Verizon Heritage 2007



AUSSIES RULE

Aaron Baddeley is the second golfer from Down Under in as many years to make the Heritage his first PGA Tour win; why do Australians play so well here and what does their success say about the state of Aussie golf?



Lonard Benefitted from Darren Clarke's shocking final-round meltdown to win the 2005 Heritage despite shooting a 75.

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These are pretty g'days for Australian golf.

Aaron Baddeley's one-shot win at last year's Verizon Heritage was one of eight PGA Tour victories for Aussies in 2006, and the list included Geoff Ogilvy's U.S. Open victory at Winged Foot, which snapped an 11-year drought for Aussies in major championships and prompted a now-legendary victory celebration.

The state of golf Down Under, it seems, has never been better.

"I would say it's the strongest that I've ever known it," said Baddeley, who turned 26 on March 17.

Pretty g'days, indeed.

BREAKTHROUGH

Perhaps it took longer than expected — the triumvirate of Ogilvy, Baddeley and Adam Scott has long been heralded as the second coming of the Great White Shark that would return Australian golf to the glory it enjoyed while 1988 Heritage champ Greg Norman ruled the world rankings.

At any rate, the Aussies have arrived, and it appears they're here to stay. Of the 76 international players on the PGA Tour this season, 24 of them hail from Australia, by far the most of any country — South Africa is next with nine.

Five of those Aussies — Scott, Ogilvy, Nick O'Hern, Robert Allenby and Baddeley — were in the top 25 in the Official World

Please see AUSTRALIANS on 4E



Packet file photos

ABOVE: Aaron Baddeley raises his arms in victory after making a par-saving putt on the 72nd hole of the 2006 Verizon Heritage. LEFT: Baddeley cradles the winner's plaque. He followed Peter Lonard in becoming the second Australian in as many years to make the Heritage his first PGA Tour win.

ON THE WEB
Hear an interview with defending Heritage champion Aaron Baddeley. **ISLANDPACKET.COM/SPORTS**

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- Today's first-round tee times. **2E**
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- A recap of the 2006 tournament. **4E**

Native son D.J. Trahan, pictured with caddie Todd Sunderland, returns to the Heritage as a PGA Tour winner. 12E



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- Results from Wednesday's Heritage Pro-Am
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VERIZON HERITAGE

2006 RECAP

ROUND 1

Leader: Vaughn Taylor (-8)
Followers: Jim Furyk (-7), Tom Pernice Jr. (-6), Billy Mayfair (-6), Duffy Waldorf (-6)



What happened; Augusta native Vaughn Taylor missed the cut a week earlier in his Masters debut but was on his game at Harbour Town, firing an opening 63 that was just one shot off the lowest first-round score in tournament history.

ROUND 2

Leader: Furyk (-11)
Followers: Aaron Baddeley (-9), Brian Gay (-9), Taylor (-9), Waldorf (-9)



What happened; Furyk, a former U.S. Open champion, fired a 4-under-par 67. Baddeley crept into contention with a 67, which culminated with the first eagle on the par-4 18th hole in seven years.

ROUND 3

Leaders: Furyk (-14) and Baddeley (-14)
Followers: Mayfair (-11), Ernie Els (-10), Jerry Kelly (-10)



What happened; Baddeley, looking for his first PGA Tour victory, gets a break when he shoots a 5-under 66 on his wedding anniversary, and Furyk's round is diminished by a bogey on the 18th hole to surrender a share of the lead.

ROUND 4

Leader: Baddeley (-15)
Followers: Furyk (-14), Taylor (-13), Mayfair (-13), Brett Quigley (-11), Kelly (-11)



What happened; Baddeley drops in a 7-foot putt par-saving putt—his 43rd one-putt of the tournament — to fend off Furyk. Birdies at par-3 14th and par-5 15th vaulted him to a round of 1-under 70 and his first PGA Tour win.

SCORING SUMMARY

First			
Aaron Baddeley, $954,000	66-67-66-70—269	-15	
Second			
Jim Furyk, $572,400	64-67-68-71—270	-14	
T. Third			
Vaughn Taylor, $307,400	63-70-72-66—271	-13	
Billy Mayfair, $307,400	65-69-68-69—271	-13	
T. Fifth			
Brett Quigley, $201,400	68-70-68-67—273	-11	
Jerry Kelly, $201,400	68-69-66-70—273	-11	
T. Seventh			
Tim Clark, $170,925	72-65-68-69—274	-10	
Ernie Els, $170,925	71-67-65-71—274	-10	
T. Ninth			
Brian Gay, $148,400	66-67-73-70—276	-8	
Jose Coceres, $148,400	69-67-68-72—276	-8	
11th			
Geoff Ogilvy, $132,500	66-68-74-69—277	-7	
T. 12th			
Stephen Leaney, $103,880	71-69-70-68—278	-6	
Ben Crane, $103,880	67-68-72-71—278	-6	
Corey Pavin, $103,880	69-69-69-71—278	-6	
Heath Slocum, $103,880	71-70-65-72—278	-6	
Lucas Glover, $103,880	70-68-66-74—278	-6	
T. 17th			
Frank Lickliter II, $76,850	71-71-69-68—279	-5	
Arjun Atwal, $76,850	67-70-71-71—279	-5	
Woody Austin, $76,850	68-69-70-72—279	-5	
Jeff Maggert, $76,850	69-66-71-73—279	-5	
T. 21st			
Bart Bryant, $53,000	70-69-72-69—280	-4	
Paul Azinger, $53,000	68-69-73-70—280	-4	
Joey Sindelar, $53,000	69-72-68-71—280	-4	
Scott Verplank, $53,000	69-71-68-72—280	-4	
Duffy Waldorf, $53,000	65-68-74-73—280	-4	
Tom Pernice, Jr., $53,000	65-69-72-74—280	-4	
T. 27th			
Stewart Cink, $34,538.34	70-71-72-68—281	-3	
B. Langer, $34,538.34	70-70-71-70—281	-3	
D.J. Trahan, $34,538.34	71-69-71-70—281	-3	
Loren Roberts, $34,538.33	68-69-73-71—281	-3	
Nick Price, $34,538.33	70-69-71-71—281	-3	
Peter Jacobsen, $34,538.33	72-70-68-71—281	-3	
John Daly, $34,538.33	70-67-72-72—281	-3	
Bill Haas, $34,538.33	70-69-70-72—281	-3	
Fred Funk, $34,538.33	68-66-74-73—281	-3	
T. 36th			
Chad Campbell, $25,506.25	70-71-69-72—282	-2	
Briny Baird, $25,506.25	71-69-69-73—282	-2	
Joe Durant, $25,506.25	71-69-68-74—282	-2	
Chris Riley, $25,506.25	66-70-68-78—282	-2	
T. 40th			
Ben Curtis, $20,670	71-68-77-67—283	-1	
Billy Andrade, $20,670	68-69-76-70—283	-1	
Shaun Micheel, $20,670	71-68-73-71—283	-1	
J.B. Holmes, $20,670	67-69-73-74—283	-1	
Rod Pampling, $20,670	70-69-70-74—283	-1	
T. 45th			
Jeff Gove, $16,960	71-67-74-72—284	E	
Doug Barron, $16,960	72-69-69-74—284	E	
T. 47th			
Steve Flesch, $14,013.20	71-71-72-71—285	+1	
Justin Leonard, $14,013.20	70-69-74-72—285	+1	
Ian Poulter, $14,013.20	69-70-72-74—285	+1	
Davis Love III, $14,013.20	69-70-73-73—285	+1	
Bob Tway, $14,013.20	70-70-69-76—285	+1	
T. 52nd			
Greg Owen, $12,235.43	70-72-74-70—286	+2	
Nathan Green, $12,235.43	72-70-73-71—286	+2	
Tim Petrovic, $12,235.43	73-68-74-71—286	+2	
Kevin Na, $12,235.43	71-71-72-72—286	+2	
Jesper Parnevik, $12,235.43	71-70-72-73—286	+2	
M. Gronberg, $12,235.43	67-71-74-74—286	+2	
Chris DiMarco, $12,235.42	69-70-71-76—286	+2	
T. 59th			
Peter Lonard, $11,660	71-70-75-71—287	+3	
Todd Fischer, $11,660	69-69-76-73—287	+3	
Brian Davis, $11,660	69-70-75-73—287	+3	
62nd			
J.L. Lewis, $11,448	68-73-73-74—288	+4	
T. 63rd			
Thomas Levet, $11,130	71-71-76-71—289	+5	
Robert Gamez, $11,130	70-70-76-73—289	+5	
Steve Lowery, $11,130	73-67-76-73—289	+5	
Dudley Hart, $11,130	71-71-73-74—289	+5	
Bo Van Pelt, $11,130	70-70-74-75—289	+5	
T. 68th			
Carl Pettersson, $10,706	73-69-72-76—290	+6	
Mark Calcavecchia, $10,706	71-68-74-77—290	+6	
Bob Estes, $10,706	70-72-71-77—290	+6	
T. 71st			
Ryuji Imada, $10,388	73-69-80-69—291	+7	
Brad Faxon, $10,388	68-73-74-76—291	+7	
Justin Rose, $10,388	71-70-74-76—291	+7	
74th			
Brent Geiberger, $10,176	76-66-76-74—292	+8	
75th			
Hidemichi Tanaka, $10,070	72-67-74-81—294	+10	
76th			
Paul Stankowski, $9,964	71-70-75-81—297	+13	
Missed the cut			
Notah Begay III	74-69—143	+1	
Charles Warren	70-73—143	+1	
Jonathan Kaye	69-74—143	+1	
Paul McGinley	71-72—143	+1	
Charley Hoffman	73-70—143	+1	
Tag Ridings	73-71—144	+2	
Kent Jones	72-72—144	+2	
Harrison Frazar	74-70—144	+2	
Jose Maria Olazabal	71-73—144	+2	
Glen Day	72-72—144	+2	
Nick Faldo	76-68—144	+2	
Sean O'Hair	71-73—144	+2	
Ryan Palmer	73-71—144	+2	
Shane Bertsch	73-71—144	+2	
John Rollins	73-71—144	+2	
Lee Janzen	71-74—145	+3	
Graeme McDowell	70-75—145	+3	
Daniel Chopra	74-71—145	+3	
Trevor Immelman	74-71—145	+3	
Steve Jones	71-74—145	+3	
Richard S. Johnson	74-71—145	+3	
Troy Matteson	73-72—145	+3	
Nick O'Hern	77-68—145	+3	
Wes Short, Jr.	76-69—145	+3	
Camilo Villegas	71-74—145	+3	
Darren Clarke	76-70—146	+4	
John Senden	71-75—146	+4	
Craig Perks	74-72—146	+4	
Todd Hamilton	75-71—146	+4	
Mathew Goggin	70-77—147	+5	
Patrick Sheehan	73-74—147	+5	
Henrik Bjornstad	75-72—147	+5	
Nick Watney	78-69—147	+5	
Jay Haas	76-71—147	+5	
John Riegger	76-71—147	+5	
James Driscoll	79-69—148	+6	
Phil Tataurangi	74-74—148	+6	
Dean Wilson	72-76—148	+6	
Robert Damron	75-73—148	+6	
Jason Gore	76-73—149	+7	
Mark Brooks	74-75—149	+7	
Craig Stadler	72-77—149	+7	
Brian Harman	72-77—149	+7	
David Edwards	78-72—150	+8	
Jeff Brehaut	75-77—152	+10	
Stephen Behr	74-79—153	+11	
Ted Purdy	77-77—154	+12	
Edoardo Molinari	80-75—155	+13	
Rich Weston	78-77—155	+13	
Bubba Dickerson	74-83—157	+15	
Larry George	82-76—158	+16	

Heritage foreign winners

A list of foreign winners of the Heritage.

1977: Graham Marsh (Australia)
1984: Nick Faldo (England)
1985: Bernhard Langer (Germany)
1988: Greg Norman (Australia)
1997: Nick Price (South Africa)
2001: Jose Coceres (Argentina)
2005: Peter Lonard (Australia)
2006: Aaron Baddeley* (Australia)
* Baddeley was born in the United States and holds dual citizenship

Australian winners

Native Australians who have won recent PGA Tour events.

2004
Stuart Appleby: Mercedes Championships.
Craig Parry: Ford Championship.
Adam Scott (2): The Players Championship, Booz Allen Classic.
Mark Hensby: John Deere Classic.
Rod Pampling: The International.
Andre Stolz: Michelin Championship.
2005
Stuart Appleby: Mercedes Championships.
Geoff Ogilvy: Chrysler Classic of Tucson.
Adam Scott: Nissan Open*.
Peter Lonard: MCI Heritage.
2006
Stuart Appleby: Mercedes Championships, Shell Houston Open.
Geoff Ogilvy: WGC Accenture Match Play Championship, U.S. Open.
Aaron Baddeley: Verizon Heritage.
Rod Pampling: Bay Hill Invitational.
2007
Aaron Baddeley: FBR Open.
Adam Scott: Shell Houston Open
*: Not recognized as official victory.

First-time winners

A list of golfers who won their first PGA Tour event at the Heritage.

1971: Hale Irwin
1977: Graham Marsh
1980: Doug Tewell
1984: Nick Faldo
1987: Davis Love III
1999: Glen Day
2001: Jose Coceres
2005: Peter Lonard
2006: Aaron Baddeley

AUSTRALIANS

Continued from 1E

Golf Rankings through the end of March, and Australians hold down 11 of the top 100 spots in the world rankings.

Their mark on the PGA Tour is no less dramatic. Aussies took four of the top 10 spots at the CA Championship at Doral Resort last month, and Adam Scott and Stuart Appleby finished one-two a week later at the Shell Houston Open. Three of the top 10 in both the FedEx Cup standings and PGA Tour money heading into the Masters were Australians.

With another 16 Aussies playing on the Nationwide Tour this year, the pipeline of great players from Down Under appears to be well-stocked for the foreseeable future.

"We haven't got that world No. 1 like Norman was, but we've got truckloads of really good, young players coming through," said Peter Lonard, 39, who earned his first PGA Tour victory at the Heritage in 2005. "You've got 20 or 30 on the European Tour, you've got 20 or 30 on the Asian and you've got 20 or 30 here, don't you, so it's looking pretty good."

THE DROUGHT

Even when Norman sat atop the world rankings, it wasn't as if the Aussies counted major championships among their top imports. Norman won only two — the 1986 and 1993 British Open crowns — while finishing second eight times.

In that regard, this next generation of Australian golfers has been unfortunate to follow in Norman's wake. Until Ogilvy broke through at Winged Foot — coincidentally, the same course where Norman lost a playoff to Fuzzy Zoeller in the 1984 U.S. Open — the new wave of Aussies had developed a bit of a reputation for coming up short on the biggest Sundays.



FILE • The Island Packet
Aaron Baddeley hugs his wife, Richelle, after winning last year's Verizon Heritage. Runner-up Jim Furyk is in the foreground.

So it's no wonder a merry band of Ogilvy's mates met up afterward to celebrate and gulp Heineken from the U.S. Open cup. It wasn't only a victory for Ogilvy, it was a triumph for an entire nation.

The 11-year drought between Steve Elkington's win at the 1995 PGA Championship and Ogilvy's triumph at Winged Foot prompted a golf.com columnist to ask the question: "Are Australian golfers too nice?"

Indeed, the lot of them certainly seem to be better-than-average blokes, at worst, and you know what they say about nice guys.

Mean streak or not, though, these nice guys are hoisting trophies with increasing regularity. Six different Aussies combined for eight PGA Tour victories last year (Appleby and Ogilvy each won twice), and Baddeley earned his second career victory at the FBR Open in February.

"There are a ton of great guys, and they're all playing really well over here," said Rod Pampling, a 37-year-old Aussie with two PGA Tour victories to his credit. "Everyone is looking at everyone else winning, so the guys who haven't yet are stepping up and winning. We just all need to keep that going now."

THE SHARK

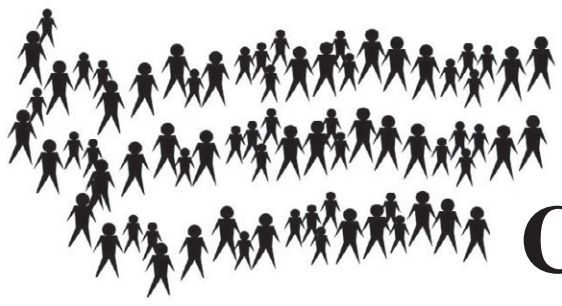
Australians discovered golf in the 1880s, but it wasn't until a century later that Aussie golfers made a significant mark on the world stage. In 1984, an exuberant, blonde bloke named Norman earned the first two of his 20 PGA Tour victories, setting in motion a cycle that led Australia to its current status as a world golf power.

"He's obviously the driving force behind what is happening right now," said Pampling, who has two top-10 finishes at the Heritage. "Most of the guys who were watching Greg Norman in his prime are 30, 35 right now, like I am. Just to see him come over here, it just really made you want to practice hard and head toward America."

Pampling said the theory had been that one had to go to Europe to learn the game before going to the United States to compete.

That changed when the Australians

Please see BADDELEY on 5E



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VERIZON HERITAGE

Their scores are 'Down Under,' too; picking greatest Aussie golfers

From staff and wire reports

In a 2005 poll of his country's professionals, 1988 Verizon Heritage winner Greg Norman was voted Australia's golfer of the century, edging fellow World Golf Hall of Fame member and five-time British Open winner Peter Thomson.

Norman won 88 tournaments worldwide, including two British Opens, and was runner-up twice in all four majors. Now head of a multi-national company with a wide portfolio, Norman largely is credited with inspiring an Australian golfing boom.

The other three top finishers in the PGA of Australia poll were:

• Colin Johnston, who won a pair of Australian PGA titles.

• Kel Nagle, the 1960 British Open winner.

• Norman Von Nida, a winner of 35 tournaments, most on the Australian tour, even though World War II deprived him of some peak years.

Here at the Island Packet, we don't consider ourselves authorities on the history of Australian golf, but we couldn't resist extending the list a bit.

David Graham: Won 30 titles worldwide, including the 1979 PGA Championship and the 1981 U.S. Open.

Steve Elkington: His 10 career PGA Tour victories include a pair of Players Championships and the 1995 PGA Championship.

Graham Marsh: The first international player to win the Heritage, in 1977, Marsh never won another PGA Tour event on American soil but has 58 wins elsewhere and six Champions Tour victories.

Ian Baker-Finch: Before his well-chronicled slide, he was one of the world's best players. The 1991 British Open is one of his two official PGA Tour victories, and he has 11 other wins worldwide.

Geoff Ogilvy: Has won twice on the PGA Tour, including last season's U.S. Open.

Karrie Webb: Uh, yeah, we know she's a woman. But it's difficult to ignore that along with Norman and Thomson, she's one of only three Aussies in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Sources: PGATour.com, wikipedia.org

BADDELEY

Continued from 4E

saw Norman doing so well.

