

## Sorenstam Elected President of International Golf Federation



Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, waves to spectators after teeing off on the first hole during the first round of the Father Son Challenge golf tournament Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, in Orlando, Fla. (AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack)

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Annika Sorenstam was elected president of the International Golf Federation on Thursday, replacing the outgoing Peter Dawson. Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA Tour and former

No. 1, will take up the position on Jan. 1. The Swede was elected during the IGF's virtual board meeting and her first major task will be to help oversee the federation's strategic planning for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

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## Top 10: International & European Players for 2021



Two-time FedExCup champion Rory McIlroy is one to watch in 2021. (Harry How/Getty Images)

**BY BEN EVERILL**  
One of the many things affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was scheduling for the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup. Both competitions were pushed back a year, moving the Ryder Cup to odd years and the Presidents Cup to even years. Whistling Straits in Wisconsin will host the Ryder Cup next year and the Presidents Cup will be played

at Charlotte's Quail Hollow in 2022. So, as we head to the new year, we've decided to highlight some of those players the U.S. teams may come up against in the coming seasons. We have split this top-10 list into the top five Europeans and top five Internationals. This is a subjective list; there is

**Top 10** — PAGE 6

## Kim Storms Back to Win U.S. Women's Open

(Reuters) — South Korean Kim A Lim birdied her final three holes to come from behind and win the U.S. Women's Open by one stroke and claim her first major title in Houston on Monday. Kim started the final round five strokes back and was trailing leader Amy Olson by two shots through 15 holes when she caught fire on a cold morning to finish the final round with a 67. Kim tied the record for the biggest comeback in the tournament. The final round of the event, which was rescheduled from June to December due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was delayed by a day due to bad weather. "I'm really glad," said the 25-year-old Kim, who was making her tournament debut. "Through COVID-19 we had a lot of difficulties, but I'm glad we had the U.S. Women's Open



in Houston. It was a great win." Kim said she was aware she was trailing heading into the final three holes and said she knew she would have to step up her game to earn the trophy and the \$1 million in prize money. "I'd been eyeing the leaderboard throughout the round and I knew how many shots I was

back," she said. "That's probably the reason why I tried to hit more aggressive, tried to more attack the pins." The outcome was a heartbreaking for Olson, who was mourning the passing of her father-in-law, who died unexpectedly. **Storms Back** — PAGE 5

## Biggest Wins, Losses and Longshots From 2020


**BY WILL GRAY**  
A year unlike any other is officially in the books for the PGA Tour. With Viktor Hovland's win at the Mayakoba Golf Classic, the Tour closed out the 2020 portion of its 2020-21 wrap-around season. The next official event won't be until the Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua in three weeks. The Tour took a three-month hiatus in the spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic, returning in early June. But 11 tournaments were canceled as a result and several others adjusted dates accordingly. It meant that the typical weekly cadence of the Tour's calendar was interrupted, but there were still plenty of opportunities to cash tickets — including a few at eye-popping prices. From the longest longshots to the biggest bets (and one that notably went awry), here's a look



back at some of the notable golf action received this year by our friends at PointsBet Sportsbook: **Biggest Longshots** Sometimes the chalk prevails in golf — look no further than the torrid season put forth by world No. 1 and reigning Masters champ Dustin Johnson. But there were also a few unexpected winners this year where

prescient bettors were able to capitalize: **Jim Herman, Wyndham Championship (+50000):** Herman was the biggest shocker on Tour this year, coming from out of nowhere to win for the third time in his career. The 43-year-old won last year at the Barbasol but had been quiet in 2020, missing eight of 11 cuts **Longshots** — PAGE 3






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# Mulligans

News, Notes, Quotes & Anecdotes from the Local Golfing Community

## RDGA Announces 2020 Players of the Year in Six Categories

On Tuesday, the Rochester District Golf Association announced its annual list of Player of the Year honorees, recognizing the top amateur players in the District in six categories from the 2020 season. Honorees were named in the following categories: Men’s, Women’s, Men’s Senior, Boy’s Junior, Girl’s Junior — and the newly-created Women’s Senior.

Typically, RDGA Player of the Year honors are determined by a point system, based on a player’s order of finish in several top local, regional, state and national tournaments. However, due to the unique nature of the 2020 golf season in which many state and national events were cancelled due to concerns regarding COVID-19, this year’s RDGA Player of the Year awards were determined by a vote taken among a select panel of local golf community insiders.

Following an active discussion regarding the merits of RDGA Player of the Year contenders — as well as a number of votes and

re-votes, with two award categories deadlocked in ties at one point — the following players are the RDGA award winners for the 2020 tournament season.

### RDGA Men’s Player of the Year: Tom Linehan

Linehan won the 54-hole RDGA District Championship John H. Ryan Jr. Memorial at Brook-Lea Country Club in July, then two weeks later returned to Brook-Lea (which happens to be his home club) to win the 36-hole Brook-Lea Amateur, one of the area’s top men’s amateur championships. Finishing in a close second place in the voting was Yarik Merkulov, who won the RDGA’s Men’s Match Play Championship, and played in the U.S. Amateur Championship.

### Women’s Player of the Year: Julia Zigrossi

Zigrossi, a 15-year-old Ridgemont Country Club member from Spencerport, won virtually all local junior girls championships in 2020, including the RDGA Girls Junior Championship, the Monroe County Girls High School Tournament of Champions and the Section V Girls High School title — but one of her most impressive accomplishments was winning the RDGA Women’s Championship at Brook-Lea against many of the area’s top women’s amateurs.

### Men’s Senior Player of the Year: Jim Scorse

Scorse, winner of multiple RDGA titles through the years, including five RDGA District Championships, captured a title he has never won before in 2020 — the RDGA Wilson Fitch Men’s Senior Championship — in his first year of eligibility at age 55. The Stafford Country Club member won the RDGA Senior crown on his home course — then later in the season, finished in a tie for 8th in the RDGA Mid Amateur.

### Women’s Senior Player of the Year: Tammy Blyth

In the newest RDGA Player of the Year category, created this year, Blyth — the 2019 RDGA Women’s Player of the Year — earned recognition for her victories in the WRDGA District Championship at Sodus Bay Heights, as well as teaming up with Kitty Colliflower to win the women’s Gross Score title in the RDGA Richard Wood Senior Best Ball. Finishing in second was Cindy Glitzer, winner of the

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**Tom Linehan, Men’s Player of the Year.** (Rochester District Golf Association)



**Julia Zigrossi, Women’s Player of the Year AND Girls Junior Player of the Year.** (Rochester District Golf Association)



**Jim Scorse, Men’s Senior Player of the Year.** (Rochester District Golf Association)



**Tammy Blyth, Women’s Senior Player of the Year.** (Rochester District Golf Association)



**John Mittiga, Boys Junior Player of the Year.** (Rochester District Golf Association)



# Longshots



Jason Kokrak, of the United States, putts on the fifth green during the second round of the US Open Golf Championship, Friday, Sept. 18 in Mamaroneck, N.Y. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

(Continued from Page 1)  
since January, and was an after-thought after making the cut on the number in Greensboro. But Herman went lights-out over the weekend, shooting 61-63 to race past the field (and one particular opponent as outlined below) for a one-shot victory at sky-high odds. Unfortunately, this one deserves an asterisk: while PointsBet offered Herman at +50000 pre-tournament, they didn't attract a single wager at that price.

