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Georgia Section

FORE Georgia

The Official Newpublication of the Georgia PGA



Love returns to role as player

By Mike Blum

After a few of the most hectic years of his professional career, Davis Love III can relax a bit.

After helping get the McGladrey Classic off the ground in his long time home of St. Simons Island, Love was named captain of the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

The McGladrey Classic, which made its debut two years ago, has been an immediate success on the PGA Tour, quickly moving to the top of the short list of Fall Series tournaments. McGladrey has extended its commitment as the tournament's title sponsor through 2015, placing the event on firm financial footing for the immediate future.

Love's stint as Ryder Cup captain was a big hit for two days as the U.S. built a sizeable lead in the team matches. But Europe's dramatic final round comeback in singles left Love open to the biennial second guessing that greets the losing captain.

Much of Love's efforts over the past few years have revolved around his role in getting the McGladrey Classic off and running, followed by his almost two-year commitment as Ryder Cup captain.

Prior to that, Love put together a distinguished career as a player that is still active, but has taken a back seat to his other duties the last few years. With his captaincy behind him and his hometown tournament entering its third year, Love can focus more



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Benefits of Indoor Lessons and Club Fitting

By Bill Baraban
PGA Teaching Professional

I thought it would be interesting to discuss some of the benefits that I have seen with using indoor technology for both swing lessons and club fitting. I taught and fitted clubs for over 20 years outdoors. No technology, just a trained eye and an understanding of ball flight laws. After teaching and fitting indoors with some of the newest technology, it became obvious that there was not only a difference, but some distinct advantages. I base these findings over 7 years and numerous students.



poor shot. Generally, you are on a driving range with several other golfers down the range line and if the shot is that poor and close to making contact with another golfer, it can be quite traumatic for your student. The lesson at that point may not be over, but

it will take a few decent shots to get them back into focus.

Indoors in a simulator, that goes away in seconds. Since the shot did not threaten anyone and did not leave the area of the sim, it allows the student to get back into focus on what we were trying to accomplish. This is somewhat the same

for club fitting. A poorly executed shot does not derail the session.

With regards to club fitting, there are some different advantages. A perfect

example of this is that I like to fit in a somewhat neutral area, which means flat lie, no wind (either into or downwind) to skew the results, video at my disposal to show before and after swing motions and a nice lie for the ball.

If I can create this neutral environment, even to the point of neutralizing the club so that the student does not make any major swing compensations, I have a more positive club fitting outcome for that student. The results are more positive in the fact that the fit will be successful indoors, outdoors and long term.

The obvious advantages still remain, such as no rainouts, controlled temperature, no aerification issues, the "grass" is always at a nice length, the markers are not randomly measured and the golf balls can be any brand that the student likes to use and best of all, I don't need to go pick the range! 🏌️

Bill Baraban is a PGA Master Professional and operator of Bill Baraban's Academy Fore Golf in Johns Creek. He is the former Director of Instruction at the Standard Club, and has worked as Vice President of Instruction and Training for ForeGolf, a golf simular company based in Florida, as well as Director of Golf Technology Development and Training for PGA Tour Superstores. Baraban has more than 30 years experience as an instructor, and is a former PGA Section Teacher of the Year. He is also a Master Club Fitter. Information: 404-671-9462.

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Love returning to role as player

[Continued from the cover]

of his attention on his playing career, which hasn't been his main priority for several years.

Since joining the PGA Tour in 1986, Love has compiled one of the most impressive resumes of any player in the post-Jack Nicklaus era.

Love has scored 20 official PGA Tour victories – the 1997 PGA Championship and two Players Championships among them – a dozen or so unofficial wins, most of them in team events, and one international victory in Japan. He will almost certainly be added to the World Golf Hall of Fame before too long, and also has the Champions Tour to look forward to in April, 2014.

As the son of a PGA golf professional who also competed on the PGA Tour, Love was born into the larger family of golf, with his father contending in the Masters days before Davis was born in April, 1964.

Davis Love, Jr., was living in Charlotte at the time, soon moving to Atlanta to become the head professional at Atlanta Country Club. From there, the Love family moved to St. Simons and Sea Island Golf Club, and has remained there over the past three-plus decades.

Love returned to his native state to attend college and play golf for three seasons at North Carolina, then qualified for the PGA Tour in his first attempt, making his debut as a rookie pro in 1986.

After a respectable rookie season, Love scored the first of his 20 PGA Tour victories in the 1987 Heritage Classic, and has won that event four more times, making Hilton Head Island his home away from home for the past 25 years.

Love lost his father the next year in a plane crash, and paid tribute to him years later with the book "Every Shot I Take,"

honoring his dad's life and lessons as a golf professional.

In 1990, Love scored his second win in the International and enjoyed his breakthrough season. He finished the year 20th on the money list and remained an elite player on the PGA Tour for the next 16 years, finishing among the top 10 money winners 10 times and never placing lower than 33rd.

Love won three times in 1992, with all his victories coming in a 5-week stretch in the Spring beginning with his first Players title and concluding with back-to-back wins at Hilton Head and in Greensboro, N.C.

But as his victory total continued to increase (8 wins by the end of the 1994 season), questions began to be asked about Love's struggles in major championships. In his first 23 starts in majors, Love had just one finish better than 25th – a tie for 11th in the 1991 U.S. Open at Hazeltine.

All that changed with two of the more memorable weeks of Love's career, although his triumphs were also tinged with sadness.

Love came into the PGA Tour event in New Orleans in 1994 needing a victory to qualify for the Masters the next week. He pulled out the win to earn a last-minute invitation to Augusta. But shortly after the tournament, Love received word that Harvey Penick, one of golf's greatest instructors and his father's mentor, had passed away.

Ben Crenshaw, Penick's most acclaimed student, suggested to Love that he remain in Augusta rather than attending the funeral in Texas. As fate would have it, the Masters came down to Crenshaw and Love, with a final round 66 by Love not quite enough to secure a coveted green jacket.

"It's the first time I really had a chance to win (a major), and I held in there pretty good," Love said after his runner-up finish. "I had a lot of great shots, probably the best ball-striking round that I've had in a major."

"It was a great day, one I will always remember."

Love contended again in the U.S. Open 10 weeks later at Shinnecock Hills, tying for 4th behind Corey Pavin. He made another strong run at a U.S. Open title the following year at Oakland Hills, leading by one with two holes to play before finishing bogey-bogey to lose by one to Steve Jones.

"It's disappointing that I let a major get away," Love said when assessing his 1996 season. "The U.S. Open is what I'll remember. If I had parred the last two

holes and finished second, I would have felt a little better."

After three solid showings in the first three majors of 1997, Love finally captured his first major championship title, appropriately enough in the PGA Championship given his father's background.

A brilliant performance that included three rounds of 66 earned Love a 5-stroke margin of victory and gave him something he had been seeking since he turned pro.

"I honestly thought the majors would be the easiest tournaments to contend in. I hit the ball long. I was a strong player. I thought putting wasn't so important in the majors. I obviously learned that it's the most important thing."

"I'm thrilled beyond belief. So many times I felt like I should have won and didn't. There was a lot going on in my head today."

Love scored his first victory in his adopted home state several months later in the Buick Challenge at Callaway Gardens, with that win among the most unexpected in his career.

The day before tournament week began, Love was playing in the Ryder Cup in England, which wound up being one of the most forgettable weeks Love has ever experienced in golf.

Love had scored the decisive singles victory in the Ryder Cup four years earlier, and went 4-0-1 in the inaugural Presidents Cup the next year. But he was 0-4 in '97, including a loss to Per-Ulrik Johansson, ending Love's unbeaten record in Ryder/Presidents Cup singles.

"Sunday night I didn't want to play golf ever again," Love said after his Callaway Gardens victory. "If the tournament was any other place, I would not have gone."

"It's a big thing for me to win in Georgia, especially this tournament. But I could win the next ten tournaments and we still lost the Ryder Cup."

Love went on to compete in three more Ryder Cups, including the 1999 U.S. comeback at Brookline, when he halved three team matches and won in singles. Love was 3-1-2 in Ryder Cup singles, but did not fare as well in team play. He did manage to pick up two wins in one day in 2002 at the Belfry –

partnering with Tiger Woods – but the U.S. lost in singles the next day. America went 2-4 in Love's six appearances on the team.

In Love's six Presidents Cup starts, the U.S. won four and tied one, with Love's record a sterling 16-8-4, giving him a combined 22-19-7 record in the two team competitions, including 7-2-3 in singles.

Love also teamed with good buddy Fred Couples to win the World Cup four straight years in the 1990s, and teamed up with Beth Daniel to win two JC Penney Classics, an event that paired PGA and LPGA Tour pros.

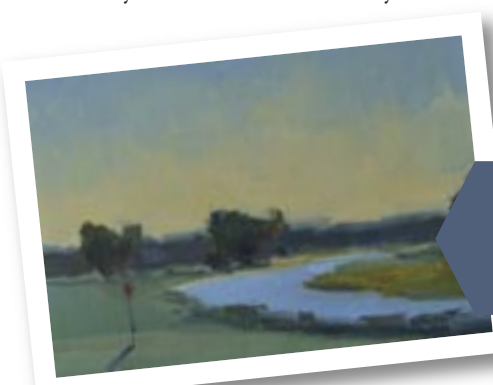
After winning just once in the previous four years, Love enjoyed perhaps his best season in 2003, winning four times, highlighted by one of his career best rounds to close out his second Players Championship victory.

Since then, Love has won just twice, with his last victory coming in the Disney Classic in 2008, when he turned around what had been the least successful season of his career with a strong Fall Series finish.

Now that his Ryder Cup captaincy has ended, Love has one more full season on the PGA Tour before he turns 50 and becomes eligible for the Champions Tour. He has gradually slipped down the money and points lists the last three seasons, but with the weight of the Ryder Cup off his back, could still make some noise on the PGA Tour before he joins the over-50 set.

Love has also made a name for himself in the golf course design business, operating Love Golf Design along with brother Mark. Their Georgia courses include Kinderlou Forest, Windermere and Laurel Island Links, along with renovations of Sea Island GC's Retreat Course, Brunswick CC and the UGA course. Ocean Creek on Fripp Island and one of four courses at the Barefoot Resort in Myrtle Beach are among his designs outside the state.

In 2005, the Davis Love Foundation was created to help at-risk children and families, and has become the charitable arm of the McGladrey Classic. The tournament has already had a major impact on both the St. Simons Island community and Love's charitable operation, with Love and staff members of the tournament and his foundation continuing their good work. 🏌️



See page 36 for info on Kathy Cousart and the art of golf.

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Davis Love III
Tournament Host
2012 U.S. Ryder Cup Captain



McGladrey Classic a Fall Series standout

St. Simons event to feature strong local field

By Mike Blum

In just two years, the McGladrey Classic has taken its place at the top of the PGA Tour's Fall Series, a limited number of tournaments that wrap up the Tour's schedule.

The tournament, played at Sea Island GC on St. Simons Island, will retain its Fall date at least through 2015, but its spot on the PGA Tour calendar will change beginning next year. The 2012 dates are Oct. 18-21.

Historically, the PGA Tour schedule has been tied to the calendar year, but that will change after the 2013 Tour Championship. The tournaments that make up the Fall Series at the end of the schedule will become the season openers beginning in October 2013, with the season ending at the conclusion of the Tour Championship at East Lake.

"That's a blessing to have that security," Reid says. "That makes the tournament a lot more stable and enables us to get more awareness out about the tournament and grow the event."

The first McGladrey Classic was played in 2010, and the event was an immediate hit with the players, who immediately took to both the course and the surroundings.

The McGladrey Classic is played on the Seaside course, one of three exceptional layouts that comprise Sea Island Golf Club. The Seaside course was extensively renovated in 1999, with Tom Fazio melding the Seaside nine, the second of the two original Colt & Allison nines from the late 1920s, with Joe Lee's Marshside nine from 1973.

Plantation, Seaside's adjoining sister course, consists of the first of the two Colt & Allison nines, along with Dick

2010 with a 14-under 266 total, one shot ahead of **Bill Haas**. Last year's tournament went to a playoff, with **Ben Crane** defeating **Webb Simpson** on the second extra hole after both finished 72 holes at 15-under.

Crane won the 2003 BellSouth Classic, closing with scores of 64 and 63 to erase a 6-stroke deficit after 54 holes. Last year at Sea Island GC, he again shot 63 in the final round to rally from five behind.

Known as one of the Tour's streakiest putters, Crane put together two streaks of four straight birdies (8-11 and 14-17), holing a string of lengthy birdie efforts. He caught Simpson, who parred the last seven holes after being 4-under for the day after 11, and passed Thompson, who padded his third round lead with consecutive birdies at 4, 5 and 6, but was 2-over the rest of the way without another birdie.

Thompson finished one shot out of the playoff, with **Louis Oosthuizen** two back in 4th and **Trevor Immelman** 5th, three off the pace.

Crane won the playoff when Simpson, who was battling for the money title, missed a short par putt on the 17th hole.

The McGladrey Classic began with a built-in edge in terms of strength of field. With a sizeable number of PGA Tour players living on the island, and several others regular visitors to Sea Island GC, the tournament was guaranteed a strong field relative to other Fall Series events.

"They're our best ambassadors for the tournament," Reid says of the island's PGA Tour contingent. "They know how good the area is and how good the course is. We're very fortunate to have that group of players spreading the word."

Through the first two years, none of the locals have made a serious run at victory, but most of the players who finished near the top of leader board were not that far removed from the Georgia coast.

Slocum is an Atlanta area resident with strong Southern roots. Haas has called neighboring South Carolina home for most of his life. Simpson is a native North Carolinian. Other contenders from the past two years include Louisiana's **David Toms**, **Joe Durant** from the Florida Panhandle, Augusta's **Charles Howell** and Thompson is an

Alabama resident.

The St. Simons contingent begins with tournament host **Davis Love III**, whose foundation is largely responsible for the operations of the tournament and is the event's primary beneficiary. Love will be trying to get back into a playing routine after spending most of his time in recent months preparing for his duties as U.S. Ryder Cup captain.

Zach Johnson, who represents McGladrey on the PGA Tour, has turned in the best effort by one of the locals, tying for 12th in 2010, just ahead of **Chris Kirk**, a member of the Nationwide Tour at the time. **Lucas Glover** had the best finish among the group last year, tying for 15th, but is sidelined with an injury and will miss this year's tournament.

Matt Kuchar, one of the more recent St. Simons arrivals, has a pair of top-25 finishes in the tournament, with **Jonathan Byrd** and **Brandt Snedeker** turning in solid showings last year along with South Georgia resident **Blake Adams**, who played his college golf at Georgia Southern.

Two new additions to St. Simons' roster of PGA Tour players have made names for themselves as rookies this season. **Brian Harman** and **Harris English**, both South Georgia natives, are now living on the island, and will be looking to make successful debut seasons even better on a course they are familiar with from their college days.

