

# GOLF PENNSYLVANIA GOLF NORTHEAST

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## Just Enjoy Golf In June

**Destination:**

**Excellent Pocono Mountain Golf**

**U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills**

**Ridderstrom Gets – Symetra Tourney Win**

**Art Brunn Jr. & Mike Lynch Take McCarthy Crown**

**2018 BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club**

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*Jack Frost National  
Golf Club*

*Blakeslee, PA Hole #11*



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# A Tip of the Golf Cap to the Architects Who Create Excellent Mountain Golf



**Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course Hole # 7**

*By Tony Leodora – The Traveling Golfer*

Some things in life are more difficult than others. Then there are the things that are really hard.

Like trying to hit an 88 mile per hour slider.

Or Chinese arithmetic.

Or making your wife happy.

In the world of golf, there is nothing more difficult than creating a good mountain golf course. It is the ultimate challenge for a golf course architect.

The problems are many – severe elevation changes, heavily wooded areas, rocky terrain, lack of topsoil, cold climates.

As a result, there are many more bad mountain golf courses than there are good mountain courses. And even on the good courses there is the common occurrence of stumbling across a bad golf hole.

In many cases the cost of construction on a mountain golf course site becomes prohibitive ... long before the project nears completion. Then the owner starts to cut corners.

The land is not terraced. Boulders are not removed. Rock ledges are not dynamited. Trees are not taken down.

The final result is similar to trying to play golf in a bowling alley. Golfers have to walk single-file down the fairways. Anything other than a



**Jack Frost National Hole 15**

striped drive, down the middle, is a lost ball.

When golfers come across an excellent mountain layout, it is a treat. And one of the areas that supplies golfers with a nice assortment of mountain treats is the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

The older, less playable mountain courses are still serving a purpose. But there are also a number of newer layouts that prove all good golf does not exist at sea level.

Here is a quick synopsis of the best mountain courses in the Poconos. Note – the 27-hole layout at Shawnee Resort is not on the list ... because the course sits on the flatland along the Delaware River. The mountain scenes surround it, but the course is virtually dead flat. Good golf course ... but not really a mountain course.

For a good mountain golf experience, try the courses listed below.

## **Blue Ridge Trail GC**

It took 15 years to complete the golf course at Blue Ridge Trail – near the intersection of Interstate 80 and Interstate 81, on the western edge of the Poconos. Design work was done by the famed Ault/Clark firm, based in Maryland.

Tony Barletta, a golf course superintendent by trade, was the original steward of the project. Nurturing the course as if it was his baby. Now in semi-retirement, Barletta has turned the reins of the operation over to Duane Schell, the current general manager. It should



**Shawnee Resort**

*Mountain Golf continued on page 5*



# LPGA ShopRite Classic Jersey Girl



The Stockton Seaview Club House



Stockton Seaview Golf Club Hole #13

By **MIKE KERN**

GALLOWAY, NJ – Jersey Girl.

It's something that 27-year-old Marina Alex gets thrown at her a whole bunch, as she travels the globe playing on the LPGA Tour. And she wouldn't want it any other way. She gets where she's from, and what that means. And she's more than willing to wear it like some badge of honor. Even though she's one of the few professional golfers of either gender to call the Garden State their home. Which is OK by her too. Makes her unique.

"It's such a different state," Alex said recently. "Everywhere you go you'll say you're from New Jersey and you'll meet other people from New Jersey, whether you're in California or Texas or anywhere. It's just that instant connection. We relate to each other, and we support each other. We want to see other people from our home state succeed. There's not a lot of us out here. So I just want to represent New Jersey and inspire the younger generation, whether they're men or women. If you're passionate about golf, then stick with it. It can definitely happen.

"I know the weather doesn't always cooperate, but it's a great place to be from."

The native of Wayne, in the northern part of the state, has lived on the east coast of Florida for the past five years. Yet she still wants to be introduced and identified by her roots. Whether it's on the first tee or whatever. That doesn't ever figure to change.

Alex was at the media day for the upcoming 54-hole ShopRite Classic, which will take place June 8-10 at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club, located just across the bay from Atlantic City. She played her first pro event there as a sponsor exemption, just after she graduated from high school. This will be her seventh appearance. That of course means lots of family and friends will be there following her every shot.

Last year she got to play in the U.S. Open at President Trump's club in Bedminster, which she called "probably a once-in-a-lifetime" experience. But

playing two hours away from where you grew up is invigorating too.

"My family travels to a few events a year," Alex said. "But for my extended family, this is pretty special. How many people can say that? With so many international players, they don't always get that luxury. I'm also playing in front of the local community. We're all from around here. So we share that."

In her ShopRite debut, she shot a 65 or 66 in the second round to make the cut. She didn't play as well on Sunday, but ...

"I was stoked," she recalled, with a smile. "Laura Davies was playing in front of me, and Cristi Kerr was in the group behind me. So I'm like, 'Man, this is amazing.' I wanted the result to be better, but that's how you learn."

Alex, who played collegiately for Vanderbilt, is still looking for her first victory. But last year she won nearly \$700,000, with six top 10 finishes while making 21 of 25 cuts. That included a career-best tie for third. This season she already has a pair of top 5s and is ranked 36th in the world.

"It's a little nerve wracking (coming back here to play)," acknowledged Alex, whose father Steve competes in senior amateur tournaments and whose brother Anthony is a golfer at Florida State. "You want to do well, obviously, and play your best. It would be a great story. It would have a storybook kind of feeling if I could win here. It would definitely be something to watch. You think I would have (the nervous part) under control at this point."

As a youngster Alex was able to play the Donald Ross-designed Bay Course, as well as the sister Pines Course across the street, not to mention other courses in the area.

"My dad would drive us down here all the time when I was growing up," she said. "If it was snow-covered up where we were, it probably wouldn't be down here. So we'd just take that two-hour drive on a Saturday or Sunday. I'm sure I've played (the Bay) at least 50 times."

While she likes it, she more than gets the reality that it's hardly a pushover. Particularly when the winds are blowing in off the ocean, which is often the

*LPGA ShopRite Classic Jersey Girl continued on page 5*





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Eagle Rock Resort Golf Course



Country Club at Woodloch Springs

## *Mountain Golf continued from page 3*

come as no surprise that Schell is also the superintendent.

Course conditions always have been of optimum concern at Blue Ridge Trail. The quality of the overall golf experience is a combination of quality design and consistent manicuring.

“When this course was built, we cut extra-wide corridors through the trees,” explained Barletta. “Too many mountain courses have too many trees and the fairways are too narrow.”

Blue Ridge Trail definitely passes the “walk-in-the-park test.” Very few houses clutter the views. Each hole is a secluded gem ... surrounded by nature.

### **Jack Frost National**

The newest golf course in the Pocono Mountains is Jack Frost National. Opened in 2007, the course is built to a large scale in order to take advantage of the many overwhelming vistas. Once again, wide corridors are the key to the success of this layout.

“It is impossible to play a round of golf on this course without stopping a number of times and admiring the views,” says Jack Frost National director of golf Keith Devos. “There are some high points on this course where you can literally see for miles.”

That is not hyperbole. A number of locations – including from the three-year-old pavilion that is the perfect spot for a comfortable post-golf respite – afford golfers a 30-mile view.

The optical features are not the only strongpoint of Jack Frost National. It is a championship golf course, built to host high caliber competitions. Stretching to 7,256 yards from the back tees, it is the longest golf course in the Pocono Mountains.

The strength of the course is the green complexes – bewitchingly beautiful and beguilingly difficult, at the same time.

### **Eagle Rock**

Just outside Hazleton is Eagle Rock Resort, an enormous property that is a four-season destination as well as a housing development that includes more than 900 homes. In addition to all of the recreational amenities on the property is a well-maintained golf course that is as enjoyable as it is challenging.

The first nine holes were designed by Arnold Palmer, until an economic downturn put a halt to the project. The second nine holes were completed by the Texas-based company that took over development of the area. The final result is a course that takes a nine-hole excursion away from the clubhouse situated at the highest point on the property, then returns on another exciting nine-hole excursion.

Once again, comfortably wide fairways are the key to the playability of this course. In addition, trees are kept far away from the greens, producing excellent conditions on the putting surfaces.

The only problem with the course is that at many times it is extremely crowded ... with deer! Eagle Rock Resort is a nature-lovers paradise ... that just happens to have an excellent mountain golf course in the middle of it.

### **Woodloch Springs**

Woodloch Resort is a 2,000-acre property north of the town of Hawley, in the far northeast corner of Pennsylvania. Known throughout the country as a quality family vacation spot, it has an extremely interesting golf course at its core.

The course opened in 1992, after a painstaking construction process under the direction of Louisiana-based architect Rocky Roquemore. Although most of Roquemore’s experience came working in the flatland areas of America, he proved that he had the imagination and skills necessary to handle a rugged mountain property.

The Woodloch Springs Golf Course has a number of severe elevation changes – and a cavernous gorge in the middle of the infamous 14th hole.

Head golf professional John Pillar has been at Woodloch Springs since the beginning and he still proclaims with amazement, “I would walk around this property when it was being built and I couldn’t imagine how they could ever make a golf course out of it.

Pardon the repetition, but wide fairways, continued tree management, uncrowded green complexes and proper soil management are the keys to success at Woodloch Springs. The course is annually among the best-conditioned courses in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Building and maintaining a good mountain golf course is a very difficult proposition. But a number of courses in Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains prove that the task is not impossible.

Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live radio show -- [www.golftalklive.net](http://www.golftalklive.net)  
Host of Traveling Golfer television show -- [www.travelinggolfervideo.com](http://www.travelinggolfervideo.com)





The Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club – The Bay Course Hole #2



Marina Alex Jersey Girl - Photo Credit: ©2013 Scott A. Miller

## *ShopRite Classic Jersey Girl* continued from page 3

case.