**Martin Laird, Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (+27500):** Laird had only one top-10 finish in the last 14 months when he showed up to TPC Summerlin in October to little fanfare. The Scot closed pre-tournament at +9000 but his odds drifted as high as +27500 during the opening round, after a bogey on No. 7 dropped him to 1 under for the week. It was then that PointsBet received a relatively small wager on Laird — \$6, to be exact. But when Laird went on to defeat Matthew Wolff and Austin Cook in a playoff for his first Tour win since 2013, that meager live bet turned into a \$1,650 winner.

**Webb Simpson, Waste Management Phoenix Open (+8000):** Given how well he played this year, it's hard to believe that Simpson teed off any event at +8000. But those were his final pre-tournament odds at TPC Scottsdale back in February despite narrowly missing out on a playoff at the Sony Open in his most recent start. Simpson didn't miss in the desert, rolling in birdies on each of his last two holes to force a playoff with Tony Finau before winning with another birdie on the first extra hole. He went on to add another trophy a few months later at the RBC Heritage, where his pre-tournament odds were considerably lower.

**Robert Streb, RSM Classic (+8000):** One of the year's final winners was also one of the biggest longshots. Streb was ranked No. 380 in the world last month when he returned to Sea Island,

where he won his first and only Tour event back in 2014. Despite 12 missed cuts against just one top-10 finish this year, Streb raced out to a lead thanks to opening rounds of 65-63 and ultimately topped another former RSM champ, Kevin Kisner, in a two-hole playoff.

### Biggest Wins

Sometimes you don't need long odds to turn a hefty profit. Here's a look at two of the biggest golf payouts made by PointsBet this year:

**Sergio Garcia, Sanderson Farms Championship:** Garcia was listed at +6000 to win his debut appearance in Mississippi, where he was looking to rebound from a missed cut at the U.S. Open in his prior start. The Spaniard shot four rounds of 68 or better to hold off Peter Malnati by a shot, and that victory delivered a \$15,000 payday for one better who put \$250 on Garcia to win before the tournament began.

**Jason Kokrak, U.S. Open:** One of the biggest payouts of the year came on a player who didn't win the event in question. Kokrak was coming off a T-6 finish in difficult conditions at the BMW Championship but still in search of his maiden Tour win when one better put \$5,000 on him for a top-20 finish at Winged Foot at +500 odds. Kokrak delivered, rebounding from a third-round 77 with a closing 72 that earned him a T-17 finish and gave the better a \$19,000 profit after dead-heat rules were applied. Kokrak went on to get his first Tour victory a few weeks later at the CJ Cup.

### Biggest Loss

The biggest golf bet of the year that didn't cash came from a relatively unexpected place... but it also wasn't as bad as it could have been.

The event was the Wyndham Championship, a relatively quiet close to the Tour's regular season in August. It featured a weekend shootout that ultimate-

ly boiled down to a shootout between Billy Horschel and Jim Herman. Horschel started the day three shots off the lead but raced into contention by playing his first six holes in 4 under. At that point he was a -150 favorite to win via live betting, and one better backed him to the tune of \$85,000. A Horschel win would have netted a profit of \$56,667.

Horschel seemed in good position until a bogey on No. 16 opened the door for Herman, who birdied No. 17 while playing ahead of Horschel to quickly turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot lead. Needing a birdie on 18 to force a playoff, Horschel hit his final approach to 9 feet but missed the putt. Herman left with his third career win in surprising fashion, and the better in question was left with some expensive confetti.

But the result didn't go down as an \$85,000 loss. Three minutes after placing the live wager on Horschel, the same better put \$10,000 on Herman at +650 odds. That turned into a \$65,000 win, meaning the net loss on the overall live exchange was "only" \$20,000. 📉

© Rotoworld

# Tommy Fleetwood Pens New Golf Equipment Deal With TaylorMade



BY ANDY ROBERTS

Tommy Fleetwood has agreed a new equipment deal with TaylorMade, according to the brand's social media channels on Monday night.

Fleetwood, who has been a free agent in the golf equipment world ever since Nike Golf came out of the hardware market in 2016, appeared in TaylorMade's latest social media post to

confirm the new deal.

While no details have yet been released about the length of the deal or the exact clubs going into his bag, Fleetwood will definitely be joining a TaylorMade roster that includes the likes of Masters champion Dustin Johnson, four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and arguably the greatest player of all time in Tiger Woods. 📈

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# GOLFbusiness

## Christmas Golf Gift Guide: Best Stocking Fillers 2020

**BY ANDY ROBERTS**  
Christmas is just weeks away so what better time to start filling that Christmas Stocking for the golfer in your life. We have hand-picked our favorite golf products that will fit into a stocking perfectly, and found some cracking deals in the process:

**Adidas Statement Knit Fold Up Beanie 2020**  
One of our favourite golf beanies on the market today. Comfortable, snug, incredibly warm and as stylish as they come with a Christmas bobble on top for



Adidas Statement Knit Fold Up Beanie 2020

good measure. It comes in a variety of different colours. It's got an Adidas Golf patch on the front and has a nice fold up brim to ensure a superb fit. A bargain for less than £20.

**TaylorMade TP5x Golf Balls 2020**  
One of our favorite golf balls of the season, and Amazon is offering £10 off a dozen box which looks like the deal of the year! It's the golf ball of choice by World No.1 and new Masters champion Dustin Johnson, too. It's one of the longest balls we've ever tested, spins how



TaylorMade TP5x Golf Balls 2020


you would expect with the short irons and wedges, and holds its line superbly out in the wind. Just an all-round superb golf ball, and for less than £40 a dozen you have an incredible deal on your hands here. You will make one golfer very happy indeed.

**Callaway ERC Soft Triple Track Golf Balls 2020**  
Callaway's longest golf ball on the market. The Triple Track lines aid superb alignment on the greens, too. They've got an incredibly soft feel around the greens. At a little more than £30 for a



Callaway ERC Soft Triple Track Golf Balls 2020

dozen, these balls are some of the best value premium balls out there right now. Well worth a look.

**TaylorMade Stratus Golf Gloves**  
An impressive all-round golf glove. At less than £20 for two, you've got a cracking deal on your hands here. The gloves feature a synthetic and leather combination, they're durable no matter the conditions out there, and they are sweat and humidity resistant. They also have enhanced breathability. One of the most comfortable premium gloves we've ever worn, too. 



