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Georgia Section

FORE Georgia

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Junior Golf in Georgia



The Manor now open to non-member play

Former private club sports standout Watson design

By Mike Blum

The choices for metro Atlanta's daily fee golfers have gradually diminished over the past decade, as at least 10 courses have converted to private status and several others have gone out of business.

Some of the metro area's best public access layouts were among that group, most notably White Columns, Atlanta's premier upscale daily fee facility.

In recent years, construction of new daily fee courses has all but disappeared, and the handful of private clubs that have opened have been impacted tremendously by the economic downturn that has hit the golf business hard all over the country.

The Manor, which opened as a private club in north Fulton County in 2006,

has been growing its membership steadily over the past year, but the numbers still left too many open slots on the tee sheet.

Atlanta-based *Affiniti* Golf Partners recently assumed management of the club, which has now opened a limited number of tee times for non-member play. Initial results have been positive, and the club is well on the way to filling the niche left vacant in the area since White Columns went private.

The Manor Golf and Country Club is a standout **Tom Watson** design that has established an early reputation for conditioning that makes it a worthy successor to White Columns as the course of choice for those in search of a quality upscale golf experience. The club's members still have advanced access to prime tee times, but there are



Hole 8

enough slots left to comfortably accommodate non-members, including weekend availabilities.

Those who have visited The Manor for the first time recently have discovered what the club's members have known from the outset – the course is one of the finest in all of Metro Atlanta regardless of status.

Watson's design is scenic, distinctive and exceedingly enjoyable, and provides sufficient challenge to keep you on your toes while remaining comfortably



playable. At 7,177 yards from the tips and 6,738 from the blue tees, The Manor has sufficient yardage, but

[See The Manor, page 6]



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The Emotional Target

By Mark Anderson
PGA Director of Instruction

I would like you to imagine an archery target. In the center of the target is the bulls-eye. This is the Challenge zone and the area that we should play golf. In the challenge zone we are in the present time and golf is fun and challenging. We see the shot and hit the shot and find the ball and do it again. This is how golf should be played.

The next zone just outside the challenge zone is the Choking zone. When we are in the choking zone we get into either the past or future thinking. Like every time I play this hole I duck hook the ball into the water or OB. We could think if I par this hole I will shoot my best round ever or win a tournament. You get the picture.

We get out of the Challenge zone when we start to have expectations. This gets us out of the present time. Remember this formula: "Expectations = Pain." This doesn't just apply to golf.

Think of four-year-olds going to Disney World for the first time. They have seen the commercials. The big pumpkin chariot is going to pick up the family and take them to Disney World and Mickey Mouse and Goofy are going to ride the rides with them and walk down Main Street with them. The weather is great and it will be the most fun ever.

The reality is that there is a long car ride. There are a bunch of people there. It is hot and we had to stand in line a lot. The only time I saw Mickey and Goofy was in a parade



and they went by in 30 seconds. Now the four year old will have a great time but will probably cry and have some disappointment.

I have another example about husbands and wives and anniversaries but I think you get the point that expectations = pain.

The next zone is the Anger Zone. We reach the anger zone when the pain of expectations of how we think we should play gets us very upset and angry.

"I should be scoring better. I have worked hard and have been hitting it great on the range."

We actually get angry for two reasons, first because of the above statement and secondly because I am letting the people playing in my group know, "I usually don't play this bad"

The last zone is the Give Up Zone. We

reach the give up zone when the pain of expectation gets so great we can't take it any more and we emotionally check out. We don't quit although some actually do walk off the course. Usually we just go through the motions of playing. The lights are on but nobody is home so to speak.

What is really interesting about the give up zone is that people usually start to play better in this zone. The reason is that their expectations went away. They will have a couple of good holes and someone in the group will say, "See, it's not so bad." The person in give up mode will usually explode and say, "Who cares, my score is blown anyway!"

Now that you know the emotional target you can regulate yourself to stay in the present. If you think about your best rounds ever, you hit some not so great shots. You just accepted them as part of the game and overcame the mistakes. Stay in the present and your scores will be better. Leave your expectations on the range.

The emotional target information came from the book "The New Mental Toughness Training for Sports," written by Dr. James Loehr. I have applied it to golf but it does work. I highly recommend the book.

Mark Anderson was the Director of Instruction at Bentwater GC for almost six years and taught some of the area's top junior golfers, including Georgia Tech signee Ollie Schniederjans. He can be reached at moggie49@gmail.com or 678-895-8506.

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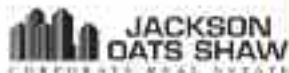


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Hole 3

The Manor opens to non-member play

[Continued from the cover]

the downhill nature of a significant number of the holes makes the distance less of a concern.

For the most part, The Manor is reasonably generous off the tee and there are not an abundance of hazards in play. However, thanks to some of the more demanding greens complexes you'll encounter, the course has some relatively high Course Rating/Slope numbers, beginning at 74.9/143 from the Watson tees and a healthy 73.8/140 from the blues.

The white tees, which measure 6,338 yards, are a comfortable fit for the bogey golfer, but still represent a real test at 70.6/135. The senior tees are right at 5,800 yards, with the forward tees on the stout side by modern standards at around 5,200.

Jon Hough has been the club's head professional since The Manor opened, and like the membership, is adjusting to the recent changes. Having a course the caliber of Watson's gem will attract new visitors to the club, and should keep them coming back, with Hough's welcoming personality easing the transition for the members while making those new

to the facility feel at home.

"Tom Watson did such an amazing job with the design," Hough says. "There are elevation changes and lots of hills, but the course does not play like one at the foothills of the mountains.

"There are not a lot of blind shots and most of the holes play downhill, which is fun for golfers. Most everybody is very excited to have the chance to play here, and say they expect to come back. I think we'll get a lot of return business."

The most distinctive aspect of Watson's design is the way he uses the terrain to form the heart of the course's challenge. Many of the tee shots require a decent amount of accuracy to avoid hillsides or drop-offs which can result in some very awkward lies. There are also a number of strategic fairway bunkers in play, but you will likely become more familiar with the sand guarding the large, undulating greens that will give all aspects of your short game a real workout.

The rolling terrain that impacts the tee shots is also very much a factor around the greens, with many of the greens complexes carved out of hillsides. You will almost certainly be faced with some short game shots from above or below the level of the putting surfaces, and the placement of the bunkers within that terrain can make for some perplexing sand shots if you just trickle into them from the high side.

Most of the greens have ample size and healthy amounts of undulation, and Watson divides many of them into sections with the use of ridges and his positioning of bunkers. Plenty of the pin positions are in spots that are very well protected by sand and/or the terrain, with the multiple tiers on the putting surfaces effectively reducing the size of the target and combined with the terrain, making for some very treacherous recovery shots.

Thanks to the superb condition of the greens, you can expect to hole a putt or two if you get one started on line, but they have sufficient speed and movement to make you earn what you get.

Watson offers up a diverse mix of holes, with The Manor featuring one of the stronger group of par 3s you'll play, especially considering that water is a factor on only one of them, and not a particularly serious concern on the lone exception. All four measure more than 200 yards from the tips, although the 7th is on the short side from the other tees.

Among the concerns are some of the more demanding greens complexes on the course, with the four presenting differing challenges from the tee due to Watson's use of disparate greens configurations.

The Manor is the rare course without what can be accurately described as a monster par 4. The longest of the group is the 5th, which can play as long as 478 yards, but in reality is significantly shorter due to its considerable drop from tee to landing area.

There are just a handful of water hazards in play on the course, with most of them found on the par 4s, another slight twist that differentiates Watson's consistently interesting layout.

The 2nd features a creek that snakes through the fairway and may require a layup from the tee. Water lurks just off the right edge of a huge green that offers a fairly narrow target, with mounds along the left side offering the possibility of a friendly bounce or a testy chip.

A pond down the left side of the 6th makes for one of the more demanding tee shots on the course, but it's the rare hole at The Manor where there is a serious amount of pressure from the tee.

Water is also in play on the three finishing holes, most notably on the 17th, one of several par 4s of modest distance that offer scoring opportunities if you can solve the puzzle of Watson's well-protected pin positions and place your approach shot on the

proper level of the putting surface.

The back nine opens with a scenic view from the stairstep tees at the downhill 10th, with plenty of sand in play on both the tee shot and approach.

Watson provides more scoring opportunities on the par 5s, with three of the four right around 500 yards from the blue tees. Only the gently rolling 8th has much length, and it doesn't present a serious challenge until you near the green, one of many at The Manor with a pronounced ridge that can make things very difficult if you have to negotiate it. Some deep, inset bunkers right of the green are also best avoided.

Both the 3rd and 13th play downhill to the green after the tee shot, offering a chance to get home in two following a well-struck drive. The 18th offers an expanse of fairway, but mounds down the right and a waste bunker left are very much in play, with an angular green making for differing angles of attack depending on where the pin is placed.

In its brief existence, The Manor has hosted events for both the Georgia PGA and GSGA, and none of the state's club professionals or top amateurs was able to take Watson's thoughtful creation apart, although scores were reasonably low.

For golfers not capable of shooting in the 60s, The Manor is an eminently enjoyable but sufficiently challenging layout to make for an entertaining round no matter how well you play. The overall ambience meets the expectations you would have for a high end private club that is allowing non-member play at rates of \$69 Tuesday-Thursday and \$89 Friday-Sunday.

Affiniti Golf Partners now manages a number of metro Atlanta's best courses that are accessible to the public, with The Manor joining Echelon, also a former private club, as well as Chestatee, Heritage Golf Links and Cobblestone.

While it is allowing some non-member play, The Manor continues to add to its membership, and is a true family-oriented club with a host of outstanding amenities. Included are 16 lighted tennis courts, including four indoors and six clay courts, two swimming pools, one of which offers a splendid view from the top level of the clubhouse, and an activities director.

"There's more here than just a golf course," says Hough, who believes the club will return to fully private status if the gains in membership continue. 🏌️

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Georgia juniors have multiple tour options

National, state and local events available

By Mike Blum

Georgia's competitive junior golfers have an array of organizations offering tournaments throughout the year at the national, regional and state level, with both the top national and regional junior golf tours having their roots in Georgia.

The **American Junior Golf Association** has been around since the late 1970s, with its original home base in Roswell at Horseshoe Bend Country Club. When the organization outgrew its modest office at Horseshoe Bend, it moved a short distance up I-85 to Chateau Elan, where it has been since 2000.

The AJGA has grown tremendously over the past 30-plus years, and now has almost 60 full time staffers and a comparable number of Summer interns who will direct and manage approximately 90 tournaments this year for the organization's membership, which includes more than 5,000 juniors from the U.S. and abroad.

A sizeable percent of players currently competing on the PGA and LPGA Tours are AJGA alumni, with 80 percent of the men's and women's NCAA and U.S.



Amateur champions over the past 25 years coming up through the organization.

Eight of the tournaments on the AJGA's 2011 schedule will be played in the state, beginning with events last month at Savannah Quarters, the Country Club of the South and the first of two tournaments this year at Chateau Elan. The second event at the AJGA headquarters is scheduled for May 28-30.

Other AJGA events that will be held in Georgia this year include annual stops in Ringgold (WindStone GC, June 7-9) and Rome (Coosa CC, June 14-16), an E-Z-Go sponsored tournament in Augusta (Jones Creek, July 26-28) that is being hosted by PGA Tour player Vaughn Taylor, and a new event at the Frederica Club on St. Simons Island (August 2-4).

Over the years, Georgia has produced several AJGA national Players of the Year, starting with Dalton's **Bill McDonald** (1983), who went on to play at Georgia Tech before becoming a member of the Georgia PGA. McDonald is currently the golf coach at South Carolina.

Augusta's **Charles Howell** was the 1996 AJGA Player of the Year, with Colbert's **Ryan Hybl** sharing that award two years later with future Georgia Bulldog teammate **Erik Compton**.

Savannah's **Brian Harman** was Player of the Year in 2003-04, the second Georgian to earn that distinction more than once. **Vicki Goetze** was the Girls Player of the Year from 1988-90 while living just outside Athens.

Georgia's current top junior is **Mariah Stackhouse**, who has earned All-America honors the last two years and still has a year left before she exits the junior ranks.

Southeastern Junior Golf Tour

The most prominent of regional tours that include Georgia in its primary territory is the **American Junior Golf Association**, which was founded by Georgia PGA Tournament Director **Todd Thompson**.

Thompson played on the golf team at Georgia in the 1980s along with a number of future PGA Tour players, and was the Georgia PGA's Tournament Director from 1990-94. He started the SJGT in 1994 with six tournaments and 60 players, with the current numbers 42 and more than 1,000.

The SJGT includes tournaments in six states, and serves as a stepping stone to the American Junior Golf Association, much as the Nationwide Tour does for the PGA Tour. The tour is now based in Auburn, Ala., and conducts tournaments in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. All but six of the tournaments on this year's schedule will be played in either Georgia or Alabama, with Georgia courses hosting 17 of the them.

One difference between the SJGT and other junior tours is that its calendar mirrors the school year, with its Tour

Championship held in early August and the next season beginning shortly after that.

The 2010 portion of the schedule included tournaments at Doublegate CC (Albany), CC of Columbus, Forest Hills (Augusta), Glen Arven (Thomasville), the UGA course, Capital City Crabapple and Callaway Gardens. Sanctuary Cove (Brunswick), Sea Island GC, Forest Hills and Douglas G&CC have already hosted SJGT events this year, with the tour visiting Dublin CC, Orchard Hills, Pinetree CC, Idle Hour, Brunswick CC and Hawks Ridge (Ball Ground) prior to the end of the 2010-11 schedule.

Among the sites outside Georgia are a number of Robert Trent Jones Trail courses in Alabama, as well as events in college towns across the region.

The age range for SJGT players is from 12 to 19, with three boys divisions and two girls divisions. Georgia juniors have annually done very well on the tour, frequently sweeping all five division titles in tournaments.

Georgia PGA Junior Tour

This is the 10th season for the **Georgia PGA Junior Tour**, which was created to provide a bridge for the state's junior golfers on the way to regional and national competition, as well as offering affordable competitive opportunities for juniors who prefer to play close to home.

The 2011 schedule includes 13 two-day events, one of which is open to non-tour members, as well as four one-day tournaments during the Summer. The open tournament is the Georgia PGA Junior Championship, which is scheduled for June 6-7 at Eagle's Landing in Stockbridge, which hosted Atlanta's LPGA Tour stop for more than 15 years.

The Georgia PGA Junior Tour plays at top courses all over the state, with competition in five age groups, plus two new divisions for college age players looking for some tournament action during the Summer.

The 2011 schedule has 10 tournaments remaining plus the four one day Summer Series events. Among the host

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Junior Golf in Georgia

Getting kids started on journey of golf

By Mike Perpich

PGA Director of Instruction
RiverPines Golf

Georgia is a great place for golf and a wonderful place for you to get your kids involved in a sport that will last them a lifetime. There is no better time than the summer months to begin your kids' journey into the game of golf. You don't have to be a member of a private

country club in order for your kids to learn and enjoy the game, as there are many different kinds of golf programs in Atlanta and around the state.

Golf programs for kids are abundant these days and can be found at most public courses, driving ranges, colleges, recreational departments and even day camps. It will be up to you the parent to determine how interested your child is in learning the game of golf and the amount of instruction which will be appropriate for your child.

In looking for a golf program for your child you have to make sure it is going to be fun, especially if your golfer is a beginner or is very young. You have to make their first experiences of golf fun so they will want to continue playing and pursuing the game.