Also making their first starts in the McGladrey Classic are Vidalia native **Will Claxton** and recent Georgia Tech standout **Roberto Castro** of Alpharetta, both of whom have played well in their rookie seasons.

Other players of note who will be in the field include major champions **Angel Cabrera**, **Stewart Cink**, **Ben Curtis**, **Jim Furyk** and **Justin Leonard**. **Trevor Immelman**, **Graeme McDowell**, **Louis Oosthuizen**, **Vijay Singh** and **David Toms** all played in the tournament last year, as did 2012 winners **Rickie Fowler**, **Carl Pettersson**, **Scott Piercy** **Kyle Stanley** and **Johnson Wagner**.

Ted Potter, **Scott Stallings** and **Mark Wilson**, all winners this year, have committed to the tournament, as have

[See McGladrey, page 30]



Matt Kuchar

ROBERT MATRE



Zach Johnson

STEVE DINBERG

The Fall Series events will offer full FedExCup points for the first time, changing their status from tournaments that only impact players' standing on the money list.

Scott Reid, the Tournament Director for the McGladrey Classic, says he is not certain how the change will impact the event, which already draws the strongest Fall Series field.

"We won't see until next year," Reid said. "We've already got a great field for the Fall, but we may see some players who haven't played in the Fall change their schedules."

McGladrey announced earlier this year that the accounting, tax and consulting firm has extended its title sponsorship through 2015.

Wilson's Retreat nine, which opened in 1960. Rees Jones merged the two in his renovation in 1998.

Seaside, a fixture in listings of the country's top courses, has been a wonderful tournament host for both players and spectators. Its flat, mostly compact nature makes it easy to walk for fans looking to follow a group, and the coastal and marsh views make it one of the most visually appealing layouts visited by the PGA Tour.

Measuring just over 7,000 yards and playing to a non-altered par of 70, Seaside is among the shorter courses on the PGA Tour, and scores have reflected the relative absence of length.

Alpharetta resident **Heath Slocum** won the inaugural McGladrey Classic in



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Snedeker follows new path to East Lake victory

Wins for first time when on top after 3 rounds

By Mike Blum

For much of his career as a tour player, weekends have not been an especially enjoyable time for **Brandt Snedeker**, particularly a few in which he was on or near the top of a leader board.

During Snedeker's six years on the PGA Tour, he has established a precedent of playing very well in the final round when he is well behind the leader, but hasn't fared nearly as well when leading or close to the lead going to the final day.

Coming into the recent Tour Championship at East Lake, Snedeker had won three times on the PGA Tour, with all three victories coming in tournaments in which he trailed by at least five strokes going to the final round.

Snedeker had either held the 54-hole lead or had a share of it just twice in his career, and failed to win on both occasions. He was overtaken by **Tiger Woods** in San Diego in 2007, and suffered a major meltdown in Phoenix two years ago, closing with a 78 to plummet all the way to 43rd.

Twice on major championship stages, Snedeker struggled late when in position to win. He closed with a 77 in difficult conditions in the 2008 Masters after beginning the day just two off the lead and tied for 3rd.

Snedeker opened this year's British Open with scores of 66-64 to claim the 36-hole lead, but shot 73-74 on the weekend and finished T3.

So much for history.

With a huge potential payday on the line, Snedeker won for the first time as a front runner, firing a final round 68 to win the 2012 Tour Championship by three strokes over **Justin Rose**.

"I'm sure 90 percent of you all probably didn't pick me to win today because I've never done it before," Snedeker said in his post-victory interview session. "And I don't blame you."

"But today was my day to go out and prove a bunch of people wrong; that I can play with the lead. I can handle pressure. I've done it my whole career in junior golf, high school golf, college golf, even on the Nationwide Tour, I've played with the lead and won."

"I knew I could do it. It was just a matter of doing it when the pressure was on and I did it today."

On a day when only one of the other 11 players within five strokes of the lead broke 70, Snedeker carded a 68 that included a number of wayward shots, including one ball in the water, one ball that caromed off a sky box and another that landed in a sky box and stayed there.

Snedeker began the final round tied with Rose at 8-under, with **Rory McIlroy, Jim Furyk, Bubba Watson, Woods, Matt Kuchar, Zach Johnson** and **Luke Donald** among those within five of the lead.

Other than Donald, who closed with a 67 to tie for 3rd, none of Snedeker's serious challengers shot under par in breezy conditions the final day. Snedeker was never out of the lead, moving to the front by himself after a birdie at the third.

Ryan Moore, who was two back of Snedeker and Rose going to the final round, briefly claimed a share of the lead with Snedeker after back-to-back birdies at 14 and 15. But Snedeker birdied the par-5 15th minutes after Moore caught him.

Moore bogeyed the final three holes to fall back into 3rd place, with Snedeker stretching his lead to four with an improbable birdie at the 17th. He flared his tee shot right, as far away from the water left of the fairway as he was able, with his ball bouncing off the corporate hospitality boxes that line that side of the hole.

After just clearing the bunker short of the green with his second shot, Snedeker chipped in for birdie, enabling him to easily survive an errant tee shot on the long par-3 18th that sailed into a sky box left of the green.

Snedeker's closing bogey left him with a winning total of 10-under 270, three ahead of playing partner Rose, who never got anything going with a final round 71. Moore closed with a 70 to tie Donald at 6-under, with Donald carding three birdies on the last six holes, including a rare 2 at the 18th, to make a late move up the leader board.

Masters champion Watson and U.S. Open champion **Webb Simpson** tied for 5th at 5-under, with Simpson's 66 matching the low round of the day. Furyk plodded his way to a 72 and was 7th at 3-under, carding 16 pars and two bogeys in his final round.

Woods played his first six holes in 4-over, splashing his tee shot on the par-3 sixth for a double bogey that ended any hopes of a comeback. He tied for 8th at 2-under with **Hunter Mahan**, who birdied five of his last seven holes for a 66.

McIlroy, who won three of his previous four starts including the PGA Championship and consecutive Playoffs events, also found the water on the sixth and finished with a 74 to tie for 10th at 1-under.

Like Woods and McIlroy, Snedeker also watched as his tee shot on the sixth went to a watery grave, but that was his only stumble of the day until his closing bogey.

"I did the same thing on Thursday," Snedeker said of his tee shot on the sixth. "That being said, I was three-over after six holes on Thursday and played the rest of the week 13-under. So I knew I could come back from that, which was great."

Despite the double bogey, Snedeker still led Rose and Moore by a shot. Moore birdied the sixth just in front of McIlroy, with Rose taking a second straight bogey after hitting his tee shot at the sixth in the greenside bunker.

Snedeker rolled in a 40-foot birdie putt on the eighth to increase his lead to two, but Moore and Rose both birdied the par-3 11th to close within one of the leader. Snedeker went back ahead by two with an 18-footer for birdie at the 13th, but Moore answered at the 14th.

After Moore birdied the 15th to pull even for the first time, Snedeker reached



Brandt Snedeker

the par-5 in two and two-putted for birdie to reclaim the outright lead for good. Moore struggled from that point, with Snedeker clinching his win with his chip-in at 17.

Snedeker is regarded as one of the game's finest putters and the stats verify that contention. He is an ordinary ball striker by comparison to his peers, ranking right around 100th on the PGA Tour in driving distance, fairways hit and greens in regulation.

But Snedeker is No. 1 on tour in strokes gained putting and No. 2 in total putting, accounting for his third place standing in birdies per round. Snedeker led the Tour Championship field in putting and birdies (20), giving himself opportunities by finishing second in fairways hit (37 of 56), one behind Moore.

Snedeker recovered from his slow start on Thursday, playing his final 12 holes in 5-under for a 68, two behind co-leaders Rose and Woods. Four bogeys and four birdies the second day, one on the sixth, left Snedeker five behind Furyk after 36, with Furyk carding a 64, the low round of the day.

In all three of his victories, Snedeker went low the final day to erase deficits of five shots at Greensboro in 2007 (63), six shots at Hilton Head last year (64) and seven shots this year in San Diego (67).

At East Lake, Snedeker did his come-from-behind thing on Saturday, posting a spotless 64 that had nothing but 3s and 4s on his card.

That moved him into a tie for the lead,

[See Snedeker, page 30]



Ryan Moore

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Love not responsible for Ryder Cup loss

3 veteran players let U.S. teammates down

By Mike Blum

Another Ryder Cup, another American loss. That makes it Europe 7, United States 2 over the past nine competitions, with the U.S. winning exactly once since the comeback at the Country Club in 1999.

U.S. captain **Davis Love** has received some of the expected post-matches criticism, based on the age old belief by the knee-jerk reaction types that the losing coach must be responsible for the defeat.

The second guessing was aimed at Love on three fronts.

1) The decision to pick **Jim Furyk** over **Hunter Mahan**. Furyk had a dismal 8-15-4 record in seven Ryder Cups, 4-13-3 in team matches, and had wilted down the stretch with opportunities to win the U.S. Open and WGC Bridgestone Invitational.

Mahan played well in both his Ryder Cup starts (3-2-3), but had just one top 10 since his win in Houston the week before the Masters, all but forcing Love's hand.

Westwood and **Luke Donald** 7&6 to complete a 3-0 mark in team matches, but were scheduled to sit out in the afternoon regardless of their record, as no U.S. duo played all four sessions.

Love sent out **Jason Dufner** and **Zach Johnson**, who were 2-0 in alternate shot, and they led **Rory McIlroy** and **Ian Poulter** 2-up through 12 holes, before the European duo birdied the last six holes – the final five by Poulter – to win 1-up.

3) Sending **Tiger Woods** and **Steve Stricker** out for Saturday four-ball after the two lost both their matches the day before.

were the alternate shot teams, **Bubba Watson-Webb Simpson** and **Dustin Johnson-Matt Kuchar** were the best ball teams.

How well did that work? Those four teams went 7-1 in their designated specialties, the only loss coming when Furyk and Snedeker bogeyed the 18th hole in the first match of the tournament to lose 1-up to McIlroy and McDowell after erasing a 3-hole deficit with six holes to play.

When those teams played in the other format, they were 0-2, with Watson and Simpson struggling on the back nine in a 1-up loss to Rose and Poulter in the

players in the first four matches, and all of them responded.

Donald methodically took apart Watson, who matched Donald's six birdies but did not win a hole until he was 4-down after 14.

Poulter gave Simpson a chance with three early bogeys to fall 2-down, but Simpson could not fully capitalize and lost after being all square after 16.

The late arriving McIlroy ran off three straight birdies early in the match, and won 14 and 15 with birdies to win 2&1 over Bradley, who did not have a birdie after the 10th hole.

In what was almost certainly the key match of the day, **Justin Rose** fired a 66 against Mickelson to win 1-up with birdies on 17 and 18 to erase a 1-up Mickelson lead. Mickelson has consistently brought out the best in his singles opponents, and this Ryder Cup was no exception, with Rose hitting several brilliant shots early in the round before his fantastic finish.

Mickelson lost his match, but unlike several of his teammates, it was because his opponent played better.

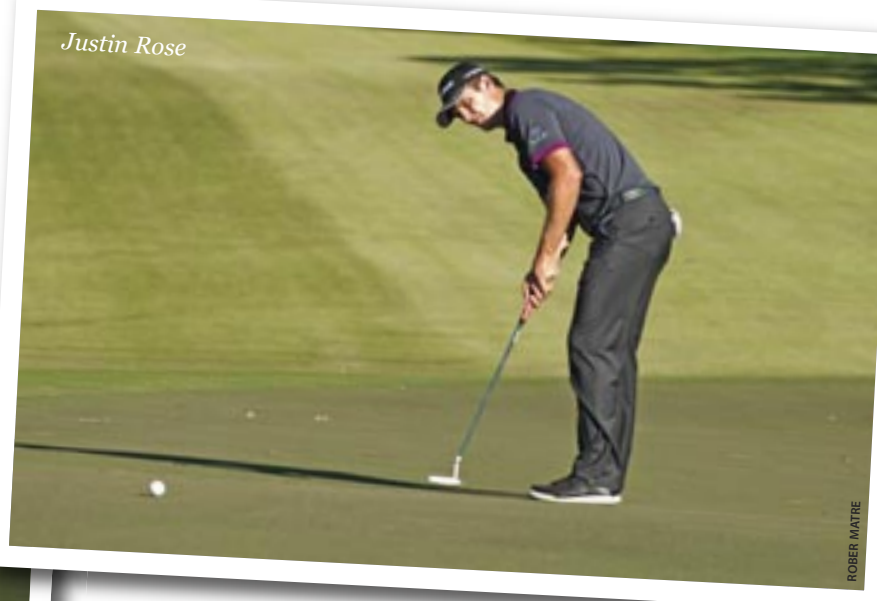
Snedeker seemed to hit the wall in singles and was decisively beaten by **Paul Lawrie** 4&3. After Dustin Johnson (who went 3-0) and Zach Johnson won their matches against opponents who were not at their best, the U.S. appeared in pretty good shape, especially with Dufner leading comfortably in his match.

The first American to falter down the stretch was Kuchar, who was all square through 11 against Westwood before losing back-to-back holes with bogeys at 12 and 13, losing 3&2.

In the second most important match of the day, Furyk played superbly for 16 holes against **Sergio Garcia**, lipping out his birdie try at the 16th to take a 2-up lead. But after making just one bogey to that point, he bogeyed both 17 and 18 to lose 1-up in the match that turned the momentum to Europe's side.

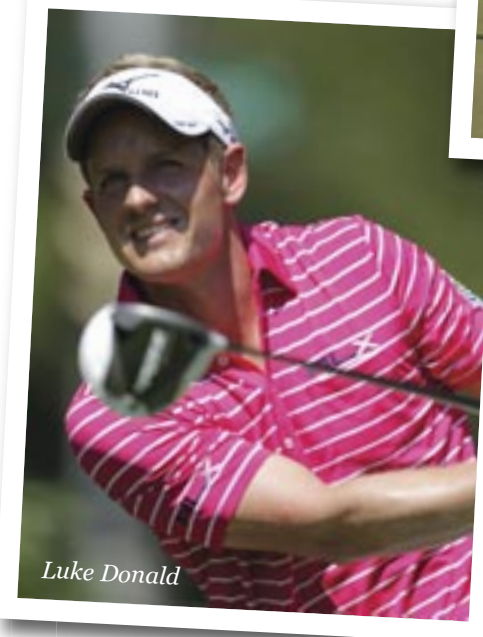
After Dufner finished off his win over **Peter Hanson**, that left Stricker and Woods against **Martin Kaymer** and **Francesco Molinari**, with the four a combined 0-9 in team matches.

Stricker was all square after 10, but bogeyed three holes coming in, the most costly at 17 to fall 1-down. Although he



Justin Rose

ROBER MATRE



Luke Donald

Woods and Stricker were terrible in a 2&1 loss in alternate shot against McIlroy and **Graeme McDowell**, but were 9-under in best ball, losing 1-up because European rookie **Nicolas Colsaerts** was 10-under on his own ball.

