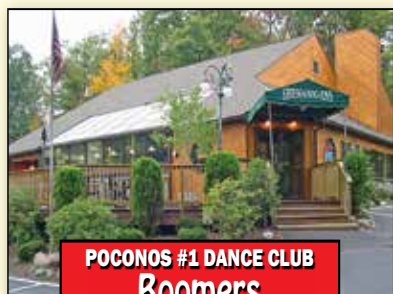
"I tried to get at least one point on every hole, and anything more than that was great. You don't need to be a hero in this format," Dalessandro, a four-time (2018, 2019, 2022, 2024) Women's Coal



Results	
Team	Score
Huntsville Golf Club	45
Barbara Pagana	16
Kasey Saraka	15
Danielle Dalessandro	14
Bernadette McHugh	10
Wyoming Valley Country Club	44
Molly Gorman	20
Linda Stubb	12
Deborah Mileski	12
Kathy Goeringer	8
Pocono Farms Country Club	42
Mariah Casey	19
Lyla Jones	15
Laurie Holland	8
Alexis Masker	6
Glen Oak Country Club	34
Marlene Smith	12
Linda Brodbeck	11
Nancy Luciani	11
Penny Zonneville	10
Elmhurst Country Club	33
Maura McDonough	14
Nicole Sennett	11
Jane Kilduff	8
Ruth Dettore	8

Fox Hill Country Club	31
Jordyn Ruane	17
Sue Carr	7
Sara Molitoris	7
Sheila Bonanno	5
Berwick Golf Club	29
Lindsay Johnson	11
Holly Udzella	10
Nikki Swisher	8
Darlene Kocher	8
Scranton Canoe Club	20
Delia Riggi	8
Rachel McGrath	7
Heather Bluhm	5
Ellen Bugno	4
Hollenback Golf Course	18
Diane Grega	6
Tina Seber	6
Sue Grohowski	6
Maggie Carson	1
Lords Valley Country Club	10
Elaine Weber	4
Gina McHale	4
Debbie Masucci	2
Florence Carroll	1

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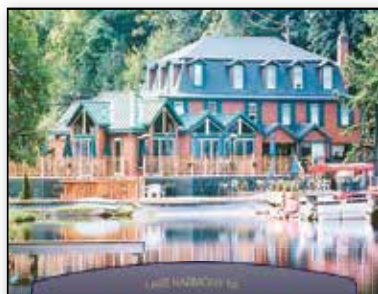
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2026 Pocono Professional Golf Series Event Calendar

PGA of America w Philadelphia Section w Updated April 12, 2026

Date	Event	Host Course	Course Contact	Host Professional
Tuesday, April 21	Pro-Pro	Glen Brook Golf Club (Spring Meeting)	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Tuesday, May 12	Pro-Am	The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort	570-424-4019	Nick Lussier
Tuesday, May 19	Pro-Am	Buck Hill Falls Golf Club	570-595-7730	Brian Fruehan
Wednesday, May 27	Pro-Am	Great Bear Golf Club	570-223-2000	Howie Van Buskirk
Wednesday, June 3	Pro-Am	Olde Homestead Golf Club	610-298-4653	Kevin Edwards
Tuesday, June 9	Pro-Am	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Tuesday, June 17	Pro-Am	Woodstone Country Club & Lodge	610-760-2777	Gregg Meyer
Wednesday, June 24	Pro-Am	The Country Club at Woodloch Springs	570-685-8102	John Pillar
Tuesday, June 30	Pro-Am	Southmoore Golf Center	610-837-7200	Jim Muschlitz
Thursday, July 9	Pro-Am	Wyoming Valley Country Club	570-825-9489	Pete Korba
Wednesday, July 22	Pro-Am	Elmhurst Golf & Country Club	570-842-7011	Mike Molino
Thursday, August 6	Pro-Am	Pocono Manor	570-839-7110	Greg Wall
Wednesday, August 26	Pro-Am	Green Pond Country Club	610-691-9453	John Kulhamer
Wednesday, September 2	Pro-Am	Pocono Farms Country Club	570-894-8441	Kyle Monahan
Wednesday, September 9	Pro-Am	Skytop Lodge	570-257-2114	Justin Alunni
Wednesday, September 16	Pro-Am	Lord's Valley Country Club	570-775-6013	Dave Yanovitch
Tuesday, September 22	Pro-Am	Scranton Canoe Club	570-378-9982	Spencer Lunger
Thursday, October 1	Pro-Am	Elkview Country Club	570-222-4555	Jared Cottell
Wednesday, October 14	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 (Pocono Mtn.)	---	---
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).

ERNIE ELS BRINGS MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP RESUME TO THE JEFFERSON LEHIGH VALLEY CLASSIC

Ernie Els brings major championship resume to the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic Presented by Sodexo

TOURNAMENT ALSO WELCOMES COMMITMENTS FROM INTERNATIONAL STAR COLIN MONTGOMERIE, SENIOR MAJOR WINNER JERRY KELLY, TWO-TIME CHARLES SCHWAB CUP CHAMPION JAY HAAS, AND STANDOUT ROOKIE RYAN ARMOUR

Music Happy Hour announced featuring Greater Philadelphia based high-energy cover band New Normal

ALLENTOWN, Pa. – Tournament officials announced today that the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic presented by Sodexo has accepted the entry of major championship winner and World Golf Hall of Fame member Ernie Els to compete in the inaugural edition of the official PGA Tour Champions event taking place next week, September 28 to October 4, 2026, at Lehigh Country Club in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Joining Els is international star Collin Montgomerie, senior major winner Jerry Kelly, two-time Charles Schwab Cup champion Jay Haas, and standout PGA Tour Champions rookie Ryan Armour.

The Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic also announced today the tournament's Music Happy Hour taking place on Saturday, October 3 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Wind Creek Tailgate Zone. This special event is open to all patrons with a Saturday or full-week ticket and features Greater Philadelphia based high-energy cover band New Normal.

Tickets for the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic can be purchased by visiting the tournament website (jeffersonclassic.com). The tournament is open to spectators from Thursday (October 1) to Sunday (October 4) and ticket prices start at \$15. Youth 17 and under receive free grounds access with a ticketed adult. For a complete listing of ticket options please [CLICK HERE](#).

