



PGA

Georgia Section

FORE Georgia

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Sea Palms features classic resort layout

St. Simons course popular with visitors, locals

By Mike Blum

Georgia's southeast coast offers some treasures for local and visiting golfers, ranging from the state's most prominent upscale resort (Sea Island GC) to a statewide and international favorite for its combination of quality and affordability (Jekyll Island GC).

The King and Prince's Hampton Club is widely recognized for its beauty, most notably the holes separated from the mainland on the marsh.

Located in the middle of St. Simons Island, Sea Palms doesn't have the dramatic ocean and marsh views of Sea Island's courses or the King and Prince layout, and its 27 holes fall short of the 63 offered on Jekyll Island.

But since it opened for play more than 40 years ago, Sea Palms' thoroughly traditional George Cobb design has earned a deserved reputation as a first rate resort-style layout, even though it has been overshadowed somewhat by the courses on opposite tips of the island.

Sea Palms added a third nine by noted Carolinas-based designer Tom Jackson,



with the newer nine located across the street from the original 18 and serving as a mostly separate but enjoyable complement to Cobb's classic creation.

Over the years, Sea Palms has hosted events for statewide and regional junior

organizations, as well as the Georgia PGA and GSGA. Before golf equipment technology made the course's modest length insufficient for long-hitting tour players, Cobb's original 18 was the site of PGA Tour qualifying.

But the course wasn't designed with

tour players in mind. It's always been a thoughtful and moderately challenging layout of reasonable length that provides its members, local daily fee golfers and visitors with an entertaining, resort-style experience that earns high marks for its natural aesthetic appeal.

With one exception, Cobb's original design has changed very little since it opened for play in 1967. The ninth hole was converted from a dogleg right par 4 with water at the corner and guarding

[See Sea Palms, page 6]

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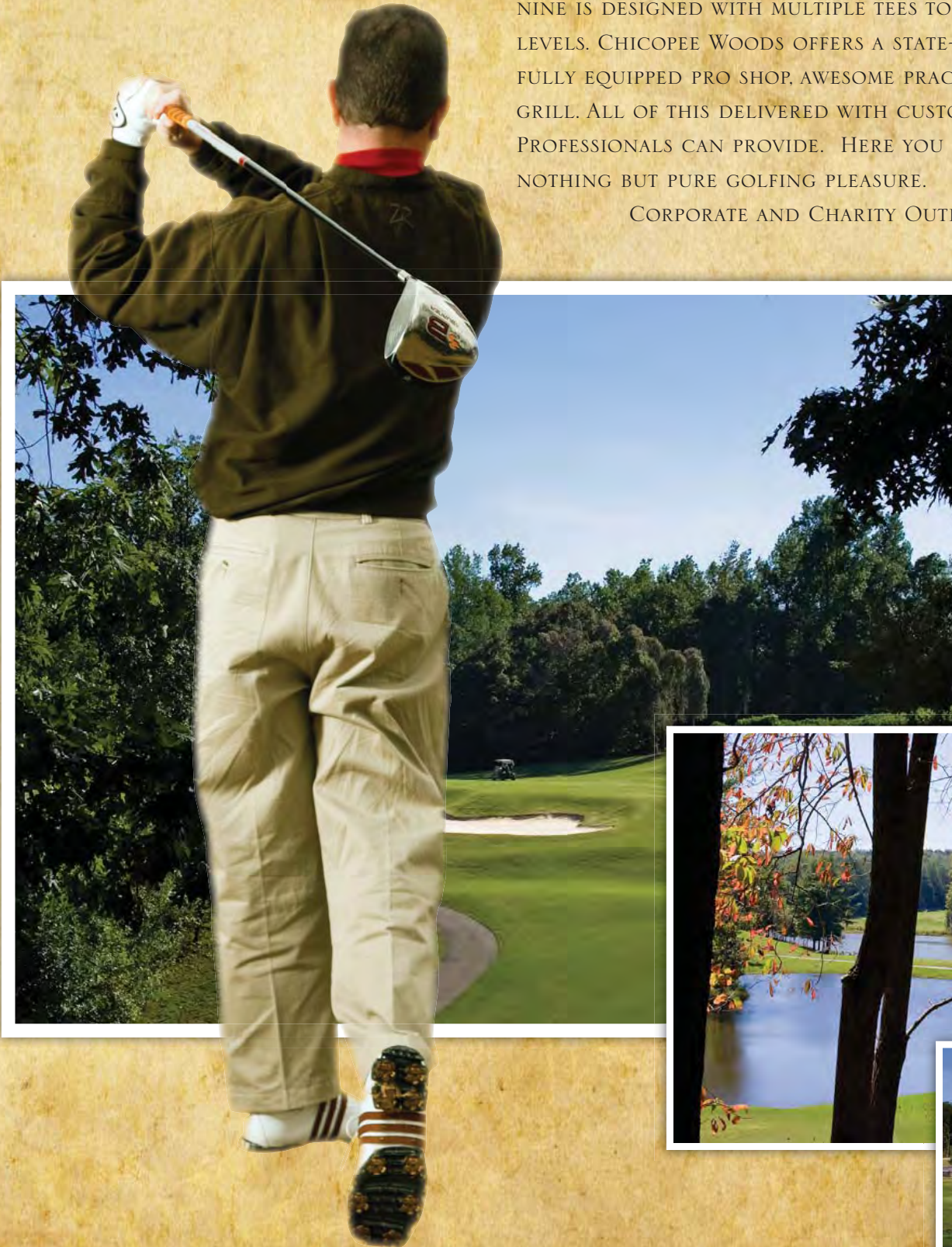
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Keys to moving the club on plane

By Danny Elkins
PGA Director of Instruction
Georgia Golf Center

In this month's article we will discuss the direction of the force the player applies to the club as it travels to, and beyond, the golf ball. We will focus only on the downswing, not the backswing, which is a topic for another day.

A common misconception among most golfers is the route the club moves during the swing. Contrary to pop-



ular thought, it should NOT move along the target line. Nor does the club stay low to the ground during its journey. The ball, hopefully, goes toward the target, the club does not.

On the downswing the club moves in an arc on an inclined plane. Think of it like this; if a wall is 90 degrees and the floor is 0 degrees the club lies at about 45 degrees. Now, only the driver approximates that angle but it is easier to understand if viewed that way.

So from the top of the backswing the club should move on that inclined plane angle. This means that the clubshaft and clubhead are moving in three dimensions; downward, outward and forward, simultaneously, until they get to the low point in

the arc, at which point they will be moving upward, inward and forward. So basically, the club moves in a circle, never in a straight line.

There are two keys to moving the club on plane. The first is downward pressure in the hands; the second is a constantly turning body. The hands move the club down the plane while the arms are transported by the body. Without this body rotation the arms have a very limited range of motion.

So, push the hands down away from the turning chest. While the club is moving in all the directions described above, the FEEL is always that they are moving DOWN,

never out toward the ball, or forward toward the target. Even past impact, when the club is moving upward it is imperative that there is still downward pressure from the hands. This is where the right arm is straightening and its straightening direction is down.

Don't worry about where the clubhead is in space, educate the hands to apply on plane pressure and the club will have no choice but to hit the ball. And remember, we are not discussing the clubface whatsoever in this conversation. That is also a topic for another day.

In order to learn this key movement it is best to start with shorter, slower motions that will only hit the ball about 25-30 yards, really just long chip shots. Use a short iron, perhaps an 8 iron, for this drill.

From your normal stance, simply fold the right arm until the forearm is approximately parallel to the ground on the backswing. From there allow the lower body to lead the arms while you straighten the right arm just past impact. Finish with both arms straight with the club at about 45 degrees past impact. You should not feel that you are stopping the club in that position, but rather that you are putting it there. You haven't put the brakes on, you've pre-programmed that spot as the finish destination.

You'll notice in the picture that my right foot has rolled in and my body is fully turned. Once you can replicate this position you will be able to more fully compress the golf ball and hit crisper irons.

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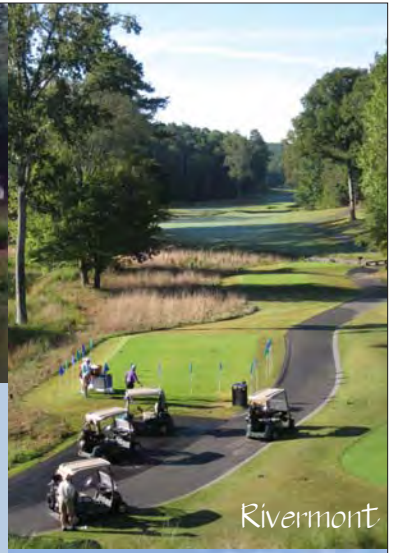
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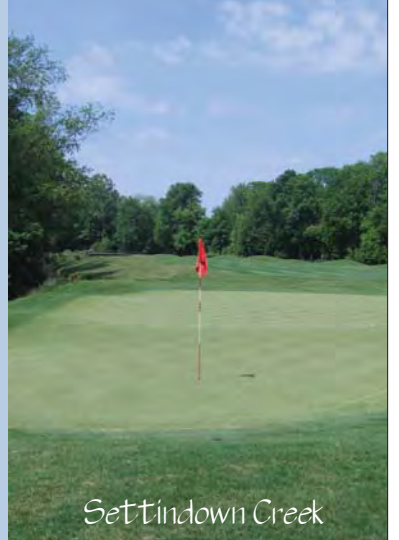
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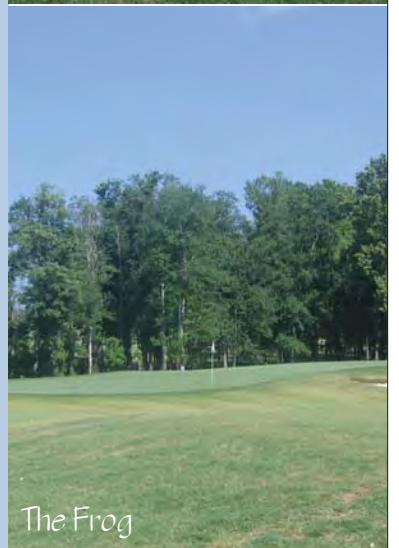
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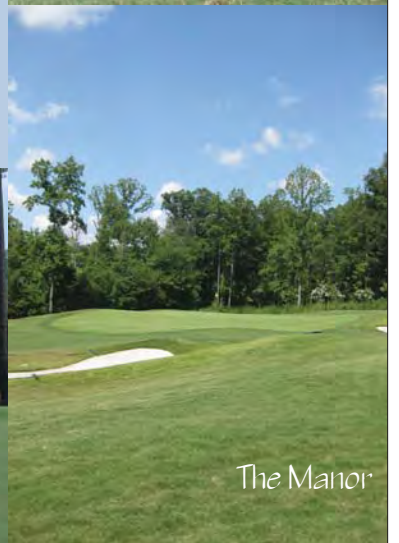
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The Manor



Sea Palms offers short, third 9

[Continued from the cover]

the green to a semi-island green par 3 that reduced the yardage of the course by about 225 yards and the par from 72 to 71.

After the changes to the ninth hole, Sea Palms now measures a slightly deceptive 6,477 yards from the blue tees and 6.092 from the whites. By no means is Sea Palms a long course, but the back nine features a pair of stout par 5s, one of which is part of one of the stronger finishing trio of holes you'll encounter.

"This is not a course that beats you up," veteran Sea Palms PGA head professional Rick Irwin says. "It's a perfect course for seniors and juniors. Because of the length, it's not real difficult. The challenge is that you have to be able to hit the ball straight."

Only two of the par 4s at Sea Palms measure over 400 yards from the back tees, and at just under 400 from the white tees, are the only ones from that set longer than 380.

But with the narrow tree lines of pines, palms and palmettos that border almost every hole, many with the familiar overhangs found on island or seaside courses, accuracy is most definitely at a premium.

For the most part, you can recover from shots into the tree lines, but it will require some escape artist dexterity. There are also a few holes where errant shots will not be treated as kindly, with water hazards lining several holes, although they can be avoided by doing nothing over than hitting the ball reasonably straight.

For a resort course, Sea Palms does not have a great deal of water in play, at least on the original 18, with no forced carries

of consequence. Hazards are a factor on each of the three demanding finishing holes, as well as three earlier holes where water comes into play in differing situations.

The opening trio of holes offers a good look at what you will face the remainder of the round. The short but narrow opening hole and slightly longer second both have overhangs from the trees that will get your attention, with all three sporting well-bunkered but otherwise gentle greens complexes that will place more pressure on your approach shots and sand play than your chipping game and putting touch.

With a few exceptions, the Bermuda putting surfaces at Sea Palms have only minimal amounts of undulation, with the greens on the newer West nine offering much more movement, as well as having considerably more water in play.