Any good program will include instruction on the skills of golf like putting, chipping, pitching and sand bunker play, as well as the full swing. Your child should see improvement by the end of the program so the program should be

fun but not all fun and games. Do your research and find out the structure for the day: how much instructional time, how much time to work on the skills learned and how much time is spent playing games.

You will also want to find out the qualifications of the people teaching the program. A PGA professional will ensure that the instructor has the knowledge necessary to teach your child golf. Also check to see if the instructors will be taking the kids out on a golf course. Remember, the reason for golf skills is so they can go play and enjoy the game.

If your child already has the skills to play golf and is looking for somewhere to play, many public courses will offer junior cards which you purchase for your child, allowing him or her to play on the course. RiverPines, where I teach, offers these cards for juniors. RiverPines also offers a certification program for juniors to ensure they learn the rules of golf and know how to behave on the course as well as keep themselves safe.

If your junior goes through a certification program, it can result in savings toward playing or hitting balls. A certification program or any similar program will be a good indication that your junior golfer will be welcome at that course. Par

three courses are also a great way for your child to practice his/her golf skills. On a par three course young golfers can have the opportunity to succeed even when they are just beginners.

Atlanta is home to the Atlanta Junior Golf Association (atlantajuniorgolf.org), which offers opportunities for golfers of all skills in every age group to play tournaments on area courses. It is a wonderful way to get your golfer playing on a different course every week.

U.S. Kids Golf also makes its home in Atlanta and makes golf clubs for juniors of all ages. These clubs are weighted and designed specifically for the young golfers, which means no more hitting Dad's old cut-off clubs. US Kids Golf (uskids-golf.com), also offers tournaments for young golfers. These two organizations specialize in junior golf and are available to everyone interested in the game of golf.

Hopefully this article will give you some insight into helping you research golf for your child. Atlanta truly is one of the greatest golf towns in the world with all kinds of opportunities for your junior golfer. ☺

Mike Perpich is a Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher and a U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Teacher; www.mikeperpich.com.



Mike Perpich works with Johns Creek HS golfer Matthew Anderson

Junior golf in Georgia

[Continued from page 8]

courses for upcoming events are CC of Columbus, Stone Mountain GC, Glen Arven and the East Lake Classic, which will include one round each at the Charlie Yates Course and East Lake GC, the annual host of the PGA Tour Championship.

The Georgia PGA Junior Tour also visits several other courses that have hosted pro tour events, including Callaway Gardens, Kinderlou Forest and the Tour Championship at Sea Island GC. Forest Heights and the Georgia Club are also on the tour's schedule this year.

The four one-day tournaments also feature some outstanding layouts, among

them the UGA course, Hawks Ridge, Chestatee and White Columns.

Scott Gordon is the Georgia PGA's Junior Tour Director.

Georgia Junior Tour

The Georgia Junior Tour has begun its fourth year of operation, with all 10 events on the 2011 schedule held at Georgia State Parks courses.

The tour opened its 2011 schedule in March and plays one event per month, concluding its season Dec. 3-4 with the Champions Cup at The Creek at Hard Labor, which also hosts a tournament this month.

The other late-season highlight on the schedule is the Bridgestone Battle at Little Ocmulgee, with the tour's top players competing against players from the Canogate Junior Tour on Nov. 5-6.

The Georgia Junior Tour features five

age groups in both boys and girls divisions, with two-year increments beginning at age 6 (6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13) and players ages 14-19 competing in the same group.

Karl Gross, the head professional at Highland Walk, is the Tour Director.

Georgia State Golf Association

The GSGA conducts state junior championships for boys and girls, as well as challenge matches featuring the top Georgia juniors and their counterparts from South Carolina. The GSGA also runs USGA qualifiers for both of that organization's junior championships.

In addition, the GSGA operates a Junior Sectional Program, with at least four one-day events in each of seven sections of the state (Northeast, Northwest,

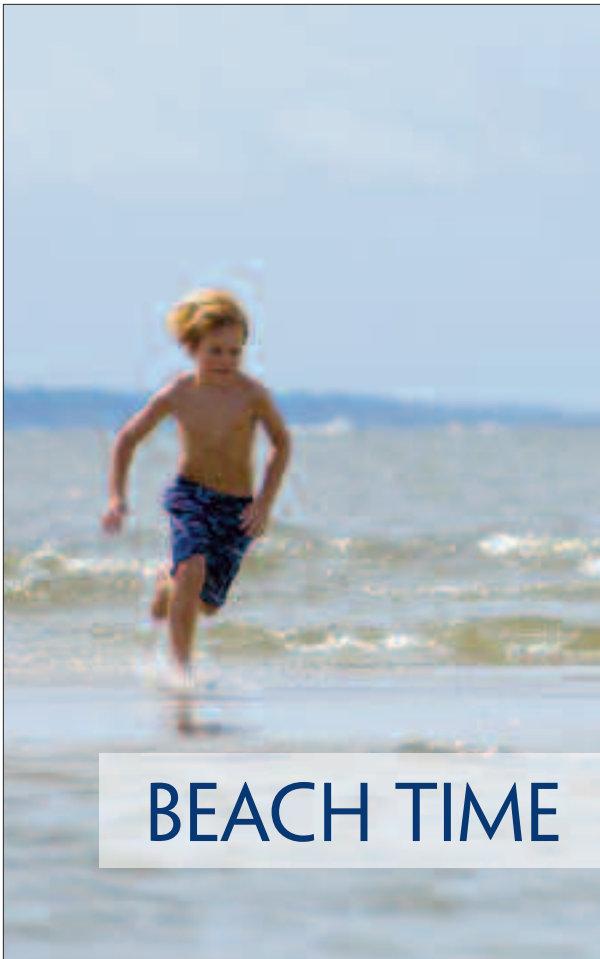
East, Middle, West, Southeast and Southwest). Four of the seven sections include part of the metro Atlanta area.

Each event costs only \$15, with the entry fee paid at registration on site. There are seven age groups (three for girls, four for boys), with the oldest divisions 16-17 for boys and 14-17 for girls.

Competitors are awarded points for their finishes in the Sectional tournaments, with the top players representing their Section in a Challenge Match, which will be played at the Georgia Club July 26-27.

Both boys and girls state championships will be played June 20-22, with the boys playing at Augusta Country Club and the girls competing at the Piedmont Driving Club.

Each Section has its own chairman or co-chairmen, with Stacy Easley in charge of the overall program. ☺



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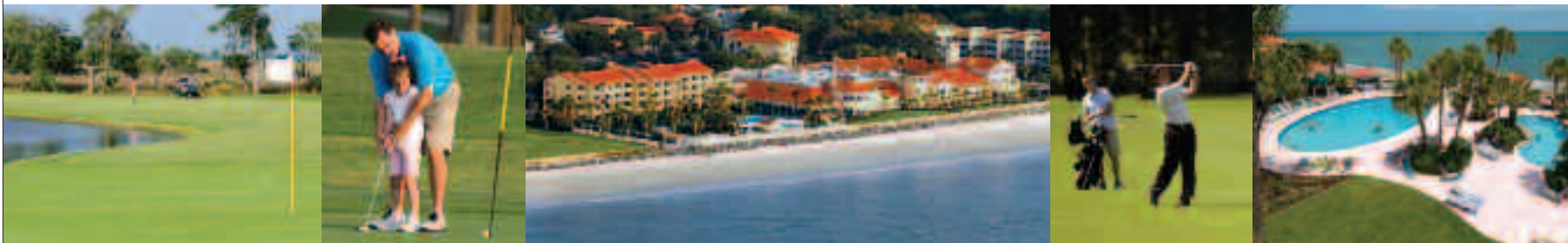
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Junior programs vital for private clubs

By Bobby Hix
PGA Director of Instruction
Idle Hour Golf Club

In today's economy, private club professionals have to provide more value for their facility than ever. This means that there has to be something for everyone in the family to take part in order to justify paying club dues each month.

A well rounded family golf program begins with a great junior golf program. After all, the juniors you start playing today are the same people that will be your members and on your Board of Directors in the future.

Here at the Idle Hour Club, we begin our juniors age 3 to 5 with our Step Teaching Program. Step Teaching is a 4 week program where our Staff Teaching Associates teach their junior players a good grip, posture, swing motion and basic etiquette. Parents

must be present and pictures are made of each junior for each step.

Our Junior Golf Academy begins with juniors at age 5. These Academies are weekly 1 ½ hour clinics and address the following:



Age 5-8 – Proper fundamentals, drills and games, ball striking and fun, etiquette and fun.

Age 9-12 – Playing, course management, how to practice, etiquette and rules, competition.

Age 13-16 – Developing skill sets, focus on accountability, a competitive tournament schedule, golf for life.

Administering these Junior Academies is a Learning Center Lead Instructor with assistance from an Associate Instructor. Parents are encouraged to attend the sessions. Juniors can sign up for one session or many. The choice is up to them as the subject matter will differ each week. Many of the juniors that begin in the Academy move on

to private lessons with the Lead Instructors as they, their parents and the Academy Instructor see it necessary for the improvement of the junior's golf skills and goals.

Another popular Program is our "Just Us Girls" Program. This program is a series of golf clinics for girls only held in the spring and the fall. We enlist one of our local college women's golf teams to assist a lead instructor with this popular program. Here again, in order to make our Club a more valuable commodity, it is essential that all facets of our membership be involved in golf. This means equal access for the females too.

Not all juniors will want to take part in golf lessons or clinics because these days there are so many other camps, sports and activities that are available at school and within the community. That being said, we keep two large barrels of clubs of all sizes for any junior that would like to come to the driving range to just hit some balls or play the Par 3 course.

If grandparents want to bring their vis-

iting grandchildren from out of town out during the holidays, we have something for them. Most of these clubs have come from juniors that have out-grown their current clubs and donate them after we fit them in their new clubs. We never want to deny any junior a chance to hit a golf ball when they have the desire to. Again, we are providing a value to that junior and their parents by helping them understand that their club is a place where they can go, take part in a safe activity and have fun.

The relationships that are developed by these programs and our summer golf camps last a lifetime. And it's those lifetime relationships that will ensure that your club remains a valuable entity. 🍷

Bobby Hix is the Director of Golf Instruction at the Arnold Blum Golf Learning Center at Idle Hour Club in Macon, and the 2010 Georgia Section PGA Teacher of the Year.

Girls and Golf – a perfect fit

By Jackie Cannizzo
PGA/LPGA Instructor
Country Club of Roswell

If there was ever a time for parents to get their young girls involved in the game of golf, it's now. More and more girls are being encouraged to play sports, all types of sports.

Sports in general for girls and boys are vital to their development and their well being, helping them to be physically and mentally healthier. Experts say that the game of golf enhances that development even more so, especially for girls.

Besides the general benefits from the exercise they get, it helps them in school with learning and concentration as well as building self-esteem. Golf teaches so many life skills such as teamwork, discipline, honesty, self-confidence and self-motivation. Other benefits of the game of golf for girls include allowing them to join a special network of people; they become a part of



world that is far reaching outside their own world.

Once you become a golfer, instantly you have many new friends, which for girls is vital for their self-esteem. As someone who has played golf since the age of 10 as well as excelling in the game, it has been a great equalizer in my life. I competed on the boys high school team and then went to college on a golf scholarship.

I tell young girls all the time, there is nothing better than beating the boys on the golf course. And because the game is played against the course and not physically against others, girls can be equal. Although boys have the strength advantage, girls can be more precise with their shots as well as be much better in the short game and putting where strength is not a necessity.

All this being said, it's key to get the girls started as early as possible. Experts say that the best time to get girls in the game is between the ages of 4 and 10. If we can start

them early, girls have a better chance of sticking with golf, and will develop their skills and strength before puberty. Also there is strength in numbers; girls like to be in groups with other girls. There are many clinics, camps and developmental programs out there for girls only.

In the state of Georgia there are no shortages of programs to help you get your girls started in the game of golf. Today, there are even middle school teams that mix the girls and the boys and many high schools have girls only golf teams.

So how do you get started? The Georgia State Golf Association has a Girls Golf Program, providing programs for all skill levels. They host learning opportunities as well as competitive programs. Go to www.GSGA.org for more information and a schedule of events.

There are several "First Tee" Programs in the state. The "First Tee" programs provide the first steps to learning the game and are open to all kids with minimal fees. Each chapter offers different programs for all skill levels with many chapters also having golf courses. Chapters in Georgia include The

First Tee of Augusta, Atlanta, Albany, Columbus, East Lake, Savannah and Troup County. Go to www.thefirsttee.org and locate the location closest to you.

US Kids Golf is one of the premier programs for junior golf with girls being a prominent part of their mission. US Kids Golf hosts competitive opportunities for girls starting at age 5. Go to www.uskidsgolf.com. Also Atlanta Junior Golf provides a summer play program for all skill levels. Both organizations are vital in the junior golf community providing opportunities for girls. Go to www.atlantajuniorgolf.org

The LPGA and USGA have joined forces to provide a program for girls as well. "LPGA-USGA Girls Golf provides an opportunity for girls, ages 7 to 17, to learn to play golf, build lasting friendships and experience competition in a fun, supportive environment, preparing them for a lifetime of enjoyment with the game. Girls are learning values inherent to the game of golf, such as patience, respect, perseverance and honesty, preparing them to meet challenges of today's world with confidence."

There are eight chapters in Georgia. For a complete list go to www.GSGA.org. There are also several junior camps for girls and

[See Girls, page 22]

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Junior Golf in Georgia

First Tee has big presence in Georgia

By Priscilla Nelson

Head Coach, Program Coordinator
The First Tee Savannah

In 1997 one of today's most unique youth development programs, The First Tee, was established by the World Golf Foundation and the game of golf's elite associations — The LPGA, PGA of America, PGA Tour, the Masters Tournament and the USGA. The initial focus was on creating affordable access for those youth not previously exposed to the game of golf.

Over the years, The First Tee has broadened its focus to that of a youth development organization which teaches life skills using the game of golf as the platform. The mission of The First Tee is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character develop-



ment, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

There are "Nine Core Values" which are delivered at every level of the program: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect,

confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment. Now, after 14 years in existence, the seamless approach of delivering the life skills program through the game of golf has spawned into over 200 First Tee Chapters throughout the 50 states with programming at more than 700 different locations as well as six international locations.

There are currently eight chapters in the state of Georgia: The First Tee of Albany, The First Tee of Augusta, The First Tee of Columbus, The First Tee of Troup County, The First Tee of East Lake, The First Tee of Atlanta and The First Tee of Savannah. All Chapters were formed as 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organizations and governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of an Executive Director.

and is dedicated to providing after school academic tutoring in subjects such as Math, Science and English. This facility was made possible through a grant from the Wadsworth Foundation, International Paper Mill, community businesses and individual donors.

The First Tee of Savannah supports military families in the local area through the Department of Defense Military Affiliate Programs and conducts First Tee programs year round at Hunter Army Airfield as well as Fort Stewart. Another avenue for youth development at the Savannah Chapter is through the USGA/LPGA Girls Golf Program, providing all girls an opportunity to play the game of golf in a fun and supportive learning environment, build relationships, develop leadership skills and participate in enrichment activities.

The First Tee of Savannah is poised to impact, influence and inspire youth through the life skills experience. The future success and growth for the Chapter is pending the launch of The First Tee National School Program which introduces golf to elementary aged students through physical education classes. There are currently three Chatham County elementary schools targeted to start the program in the very near future.