Els, 56, made his PGA TOUR Champions debut in January of 2020 with a T2 finish at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. He grabbed his first senior victory two starts later at the Hoag Classic. A win at the 2020 SAS Championship gave Els two titles in his first 10 starts. The South African enjoyed a career PGA Tour Champions season in 2024 that included three wins, his first senior major (Kaulig Companies Championship) counted among them, and a second-place finish in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. He added another victory last season to bring his win total to seven and completed 2025 ranked No. 4 on the money list for his fifth consecutive top-10 finish in the race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Els has not finished outside the top 27 in over 16 starts this season, including seven inside the top 10 with two runner-up efforts, and sits at No. 8 in

the current Charles Schwab Cup standings. Els is the owner of 42 international victories and 19 PGA Tour titles, including four major championships, two U.S. Open wins in 1994 and 1997, along with two The Open Championship titles in 2002 and 2012. In 2015 the "Big Easy" was named the recipient of the Payne Stewart Award by the PGA TOUR in recognition of character, sportsmanship, and dedication to charitable giving.



Montgomerie, 63, has a PGA Tour Champions resume that includes seven wins, including three senior major titles, highlighted by two in 2014 alone, capturing his first career PGA Tour Champions victory at the Senior PGA Championship followed by a win at the U.S. Senior Open Championship. The Scottish native finished his sophomore campaign ranked No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Montgomerie defended his Senior PGA Championship title in 2015 and added another win in 2016. He finished those two seasons ranked third and second respectively in the Schwab Cup standings. Montgomerie's latest victory came in 2019 at the Invesco QQQ Championship and through nine starts this season he has recorded two top-25 finishes, including a third-place effort at the Regions Tradition. The 2013 World Golf Hall of Fame inductee is the owner of 42 international victories and was named European Tour Golfer of the Year on four occasions. Montgomerie was a member of eight consecutive European Ryder Cup teams (1991-2006), and captained Team Europe to a 2010 victory at Celtic Manor.

Haas, 72, began his PGA Tour Champions career with three starts in 2004 that included a third-place finish book ended by two runner-up efforts. Haas played 10 events the following year and recorded six top 10s with his first two PGA Tour Champions wins counted among them. Haas is the owner of 18 senior titles and five multi-win seasons. He captured four wins in back-to-back seasons in 2006 and 2007, winning consecutive Player of the Year honors and capturing his first Charles Schwab Cup trophy in 2006. The St. Louis native won

his second Senior PGA Championship in 2008 en route to his second Schwab Cup title. Haas's PGA Tour resume boasts nine wins, and the 2004 Payne Stewart Award recipient was a member of three U.S. Ryder Cup Teams and two U.S. Presidents Cup teams, in addition to captaining the U.S. to victory in South Korea in 2015.



Kelly, 59, received PGA Tour Champions Rookie of the Year honors for his debut season in 2017, which included 10 top-10 finishes, a second-place effort and two wins counted among them. Kelly's rookie season also included a record 16 consecutive rounds in the 60s, breaking Hale Irwin's 18-year-old mark, and a sixth-place finish in the Charles Schwab Cup rankings. In 2020, Kelly won his first senior major at the Bridgestone Senior Players Championship and carded his first ace on the PGA Tour Champions during the final round. He would capture the title a second time in 2022, and in 2023, the Wisconsin native became the oldest player on record to make the cut at The Players Championship at the age of 56. This season Kelly sits at No. 12 in the Schwab Cup rankings on the strength of three top-10 finishes, including his 14th career victory and third senior major at the ISPS HANDA Senior Open. On the PGA Tour, Kelly's resume contains three wins and a Presidents Cup appearance in 2003.



Armour, 50, has recorded six top-25 finishes over the first 13 starts of his PGA Tour Champions rookie season. His last four starts have produced three top-five results, highlighted by a third-place finish at Sanford International. The Ohio native's professional resume includes a PGA Tour victory at the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship and one Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2016 Panama Claro Championship.

The Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic presented by Sodexo is a Regular Season PGA Tour Champions event in 2026, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs^{3/4}a season-ending, three-tournament series that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in Phoenix, Arizona, used to determine the Tour's season-long champion. The 2026 PGA Tour Champions schedule features 28 events, with players competing for more than \$70 million in total prize money, the highest in PGA Tour Champions' 46-season history.

All three rounds of the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic will be televised on GOLF Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA Tour Champions. Internationally, PGA Tour Champions coverage is available in more than 170 countries and territories via 22 media partners.

Tournament proceeds will benefit local charities in Northeastern Pennsylvania and throughout the greater Philadelphia and Lehigh Valley regions, including the primary beneficiaries of the inaugural tournament, Eagles Autism Foundation, Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation, and Valley Youth House.



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U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP

by Pete Kowalski

BETHLEHEM, Pa. – Noah Maclauchlan, the first player to claim the newly named Tiger Woods Trophy as the winner of the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, earned his title by displaying all the grit and tenacity of the nine-time USGA champion in his time of dominance.

"I don't really have words right now. It's pretty surreal," said Maclauchlan, 18 of Moseley, Va. "It's pretty unbelievable to call myself a U.S. Junior champion. To have my name next to all the legends that have won this including Tiger's and so many more is so special."

He faced co-medalist and the top-ranked junior player in the world in the final, the first-ever championship match between lefties. With the win, Maclauchlan joined Brian Harman (2003) and Cory Whitsett (2007) as the third southpaw to win the Junior Amateur.

Facing long odds in the final match of this national championship against Russell, who is a member of the 2026 USA Walker Cup team and a two-time AJGA Player of the Year, Maclauchlan threw a full assault of precision golf at his opponent en route to a convincing 6-and-5 victory at prestigious Saucon Valley Country Club's Old Course.

The Liberty University incoming freshman started strong in the morning 18 and was 3 up through 10 holes before Russell, 17, of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., stormed back with four wins in the next five holes to take a 1-up lead through 15. Maclauchlan promptly won the 16th and 17th to take a 1-up lead at the lunch break.

Maclauchlan, who entered the week as the World Amateur Golf Rankings No. 2,047 player, was a first alternate and gained a spot in the field when Rawlin Sutter won Alabama Junior in early July.

Russell, who drew sizeable crowds for his matches, buzzed through the first five matches en route to facing Maclaughlan. His driving, sharp iron play and deft touch around the greens were evident most particularly in his semifinal round win over Tyler Mawhinney, 18, of Fleming Island, Fla., with two eagles (one a pitch-in from off the green on the 13th hole) and five birdies for a 2-and-1 win over his U.S. National Development teammate.