TaylorMade Stratus Golf Gloves

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## GOLFopinion & comment

### LPGA70 Holes-in-One

**BY AMY MILLS**  
There's no shot in golf more special or more relatable than the ace. It starts with a skillful swing from the tee, and no matter how the ball's struck, it finds the bottom of the cup so that the play may attest to a "1" on the card. It is a rare feat but one every player from the average weekend amateur to the No.1 player in the world knows is out there, one great shot or good hop away.

The LPGA Tour has tracked holes-in-one by players in competition over the past three decades. Within the last decade, Acer's partnership and support of the LPGA has further elevated these cherished moments for players and fans with Acer's #AcedIt campaign.

As we celebrate the LPGA Tour's 70th anniversary throughout 2020, here is a look at some of the more fascinating statistics surrounding holes-in-one on Tour.

For starters, an astonishing 620 holes-in-one have been recorded by LPGA Tour players in official events since 1992, the first year that complete data was compiled. Ten players have recorded at least five holes-in-one in official LPGA Tour events in that time, with Meg Mallon leading the way with eight aces in a span of nine seasons. Vicki Fergon, who played the LPGA Tour full time from 1977 through 2003 had 7 holes-in-one in an 11-year



stretch from 1992. European Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew has made 6 holes-in-one along with Karrie Webb and Charlotta Sorenstam, while a couple of the Tour's active and popular players, Brittany Lincicome and Morgan Pressel, have both recorded five aces since they joined the tour in the mid-2000s.

**Most Holes-in-One LPGA Tour Since 1992**

Meg Mallon - 8  
Vicki Fergon - 7  
Leta Lindley - 6  
Catriona Matthew - 6  
Charlotta Sorenstam - 6  
Karrie Webb - 6  
Helen Alfredsson - 5  
Jackie Gallagher-Smith - 5  
Brittany Lincicome - 5  
Morgan Pressel - 5

Five courses have seen at least 15 holes-in-one recorded. High-

land Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio, host site of the Marathon Classic, leads the way with 23 holes-in-one in competition.

**Most Holes-in-One - Single Course LPGA Tour Since 1992**

- Highland Meadows Golf Club, Sylvania, Ohio, Marathon Classic - 23
- Corning Country Club, Corning, New York, Corning Classic - 19
- Columbia Edgewater Country Club, Portland, Oregon, Cambia Portland Classic - 15
- Dinah Shore Tournament Course, Mission Hills Country Club, Rancho Mirage, Calif., ANA Inspiration - 15
- Tres Marias Residential Golf Club, Michoacan, Mexico, Tres Marias Championship - 15

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# Florida’s Zack Shriver Wins Playoff To Claim Event No. 4 In PGA Tournament Series



Zack Shriver of Jupiter birdied the second playoff hole Friday to beat Dylan Newman and win Event No. 4 of the PGA Tournament Series at PGA Golf Club.

Shriver, who played on PGA Tour Canada, said the victory reminded him of younger days.

“I told my dad, it’s nice to get a trophy for winning a tournament. I don’t get many of those anymore,” said Shriver, a PGA Professional at North Palm Beach Country Club. “Most of the times when I win, I just get a check (he earned \$5,000). It’s probably my biggest win.”

Newman forced the playoff with a birdie on the final hole of regulation. Newman (68) was trying to win consecutive PGA Tournament Series events for the second time in the last 13 months.

Shriver and Newman parred the first playoff hole, the 18th, before Shriver won with a birdie on the par-4 first hole. Shriver shot 5-under-66 for a 9-under 133 on the Ryder Course.


Zac Oakley of Lewes, Del., birdied the last two holes to shoot 69 and tie for third place with Tim Puetz (67) of Stamford, Ct., and Jake Scott (68) of Strongsville, Ohio.

Newman, who won Event No. 3 and had three victories in his last nine starts, fired a 6-under 65 Thursday to share the lead with Oakley. Newman remained hot with two early birdies Friday, but a double-bogey on the par-3 seventh hole cost him the lead.

Shriver started Tuesday with a bogey, then made seven birdies on his next 13 holes to move into the lead at 10-under. He was caught by Puetz, who played his first 13 holes in six-under.

Shriver took the lead when Puetz bogeyed the 14th and 15th and Shriver won despite a bogey on the par-5 17th.

“I probably pushed it too hard at the end because I thought I needed to make more birdies,” Shriver said. “It always feels great to win.”

Joe Summerhays (67) of Syracuse, Utah was sixth and four players tied for seventh place at 6-under 136: Joe Lussier (65) of Reston, Va., Kyle Ramey (67) of Hattiesburg, Miss., Casey Pyne (68) of Bloomington, Ill., and Rob Labritz (69) of Pound Ridge, N.Y. The PGA Tournament Series is presented by GolfAdvisor.com. 

© PGA.com

# How To Cure The Shanks



(J.D. Cuban)


**BY KEELY LEVINS**

We know, we know. You don’t even want to talk about the shanks for fear bringing the subject up will cause you to catch them. But like it or not, you might find yourself in a situation where you’re going to want to know a solution. Though awful, the plague of the shanks is curable.

First thing you have to do is take a break from the course. You need some alone time to sort this out on the range. Start by checking in on a few basics. Make sure you’re standing tall with your chest up during the swing, don’t hold the club too tightly, and make sure your weight isn’t sneaking up toward your toes. David Leadbetter told us that not tending to all of these little things could be the root of your struggles.

He also gave us a drill that will cure your shanking woes.

Set up like you’re going to hit it, and then put a tee in the ground just outside the

toe of the club. While you’re swinging, think about keeping the grip end of the club near your body. “Miss the tee at impact, and you’ll hit the ball in the center of the face,” says Leadbetter. 

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# Sorenstam

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The 50-year-old Sorenstam was a leading ambassador for golf’s bid to become an Olympic sport at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

“As an international player, having golf back in the Olympics means so much to me and to our sport,” Sorenstam said. “I very

much look forward to working with the board, the IOC and the governing bodies of golf in their efforts to continue to grow the game globally.”

Dawson led the IGF for the last 10 years but decided not to seek reelection.

“Our Olympic status has been a strong catalyst for increasing

cooperation and coordination between the major organizations in golf and has significantly strengthened the bonds between the IGF and our National Federations,” Dawson said. “My thanks go to so many people in golf and in the Olympic family for their support over the past 10 years.” 

# Storms Back

(Continued from Page 1)

pectedly on Saturday.

“Coming out this morning I had no idea what to expect,” said Olson, who finished her round of 72 with a birdie.

“It was just one of those things I felt very weak and helpless the last couple days, and probably the same went today on the golf course.

“I really believe the Lord just carried me through. It just makes

you realise how much bigger life is than golf. But I’m pleased with my finish overall.”

It was the third top 10 finish at a major for Olson, who is still searching for her first win on the LPGA Tour.

World number one Ko Jin-young of South Korea birdied two of her final three holes to finish tied for second alongside Olson.