The Savannah area community is very supportive of The First Tee youth development program and through that support we have developed many unique partnerships which enable us to bring quality programming year round to our participants. Over the past five years the Liberty Mutual Legends Tournament which is hosted by the Westin Savannah Harbor Resort, has been a major supporter of The First Tee of Savannah. Our participants help prepare the course each year for the tournament by filling the divots and volunteering in many different roles.

This summer we will offer "Healthy Greens Summer Camp" from June 27th to August 6th. We will have one of the best summer camp programs in the Savannah area from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. ☺

The First Tee of Savannah on Target for Success

The First Tee of Savannah is now in its seventh year of operating in one of the most beautiful cities in the state of Georgia. The program has experienced tremendous success and has served close to 1,000 participants over the years. Local programming is conducted at the Bacon Park Golf Course in mid-town and the Mary Calder Golf Club which is now the chapter home office.

In September of 2010, the new learning center at the Mary Calder Golf Course was opened. The First Tee Learning Center is equipped with on-line computers

For information on
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www.TheFirstTeeSavannah.org



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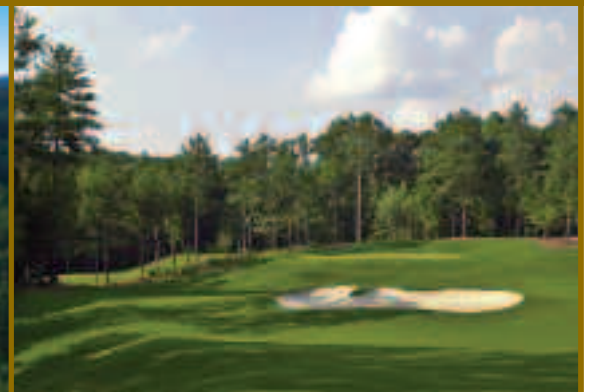
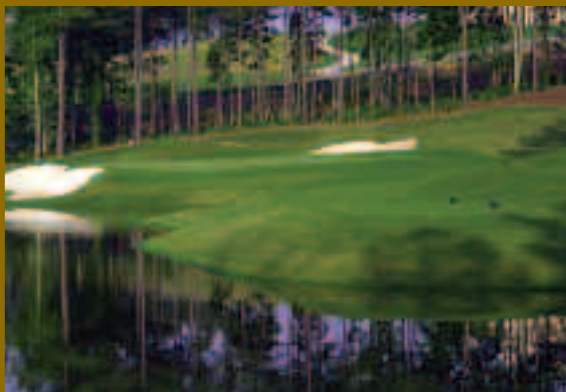
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The competitive journey begins with fun

By John Godwin
PGA Master Professional
Director, U.S. Kids Golf

The joy of competition lies at the heart of the competitive journey. It is the perspective each one of us brings into the arena that is paramount to growth and achievement. Competition can and should be celebrated, embraced with a positive outlook, and used as our laboratory for learning as we grow. Competition is a good thing if you can get into the positive energy it holds.

Parents have the best interests of their children in mind all the time. Understanding where the child is in their love of the game really dictates next steps. Pushing too hard too early will turn them

off and not offering enough competitive opportunities does not challenge them enough. The focus should be fun, making it an activity that is enjoyed.



I see young players having fun as they begin at an early age. Winning is not important; it's being out on the course, making new friends and jumping up and down when a long putt goes in. Every parent and coach needs to keep this image in their mind as they help young players understand

what it means to compete. It's all about fun.

Juniors will go through a natural process of learning to compete. Everyone experiences trials and tribulations, periods of self-doubt and loss of composure. To me these are the coachable moments for parents and instructors as they try to put everything in perspective for these kids and

help them understand the ABC's of competition, reminding them that it is just a game.

I counsel parents to look for local one-day events first. This helps develop confidence and is not as intimidating. I tell young players that growing into a big fish in a little pond is a good thing. Today, there are many year-round, local one-day events in the Atlanta area and throughout the state that are cost effective and broad based.

If you have a kid that wants to play and enjoys tournaments, then you will need some professional coaching help. This is the stage where regular coaching is important (group or private lessons) and entering tournaments on the local, state or regional level is a necessary experience.

Many players I know who have gone on to college or professional careers made a serious commitment to golf in their early teens. They all were dedicated; they loved to practice and wanted to win. For those

who choose this path, golf will take a lead role in free time activities. This player has one coach, a practice plan and tournament schedule which broadens to national USGA events and ranking points on Junior Golf Scoreboard.

One of the most important parts of this stage is the practice plan. I see so many great young swings that do not seem to produce low scores. One major disconnect is that players do not practice like they play. Coaches use a term "block practice." This type of practice is hitting balls with one club repeatedly. This can develop a great swing with tight patterns.

As I recall, when I play, the only time I hit the same club twice in a row is with my provisional ball or my putter. Block practice is important and necessary, but should not be the primary type of practice for a young elite player, in my opinion.

[See Competition, page 18]



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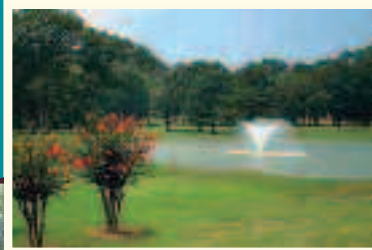
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Georgia has long history of top juniors

Stackhouse, Kennerly lead current crop

Georgia has a long history of producing top junior players, with the evidence found on the rosters of various professional tours and college golf teams both past and present.

The American Junior Golf Association, which has been based in metro Atlanta since it was founded in the late 1970s, has been the primary springboard for the country's top juniors over the past three decades, and the names of a number of Georgians can be found on the organization's annual All-American list.

Dalton's **Bill McDonald**, a former Georgia PGA professional and the current golf coach at South Carolina, was the AJGA's Player of the Year in 1983, and Athens' **Vicki Goetze** earned that honor three straight times from 1988-90.

McDonald and Macon's **Peter Persons** were among the first Georgia AJGA All-Americans, and juniors from the state joined them on an almost annual basis, up to 2010 selection **Ollie Schniederjans**, who is attending college at Georgia Tech, McDonald's alma mater.

In addition to McDonald and Goetze, other Georgians to earn Player of the Year honors include Augusta's **Charles Howell**, Colbert's **Ryan Hybl**, who has joined McDonald in the college coaching ranks, and Savannah's **Brian Harman**, who is looking to join Howell on the PGA Tour in the near future.

Among the many Georgians who have earned AJGA All-American honors are players who were prominent in the state

as youngsters, with many going on to college and professional careers.

Nicky Goetze, Vicki's older brother, was a 4-time first team All-America selection, but unlike his sister, a long-time LPGA Tour member, played only briefly as a pro before becoming a college coach.

Other top juniors from the 1980s included Newnan's **Louis Brown**, Lawrenceville's **Rob McKelvey** and Dalton's **Michael Clark**, with Peachtree City's **Cindy Schreyer** and Savannah's **Terri Thompson** making the girls All-American team on multiple occasions.

Georgia's best juniors from the 1990s included a wealth of talent from Augusta, which turned out a lot of promising youngsters not named Howell. Brothers **Will** and **Brad Garner** were among that group, along with Howell contemporaries **Scott Volpitto** and **John Engler**.

Atlanta area juniors **Nick Cassini** and **Scott Northey** were part of Georgia's national championship team of 1999, with **Wes Latimer** and **Kris Mikkelsen** going on to be members of Georgia Tech's team during that decade. Atlanta's **Wendi Patterson**, Roswell's **Krissie Register** and **Angela Jerman** of Columbus all were among the country's top female juniors, with Register and Jerman also key members of national championship college teams.

The top Georgia juniors of the past decade are either just beginning their professional careers, or all still competing in college. Woodstock's **Chris Kirk** has already made it to the PGA Tour, with Alpharetta's **Roberto Castro** and Ringgold's **Luke List** looking to join him there.

Stacey Kim of Columbus, who is now playing at Duke, was one of just a handful of national caliber girls juniors to emerge from the state in the past decade, but the current top-ranked player from the state is Riverdale's **Mariah Stackhouse**, already a two-time AJGA All-American with two seasons of eligibility left in her junior career.

Stackhouse went into the 2011 tournament season ranked 22nd among the country's girls, one of a number of Georgia juniors with national AJGA rankings. Other girls on the list are sisters **Ashlan** and **Taylor Ramsey** of Milledgeville, **Rachel Dai** of Fayetteville, **Amira Alexander** of Alpharetta and **Rinko Mitsunaga** of Roswell.

Ashlan Ramsey was ranked 41st (12th in the class of 2013), largely on the strength of a victory in the annual Burgett Mooney tournament at Coosa CC in Rome and a runner-up finish in the Charles Howell Junior at West Lake CC in Augusta.

Dai was ranked 71st (7th in the class of 2015), recording three straight top 5s last year including T4s at West Lake and in the AJGA Girls Championship.

Taylor Ramsey is just inside the top 100 at 99 off her victory in the Charles Howell tournament, finishing just ahead of her younger sister.

Alexander, like Taylor Ramsey a member of the class of 2012, was just outside the top 100 at 107, with her 2010 season including 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

Mitsunaga began the tournament ranked 11th among those in the 2015 class, but that will improve after she won an AJGA tournament recently in Savannah. Her best finishes in AJGA events last year was two ties for 6th place.

The top-ranked boys players in the state are all seniors in high school this year. Alpharetta's **Billy Kennerly** was ranked No. 26 nationally and will play his college golf at Clemson. He had four top-10 AJGA finishes in 2010 with his best showing a tie for 2nd.

Jimmy Beck of Columbus was next at 33, and has signed to play his college golf at Kennesaw State. Beck won an AJGA event last Summer in Alabama.

Scott Wolfes of St. Simons Island is a two-time GSGA Junior champion, and tied for 5th in last year's U.S. Junior Amateur. He was ranked 40th

and will play on the golf team at Georgia Southern.

Cody Shafer of Evans won last year's AJGA tournament in Rome and was second in the Charles Howell event, with those two showings earning him a ranking of 54th. He has signed with 2010 NCAA champion Augusta State.

Dru Love of St. Simons won the Howell tournament, helping give Georgia juniors a sweep of the two home-state events. He was ranked 58th and is the lone member of the group not a senior this year. He is part of the class of 2012. 🏌️

Competition

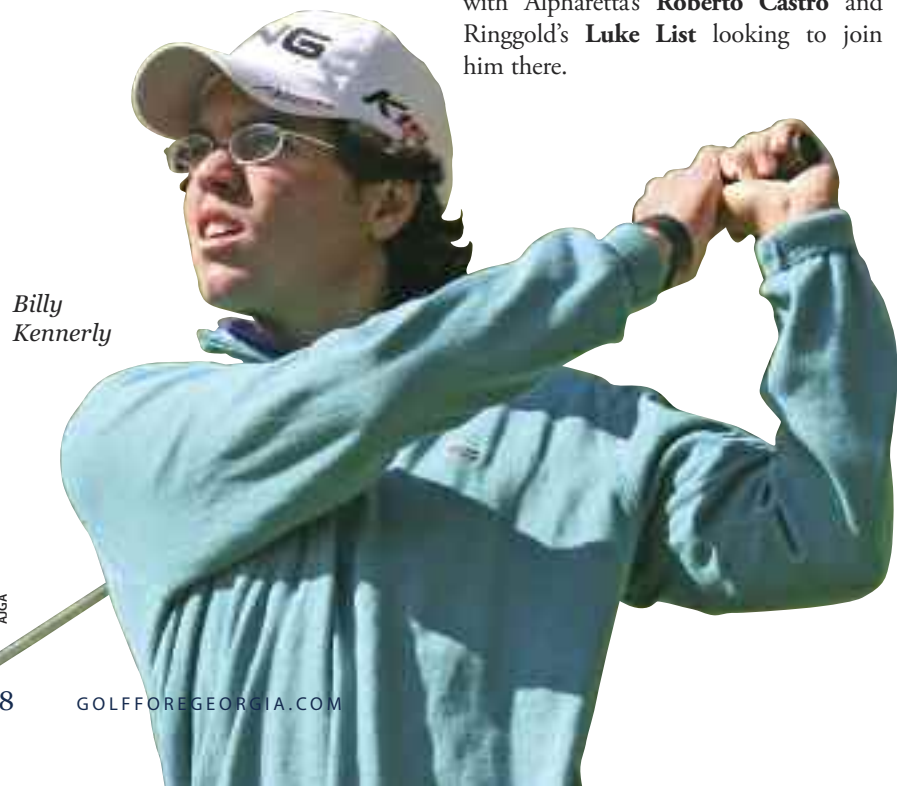
[Continued from page 16]

My recommendation is to develop a practice plan, which incorporates "variable practice." This practice is never hitting the same club twice during a range session or putting from the same spot. Hitting intentional curves, controlling trajectory, distance control and developing a skilled short game is a big part of "variable practice." The ball pattern to the target will not be as good as the block method. Players should not confuse this in thinking they are not improving. Only by "variable practice" will players learn to play the game like they practice.

How many tournaments should a committed junior play in a season? My answer is based on the practice plan. Establish it first and then fill in events second. I never played more multi-day travel events than I could prepare for, usually six during my summer season and one or two in the spring and fall. My dad made me take regular breaks from the game to keep me balanced as I went through high school.

Competition has been a big blessing in my golf life as it has taught me so much about myself, exposing all my strengths and weaknesses. Tournament play does that to all of us, helping us to learn and grow as individuals. Good luck to you and yours on your own competitive journey. 🏌️

John Godwin is a PGA Master Professional and a 2004 PGA National Junior Golf Leader. He is the Director of the U.S. Kids Golf Atlanta Local Tour, and is also involved with the Godwin Creek First Tee Facility in Columbus.



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Stackhouse captures 3rd AJGA victory

State's top junior nearing college decision

By Mike Blum

This will be the last year **Mariah Stackhouse** plays a full-time junior golf schedule, and the nationally-ranked Riverdale resident is intent on making it her best ever.

Despite beginning the final round seven strokes behind the leader, Stackhouse still managed to add to her growing list of trophies, winning a recent American Junior Golf Association event at Country Club of the South in a playoff.

It was the third AJGA victory for Stackhouse, and sets up for the possibility of her first multi-win season on the AJGA Tour. Her first win came in 2009 in Ringgold, and she added a second victory last year in Alabama.

Stackhouse, who is about to complete her junior year at North Clayton HS, has made a habit of winning in recent years at both the junior and adult levels. She won back-to-back GSGA Girls Championships in 2007 and '08, and shortly after her second state junior title, added the first of her two women's state amateur titles, capturing the Georgia Women's Golf Association Championship in 2008 and '09.

Last year, Stackhouse completed her sweep of the state's top tournaments for girls and women, taking the Georgia

Women's Open in her first appearance in the event.

After the first round of the Exide Technologies Junior Open at Country Club of the South, it did not appear very likely that Stackhouse was going to add it to her list of tournament victories.

Stackhouse opened the tournament with a 79 in chilly, windy conditions, failing to make a birdie in the round. Meanwhile, Floridian **Samantha Wagner**, a runner-up in the tournament last year at CCoS who was in the same group with Stackhouse, went out in 4-under 32 before falling back on the tougher back nine, finishing with a 72.

Wagner was four shots ahead of her closest pursuer and seven in front of Stackhouse, who began the final round tied for 9th. After bogeys at the final two holes on the front nine, Stackhouse was still seven strokes off Wagner's lead, but birdies at 10 and 12 gave her some hope of pulling out a victory.