“It’s a ton of fun,” said Alex, who played with the boys at Wayne Hills High School (from one tee in front of the guys) because there was no co-ed team. “It’s short, but tough. There’s so much variety. You start off with a not so challenging hole. But the second is brutally difficult. Then you can get it right back on the third, which is a pretty easy par 5. Even some of the short holes can be pretty tough, depending upon the wind direction.

“On paper it doesn’t seem difficult. But that’s totally not the way it can play. And when the poa (annua grass) on the greens start to grow in the afternoon, yeah.”

As in, good luck.

Alex knows that there’s a growth curve involved in all this. And that each new experience is another step in the ultimate direction. It’s not supposed to be easy.

“I’m passionate about trying to get better,” she emphasized. “The one thing about golf is it’s a sport I guess you’ll never be perfect at. There’s always something you think you can improve on. You’re constantly trying to figure this or that out, tweak something here or there. That’s an element of it that will never go away. I’m a processor, working towards something.

“I love to be out there competing, against the best in the world. That’s exciting.”

So she will show up at Seaview once more and try to do better than she’s done before. Because really, what else is there?

“To be perfectly frank, I’ve played pretty bad when I’ve come back,” Alex said. “I don’t know (why).”

“When you get in contention, it’s interesting. You go through the first two rounds (of a 72-hole event) not thinking about much of anything. When you’re playing in one of the last groups on the weekend, you’ve got all day to kind of get distracted. You have to manage that. A lot of things can come into your head. You have to occupy your time.

“Usually you’re just waking up in the morning and going right to work. You’re not sitting around for four, five, six hours doing nothing. You have to wait to go out and play. You have to learn how to make a better routine, so that when you get to the golf course you’re ready to go.

“But that’s where you want to be. At the end of the day, everyone wants to win. That’s the goal at some point or another. It won’t change who I am. When you learn to accept that, I think it takes a little bit of the pressure off.”

And the best thing is, there’s always another place to tee it up and take your chances. Sometimes even close to where you got started.

“You always think it can be better,” Alex said. “I think everyone thinks that way. Some days are better than others. I’ll let you know if I ever figure that out. I can’t describe it. I do talk to other players, some who’ve won and some who haven’t yet, and they all say that some days it’s just your day. And it’s going to happen.”

And if it somehow ever happens here it could be, well, storybook.

“I always think there’s one Jersey person out there, wherever we go,” she said. “And you know they’re going to make themselves known. That’s why I won’t change where I call home. So many players are Florida-based, wherever they’re from. But being from New Jersey is a distinction.”

You think?

TAP-INS: The tourney will be held the week after the Women’s U.S. Open at Shoal Creek in Birmingham, Ala. ... This event has raised over \$30 million for a number of worthy charities in the last quarter-century. It remains easily the biggest sporting event in South Jersey. And the fans treat it as such. On a national scale it’s always been regarded as one of if not the best non-major on the tour ... The purse has been raised this year from \$1.5 million to \$1.75 ... The defending champion is IK Kim. She will be joined in the field by nine of the last 11 major winners. Others will be committed are past winners Anna Nordqvist, Stacy Lewis, Karrie Webb and Cristie Kerr. One of them, Lydia Ko, will be appearing for the first time in a few years. Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie are also coming. As is the always-popular Natalie Gulbis, who has accepted a sponsor invite for the second straight year ... For ticket, volunteer and other information log onto [shopritelpgaclassic.com](http://shopritelpgaclassic.com).



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# U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills



Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y.



Shinnecock Hills Hole 16

By **MIKE KERN**

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. – When it comes to American golf, it doesn't get any more historic than Shinnecock Hills.

Founded in 1891, it's the oldest incorporated club in the country. Three years later it became one of the five founding members of the USGA. And in 1896 it hosted the second U.S. Open, which was won by James Foulis, by three shots over defending champion Horace Rawlins. That same year it also hosted the second U.S. Amateur, which saw H.J. Whigham beat J.G. Thorp in the final match, 8 and 7.

It would take nine decades for the national championship to return. But it certainly was memorable. In 1986, there were nine players tied for the lead at one point in the final round. Ray Floyd wasn't among them. But he was the guy who wound up lifting the trophy. It was his fourth and final major win (to go with two PGAs and a Masters), 17 years after he got his first.

In 1995 Corey Pavin won his only major, by two over Greg Norman. He started on Sunday three off the lead, playing in the next-to-last group. By the time he reached the 18th he was one in front. And his 228-yard approach, with a 4-wood, just cleared the rough in front of the green and rolled to within 5 feet of the hole. Even though he didn't make the birdie putt, it was enough. And his shot will forever remain of the more indelible in Open lore.

In 2004, Retief Goosen finished first for the second time in four years, holding off Phil Mickelson by two. Goosen needed just 11 putts over the closing nine holes. He led by two entering the last round. But Lefty, who had just won his first major at Augusta two months earlier, had tied things up going to the 17th. But Phil three-putted the par-3 for a double bogey, which proved to be the difference.

So Shinnecock, on the eastern end of Long Island, has produced some worthy

snapshots. And it will try to do so once again when another Open is held there starting on June 14.

"Shinnecock Hills is indeed one of the most important places in all of golf in the United States," said Mike Davis, the USGA's Chief Executive Officer, at the recent media day. "It's magnificent. Its influence on golf is certainly almost unparalleled. It's a national treasure here.

"We love the place so much we've already announced we're coming back for another U.S. Open (in 2026). It has the oldest clubhouse. It's been welcoming, and accessible, really, from day one ... The architecture is just marvelous. I dare say that in terms of where elite golf is played, I can't think of a better golf course in the world. There's just so many things that are great about it. And it keeps evolving."

There is no water. Ditto the trees. It's a par 70, playing at just over 7,400 yards. The previous three modern Opens were in the 6,900 range. Bunkers come into play, both off the tee and into the greens. The rough doesn't seem too penal, at least in many places. But it is an Open, so that's always a relative term. The wind will be a factor, just because everything is so open and you're near the ocean. And the fairways aren't nearly as narrow in the current setup. It almost reminds you of something you would find on the other side of the Atlantic. Nothing wrong with that. Just different is all. Remember when our Opens meant footlong rough right off the fairway. Well you don't see that anymore. Same for around the greens. Doesn't mean it's any less difficult.

The USGA will tell you that par doesn't matter. Don't believe them. If that were true, why would they change par-5s to 4s? Just saying. They can't do that here, since there are only two 5s. Nonetheless, expect something around par to get it done. Last year, of course, that wasn't the case at Erin Hills, where Brooks

*U.S. Open at Shinnecock continued on page 11*



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# Ridderstrom Gets Symetra Tourney Win



**Louise Ridderstrom with Trophy after final round on Symetra Tour at the Valley Forge Invitational**



**Louise Ridderstrom on final round at Valley Forge Invitational**

*By Mike Kern*

They came. They played. They seemed to enjoy and appreciate. So maybe they will come back again, either next year or at some point down the road.

The Symetra Tour, where people like Lorena Ochoa and Inbee Park got their pro careers started, made its Philadelphia-area debut the week leading into Memorial Day. The inaugural 54-hole Valley Forge Invitational took place at Raven's Claw Golf Club in Limerick Township, in the city's western suburbs. And Sweden's 24-year-old Louise Ridderstrom, a former standout at UCLA, got her first win in this, her second season.

She shot a closing 8-under par 63, the low score of the tournament (despite a bogey on 11), to finish four ahead of Laura Wearn, who was in front by three entering the last day after sharing the 18-hole lead.

Ridderstrom earned \$15,000 from the \$100,000 purse.

"I told myself that to win is pretty hard," she said, who had several Swedish national team members, including head coach Patrick Johnson, following her around. "There are a lot of good girls out there on this tour. And winning takes a lot. You need to have some luck to do it.

"So I told myself, 'It's my turn. It's my turn.' Just try to do the best you can and see what happens."

Playing in the next-to-last group, she had three birdies on the final five holes, after making five on the front nine. She finished with a 3-foot bird on the par-4 18th, which gave her a total of 16-under 197.

Wearn's chances pretty much ended with a three-putt bogey at the 16th. She tied for second with Ming-G Kim, who carded her second consecutive 66. Wearn had gone 66-65 before putting up a 70 that featured an eagle and three bogeys on the front and three straight birds early on the back. The fifth-year player, one of the Symetra's longest hitters, had carded a double bogey on Friday.

"There's still a lot of positives," she said. "Louise won it. I was hoping to

have a good round. So I'm a little disappointed in the way I played. But the week was great."

And that appeared to be the prevailing sentiment.

Other than the winner, probably nobody could feel that more than Hatfield's Isabella DiLisio, the lone amateur in the field. The Mount Saint Joseph's Academy graduate, who will be entering her senior year at Notre Dame, got in on a sponsor's exemption. But she was the only one of three locals to make the cut. And she finished with a 69, her best round of the week, to tie for 34th at 210.

"It meant so much to me," said DiLisio, whose great-grandfather was believed to have caddied for Ben Hogan when he won the 1950 U.S. Open at Merion. "It was all just getting a chance to see how the pros play and kind of see like how I stacked up against them. Having friends and family out here also made it really special."

You think?

"No one expects an amateur to play well in a professional event," she added. "I just kind of played it one shot at a time ... It's huge. Oh, my gosh. It's pretty exciting."

The other two locals were Darby-born Ginger Howard (pair of 73s) and Emily Gimpel (78-70), of Lafayette Hill.

Exactly one week ago, a fellow Swede in Jenny Haglund (Karlstad, Sweden) won the Symetra Classic in Davidson, N.C., at River Run Country Club. On the bag for the sudden-death playoff was Ridderström.





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Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y.



Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y.

