

Monday Scramble: What The European Tour, PGA Tour Alliance Means



BY RYAN LAVNER

The PGA and Europeans tours form an alliance, Christian Bezuidenhout joins the game's elite, the PGA Tour wraps up its 2020 slate and more in this week's edition of Monday Scramble:

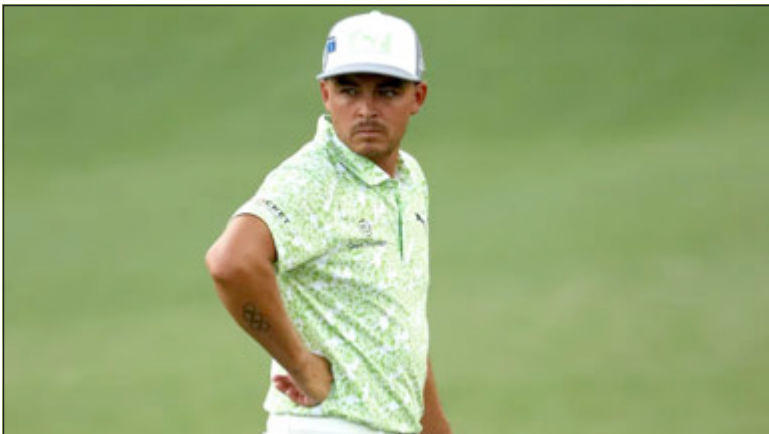
1. The PGA and European tours took a big first step toward potentially creating a global golf calendar, agreeing to an alliance that will allow them to collaborate on commercial opportunities, media rights and scheduling.

TAKEAWAY: This seemed like an inevitable move, as both

tours took a serious financial hit in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. In a conference call, European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley took pains to describe this announcement as something other than a potential merger, saying that won't happen unless it's beneficial for his membership or his circuit is in financial straits. Though a takeover is years away, if it happens at all, this partnership should mark the end to the Premier Golf League, which had tried (unsuccessfully) to lure the top players

Monday Scramble – PAGE 6

2020-21 Qualifiers for Majors, THE PLAYERS, WGCs



Rickie Fowler has played in 10 consecutive Masters but has yet to qualify for the 2021 edition. (Patrick Smith/Getty Images)

BY ROB BOLTON

Christiaan Bezuidenhout has it all figured out. Win an event at home = Play the Masters.

In February (and pre-pandemic), the South African prevailed at the Dimension Data Pro-Am. The victory in his homeland lifted him to 48th in the Official World Golf Ranking. A month later when the OWGR was used to fill the field at the Masters (originally scheduled for its traditional date in April),

he remained inside the top 50 to secure his tournament debut.

His first appearance was delayed seven months. He made the cut and finished T38. However, by then he had slipped to 60th in the OWGR with another top-50 checkpoint looming at the end of calendar-year 2020 for entry into the 2021 Masters.

A T15 at the Joburg Open the week after the 2020 Masters was

Qualifiers – PAGE 7

The Best Story of the 2020 Golf Year Was That We Actually Had Golf

BY REX HOGGARD

Consider that just last week 16 college football games were either canceled or postponed because of COVID-19 infections. It was the second consecutive week college football lost double-digit games and even the games that are being played are coming with competitive asterisks.

Last week's college schedule included a dozen teams that played short-handed games, including Minnesota who was missing nearly two dozen players in its victory over Purdue. College basketball begins this



week and even though teams are trying to create their own version of a bubble handwringing has

already begun. Even the mighty NFL isn't immune to the weak-

Best Story – PAGE 5

The Life of Haley Moore Resonates During Holiday Season

BELLEAIR, Fla. (AP) — Haley Moore will never forget the shot. It was in April 2019 when stood on the 16th tee at Augusta National, home of the Masters, 156 yards from the flag with a short iron in her hands and watched the ball take flight.

It landed a few yards to the left of the hole on the sharply sloped green and gravity did the rest, the ball eventually rolling to a stop close enough for a tap-in birdie. Moore smiled on her entire walk to the green, the fans who lined all sides of the hole roaring in delight and appreciation.

No bullies were in sight.



(Getty Images)

"It was pretty iconic," Moore said.

So is her story.

Moore is a 22-year-old LPGA rookie from Southern California.

She made the winning putt in a playoff to clinch the 2018 NCAA championship for Arizona and qualified for the inaugural August-

Haley Moore – PAGE 6

Callaway's New B21 Line Consists Of the Biggest, Baddest Berthas Yet

BY JONATHAN WALL
AND ANDREW TURSKY

If you've picked up a Callaway club in the last few decades, you've likely come across a driver or iron with the words "Big Bertha" emblazoned on the head.

Of all the names founder Ely Callaway chose to bestow upon his creations, Big Bertha is the one that's stood the test of time. Initially introduced in 1991 with a collection of oversized drivers that took the industry by storm, the Big Bertha line was expanded by Callaway three years later to include irons.

The clubs all shared simi-



Callaway's new Big Bertha B21 driver and irons. (Jeffrey Westbrook/Prop Styling: Sophia Pappas)

lar traits: a generous profile, offset to eliminate a slice and game-changing distance. Nearly

two decades later, Big Bertha's new B21 line remains true to

Biggest, Baddest – PAGE 5



See Local Holes-In-One at golfweekrochester.com

Leonard Kamsler, a Dissecting Golf Photographer, Dies at 85

BY GLENN COLLINS
Leonard Kamsler, a photo-journalist whose award-winning pictures of professional golf for nearly 50 years pushed the envelope of sports strobe photography as he amassed a trove of more than 200,000 images on the PGA Tour, died on Nov. 18 in Bethel, N.Y. He was 85.

His husband and only immediate survivor, Stephen Lyles, said the cause was organ failure. Mr. Kamsler had homes in Bethel and Manhattan.

Jim Richerson, president of the PGA of America, called Mr. Kamsler “the undisputed dean of golf photography.” Last month, Mr. Kamsler became the first recipient of the organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Photojournalism.

Practically half of that lifetime was spent on the golf course,

though lugging a camera instead of clubs. Beginning in 1963, he covered 40 consecutive Masters tournaments, 17 P.G.A. championships and 22 U.S. Opens, freezing moments of action in indelible images.

“His ability to take the perfect picture at the perfect time was unsurpassed by anyone in the business,” the champion golfer Tom Watson said in a videotaped tribute when Mr. Kamsler received the lifetime achievement award.

Mr. Kamsler’s technical innovations in high-speed strobe photography broke down the complete arc of a golf swing from beginning to end in stop-motion exposures — from address to backswing to contact to follow-through — each position of the hands, arms, feet, legs, torso, head and club contained in a single sequential

image suggestive of a pinwheel.

George Peper, his editor at *Golf Magazine* for 25 of Mr. Kamsler’s 60 years associated with the publication, said it was Mr. Kamsler who “created the swing-sequence in golf without question.”

Mr. Kamsler, he said, “learned at Edgerton’s knee,” referring to Harold Edgerton, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who pioneered stroboscopic technology. Mr. Kamsler began consulting with Mr. Edgerton in 1957.

He also developed a close relationship with Charles Hulcher, who had developed a specialty camera to record slow-motion studies of rocket launches.

Mr. Kamsler’s primary instrument was a hulking Hulcher high-speed 35-millimeter camera, originally designed to shoot at some 70 frames per second. He was able to push the limit to 100, and then 200, frames per second — meaning that in less than three seconds of lightning-fast exposures he could dissect an entire golf swing.

Mr. Kamsler’s first sequential stop-motion study, of Arnold Palmer’s technique and clubhead dynamics, “created a sensation,” Mr. Peper said, adding that as a teaching tool “it was posted on every golf instructor’s wall in America.”

Mr. Kamsler documented more than 400 golf-swing sequences of other champion golfers, including Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Kathy Whitworth and Tiger Woods.

