

# golfjournal

## EYES ON BRYSON







TIGER WOODS

COLLIN MORIKAWA

BRYSON DECHAMBEAU

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

JON RAHM

# REACH FOR THE CROWN



SUPPORTING GOLF SINCE 1967





BROOKS KOEPKA

LUDVIG ÅBERG

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA

ADAM SCOTT

JUSTIN THOMAS



THE DAY-DATE



**ROLEX**

FOR AN OFFICIAL ROLEX JEWELER VISIT [ROLEX.COM](https://www.rolex.com)  
ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL AND DAY-DATE ARE ® TRADEMARKS. NEW YORK



# CONTENTS

SUMMER 2025

## FEATURES

### **36** Photo Essay: **Testing, Testing, Testing**

*About 750,000 tests of all types of golf equipment are conducted annually by the USGA*

**PHOTOS BY JONATHAN KOLBE**

### **58** Peerless Pair

*A look back at the remarkable era of U.S. Women's Amateur dominance by JoAnne Gunderson Carner and Anne Quast Sander*

**BY RON DRISCOLL**

### **68** Works for Me!

*Are you using the Rules of Golf to your advantage?*

**BY JAY ROBERTS & DANNY VOHDEN**

JoAnne Carner, the USGA's most decorated female champion, at Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach, Fla., in March.

PHOTO BY SIMON DALE



# 48

## COVER STORY

### Online, On Brand

*Is Bryson DeChambeau the most interesting U.S. Open champion in history? Thanks to his devotion to content creation, he's certainly one of the most visible*

BY JESSICA MARKSBURY

#### 6 Opening Letter

*Inside the continuous effort to deliver the "wow" factor for USGA championship hospitality*

#### 8 Leading Off

*The latest tool to enhance efficiency, course conditions*

#### 11 Quick 9

*What to know, see and share from the world of golf*

#### 20 Talking Golf

*Smokey Robinson won't stop making music, or playing the game he loves*

BY MICHAEL ARKUSH

#### 26 On Golf

*The lessons weren't always apparent, but golf with my dad shaped my life and livelihood*

BY ROGER STEELE

#### 32 A Great Golf Hole

*The par-4 9th hole at Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, Calif.*

BY MIKE BENKUSKY

#### 74 Venue Spotlight

*Atlanta Athletic Club, site of the 2025 U.S. Girls' Junior, is a peach of a host*

BY TOM MACKIN

#### 80 From the Archive

*What to know, see and share from the world of golf*

**Photo: The 11th hole at Atlanta Athletic Club's Riverside Course in Johns Creek, Ga.**

PHOTO BY RUSSELL KIRK



# CONTRIBUTORS



**Simon Dale** is a freelance photographer specializing in athletes and sports whose passion was ignited at age 19 on a surf trip to Puerto Escondido, Mexico. A 1996 graduate of the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Dale assisted for a decade in celebrity, fashion, and product photography and views every project as a testament to his lifelong commitment.



**Gary D'Amato** writes for Wisconsin.Golf, following a 28-year career at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, during which he covered more than 70 major championships and 11 Olympic Games. A three-time Wisconsin Sportswriter of the Year, he is a member of the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame and is the immediate past president of the Golf Writers Association of America.



**Mark Harris** is a Philadelphia-based graphic artist whose work has been featured in The New York Times, Wired and The Atlantic, among others. Harris utilizes strategic collage work to bring concepts to life and, although his medium is digital, he adds in handmade elements to bring a tactile depth. Sports have always been at the forefront of Harris' life, and he finds it a breath of fresh air to work on sports-centric pieces.



**Jessica Marksbury** is a senior editor at Golf Magazine and Golf.com and was a founding member of Columbia University's women's golf team. She writes and produces both print and online news and feature stories, oversees women's-centric instruction and manages special projects and lifestyle coverage. Her original interview series, "A Round With..." debuted in November 2015.



**Roger Steele** is a Chicago native, golf content creator and entrepreneur. He is the founder of Hipe Media and collaborates with a variety of brands, including Callaway and Lululemon. He also hosts "Range Talk" as a way to engage with sports figures to discuss golf and life. His work focuses on storytelling and diversifying the game, aiming to break stereotypes and welcome new audiences.

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:** Michael Arkush, Christine Bader, Mike Benkusky, Steven Gibbons, Russell Kirk, Jonathan Kolbe, Kyle LaFerriere, Geoff Leighly, Don Liebig, Tom Mackin, Chris McEniry, Jason E. Miczek, James Nix, E.M. Pio Roda, Madison Stewart, Patrick Welsh

# golfjournal

Official Publication of the USGA

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Greg Midland

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

John Mummert

ART DIRECTOR

Donna Harrison

MANAGING EDITOR

Daria Meoli

SENIOR WRITER

David Shefter

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Ron Driscoll

Evan Rothman

PHOTO EDITOR

Jackie Diller

USGA MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Marianne Gaudio, Pamela Ochab,  
Susan Wasser, Louie Zivkovic

Published for the USGA by GOLF, a division  
of 8AM Golf Holdings, LLC

PUBLISHER

Howard Milstein

CEO

Jason Adel

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

David DeNunzio

THE USGA MISSION:

"To Unify, Showcase, Govern and  
Advance the game."

All rights reserved. No part of this  
publication may be reproduced, stored  
in a retrieval system or transmitted in  
any form or by any means – electronic,  
mechanical, photocopying, recording  
or otherwise – without the prior written  
permission of the USGA.

Printed in the USA

FOLLOW THE USGA



CONTACT US

Comments about Golf Journal content:

[golfjournal@usga.org](mailto:golfjournal@usga.org)

Address changes and membership  
inquiries: [membership@usga.org](mailto:membership@usga.org)





THE LEXUS  
**GX**

 **LEXUS**  
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

LEXUS IS A PROUD PARTNER OF THE USGA®



OPENING LETTER

# An Elevated Experience

BY RALEIGH LEAHY



The 1895 Club delivered a premium hospitality setting at Pinehurst.





JAMES NIX

ONE OF THE THRILLING ASPECTS of USGA championships, particularly the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open, is the scale of the on-site footprint. Grandstands and holes lined with fans coexist with an increasingly sophisticated array of hospitality infrastructure, which are positioned to enhance the atmosphere while also providing a crucial revenue stream.

Two years ago, the USGA brought corporate hospitality sales and management in-house. This strategic move jump-started sales for the 2025 championship season and reinforced our commitment to deliver a best-in-class golf experience. It enables us to gain deeper insights into the corporate marketplace, strengthen relationships with our clients and partners, and elevate every guest's experience.

Economic fluctuations and changing consumer habits over the past decade have underscored the need for adaptable programs that align with our clients' evolving goals. Although we have long offered a diverse range of hospitality options, today every experience must have the "wow" factor. These range from private chalets accommodating 100 guests and semi-private suites for 35, to the exclusive 1895 Club featuring chef's menu selections and the flexibility of indoor-outdoor seating.

At the core of our strategy is the prioritization of hospitality locations and the transformation of the 1895 Club. By centering our private and semi-private options on the venue's most exciting hole locations and viewing opportunities, we significantly broaden our appeal. Today, corporate America as well as individuals and small groups look for memorable events and exceptional experiences. This evolving demand has inspired us to refine our offerings.

We have had incredible corporate support at the last three U.S. Opens in Boston, Los Angeles and Pinehurst, and that trend continues with this year's U.S. Open at Oakmont. Our commitment to monitoring trends, listening to our customers and developing tailored programs ensures that customers investing in our championships enjoy an unmatched hospitality experience. In turn, this allows the revenues generated by the program to further fund the USGA's mission of advancing the game of golf and ensuring its future.

I am excited to be leading this charge at the USGA – and if our paths don't cross at Oakmont Country Club or Erin Hills this year, we will be looking for you at Shinnecock Hills and Riviera Country Club in '26!

*Raleigh Leahy*

RALEIGH LEAHY

*USGA Senior Director, Hospitality Sales*



# Field Work

*photo by* **KYLE LAFERRIERE**

Golf agronomy has long been a combination of art and science, but increasingly, it's the latter. A suite of products developed by the USGA Green Section now includes the Moisture Meter, a tool that provides course superintendents with real-time data on a putting green's soil moisture, salinity and temperature. It's one part of the USGA's 15-year, \$30 million commitment to help golf facilities significantly reduce and manage their water usage. While all this data might go unseen by golfers, they are reaping the benefits of more consistent conditions and improved operational efficiency.









ESTD 1846  
**Dewar's**  
 THE OFFICIAL  
 SCOTCH WHISKY OF THE  
 125TH U.S. OPEN®

OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB | JUNE 12-15, 2025



SCAN TO SECURE  
 YOUR BOTTLE



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. ©2025. DEWAR'S AND ITS TRADE DRESS,  
 ARE TRADEMARKS. IMPORTED BY JOHN DEWAR & SONS COMPANY,  
 CORAL GABLES, FL. BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY - 43% ALC. BY VOL.



# QUICK 9

*What to know, see and share  
from the world of golf*

## MY SHOT



JASON E. MICZEK



## FLY, KIDS, FLY

by MADISON STEWART

**T**O LOVE GOLF as a kid growing up in the city of Philadelphia offers both opportunities and challenges. We have a great golf legacy here – there are several public courses within the city limits. Some of the kids I have the privilege of working with, however, don't even know those courses exist – and a lack of transportation would be an issue even if they did.

That's what makes my job as an outreach coordinator with First Tee – Greater Philadelphia so rewarding. I'm a liaison with 16 schools and youth service organizations and oversee our Access to Golf initiative, which provides transportation and lunch for kids from elementary school through high school. They get an opportunity to come to a green-grass facility and learn the game in a way that makes them feel welcome. For them to be able to see that people who look like them enjoy golf, and are cool and smart and friendly, is powerful.

It's a full-circle journey for me, because I used to be just like them. I'm a third-generation golfer.

*(continued on page 12)*



(continued from page 11)

Some of my earliest childhood memories are being in my grandfather's house and playing with my cousins on an old-school putting mat. But I didn't start taking golf seriously until I was about 10 and had a chance to experience in-school programs that allowed me to learn the game and have fun. The crazy thing? While I didn't know it at the time, they were run by First Tee.

I played on my high school team and, after college in Florida, I returned to Philly in 2019, looking for something I was passionate about. My mom encouraged me to see if First Tee had jobs; by the following week, I had one.

A First Tee superpower is that we teach kids much more than how to swing a club. I was a shy kid; I didn't know how to socialize. But golf attracts people from all walks of life, and you end up being friends with people you would never imagine being friends with. Now I'm able to help ignite that fire for golf in kids just like my coaches did for me years ago.

## EXPERTS EXPLAIN

# Drawing the Line

## How and why USGA championship Handicap Index limits evolve

by **BRENT PALADINO**

USGA Senior Director, Championship Administration

**I**N 2024, nine of our 15 USGA championships had their Handicap Index® limits lowered – from 1 to 4 strokes. The limits are reviewed each year, although these were the first substantial changes since 2015. It begs the question: Why?

Without handicap limits, the USGA might well have upwards of 100,000 players applying to compete in our championship qualifiers. (Note: we accepted 47,928 entries for our 2023 championships.) Record interest and record entries are good problems to have, but they're still problematic. In

2021, the USGA and our Allied Golf Associations (AGAs) hosted almost 700 qualifiers nationwide, by which time it had become apparent that this volume wasn't sustainable due to the strain on AGA resources and golf course availability. The number of qualifiers has since been reduced to 607, although their purpose remains unchanged: To identify players who can compete at the national championship level.

Handicap Index (H.I.) is the primary lever the USGA can pull to make sure we get as many of those players as

possible in the qualifiers. H.I. maximums aren't meant to discourage anyone – rather, they're to ensure players have advanced on their journey from club and local level through state and regional level to the national stage.

How we change the Handicap Index limits is a journey, too. It's driven by data, leaning heavily on prior performance across handicap segments, and goes from our Championship Administration team to our individual championship directors and then to our Championship Committee for review. My advice for players who are interested and eligible: Sign up fast!

### TO THE MAX

USGA championship handicap limits instituted in 2024:

Championship	Limit	Change
U.S. Open	0.4	▼ 1.0
U.S. Amateur	0.4	▼ 2.0
U.S. Junior Amateur	2.4	▼ 2.0
U.S. Mid-Amateur	2.4	▼ 1.0
U.S. Senior Open	2.4	▼ 1.0
U.S. Women's Amateur	2.4	▼ 3.0
U.S. Women's Open	2.4	—
U.S. Amateur Four-Ball	2.4	▼ 3.0
U.S. Girls' Junior	5.4	▼ 4.0
U.S. Senior Amateur	5.4	▼ 2.0
U.S. Senior Women's Open	7.4	—
U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur	9.4	—
U.S. Senior Women's Amateur	14.4	—
U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball	14.4	—
U.S. Adaptive Open	36.4	—



**TRIVIA TIME:** How many three-putts did Tiger Woods have during his historic 2000 U.S. Open victory at Pebble Beach Golf Links? (answer on page 15)

**MILESTONE MOMENTS**

## SILVER, GOLD, DIAMOND, CENTENNIAL

THE USGA'S first three championships debuted in 1895, a year after its founding. A pair of world wars forced six years of suspensions – thus the original trio (U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Women's Amateur) all celebrated their centennials in 2000. As they reach No. 125 in 2025, here are some notable moments from Nos. 25, 50, 75 and 100.

by **RON DRISCOLL**

25

**1921:** Marion Hollins outlasted Alexa Stirling, 5 and 4, to capture the **25th U.S. Women's Amateur** at Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, N.J. The victory by Hollins, a World Golf Hall of Famer, ended a three-title run by Stirling, who won in 1916, 1919 and 1920 (interrupted by WWI).