The first hazard encountered on the original 18 is on the par-3 third, but the pond well short of the green is not a serious concern. However, the two hazards along the right side of the fairway on the par-5 fourth are very much a factor, especially the one that guards the layup area for the second shot and extends to the green.

At only 479 yards from the back tees and 454 from the whites, the straight-away hole offers a definite scoring opportunity for long and short hitters alike, but there is very little margin for error from tee to green, with the tree line very tight all the way down the left side.

The eighth hole is another inviting but pesky short par 5 (495/476), with bunkers and encroaching trees along the right corner of the fairly pronounced dogleg right the primary concerns.

The renovated ninth lacks length (157/145), but the green is well protected by sand and water, which looks particularly imposing when the pin is cut

amounts of sand and water, with two of the larger greens on the course. With water off both sides of the 18th (423/397) and the hole frequently playing into the wind, it's a real challenge to close out your round with a par.

Irwin says the three finishing holes offer "all the golf you want," and provide a memorable, if demanding, conclusion to a well-crafted layout the Sea Palms pro attests to being in its best shape in years.

Sea Palms' original 18 is rated at a comfortable 70.9/130 from the blues tees and 69.1/126 from the whites. The senior tees measure 5,714 yards (67.5/122), with the forward tees just over 5,100 yards (69.5/118).

Cobb, a Savannah native and UGA graduate, did most of his work in the Carolinas, but his resume includes some prominent Georgia courses, including Coosa, Doublegate, Forest Heights, Green Island and the original par-3 course at Augusta National.

Like Cobb, Jackson also has worked predominantly in the Carolinas, with Mount Vintage Plantation near Augusta among his best works. The West nine has been altered from its original design, with the driving range where the 9th hole used to be. The formerly par-5 1st hole now encompasses two holes, the par-3 first and short par-4 second.

The first hole is the only one on the West nine without water. The nine plays to a par of 34 with four par 3s and two short par 5s, measuring just 2,460 yards from the back tees. With the presence of so much water and the absence of length, the nine requires more precision than power, and offers a fun – if sometimes perilous – diversion from the original 18.

Many of those who play the course enjoy a quick trip around the West nine after going 18 on the original layout, with the newer nine guaranteed to provide some entertainment and maybe a birdie or two, along with the likelihood of fishing into the bag for a ball after a shot finds one of the many hazards along the way.

Sea Palm Resort offers an array of golf packages and amenities, including three clay tennis courts and three pools. The resort is a popular stop for Bulldog fans heading to Jacksonville for the Georgia-Florida game, with its typical rates of \$69 making it a very affordable option among local and regional resorts.

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GOLF CLUB

Keppler, Stevens shoot for return to AAC

2 Georgia PGA pros played in 2001 PGA

By Mike Blum

For Georgia's PGA professionals, the road to the 2011 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club begins this month at the Manor, about half an hour away from AAC across the golf-rich suburbs of north Fulton County.

The Georgia PGA will hold its qualifier for the 2011 PGA Professional National Championship Oct. 25-26, with the Manor serving as a late replacement for Champions Retreat outside Augusta, the scheduled site for the tournament.

The top 7 finishers at the Manor will advance to next year's PGA PNC in Hershey, Pa., with the top 20 in that event earning spots in the field in the PGA Championship at Atlanta AC.

The last time the PGA Championship was played in Atlanta, two of the club professionals in the field were PGA members from the Atlanta area. The two are still among the top players in the Section, and will be among those teeing it up at the Manor this month in the Georgia PGA event.

Stephen Keppler, the Director of Golf at Marietta Country Club, and **Craig Stevens**, a teaching professional based at Steel Canyon in Sandy Springs, were Georgia's two PGA Championship participants almost a decade ago.

The two veteran Georgia PGA members both have fond memories of their



Craig Stevens

experiences in the 2001 PGA, and are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to again compete in that championship.

That's not all they're looking forward to on the 2011 calendar. Both Stevens and Keppler turn 50 early next year, which will make them eligible for competition in senior events.

Stevens has his eye on the Champions Tour, and will try to make it through qualifying to earn one of a handful of spots on that tour. Keppler is more focused on the major championship events for senior professionals that do not require Champions Tour membership — the Senior PGA Championship, U.S. Senior Open and the British Senior Open, which will be played on the course he grew up playing in his native England.

While both players turn 50 early in 2011, the two remain very competitive in the Georgia Section, with one of them already guaranteed a spot in next year's PGA PNC.

Stevens won the recent Georgia PGA Championship at Sea Island Golf Club's Retreat course, with that victory earning him a spot in the field of the 2011 PNC. He will be looking for his third career win in the Georgia PGA PNC, with his previous victories coming in 2001 and '03.

Unlike Keppler, Stevens won't have to

worry about finishing high enough to qualify for the PGA PNC, and said, "That's a big relief. I don't have any pressure about finishing in the top seven or eight, and that frees me up to try and win the tournament. It gives me the freedom to try and go low."

Stevens has been a frequent competitor in the PNC, and has twice played his way into the PGA Championship, the first time coming in 2001. The PNC that year was played in Oregon, and Stevens remembers it being "a very cold and windy day" as he played the final round with the opportunity for a top 25 finish and a spot in the 2001 PGA in his home town.

In difficult conditions (no player broke 70), Stevens said he "played really well," and hung right around the top 25 all day.

"I know you're supposed to live in the present, but I kept thinking about Atlanta Athletic Club," Stevens recalled. "I pulled it together to play the last three holes and parred the 18th to finish 21st and make it to Atlanta Athletic Club."

Playing in a major championship in your home town is not the same as playing one in Minnesota, which Stevens did the next year after posting a top-10 finish in the 2002 PNC.

Stevens compared his reaction to playing in the 2001 PGA and the

surrounding hoopla to "a deer in the headlights. Leading up to the PGA, Stephen and I did 'Good Day Atlanta' and we were on Sports South. There's no way of preparing yourself for something like that."

Once tournament week arrived, Stevens said he was "very excited and very nervous. There were so many people in Atlanta I know that were there. It was very overwhelming."

Despite the nerves of playing in an environment Stevens said was "totally different from a Section event," he acquitted himself admirably. He shot 3-over 73 in the opening round, closing with his lone birdie of the day on his 18th hole. He got off to a solid start Friday, but said a double bogey at the 8th "took the air out of my sails."

Stevens made two more doubles en route to a 76, but mixed in some highlights as well, rolling in an eagle putt from all the way across the green on the par-5 12th and adding a birdie on the penal par-3 15th.

"I hit a couple of bad shots, but all in all I think I did pretty well. I was somewhat satisfied with how I played. It was an awesome experience. And to do it again in Atlanta would be even better."

Unlike Stevens, playing in the PGA Championship was not a new experience for Keppler. He had competed in three of the previous six PGAs and played respectably each time. Keppler also was accustomed to the national spotlight thanks to his near win in the 1995 BellSouth Classic, the best performance by a club professional in a PGA Tour event in golf's modern era.

In his first three starts in the PGA, Keppler said he would arrive Sunday night or Monday morning and spend the next three days playing and practicing.

"I would wear myself out. By the time Thursday came around, I had already hit a lot of shots."

In 2001, Keppler played his practice rounds at Atlanta AC prior to tournament week, and set foot on the grounds only once that week. He took his son Jonathan — now an accomplished junior golfer, then just 5 years old — with him on Tuesday, and the two had themselves a day to remember.

Paul Azinger, Keppler's college

[See PGA, page 29]



Stephen Keppler

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Furyk secures wet victory from the sand

Bunker play key to Tour Championship title

By Mike Blum

Needing a par on the demanding par-3 finishing hole at East Lake to win the Tour Championship and the FedExCup, **Jim Furyk** hit his tee shot in a perfect place.

The bunker guarding the right side of the green.

Furyk missed out on a chance to get into a playoff in the first Tour Championship at East Lake in 1998, making bogey on the 18th after hitting his tee shot long and left to finish one stroke behind **Vijay Singh** and playoff winner **Hal Sutton**.

"I pretty much thought I could get the ball up and down or make three from anywhere if I was pin high or short," Furyk said of his final hole strategy, which was partially based on events of a dozen years ago.

"I had to make a par to get in a playoff and I hit it too hard. It ran through the back left of the green and you've got nothing there. I remembered that and that maybe had a lot to do with hitting it weak right.

"But I knew I left it in a spot that I could get the ball up and down."

It was the ninth time during the tournament that Furyk had played from a greenside bunker. He hit the shot from the wet sand to within 2 ½ feet of the cup and holed the winning putt, making

him 9-for-9 on the week in sand saves.

"That's pretty good. That's usually 100 percent, even at Arizona," cracked Furyk, referring to the college he attended. "Let's just say I had a lot of confidence and it came off the club perfect."

Furyk did not have the best view of the shot from the deep bunker, but could hear the cheers from the rain-soaked fans gathered around the green.

"I couldn't tell if it was five feet or two feet. It kind of appeared like it was a four-footer, like I still had some work left. I was happy to see it was pretty much dummy proof.

"This was probably my best bunker week of my career."

Furyk's 72nd hole par gave him an 8-under 272 total for the tournament and a one-stroke victory over **Luke Donald**, who finished 2nd for the 10th time in his 9-year PGA Tour career.

Retief Goosen, the 2004 Tour Championship winner at East Lake, was third at 274, with **Nick Watney** and **Paul Casey** sharing 5th at 275.

The victory was Furyk's third of the 2010 season. In addition to earning him \$1.35 million for the victory and \$10 million in bonus money for winning the FedExCup, it put him in strong position to earn Player of the Year honors.

After winning at least one tournament in 11 of 13 years on the PGA Tour from 1995-2007, Furyk went without a victory in both 2008 and '09. He closed out 2009 with a victory in the unofficial Chevron Challenge, and picked up an official win in Tampa early this Spring, adding a second victory one month later at Hilton Head.

"Three wins is very, very special to me," said Furyk, who had won two events in a season just twice in his career. "I've always put a big emphasis on winning golf tournaments. I was very disappointed in '08 and '09 not to win.

"To go out there and turn that around and get three W's this year is pretty special. And then to top it off here at the right time at the Tour Championship on this golf course. I love the golf course."

Although Furyk did not lead the tournament wire to wire, he came pretty close. He opened with a 3-under 67, trailing co-leaders Donald, Casey and **Geoff Ogilvy** by just one stroke. Furyk did not make a bogey and birdied both par 5s, getting up and down from a

greenside bunker at 15 for his final birdie of the day.

A second round 65 moved Furyk into a tie with Donald after 36 holes. Furyk made his first bogey of the tournament, but more than offset it with six birdies. Ogilvy trailed by one, with Goosen and Casey in a tie for 5th at 137.

Furyk took the outright lead after 54 holes with a steady round of even par 70, one ahead of Donald and Goosen and three in front of Ogilvy. Goosen was the lone member of the lead quartet to break par, firing a second straight 66 to move into contention.

The big move of the day was made by **Nick Watney**, who was 7-over for his first 43 holes with just three birdies. Watney proceeded to birdie 9 of his last 11 holes, including a record-setting 28 on the back nine. Watney's tournament-best 63 moved him into 8th place at 208, six shots off Furyk's lead.

Watney continued his torrid play when the final round began 2 ½ hours earlier than scheduled due to a correct forecast of rain during the afternoon, which forced a suspension of play for almost two hours with the main contenders just making or nearing the turn.

Thanks to three birdies on his four first holes and an eagle on the par-5 9th, Watney closed within one of Furyk's lead. Combining his back nine 28 on Saturday and his opening nine 30 on Sunday, Watney shot a 58 on the full East Lake layout over two days.

With Goosen, Donald and Ogilvy all struggling to hang around par for the day, Watney emerged as Furyk's prime challenger, but his charge stalled after the delay.

Watney parred the first six holes on the back nine before bogeys at 16 and 17 ended his hopes of a come-from-behind victory. Ogilvy birdied the 1st hole but that proved to be his only one of the day, and he fell all the way out of the top 10 with a 75, taking a triple bogey on the 17th.

That left Goosen and Donald as Furyk's remaining challengers. Goosen, paired with Furyk in the final group, never got closer than two of Furyk's lead after the 4th hole, leaving it to Donald to make the lone back nine charge in the difficult circumstances. The final 2-plus hours of play featured increasingly soggy



Jim Furyk

conditions, with Donald the only player moving forward down the stretch.

Donald closed within two of the lead with birdies at 14 and 15, and chipped in from long range for an unexpected birdie at 17 to finish at 7-under.