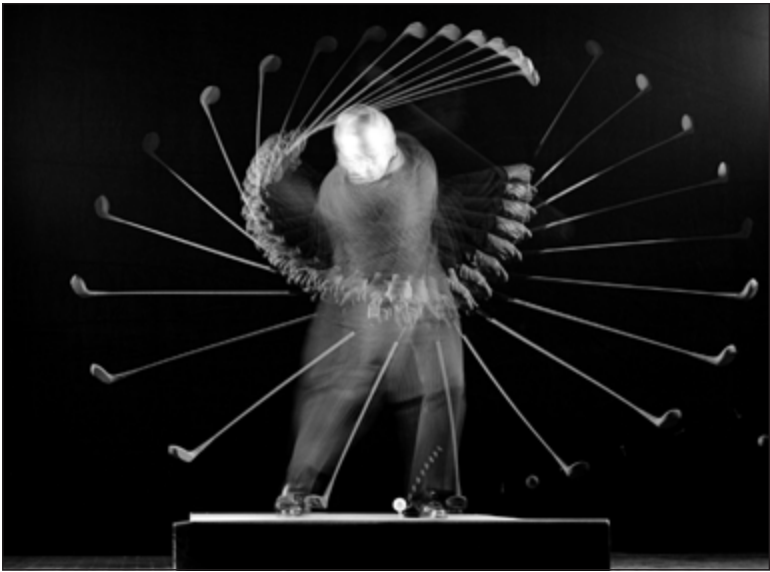
During a tournament he could be innovative in capturing the action. One risky technique was to flatten himself on the ground with his camera and have the best golfers in the world hit past his head. During one practice-tee setup, he positioned Mr. Nicklaus so close to him that the golfer’s explosive shot just missed destroying Mr. Kamsler’s lens.

According to the P.G.A., Mr. Kamsler was the first photographer to set up remote-control cameras behind the notoriously challenging holes 12 and 15 at Augusta National Golf Club, where the Masters is played.

Some golfers abhorred being photographed up close during competition, so Mr. Kamsler would resort to subterfuge. He once hid himself in a garbage bag to snap the camera-shy Australian Bruce Crampton.

Starting in the 1970s, Mr. Kamsler widened his field to profile performers in Nashville, including Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Waylon Jennings, Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn. Many of his pictures became the covers of record albums.

His collection of music images was recently purchased by the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, where many are on view. More than 20 of his photos were shown in “Country Music,” the 2019 documentary series by Ken Burns



Leonard Kamsler used stop-motion strobe photography to break down the complete arc of a golfer’s swing. He documented the swings of more than 400 pro golfers. (Leonard Kamsler/Popperfoto, via Getty Images)

for PBS.

Mr. Kamsler’s strobe-lighting work also reached beyond golf. He devised one complex strobe system to capture the first attempt at a quintuple somersault by the Flying Cranes aerial troupe of the Moscow Circus. The picture ran in *The New York Times Magazine* on Dec. 30, 1990, with a cover article about the troupe.

A circus aficionado, he also photographed performances of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams and the magicians Siegfried & Roy’s stage act using tigers.

As a PGA Tour fixture, Mr. Kamsler could hardly be ignored. For years he arrived at events in his candy-apple-red, tail-finned Cadillac Eldorado convertible, his six-foot frame of ample girth garbed in a golf shirt tucked into polyester slacks held up by a pair of suspenders.

His primary sports outlet was *Golf Magazine*, where he was a contract photographer from 1959 through 2019. His photos also appeared in many books.

Golfer pushback was part of the job of photographing players sensitive to any distraction during play. Mr. Kamsler “got the shark bite occasionally,” said Greg Norman, the Hall of Famer whose nickname was the Shark.

“He understood what that shark bite meant,” Mr. Norman added, in the video tribute, “that I was intense — and I was into my moment.”

Once, shooting an “18 holes with” celebrity-golfing feature

in Miami with the actor Jack Nicholson, Mr. Kamsler reached over to push up the bill of Mr. Nicholson’s hat because it was hiding his eyes. “Nobody touches Jake’s hat!,” Mr. Nicholson barked.

Leonard Macon Kamsler was born on Oct. 18, 1935, in Raleigh, N.C., to Morton and Helen (Strother) Kamsler. His father owned a retail store, and his mother was a homemaker. His father gave Leonard his first camera at age 12. He graduated from Broughton High School in Raleigh and then from Duke University, in 1957. Moving to Manhattan, he became a \$32-a-week assistant to the celebrity photographer Milton H. Greene. One of his first assignments was to photograph Marilyn Monroe.

Following a stint in the Army, Mr. Kamsler returned to Manhattan and began getting jobs as a freelance photographer.

His passion for strobe photography led him to golf — for the opportunities it afforded him “to capture motion,” Mr. Lyles, his husband, said, adding, “He began knocking on doors until they would look at his pictures.”

Mr. Kamsler sold his library of more than 200,000 images to Popperfoto, a partnership with Getty Images, in 2018.

For all his involvement with golf, the game itself never beckoned to more than his shutter finger. After a lifetime of tournament trudging, Mr. Kamsler was proud to say, “I never played a single game of golf.”


©The New York Times




Mr. Kamsler captured Arnold Palmer, in foreground, and Jack Nicklaus at the 1968 U.S. Open at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y. (Nicklaus finished second behind Lee Trevino.) (Leonard Kamsler/Popperfoto, via Getty Images)

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Pedersen Flawless in Spanish Open Win



(Tristan Jones/LET)

2020 will be remembered for many things but it will go down in LET history as Denmark's Emily Kristine Pedersen powered to Andalucia Costa Del Sol Open De Espana victory, closing with a bogey-free final round six-under-par 66 for a four shot win from home favorite Nuria Iturrioz.

A model of consistency all year, the 24-year-old has won an impressive five LET titles from 12 starts and becomes the first player since Marie-Laure de Lorenzi to win three tournaments in a row.

Walking away with the first-place winner's check of \$108,000, Pedersen also collected \$24,000 for winning the inaugural Race to Costa del Sol and finishes the year with a mammoth \$500,000 in prize money.

Accompanied by her father on the bag for her sixth career win, an emotional Pedersen, said,

"It was very special with my Dad here, he got me into golf and he has been a big support the whole way, he kept me going when I was down and it is really big for me to have him here and win this amazing trophy. I was really happy to go through something really positive and good with him because he is right beside me off the course and now, he has been there on it."

Leading by one shot heading into Sunday, Pedersen used all her front-running experience and looked in control from the start, opening with three pars before an uncharacteristic miss on the par four 4th hole.

Undeterred, the serial winner proceeded to chip in for birdie from the back of the green before steadying the ship with seven pars to extend her lead to four shots with seven holes to play, with playing partner Nuria Iturrioz trying to keep pace.

Another birdie at the short par four 12th followed, after a miraculous 'shot-of-the-day' from

the trees, to keep her nose in front before further gains at Nos. 14 and 16 threatened to stretch her lead, only for the smiling Spaniard to record four birdies in five holes.

Not making it easy for the LET No. 1, the home-favorite fought back and pushed her right to the end but the unflappable Dane shut the door with clinical second shots with her famous hybrid club into both the 17th and 18th to record another two birdies.

Holing out from 4ft on the last for the four-shot win, Pedersen let out a controlled fist pump to match her control on the course and added,

"What I did on the 12th was the turning point, I was hitting it well on the front nine, but I just could not hole anything, and I started getting frustrated. I said to my Dad on the 12th tee, let's try and make some birdies and then luckily, I had a shot from the trees and started the birdie run."

The sensational performance sees her add not only the Spanish Open title to her ever-expanding trophy cabinet but also the coveted Race to Costa del Sol award.

"I can't believe I've won the Race to Costa del Sol, it's always been a dream of mine and I am so happy to not only be playing well this year but to win it here this week in Spain. The last few months have been amazing."

Three-time LET winner Nuria Iturrioz put up a valiant fight in front of her home fans, recovering from a shaky start to record a final round of 69 (-3) to finish in solo second place. The gutsy display was enough to claim the award for the highest Spanish finisher and saw her walk away with a consolation prize of \$62,000.

Moving to 7th in the Final Standings of the Race to Costa del Sol, the 25-year-old said,

"Little by little I am making the adjustments I need to be

there, and I just need to give congratulations to Emily because what she has done this year is spectacular. I was already saying to her on the 17th and I am very happy with my attitude. Today was a complicated day at first, but I am very happy because I have fought, and it has been a little more fun".

The smiling Spaniard continued, "In quarantine, she must have worked very well and mentally I see she is very strong. I hope she can continue like that because it will be an enjoyment to play with her every year."

Rising star Ana Pelaez also made history, recording the best finish by an amateur in the long-standing event on the LET schedule. Playing with her idol Azahara Munoz, the 22-year-old is one to watch for the future as she fired a sensational 67 (-5) to

finish in solo third.