“I had a great round today,” she said.

“I had a couple missed putts, but I finished good.”

South Korea is a major force at the tournament, having produced 10 of the last 16 winners.

Japan’s Hinako Shibuno and American Megan Khang rounded up the top five at the Champions Golf Club, which had no spectators due to the pandemic. 

(Reporting by Rory Carroll in Los Angeles, editing by Pritha Sarkar)

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# Top 10

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no science. Most of these players, though, have shown signs of having a big year ahead.

Here are the 10:

## Internationals

### 5. Joaquin Niemann

The 22-year-old strikes us as someone who is only going to improve as his experience bank gets filled. With a PGA TOUR win already in his kitbag, Chile's golf sensation is one to watch in 2021. His Presidents Cup debut in Melbourne might have only yielded a half point but it set him on a path towards excellence. Seeing how his elders prepared and realizing he belongs in the upper echelon of this game has him in great shape.

Niemann was the first winner of the 2019-20 season at The Greenbrier and would ultimately finish 27th in the FedExCup. An improvement on this would not be a surprise in 2020-21.

In the fall portion of this season we saw Niemann quietly move to 35th in the FedExCup with five of his six starts resulting in top 25s, highlighted by a sixth-place finish at THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK. Had it not been for an unfortunate positive test for COVID-19 prior to the Masters, he could have easily been higher.

We also saw evidence of his maturity as he used his last two events of the year to raise money for his infant cousin's million-dollar medical treatment. It was a classy move and helped bring awareness to the cause.

### 4. Hideki Matsuyama

Incredible to think Matsuyama is still just 28. It feels like he's been on the PGA TOUR for a long time now. It feels like that because he has. He made five appearances on TOUR as a young amateur between 2011-13 before turning professional and becoming a mainstay from the 2013-14 season onwards.

Matsuyama is a five-time TOUR winner who has never finished worse than 28th in the FedExCup — and that was his first full season. Since then, he's always found a spot between eighth and 16th on the list. After the fall portion of this season Matsuyama is 23rd on the list with his runner up at the Vivint Houston Open the highlight.

Now astute fans would be well aware Matsuyama has been a model of consistency but also has not won since his three-win 2016-17 season. We've passed the three-year barrier in this

drought but have an expectation it will come to an end in 2021.

Due to a COVID-19 adjustment Matsuyama is eligible for a start in the upcoming Sentry Tournament of Champions in Maui afforded to all TOUR Championship qualifiers from last season. In his three previous starts there he was T4-T3. Also early in 2021 he is likely to play the Waste Management Phoenix Open where after his T4 on debut in 2014 has gone T2-1-1-WD-T15-T16.

### 3. Abraham Ancer

It's time. Beyond time perhaps. But 2021 will see Ancer take the next step in his progression and become a PGA TOUR winner. While short in stature Ancer is enormous in heart, fight and talent and quite frankly is too good a player not to have tasted winning success on this TOUR.

The 29-year-old Mexican has been knocking hard on the door in recent years with a runner up finish in 2019 and two of them last season as he finished a career best 18th in the FedExCup.

He will start the 2021 portion of the season in 31st on the FedExCup list after a decent fall that included a fourth-place finish at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a T13 (Masters) and T12 (Mayakoba Golf Classic Presented by UNIFIN) in his last two starts.

At Augusta National, Ancer forged his way into the final group for Sunday with tenacious play and while a short missed putt on the par-5 second hole on Sunday seemed to rattle him, the experience gained from that day is another in the bank that gets him closer to the elusive win.

The key for Ancer will be lifting his Strokes Gained: Around-the-Green and SG: Putting levels. Last season, he upped his putting to 41st on TOUR after a few years in triple digits. Early this season its slipped back to 107th. Around the green has been in triple digits the last three seasons but currently in 2020-21 sits at 77th.

### 2. Sungjae Im

What might have been. After winning Rookie of the Year in 2019, Im continued to impress in the beginning of 2019-20 season with a runner-up and third-place result last fall. He was a machine at the Presidents Cup and leveraged the experience gained into a career first TOUR win at the Honda Classic.

A week later, the South Korean was third at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and was leading the FedExCup as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and shut down part of the season.

The momentum was lost — not all that surprising given Im likes to play most weeks and had not dealt with a significant break in his short career. With cautious optimism that any such long breaks won't be part of 2021 — we feel Im will once again get into his groove.

In his 12 starts after the break, Im had just two top 10s, ultimately finishing 11th in the FedExCup. This new season had been relatively pedestrian early until a runner up finish at the Masters in November, which saw him apply some brief Sunday pressure to Dustin Johnson.

It is that effort that sparks the positivity behind his climb. It would not be a surprise to see him head to the PLAYERS Championship once again near the lead of the FedExCup standings.

### 1. Cameron Smith

Imagine being the first player in Masters history to shoot four rounds in the 60s and still not win the tournament. That is exactly what happened to Cameron Smith this past November. The 28-year-old Australian has long threatened to show his best stuff on the biggest stages and his short game at Augusta National was world class.

It came after a T11 at THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK and a T4 at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP to help him finish the early section of the season in 15th on the FedExCup. But he's been in a similar situation before. Now we expect Smith to deliver on his promise on a more consistent basis.

The fall and early part of a calendar year has always been the honeypot part of Smith's efforts with around 40percent of his PGA TOUR top 10s coming in the months of October and November.

Last season he kicked on after an inspired comeback win in Presidents Cup singles over Justin Thomas to get his second TOUR win, and first individual TOUR title, at the Sony Open of Hawaii in early January. After that, he let things slide and failed to record another top 10 before being T24 in the TOUR Championship.

In 2021 things should be different. With a taste of what he's

truly capable of Smith should maintain the highest levels of motivation for longer periods and produce a career year.

## Europeans

### 5. Tommy Fleetwood

The fact that 2020 was not at Tommy Fleetwood's usual high standards yet he still had every opportunity to win the European Tour's Race to Dubai speaks volumes of the Englishman's talent.

A five-time European Tour winner Fleetwood is still searching for a maiden PGA TOUR win, something we don't expect to elude him much longer. The carrot of the Ryder Cup will also help spark his 2021 efforts — who could forget his combination with Francesco Molinari in Paris.

With global travel in upheaval at times it makes sense last season was tougher on Fleetwood and others from outside the U.S. If things settle down sooner rather than later, so will normal service for Fleetwood.

### 4. Tyrrell Hatton

He's nothing if not entertaining. This fiery Englishman is as outwardly emotional as they come, constantly self-deprecating despite having immense talent that finds him in contention often. Whether it rubs you the right or wrong way, the reality is it shows just how passionate the 29-year-old is.

Hatton has five European Tour wins and was the champion at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard right before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold last season. He came out of the break with back-to-back top five's and ultimately was seventh in the FedExCup.