Maclauchlan, meanwhile, maintained a steadiness and confidence that only grew the more he played the Old Course. En route to the final, he defeated Cooper Moore of New Zealand and the No. 1 seed from match play Brayden Jones of Seal Beach, Calif., in the Round of 16.

"After every match, I was like, 'we're getting closer. I'm starting to figure out this golf course now'," he said. "I played it for a week straight. So it sounds silly to say, but I knew the ins and outs. As the matches went on, I felt confidence that no matter what situation, we can go out there and win. In match play, anything can happen at any time. It doesn't matter how much you're up. It doesn't matter how much you're down. Anything can happen. So I just kind of had

that mindset and I would let nothing bother me, and that was my key to success this week."

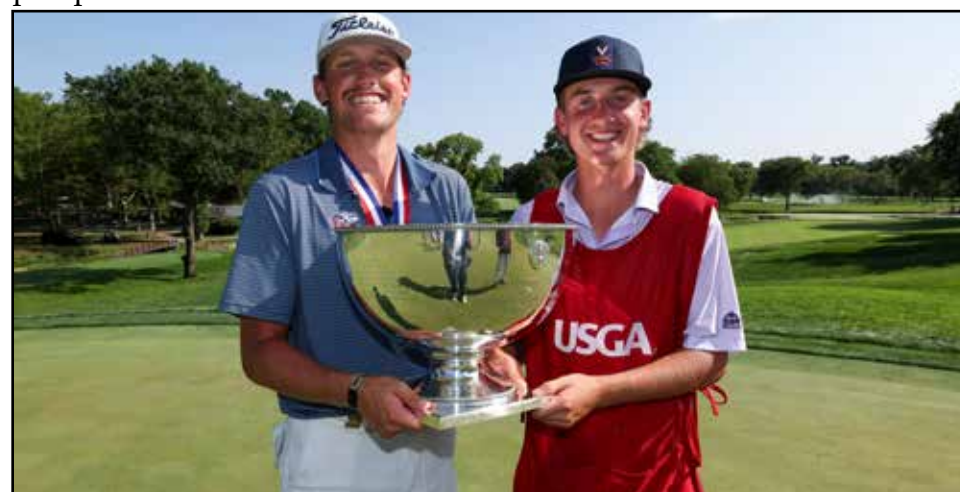
Playing in his second U.S. Junior Amateur – he did not make the cut for match play in 2026 – Maclauchlan has earned a spot in the 2027 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links as well as the U.S. Amateur at Merion Golf Club this month.

In the final match, Russell, who made cut at the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills and is a Florida State commit, did not find fairways as easily as he had in the previous rounds.

"It was a good match there the first 18, and kind of got my teeth kicked in there early and just kind of came back out swinging," he said. "I kind of gave it my all there towards the end, and in the second 18 I just really couldn't get anything going. I was thinking that I was going to be able to hit my driver a little better than I did in the morning and that just wasn't the case. I just didn't give myself that many chances."

Playing the best of his peers did not ruffle Maclauchlan, who depended on his younger brother, Liam, who caddied for him after missing the cut for match play. The younger Maclauchlan is a 2027 University of Virginia verbal commit. Their close relationship helped when the lead was lost in the final against Russell.

"My brother just told me to remain calm, take deep breaths, slow down the walk a little bit, and go back into your process" he said. The new holder of the Tiger Woods Trophy also had a mature perspective of what he faced in the last match.



“I knew what I was going up against,” Maclauchlan said. “I knew he wasn't just going to give it to me. I was going to go out to earn it and stuff. I told my brother that if I played really well and I felt confident, we can win if we got off to a fast start. The other matches I had won got off to fast starts on the front nine, and I did the same thing versus Miles.

“So, I had the same positive vibes going into the match, and then I said the same thing, pedal down going into the second 18. Then we had a great start again. So, I think getting the momentum started early, made me have confidence in my game and have confidence that I can win.”

The two players from Pennsylvania who advanced to match play, Nico Ward, of Coraopolis and Chase Yenser, of Douglassville, both won their first-round matches. Ward lost to Mawhinney and Yenser

lost to co-medalist Sohan Patel of Weston, Fla, in the ensuing Round of 32. Charlie Woods, the son of 9-time USGA champion Tiger Woods, was in the 19 players for 17 spots playoff for match play but did not advance.



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ENHANCING ITS LEGACY, MERION TO HOST RECORD 20TH USGA CHAMPIONSHIP

By Pete Kowalski



Merion Hole #16

ARDMORE, Pa. – Since 1904, Merion Golf Club has been hosting USGA Championships and number 20 arrives in August.

Its tapestry of events, winners and special moments will be enriched again when the 126th U.S. Amateur begins on August 10 and 11 with stroke play at Merion's East Course and Philadelphia Country Club's Spring Mill Course. The low 64 scorers, sometimes a playoff is needed, advance to match play. Six rounds of match play commence at Merion on August 12 and conclude with a 36-hole final match on August 16 for the hardware – the Havemeyer Trophy and the newly established Tiger Woods medal.

No other club or facility in the nation has served the role of USGA host site more than Merion, but Oakmont Country Club is close with 18.

To put the 19 past championships at Merion in perspective the club's general chair for the Amateur Bill Lynch said: "This will be our 13th consecutive decade hosting a USGA championship."

Scott Nye, who began his tenure at Merion as the head golf professional in 2000 and is now the club's director of championships explained the 130-plus year relationship with the nation's governing body. The club just wants to give back to the game.

"It's in our DNA," Nye said. "It's one of the things that we talk about when you are being proposed for membership. But this rich pedigree that we have with the USGA has taken a long time to build and it's taken a mindset that this is what we do and this is who we ride with – the USGA."