During Norman's reign, it seems golf coverage replaced morning cartoons as the most popular television viewing among Australian boys.

"I watched him all the time growing up," Baddeley said, echoing stories shared by others among the new generation of Aussie golfers. "I used to tape the Masters and get up and watch him play."

At age 52, the TV cameras don't capture Norman much these days. Knee surgery cut short his 2006 season, and back surgery sidelined him in 2005. The Shark hasn't played more than seven PGA Tour events since 2002, and he hasn't won on the tour since 1997.

Luckily, there are plenty of young stars reaching for the torch he's ready to pass.

"I put them all in a wonderful barrel because they're definitely the epitome of what Australian golf is all about," Norman said in 2005. "They've got a really good attitude, they appreciate where they are in life, they appreciate the fact they're over here playing golf and making a lot of money. One of them is going to come along and win a major and then keep going and keep going and that's it."

So who is the next Norman? Maybe there are several.

Patrick Kelly, a 21-year-old Brisbane resident and the top player at Long Island University, said Norman is still revered, but players his age think of the Shark mostly as an image on a highlights DVD. The younger generation has latched on to Ogilvy and Scott, who is Kelly's favorite professional.

"Ogilvy has the major championship, and Adam Scott is the guy who is out there with Tiger, maybe pushing him to be the best," said Kelly, who won last month's Lonnie Barton Memorial/USC Beaufort Invitational at Oldfield Golf Club, coincidentally designed by Norman.

Toss in Baddeley, along with 30-somethings Allenby, Appleby, O'Hern and Pampling, and Aussies take up seven of the top 50 spots in the Official World Golf Rankings.

Six Australians won on the PGA Tour in 2004. Four more won in 2005, and there were six Aussie winners in 2006.

STATE-ASSISTED SUCCESS

It wasn't just the youngsters who got excited about Norman's success.

One reason the Aussies are primed for immediate success — Tiger Woods had his father Earl to gird his body and mind for the rigors of professional golf; Ogilvy and the youngest generation of Australian risers have an entire nation to help them prepare.

"I think Australian golf is getting all the benefits of having a world No. 1 for a long period of time," Lonard said. "It created interest and got people interested in coaching, even got government officials thinking about funding."

The government-funded Australian Institute of Sport and Victorian Institute of Sport help prepare young athletes for professional careers the way American colleges prepare students for the business world.

"We know a lot more at an earlier age than a lot of golfers who are a bit older," Ogilvy said.

And that learning is not limited to swing plane or even course management.

One reason Baddeley and Ogilvy didn't follow Scott to the United States to play college golf is that those organizations provided them with a swing coach, a trainer and a sports psychologist named Dale Lynch, who also has worked with a slightly older crop of Australians, including Appleby and Allenby, who have six PGA Tour victories between them.

The institutes also provide nutritionists, tax advisors, even public-speaking coaches.

"You learn life skills," Ogilvy said. "You learn how to arrange your travel, how to eat. They leave no stone unturned."

Pampling took a more old-school route. He learned the game relatively late in life when he served as an apprentice to a greens keeper at a course near his rural home near Brisbane.

But regardless of the path, Pampling says Aussie golfers are prepared to find success at the end.

"It's just a matter of getting the opportunity," Pampling said. "A lot of golf courses to learn on in Australia are very difficult. So once they had the opportunity to get out here, their game was ready because they had to learn to hit so many shots."

GOOD TO BE 'BADDS'

In many ways, Baddeley's career arc has been emblematic of a nation of nice guys with nice swings, but until recently, not a lot to show for it.

Norman's success on the world stage placed high expectations on future generations of Aussie golfers, and Baddeley and his 20-something mates were supposed to come to America and continue what the Shark started.

"I know a lot of pressure has been put on him back in Australia after his two Australian Open wins to really be the next big Australian star," Norman said of Baddeley, whom he called moments after the final putt at Harbour Town a year ago. "Adam Scott is there as well, but everybody thought Aaron would be that person. He put a lot of pressure on himself as well as the public putting pressure on him."

He finally realized that potential on Easter Sunday at Harbour Town.

For the fourth time, Baddeley etched his name onto a trophy that already contained Norman's — he followed his idol as a two-time Australian Open champ in 1999 and 2000, and he won the 2001 Greg Norman Holden International.

It certainly didn't come easily. Baddeley had to outduel Jim Furyk, the current No. 2 player in the world, over the final round at Harbour Town, and he had to make an improbable scrambling par from behind the 18th green to do it.

The 26-year-old has seen his 7-foot putt dive into the hole several times on video, because his mental image of the crowning moment is a bit blurry.

"I can't say I really remember it," Baddeley said. "I remember afterwards, but I don't really remember actually hitting the putt."

He does recall that his wife, Richelle, was quite fond of the place from the moment they arrived — "Anywhere there's a beach and you can go for long walks, she loves it," Baddeley said — making it a great place to celebrate their first wedding anniversary and Aaron's first PGA Tour victory, on consecutive days, no less.

FEELS LIKE HOME

The feeling of sand between their toes isn't the only reason Aussies dig the Heritage. For whatever reason — maybe it's the laid-back atmosphere that turns a typical PGA Tour stop on its head — the boys from Down Under get over well at Harbour Town.

Baddeley became the second consecutive Aussie to win the Heritage, and the fourth in all, and seven of the 10 Aussies in last year's field made the cut.

The Heritage has been a great proving ground for Australian golfers — Baddeley and Lonard each earned their first PGA Tour victory here, as did Graham Marsh in 1977 — and with another strong contingent of Aussies in this year's field, it's not ludicrous to think an Australian could snare the tartan jacket for a third consecutive year.

Perhaps it could go to another first-time winner such as Nathan Green, who in his Heritage debut a year ago finished tied for 52nd at 2 over par but found a comfortable familiarity in Harbour Town's layout.

"It's similar to what a lot of the guys have grown up on in Australia," Green said. "Most of the guys are brought up on smaller, country golf courses where you predominantly have tighter fairways and smaller, elevated greens."

The lack of thick rough, the often windy conditions and the fact that par is almost always an enviable score also are reminders of home, the Aussies say.

"When the course is firm and there's a little more wind, you've got to control the ball bounce," Lonard said. "If you miss it, it goes into the trees. If you can shape the ball in and around the trees and all that sort of stuff, that's sort of Australian golf."

And these are pretty g'days for Australian golf.



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VERIZON HERITAGE 2007

TODAY'S TEE TIMES

Tee times for today's first round of the PGA Tour's Verizon Heritage, played at Harbour Town Golf Links.

First tee, morning (all times a.m.)
7:20: Charles Warren, Nick O'Hern, Ryuji Imada.
7:30: Jonathan Byrd, Camilo Villegas, David Branshaw.
7:40: Joey Sindelar, Mark Brooks, Jeff Quinney.
7:50: Fred Funk, Tom Pernice Jr., Steve Elkington.
8: Will MacKenzie, Stephen Ames, Rod Pampling.
8:10: Eric Axley, Wes Short Jr., Jeff Sluman.
8:20: Troy Matteson, Tim Herron, Chris Couch.
8:30: Mark Calcavecchia, Mark Wilson, Stewart Cink.
8:40: Tim Clark, Kevin Na, Boo Weekley.
8:50: Glen Day, Stephen Leaney, Bubba Watson.
9: Ryan Armour, Kelly Mitchum, Kevin King.

10th tee, morning (all times a.m.)
7:20: Jerry Kelly, Jesper Parnevik, Daisuke Maruyama.
7:30: Jose Coceres, Nathan Green, Jeff Gove.
7:40: Lee Janzen, Briny Baird, Daniel Chopra.
7:50: Dean Wilson, Trip Isenhour, Sean O'Hair.
8: D.J. Trahan, Robert Gamez, Justin Leonard.
8:10: Zach Johnson, Geoff Ogilvy, Ted Purdy.
8:20: Joe Durant, Lucas Glover, Jason Gore.
8:30: Aaron Baddeley, Corey Pavin, Chad Campbell.
8:40: Bob Estes, Matt Kuchar, Ryan Moore.
8:50: Loren Roberts, Greg Owen, Robert Garrigus.
9: Johnson Wagner, Jeev M. Singh, Mike Lawrence.

First tee, afternoon (all times p.m.)
Noon: Ian Woosnam, Brandt Snedeker, Bill Haas.
12:10: Bob Tway, Richard S. Johnson, Bo Van Pelt.
12:20: Cameron Beckman, Brian Bateman, Anthony Kim.
12:30: Jim Furyk, Bart Bryant, Ben Crane.
12:40: Kirk Triplett, Chris DiMarco, Scott Verplank.
12:50: Davis Love III, Brad Faxon, Tim Petrovic.
1: Jeff Maggert, Heath Slocum, Ernie Els.
1:10: Woody Austin, J.P. Hayes, Brian Gay.
1:20: Dudley Hart, Steve Jones, Young-Eun Yang.
1:30: Bernhard Langer, Brandt Jobe, Mathew Goggin.
1:40: Matt Hendrix, Michael J. Smith, Jonathan Moore.

10th tee, afternoon (all times p.m.)
Noon: Harrison Frazar, Fredrik Jacobson, John Mallinger.
12:10: John Daly, Cliff Kresge, Ken Duke.
12:20: Ryan Palmer, Justin Rose, Hunter Mahan.
12:30: Carl Pettersson, Todd Hamilton, Rich Beem.
12:40: John Senden, Vaughn Taylor, Peter Lonard.
12:50: Brett Wetterich, J.B. Holmes, Tom Lehman.
1: Ben Curtis, Jason Bohn, Kenny Perry.
1:10: Billy Andrade, Billy Mayfair, Kent Jones.
1:20: Frank Lickliter II, Joe Ogilvie, Pat Perez.
1:30: Mark Hensby, Jason Dufner, Mathias Gronberg.
1:40: Craig Kanada, Doug LaBelle II, Richie Ramsay.

PARKING

As you reach Hilton Head Island on U.S. 278, take the Cross Island Parkway to Sea Pines Resort (a $1 toll is required), or continue down William Hilton Parkway. Traffic will flow through the main gate of Sea Pines Resort on the south end of the island. Once inside the main gate, secruity personnel will direct you to the first available parking lot. Those with color-coded and numbered parking passes should follow the directional signs to their lot. Please note the lot number so that you can take the appropriate shuttle back at the conclusion of play.
Buses taking spectators back from the tournament site to the parking lots will stop running one hour after play.
Handicap parking passes will be issued by Sea Pines Security, located on Grenwood Drive in the Community Services Associates building, one mile inside the main gate. To reach the security office, call 671-7170.

WILL CALL

Will call is designed for last-minute sales, pick-up and redistribution of tournament badges, which can be dropped off at the ticket office adjacent to the clubhouse or at will call in the Sea Pines Welcome Center parking lot on Greenwood Drive. A photo ID will be required to receive tickets. Will call will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

GATE HOURS

The ticket office next to the clubhouse at Harbour Town Golf Links will be open from 7 a.m. through the end of play each day.

AUTOGRAPHS

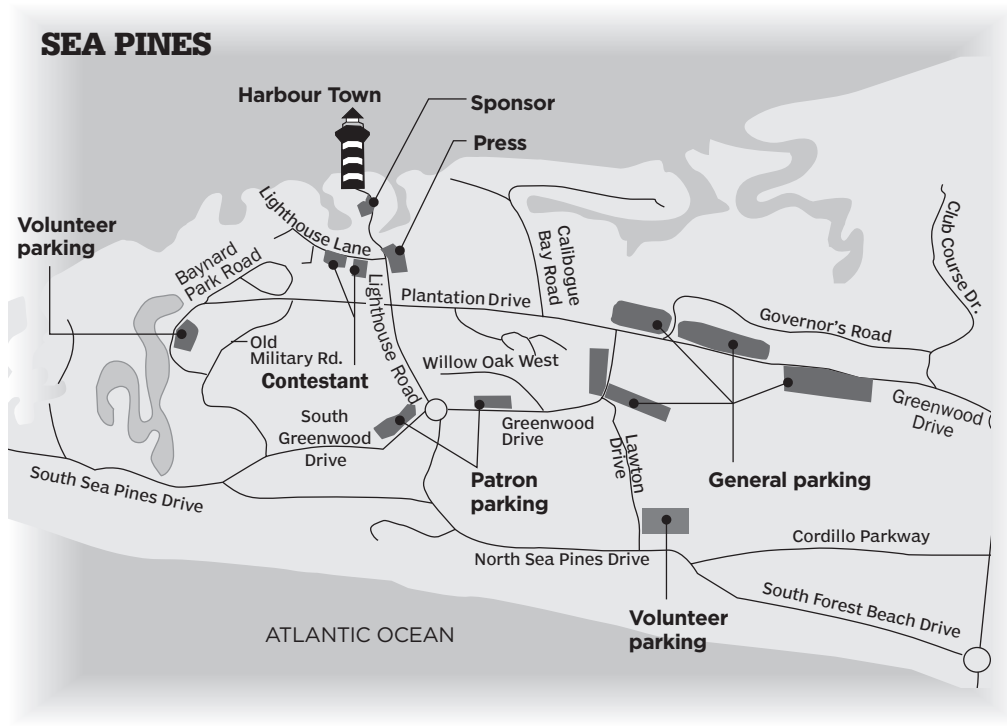
a player may not sign autographs after the start of his round and until the round has been completed. Designated autograph areas are located behind the 9th and 18th holes, although their use is optional to players. Objects larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches will not be signed.

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Include but are not limited to cell phones, beepers, radios, signs or banners, coolers.

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Drink fluids to avoid dehydration.
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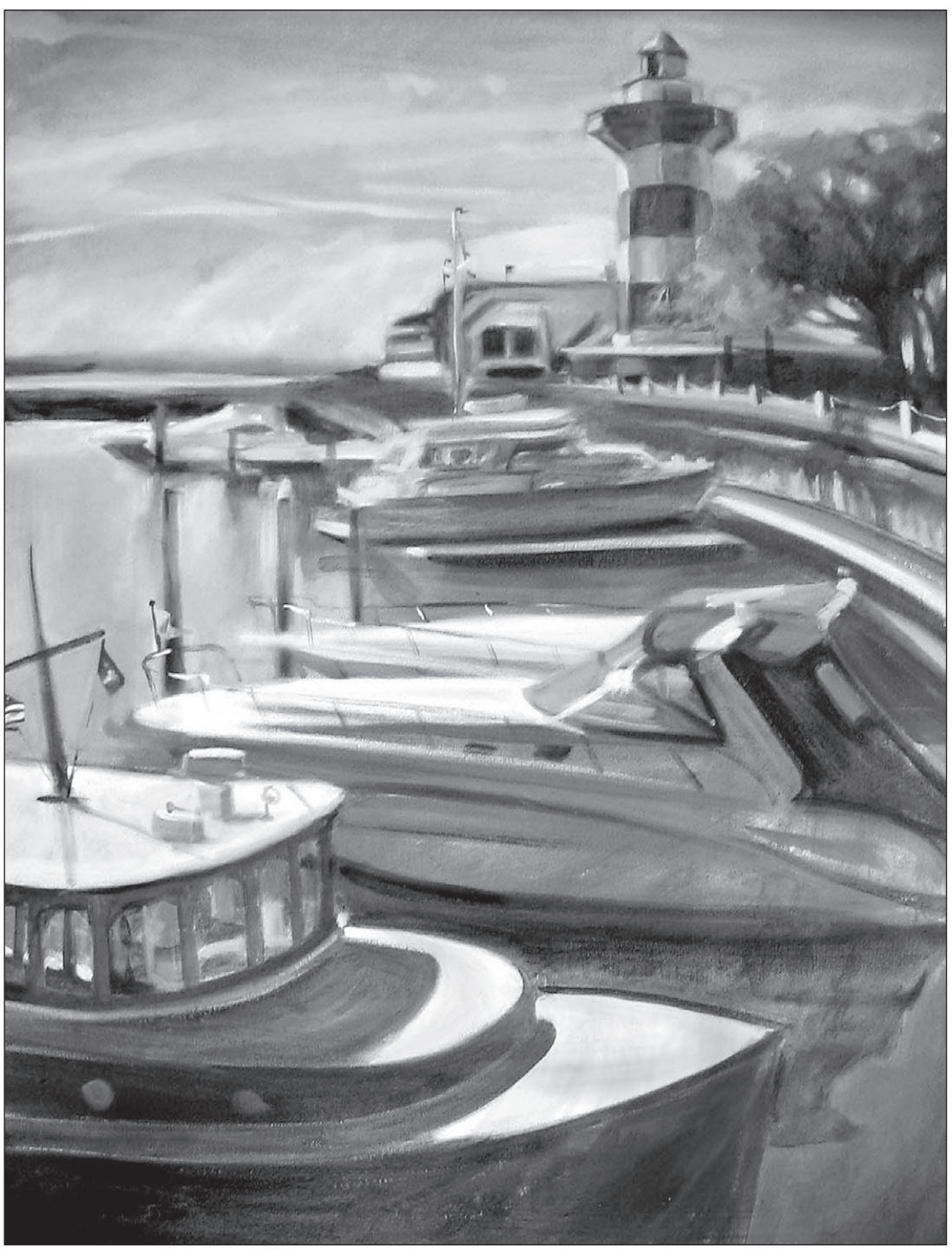


SCHEDULE

TODAY
All day: First round, Harbour Town Golf Links.
7 p.m.: Tartan Club cocktail party, the Inn at Harbour Town.
FRIDAY
All day: Second round, Harbour Town Golf Links.
SATURDAY
All day: Third round, Harbour Town Golf Links.
Noon-3 p.m.: Tartan Day judging, tent next to clubhouse.
SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.: Church service, 18th green.
All day: Final round, Harbour Town Golf Links.
After play: Closing ceremonies, 18th green.

HERITAGE AT A GLANCE

What: 39th Annual Verizon Heritage.
When: Today through Sunday.
Where: Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head Island, S.C.
Par: 36-35—71.
Yardage: 3,495-3,478—6,973.
Format: 72 holes of stroke play.
Course designer: Pete Dye with Jack Nicklaus.
Course features: Narrow, tight fairways; abundant water and sand hazards; small greens; winds through pines, palms and oak forests; fronts on Calibogue Sound with view of the marsh and Harbour Town Yacht Basin.
Tournament scoring record: Loren Roberts, 265, 1996.
Defending champion: Aaron Baddeley.
Past champions: Arnold Palmer, Bob Goalby, Hale Irwin, Johnny Miller, Jack Nicklaus, Hubert Green, Graham Marsh, Tom Watson, Doug Tewell, Bill Rogers, Fuzzy Zoeller, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Greg Norman, Payne Stewart, David Edwards, Bob Tway, Loren Roberts, Nick Price, Glen Day, Stewart Cink, Jose Coceres, Justin Leonard, Peter Lonard.
Total prize money: $5.4 million.
Winner's share: $972,000.
Playoff: If necessary, a sudden-death playoff will be conducted, starting at the 18th hole.
Field: 132 invited players. After 36 holes, field cut to low 70 and ties.
Tournament director: Steve Wilmot.
Harbour Town head professional: John Farrell.
Harbour Town superintendent: Gary Snyder.