Unfortunately for Stackhouse, she spent the next three holes trying to escape from greenside bunkers or negotiating a testy chip shot and came away with three straight bogeys.

Despite the stretch of bogeys, Stackhouse was undeterred, although she was a bit peeved after being informed that she was getting closer to the lead after her strong start on the back nine.

"My mom updated me, but didn't say where I was. She said 'I think you're in second', but after I made a few birdies, I proceeded to go bogey, bogey, bogey."

Knowing how difficult the back nine can be at CCoS, Stackhouse still felt she could win if she finished strong.

"I felt like if you steady yourself, you still had a chance."

Stackhouse responded with a birdie on the par-5 16th, perhaps the most demanding hole on the course, and gave herself birdie opportunities on both the 17th and 18th. Although she did not convert either, her birdie-par-par finish put her right back in contention, as Wagner and the other contenders were struggling as they neared the finish.

Wagner's comfortable lead disappeared when she made a triple bogey on the short but perilous 12th and followed with a double bogey on the par-3 13th, which features alternate greens separated by a creek.

Rinko Mitsunaga and **Jessica Haigwood**, both of Roswell, were right there with Wagner and Stackhouse on the closing holes, but Mitsunaga double-bogeyed the 16th, while Haigwood faltered over the final two holes.

Wagner settled down to make four straight pars, and still had the lead coming to the 18th. But she had to scramble to make bogey, sending her and Stackhouse to a playoff with totals of 153.

When she realized she might be in a playoff, Stackhouse headed to the practice range and hit a few shots with her wedge and 9-iron, the clubs she would likely need for her approach to the first green.

After an excellent tee shot, Stackhouse had just a wedge left for her approach and stuck it to 5 feet. Wagner came up short with her second shot, and chipped just inside Stackhouse's mark. Stackhouse rolled in the birdie putt to take the playoff, continuing her success when she has to go extra holes.

"I've got a pretty good track record in playoffs," Stackhouse observed, estimating that she has been in "maybe ten and lost two."

Stackhouse's introduction to golf came at an early age, as she began accompanying her father to the driving range when she was just 2 years old. When she turned 6 and began showing a definite aptitude for the game, her father stopped playing to concentrate his efforts on developing his daughter's emerging skills.

From the outset, Stackhouse was drawn to golf in part because of the social nature of the game. Stackhouse enjoys the travel and the opportunity to meet new people, as opposed to the confined nature of team sports.

It didn't hurt that Stackhouse was also enjoying lots of success on the course, and she began to realize, "If I can win tournaments around here and in the state, I can win outside the state."

Without any excess prodding from her parents, Stackhouse has dedicated herself to golf, although she readily admits, "Practice is not as much fun as playing. But if you don't practice, you're not going to do as well. I love to compete, but to do as well as you can, you have to practice."

As one of the country's top junior girls, Stackhouse has attracted plenty of attention from college coaches, and is getting close to making her decision about what university she is going to attend.

Stackhouse has narrowed her list down to four finalists – Duke, Stanford, Florida and Georgia. As outstanding as she is at golf, Stackhouse is a comparable success in the classroom, and her decision will be based more on academics than where she prefers to continue her golf career.

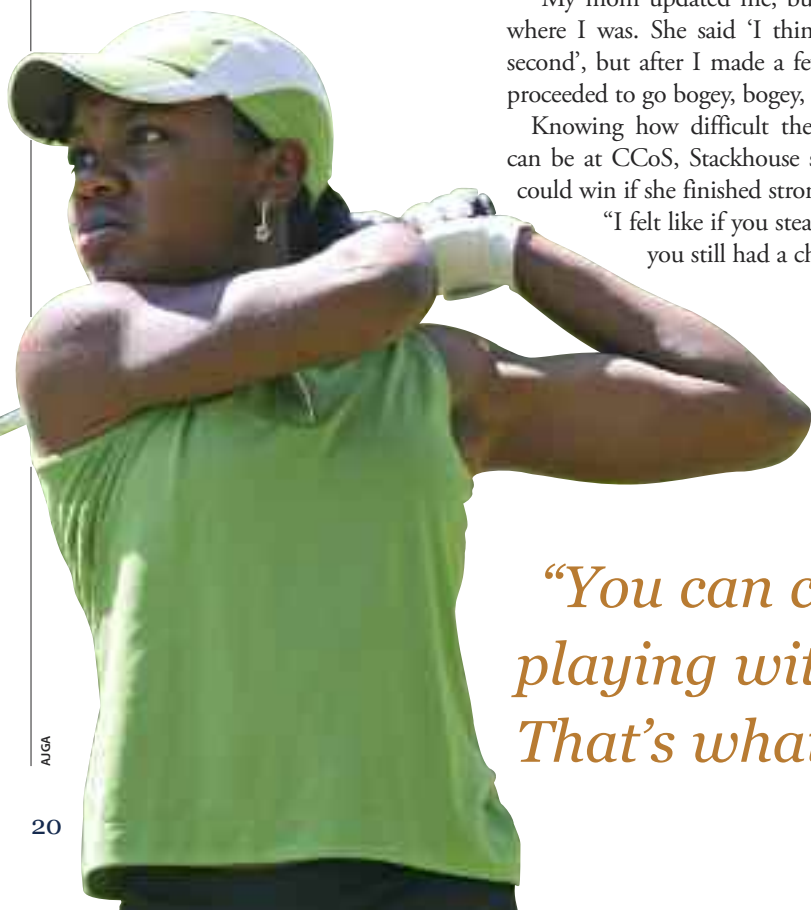
"This is the first life-changing decision you get to make and you want to be up front with the coaches and ask the right questions about the environment you want to be in."

Although Stackhouse aspires to playing professionally after college, she says she is "putting education before golf." Stackhouse is keenly aware of the shrinking playing opportunities on the LPGA Tour, and will be prepared for a future that may not include playing golf at the professional level.

"I want to make sure I'll be OK either way. That's why I'm relying so much on education."

Stackhouse says she has no geographic preferences, and doesn't think the ability to drive home in a few hours makes much of a difference, with her golf and academic responsibilities keeping her on or near campus, whether she is a short drive away in Athens or across the country in California. 🌟

"You can converse with the people you're playing with, and I've made a lot of new friends. That's what is special about golf," — Mariah Stackhouse



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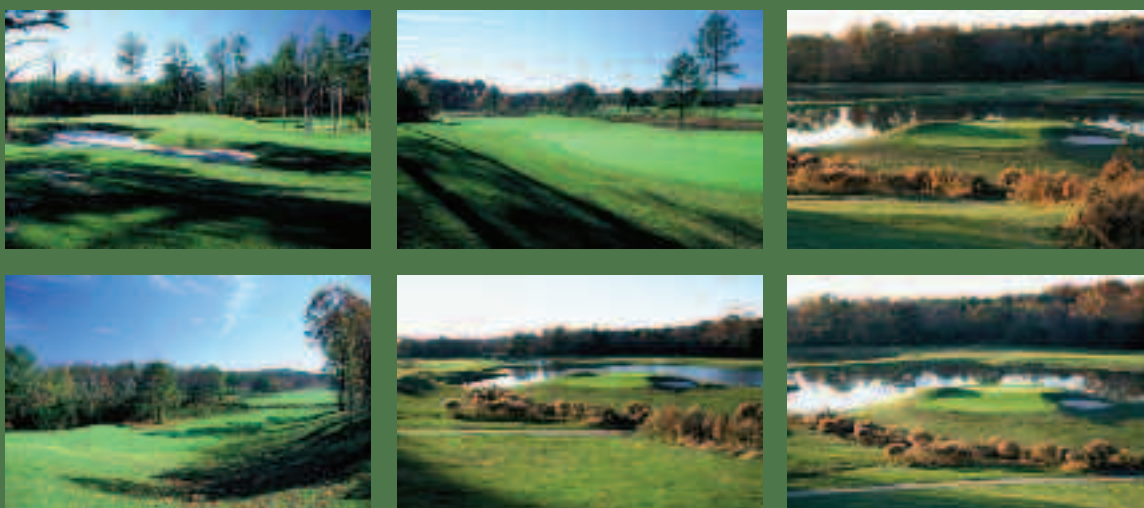
- by LFranzke at Citysearch -
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Milton captures N. Georgia Classic

Milton High School won the second North Georgia High School Classic, an event played recently at Achasta GC in Dahlonega and conducted by the Georgia PGA and Roswell High School.

Milton finished with a 606 total in the 36-hole event, edging Spalding by one stroke. Roswell, the tournament host, was third at 616.

Spalding's **Davin White** earned medalist honors for the second straight year, with his 1-under 141 total five strokes better than runner-up **Will McFarlin** of Roswell. White and McFarlin were the only players to break par in a round in the tournament, with White shooting a 70 in the opening round and McFarlin matching that score the next day.

Harry Lambert of Lambert HS was 3rd at 148, with **Patrick Grahek** leading Milton with a 4th place finish at 149. Alpharetta's **Michael Pisciotta** was 5th at 150, with Milton's **John Russo** 6th at 151. Milton's **Zack Jaworski** and Gainesville's **Will Frankum** tied for 7th at 152, with Dalton's **Will Morrow** 9th at 153. **Sanders Park** of Milton tied for 10th at 154, giving the Eagles four players in the top 10. Also tying for 10th were Roswell's **Matthew Cribb**, Spalding's **Henry Mabbett** and Dahlonega's **Austin Booker**, who competed as an individual.

Mitsunaga wins AJGA tournament

Roswell's Rinko Mitsunaga won an American Junior Golf Association tournament last month at Savannah Quarters GC, taking the girls division by three strokes.

Mitsunaga posted scores of 75-71—146 to claim her first AJGA title, matching the low round of the tournament the second day. She bounced back from an early double bogey, playing the last 16 holes in 3-under with three birdies and no bogeys.

Taylor Ramsey of Milledgeville tied for 8th at 157, with **Amira Alexander** of Alpharetta T11 at 158. The top finishers among Georgians in the boys division were **Henry Mabbett** of Griffin and **Billy Shuman** of St. Simons Island, who tied for 20th at 153.

In a preseason AJGA event in Ocala, Fla., **Riley Davenport** of Woodstock tied for 3rd in the boys division at 146, with Moultrie's **Andrew Eunice** T12 at 151. **Haley Austin** of McDonough was 6th in the girls division



Rinko Mitsunaga

of a preseason junior in Southport, N.C., with a 163 total.

Kennerly second on home course

Alpharetta's Billy Kennerly took second for the third straight year in an AJGA event on his home course, finishing three strokes behind the winner of the Exide Technologies Junior at Country Club of the South.

Kennerly, who has signed a golf scholarship with Clemson, shot 71-72—143, with **JD Tomlinson** of Gainesville, Fla., overtaking him with a 5-under 31 on the final nine. Tomlinson closed with a 67 for a 140 total.

Justin Cho of Norcross was 4th at 146, with **Michael Hines** of Acworth tying for 5th at 151 and **Ben Holm** of Alpharetta 7th at 153. Other top finishers from the state included: **Preston Heyward**, Duluth, 14th, 156; **Patrick Grahek**, Alpharetta, and **Preston Riner**, Johns Creek, T15, 156; **Zack Jaworski**, Alpharetta, T18, 157; **John Russo**, Alpharetta; **Andy Shim**, Duluth; and **Matthew Beringer**, Macon, T21, 158; and **David Yowell**, Marietta, and **Henry Mabbett**, T26, 159.

Six Georgians finished in the top 10 in the girls division, with Riverdale's **Mariah Stackhouse** winning in a playoff at 153

(story, page 20). **Mitsunaga**, who briefly held the lead on the back nine, tied for 4th at 156 along with **Ashlan Ramsey** of Milledgeville, who shot a final round 72 highlighted by a 4-under 32 on the front nine.

Emily Kurey of Alpharetta recorded five birdies in shooting a second round 73 to place 7th at 157. Roswell's **Jessica Haigwood** was within one shot of the lead with two holes to play before finishing T8 at 158. **Rachel Dai** of Suwanee also tied for 8th at 158.

Vandiver a winner in SJGT tourney

Stephanie Vandiver of Douglasville won the girls division of a Southeastern Junior Golf Tour event at Douglas G&CC. She posted a 162 total to edge **Brittany Jarrett** of Tifton by one stroke.

Bailey Tardy of Norcross was the girls 12-14 winner at 170, taking a playoff over **Megan Sabol** of Martinez.

Boys division winners included Valdosta's **Dawson Armstrong** in the 14-15 age group and Roswell's **Sebastian Darmo** (12-13). Armstrong shot 151 to finish four strokes ahead of **Park Brady** of St. Simons Island, with Darmo's 154 total three strokes better than **Walker Bottomley** of Milton.

In the 16-19 age group, **Riley Davenport** was 2nd at 150, two behind the winner, with **William Grotto** of Savannah 3rd at 153.

In an SJGT event in Huntsville, Ala., **Tyler Young** of Kennesaw was the boys 14-15 winner at 155. Bottomley was 2nd in his division at 154, two behind the winner, with Suwanee's **Brett Barron** 3rd at 157.

Georgia Junior Tour begins 2011 season

The Georgia State Parks Georgia Junior Tour began its 2011 season with recent events at the Lakes at Laura Walker in Waycross and at Brazell's Creek in Reidsville.

Brothers **Jacob** and **Tyler Joiner** placed 1-2 in the 14-19 division of both events. The Joiners both shot 146 at Laura Walker to finish one stroke ahead of Macon's **Seth Sanders**. At Brazell's Creek, Tyler shot 150 to edge brother Jacob by one stroke. Sanders again took third at 153.

In other age divisions at the Lakes at Laura Walker:

Tyler Hansen of Albany shot 152 to win boys 12-13, with **Jackson Toole** of Lyons the 10-11 winner. **Cortney Boggs** of Colbert shot 165 to win girls 14-19 by three over **Bailey Buie** of Waycross. **Julianna Collett** of St. Simons Island was the 12-13 winner at 169, with **Erin Peters** of Canton first in 10-11.

At Brazell's Creek, **Jeremy Wood** of Loganville was first in 12-13 at 159, two ahead of Hansen. **Adam Borowski** of Marietta was the 10-11 winner by eight shots at 165. Girls winners were **Nicolette Gerhardt** of Madison (14-19), Collett (12-13) and Peters (10-11). 🏆

Girls

[Continued from page 12]

boys in Georgia. One of the best is hosted by UGA women's coach Kelley Hester. Go to Kelleyhestergolfacademy.com and find out more information.

Other programs that you can get your girls involved in include: Legacy Golf Links, River Pines, Maple Ridge, Country Club of Roswell, Country Club of Columbus, Doublegate Golf Club, Idle Hour Country Club, and University of Georgia Golf Course. This is just a few, for more listings in your area, go to www.playgolfamerica.com and search junior golf. So if you have daughters that are willing to try the game of a lifetime, now is the time to do it! 🏆

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Junior Camps Directory

Echelon Golf Club-US Kids Golf

(Alpharetta)
770-888-4553 • www.uskidsgolf.com
June 14-17 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Hard Labor Creek

(Social Circle)
706-557-3006 • www.georgiagolf.com

Camps offered every Saturday:

May 21-July 30
Ages 6-10 • 1-2 p.m.
Ages 11-15 • 2-3 p.m.

Bonus camp for all ages Thursdays 5-6 p.m.
3 day camps in June, July and Aug.