19 USGA Championships at Merion Golf Club (Winner)

1904 U.S. Women's Amateur (Georgianna Bishop)
 1909 U.S. Women's Amateur (Dorothy Campbell)
 1916 U.S. Amateur (Chick Evans)
 1924 U.S. Amateur (Bob Jones)
 1926 U.S. Women's Amateur (Helen Stetson)
 1930 U.S. Amateur (Bob Jones)
 1934 U.S. Open (Olin Dutra)
 1949 U.S. Women's Amateur (Dorothy Porter)
 1950 U.S. Open (Ben Hogan)
 1954 Curtis Cup (USA)
 1960 World Amateur Team Championship (USA)
 1966 U.S. Amateur (Gary Cowan)
 1971 U.S. Open (Lee Trevino)
 1981 U.S. Open (David Graham)
 1989 U.S. Amateur (Chris Patton)
 1998 U.S. Girls' Junior (Leigh Anne Hardin)
 2005 U.S. Amateur (Edoardo Molinari)
 2009 Walker Cup (USA)
 2013 U.S. Open (Justin Rose)
 2022 Curtis Cup (USA)

5 Future USGA Championships at Merion Golf Club

2030 U.S. Open
 2034 U.S. Women's Open
 2040 U.S. Open
 2046 U.S. Women's Open
 2050 U.S. Open

4 USGA Championships at Philadelphia Country Club (Winner)

1899 U.S. Women's Amateur (Ruth Underhill)
 1939 U.S. Open (Byron Nelson)
 1949 U.S. Girls' Junior (Marlene Bauer)
 2003 U.S. Women's Amateur (Virada Nirapathpongporn)

The announcement of five future USGA championships further solidifies the connection between Merion and the USGA, with appropriate nods to the 1930 U.S. Amateur when Bob Jones completed the Grand Slam and the 1950 U.S. Open when Ben Hogan's immortalized 1-iron to the 18th hole advanced him to a playoff that would bring victory with U.S. Opens in 2030, 2040 and 2050.

"It shows the legacy of the USGA and Merion working together to do this but 100 years from

now it's going to be that much more meaningful that history was made here in 1930 and 2030 and in 1950 and 2050," Nye said.

The seventh U.S. Amateur at Merion will again highlight the sublime architecture of Hugh Wilson on the East Course that opened in 1912. Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner did renovations and restorations in 2014. The Spring Mill Course at Philadelphia Country Club was designed by William Flynn and opened in 1927.

At the last U.S. Amateur at Merion in 2005, Italy's Edoardo Molinari defeated Dillon Dougherty, 4 and 3, to win the Havemeyer Trophy needing only 18 putts through the matches final 15 holes.

Molinari required a miraculous hole-out from a green side bunker in this final hole of stroke play to advance to a 19 players-for-17 spots playoff. He made two pars and advanced to match play.

According to the USGA's Ben Kimball, the Senior Director of Championships, both courses will be par 70s with the East Course at 6,921 yards and Spring Mill Course at 7,201 yards.

"On paper that's a shorter golf course by today's standards and every year somebody looks at the yardage on paper and says that doesn't seem very long," Kimball said of Merion. "I've yet to hear anybody say that walking off their 18th green after their Rd 1 of stroke play. Merion will give its very best to all 312 players."

With rough at four inches and green speeds in the high 12s on the Stimpmeter, the USGA intends to identify the best player but also strives to assure that playing conditions are consistent throughout the day.

"These golf courses don't beat people up with brute force," Kimball said. "They beat people up one decision at a time."

By Sunday of championship week, the two best survivor/shot makers will vie for the title because they've been prudent about where not to hit the ball, Kimball said.

"The two players who are still standing on Sunday won't necessarily have hit the most spectacular shots, they will simply hit the fewest poor ones," he said. "I've always said that patience is just as valuable as power."

Hunter Stetson, 20, of Newtown Square, who qualified for the championship by winning the Delaware Amateur, advanced to the round of 16 at the 2023 U.S. Junior Amateur and as a North Carolina State junior, he's learned to play smart golf.

"You look at the scorecard, and you think it's short and people are going to go low," Stetson said of Merion. "But you get out here and realize that this rough is tough, these greens are hard and at the end of the day whoever hits the most fairways and the most greens is going to give themselves the best opportunity."

Merion member and GAP 2025 Player of the Year Dru Nicholas,

23, of Egg Harbor Township, N.J. is a former player at Drexel and offered an insider perspective on Merion.

Nicholas, who won the 2025 and 206 Philadelphia Open and the 2025 Philadelphia Amateur, broke the course down into six-hole segments – 1 through 6, 7 through 13 and 14 through 18, saying that 7-13 is the easiest stretch for scoring and that "everyone knows about" 14-18.

"I felt the pressure to get into the tournament but now that I'm in I feel a huge sigh of relief," said Nicholas, who has chosen to remain an amateur. "It is a very big event, way bigger than anything we see in the region. It is the number one amateur golf tournament in the world. I had a lot of pressure to get in but now that I am here I just look forward to being able to play in a U.S. Am at my home club."

After winning at Merion, the champion earns exemptions into next year's U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, the Open Championship, conducted by The R&A, at the Old Course at St Andrews and a likely invitation to the Masters.

Kimball noted that some players will win Majors, some will play in Walker Cup, Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup Matches and some might just become "household names."

"The fun part for us is that we just don't which one it is yet. That's what makes the U.S. Amateur so special."

Another special element at the U.S. Amateur is that spectators can walk the fairways with the players with greens and tees usually roped off and tickets are on sale now.



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AARON RAI WINS PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT ARONIMINK

By Pete Kowalski

NEWTOWN SQUARE – As he sat next to the Wanamaker Trophy, emblematic of his victory at the 108th PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, Aaron Rai told his story.

Known for using two golf gloves and club covers to protect his irons, a habit that began as he grew up in the game, Rai earned his title through diligence to make himself better. Two-time Major winner Xander Schauffele noted that in his comments to the media.

“It’s extremely affirming, and that’s very kind of Xander to say,” Rai said in reaction to the comments. “There are a lot of guys who work extremely hard. The level on the PGA TOUR is so strong, let alone in a major championship. So I think that’s a prerequisite of what is just required to try and compete out here.

“But it’s very,, very reaffirming to know the things that we’re doing are working and leading to continued development within the game. So, hopefully I can just continue to move along a pretty similar path moving forward.”

Rai’s daily scores dropped each day – 70, 69, 67 and 65 – for a 9-under-par total of 271, three strokes better than Jon Rahm and Alex Smalley. Justin Thomas, Ludvig Aberg and Matti Schmidt tied for fourth at -5.

A trio of Major winners Cam Smith, Rory McIlroy and Xander Schauffele tied for seventh at 4 under, while Kurt Kitayama, Chris Gotterup, Justin Rose and Patrick Reed rounded out the top 10 at 3 under.