50

**1950:** In the **50th U.S. Open**, Ben Hogan engineered the "Miracle at Merion," his victorious return from a near-fatal auto accident 16 months earlier. Hogan's iconic 1-iron shot on the 72nd hole sealed his spot in an 18-hole playoff, which he won over Lloyd Mangrum and George Fazio for the 2nd of his 4 U.S. Open titles.

Sam Urzetta, of Rochester, N.Y., prevailed in 39 holes – the longest final match to that point – over Frank Stranahan at Minneapolis Golf Club in the **50th U.S. Amateur**.

Urzetta, 24, dedicated his victory to his older brother, Joe, who had died in combat in Germany in WWII.

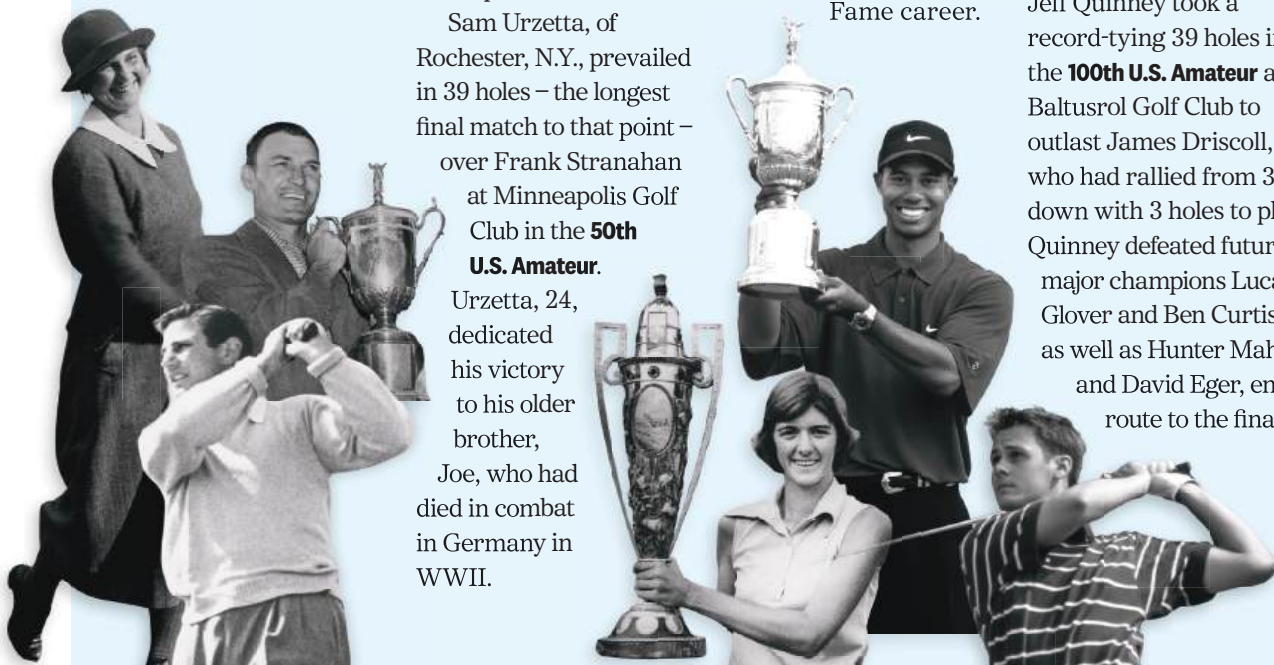
75

**1975:** Beth Daniel won the first of her two U.S. Women's Amateur titles in the **75th edition** at Brae Burn Country Club near Boston. Daniel topped Donna Horton, who would win the 1976 title before Daniel claimed a second title in 1977. Daniel went on to a World Golf Hall of Fame career.

100

**2000:** A quarter-century ago, Tiger Woods notched the most convincing victory in major-championship history, lapping the field in the **100th U.S. Open** at Pebble Beach Golf Links by 15 strokes. It was the third of Woods' 15 major wins and the first of his three U.S. Open titles.

Fifty years on from Urzetta's victory, Jeff Quinney took a record-tying 39 holes in the **100th U.S. Amateur** at Baltusrol Golf Club to outlast James Driscoll, who had rallied from 3 down with 3 holes to play. Quinney defeated future major champions Lucas Glover and Ben Curtis, as well as Hunter Mahan and David Eger, en route to the final.





Colton's national profile soared in 2024 thanks to strong play in several prominent events.

## RISING STAR

# Luke Colton

by CHRISTINE BADER

**B**EFORE LUKE Colton started high school and decided to focus on golf, he played basketball and baseball. Regrets? None... but Colton admits that he occasionally misses the team aspect of his previous sports.

Reach the heights Colton has, however, and you can find fraternity. In 2024, he played for the victorious U.S. Junior Presidents Cup Team at Le Club Laval-sur-le-Lac in Quebec, Canada. The 17-year-old Texan then made the roster for the 2025 U.S. National Junior Team, an elite roster of 11 boys and 11 girls supported by the USGA that comes together for camps and competi-

tions throughout the year.

And unlike many topnotch young players who forgo high school golf to focus exclusively on the tournament circuit, Colton is fully committed to his team at Wakeland High School in Frisco, where he's currently a junior. Last spring, Wakeland finished second to Highland Park, the perennial Dallas powerhouse that counts Scottie Scheffler among its alumni – and Colton really wants to knock them off their perch before he graduates.

Of course, Colton has had plenty of solo success. Last year alone, he won the Texas 5A state high school

individual title, reached the Round of 16 at the U.S. Junior Amateur and was a single shot away from making match play at the U.S. Amateur. His runner-up finish in November's AJGA Rolex Tournament of Champions secured Colton the coveted top spot in the AJGA national rankings.

Having verbally committed to Vanderbilt University for the fall of 2026, Colton also has his sights set on another team. "One of my big goals is to make the Walker Cup this year," he said, calling it an "out there" target before adding, "But I think if I play really well, I can do it."

No doubt his many teammates would agree.

## THE COLTON FILE

**Hometown:** Frisco, Texas

**Age:** 17

**School:** Wakeland High School

**Graduation year:** 2026

**Height/Weight:** 5'11"/165 lbs.

**Favorite school subject:** Math

**Favorite recent read:**  
The Maze Runner

**Favorite musical artist:**  
Chris Stapleton

**Siblings:** Jordan (21), Madelyn (19)

**Pet:** 18-year-old turtle named Hard Shell

**USGA championships (best finish):** 4 (2024 U.S. Junior Amateur, Round of 16)



**TRIVIA ANSWER** (from Page 13): **O. Woods** went bogey-free over his last 26 holes on the way to a 15-stroke victory, a major-championship record margin.



## MATCH PLAY

# Chips off the Old Block

by **EVAN ROTHMAN**

IN HONOR OF THE RECENT, untimely passing of some well-known and much-loved golf parents, below is an assemblage of quotes from star players on the formative roles played by one or both of their parents. Can you pair the golfers and their words?

1. Arnold Palmer
2. Tom Watson
3. Lydia Ko
4. Matt Kuchar
5. Jordan Spieth
6. Tiger Woods
7. Greg Norman
8. Curtis Strange
9. Jack Nicklaus

- A. "My Mom was a force of nature all her own, her spirit was simply undeniable. She was quick with the needle and a laugh. She was my biggest fan, greatest supporter, without her none of my personal achievements would have been possible."
- B. "I remember every day after high school getting dropped off at the driving range and I'd hit balls. When my dad was done with work we'd go out and play nine holes.... He will be missed more than words can express."
- C. "Put your kid in positions where they have high-quality individuals around them to learn from. I think that's probably as important as anything. That's what my dad did for me."
- D. "He put my hands on the club and said, 'That's the way you hold it.' He said it just once, but that was enough. I have held it that way from then on."

- E. "[Dad] would say, 'I don't care what you're feeling inside. If the other guy wins, make him believe you're happy for him. Look him in the eye, give him a firm handshake and say, 'Well done.'"
- F. "My father did not go around saying, 'Nice shot.' You were supposed to hit nice shots."
- G. "My father made me the individual I am because of his strength of character, and my mother gave me the emotions."
- H. "Dad was the head pro, and I was hesitant to bother him while he was working. But one afternoon, after three miserable days trying to fix whatever problem I had, I walked into his office and asked him to help me. As I began explaining my problem, I started crying. He could be firm, but this time he put his arm around me and walked me out to the range. He spent the rest of the afternoon working with me."
- I. "My father took me to the range of a course.... People stopped to watch. They said, 'You're good. You're very good.' I thought, Well then, I must be good. My father doesn't play golf, but he noticed the comments. He began training me. He doesn't know about the golf swing, but he had played tennis and knows how to train an athlete."

(Answers on next page)

**Jordan Spieth with his parents, Chris (center) and Shawn, after winning the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay.**





## ON DISPLAY



Miller's Hall of Fame locker features the clubs he used for his career-defining win at Oakmont.

# My 1973 U.S. Open Clubs

by **JOHNNY MILLER**  
*World Golf Hall of Fame Class of 1998*

**I**F I HAD ONE CAREER goal, it was to become a U.S. Open champion. In 1973, I had close calls the previous two years (T-5 in 1971; 7th in 1972) and was looking forward to the challenge of Oakmont, which I had heard was the hardest course in America.

I was paired with Arnold Palmer in the first two rounds. With him being a local guy (Palmer grew up in nearby Latrobe), it was not easy playing in front of Arnie's Army. If he made a birdie and I still had a 10-foot putt, his fans didn't exactly stick around to watch me.

I was only three shots off the lead through 36 holes, but on Saturday I forgot my yardage book in my hotel room. I started 5 over through six holes and shot a 76. I figured I had played my way out of contention. Not only was I now six strokes back in a

tie for 13th, but the players in front of me included Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Lee Trevino.

On Sunday, as I was warming up, a voice came into my head and said, "Open your stance way up." I tried it and hit my last half-dozen balls dead straight. I wasn't sure I wanted to bring that to the course, but I figured I had nothing to lose.



Using this new stance, I birdied my first four holes. I ended up hitting 13 of 14 fairways and all 18 greens in regulation. Ten of my approach shots finished within 15 feet of the hole. I lipped out a birdie putt on 18 and tapped in for a 63, the lowest round in major championship history to that point.

It was one of those magical days where everything clicked. The fact that it was at Oakmont with Sunday hole locations in the final round of the championship I wanted to win the most made it that much sweeter.

## Johnny Miller - By the Numbers

**2**

Major championship titles (1973 U.S. Open, 1976 British Open)

**50**

Years his 63 stood as the record for lowest 18-hole score in the U.S. Open

**29**

Years as the lead golf analyst for NBC (1990-2019)

**3**

Players to win the U.S. Junior Amateur and the U.S. Open (Miller, Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth)



JONATHAN KOLBE; USGA MUSEUM; ROBERT BECK



Bandon Dunes founder **Mike Keiser** will receive the 2025 Bob Jones Award, the USGA's highest honor, which recognizes those who personify character, sportsmanship and respect for the game.

## DATA DIVE

# Over/Under

*How did players fare versus the course at 2024 USGA championships?*

by **EVAN ROTHMAN**

**E**ACH YEAR, the USGA's championship season attracts the top professional and amateur golfers to tackle an array of the country's finest and most challenging courses. The champions receive a trophy, a medal and in most cases, a 10-year exemption, and the leader boards and match-play draws tell the story of how each player performed individually. But the question of how the fields fared collectively versus the courses during the championships' stroke-play portion—36-hole qualifying in non-Opens, 72 holes in Opens – isn't often noted.

Like the proverbial snowflake, each season is unique, with different courses, and naturally produces different championship scoring averages, both in isolation and relative to the Course Rating.<sup>™</sup> Below is a snapshot of 2024. Standouts: U.S. Women's Open competitors tackled venerable Lancaster (Pa.) CC with aplomb; female competitors posted three of the top four stroke averages; and U.S. Junior Amateur competitors fought Michigan's famed Oakland Hills to a creditable draw.

## Difference Between Stroke-Play Scoring Average and Course Rating at 2024 USGA Championships

U.S. Women's Open	-4.86	
U.S. Senior Open	-4.33	
U.S. Women's Amateur	-3.36	
U.S. Girls' Junior	-2.55	
U.S. Open	-2.4	
U.S. Amateur	-2.06	
U.S. Mid-Amateur	-1.86	
U.S. Senior Women's Open	-0.78	
U.S. Junior Amateur	-0.31	
U.S. Senior Amateur		+5.2
U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur		+5.6
U.S. Senior Women's Amateur		+8.1





CATCHING UP WITH...

## Andy North

*At 75, the two-time U.S. Open champion is as involved as ever with the game he loves*

by GARY D'AMATO

**A**NDY NORTH ARRANGES his own travel schedule – planes, trains and automobiles – because, well, who else could do it?

The two-time U.S. Open champion might not be able to match Gary Player, golf's preeminent world traveler, when it comes to frequent flyer miles, but he's constantly on the go. There are his duties

as a golf analyst and reporter for ESPN; his responsibilities as a trustee for Sanford Health and tournament host of the Sanford International on the PGA Tour Champions; his passion for Andy North and Friends, a series of charity events that have raised \$16 million since 2009 for the UW Carbone Cancer Center in his hometown of Madison, Wis.; and his avid,

**Whether for work or pleasure, two-time U.S. Open champion and USGA Executive Committee member Andy North continues to travel extensively.**

JASON E. MICZEK

People of color now represent **25 percent** of all “green-grass” golfers, a record high, per the National Golf Foundation.