"I think I could have asked to win, but today was super complete. I played a very good golf, I have put myself to the test playing with Azahara because

there are nerves that I did not know and that today I have had to live and I have known how to control. I think that today I can't ask for much more."

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Mayakoba Golf Classic: Can Native Mexican Win on Home Soil?

BY TIM LETCHER

The Mayakoba Golf Classic tees off on Thursday at El Camaleon Golf Club in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. And the locals have a legitimate chance to see one of their countrymen win the event this year.

It's never happened in the 13 years that the Mayakoba Classic has been played. However, it almost happened last season when Carlos Ortiz finished second to Brendon Todd.

Ortiz may be the best chance for a native Mexican to win this week. He comes into the event playing well. The Guadalajara, Mexico, native, won for the first time on the PGA Tour by claiming the title at the Houston Open in early November. That followed a tie for 35th at the Zozo Championship and a tie for 48th at the CJ Cup.

The 29-year-old Ortiz played in 22 events on tour last season and registered three top 10 finishes. In addition to his runner-up at the Mayakoba, Ortiz tied



(Getty Images)

for fourth in both the Houston Open and the Sanderson Farms Championship last season.

If Ortiz is unable to win this week, perhaps one of his fellow countrymen can.

The other solid candidate to pull off the feat would be Abraham Ancer.

Ancer was born in McAllen, Texas, but was raised in Reynosa, Mexico. He has dual American and Mexican citizenship.

The 2021 season is off to a fast start for Ancer. He has played in five events, including two majors, and has made the cut in all five.

His season started with a tie for 56th at the U.S. Open. He was in decent shape there through 36 holes, but shot 79-76 on the weekend to fall off the pace.

Ancer's best finish so far this fall was a fourth-place showing at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. He shot 66-66-65-67 that week in Las Vegas.

Since then, Ancer has tied for 28th at the CJ Cup, tied for 35th at the Zozo Championship and tied for 13th at the Masters. If not for a 76 on the final day at Augusta National, Ancer would have finished inside the top 10.

These two players face a field that includes Justin Thomas and Brooks Koepka, among others, so it will be a challenge. But it would be appropriate, and frankly pretty cool, to have a native Mexican win in Mexico this week. 🇲🇽

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PGA Tour Gets Share of European Tour TV as Part of Alliance

BY DOUG FERGUSON

(AP) — The PGA Tour has acquired a minority stake in the European Tour's media production company as part of an alliance announced Friday, a big first step toward developing a more unified golf schedule around the world.

The deal effectively makes the two leading tours more partners than rivals. The tours said in a statement the alliance would allow them to collaborate on commercial opportunities and global media rights in certain territories.

"The PGA Tour moves from a competitor to a partner," Keith Pelley, chief executive for the European Tour, said on a conference call.

While seen as a pivotal first step, any notion of a world tour

— which golf executives have contemplated for more than a decade — remains some years away. The immediate goal is to figure out a schedule that keeps the tours from competing against each other and strengthening events on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

Pelley offered few details on scheduling, access to tours or even negotiating media rights.

As part of the agreement, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan will join the European Tour board as a non-executive member who would have a vote. "They have a monetary investment in our business," he said of the PGA Tour.

Pelley said the board's approval of the partnership was unanimous.

The announcement is likely to

put an end to the Premier Golf League, which a year ago was courting the world's best players for a team-based circuit and funded in part by Saudi money. Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka rejected the idea right before the pandemic.

Pelley said The Raine Group, a private equity firm behind the Premier Golf League, presented a "compelling offer to take the European Tour to another level but in a different direction."

"We felt partnering with the PGA Tour was the best option," he said.

Pelley said the partnership grew out of golf organizations having to work together at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to rearrange the major championship season for men and women.

"We shared the challenges of working through a year neither of us could have ever imagined and we found definite synergies in many areas of our respective tours," Pelley said.

The announcement comes toward the end of a devastating year financially for both tours. The PGA Tour has lost more money than the European one because of its size, though it had more in reserve to handle the crisis.

The PGA Tour shut down for three months, and then resumed June 8 and played a tournament every week except for this one, with no reduction in prize money. Two of its Asia tournaments, in South Korean and Japan, moved to the western U.S. with a purse of \$9.75 million (CJ Cup at Shadow Creek) and \$8 million (Zozo Championship at Sherwood).

The European Tour resumed in July with a series of new tournaments geared toward giving its members events to play while maintaining a strict bubble to



PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan answers a reporter's question during a news conference ahead of the Zozo Championship PGA Tour at Accordia Golf Narashino C.C. in Inzai, east of Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

protect against the spread of the coronavirus. Players would stay in regions such as the Iberian peninsula and the U.K., though the total purse was rarely more than 1 million euros.

The exceptions were the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, the flagship event at its headquarters, the Scottish Open and the DP World Tour Championship next month in Dubai.

The gap between the tours has grown so much in the last decade there have been rumblings of a merger of the tours, or even a takeover, given the PGA Tour's wealth. Monahan referred only to a partnership, and said "we look forward to working together for the benefit of the men's professional game and for golf fans around the world."

Pelley strongly disputed the notion of a merger, suggesting that would happen only if the tour had financial difficulties or there were significant benefits

for the players. He said the European Tour had a strong balance sheet, which allowed it to create 15 new events during the pandemic and spend \$3 million on a health and safety plan.


"This is not a merger," he said.

A week before the pandemic, the PGA Tour announced a new media rights deal that starts in 2022 and is said to be worth \$7 billion over nine years, which includes digital. The tour also has a 12-year deal with Discovery, which owns Golf TV.

London-based Discovery also is a rights holder for the European Tour, which has various contracts with TV companies, given its schedule that plays in more countries than any tour.

The PGA Tour has become so lucrative that Europe's best players have taken up membership on both tours. Of the 20 Europeans among the top 75 in the world, only four are not PGA Tour members. 🇺🇸

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Biggest, Baddest



The Callaway Big Bertha B21 driver at address. (Callaway)

(Continued from Page 1)

its roots with a super game-improvement design ideally made for high-handicap golfers who don't continually find the center of the face and struggle to corral a noticeable slice.

There are plenty of clubs on the market made for high-handicap slicers, but those clubs are typically designed with the center of gravity (CG) positioned

low and rearward to increase forgiveness. The problem with the concept is it may cause too much spin for big slicers.

To achieve the perfect balance of spin and speed, Callaway chose to freshen up the recipe with the Big Bertha B21 driver (\$500), positioning the CG low and forward to reduce spin. The thought here is that reducing overall spin will also reduce the

sidespin that causes wayward shots to go off the map.

The end result is a spin-killer that doesn't skimp on consistency and forgiveness. It's a package any high-handicap slicer will no doubt appreciate when they're finding more fairways.

For additional assistance on mishits, Callaway used its Flash Face SS21 technology, which was created using Artificial Intelligence, to boost ball speeds on off-center strikes. The generous face profile is paired with Callaway's Jailbreak Technology — titanium bars connect the sole and crown — to enhance distance and stability. To further increase forgiveness, Callaway removed weight from the crown by using lightweight carbon fiber, yielding an abundance of discretionary weight that was placed in the heel to help correct a slice.

A similar recipe was used to create the fairway woods (\$300), which feature increased offset and a shallow face profile that limits a slice while also assisting in getting the ball airborne from the turf at the same time.

Like the drivers and fairway woods, the hybrids (\$250) are made to launch it high, reduce a slice and unlock more distance

for those who need it near the top of the set. Each hybrid was smartly designed with dual metalinjection molded tungsten weights in the sole to generate a towering launch. For those who struggle to hit and hold the green from longer distances on their approach shot, this addition will be a welcomed sight.

Compared to Callaway's oversized Mavrik Max iron, the Big Bertha B21 (\$900; 7-piece steel iron set/\$1,000; 7-piece graphite) features more offset in the mid and long irons to assist in squaring up the head at impact and sole widths that are up to 50 percent wider in certain parts of the set for enhanced turf interaction.

Of course, there's more to Big Bertha B21 than a generous profile. Callaway's Flash Face Cup design also received the A.I. treatment, fine-tuning the thickness of the structure in specific areas to benefit golfers who don't consistently find the center of the face.

The end result is an aggressive face pattern that produces similar ball speeds across the entire structure, mitigating penalizing misses that usually

plague high handicappers.