Using a family-instilled work ethic that came from his parents and his sister, Rai follows that mantra of hard work that would likely have made Ben “The Secret Is In The Dirt” Hogan proud “I think a lot of that is -- was from my upbringing,” Rai said. “My dad was with me, as I said, everyday practice-wise, and he really instilled the importance of work and dedication and trying to consistently build just good, strong habits around the game.

“My mom worked extremely hard away from golf. Her jobs, she worked a couple of jobs at one time, at a point in time, and she did a lot of work around the house. My sister took a massive role as well at a young age. She had a job from the age of 14, 15. So there was a lot of consistent messaging of hard work, and that was generally

the environment that was there at the house. And that was at the golf course as well. So I think it’s been something I’ve just grown up with, and I guess as I’ve got older, something that I’ve really valued and tried to continue to move forward with.”

One of the PGA Tour’s most liked and humble players, Rai played the last 10 holes in 6-under par, joining Cameron Smith (6 under at the 2022 Open Championship) and Jack Nicklaus (7 under at the 1986

Masters) as the last three to notch that feat.

The biggest shot was a long, curling putt for birdie on the 17th that seemed improbable to make.

His reaction to the putt and to his play down the stretch was typical of his demeanor, calm and collected.

“I think firstly the golf course really demands it,” he said. “It was a true major championship setup in terms of how difficult it was, how penalizing it was, but it also rewarded you for good play.

“So I think the nature of the course and the nature of the shots that are required over the last few holes just require a lot of attention and a lot of focus. Yeah, that putt on 17 was incredible. I was just trying to focus on speed and get it close. It started to look really good line-wise with probably about 15 feet to go. Slowed up really nicely as well. So it just kind of conspired all together for that ball to go in the hole. But an incredible putt and a real bonus to see that one go in.”

In Sunday’s final round, Rai was 1-over though eight holes on Sunday. His round kickstarted with a 40-foot putt for eagle on the par-5 ninth to complete nine holes in 1-under 34. Prior to PGA win, he had three wins on the DP World Tour, and his lone PGA Tour win was at the 2024 Wyndham Championship.



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Heritage Golf Group Is Transforming The Golf World One Step at a Time

by Tony Leodora

Despite the sport's squeaky-clean image, there are a few dirty words in the golf world ... very dirty words.

And we are not talking about the ones uttered by a golfer after missing a two-foot putt that results in the loss of a match to a heated rival.

We are referring to a larger, more universal framework. Dirty words, dirty terms, dirty phrases that affect the entire golf community.

Some examples:

1. Crabgrass – the mere mention of it makes a superintendent's face turn into a scowl.
2. Shank – most golfers resist from even mentioning the term for fear of the immediate destruction of their chipping game.
3. Slipped disc – is there a golfer alive who hasn't gone through some sort of back ailment? The bad back is as much a part of the avid golfer's makeup as loud shirts.
4. Cart Path Only – a necessary evil whenever rainy weather makes the fairways too wet for cart traffic. But, let's face it, nobody enjoys playing under those conditions.
5. Sandbagger – the handicap system was invented to help level the playing field, so that golfers of all skill levels could enjoy competition. But working that system to the advantage of a less-than-honest player is worse than cheating on your income tax return ... far worse.

There is one more dastardly term that plagues the golf world – Management Company.

Over the years there are a number of golf management companies that have earned a terrible reputation throughout the industry. They have drained money from the courses they represented. They allowed the conditions at many courses to deteriorate badly. They have left a trail of debt and litigation. No need to mention some of the names. If they were involved at your club, you know them.

Almost every avid golfer is aware of the sad tale of a golf course or private club that was decimated by bad management companies. Especially, in the private sector, a lot of resentment toward management companies was born out of the mere fact that the members had to turn over the running of their beloved club to a group of outsiders.

Sour grapes.

Thankfully, that is not the case with all management companies. There are some that have managed to keep ailing clubs afloat ... and even improved everything about them.

A prime example in this bustling post-Covid era of golf is the Heritage Golf Group. This management company is different from many of the others.

For one thing, Heritage will not take over the management of a club unless it also takes over ownership. An invested owner always has proven to be a win-win situation for company and club.

By strict definition, Heritage Golf Group is not really a management company. They are owner/operators. But there can be no mistake that the relatively new company has been very busy "transforming the golf industry" ... as their website claims.

The company was born during the depths of the Covid pandemic, when a group from the former Club Corp golf management company (now Invited Clubs) banded together and purchased Heritage Golf Group, a small existing company that owned and managed six properties.

Fast forward to August of 2026 and the Heritage Golf Group now has exploded to an impressive 48 properties ... and continues to grow.

"Our success is based on the fact that we own every one of our properties," explains Luke Beardmore, the Senior Vice President of Agronomy for Heritage. "We have skin in the game. We are thoroughly invested in improving each property we acquire, not just making money from them."

Beardmore ought to know. He is the one who oversees the transformation of each new acquisition – from minor improvements to total renovations. He works with the superintendent, golf professional and general manager, deciding whether the course needs a bit of fine-tuning or is in need of a total renovation. The Heritage track record over the last five years is that they do whatever is necessary to improve each property.

And, in some cases, the amount of work necessary has been a monumental task.



Heritage Cheval Clubhouse

While each of the new Heritage acquisitions has its own story of transformation, three particular examples are prime illustrations of how greatly the landscape can change at a property.

Venetian Golf Club

Venice, Florida

This private club, near Florida's Gulf Coast had a checkered history ever since it opened in 2004. Designed by little-known architect Chip Powell, it was part of a large housing development and recreation community.

After years of mis-management and neglect, plus the economic downturn of 2008-2010, membership numbers had declined to the point where it could barely claim semi-private status. And the condition of the course had declined to deplorable levels. Weeds everywhere. Goose Grass on the greens and fringe areas. Bare spots on the fairways and tees.

Finally, the homeowners association gave in to the frustration of owning the course and dealing with a less than reputable management company. Venetian GC was sold to Heritage Golf Group in February of 2022. It was one of the first additions to the original group of six courses owned by the company.

Along with new ownership came a lot of promises.

The wary membership soon discovered that the promises were becoming reality.

On the day of settlement, it looked like an invasion was taking place in the parking lot – between the impressive amount of manpower and equipment that was poised for action.