## THE NORTH FILE

**Family:** Wife, Susan; daughters Nichole and Andrea; granddaughter Sadie

**Residence:** Madison, Wis.

**Notable accomplishments:**

Won the 1969 Wisconsin Amateur and the 1971 Western Amateur; three-time All-American at the University of Florida (1970-72); member of UF's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Professional highlights:**

Two-time U.S. Open champion (1978, 1985); also won the 1977 Westchester Classic on the PGA Tour and the 1978 World Cup with John Mahaffey; member of the 1985 USA Ryder Cup Team.

road-tripping fandom for University of Wisconsin basketball.

Oh, and North recently passed the one-year anniversary of his election to the USGA's

Executive Committee; he serves on the Championships and Equipment Standards committees. The man turned 75 in March. Shouldn't he be thinking about slowing down and sleeping in?

“Thank heaven, (wife) Susan understands me, and she knows I need to be busy doing stuff,” North

said. “She gets mad at me: ‘Let’s go sit on the porch and read a book.’ Well, that’s good for about an hour. Now, what do I do with the rest of the day?”

North had never thought about serving on the USGA's Executive Committee until CEO Mike Whan asked if he'd be interested. Given North's long association with the organization – this summer marks the 40th anniversary of his second U.S. Open triumph – it was a natural fit.

“It's been eye-opening,” said North. “I've been super-impressed with the team that Mike has put together. I've been super-impressed with our Executive Committee. I think the organization is in a great spot right now with the leadership and the people who are involved.”

As someone who played in the U.S. Open 21 times, with three additional top-10 finishes on top of his two wins, North brings a wealth of experience to the Championships Committee. He's gotten involved in course setup, and his opinions rightly carry weight. The work of the Equipment Standards Committee fascinates him, and he appreciates the thought and care that go into decisions such as the one by The R&A and USGA to update the testing conditions used for golf ball conformance under the Overall Distance Standard, which will take effect in January 2028 for elite players in competition.

“There is a huge team of people doing all this work,” North said. “The new facility at Pinehurst

is amazing, and all the testing is incredible.... These are engineers, very smart people. I've been blown away at how talented our folks are.”

A cancer survivor, North helps raise money for cancer research through Andy North and Friends. His commitment to Sanford Health will take him to nearly his 80th birthday and he's a natural to host the Sanford International, having played with many of the players on the Champions Tour.

Though he doesn't play much golf these days, North annually hosts the popular Celebrity Foursome at the American Family Insurance Championship, a Champions tour stop in Madison hosted by his friend, Steve Stricker. The list of participants includes Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Michael Phelps and Derek Jeter, thanks to North's relationships and his stature in the game.

Then there are his close ties to University of Wisconsin sports, and particularly to the men's basketball program. Though he attended the University of Florida, this son of a UW professor lives and dies with the Badgers, often traveling with the team.

North will likely slow down at some point, but don't expect to see him lounging on the beach anytime soon. “I think it's healthy as you get older to be engaged in a lot of different things,” he said. “To me, it's refreshing to get up in the morning and you've got something to do, something to think about, something to get engaged with.”



# The Hits Keep Coming

**Smokey Robinson won't stop making music – or playing the game he loves**

by **MICHAEL ARKUSH** • photos by **DON LIEBIG**

**O**NE ROOM IN Smokey Robinson's house in a remote section of California's San Fernando Valley is filled with photos and records revealing his amazing musical journey. It's a journey that has given us songs that reached the top of the charts and the depths of our souls. "My Guy," "The Tracks of My Tears," "Tears of a Clown," "Being with You," "I Second That Emotion" – on and on the hits go. He's been writing songs since he was in elementary school.

As the lead singer of the Miracles and as a solo artist, Robinson, now 85 – hard to believe, given his spirit and energy – is one of our last links to the early days of Motown, founded in the late 1950s →



With highlights of his career in the background, Robinson keeps golf in the forefront of his thoughts.





## TALKING GOLF

by Berry Gordy. In 1987, Robinson was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He still performs about 40 concerts a year and shows no signs of slowing down.

Another room, down a flight, is filled with other mementos. Golf balls. Hats. Shirts. Clubs. His very own

pro shop. Arnold Palmer would have been impressed.

Robinson took up golf when he was 29 and living in Detroit. He later joined MountainGate Country Club in Los Angeles – though he no longer belongs – and has been playing the game ever since.



### The Robinson File

**Handicap Index:** I've never kept one

**Favorite course:** Desert Inn, Las Vegas

**Best round:** 71, at the Kapalua Resort in Hawaii

**Favorite club:** My putter

**Dream foursome:** My personal friends

### Where was your first round of golf and how did it go?

Robert Gordy, who was Berry's younger brother, and a guy named Harvey Fuqua were the first ones at Motown that we knew who played golf, and they started turning everybody on to it. There was a tiny, 18-hole course called Palmer Park, and that's where we went to play. I borrowed a set of clubs and some shoes. I shot 64 for nine holes, and they told me that's great.

### Were you smitten?

Not smitten, but I've always played sports. I played football and basketball for my high school, and summer-league baseball. In fact, at one point in my life, I thought I was going to be a baseball

**Robinson's social media life includes the tracks of his golf game, not just his musical career, which remains robust at age 85.**

player. And I think about that all the time now. Had I been the greatest professional baseball player, my career would have been over 50 years ago.

### **Did you take lessons?**

That was the biggest golf mistake I ever made. For my first five or six years of playing, I would let my friends show me how to play. Finally, Berry moved the basic operations [of Motown] from Detroit to Los Angeles. I was vice president, so I had to move out to LA. I decided I was going to see a pro. There was a Black guy over at Rancho Park named Benny. He said, "Hit a few balls for me." So I hit five or six balls. He said, "Who told you to swing the golf club like that?" I said, "My friends." "First thing I want you to do is unlearn everything they taught you." It's still a work in progress. I love going to the driving range, staying there for two or three hours. I find out something almost every time I go.

### **Are you hard on yourself when you play golf?**

Not anymore. I used to be. Time is the greatest teacher there is. Along with time comes wisdom. The other day I shot 90. It didn't faze me. I



hadn't played in a while, and that's the nature of the game. I watch golf religiously, and when I see Rory McIlroy hook a pitching wedge into the water, I think, I can do that.

### **When did you stop being hard on yourself?**

Probably about 10 years ago. I'm an entertainer. If I'm going to challenge Tiger Woods, I'll do it at the Apollo.

### **What's the lowest your Handicap Index has been?**

I've never really kept a handicap. The lowest score I ever shot was a 71. It was one of those days when everything that I thought about golf was right. I got paired with Peter Jacobsen [on the Plantation Course

on Maui] and beat him. He shot 72. That was at least 20 years ago.

### **What do you think golf teaches us?**

It teaches us life – that things happen that you have to deal with.

### **Did you learn by playing golf how to better deal with other things in your life?**

Probably. People say, "Golf is relaxing, isn't it?" Yeah, if you're playing good. When you're playing bad, it is the most frustrating thing you could have picked to do that day. You have no idea how many times I've been on the golf course and thought, I could be doing something else right now.

### **Have you ever had writer's block?**

I'm not exaggerating – almost every day of my life, I will write a melody or some words. So, writer's block has never affected me because I don't write like that. I write when it comes to me, so I'm not disappointed if it's not coming.

### **Is the feeling of completing a song as magical now as ever?**

That's why I still perform. I can't find anything I'd want to do for a living that compares to it. Nothing. I tried retiring. I retired for about three years. By the end of that time, I was climbing the walls.

### **Does it surprise you that you're still performing?**

Yes and no. Who would have thought I'd still be making music and writing songs at 85 years old? So it does, in a way, but then it doesn't. This is what my life is, and I feel 40.





**The proof that golf really has a hold on Robinson can be found in his room dedicated to decades of memorabilia from the game.**

songs. God is writing them.” What he’s talking about is more poignant today than when it came out.

### **Do you feel God is writing your songs?**

He’s written all of them – or given me the ability to do so.

### **Do you have any unfulfilled dreams?**

I’d like to be in a great movie. I’m not talking about being the lead character or anything like that. Right now, I’m working on my

### **Do you remember the first time you heard one of your songs on the radio?**

I wrote this song, “Got A Job,” way before Motown. The record came out on my 18th birthday. I was sitting in a class in school, with a transistor radio, and it came on. I jumped up and yelled, ran out of the classroom. When I hear one of my songs on the radio now, it’s the same thing. It’s even better because I’ve been doing this for so long. To think that people are still listening to my music.

### **What did you think of “The Greatest Night in Pop,” the “We Are the World” documentary that came out last year?**

We had such a ball that night [in 1985]. It was probably one of the most beautiful nights in show business. Everybody was there. You


knew everybody, whether you had met them or not. We were all getting autographs from each other and having fun. I had a gig I had to go to, so I had a flight at six o’clock in the morning. They had wanted me to sing one of the lead vocals, but I had to leave. We didn’t start until midnight. I stayed there as long as I could.

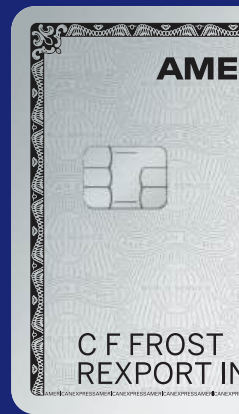
### **Do you have a favorite song?**

No. I can tell you my favorite album, “What’s Going On.” Marvin [Gaye] and I were so close, and [that album is] prophecy. When he was writing it, I’d go to his house. He lived right around the corner from me. We just hung out. He’d be sitting there on the piano, and he was working on it, and I’d say, “That’s really great,” and he said, “Smoke, I’m not writing these

life story. We’re just finishing up a script, and we’ve got a couple of people interested.

### **I hope your two aces are prominently featured.**

The first one I kind of mis-hit my shot. We’re playing Brookside in Pasadena, and we get to the par-3 17th hole. I hit a 6-iron and hit it way too thin, so it landed about 10 yards short of the green and just kept rolling and rolling right into the damn cup. The second one was in Chicago, about 150 yards out. I’m playing with Mario Lemieux and two other guys. I hit a 7-iron, and the hole was set in a little valley on the green, so the cup wasn’t visible to us. I could see my ball go over a bunker, but I couldn’t see what happened once it got down into the valley. Crazy stuff. 



# World-Class Business & Travel Benefits

When you're with **Amex Business Platinum**, you have the Card that helps you do more of what you love.



Proud partner of the **USGA**.



ON GOLF

# MAN WITH A PLAN

by **ROGER STEELE**

PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCENIRY



THE LESSONS WEREN'T ALWAYS APPARENT,  
BUT GOLF WITH MY DAD SHAPED  
MY LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD



In a role reversal, Roger Steele *filius* (left) now gives pointers to Roger *pater*.





## ON GOLF

IT WAS A SUMMER Saturday in 1992, and my dad had driven us to Chicago's South Side for a golf clinic that had the whole city buzzing. Tiger Woods, not yet 17, and his father Earl were stopping by the Jackson Park driving range for a free exhibition to help inspire local youth.

I was seated in the front row with a group of kids my age, watching Tiger hit a variety of shots that were hard to follow. Clearly, I had witnessed nothing like this. The adults behind us all gasped and applauded, admiring the product of Earl Woods' well-executed plan.

As the golf bug had not yet bitten me and the summer sun was beating down, I remember beginning to doze off. I was abruptly awakened by my father's tug, telling me to get up and go hit some golf shots in front of everyone as Tiger was selecting a few young volunteers to demonstrate their skills. I don't remember much about what happened when it was my turn; I do recall the crowd cheering and a Chicago Sun-Times reporter asking my name. The next day my extended family was calling our house to tell me how proud they were to see me in the sports section of the paper. My dad rushed out and bought enough copies to open his own newsstand.

When I was growing up, gaining the approval of my dad – Roger Steele Sr. – meant a lot to me. Maybe it's because he was a Chicago police officer, so he represented authority more broadly and something I believed protected good. Perhaps it was because he brought environments to life with his booming voice, wild

stories, jokes and contagious laugh.

It could have been because he was respected both around our neighborhood and at the golf course where he taught me the game. People would always tell me how lucky I was to have him as a father. My dad has always been a pretty “cool” guy, which is why when he wanted me to do something I generally did it. Not because I always wanted to, but because it would make my dad happier. This quest for paternal approval became the genesis of my relationship with the game.

For my father, golf was about community. After becoming a police officer at 19 he explored a few recreational activities, looking for a place to belong. A few lieutenants at the police department suggested he take up golf, and within a few months he was hooked. Not only was it the game itself, which he became quite

good at – almost a scratch player in his prime – it was the people golf attracted. Golf provided him with a curated group of peers from all walks of life and several generations. He became friends with executives, politicians, athletes, doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, tradesmen. Just about anyone you needed to know, through golf he knew them well.

Dad and his golf buddies would party together, travel together, and even go on to serve the community together. They chartered a nonprofit golf club called the Chicago Road Kings to formalize their passions and bought matching hats, shirts and belts to represent when they took the show on the road. They conducted an annual junior golf camp that has been running for more than 30 summers. It



**A Chicago police officer with a close group of golf friends, the elder Roger Steele imparted wisdom to his namesake.**

FENWICK CONFERENCE GOLF

## Fenwick likes chances in postseason

By Ryan Lowry  
Staff writer

The Fenwick High School boys golf team will have a better indication on where it sits in the Chicago Catholic League race after its first regular season dual against Loyola on Monday, Sept. 29.

As it stands, the Friars have dropped two CCL duals this season — one to Mt. Carmel early in the year and most recently a 161 to 184 loss to Brother Rice on Sept. 22.