## *U.S. Open at Shinnecock* continued from Page 7

Koepka led the assault on the longest course ever to host this Open. Why ask why. It was almost like watching a PGA. And if we've learned anything over the years, it's that when the USGA gets "embarrassed," the next year somebody pays for it.

Hey, Johnny Miller shot 63 in the last round at Oakmont in 1973, and the next year you had the so-called massacre at Winged Foot. There are other examples. And that's OK. I just wish the USGA would come out and say one time that they want their Open to be the hardest tournament to win all year. Which obviously it is. Instead they'll only maintain that they're trying to identify the best golfer, which every other major is trying to do too. Anyway, people look exhausted by Wednesday. It's the longest week in the game. But the survivor won't care. He'll spend the rest of his life being introduced as a U.S. Open champion. Has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

In 2004, there was one problem. On Sunday the green at the par-3 seventh wouldn't hold any shots. So the USGA opted to hose them down between groups, which kind of boggled the mind. It wasn't a good look, and it cost some people their jobs. That, not shockingly, was one of the first things Davis chose to address when it was his turn to speak.

"We had a situation where you were watching well executed shots not being rewarded," he explained. "In fact, you saw some actually being penalized. I can assure you that is not what the USGA wanted. I would just say that it was 14 years ago. It was a different time, it was different people, and we as an organization have learned from it.

"When you set up a U.S. Open it is golf's ultimate test. It's probably set up closer to the edge than any other event in golf, and I think that the difference then versus now is we have a lot more technology, a lot more data in our hands. And frankly, what really happened then was just a lack of moisture. There just wasn't enough water put in and essentially the grass itself kind of went

dormant. There wasn't enough friction on the greens.

"Nowadays we have got everything from firmness meters ... (to) moisture meters. Obviously we can tell how fast a green is running. The meteorology is better. So we not only know where the winds are coming from but the velocities. And frankly there's better communication between the USGA and the grounds staff."

So ...

"I feel comfortable," Davis went on. "Looking back, even though there were part of that final day (that didn't go right), it was a magnificent day coming down to the end. There are parts that I think we learned from. And I think we're happy that we have a mulligan this time. It was certainly a bogey last time. In fact, maybe even a double bogey. And equitable stroke control perhaps kicked in. But it's great to be back. We are incredible excited."

Two of the last three Opens were held at Erin Hills and Chambers Bay, two new public facilities. The reasons were twofold: to take the event to areas that don't usually get it, like the Pacific Northwest and Wisconsin, and to try to do what they did by going to two other daily-fee places, Bethpage Black and Torrey Pines. But Opens just seem like a better fit when they're played at traditional venues like Oakmont or Olympic Club, to name just two of the usual suspects. While I'm all for inclusion, maybe that's just the way this goofy sport was meant to be. At least on the grandest stage.

So by all means enjoy/savor this one, either for those fortunate enough to be going or for the majority of us who'll be watching on FOX. And in case you hadn't heard, this will be the first year that a playoff would be decided over two holes (and then sudden death) instead of another full round. I guess nobody wants to stay until Monday. But I always thought it was kind of cool that the USGA was the only one of the four majors that hadn't gone shorter. Oh well. That's progress. For the record the Masters is sudden death, the British an aggregate four-hole and the PGA a three-holer.

It happens.

*U.S. Open at Shinnecock* continued on page 13





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Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y.

## *U.S. Open at Shinnecock* continued from Page 11

“It’s been a long debated subject,” Davis said. “And we recently came to a conclusion, after really talking to the stakeholders in the U.S. Open. So who are the stakeholders? They’re the players, they’re the fans, and it’s the vendors. It’s really the club itself. And we came to the conclusion that what people wanted, assuming Mother Nature’s cooperative, people wanted the U.S. Open to finish on Sunday. Wouldn’t say it was unanimous. So we started with that premise.

“I would also say there is no right or wrong way to (break) a tie. We felt on balance the stakeholders just wanted us to finish. So we have made that change. We still use a three-hole playoff for the U.S. Women’s Open. So why do it there? It’s pretty hard to answer that question.

“You go way back and we used to have 36-hole playoffs. In fact there was a year in the early 1930s where they were tied after 36 holes. Guess what? They went another 36 holes. We thought that by having two holes, there would be more excitement. It wouldn’t necessarily be one shot (and it’s) over. Think about it. If we have a tie we’re going to play the par-3 17th. Wonderful par-3. And then the great finishing 18. Next year, 17 and 18 at Pebble Beach. How iconic are those holes?”

Next year can wait. The 118th Open will soon be upon us, in all its glory and torturous nature. That’s its identity, and it’s not likely to change any time soon.

By the way, in case you were wondering, there hasn’t been a playoff since 2008, when Tiger Woods beat Rocco Mediate over 91 holes. I was there, and walked much of it. Who can forget Tiger, playing on a knee that would require major surgery not long afterward, coming to the 18th three straight days trailing by one. All he did was make eagle on Saturday to take a 1-shot lead into the final round, putting him into a situation where he’d gone 13-0. On Sunday he had to make a bumpy 15-footer for birdie to force extra holes with Mediate watching from the scorer’s tent. And on Monday he made a two-putt bird to extend the playoff. Great stuff.

Now, it could all be over with one well-struck 4-wood from 228 yards out. All we know for sure is that some kind of history will be made.

“We are blessed here in the United States to have more golf courses and more great golf courses than anywhere in the world,” Davis said. “We’re lucky enough as the governing body to get invited to come to some of these great courses like Shinnecock Hills. So in so many ways what we just try to do is showcase those courses, set it up in such a way that the best players in a given group, whether it’s the U.S. Girls Junior Amateur or whether it’s the U.S. Open, that it really allows them to determine how exciting the championship is.

“To me, (it’s) just get this golf course setup properly and then sit back and watch the 156 best players in the world compete for that silver trophy and that Nicklaus gold medal.”

Have a happy Father’s Day.

TAP-INS: This is the first Open on Long Island since 2009, when rain was the main story at Bethpage Black. It didn’t end until Monday. And it ended with Lucas Glover outlasting Phil Mickelson, who got the fifth of what would become a record six runnerup finishes (he would follow with a second at Merion four years later). The Open will return to the Northeast in 2020 when it goes back to Winged Foot, where of course Phil infamously made a double bogey in 2006 on the 72nd hole to turn a 1-shot lead into a 1-shot loss when he was trying to win his third major in a row.

Other venues in place are Torrey Pines in San Diego in 2021, The Country Club in suburban Boston in 2022 (for the first time since 1988, if you don’t count the unforgettable Ryder Cup in 1999, at least from the American perspective), Los Angeles Country Club (North Course) in 2023, Pinehurst in North Carolina in 2024, Oakmont near Pittsburgh in 2025 and Pebble in 2027. We can only hope that Merion gets another one in 2030, when the club and the USGA will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bobby Jones completing the grand slam on No. 11 at the U.S. Am.

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# Art Brunn Jr. & Mike Lynch Take 2018 McCarthy Crown at Wyoming Valley C.C.



Wyoming Valley Country Club bridge and Hole 18

By John Zimich

The conclusion of the 2018 McCarthy, Wyoming Valley Country Club's premier golf tournament, was eerily similar to the finals of the previous year's event. With darkness fast approaching on a gray overcast Sunday and some rain falling, club member Art (Artie) Brunn, Jr., and partner Mike Lynch of the Country Club of Scranton, won the 2018 McCarthy crown on the second playoff hole of the finals. Brunn Jr., one of the top amateur golfers in Northeastern Pennsylvania and who was teaming with Lynch for the initial time in the McCarthy, closed out Wyoming Valley Country Club (WVCC) members Drew Mamary and Eric Plisko on the second playoff hole. Brunn Jr. hit a 4-iron on the par-5 first hole onto the green and two-putted from some 17 feet for a birdie four for the victory.

Plisko, the 31-year-old former topnotch Hanover Area and Temple University athlete, had a chance to continue on the playoff but his putt within 10 feet just missed after second shot came up short in the rough near the front bunker.

In the finals of the 2017 McCarthy, guest Eric Williams, another of the area's finest golfers, struck a 4-iron onto the par-5 first green and two putted for the victory with almost total darkness on a rainy cloud-covered day. His winning partner was member Scott Henry. Both the 2017-18 matches featured some great shot-making and high drama.

The 2018 McCarthy finals saw Brunn Jr. get his team off to a one-hole lead when his downhill 30-foot birdie putt found the bottom of the cup on No. 1. Plisko's second on the opening hole of regulation went deep into the right woods near the green but he chipped out to the fringe and his fourth hit the cup but failed to drop. Plisko saved par on the second hole of regulation after his short downhill chip for birdie rolled six-feet by the hole. Brunn Jr. and Lynch both hit the green on their second shots from the fairway and two-putted for pars.

It was on the par-4 third hole that Plisko and Lynch both hit great shots from the fairway with the latter sinking his putt from three feet while Plisko knocked in an eight-foot putt.

The match drew even on the drivable par-4 fourth hole when Plisko's first shot landed just 15 to 20 yards short of golf architect A.J. Tilinghast's fast and undulating greens. Former Temple golfer, who is also now among the elite amateur golfers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, chipped to within six feet of the cup and holed it for birdie three to even the match. Here, Brunn Jr. missed his bird from about 12-feet out.

On the par-3 fifth hole both Lynch and Plisko hit their tee shots to some seven feet from the hole but on different angles. Both players had successful putts from some five feet to square the hole. The par-4 sixth hole saw both Lynch, Brunn Jr. and Plisko carding birdie 3s. Lynch just missed an eagle when his chip shot came up a foot short.

It was on the steep downhill par-3 seventh hole that Mamary and Plisko took their first lead of the match when Plisko's tee shot landed just five-feet, five inches from the pin that was located back right of the green. He made the putt to go one up. Mamary also hit the green but had a lengthy birdie putt. Both teams produced par-4s on the uphill eighth hole before faltering on the dogleg ninth. It was here that Plisko was the only one to hit the sloping green in two but three-putted for a bogey five. Brunn Jr. and Lynch faltered on the hole and made 5s.