After opening his round with a 3-putt bogey, Furyk birdied the long par-3 6th from outside 25 feet and rolled in another birdie putt on the par-3 11th. He added his final birdie at the 15th, hitting what may have been his best shot of the day, ripping a hybrid from 240 yards uphill in the rain to within 25 feet of the cup. Furyk two-putted for birdie, giving him a needed 3-stroke cushion heading to the demanding closing holes at East Lake, which were made even more difficult in the adverse conditions.

Furyk managed several clutch par saves along the way in the final round, which enabled him to get away with bogeys at 17 and 18 after missing the green on both holes.

"It wasn't all that good playing down the stretch really. A lot of it had to do with the situation I was in. You've got a three-shot lead and in your mind, you're saying 'just keep the pedal down and let's go to 18 with a three or four-shot lead.

"But I have a tendency and a history in my career to make it interesting. The only time I never did was at the U.S. Open, thank goodness."

It was the third top-3 finish at East Lake for Furyk and his sixth career top-10 in the Tour Championship in Atlanta. 🏆

PHOTOS BY STEVE DINBERG

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FedExCup system produces dramatic finish

Kuchar's slip at East Lake opened door to many

By Mike Blum

After three years in which the winner of the FedExCup was pretty much a foregone conclusion well before the Tour Championship at East Lake had reached the weekend, there was finally a healthy serving of drama as the waterlogged leaders headed down the stretch in the final round Sunday.

Any of the final round contenders were in position to claim the FedExCup with a victory, even **Nick Watney**, who began the week 28th on the re-set points list out of the 30 competitors in the field.

There was even the realistic possibility that one of the contenders could finish 2nd at East Lake and still take home the FedExCup title.

Simply put, the FedExCup did what it was intended to do. First, it put the PGA Tour's top players together for four tournaments over a five-week stretch during a time frame when most of the tour's elite had shut it down for the season. And it also provided a legitimate framework for determining a season-long champion, with those four events serving as a culmination to the season in a playoff-style format that eliminated players along the way, leading up to the Tour Championship.

The PGA Tour had to tweak the points system after each of the first two years, with the original lacking sufficient volatility and the revised version going a little overboard in that direction. The third time found something of a happy medium, and that system was retained this year.

Without a dominant **Tiger Woods** to sap the drama from the playoffs finale at East Lake (**Vijay Singh** stepped into that role when Woods was absent due to injury in 2008), this year's Tour Championship finally determined the FedExCup champion for the year.

In part, some of the changes to the points system were the result of the dominance of Woods and Singh the first two years of the FedExCup. The key change made to the system was delaying the re-set in points until after the third of the three playoffs events leading up to the Tour Championship.

That enabled tour officials to devise a system that would mathematically give every player in the field a chance to win the FedExCup with a victory at East Lake, while preventing a repeat of 2008, when Singh had the title locked up before the first tee shot in the Tour Championship was struck.

Because the PGA Tour's version of playoffs is not the same as those in team sports, there is still a sizeable contingent of critics within the always complaining members of the sports media, many of whom have a difficult time grasping an outcome that can't be boiled down to two letters – W and L.

Professional golf gets that simple only a handful of times each year – in the lone match play events on the PGA and LPGA Tours and the international team competitions (Ryder, Presidents and Solheim Cups).

For a litany of reasons, a match play conclusion to the FedExCup will not work, and neither will a winner-take-all approach, which relegates the three preceding playoffs events to glorified qualifiers.

The FedExCup as currently constituted rewards those who played the best during the 33 weeks leading up to the playoffs, as well as those who finish at or near the top of the playoffs events.

The points totals are five times larger in the playoffs, which enables those near the bottom of the regular standings to

make significant leaps with a top finish in three tournaments leading up to the East Lake. But those who placed near the top of the regular season standings will not be leapfrogged by huge numbers of players if they don't perform as well in the playoffs.

In order to devise a credible system, a fairly complicated mathematical process is required, and it's long been common knowledge that when the sports media is required to deal with numbers other than betting lines, win-loss records or garden variety statistics, the results are not going to be pretty.

With Watney still well in range to win the Tour Championship Sunday afternoon, the NBC cameras moved well ahead of the leaders to catch the non-contending trio of **Matt Kuchar**, **Bo Van Pelt** and **Steve Stricker** complete their rounds.

Kuchar was understandable. The former Georgia Tech star was leading the points standings coming to East Lake, and as it turned out, would have won the FedExCup had he placed 6th or better. But he finished ahead of only four players for the week and fell to 2nd in the final standings behind Tour Championship winner and FedExCup champion **Jim Furyk**.

But as long as Watney was in contention to win the tournament, Kuchar still had a chance to win the FedExCup. He needed to finish higher than 25th at East Lake to stay ahead of Watney. Had he finished solo 25th and if Watney had won, the two would have tied for 1st in points, which would have necessitated a playoff.

With the difference between 1st and 2nd in bonus money a staggering \$7 million (\$10 million for 1st, \$3 million for 2nd), that would have made for an interesting if inconvenient conclusion, particularly considering the less-than-ideal weather conditions.

Both Stricker and Van Pelt had the opportunity to impact Kuchar's standing in the tournament, with Kuchar needing to finish ahead of both to have a chance of at least tying Watney. Van Pelt, who finished 24th in the tournament and 30th in the points standings, parred the 18th to finish one shot ahead of Kuchar, while Stricker also parred the hole to tie Kuchar for 25th, ending his slim hopes of winning the FedExCup title.

When Watney fell back into a tie for 4th after a pair of late bogeys, that entire scenario became moot, but the grumbling in the media center about the complex nature of the points system continued after Kuchar's hopes were dashed.

Kuchar, who left East Lake with a consolation bonus check of \$3 million, ended the tournament at 5-over 285, well off the total he would have needed to finish ahead of Furyk in points.

When he concluded his round he still had faint hopes of retaining his FedExCup lead, but did not appear overly concerned about his situation.

"I was completely assuming that I didn't have any chance," Kuchar said. "I don't think it played in my mind having a chance or not having a chance."

After his round, Kuchar was informed that he still had a chance if Watney won the tournament and Van Pelt and Stricker both faltered on the closing holes, but expressed little interest.

"I had no real idea and was completely unconcerned with it today. It was not even on my radar screen."

Kuchar, who lives close enough to East Lake that he was able to drive home during the two-hour weather delay that caught him when he was on the 18th tee, didn't even bother to check his position on the computer during the break.

"I watched football," he said. "I think it's impossible to be aware of it. Who really was aware of it? Maybe some kid in front of a computer. But certainly I was not."

Furyk's situation was not nearly as involved. Beginning the week 11th in the points standings, he only needed a win and for Kuchar to not finish among the top six. Not that he was entirely aware of that fact.

"I don't know where Matt had to finish. I didn't really know. Coming up 18, I assumed I was playing for the FedExCup, but I wasn't 100 percent sure."

Even after holing the winning putt at 18, Furyk still had some doubt. Some, not much.

"I just gathered by the reaction of everyone. I was pretty sure that was the case, but just the surroundings, the way the people reacted, I had a good feeling that's what it was."



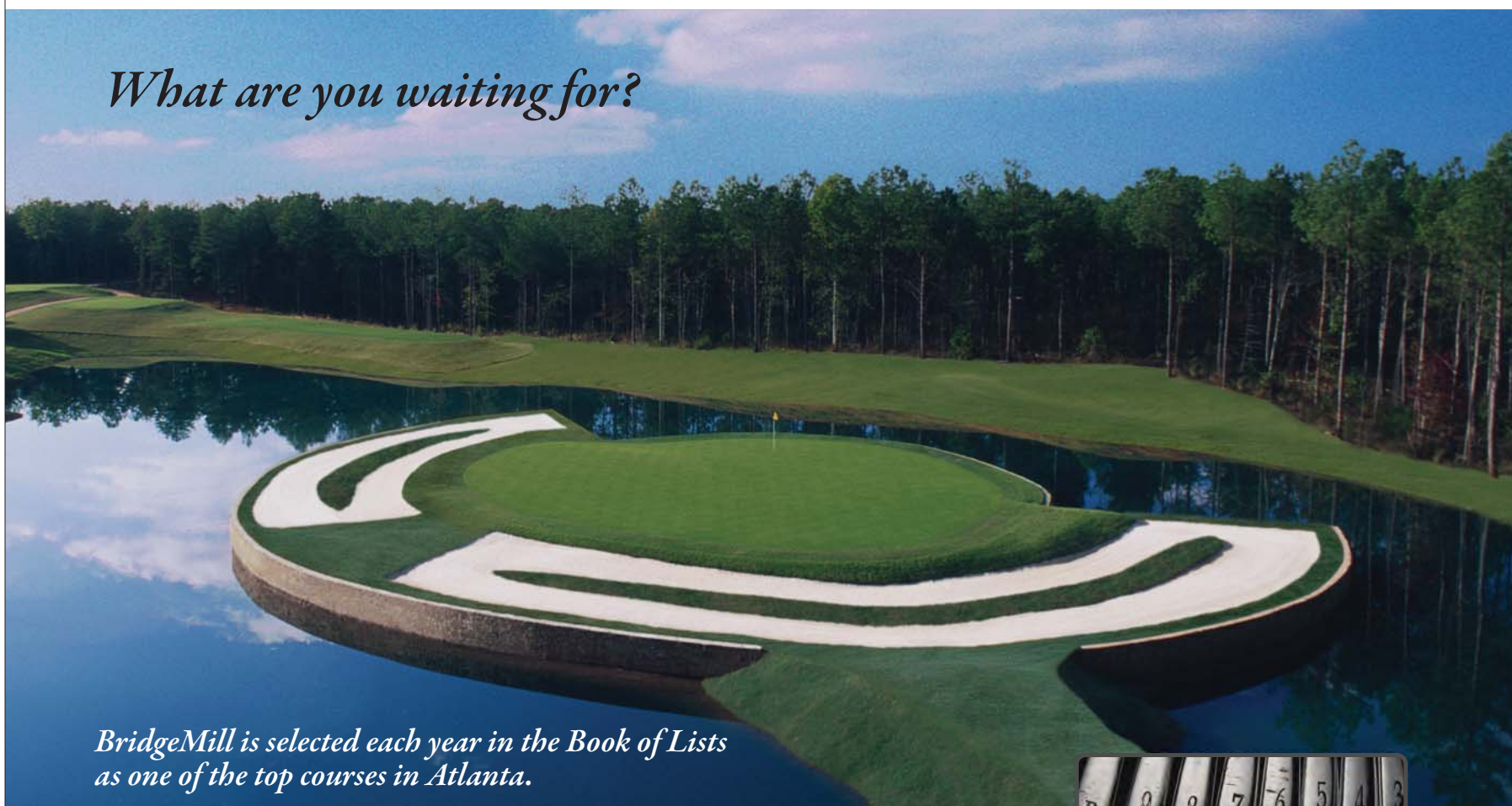
Matt Kuchar

[See FedExCup, page 28]

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U.S. had its chances in Ryder Cup loss

Slow greens, schedule change played roles

By Mike Blum

Another Ryder Cup, another European victory. Since 1985, the Euros are 8-4-1, and have lost only once on home soil since 1981, the second time players from continental Europe were eligible to compete in the matches.

The initial post-match analysis contained much of the usual drivel you hear and read after the U.S. loses. The Europeans want it more. The Americans, two of them in particular, are far more concerned with individual glory. The U.S. captain is a dummy, the European leader a certified genius. The selection process needs to change.

The Europeans won by the overwhelming margin of one point, 14 ½ - 13 ½. The competition was all square at 13 ½ before Europe pulled out a victory in the 28th of 28 matches.

Because he flubbed a chip shot on the 17th hole in the anchor match against **Graeme McDowell**, American **Hunter Mahan** received a disproportionate share of the blame for the U.S. defeat.

The U.S. team pulled off a pretty significant comeback effort in the singles, losing only 4 of 12 matches. But it wasn't quite enough.

Rickie Fowler's stirring comeback for a half against **Edoardo Molinari** gave the Americans a chance to at least tie the match, as the U.S. dominated the other late matches with the exception of the Mahan-McDowell battle.

Unfortunately for Mahan and the U.S., he came out for the final round with a putter that had spent most of the matches in his bag. Mahan sat out the first four-ball session, and his only action prior to singles came in foursomes, where he and partner **Zach Johnson** split two matches.

That means Mahan had not teed off on half the holes at Celtic Manor during the matches, and had little feel for some of the greens. He missed a number of short putts that put him in an early hole, falling 3-down after six holes. Thanks to a good bit of help from McDowell, Mahan closed the gap to 1-down after his only birdie of the day on the drivable par-4 15th, that coming from all of three feet.

It was about that time that the last of the remaining matches was concluding, leaving Mahan and McDowell to settle the outcome. McDowell responded with a clutch birdie at the tough 16th to go 2-up with two to play, putting him in a position where the best he could do was a half, and only if he won each of the last two holes.