The U.S. team struggled on the front nine Saturday other than an eagle by Stricker to fall 4-down, but rallied with six birdies on the back – five by Woods for the second day in a row – to lose 1-up.

Love was the first U.S. captain to ever sit out Woods in a match, for which he deserves praise. Sitting him out an entire day was simply not realistic, and considering how well he played the previous afternoon, was unjustifiable.

Stricker was another matter. But Love apparently made the decision not to mix and match his players, alternating the same six teams in each session. Johnson-Dufner and Furyk-Brandt Snedeker

poorest played match of the Cup.

The U.S. has traditionally struggled in team matches, but whipped the Euros 10-6. It took an incredible stretch of play by Poulter late on Saturday to keep it from being 11-5.

Considering that the U.S. was ahead 10-6 going to singles with the seemingly mighty team of Woods and Stricker losing all three of their matches, it's pretty hard to find much wrong with Love's decisions, especially if Mickelson and Bradley were set on sitting out Saturday afternoon.

In Bradley's defense, Mickelson may have made that decision for him, but it's hard to fault a team that went 3-0, thrashing all of their opponents.

With that 10-6 lead and the U.S. history of success in singles, things looked good for the Americans going to Sunday.

European captain **Jose Maria Olazabal** sent out four of his five best

IMAGES BY STEVE DINBERG

[See Ryder Cup, page 34]

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Weinhart takes PNC qualifier after long day

Stevens ties for 2nd; earns Player of Year honor

By Mike Blum

After the first round of the Georgia PGA's qualifier for the national club professional championship was rained out, the tournament competitors faced a marathon second day beginning with a shotgun start, as they raced to get in 36 holes before darkness set in.

Out of more than 120 players who signed up for the event, 93 made it through all 36 holes at the Standard Club, with all 93 barely completing their rounds in fading daylight. They were competing for seven available spots in next year's PGA Professional National Championship, and fortunately for all involved, no playoff was required to determine the qualifiers.

Tim Weinhart, who teaches with the Nuclear Golf instructional program based at the Standard Club, won the event for the fourth time in the last seven years, posting scores of 69 and 68 for a 7-under 137 total.

Craig Stevens and **Brian Dixon** tied for 2nd at 139, with **Sonny Skinner** and **Greg Lee** 4th at 140. Skinner was already exempt for the PNC thanks to his win in the Georgia PGA Championship five weeks earlier, with **Bill Murchison** also guaranteed a spot in the PNC field after his top 10 finish at nationals last year.

Murchison tied for 6th at 141 along with **Shawn Koch** and Georgia PGA veterans **Gregg Wolff** and **Tommy Brannen**, with the latter two among four senior players from the Section to qualify for the PNC, joining Stevens and Skinner.

Weinhart, who won the event last year at Ansley Golf Club's Settindown Creek, was intent on winning the tournament, not just qualifying for nationals, which he has done each of the last 14 years.

"This is my home golf course," he said after the victory. "I wanted to win."

Because of the shotgun start, which was in effect for both rounds with no repairing or break between the rounds, no one knew where they stood relatively to the lead or the score needed to qualify.

Stevens, who shot 68 in the morning, and Weinhart were the only two players to break 70 in the first round, with scores improving in the afternoon after what Weinhart described as "a soupy course to say the least," began to dry out a bit.

Weinhart lauded the Standard Club's superintendent and his staff for getting the course in tournament shape, and said he was "amazed that we finished. It was getting very dark."

Some early par-saving putts kept Weinhart's first round going, and once he got his iron game clicking, began to make some birdies. He finished with 10 birdies on the day, including the last two holes of his morning round for a 69, and four of his final 11 holes in the afternoon. Weinhart earned \$4,000 for his victory.

As it turned out, Weinhart and playing partner **Dixon** wound up in a battle for first place. Dixon, an instructor at Fox Creek, made just two bogeys over 36 holes. But one came on the tough par-4 ninth in the second round, the 34th hole of the day for the two players and the first for Dixon after his opening hole of the day. Dixon had scores of 70-69.

Stevens, an instructor at Brookstone CC, wrapped up Player of the Year honors with his tie for 2nd, his fifth runner-up finish of the year to go along with his win in the Georgia PGA Senior Championship.

It was the third Player of the Year title for Stevens, his first since 2001, and the 16th time he has qualified for the PNC.

"This is pretty special," he said of his third Player of the Year title. "It shows I can still play with the young guys."

"I've been second so many times for Player of the Year, probably five or six times behind Weinhart. But since about 1998, I've been really consistent, probably the most consistent player in the Section along with Tim."

"There were a couple of years in '08 and '09 where I kind of lost it, but when I turned 50 I had the desire to try harder. I've got a few years left and I'm trying as hard as I can."

Stevens' 68 in the morning was highlighted by an eagle on the par-5 12th, and he was 4-under for the round on the par 5s. But he opened his second round with back-to-back bogeys and needed a birdie on his final hole of the day – the



Tim Weinhart

par-5 second – to tie Dixon for 2nd.

Skinner, who finished 2nd behind Stevens in the Player of the Year standings, carded back-to-back scores of 70. Skinner, who plays out of River Pointe in Albany, qualified for the PNC for a sixth straight time.

Lee, an assistant at Chicopee Woods, also shot 70 in both rounds to earn an eighth trip to nationals. A double bogey on the third hole of his morning round put him in an early hole, but he was 4-under over his final 15 holes without a bogey. He was 3-under over his first nine holes in the afternoon and held on to qualify.

Like Skinner, **Murchison** was already exempt for the PNC. He closed with a tournament best 67 despite a triple bogey on the 9th, his seventh hole of the round. Murchison, an assistant at Towne Lake Hills, was 4-under on his round after six holes, going birdie-birdie-eagle on holes 5, 6 and 7. He shot 4-under 32 on the back nine and ended his day with a birdie in the twilight on the par-5 second, playing the par 5s in 5-under on the round.

This will be Murchison's third straight start in the PNC. He got in this year as an alternate when Skinner withdrew to play in a Champions Tour event, and took advantage of his opportunity with a

top-10 finish in the 2012 PNC in northern California.

After shooting 72 in the morning with 16 pars, **Koch** notched five birdies in the afternoon. He was 4-under over his final 13 holes to advance on the number. Koch, the Director of Instruction at CC of the South, has played in three previous PNCs, and has consistently finished right around the number for advancing to nationals in recent years.

Brannen and **Wolff** have been frequent qualifiers for the PNC, just not in recent years. Brannen, the head professional at Augusta CC, last qualified in 2007, with Wolff, the head pro at Willow Lake in Metter, last qualifying in '05.

After shooting 73 in the morning, Brannen came back with a bogey-free 68 to qualify on the number. Wolff also shot 73-68, closing his round with a birdie at the 18th to avoid a playoff.

The first alternate is Augusta National assistant **Jason Ballard**, who finished 10th at 142 with scores of 72-70. Ballard was 2-over for the tournament with seven holes to play, but went 5-under on his next five holes with an eagle on the seventh to get to 3-under, the number needed to at least get into a playoff. But he bogeyed the long par-4 ninth, his 17th hole of the day, and missed by a shot.

The 2013 PGA PNC will be played June 23-26 at Sunriver Resort in Oregon, which previously hosted the event in 2001 and '07. The resort's Crosswater Club, the primary of the two tournament courses, was designed by Atlanta-based architect **Bob Cupp**.

Weinhart has appeared in the PGA Championship five times, but did not qualify either time the PNC was played at Sunriver. This time he has a strong personal incentive for making it to the 2013 PGA Championship, which will be played at Oak Hill CC in Rochester, N.Y.

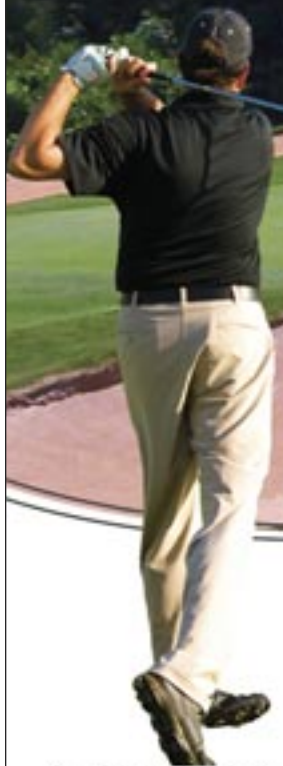
Although Weinhart has lived in the Atlanta area for more than 30 years, he

[See Weinhart, page 18]

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Stevens wins by six in Senior PNC event

7 Section members qualify for nationals

By Mike Blum

Whe Georgia PGA Senior Championship consisted of two separate tournaments, one of which was essentially decided after the first round of the 36-hole event at Pinetree Country Club.

After shooting 7-under 65, **Craig Stevens** took a 7-stroke lead into the final round. Stevens slipped a bit early in the second round, but righted himself and scored a comfortable 6-stroke victory.

The tournament also served as the Georgia PGA's qualifier for the PGA Senior Professional National Championship, and that aspect of the tournament was much more hotly contested than Stevens' almost uncontested triumph.

Seven Georgia PGA members earned spots in the Senior PNC, joining Stevens and tournament runner-up **Sonny Skinner**, who were already exempt for the PNC based on their finishes in that event last year. The Senior PNC is scheduled for Oct. 11-14 in Leesburg, Va., at the same two courses that hosted the event in 2011.

The seven Senior PNC qualifiers all shot between 145 and 147, with two others just missing out with 148 totals.

Russell Davis and **Willie Smith** led the seven PNC qualifiers at 1-over 145.

Tommy Brannen, **Phil Taylor** and **Stephen Keppler** were next at 146, with **Roger Mack** and **John Godwin** earning the final two spots at 147.

Danny Elkins and **Ted Meier** tied at 148, with Elkins earning first alternate status in a playoff.

Stevens, an instructor at Brookstone CC, followed his 65 with a 73 and won with a 6-under 138 total. Stevens tied for 3rd in his first appearance in the Senior PNC last year.

Skinner, who tied for 8th in the 2010 Senior PNC and was T10 last year, carded seven biddies in the second round for a 70 and a 144 total. Five of his birdies came on the back nine, as he closed in 3-under 33 to overtake Davis, Smith and Keppler for 2nd place.

Davis, the Director of Instruction at Cherokee Town & CC, and **Smith**, an instructor at Charlie Yates GC, both had a chance to at least tie for 2nd overall. Davis was 2-under after 16 holes without a bogey, but made a double bogey on the par-3 17th. Smith was also 2-under on his round before a bogey at the 18th left him in a tie for 3rd with Davis.

The 65-year-old Smith competed in the Senior PNC five times when he was in the PGA's Middle Atlantic Section in Baltimore, but this will be his first time representing the Georgia PGA.

Brannen, the head professional at Augusta CC, tied for 17th in his first appearance in the Senior PNC in 2007, and was the lone Georgian to make the cut the next year. He was 2-under on his second round before a double-bogey on the par-4 15th, but came back with a birdie on the short par-5 16th to clinch his spot in the Senior PNC.

Taylor, the Director of Golf at Ansley GC, is a relative newcomer to the senior set. He will be making his first appearance at nationals after qualifying for the PGA PNC earlier this year, the first time in almost 20 years he qualified for that event. He shot 73 in both rounds at Pinetree.

Keppler, the Director of Golf at Marietta CC, will also be making his first start in the Senior PNC. He was one of the state's most successful competitors at the national club professional level, and joins Stevens and Skinner to give the Georgia Section three strong contenders for the Senior PNC title.

After opening with a 72, Keppler was

seven in back of Stevens going to the final round, but closed within four of the lead after five holes when Stevens made back-to-back bogeys. But Keppler suffered consecutive bogeys at 7 and 8, with Stevens regaining a 7-stroke lead when he birdied the par-3 8th.

Keppler moved back into 2nd when he birdied 9 and 11, both short par 5s, but played his last six holes in 3-over including a double bogey at the 13th.

Mack matched Skinner's 70 for the low round of the day and will be Georgia Section's lone "rookie" at the national level. A birdie on the inviting but hazardous par-5 16th enabled Mack to advance on the number.

Godwin needed a long birdie putt on the 17th to qualify without a playoff, and will be playing in his sixth Senior PNC. He twice finished in the top 35 of that event to qualify for the PGA Senior Championship, competing at Oak Tree in 2006 and at Kiawah Island in '07.

In recent years, Godwin has been an infrequent tournament participant, with most of his time spent with his duties in the tournament division of U.S. Kids Golf.

"This is the least I've played in my entire career," said Godwin, "I've played maybe two rounds this year and my game has gotten really ragged. I played really bad, but I made everything.

"I shouldn't be going (to nationals) but I am. I'll be going with low expectations," he laughed.

The victory was Stevens' first this year, following four runner-up finishes, one in the Georgia Senior Open where he lost by one shot when Skinner birdied the final hole. Stevens won the 2011 Georgia Senior Open, his first appearance in the event, by eight strokes.

Stevens also finished 2nd in the Georgia PGA Match Play Championship and Section events at Griffin CC and Berkeley Hills. He came into the season-ending points tournament with a narrow lead in the Player of the Year standings.

During his career, Stevens has 14 victories in Georgia PGA points events and was Player of the Year in 1999 and 2001. He has made a run at that honor on a number of other occasions, and has become even more of a factor in non-senior tournaments the past few years, winning the Section Championship and



Sonny Skinner

PNC qualifier in 2010 and the Atlanta Open last year.

Unlike his runaway win in the Georgia Senior Open last year, Stevens pulled away early in the recent Georgia PGA Senior. His opening round 65 included a 30 on the outgoing nine, which he finished with five consecutive birdies.

Stevens birdied the par-4 opening hole at Pinetree, and began his birdie streak after pars on the next three holes. He hit his approach shot to 12 feet on the short par-4 fifth, and needed only six feet for birdie on the sixth. He holed a birdie putt from the fringe on the seventh, rolled in a 20-footer on the eighth and concluded his birdie run with an 8-footer on the ninth.

Birdies from close range on the difficult par-3 12th and vulnerable par-5 16th got Stevens to 8-under for the day, and his score could have been even better at that point. He missed three birdie putts on the back nine of eight feet or less, but also scrambled for par on a few occasions.

Stevens hit his tee shot on the par-4 18th into a fairway bunker and came away with his lone bogey of the day. That left him with a 65 and a 7-stroke margin over Keppler.

With Pinetree's fast, sloping Champions Bermuda greens testing the short games of the field, Stevens needed only 24 putts in his opening round.

"I have a really good feel for the greens," said Stevens, who worked as an assistant at Pinetree early in his career and remains "reasonably comfortable" with the layout after the recent re-design work by Bill Bergin.