"This [face design] looks a lot like what you've seen on a driver or fairway wood from us recently," said Dr. Alan Hocknell, Callaway's SVP of research and design. "It's unusually thick and thin in areas, maybe unexpected areas of thick next to thin. This is the A.I. system driving the design to greater efficiency of ball speed, while still trying to achieve some targets."

A visible tungsten energy core — located in the sole — adds another layer of forgiveness by targeting more mass behind the lower portion of the hitting area (heel to toe) to launch the ball high, regardless of where it impacts the face.

Housed inside the head, Callaway's proprietary urethane microspheres are strategically positioned to soak up unwanted vibrations and improve the overall feel at impact, without impacting ball speed.

"We know we're targeting advantages for golfers in the market who need the most help," Hocknell said. "This design can be literally transformational for certain types of golfers." 🏌️

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Best Story

(Continued from Page 1)

ing influence of the pandemic (see Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh on Thanksgiving Day).

Cancellations or postponements are no longer headline worthy and daily coronavirus updates are commonplace. It's the world in which we live — 2020. Yet many of those concerns don't seem to apply to golf.

When the PGA Tour restarted its schedule in June the circuit faced all the same questions, primarily how many positive tests are too many positive tests? But now five months and 25 events into the experiment, pandemic golf is the new norm.

There have been positive tests. Too many positive tests, if we're being honest, but given the circuit's vagabond nature it was inevitable.

"Our game changes every week; we go to a new city, new rules, new challenges. It just gets harder and harder, not easier and easier," Davis Love III said last week at the RSM Classic, where he was the host.

Three players, including Bill Haas, tested positive last week along with at least one caddie and depending on who is counting that's about 20 positive player tests for the Tour since the restart. Although it's undoubtedly trying for the likes of Haas, that's a fraction of what other sports have faced which is why the circuit was able to salvage the 2019-20 season and begin the 2020-21 campaign.

There were cancellations, like The Open Championship and

Ryder Cup, and postponement — not sure anyone will ever forget a November Masters — but throughout it all the game carried on.

There were plenty of concerns when the Tour announced it would restart in June before nearly every other major professional sport. While Major League Baseball and the NBA created safe zones and bubbles, the Tour leaned into its greatest liability.

The Tour couldn't set up shop at an Orlando theme park. That's not the way the model works, so players traveled — first to Texas for the Charles Schwab Challenge and then South Carolina for the RBC Heritage — and the circuit stressed protocols and safety.

If this was going to work everyone, the players and caddies and everyone else under the big top, had to be onboard.

"If the players were doing what they normally do, hanging out, going out to restaurants, in hotels hanging out together, if we did our normal routine, this whole thing would have been shut down," Love said. "If the caddies hadn't bought in, Tour staff hadn't bought in to following the rules, you're right, it would have been shut down a long time ago."

In June just three weeks after the restart Tour commissioner Jay Monahan flew to the Travelers Championship to remind everyone that this was only going to work with 100 percent participation.

"We've had three positive tests this week. I think every-

body should expect that you're going to have more tests as we go forward and we are going to be very sensitive to the specifics of every single test," Monahan said in June. "We're going to be spending a ton of time making sure we reinforce the strong protocols we have."

Even as golf follows the rest of the nation into a virus-weary holiday, the Tour remains on message.

"When I walk in our tournament office, I have to be reminded to put my mask on," Love said. "Everything is more difficult to put on these tournaments."

All of that planning and the protocols probably aren't going to get any easier anytime soon, but during Thanksgiving it's worth showing gratitude for the story we didn't have to write in 2020. 🏌️

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Monday Scramble

(Continued from Page 1)

by offering huge Saudi money.

It's easy to see how they could now collaborate on creating a global golf calendar that is a boon to both tours. Rather than making elite players choose which one to support, in theory, a more cohesive worldwide schedule would see the best players in the world tee it up against each other more often on varying course designs.

Indeed, we'd be all for a world tour that looks something like this, with incentives for regular PGA Tour players to travel and play internationally:

- January-February: Hawaii/ West Coast swing
- March: Florida swing
- April-May: Masters; Quail Hollow; Texas swing; PGA
- June/July: Memorial; U.S. Open; Spanish, Irish, Scottish Opens, etc.; Open Championship

- August: FedExCup playoffs
 - September: BMW PGA; Ryder/Presidents Cups
 - October: Asian swing
 - November: Middle East swing
 - December: Australia swing
- That'd be ***amazing.***

2. Christiaan Bezuidenhout won for the second time on the European Tour, coming from behind to take the Alfred Dunhill Championship in his native South Africa.

TAKEAWAY: This latest triumph continues an upward trend for Bezuidenhout, who is now firmly among the top 50 in the world (41st) after ending 2018 at No. 581.

The 26-year-old had a limited amount of success last season on the PGA Tour, finishing in the top 25 in just four of his 10 starts, but he appeared to get more comfortable this summer and made the cut in both the

U.S. Open and Masters this fall. He's a player to root for, with a compelling back story, after he received a doping ban as an amateur because of medicine he took to combat anxiety and a stutter that was caused when he took rat poison as a child and nearly died.

There'll be even more opportunity in 2021 to improve his standing, as now he'll be a fixture at all of the majors and biggest events.

3. The PGA Tour returns to action this week at the Mayakoba Classic, marking the final official Tour event of the calendar year.

TAKEAWAY: An appealing group of players has gathered in Mexico, even with the withdrawal of world No. 1 Dustin Johnson dropping the tournament to 46 world-ranking points for the winner (the equivalent strength of the Honda). It still marked the strongest field in tour-

namment history and, like most fall events in this super-season, a significant increase from a year ago, when Brendon Todd earned only 34 world-ranking points for his second consecutive fall victory.

At No. 49 in the world, Rickie Fowler will be trying to remain inside the top 50 in the world ranking. Will Zalatoris, now a special temporary member on Tour, is also back in the mix, playing for the first time since the Bermuda. And Andy Ogletree, the former U.S. Amateur champion who earlier this month was the low amateur at the Masters, is making his pro debut.

This Week's Award Winners...

TIP OF THE CAP: The Match III. Sure, the match with Sir Charles, Steph, Peyton and Phil had some entertaining moments (which reaffirmed our belief: in made-for-TV exhibitions, Phil

> Tiger, and it's not particularly close), but even better is that they raised millions of dollars for historically Black colleges and universities.

READY FOR THE BIG LEAGUES: Emily Kristine Pederson. She closed out her year on the Ladies European Tour with a bogey-free 66 and a victory at the tour's season finale, becoming the first LET player in 31 years to win three consecutive individual titles. She had four victories in 12 LET starts this year, which is why we'd love to see her compete full-time against the best of the best on the LPGA. She'll be in the field in two weeks at the U.S. Women's Open.

CONGRATS!: Jon Rahm. The world No. 2 announced on social media that he and his wife, Kelley, are expecting the couple's first child. 🐣

© Golf Channel

Haley Moore

(Continued from Page 1)

ta National Women's Amateur last year. She also has struggled

with weight issues and self-esteem for much of her life. Bullies would call her fat, take her belongings,

damage her personal property.

Moore doesn't hide from those moments or the pain they caused — or still cause. Instead, she talks about her story openly, sharing what she went through and how it didn't stop her from achieving the goal of playing on the LPGA Tour.

Her reason is simple: she thinks she can help others.

"Today, people are still struggling with being bullied by people," Moore said. "And some of the people being bullied, they really haven't been able to turn their life around. I think just telling my story, what I did and how I overcame it, I think I can try to turn that life around. Bullying is something that should never be allowed — and I want to put a stop to it."

She knows that is probably a futile quest. There's always going to be someone with a snide remark as she walks past, someone with an insult on social media. But she also knows that she's helping people just by being strong enough to tell her tale.

Golf became her refuge after tagging along with some family members to a driving range one day. Before long, she was hooked,

winning youth tournaments and escaping antagonists at school by practicing long hours.

John Daly, the two-time major winner, has tweeted at Moore and given her words of encouragement. And LPGA veteran Brittany Lincicome said she's rooting for Moore as well.

"I am so grateful that she told her story," Lincicome said last week as she watched Moore finish a practice round. "A lot of people go through things and they kind of keep it in sometimes, but I am so grateful that she told her story. She got it out there. It's definitely going to help a child overcome something and even adults can go through things like kids can. Her story is definitely going to help a lot of people."

Moore isn't where she wants to be yet in golf; her rookie year has been filled with ups and downs.