Despite the two losses and a tough match remaining with defending CCL champ Loyola, head coach Mike Curran feels this team should be right there battling for the top spot at the conference tournament Thursday, Oct. 2, at the short Cog Hill No. 3 in Lenox.

Tim Lisy and Roger Steele Jr. have been the Friars' two most consistent golfers throughout, but Neal Shelly, Bill Barth and



Staff photo by Mike Bennett

Ignatius is up there and certainly Brother Rice is there, and then us. I think it's a four-team deal and we're right there."

Looking ahead, the Friars certainly have more on their minds than just trying to win conferences. By the numbers, Fenwick goes into the regional as one of the top-

to play and shoot the numbers and keep their heads on tight. I am concerned going into regionals that (in qualifying for sectionals) is a foregone conclusion. — But we are very capable of putting up four or five very good games."

The Friars will be at the regular-season state against Nazareth (Tuesday, Sept. 20)

Fenwick's Roger Steele Jr. will lead the Friars into the Chicago Catholic League conference meet of Thursday, Oct. 2 at Cog Hill in Lenox.

lost to Carmel, members of the Fenwick girls golf team assured head coach Joe Kowand they would get back on track. It was the first and only East Suburban Catholic Conference loss for the Friars.

Fenwick had two ECCC matches remaining including a regular-season state against Nazareth (Tuesday, Sept. 20)

# Steele looks like real deal

Promising future for 13-year-old West Side golfer

By CLYDE TRAVIS

The West Side might seem like an unlikely place to produce a golf prodigy, but few young players can match the achievements of Roger Steele Jr.

Steele, a 13-year-old eighth grader who attends St. Edmunds Oak Park, is the youngest ever to qualify for the Mid-American, the Cook County Amateur, and the Chicago Amateur. In the Chicago Amateur, he shot a 77 to qualify for a first-round 77 to qualify for a second round.

Over the summer, Steele won the Chicago Road Kings tournament, the City of Chicago Junior and the 16th annual Will's junior tournament in Berwyn. Steele also placed fifth in the fourth annual Eastern Minority Junior Golf Association championship in Pittsburgh. He finished eighth in the Griens' third annual Golf Tournament at Doral Club in Miami.

The guidance of Frank, who sharpened his skills as a member of the Hylanders Golf Team and is chapter of Teens on the Greens.

Steele is a very young golfer, but several others in Chicago, to fulfill his playing compass. Steele said, "We have a program. Roger is the one of what he is doing out his success is very good. He has raised every-



Staff photo by Mike Bennett

At 13, eighth-grader Roger Steele Jr. has compiled an impressive list of golf accomplishments.

"As much as I love golf, I know that if my grades slip one bit, makes that very clear, so I have no problem putting as much effort in my schoolwork as I do on the golf course."

when Roger and his parents decide which school he will attend. "Right now I am not even thinking about what high school I want to go to," Steele said. "I

for the Board of Education, said Steele has all the tools. "For his age, the kid has all the potential in the world," Osborne said. "He played in our tourna-

sports



ARK-CHI WINNER: Roger B. Steele Jr. was honored as the male junior athlete of the year at the 11th annual Ark-Chi Golf Club dinner dance. At left is Alvin Lyles of the United Negro College Fund. At right is Jackey Cason, president of the Ark-Chi Golf Club.

After learning to embrace the game his dad loved, Steele earned some ink in the local papers for his junior golf accomplishments.

was free for neighborhood kids and became their way of making the city better. I respected how much golf was a part of my dad's identity, but when it came to finding my own path, I didn't have the same experience.

Golf was my dad's game, and something that he and I did together. But at first I couldn't find the beauty and sense of community he had found. The course I grew up on was a short, bare-bones 9-holer muni with no range and no putting green. My dad and others enjoyed the place, but it was very hard to grow there as a player. If you practiced, you did it illegally, and due to a lack of architectural features, you played without a lot of challenge.

I made a few friends my age there along the way, but they were as on the fence about the game as I was. The reality was that Chicago was a basketball city. In the '90s it was about being like Mike, not Tiger, which is now ironic as we discovered maybe Mike wanted to be more like Tiger once upon a time. It felt hard to

make the game a priority as a junior golfer living in the inner city — the culture was not very strong.

That reality never deterred my father. He insisted that I grew up playing on a course and not playing in the streets. In grade school he allowed me to play organized basketball but never in the city's parks and alleys where all the kids were. If we both had free time, we spent it at the golf course. We would either play or practice together, or I would ride along with him and watch the drama unfold in his money games with friends.

During our rounds he would never give much technical advice, just golf advice that had broader life implications. He would say things like "Make good choices and the score will take care of itself;" or "It's hard to have bad days out on the fairway;" or "Just commit and live with the consequences." I was an impatient and emotionally volatile adolescent, and my dad handled my temper flares with grace. He knew if things got



## ON GOLF

too tense that letting me drive the cart was usually enough to get us through the round.

Then there was watching his group play, which was like a reality TV show. So many different personalities, swings, skill levels, and types of money games. It was fascinating to see adults fluctuate back and forth between love and hate for the game, and each other, on such a frequent basis. But almost all of those relationships endured. After their rounds the big winners would buy the beer, and I would fetch them from the coolers in exchange for quarters to buy candy and

soda from the snack shop. They would stay at the course until long after the sun set, swapping tall tales and playing cards. Most of those days I wished I was somewhere else, but looking back on it I loved it as there was rarely a

dull moment at Columbus Park after dark. Either way, whether I wanted it or not, golf culture was a staple of my upbringing.

The older I've gotten the more I've appreciated the brilliance in my dad's approach to getting me into this game. When I asked him why he dragged me to the course so often he told me, "I knew you'd be safe." He said, "A bad day on a golf course costs you a couple dollars. A bad day in the streets could cost you your life." He also told me that by constantly exposing me to this group of well-rounded men, who would all become father figures, he knew it would make me wiser.

He was right. I would indeed grow up being more comfortable around adults and authority figures than many of my peers. I performed well in school and rarely got into trouble. I knew how to listen attentively and engage with respect. Through the game itself I learned to be patient with myself and constantly seek self-awareness before I made important choices.

I also learned how to ask for help. If I ever had



**The bond between the father-son Steeles was forged through golf, and the next generation awaits.**

questions about the golf swing, my dad would make me walk up to the best players at Columbus and ask questions. He would also ask me what they said when I came back, in hopes it could help him with his game, too. I loved that he never pretended to be more than what he was, and he always respected people who knew more

than him – about anything. That and so many other characteristics deeply resonate with me in adulthood. Though I never became the golfer I'm sure he hoped I would be, I believe I did learn to become the type of person he thought I ought to be.

When I look at where golf has taken me over the last few years, it makes me emotional. All the choices my dad made paved the way for me to step effortlessly into so many opportunities. They shaped my ability to navigate new environments and to express myself thoughtfully to new people. The traits I developed have given me a chance to devote a career to golf as a marketer and influencer, and I attribute that to my dad and all those dads I met along the way at Columbus Park.

Even though as an adult my love for golf took on a life of its own, this life I'm living feels like one very well-executed plan by a very thoughtful man. I have no idea how I'll ever repay him for it – but maybe I'll start with a similar plan for his granddaughter. ♦



# EVERY SEAT IS AN UPGRADE



TX 350



TX 500h F SPORT Performance

## THE THREE-ROW LEXUS TX

Everybody wins when it comes to taking a seat in the three-row Lexus TX. This luxury SUV is loaded with innovative tech, plenty of legroom and intuitive features that anticipate everyone's needs. Whether you're the passenger princess, a new set of twins or even the family dog, everyone travels in luxurious comfort in the Lexus TX.

LEXUS IS A PROUD PARTNER OF THE USGA®



# A GREAT GOLF HOLE

by **MIKE BENKUSKY**

---

**FEW THINGS EXCITE ME** more in golf than a drivable par 4. When you design a hole that gets golfers thinking about a birdie, you've already won the mental battle. There are many excellent examples of this type of hole, but the 9th at the magnificent Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, Calif., is my favorite.

What makes a par 4 like this great? It's all about offering options off the tee that make golfers consider, and frequently second-guess, their choices. Standing on the tee of No. 9 at Cypress, the decision-making begins. Do I try to drive the green, even though missing into the dunes around it can spell disaster? Do I lay up with an iron to a 30-yard-wide fairway to set up a short approach? What yardage should I try to leave myself? Throw in some wind, and these options can plant doubt in the mind and lead to a poor swing.

If you choose to lay up, you face a delicate uphill approach shot to a shelf green set at a sharp angle to the fairway. Placing your tee shot to the right leaves a more open approach, while the left side presents a difficult shot over a deep greenside bunker. There is no safe place to miss this green – anything short rolls off the front, while anything long leaves a fast, downhill chip or a difficult shot out of the dunes. Distance control is a must.

Designing a hole where golfers look at the scorecard and expect to make a low number plays with their mindset. You might stand on the 9th tee at Cypress Point thinking birdie, but one bad swing and you can easily walk off with bogey or worse. If you do make a mistake, don't let it linger. You don't want to ruin the experience of playing one of the best courses in the world, which later this summer will host the 50th Walker Cup Match.

---

*photos by* **JOHN MUMMERT** • *illustration by* **GEOFF LEIGHLY**

# THE 9th AT Cypress Point Club

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIF.

PAR: **4**

YARDAGE: **289-245**

ARCHITECT: **Alister MacKenzie**

**APPROACHES** from the right side of the fairway have a better angle into the narrow, sloping green.

**THE TEE SHOT** offers a choice between trying to drive the green or laying up to the fairway, which leaves a short approach.

**THE GREEN** is set at an angle to the fairway and is defended by a deep bunker and native dunes.



Pull out gatefold















# CELEBRATE DADS AND GRADS

With the Perfect Gift —  
a USGA Membership

*Access exclusive benefits,  
discounts and a love for the game  
that lasts all year long*

Visit [usga.org/gift](https://usga.org/gift)



**USGA**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME.





# officially

**Keep your savings in the green,  
with the bank that's your ally.**

Ally Bank, Member FDIC

**Official Partner of the U.S. Open  
Presenting Partner of the U.S. Women's Open  
Founding Partner of the U.S. National Development Program**



**ally** | **USGA**®

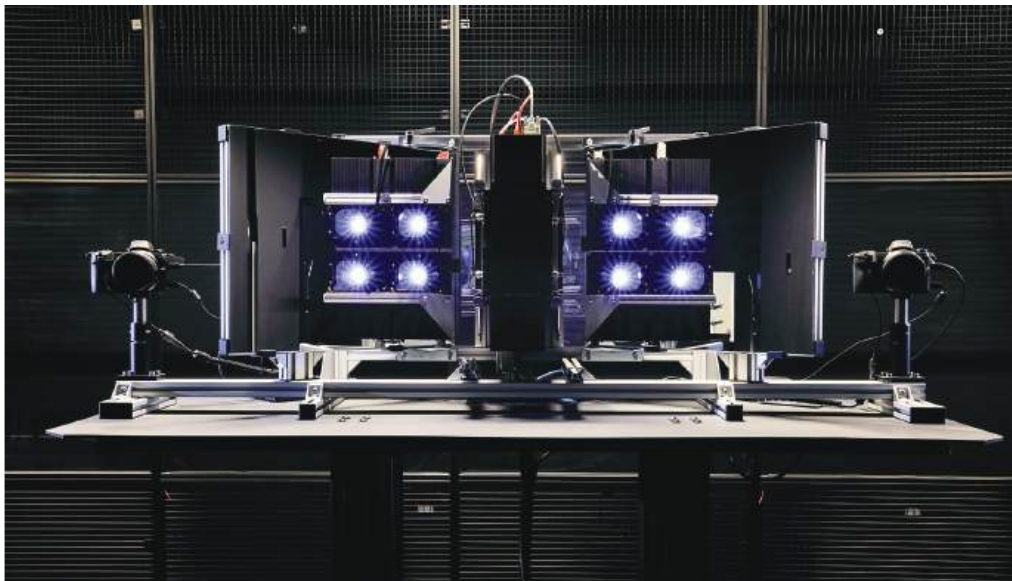
Official Bank of the USGA



PHOTO ESSAY

# TESTING, TESTING, TESTING





*About 750,000 tests of all types of golf equipment are conducted annually by the USGA*

*Photos by* **JONATHAN KOLBE**

LONG BEFORE YOU stick a tee in the ground to start your round, the balls and clubs in your bag will have undergone testing for conformance to the Rules of Golf. Starting last year, those procedures are carried out at the USGA's state-of-the-art Research and Test Center in Pinehurst, N.C. In 2024, the USGA evaluated about 2,500 clubs, 650 different golf balls and various other accessories and apparel to ensure that a player's skill, not their equipment, is the primary determinant of success.

The Indoor Test Range, where golf balls are evaluated. Manufacturers submit two dozen balls, which are tested at 15 speeds and spin rates – a total of 360 tests – to ensure that they conform to the Rules of Golf.





USGA/R&A  
Calibration



## ALL SYSTEMS GO

The USGA's mechanical golfer, unofficially nicknamed "Skippy" after a longtime employee, provides precise launch and spin conditions for golf ball testing. The USGA also has an outdoor test range near Pinehurst Resort's new Course No. 10.





## ***WHITE COAT OPTIONAL***

USGA test technicians (from left) Jacob Spurgeon, Jeff Banchansky and Devin Hines at work in the lab as Rob Ockenfuss, assistant director of Equipment Standards, walks through. The USGA employs 18 people in Equipment Standards across three areas: testing, research and development, and conformance administration.