Beginning the final round with a seven-stroke lead, Stevens said he "did not want to relinquish" his sizeable advantage. "I did not want to make any mistakes. I just wanted to keep the ball in play and not do anything stupid. I was

[See Stevens, page 18]



Craig Stevens

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Georgia PGA looks to repeat Peters Cup win

For the first time in 25 years, the Peters Cup matches between teams from the Georgia PGA and GSGA will play for a second straight year, with this month's matches also featuring a new site.

The event, which will be played Oct. 21-22, has been held on a biennial basis since 1987, but is moving from odd to even-numbered years to accommodate a conflict with the GSGA schedule. The next Peters Cup matches will be played in 2014.

The last four matches were played at Capital City Club's Crabapple Course, with this month's event moving to the re-designed Capital City Brookhaven layout. The club's Crabapple course, which will host the NCAA Championship next Spring, is being over-seeded for the Winter, necessitating the change in venues.

After losing the last four matches, three of them at the Crabapple course, the Georgia PGA turned in a strong showing last year, winning 15 ½ to 8 ½. The GSGA had won seven of the last 10 matches, but still trails 20-16-1 in the competition, which began in 1962.

Both teams will field 16 player rosters, with four seniors on each side, two under the age of 55 and two 55 or over. Eight four-ball matches will be played on Sunday, with 16 singles matches scheduled for the following day.

One reason for the recent dominance of the GSGA has been their success in the senior matches, but that began to change last year. **Craig Stevens** and **Sonny Skinner**, two of the Georgia PGA's top players, turned 50 prior to last year's event, and went 2-1, with the Georgia PGA earning a split in the six senior matches.

The rest of the Georgia PGA team members were 12-5-1, giving the club professionals a decisive victory. Most of the recent competitions have been one-sided, with the margin of victory in the last four matches between three and nine points.

The last closely contested match was in 2003 at Atlanta National, with the GSGA winning 12 ½ to 11 ½ to begin their four-match winning streak. The Georgia PGA took a 5 ½ - 2 ½ lead after the team matches, then won the singles 10-6 to secure its first victory since 2001, when the club pros won 14-10 at Golf Club of Georgia.

Both teams will feature a mixture of veterans and newcomers. Stevens and

Skinner finished the year 1-2 on the Georgia PGA's Player of the Year list, and will give the team a very strong senior duo. **Bob Burk** will make his first appearance on the team and play in the 55-and-over category along with **Danny Elkins**, who won his singles match last year.

The Georgia PGA's third highly-competitive senior will play with his younger teammates. **Stephen Keppler**, one of six members of the winning 2011 team who went 2-0 in the matches. Skinner also went 2-0, as did returning team members **David Potts**, **Matthew Evans** and **Michael Parrott**.

Tim Weinhart, one of the Georgia PGA's top players, also went 2-0 last year, but will be missing from the lineup this month. Weinhart will be competing in the PGA Tour McGladrey Classic, which overlaps with the Peters Cup, and will be playing again the following week in the first stage of PGA Tour qualifying.

Also returning to the Georgia PGA squad from last year's winning team are **Shawn Koch**, **Greg Lee**, **Bill Murchison** and **Winston Trively**. **Brian Dixon** and veterans **Russ Davis** and **Tommy Brannen** have played on the team previously, with **Rodger Hogan** the lone newcomer. Brannen and Davis are both eligible to play as seniors, but will compete along side younger teammates.

The GSGA team returns veterans **David Noll**, **Mark Strickland** and **Jack Hall**, who played as a senior last year, but will compete in the non-senior division this month. Others who played for the GSGA last year and will be back in the lineup are **Billy Mitchell**, **Matt Russell**, **Mark Sweeney** and **Scott Weeks**, along

Stevens

[Continued from page 16]

just thinking fairways and greens."

Stevens is looking forward to a chance to take another shot at a Senior PNC title. He tied for third last year despite a shaky finish on the last two holes in the final round.

"I really like the courses," Stevens said, observing that "the greens are tough to putt. Only two people shot under par for the whole tournament."

Stevens says he is "comfortable with the guys at the national level. I'm just going to play it like it's another event and have fun." 🍌



with seniors **Doug Hanzel** and **Don Marsh**.

Hanzel has enjoyed an outstanding Summer, winning the GSGA Senior Championship by 16 strokes and advancing deep into match play in several USGA events. He will play with **Bob Royak**, who won the 2007 Atlanta Open against the state's top club pros, in the 50-54 division.

Weinhart

[Continued from page 14]

was born in Rochester and lived there until he was 12. He has strong family ties to his hometown, with a sizeable number of relatives still there.

"My mom was one of 10 children and my dad was one of six. I have 31 first cousins on my mother's side. The PGA at Oak Hill is definitely on my radar."

Weinhart has been the Georgia PGA's Player of the Year seven times, from 2002-05 and from 2009-11. He was 4th this year, winning the first and last tournaments of the year (the Match Play and PNC qualifier), as well as earning medalist honors in the Section's qualifier for Nationwide Tour Stadion Classic at UGA.

But he missed two points events, one because he qualified for the U.S. Open, and was unable to make up that deficit.

Of San Francisco's Olympic Club, the host course for the 2012 Open, Weinhart simply said, "Oh God, it was hard. I learned I have to control my ball better and be able to work it in both

Marsh, the only member of the 2011 GSGA team to go 2-0, is back in the 55-and-over division with **Dick Van Leuvan**, a newcomer to the team.

Other first time players for the GSGA are **Chase Jones**, **Zane Goldthorp**, **Travis Steed**, **Bobby Brent** and **Justin Johnson**. 🍌

directions. The experience was worthwhile and it was very educational."

In assessing the two major championships in which he's played, Weinhart said, "At the PGA, you're one of the club pros. At the Open, you're one of the players, period. That's the difference. It didn't matter who you were."

After making one U.S. Open start, Weinhart wants another.

"I can't wait to get to Merion," he says of the site of the 2013 Open. "I want to get there desperately."

The next two stops on Weinhart's itinerary are also big ones. He plays this month in the PGA Tour McGladrey Classic at Sea Island GC, where he has played well each of the last two years, narrowly missing the cut both times.

The following week he will play in the first stage of PGA Tour qualifying, looking to make it to the finals for just the second time. He earned limited status on the Nationwide Tour in 2007, but only made it into nine events and has been itching to get another shot at playing at that level or higher ever since. 🍌



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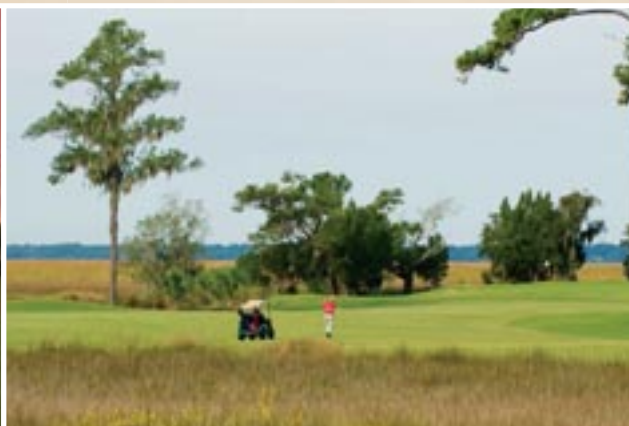
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Sapelo Hammock



Jekyll Island, Pine Lakes

Some of state's best courses near the coast

Great layouts from Golden Isles up to Savannah

By Mike Blum

Georgia's coastline covers a relatively short distance from Savannah to just south of Jekyll and St. Simons Island, but some of the state's best courses accessible to public play are found in that stretch.

The courses range from some of Georgia's most renowned upscale resort layouts, to very affordable options that offer wonderful coastal golf experiences.

As part of FORE Georgia's series on daily fee and resort courses in various parts of the state, here is our look at courses in the Golden Isles and Savannah areas.

Golden Isles

Jekyll Island Golf Club: Long one of the state's favorite destinations for golfers looking for a quality coastal experience at very reasonable rates, Jekyll Island offers three excellent 18-hole layouts, along with a quaint 9-holer that offers a trip back in time to golf of a different age.

The three 18-hole courses are Pine Lakes, Indian Mound and Oleander, with Pine Lakes and Indian Mound side-by-side across the street from the clubhouse, and Oleander a Bubba Watson drive from the ocean and the oldest and most respected of the trio.

Pine Lakes is the most modern of the trio, with its Dick Wilson/Joe Lee design from the late 1960s renovated by Clyde Johnston a decade ago. Johnston updated the bunkering and re-worked some of the green contours, with the course the longest of the three, but still a comfortable fit, with the tips a modest 6,700 yards.

Like the adjoining Indian Mound layout, Pine Lakes offers mostly ample landing areas, with the greenside

bunkering retaining Lee's classic touch and strategic variety. There is a decent amount of water in play, including two scenic and stout par 4s that conclude both nines and a pair of inviting but potentially perilous par 5s. Pine Lakes is also a family favorite with its collection of "Kid Friendly" tees.

Indian Mound is the shortest of the trio at under 6,500 from the back tees, but is of comparable length from the shorter tees and features slightly more challenging greens complexes than Pine Lakes. Despite the absence of serious length, the course is not appreciably easier than Pine Lakes, with a group of par 5s that require some precision to avoid sand or water and three par 3s that aren't overly long but are no soft touches. The par 4s are a mostly friendly group, but like Pine Lakes, includes a tough, watery 9th. Indian Mound is a Joe Lee design that opened in 1975, and is a typically thoughtful Lee layout that nicely meshes challenge with playability.

Oleander will celebrate its 50th anniversary in a little over a year, with the classic Dick Wilson design placing a little more of a premium on driving accuracy, with tree lines and overhangs a constant presence. Keep it between the tree lines and the layout is not especially demanding, but finding the fairways off the tee is a serious test. The long and hazardous par-4 12th is a staple of lists featuring the state's toughest holes, but is one of just a handful of holes where length is a real concern.

Great Dunes is a venerable 9-holer that has been around for more than a century, and includes a few holes that are unlike anything designed in modern times. There are some incredibly tiny greens, a dogleg par 5 that perfectly fits the description of quirky and a timeless

feel you rarely encounter.

King and Prince: Another Joe Lee gem from the late 1980s, a recent renovation has greatly upgraded the course without significant change to Lee's classic design. Located on the northern tip of St. Simons Island, the course is best known for its four marsh holes, three of which are separated from the island.

The par-5 14th is one of the state's true treasures, and is part of a moderately challenging layout that rates high marks for conditioning, aesthetic appeal and playability. Most of the corridors are sufficiently ample, with the greens complexes mostly gentle apart from Lee's well-crafted bunkering.

Sea Island Golf Club: One of the country's most respected upscale golf resorts, featuring 54 holes and a learning center that has helped attract so many tour pros to the island.

Seaside is the most renowned of the three, serving as host of the PGA Tour McGladrey Classic. The combination of sand dunes, marshes and the nearby ocean make it one of the most visually striking courses you'll play, but the challenge Seaside presents is more than enough to

retain your attention. There is plenty of room to drive the ball, with the fast, undulating greens, deep greenside bunkers and testy chipping areas accounting for much of the challenge, along with the natural elements that come into play on almost every hole.

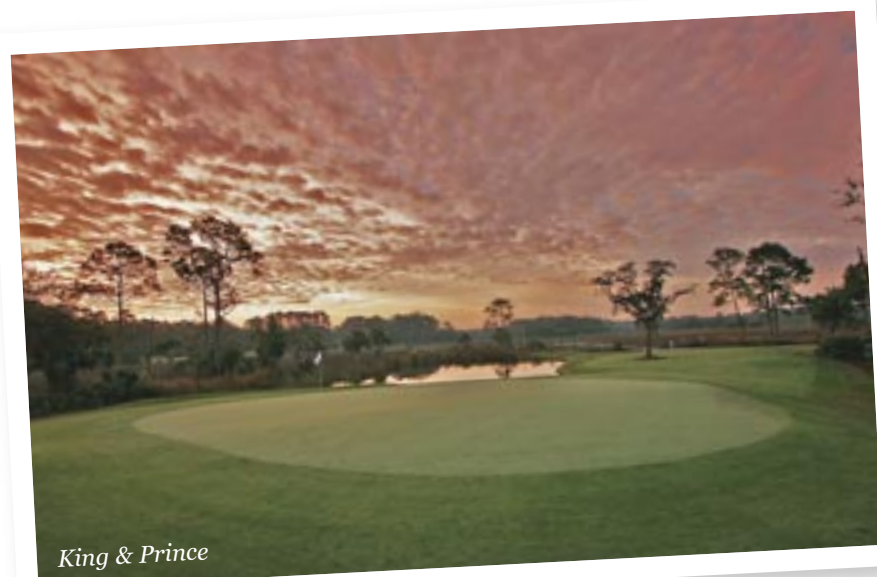
Plantation, located adjacent to Seaside and also bordering along the coastline, plays to a par 72 (Seaside is a par 70) and features a terrific mix of holes, including some gorgeous par 3s over water, and several holes where the greens are perched perilously close to hazards. Among them

is a classic risk/reward par-5 18th, which is preceded by a short and intriguing par 4, with those two part of a memorable group of finishing holes.

Retreat, which was renovated by St. Simons resident Davis Love III in 2001, is significantly different from Joe Lee's original Island Club design. The course was lengthened considerably and the corridors widened, although it remains a tree-lined layout, unlike its sister courses across the street. The greens were expanded and re-contoured, with plenty of undulation added and some areas around the putting surfaces softened. The re-design retained Lee's routing, with most of the trouble found on the par 3s and par 5s, both of which are a generally friendly if hazardous group. The two par 4s with water in play are among the most interesting holes on the course, with both lacking serious length but featuring plenty of visual appeal and intimidating demeanor when the wind is up.

Sea Palms is St. Simons' low-key club, featuring a traditional, enjoyable coastal resort-style layout by George Cobb. The

[See Coastal Golf, page 38]



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Tech shares title in NCAA Fall Preview

Jackets rebound after struggling in opener

By Mike Blum

Georgia Tech bounced back from a disappointing season-opening showing to share the championship of the Ping-Golfweek NCAA Preview, played recently at Capital City Club's Crabapple Course.

The Yellow Jackets finished with a 13-over 853 total to tie California, with the two teams tied for 3rd, three strokes behind UCLA after 36 holes. Both teams shot 4-under 276 the final day, the only teams to break par in a round on the demanding Crabapple layout, which played to a par of 70.

COLLEGE Roundup

The NCAA Championship will be played next Spring at Capital City Crabapple, which hosted a World Golf Championship event in 2003, won by Tiger Woods.

Georgia Tech had a chance to win, but neither of its last two players on the course was able to par Crabapple's difficult finishing hole. Had either of the two parred the 18th, the Jackets would have won the title outright.

The Jackets got contributions from all five players, four of them from the Atlanta area.

Duluth's **Seth Reeves** fired a final round 66, the low round of the tournament, and finished in a 7-way tie for 2nd at even par 210, two shots behind medalist **Tom Berry** of San Diego State.