She's played in 11 LPGA events so far this season, breaking par in just six of 30 rounds and earning \$20,686 — good for 124th on the season money list and not exactly the type of checks that pros are hoping to cash.

Enter Brian Speciale into her story.

Speciale and his brother Michael came up with an idea a few years ago for an oversized sweatshirt made from the same material used to make blankets. With that, their company — The Comfy — was invented. They got a break when their idea got backing on "Shark Tank," the show that can vault entrepreneurs into the big time. And around the middle of last year, after Moore went public with her bullying story, Speciale just happened to find it online.

"I didn't know anything about Haley, but just reading her story, seeing the struggle that she's gone through for so long, and then seeing her out there you know basically putting that stuff behind her or off to the side and

trying to succeed at professional golf, I was like 'Wow, that's pretty amazing,'" Speciale said. "So, my brother and I, we just decided that if the opportunity ever presented itself where we can help someone like Haley to live her dream, we were going to do it."

Once the company started to grow, The Comfy made Moore an offer for both financial backing and clothes to wear on the course. She doesn't need to worry about how to pay for flights and hotels for now; all she needs to worry about is her game.

The LPGA is helping Moore get her story out there, and it is resonating.

Moore and her mother, Michele, were at a golf course a few months back on a Saturday morning for breakfast and happened to be standing not far from where kids were warming up for a junior tournament. A mother and daughter approached.

"They had recognized Haley and just started talking," Michele Moore said. "Loved her story. They didn't ask us a whole lot about bullying. They recognized her and loved her story. They felt she was inspiring."

And to Moore, those are the moments that feel as good as those roars at Augusta did. She's working on her game. She's working on her fitness. She tries desperately to avoid sweets. It's all a work in progress, but unlike those days back in school where her backpacks would get stolen and filled with water, she knows people are rooting for her.

"I think it's really shifted a lot," Moore said. "Especially through social media, I've had messages from people reaching out saying how they are inspired by my story. I want to share my story because I've come so far from it and I feel like if I share what I did and how I overcame it, I think it can really motivate anybody." 🐣



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Christiaan Bezuidenhout Wins Dunhill Title, Moves Comfortably Inside World's Top 50




BY BRENTLEY ROMINE
As winds swirled and Leopard Creek Country Club showed its teeth, seemingly every challenger for the Alfred Dunhill Championship title faltered at some point Sunday. Bogeys, doubles and triples, oh my! Indeed, it was no coincidence that the Malelane, South Africa, layout borders Kruger National Park, one of Africa's largest game reserves. Adrian Meronk, the 54-hole leader who was vying to become Poland's first European Tour winner, managed to lead after 11 holes before dropping three shots in his next three holes and finishing with a closing 4-over 76. Jayden Schaper, the 19-year-old South African phenom who earlier this year decided to forego college and turn pro, was

eyeing his first pro win until he kicked off his back nine with a triple bogey and made three more bogeys coming in for a final-round 75. England's Richard Bland, also chasing his first European Tour victory, albeit at 47 years old, was just two back with nine holes to play but ran out of momentum by playing his final seven holes birdie-less and in 1 over. And finally, Sean Crocker, who was born in Zimbabwe but starred at USC in Los Angeles, had perhaps the best chance of winning among those who fell short, but only trailing by a shot he hit two balls out of play on the final hole — a tee shot that ricocheted off a cart and out of bounds and another shot into the water. His closing triple left him at

10 under, along with Meronk, Schaper and Bland, and four shots behind the champion, the only contender who didn't fall apart down the stretch, Christiaan Bezuidenhout. You could call him the king of this event's jungle, as Bezuidenhout was the most glaring exception to the rule in Sunday's difficult final round, which players estimated featured a nearly-three-club wind. The 26-year-old South African, whose incredible story of overcoming adversity is well known, especially after his breakthrough European triumph last year in Spain, had his hiccups, most notably a double bogey at the par-3 seventh. But he also made six birdies and played flawlessly on the final nine, including holing birdie putts of 25 and 18 feet on Nos. 14 and 15, respectively, to shoot his fourth straight round in red numbers, a 3-under 69, and win for the first time ever in his native country. "It's incredible," Bezuidenhout said. "This tournament has been close to my heart since I played it for the first time. It's always been a tournament I wanted to win and to pull it off today is really, really special to me. "I'm proud of myself to stick in there and to have pulled it off round here."

Bezuidenhout has much to be proud of. For those who need a refresher, here are the spark notes: Bezuidenhout nearly died when he was 2 years old after unknowingly drinking from a Coke bottle that had been contaminated with rat poison. The poison took a toll on his body, affecting his nervous system and causing a stutter, which in turn led to bouts with anxiety and depression. When Bezuidenhout turned 14, his doctor prescribed him medication that helped him "enjoy my life again," Bezuidenhout wrote last year in a blog post for EuropeanTour.com, but the beta blockers were also a banned substance, and despite Bezuidenhout being adamant that he filled out the proper paperwork, he was disqualified from the 2014 British Amateur and subsequently banned for nine months. "It felt like my life was over. ... I was inconsolable," he wrote in the same post. "However, I eventually turned this into energy to help me come back stronger." Bezuidenhout's comeback keeps getting more impressive. Since his maiden title last summer at the Andalucia Masters, Bezuidenhout has now played in all four majors. He missed the cut at last year's Open Championship at Royal Portrush and earlier

this year at TPC Harding Park, but he made the weekend at both the U.S. Open and Masters this fall. His T-38 showing two weeks ago at Augusta National tied him with Tiger Woods. Funny enough, his first trip to Augusta helped him this week, specifically an early-week practice round alongside countrymen Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel, who both gave Bezuidenhout some tips about playing Leopard Creek. "They said you can't play this course the way you played it with the previous grass on it," Bezuidenhout said. "I never thought of it that way and I just came here with a different frame of mind and I played it like it's playing now — firm and fast." Now, after getting the job done at the Dunhill for his second career European Tour win, Bezuidenhout can all but count on a return trip to the Masters next spring. The top 50 players in the world by year's end qualify, and with his win, the South African is projected to move to No. 41 in the world as he prepares for the South African Open next week and the tour's lucrative season finale, the DP World Tour Championship, the following week. 

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Qualifiers

(Continued from Page 1)
solid but he dropped another slot to 61st in the OWGR. Remaining in South Africa for the Alfred Dunhill Championship, he came from three strokes down on Sunday to win by four. In the latest update of the OWGR, Bezuidenhout is 41st and all but assured of securing his second berth into the Masters when the last ranking of 2020 is determined. The 26-year-old is one of 10 currently inside the top 50 who isn't yet eligible for the 2021 Masters. The others are Tommy Fleetwood (16th), Matthew Fitzpatrick (21st), Justin Rose (31st), Matt Kuchar (34th), Victor Perez (38th), Bernd Wiesberger (39th), Ian Poulter (46th), Lee Westwood (48th) and Rickie Fowler (49th). The European Tour will be concluding its season in Dubai on Dec. 13, but the only remaining playing opportunity for Fowler on the PGA TOUR in 2020 is at this week's Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN. He's competed in 10 consecutive editions of the Masters since his debut in 2011. Of those ranked 51st-60th in the OWGR, six are not yet eligible for the Masters. That subset includes Kevin Streelman (52nd), Chez Reavie (54th), Russell Henley (56th) and Will Zalatoris (60th), each of whom is committed to play Mayakoba. Matt Wallace (51st) is sched-

uled to compete in this week's Golf in Dubai Championship presented by DP World. Erik van Rooyen (53rd) remains out indefinitely with an injured back. Aside from the end-of-year OWGR, winners of eligible PGA TOUR events and special invitations extended to internationals, the OWGR on March 29 is the only other conduit for entry into the 2021 Masters.

Remaining Qualifying Criteria
Criteria are listed in chronological order where possible. Best estimates are given but all are subject to change.

MASTERS @ Augusta National Golf Club — April 8-11

- Winners of PGA TOUR events that award full FedExCup points allocation for the TOUR Championship from the originally scheduled 2020 Masters (April 9-12) through the week before the 2021 Masters.
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (Dec. 31).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (March 29).
- Special invitations to international players per Masters Tournament Committee at its discretion.

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PGA CHAMPIONSHIP @ The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort — May 20-23

- Winners of PGA TOUR

events thru the final week before the 2021 PGA Championship.