While he missed the cut at both the U.S. Open and the Masters in the fall portion of this new season, Hatton also added a couple of top-10s in Las Vegas and Houston. As always, be prepared to ride the rollercoaster with this guy, but we think there will be more highs than lows.

### 3. Viktor Hovland

What a pickup for the future of European golf this guy looks set to be. Even before claiming his second PGA TOUR title recently at the Mayakoba Golf Classic Presented by UNIFIN we had Hovland slated for this list. Now he's just climbed higher up it.

The 23-year-old from Norway moved up to No. 15 in the world after his win in Mexico and joined legends Rory McIlroy, Seve Ballesteros, Sergio Garcia and Jon Rahm as the only Europeans in the last 75 years to win multiple PGA TOUR titles before turning 24.

Hovland also joined the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Jerry Pate and Lanny Wadkins as the only players in the last 75 years to win the U.S. Amateur and multiple PGA TOUR titles before turning

24. Everyone else on that list won at least one major and a PLAYERS Championship.

With silky ball-striking skills many players would die for Hovland can contend most weeks. If he continues to improve his short game and putting he could become the type of player we see win often.

### 2. Jon Rahm

As we head towards 2021, Rahm is the leading European in the world rankings, slotting in behind only American Dustin Johnson. And he's coming off a 2020 season featuring two PGA TOUR wins, taking his TOUR tally to five. So having him here at No.2 is not a reflection on his ability in any sense, nor is it to say we don't expect him to improve even further in 2021.

In fact, Rahm could quite easily win multiple times in the new year, and with the U.S. Open set for Torrey Pines, where he's had success in the past, and another tilt at the Masters, where he's had three straight top 10s, coming in April, it could be an incredible 2021 for the 26-year-old Spaniard.

The drive behind Rahm is ever present and he will never lack for motivation. Passion is a weapon he has learned to harness and use to his advantage. If he ended the season as FedExCup champion you'd be lucky to find anyone surprised.

### 1. Rory McIlroy

Call it a hunch if you like but Rory McIlroy is set to produce a vintage display in 2021.

The two-time FedExCup champion failed to win anywhere in the world in 2020, (his World Golf Championships — HSBC Champions win was in 2019 as part of the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season) and it is a drought we don't expect to last.

It is easy to forget he began last season on the PGA TOUR with the following results leading into the cancelled PLAYERS Championship — T3-1-T3-T5-5-T5. And just as easy to not lay enough importance on the fact his form after the COVID-19 break coincided with the latter stages of his wife's pregnancy for their first born child.

With the PGA Championship returning to Kiawah Island, where McIlroy won by eight shots in 2012, it seems the perfect timing for him to break his major winning drought of over seven years also. He could take care of that at the Masters in April now having recorded top 10s at Augusta National in six of his last seven starts there. And he will be the defending champion at THE PLAYERS in March after last year's edition was cancelled.

With the experience and perspective of a new father relieving some external and internal stress the Northern Irishman is primed. 🍀

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# Cost-Effective Ways to Reduce Heating Bills



Many homeowners think big when trying to find effective solutions to sky-rocketing heating bills, like replacing the furnace or installing new windows, but there are plenty of smaller projects that can make a difference when it comes to your energy savings this winter.

Consider these tips to keep your home cozy without your energy bill putting a damper on the season:

### Install a Programmable Thermostat

A degree or two may not feel like much of a difference, but it's a change you'll definitely see on your energy bill. Just a small adjustment in your standard thermostat setting can result in reductions of 5 or even 10 percent of your overall bill. Another potential big-impact strategy: adjust temperatures when you're away from home. A programmable thermostat will let you turn temps down when no one is there to benefit from the warmth, then bring them back up shortly before you're scheduled to return home. When you're away unexpectedly or need to adjust your typical schedule, an option like the kumo cloud(r) mobile app offered by Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating allows control of your home's cooling and heating system from your smartphone or other connected device.

### Insulate the Attic

A poorly sealed or insulated attic can be among a home's largest energy drains. Warm air naturally rises, but rather than recirculating throughout the home, it may be wasted if it's just escaping out of the attic. Sealing cracks and adding

insulation can help reduce this loss. Don't overlook the access door, which can allow warm air to escape if it fits poorly or isn't well sealed.

### Install or Upgrade Your Heat Pump

Heat pumps work differently than traditional cooling and heating systems. They recycle heat found in the air and ground, moving thermal energy between indoors and outdoors instead of generating it from scratch by burning fossil fuels. When properly installed, an air-source heat pump can deliver one-and-one-half to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. They can save electricity costs by 30-40 percent.

In particularly cold climates, technology is making it possible to reap energy-saving benefits. An option such as the Hyper-Heating Inverter(r) from Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating offers a significant advancement in heat pumps. This technology uses an intelligent compressor system to deliver heat even when outdoor temperatures are as low as -13° F, and a quick-start feature provides warm air instantly.

### Take Advantage of Solar Heat

Installing solar panels is one sure way to capture the sun's energy, but there are other ways to harness that heat. Unobscured windows and skylights can let the rays in, and with them comes some heat. Leave curtains open during the day and trim foliage outdoors to provide a clear path for sunlight. Just be sure windows are well-sealed so you're not offsetting any heat gain with a cool draft.

### Move Furniture Away From Vents

Free airflow is an important component of efficient heating and obstructed vents interrupt that process. Not only can furniture be damaged from the continual airflow of a vent, it can block the circulation patterns that were intended when your home's ductwork was installed. For optimum efficiency, avoid placing furniture on top of vents, and if it's impossible to avoid, close those vents so the airflow is directed elsewhere.

### Reverse Your Ceiling Fans

Your ceiling fans can play an important role in air circulation. Leaving them off will obviously make rooms warmer, but some circulation can be a good thing. Most fans offer a switch that lets you reverse the fan direction, which pushes air upward instead of down. This makes for less of a cooling effect while still moving air for better temperature distribution.

### Adjust Your Hot Water Heater

Not only can keeping the air comfortable add up, so can heating water for basic household functions. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that water heating is the second largest energy expense in most homes. However, you may have your heater set higher than necessary. For every 10-degree drop, you can expect to reduce energy costs by 3-5 percent.

Find more options for managing your energy expenses this winter at [mitsubishicomfort.com](http://mitsubishicomfort.com).

 -Family Features/Mitsubishi



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# Smart Technology Upgrades To Make the Bathroom the Brainiest Room in the House

Smart technology has found a place in virtually every room in the home, even the one where we take care of our most low-tech needs. In fact, thanks to innovations like sensor-operated, self-cleaning toilets, moisture-sensing ventilation fans and digital shower controls, it's possible to turn an ordinary bathroom into the brainiest room in the house.

If you're ready to upgrade your bathroom with the latest smart technology, here are five elements to put at the top of your must-have list:



### Smarter Shower

From showerheads with light and sound, to digital temperature and water pressure controls that you can set from your smartphone, an array of high-tech features is available to elevate the simple act of getting clean to the level of a luxurious, high-tech experience.