Bo Andrews, the lone non-Georgian in Tech's lineup, tied for 10th at 211, with **Anders Albertson** of Woodstock T16 at 213 and **Ollie Schniederjans** of Powder Springs T22 at 214.

Freshman **Michael Hines** of Acworth made his college debut and came through with a 1-under 69 the final day to help the Jackets earn a share of the title.

"That was awesome," Georgia Tech coach **Bruce Heppler** said of Hines. "I was not sure what we would get from him, making his first start. Michael did not have a lot of experience at the national level as a junior player, but after this, he should be in the middle of things all year."

Hines' score did not count either of the first two days, and he admitted to getting off to a "rough start. It was my first college tournament and I overthought things. Today, I was not that nervous and I made a lot of putts.

"To be co-champions in my first tournament is pretty cool. It's great that I could help out for now."

Reeves provided the big lift in the final round, carding five birdies and an eagle. The long-hitting lefty put his length to good use, hitting his tee shot just over the short, par-4 fifth and chipping in for eagle, and driving into a greenside bunker at the longer 7th and getting up-and-down for birdie.

"I usually don't show a lot of emotion, but I got pretty excited," Reeves said of his reaction to the chip-in.

"It's a birdie hole, but an eagle is a different story."

Schniederjans closed with a 70, his best round of the tournament, with four birdies on his scorecard, one of which proved to be particularly vital.

With Cal posting its team score with all five Tech players still on the course, the Jackets knew what they needed to shoot as they closed out their rounds. Tech was steady on the tough finishing holes at Crabapple, with Schniederjans providing the lone birdie on the last four, holing a clutch birdie putt at the long, par-4 18th after an excellent approach shot.

"That was huge," Schniederjans said of a putt that could have provided Tech with a winning margin. As it turned out, it enabled the Jackets to preserve a tie.

"I don't know how co-champions work," he said. "I don't know how to look at it."

One thing the team clearly recognized was how important it was to come back with a strong showing after a dismal effort in the team's annual Fall opener at The Farm.

"We completely blew up mentally and physically at the last tournament," Reeves said. "We pretty much won this tournament and that's a big confidence boost. We beat most of the best teams in the country."

"The way we came back from The Farm in this one was pretty awesome," concurred Schniederjans.

Heppler said sharing the tournament

title against such a strong field "hopefully will give them confidence. They were pretty torn up after The Farm."

UNLV took the first round lead at 281, one shot ahead of UCLA. Tech was six back at 287, led by Andrews (70) and Albertson (71), with Georgia right behind at 288, including a 70 by sophomore **Nicholas Reach** and a 71 from freshman **Lee McCoy** of Clarkesville.

UCLA inched in front at 566 after 36 holes, one ahead of UNLV and three in front of Tech, which improved five shots to 282. Andrews and Albertson both shot 70, with Reeves and Schniederjans right behind at 71. A 72 by Raines was not needed.

Georgia was 11th at 579 after a 291 that included a 72 by **Keith Mitchell** and a trio of 73s.

With UNLV and UCLA both falling back a bit the final day, the tournament came down to a battle between the Jackets and Golden Bears. Cal matched Tech's 276 with a 68, two 69s and a 70. UNLV tied for 3rd at 853 with Texas, with UCLA and Washington sharing 5th at 854. New Mexico was 7th at 857, with Georgia closing with a 280 to take 8th at 859.

Reach and Albany's **T.J. Mitchell** both closed with 3-under 67s for the Bulldogs. Reach was part of the 7-way tie for 2nd at 210, with Mitchell T26 at 215. Mitchell had six birdies in the final round after managing just two over his first 36 holes.

Alabama, which included two-time Georgia Amateur champion **Lee Knox** of Augusta in its lineup, tied for 9th at 861. Alabama returned four of five starters from last year's NCAA runner-up squad, but its top two players – **Justin Thomas** and **Bobby Wyatt** – were T26 and T35 respectively in the Preview.

Jordan Spieth of Texas was T35 at 217 and U.S. Amateur champion **Steven Fox** of Chattanooga was T39 at 218.

In other early season college tournaments:

Carpet Capital title to Texas; 'Dogs 2nd

Defending national champion Texas opened the 2012-13 college golf season with a victory in the annual Carpet Capital Collegiate at The Farm in Rocky



Face, edging out runner-up Georgia by five strokes.

The Longhorns finished with a 13-under 851 total, winning on the strength of a 22-under 266 in the second round. The Bulldogs led after an opening 278, but Texas came back with a sensational second round to go from 15 strokes behind Georgia to three ahead.

Neither team broke 290 the final day, with only one team under par.

The Longhorns' **Brandon Stone**, who shot 63 in the second round, was medalist at 204, with teammate Spieth tying for 2nd at 206, including a second round 66. Also tying for 2nd was Georgia's **T.J. Mitchell**, who shot 65-68 the first two days. McCoy tied for 8th in his college debut with scores of 68-71-73-212.

Kennesaw State was 10th in the tournament at 883, led by Duluth's **Ben Greene**, who shot 70 all three days to place 6th at 210. In the Shoal Creek Invitational in Birmingham, the Owls were 8th at 893 led by **Jimmy Beck** of Columbus, who tied for 5th at 214.

Host Georgia Tech was a distant 11th in the Carper Capital at 886, failing to break 290 in any round and shooting 301 the first day. Schniederjans was the lone Tech golfer to finish better than 40th, tying for 19th at 219.

Southern's Wolfes wins Kiawah event

Georgia Southern's **Scott Wolfes** was medalist in the Invitational at Kiawah, played at the Ocean Course one month after the PGA Championship.

Wolfes, a sophomore from St. Simons Island and two-time GSGA Junior champion, shot 73-67 the first two days and held on to win despite an 80 in difficult conditions the final round. The low



Ollie Schniederjans



Michael Hines

Colorado State, with Valdosta's **John Gregory Joseph** tying for 9th at 215.

Jaworski, Janico key Vandy victory

Zack Jaworski of Alpharetta and **Jordan Janico** of Duluth helped lead Vanderbilt to a tournament win on the Commodores' home course outside Nashville.

Vanderbilt won by nine strokes at the Legends Club with a 7-under 845 total. Jaworski, a freshman making his first

tournament start, tied for 12th at 214, opening with a 71 and shooting 3-under 68 the final day. Janico, a sophomore, was T23 at 218 in his return to action after missing last season after undergoing hip surgery.

The tournament medalist was Georgia State freshman **Jonathan Grey**, who posted scores of 69-67-70 for a 7-under 206 total to win by one stroke.

Georgia Southern was 5th in the tournament at 865, with **Georgia State** 7th at 871. **Charlie Martin** of LaGrange was low for the Eagles, taking 5th at 209 (68-72-69). Wolfes was T8 at 212 (69-74-69).

Upcoming tournaments:

Georgia State will host its annual tournament at Berkeley Hills Oct. 15-16, with Georgia making its first appearance in the event.

Georgia Tech hosts the U.S. Collegiate Championship Oct. 19-21, with some of the country's top teams competing at Golf Club of Georgia.

Kennesaw State, which will be in the field at Berkeley Hills, will host the inaugural Pinetree Invitational at Pinetree CC Oct. 22-23. Georgia Southern and Mercer will also play in the Berkeley Hills event.

Burger takes first for Lady Bulldogs

Emilie Burger captured an individual title for the Georgia women's team, taking medalist honors in a tournament hosted by Vanderbilt at the Legend Club in Franklin, Tenn.

Burger, a senior from Hoschton, shot three straight rounds of even par 72, scoring birdies on three of the last four holes to finish three strokes ahead of her closest competitors.

Playing with just four golfers, Georgia was 9th at 916, well behind defending national champion Alabama.

Georgia opened the season with a 5th place finish in Charleston, S.C., 15 shots behind Florida. Freshman **Manuela Carbajo Re**, who missed the Vanderbilt tournament to compete in the World Amateur team competition, tied for 10th in her first college start, with Burger T14 at 216.

The Lady Bulldogs hosted the NCAA Preview at the UGA course Oct. 5-7, with the 2013 NCAA Women's Championship to be played in Athens in May. 🏆

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Georgians battling to retain PGA Tour status

Bohn, Taylor, Slocum among those near bubble

The FedExCup Playoffs are done, which means points are out and money is in for the PGA Tour players uncomfortably close to the benchmarks that determine which players will be exempt for the 2013 season and which players won't.

A significant percentage of Georgia's sizeable contingent of PGA Tour players fall into the "too close for comfort" category heading to the Fall Series, which consists of four events in the U.S., the McGladrey Classic at Sea Island GC among them.

There are some familiar names among the list of Georgians who have something to play for in the next few weeks, with some of the state's young PGA Tour members assured of a spot on the Tour next year.

Bubba Watson (UGA), **Zach Johnson** (St. Simons Island) and **Matt Kuchar** (St. Simons/Georgia Tech) all came into the Fall Series between 5th and 11th in earnings, and with the exception of the McGladrey Classic, will probably spend a mostly golf-free Fall.

The only other Georgian in the top 50 on the money list is **Jonathan Byrd** (St. Simons), who likely needs a win during the Fall Series to either move into the top 30 on the money list (45 after the Tour Championship) or top 50 in the World Rankings (he was 65th) to earn a 2013 Masters invitation.

Byrd has a previous Fall Series victory (Las Vegas in 2010), but has not played well since an outstanding stretch in May,

when he had three top 10s and a tie for 12th in four consecutive starts.

A host of players between 69 and the low 100s on the money list are locked in for exempt status in 2013, with little hope of moving up without a win in one of the four Fall Series events.

Cameron Tringale (Georgia Tech) is 69th, cooling off a bit of late after three straight top 10s in the Spring. Fellow ex-Yellow Jacket **Troy Matteson** (70) has taken a different route, finishing strong after doing little the first six months of the season. Matteson nearly scored his third PGA Tour win, losing a playoff to Zach Johnson in the John Deere Classic.

Chris Kirk (Woodstock native/St. Simons resident/UGA) has had an up-and-down season, but has some solid recent efforts and is 73rd with a few starts left. Fellow ex-Bulldog **Brian Harman** of Savannah has had a very successful rookie year with nine top-25s, highlighted by a tie for 5th in the Barclays, the first of the Playoffs events.

Harman is 77th, just ahead of ex-UGA teammate and fellow rookie **Harris English** (82), a south Georgia native who has joined Kirk and Harman in settling on St. Simons. English popped up on leader boards several times early in the season, and has added top 10s at Colonial and in Greensboro to keep a productive rookie year going.

Bryce Molder (Georgia Tech) went almost eight months between top 10s, with a 9th place finish in the Deutsche Bank Championship ending the drought

and lifting him to 83rd. **Blake Adams** (Swainsboro resident/Georgia Southern) has followed a decent rookie season with a solid sophomore showing, and is 88th with the highlight a tie for 7th in the PGA Championship.

Augusta's **Charles Howell**, who typically plays his best golf early and late in the season, opened 2012 with a tie for 2nd in Hawaii, but hasn't been heard from since a top 20 in the Masters. At 91 on the money list, this has been the poorest season of Howell's career.

With most of his focus on his duties as U.S. Ryder Cup captain, St. Simons' **Davis Love** has played a modest schedule and has been respectable more often than not, coming close to a 21st PGA Tour victory in Memphis. Love is 106 on the money list, but will remain exempt for the rest of his career, with the Champions Tour less than two years away.

The sweating begins with Swainsboro native **Will Claxton** at 112 and **Roberto Castro** (Alpharetta/Georgia Tech) at 115, with both rookies likely needing just one more decent finish to secure their exempt status for 2013.

Claxton, who went straight from the Hooters Tour to the PGA Tour, has done most of his damage this year in events held opposite WGC tournaments or the British Open, but has several respectable showings recently in regular Tour events. Castro has been a steady performer for most of the season, with his best finish a T7 in the Greenbrier Classic that included rounds of 64 and 63.

More than two years removed from his second PGA Tour win, Acworth resident **Jason Bohn** is in danger of losing the exempt status he has held since 2004. A second-place finish in the second tier event in Mississippi is one of just a handful of bright spots for Bohn, 119 in earnings this season.

The list of those outside the top 125 begins with Augusta native and former Augusta State golfer **Vaughn Taylor**, who had to go back to Q school last year to retain his Tour status, and may have to do so again. Taylor began the Fall Series at 131, more than \$90,000 behind the player six spots in front of him. Taylor has some decent showings, but has also missed half his cuts.

At 133, **Brendon Todd's** second PGA Tour season has gone better than his

first, but the former Georgia Bulldog has mostly struggled after a successful start. The Atlanta resident had a top 20 finish in the Canadian Open, but it wasn't enough to get him into the Playoffs.

One of the most surprising names outside the top 125 is Duluth's **Stewart Cink** (139), whose career has been on a downward slide since he won the 2009 British Open. Since midway through the 2010 season Cink has exactly one top-10 (in Charlotte last year), but the former Georgia Tech standout is exempt through the 2014 season thanks to his major victory.

Alpharetta resident **Heath Slocum** won the Barclays in 2009 and the McGladrey Classic in 2010, but the latter victory also happens to be the last time he posted a top-10 finish. Slocum is 142 and needs a big finish to retain the exempt status he's held since 2002.

Augusta native **Scott Brown** has made it through 72 holes just four times in 20 starts, but has three finishes of 7th or better, two coming in opposite events. Brown is 144th as a rookie, and will look to at least remain in the top 150, which earns him limited status on Tour next year, as well as a spot in the finals of Q-school.

Kris Blanks (Warner Robins native) was 150 going into the Fall Series, but will not play against this season due to a shoulder injury. Blanks, a former assistant pro at The Landings in Savannah, has not played since mid-July, and will receive a medical extension for 2013.

Atlanta resident **Kyle Reifers** won a Nationwide Tour event in his first start as a pro in 2006 and was a PGA Tour member in '07, making it back this season. At 151 on the money list, Reifers needs to move up to stay on the PGA Tour next year.

Former UGA golfers **Kevin Kisner** (158) and **Erik Compton** (163) are within range of the top 150, but fellow ex-Bulldog **Ryuji Imada** has fallen to 182 after eight years as an exempt player. Imada has made just 9 of 24 cuts with one finish higher than 38th.

Like Blanks, former Valdosta State golfer **Briny Baird** has been sidelined by an injury, and is out for the season after undergoing shoulder surgery, having last played in mid-May and making just 13 starts. 🏌️



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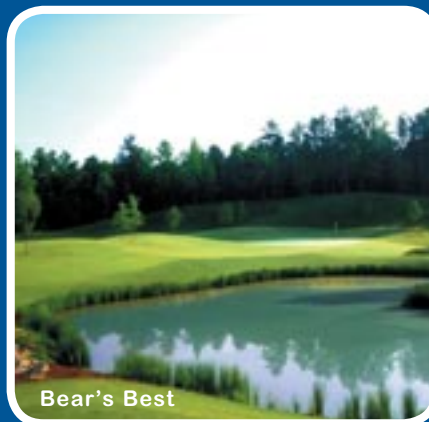
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List, Haley, Henley headed to PGA Tour

3 other Georgians in Web.com Top 25

With four tournaments left in the 2012 Web.com (formerly Nationwide) Tour season, three golfers with Georgia ties were among the top 12 on the money list and assured of spots on the 2013 PGA Tour. Three others were between 18 and 22 in earnings (the top 25 earn PGA Tour spots).