Under the direction of then-superintendent Kelby Langston, a major bunker renovation immediately was in the works. Using a popular reconstruction technique known as the "Better Billy Bunker System", every bunker on the course was re-built.

For the next two years, a patchwork effort at resurrecting the golf course took place under Langston and a new superintendent. Finally, in 2025, Keith Welter arrived on the scene. He had been the golf course superintendent at nearby Boca Royale GC in Englewood, FL and oversaw a renovation at that course. Before that he was the superintendent at Hartefeld National GC, a premier private club about 30 miles west of Philadelphia, PA.

Welter immediately undertook the massive project of completing the renovation of Venetian. Improving the irrigation system, leveling and re-sodding many tees and fighting the weed problem at every level were big tasks.

But the major initiative involved re-sodding much of the golf course. The first phase included installation of 145,000 square feet of sod. A second phase, adding 25,000 square feet of additional sod followed.

More important, to ensure the health and successful rooting of the new sod, Welter put down a layer of "Command" a new product developed by the agronomy experts in Tifton, GA. It is a combination of mulch and fertilizer that improves the soil underneath and encourages permanent growth of the sod.

The end result is the best overall conditions that have been seen at Venetian in more than 10 years.

"We appreciate the patience and understanding of the members over the summer months as we complete these significant course improvements," said Welter. "We are confident the work being done now will provide lasting benefits and create better playing conditions in the future."

And that is all that most members ask.

The Club at Cheval

Lutz, Florida

When talking about old golf courses in Florida, there are very few to mention, when compared to other states around the country. A course built in 1986 easily lands in the category of "older" Florida courses.

That is the story behind The Club at Cheval, in the town of Lutz, about 20 miles north and east of Tampa.

It was built by Steve Smyers, who gained recognition for his designs at Old Memorial in Tampa and Southern Dunes in Haines City, about 25 miles west of Orlando.

Cheval opened as an elite private club and housing community. It operated for many years with that status but time and a couple of recessions took its toll. The club slid into semi-private status and was in bad need of a facelift when the Heritage Golf Group bought the property in April of 2025.

Almost immediately the course was closed for a major renovation project. At the end of 2025 it reopened to rave reviews.

"We looked at every aspect of the golf course and clubhouse and did a multi-million dollar renovation," explained Beardmore, once again overseeing the work.



Heritage Cheval Hole

- A total restoration and re-grassing of the greens, including bringing them back to their original size.
 - Re-building all of the bunkers and improving drainage.
- Tee Box Expansion, allowing for more options and enhanced playability.
- The Practice Facility was re-designed and the driving range was laser-leveled, offering an improved practice experience.
 - The fairways were aerified, top-dressed, fertilized and treated with herbicides and pesticides. The result is an excellent playing surface.

Most grateful for all the improvements at Cheval is Chris Jones, the Director of Golf. He persevered through the shut down but has hosted many happy members ever since.

"The bones of the golf course were really good. You could see it had potential," explains Jones. "It just needed a facelift."

The renovation was fantastic. The result is night and day."

Of course, the most important review always comes from the members. Numbers were way down when the course was acquired by Heritage.

"The community, as a whole is thrilled," reports Jones. "Members who had been here for years but dropped out have come back. A lot of new members from the community have joined. There's a whole new, vibrant energy at Cheval."

Stone Harbor Golf Club Cape May Court House, NJ



Stone Harbor #7

When Stone Harbor Golf Club opened in 1988, the project was greeted with a huge amount of fanfare. Owner Gordon Shaffner had launched an effort to create one of the most elite and challenging golf courses in the golf-rich state of New Jersey.

To do this, he hired Desmond Muirhead, one of the most controversial golf architects ever in America. Armed with his mandate, Muirhead proceeded to create layout that certainly was ultimately challenging, but also so bizarre that it was never accepted by the golf community.

Muirhead created a number of quirky greens, including two that were shaped like the state of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He added a series of bunkers, based on Greek mythology, that were shaped like an axe or sharks' mouths.

Wood had to be used to edge the greens and bunkers in order to maintain the designed shapes. Balls often would ricochet off the wood and find water hazards, which are plentiful throughout the golf course.

To Shaffner's credit, he began a piecemeal process of trying to soften

the course in the years after it opened. The effort was minimal, compared to the mammoth process begun by the Heritage Group, after buying the property in 2023.

First the front nine was closed and work began on the irrigation system and leveling and lowering many of the tee boxes. A large number of trees were removed. The condition of the fairways and greens was improved.

At this point, new general manager Dan Hamil was brought onboard to oversee the project.

"I came on board halfway through the renovation," explains Hamil. "I only heard the many stories of Stone Harbor's problems in the past. Now I am seeing the results of all the improvements."

After many years of struggles with membership numbers, the club has now increased to 950 golf members and 250-300 social members, according to Hamil. Turning it around has been a monumental task.

"The first obstacle was the operational challenge of keeping the club going during the renovations," says Hamil. "Members could only play one of the nines and they had to play it twice if they wanted to play 18 holes."

"Then, on the day before our Member-Guest Tournament in 2024, our cart barn burned to the ground. We had to rebuild it but it now stands as an enhancement to the entire property."

As of the summer of 2026, Stone Harbor now is approaching its coveted elite private club status.

"The condition of the golf course has improved significantly," concludes Hamil. "The course was softened significantly, although there is a lot of water, so it still presents quite a challenge. I would say that the overall experience, from holes 1 through 18 is outstanding. It is now a much more playable course."

Now, when talking about the ultimate private courses in South Jersey, Stone Harbor Golf Club must be mentioned alongside the likes of Galloway National, Atlantic City Country Club and Union League National.

The Heritage Golf Group Portfolio

Part of the success of the Heritage Golf Group is the company mantra that allows members of one course to enjoy playing privileges at all of the other courses, using the Heritage Plus membership status.

That concept was borrowed from the old Club Corp model – not surprising since the founders of the new group came from that background.