Needing birdie to extend the match, Mahan missed the green on the par-3 17th, pretty much sealing his fate. Although McDowell also missed the green, he chipped close enough to essentially secure his par, rendering Mahan's botched chip shot a somewhat embarrassing, but largely meaningless stroke.

The U.S. team did not lose because of Mahan's reportedly sub-par short game. The string of short putts he missed earlier in the watch, when few were paying real attention, was a much greater factor.

In the end, Mahan did not cost the U.S. a possible victory. The biggest culprits for the U.S. were six players who were competing in the final three four-ball matches in the ill-fated (from an American perspective) third session of

the weather-altered matches.

The U.S. led 6-4 after winning each of the first two sessions, taking the expanded foursomes matches that constituted the second session by a surprising 3 ½ - 2 ½ margin.

Because of the rain that saturated the Celtic Manor course, the last three scheduled session of team matches were condensed to two, with no players sitting out any of the final 12 matches.

That meant U.S. captain **Corey Pavin** could not omit three players not well suited for foursomes – **Bubba Watson**, **Jeff Overton** and **Dustin Johnson**. The U.S. lost only two of six foursomes matches in the second session, with Watson and Overton accounting for one loss, and Johnson teaming with Phil Mickelson, another suspect foursomes partner, for the other.

It was somewhat surprising that Pavin kept the four big-hitting but inaccurate players together in foursomes, but he may have decided to keep them together, rather than spreading them out in the lineup and risking losses across the board.

If that was his strategy, it paid off, as the U.S. went 3-0-1 in the other foursomes to take a 6-4 lead into the fateful third session. After winning in foursomes previously, the teams of **Steve Stricker-Tiger Woods** and Zach Johnson-Mahan both lost, with neither putting up much of a fight.

Although Woods and Stricker had played brilliantly in their previous foursomes match, that meant that **Jim Furyk**, 1-7 in his career in four-ball, had to play that format with Dustin Johnson, whose shaky putting had helped saddle partner Mickelson with two team losses. Predictably, Furyk and Johnson lost to **Ross Fisher**, who carried an off-form **Padraig Harrington** to their second victory, giving Harrington a much better record than his quality of play.

That put the U.S. team down 7-6. But in the final three matches the Americans were even in two and ahead in the other midway through the back nine. With a chance to win two points and send the competition to the singles all square, the U.S. lost two matches and settled for a half.

Watson and Overton were beaten by Europe's supposed weakest team – **Peter**

Hanson and **Miguel Angel Jimenez**, who combined for eight birdies, including a pair of clutch ones late in the match.

Mickelson and Fowler produced some heroics to rally from a 3-down deficit and even the match, but a Mickelson three-putt and one of many birdies by the flamboyant but relentless **Ian Poulter** gave Europe a key win.

The only U.S. team not to lose in the session was the Georgia Tech duo of **Stewart Cink** and **Matt Kuchar**, who engaged in one of the more entertaining matches of the competition. Kuchar's third birdie in four holes gave the U.S. a 1-up lead after 13 holes, and the Americans were still 1-up going to 18. But **Francesco Molinari's** second clutch birdie enabled the Molinari brothers to get a key half point in a match the Americans had several chances to win.

With the U.S. three points behind going to singles – only one team had even rallied from more two points back – the Euros seemingly were poised for an unchallenged victory.

But the Americans have generally been more successful in singles than team matches, and that proved to be the case again. Stricker got things started by beating Europe's No. 1 player – **Lee Westwood** – managing perhaps the only American highlight of the week on the perplexing 15th, scoring an eagle en route to his victory.

A winless Dustin Johnson routed **Martin Kaymer** in a PGA Championship "rematch," Overton knocked off a surprisingly sloppy Fisher, and Woods and Mickelson played like they were at Augusta National, not some Ryder Cup site. Zach Johnson overwhelmed an outmatched Harrington with a barrage of birdies, accounting for the 6th U.S. win in singles.

Neither Kuchar nor Watson had much left in the tank, and both lost decisively, with the veteran Jimenez taking the long-hitting ex-Bulldog to school and Kuchar drawing the wrong opponent (Poulter).

What turned out to be the two key matches came early in the day, and represented about the only matches in which both competitors played well. Furyk recorded five birdies against one of Europe's two best players in the matches (**Luke Donald**), but dug himself an early hole and lost to Donald's six birdies.

The American player who may be stewing the most in the privacy of his

Luke Donald



STEVE DINEBERG

[See Ryder Cup, page 29]

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Bradshaw Farm offers an array of splendid views on all three nines

27 holes of quality golf, course conditions

Bradshaw Farm succeeds on several levels

By Mike Blum

Since it opened for play 15 years ago, the Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm has acquired a deserved reputation as one of the most popular courses in all of metro Atlanta for organizations that conduct outings.

The club's tee sheet typically contains an outing of one sort or another, which it can comfortably handle without inconveniencing its members and daily fee players.

With 27 holes, Bradshaw Farm can accommodate all three aspects of its customer base, with those who tee it up on the Cherokee Country course guaranteed a quality golf experience regardless which nines you play.

When Bradshaw Farm opened in the mid-1990s, it had only 18 holes, and the original 18 remains the favored configuration for many of its regular visitors. However, the third nine, which debuted in 2001 with a different designer, meshes nicely with both of the original nines. While it differentiates a bit from the other two, you don't get the impression you're playing a different course when you move from either the Red or White nines (the original duo) to the Blue.

Having 27 holes is also advantageous to the club when it comes to maintenance. The club's excellent staff can work on one nine at a time, leaving 18 holes playable instead of having the entire

course having to struggle through the aeration process. Bradshaw Farm is consistently in quality condition, with its bent grass greens long considered among the best in the metro area.

Like all Atlanta courses with bent grass greens, Bradshaw Farm had its issues this Summer, but the course made it through unscathed and will again be in first class shape during the cooler Fall months.

Bradshaw Farm's rates are very reasonable in comparison to other top daily fee golf courses in the Atlanta area, and the club rates high for its customer service, a key factor as daily fee courses compete for a static, if not shrinking, base of potential players.

Bradshaw Farm does lack one attribute that many of the top metro area daily fee courses can proclaim – a big name designer. The two individuals who are listed as the primary course architects are not household names in the design community. But Bradshaw Farm's layout does not suffer in comparison to those designed by the likes of Tom Fazio, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Rees Jones and Jack Nicklaus, all of whom have courses in the Atlanta area that allow daily fee play.

Regardless of which nines you play, Bradshaw Farm offers a quality, playable layout that presents a serious test for those who tackle it from the back set of tees, but is a much less demanding chal-

lenge for those playing from a shorter set.

From the tips, Bradshaw Farm is not especially long, ranging from 6,936 yards (White/Blue) to 6,778 (Blue/Red). The White nine (original back nine) is the longest of the three and likely the toughest, but not a by significant margin. The Course Rating/Slope from the tips is comparable in all three configurations, with the original Red/White combo slightly more difficult from the 6,414-yard Gold tees at a stout 71.2/137.

The Black tees are in the 5,700 to 5,850-yard category, with slope ratings around 120. The forward tees range from 4,750 to 4,850 with virtually identical Course Rating/Slope numbers averaging 68.7/117.

One thing the three nines have in common is their opening drives from elevated tees, with all three featuring splendid views that will appear frequently throughout the round. Bradshaw Farm's terrain includes holes with moderate amounts of elevation changes along with a number of valley holes that include plenty of wetlands and hazards but not much in the way of encroaching development.

The Red nine includes a pair of inviting par 5s that are both under 500 yards from the tips with water just in front of both tees but no real hurdles of consequence.

Both par 3s are also on the short side,

with the 8th, which you pass on the way to the clubhouse, one of the most visually appealing holes around, although front pin positions can be a little dicey.

The challenge on the nine comes from a very stout group of par 4s, which have some length, a fair amount of trouble and some testy approach shots, but at least offer mostly generous landing areas that allow you to take a rip from the tee on the longer holes.

The trio of holes 1, 6 and 9 are rated as the three most difficult holes for a reason. The dogleg left 6th sports a winding creek that must be carried on both the tee shot and approach, with tee shots down the left side running the risk of either finding the hazard or leaving an obstructed approach.

The 9th is one of Atlanta's most aesthetically pleasant but difficult par 4s, with a big drive required to prevent a long, uphill approach to an elevated green with a creek at the base of the hill and a sharp dropoff to the right with some inset bunkers best avoided.

The White nine begins with the most dramatic of the three opening tee shots, but measures a good bit shorter than the Red's opener, with both requiring second shots over creeks just short of the putting surfaces.

Once you get past the straightaway and fairly narrow par-5 second, water is a constant presence on the remainder of the nine, although only a hole or two requires a carry of some distance. An outstanding stretch of valley holes begins with the long and dangerous par-3 fourth (219/190) and includes the shorter but interesting par-3 sixth, with a thriving wetlands area



hole on the Blue nine, with the short, downhill, par-3 fifth the rare exception. Other than the first, it's also the only one with much of an elevation change, with most of the nine constructed in an undeveloped section of the sizeable Bradshaw Farm property.

The nine includes two watery par 5s, with the long third featuring an angled second shot that has to be precisely struck to avoid all sorts of trouble. The all carry tee shot on the eighth is not quite as daunting as it looks, with the hole pretty friendly once you clear the lake.

Like the original 18, the par 4s on Blue offer plenty of room off the tee, although some well-placed fairway bunkers and a hazard or two will make those who stray with the driver pay for their inaccuracy. Hit it straight and there aren't any overly difficult problems to solve, although the second shots have their own modest challenges.

Bradshaw Farm is located in south Cherokee County a few miles off SR 140, and is easily accessible to golfers in the suburbs of north Fulton and Cobb. For information, call 770-592-2222 or visit www.bradshawfarmgc.com. Bradshaw Farm is part of the American Golf family of courses. 🏌️

just in front of the tee obscuring the view of a wide putting surface with a variety of pin positions.

The seventh is one of Atlanta's best par 5s, with water in play off both edges of the wide fairway and a creek slicing in front of the green that will not treat miss-hit or under-clubbed approaches kindly.

The long, straightaway par-4 eighth plays longer than its hefty yardage thanks to its slightly uphill nature, but the short-ish, downhill ninth helps balance things out.

For the most part, the greens complexes on the original 18 holes are on the same side, but there is sufficient rough to put some pressure on your short game.

Hazards are in play on just about every

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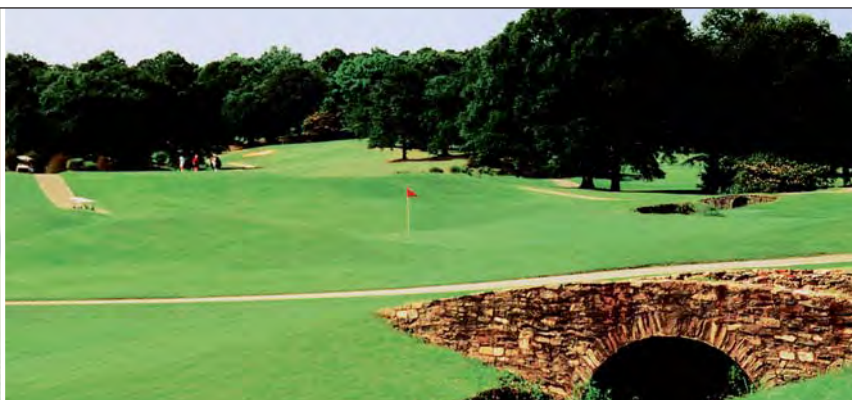
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Kirk, Kisner score back-to-back victories

Nationwide duo eyeing PGA Tour in 2011

By Mike Blum

A pair of Georgia Bulldogs scored recent back-to-back wins on the Nationwide Tour, the first time in six years golfers from the same college won consecutive events on the tour.

The last time it happened was 2004 and also involved the UGA golf team. But that feat was a little more impressive, as a trio of ex-Bulldogs won three straight Nationwide tournaments.

That time it was **Franklin Langham, Ryuji Imada** and **Justin Bolli**, who went back-to-back-to-back.

This time it was **Chris Kirk** and **Kevin Kisner**, teammates on Georgia's 2005 NCAA Championship team. Kirk, the Nationwide Tour's 2nd leading money winner this season, got it started with a victory in Knoxville, the city where he was born before moving to Woodstock in the northern Atlanta suburbs as a youngster.

The following week, Kisner scored his first Nationwide Tour victory, capturing a first-year event in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. Although the win does not guarantee him a spot on the PGA Tour in 2011, he is in excellent position to join Kirk as a rookie in golf's major leagues next year.