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VERIZON HERITAGE

Pampling puttering along in '07

The Australian's season is off to a lukewarm start, in part because his work with the flat stick hasn't been as sharp as in recent seasons.

By JUSTIN JARRETT
jjarrett@islandpacket.com
843-706-8120

One extra putt per round can make all the difference, as Rod Pampling has learned this year.

The 37-year-old Aussie has averaged only one more putt per 18 holes than a year ago, but the extra whack with the flat stick has dropped him from sixth on the PGA Tour in putts per round to 97th heading into this week.

As a result, Pampling hasn't been able to capture the hot play that led him to earn more than $2.6 million in 2006 and finish 17th on the money list.

"Everything is better I think, stats-wise, except for the putting, and that's what it comes down to," Pampling said.

Pampling has missed only one cut in eight starts this year, but the sole miss was at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, where he shot rounds of 75 and 72 in an unsuccessful title defense.

He has placed in the top 25 twice, but hasn't yet cracked the top 10 this season after six top-10 finishes a year ago.

Pampling was disappointed to see the site of one of his two PGA Tour victories go by the wayside this year, when The International was dropped from the schedule.

"Certainly it's a great location, a great golf course, and it's one of those that you would love to play every year," said Pampling, who had three consecutive top-10 finishes in The International, including his victory in 2004.

"But I'll have to win another one now."

Perhaps Pampling can do so this week at Harbour Town Golf Links, where he has made the cut the past four years, including a tie for sixth in 2005 and a tie for 10th in 2003.

He says his ball-striking is fine, always a necessity at the Heritage, and Harbour Town's small greens might be just the thing to jump-start a balky putter.

"I think the game feels nice," Pampling said. "It's just getting the putter on, and then I think it's just freeing myself up to actually think about my head a bit more and just focus on what I need to be doing instead of worrying about my golf game."



FILE • The Island Packet

Australian Rod Pampling, right, has won twice on the PGA Tour but missed the cut in his title defense last month at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, another in a line of sluggish performances this season.

Rod Pampling
Height: 5-10
Weight: 175
Birthdate: Sept. 23, 1969
Birthplace: Redcliffe, Queensland, Australia
Resides: Flower Mound, Texas; Brisbane, Australia
Special interests: Sports
Turned professional: 1994
College: None
Best Heritage finish: T6, 2005 — 70-69-68-73—280
PGA Tour victories: 2
Rank on 2006 money list: 17th
Major championships: 0
National teams: None
Notes: Embarked upon his American professional career in 2001 and briefly called Hilton Head Island home before settling in Texas. ... Recorded his first PGA Tour victory in 2004 at The International. Curled in a 21-foot-eagle putt from the fringe on the par-5 71st hole, collecting five points in the event's modified Stableford format. ... In 2005, made 21 cuts in 26 starts and recorded a career-best six top-10s. Posted first career major championship top-10 with T5 in first start at the Masters. Along with Mark Hensby, led contingent of eight Aussies playing in Augusta. ... Performed even better last season, when he picked up his second career win at the Bay Hill Invitational and finished a career-best ninth on the money list. ... Earned a promotion from the Nationwide Tour after 2001, when he finished in the top 10 nine times but did not win. He earned $306,573, setting a record for Nationwide earnings without a victory.



Lonard looking for more consistency, return to his winning form of 2005

The 2005 Heritage champ is making cuts ... but not the most of his weekend opportunities.

By JUSTIN JARRETT
jjarrett@islandpacket.com
843-706-8120

Peter Lonard spent the better part of 2006 "messing around with a lot of equipment."

So what did he settle on stuffing in the bag?

"I basically stuck with the ones that I've always had — the old if it's not broke, don't fix it," Lonard said.

The 2005 Verizon Heritage champion hopes the return to his former sticks signals a return to his 2005 form, when the 39-year-old Australian had the best of his five seasons on the PGA Tour, earning nearly $1.9 million to finish 34th on the money list.

"I'm feeling pretty good," Lonard said. "I guess at 39 you can't say you're getting better every week, but I like the way I'm playing."

Lonard made 18 cuts in 22 starts last season, but he struggled a bit on the weekend and dropped to 103rd on the money list with $837,017 — almost $100,000 less than he earned at the Heritage alone a year earlier.

"I got myself into a lot of good positions on the weekends, and then the weekend came and I didn't drive it that good or did something poorly and really paid the penalty," said Lonard, who finished in the top 25 four times last year, including three top-10 finishes. "Out here there's a very fine line between getting a bit of momentum and really getting going, or getting a bit of momentum the other way and being stuck."



FILE • The Island Packet

Australian Peter Lonard, who made the 2005 Heritage his first PGA Tour victory, slipped to 103rd on the money list in 2006. To recapture his form, Lonard has gone back to much of the equipment he used in 2005.

Peter Lonard
Height: 6-0
Weight: 225
Birthdate: July 17, 1967
Birthplace: Sydney, Australia
Resides: Orlando, Fla.
Special interests: Cars
Turned professional: 1989
Best Heritage finish: 1, 2005 — 62-74-66-75—277
PGA Tour victories: 1
Rank on 2006 money list: 103rd
Major championships: 0
National teams: Presidents Cup, 2003, 2005
Notes: Heritage marked the first PGA Tour victory for a man who has eight international wins to his credit, including the 2004 Australian Open and 2004 Australian PGA. ... In his first appearance at the season-opening Mercedes Championships, finished 10th. ... Had a career year, with $1,897,998 in earnings on the strength of a victory and three top-10s. ... Harbour Town win came in his 99th career PGA Tour start. After using a long putter over the previous five years, he pulled out a short putter at the start of the week. Switch came due to some bad putting in events leading up to Heritage, especially after missing the cut at the Masters. Opened with a career-best 9-under 62, which included 11 birdies between bogeys on Nos. 1 and 18. Shot the lowest first round (62) and highest final round (75) by a Heritage winner. ... Compiled a 2-2-0 record for International Presidents Cup squad after being tabbed as a captain's pick by Gary Player. ... Selected to represent Australia and teamed with Mark Hensby at the WGC Algarve World Cup in Portugal. ... Made the cut in 18 of 22 starts in 2006 but posted only one top-25 finish but slumped to 103rd on the money list. ... Considered moving his American base from Orlando to Hilton Head Island last season but said the lack of direct flights from the town's airport didn't make such a move feasible for him.



Lonard said he expects a better year in 2007, and he's off to a good start. He finished third at the Mayakoba Golf Classic in February, and he can think of no better place to get back on top than Harbour Town Golf Links, where he held off Darren Clarke in 2005 to claim his only PGA Tour victory to date.

"You never forget the place where you have your first win," Lonard said of Harbour Town. "It's a beautiful joint and a great place. I've had plenty of good times under that lighthouse there."

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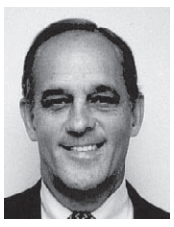

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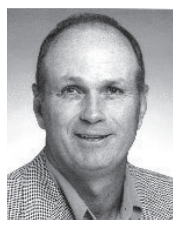

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VERIZON HERITAGE

Lately, it's been Aussies, then everyone else at Harbour Town

Australians won all of two titles at Harbour Town Golf Links in the first 35 playings of the Verizon Heritage (Graham Marsh in 1977 and Greg Norman in 1988.)

But golfers from Down Under are 2-for-2 in the past two years. In other words, you've had the Aussies, and then you've had everyone else around here lately. This could be a coincidence ... or it could be a trend (several Australians love playing Harbour Town because it reminds them so much of courses back home.) I'm not sure which is the case.

But I'm always looking to hedge my bets this time of year, when I fill this corner of The Island Packet's Heritage special section with my "10 Who Can Win" column. So this year, I've decided to create two divisions of picks — one for Australian golfers and ... duh ... one for everyone else.

Here goes, in ascending order:



JEFF KIDD
jkidd@islandpacket.com
843-706-8121

AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT

5. John Senden: It would be so easy to fall back on 2005 winner Peter Lonard for this spot — he's already demonstrated he can win here, and he was a champion people could love. But that's the easy way out, and these picks are as much about demonstrating my manly willingness to crash and burn as they are about showing off my powers of prognostication.



Senden

Thus, you get Senden.

The Brisbane resident has finished no higher than 27th at Harbour Town and missed the cut last season. However, he is among the PGA Tour's leaders in greens in regulation this season, and that kind of accuracy is vital here. He picked up his first PGA Tour victory at the John Deere Classic last summer and has three top-25 finishes this season, including a tie for second at the PODS Championship.

4. Aaron Baddeley: Baddeley not only became the second Aussie to win the Heritage in as many years; he also was the second over that span to make it his first PGA Tour victory. Baddeley didn't do much to seize that momentum — he missed seven of 10 cuts after the 2006 Heritage and finished 55th on last season's money list.



Baddeley

But Badds is playing even better than he was a year ago at this time, having already picked up his second PGA Tour win at the FBR Classic and three other top-20 finishes in 2007. If he putts here the way he did last year, look out.

3. Rod Pampling: He briefly called Hilton Head Island home when he set up an American base in 2001, and he's been nothing if not consistent in a season on the Nationwide Tour and five more on the PGA Tour — he led the 2001 Nationwide in top 10s, and he's never finished lower than 89th on the big circuit's money list.



Pampling

He's won twice on tour, most recently at the 2006 Bay Hill Invitational, and he's played well at Harbour Town, with a string of three straight top-16s before dropping to a tie for 40th last season.

2. Geoff Ogilvy: The reigning U.S. Open champion has been a mainstay at Harbour Town and on the Heritage leaderboard since 2003, when he tied for third, the first of his three top-11 finishes. He had an up-and-down week at the Masters ... but who didn't?



Ogilvy

1. Nick O'Hern: He's twice defeated Tiger Woods in the WGC World Match Play Championship, which is a good topper to any resume. O'Hern missed the cut at Harbour Town last year but was ninth in ridiculously harsh weather conditions in his 2005 Heritage debut. And he has yet to win on the PGA Tour ... ring a bell?



O'Hern

... AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

5. Jose Coceres: The Argentine won the 2001 Heritage en route to that season's PGA Tour Rookie of the Year title, but until recently, little has gone right since for the oft-injured 43-year-old, who lost his full exempt status after 2004.



Coceres

Coceres has shown signs of life this season, though, losing in playoffs in consecutive weeks at the Mayakoba Golf Classic and the Honda Classic and cracking the top 25 in FedEx Cup points after just three starts this season.

THE PROS' PICKS

A look at local club pros' picks to win this year's Verizon Heritage.

Pro	Club	Pick
Matt Presnell	Berkeley Hall	Jim Furyk
Bert Hammett	Bear Creek	Aaron Baddeley
Dave Blankenship	Belfair	Aaron Baddeley
Kevin Foley	Bloody Point	Davis Love III
Eric Kennedy	Callawassie Island	Nick O'Hern
Franklin Newell	Chechessee Creek	Chris DiMarco
Mike Hayes	CC of Hilton Head	Ernie Els
Bill Layman	Crescent Pointe	Davis Love III
Jerry Dacus	Dolphin Head	Jim Furyk
Brent Carlson	Eagles Pointe	Davis Love III
Fred Denton	Haig Point	Ernie Els
Ben Hoover	Harbour Town	Scott Verplank
Shannon Archer	Hilton Head National	Jim Furyk
Neil Ryan	Indigo Run (Golden Bear)	Ernie Els
Kevin Lavertu	Indigo Run (The Golf Club)	Vaughn Taylor
Scott Sickich	Island West	Loren Roberts
Ben Chehval	Long Cove	Aaron Baddeley
Charlie Kent	May River Golf Club	Trevor Immelman
John Ferrebee	Melrose	Ernie Els
Scott Hunte	Moss Creek	Ernie Els
John Hunley	Oldfield	Ernie Els
George Spinella	Palmetto Dunes Fazio	Ernie Els
Brad Marra	Palmetto Dunes Jones	Stewart Cink
Jim Corbin	Pinecrest	Jim Furyk
Jon Self	Port Royal	Ernie Els
Chris Nesbitt	Sea Pines Country Club	Ernie Els
Tim Brogan	Sea Pines Ocean Course	Davis Love III
Chuck Park	Spanish Wells	Ernie Els
Bill Sampson	Old Tabby Links	Trevor Immelman

The final tally: Ernie Els (10); Jim Furyk, Davis Love III (4); Aaron Baddeley (3); Trevor Immelman (2); Chris DiMarco, Scott Verplank, Vaughn Taylor, Nick O'Hern, Loren Roberts, Stewart Cink (1).



Ernie Els has played well at Harbour Town but never won a tartan jacket. Sports editor Jeff Kidd and a bevy of area pros believe this could be his year, though.

FILE • The Island Packet

4. Jim Furyk: Perhaps no one has ever had a game as well-suited to Harbour Town as the 2003 U.S. Open champion. Check out this linescore from 2006 — second on the PGA Tour in scoring average, eighth in driving accuracy, fourth in greens in regulation, eighth in putting average.



Furyk

Furyk is among the career leaders in Harbour Town scoring average, is third on the tournament's all-time money list and has finished tied for second and alone in second, respectively, in the past two Heritages. The only reason he's not No. 1 on this list: He complained earlier this season of soreness in his surgically repaired wrist.

3. Davis Love III: Not including the five-time Heritage champion in a list of possible winners is a fireable offense at the Packet (or at least it should be, and I'm not going to take any chances.) Last season, he stepped back into the winner's circle for the first time since the 2003 Heritage by winning the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro.



Love

That leaves him one win shy of lifetime PGA Tour membership, and there would be no more fitting venue for him to secure that privilege than at the site of his first tour win, back in 1987.

2. Lucas Glover: The Upstate native was in contention for last year's Heritage before a closing-round 74 dropped him back to a tie for 12th. He's showing hints of becoming one of the world's top players, but he needs more than his lone 2005 victory to do that. His home state's only PGA Tour event would be a good place to start.



Glover

1. Ernie Els: If ever a golfer had a right to believe a golf course owed him a trophy, it would be Els at Harbour Town. He easily could have two tartan jackets by now, but a few bad swings combined with a few d bad breaks cost him wins in the final rounds of 2000 and 2004.



Els

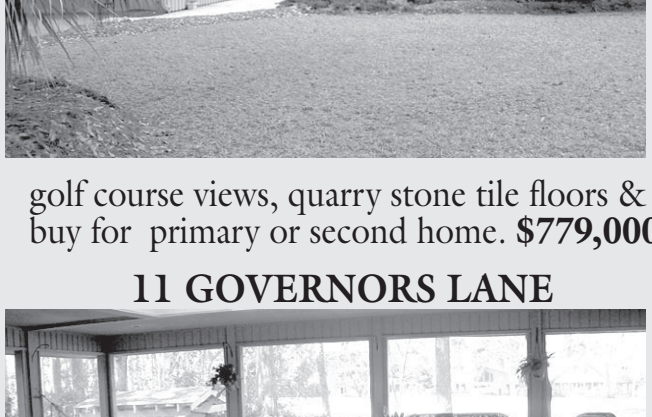
An overseas commitment kept Els from the 2005 Heritage, but he picked up where he left off in his 2006 return, tying for seventh and posting his sixth top-10 in eight starts here.

Injuries have caused Els to slip in the Official World Golf Rankings, and he hasn't won on the PGA Tour since claiming three titles in 2004. Harbour Town has always been kind to older golfers in need — witness Davis Love III, Bob Tway and Nick Price — and Els could be the latest recipient.

And area golf pros apparently agree. In the chart to the left, you'll see of those pros sampled, nearly half predicted Els would win, supplanting Love as the most popular pick among those who should be in the know.

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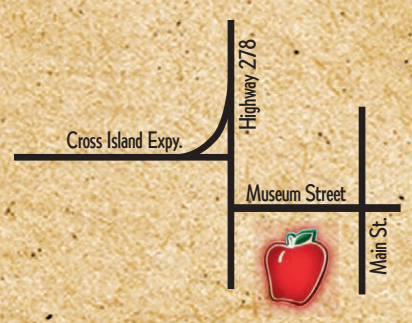
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VERIZON HERITAGE

Yeah, well what would you know about it, anyway?

Our Heritage quiz puts your tournament knowledge to the test



Think you might be an authority on Hilton Head Island's annual PGA Tour stop? Take the Island Packet's Verizon Heritage quiz and find out.

Par for the course (one point for each correct answer)

1. In what year was the Heritage first played?
2. Who won that first tournament?
3. What golfer has won the most Heritage titles?
4. In what season was the Heritage moved to the week after The Masters?
5. What current Champions Tour stalwart holds the 72-hole scoring record for the Heritage?
6. What article of clothing is awarded to the Heritage winner?

Going for birdie (two points for each correct answer)

7. Who became the first German to win on the PGA Tour with his victory in the 1985 Heritage?
8. Who is credited with designing Harbour Town Golf Links?
9. What course besides Harbour Town Golf Links has played host to the Heritage?
10. What other PGA Tour event has been played at Harbour Town Golf Links?
11. Which golfer — Glen Day, Ben Curtis, David Edwards or Bob Tway — has never won a Heritage title?
12. What golfer signed an incorrect scorecard and was disqualified for the first time in 705 career PGA Tour starts after the second round of the 2005 Heritage?

Verizon virtuoso (three points for each correct answer)

13. What golfer has played in the most Heritages without winning?
14. Who holds the record for the best finish by an amateur at the Heritage?
15. Who did the original routing plan for Harbour Town Golf Links?
16. The father of which current PGA Tour player was once director of instruction at Harbour Town Golf Links?
17. Two sudden-death Heritage playoffs have gone as long as five holes. Who won those playoffs?
18. What color was the famed lighthouse overlooking the 18th hole at Harbour Town Golf Links during the inaugural event?

ANSWERS

ANSWERS

One point each

1. 1969.
2. Arnold Palmer.
3. Davis Love III, with five. His most recent victory came in 2003.
4. 1983.
5. Loren Roberts, who finished with a 19-under 265 in 1996.
6. A tartan jacket.

Two points each

7. Bernhard Langer.
8. Pete Dye, with Jack Nicklaus as a consultant.
9. The first two rounds of the 1972 Heritage were played on the Sea Pines Ocean Course.
10. The Nabisco Championship, now called the Tour Championship, was played at Harbour Town in 1989. The tournament was won by Tom Kite.
11. Ben Curtis.
12. Tom Kite.