- Top 20 from PGA Professional National Championship (TBD).
- Top 70 from special money list (i.e. "PGA Championship Points") on PGA TOUR from 2020 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational/Barracuda Championship thru 2021 Wells Fargo Championship (May 9).
- All 2018 Ryder Cup members, provided they are inside Top 100 of Official World Golf Ranking (May 10).
- Special exemptions per PGA of America. (This likely will include all golfers inside Top 100 of the Official World Golf Ranking on May 10.)
- If necessary to complete the field of 156, golfers outside Top 70 from special money list (three lines above) will gain entry in order of position.

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U.S. OPEN @ Torrey Pines Golf Course (South) — June 17-20

- TBD

• • •

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP @ Royal St. George's Golf Club — July 15-18

- TBD

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WGC-MEXICO CHAMPIONSHIP @ Club de Golf Chapultepec — Feb. 25-28

- Top 20 from 2020 Race to

Dubai (Dec. 13).

- Top 2 from Japan Golf Tour Order of Merit, not otherwise exempt (TBD).
- Top 2 from Asian Tour Order of Merit, not otherwise exempt (TBD).
- Top 2 from Australasian Tour Order of Merit, not otherwise exempt (TBD).
- Top 10 from 2021 Race to Dubai (TBD).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (Feb. 15).
- Highest-ranked golfer from Mexico in the Official World Golf Ranking. If already eligible, the second-highest-ranked inside the Top 300 of the OWGR (Feb. 15).
- Top 10 in FedExCup points (Feb. 22).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (Feb. 22).
- If necessary to complete the field of 72, golfers outside the Top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking on Feb. 22 will gain entry in order of position.

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THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP @ TPC Sawgrass (Stadium) — March 11-14

- Winners of PGA TOUR events thru the final week before THE PLAYERS.
- Top 125 in FedExCup points from the start of the 2019-20 season thru the 2021 WGC-Mexico Championship/Puerto Rico Open.

Points in the 2020 Playoffs are weighted the same as a WGC (Feb. 28).

- Top 10 in FedExCup points in 2020-21 only (March 1).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (March 1).
- If necessary to complete the field of 144, golfers outside the Top 10 in FedExCup points in 2020-21 only on March 1 will gain entry in order of position.

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WGC-DELL TECHNOLOGIES MATCH PLAY @ Austin Country Club — March 24-28

- Top 64 inside Top 100 in the Official World Golf Ranking (March 15).

WGC-FEDEX ST. JUDE INVITATIONAL @ TPC Southwind — Aug. 5-8

- Winners of official tournaments from the Federation Tours with an Official World Golf Ranking strength-of-field rating of 115 points or more.
- Winner of undetermined Asian Tour event (TBD).
- Winner of undetermined Australasian Tour event (TBD).
- Winner of undetermined Japan Golf Tour event (TBD).
- Winner of undetermined Sunshine Tour event (TBD).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (July 26).
- Top 50 from Official World Golf Ranking (Aug. 2).

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GOLF

opinion & comment

Fall Shows Winning is Never as Far Away as It Seems

BY DOUG FERGUSON

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP) — Robert Streb was too young at age 33 to have look back at his only PGA Tour victory six years ago instead of looking ahead to what might be his next one.

That wasn't the case for Stewart Cink. He was three years away from joining the 50-and-older set on the PGA Tour Champions, and 11 years removed from his last victory in 2009 at Turnberry in the British Open.

Both are part of a remarkable trend during this fall portion of the new PGA Tour season.

Cink was No. 319 in the world when he won the season opener in the Safeway Open. Streb was at No. 380 when he won last week in the RSM Classic. They are among five players in nine tournaments this season who were outside the top 300 in the world when they won. That doesn't include two majors on the fall schedule because of the pandemic.

It's a reminder that winning is never easy, and that depth of talent worldwide is not limited to the top of the ranking.

"We're all so close out here. Even the 47-year-olds can compete," Cink said. "If you just elevate a couple of little areas in your game and just get a little bit better, then you find yourself in contention or winning. If you go the other way, you find yourself on the outside of the cut or having a bunch of 50th-place finishes. It's just that close."

Brian Gay had gone seven years since his last victory when he won the Bermuda Championship at No. 328 in the world ranking and at 48 on his birth certificate. Martin Laird was No. 351 in the world and had gone seven years without



Robert Streb holds the trophy after winning a second hole playoff against Kevin Kisner at the RSM Classic golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 22, in St. Simons Island, Ga. (AP Photo/Stephen B. Morton)

winning when he received a sponsor exemption to the Shriners Hospital for Children Open in Las Vegas and won in a playoff.

The other winner out of nowhere was Hudson Swafford, only three years removed from his victory and recovering from injury. He had plunged to No. 345 in the world when he won at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Streb had been working hard — they all do — without seeing many results, so Sea Island was a surprise. He made a late birdie to force a playoff, and then won it with a pitching wedge from 158 yards away that landed in front of the cup and missed going in by an inch.

The gratification was instant.

Streb had to go through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals more than a year ago

just to get his PGA Tour card. He didn't come close to making the FedEx Cup playoffs, and the only reason he kept his card was because the COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf for three months and the tour thought it was only fair that no one lose status.

A week ago, Streb was hoping to get into the Mayakoba Golf Classic to close out 2020. Now he's in the Masters and the PGA Championship, and he has his card locked up through August 2023.

These are the kind of opportunities the fall has always allowed since the PGA Tour went to the wraparound season in 2013. Six of the last seven years, at least one player from outside the top 300 has won in the fall.

But five?

Cink, Swafford and Gay each faced

weak fields. That happens in the fall, especially this year with a U.S. Open and a Masters squeezed into the schedule. Laird and Streb, however, won against fields equal in strength to the Phoenix Open.

Throw in Carlos Ortiz winning the Houston Open this month at No. 160 in the world, and this makes two straight years that at least six fall events were won by players ranked outside the top 100.

Brendon Todd won back-to-back last year in the fall, both times when he was outside the top 100. He was No. 525 when he won in Bermuda and No. 184 when he won in his next start at Mayakoba. Three of the other four winners from last fall reached the Tour Championship.

Winning is winning.

Those five players who were outside the top 300 this fall are all headed to the Masters in April. They have all been to Augusta National because they have won before. It's just been awhile.

And it was no less sweeter.

It all started with Cink, who had reason to believe that silver claret jug from his playoff win over Tom Watson would be his last trophy from his PGA Tour career. He just refused to accept the possibility and kept trying "to squeeze every little bit of juice I can out of my golf game, out of that lemon."

"I'm no different than a 20- or 25-year-old kid out here who's still got like his entire career ahead of him," Cink said on the day he won. "I'm still working like crazy to try to be the best golfer I can be."

No matter the age or the world ranking, winning is never as far away as it might seem. 🍋

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The 19th Hole... News, Notes & Quotes From the World of Golf

Tom Weiskopf Q&A: On DJ's Masters Win, Rory McIlroy, Ben Hogan and More



Tom Weiskopf

BY ADAM SCHUPAK

Tom Weiskopf won 16 times on the PGA Tour, including the 1973 British Open at Royal Troon. At 78, he's still active as a course designer, a subject we delve into in Part II of this Q&A (coming Friday!).

Weiskopf has seen all parts of the industry and has no shortage of tales from every part of a golf life well lived in golf. Before

revealing his thoughts about designing golf courses and how he transitioned into that business, Weiskopf shared thoughts on the Masters, Dustin Johnson and Rory, playing with Ben Hogan and how he lost his gig broadcasting the Masters on CBS.

Golfweek: What did you make of Dustin Johnson's performance at the Masters?

Tom Weiskopf: I watched

him disseminate and take apart the great Augusta National. It's the greatest risk-reward, hole-after-hole, championship course I've ever played. The greens were soft but he was so much better, smarter, his ability shined. He had the power and control off the tee, his short game was awesome, his demeanor and intelligence and plan of playing. The guy is unbelievable. He had it going that week, no doubt about it. There are others who would challenge him if they got it going, but they didn't. They couldn't. He did.

GW: You mentioned that he played "smartly." He's often been criticized for doing just the opposite. What stood out as DJ playing strategically?

TW: I think he finally figured it out. When Amanda [Balionis of CBS] tried to interview him, he was so emotional. I think it finally came to him that all this hard work that he's put into it, all the experience by those that helped him, that have been tell-

ing him this forever, all of this became self-evident to him and he proved to himself that he finally understands how to play this game.