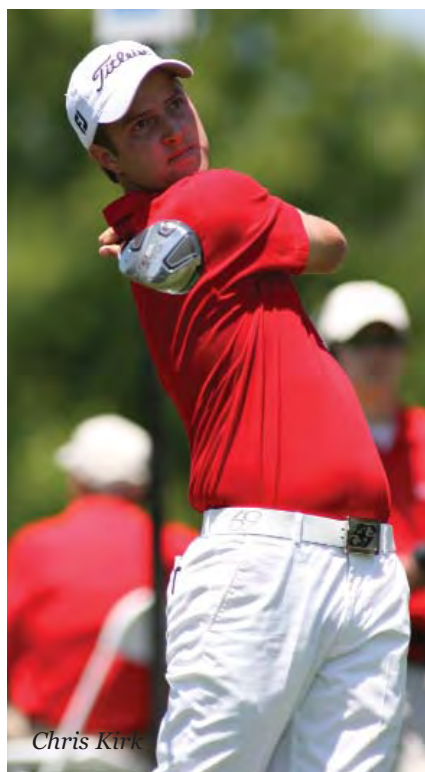
Kirk reclaimed the No. 1 spot on the tour's money list with his second win of the year, moving past \$400,000, but has since fallen a bit behind Jamie Lovemark with only a handful of tournaments remaining on the schedule.

As a Nationwide Tour rookie in 2008, Kirk lost in a playoff in Knoxville, and seemed headed for another playoff until he put the finishing touches on an outstanding final round with birdies on the last two holes to break a tie with Travis Bertoni.

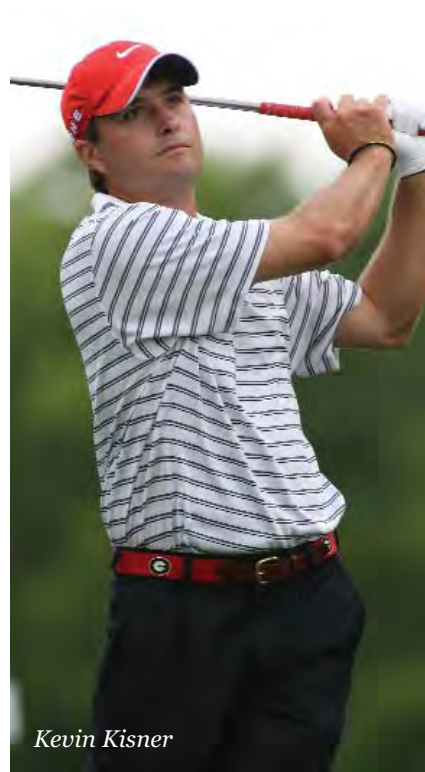
Both Kirk and Bertoni recorded five birdies on the final nine at Fox Den CC, but Kirk had something left in reserve after Bertoni made a late charge before settling for pars on holes 17 and 18.

Thanks to a superb 63 in the third round, in which he hit all 18 greens in regulation, Kirk led by one shot after 54 holes over PGA Tour veteran Kirk Triplett. He went out with an indifferent 36 on the outgoing nine before his winning dash to the finish line.

"Playing with the lead can be difficult mentally at times," said Kirk, who came from one shot back after 54 holes to win in



Chris Kirk



Kevin Kisner

Fort Smith, Ark., in June thanks to a final round 64.

"I made the turn and I wasn't happy with the way I was playing. I tried to stay patient, but I knew even par wasn't going to win the tournament, not on this tour. I knew I had to go after it on the back nine. I figured four birdies would put me right where I wanted to be."

Three birdies in a four-hole stretch enabled Kirk to stay even with Bertoni, and he moved in front when he holed a 10-footer for birdie at the 17th. Bertoni's second shot to the par-5 18th failed to clear the water fronting the green, but he managed to par the hole to finish at 18-under.

Kirk had 210 yards to pin for his second shot and went for the green, hitting a 5-iron within 12 feet of the hole, uncomfortably close to the water bordering the putting surface. He two-putted for birdie and the victory, closing with a 5-under 67 following scores of 68, 70 and 63. He finished the tournament at 20-under 268, two in front of Bertoni and three ahead of Triplett.

"This win was a lot harder than the first one," Kirk said. "In Fort Smith, I felt like I could have made every putt one-handed if I wanted to. This one was tough. I had to work for this one and it was a lot more rewarding in that respect."

This is Kirk's third year on tour, but with the exception of his playoff loss in

Knoxville in 2008, he had not lived up to the promise he generated during his career in Athens until this season.

In addition to his two wins, Kirk has a pair of runner-up finishes and two other top 5s, and is second on the Nationwide Tour in top 10s with seven. He leads the tour in scoring average, and is near the lead in birdies, ball striking and scrambling.

Kirk, who moved to St. Simons Island after graduating from Georgia, won the 2007 Ben Hogan Award as the nation's top college golfer his senior season, when he won four of his seven career titles. He was a member of the World Amateur and Walker Cup teams during his stint with the Bulldogs. Kirk tied for 13th in the NCAA Championship in 2005 as a sophomore, one of four Georgia golfers to finish in the top 16 as the Bulldogs won their second national title.

Imada and Bolli were both members of Georgia's 1999 NCAA Championship team.

Kisner was the captain of the 2005 Georgia squad, and joined Kirk in a tie for 13th in the NCAA Championship, with the Bulldogs going wire to wire to finish 11 strokes in front of runner-up Georgia Tech.

After turning pro in 2006, Kisner played on the Hooters and Tar Heel (now eGolf) Tours, winning once on both before earning exempt status on the

Nationwide Tour this year thanks to a strong showing in the finals of PGA Tour qualifying. He missed earning his PGA Tour card for this year by just one stroke, but has taken advantage of his Nationwide Tour status, and is likely to be on the PGA Tour next year.

Kisner, an Aiken, S.C., native, had notched four top 10 finishes previously in 2010, but did not have a legitimate chance to win a tournament before his triumph in Pittsburgh.

Opening with three consecutive scores of 68, Kisner remained within range of the lead after each round, and trailed by three after 54 holes. Geoffrey Sisk, who led after each of the first three rounds, was unable to move forward the final day, and Kisner pulled even with three birdies on the front nine. The players matched birdies on 14, with Sisk taking the lead with a birdie at the 16th.

But Sisk took a double bogey on the short par-4 17th after having just a wedge for his second shot from the middle of the fairway. Kisner parred the 18th for a 67 and a 13-under 271 total, edging Sisk by one stroke.

The victory was worth \$108,000 and boosted his earnings for the season to almost \$195,000. It took about \$190,000 last year to finish in the top 25 and earn a PGA Tour card for 2010.

"This game is so much about winning," said Kisner. "This is pretty special."

Kisner, who played in front of Sisk in the final round, was not totally aware of what was going on behind him late in the tournament.

"I didn't know I was going to win, even when I made that last putt," Kisner said of a 4-footer for par on the 72nd hole. "I was kind of in shock. I thought I might have been one short or maybe could get into a playoff."

"My whole world turned upside down there in a minute."

Kisner did not make a bogey the final round, which he credited to making "a lot of four and five-footers that you need to make. I played really solid all day."

"I just stayed in my own game. I was as calm as I've ever been in that situation, which is odd considering this was probably the biggest stage I've ever been in. I didn't look at a board all day."

The tournament did not begin well for Kisner, who bogeyed his first two holes in the opening round. But he rebounded with birdies on five of the first six holes on the back nine for the first of three straight 68s, and remained within striking distance of Sisk before overtaking him late in the final round. ☺

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Augusta State looks to defend NCAA title

Jaguars, Bulldogs, Jackets all rely on veterans

By Mike Blum

Usually, the golf world focuses its attention on Augusta exactly one week out of the year, that coming in early April for the Masters.

But after its victory in the 2010 NCAA Division 1 Championship, the Augusta State golf team has made its home town more than a one week date-line for the sport's most prestigious tournament.

The Jaguars entered the 2010-11 season with realistic hopes of defending their NCAA title, as all five starters are back from that squad, with a talented Atlanta area transfer who played at Minnesota joining the team.

Georgia's two perennial championship hopefuls – Georgia and Georgia Tech – are both hoping to make a run at an NCAA title, with the Bulldogs bolstered by the return of two of the country's top players, along with a third senior standout who was sidelined by injury last year.

The team to watch, however, is **Augusta State**, which included Georgia Tech among its three victims in match play, taking the national title with an impressive victory over top-ranked Oklahoma State in the championship match.

Augusta opened its season last month in a tournament played at Olympia Fields in Chicago, the host course for the 2003 U.S. Open. The two teams finished in a tie for 2nd at 12-over 852, seven strokes behind Florida's winning total.

The Jaguars shot even par 280 to tie

the Gators after the first round, but fell six shots back as Florida again shot 280 in the second round and could not make up any ground the final day.

Patrick Reed, an Augusta resident, had the low final round (67) of the day, and ended up tied for 3rd at 209, five strokes behind Oklahoma State's Peter Uihlein, the 2010 U.S. Amateur champion. **Carter Newman**, an Evans native, closed with a 69 to tie for 11th at 213.

Newman is one of three senior starters for the Jaguars, along with Australia's **Mitch Krywulycz** and Sweden's **Henrik Norlander**. Krywulycz opened with a 68 and ended up T16 at 214. Norlander, who combined with Reed to give Augusta one of the best 1-2 duos at the top of the lineup last year, struggled in the final round and tied for 24th at 216.

Augusta's fifth returning starter is Macon's **Taylor Floyd**, like Reed a junior, and one of three Georgia residents among the team's five starters. The Jaguars added Alpharetta's **Derek Chang**, a transfer from Minnesota and two-time Southeastern Amateur champion, to the roster during the off-season.

The Jaguars won four tournaments last year, getting major efforts from All-Americans Norlander and Reed and consistently solid contributions from the other three starters. Both Norlander and Reed were 3-0 in match play in the NCAAs, with Norlander tying for 5th in the stroke play competition.

The remainder of Augusta's 2010-11 schedule includes three events in California and two in South Carolina in March. The team's lone appearance in

Georgia will be in the annual tournament the Jaguars host the week before the Masters, with the 2011 event played at Forest Hills, Augusta's home course.

In Augusta's 2nd Fall start, the Jaguars tied for 4th in the NCAA Preview at 884, six strokes behind host Oklahoma State. Reed recovered from an opening 79 with a 2nd round 67 and ended up 4th at 217, 3 in back of the medalist. Norlander tied for 6th at 220 despite a second round 78.

Georgia opened its Fall schedule in the annual Carpet Capital Collegiate at The Farm in Rocky Face. The Bulldogs were in contention for 36 holes, but suffered through a difficult final round and wound up tied for 6th at 876, 20 strokes behind Alabama.

The Bulldogs' top two players – Macon's **Russell Henley** and Thomasville's **Harris English** – both shot 76 the final round. English wound up tied for 12th at 216, with Henley T19 at 219.

Henley, who won the Fred Haskins award as the 2010 College Player of the Year, enters his senior season with six career victories, one behind Georgia's all-time leader, **Chris Kirk**. English, a second team All American selection last season, has four career titles for the Bulldogs.

The third senior in Georgia's starting lineup is **Harris Swafford**, who missed last season with a shoulder injury. Swafford was a second team All-American as a sophomore and junior, and his return aids a Georgia squad that was short on depth last year.

Australia's **Bryden Macpherson** played well as a freshman for the 'Dogs last season, and is back in the lineup, with plenty of competition for the fifth position. Freshman **Michael Cromie** started in the Carpet Capital, with a trio of Georgians – Albany sophomore **T.J. Mitchell** and Augustans **Rob Bennett** and **Brian Carter** – all in the mix. All three saw extensive action last season,

The Bulldogs were 3rd in the NCAA Preview, five in back of Oklahoma State with an 883 total. Swafford shot 68 in the 2nd round and ended up tied for 2nd at 216. Henley also shot 68 in the 2nd round after an opening 68 and tied for 10th at 221, with English T13 at 223. Georgia's 285 total in the 2nd round was the only sub-par score for the tournament.

Georgia Tech got off to a solid start with a tie for 3rd in the Carpet Capital, just six shots behind Alabama's winning total. The host Yellow Jackets were led by seniors **Paul Haley** and **J. T. Griffin**, who both notched top-10 finishes. Haley tied for 7th at 213 with Griffin 9th at 214.

The Jackets got contributions from each player in the lineup, as all five finished in the top 25. Kyle Scott and Acworth's **James White** tied for 19th at 219, with **Richard Werenski** T23 at 220. Scott is one of three returning senior starters with White a junior on the veteran-laden squad. Werenski, who reached match play in the U.S. Amateur just prior to beginning his freshman season at Tech, is the lone newcomer to the starting lineup, replacing graduating senior **Chesson Hadley**.

Among the players hoping to earn some playing time is redshirt freshman **Seth Reeves** of Duluth.