Three points each

13. Jay Haas, who has played in 30 Heritages. Haas, in fact, has played in more events at Harbour Town than any PGA Tour golfer, Heritage winner or otherwise.
14. Lanny Wadkins, who finished second to Bob Goalby in 1970.
15. George Cobb, most famous for designing the par-3 course at Augusta National. He also designed Sea Pines' Marsh and Ocean courses before doing Harbour Town's original routing.
16. D.J. Trahan.
17. Jose Coceres in 2001 and Stewart Cink in 2004.
18. Steel gray. The lighthouse, which now sports a red and cream candy-stripe paint job, was still under construction during the first Heritage and was hardly more than a metal skeleton.

How do you rank? — 0-6 points, *back to the practice range for you*; 7-15 points, *you're ready to tee it up*; 17-25 points, *you've got a little game*; 26-35 points, *you're a Heritage contender*; 36 points, *you've got a closet full of tartan.*



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VERIZON HERITAGE

"If I practice for an hour, that's a pretty good practice session for me."

Mark Calcavecchia

Calc's aching back has slowed vet a bit

However, the 46-year-old still has what it takes to win, as he demonstrated in this year's PODS Championship.

By JUSTIN JARRETT
jjarrett@islandpacket.com
843-706-8120

In an age in which fitness is all the rage and practice is a favorite pastime on the PGA Tour, Mark Calcavecchia is a throwback ... as in, too much practice and he'll throw out his back.

"These young guys can stand out here and hit balls for 10 straight hours," Calcavecchia said. "I hit about 100 of them, and I'm shot. ... If I practice for an hour, that's a pretty good practice session for me."

In the midst of a brief stint on the range at last month's Arnold Palmer Invitational, Calcavecchia came out of his follow-through wagging his left hand, trying to shake the pain out of his arthritic middle finger after skulling a 4-iron.

By the time his finger stopped throbbing, the pain had moved to his back.

"Sorry, guys, I've got to go," Calcavecchia politely told reporters. "I need to hit some putts before my back seizes up."

Calcavecchia admits he could stand to spend some extra time on the practice green and the range, if only he could stand to do so — "If I worked extra hard it would definitely help, but I physically can't," he says.

But at age 46, he's still going strong. After finishing in the top 125 on the money list for the 21st consecutive season in 2006, Calcavecchia placed in the top 10 in three of his first seven starts this season, including his first PGA Tour victory since 2005, a one-shot win over Heath Slocum and John Senden at the PODS Championships in Tampa, Fla.

His 13th PGA Tour victory came in unlikely fashion, as he rebounded from an opening-round 75 to charge to the top of the leaderboard. Riding a red-hot putter he bought off the rack a week earlier, Calcavecchia fired a third-round 62, then held on when Slocum missed a 4-foot putt that would have forced a playoff.

"I was just trying to swallow," Calcavecchia said.

"It's very difficult to win out here, especially the older you get and the worse shape you get in," he added. "It's nice to know I can still do it."

Calcavecchia's victory was another big gulp for the over-40 set, which has tallied five wins already this season — Paul Goydos, 43, won the Sony Open in Hawaii; Fred Funk, 50, took the title at the Mayakoba Golf Classic; and Vijay Singh, 44, has two wins, at the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship and the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill Club.

"Us old guys can still play," Calcavecchia said. "As Fred Funk says, the ball doesn't know how old you are."

And neither does Harbour Town Golf Links. With its tight, tree-lined fairways and tiny greens, Pete Dye's design provides a fair track for the tour's elder statesmen, though Calcavecchia has had mixed results at the Heritage.

After a seven-year absence from the field, Calcavecchia has played in the past six Heritages, making the cut five times but placing in the top 10 only once (a tie for 10th in 2002).

Mark Calcavecchia
Height: 6-0
Weight: 225
Birthdate: June 12, 1960
Birthplace: Laurel, Neb.
Resides: Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Special interests: Bowling, music, guitar
Turned professional: 1981
College: Florida
Best Heritage finish: T-5th, 1987 — 66-73-67-68—274
PGA Tour victories: 13
Rank on 2006 Tour money list: 120th
Major championships: British Open 1989
National teams: Ryder Cup 1987, 1989, 1991, 2002; Kirin Cup 1987; Asahi Glass Four Tours World Championship of Golf 1989, 1990; Dunhill Cup 1989, 1990; Presidents Cup 1998.
Notes: Has finished in the top 125 on the tour money list for 21 consecutive seasons. ... Ended a four-year drought in 2005 when he won the Bell Canadian Open. Won again less than two years later at last month's PODS Championship. ... Treated for sleep apnea after 2002 season that included fatigue, weight gain and "general lack of focus." Began wearing an oxygen mask to bed following Ryder Cup. ... Father was a bowling center proprietor. At age 13, Mark had a 185 average, but he concentrated on golf when family moved from Nebraska to Florida. ... As an amateur, won the 1976 Florida State Junior and Orange Bowl Championships, and was a member of the inaugural AJGA All-America team in 1978.

Heritage puts familiar taste in Cink's mouth

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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843-706-8120

With his most recent PGA Tour title almost three years in the past, Stewart Cink longs to taste victory again.

And where better to savor the flavor of winning than Harbour Town Golf Links, where Cink won Heritage titles in 2000 and 2004?

"I'm due for a win, it's been more than two years since I won," said Cink, whose last victory came in August 2004 at the World Golf Championships-NEC Invitational. "Hilton Head would be a great place for me to get those juices flowing again. ... I'm ready to win."

There's plenty of reason to believe he could do so this week. Two of Cink's four PGA Tour victories have come at Harbour Town, and he enjoyed a solid season in 2006. Even though he didn't win a tournament, Cink finished 15th on the money list, thanks to seven top-10 finishes.

The Georgia Tech alumnus is off to a similar start this season; he has missed only one cut in eight events but has only one top-10 finish. But as long as he stays focused on playing his best golf, Cink says, his fifth PGA Tour victory will come soon enough.

"I'm feeling pretty good about my game right now," Cink said. "I'm relaxed on the golf course, which is nice. I'm just patient and waiting for it to come together.

"A lot of players confuse the goal with the reward," Cink said, recalling some advice he got from legendary UCLA coach Eddie Merrins. "Winning is not a goal, winning is a reward. Your goals are to stay committed shot-by-shot, to stay in the present, to not get ahead of yourself. Don't write the victory speech when you're walking down the 16th fairway. Those are the goals. Rewards come when your goals are all satisfied."



FILE • The Island Packet

Stewart Cink celebrates after sinking a short birdie putt on the 16th hole to win the 2004 Heritage in a five-hole playoff with Ted Purdy. It was the third of his four PGA Tour titles.

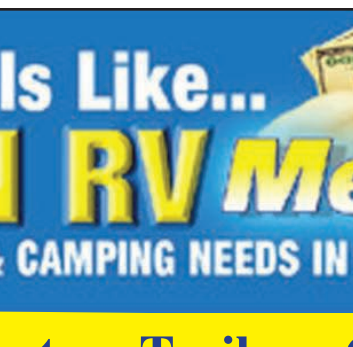
Harbour Town has been a rewarding spot for Cink, who has made the cut in six of his seven starts here, including four top-10 finishes. Cink has won more money here than anyone other than five-time champion Davis Love III, and his scoring average of 69.62 is third among golfers with more than 10 rounds at Harbour Town.

"I love playing there," Cink said. "I've got a great feeling about the golf course, and all the shots. I feel like I know how to approach those shots, and I know that I have hit them correctly in the past, enough to win.

"It's not a course where you have to play the very best golf you've ever played in your life, because even a good shot will sometimes end up behind a tree," Cink said. "A lot of times, you just have to manage yourself and get creative around the greens. You have a lot of different options, a lot of different ways to approach the golf course, and it's a lot of fun."

Stewart Cink
Height: 6-4.
Weight: 205.
Birthdate: May 21, 1973
Birthplace: Huntsville, Ala.
Resides: Duluth, Ga., plays out of East Lake GC
Special interests: Family, boating, water sports, hiking
Turned professional: 1995
Best Heritage finish: First, 2000 — 71-68-66-65— 270, 2004 — 72-69-69-64—274
PGA Tour victories: 4
Rank on 2006 money list: 15th
Major championships: None
International teams: Ryder Cup 2002, 2004, 2006; President's Cup 2000
Notes: Career season in 2004 included multiple victories for the first time. Jumped to 10th on the official World Golf Ranking at the Tour Championship and led the tour in putting average. ... Same year, set two course records in one day during U.S. Open sectional qualifying on in Columbus, Ohio, carding rounds of 62-61. He bogeyed the first hole of the day, then recorded 22 birdies and won by nine strokes. ... College teammate of David Duval, Charlie Rymer, Tom Shaw Jr. and Jimmy Johnston at Georgia Tech, where he was a three-time all-American for Puggy Blackmon, now the head golf coach at the University of South Carolina. ... His 2006 season included a 4-and-3 singles victory over Sergio Garcia as the Ryder Cup and his fifth appearance in the Tour Championship. He also finished 10th in his ninth Masters start. ... As he was in 2004, he was a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup in 2006.

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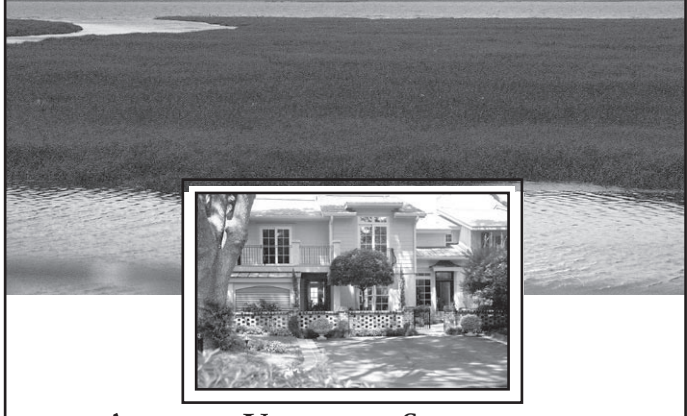


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VERIZON HERITAGE

Els *this* close to closet full of tartan

The South African returns to a course where he has has played well but come up short.

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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843-706-8120

If he can't have a green one, Ernie Els will settle for "one of those ugly jackets" for now.

The South African returns this week to Harbour Town Golf Links, where he has finished in the top 10 six times in eight starts at the Verizon Heritage.

He worked his way into contention with a third-round 65 a year ago at Harbour Town. Els quipped, "I'd love to get one of those ugly jackets," but he didn't add any tartan to his closet. He carded an even-par 71 to finish tied for seventh, one of eight top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour last year after returning from knee surgery.

With a new set of Callaway clubs in his bag — he switched from Titleist last month — Els hopes this is the year he finally slips into some tartan.

"My game right now is really good," Els said. "It's better than it was last year and the year before. ... I've spent a lot of time on my golf game since the British Open last year. I don't think about my knee anymore. So I've got no excuses anymore. Basically, I'm ready to play."

Despite the fact he's "getting on" at age 37, Els says the equipment change and working with new people has him feeling "almost like a rookie again."

He's finished in the top 18 three times this season. After making the cut in his first four events, Els ran his streak to 46 consecutive cuts made, the longest active streak on tour until me missed the cut by by two at last week's Masters.



FILE • The Island Packet
Ernie Els has six top-10 finishes in eight Heritage starts.

He has maintained a spot in the top 10 in the Official World Golf Rankings for a record 656 weeks in a row, and the longevity of the streak isn't lost on him.

"I think across the board we've got better players in world golf," said Els, who briefly dropped out of the top 5 but moved back up to No. 4 after tying for 11th at the World Golf Championships-CA at Doral Resort last month. "The level of play has gone up, definitely, so to get into the top 5 and stay in the top 5, you've got to play a little bit better nowadays and you've got to play a little more consistently."

Els has 15 career PGA Tour victories, but none since he won three times on the tour in 2004. That drought could hardly be called a slump — he won four international events in 2005 and captured last year's South African Open — but Els could use another PGA Tour win, and Harbour Town might be just the place to get it.

His scoring average of 69.47 over 32 rounds at Harbour Town is the lowest among golfers who have played more than 10 rounds here.

And those tartan jackets look a whole lot better once you get them on.

Ernie Els
Height: 6-3
Weight: 210
Birthdate: Oct. 17, 1969
Birthplace: Johannesburg, South Africa
Resides: Wentworth, England
Special interests: Movies, reading, sports
Turned professional: 1989
Best Heritage finish: T-3rd, 2000 — 68-67-66-74—275, 2004 — 69-70-68-69
PGA Tour victories: 15
Rank on 2006 money list: 28th
Major championships: 3, 1994 U.S. Open, 1997 U.S. Open, 2002 British Open
International teams: Presidents Cup 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003
Notes: Started playing golf at age 9. ... An accomplished junior tennis player, Els turned his full attention to golf at age 14. ... 2006 was a struggle by his standards — he failed to win for the second consecutive season and only the third of his career. Nonetheless, he posted eight top 10s and qualified for the Tour Championship.



Holmes learned ropes, won quickly as PGA Tour rookie

Now, sophomore seeks consistency

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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843-706-8120

J.B. Holmes has a history of graduating quickly.

Back home in Kentucky, he joined the Taylor County High School golf team as a third-grader, beginning a run of 10 seasons on the squad.

Fresh out of the University of Kentucky, Holmes leapt to the PGA Tour after taking medalist honors at the 2005 qualifying tournament.

And in only his fifth start as a professional, the country boy with the compact swing and the drives that seem to fly forever earned his first PGA Tour victory, taking the FBR Open by seven shots.

In his second year on tour, Holmes is ready to take another step.

It wasn't all rosy in Holmes' rookie year. After tying for 10th at the Sony Open in Hawaii, his first start as a PGA Tour member, and winning in Scottsdale three weeks later, Holmes was shut out of the top 10 for the rest of the season. In 22 starts after the FBR Open, he missed seven cuts and withdrew after the first round of two more tournaments.

"It put some added pressure on me, all the media attention and everything," said Holmes, who made almost $1.5 million last year to finish 59th on the money list. "I came out and played great and won, and maybe I put more pressure on myself thinking I should be able to do it every week, and you know, these guys are good out here."

Moreover, the 24-year-old struggled to adjust to life on tour, especially after an early victory marked him as one of the tour's rising stars.

"I came straight out of college, so I had no idea about pro life, about travel and all that. It's pretty lonely out here sometimes," he said. "There's not a whole lot of people to hang out with. There wasn't really anybody my age out here. Most people had their families with them. You're gone a month at a time. Don't really get to see your friends. That was really more of an issue than playing golf."



FILE • The Island Packet
Success on the PGA Tour didn't necessarily come easily, but it came quickly for Kentucky graduate J.B. Holmes — he won in just his fifth start on tour.

The second time around, Holmes said, is going a bit more smoothly. His play has been inconsistent — he has missed five cuts, but also has two top-10 finishes, including a tie for fourth at the Mercedes-Benz Championship in January.

But Holmes says things are more stable in his personal life. He's living in Orlando, has a regular place to practice and is growing more accustomed to the weekly grind.

"I feel like I know my way around a little more," Holmes said. "It's not quite as hectic. I kind of know what's going on, so I feel more comfortable out here."

It didn't take Holmes long to settle in at Harbour Town Golf Links during his first Heritage start a year ago. He fired an opening-round 67 and followed it with a 2-under-par 69 to make the cut, only to stumble during the weekend and slip into a tie for 40th at 1 under.

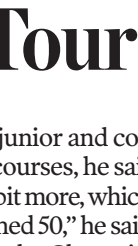
Harbour Town's tight, tree-lined fairways and tiny greens would seem an unusual fit for Holmes, who is noted for his length but not his accuracy — he finished second on the tour in driving distance but 187th in driving accuracy during his rookie season.

Nonetheless, he took a liking to the layout, despite having to leave his dangerous driver in the bag more often that not.

"It's a ball-striker's golf course; I love it," Holmes said. "It's one of my favorite golf courses on the tour. I consider myself a good ball-striker, and I think it sets up good for me.

"You've just got to hit irons and place it off the tee," Holmes added. "It's one of the few golf courses I've ever seen in my life where if you hit a good shot you get rewarded, and if you hit a bad shot you get penalized. That's the way it should be. It's one of the fairest golf courses I've seen; I just thought it was an awesome track."

J.B. Holmes
Height: 5-11
Weight: 190
Birthdate: April 26, 1982
Birthplace: Campbellsville, Ky.
Resides: Orlando, Fla.
Special interests: Fishing
Turned professional: 2005
Best Heritage finish: T-40th, 2006 — 67-69-73-74—283
PGA Tour victories: 1
Rank on 2006 money list: 59th
Major championships: 0
National teams: Walker Cup 2005
Notes: Ranked second on the tour in driving distance last season, averaging 318.8 yards per drive. ... Carded rounds of 67 and 69 to make the cut in his first start at Harbour Town Golf Links, but shot rounds of 73 and 74 on the weekend. ... Before turning professional in 2005, competed in the Players Amateur at Belfair, where he was the 18-hole leader before tying for 12th. ... Later that summer, he was a member of the victorious U.S. Walker Cup team. ... Medalist at the 2005 Qualifying Tournament. Made it through all three stages in his first trip to Q-School and finished at 24-under 408 to defeat Alex Cejka by three strokes.



Heritage qualifier, Clemson grad has visions of Champions Tour

Mike Lawrence grabbed one spot at the Carolinas PGA Section qualifier, and Daniel Island professional Michael Smith captured the other.

By KATHLYN CLORE
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Mike Lawrence has flirted with various golf tours over his long teaching career, but now he's thinking of going steady — with the Champions Tour.

The 52-year-old Clemson grad earned his way into the 2007 Verizon Heritage with medalist honors at the one-day Carolinas PGA Section qualifier March 12 at Wexford Golf Club. He fired the only sub-par round of the day, a 2-under 70.

Michael Smith of Daniel Island nabbed the other spot afforded to the 64 Class A pros competing in the one-day qualifier with an even 72, after failing to win a three-way playoff for second place at the same qualifier a year ago.

"To play in a PGA Tour event would be a dream come true," said Smith, 41.

Steve Behr and Burke Cromer took the two alternate spots with twin 1-over 73s.

Behr, the head professional at Florence Country Club, qualified for and played in the Verizon Heritage a year ago. This is the second year in a row no current or former Beaufort County residents have qualified to play in the PGA Tour's annual stop at Harbour Town Golf Links.



Lawrence



Smith

The Heritage is one of two big events on Lawrence's' calendar; he qualified last October to play in the Senior PGA Championship at Kiawah's Ocean Course in May.

"So it'll be nice to get in the environment a little bit," Lawrence said. "It's a small window, getting in the Champions Tour. I'm set to play in several of the qualifiers, hopefully have some success and get in a few events."

May will mark Lawrence's fifth major: He's played in three PGA Championships (1987, '88, '95), plus one U.S. Open (1990). He hasn't made the cut in a tour event but has in myriad Nike and Nationwide Tour events on his resume.

About five years ago, Lawrence opened the TGM Golf Academy in Easley and did so with full intention of benefiting from becoming his own boss. He instructs mainly junior and collegiate players at three different courses, he said.