The uphill par-4 10th hole saw Mamary and Plisko go two up in the match when Plisko's short chip landed a foot from the hole for a gimme bird. Lynch and Brunn Jr. had lengthy and tricky birdie putts that failed to go in. Lynch got his team back to only one down on the long par-5 11th hole



Art Brunn (left) and Mike Lynch talk over strategy on the third hole Sunday at Wyoming Valley Country Club

when his second shot rolled onto the green and two-putted for a bird.

Lead for Mamary and Plisko went back to two holes on the par-5 12th hole when the latter's second shot landed short of the green. His chip shot stopped four feet from the hole and he made the putt.

Prior to Plisko's putt on the 12th hole Brunn Jr. just missed his 4 from some five feet. Both Brunn Jr. and Plisko found the 13th green on their tee shots with Plisko's leaving him a long putt for a bird on the tricky undulating green. He made his four-foot putt for a par while Brunn Jr. thrilled the large crowd in the McCarthy stands and alongside the clubhouse when his first shot almost got him a hole-in-one. He two-putted for a par to win the hole and go one down. The two teams finished with par-4s on the 14th hole before Plisko and Brunn Jr. hit the green on the long par-3 15th hole. Mamary's first shot just trickled over the green, leaving him a tough downhill chip.

Unorthodox, Mamary's one-handed chip almost found the bottom of the cup for a bird. After Brunn Jr. missed his 15-foot bird Plisko calmly sank a 10-footer for a bird to go two-up once again with just three holes to play. This is when Brunn Jr. dug deeper and went on to win the 16th and 17th holes to square the match with birds. He said his dad's voice kept ringing in his ears to never give up despite the tough road ahead. His late father, Art Brunn Sr., captured many a golf championship and was one of the all-time great amateur golfers in the region.

On the 16th hole all four golfers were on the green with the second shots. They faced long tricky putts when Brunn Jr. canned his 25-footer for a three to win the hole and go one down.

The long par-4 17th hole saw Brunn Jr. smash a long drive to the fairway, where he proceeded to hit his second shot some three feet from the hole. The bird was conceded when Mamary and Plisko failed to make pars.

Lynch could have won the McCarthy title on the par-4 18th hole but missed his bird from some 10 feet uphill and that led to the first extra hole, the par-3 13th. Mamary and Plisko both hit the green on that first hole of the sudden death playoff but missed their first putts from long range. Brunn Jr. had to make a clutch bunker shot and four-foot putt to continue the match before he ended it on the second hole of the playoff.

Brunn Jr. is the boys golf coach at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre and owners of a State championship golf title. He and Lynch, defending club champ at the Country Club of Scranton and Lehigh University graduate, have teamed to win several of the premier golf championships at the Country Club of Scranton.

Ironically, Brunn Jr. defeated Mamary and Plisko for the McCarthy crown in 2016 when his partner was club member Rick Berry. Berry, who is battling cancer, was on hand Sunday afternoon to serve as an unofficial referee for the match.

Lynch said John McCarthy of McCarthy Automotive and Tires, tourney sponsors, is a friend of his. He stated that the McCarthy family are great people and that it was a privilege to win the championship. College and high school standout basketball official and club member John Leighton and partner and guest Jack Nicholson, captured the 2018 McCarthy shootout over the other 14 flight winners. Despite all of the rain prior to the tournament, golf course superintendent Chris Snopkowski and his greens crew did a magnificent job in the manicuring of the beautiful 18-hole Wyoming Valley Country Club golf course, founded in 1896.

Kudos go out to head golf professional Pete Korba and his staffers and to general manager Robert Gebhardt and his staff for their hard work in making the 2018 McCarthy a success.

Joe Butcher is president of the club while tourney chairman was Atty. Bob Bull.



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# High Heat 257+ 3-Trampoline Technology Is A Major Game Changer For Amateur Golfers

by Tony Leodora

The Traveling Golfer, NBC SPORTS TV, GOLFTALK LIVE RADIO

The overwhelming vast majority of golfers closed their physics books in high school ... and never looked back. Now, the high-tech approach to golf equipment is forcing them to revisit those days of physics class.

And the High Heat line of golf clubs is one of the main reasons.

Two years ago, for the first time the USGA permitted a conforming golf face to have a much higher "trampoline" effect (CT) in the large toe and heel areas - up to 275 CT for more distance compared to the 257 CT in the center of the face (the USGA calls the "Impact Area.")

High Heat golf clubs are designed for amateur golfers' swing speeds and performance needs instead of the pros, with award-winning Center of Gravity that is 25% deeper and 18% lower than major brands. They have been named the "best" driver and metal woods in the industry for the past three years by several major media members. I have become one of the believers - simply because they were longer and straighter than the major brands. Dean Knuth, the inventor of the USGA Slope and Course Rating Systems was named the "Top Innovator of Golf Clubs" in the industry by Golf, Inc. Magazine.

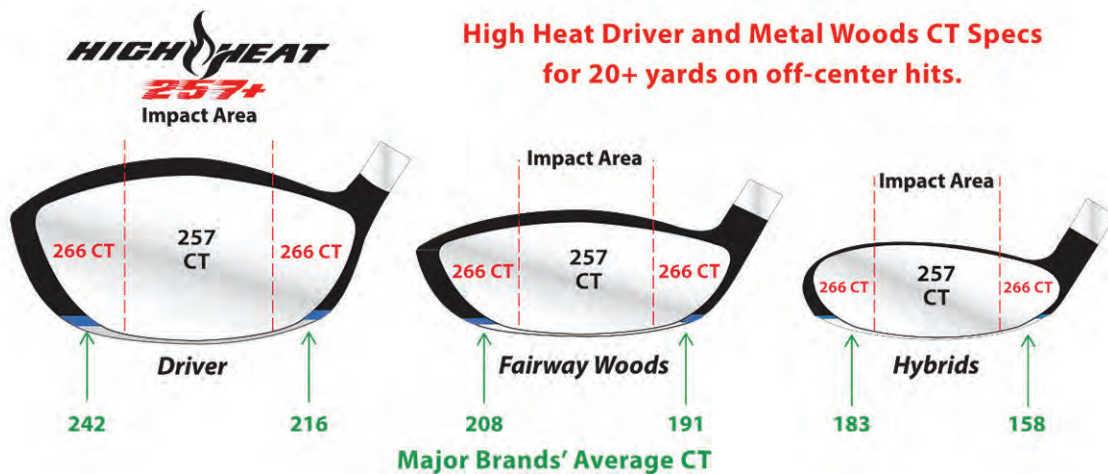
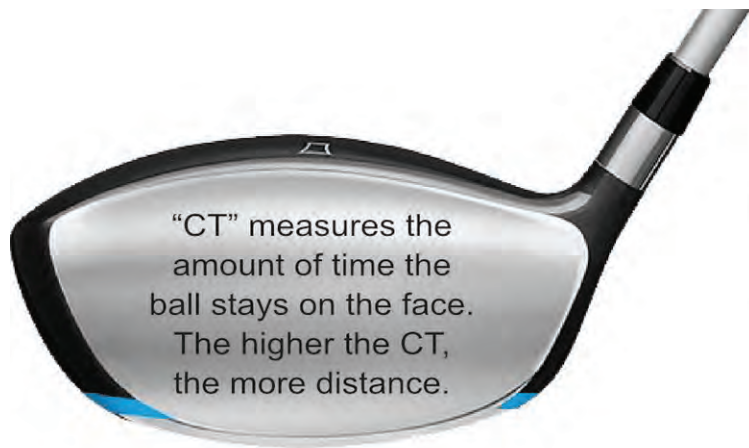
Now this year Knuth Golf launched High Heat 257+, and it is the only brand that takes advantage of this new CT Rule change. It does so with three distinct and internal trampolines in the face design to achieve a CT higher than 257 CT in the toe and heel areas.



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live



clubs. With its 3-Trampoline Technology, amateurs will get increased distance on toe and heel hits with the feel of a center hit and more confidence. I had no reservations in calling High Heat the best driver and metal woods at the PGA Show. It continues to be the leading brand in properly addressing the hitting needs of the amateur golfer.



At the 2018 PGA Show, it was amazing to see the reaction to the new High Heat driver. Major media, PGA teaching pros and amateurs raved about High Heat 257+, as they achieved the same distance on toe and heel hits as their center hits.

For example, Gary Van Sickle of Morning Read said "My biggest discovery at the PGA Show was High Heat 257+ with its dazzling novel 3 -Trampoline Technology that has more ball speed in the toe and heel areas than the sweet spot in the center of the face as permitted by the USGA 2016 CT Rule. The ball comes off so hot no matter where you hit it. It feels like hitting a home run anywhere I hit it on the face."

PGA Pro Allen Van Valkenburg remarked "High Heat 257+ is fantastic. My off-center misses have been phenomenal. Hitting it has been inspirational. Great clubs you can't miss-hit."

Barbara Gutstadt, founder of Women's Golf and Travel Concierge said "I love my High Heat clubs, but with the 257+ I can hit on the toe, the heel or the center of the face and get the same distance."

It was impossible to disagree with the reviews of the High Heat 257+ line of

For a more expert view, Kay McMahon -- a Hall of Fame LPGA Teacher -- said, "High Heat 257+ is a major game changer for amateur golfers. It is the only brand that takes advantage of a new USGA Rule that permits a CT over 257 for more distance in the toe and heel areas, where amateurs on average hit 50 percent of the time. The significance of this benefit cannot be overstated. The 3-Trampoline Technology made the 'best' clubs for amateur golfers even better."