Four Georgians were assured exempt status on the 2013 Web.com Tour and in position to make a run at a top 25 finish, with four more hoping to move up into the top 60.

Leading the way among the Georgia contingent is Ringgold's **Luke List**, who won the South Georgia Classic in Valdosta early this season and has three runner-up finishes, including the Stadion Class at UGA. Although List has missed 7 of 20 cuts, he has played consistently throughout the season and has played well every time he's been in contention, shooting 68 or lower in his four finishes of 1st or 2nd. List, 3rd on the money list, leads in the Tour in driving distance with an average of more than 328 yards.



Luke List

Paul Haley, a 2011 Georgia Tech graduate, has enjoyed an outstanding rookie season, winning early in the year in Chile and adding close runner-up finishes in California and Mexico. Apart from those three efforts, however, Haley has not enjoyed a great deal of success, with 10 missed cuts in 20 starts and only one other top 10. Haley was 6th in

earnings even though his only top-20 stat was birdies (19th).

Russell Henley, who won last year's Stadion Classic at UGA as an amateur, is also finishing strong after a fairly rocky start in his first full season as a pro. Henley, a Macon native and recent UGA standout, did not have a top-20 finish until mid-July. But he has four top 10s since, including a tie for 2nd in Kansas City and his recent playoff win in Charlotte, which vaulted him to 12th in earnings and assured his spot on the PGA Tour next year.

Former Georgia Tech golfer **Nicholas Thompson**, who has played four seasons on the PGA Tour, is looking to return, standing 18th on the money list. Thompson is 2nd in top 10s (7) and ranks 1st in the ball striking category thanks to lofty showings in total driving (also 1st) and greens in regulation (6th). Thompson's best showing was a tie for 2nd recently in Knoxville, when he shot 64 in the final round.

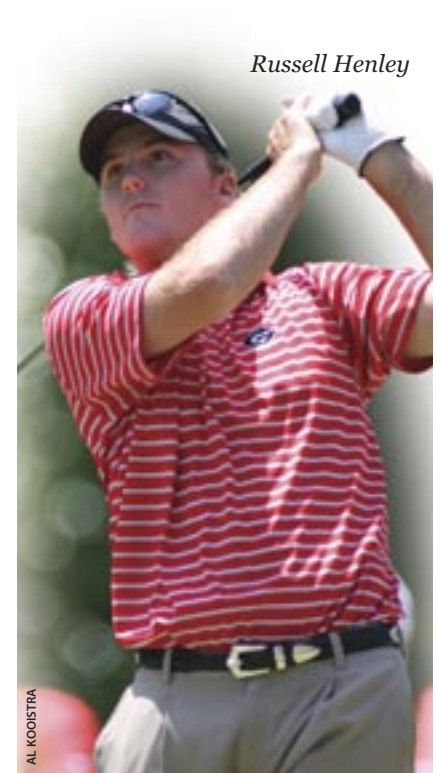
Hudson Swafford, a 2011 UGA grad, was 20th in earnings on the strength of his memorable win in the Stadion Classic, when he holed out from a green-side bunker on the 72nd hole for a final round 62 and a 1-stroke victory over List and veteran Lee Janzen. Swafford has played respectably other than his victory, but has just one other finish better than 15th, and has missed 9 of 21 cuts. Swafford, who is living on St. Simons Island, ranks 2nd on tour in the all-around stats, and is also 3rd in total driving and 5th in birdies.

Veteran tour player **Paul Claxton** was next on the money list at 22nd, and looking to return to the PGA Tour at the age of 45. Claxton is 2nd in career earnings and has been a consistently successful performer in his 14 seasons, struggling in each of his four shots on the PGA Tour. Claxton, a Vidalia native and St. Simons resident, started strong with back-to-back finishes of 3rd in Chile and 2nd in Louisiana, but the former Georgia Bulldog has just one top-10 since and has gradually slipped closer to the bottom of the top 25. Claxton has played in all but one Web.com tournaments this season, with his lone absence resulting from qualifying for the U.S. Open.

Augusta's **Scott Parel** has a chance to be a 47-year-old rookie on the PGA Tour

next year, needing to move up from 32nd on the money list. Parel has played on the Nationwide/Web.com Tour since 2005, with this season his best one. Parel nearly scored his first win, losing in a playoff in Raleigh, but that is his only top 10, although he has a number of other solid showings.

Former UGA golfer **Justin Bolli** went back and forth between the PGA and Nationwide Tours between 2005 and



Russell Henley

2010, and is looking to earn a fourth PGA Tour card for 2013. Bolli, who grew up in Roswell, has played respectably, ranking among the tour leaders in putting and scoring, standing 3rd in scoring average before the cut. But Bolli has not been able to capitalize on his opportunities, with just three top 10 finishes, one coming in Athens. Bolli was 36th in earnings, more than \$37,000 outside the top 25.

Matt Weibring, like Thompson an ex-Georgia Tech golfer with PGA Tour experience, has made a strong recent move at regaining his PGA Tour status with five straight finishes of 15th or better, including ties for 4th and 2nd. Weibring was 37th despite having earnings of less than \$2,000 through mid-July. He ranks among the top 5 on tour in both putting stats as well as scoring average.

Web.com rookie **Richard Scott**, a

member of Georgia's 2005 NCAA Championship team, moved into contention for a spot in the top 25 with three straight top 10s in late June and early July, but missed seven of his next eight cuts to fall to 45th. Scott, a St. Simons resident, tied for 4th in Valdosta and was a close 3rd in Evansville, Ind., ranking among the tour's better ball strikers. But Scott is well down in the putting stats, and his excellent play on the weekends has been partially negated by 11 missed cuts in 19 starts.

Recent Georgia Southern golfer **Aron Price** was 68th in earnings, just over \$6,000 out of the top 60. Price, who has limited PGA Tour experience, is in the top 10 in both fairways and greens hit, but putting struggles have prevented him from posting a top-10 finish.

Like Scott, Albany's **Josh Broadaway** (77) has enjoyed some successful weekend showings, but hasn't been as consistent during the final two rounds when he's made the cut. Broadaway leads the tour in third round scoring average (67.9), but is averaging 3.5 strokes higher during the final round, leaving the Nationwide/Web.com veteran with six top-25 finishes, but nothing higher than 9th.

Reid Edstrom, who grew up in Norcross and now resides in Auburn, Ala., where he played college golf, has five top 25s among eight made cuts, but his putting stats have also kept him out of the top 10. Edstrom was 81st in earnings and will need to move up to retain his status on the tour.

Will Wilcox, who played in college at Clayton State, missed eight of nine cuts in one stretch, but has a handful of strong showings and was 83rd on the money list. Wilcox played his way onto the Nationwide Tour last year with two 3rd place finishes in a 5-tournament span, but has just one top 10 since.

Veteran **Scott Dunlap** has spent almost as much time on the Web.com Tour as the PGA Tour this season after regaining his PGA Tour card for the first time in a decade. After missing out on the FedExCup Playoffs, Dunlap played in five straight Web.com events and posted two finishes of 6th or better, enough to move him into the top 100 on the money list (91). The Duluth resident

[See Web.com Tour, page 34]

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Sugarloaf to host Champions Tour event in 2013



By Mike Blum

The Champions Tour will return to Atlanta for the first time since 2000, playing at TPC Sugarloaf the week after the Masters next April.

It also marks a return as host of a tour event for TPC Sugarloaf, which was the site of the BellSouth/AT&T Classic from 1997-2008 before AT&T withdrew its sponsorship and the tournament dropped off the PGA Tour schedule after a 40-year run.

The Champions (then Senior) Tour played in the Atlanta area from 1986-2000 with the exception of the '89 and '90 seasons. North Fulton clubs Horseshoe Bend (1986-88), Country Club of the South (1991-94) and Golf Club of Georgia (1995-2000) were the tournament hosts, with the event ending

after the 2000 season when Nationwide Insurance dropped its title sponsorship.

Metro Atlanta, which once had three full field events on all three of the major tours, has been without a regular tour stop since the AT&T Classic ended in 2008, two years after the LPGA event sponsored by Chick-fil-A was played for the last time.

"I always felt Atlanta was the perfect location for a Champions Tour event," veteran Champions Tour player and long-time Marietta resident **Larry Nelson** said at a press conference announcing the tournament. "We had one and we lost it, and it's nice to have it back. All the players love Atlanta."

The impetus for the tournament came from the Gwinnett County Sports Commission. Norcross-based Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating will serve as title sponsor for the event, which will be

known as the Greater Gwinnett Championship. It will be played at Sugarloaf at least through 2016.

The tournament is scheduled for April 19-21, the week after the Masters and the week before the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf in Savannah, making for at least three straight weeks of tour events in the state.

The Web.com (formerly Nationwide) Tour made its two stops in Georgia in late April and early May last year, and if the two tournaments retain their spots on the schedule, it will be an extremely busy four or five weeks of professional golf in the state next Spring.

The Greater Gwinnett Championship will have a \$1.8 purse, right at the Champions Tour standard, and will feature a field of 81 players.

The PGA Senior Tour tour began in the early 1980s largely as a vehicle to continue the competitive career of **Arnold Palmer**. For most of its first two decades, it was largely a showcase for its most prominent players, including **Jack Nicklaus**, **Lee Trevino** and **Hale Irwin**.

In recent years, the Champions Tour has lacked for a dominant player, with the current season's top players a mixture of the well known (**Bernhard Langer**, **Tom Lehman**, **Fred Couples**), familiar (**Mark Calcavecchia**, **John Cook**, **Jay Haas**) and obscure (leading money winner **Michael Allen**, multiple major champion **Roger Chapman** and Monday qualifier turned two-time winner **Willie Wood**).

"There is much more depth on the tour now," said **Corey Pavin**, who joined Nelson at the press conference.

Pavin is one of 17 players to win on the Champions Tour this year, with just three players winning two individual events. Chapman, Wood and **Fred Couples**, generally conceded to the tour's best player (when healthy) and biggest draw are the lone two-time

winners, with Allen No. 1 on the money list largely on the strength of his victory in the Legends of Golf, an official team event.

With the 65-year-old Nelson and 64-year-old **Allen Doyle** of LaGrange both winding down their long and successful Champion Tour careers, Georgia has just one player in the top 80 on the current money list – Augusta native and Columbus resident **Larry Mize**.

With three tournaments remaining before the season-ending Charles Schwab Championship, Mize was 28th on the money list and 31st in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, just outside the top 30 position needed to qualify for the tournament.

Former Georgia PGA member **James Mason** of Dillard has turned one Champions Tour victory over a decade ago into a nice career, but is 61 and has gotten into just six tournaments this year. Current Georgia PGA member and tour veteran **Sonny Skinner** of Sylvester also has limited status on tour and has made eight starts.

One of the two most recent additions to the Champions Tour is Savannah's **Gene Sauers**, who turned 50 in late August and tied for 8th in Hawaii in his second start.

Vijay Singh turns 50 early next year, with **Davis Love** celebrating his 50th birthday in April 2014.

Some of the most recent players to turn 50 have tried to play both tours, but almost all of them came to the conclusion that the Champions Tour was the better fit.

Pavin has gradually reduced his PGA Tour starts, but was not as reticent about playing the Champions Tour as some of his contemporaries.

"I couldn't wait to turn 50 and come out here," he said. "I'm enjoying the Champions Tour so much." 🍷

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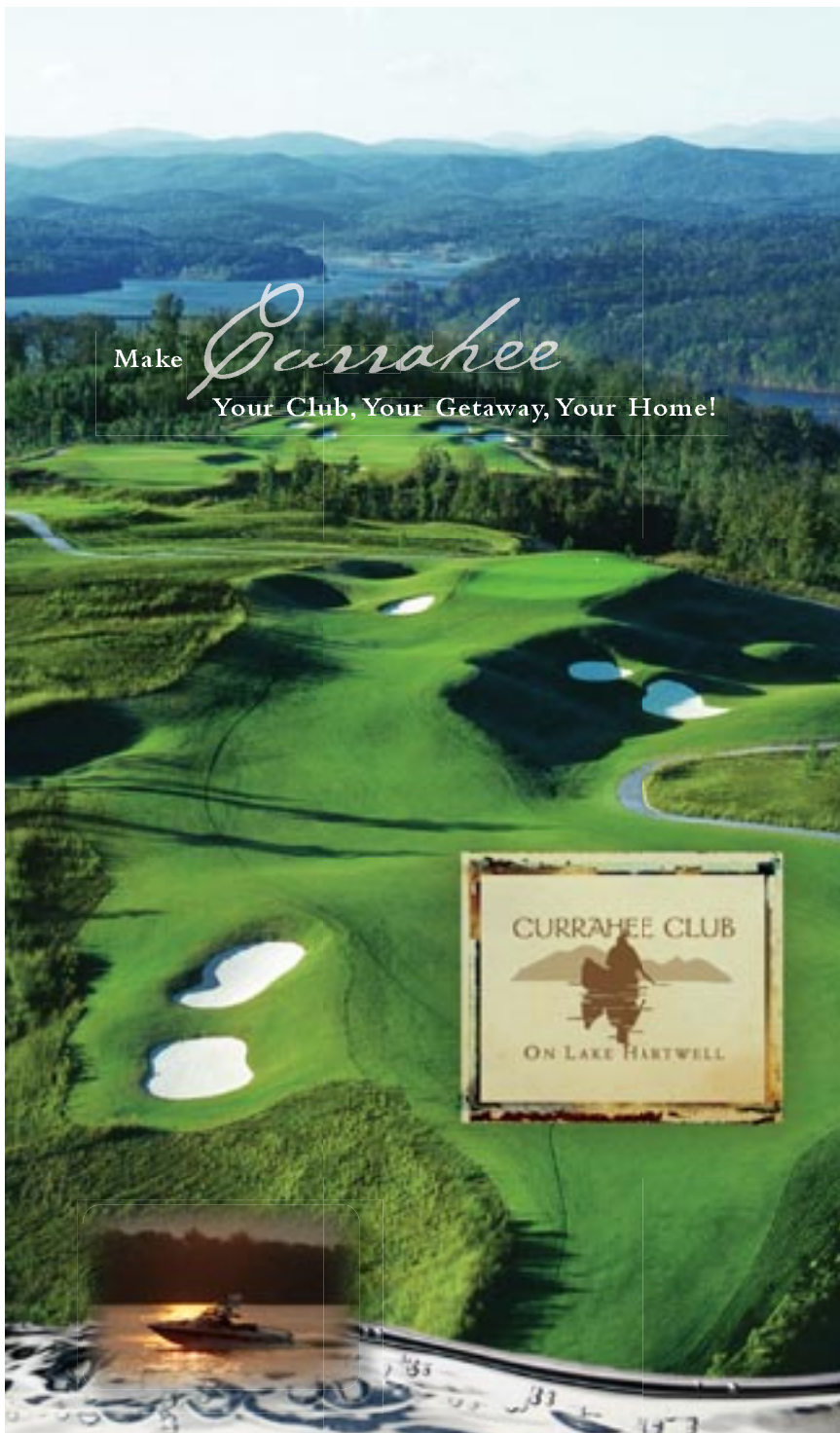
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McGladrey

[Continued from page 8]

Robert Allenby, Robert Garrigus, Fredrik Jacobson, Sean O'Hair, Jeff Overton, Rory Sabbatini, Henrik Stenson and Camilo Villegas.