You can find something for every preference. Love to shower at night? Install a showerhead that features its own lighting. Dislike fiddling with the controls every morning to get just the right temperature? Opt for digital temperature controls that allow for multiple pre-settings for individual users. Focused on conservation? Try a showerhead that senses what you're doing — washing your hair, shaving your legs — and automatically adjusts the water flow accordingly.

### Intelligent Toilet

A toilet that cleans itself is a dream come true for many people, but TOTO boosts the

intelligence of its NEOREST AC wall-mount toilet even higher. The intelligent toilet features a WASHLET personal cleansing system that uses warm, aerated water for comfort, a warm air dryer and a heated seat. An automatic opening and closing function and auto-flush ensure you never have to touch the toilet.

The toilet keeps itself (and the environment in your bathroom) clean with a flushing system that uses an environmentally friendly combination of gravity and high-speed water jets to spin away waste, while an in-bowl catalytic deodorizer helps keep the air fresh. The bowl itself is glazed with titanium dioxide and zirconium, which when activated by the toilet's integrated UV light, creates molecular reactions that help keep the bowl free from visible and invisible waste.

Not only will you not need harsh detergents to clean the toilet, it's also WaterSense labelled, and uses just 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) for solid waste and 0.9 gpf for liquid. Visit [www.totousa.com](http://www.totousa.com) to learn more.

switches or with an app that allows you to control the fan from your smartphone.

### Multi-Tasking Mirror

Mirrors and medicine cabinets aren't just for reflection anymore. Now you can kit out your smart bathroom with mirrors that feature built-in TVs and can communicate with your home's security cameras, and medicine cabinets with defogging features that can let you get to your post-shower shave faster.

Refrigerated medicine cabinets are perfect for preserving delicate drugs and cosmetics, and you can find both mirrors and medicine cabinets with built-in USB ports for charging your devices.

### Advanced Accessories

Of course accessories can be additions that put any bathroom over the top, and you never have to settle for ordinary accessories in your smarter bathroom. Enhance the usability and convenience of your bathroom with items like:

- A small robot that mops floor tiles automatically.
- A Bluetooth-enabled toothbrush that communicates with your smartphone to monitor how well you've brushed.
- A smart scale that helps you track your weight and health progress.
- Touch-free soap dispensers.
- A towel rack that uses hot air and ultraviolet light to dry towels and keep them fresh longer.

By upgrading to tech-savvy versions of everyday bathroom elements like toilets, faucets and showers, it's possible to make your bathroom not only one of the most-used rooms in the house, but the smartest as well. **BPT**

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# Should I Be Worried About That Condensation on My Windows?



(Youril / stock.Adobe.com and ProVia)

If you take a look at your home’s windows and doors in winter, you may notice condensation. As temperatures drop, it often appears on the inside and outside of these surfaces.

Here’s what you need to know about why condensation occurs, when it matters and what you can do about it:

### Interior Condensation

When the heat is on inside the home in wintertime, a certain amount of humidity feels good — we breathe easier, our skin is less dry and there’s less static in the air. This is fine usually, but when temperatures outside get extremely low, problems can arise. Under these circumstances, humidity can generate condensation on your windows — whether they’re old or new — and this should be managed.

While there’s no problem with condensation on the window glass itself, (except for the fact that visibility can be obscured) that condensation could affect

wood trim around the windows and lead to mold and rot. Perhaps even worse, it could be an indicator that condensation is also occurring within your walls, which can lead to unhealthy mold.

Unfortunately, the most common sources of home humidity are everyday parts of life, including showers, cooking, doing laundry and even fish tanks. However, if you see condensation on your windows there are two actions that experts recommend. One, if you have a humidifier, turn it down. The second, use a dehumidifier.

### Exterior Condensation

Exterior condensation occurs when the dew point temperature approaches the outside air temperature. When the air is saturated and can’t hold any more moisture, water vapor forms droplets on surfaces — including your roof, siding, windows and doors.

If you have energy-efficient

windows, you may notice exterior condensation occur more than you did when you had older, less energy-efficient windows that allowed warmth from inside the home to reach the outside glass pane and dissipate the condensation. Unlike with interior condensation, there’s nothing to worry about in the case of exterior condensation. Moisture on the outside pane of glass is normal and a good sign that your windows are functioning correctly to prevent warmth from reaching the outside glass. The condensation will dissipate when the outside air temperature rises.

### Next Steps

If there’s no condensation on the exterior of your windows but there’s moisture on adjacent exterior surfaces, this would be a good indicator that it’s time for new windows. Also, if you get constant internal condensation on your windows in very cold weather and your humidity is low, then upgrading to a more thermally efficient window would be a good idea.

Look for high-performing replacement windows with the latest technological advances that offer maximum efficiency and comfort. Third-party recognition for a particular brand or product is a strong indicator that you’re investing in a quality product. A recent “Remodeling” magazine survey of remodeling contractors ranked ProVia vinyl windows as number one in window quality in part because of their features that are tested against the most stringent requirements for air and water infiltration.

This winter, pay attention

to your home windows, glass doors and other surfaces. Understanding the ins and outs of

interior and exterior condensation can help you address potential issues. [StatePoint](#)



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# How to Bring More Space into Bathrooms

Today’s designers, architects and builders are creating modern bathrooms that are practical, luxurious, comfortable and accommodating. They know homeowners and homebuyers desire - even demand - these features regardless of the bathroom’s size or layout.

Therein lies the challenge: How to create a feeling of spaciousness and openness without sacrificing valuable floor space, obstructing traffic flow or forfeiting storage space. Despite these impediments, building professionals can meet these

bath-design challenges and even exceed them with an option like Johnson Pocket Door Frame Kits.

Pocket doors can be installed in virtually any room but are particularly well suited for use in bathrooms, where space is often at a premium. The typical hinged door requires up to 14 square feet of floor space to swing open. A pocket door, conversely, slides into the wall, leaving the space in front of and on either side of the doorway open and available.

Pocket doors are commonly installed at the entrances to

bathrooms and can also be used to conceal linen closets and washers and dryers when the bathroom serves double duty as a laundry room.

There’s also a growing bathroom remodeling trend of enclosing the toilet alcove to create a toilet “room” within the bathroom. However, space restrictions seldom allow for the installation of a swinging door, so remodelers often install pocket doors.

Pocket door frames also allow for items to be mounted

([Space](#) – Page 10)



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# Keep Your Home Network Secure With These Simple Steps

Working and learning from home is the new norm for millions of American families. They're engaged in a daily juggling act, making sure everyone has the bandwidth and

privacy to complete their work, whether it's the latest algebra assignment or the monthly all-staff meeting. Add in streaming services, online shopping and an assortment of other digital activities and it's easy to see why cybersecurity might become an afterthought.

Unfortunately, that's exactly what cybercriminals and hackers are counting on. The FBI has reported a rise in the number of online fraud schemes related to the coronavirus with the intent to steal money, personal information or both.