"It's allowed me to play a little bit more, which is what I intended to do once I turned 50," he said.

Lawrence played his way into the Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament in 2005 but failed to earn exempt or conditional status.

On March 12, both Lawrence and Smith were able to overcome the speedy greens which slowed down the field at the already challenging Wexford. The two were the only players to score par or better Monday; half the field did not break 80.

"It was tough, the greens were real firm and quick," Behr said. "Throw in a little breeze... Overall the weather couldn't have been much better, just a little blustery on the back. What made hard was the greens."

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VERIZON HERITAGE

Trahan returns to Harbour Town a champ

Trick now for former islander is repeating success

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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843-706-8120

When D.J. Trahan made the trek back to his former hometown for his fourth Verizon Heritage this week, he did so with some extra baggage in tow — a PGA Tour title.

Trahan found the winner's circle for the first time in 65 tries on tour last fall, winning the Southern Farm Bureau Classic when he beat Joe Durant on the third playoff hole. But aside from earning a two-year exemption, Trahan said the victory hasn't changed his tune.

"A win is great and all, but I think I approach every day the same," Trahan said. "Obviously, I'm trying to win more golf tournaments, but I don't feel any different at all. I feel the pleasures of winning, but as far as golf is concerned, it doesn't feel different.

"It's not like a win is going to keep me on tour for the next 25 years — I still have to play golf. A win has its perks, but you want to continue to get better and win more golf tournaments, and one win isn't going to do that."

Before his victory in Mississippi, Trahan appeared to be in danger of losing his full exemption — he sat 142nd on the money list going into the Southern Farm Bureau Classic, but more than doubled his season earnings with the win.

Unfortunately for Trahan, the victory came near the end of the PGA Tour season, and the 27-year-old Clemson grad hasn't been able to recapture his hot play this season. He hadn't finished under par for a tournament this year until a solo eighth at the Shell Houston Open, a start he says has him "pretty disappointed."

"That's golf, sometimes things just don't go the way you planned," Trahan said. "We're just trying to work hard and get back on the right track, and I think we're heading in that right direction."

That means more time at the practice facility, trying to regain his putting stroke and working on his swing with his father and swing coach, former Harbour Town Golf Links director of instruction Don Trahan, who is always there to give his progeny pointers.



FILE • The Island Packet

D.J. Trahan, right, son of former Harbour Town Golf Links director of instruction Don Trahan, picked up his first PGA Tour win at the 2006 Southern Farm Bureau Classic. At left is Trahan's former Hilton Head High School teammate and current caddie, Todd Sunderland.

"It's not like a win is going to keep me on tour for the next 25 years."

D.J. Trahan

"He's the reason I play golf," the younger Trahan said. "He's been with me from the very beginning, and I don't see any reason to change anything. He's the reason I'm here today."

Trahan also is loyal to the man on his bag, Todd Sunderland; the two were teammates at Hilton Head High School before the Trahans moved to the upstate after his sophomore year. Sunderland says his guy is close to putting it all together and earning his second tour victory — perhaps this week, on the course Trahan played countless times while his father was the head professional there.

"I look forward to it very much, because it's home turf for me," Trahan said. "I'm always excited about coming back, and especially playing in the Heritage after growing up with it. I'm always excited about coming back to play."

Perhaps more so after last year, when Trahan finished 3-under par to tie for 27th, a considerable improvement over missing the cut in his first two starts at Harbour Town. Trahan shot par or better in all four rounds last year, and he hopes to carry that success into his fourth Heritage.

"I think maybe I just put a little too much pressure on myself the first couple of times I played there," Trahan said. "Obviously, I know the golf course pretty well, and I just need to get comfortable and stay comfortable and play some good golf."



D.J. Trahan
Height: 6-3
Weight: 185
Birthdate: Dec. 18, 1980
Birthplace: Atlanta, Ga.
Resides: Mt. Pleasant
Special interests: Fishing, boating
Turned professional: 2003
College: Clemson
Best Heritage finish: T27, 2006 — 71-69-71-70—281
PGA Tour victories: 1
Rank on 2006 money list: 89th
Major championships: 0
National teams: None
Notes: Former Hilton Head Island resident and son of former Harbour Town director of instruction Don Trahan. ... Qualified for PGA Tour in 2004 Qualifying School, his second attempt to earn his card. Spent the 2004 season on the Nationwide Tour, where he finished 26th on the money list. ... Wrapped up the final full-field event of the season with his first Nationwide win at the Miccosukee Championship. Entered the final round four shots behind 54-hole leader Nick Watney but shot a 6-under-par 65, which catapulted him to a two-shot victory. ... Won the U.S. Public Links Championship in 2000, which qualified him for the next year's Masters. ... Was the nation's top-ranked amateur. .... Led Clemson to an NCAA title in 2003 before turning pro. ... Won S.C. Amateur in 2001 at Colleton River's Dye Course, then defended his title on another Dye creation, Long Cove, in 2002. ... Hasn't fared as well at Harbour Town, though — he's missed the cut in both previous Heritage appearances. ... Picked up his first career victory at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic, defeating Joe Durant on the third playoff hole.



FILE • The Island Packet

Spencer Cole won his second consecutive Junior Heritage title in February, joining PGA Tour pro Charles Howell III as the only repeat winner. He also joins the LPGA's Paula Creamer and Howell as the only golfer to win multiple titles.

Familiar face shoots way to unfamiliar feat

Cole becomes just the second golfer to win consecutive Junior Heritage titles.

By KATHLYN CLORE
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843-706-8123

By pay or by play, a birthday spent teeing it up at Harbour Town Golf Links is going to be a memorable occasion.

Palmetto State native Spencer Cole has two crystal lighthouses to mark the birthdays he spent there; he spent his 18th on a successful title defense of the Junior Heritage title he won a day prior to turning 17.

The Greer native fired an even-par 71 on Feb. 4, finishing the two-day event with a 4-under-par 139 — eight strokes lower than his winning 147 a year earlier.

He joins PGA Tour player Charles Howell as the only players to win the Junior Heritage twice.

California native Mina Harigae, Golfweek's second-ranked junior golfer, matched Cole's 71-68—139 to win the girls title.

"Winning on a PGA Tour course is always pretty good," Cole said. "And it feels good to be able to defend my title because there's a lot of added pressure when you've won the year before. I feel good knowing I overcame that."

Cole, who also won the American Junior Golf Association's Hargray Junior Classic at Bluffton's Hampton Hall Club and made the cut at lst summer's Players Amateur at Belfair Golf Club, will play golf at the University of Alabama later this fall.

First, though, the nation's 30th-ranked junior, according to Golfweek's ratings, will represent the United States at the 2007 World Junior Golf Team Championship June 19-22 at Chukyo Golf Club in Toyota City, Japan.



Harigae

Cole spent his high school years training at the David Leadbetter Golf Academy in Bradenton, Fla. But he's spent plenty of time competing in his home state; he's been a regular fixture in top junior tournaments played in southern Beaufort County. He made the cut and finished 1-under at the mid-July Player's Amateur at Belfair, playing on the exemption offered to Junior Heritage boys winners.

He struggled early in his final round, but finished with 13 straight pars, many thanks to his short game. The future Crimson Tide golfer hit eight fairways and 10 greens.

Junior Heritage champs

BOYS

Year	Player	Scores
1989	Hans Albertson	71-73—144
1990	Brian Brown	75-69—144
1992	Justin Roof	72-67—139
1993	M. Henderson	69-74—143
1994	Charles Howell	70-71—141
1996	Charles Howell	64-74—138
1997	David Gossett	70-68—138
1998	Sean O'Hair	68-71—139
1999	Martin Catalioto	69-72—141
2000	Ty Tryon	65-33—98
2001	Jay Reynolds	70-72—142
2002	Luke List	74-66—140
2003	Sean Moore	68-74—142
2004	Toby Ragland	70-74—144
2005	Kyle Stanley	68-69—137
2006	Spencer Cole	71-76—147
2007	Spencer Cole	68-71—139

GIRLS

Year	Player	Scores
1990	Kacie Myers	82-81—163
1992	Abby Pearson	76-74—150
1993	Ann Pohira	75-76—151
1994	Kathryn Cussick	77-74—151
1996	Beth Bauer	72-71—143
1997	Cimmie Shahan	69-73—142
1998	V. Nirapathpongporn	70-73—143
1999	Candie Kung	72-72—144
2000	Aree Song	69-36—105
2001	Paula Creamer	70-72—142
2002	Brittany Lang	72-70—142
2003	Paula Creamer	67-74—141
2004	Jennie Lee	72-77—149
2005	Angela Park	69-74—143
2006	Isabelle Lendl	70-76—146
2007	Mina Harigae	71-68—139

Langer doing more than biding time until he turns 50

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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With his 50th birthday looming this fall, one might think Bernhard Langer would be counting the days until he becomes eligible for the Champions Tour.

But the 1985 Heritage champ says he isn't done on the PGA Tour just yet.

"I'll face that when it's time," said Langer, a World Golf Hall of Fame member who turns 50 on Aug. 27. "Right now I'm focusing on this tour, and when I'm 50 I'll look at that and take it as it comes."

And why not? After finishing the 2006 campaign strong — he made five cuts in his last six PGA Tour starts, then teamed with Marcel Siem to win the World Golf Championships-Barbados World Cup for Germany — Langer got off to a solid start this year.

He tied for 13th at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic and posted top-10s at the Honda Classic and the Shell Houston Open.

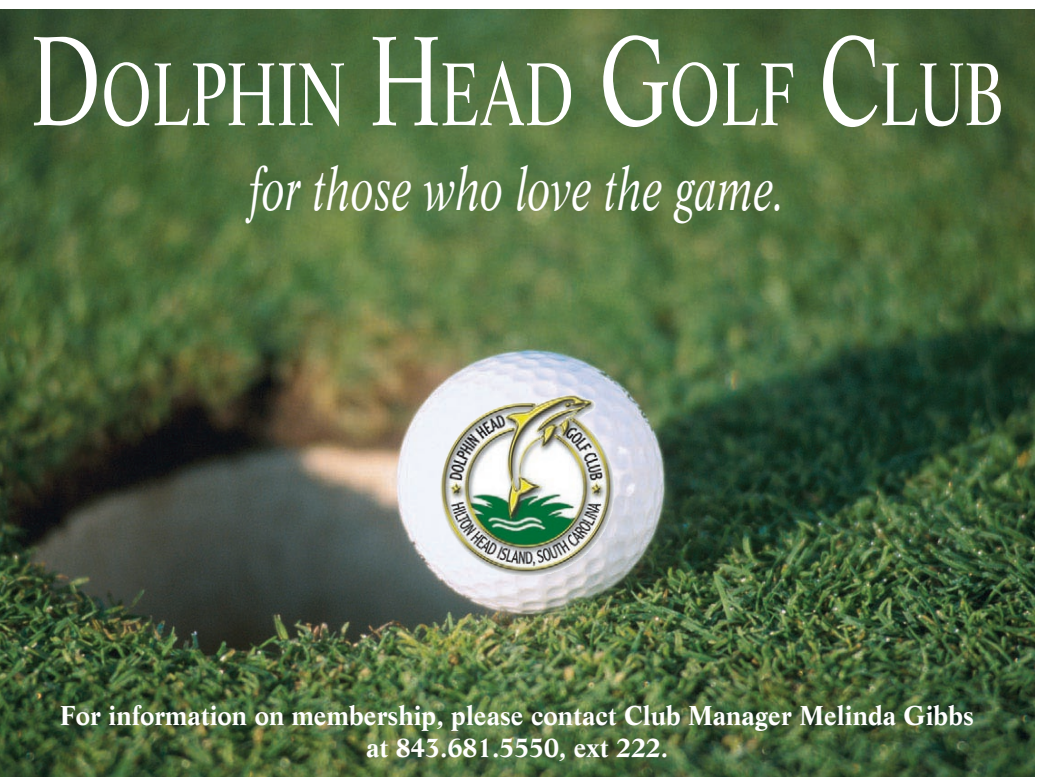
He lost his full exemption after finishing 138th on the money list last year, but he might be on his way to getting it back. He's missed three of six cuts but finished no worse than a tie for 13th when he survived to make the weekend. He's 70th on the money list.

Now he comes to Harbour Town Golf Links, where he has placed in the top four on four occasions, and he won the 1985 Heritage by beating Bobby Wadkins on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff, making him the first and only golfer to win the Masters and Heritage in consecutive weeks.

"It's not just that I've won there; it's also one of my favorite golf courses," Langer said.

And rightly so. In 13 starts at Harbour Town, Langer has finished in the money 12 times, including a tie for 27th last year.

Bernhard Langer
Height: 5-9
Weight: 155
Birthdate: Aug. 27, 1957
Birthplace: Anhausen, Germany
Resides: Anhausen, Germany
Special interests: Skiing, football, tennis, cycle riding
Turned professional: 1972
Best Heritage finish: 1st, 1985 — 68-66-69-70—273
PGA Tour victories: 3
Rank on 2006 Tour money list: 138th
Major championships: Masters 1985, 1993
National teams: World Cup 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2006; Hennesy Cognac Cup 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982; Ryder Cup 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2004; Nissan Cup 1985, 1986; Asahi Glass Four Tours 1989, 1990; Dunhill Cup 1992, 2000.
Notes: Inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2002; first German to be elected via international ballot. ... Second behind Nick Faldo with 10 Ryder Cup appearances for the European team, including the captaincy for the 2004 victory at Oakland Hills C.C. in Bloomfield, Mich. Holds a 21-15-6 record in Ryder Cup play. ... Eligible for Champions Tour when he turns 50 on Aug. 27. ... Teamed with his son Stefan in December to win a second consecutive Del Webb Father/Son Challenge in Orlando, and teamed with Marcel Siem a week later to win the World Golf Championships-Barbados World Cup for Germany.



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VERIZON HERITAGE

Chasing plaid: Winner's jacket sports one unique history



From staff reports

There is, of course, the purse.

The golfers who make the cut at this week's Verizon Heritage will divvy up $5.4 million by weekend's end.

And there's the two-year exemption on the PGA Tour that goes to the winner.

But the Heritage offers yet another inducement — a tartan jacket that goes to the winner, something few other golf tournaments offer.

The green jacket that goes to the Masters champion, and the plaid blazer awarded to the winner of the Colonial might be older, but the Heritage's prize is steeped in history and tradition, all its own.

The Heritage pattern is fashioned after the red Royal Stuart tartan. Every year, after the final putt is made, the tournament winner dons the distinct blazer for a brief period of time before it is whisked away.

Here are a few other facts about the plaid blazer.

• The jacket was first awarded to Bob Goalby, who won the second tournament in 1970. Arnold Palmer, who won the first Heritage in 1969, didn't receive a jacket because a design wasn't chosen at the time. The first tournament director, Bill Dyer, originally ordered gold Palm Beach jackets for the winner, but that color was quickly nixed.

• Until 1987, when the Heritage Classic Foundation took over administration of the tournament, only the winner wore the tartan coat, and everyone else associated with the tournament wore red blazers. These days, trustees of the foundation also are allowed to wear them, along with a few other tournament dignitaries. Among those with their own plaid jackets are Pete Dye, designer of the Harbour Town Golf Links, and the tournament's chairman of volunteers. Tournament director Steve Wilmot keeps a jacket in his closet.

The Heritage pattern is fashioned after the Royal Stuart tartan.

• When the Heritage was held in November, the tartan jacket was made of wool. But that fabric proved too uncomfortable when the tournament moved to the spring, so in 1983, a lighter blend of fabric was used.

• The tartan was accredited by the Scottish Tartan Society on July 12, 1995, and its name was changed from Hilton Champion to Heritage Plaid on Sept. 5, 2000, according to a certificate in the Heritage Classic Foundation's office. However, the Tartan Society's Web site says the name changed from Hilton Champion to Hilton Plaid. Whatever the case, the tartan pattern can only be used by the Heritage Classic Foundation.

• If a player wins the tournament more than once, he always gets another jacket, which is presented to him during the opening ceremonies the following year. So, Davis Love III owns five plaid jackets.

• The fabric to make the jackets is ordered by the bolt from Kinloch Anderson in Scotland. The company sends two bolts at a time, meaning fabric only has to be ordered every few years. If only one jacket was needed every year, it would probably take about 10 years to run through two bolts of cloth. The pieces of the jacket are assembled from the fabric at The Acorn, a tailor in Sea Pines Center. Those pieces are then sent to a small tailoring operation in Atlanta, which puts it together. The entire process is done by hand. There is about a six-week wait for the jacket to return to Hilton Head Island, where the Acorn's Dennis Jaworski applies the finishing touches, including embroidering the winner's name in the collar.

• Unlike Augusta National's jackets, which are stored on site and not allowed to leave the course grounds, no Heritage tartans are kept on hand or stored from year to year. Each jacket is made exclusively for the winner or for officials from the title sponsor. Occasionally there may be a couple of extra jackets, but it's not a regular practice. So as the winner makes his way to the 18th green, a jacket that may fit is rounded up from the available pool. That can make for an awkward fit, though — 2004 winner Stewart Cink, who stands 6-foot-4, wore a jacket short in the sleeves for the awards presentation.

• The cost of making each jacket is about $600.

• The buttons on the jacket are plain gold. At one point, a manufacturer made a button with the Heritage man seen on the emblem, but it was never used.

Sea Pines tries to stem erosion of 18th green

The resort had hoped to have problems shored up by this year's tournament, but permitting delays mean it will be one more year before a solution is reached.

By TIM DONNELLY
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Take a peek over the edge of Hilton Head Island's most famous golf hole and you won't see the classic image captured on so many souvenirs, paintings and brochures. Instead of water lapping gently through the marsh at the sides of the 18th hole at Harbour Town Golf Links, you're more likely to see only water at high tide, or sludgy mud flats at low tide.

The problem is rapid erosion in the past few years that has eaten away at what used to be marsh along the edge of the course at a rate of about 13 feet a year, according to a recent study conducted by Sea Pines. The erosion has gotten so bad officials became worried the hole would soon be lost into Calibogue Sound.

EROSION CONTROL PLAN ALMOST READY

Construction is expected to begin this summer on a 400-foot-long wall of boulders to help dissipate wave energy and protect the hole from further erosion.



Sources: Sea Pines; Olsen Associates Inc.; The Town of Hilton Head Island — The Island Packet

But course officials are hoping to change that this summer with a $1.5 million project to prevent further erosion and rebuild the marsh next to the green, with hopes of restoring the course to the way it looked when it first opened.

Work could begin to construct a new rock wall and fill in the marsh by July if permits are obtained on time, officials working on the project said. The construction will likely take about two to three months and is expected to cost about $1.5 million, said Chris Creed, a coastal engineer with Jacksonville, Fla.-based Olsen Associates.