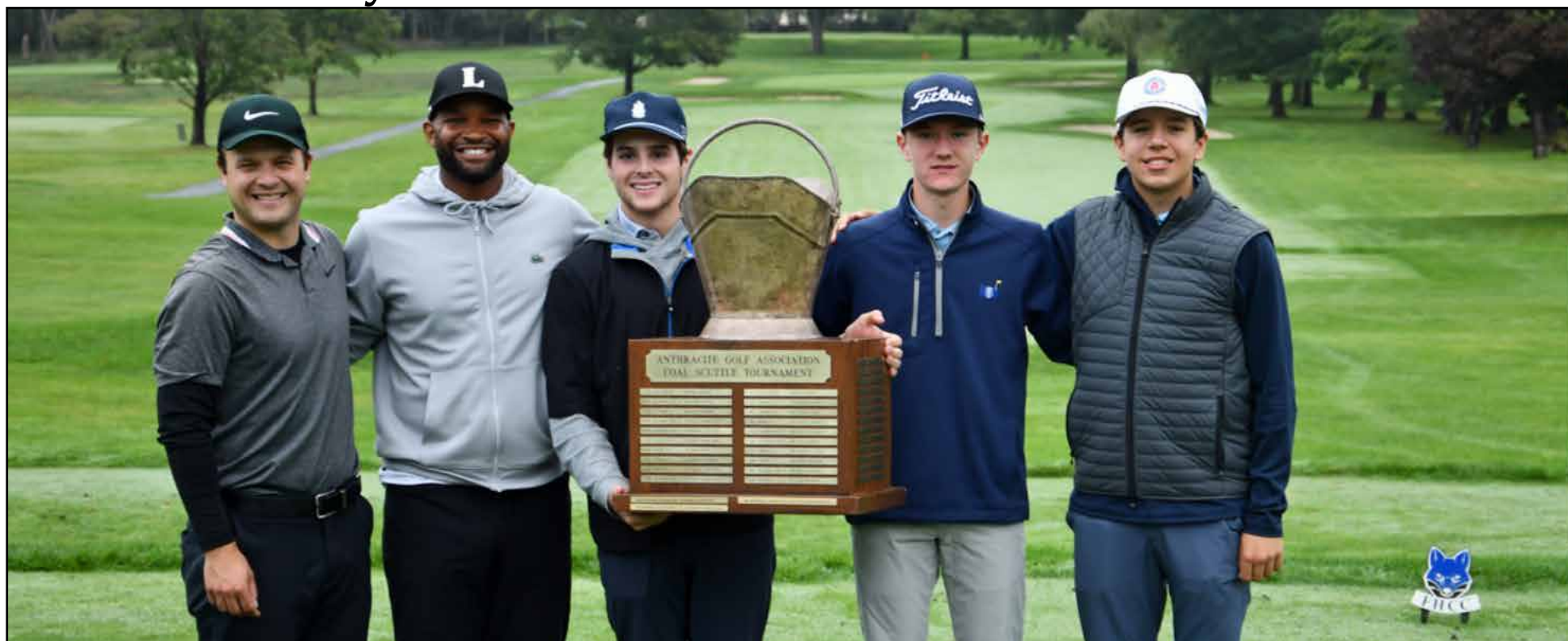
The other part of the success has been the rapid growth, now incorporating 48 different courses in 14 states. It is a network of quality golf, built on a platform of consistent improvement.

No, the Heritage Golf Group is not the typical management company. Ownership of each property makes the difference. But the company has restored the faith of members, when it comes time to hand over the operation of their course to an outside party.



Sunset at Venetian CC in Venice, FL

Country Club of Scranton wins Men's Coal Scuttle



EXETER, Pa. — The 76th Men's Coal Scuttle Championship turned into survival of the feistiest.

Persistent rains and winds, remnants of a weekend nor'easter, tormented even the heartiest of golf souls. Such conditions required a sound mind at address, a sound body at execution and a sound temperament at result.

Country Club of Scranton, 21 years removed from its last Men's Coal Scuttle title, rose above the rain — and the rest of the field — Sunday at Fox Hill Country Club (par 71, 6,673 yards). It posted a 39-over-par 611 to triumph by three strokes over Berwick Golf Club.

Cade Kelleher (147), Stephon Draper (154), Brendan Bell (155), Michael Thomas (155) and Sebastian Meyer (163) represented the Country Club of Scranton team.

David Mecca, who calls Scranton home and competed as a past individual champion (2017, 2023), earned medalist honors with a 5-under-par 138.

Country Club of Scranton previously won in 1999, 2000-02 and 2005. David Mecca

"This feels new," Draper, 39, of Scranton, Pa., said. "The last time we won, half our team wasn't even born yet. And I've only been a member of the club for 10 years."

A reference to Scranton's impactful youth movement. Bell is a junior at Scranton Preparatory School, Meyer a junior at Abington Heights

High School. Kelleher is a sophomore at the University of Scranton.

Country Club of Scranton determines its Coal Scuttle team based on that year's club championship results. Clearly the kids can play.

They, like their elder statesman in Draper and Thomas, 31, can handle Mother Nature's fury as well. Country Club of Scranton held a two-stroke advantage over Huntsville Golf Club entering the final round.

"Play aggressively disciplined" became the team mindset.

"Playing at Scranton, you get all types of bad conditions more than you would want," Draper said. "We're definitely seasoned to all elements of golf up in the mountain. This feels like a typical day."

And an atypical result for a club that's spent the last two decades Scuttle searching. The leaderboard fluctuated as the rain flew sideways at Fox Hill, with Berwick and Huntsville in front for a portion. But the Country Club of Scranton, led by Kelleher, literally held water.

Kelleher birdied Nos. 12 (par 5, 494 yards), 14 (par 5, 527 yards) and 16 (par 4, 370 yards) to put any doubt to rest. He knocked a wedge 50 yards to six feet on No. 12. Kelleher reached the 14th green in two with a hybrid from 250 yards. He logged a pair of putts for a 4. On No. 16, playing a tad downwind, Kelleher lifted a wedge 60 yards to three feet for birdie.

Draper closed with a 2-over-par 73 Sunday, capped by an 18-inch

putt for birdie on No. 18 (par 4, 379 yards). He beams with pride over the club’s competitive future. The likes of Bell and Meyer make up an internal youth movement that is an external problem for the Scuttle faithful.

“It won’t be two decades again,” Draper said.