The Georgia PGA will be represented in the field by seven-time Player of the Year **Tim Weinhart**, who will be competing for the third straight year. Weinhart played very respectably in each of his first two starts in the tournament, narrowly missing the cut both years.

As the next-to-last domestic tournament on the 2012 schedule (two PGA Tour-sanctioned events in Asia with limited fields also remain), the McGladrey Classic is especially important to players who are uncomfortably close to 125th on the money list, the number for retaining exempt status for 2013.

Slocum and fellow Georgia residents **Jason Bohn** and **Vaughn Taylor** are among that group, as is **Brendon Todd**, who will be part of a sizeable contingent of former Georgia Bulldogs in the field.

With as many as eight ex-Bulldogs playing and the strong UGA sentiment

along the Georgia coast, tournament officials have a new on-course feature for alumni and fans of the school's athletic teams.

A "Dawg House" open air pavilion will be positioned on the 17th hole, offering views of both that hole and the adjoining 16th. It will give Georgia fans a chance to get together, watch some golf and talk Bulldog football, with a chance of catching the 'Dogs in action Saturday, depending on the start time of the Kentucky game.

The pavilion will be decked out in Georgia colors, and Bulldog supporters who stop by can expect a visit from an ex-Georgia golfer or two, as well as "maybe some other special guests," Reid says.

The tournament will be preceded by a pro-am on Wednesday, the first day spectators will be allowed in the course, with a concert with country star Gary Allen schedule for 7:30 that evening.

All four rounds of the tournament will be broadcast live on the Golf Channel from 2-5 p.m.

For more information on the tournament, visit its web site at www.mcgladreyclassic.com.

Snedeker

[Continued from page 10]

and brought on the questions regarding his inability to hold the few leads he's had going to the final round.

"I'm a jumpy guy to say the least. I think you all have noticed that," Snedeker said to the media after his 64. "So my biggest thing is trying to stay patient under the gun, and realizing that not every shot is a make or break shot on Sunday."

One way that Snedeker kept his mind focused on what he was doing the final day was by avoiding looking at leader boards.

"I didn't look at the scoreboard all day. I had no clue where I was or what I was doing. My only goal today was shoot as low as I possibly could, and that's what I did.

"No good comes from me looking at the leader board. I get too amped up. I get too complacent if I'm ahead, or trying to push too much if I'm behind. So I try to play the same way I would if I had a five-shot lead or a five-shot deficit."

Snedeker took home \$1.44 million for his victory and earned the \$10 million bonus by finishing first in the final FedExCup standings.

After a season highlighted by his playoff victory in San Diego and tie for 3rd in the British Open, Snedeker was 19th in the points standings coming into the playoffs.

Thanks to finishing 2nd in the Barclays and 6th in the Deutsche Bank Championship, Snedeker moved up to 5th in the standings, making him one of five players who were guaranteed a FedExCup title with a win at East Lake.

Both Rose and Moore were too far down the list to win the FedExCup event with a victory in the Tour Championship, and once McIlroy and Woods fell off the pace Sunday, the spotlight was left to three players of lower visibility.

Snedeker provided some late entertainment with his play at 17 and 18, giving the large galleries something to remember, even if the tournament did not have a down-to-the-last-hole finish.

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Hopper captures GSGA PubLinks

Eatonton's **Adam Hopper** won the GSGA Public Links Championship at Cobblestone GC, posting back-to-back scores of 1-under 70 for a 140 total.

Hopper finished one stroke ahead of two-time defending champion **Billy Mitchell** of Roswell and **Scott Melton** of Ringgold. Mitchell, playing in the final group, birdied holes 14 and 15 to tie Hopper, who birdied both holes in the group ahead. But Mitchell bogeyed the final hole after Hopper posted his 2-under score.

Bill Leonard of Dallas was 4th at 143, with **Terry Rich** of Buford and **Mark Sweeney** of Monroe tying for 5th at 144.

Women's Team Championship: The GSGA played its Women's Team Championship at Savannah Quarters, with **Phyllis Foisy** of Statham and Atlanta's **Betsy Butler** teaming for the victory.

The winning team finished at 5-under 139, two strokes ahead of **Danielle Davis** of St. Simons Island and **Genette Spinucci** of Stone Mountain. **Ashley Beecher** of Hazelhurst and **Maria Johnson** of Jesup were 3rd at 142 after a final round 67, with **Mary Riley** of Perry and **Gwen Young** of Cochran 4th at 143.

Pictor to quarters in Sr. Women's Am

Marietta's **Brenda Pictor** reached the quarterfinals of the recent U.S. Senior Women's Amateur, played at Hershey (Pa.) CC.

Pictor, who reached the third round of last year's Senior Women's Amateur and the quarterfinals of the Women's Mid Am, won three matches before losing 4&3 to tournament medalist **Lisa Schlesinger**.

Pictor tied for 8th in stroke play qualifying at 155 and was seeded 8th in the tournament. She won her opening match 3&1, taking four of the last five holes after being all square after 12. She handily defeated Mena Hardin, one of the top women's senior amateurs, 6&5 in the second round, carding five birdies, and broke open a tight match to win 4&3 in the third round.

Greensboro's **Sue Rheney** reached the third round in the event after being seeded 47th in the match play bracket. Rheney reached the quarterfinals last year. She won four of the first five holes on the back nine to take her opening match 5&4, and rallied from 3-down after 13 holes to win 1-up in



Adam Hopper

the second round. Rheney lost 6&5 in the third round to **Ellen Port**, who went on to win the championship.

Atlanta's **Debbie Blount** also qualified for the event, but failed to advance to match play.

U.S. Mid Amateur: Three Georgians qualified for match play in last month's USGA Mid-Amateur Championship in Chicago, but all three lost in the first round.

Savannah's **Doug Hanzel**, who reached match play in the U.S. Amateur in August, tied for 16th in stroke play qualifying for the Mid-Am, but lost his first round match 2&1. **Bobby Brent** of Columbus lost 6&5, and Augusta's **John Engler** lost 1-up in a match that was all square going to the 18th hole. Engler won a 9-players-for-4-spots playoff, and faced the No. 4 seed in the first round.

Mark Strickland of Woodstock was the last player eliminated in the playoff, with Tucker's **Zane Goldthorpe** also failing to get through the playoff. Other Georgians who qualified for the championship included **David Poteet** of Suwanee, **Austin Johnson** of Canton, **Chris Waters** of Athens, **Greg Kennedy** of Duluth, **David Maddox** and **Dave Womack** of McDonough, **Mel Mendenhall** of Marietta and **Jared Purvis** of Valdosta.

Senior Am qualifying: **Don Marsh** of Johns Creek was medalist in a qualifier at Albany's Doublegate CC for the U.S. Senior Amateur, which was played early this month in New Jersey. Marsh shot a 71, with **Bill Clanton** of Leesburg advancing from a playoff after shooting 73. **Jack Kearney** of Peachtree City advanced from a qualifier in Massachusetts.



Brenda Pictor

Marsh and Kearney both were involved in an 11-player-for-nine-spots playoff, with Marsh advancing to match play, where he lost 1-up in the first round.

Women's Mid Am qualifying: **Mercedes Huarte** of Duluth shot 73 at Rivermont CC to win a qualifier for the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, which will be played early this month in San Antonio. Atlanta native **Wendi Patterson Golden** tied for 1st in a qualifier in Florida.

Peach State Tour closes out season

The Peach State Golf Tour wrapped up its season earlier this month, playing its Tour Championship at the Georgia Club.

The tour held three events in the state in September, with all three tournaments decided either in a playoff or by one shot.

At Stonebridge G&CC in Albany, Evans' **Brett Munson** won a playoff over **Chip Deason** after both players shot 16-under 200. Munson closed with a 63 to come from five shots behind Deason after 36 holes to take home first place money of \$4,000. He won with birdies on the first two playoff holes.

James White, a recent Georgia Tech standout from Acworth, tied for 3rd at 202, with Roswell's **Jeff Ely** 5th at 203 and former Georgia Open champion **Samuel Del Val** tying for 6th at 204.

At Doublegate CC in Albany, 2011 Peach State Player of the Year **Mark Silvers** of Savannah shot 12-under 204 and won a playoff over Duluth's **Eddie Lee** to take home \$3,750. Silvers closed with a 67 to erase a 4-stroke deficit after 36 holes. White tied for 4th at 208, with Warner Robins' **Chris Wolfe** 6th at 209.

At Stonebridge GC in Rome, Fayetteville's

Wade Binfield shot 67-69—136 to win a 36-hole event by one stroke over Munson, Lee and **Denny Lucas** of Williamson. Binfield earned \$2,500 for his victory.

Lucas came into the Tour Championship 2nd on the money list with \$25,000, less than \$400 behind leader **Jimmy Brandt**. **Jay McLuen** of Forsyth was 3rd, followed by Binfield, Del Val, Lee, Deason and Munson.

Norlander scores first eGolf win

Recent Augusta State standout **Henrik Norlander** won his first tournament on the eGolf Tour, posting a 16-under 200 total to win in Charlotte. Norlander posted scores of 69-65-66 to finish two ahead of St. Simons Island resident **Gator Todd**. Norlander took home \$13,000 for his victory.

In an eGolf event in Ninety Six, S.C., Snellville's **Jonathan Fricke** placed 2nd, finishing two behind the winner with a 15-under 201 total. Norlander, part of Augusta State's back-to-back NCAA Championship teams in 2010 and '11, was 5th at 203.

NGA Tour: Georgians **David Skinns** and **Mark Silvers** finished the 2012 season 2nd and 3rd on the final NGA (formerly Hooters) Tour money list.

Skinns, a native of England now living in Atlanta, was 2nd with \$104,000, just behind money leader **Brandon Brown**. Silvers was 3rd with almost \$68,000.

In the final NGA event of the season, Skinns shot 24-under in a tournament in Elgin, S.C., to tie for 2nd, one behind the winner. Silvers was 4th at 266 and **Chris Wolfe** tied for 7th at 268. 🏌️

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Yang wins twice in girls division

Forsyth's **Dalton Johnson** shot an opening round 6-under 65 at the Georgia Club and held on to win a Georgia PGA Tour event by two strokes.

Johnson finished with a 3-under 139 total, two ahead of Gainesville's **Spencer Ralston**, who shot 69-72 in the 14-15 age group. **Marcus Byrd** of Dunwoody was 2nd behind Ralston at 142, with **Steffen Smith** of Norcross 3rd at 145. **Dylan Pence** of Dacula was 2nd behind Johnson in the 16-18 division at 144, with **Karim Muhammad** of Macon 3rd at 145.

Phil Jones of Alpharetta was the 11-13 winner at 144 (71-73), followed by **Lorenzo Elbert** of East Point at 147 and **Frank Waldrop** of Columbus at 148.

Alissa Yang of Norcross was first in the girls 11-14 division and was also the overall winner with scores of 76-75—151. **Min Ji Kim** of Cumming was 2nd in the age group and overall at 158. In the 15-18 age group, **Hannah Grevelius** of Rome was 1st at 161 and **Taylor Allen** of Lawrenceville was 2nd at 166.

In a Georgia PGA Junior Tour event two weeks earlier at Cateechee, Yang also won the 11-14 and overall girls titles with a 160 total. **Mariah Kuranga** was 2nd at 167, with **Courtney Lowery** of Greenville the 15-18 winner at 171.

Connor Brown of Watkinsville was the boys 16-18 winner at 156, edging out **Aaron DeSilva** of Stone Mountain and **Jacob Price** of Jefferson, who tied for 2nd at 157. **Alex Malcom** of Royston was 4th at 158.

Andrew Yowell of Marietta was the 14-15 winner at 161, one ahead of **Jake**

Thomas of Cumming. **Noah Kuranga** of Decatur shot 169 to take the 11-13 age group by one over **Stephen Foernsler** of Cumming. **Phil Jones** was 3rd at 172.

The Georgia PGA Junior Tour will play at Kinderlou Forest Oct. 13-14 and at Coosa CC Nov. 13-14.

Dunagan takes title on 6th playoff hole

Hunter Dunagan of Martinez needed six extra holes to win the boys 11-14 title in a Hurricane Junior Golf Tour event at Bradshaw Farm in Woodstock. Dunagan shot 71-73—144, with **Bennett McCarron** of Dacula 3rd at 145.

Carson Willis of Griffin was the 15-18 winner at 146 (72-74), followed by **Shea Sylvester** of Roswell at 150 and **Ryan Stachler** of Alpharetta at 152.

Sabrina Long of Alpharetta shot 157 to win the girls division, finishing one ahead of **Harmanprit Kaur** of Lawrenceville and two in front of **Hannah Mae Deems** of Taylorsville.

In a Hurricane Tour event at Golden Bear GC on Hilton Head Island, Waynesboro's **Rylie Marchman** shot 172 to win the girls 11-14 division by four.

The tour visits the UGA course in Athens Oct. 27-28.

Georgia Junior Tour: Winners of a Georgia State Parks Junior Tour event last month at Brazell's Creek in Reidsville:

Colin Baggett, Dublin, Boys 16-18, 155 (in playoff over **Harrison Stafford**, Savannah); **Jeremy Wood**, Loganville, 14-15, 154; **Trey May, Claxton**, 12-13, 164; **Jackson Toole**, Vidalia, 10-11, 153 (6th win of season); **Elizabeth Burns**, St. Simons, girls 16-18, 174 (4th win); **Julianna**



Alissa Yang



Dalton Johnson

Collett, St. Simons, 14-15, 165; **Sutton Rollins**, Blackshear, 12-13, 166.

The tour next plays at Highland Walk Oct. 20-21, with the Champions Cup scheduled for Little Ocmulgee Oct. 27-28.