"The digital nature of everything we do makes it essential for all of us to understand the basics of cybersecurity and to put some simple practices in place to keep our families safe," said Todd Thibodeaux, president and CEO of CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association.

According to cybersecurity experts at CompTIA, a good first step is to check how old your equipment is, whether it's your own, rented or leased from an internet service provider. Routers, modems, switches, access points or any other device hooked up to the home network should be less than five years old. Anything older should be replaced because its built-in security protections are woefully outdated.

Strong passwords are critical throughout your home, starting with your Wi-Fi network. Don't name your home network "try and hack me" or include personal information in the network name. You don't want to call any attention to yourself via the network name. Be sure to check the encryption level for your home wireless network. At



(AnnaStills / iStock via Getty Images Plus)

the very minimum you want the encryption option set to WPA2.

Factory-installed default passwords and settings on digital equipment are an open invitation to hackers. This information is often found online, making it easy for hackers to access your network. If any of your home network equipment still relies on the password it had when installed, change the password.

Creating passwords is always a matter of balancing security and convenience. While simpler passwords are easier to remember, they're less secure. On the other hand, you don't want to make them so complicated you'll have trouble remembering them. Set passwords to something that's a little challenging, but that you'll remember.

Whenever you receive notification about a security patch or software update, make sure you install them right away.

Companies make these updates available when they discover bugs to fix or security holes to fill. It's a good practice to have your router and other devices set to automatic updates so the latest security patches and software updates are installed soon after becoming available.

To learn more of the basics of cybersecurity, visit The Future of Tech at [futureoftech.org](http://futureoftech.org).

With the widespread use of digital devices, it's easy to lose track of everything that's connected to your home network. Take a regular inventory and if you see something that shouldn't be there, block it or remove it from the network.

Finally, review your security settings at least once a year. Take the time to look at all of the settings to make sure everything is in order. With the uptick of online fraud, beefing up your home cybersecurity measures is more important than ever. -StatePoint



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## Space

(Continued from Page 9)

on the pocket wall. For instance, when used with Johnson's 151558PL Pocket Wall Reinforcement Clip Set and 5/8-inch thick plywood, the 1500SC Pocket Door Frame with all-steel split studs can support wall-mounted fixtures such as towel bars, shelves, framed mirrors or artwork. The pocket door frame kit comes equipped with soft-close hardware that allows doors up to 200 pounds to be opened and closed by the touch of a fingertip for less risk of pinched fingers and slammed doors. The frame also comes with self-tapping screws that work for both drywall and finish trim, and the smooth-rolling pocket door hardware and track exceed ANSI standards, meaning they can successfully complete 100,000 opening and closing cycles.

Another potentially unexpected benefit of using pocket doors in bathrooms is the free space gained can be used to install larger vanity cabinets, freestanding shelving units, bigger bathtubs and other fixtures that may have been squeezed out in order to accommodate swinging doors.

 -Family Features/Johnson Hardware



# GOLF opinion & comment

## Most Holes-in-One – Tournament LPGA Tour Since 1992

Marathon LPGA Classic - 23  
Cambia Portland Classic - 22  
CP Women’s Open - 21  
ShopRite LPGA Classic - 21  
LPGA Corning Classic - 19

There have been eight aces on the par-3 sixth hole at Highland Meadows Golf Club, the most on a single hole on the LPGA Tour since 1992.

Tammie Green and Natalie Gulbis have both recorded two holes-in-one on the same hole of an LPGA Tour event - Green on the par-3 eighth hole at Meridian Valley Country Club during the second round of the 1993 and 1996 Safeco Classic, and Gulbis on the par-3 second hole at Columbia Edgewater Country Club in the 2004 and 2013 Safeway Classic.

The hottest season for holes-in-one was 1999 when 37 were recorded. The most at a single event occurred that year as well, with six holes-in-one at the 1999 Mercury Titleholders Championship.

In 2019, four holes-in-ones were recorded on the par-3 15th hole during the first round of the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give, marking the most holes-in-one in a single round on the LPGA Tour since 1992.

## Most Holes-in-One by LPGA Tour Members LPGA Tour History

1999 - 37  
2001 - 34  
2014 - 31  
1997 - 29  
2019 - 28

In 2013, Acer became a tournament sponsor of the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer. There have been 12 holes-in-one recorded on the Bay Course at Seaview, A Dolce Hotel located in Galloway, New Jersey.

During the 2018 event, four holes-in-one were recorded with one on the par-3 17th hole in each round played. The average distance on No. 17 was 103 yards, and players used either a pitching wedge or 54-degree wedge to hit their shot from the tee.

## Holes-in-One at Seaview 2018 ShopRite LPGA Classic Round/Hole

- Vicky Hurst — 1st round, No. 17
- Samantha Troyanovich — 1st round, No. 7
- Daniela Darquea — 2nd round, No. 17
- Marina Alex — 3rd round, No. 17

Aces on Tour have now been made even more special, with those recorded giving back in more ways than one. CME Group has partnered with the LPGA on a season-long charity program for several years, and since 2019, CME Group has donated \$20,000 for every hole-in-one on the LPGA Tour as part of the CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude.

Last year, a total of 32 aces were recorded by LPGA members and non-members for a \$640,000 donation to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Proceeds from the program help

to ensure that families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food. CME Group’s commitment has provided an additional \$80,000 to St. Jude in 2020

with a hole-in-one recorded at each event played.   
Amy Mills is the Senior Manager of Statistical Research for the LPGA. She has worked as a sports journalist for 7 years.

Prior to her role at the LPGA, Amy was a Statistical Analyst for ESPN, providing scores, statistics, and analysis to all ESPN platforms.   
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## Play Better Golf With Jack Nicklaus

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# GOLF WEEK

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# At The U.S. Women’s Open, A Love Story

**BY KAREN CROUSE**  
HOUSTON — The honeymoon began, as so many do for golf-obsessed newlyweds, with 18 holes. The skies were blue, the sun was warm and the Spanish moss hung from the oak trees like nature’s tinsel, draping the scene in tranquillity. What better way to officially launch a shared lifetime of come-what-mays than as competitors at the 75th United States Women’s Open?

For Alena Sharp, 39, a soft-spoken Canadian, and her U.S.-born caddie and wife, Sarah Bowman, life in the cumulus cloud that is 2020 has come with a powerful ray of light. Sharp’s first-round four-over 75 at Champions Club’s Cypress Creek course was the couple’s first competitive appearance since they were married in the backyard of their Arizona home on Nov. 23.

The ceremony was officiated by their therapist. As part of their vows, exchanged in front of nine witnesses and more than 100 virtual guests from around the world, Sharp commended Bowman’s positivity and her personality, which she said “shines bright all the time.” And Bowman complimented Sharp’s grit, determination and resiliency.