The first part of the plan is to install large rocks or boulders, or "rip rap," in the sound adjacent to about 700 feet of shoreline. The wall of rocks will help divert the wave energy away from the shoreline. Once that is installed, engineers plan to rebuild a 75-foot wide marsh buffer between the green and the open water.

Sea walls installed in the 1980s to prevent silt from filling in Harbour Town Yacht Basin caused part of the problem because they increase the speed of the water heading toward the edge of the 18th green. A botched dredging project in Calibogue Sound that began in 2002 added to the problem when sand was dumped too close to the course, creating a ramp that sent water against the land.

It's not the first time Sea Pines has tried to rebuild the marsh: It was restored as part of course renovations in 2000, but most of that washed away. Officials say this new plan should help stabilize the edge of the course and will be a long-term solution to the erosion problem.

"It's just been ongoing. It's been erosion that's kind of accelerated over the last three years," said Cary Corbitt, Sea Pines director of sports. "Just to kind of make sure we are protected we needed to do this repair."

Course management and engineers have been working on the plan for more than a year, including navigating a complicated and rigorous set of permitting requirements from various federal and state agencies.

When the permitting was stalled in January, officials obtained an emergency permit and added about 80 feet of rip rap right along the edge of the hole to ward off further erosion until the project gets under way.

"We were fearful for the green," Creed said. "The erosion was right up around the green."

Creed said he obtained a permit from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in March and now is waiting on permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Town of Hilton Head Island. All work will be conducted from the barges in the sound and no construction vehicles will be on the course, officials said.

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HARBOUR TOWN GOLF LINKS

FRONT NINE

Hole No. 1
Yardage: 410
Par: 4
Handicap: 13
Diff.*: .010
Key: Drive it straight. Easy starting hole can be made difficult by clipping a branch along the narrow chute from the tee box.



Hole No. 2
Yardage: 502
Par: 5
Handicap: 9
Diff.*: -.463
Key: Stay left off the tee box. There's no hope of reaching an otherwise accessible green in two shots from the right side of the fairway because a tree hidden from view from the tee box can come into play.



Hole No. 3
Yardage: 437
Par: 4
Handicap: 15
Diff.*: .207
Key: Drive to the middle of the fairway makes for a straightforward approach to a green guarded on the left by a bunker and on the right by a large tree.



Hole No. 4
Yardage: 200
Par: 3
Handicap: 11
Diff.*: .168
Key: Classic risk-reward hole, particularly when the pin is cut on the front left of the green. Go for that pin only at your own peril. There's plenty of bail out available to the right.



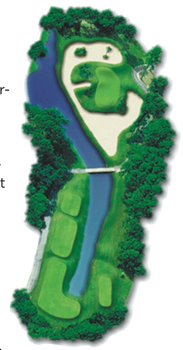
Hole No. 5
Yardage: 530
Par: 5
Handicap: 3
Diff.*: -.571
Key: If you want to hit the green in two, you've got to keep it left but avoid a fairway bunker that swallows wayward drives. The green is well-guarded and cants left to right.



Hole No. 6
Yardage: 419
Par: 4
Handicap: 5
Diff.*: -.012
Key: Carry the fairway bunker to the right for the best angle to an open green. Big hitters can play more safely to the left. The green tilts heavily from back to front.



Hole No. 7
Yardage: 195
Par: 3
Handicap: 17
Diff.*: .166
Key: Sand surrounds this hole, but the real key is avoiding tree branches that will deflect wayward shots. Lots of tee boxes give officials plenty of options, but the far right box has been all but abandoned during recent Heritage play.



Hole No. 8
Yardage: 470
Par: 4
Handicap: 1
Diff.*: .256
Key: The most difficult hole on the course also usually ranks as one of the most difficult on the PGA Tour. You must hit it long and right off the tee to have an approach unmolested by trees, bunkers and lagoons on the approach shot.



Hole No. 9
Yardage: 322
Par: 4
Handicap: 7
Diff.*: .256
Key: Position your drive on this short hole to the side of the fairway opposite the side of the green to which the pin is cut. The approach requires precision to avoid a bunker in front and a pot bunker in the rear.



* **Diff.** indicates the differential between par and the tournament scoring average during the 2006 Heritage.

Tee information

Tee	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Heritage	6,973	71	75.2	146
Championship	6,603	71	72.9	139
White	6,116	71	70.0	126
Green	5,019	71	69.0	117

Grassing

Area	Grass	Height of cut (inches)
Tees	Tifsport	7/16 to 3/8
Fairways	419 Bermuda	7/16 to 3/8
Greens	Tifeagle	9/64 to 1/8
Rough	419 Bermuda	2 to 2 1/2

COURSE OVERVIEW



Images provided by HoleView

WEB EXTRAS
Visit The Island Packet's Web site for a virtual tour of Harbour Town Golf Links, narrated by head professional John Farrell.
islandpacket.com

Places to go, things to see at the Verizon Heritage

A spectator's guide to viewing Hilton Head's PGA Tour extravaganza

From staff reports

The annual Verizon Heritage provides a unique opportunity to see first-hand the personalities, excitement and drama of the PGA Tour.

Admittedly, there are those who claim the best way to watch the event is at home in front of a television set. At times, that method does have its advantages. With a little advance planning, however, the on-site spectator can get as close to the action as the television cameras and see a whole lot more.

After fans are inside Sea Pines Resort, they'll be able to park in one of several general parking lots off Greenwood Drive, Plantation Drive and near Lawton Stables. Shuttles will serve each parking lot to take fans to Harbour Town Golf Links. All parking and shuttle-busing is free.

Once they reach the course, fans will find spectator bleachers set up around holes 13, 15, 16 and 18 (see course map at left.) The bleachers are also close to concession stands so spectators can stay in one spot for a long time and not worry about starving.

Another method of watching play is to sit by any other hole on the course and watch the field pass through. In this case, it is advisable to take along something to sit on, such as a folded blanket or a collapsible chair.

Yet another popular method is to follow a specific golfer around at least part of the course. Daily pairings sheets, which include starting times, are available to the public and also are published in The Island Packet each day, so it is easy to find out when a favorite golfer will begin his round each day of the tournament.

Large maps and scoreboards around the golf course indicate where individual golfers are playing, so if you miss someone's tee time on the first hole, it is relatively easy to catch up with him as he plays the course.

One of the most popular viewing spots at Harbour Town is the spectator mounds surrounding the ninth green, located directly in front of the clubhouse. If you plan to sit there, arrive early, no matter which day you attend the tournament — the area fills up quickly.

Two holes at Harbour Town, Nos. 8 and 11, are routinely listed among the most difficult on the PGA Tour. These are both good spots for watching the Heritage field. Spectators can witness some great moments at either one, on any day of the tournament.

If you prefer not to walk or sit all day, a good way to watch the proceedings at the Heritage is to follow a golfer with an early tee time part of the way around the course, then stay at one particular hole and watch the remainder of the field play through. You also can use the opposite approach — stay by one hole for a period of time until a favorite player comes through and then follow that player around the rest of the course.

On Saturday and Sunday, unless you arrive very early, don't plan to sit in the bleachers on any of the final holes. They will be packed, and if you should have to leave your seat for any reason, it will probably be occupied when you return. Sit by some other hole or walk around the course during play.

Quick facts

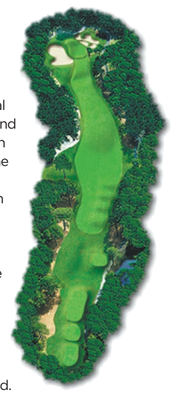
Architect: Pete Dye, with Jack Nicklaus
Course restoration: Pete Dye, 2000
Average tee size: 2,400 square feet
Average green size: 4,000 square feet
Rounds per year: More than 40,000
Acres of fairway: 31
Acres of rough: 40
Sand bunkers: 45
Water hazards: 12
Tournament Stimpmeter: 10 to 10.5 feet
Soil conditions: Sandy loam and clay
Superintendent: Gary Snyder
Head PGA professional: John Farrell

BACK NINE

Hole No. 10
Yardage: 444
Par: 4
Handicap: 10
Diff.*: .193
Key: The landing area appears wide, but only a shot to the left or middle affords a straight-on approach to a well-guarded green.



Hole No. 11
Yardage: 436
Par: 4
Handicap: 8
Diff.*: .066
Key: A straight drive is essential to avoid trees and water lurking on both sides of the fairway. A well-bunkered green becomes even more difficult to hit from the right side of the fairway, from which a tree near the front right of the green will have to be negotiated.



Hole No. 12
Yardage: 430
Par: 4
Handicap: 8
Diff.*: .112
Key: Raching the dogleg from the tee box is imperative to par ... but the challenge doesn't end there. Bunkers and a severe dip essentially bisect the green and make your target landing area about half the size it appears from the fairway.



Hole No. 13
Yardage: 373
Par: 4
Handicap: 12
Diff.*: .085
Key: The drive must be to the right side of the fairway to avoid overhanging trees on the approach. The hole is short but demands precision.



Hole No. 14
Yardage: 192
Par: 3
Handicap: 18
Diff.*: .129
Key: Aim for the middle o the green. Water in front and at right and a deep pot bunker at the rear make this the prudent choice. This hole became a lot more difficult after an additional tee box was added before the 2001 tournament.



Hole No. 15
Yardage: 571
Par: 5
Handicap: 6
Diff.*: -.149
Key: Stay to the middle of the fairway. Bunkers, water and waste areas abound to swallow all but the best-placed shots. This green used to be next to impossible to hit in two, but in recent seasons, PGA Tour golfers have reached more often.



Hole No. 16
Yardage: 395
Par: 4
Handicap: 16
Diff.*: .015
Key: Stay off the beach. The fairway dogleg is well guarded, and the former waste area along the left of the fairway was converted to a conventional bunker before the 2006 Heritage, making a tee shot there more perilous.



Hole No. 17
Yardage: 185
Par: 3
Handicap: 14
Diff.*: .117
Key: Gauge the wind. It can mean a three-club difference off the tee when in blows in your face or at your back and can make alignment difficult when it quarters.



Hole No. 18
Yardage: 452
Par: 4
Handicap: 2
Diff.*: .095
Key: Aim your tee shot for the famed lighthouse to perfectly position your shot on the widest fairway on the PGA Tour. The approach still will be long and tricky, with the green tucked close to the water and bunkers guarding the front and back.



VERIZON HERITAGE

PGA TOUR SCHEDULE AND STATS

PGA Tour schedule
PGA Tour events, with this year's winners.
Jan. 4-7: Mercedes-Benz Championship (Vijay Singh)
Jan. 11-14: Sony Open, Waialae CC, Honolulu (Paul Goydos)
Jan. 17-21: Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, The Classic Club/PGA West (Palmer Private), La Quinta/Bermuda Dunes, Palm Desert, Calif. (Charley Hoffman)
Jan. 25-28: Buick Invitational, Torrey Pines GC (North and South), San Diego (Tiger Woods)
Feb. 1-4: FBR Open, TPC Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Ariz. (Aaron Baddeley)
Feb. 8-11: AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Pebble Beach GL/Spyglass Hill GC/Poppy Hills, Pebble Beach, Calif. (Phil Mickelson)
Feb. 15-18: Nissan Open, Riviera CC, Pacific Palisades, Calif. (Charles Howell III)
Feb. 21-25: WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship, The Gallery at Dove Mountain, Tucson, Ariz. (Henrik Stenson)
Feb. 22-25: Mayakoba Classic at Riviera Maya, Mayakoba Resort (El Camaleon), Riviera Maya, Mexico (Fred Funk)
March 1-4: Honda Classic, PGA National (Champion), Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Mark Wilson)
March 8-11: Tampa Bay Championship, Westin Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead), Palm Harbor, Fla. (Mark Calcavecchia)
March 15-18: Arnold Palmer Invitational, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla. (Vijay Singh)
March 22-25: WGC-CA Championship, Doral Golf Resort & Spa (Blue), Miami (Tiger Woods)
March 29-April 1: Shell Houston Open, Redstone GC (Tournament), Humble, Texas (Adam Scott)
April 5-8: Masters, Augusta National GC, Augusta, Ga. (Zach Johnson)

FedExCup Leaders
Through April 8

Rank	Name	Points	Money
1.	Vijay Singh	12,361	$2,884,400
2.	Tiger Woods	12,098	$3,008,391
3.	C. Howell III	11,748	$2,470,563
4.	Phil Mickelson	8,218	$1,832,788
5.	John Rollins	7,983	$1,822,778
6.	Adam Scott	7,596	$1,764,196
7.	A. Baddeley	7,041	$1,670,884
8.	Calcavecchia	6,902	$1,501,870
9.	Zach Johnson	6,498	$1,657,401
10.	Geoff Ogilvy	6,014	$1,578,030
11.	R. Allenby	5,858	$1,342,315
12.	H. Stenson	5,699	$1,589,808
13.	Mark Wilson	5,445	$1,214,558
14.	C. Hoffman	5,130	$1,062,709
15.	Paul Goydos	5,103	$1,118,311
16.	Luke Donald	5,035	$1,176,559
17.	T. Immelman	4,585	$1,259,127
18.	Heath Slocum	4,579	$983,691
19.	Jim Furyk	4,529	$1,052,362
20.	Jeff Quinney	4,515	$986,475
21.	Bubba Watson	4,369	$960,737
22.	B. Wetterich	4,327	$1,161,398
23.	K.J. Choi	3,951	$907,109
24.	David Toms	3,942	$953,378
25.	Stuart Appleby	3,890	$959,747
26.	Justin Rose	3,882	$923,770
27.	Bart Bryant	3,861	$902,393
28.	Rory Sabbatini	3,741	$982,558
29.	Sergio Garcia	3,494	$867,890
30.	Rocco Mediate	3,448	$750,650

Official World Golf Rankings
Through April 8

1.	Tiger Woods, USA	20.37
2.	Jim Furyk, USA	8.19
3.	Adam Scott, Aus.	7.32
4.	Phil Mickelson, USA	7.27
5.	Ernie Els, SAf	6.55
6.	Henrik Stenson, Swe	6.46
7.	Vijay Singh, Fiji	6.23
8.	Retief Goosen, SAf	6.06
9.	Geoff Ogilvy, Aus.	6.04
10.	Padraig Harrington, Ire.	5.23
11.	Luke Donald, Eng.	5.13
12.	Trevor Immelman, SAf	4.71
13.	Paul Casey, Eng.	4.70
14.	Sergio Garcia, Spn.	4.66
15.	Zach Johnson, USA	3.96
16.	Charles Howell III, USA	3.79
17.	Nick O'Hern, Aus.	3.48
18.	Stuart Appleby, Aus.	3.36
19.	David Toms, USA	3.35
20.	Robert Allenby, Aus.	3.28
21.	Davis Love III, USA	3.26
22.	Brett Wetterich, USA	3.15
23.	Rory Sabbatini, SAf	3.13
24.	David Howell, Eng.	3.07
25.	Stewart Cink, USA	3.05
26.	Justin Rose, Eng.	3.07
27.	Choi Kyung-Ju, Kor.	2.96
28.	Aaron Baddeley, Aus.	2.95
29.	Colin Montgomerie, Sco.	2.90
30.	Ian Poulter, Eng.	2.88

PGA Tour Statistics
Through April 8

Scoring Average
1, Tiger Woods, 68.55. 2, Robert Allenby, 69.18. 3, Vijay Singh, 69.24. 4, Ernie Els, 69.28. 5, Sergio Garcia, 69.36. 6, Charles Howell III, 69.50. 7, Jim Furyk, 69.66. 8, Padraig Harrington, 69.68. 9, Bart Bryant, 69.82. 10, 2 tied with 69.83.

Driving Distance
1, Bubba Watson, 314.0. 2, John Daly, 309.9. 3, Robert Garrigus, 306.2. 4, Anthony Kim, 303.5. 5, Angel Cabrera, 303.0. 6, J.B. Holmes, 301.3. 7, Kenny Perry, 299.8. 8, Brett Wetterich, 299.1. 9, Harrison Frazar, 298.6. 10, Lucas Glover, 298.4.

Driving Accuracy Percentage
1, Fred Funk, 77.84%. 2, Jim Furyk, 76.46%. 3, Chris Riley, 74.51%. 4, Tim Clark, 74.40%. 5, Paul Goydos, 73.66%. 6, Zach Johnson, 73.12%. 7, Craig Bowden, 72.73%. 8, Joe Durant, 72.14%. 9, Kirk Triplett, 71.88%. 10, John Cook, 71.67%.

Greens in Regulation Pct.
1, John Cook, 73.50%. 2, John Senden, 72.73%. 3, Jeff Gove, 72.22%. 4, Tommy Armour III, 71.05%. 5, Tiger Woods, 70.14%. 6, Johnson Wagner, 69.97%. 7, Nick Watney, 69.92%. 8, Tom Lehman, 69.68%. 9, Anthony Kim, 69.55%. 10, Briny Baird, 69.54%.

Total Driving
1, Charles Warren, 61. 2, Hunter Mahan, 68. 3, Greg Owen, 75. 4, Nick Watney, 80. 5, Mark Calcavecchia, 82. 6, Sean O'Hair, 88. 7, Boo Weekley, 95. 8, J.B. Holmes, 109. 9, Peter Lonard, 110. 10, Ryan Moore, 113.