The Orchard Golf & Country Club

(Clarkesville)
706-499-3597
www.habersham.k12.ga.us:16080/
~habershamgolf

June 20-23
July 18-21

Summer Grove Golf Club

(Newnan)
770-251-1800 ext. 5
www.cgperformancecenters.com

June 14-16 (Ages 7-17) • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 21-23 (Ages 7-11) • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 21-23 (Ages 12-17) • 4-7 p.m.
July 19-21 (Ages 7-11) • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 26-28 (Ages 7-17) • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Traditions of Braselton

(Jefferson)
706-338-2542
www.cgperformancecenters.com

Pee Wee Camps (Ages 4-6)

May 24-26 • 9-10 a.m.
May 31-June 2 • 9-10 a.m.
June 7-9 • 9-10 a.m.
June 21-23 • 9-10 a.m.
June 28-30 • 9-10 a.m.
July 5-7 • 9-10 a.m.
July 19-21 • 9-10 a.m.
July 26-28 • 9-10 a.m.

Junior Camps (Ages 7-17)

May 24-27 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
May 31-June 3 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
June 7-10 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
June 21-24 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
June 28-July 1 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
July 5-8 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

July 19-22 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
July 26-29 • 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Alpharetta Athletic Club

(Alpharetta)
770-475-2300 • www.alpharettaac.com

AAC Golf Camp (Ages 5 & up)

Four Day Camps: May 31 & July 5
Five Day Camps: June 6, 13, 20, 27,
July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1
Monday-Thursday • 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Friday "Play Day" • 8-10:30 a.m.

Towne Lake Hills Golf Club

www.hmsgolf.com

June 6-10
June 27-July 1
July 18-22

Ages 7-9 • 8:30-10 a.m.
Ages 10-12 • 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Club at Savannah Harbor

(Savannah)
912-201-2240
www.theclubatsavannahharbor.com

Junior Camps (ages 4-12)

June 13-15 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 18-20 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Henderson Golf Club

(Savannah)
912-856-4653
www.hendersongolfclub.com

Junior Camps (Ages 8-14)

May 23-27 • 8-11 a.m.
June 6-10 • 8-11 a.m.
June 13-17 • 8-11 a.m.
June 20-24 • 8-11 a.m.
June 27-July 1 • 8-11 a.m.

Wilmington Island Club

(Savannah)
912-897-1615
www.wilmingtonislandclub.com

Junior Camps (Ages 5-18)

June 7-9 • 9-12 a.m.
June 14-16 • 9-12 a.m.
June 21-23 • 9-12 a.m.
June 28-30 • 9-12 a.m.
July 5-7 • 9-12 a.m.
July 26-28 • 9-12 a.m.

Bear's Best Atlanta

(Suwanee)
678-557-5084 • www.bearsbest.com

3-day camps in June, July & August

West Pines Golf Club

(Douglasville)
678-391-1600 • www.westpinesgc.com

"Get Golf Ready" Junior Camps

(Ages 8-15)
June 7-10 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 5-8 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Georgia Trail at Sugarloaf

(Duluth)
770-497-4653 ext. 1 • www.gatrail.com

Junior Camps

June 6-10 • 8-11:30 a.m.
June 13-17 • 8-11:30 a.m.
June 20-24 • 8-11:30 a.m.
June 27-July 1 • 8-11:30 a.m.
July 11-15 • 8-11:30 a.m.
July 18-22 • 8-11:30 a.m.
July 25-29 • 8-11:30 a.m.
Aug. 1-5 • 8-11:30 a.m.

Advanced Junior Player Camps

June 27-July 1 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
July 25-29 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chicopee Woods Golf Club

(Gainesville)
770-534-0512
www.chicopeewoodsgolfcourse.com

Junior Golf Summer Camp (Ages 7-15)

June 21-23 • 8:30-10 a.m.
July 19-21 • 8:30-10 a.m.

Junior Golf Saturday Clinics (Ages 6-12)

June 4-July 30 • 10-11 a.m.

The Swing Factory

(Woodstock)
678-494-1999 • www.swingfactory.com

Junior Camp (Ages 6-15)

May 30-June 3 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
June 6-10 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
June 13-17 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
June 20-24 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
July 4-8 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
July 11-15 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
July 18-22 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
July 25-29 •
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sea Island Golf Club

(St. Simons Island)
912-638-5119 • www.seaislandgolf.com

Summer Elite Junior Golf School

(Ages 12-18 w/ handicap of 10 or less)
June 27-July 1 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
July 18-23 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Summer Junior Golf Club

(Ages 11-17 w/ playing experience)
June 20-24 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
July 4-8 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
July 11-15 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
July 25-29 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Aug. 1-5 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Summer Mini Golf Camp

(Ages 10-14 w/ some golf experience)
June 12-14 • 1-4 p.m.
June 26-28 • 1-4 p.m.
July 10-12 • 1-4 p.m.
July 24-26 • 1-4 p.m.
Aug. 7-9 • 1-4 p.m.
Aug. 21-23 • 1-4 p.m.

Mystery Valley

(Lithonia)
770-469-6913 • www.mysteryvalley.com

Weekly Future Stars Clinic

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Wendell Coffee Golf Center

(Tyrone)
770-969-4469 • www.coffeegolfcenter.com

Summer Break Camp (Ages 6-15)

Monday-Thursday every week during
May 31-Aug. 4
Exceptions: week 1 (May 31-June 4) and
week 6 (July 5-8) will be Tuesday-Friday

Tee 1 Up Summer Camps

(Marietta)
770-578-1234 • www.tee1up.net

Beginner Camps (Ages 7-10)

June 1-3 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 20-22 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 18-20 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Beginner/Intermediate Camps

(Ages 7-15)
June 6-8 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 27-29 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 25-27 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Intermediate Camps (Ages 10-15)

June 13-15 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 11-13 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Aug. 1-3 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced (Ages 11-17)

July 5-7 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Aug. 8-10 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Stone Mountain Golf Club, Heidi Mitchell Golf

(Stone Mountain)
678-637-2802
www.heidimitchellgolf.com

Junior Camp Morning Sessions

(Ages 7-16)
June 6-10 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 20-24 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 11-15 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 25-29 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Junior Camp Afternoon Sessions

(Ages 10-16)
June 20-22 • 1-3:30 p.m.
July 11-13 • 1-3:30 p.m.

Kiddie Camp (Ages 5-8)

May 31-June 2 • 9-10:30 a.m.
June 13-15 • 10-11:30 a.m.
July 6-8 • 9-10:30 a.m.
Aug. 1-3 • 10-11:30 a.m.

Pinetree Country Club

(Kennesaw)
770-422-5902 • www.pinetreec.com

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Camp A: June 7-10

A1: 8-9 a.m. (7-9 year olds)
A2: 9:30-10:30 a.m. (10-12 year olds)
A3: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (13-15 year olds)

Camp B: June 21-24

B1: 8-9 a.m. (10-12 year olds)
B2: 9:30-10:30 a.m. (13-15 year olds)
B3: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (7-9 year olds)

Camp C: July 12-15

C1: 8-9 a.m. (13-15 year olds)
C2: 9:30-10:30 a.m. (7-9 year olds)
C3: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (10-12 year olds)

Camp D: July 19-22

D1: 8-9 a.m. (7-9 year olds)
D2: 9:30-10:30 a.m. (10-12 year olds)
D3: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (13-15 year olds)

On Fridays for all camps, 10-15 year olds start at 8 a.m., 7-9 year olds start at 8:30 a.m. for "On Course Play Day"

Highland Walk Golf Course

(Royston)
706-245-6770
www.georgiagolf.com/Highland-Walk

Junior Camps (Ages 7-16)

June 13-17 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
July 11-15 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Marietta Golf Center

(Marietta)
770-977-1997
www.mariettagolfcenter.com

SNAG Golf Camp (Ages 5-7)

5 Saturday clinics • 9:45-10:30 a.m.:
June 4, 11, 18, 25 & July 2 or
July 16, July 23, July 30, Aug. 6 & Aug. 13

Junior Golf Clinics with Course Play

(Ages 8-17)
June 7-10
June 14-17
June 21-24
June 28-July 1
July 5-8
July 12-15
July 19-22
July 26-29

*Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:
Instruction at Marietta Golf Center from
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

*Fridays: Course Play at Cross Creek Golf
and Country Club from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The Windy Hill Golf Academy

(Smyrna)
770-434-6331 • 770-435-1000
www.legacyfoxcreek.com

Junior Academies

May 30-May 31 • (Ages 5-6) • 9-11 a.m.
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9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
June 20-21 • (Ages 5-6) • 9-11 a.m.
June 20-22 • (Ages 7-10) • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
June 27-30 • (Ages 11-15) •
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July 11-14 • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
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Summer Golf Camp (Ages 6-16)

June 6-9 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 20-23 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
July 11-14 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
July 25-28 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cobblestone Golf Course

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Fundamentals of Golf (Ages 5-8)

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Wednesday "Play Day" • 7:30-9:30 a.m.
June 6, 13, 20, July 11, 18, 25

Junior Golf Camp (Ages 9-12)

Monday-Thursday Camps • 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Wednesday "Play Day" • 7:30-9:30 a.m.
June 6, 13, 20, July 11, 18, 25

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(Ages 13-16)
Monday-Thursday Camps • 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday "Play Day" • 7:30-9:30 a.m.
June 6, 13, 20, July 11, 18, 25

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July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1
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Friday "Play Day" • 8-10 a.m.

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July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1
Monday-Thursday • 9-11 a.m.
Friday "Play Day" • 8-10 a.m.

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Georgia PGA schedule begins with 2 events

Chicopee Woods to host season opener

By Mike Blum

Following some schedule changes, the Georgia PGA's 2011 tournament season gets off to a later-than-usual start, with its first two multi-round events set for this month.

The fourth **Chicopee Woods Players Championship** is the first individual tournament on this year's schedule, and will be played May 16-17 in Gainesville. The following week, Newnan Country Club will host the **Georgia Senior Open** May 23-24.



Tim Weinhart

TaylorMade and adidas Golf, begins a busy stretch of tournament golf for Georgia PGA members. The Yamaha Atlanta Open follows next month, with the Championship at Berkeley Hills and Georgia Open in July, the Section Championship in August and several events set for the Fall.

The Atlanta Open will be played June 13-14 at The Frog, with four qualifiers scheduled between June 2 and 7. The event is open to Georgia PGA members and apprentices as well as amateurs, with the entry deadline May 27.

The unique format for the Chicopee Woods events produces some interesting scores after the first day of play, with Hull accomplishing the

203 total the next year and finishing at 211 in last year's tournament.

Weinhart, an instructor with Nuclear Golf, which is now based at the Standard Club, has been a consistent performer at Chicopee Woods, posting 54-hole totals of 204, 206 and 204. He was a close third in 2008 and fifth the next year before notching his victory in 2010.

Skinner, who teaches at River Pointe in Albany and has limited status on the Champions Tour, has come close every year, placing fourth in '08 (two strokes out of the playoff), second the next year (just one behind McCain) and was third last year. He is 33-under in his three tournament appearances at Chicopee Woods.



Javier Sanchez

The Chicopee Woods event has proven to be a popular early-season tournament for the state's club professionals, consisting of 54 holes over two days on Chicopee Woods' 27-hole layout.

The tournament has enjoyed down-to-the-wire finishes all three times in which it has been contested, beginning in 2008 when **Jeff Hull** needed a playoff to prevail over **Russ Davis**.

Hull contended again the next year, but placed third, two strokes behind **Seth McCain**, who edged out **Sonny Skinner** by one shot to take his first Georgia PGA title. **Tim Weinhart**, a 5-time Georgia PGA Player of the Year, out-dueled **Craig Stevens** in last year's tournament, chipping in for birdie on the 53rd hole to break a tie and score a one-stroke victory.

The Chicopee Woods Players Championship, which is sponsored by

odd feat of breaking 100 in the opening round in 2008, shooting 9-under 99 before finishing at 13-under 203 to tie Davis.

McCain shot a tournament-best 15-under 201 to win in 2009, with Weinhart's winning score last year 204. Chicopee Woods' three nines are comparable in both length and difficulty, with the Village nine, the front nine on the original 18, the longest of the three and rated the most difficult of the trio.

Weinhart, Hull and Skinner have been among the leaders in each of the three tournaments played at Chicopee Woods, with all three among the top five finishers every year in the event's brief history.

Hull, an instructor at the UGA course in Athens, has finished first, third and fifth, matching his winning 13-under

Sanchez shoots for third straight Senior Open title

Javier Sanchez has won the Yamaha Georgia Senior Open each of the last two years, but if the veteran tour player is going to make it a three-peat, he will have to do it at a new venue with the possibility of a much stronger group of contenders.

Sanchez, a long time Fayetteville resident, claimed both his Georgia Senior Open titles at Callaway Gardens, but this year's event has been moved to Newnan Country Club, which has hosted an annual Seniors Division event in recent years, as well as the Yamaha Atlanta Open in 2008.

Among the potential entrants who have turned 50 in the past year are Georgia PGA members **Sonny Skinner**, **Craig**

Stevens and **Stephen Keppler**. Skinner and Stevens have limited status on the Champions Tour, with Skinner making it into a tournament from a Monday qualifier earlier this year.

Sanchez coasted to a five-stroke victory in the 2009 Georgia Senior Open, the first one he was eligible to compete in, but had a much tougher time last year, needing back-to-back hole-outs on the back nine at Callaway Gardens' Mountain View course, the former host of a PGA Tour event for more than a decade.

After shooting 66 in the opening round, Sanchez shared the lead with amateur **Jeff Belk**. Sanchez led by three strokes early in the second round, but after 10 holes had lost the lead and was involved in a tight, four-way battle with Belk, fellow amateur **Jack Hall**, and former tour player **Tim Conley**.

After hitting his tee shot in the water on the par-3 12th, Sanchez chipped in for par. On the par-4 13th, Sanchez holed out from a greenside bunker for birdie, with his ball making contact with Belk's ball, which was about a foot from the cup, before being re-directed into the hole.

Sanchez went on to shoot 70 for an 8-under 136 total, two strokes ahead of Conley, who defeated Sanchez in a playoff in a 1996 Nike Tour tournament in St. Louis.

For most of his professional career, Sanchez has been a mini-tour grinder, with his near win in St. Louis part of a two-year stint he spent on the Nike (now Nationwide) Tour.

Sanchez achieved a bit of national attention when he qualified for the U.S. Open four straight times from 1993-1996, making it through both local and sectional qualifying stages all four times. He made a fifth U.S. Open start in 2000, and is 2-for-2 in U.S. Senior Open qualifying since he turned 50, tying for 32nd in the championship last year.

However, after making it into three Champions Tour events in Monday qualifiers in 2009, Sanchez made it into just one last year, and faded into the pack after an opening round 66 in the final full field event of the 2010 season in San Antonio.

Sanchez plays much of his golf on the Sunbelt Senior Tour, which is based in Florida and plays a number of its events in Georgia. Sanchez is a consistent top finisher on the tour, which has small fields and offers modest prize money. ☺

Hughes wins playoff on Peach State Tour

Dalton's **Matt Hughes** won a playoff over fellow Georgian **Mark Silvers** to take a Peach State Golf Tour title at Landings GC in Warner Robins.

Hughes, who won on the Peach State Tour last year, and Silvers, who has scored several mini-tour wins, both shot 66-69—135, with Hughes winning with a birdie on the second extra hole. Hughes took home \$10,000 for his victory.