For a union sealed in the middle of a pandemic, there are worse qualities to bring to the table than positivity and resiliency.

Bowman said: “People always talk about meeting someone that makes you want to be better in every way, and I always thought that was so stupid, but then I met Alena. And I can’t believe I’m saying it, but it’s real. She honestly makes me feel that way.”

From Sharp came a barely audible, “Thank you.”

Sharp and Bowman met in the face-off circle at a Chandler, Ariz., ice rink in 2013. They were opposing centers in a women’s recreational hockey

league game. “She’d always win them,” said Sharp, who exacted her revenge with some well-executed fore-checks. “She laid me out a few times,” Bowman said.

Sharp played hockey as a child and turned to it to as an adult to escape her overactive golf mind and its constant churn of negative thoughts. Bowman, 44, a one-time competitive skier from Pittsburgh, was looking for an escape from her work at a neuro-oncology lab where she was laying the foundation — or so she thought — for a doctorate in psychology.

Aware that Sharp was a professional athlete, Bowman initially misread her shyness as arrogance. “I thought she was full of herself,” said Bowman, who realized how badly she had misread Sharp when they met for a mountain bike ride.

“We spent the entire time laughing,” Bowman said.

Their friendship deepened in 2014 after Sharp found herself in between caddies. On a whim, she asked Bowman if she’d fill in at a local event on the Symetra tour, the L.P.G.A.’s minor-league circuit. Bowman recovered from an inauspicious start, leaving a crumb-like trail of clubs that spilled out of the bag as she proceeded down the first fairway, to help Sharp to a two-stroke victory.

They already were dating, but within months they became partners professionally, too, but only after they made a pact. “We said that if the working arrangement ever affects our relationship, I’ll find another caddie,” Sharp said.

They have had no regrets. They have traveled the world together and been Olympians together. They represented Canada at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro and are looking forward to competing in the delayed Tokyo Games next summer.

Bowman’s greenness as a caddie when she started out forced



Sarah Bowman, left, and Alena Sharp on their wedding day. (Nancy Albright)

Sharp to take ownership of her game and trust her instincts. Bowman was a quick study, progressing lickety-split from not being able to watch when Sharp putted because she was so invested in the outcome to reading the greens for her.

The 99th-ranked Sharp, who joined the L.P.G.A. in 2005, has 14 career top-10 finishes. She is still searching for her breakthrough victory, though, and it won’t come here: She posted an even-par 71 Friday for a 36-hole total of 4-over, missing the cut by one stroke.

Her lack of a victory is not because of any lack of physical skills. Her talent has never been called into question, except by Sharp, who is quick to doubt herself.

That’s where Bowman is at her best. No one is better at reading Sharp’s mind and recasting the negative thoughts.

“We can say things to each other that I would never say to another caddie,” Sharp said. “I can tell her, ‘I just don’t trust myself right now.’ Or ‘I’m not confident.’ I feel like I can be totally vulnerable out there.”

Sometimes when things are going sideways on the course, Sharp will become so emotional her eyes will fill with tears. When that happens, Bowman will remind her that golf is what Sharp does, not who she is, and that no matter her score, she is abundantly loved.

“It’s good to be able to get those emotions out when I’m feeling not great and I’m not

being nice to myself,” Sharp said.

After seven years of dating, the couple decided to get married and planned their wedding in three short weeks, their sense of urgency spurred by the seating on the Supreme Court in late October of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative who alarmed L.G.B.T.Q. advocates at her confirmation hearing when she declined to say whether the court’s landmark ruling in 2015 allowing same-sex marriage was correctly decided.

“Her nomination was really the driving force,” Sharp said.

Barrett’s use of the term “sexual preference” during her confirmation hearings particularly pricked the ears of Bowman, who has never considered her sexual orientation a matter of choice. As a young adult she said she contemplated killing herself, so great was her struggle to accept her identity.

In one of the wedding photographs the couple posted on social media, they are walking up the aisle, toward the camera. Each is wearing a gown pulled from the racks of a bridal-store chain. They are holding hands, crossing under an honor guard arch composed of golf club irons, though the salute is easy to miss at first, so blinding are their smiles.

Sharp and Bowman almost cry when they look at the joy radiating from their faces in that photograph.

“I didn’t want to be gay,” Bowman said. “I came from a very conservative place. I thought I’ll never be able to be happy. I’ll never be able to just live and be authentic.”

Her voice cracking, she continued. “You just hope that enough kids who are going through what I did see this and see that you can move on. You hope they hang in there long enough to get past that.”

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## How Greg Norman Helped Dustin Johnson Do What He Couldn’t: Win The Masters



**BY REX HOGGARD**  
Greg Norman knows better than any player the pain of losing a major championship. He also knows how rewarding it is when you do break through on the biggest stage and the emotion that comes with winning. He recognized that moment last month following Dustin Johnson’s victory at the Masters.

“That is a great indication of how intense the man is. He is who he is and at times, if you’re that intense, you’ve got to let it go somehow,” said Norman at this week’s QBE Shootout. “I think it was wonderful for everybody to see quite honestly and I think it was good for him.”

The Australian may have even had a hand, however slight, in Johnson’s victory at Augusta National.

Norman said Johnson plays golf with his son, Greg Jr., in South Florida, and the world No. 1 reached out to the elder

Norman in September for some help with his putting.

“He said do you mind coming out and watching me putt a little bit? I said sure, no problem,” said Norman who spent about an hour and a half working with Johnson. “I just talked to him about a few things that I had seen and the difference from him on a Thursday, Friday to a Saturday into a Sunday was a big difference.”

Norman said there were a few technical items he felt Johnson needed to address, but mostly it was his mental approach that they talked about.

“Definitely helped a little bit,” Johnson said of his work with Norman following his victory at the Masters.

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## Mulligans

(Continued from Page 2)  
WRDGA Senior Championship title.

### Boys Junior Player of the Year: John Mittiga

In one of the closest voting categories of the year, in which three players were within one vote, Mittiga earned the Junior Boys Player of the Year nod on the strength of two victories in which he competed against top men golfers: the RDGA District Championship Qualifier at Chili Country Club and the Western New York Open — a Western New York PGA Section event in which he posted a lower score than PGA Professionals in the field. Also close in the Junior Boys voting was Mason Rivera, the RDGA Boys Junior Champion, and Philip Minnehan, winner

of the RDGA Junior Invitational.

### Girls Junior Player of the Year: Julia Zigrossi

Having attracted the notice of Player of the Year voters for her victory in the RDGA Women’s Championship, Zigrossi was a natural choice for her many Junior accomplishments in 2020 — including the RDGA Girls Junior Championship and the Section V Girls High School Championship, as well as several wins in national Junior Scoreboard-ranked events.

Although there was lively, informed discussion regarding the merits of all candidates throughout the voting system to determine RDGA Players of the Year in 2020, the RDGA will look to adopt a new point-based Player of the Year system prior to the 2021 season.