## PHOTO ESSAY





## ***SPEEDY DELIVERY***

Left: Spurgeon tests a club for conformance. Above: A groove scan is performed. Right: Club dimensions are measured. The USGA aims to issue a conformance decision – which is fully confidential – within three weeks of receiving and cataloguing a piece of equipment.





## REPOSITORY

Jacob Spurgeon in the Test Center's storage area. The USGA keeps at least one piece of all equipment submitted for testing, and has done so since the late 1930s. As of 2024, that catalog amounts to nearly 135,000 items. Right, cores of tested golf balls, which are routinely cut open as part of the process.













# *Insight* matters to the game. And the business behind it.

As a proud sponsor and trusted advisor, Deloitte brings together the experience, in-demand skills, and technology to help the USGA transform its business and elevate the game of golf.



Learn more about our work  
at [Deloitte.com/USGA](https://Deloitte.com/USGA).





# ONLINE,





**Is Bryson DeChambeau  
the most interesting  
U.S. Open champion  
in history? Thanks to  
his devotion to content  
creation, he's certainly  
one of the most visible**

*by* JESSICA MARKSBURY  
*photo by* JONATHAN KOLBE

# ON BRAND





# W

**HEN BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU** claimed his second U.S. Open with a clutch 55-yard, up-and-down par from the bunker on the 72th hole at Pinehurst No. 2 last year, the dramatic moment was lauded as a finish for the ages.

Unlike his first U.S. Open win in 2020 at Winged Foot, where pandemic restrictions prevented fans from being on-site, DeChambeau had the chance to flex his crowd-pleasing muscles at Pinehurst. He perfectly executed the most important shot of his career with tens of thousands of fans encircling the green – in addition to millions more watching on the broadcast – and took full advantage of the exposure.

Throughout the week, DeChambeau interacted often with the gallery. That hasn't been the norm in pro golf, and certainly not in pressure-packed major championships. But DeChambeau – long known for his intensity, a seemingly insatiable drive for improvement and a scientific, data-driven approach to the game – was showcasing an evolution in real time. He was in the midst of a re-brand as a man of the people, and he wanted the crowd to know it. When his winning putt dropped – punctuated by an emotional double fist-pump and a stirring ovation – DeChambeau was, indisputably, a fan favorite.

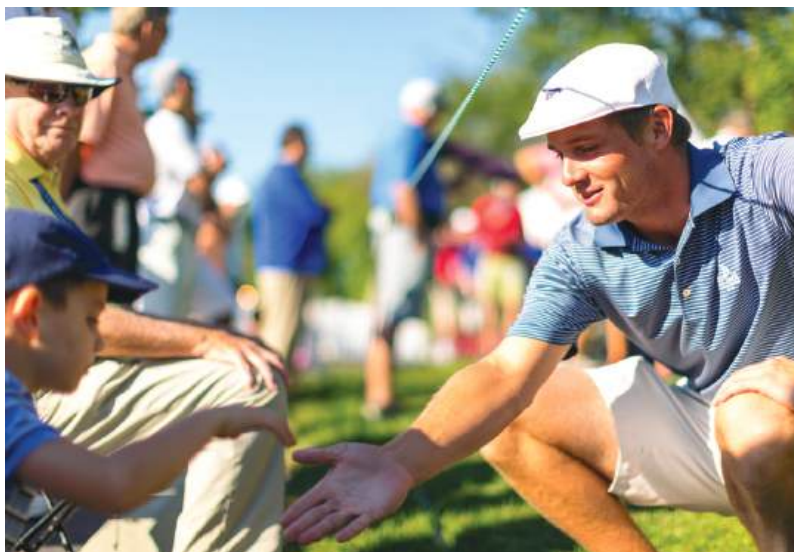
“You guys have meant the world to me,” DeChambeau said in his victory speech. “I can’t thank you enough. You are a part of this journey this week.”

DeChambeau then said he wanted everyone on-site to have a moment with the U.S. Open Trophy. It was a thoughtful thing to say. But then, remarkably, he made good on his promise, jogging into the lingering crowd, trophy aloft, to share it with the masses.

**DeChambeau’s relationship** with fans – and the media – has not always been so rosy.

In 2015, he became only the fifth player (joining Jack Nicklaus, Phil

CHRIS KEANE; LOGAN WHITTON



Mickelson, Tiger Woods and Ryan Moore) to win the NCAA individual title and the U.S. Amateur Championship in the same year, while competing at Southern Methodist University, where he was a physics major. DeChambeau turned pro the next year, and his analytical approach quickly earned him the nickname “The Scientist.” He had a knack for headline-generating antics. DeChambeau burst on the scene wearing a Payne Stewart-style cap – a nod to his idol and fellow SMU alum – during tournament play. He touted the benefits of his one-plane swing, played a custom set of single-length irons and was eager to try anything and everything in a quest to improve, from experimenting with side-saddle putting to testing each of his tournament balls in a bath of Epsom salt to determine whether any were out of balance.

DeChambeau backed up his unorthodox methods with success on the course, winning eight times on the PGA Tour between 2017 and 2021. But as his profile continued to rise, so did the criticism. In 2019, clips of his sometimes-lengthy pre-shot routine began to circulate on social media.

When fellow pro Brooks Koepka was critical of DeChambeau’s pace of play after being asked about it in a press conference, it kicked off a war of words between the two that continued for the better part of three years. Meanwhile, DeChambeau had embarked on his

most transformative physical endeavor yet, gaining 50 pounds in an attempt to max out his distance off the tee. The experiment was successful: He rocketed to the top of the PGA Tour’s driving distance ranking and won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 2020 by six strokes for his first major championship. He even competed in – and nearly won – a professional Long Drive competition.

But DeChambeau’s image suffered during the Koepka feud. He was taunted by Koepka’s fans during tournaments. The drama followed DeChambeau and Koepka to the 2021 Ryder Cup, which the USA lost. The two leveraged the animosity into a 2021 made-for-TV, 12-hole match, “Bryson vs. Brooks,” with Koepka closing out DeChambeau in nine holes.

After missing the cut at the 2022 Masters, DeChambeau underwent surgery to repair an injury to his left wrist. That August, he was among the cohort of top players to leave the PGA Tour for LIV Golf. Just three months after that, DeChambeau’s father died.

“I was knocked down pretty hard in 2022 for numerous reasons, numerous scenarios, numerous things,” DeChambeau said. “I had some great friends and great people around me tell me, ‘Keep going, keep pushing.’ So, I dug myself out of a pretty deep hole.”



**PEOPLE PERSON:**  
DeChambeau’s fan-friendly attitude was on display back in 2015 during his U.S. Amateur victory at Olympia Fields and at Pinehurst last year, when he took time to visit a grandstand after a 3-under 67 in Round 1.

**DeChambeau’s about-face** from taunted player to celebrated fan favorite can be largely attributed to his devotion to the online entertainment space over the last several years. He now commands one of the largest social-media followings in the game, with 1.8 million subscribers on YouTube, 2.7 million followers on Instagram and 1.7 million followers on TikTok. The YouTube numbers especially seem to multiply by the day. In interviews, DeChambeau has spoken effusively about growing the game with his platform, and the fervor with which he has endeavored to connect and engage with his fans has only grown since his second U.S. Open victory.

According to the National Golf Foundation, more than 50 million Americans are engaged with golf on social media, with almost 40 million of those people being non-core golfers – a number that has increased by 30 percent since 2019.



DeChambeau said he began to understand social media's power when an early video he posted found an eager audience.

"It was 2021, I think, when we produced our first video," he said from LIV Golf's Nashville event, just days after his win at Pinehurst. "It was a week-on-tour video, and it got a million views. That was with no production budget. We just went out there filming and then pumping it up on YouTube. No paid ads, no media spins or anything like that. It just happened. Everybody loved it.

"I said, wow, there is some potential here," he continued. "How do I make this not only legitimate but how do I do it all the time and create content that people want to see, so they can be entertained and also see who I truly am? That was the foundational buildup, and it's grown into what it is today."

Social media enabled DeChambeau's image renaissance to kick into overdrive. In 2022, he abandoned the bulk he acquired for driver domination, shedding 20 pounds in a month. His game rounded back into form. He contended at the 2023 PGA Championship, tying for 4th, and won two individual LIV Golf titles. And he leaned in even harder on content creation.

"I'm always trying to do my best for the camera. It keeps me in that mind frame of, 'I'm an entertainer,'" DeChambeau said at Pinehurst. "Leveraging and allowing me to utilize that platform has opened up a whole new aspect to professional golf where I think it's been a little underutilized. There can be some positive growth in golf with those interactions."

Skeptics have described DeChambeau's constant audience awareness and dramatic on-course theatrics as a schtick – a means to an end, with the end being the continual accrual of new fans and followers. But DeChambeau says his demeanor is organic, and that he's simply following the emotive path carved by his idols, Woods and Stewart.

"I'm just passionate," DeChambeau said at Pinehurst. "I really care about doing well out here and showing the fans a side of me that was locked up for so long."

---

**DeChambeau's on-course** performance has fueled natural interest in his social media channels, but he's

proven himself to be supremely adept in the online ecosphere of click-inducing engagement off the course. His YouTube channel has become a showcase for increasingly viral content. His "Breaking 50" series – in which he invites a guest or guests to play a scramble with him from the front tees in an attempt to break 50 – has featured influencers, fellow pros, celebrities and even President Donald J. Trump, and has garnered millions of views.

DeChambeau's content ranges from personal, insider revelations to instruction to clicky challenges, like documenting whether he can break a course record on a given day, or, famously, how long it will take him to make a hole-in-one on a blind shot over his glass house to a backyard green. Spoiler alert: It took 16 days of attempts, and the series of videos showing him trying and at last achieving the feat has been viewed more than 110 million times on TikTok. Weeks later, DeChambeau invited a random follower to attempt the feat for \$100,000. When he did it in five swings – and the two of them went nuts celebrating – that video went viral, too.

---

**Being a successful** professional golfer and a magnetic online entertainer were previously considered to be mutually exclusive endeavors. But DeChambeau has proven that it's possible to do both. And when already-famous pros commit to content creation, the upside can be significant.

Three-time major champion Padraig Harrington, 53, has amassed a sizable social following – 180,000 subscribers on YouTube and 150,000 followers on Instagram – primarily by posting informative instructional videos.

"I enjoy doing it, and I've always said: If you like my content, you like my content. If you don't like my content, go watch somebody else," said the 2022 U.S. Senior Open champion. "I'm not putting myself under the pressure that I have to be perfect and I have to suit everybody. I think that would become very stressful."

Harrington's popularity has opened the door to a new generation of fans, with in-person interactions often focused on how much they like his videos rather than his Hall-of-Fame playing resume. Still, he says, he's not ready to become a full-time influencer.



## Bryson DeChambeau

@brysondechambeau · 1.8M subscribers · 188 videos

I hit a little white ball around ...more

[instagram.com/brysondechambeau](https://www.instagram.com/brysondechambeau) and 2 more links

Subscribe



nathanleonedivaio Hey @brysondechambeau ... I saw your challenge, and I started doing it too. Day after day, shot after shot, from the terrace into the pool. Through the wind, over the water, always dreaming to land it clean... just like you. One day I'll be there. For now, I'm just a kid with a big dream and a lot of golf balls to hit! 🙏

4d 10 likes Reply



@Mattsunx 2 months ago

This is what makes bryson a legend. you're doing so much for the game and showing that golfers all aren't cold and calculated and there is space for fun in the game. All the best for the upcoming majors bryson.

333



Reply

3 replies



thascribblegolfer Bryson has made the guys that don't really like competitive golf want to play competitive golf and the guys that don't like to play for fun want to play for fun.... changed the game of golf forever

4d 73 likes Reply



@DrewComeThru 12 days ago

Bryson is the man. A regular tour pro wouldn't DARE use these cheap clubs in fear of messing up their golf swing. Dude is as real as it gets.

436



Reply

14 replies



@rw5591 2 months ago

Unbelievable that was made in 5 shots. So special for Jimmy and his family. Have to love Bryson using what he has built to give back and build the game through this content. So cool.

27



Reply



**CHALLENGE MET:** After several close calls, DeChambeau finally bagged an ace on Day 16 of his YouTube hole-in-one quest last November. The feat garnered nearly 870k likes on Instagram.

E

@ongo\_gablogianTP9 2 months ago

Bryson is a vibe, great to see a pro out here mixin it up and having fun.

199



Reply

2 replies



@notnuffnerf 2 months ago

Bryson DeChambeau is truly redefining what it means to give back to the golf community. Not only does he showcase his unmatched skill and innovation on the course, but he's also using his platform to help others improve their game and grow the sport's footprint on YouTube. It's inspiring to see someone at the top of their field invest time and resources into making golf more accessible and exciting for everyone. Huge respect for Bryson — he's a game-changer in every sense! 🙏

530



Reply

5 replies

J

@jimmyelliott6443 2 months ago

What an insane day and a memory of a lifetime! Thanks so much for the opportunity, Bryson!

3.6K



Reply

121 replies

D

@Blurr85 11 days ago

this might have been the most relatable round of golf I've seen you play #oneofus

1



Reply





"I want to keep it in its place, and so I do it on my own terms," he said. "There's a lot of pre-thought and effort. A surprising amount does go into it. At all stages throughout the year, every moment I'm on the golf course with my pro-am partners, I'm thinking of, what's the next tip I can do?"

Former LPGA pro Mel Reid recently launched a podcast with NBC/Golf Channel broadcaster Kira Dixon – "Quiet Please! With Mel and Kira" – and says building an off-course brand has become an essential ingredient when it comes to landing partnerships and sponsorship opportunities.