Vic Williams, editor of Golf Tips had opportunity to play with High Heat 257+ after the PGA show. In his review, he pointed out "that amateurs historically lose 20-30 yards distance on toe and heel hits because of low CT and he too had similar experience until he hit the High Heat 257+ driver and his off-center hits were exhilarating" so much so that in his concluding remarks he encouraged all amateurs to "go and buy High Heat 257+."

There were not many media members at this year's PGA Show who disagreed. Arizona Golfer readers can receive a special offer by visiting [www.HighHeatGolf.com](http://www.HighHeatGolf.com). When ordering, select Arizona Golfers to receive a 15 percent savings. The offer is backed by a 30-day, full-price guarantee.



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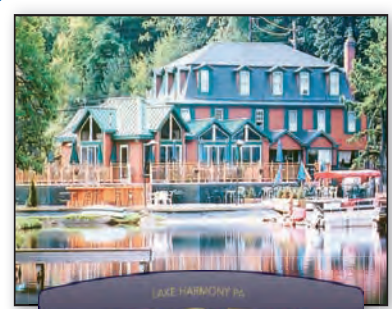
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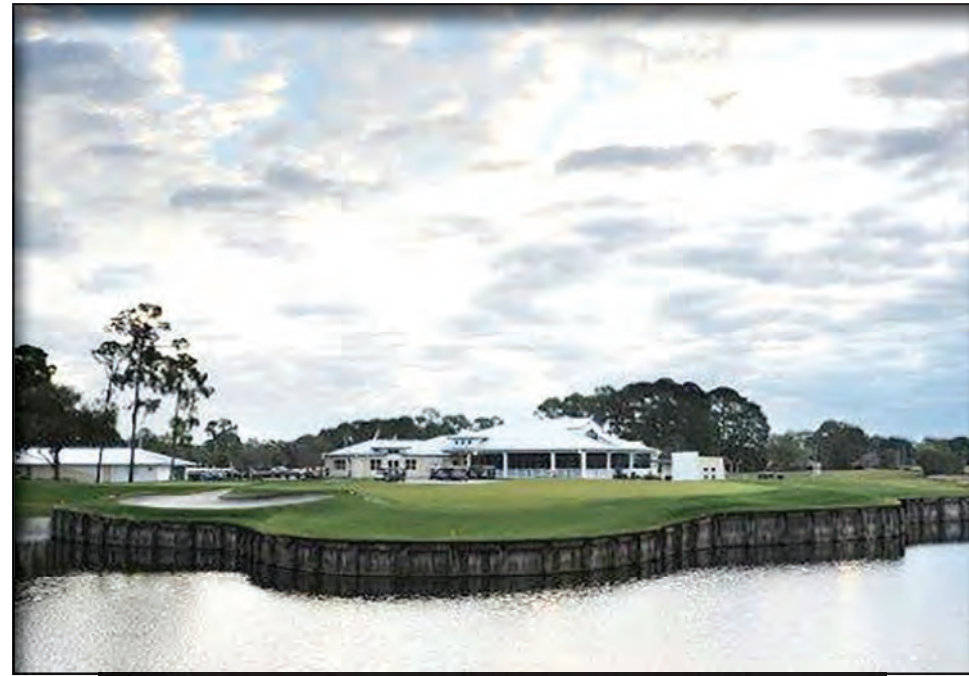




# Affordable Golf In Sebring Florida



**Inn on the Lakes, Sebring Florida**



**Sun N Lakes Golf & Country Club**

By **MIKE KERN**

Most of us I assume have been to the Orlando area. Maybe if only to visit Disney World or Sea World or Universal Studios or even outlet malls. But many have probably also taken advantage of all the golf there. And much of it is really good.

Yet as I recently learned, there's more to Central Florida than just Mickey and Minnie. And truth be told, Orlando isn't for everyone. At least not all the time. For those of us that need something different once in awhile, I give you Sebring, which is situated about an hour away due south. And it's a pretty straight shot to drive. But in a short time you can be transported back to another era, a taste of what that part of the country used to be like back in the day. And that can be a wonderful, enlightening thing. Especially for those who like their life to be little less stressful. It doesn't hurt that the golf options they have to offer can more than hold their own as well. Nothing wrong with a win-win.

Silly me. I thought Sebring was nothing more than a 12-hour car race. Always nice to broaden one's perspective.

Anyhow, I went there on a FAM trip that turned out to be way too short, due in part to my work responsibilities at the time. And yes, it's always nice to have friends in the business too. I'm sure what I got to experience was merely the tip of the place, but it was plenty enough to convince me that I will try my best to make it back at some point. I'm no dummy. I recognize a value when it's thrust upon me.



They call it the Citrus Golf Trail. And they bill it as the state's most affordable golf destination. Still, it's more than golf, just in case. There's fishing, boating, skiing and sailing. And that's just for starters. There's also a dozen or so golf

courses, which naturally is what got most of my attention. And there's history, hospitality, gently rolling hills and charming small towns. You're in the country, away from the hustle and bustle and nonstop toll booths, and it's nothing if not relaxing. I think sometimes we all need a little something along those lines. Just because.

We stayed at the Inn on the Lakes, which was in a word fabulous without being over the top. But there was still some wow factor involved. It was the kind of place my wife would have absolutely adored. No two rooms, we were told, are designed exactly alike. It looks like a step back in time from the outside, but the accommodations had the perfect ambiance. Mine was big enough for four, and everyone would have had space to spread out. The views of the water were spectacular, especially at sunrise and sunset. About the only thing missing was an ocean, but Orlando doesn't have one either. Just saying.

Packages here start as reasonably as \$89 a night, and that includes complimentary breakfast that was a nice touch. Tasty, too. I can only imagine what their suites look like. We were lucky enough to have dinner there one night at Chicanes restaurant, and it was a bona fide treat. Now I have to tell you there was a Sonny's BBQ just up the block, and normally I'd be jonesing to go there because it's a tradition unlike many others. But on this trip I didn't even give it a second thought. I was full. We started with stone crabs, went to a filet and finished it all off with a dessert that would have made my doctor increase my insulin supply. But he doesn't have to know, right? And our hosts couldn't have been nicer. I had the feeling that just about anything we could have asked for would have been taken care of. But it's never polite to be an oinker. They went out of their way to make us feel right at home. And I get the feeling they treat all of their customers the same way.

I always try to eat well when I'm on the road, and this was no exception. We had lunch one day at Eighteen East, in Avon Park, which you might drive by if you didn't know any better. Fortunately our tour guides did. Just a big time in a small town, as the slogan goes. A sign on the wall said it had the best burgers

*Golf in Sebring Florida continued on page 35*



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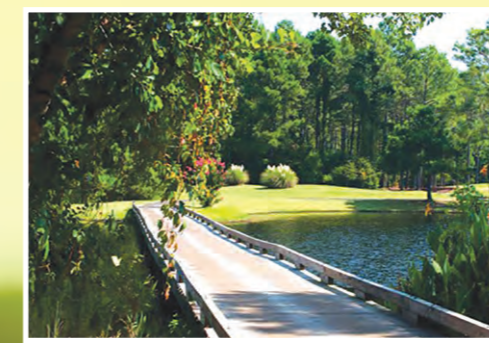
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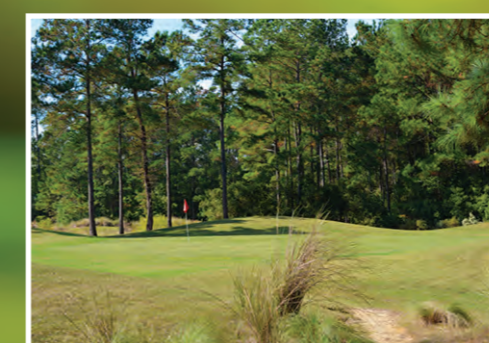
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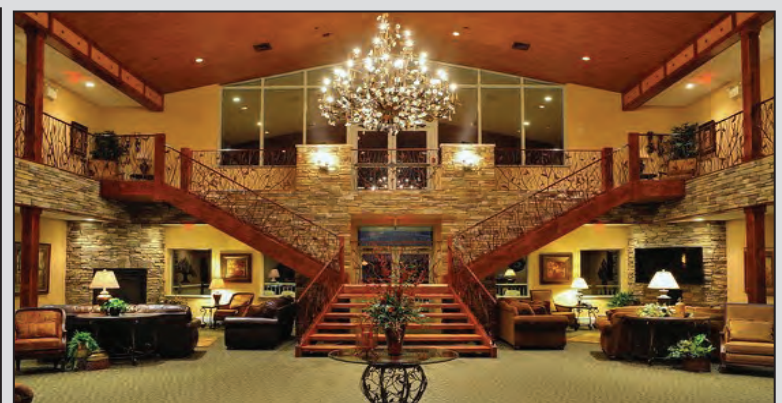
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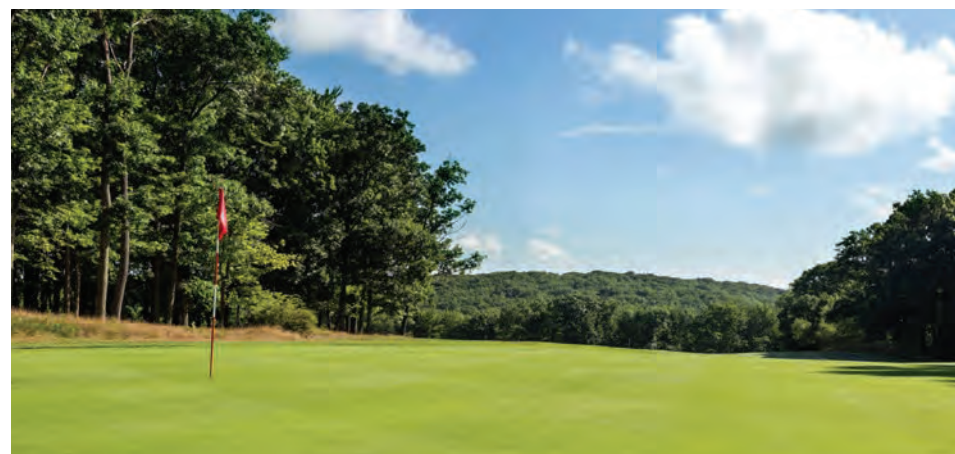
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### LOW PRO