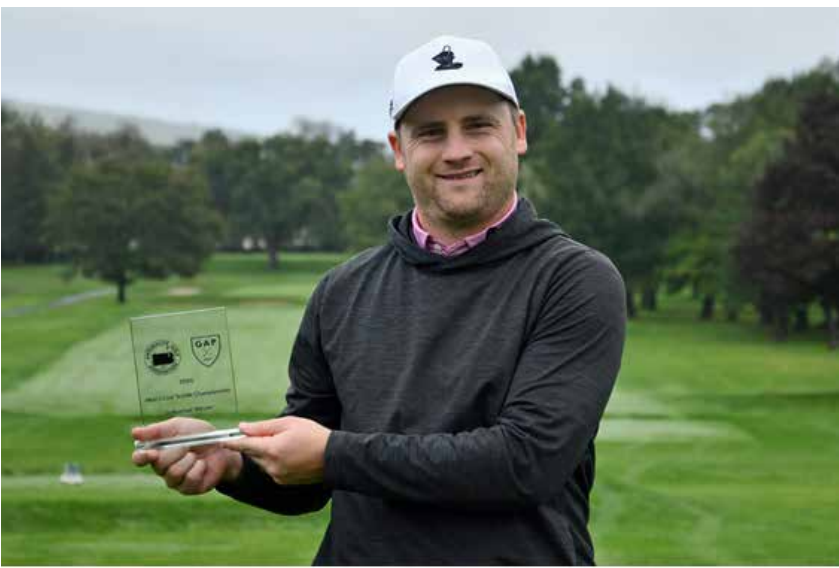
Temper the celebration, however. Bell and Meyer have school in the morning.

“I have accounting class at noon,” Kelleher, 19, of Clarks Summit, Pa., added.

By virtue of its victory, Country Club of Scranton will host the 77th Men’s Coal Scuttle Championship in 2027.

The Men’s Coal Scuttle Championship, open to all GAP Member Clubs, is a 36-hole tournament. The low four of five scores count toward the team total.

Established in conjunction with the Anthracite Golf Association’s founding in 1951, the Men’s Coal Scuttle Championship is a cornerstone event in which clubs compete against one another to determine regional supremacy. The inscription on the trophy reads as follows:



David Mecca

Once a year and never more
It is writ’ in ancient lore
Four golfing champs shall gather round
And in this scuttle shall be found
Nectar rare to cost them nil
Save the art to drink their fill
The losers must, without rebuttal,

Results	
Team	RD1-RD2-Total
Country Club of Scranton	312-299-611
Cade Kelleher	74-73-147
Stephon Draper	81-73-154
Brendan Bell	79-76-155
Michael Thomas	78-77-155
Sebastian Meyer	86-77-163
Berwick Golf Club	316-298-614
Grant Gronka	75-73-148
Corey Bierly	77-73-150
Joe Kelchner	83-74-157
Zach Eyer	81-79-160
Phil Geiser	93-78-171
Huntsville Golf Club	314-303-617
Alex Anderson	76-72-148
Dom Castrignano	76-74-150
John Thompson	79-80-159
Jimmy Tressler	83-77-160
Jason Barkley	85-84-169

Glen Oak Country Club	321-305-626
Jamie Egan	78-72-150
Eric Montella	77-77-154
Robert Crofton	85-73-158
Andrew Maddock	83-83-166
Thomas Keegan	83-85-168
Fox Hill Country Club	332-295-627
Tyler McGarry	76-76-152
A.J. Donatoni	87-69-156
Glenn Iversen	89-72-161
Ryan Tracy	85-78-163
Tyler Dougherty	84-85-169
Glenmaura National Golf Club	321-309-630
Vincent Scarpetta, III	80-75-155
Eric Williams	79-76-155
Eamon Evans	79-77-156
Christopher Demarco	83-86-169
Tak Yoo	92-81-173
Wyoming Valley Country Club	328-311-639
Frank Schiel, Jr.	80-76-156
Tom Biscotti	78-79-157
John Olszewski	83-76-159
Scott Majikes	87-80-167
Joseph Weiscarger	87-83-170
Sean Pittack	79-81-160
David Mecca, Past Individual Champion	71-67-138



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



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Revolutionizing Golf Lessons: The PYGO Approach

by Scotty McAlarney

W.G.T.F./I.P.G.A. 5x-Top 100 Instructor

In Olyphant, Pennsylvania, a revolution in golf lessons and player development is underway. As Director of Golf at Scott Greens Golf Club with over thirty-plus years of experience teaching the game, my focus goes beyond swing mechanics but consists of a holistic approach that emphasizes fitness as a crucial component of player development. This passion for fitness and golf has given birth to PYGO and the HZ Golf Swing Trainer – both of which I have created to take golf instruction to the next level.

PYGO, an acronym that stands for Pilates, Yoga, and Golf, is not just a program but a philosophy that integrates the fluidity of Pilates and Yoga with the precision of golf. The idea is simple yet profound: use Pilates and Yoga movements to simulate and hold golf swing positions, thereby aiding in the understanding of the swing while simultaneously building core and body strength. This approach has been a game-changer, allowing golfers to develop a swing that is not only technically sound but also physically robust.

The HZ (Hitting Zone) Golf Swing Trainer, is my patented invention, and it serves as the cornerstone of my golf instruction. It allows students to learn and perfect their golf swing from the comfort of their homes. This innovative tool has eliminated the need for an actual golf club, making the learning process more accessible and convenient.

The DrillFreakGolf.com website (our brand) and the accompanying Drill Freak Golf YouTube channel are treasure troves of resources, offering four distinct PYGO programs at no cost. These programs cater to a diverse range of needs, from the novice seeking to understand the basics to the seasoned golfer aiming to enhance power and precision.

"The Not So Senior Swing" video series is a testament to the adaptability and inclusiveness of the PYGO philosophy. This 5-part series, with its concise and engaging 6–8-minute videos, has sparked the creation of a new PYGO Challenge program. It's designed not only for seniors but for golfers of all ages who aspire to improve their flexibility and core strength – especially during the off-season!





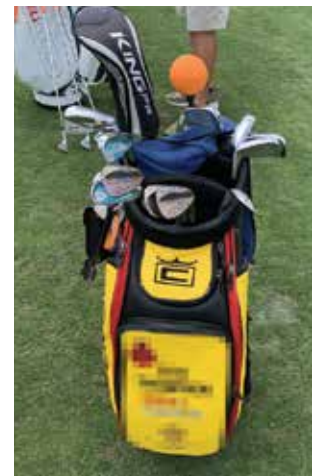
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Jim Hackenberg's award-winning training aids have become a standard in the bags of Tour Pros, Top Teachers, and Golfers all over the world.



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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.



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.

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