"At the end of the day, I'm not just a golfer," she says. "I love snowboarding, I like cooking, my life's changed now being a mother, I got married. So my brand is constantly evolving, and that's just something that we work quite hard on with the partnerships that we do."

DeChambeau's accomplishments in the online space have not gone unnoticed by his peers.

"He's completely flipped his image through his social media, which I think is pretty incredible because nowadays, a lot of professional golfers are quite content to just be professional golfers," Reid said. "But the ones that do more, I think it opens up a lot of doors,

especially in the women's game, because we don't get the platform, we don't get the coverage, we don't get the eyes on us quite like the men do."

Jess McAlister, founder of Catalyst9, a talent-management marketing firm that counts influencers Tisha Alyn (1.3 million followers on TikTok) and Alexandra O'Laughlin (220,000 followers on Instagram) among its clientele, says social media has taken on an increased importance in the last several years.

"It's about marketability," she says. "And in golf, really in the last five years, sponsorship and endorsement contracts now include social media posts and presence. And it's not just a copy-and-paste from your agent anymore. You need to be on camera and you need to be engaging."

While the rewards of accumulating a large online following can be substantial, players who are active in the space admit that the potential for negativity can take a toll.

Six-time PGA Tour winner Max Homa, who first rose to online prominence by wittily critiquing users' golf swings on Twitter and has nearly 700,000 followers on the X platform, said in March that he's leaving it behind.

"I think I've finally had a come-to-Jesus moment

that it's for the sick," he said. "I was sick. I'm just trying to get healthy now."

"I have not enjoyed that app," he continued. "It's not very fun. It's fun to watch our little highlights or lowlights, and that stuff is fun. The rest of it's probably not great, so I'm going to stick to TikTok."

Australian Min Woo Lee won the 2016 U.S. Junior Amateur and has five wins since turning pro in 2019, including his first PGA Tour victory in March. A slick social-media presence helped him acquire more than 1 million followers between TikTok and Instagram. Lee – along with his major-winning sister, Minjee – received a prime storyline on this season of Netflix's "Full Swing," where he revealed that maintaining an online persona adds another layer of pressure.

"It's amazing to have people's support at places that I don't expect," Min Woo said on the show. "It's a big part of why I play. And every time I post a video just before a tournament, I think, I better play good."

"People are gonna just say I'm a social media guy. Yeah, it kinda makes me mad," he continued. "You can get dragged into it and it can hurt your feelings, I guess. But I try to not let that affect me."

One U.S. Women's Open champion who has plenty of experience with the weight of expectations is Michelle Wie West. Now a wife and mom of two, the recently retired LPGA star has 600,000 followers on Instagram, and says she appreciates social media for giving her a platform to share direct and personal perspectives.

"Social media has been a good experience for me because my whole life, my whole childhood, I've had articles written about me," she said. "When I was playing and Instagram and social media became a thing, that's when I really felt like I could take charge of my own narrative."

"Even after retirement, when articles aren't being written about you, you still can share your story, without a huge media outlet or press releases," she continued. "I think the story that you end up sharing is a lot more organic."

Wie West said she's intrigued by the growing appeal of YouTube, too.

"It's really interesting, this new age of YouTube golf," she said. "I need to know more about it. But I'm

definitely here to take inspiration from everyone, and I think it's a really cool way to engage and connect with your fans."

"I especially love Bryson's content because he makes golf so relatable," she continued. "A lot of times, professional athletes are unattainable, but he's making his experience and his journey through golf very resonant to the general public. And I think that's really great, especially as the game is growing. We need more people like that."

---

**For DeChambeau**, the content-creation machine is still humming along nicely – and the ceiling is seemingly infinite.

"My mission is to continue to expand the game, grow the game globally. YouTube has really helped me accomplish some of that," DeChambeau said. Days later, he added: "There's 700 million potential golfers, and I think right now there's just over 100 million that are playing consistently, and we want to get closer to that 700 million."

DeChambeau has said his online strategy has been influenced by the success of MrBeast, a YouTuber who developed a propensity for producing viral content that often involves extravagant challenges and giving away huge amounts of money. He currently has 378 million subscribers on YouTube, making him the platform's No. 1 creator.

"I saw what MrBeast did in 2016, all the way up to where he is now, a kid from Greenville, North Carolina. Just an entertainment character, not an athlete," DeChambeau said from LIV Nashville. "I said, why can't an athlete do something like that? He's inspiring millions of people. Why aren't we maximizing that? Why isn't there an opportunity to do that? I saw that light, and I said, look, I want to try this."

In November, DeChambeau joined the likes of Tom Brady and Cristiano Ronaldo by making a cameo in a MrBeast challenge video. DeChambeau's role: play a hole against a MrBeast subscriber for \$100,000. The catch? The subscriber got to play to a massively oversized hole. The two tied the hole the first time, with DeChambeau ultimately prevailing in sudden death.

The video has 242 million views... and counting. ♦



# Experience and expertise. With insurance, there's no better pairing.

---

Whether you're on the course or on the job, the challenges can be complicated. That's why we apply 120 years of experience to find the insurance solution that's right for you.

Sentry, Official Insurance Partner of the USGA  
Learn more at [sentry.com/right-by-you](https://sentry.com/right-by-you)



Property and casualty coverages are underwritten, and safety services are provided, by a member of the Sentry Insurance Group, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. For a complete listing of companies, visit [sentry.com](https://sentry.com). Policies, coverages, benefits, and discounts are not available in all states. See policy for complete coverage details.

Sentry Insurance neither owns nor is owned by USGA or its affiliates and subsidiaries.

45-788

3317237 1/10/2024







**CHAMPIONS**

# Peerless Pair

JoAnne Gunderson Carner and Anne Quast Sander roared out of the state of Washington and dominated an era of the U.S. Women's Amateur



by **RON DRISCOLL**

photos by **SIMON DALE & STEVEN GIBBONS**

JoAnne Carner  
(facing page) and  
Anne Sander forged  
a friendly rivalry that  
began in their early  
teens.





# CHAMPIONS

**A**NNE QUAST SANDER recalls first meeting JoAnne Gunderson Carner in their early teens, shortly before they were set to square off in the 1952 Washington State Girls' Junior Championship. As Quast worked on her putting stroke, Gunderson called out from across the green, "What are you practicing for? Afraid I'm gonna beat ya?"

"JoAnne was 13 and I was 14, and that's been our relationship forever," said Sander, now 87, as she sat in a ballroom at Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle in late February. "She's just a character, always has been. There's only one JoAnne."

It wasn't long before the fledgling in-state rivals with differing personalities and styles of play were competing – and thriving – on the national stage. Spurred not by fear of losing to her cocky friend, but by a nearly unparalleled drive and determination, Sander would go on to capture seven USGA championships. The singular Carner did Sander one better, with eight USGA titles, most of any female in history.

Just a few years on from that first state junior clash, Gunderson would put together an incredible entrée to USGA championships: In her first five starts, she posted two runner-up finishes and two victories (second, then first in the 1955-56 U.S. Girls' Juniors and the same progression in the 1956-57 U.S. Women's Amateurs).

"It came easy to me – I loved the competition," Carner, 86, reminisced in the boardroom of Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach, Fla., in early March. "Anything that was a challenge, I made it fun. It was nothing for me to shoot 3 under on the front nine, and that

usually gave me a big jump on my opponent."

Carner's dazzling debut spurred an era in which the Washington duo dominated the U.S. Women's Amateur to a degree rarely seen in USGA history (see chart, below). No other pair of competitors has ever reached as many match-play finals in a single championship in as few years.

Between 1956 and 1968, Carner and Sander would reach the U.S. Women's Am final a combined 12 times, with eight victories. Only twice in that span did the final fail to feature one of them, yet they only faced each other in the final once, in 1968, when Carner won her fifth title, second only to Glenna Collett Vare. The pair met twice in the semifinals, in 1958 and 1963, with Sander prevailing both times.

In a run of 17 times competing in the championship between 1953 and 1973, Sander was a marvel of consistency, not only getting to six finals and winning three, but reaching at least the quarterfinal round 14 times. Her match-play record in that span was 68-13. Sander credits two-time U.S. Amateur champion Marvin "Bud" Ward, who became her instructor while she was a student at Stanford University, for helping her to develop the course-management skills and short-game prowess that became hallmarks of her game.

**ANNE QUAST** hailed from Marysville, 35 miles north of Seattle, learning the game on a public course owned by her parents. They didn't play; golf was strictly a business venture. Anne drew encouragement from course regulars Helene Kendall and Helen Ingram, who urged her to compete in her first state event, the Public Links at Jackson Park Golf Course in Seattle.

## DOMINANT DUOS — Foes Who Kept Rising to the Top

TANDEM (EVENT)	SPAN	FINALS	TITLES	YEARS
Carner-Sander (U.S. Women's Am):	13 years	12	8	1956-1968
Bob Jones-Chick Evans (U.S. Am):	13 years	11	7	1916-1930*
Glenna Collett Vare-Virginia Van Wie (U.S. Women's Am):	14 years	12	9	1922-1935
Vare-Alexa Stirling (U.S. Women's Am):	18 years	13	9	1916-1935*

\* – interrupted by World War I (1917-18)



A couple of years later, the 1952 U.S. Girls' Junior was held at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, and Quast, just shy of her 15th birthday, reached the semifinal round after earning co-medalist honors with Mickey Wright, the eventual champion. A week later, the U.S. Women's Amateur took place at Waverley Country Club in Portland, Ore., and Quast won her first match before being ousted by fellow Washingtonian Pat Lesser, who had captured the 1950 U.S. Girls' Junior and would go on to win the 1955 U.S. Women's Amateur.

Sander wonders whether she would have attempted to play on a national level if she hadn't competed – and fared so well – in those 1952 championships. “In that era, the USGA only came out to the West Coast once every eight or 10 years,” she noted. “I wonder if my life might have been totally different.”

As youngsters, JoAnne Gunderson and her brother

**JoAnne Gunderson, 19, playfully places her hat on champion Anne Quast, 20, at the prize ceremony of the 1958 U.S. Women's Amateur at Wee Burn C.C. in Darien, Conn.**

hunted for lost balls at the par-32 Juanita Golf Course in her hometown of Kirkland, across Lake Washington from Seattle, then she began shagging balls for the pro when he gave lessons. She showed enough promise that the pro, Gordon Jenkins, began teaching her, and she was off.

“We could play after the paying customers left, so we would play evening golf, even moonlight golf,” Carner says. “There would be a bunch of us out there, hitting all at once, people talking during your backswing – that’s why nothing ever bothered me in competition. When I first began playing with LPGA pros, they tried to psych me out, but it never worked. I had grown up on it.”

Seemingly overnight, “Gundy” went from a high handicapper to shooting in the 70s, and a couple at Sand Point Golf Club in Seattle sponsored her as a junior member so she could play in USGA events (a club

**“I practiced an hour or so a day, every day, but I kept it in perspective.”**

**—ANNE SANDER**





Carner won 4 of her 5 U.S. Women's Am titles in convincing fashion, including 1962 (left) in Rochester, N.Y. Sander (below) was in peak form during her 1961 victory at Tacoma. Facing page: The two friends wish each other luck before the 1968 final, won by Carner.



membership was required at the time for all but the Amateur Public Links).

"A bad lie never bothered me, because I used to practice from all kinds of lies in the fields around our house," Carner said. "I also realized that, in order to be aggressive and go at a pin that's tucked, you're liable to hit it in the bunker if you miss. You had to have a good short game to be able to play."

Carner modeled her bunker play after Patty Berg, the LPGA Tour star and founding member, who gave a clinic at a local course when Carner was 13. "I just watched everything she did and went from there. I never idolized anyone, even though I thought Mickey Wright had the best golf swing, man or woman, that I had ever seen. But if you were better than I was at a particular shot, I would get in your stance and mimic your rhythm and everything, until I got better at it than you were."

**IN 1957, WHEN** Gunderson defeated Anne Casey Johnstone, 8 and 6, at Del Paso Country Club in Sacramento, Calif., for her first U.S. Women's Am title, she was 18, the second-youngest Women's Am champion to that point behind Beatrix Hoyt in 1896-97.

One year later, Sander won her first title at age 20, at Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, Conn. She rallied from a three-hole deficit to beat Gunderson, 1 up, in the semifinals, seizing the advantage with a 3-iron shot to 2 feet on the 17th hole. She again came back from 3 down

in the 36-hole final vs. Barbara Romack, birdieing four of the last seven holes in a 3-and-2 victory.

A Wee Burn member hosted both players for the week ("I didn't get much sleep," Sander recalls with a smile), and Gunderson "capped" the post-round festivities by plopping her own hat onto Sander's head as her compatriot was giving her champion's speech.

Gunderson had acquired the chapeau on a road trip a few weeks earlier, when the pair competed on their first Curtis Cup Team, at Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton, Mass. Gunderson would go on to play on four USA Teams, Sander on eight, spanning five decades, but this one would be memorable for the fact that the two were paired for foursomes (alternate-shot) play on Day 1. It did not go well.

"I can hit it long and when I knocked it in the rough, it never bothered me," Carner said. "But Anne couldn't get out of the rough. The harder I tried to hit it straight, the worse I hit it. I finally started saying, 'Let's see you get out of that one, Anne.' I mean, that was my sense of humor."

As Sander recalls, "It was so bad, it was funny." They lost, 3 and 2, but on Day 2, they both rebounded to win their singles matches as the USA tied Great Britain & Ireland, 4½-4½.