Chris Wolfe was 4th at 138 after opening with a 65, with Forsyth's **Jay McLuen** 5th at 140. Champions Tour player **James Mason** of Dillard was T8 at 141.

Denny Lucas won a Peach State event at the Standard Club, shooting 68-69—137 (7-under) to win by two strokes. **Will Claxton** of Swainsboro tied for 3rd at 141 along with **Jim Chung** of Duluth. Mason again tied for 8th at 144.

In a 54-hole Peach State tournament at the Georgia Club, **Chas Narramore** won in a playoff over McLuen after both players finished at 13-under 203. McLuen shot 65 in the final round, with the second day of play consisting of 36 holes due to a poor weather forecast for the following day.

McLuen birdied the 18th hole to force the playoff, but lost to a par on the second hole.

Josh Broadway was 7th at 206 with **Jonathan Fricke** of Covington and Jasper's **Jarod Trammell** T8 at 207

Silvers picked up his second Peach State win of 2011 season, winning handily at Barnsley Gardens. Silvers posted scores of 67 and 69 for an 8-under 136 total to earn first place money of \$10,000.

Former UGA golfer **Christo Greyling** was second at 141, five strokes behind Silvers. Four golfers tied for 3rd at 142, with Hughes, Mason and **Mark Harrell** of Hazlehurst tying for 7th at 144.

Upcoming Peach State Tour events include The Orchard (May 9-11), Jennings Mill (May 16-17), Old Union (May 23-24), Reunion (June 6-8) and Stonebridge G&CC in Albany (June 13-14).

eGolf Tour: Former Nationwide Tour player **Scott Parel** of Augusta was the top Georgia finisher in an eGolf Tour event in Southport, N.C., tying for 10th.

Savannah's **Mark Silvers** shot 15-under 272 to place 7th in an eGolf event in Columbia, S.C., shooting 66 the final day. 🍑

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Masters latest example of golf's shifting fortunes

Schwartzel fourth straight new major champion

By Mike Blum

If it wasn't already evident after the results of the last three major championships of 2010, the 2011 Masters offered even stronger proof that men's professional golf is in the midst of a significant transitional phase.

Since **Phil Mickelson** won the 2010 Masters, the last four major champions have been international players age 30 or younger. When 26-year-old South African **Charl Schwartzel** won last month's Masters, he became the 10th different winner of the last 10 majors, just four of whom are Americans.

All four major titles are currently held by non-Americans, with South Africans winning two of the last three. With the exception of **Tim Clark**, who won the 2010 Players Championship and has finished in the top 3 in three different majors, all of South Africa's prominent international competitors have won major championships.

Schwartzel emerged as a player to watch last year, placing second behind **Ernie Els** in the WGC event at Doral, closing fast to finish one shot out of a playoff in Houston the week before the Masters, and notching finishes of 18th or better in the last three majors of 2010.

After the season, Schwartzel joined the PGA Tour, and played respectably in the tournaments leading up to the Masters after a torrid stretch on the European Tour spanning the end of 2010 and the first few weeks of 2011. He finished fourth or better in four straight tournaments in South Africa, and collected his sixth career victory, the first of which came at the age of 20.

Schwartzel was largely unknown in the U.S. prior to his Masters triumph, but was ranked 29th in the world when the tournament began, moving up to 11th thanks to his stirring and somewhat surprising victory. Although he played very

respectably in each of last year's majors (he was T30 in his first ever Masters appearance), Schwartzel had never seriously contended in a major.

Although he didn't attract much attention in the Masters before his spectacular start in the final round, Schwartzel was a factor from early in the opening round. He shot 32 on his opening nine and was tied for seventh at the end of the day after a 69.

The first player off the tee in Friday's second round, Schwartzel shot a steady 71 and was the clubhouse leader for about an hour, ending up six shots behind **Rory McIlroy** in a tie for 12th.

Another strong start Saturday led to a 68, which placed him in a four-way tie for second at 208, four behind McIlroy heading to the final round.

It took Schwartzel just three holes to erase McIlroy's lead, beginning with a bump-and-run birdie chip after missing the first green wide right. He topped that impressive shot two holes later when he spun a wedge into the hole for eagle on the short par-4 third.

Schwartzel fell out of a tie at the top when he three-putted the fourth from long range, just his seventh bogey of the week. From there, he rattled off 10 straight pars, and was just one stroke off the lead of **Adam Scott** when he began the greatest finishing birdie stretch in Masters history.

With birdies on each of the final four holes, the last three of which came on putts in the 15-foot-or-longer range, Schwartzel surged past what may have been the largest group of contenders ever at such a late stage on Sunday in the Masters. His 66 will go down as one of the great final rounds by a winner in Masters history along side **Gary Player's** 64 in 1978, the 65 by **Jack Nicklaus** in 1986 and a mostly forgotten 65 by **Nick Faldo** in 1989, who was handed a Masters title but deprived of

much recognition thanks to **Scott Hoch**.

Schwartzel's birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie finish overshadowed some late heroics by a host of challengers, most notably a pair of Australians who were hoping to give their country a first ever Masters champion. Both Scott and 23-year-old **Jason Day** played beautifully in the final round, although Scott will likely regret his failure to take advantage of the two back nine par 5s.

Day is one of the game's budding young stars along with the likes of McIlroy, **Rickie Fowler** and **Ryo Ishikawa**, and came about as close as anyone has over the last 30 years to winning the Masters in his first start in Augusta.

Scott, whose history in the majors consists of mostly failing grades, finally put up a performance worthy of his talent, and at the relatively advanced age of 30, may be about to produce results commensurate with his ability.

The third Aussie in the mix was **Geoff Ogilvy**, whose game appears to be well suited to Augusta National. But he had never seriously challenged for a green jacket before running off five consecutive birdies on the back nine in the final round last month. Ogilvy's charge, which began at the 12th hole, was just a bit too late, but re-establishes him as a threat any time the game's top players gather together.

Veterans **K.J. Choi** and **Angel Cabrera** were once again among the leaders coming down the stretch, but both were lapped by their younger competitors near the finish line. Bogeys at the always pesky par-3 12th proved costly to both, although not as damaging as the hole was to **Luke Donald**, the only one of the unprecedented number of challengers who found Rae's Creek on the hole.

Donald, a popular pre-tournament pick by a passel of prognosticators, rebounded to birdie four of the next six holes to tie Ogilvy for fourth, concluding with his well-deserved chip-in birdie at the 18th after clanging his second shot from a very awkward lie off the flagstick.

With Schwartzel not exactly a household name outside South Africa or to fans of the Mel Brooks' movie "Spaceballs," his remarkable performance was overshadowed to an extent by



McIlroy's collapse and the rise and fall of **Tiger Woods**.

After three days of mostly brilliance on the lush turf of Augusta National, McIlroy met the same fate that many others before him have encountered when leading a major championship going to the final round.

Both **Dustin Johnson** and **Nick Watney** collapsed almost immediately in the final rounds of 2010 majors, while **Greg Norman's** infamous 1996 self-destruction was more drawn out and painful. After some early struggles, McIlroy actually righted himself and retained the outright lead heading to the back nine before his horrendous drive at the 10th led to a triple bogey.

Even after the triple, McIlroy responded with one of the best shots of the day to an almost inaccessible pin position on the 11th, but the putting problems that had plagued him at times earlier in the round suddenly reached epic proportions. Facing a birdie putt inside 10 feet, McIlroy instead three-putted for bogey. He followed with a four-putt at the 11th, missing twice more from just a few feet away.

McIlroy, who was third in both the 2010 British Open and PGA Championship, wound up tied for 15th after an 80, with his final round unraveling coming as a complete shock to almost everyone in the golf punditry profession despite the recent and frequent number of historical precedents.

It was an equally unanimous opinion that McIlroy will overcome his very public debacle, but that may be more wishful thinking than hard-headed analysis. Few of those who have undergone final round meltdowns in a major comparable to that of McIlroy have

[See Masters, page 34]

No Georgians near top It was not a good week for the Georgia contingent at the Masters. Seven of the nine Georgia natives/residents/former collegians missed the cut, with Matt Kuchar the top finisher at T27. Bubba Watson was in the top 10 after three rounds, but closed with a 78.

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Kirk makes mark with big week in Houston

Ex-Bulldog ties for second behind Mickelson

By Mike Blum

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution may not know who **Chris Kirk** is, but golf fans who watched the Shell Houston Open were introduced to one of the PGA Tour's many budding young stars.

Kirk grew up in the Cherokee County community of Woodstock, was one of the top players in the long history of the U. of Georgia golf team, and now lives on St. Simons Island.

He was a contender from the first day of the Houston Open to the 72nd hole, ending up in a tie for the second behind **Phil Mickelson**. Despite his strong ties to the state, the AJC never identified him even though he was mentioned in the Associated Press stories that ran in the AJC after each round, most prominently following the second round when he was leading the tournament outright.

Kirk has been a national caliber player since his days in junior golf, and has enjoyed considerable success at every level in which he competed. He struggled a bit during his first two years as a professional, but finished second on the Nationwide Tour money list in 2010, and his runner-up finish in Houston stamped him as a contender for PGA Tour Rookie of the Year honors.

Houston was not the first tournament Kirk has

contended in during his rookie season. In just his second start as a PGA Tour member, Kirk tied for seventh in the Bob Hope Classic, finishing four shots out of a playoff won by **Jhonattan Vegas**, the current favorite for Rookie of the Year.

After his strong showing in the Hope, Kirk did not turn in another top finish for more than two months, and he addressed his struggles after taking the lead midway through the Houston Open.

"I had my two worst tournaments of the past couple years the last two weeks (at Tampa and Bay Hill)," Kirk said. "I was just kind of in a little bit of a funk, I guess. I don't feel like I was playing that bad of golf. I just lost interest somehow."

"That's horrible for me to say that as a PGA Tour player – and I have the best job in the world – but I did. I got to the point where I would make a couple of bogeys and felt like I didn't want to be out there. And so I went home this past weekend and just tried to change basically as many things as possible to try to spark my interest."

After his outstanding performance on the Nationwide Tour in 2010, Kirk said he was hesitant to change equipment, but put some new Titleist clubs in his bag prior to Houston, and the decision paid immediate dividends.

Thanks to his tie for second, Kirk earned \$519,200 and plenty of FedExCup and World Ranking points.

Kirk moved up from 83rd on the PGA

his standing on the money list relative to retaining his playing privileges. He will be looking to maintain his current lofty ranking in order to qualify for the two major events that will be played in Atlanta later this year.

Kirk needs to finish among the top 70 players on a money list that spans a calendar year from the 2010 to 2011 PGA Championships in order to make it into the field at Atlanta Athletic Club in August. His tie for second in Houston moved him up to 66 from 131. He can also qualify for the event if he remains in the top 100 in the World Ranking.

Although he was only 16 years old the last time Atlanta AC hosted the PGA Championship, this will not be the first time Kirk has competed on the club's Highlands Course in a national championship.

Kirk competed in the 2003 U.S. Junior Amateur at AAC, advancing to match play before losing in the second round.

To qualify for the Tour Championship at East Lake in September, Kirk will need to remain in the top 30 in the FedExCup standings, and that would also earn him a spot in the 2012 Masters.

Unless he moves into the top 50 in the World Rankings just prior to the U.S. Open, Kirk will have to compete in sectional qualifying for the event. He has qualified for the Open twice in the last three years, making the cut in 2008.

Prior to his rookie season, Kirk had

a playoff. He scored one of his two victories last year in Knoxville, the other coming in Fort Smith, Ark.

During his short stint as a tour player, Kirk has twice reached the finals of PGA Tour qualifying, but failed to earn his PGA Tour card on either occasion, although his play at Q school in 2007 earned him a spot on the Nationwide Tour the next year.

Kirk was able to skip Q school after his play on the Nationwide Tour last year, and thanks to his runner-up finish in Houston, won't have to worry about keeping his PGA Tour playing privileges in 2012.

After an opening round 66 placed him among the leaders, Kirk moved into first place with a second round 69. He took the lead during the round before making a double bogey on his 13th hole after driving into a hazard. Thanks to birdies on his final two holes, he held the outright lead going to the weekend.

Playing in the final group in the third round, Kirk withstood the pressure to shoot another 69 that could have been several shots lower. He hit 16 of 18 greens and described the round as "one of the better ball striking rounds I've ever had. I just really didn't make anything all day."

"I had so many chances. After you miss a few, you kind of lose a little bit of confidence."

After two days of what he termed "incredible" putting, Kirk was still hopeful heading to the final round, and responded with a 67 that included just his fourth bogey of the week.

Kirk closed out the tournament with four birdies on his final nine holes, and said he was "very happy with my back nine and my ball striking all around. I didn't make a whole lot on the front nine, which could have really got me up there. But I certainly wouldn't complain."

Then highlight of Kirk's round was a chip-in birdie from a difficult lie on the 16th that enabled him to tie veteran **Scott Verplank** for second at 17-under 271, three strokes behind Mickelson.

Kirk had played at Redstone GC during his college days at Georgia, where he enjoyed a memorable career. He helped lead the Bulldogs to a national championship as a sophomore in 2005, and was a second team All-America selection that season, earning first team honors as a junior and senior.

As a senior, Kirk was presented with the Ben Hogan Award as the country's top collegiate golfer, and shares Georgia career victory mark with seven individual titles, four as a senior. That helped earn him a spot on the victorious 2007 U.S. Walker Cup team. 🍷

"This kind of sets me up for the rest of the year,"
—Chris Kirk

Tour money list to 29th, and his earnings for the year (\$779,000 at the time) are less than \$10,000 short of the total required to finish 125th on the money list last year. He was 23rd in FedExCup points (up from 68th) and cracked the top 100 in the World Rankings for the first time, vaulting from 137 to 87.

"This kind of sets me up for the rest of the year," Kirk said. "I was already in pretty good shape, but this just makes it a little better."

Unlike almost all the other PGA Tour rookies, Kirk no longer has to worry about

competed in nine PGA Tour events, with his best finish a tie for 15th in last year's inaugural McGladrey Classic at Sea Island GC. Kirk received a sponsor's exemption after an exceptional year on the Nationwide Tour, but suffered an injury shortly after competing at Sea Island, and was unable to play in the Nationwide Tour Championship, denying him a chance to finish the year as the tour's No. 1 player.

Kirk played on the Nationwide Tour in both 2008 and '09, but did not play especially well either year other than a near victory in '08 in Knoxville, when he lost in

Chris Kirk



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Georgians start fast on Nationwide Tour

List leads way after runner-up finish

As the Nationwide Tour was about to begin its two-week swing through Georgia, most of the state's players on the tour were off to excellent starts.

The Nationwide Tour had played only four tournaments prior to back-to-back stops in Valdosta in late April and Athens in early May, with four Georgians among the top 25 money winners and another player from the state just outside that status.

Of the 11 Georgians on the tour with at least three starts in the four events, nine were among the top 85 on the money list. The top 25 at the end of the season move up to the PGA Tour in 2012, with the top 60 exempt for the 2012 Nationwide Tour and the top 100 retaining non-exempt status for next year.

Most of the Georgians on the Nationwide Tour this year are competing as non-exempt players, with fast starts enhancing their current eligibility status.

Leading the way after four tournaments were Ringgold's **Luke List** and former UGA golfer **Erik Compton**, both of whom were among the top 10 on the money list.