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	65
Brian Bergstol (Shawnee Inn)	67
Mike Furey (Mahoning Valley)	68

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Mark Monahan (Honesdale)	71
George Pertole (PGA)	72
Brian Boyle (Skytop)	73

### LOW AMATEUR

Ryan Orcutt (Bethlehem)	72
Bob Andrejko (Great Bear)	74
Blake Reifsnnyder (Manor)	74

### LOW SENIOR AMATEUR

Ben Spence (Pocono Farms)	75
Irv Williams (Honesdale)	77
Ed Joe Reimer (Chapel Hill)	77

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Brian Bergstol (Shawnee Inn)	63
Mark Monahan (Honesdale)	66
Mike Furey (Mahoning Valley)	66

### TEAM LOW NET

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	57
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	61
Spencer Lunger (Scranton Canoe)	62

## Woodloch Springs Pro-Am

Woodloch Springs, PA Par 72

### LOW PRO

Kyle Tasselmyer (Woodloch)	72
John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	72
John Roche (Woodloch)	75
Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst CC)	76

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Mark Monahan (Honesdale)	76
Jim Booros (PGA)	77
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	79

### LOW AMATEUR

Mike Guro	76
Austin Ball	78
Mark Occipinti	80

### TEAM LOW GROSS

John Roche (Woodloch)	67
Kyle Tasselmyer (Woodloch)	68
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	69

### TEAM LOW NET

Mark Monahan (Honesdale)	64
Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst CC)	64
Patrick Spang (Elmhurst CC)	64
Joe Ambrose (Keystone)	65

## Southmoore Pro-Am

Southmoore Golf Course Par 72

### LOW PRO

Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	66
Brian Bergstol (Shawnee)	69
Greg Meyer (Morgan Hill)	72
Brad Paukovits (Whitetail)	74

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Mike Grabosky (Heidelberg)	73
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	75
Jim Booros (PGA)	78

### LOW AMATEUR

Tom Lusto	74
Brian Ott	75
Bill Mirams	75
Brandon Raihl	75
Frank Betz	75

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Brian Bergstol (Shawnee)	62
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	65
Greg Meyer (Morgan Hill)	66

### TEAM LOW NET

Mike Grabosky (Heidelberg)	58
John Kulhammer (Green Pond)	61
Jim Booros (PGA)	61

## Skytop Pro-Am

Skytop Country Club Par 72

### LOW PRO

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	73
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	76
Greg Meyer (Morgan Hill)	77
Kevin Edwards (Olde Homestead)	77

### LOW SENIOR PRO

John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	77
Brian Boyle (Skytop)	80
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	81

### LOW AMATEUR

Craig Scott (Wolf Hollow)	76
Dave Powers (Woodloch)	78
Cory Schmidt (Booros)	79
Jeff Silfies (Olde Homestead)	79

### TEAM LOW GROSS

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	144
Kevin Edwards (Olde Homestead)	147
Bill Lee (Wolf Hollow)	150

### TEAM LOW NET

Greg Meyer (Morgan Hill)	134
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	137
Brian Boyle (Skytop)	138





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# Philadelphia PGA Section

## SCOREBOARD



### Spring Pro-Pro Championship

C.C. of York - York, PA Par 72

		Total
Hennefer/Kirkpatrick	-9	63
Hall/Melton	-8	64
Allen/Marz	-7	65
Ingraham/Kogelman	-7	65
Forster/Perla	-6	66
Ferguson/Smith	-5	67
Gebhart/Swartz	-5	67
Ambrose/Bierkan	-3	69
Debski/Driscoll	-3	69
Gibson/Goudie	-3	69
Krebs/Wallis	-3	69
Lennon/Halvonik	-3	69
Sautter/Spina	-3	69
Sieracki/Shapley	-3	69
Anderson/Calhoun	-2	70
Bales/Hertzog	-2	70
Congdon/Small	-2	70
DeAngelis/Hardin	-2	70
Episcopo/Hillier	-2	70
Fritz/Seaman	-2	70
Grabosky/Signor	-2	70

### Haverford Phila. PGA Classic

Sunnybrook GC, Plymouth Meeting, PA Par 72

		Total
Mark Parson Harbor Pines	-5	67
Brett Melton Radley Run CC	-3	69
Corey McAlarney Squires GC	-3	69
Brian Bergstol Shawnee Inn and GR	-3	69
Michael Little Lookaway GC	-2	70
Andrew Turner Sunnybrook GC	-2	70
Billy Stewart ACE Club	-2	70
Jason Calhoun U of Penn	-2	70
Zac Oakley Waynesborough CC	-2	70
George Forster Radnor Valley CC	-1	71
Dave Quinn Philmont CC	-1	71
Stu Ingraham M Golf Range	-1	71
Mike Tobiason Deerfield GC	-1	71
Eric Kennedy Overbrook GC	E	72
Jamie Komancheck RiverCrest GC & Preserve	E	72
Scott Reilly Philadelphia CC	E	72
Stephen Sieracki Indian Springs GC	E	72
Mike Moses Concord CC	+1	73
John Pillar CC at Woodloch Springs	+1	73
Mike Grabosky Heidelberg CC	+1	73
Greg Farrow Deerwood CC	+1	73
Tony Perla LedgeRock GC	+1	73
Dean Halterman Galloway National GC	+1	73
Jeff Herb Waynesborough CC	+1	73

### Pro-Official Championship

Club Car, LLC. / Golf Cars Inc.

Waynesborough C.C. - Paoli, PA Par 71

Team		Total
Dave McNabb/ Joe Waterman Applebrook GC	-11	60
Scott Reilly/ Jim Black Philadelphia CC	-9	62
Matt DiEleuterio/ Todd Cottingham Whitford CC	-8	63
Ben Bewley/ Keith Derr Berkshire CC	-7	64
Anthony Malizia/ Tom Swartz Bidermann GC	-7	64
Ryan Lagergren/ John May Stonewall	-7	64
Eric Schultz/ Scott Badami Sunnybrook GC	-7	64
George Forster/ Marc Bogutz Radnor Valley CC	-6	65
Mike Ladden/ Andrew McReynolds Whitford CC	-6	65
Steve Swartz/ Mike Smyser Out Door CC	-6	65
Mike Grabosky/ Bob Yeager Heidelberg CC	-5	66
Jeff Herb/ Lou Hillegass Waynesborough CC	-5	66
Bob Lennon/ Gary Ferguson Wilmington CC	-5	66
Mike Moses/ Michael Gambol Concord CC	-5	66
Peter Clarke/ Jim Carney Manufacturers GCC	-4	67
Mickey Sokalski/ Glenn Meyer Philmont CC	-4	67
John DiMarco/ Anthony Palmer Laurel Creek CC	-3	68
Brian Fruehan/ David Coyne Elmhurst CC	-3	68
Eric Kennedy/ Wyll Cass Overbrook GC	-3	68
Kevin Duffy/ Tom Barton Riverton CC	-2	69
Chris Gardner/ Jill Talus-Grossman Bluestone Country Club	-2	69
Patrick Shine/Bob Dick Commonwealth National GC	-2	69

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Burlington Classic Pro-Am

Burlington Country Club, Mt..Holly, NJ Par 71

		R1	R2	Total
Brett Melton Radley Run CC		68	69	137 -3
George Forster Radnor Valley CC		68	70	138 -2
Andrew Turner Sunnybrook GC		69	71	140 E
Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC		68	72	140 E
Dave Quinn Philmont CC		71	70	141 +1
Billy Stewart ACE Club		72	70	142 +2
Pat Butkus Tavistock CC		71	72	143 +3
Mark Sheftic Merion GC		72	71	143 +3
Don DeAngelis Center Square GC		71	72	143 +3
Michael Little Lookaway GC		71	72	143 +3
Chris Krueger Kings Creek CC		75	69	144 +4
Greg Farrow Deerwood CC		74	70	144 +4
Jeff Bonicky Linwood CC		69	75	144 +4
Greg Matthias Tavistock CC		74	71	145 +5
Brendon Post University of Delaware		74	71	145 +5
Bill Walker Riverton CC		74	71	145 +5
Michael Lanzetta Mansfield Golf		72	73	145 +5
Bill Sautter Philadelphia Cricket Club		75	71	146 +6
Steve Swartz Out Door CC		74	72	146 +6
Ross Seaman Manufacturers GCC		74	72	146 +6
Don Allan Burlington CC		72	74	146 +6
Corey McAlarney Squires GC		77	70	147 +7



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 Guest Fees.....\$42

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# 2018 BMW Championship

## To Feature PGA Tour's Best at Aronimink Golf Club



Aronimink Clubhouse Hole #8 Photo by Russell Kirk

Aronimink Golf Club Hole #7 Photo by Russell Kirk

**NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa.**— The world's top golfers are competing on the PGA TOUR to earn their spots in the 2018 BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. The BMW Championship is the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs, with the top 70 PGA TOUR players vying for the chance to be crowned FedExCup champion. Based on current standings, the lineup for September 4-9 at Aronimink is expected to include past BMW Championship winners Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Justin Rose, and Marc Leishman, as well as 2018 Masters champion Patrick Reed and 2017 Open champion Jordan Spieth.

The BMW Championship has been named the PGA Tour's Tournament of the Year a record four times and hospitality and daily tickets sales have been strong to date. Fans who want to witness the world-class competition on Aronimink's historic Donald Ross-designed course still have the opportunity to reserve their tickets at [www.bmwchampionship.com](http://www.bmwchampionship.com). Grounds, upgraded Trophy Club, and all-inclusive 1899 Club tickets remain available in limited quantities. A variety of corporate hospitality options are also still available.