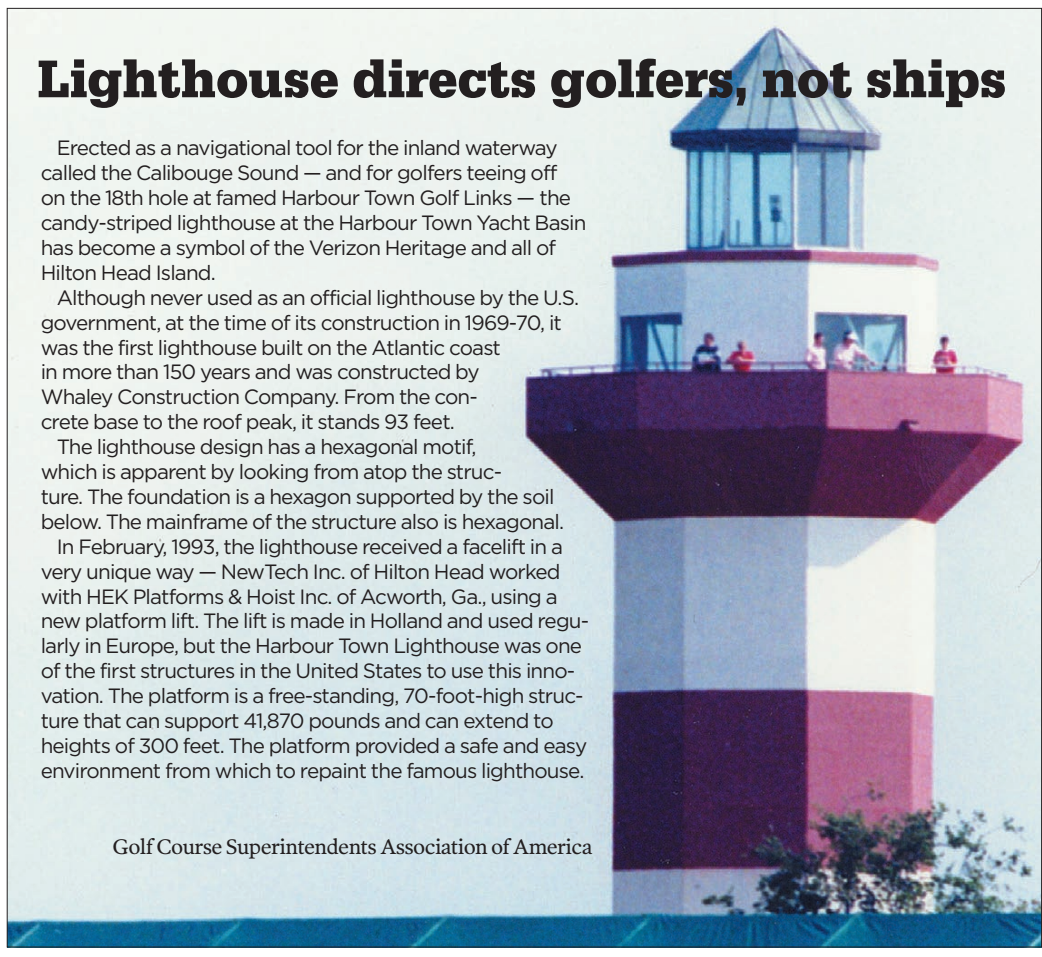
Putting Average
1, Ernie Els, 1.716. 2, Justin Rose, 1.717. 3, Bob Estes, 1.719. 4, Padraig Harrington, 1.720. 5, Phil Mickelson, 1.725. 6 (tie), David Duval and Henrik Stenson, 1.728. 8, Jeff Quinney, 1.730. 9, Heath Slocum, 1.740. 10, Charlie Wi, 1.741.

Birdie Average
1, Phil Mickelson, 4.16. 2 (tie), Robert Allenby and Bubba Watson, 4.13. 4, J.B. Holmes, 4.00. 5 (tie), Padraig Harrington and Anthony Kim, 3.96. 7, Adam Scott, 3.95. 8, Vaughn Taylor, 3.89. 9, Vijay Singh, 3.88. 10, Joe Ogilvie , 3.87.

Eagles (Holes per)
1, Tiger Woods, 57.6. 2, D.J. Brigman, 67.5. 3 (tie), Charles Warren and Robert Garrigus, 79.7. 5, John Daly, 81.0. 6, Jeff Quinney, 84.9. 7, Ryan Moore , 86.4. 8 (tie), Rich Beem and Pat Perez, 90.0. 10, Phil Mickelson, 93.0.

Sand Save Percentage
1, Jonathan Byrd, 68.75%. 2, Arron Oberholser, 68.42%. 3, Fred Funk, 68.00%. 4, Lee Janzen, 64.00%. 5, Stephen Ames, 63.16%. 6, Geoff Ogilvy, 62.86%. 7, Paul Gow, 62.75%. 8, Bob Heintz, 62.26%. 9, Ryuji Imada, 61.90%. 10, 3 tied with 61.54%.

All-Around Ranking
1, Tiger Woods, 300. 2, Vijay Singh, 303. 3, Phil Mickelson, 318. 4, Bubba Watson, 326. 5, John Rollins, 328. 6, Anthony Kim, 331. 7, Jeff Quinney, 366. 8, Vaughn Taylor, 378. 9, Pat Perez, 392. 10, Charles Howell III, 394.



Lighthouse directs golfers, not ships

Erected as a navigational tool for the inland waterway called the Calibouge Sound — and for golfers teeing off on the 18th hole at famed Harbour Town Golf Links — the candy-striped lighthouse at the Harbour Town Yacht Basin has become a symbol of the Verizon Heritage and all of Hilton Head Island.

Although never used as an official lighthouse by the U.S. government, at the time of its construction in 1969-70, it was the first lighthouse built on the Atlantic coast in more than 150 years and was constructed by Whaley Construction Company. From the concrete base to the roof peak, it stands 93 feet.

The lighthouse design has a hexagonal motif, which is apparent by looking from atop the structure. The foundation is a hexagon supported by the soil below. The mainframe of the structure also is hexagonal.

In February, 1993, the lighthouse received a facelift in a very unique way — NewTech Inc. of Hilton Head worked with HEK Platforms & Hoist Inc. of Acworth, Ga., using a new platform lift. The lift is made in Holland and used regularly in Europe, but the Harbour Town Lighthouse was one of the first structures in the United States to use this innovation. The platform is a free-standing, 70-foot-high structure that can support 41,870 pounds and can extend to heights of 300 feet. The platform provided a safe and easy environment from which to repaint the famous lighthouse.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

GOLF GLANCE

PGA TOUR
Verizon Heritage
Site: Hilton Head Island.
Schedule: Today-Sunday.
Course: Harbour Town Golf Links (6,973 yards, par 71).
Purse: $5.4 million. **Winner's share:** $972,000.
Television: Golf Channel (today-Friday, 3-6 p.m., 8:30-11:30 p.m.) and CBS (Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).
Last year: Australia's Aaron Baddeley won his first PGA Tour title, rallying with two late birdies and finishing off Jim Furyk by a stroke with a scrambling par on the lighthouse closing hole. Baddeley won the FBR Open in February.
Last week: Zach Johnson won the Masters, closing with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Tiger Woods, Retief Goosen and Rory Sabbatini. Johnson finished at 1-over 289, matching a Masters record last set in 1956 for highest winning score.
On the Net: http://www.pgatour.com

LPGA TOUR
Ginn Open
Site: Reunion, Fla.
Schedule: Today-Sunday.
Course: Reunion Resort & Club (6,531 yards, par 72).
Purse: $2.6 million. **Winner's share:** $390,000.
Television: Golf Channel (today, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Friday, 12:30-2:30 a.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 12:30-2:30 a.m.) and CBS (Saturday, 1:30-3 p.m.; Sunday, 1-3 p.m.).
Last year: South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim won the first-year event for the first of her two 2006 titles, holding off Lorena Ochoa and Karrie Webb by two strokes.
Last event: Morgan Pressel became the youngest major champion in LPGA Tour history, winning the Kraft Nabisco Championship on April 1 at 18 years, 10 months, 9 days. Pressel played the final 24 holes without a bogey, finishing a final-round 69.
On the Net: http://www.lpga.com

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR/ ASIAN TOUR/CHINA GOLF ASSOCIATION
China Open
Site: Shanghai, China.
Schedule: Today-Sunday.
Course: Shanghai Silport Golf Club (7,073 yards, par 72).
Purse: $2 million. **Winner's share:** $333,390.
Television: Golf Channel (Thursday-Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).
Last year: Jeev Milkha Singh became the second Indian player to win on the European Tour, beating Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano by a stroke at Beijing CBD International Golf Club.
PGA European Tour site: http://www.europeantour.com
Asian Tour site: http://www.asiantour.com

NATIONWIDE TOUR
South Georgia Classic
Site: Valdosta, Ga.
Schedule: Today-Sunday.
Course: Kinderlou Forest Golf Club (7,781 yards, par 72).
Purse: $600,000. **Winner's share:** $108,000.
Television: None.
Last year: Inaugural event.
Last event: Omar Uresti won his first Nationwide Tour title in 13 years, beating Skip Kendall and Aron Price by two strokes April 1 in the Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship.
On the Net: http://www.pgatour.com

CHAMPIONS TOUR
Next event: Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, April 20-22, Savannah Harbor Golf Resort, Savannah.
Last event: Keith Fergus became the second player to win PGA, Nationwide and Champions tour titles, beating Mark O'Meara and Hale Irwin by a stroke April 1 in the Ginn Championship. Ron Streck also has victories on all three tours.
On the Net: http://www.pgatour.com

OTHER TOURNAMENTS
Men
NGA HOOTERS TOUR: Auburn-Opelika Classic, today-Sunday, Auburn Links at Mill Creek, Auburn, Ala. On the Net: http://www.ngahooterstour.com
CANADIAN TOUR: San Jose International Open, today -Sunday, Golf Club at Boulder Ridge, San Jose, Calif. On the Net: http://www.cantour.com
JAPAN GOLF TOUR: Token Homemate Cup, today -Sunday, Token Tado Country Club, Nagoya Course, Mie, Japan. On the Net: http://www.jgto.org
Women
DURAMED FUTURES TOUR: The Power of a Dream Futures Golf Classic, Friday-Sunday, The Trails of Frisco Golf Club, Frisco, Texas. On the Net: http://www.duramedfuturestour.com
JAPAN LPGA TOUR: Life Card Ladies Open, Friday-Sunday, Kumamoto Airport Country Club, Kumamoto, Japan. On the Net: http://www.lpga.or.jp

Harbour Town well-decorated course

From staff reports

Harbour Town Golf Links is not only a favorite of PGA Tour professsionals; it continues to rate well in various golf publications. Most recently, the Pete Dye design ranked 29th in Golfweek's annual list of the 100 best modern designs (courses built in 1960 or later) and 93rd on Golf Digest's biennial list of America's 100 greatest courses.

Harbour Town was the second-highest ranked South Carolina course on Golfweek's list, trailing only Kiawah Island's Ocean Course, another Pete Dye design. However, a panel of in-state judges picked Harbour Town the state's top design for the third consecutive year.

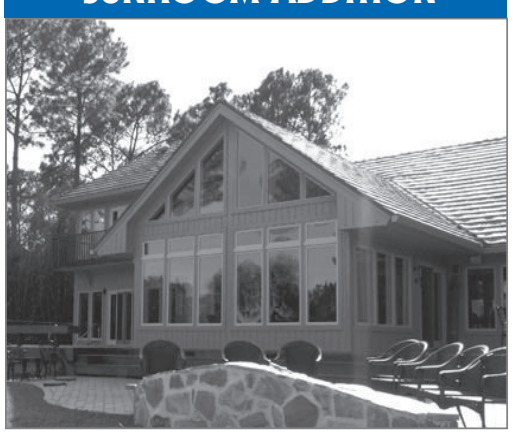
In the Golf Digest rankings, published in the magazine's May issue that hit newsstands Tuesday, Harbour Town rose four spots to No. 93. Harbour Town was one of four South Carolina courses on the list and one of two in southern Beaufort County. Long Cove Club, another Pete Dye design, registered at No. 78, down seven spots from the last rankings list in 2005.

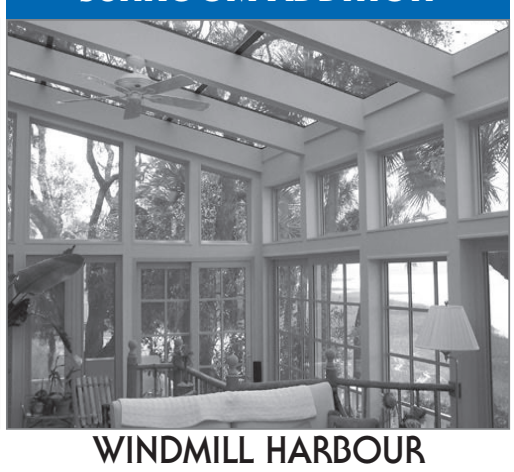
In addition, Harbour Town ranked No. 15 in a list of the nation's 100 best public access courses. The Ocean Course was eighth. Seven other state courses in the Myrtle Beach area, including the course at Barefoot Resort designed by five-time Heritage champion Davis Love III, were included on that list.

Sea Pines Resort, to which Harbour Town Golf Links belongs, ranked No. 39th on Golf Digest's list of the nation's top golf resorts.

Golf Magazine's most recent biennial rankings put Harbour Town at No. 34 on its list of the best American courses and No. 59 on its list of the best courses in the world. The publication also lists Harbour Town's par-3 17th, par-4 18th and par-5 15th among the 500 best holes in the world.

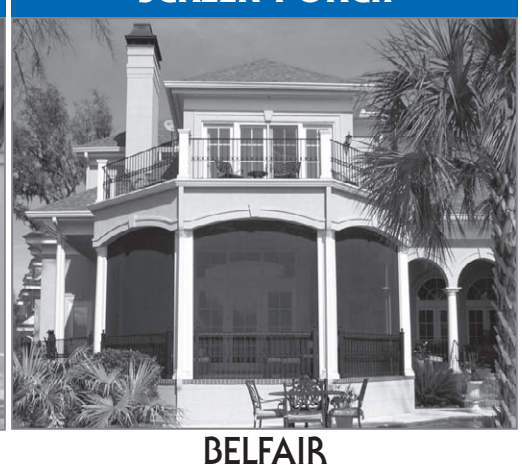
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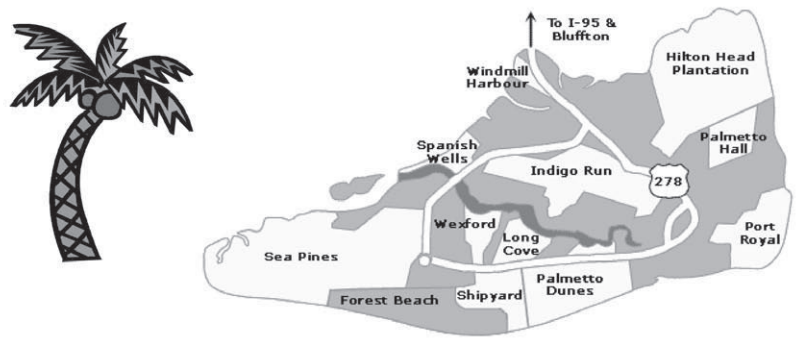
POOL ENCLOSURES

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VERIZON HERITAGE

Tournament end of busy run for CBS' Nantz



BRAD KING
king@bradkingcommunications.com

"I know there are a lot of writers going through the same sequencing I am, so I don't want to make it sound like I am doing something outrageous."

Jim Nantz, CBS Sports commentator



Confucius said, "Choose a job you love, and you never work a day in your life."

Smart man, Confucius.

Smart man, Jim Nantz, too.

Think about it. When you choose a job like Nantz's — the voice of sports, for crying out loud — do you ever really work a day in your life?

Let's review Nantz's "work" schedule for the past three months:

Super Bowl?

Check.

NCAA Tournament and Final Four?

Check and check.

Masters?

Check.

Throw in several weeks Nantz spent covering the PGA Tour's West Coast swing and it begs the question: What, Jim? Couldn't squeeze in any PBA Bowling or X Games coverage?

"If CBS had those events, I probably would have put in for them," Nantz said with a laugh, before quickly adding. "I think I've got enough on my plate to take care of one person."

Therein lies the thing about Nantz. He's got a great sense of humor. He's silky smooth, yet genuine and down-to-earth. He has become a hugely popular celebrity, but still looks you in the eye when he talks to you and listens attentively to what you're saying.

He knows he's living the dream, but somehow Nantz keeps both feet planted firmly on the ground.

Discussing his 10-week, everyman's-fantasy sports marathon — which began Feb. 4 with the Super Bowl in Miami and wraps up this week on Hilton Head at the Verizon Heritage — Nantz defers praise of his road-warrior endurance in typically self-effacing fashion.

"When you're the play-by-play voice it becomes so much more largely noticed," he said. "But I know there are a lot of writers going through the same sequencing I am, so I don't want to make it sound like I am doing something outrageous."

This is actually the 22nd consecutive time Nantz has tackled a similar, Herculean itinerary, save his expanded duties at this year's Super Bowl, where he went from host of the coverage the past two years to play-by-play commentator in 2007. ("I really felt like I had prepared my whole life to do that broadcast," Nantz said.)

His annual routine did take a slight hit yesterday morning, when Nantz was unable to do one thing he enjoys as much as any: Drive the rural back roads from Augusta to Hilton Head Island.

He had to fly to Manhattan, instead, to meet with a book publisher and discuss writing a book about his odyssey before coming to the island today.

"I'm feeling cheated that I'm not getting the full week experience," Nantz said. "But we'll make up for the lost time when we get there and hit the ground running."

By "we," Nantz is referring to his wife, Lorrie, and 12-year-old daughter, Caroline, who join Nantz for what he describes as their "annual favorite trip of the year" to Hilton Head from their home in Fairfield County, Conn.

And by "hit the ground running," he means literally. The family stays in the same condominium on the harbor in Sea Pines every year, and each morning Nantz bikes to the beach club for a run or a ride by the ocean before his "work day" begins.

"It's become real family time," he said. "We love to go to the beach, throw the Frisbee, ride the bikes. I really travel everywhere within reason around Sea Pines on a bike."

Caroline was born on April 29, 1994, so she and Lorrie were not in attendance for the Heritage that year. But they haven't skipped one since.

"Caroline has gone from sitting in Gregg Russell's lap under the Liberty Oak tree and singing her ABCs," said Nantz, "to where now she loves sitting back and watching small children do what she once did."

Nantz reels off a list of some of his closest friends on Hilton Head — Russell and his wife, Lindy; Lou and Bev Gerber — before stopping himself. "I shouldn't start naming names, but we've got many friends to see on Hilton Head and places to go that are an annual tradition for us."

Born in Charlotte, N.C., Nantz grew up in Colts Neck, N.J., and attended Marlboro High School, where he was co-captain of the basketball team and the No. 1 player on the golf team.

Nantz then went to the University of Houston, where he majored in broadcasting and played on the golf team, famously sharing a suite with future PGA Tour players Fred Couples and Blaine McCallister.

In 1985 Nantz was hired by CBS to serve as announcer and studio anchor for a number of events including the NFL, NBA, college football and basketball, the Masters and PGA Championship, the tennis U.S. Open, and the Winter Olympics.

Nantz took over as lead play-by-play announcer for college basketball in 1990 and became top announcer for CBS' "The NFL" in 2004.

Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as the youngest recipient of the Curt Gowdy Media Award in 2002, Nantz has called play-by-play on more Final Four and championship game broadcasts than any other announcer in the tournament's history.

Upon the conclusion of his seven-week run, Nantz also becomes the only broadcaster in history to have announced the Super Bowl, the NCAA Championship and the Masters in the same year. But it really never ends for Nantz. He will be back in the booth with Nick Faldo for the Byron Nelson, and you'll hear that smooth baritone saying, "Hello friends," again at this summer's PGA Championship.

Believe it or not, for Nantz, it doesn't get much better than this week.

"Those (CBS) shows at Hilton Head, I feel like, end up being at the end of the year some of our most quality shows," he said. "Everyone is so relaxed and everyone has such a high regard for the island, I think our shows come off with a very good pace and a good, warm feel. I'm proud of the shows we do there."

Forget the Masters. On Hilton Head, it is Nantz who has become, "a tradition unlike any other."

Heritage means lots of TV exposure

From staff reports

Hilton Head Island and the Verizon Heritage will be given prime television exposure throughout the United States and around the world when this week's PGA Tour event is broadcast live for 12 hours over four days.