**AFTER A ONE-YEAR HIATUS** from the U.S. Women's Amateur final in 1959 (Sander lost to the eventual champion, Barbara McIntire, in 20 holes in the quarterfinals),

# “The LPGA pros tried to psych me out, but it never worked. I had grown up on it.” —JOANNE CARNER

the pair traded the Robert Cox Trophy for the next four years. Gunderson won in 1960 and 1962, Sander in 1961 and 1963 to give them three apiece. Notable among those was Sander's victory margin in 1962 at Tacoma Country and Golf Club in their home state, a 14-and-13 defeat of Phyllis Preuss, which is still tied for the largest margin of victory in USGA annals. [She was married to Jay Decker in 1961-62 and to David Welts from 1963-1969. She married Steve Sander in 1971.]

“I played the golf of my life at Tacoma,” says Sander, who was 9 under par for the week and never trailed in seven matches, losing only six holes across 112 holes played. “I was teaching high school history at the time, and I felt like I ought to play a warmup event. I played in a Pacific Northwest Golf Association tournament and lost, 5 and 4, in the first round.”

An additional tune-up was needed, so Sander traveled to Southern California to compete in the prestigious Women's Western Amateur. She shot 70 in qualifying at Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena and went on to win her second of three Western titles. That form continued at Tacoma, where she never played past the 16th hole until the 36-hole final.

In 1962 at the Country Club of Rochester (N.Y.), it was the 23-year-old Gunderson's turn to dominate, rolling to a 9-and-8 victory in the final over Ann Baker, a performance she called the best of her career to that point. The title wasn't without its anxious moments, though. She needed to roll in a 6-foot par putt on the 18th green to extend her quarterfinal match against Barbara Williams before she prevailed in 20 holes.

In a *Golf Journal* article titled, “Fun Emphasized When Miss Gunderson Plays,” the USGA's Frank Hannigan recounted her delightful demeanor: “The silence

was almost deafening as JoAnne Gunderson addressed a putt of 6 feet on the 18th green to avoid defeat against Barbara Williams. She drew back her putter. It trembled in her hands. Then she remembered that golf, after all, is supposed to be a game and not a nerve-shattering experience. She hesitated for an instant, chuckled, and walked off the green, to the accompaniment of laughter from a gallery of more than 1,000. The tension dissolved,

she walked back to the ball and quickly dispatched it into the center of the cup.”

Hannigan went on to describe how Gunderson would loudly applaud her opponents' good shots, occasionally duck under the gallery ropes to chat with spectators, and awe both foes and spectators with her length. En route to victory in the final, she reached the 525-yard 10th hole in two and made the putt for eagle.

“If you beat me, I wanted you to outplay me,” Carner recalls about the carefree attitude that earned her the moniker “The Great Gundy.” “The photographers loved me. They said, ‘We never had to follow you more than 1½ holes or so and we had our photo.’ I was always bending, kicking my leg out or something. Years later, people would tell me they followed me when they were little, because their parents brought them out.”



**IN HIS GOLF JOURNAL RECAP**, Hannigan compared Sander's 1963 triumph to the approach that Ben Hogan had taken a decade earlier, when “The Hawk” competed sparingly, yet with great success. The 1963 Women's Am was just Sander's eighth competition in three years, and she arrived early to the host site, Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, Mass., to work on fading her approach shots. She considered the left-to-right ball flight a requirement, as the layout featured many



CHAMPIONS

greens that sloped in the opposite direction.

Sander’s semifinal showdown with Gunderson marked something of a departure from her typical fairways-and-greens routine. She missed every fairway through seven holes, but her scrambling allowed her to take a 1-up lead. Once she resumed her usual consistency, she ousted the defending champion by a 3-and-2 margin.

“Anne had a nice swing and was always straight down the middle, a great putter, and I was usually in the rough,” Carner recalled. “It was funny that in that match, we reversed roles. But she was still making the putts. She’d make putts from here to the end of the table (about a 20-foot distance) all the time. I saw it for years and years.”

Indeed, in the final against 16-year-old Peggy Conley, of Spokane, Wash., Sander held a 2-up lead playing the par-3 35th hole but was bunkered off the tee and in danger of being pushed to the 36th hole. She blasted out to about 17 feet, and Conley had a short putt left for par. As Hannigan put it, Sander “simply holed her putt, and there is no greater tribute to her skills than to say no one seemed very surprised that she did it.”

Carner and Sander then took turns losing in the Women’s Am final – the former in 1964 to Barbara McIntire and the latter in 1965 to Jean Ashley. Having gotten married to Don Carner in 1964, Carner missed the 1965 championship while the couple built Firefly Golf Course in Seekonk, Mass., which they would own and manage for

several years. In 1966, she returned to the winner’s circle by capturing the longest match in USGA championship history, a 41-hole victory over Marlene Stewart Streit, of Canada, the 1956 champion.

**THE 1967 CHAMPIONSHIP** at Annandale Golf Club proved an aberration, as both players lost their opening-round matches for the only time. They renewed their rivalry in the 1968 final at Birmingham (Mich.) Country Club, but not before Carner ousted medalist Catherine Lacoste, of France, the only amateur to win the U.S. Women’s Open, with a late three-birdie blitz in the semifinal round. Carner overpowered Sander, 5 and 4, in the final for her fifth title on a course that had received more than 2 inches of rain the previous night.

“There was one fairway that was crisscrossed by puddles, and I said to Gundy, ‘Which one do you want?’” Sander recounted with a chuckle. “She reared back and cleared all of them with ease. I’ve never forgotten it. Even at my best, she was always 25 yards ahead of me.”

Carner had fielded queries for years about whether she would consider turning professional. It was, as Carner points out, “a much different time in golf. It wasn’t like you were going to make an amazing living playing professionally.” Carner wasn’t enamored of the lifestyle or the frosty reception she received from LPGA Tour players when she competed in an occasional event. Of course, it probably didn’t help that she once said she could take 10 top amateurs of the day and defeat 10 top profes-

DOUBLE TROUBLE

JoAnne Carner and Anne Sander had a remarkable tandem run in the U.S. Women’s Amateur between 1956 and 1968. Some highlights:

SANDER		CARNER
68-13 (1953-73)	MATCH-PLAY RECORD	56-8 (1956-69)
17	YEARS ENTERED	13
3 (1958, '61, '63)	TITLES	5 (1957, '60, '62, '66, '68)
6	REACHED FINAL	7
14/17	REACHED AT LEAST QUARTERFINALS	9/13
2-1	HEAD-TO-HEAD	1-2

Take your best shot.

Kaitlyn Chung  
Junior Golfer



USGA

[cisco.com/go/sports](https://cisco.com/go/sports)



## TO THE NINES 9 Notable Feats by 2 All-Time Greats

### CARNER:



1. 8 USGA titles are most by a woman and tied for 2nd-most ever with Jack Nicklaus
2. First to win 3 different USGA titles; only Tiger Woods has also won Junior/Am/Open trio
3. Won 2 U.S. Women's Opens (1971, 1976), also lost in an 18-hole playoff (1987)

4. Won 1956 U.S. Girls' Junior; also reached the 1955 Girls' Junior final
5. Played on 4 USA Curtis Cup Teams, going unbeaten in singles (4-0-1)
6. Won 43 times on the LPGA Tour, 8th all-time, despite not turning pro until age 30
7. Her 1st LPGA win in 1969 was the last by an amateur until Lydia Ko in 2012
8. Oldest player to make a cut on the LPGA Tour, at age 65 in 2004
9. Has played in all 6 U.S. Senior Women's Opens, shooting her age or better 8 times

### SANDER:



1. 7 USGA titles are tied for 5th-most with Ellen Port and Carol Semple Thompson
2. 40 U.S. Women's Amateur starts are 2nd all-time to Thompson's 41
3. Holds record for largest margin of victory in a Women's Am final (14 and 13, in 1961)

4. Finished 4th in 1973 U.S. Women's Open and 2nd in 1957 Titleholders (an LPGA major)
5. Reached back-to-back Women's Am quarterfinals at ages 49 and 50 in 1987-88
6. Played on 8 USA Curtis Cup Teams, spanning five decades (1958 to 1990)
7. Won 4 U.S. Senior Women's Amateur titles in 7 years; was also a 2-time runner-up
8. Competed for 3 winning USA sides in Women's World Amateur Team Championship
9. Made her 100th start in a USGA championship in 2023 U.S. Senior Women's Open

sionals. "And I believed it," Carner says. "We had some great amateurs at that time."

Carner won all five amateur events she played in 1968, then won an LPGA Tour event, the Burdine's Invitational, as an amateur in early 1969. After she lost in the first round of the 1969 U.S. Women's Amateur, she opted to turn professional.

"My husband brought it up first," Carner recalls. "I was trying to win with no practice and eventually that caught up with me. I did win [the Women's Am] one year, but the next year I bombed out. Running the public golf course that we built didn't allow much time."

Sander likewise played a very limited schedule, and she went on to have three sons, all of whom cad-died for her in competition. The pro game never beckoned to her.

"It was never a goal or a dream," says Sander. "It wasn't the be-all and end-all in my life. I had other things that I enjoyed. I've always loved gardening and cooking. I'm a homebody. I practiced an hour or so a day, every day, but I kept it in perspective."

Sander took three years away from competition from 1970-72 for personal reasons, then returned in 1973, reaching her sixth U.S. Women's Amateur final, losing to Carol Semple Thompson on

the 36th hole at Montclair (N.J.) Golf Club. It was Thompson's first USGA title, en route to a total of seven that would tie Sander – and later Ellen Port – for fifth place all-time among USGA competitors.

An era of dominance by Carner and Sander was over. But their history and rapport continue. As Carner reeled off more than 40 LPGA Tour victories and Sander racked up Curtis Cup berths and U.S. Senior Women's Amateur titles, Carner would egg on her longtime friend, threatening to regain her amateur status so she could come back to challenge her again.

Isn't that what friendly rivals are for? ♦

We'll be cheering you on.



**Andrew Walker**  
APGA Tour Pro

**Cameron Young**  
PGA Tour Pro

**Kaitlyn Chung**  
Junior Golfer

**Danielle Kang**  
LPGA Tour Pro

The opportunity to qualify for the USGA championships is open to anyone. We're proud to support organizations like the USGA and the APGA that are working to make golf more inclusive. Because the more of us who get a chance to play, the better golf is for everyone.



[cisco.com/go/sports](https://cisco.com/go/sports)



# WORKS FOR ME!

**Are you using the Rules of Golf to your advantage?**

*By* **JAY ROBERTS** *and* **DANNY VOHDEN**

ASK GOLFERS HOW the Rules of Golf impact their round, and almost all will say that they add strokes to their score. It's not an unreasonable perspective. We are conditioned, especially in sports, to view rules as things to avoid breaking so we won't be assessed some sort of penalty.

An offensive lineman holding a defensive end? Ten-yard penalty. Whack a player's arm on his way up for a layup? Two-shot foul. A catcher's glove interferes with a batter's swing? Automatic first base.

Yes, there are penalizing elements of the Rules of Golf, but that's not the end of the matter. Knowing the situations where the Rules can be used to your advantage can save you from difficult predicaments, and it's a great way to enhance your golf experience and maybe even lower your score.

Are you taking advantage of these scenarios when you tee it up?

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **PATRICK WELSH**

## Right-handed player taking relief for playing a left-handed shot

**THE SCENARIO:** An errant tee shot comes to rest beside a tree that impedes your ability to take your normal swing. You decide your best option is to punch the ball back into play using a left-handed swing but in doing so, you're now standing on the cart path.

**THE QUESTION:** Since a left-handed swing is not your normal stance, would you be allowed to take free relief from the cart path?

**THE ANSWER:** Yes, because using an abnormal swing doesn't preclude you from taking relief as long as the stroke you're trying to make isn't clearly unreasonable. Proceed by finding the nearest point of complete relief using a left-handed stroke. From that spot, you get a one-club-length relief area to drop the ball in.

The best part? After completing the relief procedure, you are then free to use a normal right-handed swing.