"When spectators arrive at Aronimink in September, they'll see the stars of the PGA TOUR contending for one of golf's most prestigious titles on a fully restored course that is among the most challenging and celebrated in the country," said Vince Pellegrino, Western Golf Association senior vice president of tournaments.

"From unique on-site attractions to ample spectator seating on many holes, BMW's commitment to excellence ensures that patrons will be treated to one of the most premium spectator experiences found anywhere on the PGA TOUR."

Philadelphia-area businesses are demonstrating their enthusiasm and support for the BMW Championship, with more than 110 corporate supporters signed and more than 90 percent of the hospitality opportunities sold to date. In response to increased demand, a new venue for entertaining – the Green Coat Club – has been added. This option provides a premium hospitality experience with spectacular views of Aronimink's golf course, including: access to stadium seating along the 9th and 18th greens; premium food and beverage with table service inside the clubhouse; and an exclusive second-floor Skybar overlooking both holes. For more information on corporate hospitality, contact David Fox at [fox@wgaesf.org](mailto:fox@wgaesf.org) or 484-841-2397.

Located just outside Philadelphia, Aronimink is hosting the BMW Championship for the first time. Founded in 1896, the

club has been host to several major tournaments, including the PGA Championship (1962), U.S. Amateur (1977), Senior PGA Championship (2003) and AT&T National (2010, 2011).

The 2018 BMW Championship – conducted by the Western Golf Association – will mark the first time since 1959 that the event, formerly known as the Western Open, has been contested in the state of Pennsylvania.

"The entire membership of Aronimink is pleased to host yet another world-class golf event at our club," said Joe Fabrizio, Aronimink Golf Club president. "I am confident that fans will long remember witnessing first-hand the restoration of our golf course, the first-class amenities and what promises to be an incredible week of golf."

To prepare for the BMW Championship, Aronimink has been restoring the course to its original 1928 Donald Ross American parkland design. Under the direction of noted course architect Gil Hanse, based in nearby Malvern, PA, Aronimink Golf Club has increased the number of its bunkers (75 to 176) and restored greens and fairway areas to their original 1928 dimensions and layout. Notably, Hanse has restored the greens on the 15th hole, a long par-4, by adding an additional 25-to-30 feet to the back of the green in order to restore a "punch bowl" effect. Also underway is the restoration of each hole's tee box to Ross' original free-form, "amoeba-like" design. The Donald Ross-designed course is consistently rated one of the finest in the United States.

Proceeds from the 2018 BMW Championship will be used to fund Platt Evans Scholarships for caddies attending Penn State University and to establish a scholarship house at Penn State-University Park, where scholarship recipients will live together. Since 2007, the BMW Championships has raised \$27 million to fund student scholarships for caddies of modest means.

### About the BMW Championship

The BMW Championship dates back to 1899 when it debuted as the Western Open, making it the third-oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR schedule, behind only the British Open and U.S. Open. BMW has sponsored the tournament since 2007 when it became the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs. The BMW Championship features a field of the top 70 players in the FedExCup standings to determine the final 30 players for the FedExCup finale at the TOUR Championship in Atlanta. Since 2007, the BMW Championship has contributed \$27 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation, the event's charitable beneficiary. To learn more, visit [www.bmwchampionship.com](http://www.bmwchampionship.com).

### PGA Tour Golf Rankings -

Rank	Player	Wins	Top 10	Money
1	Justin Thomas	2	6	\$5,523,800
2	Justin Rose	2	6	\$4,427,877
3	Jason Day	2	4	\$4,175,166
4	Patrick Reed	1	6	\$3,859,652
5	Bubba Watson	2	4	\$3,714,764
6	Phil Mickelson	1	6	\$3,647,601
7	Webb Simpson	1	5	\$3,438,767
8	Dustin Johnson	1	6	\$3,358,525
9	Patton Kizzire	2	4	\$3,192,969
10	Jon Rahm	1	4	\$3,070,168
11	Marc Leishman	0	6	\$3,066,834
12	Rickie Fowler	0	4	\$2,818,210
13	Tony Finau	0	5	\$2,704,545
14	Pat Perez	1	4	\$2,630,152
15	Bryson DeChambeau	1	6	\$2,592,398
16	Paul Casey	1	4	\$2,569,185
17	Aaron Wise	1	2	\$2,563,642
18	Luke List	0	5	\$2,477,595
19	Chesson Hadley	0	6	\$2,467,122
20	Patrick Cantlay	1	5	\$2,398,123
21	Alex Noren	0	3	\$2,331,926
22	Brian Harman	0	7	\$2,296,876
23	Rory McIlroy	1	3	\$2,261,763
24	Andrew Landry	1	4	\$2,251,194
25	Ian Poulter	1	3	\$2,245,727
26	Chez Reavie	0	2	\$2,170,961
27	Brendan Steele	1	3	\$2,165,345
28	Cameron Smith	0	5	\$2,158,880
29	Jordan Spieth	0	4	\$2,055,894
30	Xander Schauffele	0	3	\$1,995,867
31	Gary Woodland	1	2	\$1,934,471
32	Emiliano Grillo	0	5	\$1,921,676
33	Kevin Kisner	0	3	\$1,881,937
34	Jimmy Walker	0	4	\$1,880,086
35	Henrik Stenson	0	4	\$1,860,886
36	Si Woo Kim	0	4	\$1,854,359
37	Charles Howell III	0	4	\$1,779,876
38	Scott Piercy	1	2	\$1,769,334
39	Billy Horschel	1	2	\$1,765,432
40	Brooks Koepka	0	2	\$1,754,356
41	Austin Cook	1	6	\$1,729,486
42	Ted Potter, Jr.	1	1	\$1,715,380
43	Keegan Bradley	0	3	\$1,662,232
44	Charl Schwartzel	0	3	\$1,589,079
45	Beau Hossler	0	3	\$1,579,240
46	Rafa Cabrera Bello	0	3	\$1,578,814
47	Kevin Na	0	3	\$1,546,854
48	J.J. Spaun	0	3	\$1,480,657
49	Tommy Fleetwood	0	3	\$1,442,680
50	Kyle Stanley	0	4	\$1,429,820
51	Tiger Woods	0	2	\$1,428,327



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# Parson Wins 22<sup>nd</sup> Haverford Phila. PGA Classic



Sunnybrook Golf Club, Plymouth Meeting, PA



Playing in the last group Mark Parson, Harbor Pines Golf Club, Wins the 22nd Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic

Flourtown, Pa. – The 22nd annual Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic was held on May 29th at Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting, PA, on its traditional Tuesday after Memorial Day date. On a warm, humid day, PGA Professional Mark Parson of Harbor Pines Golf Club in Egg Harbor Township, NJ bested a field of 150 players (138 professionals and 12 amateurs) to capture the largest first place check of any PGA Sectional event in the country... \$100,000.

The tournament got off to an exciting start as Brett Melton (Radley Run Country Club), who was playing in the first group of the morning wave, posted a 3-under (69). Melton posted four birdies which included a clutch 25 foot birdie on the difficult par-4 18th hole to help him reach that number.

However when the morning wave came to an end Melton would share the top spot with Corey McAlarney (Squires Golf Club). McAlarney played a near perfect round of golf, posting four birdies along the way, but a bogey, on the long par-3 8th hole, meant he would finish with an identical score as Melton, 3-under (69).

Three additional players in the morning wave, including a pair of past champions, Andrew Turner (Sunnybrook Golf Club) and Billy Stewart (The ACE Club), along with Michael Little (Lookaway Golf Club) threatened to join the pair at 3-under but ultimately fell one shot short.

Defending champion Turner made the turn at 3-under but a pair of bogeys on holes 12 & 13 proved too difficult to overcome. Like Turner, Little made the turn at 3-under but as Little made his way back to the clubhouse he found trouble on a few holes and his lengthy birdie putt on the 18th hole fell just short leaving him one shot shy. Stewart, who started his Haverford Classic on the 10th hole, got off to a slow start with a bogey on his opening hole. Stewart would quickly recover and made the turn at even par. After birdies on holes 1 & 3 Stewart found himself at 2-under but unfortunately he was unable to card any more red numbers after that and finished his round at 2-under-par.

As the tournament turned to the afternoon wave a couple of players made a run at the top of the leaderboard. The first to do so was Jason Calhoun (Univ. of Pennsylvania). Calhoun found himself at 2-under as he played the closing hole. After his tee shot found the left rough, Calhoun managed to hit his approach shot to 20 feet. Unfortunately Calhoun was unable to convert the birdie putt and

he finished at 2-under (70). Next to make a run at the leaders was Zac Oakley (Wayneborough Country Club). Starting on back nine, Oakley was 1-over after his opening nine holes but as he made the turn he carded four birdies and found himself at 3-under par as he played the par-4 9th hole. Unfortunately, a wayward tee shot led to a bogey and Oakley finished with a score of 2-under (70).

One player in afternoon did manage to break free of the logjam at 2-under. Brian Bergstol (Shawnee Inn & Resort) carded three birdies through eight holes and looked primed to surpass Melton and McAlarney for the lead. However, Bergstol's fourth birdie was cancelled by his lone bogey and he would join the pair at 3-under. With only a few groups remaining on the course in looked as though the tournament was headed for a playoff.

But playing in the tournament's final paring, Mark Parson (Harbor Pines Golf Club) knew exactly what was in front of him as he made his way around Sunnybrook Golf Club. Parson got off to a hot start with four birdies on his opening eight holes but a bogey on the par-4 9th dropped Parson to 3-under as he made his way to the back nine. Parson would trade bogeys and birdies on holes 10 & 11 and 13 & 14 respectively to find himself back at 3-under as he played the par-5 16th hole. After reaching the green in two, Parson left himself a tap in birdie to get back to 4-under as he made his way to the par-3 17th hole. Parson was able to convert a long 30 foot birdie putt to get himself to 5-under with only one hole to play. On the 18th hole, Parson's tee shot found the left rough but he managed to hit his approach shot on the fringe and two putts later Parson was in the clubhouse with a 5-under (67) giving him a two-shot victory.