List, who was 78th in earnings last year, was 8th after a recent tie for 2nd in northern California, the last event before the tour began its Southern swing. After a third round 64, List was just one stroke off the lead. He wound up in that position when the final round was cancelled due to heavy fog that halted play with the leaders midway through their rounds.

List earned \$52,800 for his share of 2nd place, boosting his earnings for the season to just over \$60,000. He had tied for 20th in the previous event in Louisiana.

Compton was 10th in earnings with \$54,005, tying for 4th in the season-opener in both Panama and the northern California tournament. Compton, who has survived two heart transplant surgeries, is enjoying his best season as a professional thus far in 2011. He has finished no lower than 19th in his three Nationwide Tour starts, and has made the cut in all four PGA Tour events in



which he has been granted a sponsor's exemption, tying for 25th in Los Angeles after a final round 64 at Riviera CC. His total earnings for the young season have exceeded \$138,000.

LaFayette native **John Kimbell**, who won the first South Georgia Classic at Valdosta's Kinderlou Forest in 2007, was 19th on the money list coming into that event. He tied for 4th in Louisiana, shooting a final round 61 to jump 44 places in the standings. He followed with a solid showing in California. Kimbell was 90th on the 2011 money list.

Augusta's **Scott Brown** tied for 3rd in the early season Nationwide Tour event in Colombia, with the tournament one of two shortened by weather problems. Like the Bay Area event that was cancelled midway through the fourth round, the Bogota tournament was halted with players still on the course for the third

round, with final results reverting back to the end of the second round. Brown, who was two shots back after 36 holes, was just inside the top 25 at 23rd on the money list. Brown was 70th last year, falling out of the top 60 after missing most of the late tournaments on the schedule due to an injury.

Alpharetta's **Roberto Castro** was just outside the top 25 at 28th, posting three top-20 finishes in the first four events on the schedule.

Castro tied for 18th in the season opener in Panama, for 19th in Colombia and for 14th in California. The former Georgia Tech standout was making a strong run at the leaders in Colombia when the tournament was halted, but got a bit of a break in California, where he was losing ground before play ended. Castro was 62nd in earnings last year, playing his way onto the tour midway through the season thanks to a runner-up finish in Wichita.

Veteran tour player **Scott Dunlap**, at 47 one of the oldest Nationwide players, was 58th on the money list, tying for 13th in Louisiana. Dunlap carded 65s in both the Louisiana and California tournaments, and is looking to improve on his 2010 finish of 76th in earnings.

Clarkesville's **Major Manning**, who played his college golf at Augusta State, opened the 2011 season with a tie for 18th in Panama. He was a contender after 54 holes, but struggled in the final

round, with a poor finish also hurting him in Louisiana. Manning, who is coming off an injury-plagued season in 2010, was 69th on the money list.

Georgia's other veteran Nationwide Tour player is Vidalia native and St. Simons Island resident **Paul Claxton**, who is in his 13th full season, along with four on the PGA Tour. Claxton made the cut in three of the first four events of the year, but had no high finishes and was 77th in earnings prior to the two Georgia tournaments. Claxton, a former Georgia Bulldog and Georgia Amateur champion, was 42nd last year, and has finished lower than 61st only once in his Nationwide Tour career.

Former Georgia Tech golfer **Nicholas Thompson** was 85th after making two of four cuts. Thompson has played the PGA Tour in recent seasons, but is back on the Nationwide Tour this year.

Brendon Todd and **Justin Bolli**, a pair of ex-Georgia Bulldogs and past Nationwide Tour winners, were both 0-for-3 in cuts made, and will need to play well in their home state if they hope to play a full schedule this season.

Todd is coming off a forgettable 2010 in which he did not make a cut the entire season on the Nationwide Tour after competing on the PGA Tour in 2009. Bolli has gone back and forth between the PGA and Nationwide Tours in recent years, struggling on the PGA Tour in 2010. He has three career Nationwide Tour wins and placed 11th or better on the money list each year he won a tournament to earn his three shots on the PGA Tour. ☺

Monday qualifier Potter wins in Valdosta

Ted Potter became the first Monday qualifier since 2006 to win a Nationwide Tour event, taking the South Georgia Classic at Kinderlou Forest in Valdosta by three strokes.

Potter shot 65-68 over the final two rounds to finish with a tournament record 16-under 272 total, three strokes ahead of **Matthew Goggin**, the leader on the tour's money list and a winner earlier this season. Former Clemson golfer **Charles Warren**, a PGA Tour member, tied for 3rd at 278 with **Brent Long**, like Potter a Monday qualifier.

The five-year-old event continued its history of producing surprise winners. Potter had played on the Nationwide Tour in 2004, '07 and '10, and in 55 career starts

had made just 6 cuts, with his best ever finish a tie for 11th.

Five golfers with Georgia ties finished in the top 25 to guarantee spots in the field for the Stadion Classic at UGA the following week, including former Georgia Bulldog **Brian Harman**, who played his way into the Valdosta tournament in a Monday qualifier.

Clarkesville's **Major Manning** closed with scores of 67-69 the final two rounds to tie for 5th at 279. Former UGA golfer **Erik Compton** turned in another strong performance, tying for 13th at 282. LaFayette native **John Kimbell**, who won the first South Georgia Classic in 2007, tied for 18th at 283, highlighted by a

second round 65.

Also tying for 18th was ex-UGA golfer **Brendon Todd**, who shot a final round 67 to crack the top 25. It was Todd's first made cut of the season. Harman, a Savannah native, was in position for a fourth straight under par round, but bogeyed his last two holes for a 73 and a tie for 24th at 284.

Georgians **Roberto Castro**, **Scott Dunlap** and **Justin Bolli** all missed the cut by one stroke with 1-over 145 totals for 36 holes. **Bill Murchison** of Towne Lake Hills had the low score of the three Georgia PGA members in the field at 149, with Steel Canyon instructor **Craig Stevens** next at 151. ☺



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Georgia PGA members to serve in volunteer roles

By Mike Blum

Nine Georgia PGA members will attempt to qualify next month for the 2011 PGA Championship by finishing in the top 20 of the PGA Professional National Championship.

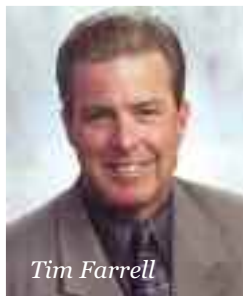
But even if none of them make it (two did the last time the PGA was played at Atlanta Athletic Club), the Georgia PGA will still have a significant presence at this year's PGA Championship, which is scheduled for Aug. 11-14.

Approximately 200 Georgia PGA members and apprentices will work as volunteers at this year's PGA Championship in a variety of roles, with a number of them reprising their efforts from 10 years ago, the last time Atlanta Athletic Club hosted one of golf's four major championships.

Georgia PGA President in 2000, it didn't immediately dawn on him that his two-year term would include the 2001 PGA Championship. The long-time head professional at Country Club of Roswell was quickly made aware of that, with his best memories of his involvement with the event stemming from his invitation to the Champions Dinner, held annually during tournament week.



Danny Elkins



Tim Farrell

"That was a unique experience," Farrell recalled. He shared a table at the dinner with some past PGA of America presidents, as well as a past champion, who showed up dressed a bit more casually than the other attendees.

Vijay Singh entered wearing golf clothes, having just come from a late session on the practice range, one of only two players to show up for the dinner without coat and tie. The other was John Daly, who did not come directly from the range, but was attired in his usual mode of dress.

Prior to the dinner during tournament week, Farrell interacted a bit with the 1991 PGA champion in his position as the practice round starter on the 10th tee.

"Daly was hanging around the tee waiting to see who he could play with," Farrell recollected. During Daly's stay on the tee, Farrell struck up a conversation with him and discovered that Daly "was real interesting and a regular guy. It was a neat experience talking to him."

Farrell also got to observe up close his fellow club professionals who were competing along side the likes of Singh and Daly, and made note of the fact that most of them appeared "a little wide-eyed."

Included among the players in the field that year was another PGA champion who Farrell had some history with. Both Farrell and 1988 PGA

champion Jeff Sluman grew up in the Rochester, N.Y., area, and Farrell competed against Sluman – unsuccessfully, he chuckled – when the two were junior golfers.

This year, Farrell will be coordinating the Georgia PGA's volunteers, but with the tournament still several months away, has not had much to do in that capacity yet.

"It's all done online, and I'm not sure exactly what's involved," he says, but expects to be a lot busier as the tournament approaches and the various shifts for the practice facilities, the starter's roles and the lesson booths have to be worked out.

Danny Elkins wound up with a slightly different assignment a decade ago. Elkins, the owner and head professional of Georgia Golf Center in Roswell, was among a group of club professionals who were stationed around the 12th and 18th greens to help make determinations where balls that found the greenside hazards on the two holes crossed the hazard line.

Elkins and his fellow club pros did not have any rules responsibilities; they were just there as extra pairs of eyes to enable a rules official and the unfortunate player to agree on where to make his drop.

Although Elkins took no particular joy in his task, he said it was "fun being out there in that atmosphere. That was the biggest thing. Until you experience a major championship atmosphere, you can't really understand it."

Elkins, who was the Georgia PGA President in 2004-05, will volunteer again this year, but says he is "not looking for anything specific. I'll do whatever they want me to do."

As one of the state's most highly regarded teaching professionals, Elkins could do a shift or two offering mini-lessons to the patrons who take the opportunity of getting some invaluable (if brief) tips from a professional instructor, or he could wind up repeating what he did a decade ago.

Either way, Elkins and his fellow Georgia PGA members will be able to experience the excitement that exists at a major championship, whether as a player or volunteer, and will be left with a lifetime of memories regardless of which role they play. ☺

Masters report

[Continued from page 28]

come back to win one of golf's Grand Slam events, although few had the youth or talent of McIlroy.

With all that went on Sunday at Augusta National, the one story that really got the media worked up was the familiar name of Woods that briefly – very briefly – topped the leader board in the final round.

Over the first eight holes, Woods hit a succession of outstanding shots, and holed one putt after another, just like he did during his dozen or so years as golf's pre-eminent performer.

Woods got everyone's attention when he birdied seven of the last 11 holes Friday en route to a 66 and tie for third after 36 holes. But he backed that up with an uninspired 74 the next day and trailed McIlroy by seven shots going to the final round. With a 31 on the front nine Woods pulled even with McIlroy and several others, but as soon as he reached the 10th tee, all the momentum he had built up suddenly vanished.

A short missed par putt at the 12th started Woods' downfall, and he alternated between indifferent approach shots and more missed putts. While Schwartzel, Day, Scott, Ogilvy and Donald all shot 3-under or better on the back nine, Woods settled for even par and a tie for fourth.

Since his last win in Augusta in 2005, Woods has finished between second and sixth every year, and has exhibited an increasing tendency of shooting himself into contention before squandering opportunities to hang with the leaders.

During his winless stretch, which has now surpassed a year, Woods has only occasionally shown flashes of his former glory, with those glimpses typically coming in short bursts that encompass about half a round.

Because one of those two flashes during the Masters happened in the final round, Woods' legion of idolatrous worshipers in the media were almost giddy in their expectations of a "return" of the real Tiger to the top of the fluid world rankings, and a renewed challenge at golf's holy grail – the 18 career major mark established by Nicklaus.

Until he proves he can put together an entire round of excellent play, let alone 72 holes, the Tiger Woods of 2011 is not the Tiger Woods who amassed 14 major titles between 1997 and 2008.

Maybe he will be again, but the fervent wishes of media types not satisfied with a Charl Schwartzel victory are not enough. ☹

Behind the scenes at the 2011 PGA

The primary roles for the Georgia PGA volunteers will be to coordinate the practice areas at AAC (driving range, short game area, putting green); to work as starters and man locator player boards during the practice rounds; and to conduct free mini-lessons before and during the tournament for two of the PGA's corporate sponsors – Mercedes-Benz and American Express.

Among those who worked in a volunteer capacity at Atlanta Athletic Club ten years ago and will do so again are two former Presidents of the Georgia PGA, one of whom served in that role the last time the PGA Championship was played in the state.

When Tim Farrell took over as the



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Chip Shots

Weinhart among Nationwide qualifiers

Tim Weinhart, a 5-time Georgia PGA Player of the Year, was one of four state club professionals to earn spots in the back-to-back Nationwide Tour events in Georgia in late April and early May.

Weinhart claimed medalist honors in the Georgia PGA qualifier for the Stadion Classic at UGA, shooting 71 on the demanding UGA golf course. Also qualifying was Rivermont CC head professional **Matthew Evans**, who shot a 72.

Evans edged out three players for the second of the two Georgia PGA qualifying spots in the tournament. **Jeff Hull**, an instructor at the UGA course, shot a 73, as did veteran tour player **Sonny Skinner** and Towne Lakes Hills assistant **Bill Murchison**.

Weinhart played a limited schedule on the Nationwide Tour in 2007, and has made a number of starts on the PGA Tour as well, including five appearances in the PGA Championship. He almost made the cut in last year's PGA Tour McGladrey Classic at Sea Island GC, and will be in the field in that event again this year, earning that spot by claiming his fifth Player of the Year title in 2010.

Evans will be playing in his first Nationwide Tour event.

The day after the qualifier for the UGA event was held, the re-scheduled Georgia PGA qualifier for the South Georgia Classic was played at the UGA course, with Murchison matching Weinhart's 71 to take medalist honors by five strokes.

It will be the first Nationwide Tour start for Murchison, whose father played on both the PGA and Nationwide Tours.

Joining Murchison in the field at Kinderlou Forest is Chicopee Woods instructor **Jeff Frasier**, who shot 76 and won a playoff over **Todd Ormsby** of Planterra Ridge. Four players missed the playoff for the second qualifying spot by one shot, including Evans, Augusta CC instructor **Gary Cressend**, Crooked Oak head professional **Winston Trively** and Griffin CC head professional **Brian Dixon**.

Steel Canyon instructor **Craig Stevens**, who won last year's Georgia PGA Section Championship and the Section's qualifier for the PGA Professional National Championship, earned the automatic Georgia PGA berths in both events.



Sonny Skinner

Skinner sweeps Seniors Division

Sonny Skinner scored a pair of victories in recent Seniors Division tournaments, winning at Summit Chase CC and the annual Dan Parrish Senior Classic at Willow Lake.

Skinner, who teaches at River Pointe in Albany and also has Monday qualifier status on the Champions Tour, shot 74-67—141 at Summit Chase to edge fellow Champions Tour Monday qualifier **Craig Stevens**, who was 2nd at 73-70—143.

Amateur **Lee Dennis** was 3rd at 146, followed by **Bob Burk** of Valdosta's Stone Creek GC at 147. Tying for 5th at 148 were **Willie Smith** of the Charlie Yates course and amateurs **Doug Stiles** and **Mark Cain**.

Skinner won by six shots at Willow Lake with scores of 71-69—140. Amateur **Steve Collins** was 2nd at 146, with fellow amateur **John Skeadas** one of four players tied at 147. Also shooting 147 were head professionals **Wyatt Detmer** of Orchard Hills, **Bill Robinson** of Kinderlou Forest and **Danny Elkins** of Georgia Golf Center.

Sappington takes Super Senior title

Milton's Spencer Sappington won the GSGA Super Senior Championship for the third time in four years, taking a three-way

playoff that included Decatur's **Matt O'Brien**, the only other player to have won the tournament in its brief history.