The Jackets were 7th in the NCAA Preview at 892, falling out of contention for the title with a final round 307. Haley was T10 at 221, with Griffin T13 at 222 and Scott T21 at 224.

Tech will close out its Fall schedule with the U.S. Collegiate Championship Oct. 24-26 at Golf Club of Georgia. The event, which has moved from its original pre-Masters Spring date, will feature 15 top teams, primarily from the ACC and Pac-10.

Georgia's four other D1 college golf teams are looking to make some noise on a slightly lower scale, with one of them opening the 2010 Fall campaign with a victory.

Kennesaw State captured a tournament in Hattiesburg, Miss., with a 13-under 839 total, four strokes ahead of the runner-up team. The Owls' **Jeff Karlsson** won the individual title for the second straight year, posting scores of 65-69-65 for a 14-under 199 total.

Chad Wilson of Dalton and **Matt Nagy** of Buena Vista tied for 20th at 213, with Nagy making his first appearance since the 2008-09 season after redshirting last year. Sophomore **Ben Greene** of Duluth and freshman **Kelby Burton** of Evans also contributed to the victory and are among six Georgians on the team's nine-man roster.



Harris English



Russell Henley

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2 Georgia PGA members win national honors

Anderson, Mongell honored by PGA of America

By Mike Blum

Two Georgia PGA members were recently honored by PGA of America as recipients of national awards. **Todd Anderson**, the Director of Instruction at Sea Island Golf Club, was honored as PGA Teacher of the Year, and **Mark Mongell**, Director of Golf at Atlanta's Cherokee Town and Country Club, was selected as the Merchandiser of the Year in the private club category.

Anderson becomes the second Sea Island GC instructor to earn that honor, with **Jack Lumpkin** named Instructor of the Year in 1995. Mongell is the second Georgia PGA member to win Merchandiser of the Year honors, joining former West Lake Country Club head professional **Mark Darnell**.

"It's a tremendous honor to be chosen by your peers," said Anderson, who has been a PGA member for 23 years and has headed up Sea Island Golf Club's nationally-recognized instruction staff since 2004.

"As an instructor, you're always trying to improve, and it's nice when others recognize what you're doing."

Anderson, 48, is a native of Michigan, and began his club professional career in his home state, but has a long connection to the South, beginning with his college days at the University of Alabama from 1980-84, where he played on the golf team and was captain his senior year.

After a few years as an assistant in his native Michigan, Anderson took his first head professional job in Banner Elk, N.C., in 1987, and spent a decade as a head professional and instructor in south Florida before coming to Sea Island GC in 2004.

"I always loved teaching, and as I got older, that's what I wanted to do," says Anderson, who was a South Florida Section Teacher of the Year, as well as being honored with the Horton Smith Award for contributions to PGA Education.

"I enjoy the teaching side and decided I needed to do it on a full-time basis."

Since 2005, players on the PGA, Champions and Nationwide Tours who have worked with Sea Island GC instructors have won more than 50 tournaments, and the list of tour players who have worked with Anderson over the years is a lengthy one.

Anderson's current group of students



Todd Anderson

includes **Brandt Snedeker**, **Brett Quigley** and **Charles Warren**, and he has also worked with Augusta native **Charles Howell** and Sea Island resident **Davis Love**.

In addition to the tour players he has worked with, Anderson has an even longer list of top juniors and college players among his students, with the majority of his teaching time spent with golfers at or near the top level of the professional, amateur or junior categories.

Although his method of teaching doesn't differ dramatically in his work with tour players and those not at that level, Anderson says there are differences in his approach.

"They come to you because they want to improve and reach certain goals. The amount of dedication and commitment is different with tour players, and the mistakes they make are much smaller. You're dealing with minute changes.

"With the average player, the mistakes are much bigger and it's more challenging to make changes because they don't have as much time and are not in as good shape. But the approach is the same. You're trying to find things that can help them improve."

Anderson's approach to instruction, especially with the tour players he works with, is to determine what works best for that particular player and go from there.

"I do not have a so-called method," he says. "There are a lot of different ways to swing a club, and I try to find a swing that fits their body the best."

A large number of tour pros have



Mark Mongell

moved to St. Simons to be closer to their instructors and the outstanding practice facility at Sea Island GC, with many of them also managed by a company (Crown Sports Management) that is based there.

Over the years, Anderson has put together a team of instructors, as well as golf-related professionals in the areas of fitness (Randy Myers) and sports psychology (Morris Pickens) that has helped make the area such an attractive one for so many tour players.

Mongell has been Director of Golf at Cherokee CC in Sandy Springs since the late 1990s, and his skill in the merchandising arena has been evident throughout his career as a PGA professional.

A native of Connellsville, Pa., Mongell attended college in his native state (Slippery Rock) and worked as an assistant at two Pittsburgh clubs before taking a job at the famed Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Mongell was part of the Olympic Club's innovative merchandising approach at the 1987 that set records and is still being followed today. After three years there, he returned to the eastern part of the U.S. as head professional at Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, where he stayed for a decade, winning Merchandiser of the Year honors in the Philadelphia Section of the PGA.

In 1998, Mongell came to Cherokee as its Director of Golf, and twice was named the Georgia PGA Section's Merchandiser of the Year for private facilities (2005 and '09).

"I worked for some great golf professionals in Pittsburgh and at the Olympic Club and they were innovative in the merchandising area," Mongell says.

Winning the PGA award for merchandising is a multi-faceted task that encompasses a variety of areas in the operation of a golf facility. Among the factors involved are member rounds and retail sales per round; guest play and the percentage of hard goods and apparel sold; the display design of the pro shop; and financial information regarding the shop.

One of the things Mongell says he learned during his stints as an assistant was "attention to detail," and those who have been in the well-appointed pro shop at Cherokee can bear witness that he has put those lessons into practice.

Winning a merchandising award is a team effort, and Mongell says "you have to have a strong staff that makes our golf facility an extension of the members' homes."

"I'm proud for our staff, and it makes me proud to be a part of the Georgia PGA and to be the second person from the Section to win that honor."

It's been more than 30 years since Darnell was the first Georgia PGA member to earn that distinction, winning Merchandiser of the Year in 1979.

"I'm also proud for my club. I love the club and its members and it's a club that likes to lead."

Cherokee has long been one of Atlanta's most prominent private clubs, with a strong emphasis on both golf and the social aspects of being a club member. The club has two separate facilities, with the Town Club facility located in Buckhead and the 36-hole golf facility in north Sandy Springs.

"Cherokee has a terrific mix," Mongell says. "We have 250 single digit handicap members, plus the mix of the social element."

The club has hosted events for the Georgia PGA, GSGA and USGA, and is the annual host of the GSGA awards banquet. The GSGA will play its 2012 Amateur Championship at Cherokee, and Mongell says preparation efforts are already under way for that tournament.

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Chip Shots

Weinhart captures Assistant victory

Tim Weinhart, an instructor at St. Marlo GC, won the Callaway Golf Georgia PGA Assistant Championship at Achasta GC in Dahlonega, finishing with a 9-under 135 total over 36 holes.

Weinhart shot 68-67 in the one day event to take home \$1,300 and earn a spot in the PGA Assistant Championship Nov. 11-14 at PGA GC in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Weinhart, a 5-time Georgia PGA Player of the Year, previously won the Assistant Championship in 2000

Eric Reeves of Healy Point in Macon and **Mike Pavao** of Trophy Club of Atlanta also qualified for the PGA Assistant Championship, placing second and third respectively. Reeves, the 2006 Georgia PGA Assistant champion, shot 65-71—136 to finish one stroke behind Weinhart, with Pavao third at 69-68—137.

Bill Murchison of Towne Lake Hills was fourth at 139, with two-time tournament champion **Greg Lee** of Chicopee Woods and Atlanta area instructor **Jason Bruce** tying for fifth at 140. **Michael Parrott** of Brookfield CC and **Paddy Higgins** of Ansley GC tied for seventh at 141.

Chris Nicol, also from Towne Lake Hills, shot 66-64—130, but was disqualified due to an eligibility situation.

Chapter Championships: Chip Zimmerman, Chris Dixon and

Sonny Skinner are the winners of the three Chapter championships conducted by the Georgia PGA.

Zimmerman, an assistant at Cherokee CC, won the North Chapter Championship at the Standard Club with a 65. **Craig Forney** of St. Marlo was second at 68, with Weinhart tying for third at 69 with **Clark Spratlin** of Georgia Golf Center.

Dixon, the Director of Instruction at Kinderlou Forest, shot a 68 at Sanctuary Cove to win the East Chapter Championship by one stroke over **Brandon Youmans** of Sea Island GC. **Josh Williams** of Savannah GC and **Hank Smith** of Sea Island GC tied for third at 71.

Skinner, who teaches at River Pointe in Albany, shot 131 over 36 holes to win the Central Chapter Championship at CC of Columbus. **Brian Stubbs**, head professional at CC of Columbus, tied for second at 138 with **Andy Blanton** of Green Island CC. **Winston Trively** of Crooked Oak was fourth at 144.

Mitchell captures GSGA PubLinks

Roswell's Billy Mitchell won the GSGA Public Links Championship at Bridge Mill, going four extra holes to win a playoff over **Stan Jones** of Alpharetta. Mitchell led after the first round with a 2-under 70, but fell back with a 76 the next day for a 146 total.

Jones shot a tournament-best 69 the second round to make up seven strokes on Mitchell, but after the two made par on the first three playoff holes, Jones hit his second in a hazard on the par-5 18th and lost the hole to Mitchell's par. **John Belicka** of Woodstock shot 71 the first day and placed third at 147, briefly holding the lead during the final round.

Davis takes first in Lee-Weir event

Russ Davis, Director of Instruction at Cherokee CC, won the Georgia PGA Senior Division Lee-Weir Classic at Canongate GC, posting a 138 total and winning a playoff over West Pines head professional **Mike Schlueter**. Davis carded scores of 68 and 70, with Schlueter shooting 71-67.

River Pines head professional **Phil Wagoner** was third at 139, with **Don Marsh** the low amateur at 140.

Amateur **Mel Mendenhall** won a one-

day Senior Division event at the Coweta Club in Newnan with a 71. Marsh and fellow amateur **Gary Woodell** were second at 72, with Schlueter the low pro at 73, tying for fourth with amateur **Alan Thieleman**.

Willow Lake head professional **Gregg Wolff** won the recent Senior Division Championship at Jekyll Island GC by three strokes with a 137 total. Davis was second at 140, with **Chuck Knebels** of Hawks Ridge third at 141.

Scott wins event at Callaway Gardens

Former UGA golfer Richard Scott, a St. Simons Island resident, won the first of three Hooters Tour Q School Prep tournaments at Callaway Gardens, shooting 14-under 202 to take home \$8,500.

Scott closed with a pair of 66s to finish one stroke ahead of a pair of challengers, including **Chris Wolfe** of Warner Robins, who shot a sensational 61 in the first round and followed with a 66 to lead by seven after 36 holes. But Wolfe shot a final round 76, with Scott coming from nine shots behind going to the final round.

Georgia PGA member **Tim Weinhart** shot a second round 66 and wound up tied for 12th at 210 with former Norcross resident and ex-Auburn golfer **Reid Edstrom**.

EGolf Tour: Savannah's **Brian Harman** added two more top 10 finishes, including his first win as a pro, on the eGolf Tour, and came into the tour's final event of the season third on the money list with more than \$84,000.

Harman won in Farmville, Va., posting a 12-under 272 total to win by three strokes. A second round 65 and a closing 68 keyed Harman's victory. **Hank Kim** of Jonesboro and recent Georgia Tech golfer **Chesson Hadley** tied for 10th at 283.

The eGolf Tour closes out its season Oct. 12-14 at Callaway Gardens.

Engler loses to champ in U.S. Mid-Am

Augusta's **John Engler**, competing in his first USGA championship since having his amateur status reinstated, advanced to match play in the recent U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, and nearly knocked off the player who went on to win the event for a third time.



After winning his opening match on the 19th hole at Atlantic GC in Bridgehampton, N.Y., Engler faced No. 1 seed **Nathan Smith**, the tournament's defending champion, in the second round. He lost to Smith 1-up, the only match Smith did not win by at least three holes.

Engler never led in the match and was 3-down after 13, but won 14, 15 and 16 to pull even. Smith won the 17th with a birdie and held on with a par at the 18th. In his opening match against 2002 Mid-Amateur champion **George Zahringer**, Engler was 4-up after nine holes with five birdies, but needed one extra hole to pull out the victory.

Before he regained his amateur status, Engler spent one year on the PGA Tour, but his career as a tour player ended after he was involved in a serious automobile accident and suffered injuries which made it difficult for him to walk 18 holes.