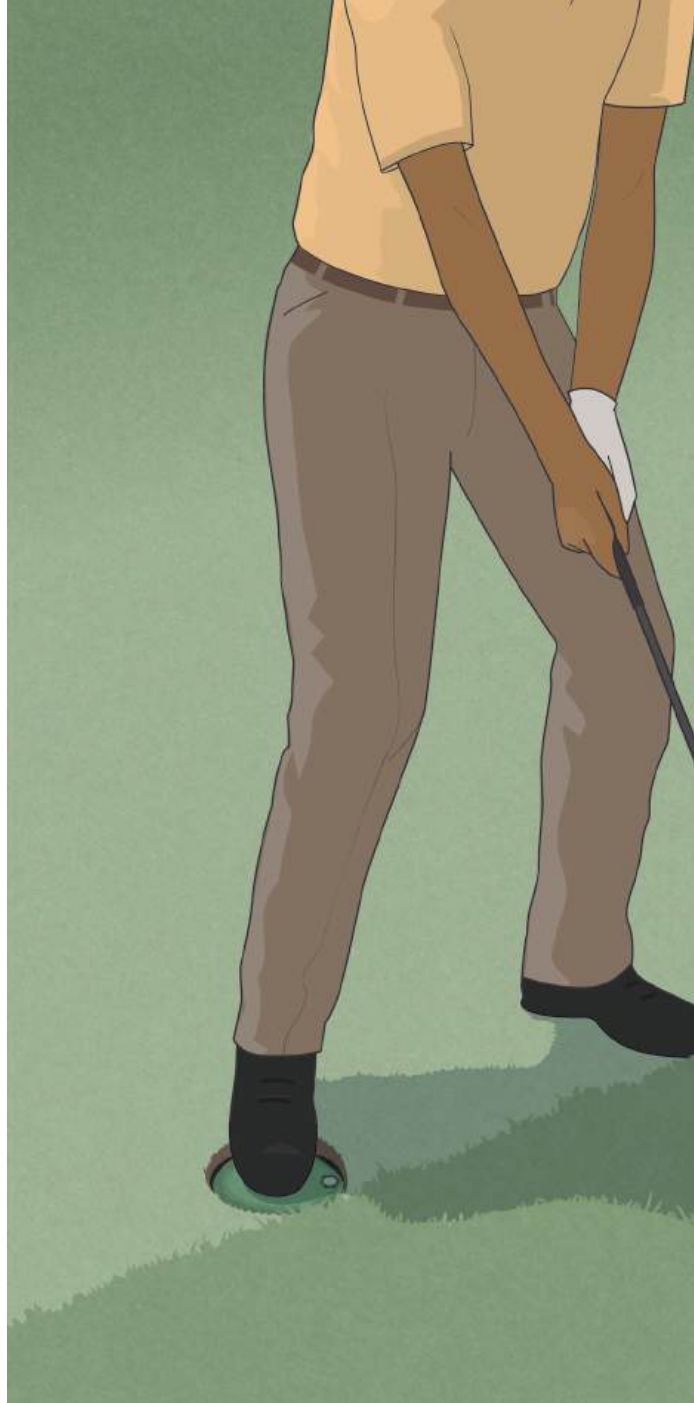
## RULES

### Re-tee a ball in play in the teeing area

**THE SCENARIO:** You topped your drive, but the ball comes to rest in the teeing area.

**THE QUESTION:** Does this count as a stroke, and, if so, can you re-tee the ball for your next shot?

**THE ANSWER:** If you tried to hit the ball, then you made a stroke by definition and are lying one. But when the ball is in play within the teeing area, which is defined as the area that extends 2 club-lengths behind the tee markers, you are allowed to lift and move the ball anywhere you want within that teeing area. That includes putting it back on the tee without penalty for your second shot.



### Taking relief from the rough to the fairway

**THE SCENARIO:** You draw a bad lie in the rough, but a sprinkler head interferes with your stance. You wisely decide to take free relief. While your nearest point of complete relief is in the rough, you realize that your one club-length reaches the fairway.

**THE QUESTION:** Are you allowed to take free relief from the rough and drop it in the fairway?

**THE ANSWER:** Absolutely! In fact, this is the exact scenario used in Clarification 16.1/1 in the Rules of Golf to illustrate that this is permissible. The

## **An immovable obstruction that's in a penalty area**

**THE SCENARIO:** Taking aim at the flagstick, your shot sails over the green and avoids the penalty area, but a bridge that's in the penalty area is interfering with your next swing.

**THE QUESTION:** Do you get free relief from this obstruction even though it's in the penalty area?

**THE ANSWER:** You're allowed free relief from immovable obstructions anywhere on the course except when your ball is in the penalty area. If the ball were in the penalty area, there'd be no free relief from the bridge. But since this ball is not in the penalty area, free relief would be allowed.

It's not about the location of the obstruction – it's all about the location of the ball.



rough and fairway are part of the same area of the course – the General Area – and if taking relief results in you getting better conditions, then it's your lucky day. Feel free to drop and take your next shot.







## Accidentally move your

**THE SCENARIO:** You are searching for your ball off the fairway – and inadvertently interfere with the ball while doing so.

**THE QUESTION:** Is it a penalty if I accidentally move the ball while looking for it?

**THE ANSWER:** If you or anyone else accidentally moves your ball anywhere on the course while trying to find or identify it, there is no penalty. Simply replace the ball on its original spot. If you're unsure of the exact spot, use your best judgment to estimate and play on.



## Free relief for ground under repair

**THE SCENARIO:** Your golf course is working on the drainage system in the middle of a fairway. Your tee shot avoids the marked-off repair area, but your stance doesn't.

**THE QUESTION:** Can you take free relief when the ground under repair interferes with your stance and not your ball?

**THE ANSWER:** Ground under repair is treated the same as a cart path in that if you have interference with your lie, stance or swing, you can play it as it lies or take free relief by finding the nearest point of complete relief and dropping a ball within one club-length of that spot.

ball while trying to find it



## Plugged ball

**THE SCENARIO:** A rainstorm left the course wet and soft. You crush your first tee shot down the middle of the fairway but when you get to your ball, you see that it's plugged in its own pitch mark.


**THE QUESTION:** Am I allowed to pick the ball up and take a drop for my second shot or do I have to play it as it lies?

**THE ANSWER:** You could play it as it lies – but why when free relief is allowed? Take your drop within one club-length of the spot right behind the ball that's in the general area. You also have the option to clean the ball or change it out for a new ball.



VENUE SPOTLIGHT

*Atlanta Athletic Club*



The serene yet treacherous 10th hole at Atlanta Athletic Club's Riverside Course.





# Peach of a Host

by **TOM MACKIN** • photos by **RUSSELL KIRK**

*With this summer's U.S. Girls' Junior, venerable Atlanta Athletic Club adds to its championship pedigree*

G

ROWING UP in Stone Mountain, Ga., golf course architect Tripp Davis had plenty of reasons to visit the Atlanta Athletic Club, 23 miles north in Johns Creek. He competed in multiple Atlanta Junior Golf Association events on its two courses and attended the 1981 PGA Championship there, which was won by Larry Nelson, a U.S. Open champion two years later. Now an Oklahoma resident, Davis will return in July when the club's Riverside Course, which he renovated three years ago, hosts the 2025 U.S. Girls' Junior.



## VENUE SPOTLIGHT

“If you told me, ‘Hey, 40 years from now you’re going to go back in and redo the Riverside Course,’ I would not have believed you,” said Davis. “It’s a dream-come-true kind of thing.”

It’s also another historic moment for the Atlanta Athletic Club, which will become the first site to host a U.S. Girls’ Junior, U.S. Junior Amateur, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Women’s Amateur, U.S. Open and U.S. Women’s Open. Founded in 1898, the club was located in Atlanta’s East Lake neighborhood – where Bob Jones learned the game at what is now known as East Lake Golf Club – from 1904 until 1967, when it moved to its current location in the city’s northern suburbs. Forever linked with Jones, the club also boasts a



**Bob Jones and Alexa Stirling, two all-time greats, were both Atlanta Athletic Club members. Above: The peninsula green of the 11th hole.**

strong legacy in women’s golf.

“I think we’re the only club that has three champions of the U.S. Women’s Amateur as past or current members: Alexa Stirling Frazier, Dorothy Kirby and Martha Wilkinson Kirouac (honorary chair for the 2025 U.S. Girls’ Junior),” said West Streib, longtime member and co-chair of its host committee. Bailey Tardy, who tied for 4th in the 2023 U.S. Women’s Open and earned her first LPGA Tour



victory in 2024, grew up in the club's robust junior program.

"I'm a father of two young girls, and they're getting kind of involved in golf," said Streib. "I had a chance to play the U.S. Junior Amateur when I was 16, so I just hope and dream that they aspire to pursue it at that level. But if not, that's OK. This championship is a chance for all our kids to see the best in the world right at their doorstep."

Competitors will encounter

a revitalized Riverside Course that reflects the strategic philosophy of Davis, who also renovated two other 2025 championship venues: Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club in Nichols Hills, Okla., which hosts the U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball in May, and Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio, Texas, site of the U.S. Senior Amateur in August.

"I'm not really one who likes to build golf courses that are



## Fast Facts

**WHAT:** 76th U.S. Girls' Junior Championship

**FORMAT:** Two rounds of stroke play; low 64 scorers will advance to match play

**WHEN:** July 14-19, 2025

**FIELD:** 156 female amateurs, age 18 and younger

**INFO:** This will be just the second U.S. Girls' Junior contested in the Peachtree State. In 1971, **Hollis Stacy** ▼ defeated Amy Alcott at Augusta Country Club for her record third title in one of the most memorable finals in championship history. Both players went on to earn induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame.





## VENUE SPOTLIGHT

just going to beat you up,” said Davis. “I like for you to have options. I like for you to have to think. I think in the women’s game, which extends to the girls as well, they play a purer form of golf, in my opinion. This course is going to give them a lot of ways they can play it.”

To create that flexibility, Davis focused on reforming the overall landscape of the Riverside Course to better fit with the ground. “There has been a lot of earth moved over the years, and we kind of stripped down all the mounding and more artificial earth work,” said Davis. “We wanted the course to sit on the ground naturally. That was a significant part of the process.”

Another point of emphasis for the project, which began in late 2021 and finished 11 months later,

was to create a match-play flow to the course. “We wanted to start out where even the first few holes can flip matches a bit,” said Davis.

“There aren’t too many matches that reach 16, so you want to make sure that you have some drama in

the middle of the back nine, too,” he added. To meet that goal, holes 12, 13, and 14 saw major changes.

“No. 12 is now a reachable par 5 with a green that sits over the top of a creek,” said Davis. “We made 13 one of the toughest 400-yard par 4s I’ve ever played. If you don’t hit it in the fairway, you’ve got to be really conservative playing into the green. Sometimes a better place is just to play short left of it, pitch up, and try to make 4. If you hit two good shots now, you can make 3. If you drive it poorly, you can make 5 or 6 real quick.” The entire 14th hole – now a drivable par 4 – was moved closer to the Chattahoochee River. “Now you’ve got three holes where someone can stand on 12 tee



**Top: The Atlanta Athletic Club's elegant clubhouse, with a statue of Bob Jones near the entryway. Left: The reachable-in-two par-5 12th hole.**

3 down and can easily get onto 15 tee all square,” said Davis.

Living up to the Riverside name was another goal of the project, according to Streib. “We felt the old routing didn’t utilize the riverfront property as well as it could have,” he said. “We removed two ponds on the old 3rd and 14th holes that we felt drew your eye away from the natural beauty of the river. That stretch from the 14th green down to the third green is some of the most beautiful property in Fulton County. You forget you’re in the dense Atlanta suburbs.

“Tripp wowed all of us with his dedication, and the work he did will stand the test of time,” Streib continued. “And certainly, if you look at availability on the tee sheet, people are voting with their feet and playing Riverside at a much higher rate than they used to.”

It has been 11 years since the club last hosted a USGA championship – the 2014 U.S. Amateur, won by Gunn Yang over Corey Connors. The U.S. Girls’ Junior will be its seventh overall, to be followed by the 2030 U.S. Amateur and the 2035 U.S. Women’s Amateur, continuing a key part of its legacy.

“Our mission statement revolves around two things,” said Streib. “It’s championship golf, and a family-friendly environment for people to make lifelong memories. But we also want to galvanize the success of our young families who are out there with kids. We have over 315 kids in our junior golf program, so giving them a chance to see what the top of the top is in this championship will hopefully inspire even more kids to achieve.” ♦



A replica of the original  
Havemeyer Trophy (U.S. Amateur)  
in the Jones Museum.

## Lore and Legacy

**JUST OFF THE MAIN ENTRANCE** to the clubhouse at Atlanta Athletic Club sits a small room known simply as “The Jones Museum.” Opened in 1976, it’s home to an unrivaled collection of trophies and memorabilia connected to the greatest amateur golfer of all time. Items range from a small silver cup Bob Jones received after playing in his first club competition at age 6 to a trophy for winning three consecutive club championships as a young teenager. There’s a replica trophy he earned for winning another club event three times. The original version, donated to the USGA in 1981, is presented annually to the U.S. Mid-Amateur champion. Also on display is the letter Jones wrote to the USGA shortly before his death at age 69 in 1971, asking for the U.S. Open to come to the Atlanta Athletic Club, a request fulfilled five years later – Jerry Pate sealed that U.S. Open victory with a memorable 5-iron on the 72nd hole. A championship board details Jones’ competitive record, which included 13 wins and 27 top-10 finishes in 31 majors. Replicas of the four trophies from his Grand Slam in 1930, including the U.S. Open (his fourth triumph) at Interlachen Country Club in Minnesota, and the U.S. Amateur (his fifth) at Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania, are a highlight. “The Jones Museum has a ton of cool stuff, but when you physically see the four trophies of his Grand Slam behind glass, it just hits you what a remarkable achievement that was,” said West Streib. “We are proud to have had him as a member of the club, which drives our passion for amateur golf.” The Jones Museum is open to the public by appointment only. For scheduling and more information, contact the Atlanta Athletic Club.



# FROM THE ARCHIVE

*of the USGA Golf Museum & Library*

---



From May 30 to June 2, Erin Hills will be in the spotlight as the host of the 80th U.S. Women's Open Presented by Ally. But who holds the claim to fame as the first player to win a USGA championship on the challenging layout in the rolling Wisconsin countryside? That would be Tiffany Joh. Just two years after the course opened for play in 2006, Joh earned a hard fought, 2-and-1 victory over Jennifer Song in the 36-hole final of the 2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. It was Joh's second title in the since-retired championship affectionately known as the WAPL. Joh is now an assistant coach for the USGA's U.S. National Development Program.

STEVEN GIBBONS



With Amex,

your view is all teed up.



Proud partner of the **USGA**®





FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME.

77 Liberty Corner Road  
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938  
908.234.2300  
[usga.org](http://usga.org) | [usopen.com](http://usopen.com)



Now in its second year, the U.S. National Development Program (USNDP) fosters future generations of American golf talent. It provides a pathway to success by delivering competitive opportunities, support, training and financial resources. USNDP grants mitigate the cost barriers for promising junior golfers who demonstrate both financial need and the potential to ascend through the USNDP ranks. To make a gift to the U.S. National Development Program, visit [usga.org/give\\_usndp](http://usga.org/give_usndp).