GW: DJ was labeled an underachiever because he only had one major until winning the Masters. What do you think a second major does for him?

TW: It's far from over for him. He's a physical specimen, too. Look at his power and the shape he's in. He's trained his body and put a lot of effort into it. I heard him say he wants to play real hard for the next 8-10 years. I think he could win a major every year until he stops playing. I don't know him at all, but he impressed the hell out of me.

GW: Is there a player today that reminds you of yourself?

TW: I didn't really have the passion or the effort that I wanted to put into it and everyone kept pushing me to put into it. Golf was more a means to an end for me. It was a way to give

my family the best possible life they could have. Hunting and fishing and the outdoors was more important to me. Getting the grand slam of sheep (a challenge that consists of hunting all four wild sheep species) was more important. That's why I gave up a Ryder Cup one year so I could get my grand slam.

I think I understand how to play the game now just being away from it and watching on TV. I challenge myself all the time: Why couldn't I have done that? Why couldn't I have worked out? Why did I drink? Well, I'm 20 years sober. It's my greatest accomplishment. Because I was a partier, a good-time guy. I had so much talent that I could turn it on at times when I wanted to, when I needed to, but it wasn't important to me. I could tell that this guy finally figured it out that it is so important for him because of all the effort and help he got. You can't stand there and not find a word. He was so emotional, wasn't he? It was

19th Hole – PAGE 10

The Lido of Thailand

The Lido Club has been gone some 80 years now, but never was it forgotten. This mythic 18 from the hand of American design pioneers Charles Blair MacDonald and Seth Raynor opened for play on Long Island, outside New York City, in 1917. It closed during World War II. In between, it was considered the equal of any course on Earth — and like James Dean, its premature demise only enhanced that reputation.

Come 2021, its spirit is reborn. In Thailand.

Architect Gil Hanse will christen the full 18 at Ballyshear Links, a remarkable hole-by-hole homage to The Lido Club, in August 2021. The new clubhouse will also make its debut this summer, completing a transformation completely unique to the Southeast Asian golf market.

Named for MacDonald’s own estate on Long Island, Ballyshear represents Hanse’s first design in Asia. It will serve as centerpiece of the Ban Rakat Club, a members club now taking shape on level ground just 35 minutes from center city Bangkok. Full membership will be limited to 400. Phase 1 of the clubhouse at Ban Rakat Club is also scheduled for completion in August 2021.

“Normally,” Hanse said, “we feel strongly that a golf course should be the product of its surrounds. But in the back of our minds, my partner Jim Wagner and I have often wondered what we would do with a completely flat site — what can you do to distinguish it? The most famous example of a manufactured golf course from The Golden Age was The Lido. Jim and I had always wanted to do a MacDonald/Raynor, angular grass-faced bunker design. We pitched the idea to the owner at Ballyshear and he loved it.”



The 14th hole at Ballyshear Links, centerpiece of the Ban Rakat Club in Bangkok, Thailand. (Courtesy of Ban Rakat Club)

Come August, Ballyshear Links will open for play on the site of the former Kiarti Thane Country Club, which partnered in 2017 with Yokohama International Golf Club Co. Ltd. — the Japan-based golf development and club operations firm — to redevelop the property in its entirety.

According to Ban Rakat Club Chairman Takeyasu Aiyama, “The goal has always been to create something entirely new in the Bangkok market and it’s our strong feeling that Ban Rakat Club and Ballyshear Links will do exactly that.”

Aiyama is also chairman at Yokohama Country Club, where Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw recently renovated the West Course. When Aiyama consulted Coore about the redevelopment of Kiarti Thane CC, the American recommended Hanse and Wagner, arguably the most sought-after architects in world golf. Their original work includes the 2016 Olympic Course in Rio de Ja-

neiro, the Black Course at Streamsong Resort in Florida, and the new Ohoopie Match Club in the sand barrens of central Georgia. The firm’s renovation portfolio features dozens of Golden Age classics, including three of four U.S. Open sites on the trot: Winged Foot (2020), The Country Club (2022) and the North Course at Los Angeles CC (2023).

“The Ban Rakat Club project will perfectly showcase Mr. Hanse’s skill and expertise, while introducing his work to an Asian audience for the first time,” Aiyama said. “What’s more, vintage design projects such as Ballyshear have never before been undertaken in Thailand. In these and other ways, Ban Rakat Club will bring something completely unique to the market.”

The so-called Golden Age of Golf Design, a period roughly bounded by the two World Wars, is revered because it demonstrably produced an outsized number of


American masterpieces, from the likes of Donald Ross, Alister Mackenzie and A.W. Tillinghast. But MacDonald and Raynor came first. Indeed, their body of work and their unique practice of templating classic, Old World golf holes — over and over again, at dozens of projects in the U.S. — proved foundational to this Golden Age.

Each hole at the original Lido Club, for example, was specifically inspired by existing holes — some famous (the Redan at North Berwick), some obscure (the Channel at Littlestone), some not European at all. Several Lido holes were inspired by those at the National Golf Links of America, a 1911 MacDonald design on the eastern end on Long Island. During its brief existence, however, The Lido Club was considered the equal of Pine Valley Golf Club, which opened in 1919 and is still considered among the world’s top courses.

The serendipities and mythos attached to The Lido are only enhanced with the passage of time. Just last spring, when the PGA Championship was held at nearby Bethpage Black, Golf Channel weighed in. Prior to the Lido’s construction, the American magazine Country Life held a design contest, whereby the winning golf hole submission would actually be built, by MacDonald and Raynor, at The Lido Club. First place went to a then-unknown Alister Mackenzie. His entry would become Lido’s 18th — reprised once more as the 18th at Ballyshear. Another entrant was Raynor himself, whose runner-up effort (called Dog’s Leg) was also realized at The Lido — and reproduced at Ballyshear’s par-4 second hole.

“I think I’ve played most all of the original templates, those that still exist,” said Hanse, adding that he’s also played and

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Play Better Golf With Jack Nicklaus



THE MORE “CENTERED” A GOLFER STAYS DURING THE SWING, THE BETTER HE OR SHE WILL USUALLY PLAY.

REASON IS CONSISTENCY OF ARC AND PLANE, AS IN THE ROTATION OF A WHEEL’S RIM AROUND ITS HUB.

2-14



YOU’LL PROMOTE “CENTEREDNESS” BY THINKING OF YOUR UPPER SPINE AS YOUR HUB, AND TRYING TO COIL AND UNCOIL AROUND IT WITHOUT MOVING SIDWAYS OR UP OR DOWN.

IMAGINING YOU’RE “SPIKED” AS YOU SEE HERE MIGHT ALSO HELP.

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IT’S OK TO KEEP YOUR RIGHT ELBOW CLOSE TO YOUR RIGHT SIDE EARLY IN THE BACKSWING, BUT LET IT MOVE AWAY NATURALLY AS THE ACTION PROGRESSES.


2-16



TUCK THE ELBOW TOO TIGHTLY FOR TOO LONG, AND YOU’LL RESTRICT ARM EXTENSION AND BODY COILING, WHICH REDUCES POWER.

YOU NEEDN’T FEAR A “FLYING ELBOW” SO LONG AS THE JOINT POINTS MORE DOWNWARD THAN REARWARD.

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HARRY VARDON PROVED THAT GREAT GOLF CAN BE PLAYED WITH A BENT LEFT ARM, BUT THE GREAT BRITISH CHAMPION MET TWO KEY CONDITIONS.

FIRST, HIS ARM WASN’T SO BENT GOING BACK THAT HIS WRISTS DIDN’T ALSO COCK.

2-18



SECOND, COMING DOWN THE LEFT ARM GRADUALLY STRAIGHTENED, ALONG WITH THE UNHINGING OF THE WRISTS, UNTIL AT IMPACT HARRY HAD FULLY RESTORED HIS SWING RADIUS.

YOU NEED TO DO THE SAME IF YOUR LEFT ARM “GIVES” GOING BACK.