Dalton's **David Noll**, Atlanta's **Jordan Mitchell** and Snellville's **Richie Taylor** all reached match play, but lost in the first round. **Rick Cloninger**, like Noll a former Georgia Amateur champion who now lives in South Carolina, reached the third round before being eliminated.

Chris Hall of Marietta and **Bill Hodges** of Thomasville both tied for 60th in stroke play qualifying, but did not make it past a 12 players for five spots playoff.

DelVal scores win on Peach State Tour

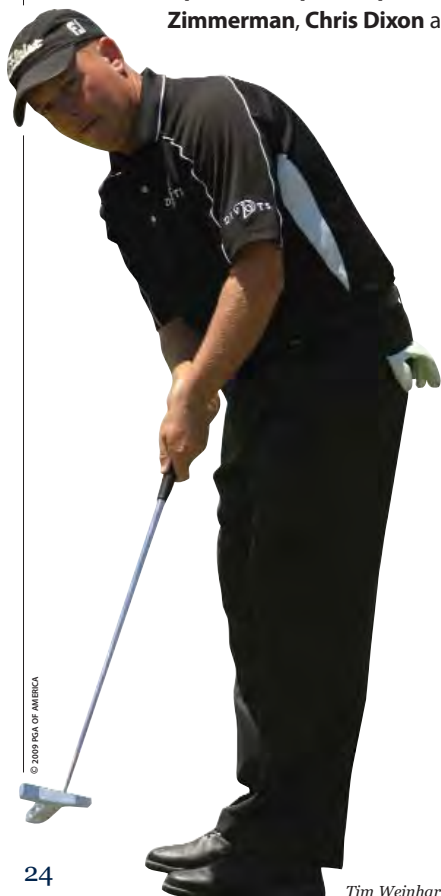
Georgia Open champion Samuel Del Val of Athens scored a victory on the Peach State Golf Tour, winning a late-season event at Macon's Brickyard at Riverside course.

Del Val and Fayetteville's **Andrew Suggs** tied for first at 9-under 135, with Del Val winning on the first extra hole. **Matt Hughes** of Dalton and **Dalton Melnyk** of Atlanta tied for fourth at 139.

Mark Harrell of Hazlehurst picked up his second tour title of the season, winning by one stroke at Hammer's Glen in Homer thanks to a hole-in-one on the 17th hole of the final round. Harrell finished with a 12-under 134 total. Duluth's **Brent Witcher** was third at 137.

At Lane Creek outside Athens, **Beau**

[See Chip shots, page 29]



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Golf FORE Juniors



3 Georgians post top 10s in AJGA

Three Georgians finished in the top 10 in prominent American Junior Golf Association tournaments recently.

In the Junior Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass, Alpharetta's **Billy Kennerly** and **Ollie Schniederjans** of Powder Springs tied for 8th at 220, Kennerly was only one shot off the lead after 36 holes, but fell back with a final round 79.

In the AJGA Girls Championship in Greenville, S.C., **Rachel Dai** of Suwanee tied for 4th with a 223 total. **Jessica Welch** of Lavonia tied for 13th at 228.

Junior Ryder Cup: Schniederjans was a member of the victorious U.S. Junior Ryder Cup team, which defeated a team of European juniors 13 ½ - 10 ½ at Gleneagles in Scotland a few days before the Ryder Cup matches were played in Wales.

Schniederjans went 1-0-1 in the two team matches, earning a half in foursomes and a win in mixed four-ball. The Americans were ahead 9-3 after the team matches and held on despite losing 7 ½ - 4 ½ in singles. Schniederjans lost his singles match 2&1.

Savannah's Sells wins at Wilmington Island

Savannah's **Chris Sells** scored a Georgia PGA Junior Tour victory in his home town, winning the boys division at Wilmington Island Club. Sells shot 72-78—150 to take first in the 16-18 age group, five strokes ahead of runners-up **Jack Stumpf** of Villa Rica and **John Daniel Gibbs** of Hartwell.

Tommy Swearingen of Marietta was the 14-15 winner with a 161 total, four in front of Savannah's **August Beisel**. **Walker Bottomley** of Evans shot 166 to edge **Matthew McMahon** by one in the 11-13 division.

Caitlin Cole of Brunswick shot 164 to win the girls division by six strokes over Atlanta's **Carlisle Withers**.

The next Georgia PGA Junior Tour tournament is Oct. 23-24 at the Georgia Club outside Athens.

Guglielmo rallies to win SJGT event

The Southeastern Junior Golf Tour recently played tournaments at three



Caitlin Cole



Chris Sells

Georgia courses.

At CC of Columbus, **Chris Guglielmo** of Cumming shot a second round 67 to win the overall boys title with a 142 total. **Connor Marschke** of Suwanee, who led Guglielmo by seven after an opening 68, shot 76 the second day for a 144 total to take 2nd in both the overall division and 14-15 age group.

Davis Parker of Columbus was the 16-18 winner in a playoff over **Trey Patterson** of Johns Creek after both shot 148. Four players tied for 3rd at 149, including **Mark Kim** of Rome, who shot a second round 69. Also tying for 3rd in the division were **Charles Flowers** of Columbus, **Cody Sapp** of Sharpsburg and **Daniel Kim** of Kennesaw. **Stanton Schorr** of Columbus shot 150 to win boys 12-13.

Haley Austin of McDonough shot 153 to win girls 15-19 by six strokes over

Ahhyun Cho of Cumming, with **Kayley Marschke** of Suwanee winning girls 12-14 by three at 169. **Trisha Mukherjee** of Marietta placed 2nd.

At Forest Hills in Augusta, **Evans' Robert** Robertson posted scores of 69-77—146 to finish one stroke ahead of Evans' **Austin Vick** and two in front of Alpharetta's **Sanders Park** in the 16-18 division.

Carter Mobley of Evans was the 14-15 winner at 148, with Evans' **Walker Bottomley** losing a playoff in the 12-13 age group after shooting 72-77—149.

Jessica Hoang of North Augusta, S.C., was the girls 15-19 winner by three over Suwanee's **Sloan Shanahan** with a 149 total. **Kayla Jones** of Alpharetta was the 12-14 winner at 158, with **Sarah Harrison** and **Megan Sabol**, both of Martinez, 2nd at 160. 📧

Golf FORE Women

Coble loses to champ in Mid-Am quarters

Augusta's **Laura Coble** reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship for the fourth time in six years, losing on the 18th hole to the tournament's eventual champion.

Coble won her first three matches decisively before drawing No. 3 seed **Meghan Stasi**, who had won the tournament twice in recent years. Coble led almost the entire match and was 2-up after 13 before losing the 14th and 15th holes. She regained the lead at 16, but Stasi won the final two holes with a par and a birdie.

It was the closest match Stasi played en route to her third Mid-Amateur title. The Florida resident won 2-up in the finals, the only other time she had to go to the 18th hole.

Coble reached the quarters in 2005 and '06, and reached the finals last year. She was the No. 11 seed, posting scores of 79 and 73 in stroke play qualifying. She won her opening match 8&7, and led all the way in the second round, winning 2&1. Coble won 5&4 in the third round after winning the first three holes.

Also qualifying for match play were **Michelle Griffith** of LaGrange and Atlanta native **Wendi (Patterson) Golden**, who now lives in Bradenton, Fla. Griffith lost her opening match, while Golden made it to the second round, winning her first match 1-up. She led 3-up after 12 before losing three of the next five holes, winning with a birdie on the 18th. Golden was 2-up after 12 in the second round, but again struggled down the stretch and lost 3&2.

Marietta's **Brenda Pictor** lost in a playoff

to determine the final group of match play qualifiers.

Senior Women's Am qualifying: Four Georgians qualified for the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship, scheduled for Oct. 9-14 in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Augusta's **Mary Helen McElreath** and Sea Island's **Cheryl Grigg** were the two qualifiers at Sea Island Golf Club's Retreat course. McElreath shot 78 and Riley was second with a 79.

Greensboro's **Susan Rheney** was the medalist in a qualifier in Illinois with an 83. Also qualifying was Augusta native **Karen (Shapiro) Ferree**, who lives on Hilton Head Island. She got the final spot in a playoff at Pinehurst, N.C., after shooting a 79.

Pictor claims 3rd senior title

Brenda Pictor of Marietta won the GSGA Senior Women's Amateur for the third time in four years, scoring a 4-stroke victory at Houston Lake in Perry. Pictor, who previously won the tournament in 2007 and '09, shot 73-78—151.

Mary Riley of Perry was second at 155, followed by McElreath at 158 and Rheney at 159.

Carter captures Futures victory

Valdosta's **Dori Carter** finished her rookie season on the Futures Tour in style, placing 12th or better in six of her last seven starts, including her first professional victory.

Carter won a late-season tournament in Harrisburg, Pa., and went on to finish the year 14th on the Futures Tour money list, earning an exemption into the finals of LPGA qualifying for 2011.

Carter, who played her college golf at Mississippi, shot three consecutive 68s in her win in Pennsylvania, coming from behind in the final round thanks to seven birdies. She trailed by two with four holes to play, but surged past the leader to earn the \$15,000 winner's check.

Garrett Phillips of St. Simons enjoyed another solid season on the tour and finished 36th on the money list. 📧



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FedExCup

[Continued from page 12]

The FedExCup Playoffs featured a long list of winners, along with a few who could be considered losers, even though they went home with checks with plenty of zeroes.

Furyk, Kuchar and Tour Championship runner-up **Luke Donald** finished 1-2-3 in the final standings, with 4th place finisher **Charley Hoffman** certainly at the top of the list of those who profited from the Playoffs. Thanks to his win in the Deutsche Bank Championship and a solid 6th place finish at East Lake, Hoffman collected more than \$3.2 in the Playoffs in earnings and bonus money after ending the regular season 77th in the standings.

Kevin Streelman and **Martin Laird** qualified for the Tour Championship after beginning the Playoffs 102nd and 95th in points, with Laird ending up 11th, just ahead of Watney and **Phil Mickelson**, despite finishing dead last at East Lake.

Hoffman, Streelman and Laird were the only three players to make it to East Lake from well outside the top 30 at the end of



Ernie Els

the regular season. The next highest player was **Kevin Na**, who started the Playoffs 41st and was headed for a top-10 finish in the Tour Championship before a late meltdown on the course and between his ears.

Ernie Els was No. 1 in points during the regular season, but was pretty much invisible in the Playoffs until a final round 65 at East Lake that propelled him to a tie for 7th. He wound up 9th in the final standings. **Steve Stricker** slipped from 2nd in the regular season to 7th despite

three straight top-10 finishes in the first three Playoffs events. Furyk had dropped from 3rd going into the Playoffs to 11th before his victory, partly due to his cell phone/alarm clock malfunction, which turned out to be much ado about very little.

Several players who enjoyed outstanding regular seasons did not make it to East Lake. Among them were (regular season finish in parentheses): **Anthony Kim** (14), **J.B. Holmes** (18), **Rickie Fowler** (19), **Carl Pettersson** (20) and **Rory McIlroy** (21).

Thanks to three straight top-15 finishes, Woods steadily advanced from 112 to 65 to 51 to 42, but it wasn't enough for him to qualify for the Tour Championship, the first time in his pro career he failed to qualify for an event.

Duluth's **Stewart Cink** started 54th and was 35th going to the BMW Championship, but wound up 38th and was one of several Georgians who came up short of making the field at East Lake, with **Vaughn Taylor** ending up 35th and **Heath Slocum** 46th. ☺

College preview

[Continued from page 20]

The Owls tied for 4th in a tournament in Louisville, Ky., with an 863 total, six behind Miami (Ohio). Karlsson was 2nd at 211, one behind the medalist, with Wilson 3rd at 212. Nagy and Greene both added a pair of 72s.

Sam Curtis of Calhoun, a transfer from Berry College who played last Spring for the Owls, and freshman **Jonathan Klotz** round out the Georgia contingent.

Georgia State returns four veterans, all Georgians, and has a pair of Georgians among four incoming freshmen. Back from last year's squad are seniors **Alex Castro** (Alpharetta), **Brent Paul** (Midland) and **Alana Fowler** (Gainesville), along with junior **Jared Cagle** (Gainesville). **Grant Cagle**, Jared's younger brother, is one of the two in-state freshman recruits, along with Roswell's **Bryan Fox**.

The Panthers have transitioned away from their emphasis on international players, although coach **Joe Inman** has brought in two European newcomers to the squad for this season.

The Panthers finished back in the pack in their first start of the Fall in Nashville, Tenn. Paul, Fowler and Jared Cagle were in the lineup, with Fox's college debut highlighted by a 2nd round 69.

Georgia State's Fall schedule includes an appearance in the U.S. Collegiate Championship this month at Golf Club of Georgia.