Sappington shot 77-71—148 to erase a 5-stroke deficit after the first round, holing a 5-foot birdie on the third extra hole at Cartersville CC. O'Brien, one of three players tied for the lead after the first round, took Sappington to a third playoff hole, with **Don Marsh** of Johns Creek eliminated on the first extra hole.

Frank Costanzo of Savannah was 4th at 149, with five players tying for 5th at 150, including first round co-leaders **Bill Ploeger** of Columbus and **Boyd Johnson** of Statesboro. Also shooting 150 were **Ken Sisk** of Canton, **Ken Benson** of Alpharetta and **Marvin Davenport** of Hiawasse. **Dick Van Leuvan** of Roswell matched Sappington's second round 71 and was 10th at 151.

Women's Senior Match Play: Marietta's **Brenda Pictor** won the inaugural GSGA Senior Women's Match Play Championship at Albany's Doublegate CC, needing 19 holes in the title match to defeat **Maria Johnson** of Jesup.

Pictor, who has won the GSGA Senior Women's Championship three of the last four years, was the event's top seed. She won her first two matches by scores of 8&6 and 6&5 before scoring a narrow 1-up victory over Atlanta's **Claudeen Lindberg**. Pictor led 3-up early in the finals and never trailed, with Johnson winning the 18th hole

to extend the match.

Johnson, seeded 10th in the 16-player field, needed 20 holes to get past Greensboro's **Liz Butler** in the first round and won 2&1 over **Susan Rheney**, also of Greensboro, in the second round before scoring a decisive 6&5 win over Newnan's **Jodie Shepard** in the semifinals.

Four-Ball Tournament: The Valdosta duo of **Doug Rayford** and **David Matthews** teamed up to win the GSGA Four-Ball Tournament at Houston Lake in Perry, shooting 17-under 199 to finish two strokes ahead of the team of **Lee Gerdes** of Macon and **Craig Wentworth** of Thomasville.

Rayford and Matthews posted scores of 66-66-67, leading after each of the first two rounds.

Matt Oxford of Rocky Face and **Bart Walraven** of Calhoun took 3rd at 204, shooting a tournament best 65 in the final round. **Mark Northey** of Savannah, a member of Georgia's 1999 NCAA Championship team, teamed with his father **Scott Northey**, a former Major League Baseball player, to place 4th at 207, with **David Maddox** and **Rich Dubois** of McDonough 5th at 208.

Broadaway 4th in Hooters event

Josh Broadaway took 4th in a Hooters Tour event at Stonebridge G&CC in Albany, finishing three strokes behind winner **James Vargas**.

Broadaway, an Albany native and Nationwide Tour member, closed with a final round 66 for an 18-under 270 total. Warner Robins' **Chris Wolfe** tied for 8th at 275, with former Norcross resident **Reid Edstrom** tying for 13th at 276.

The Hooters Tour played the following week at Whitewater Creek in Fayetteville, with former Nationwide Tour player **Garrett Osborn** taking the title by three strokes with a 21-under 267 total. Osborn is from Birmingham and played his college golf at UAB.

Recent Clayton State golfer **Wade Binfield** of Morrow was low Georgian in the event, tying for 23rd at 278, posting scores in the 60s each of the last three rounds. Only four Georgians made the cut.

Former Clayton State golfer **Will Wilcox** won his second Hooters Tour title in Conover, N.C., shooting 276 to finish four ahead of **Billy Hurley**. Wilcox closed with a 67 to take home first place money of \$28,000. 🍷

Tech, Kennesaw, Southern capture conference titles

Georgia college teams look ahead to regionals

Three Georgia college golf teams won their conference tournaments to earn automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament, which begins this month with regional competition.

Georgia Tech won the ACC Championship, with Kennesaw State the Atlantic Sun champion and Georgia Southern taking the Southern Conference title. Augusta State and Georgia will join those three teams at regionals.

Six regionals will be played May 19-21, with the three eastern regionals scheduled for Florida, Virginia and Indiana. The NCAA Championship will be played May 31-June 5 in Stillwater, Okla., with Oklahoma State serving as host.

Georgia Tech won its third straight ACC Championship and fifth in six years, setting a tournament record with a 33-under 831 total in New London, N.C. The Yellow Jackets won by 20 strokes over runner-up Duke, with third place Clemson 30 shots behind Tech's winning score.

Tech golfers went 1-2-3 in the tournament, led by **Paul Haley**, who took medalist honors at 10-under 206 with scores of 68-68-70. He edged out **Kyle Scott**, who shot 68-71-68 to take 2nd at 207. **J.T. Griffin** was 3rd at 209, shooting a 66 the final day. Acworth's **James White** was the fourth Yellow Jacket in the top 10, tying for 8th at 213 highlighted by a closing 68.

The Yellow Jackets prepared for the ACC Championship with a small tournament they hosted at Golf Club of Georgia. Tech shot 9-under 567 to win the 36-hole event by 19 strokes, with the same three golfers who went 1-2-3 in the ACC finishing 1-2-3 in the same order.

Haley was medalist at 71-68-139, with Scott 2nd at 140 after back-to-back scores of 70. Griffin was 3rd at 69-72-141.

Several of Tech's non-starters competed in an event in Jacksonville, Ala., with red-shirt freshman **Seth Reeves** of Duluth sharing medalist honors at 3-under 213, firing a 66 in the final round.

Kennesaw won its conference tournament at Chateau Elan with three steady rounds of golf, shooting under par each day on the par 71 Chateau course. Kennesaw's 845 total was nine strokes better than the runner-up team.

The Owls did not have to count a score higher than 73, and got solid efforts from all five starters, led by **Jeff Karlsson**, who



Atlantic Sun champion Kennesaw State

earned medalist honors with scores of 67-69-71 for a 6-under 207 total.

Matt Nagy of Buena Vista shot 68-71-71—210 to tie for 2nd behind Karlsson, with the three other Kennesaw starters contributing two counting scores each. Duluth's **Benjamin Greene** shot a final round 69 and tied for 24th along with teammate **Jonathan Klotz** of Columbus, who closed with a pair of 71s. **Chad Wilson** of Calhoun shot 73-72 the first two days and tied for 28th at 219.

Mercer was 4th in the tournament at 860, shooting 277 the final day. **Hans Reimers** tied for 2nd at 210, with fellow freshman **Mookie DeMoss** of Duluth shooting a 68 in the third round. **Josh Cone** of Thomasville closed with 70 and tied for 17th at 216.

Prior to its conference championship, Kennesaw State placed 6th and 5th in its final regular season events of the Spring.

The Owls tied for 6th in the Linger Longer Invitational at 878 led by Karlsson, who tied for 9th at 215. Nagy shot 69 the final day to tie for 18th at 219. Kennesaw was 5th in an event in Kannapolis, N.C., with Karlsson closing with scores of 66 and 68 to tie for 2nd at 4-under 209. Nagy opened with 67 and ended up T12 at 214.

Georgia Southern won the Southern Conference title by five strokes, shooting 3-under 861 at Florence (S.C.) CC. The Eagles were led by **Lewis Gruber**, who was 2nd individually at 208, one shot behind the medalist, and **Logan Blondell**, who placed 3rd at 212. **Matt Deal**, a senior from Statesboro, posted counting scores in all three rounds and tied for 25th at 222.

The Eagles trailed going to the final round, but shot a tournament best 282 that included Gruber's 68 to win a three-way battle for the title.

Defending national champion **Augusta State** closed out its Spring schedule by tying for 3rd behind USC and UCLA in a tournament in Santa Cruz, Calif. The Jaguars were led by Augusta resident **Patrick Reed**, who tied for 2nd at 209, two strokes behind the medalist. Reed posted scores of 66-75-68.

Henrik Norlander tied for 9th for Augusta at 213, with **Carter Newman** of Evans T19 at 216.

The Jaguars were edged out by LSU in the Hootie's at Bulls Bay event in South Carolina, with their 850 total one shot behind LSU's winning score. **Mitch Krywulycz** led Augusta, tying for 3rd at 209. Reed was T7 at 211.

Augusta State got a good look at NCAA favorite Oklahoma State in the Jaguars' annual tournament played the weekend before the Masters. Oklahoma State shot 16-under 848 at Forest Hills GC to win the event by one stroke over Tennessee, with Augusta well back in 6th at 871.

The Jaguars played two teams in the tournament, with the second team beating the starting five by six shots. **Olle Bengston**, playing with the second team, closed with back-to-back 67s to finish 2nd for Augusta at 209, five strokes behind Oklahoma State's **Kevin Tway**. Krywulycz tied for 10th at 215, with Norlander 12th at 216.

Georgia completed a mostly disappointing Spring season with a 4th place showing in the SEC Championship at

GEORGIA College Roundup

Sea Island GC. The Bulldogs shot 862, finishing 14 strokes behind Florida's winning total.

Macon's **Russell Henley**, who has struggled for most of his senior season, led the Bulldogs, tying for 6th at 212, three shots behind the medalist. **Hudson Swafford** was next for Georgia at 216, tying for 14th, with Thomasville's **Harris English** T21 at 218. All three shot 69s in the final round on the Seaside course.

Georgia tied for 3rd in the Linger Longer Invitational at Reynolds Plantation, posting an 866 total to finish 20 shots behind Alabama, which took first by 18 strokes over Chattanooga. English tied for 7th at 214, with Henley T18 at 219 after an opening 77.

In other state college golf news...

Cochran's **Joe Young**, a senior on the Georgia College team, earned medalist honors in a tournament in Greenwood, S.C. Young won by two with scores of 70-68—138. Teammate **Billy Shida** of Duluth tied for 6th at 141.

The Bobcats placed 4th in the Peach Belt Conference tournament at Savannah Quarters, with Shida taking 2nd individually at 214 after an opening round 66. He finished three shots behind the medalist.

Armstrong Atlantic took 3rd in the tournament, with three team members placing between 8th and 11th. **Tyler Erickson** of Warner Robins tied for 8th at 221, with **Ridge Purcell** of LaGrange 10th at 222 and **Matt Motes** of Augusta T11 at 223. ☀

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PAR/YARDAGE: St. Ives is a par 72 with six sets of tees – Gold (7,003 yards); Green (6,583); Blue (6,288); White (5,881); Gray (5,325) and Red (5,034).

COURSE RATING/SLOPE: 73.8/144 (Gold); 72.2/140 (Green); 70.6/134 (Blue); 68.8/129 (White); 71.3/131 (Gray); 69.4/128 (Red).

ABOUT THE COURSE: St. Ives has been around for more than two decades, but has managed to maintain a low profile in the crowded Atlanta private club scene despite its standout Tom Fazio design, which ranks with the most enjoyable layouts in the metro area. In part because of its residential setting, St. Ives is a bit narrower than some of his other Georgia designs, but still sports Fazio's mark with dramatic bunkering and some demanding greens complexes that will test every aspect of your short game. With six tees, including two for the club's female players, St. Ives is one of the best fits around for member play, offering at least two comfortable options for just about every level of play. With several creeks winding through the course, which is bordered by the Chattahoochee River, and two very appealing but hazardous over-water par 3s, St. Ives provides plenty of opportunities to find trouble, with OB and Fazio's trademark abundance of bunkers adding to the challenge. The course is not oppressively tight off the tee, but there are plenty of holes that will not treat errant drives kindly, with a few holes requiring more than just finding the fairway. Some of the tighter doglegs have trees that can obstruct approach shots from one side of the fairway, most notably on the short but perilous par-4 12th, part of a back nine that includes most of the danger holes. Apart from the significantly downhill tee shot on the opening hole, St. Ives offers little in the way of elevation changes, but the terrain's gentle twists and turns and the amount of hazards in play will make you pay for lapses in concentration or misses in the wrong spots. Fazio's layout features an excellent mix of holes, with a pair of short, vulnerable par 3s on the opening nine and three par 5s of modest length, although trouble lurks on two of them. There are only two par 4s with serious yardage, with the course extremely playable for those who don't hit it great distances, but still a stern test for those who do. Conditions are outstanding, as is the course's aesthetic appeal.

Newnan Country Club (Private)

1356 Highway 29 North, Newnan • 770-253-9856; www.newnancc.org

STAFF: Louis McHughes is the PGA General Manager/Head Professional;

Ted Meier is the PGA Assistant Professional/Instructor

PAR/YARDAGE: Newnan CC is a par 72 with five sets of tees – Blue (6,966 yards); Black (6,582); White (6,375), Gold (6,003) and Red (5,199).

COURSE RATING/SLOPE: 73.8/135 (Blue); 72.0/132 (Black); 70.8/129 (White); 68.7/122 (Gold); 70.2/124 (Red).

ABOUT THE COURSE: Newnan CC is familiar to the state's top senior pros and amateurs, having hosted an annual Georgia PGA Seniors' Division tournament. This month, Newnan CC will be the site of the Yamaha Georgia Senior Open, three years after it hosted the Atlanta Open. A number of the players who contended in the Atlanta Open three years ago will be playing in Georgia Senior Open, including runner-up Sonny Skinner. The course they will tackle is a classic traditional-style layout, measuring just under 7,000 yards from the tips with a stout group of par 3s (all are in the 200-yard-and-up category) and a 600-yard-plus par 5, but only one par 4 over 410, and it's a modest 433. The absence of length on the par 4s will give the field a chance to hit a lot of short iron approaches, with the layout favoring accuracy and precision over power. With water bordering several of the fairways and some moderately tight tree lines, fairway woods and hybrids will be popular choices from the tee. Although most of the approach shots will be relatively short, it can be a challenge to get into birdie position. Newnan's greens are on the small side by modern standards, with a decent amount of slope and plenty of tiers and ridges that can produce some testy putts from above the hole or across the ridges. The putting surfaces were converted to Champions Bermuda several years ago, and can get very quick, with their configuration allowing for some demanding pin positions. Water is in play on a significant number of holes, particularly on the opening nine, among them a risk/reward par-5 18th, one of the two par 5s that will be within reach in two. Both the first and 10th holes – a pair of excellent but testy short-ish par 4s – also feature greens guarded by water, with the lengthy par-3 second also having water in play, making for a potentially problematic start if you aren't ready to go from the outset. All in all, a solid, worthy site for the tournament and one of the most enjoyable members courses in all of Atlanta. 🏌️

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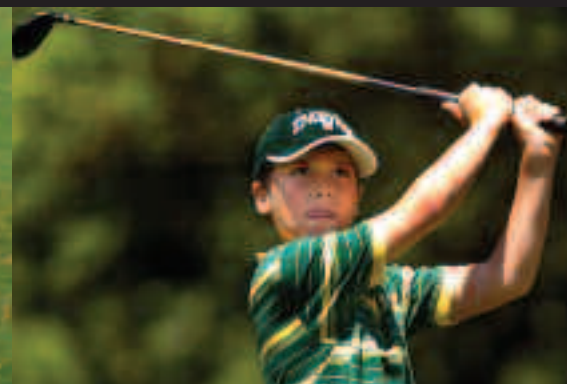
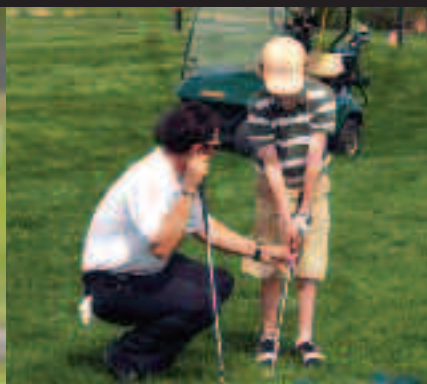


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