Flowers wins title at CC of Columbus

Charlie Flowers of Columbus won a Southeastern Junior Tour event at CC of Columbus, carding scores of 71-73 for a 144 total. **Joshua Crews** of Albany was 2nd at 146 and **Jack Larkin** of Atlanta took 3rd at 147.

In the 14-15 age group, **Stanton Schorr** of Columbus shot 72-75—147 to win by five over **Will Chandler** of Atlanta and **Alexander DeRosa** of Atlanta. **Justin Kim** of Rome shot a second round 72 for a 156 total to win the 11-13 division by two over **William Reaves** of Columbus.

Janet Mao of Johns Creek was the girls 16-19 winner at 153, followed by **Anna Buchanan** of Athens at 156 and **Hannah Barger** of Elberton at 158. **Lauren Lightfritz** of Suwanee was the 12-14 winner by three shots with scores of 75-74—149.

In a SJGT event in Gulf Shores, Ala., **Christina Yang** of Suwanee won the girls

12-14 winner by 14 shots at 155, shooting 72 in the first round.

Upcoming tournaments include the UGA course Oct. 13-14 and Callaway Gardens Nov. 3-4.

Ramsey second in AJGA Girls

Milledgeville's Ashlan Ramsey tied for 2nd in the American Junior Golf Association Girls Championship at the Furman University course in Greenville, S.C., to lead four Georgians in the top 10.

Ramsey shot 70-72-70 for a 4-under 212 total to finish two strokes behind the winner. **Rinko Mitsunaga** of Roswell was 4th at 214, with **Rachel Dai** of Milton tying for 7th at 217 and **Sloan Shanahan** of Suwanee T9 at 219.

In the AJGA Junior Players at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Fla., U.S. Junior Amateur champion **Andy Shim** of Duluth came back after an opening 79 to tie for 19th at 221, closing with scores of 68 and 74. 📧

Web.com Tour

[Continued from page 26]

was just outside the top 200 on the PGA Tour.

David Skinnis, one of the top players on the Hooters/NGA Tour in recent seasons, has made seven Web.com starts in 2012, and has a trio of top-20 finishes. The Atlanta area resident is 118th on the money list, but with no status on the tour, will have little or no chance to improve his position in the final month of the season.

John Kimbell, a LaFayette native who won the South Georgia Classic in 2007 during his rookie season, has struggled throughout 2012, making just five of 20 cuts with his best finish a tie for 20th. Kimbell was a distant 148th and has only very limited past champion status left. 📧

Ryder Cup

[Continued from page 12]

made a key par putt at the 18th, he lost 1-up in a match in which both players were shaky on the back nine.

Woods made exactly one birdie the entire round and wound up with a half against Molinari, halfheartedly losing the 18th after missing a short par putt to keep the match from being a tie.

In seven Ryder Cups, Woods is 13-17-3 and has played on exactly one winning team. The best performance by an American team in the past three

decades came at Valhalla in 2008 with Woods sidelined with an injury, and there is mounting evidence that may not be coincidental.

With Stricker and Furyk, his last two primary partners, likely having competed in their last Ryder Cup, the next U.S. captain will have to find a new partner for Woods, assuming he makes the 2014 team.

The U.S. would likely be better off without him, but ESPN and NBC would not be too thrilled with the prospect of a Tiger-free match. The U.S. is undergoing a generational shift, with Mickelson the only one of the team's four

veterans who fits in with the team's young blood.

Bradley probably could have played Saturday afternoon in place of Stricker, but can you envision his emotional style of play meshing comfortably with Woods?

Other than Snedeker, who was 1-2, every American player had at least a winning record excluding Woods, Stricker and Furyk, who were a combined 1-9-1.

The numbers don't lie. Anyone who watched the matches knows who was responsible for the loss.

It wasn't the captain. 📧

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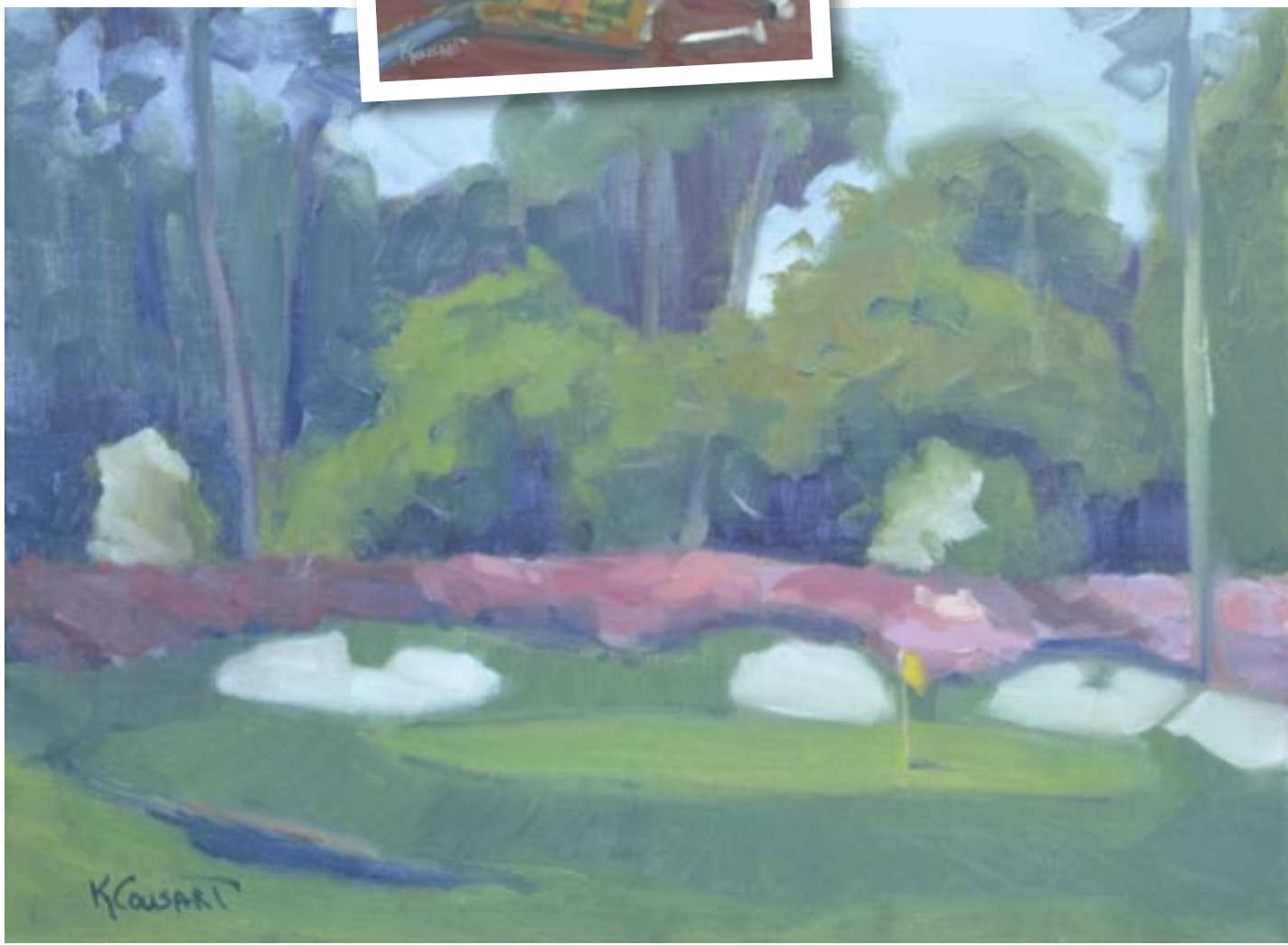
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Combining art and golf

By Kathy Cousart

My lifelong love of golf and art has come full circle back to my love of oil painting. I have been so lucky to have golf play such an instrumental part of my life. I have been married to a PGA Professional for 33 years and was the Assistant Women's Golf Coach at Georgia prior to running the Georgia Junior Golf Foundation for 12 years. Both our daughters played collegiate golf and one has become a PGA professional.

Among my favorite things to paint are landscapes of golf courses. The courses have this wonderful dichotomy of creative artistry of the landscape architect carving out a design, and God's pure natural beauty surrounding it. I have combined my love of nature with painting pleinair (impressionistic French style representing observed effects of outdoor light and atmosphere) whenever I can. It is inspiring to chase the light and quickly capture the shifting patterns as accurately as I can in that moment. 🎨



Kathy Cousart has a Golf Show this month at the Anne Irwin Fine Art Gallery in Atlanta. You can view additional paintings on her website at KathyCousart.com, and she is available to paint your favorite golf hole. Kathy is currently in an Artist Mentor Program with Master Artist Jim Richards of Atlanta.



Special thanks to Kathy Cousart for the Cover Painting www.kathycousart.com

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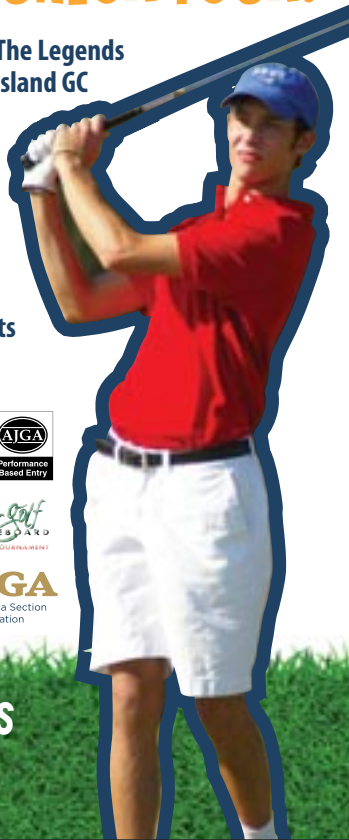
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Coastal golf

[Continued from page 20]

course has been around for 45 years, with the one major change the transformation of the ninth hole from a dogleg right par 4 into a testy par 3 with a semi-island green. Sea Palms is on the short side by modern standards, but with fairways lined by pines, palms and palmettos and plenty of overhanging moss, hitting it straight off the tee is essential. Water hazards line a number of the fairways, but as long as you don't stray too far, the hazards are avoidable.

There is a considerable difference in yardage between the two nines, with the incoming nine including two par 5s of decent length, with the sweeping dogleg 16th beginning a strong trio of finishing holes that include a water-lined par 4 18th that is a very stout finishing hole. The putting surfaces are on the gentle side, and if you are comfortable on Bermuda greens, you will have the chance to hole some putts.

Other Golden Isles area courses include **Sanctuary Cove**, which features a well-regarded layout that Fred Couples and Davis Love's Design Group teamed up on; **Heritage Oaks**, an appealing Mike Young design that will host an NGA (formerly Hooters) Tour event next Spring; and **Coastal Pines**, a favorite of Brunswick's locals.

A short drive away are **Laurel Island Links**, a quality Davis Love layout in Kingsland, and the **Lakes at Laura S. Walker State Park**, a wonderfully natural links-style layout with plenty of width, rolling fairways and some sizeable putting surfaces that provide much of the course's deceptive challenge.

About halfway in between the Golden Isles and Savannah is **Sapelo Hammock**, located in the community of Darien. The facility is making a welcome comeback after some lean times, and is the rare course that truly fits the description of "undiscovered gem." The natural elements provide Sapelo Hammock with considerable scenic appeal, as well as much of its significant challenge.

The course is reasonably generous off the tee, but live oaks and marshes are most definitely in play, particularly on a pair of perilous par 5s that conclude both nines, and two splendid but demanding par 3s that require carries over marshes that are both gorgeous and daunting. The 17th is part of a terrific trio of finishing holes that include a succession of shots that are easy on the eyes but not very forgiving to indifferent swings.

Savannah

The premier daily fee course in the city is the **Club at Savannah Harbor**, the host of the Champions Tour Legends of Golf. The superb (and superbly conditioned) **Bob Cupp** design is located just across the Back River from downtown Savannah, and its marsh-side setting offers some striking views while providing much of its challenge. The marsh is in play along the edges of several holes, but the width of the course helps offset the relatively limited number of holes with serious trouble in play. Much of the trouble is found on an exceptional group of scenic but potentially penal par 5s, with a nice mix of par 4s, some of which have serious length from the tips, and a mostly inviting group of par 3s. The greens complexes are on the tame side, with Cupp leaving most of the approach angles open.

Among the city's most historic courses is the **Wilmington Island Club**, which was known as the Savannah Inn & CC during its heyday. The semi-private club has undergone name changes and some major renovations to its original Donald Ross design. Willard Byrd did the first significant re-design in the late 1960s, and the most recent changes include the reversal of the nines new, first and 18th holes and the expansion of a ditch that winds through the course, with the latter change enhancing the appearance and challenge of the layout. Driving accuracy is key, with plenty of trouble in play, including a trio of short-to-medium par 3s. The presence of water just off several greens can result in some very uncomfortable bunker shots.

Southbridge is among the earliest solo designs by **Rees Jones**, and is a well-regarded layout that has a coastal feel despite its inland location. It's a very solid test, joining Savannah Harbor and Wilmington Island as Savannah daily fee courses that have previously hosted the Georgia Open.

Crosswinds is more of an open, parkland style layout with a positive reputation for the quality and challenge of its greens. **Henderson GC** is an appealing Mike Young design with contrasting nines and a natural feel, and offers a reasonably stout test for a municipal course. **Bacon Park** features 27 holes, with the original 18 designed by Donald Ross, and is a long-time local favorite. **Black Creek**, located a bit west of the city off I-16, is a short-ish, friendly track, and **Lost Plantation** in Rincon (formerly Willow Peg) features a Joe Lee layout. 🏌️



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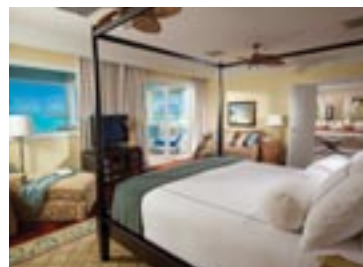
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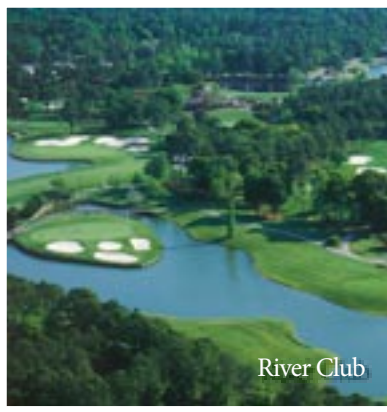




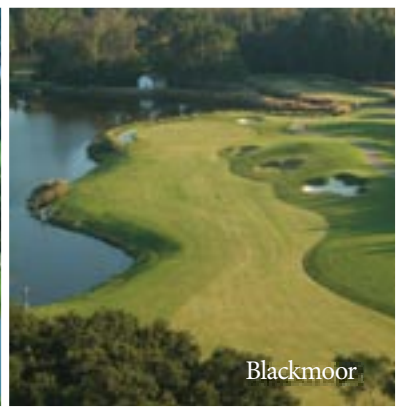
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