Georgia Southern began its Fall schedule with a tournament in Florence, S.C., tying for 5th with an 874 total. Junior **Lewis Gruber** led the Eagles with a tie for 7th, while Georgians **Matt Deal** (senior, Statesboro) and freshman **Will Evans** (McDonough) were also in the lineup.

The Eagles will host the Mizuno Savannah Intercollegiate Oct. 11-12 at Savannah Quarters, with the annual

Schenkel Invitational scheduled for March 18-20.

The tournament in Florence was won by Division II **Georgia College**, which posted a 16-under 848 total to win by 18 strokes. Three Georgians posted top-6 finishes for the Bobcats, led by Duluth's **Billy Shida**, who shot 8-under 208 to finish 2nd, one stroke behind the individual winner. Kennesaw sophomore **Pat Garrett** was 3rd at 210, with freshman **Gavin Harper** of Twin City tying for 6th at 214.

Garrett was 3rd and Shida 6th as the Bobcats placed 3rd in their season-opening tournament in Kiawah Island, S.C., just three shots behind the winning team.

Mercer was 7th in its season-opening tournament, played on Kiawah Island's Ocean Course. In his first appearance for the Bears, junior transfer **Josh Cone** of Thomasville placed 5th with a 218 total. Macon sophomore **Thomas Holmes**, Valdosta sophomore **John Gregory Joseph** and Duluth freshman **Mookie Demoss** were also in the lineup for Mercer, which lost its top player from last year – Alpharetta's **William Meason** – who transferred to Arkansas.

The **Georgia women's team** got its 2010-11 schedule off to a strong start, placing 5th in the NCAA Preview in Bryan, Tex. With three players shooting in the 60s in the first round, including freshman **Amelia Hill** of St. Simons, the Bulldogs shot 11-under 277 to lead by seven strokes, but fell back after a tough 2nd round and ended up with an 864 total.

Sophomore **Emilie Burger** of Hoschton and junior **Marta Silva** tied for 9th for Georgia at 212, with Burger opening with a 67 and shooting 69 the final day. Duluth sophomore **Kendall Wright** shot 69 the first day and wound up tied for 25th at 219.

Georgia tied for 7th in Nashville, with Burger and Silva both tying for 14th at 4-under 212. Hill was T26 at 216. ☺

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PGA

[Continued from page 8]

teammate at Florida State and a former PGA champion, stopped on the practice range to chat with Keppler, and joined Keppler's son in golf's time-honored practice range pastime of trying to hit the range picker.

When dad ran out of balls before he completed his practice session, Jonathan was dispatched a few stations down to secure an unused bucket from another ex-PGA champion, in this case John Daly. It was a request Daly couldn't refuse.

"There were a lot of things like that that were neat," Keppler recollected.

Once Thursday arrived, it was back to business for Keppler. He was in the first group off the first tee, and "was privileged enough to hit the first tee shot" after being announced by Atlanta AC Director of Golf Rick Anderson.

"I hit it good," Keppler remembers. "I hit the fairway."

A pair of bogeys put Keppler in an early hole, but he responded with three birdies and wound up at 2-over 72 after taking a double bogey on the 16th, stemming from one of only two tee shots all day that missed the fairway.

Keppler's 72 was one shot better than Tiger Woods that day, and he had another memorable father-son moment after the round. While signing autographs with Jonathan by his side, a girl not much older than his son asked Jonathan for his autograph, and he signed his first ever autograph then and there.

With the chance to make the 36-hole cut, Keppler started out with seven pars

before his second birdie in two days on the treacherous par-3 17th. After a bogey at the demanding 18th, Keppler carded nine straight pars on the front nine of the Highlands course, posting an even par 70 and a two-round total of 2-over 142, one shot over the cut line.

"I played solid," he said. "But I couldn't make that one birdie."

Keppler's immediate reaction was one of frustration.

"I played really well, but I came up short by one lousy shot. I was so close."

Having previously played in a pressure situation in front of a home town crowd, Keppler says the experience wasn't that different than his three previous starts in the PGA, other than getting to sleep in his own bed and bring his son with him to the course.

It's been 15 years since Keppler's week to remember at Atlanta Country Club, 14 years since he claimed the fourth of his four straight Georgia PGA Player of the Year awards and six years since his last win in a Section event.

But Keppler remains among the top players in the Section, finishing either second or third in the Georgia PGA Championship each of the last six years. But his tournament participation has dwindled in recent years, although that may be about to end.

While he doesn't turn 50 until early February, Keppler is already thinking about the senior majors, especially the Senior British. Keppler was a junior member at Walton Heath, the site of next year's Senior British Open, and a trip back home could make for some more father-son memories if Keppler can make it through the qualifying process for the championship. ☺

Ryder Cup

[Continued from page 14]

thoughts is Cink, who was part of several matches that could have been wins instead of draws. After letting the Molinaris escape in his third session match with Kuchar, Cink had the chance to beat **Rory McIlroy**, but missed a series of key putts on the final four holes, letting McIlroy snatch a half point.

Cink may have been the best American player from start to finish in the matches, and wound up 1-0-3. That mark could just as easily have been 4-0 as he led late in every match. Cink was one of the very few U.S. players who seemed to have a feel for the slow Celtic Manor greens, but along with the sizeable number of bombs he holed along the way were an approximately equal amount of much shorter misses in key situations.

Much of the post-match analysis focused on trivial matters that the media horde obsessed over, as media hordes are wont to do. Rain gear, captain's styles and how much the two sides "wanted it"

had little if anything to do with the final outcome.

The Europeans won because they were more at home on the slow UK greens that befuddle most of the U.S. players, and their evident comfort with the 15th hole, where a lot of the matches were either decided or strongly influenced.

The American team was not helped by the necessary change in format to get the matches completed in less than a week, but still had a great chance to win with a terrific comeback that shoved some of the media generated stories into the background.

There was some talk about alternations to future schedules, but that would make the Ryder Cup more like the Presidents Cup, which has a far superior format but lacks the history and intensity of the Ryder Cup that masks many of the latter's flaws.

Ultimately, it was a great win for European captain **Colin Montgomerie** and his talented team, and a gallant effort from the U.S. squad, something that hasn't always been an accurate description in recent setbacks. ☺

Chip shots

[Continued from page 24]

Mitchell shot 134 to win by a shot over Hughes, who closed with a final round 64.

Q School pre-qualifying: The PGA Tour recently held pre-qualifying for 2010 Q-school, with a number of Georgians advancing to first stage qualifiers this month. Kinderlou Forest in Valdosta hosted one of the pre-qualifiers, with Callaway Gardens the site of a first stage qualifier Oct. 27-30.

Qualifiers from Kinderlou Forest included: **Samuel Del Val**, Athens, 3rd, 283; **Chris Wolfe**, Warner Robins, T4, 286; **Chesson Hadley**, Georgia Tech, T9, 290; **Ryan**

Zebeau, Cedartown, T15, 293; **John Powell**, Dalton, and **Gordon Strother**, St. Simons, T23, 296; **Hugh Royer**, Columbus; **John Saari**, Lilburn.

Adam McKenney of Evans won a pre-qualifier in Florida, by two strokes with an 18-under 270 total. Also advancing was Evans' **Jordan Johnstun**. **Brett Munson** of Evans tied for 7th in Lincoln, Neb., with **Andrew Suggs** of Fayetteville T16 at 281.

Atlanta's **Tim Schaetzel** tied for 6th in Dallas at 276, highlighted by a second round 63. He finished four behind the medalist. Albany's **Brandon Anthony** also advanced. Advancing in San Antonio were **Michael Gordy** of Clarkesville, **Bryan Thompson** of St. Simons and **Parker Beck** of Duluth. ☺

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FEB 20-21	Forest Heights CC, Statesboro
MAR 13-14	The Brickyard at Riverside, Macon
APRIL 5	North Georgia High School Golf Classic, Achasta GC, Dahlonega
APRIL 24-25	Georgia Veterans Golf Course, Cordele
MAY 22-23	Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain
JUNE 7-8	Georgia PGA Junior Championship, CC of Columbus, Columbus
JUNE 30-7/1	Stone Mountain GC, Stone Mountain
JULY 7-8	Junior Piney Woods, Glen Arven CC, Thomasville
JULY 26-27	Governors Towne Club, Acworth
AUG 14-15	Champions Retreat GC, Evans
SEPT 18-19	Wilmington Island Club, Savannah
OCT 9-10	Canongate at Heron Bay, Locust Grove
OCT 23-24	The Georgia Club, Statham
DEC 4-5	Tour Championship, Savannah Quarters CC, Savannah

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JUL 12	Dunwoody Country Club, Dunwoody
JUL 19	Capital City Club at Crabapple, Woodstock



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Course Reviews

Cobblestone Golf Course (Public)

4200 Nance Rd., Acworth; 770-917-5151; www.cobblestonegolf.com

STAFF: Chris Wright, PGA Golf Professional; Brad Sermersheim is the Superintendent.

PAR/YARDAGE: Cobblestone is a par 71 with four sets of tees: Black (6,759 yards); Blue (6,272); White (5,843); Green (5,400).

COURSE RATING/SLOPE: 73.5/139 (Black); 71.2/134 (Blue); 69.4/128 (White); 71.5/129 (Green).

ABOUT THE COURSE: Considered one of metro Atlanta's best and most challenging daily fee courses since it opened in the early 1990s, Cobblestone has recently upgraded its conditions by renovating its bunkers and replacing its bent grass greens with Champion Bermuda. The improvements will significantly enhance the status of the course, which has always been recognized for the quality of its layout. Cobblestone is owned by Cobb County, and while it is in fact a municipal course, it's not anything like the typical "munis" many golfers grew up playing. Located along the shore of Lake Acworth, the course features some absolutely gorgeous lakeside holes. Water is in play on about half the holes, including an exceptional foursome of scenic but perilous finishing holes. The conditions are now closer in line with the quality of the layout, which includes a wonderful variety of holes. Cobblestone is a relatively demanding course off the tee, with mounds, water and the occasional tight tree line making their presence felt. With an extra par 3, the yardage is a little deceptive, but there are only a handful of holes where length off the tee is a necessary attribute. Along with a quartet of long, demanding par 4s, Cobblestone includes two terrific short 4s that require considerable precision to solve. Other than the downhill 9th, the par 5s are relatively short, but all have their subtle challenges. With Lake Acworth as a backdrop, the 15th is one of the metro area's most visually appealing holes. The par 3s range from very short but treacherous (16) to just plain long (8), with the 8th the only one of the five with no water in play. Over the years, the greens have lost some of the contour that divided many of them into distinct sections, but still have plenty of movement that places plenty of demand on your putting touch, with the renovated bunkers retaining the emphasis on deft sand play. All in all, one of the state's elite courses for daily fee players.

Legacy on Lanier (Public/Resort)

7000 Holiday Rd., Lake Lanier Islands; 770-318-7861; www.lakelanierislandsgolf.com

STAFF: Brian Conley is the PGA Director of Golf; Ryan Keylon is the Superintendent

PAR/YARDAGE: Legacy on Lanier is a par 72 with four sets of tees: Black (6,580 yards); Blue (6,193); White (5,706) and Red (4,852).

COURSE RATING/SLOPE: 72.7/141 (Black); 71.0/137 (Blue); 68.8/130 (White); 69.7/128 (Red).

ABOUT THE COURSE: Legacy on Lanier is the third name the course has had in the past two decades and it underwent a recent renovation which included the construction of a completely new hole and the shelving of another. Now the only active course on Lake Lanier Islands (Pinelisle is closed awaiting future renovation), Legacy on Lanier retains its basic lakeside nature, with water a serious factor on 11 holes and all but a handful playing along or in proximity to the lake. The renovations added about 200 yards to the back tees and 150 to the next set, and many of the holes also feature re-worked bunker patterns that bring the sand much more into play. But it's the water that remains the overriding concern, with plenty of opportunities to add to the lake's growing number of submerged golf balls. Seven of the holes along the lake require carries of some significance to remain dry, with some scary tee shots for players of average length or shorter. Two of the par 3s are all carry to the green, but both are manageable at 158 and 177 from the blues. Manageable, yes. Inviting, no. Both require solid, accurate contact, with inaccuracy to the wrong side similarly penalized. The new hole is the par-3 10th, which has different angles from different tees to a redan, well-bunkered green. The mix of par 4s include only a handful with much length, but the longest of the group (14) is as daunting a hole as you'll encounter, with a second shot that has absolutely no room to miss from long range. Several of the shorter two-shotters begin with intimidating all carry tee shots, with the approaches also including some danger. Several of the inland holes have new looks thanks to the changes in bunkering, which has also enhanced their character. The par-5 sixth also added some new bunkers as well as extra yards which make it a much more formidable challenge. 🏌️

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