The victory was Parson's first Philadelphia PGA points win and it could not have come at a better tournament. With the largest first place prize of any individual event Parson walked away from Sunnybrook and the Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic \$100,000 richer.

As always the members of the Philadelphia PGA would like to thank Mr. George Connell and the Haverford Trust Company as well as the membership of Sunnybrook Golf Club for their tremendous support of this event.

For more information, visit [www.philadelphia.pga.com](http://www.philadelphia.pga.com) or follow us on social media: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



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**Pinecrest Golf Club, Avon Park Fla**



**River Greens Golf Course**

## *Golf in Sebring Fla. continued from Page 19*

anywhere, so who was I to argue. If they're not No. 1 they're certainly in the discussion. Don't even look at the menu. You can trust me on matters like that. I'm one with food.

We also had a meal at Cowpoke's Watering Hole, in Sebring, which started as a fruit stand in the 1950s. You can't make that stuff up. At some point the owners, a pair of local brothers, added a 14-foot live alligator named Billy to the ambiance. They didn't even serve food until 20 years ago. The gator is long gone, but his spirit remains alive and well. They specialize in steaks, topped with their signature garlic butter. You really can't go wrong, from the bully bites (yes, it tastes like chicken) to the fried green tomatoes to the frog legs to the house-made potato chips to ... OK, you get the idea. And please don't forget the orange cake to wash everything down. It's something you can't really get anywhere else, even if by that point you won't really need it. That's what vacations are for.

As for the golf, you get a lot of bang for the buck. I have never been a golf snob, so I don't need every round I play to be at Lake Nona or Bay Hill. I just want to have fun, have it be playable, and walk off knowing I would go back and enjoy it just as much if not more the next time. In other words, places I could play two or three times a week and never get tired of. Sebring seems to have that. And I didn't even get to play what supposedly was the best of the four stops on our itinerary, Highlands Ridge North, since I had to leave early to get back to the real world. My loss. Upon further review I should have taken a mulligan. My boss would have understood.

We did get to see Sun N Lakes Golf Club, playing in a nine-hole scramble and then a nine-hole individual net. And even though I hadn't swung a club in a month or so, I acquitted myself fairly well. Not that that was the point. I had a good time, playing with three friends who made it even more enjoyable. The course was open, very user-friendly. Which I needed given my rust. But depending what you wanted to chew off, it could present a challenge to the mid-handicapper as much as it could for the guy who might be trying to beat the course record. And that's not always the easiest thing to do, believe me. This

place has regularly hosted Qualifying Tournaments for the PGA Latinoamerica Tour and PGA Canadian Tour. So they must be doing something right. And we had a great time going over our rounds in the clubhouse afterward. Everyone tried to be as honest as possible. No doubt a first.

The next day we went to Pinecrest in the morning and River Greens in the afternoon. Again, both were well worth a visit. I even got a shirt from River Greens, which had a nice logo, because I just can't help myself. Sue me. Before it was razed in 1927, the Pinecrest Hotel was a pretty special landmark. You can still see where it used to be as you make the drive in. The best part is, there are no homes or condos lining the fairways. Just orange groves and wooded areas. Imagine that. For visuals alone it gets a big thumbs up. It's all very peaceful. So please try to appreciate the difference. River Greens might have been my favorite, even though you could still see some of the hurricane damage from months earlier. But it was pretty. A lot of water comes into play, so you might not birdie your way around. Nevertheless, you could make a low score from time to time. There's some target golf, and you might have to think your way around. There's a drivable par 4 on the front side, and three of the last four holes are par 5s. It's one of those places where it just looks like they work really hard to get it right. And it shows.

The day I was leaving they went to visit the Speedway, so I missed out on that. Just gives me another reason to return. As if I really needed extra incentive. I figure I've only scratched the surface. Heck, I might even bring my wife. There's every chance she could get as much if not more out of it than me. Aside from making bogeys, of course. I know she would fall in love with the hotel. That's what happens when you've been married 35 years. You get a feel for that. I know how much she enjoys the nature end of it. And judging by the brochures they have almost as much of that as they have doglegs. See Highlands Hammock State Park, one of Florida's oldest and largest. So they're probably going to have make room for a twosome next time. Can't say you weren't warned.

For more information by all means go to VisitSebring.com or call 800-545-6021. Tell them the midget from Northeast Philly gave it his sincerest recommendations. If you go, on the way back to the airport say hi to Goofy for me. Another tradition.



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# The Smiths Capture Father & Son (Middle) at Heidelberg



Gary and Cody Smith bump fists following a par save on No. 2 (par 3, 151 yards).

**BERNVILLE, Pa. — A jubilant Cody Smith couldn't hide his giddy grin. Can you blame the Philadelphia Publinks GA member after experiencing one of the best rounds — better yet golf moments — of his life?**

Smith, along with his father Gary, carded a 1-under-par 69 to capture the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Father & Son (Middle) at an overcast Heidelberg Country Club (par 70, 6,061 yards). The event's format is selective drive/alternate shot.

The Smiths, who played in the morning, meandered throughout the clubhouse as a handful of teams in the afternoon threatened to tie, or to even overtake, their lead. When the victory became official, Cody's grin returned. He and Gary shook hands and embraced.

"I can't believe we did it, dad, I've wanted to win this with you for a long time," Cody said.

"I've been lucky to play in a couple of U.S. Amateur Championships (1983, 1991) — college golf and a few neat things," Gary, 58, said. "Two years ago, when we finished second in the (Pennsylvania Golf Association) Father & Son (Championship), that was the best day I had on the golf course. Today beats that. Playing golf with your son and having a good round is pretty special."

Cody, 23, raised his game from tee to green en route to raising a trophy with dad.

"Every time I get to go out and play golf with my dad, it's a lot of fun," he said. "I just feel like when I play with him, I always play better. I want to show off for him."

Cody showed off alright. He ensured safety off the tee and executed all three of the team's birdie putts.

"He drove the ball well. He rolled the ball well," Gary, a Pine Valley Golf Club member, said. "With the exception of one hole — he hit it out-of-bounds on No. 17 — he was in play all day. It's nice that I can just get up there and swing. With the exception of two or three holes, we played his drive, which is why he was putting all day."

"I've been hitting the ball well recently and I've lowered my scores, so I'm expecting my handicap to go down," Cody said.

Starting on the back nine, the Smith team inked its first circle (birdie) on No. 12 (par 4, 365 yards). After Cody parted the trees accordingly, Gary hit a wedge 80 yards to eight feet. His son cleaned up the birdie putt. The Smith team immediately relinquished that stroke after failing to get up-and-down from the left fairway bunker on No. 13 (par 4, 380 yards). Cody returned to red by draining a 12-foot slider on No. 15 (par 4, 404 yards). Gary's lob wedge from 135 yards set up the tense conversion.

"That wasn't exactly an easy one. The green was sloping pretty hard there," Cody said.

The undulating No. 6 (par 4, 412 yards) green wasn't easy, either; the Huntingdon Valley, Pa. residents walked away with another bogey thanks to a three-putt from 45 feet. But the par 5, 481-yard No. 9 revealed that championship mettle exemplified throughout the day.

Standing 192 yards from the flagstick, Cody, in between clubs for a millisecond, forcefully retrieved his 5-iron, addressed his golf ball and swung without hesitation.

"I figured that I'd rather be middle and short of the green than long. I had confidence that I could get it on the green, and I ended up getting it on," Cody, a senior at Bryn Athyn College

majoring in business, said. "It took a very generous bounce forward and got much closer."

Thirty feet, to be exact. Gary's eagle attempt drifted three feet left of the jar. Cody, again demonstrating a swagger a la Leonardo DiCaprio on the red carpet, deposited an ultimately triumphant birdie.

Credit a new putter — a red Odyssey mallet — and an altered stance for Cody's awakening on the greens of late.

"I spent a lot more time working on my putting," he said. "I believe I tended to stand too far from the ball. I just tried to make sure I got my head over the ball when I putted. I use to have nine three-putts a round. Now I have one or two, sometimes none."

"I think that in the past in this event, we tended to shoot in the mid-70s and always had a few three-putts or a double bogey on one hole or something bad happens," Gary, who also let smirks slip post-round, added. "Today we just both seemed to be in a good frame. We stepped up and hit shots with confidence."

The Smiths hope it's a light of confidence that never goes out.

The Father & Son (Middle) tournament is for those father and son teams with sons 18 to 29 years old. The event was conceived in 2008 because of the high demand for participation in both the Father & Son (Younger), which celebrates its 61st anniversary this year, and the Older tournament — an event in its 107th year.

Golf Association of Philadelphia

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## FINAL TEAM RESULTS

**Gary Smith/Cody Smith, Pine Valley Golf Club /Philadelphia Publinks GA**

Steve Ebersole/Greg Ebersole, The Ridge at Back Brook	70
Matt Krass/Jim Krass, Radley Run Country Club	70
Jef Fogel/Ryan Fogel, Penn Oaks Golf Club	71
Buddy Hansen, IV/E. Hansen, III, Blue Bell Country Club	71
Andrew Isztwan/Brian Isztwan, Huntingdon Valley Country Club	71
Dwight Dudas/Matt Dudas, Indian Valley Country Club	72
Neal Levitsky/Kevin Levitsky, Wilmington Country Club	73
Daniel Pinciotti, Jr./D.J. Pinciotti, III, Huntingdon Valley Country Club	73
John Barry/Jack Barry, Lancaster Country Club	73





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