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GOLFbusiness

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studied dozens of iterations realized by MacDonald and Raynor between 1915 and 1925. “MacDonald and Raynor adapted these templates over and over — and differently each time. Interpretation is part of the challenge. At Ballyshear, I think the 17th and 18th, with their shared waste bunker between them, came out extremely well. The scale of those two holes at Lido was impressive and we were able to capture that at Ballyshear. The Redan 16th also came out real well. The Punchbowl 12th is a very moderate version and works well. I’m also really excit-

ed to play the Biarritz eighth and Leven ninth. They are going to make for a really cool corner of the property.” The word “homage” may not do justice to Hanse and Wagner’s work at Ballyshear, named for MacDonald’s estate on Long Island. Each and every hole from the original Lido design has been recreated and reinterpreted at Ballyshear — almost entirely in sequence. Only the second and sixth holes were swapped in the Thai routing, due to constraints inherent to site boundaries. The original Lido Club design was entirely manmade on flat,

sandy terrain at seaside. Soil manipulation was easy and cheap. The construction effort in Bangkok proved no such thing. The terrain was appropriately flat but proved extraordinarily challenging in other ways. The high-water table in Bangkok, for example, required the construction team to drive thousands of concrete pile-ons into the mucky soil — the support the towering man-made landforms created above the surface. “The original Lido was also predicated on the ground game,” Hanse explained. “We used the new Zeon zoysia to create those

conditions in Rio. At Ballyshear, we’re using a local variety of zoysia, cultivated in Thailand, that should produce the hard and fast conditions we need.” The hard and fast conditions associated with links play, with golf on sandy ground, is vanishingly rare in Southeast Asia. Indeed, compared to North America and the U.K., there is little cachet attached to vintage design in Thailand, where courses are generally newer, the conditions more lush and garden-like. Yet the country also boasts the most sophisticated golf market/culture in the region, with some

200 courses in operation, Asia’s strongest incoming golf tourism sector and more than a million native players. “Ballyshear is going to be so different from anything that exists there today, it’s going to be fascinating to see how the course is received,” Hanse said. “The reactions could be all over the map. It could be a landmark project for the country — and it could be that people don’t get it or like it all! It could be fairly polarizing, which is fine so long as the owner is happy and the club thrives.”

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The 19th Hole... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



Dustin Johnson celebrates with the green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National GC. (Rob Schumacher-USA TODAY Sports)

rieving to me. I think he’s going to go on just like he’s gone on for — how many years has he been out there? **GW:** He’s won at least a tournament in all 14 years of his career. **TW:** That’s what I mean. That’s hard to do out there. I look at Rory McIlroy and I think golf is something just for Rory to do. I’ve said it for a while now that I don’t think he’ll win much more than the four he’s got or maybe five because I don’t see that determination and will to be the best. I think it is there in Dustin Johnson. I think he finally figured it out and this could propel him to win all four in one year. Now, it’s hard to turn the switch on. It was his week where everything worked right without exception. What did he make, four bogeys? First player ever to have less than five (at the Masters). I think Jack and Tiger had five once. I think it would behoove you to call Dustin up and ask him this one question: Every day there is one shot or hole that turns your round around. Where were they each day? I’d like to know the answer to that question. I think that would be very interesting. The birdie at 6 on Sunday was monumental. To throw that ball in as close as he did with that pin placement — those pin placements weren’t easy but it was throwing darts with the soft greens. Another thing I’d like to know: Why didn’t they turn on

the Sub-Air system? **GW:** What is it about Rory that makes you think golf is just something “to do” for him? **TW:** I don’t know what it is. Maybe the way he interviews. I don’t see any frustration. Life is good and it should be — he’s a multi, multi-millionaire and has a kid now — but I don’t see the Tiger attitude. It’s like he’s satisfied all the time. The guy is not a good putter. He can hit some putts so off line with the wrong speed. He’s technically not a good putter but one of the purest swings you’d ever want to watch play in the game. Technically, he’s superior to Dustin Johnson, but Dustin has the confidence to do it every time. I know Rory works out but I bet if you watched them both work out, Rory would be a lot of laughs and giggles and Dustin would be balls to the wall and forcing a little bit more on himself and that’s what he’s done. The way that he’s played this year, who the hell can beat this guy? **GW:** Can you imagine shooting 20 under at Augusta National? **TW:** You could never do that in my day. When you’re hitting wedges into the ninth green the way DJ did instead of 6-iron 40-50 yards back off the side slope, you know what I mean, it’s a huge advantage. If ever there was a year for Augusta to demand that ‘This is our ball next year and everyone is playing it’ and change the game, this is when it should be. It will

always be the longest hitters that have the biggest advantage at Augusta if they hit it straight and he did. It’s that simple. But the ball goes too far. You have to make these courses 7,500-7,700 yards long to challenge these guys, There are so many great courses that they could play if the ball went as far as it did when I played. **GW:** How much do you play these days? **TW:** Hardly at all. I’ve got a few buddies that we play just to have some fun. I’ve had a bad back. I had an MRI. My L-4 and L-5 disks give me problems. I still love watching the game. The U.S. Open was fantastic. Winged Foot is a helluva course. Bryson put his game on the line. It’s not a swing I like. It’s very mechanical. I haven’t met him but I like the guy. I think he’s great for the game. But you can’t swing that hard and control the ball. He’ll have his week when he’s on like he did at Detroit, but we all have that week. The game is a helluva game and there’s a lot of ways to play it. Of all the players I played with it, by far, the greatest striker of the ball was Ben Hogan. Unbelievable. **GW:** What was that like, playing with Hogan? **TW:** I played with him six times. I played with him at Champions Golf Club once. I was paired with him once at Colonial and played with him based on score on Saturday and Sunday. I played with him three times in a practice round, once in Boston, once at Colonial with Tommy Bolt and I think the other was in Chicago. Every shot, every club, shot after shot was perfection. Sam Snead was a close second. Nicklaus and Trevino were third. Tiger would have to be in there. I played a practice round with Tiger in 2004 at Troon. You could see that he was so much better than anyone playing the game at the time. He was impressive. But I mean Hogan... have you ever heard the story of Hogan during the last round of the ’53 Masters? He hit it around the corner at 13 and lays up, which was an odd thing. Then he

pitched on and made birdie. At 15 he knocks 3-wood over the water and on to the green. Dan Jenkins brings that up to him. He says, ‘I’m confused. You laid up at 13, but go with the 3-wood at 15. Explain your thinking at 13,’ and Hogan says, ‘I didn’t need 3 at the time.’ That’s the intelligence that comes into it at Augusta. I saw that in Dustin Johnson. It was so smart how he continued to play hole after hole. There’s so much risk-reward. It’s an intriguing golf course and you’re challenged all the time by previous experiences and memories of people having disasters at certain times. This guy was so on it. He’s going to be a force for a while. I think he understands now how to play his game. **GW:** Listening to you break down the Masters and Augusta National, I wish you were still part of the broadcast team. Why did you stop doing the Masters TV broadcast? **TW:** We always had a party on Saturday night that [CBS executive producer] Frank Chirkinian threw for everybody. That was about the third year I worked with Brent Musburger down in the Butler Cabin. He’d call Ben Crenshaw Bob Crenshaw. He didn’t know the difference between a chip or a pitch. I was there to babysit him. He would ask me something during the commercial break and then come right back on the air and use it so he sounded like the expert. He didn’t care about golf and he was a difficult

guy to work with. At the dinner that night, the president of CBS came up to me and said, ‘I bet you had a great time working with Brent this week?’ I had been drinking and I said, ‘he’s a f—ing a—hole.’ I said, ‘All he does is steal everyone’s information and he never thanks anyone at the end of the day for all the things he does for them’ and I said, ‘He’s just a self-centered son of a bitch.’ That was it. I was too outspoken. **GW:** How did drinking affect your career? **TW:** It did in a big way. I knew I had a problem. If you think you have a problem, you do. My dad was an alcoholic. I didn’t miss any starting times, but I played hungover quite a few times and didn’t play worth a damn. I said some terrible things to people. Alcohol affects you in such a negative way. I didn’t do drugs. I never fell in that trap. Everyone drank out there. Some people could control it better. Jack hardly drank at all. I closed a lot of bars down with Arnold Palmer and Dan Jenkins. Do you call it a lifestyle? I don’t know. Was it dealing with the pressure? It affected me in so many ways. It cost me a marriage. Thirty-two years I was married to Jean. She got tired of it. You’re angry when you drink. You’re looking for an argument. I’m not going to incriminate anybody but all the guys I hung with drank, you know what I mean. It was just part of the Tour.

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Rory McIlroy looks over his putt on the tenth green during the final round of The Masters golf tournament at Augusta National GC. (Rob Schumacher/USA TODAY Sports)