Six additional hours of taped coverage will air on The Golf Channel.

The first two rounds will appear on The Golf Channel, airing from 3-6 p.m. both days. CBS Sports will show Saturday's third round and Sunday's final round from 3-6 p.m.

The CBS broadcast team for this year's event will include host Jim Nantz and former Heritage champion Nick Faldo.

The Englishman won on Hilton Head Island in 1984; he scorched Harbour Town with four rounds in the 60s for his first PGA Tour victory. He went on to win six majors. Faldo replaces Lanny Wadkins, who finished runner-up in the 1970 Heritage while an undergraduate at Wake Forest.

Ian Baker-Finch, Gary McCord and Peter Oosterhuis will serve as hole announcers, while David Feherty and Peter Kostis will be walking the course.

Should play run late Sunday, CBS will continue coverage until 7 p.m. After that time, coverage will flip to the Golf Channel —although CBS viewers on the West Coast will remain with golf. If play spills over to Monday, CBS and Golf Channel producers will announce coverage schemes as soon as the tournament schedule is confirmed.

Any taped coverage to air on The Golf Channel is a new addition.

"The additional hours of tape-delayed coverage is good for us and good for the title sponsor because it means we'll be seen a little more on the West Coast," tournament director Steve Wilmot said.

The Heritage will also be broadcast throughout the world via the PGA Tour's international partners, such as: Fox Sports Australia, Sky Networks New Zealand, Videoland Taiwan, Guangdong Golf Channel, i-Cable, CNBC Europe, Czech TV, Fox Sports Middle East and Supersport S. Africa.

Extensive national radio coverage is available on the PGA Tour Network XM Channel 146. The Heritage will be broadcast live on XM 146 from 12-6 p.m. daily during the tournament, with two hours of replay to follow.

Live scoring updates are also available at www.pgatour.com.

Heritage patrons should observe etiquette to ensure pleasurable viewing

From staff reports

You'll enjoy this year's Verizon Heritage all the more if you and your fellow spectators follow a few basic rules of gallery etiquette.

The "courtesies of the course" are more than mere niceties and the last thing a spectator wants to do is make a spectacle of himself.

Here are a few basic rules of etiquette golf fans should remember:

• The cardinal rule of golf matches is to be quiet and motionless while a player is preparing for a stroke. If a player overshoots a green, move away promptly and give him plenty of room.

• Spectators are required to wear admission badges at all times while on the course.

• Do not attempt to talk to a player or ask for his autograph until after he has left the 18th green. Tournament play requires intense concentration, even when the player is not actually preparing to hit the ball.

• Adhere to the tournament marshals' instructions. When a marshal calls, "Stand please," stop where you are. If the call is "fore please," a golf ball is headed in your direction, so watch out.

• Spectators must remain behind the guide ropes at all times. They may cross fairways only at the direction of the marshals at designated crossovers. Never walk across greens or bunkers.

• Viewers in the front of a gallery should kneel or sit so that people in the rear also can watch the play.

• Galleries should be formed away from private residences which line the fairways. You wouldn't want a bunch of strangers walking through your azaleas, would you?





VERIZON HERITAGE



FILE • The Island Packet

Defending NCAA champion Jonathan Moore earned a pass into this week's Heritage by winning the Players Amateur.

Moore treating Heritage like one of his majors

The Oklahoma State standout and defending NCAA champ is ready to shake the win drought that followed his Players Am victory.

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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He can't draw a paycheck this week, but that doesn't mean reigning Players Amateur champion Jonathan Moore is taking his chance to play the Verizon Heritage lightly.

"It's an important tournament for me," said Moore, who in July shot a blistering 22-under par over 72 holes to win the Players Amateur by one shot. "It's my first PGA Tour event, second pro tournament, so I've been trying to gear up and get ready for this. It's a major to me. There's this, the national championship and the U.S. Amateur — those are kind of my majors."

By that logic, Moore already has a major championship to his credit — he became the seventh freshman to win the individual title at the NCAA Championships in 2006, when he led Oklahoma State to the team crown, as well.

Winners of the Players Amateur, held each summer at Belfair Golf Club. (Note: Tournament winners since 2002 have received an exemption into the Heritage. Aron Price was the first to actually use the exemption.)

2006: Jonathan Moore
2005: Brian Harman
2004: Aron Price
2003: Camilo Villegas
2002: Bill Haas
2001: Michael Sims
2000: Ben Curtis

It has been a wild ride since then for the native of Vancouver, Wash., who followed his strong collegiate season with a solid summer by winning the William Campbell Award for low aggregate score in the Players Amateur, the Northeast Amateur and the Porter Cup.

Moore was picked for the three-man U.S. squad for the World Amateur Team Championships in South Africa in October; he made his U.S. Open debut at Winged Foot in June, shooting rounds of 77 and 78 to miss the cut by six shots; and he played his third U.S. Amateur, where he made the second round of match play.

But after winning the Players Amateur at Belfair, Moore went almost seven months without a victory before winning the Waikoloa Intercollegiate in February in Hawaii.

"It's amazing how your expectations go up," said Moore, who turns 22 on Tuesday. "It hadn't been that long since I had won — six or seven months — but it just felt like a long time."

Particularly so after the way Moore closed the college season last spring, winning his last three tournaments and cruising to a four-shot win in the NCAA Championships.

Moore is familiar with Harbour Town Golf Links. He played in the Junior Heritage four times, including runner-up finishes in 2001 and 2002, and he has been hitting up former Oklahoma State stars David Edwards and Bob Tway — who won the Heritage in 1993 and 1995, respectively — for advice.

FedEx effects still unknown

But Heritage's Wilmot sees little downside to PGA Tour's new points chase

BY JEFF KIDD and JUSTIN JARRETT
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Gentlemen, start your ... er ... drivers?

Benign or boon, Verizon Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmot cannot yet tell, but this week marks the 17th event of the FedEx Cup points race, a new competition the PGA Tour fashioned after NASCAR's Chase for the Championship.

"We're trying to accomplish many different things with the FedEx Cup — a season that ends before football is fully engaged, making the opportunities to play regular tour events more important and attractive," said Henry Hughes, the PGA Tour's senior vice president and chief of operations.

NASCAR implemented its season-ending Chase for the Championship in 2004, in part to maintain fan interest throughout the season and ensure there is indeed a race to the finish for the Nextel Cup series points championship.

"But we have several significant differences," Hughes noted, "the most important being that they have the same field every week. The same cars and same drivers race every week. So our sport is significantly different than that, given the fact that the teams, if you will, compared to different sports are different. We have a different makeup every year."

Under the PGA Tour's system, every player who makes the cut at a tour event receives points. To give majors and other high-profile events more weight, four tiers were established:

- Most events, including the Heritage, will offer 25,000 points, with 4,500 going to the winner.
- World Golf Championships events carry a 5-percent bonus (26,250/4,725).
- The four majors and The Players Championship are worth 10 percent extra (27,500/4,950).
- "Opposite" events that go up against majors or WGC events are halved (12,500/2,250).

At the end of the regular season, the top 144 point winners qualify for the four-event playoffs. Totals are reset, with 100,000 points for first place, 99,000 for second and varying decreases down the line.

Each of the playoff events will distribute 50,000 points, with 9,000 going to the first three winners. After those events, the field will be cut to 30 for the Tour Championship in Atlanta. At the end of the four-tournament series, the points leader will earn $10 million in deferred money.

A week later, everything reverts to the money list.

The top 30 in FedEx Cup points are frozen and will be exempt for next season. The tour will have a new exemption category starting in 2008 that ranks the top 30 from the FedEx Cup standings behind tournament winners and ahead of the top 125 on the money list. Those golfers will be eligible for all invitationals, such as the Heritage, no matter where they finish on the money list.

In addition to the new competition, the PGA Tour also juggled its schedule. The most significant changes include moving the Players Championship from March to May, moving Miami's Doral event into the Players' old slot and making the event a World Golf Championship and moving the Tour Championship to September from its old season-ending spot in November.

THE POINTS

Official PGA Tour events played during the regular season will award 25,000 FedEx Cup points. At the major championships and the Players Championship, 27,500 points will be at stake. At World Golf Championship events, 26,500 points will be distributed. Events played opposite the British Open and WGC events will award 12,500 points.

HOW POINTS ARE DISTRIBUTED

For a typical 25,000-point event, the breakdown is:
First: 4,500 points
Second: 2,700 points
Third: 1,700 points
Fourth: 1,200 points
Fifth: 1,000 points
10th: 675 points
30th: 170 points
70th: 50 points

THE SEASON

The Regular season: Consists of 36 events in 33 weeks from the beginning of January to the middle of August. Players accumulate FedEx Cup points to gain entry and determine their seeding in the next phase.
FedEx Cup playoffs: Consist of four events between late August and mid-September. These four events will determine the FedEx Cup winner. In addition, the top 30 finishers will be guaranteed exemption for the following year. The winner receives a $10 million bonus, and $25 million in additional bonus money will be distributed.
Fall series: Between late September and early November, the fall series will be conducted to determine the next season's eligibility for those who do not finish in the top 30 in the FedEx Cup race. Players will vie for positions 31-125, based upon earnings.

HERITAGE HARBINGER

What these changes mean for the Heritage is unclear.

"It's almost a better question to ask at the end of the year," Wilmot said. "We just don't know what impact, if any, it will have, and I don't think the PGA Tour does, either.

"Our field this season is very strong. I'm not sure the FedEx Cup has anything to do with it. If it does, no (players are) telling me that."

Wilmot doesn't expect the FedEx Cup to hurt the Heritage and believes it could have several positive effects.

For example, the tournament has been played the week after The Masters since 1985 and generally has enjoyed a field with a strong international flavor as golfers traveling from Europe for the season's first major championship extend their stays in the United States. With the Players Championship — which the PGA Tour likes to think of as the game's "fifth major" — moving to May and being replaced by a limited-field event, that might be even more the case now. (Perhaps it's coincidence, but former Masters champion and European Ryder Cup captain Ian Woosnam will make his first Heritage start today.)

Rescheduling also means the PGA Tour stopped in Houston the week before the Masters, instead of in Atlanta. Golfers looking to play consecutive weeks around a major might now be more inclined to play within driving distance after the Masters, rather than board a plane the week before.

But those enhancements would be more the result of schedule changes than the FedEx Cup itself. The more direct potential benefit is that the events the game's top players will care most about are compacted into a shorter time span, perhaps giving them more incentive to play the tournaments in the points series.

"Obviously, it's compressed, and I know I operate better when I have two weeks off," said Rod Pampling, who gave himself two weeks off before defending his title at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March.

However, Pampling said he won't likely have the benefit of another two-week break unless he has clinched a spot in the FedEx Cup series. And if that's the case, he'd rather take some time off before embarking upon what could be four consecutive weeks of golf.

"Hopefully if we can play well, then towards the end of the year before the FedEx Cup actually starts, we can give up one of the tournaments I'd like to play," Pampling said. "That's the hard thing is giving up tournaments you like to play. ... You know, that's the decisions you have to make."

Top American players Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson argued for a shorter schedule before the FedEx Cup was created, and although the PGA Tour hasn't reduced the number of sanctioned events, its advent has the same net effect since no one expects to see much of the game's top players after September's Tour Championship.

Top players weren't the only ones encouraging the PGA Tour to do something about scheduling. Wilmot said that in the mid-1990s, many tournament directors clamored for either a requirement or a PGA Tour-backed incentive that would guarantee exempt golfers play each event at least once every three or four years. The sticking point, PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem has said repeatedly, is that the players are independent contractors, and while it's possible to entice them to play particular events, it's difficult to compel them to do so.

"I think maybe looking back, the FedEx Cup is in response to something that should have been done back then," Wilmot said.

Five-time Heritage champion Davis Love III isn't convinced the FedEx Cup will induce players to participate in tournaments they don't typically play, though.

"It's tempting to play too much," Love told the Associated Press. "But you remind yourself that Jack (Nicklaus), Greg (Norman), Tiger ... they win all their tournaments by playing less. Tim (Finchem) doesn't like that argument, but it's true."

Tim Crosby, director of tournament business affairs for the PGA Tour, said the intent is not to encourage players to play more events, anyway, although he concedes that might be a

Please see FEDEX on 19E

Top earners have seldom played a lot of tournaments

Conventional wisdom is you don't see a lot of big-name golfers at the same tournaments these days because the best golfers make so much money, they tend to play fewer events than their counterparts in the "old days."

That's not necessarily true.

Jack Nicklaus, for example, won eight money titles, all between 1965 and 1976. He never won a title while playing more than 25 events and won five titles when playing fewer than 20. By comparison, only two of Tiger Woods' seven money titles have come in seasons he's played fewer than 20 tournaments.

Tom Watson played 20 events when he won his last title in 1984 and never played more than 24 in a season in which he won the title. By comparison, Vijay Singh played 27 and 29 events, respectively, when he won in 2003 and 2004.

Other interesting notes: The money winners between the years 1998 and 2005 played an average of 22.1 events; the money winners in the preceding eight years played an average of just 20 events. The top 10 money winners in 2006 played an average of 21.4 events, an average that would have been even higher had Woods played more than 15 events. He made the fewest starts of his career, taking nearly two months off to mourn his father's passing.

Jeff Kidd, The Island Packet

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VERIZON HERITAGE

Heritage traces history to game's U.S. roots

From staff reports

The Verizon Heritage may have started in 1969, but its history dates more than 200 years.

In the 1960s, Sea Pines Company founder Charles Fraser claimed to have discovered proof the game's American roots could be traced to South Carolina and Georgia, not in the New York-New Jersey area as some people thought.

"It was the birthplace of golf in this country," contended Fraser, who died in a boating accident in 2002.

Private golf clubs were formed and eventually a public club, the South Carolina Golf Club, was formed in 1786.

Seizing upon that history, Fraser sought to bring a PGA Tour event to Sea Pines, which in turn would bring worldwide exposure for his burgoening development.

So John Gettys Smith, Sea Pines' vice president for public relations, advertising and community development; met with Donald O'Quinn, the vice president for golf operations and Sea Pines resident Bill Dyer, who had previously directed smaller golf tournaments, to discuss putting a tournament together. Smith was the tournament chairman for the first five years, while Fraser served as honorary chairman and O'Quinn vice chairman.

In 1969, it wasn't as hard to find a date on the PGA Tour as it is now. Tournament organizers chose Thanksgiving week, patterning it after the traditional Scottish tournaments.

Because none of the organizers had ever run a major tournament before, they needed help. They called upon Charles Price, a long-time golf writer, to move here from New York and act as a consultant.

"He thought I had lost my mind when I first approached him," Smith said. "He said he had hardly heard of the place. He said he'd be moving to the sticks and the swamps and all that. But we talked and he agreed to come down and he fell in love with the place.

"Because of his reputation — he probably knew more about golf than anybody — he served as a consultant and calmed the fears of the volunteers."

At the time, there were only 400 houses in Sea Pines. Harbour Town Golf Links was not even completely finished.

"Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus, who was a consultant, did a masterful job," Smith said of the course. "They finished it just in time. I think the only people who played the course before the tournament were Pete, Jack and Gary Player, who came here as a guest. They thought it was fantastic. It was built in about a year."

The Harbour Town lighthouse, which has become the tournament's signature landmark, was not finished in time for the first tournament.

"It was built for no other purpose than to be a landmark," Fraser once said. "We wanted to build something that would be easy to photograph or paint or be seen on TV. We struggled to find a design that would be simple."

The Thanksgiving date was after the PGA Tour season had ended and at first Fraser wasn't sure who would want to play in a tournament here.

"We had a good field," he said. "Arnold Palmer was coming, although he hadn't won anything in a long time. And Jack Nicklaus, who with Pete Dye co-designed the course, came, so a lot of other players came, too."

When the struggling Palmer started to turn his game around after two days at Harbour Town, the national media descended upon Hilton Head.

"All the sports writers began charging to Hilton Head Island," Fraser once said. "Dan Jenkins of Sports Illustrated was here, the New York Times was here, AP and UPI. Our little press tent was barely able to handle the surge. But there were stories all over the world Monday about Palmer's victory."

Smith said if Palmer had not won the first Heritage, it might not have become a regular spot on the tour.

"When Palmer was coming down 18 with the lead I was so nervous," Smith recalled. (There) was no star behind him, no one who approached his caliber. I remember standing at the edge of the harbor kicking dirt. Soon after, Charles came out and said, 'Is something wrong?'

"I said, 'Do you have any idea that if he wins what a super story it will be and what will happen if he loses and the winner is not a superstar?'

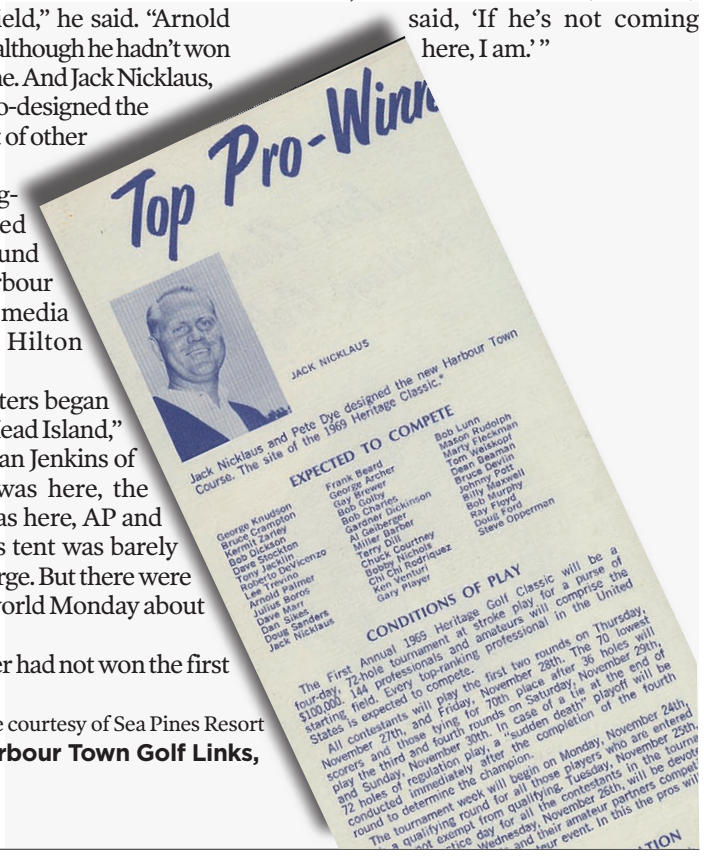
"He just said, 'Oh,' and wandered away."

"Palmer made a putt to take the first Heritage crown and saved us," Smith added.

The tournament really began to take off around 1975 when it was televised, Fraser said.

"TV was the key to widespread knowledge of Hilton Head Island," Fraser said. "There was more purse money and the crowds began to grow larger. The local residents did a superb job with it. The players' families loved coming here.

"In fact, Arnold Palmer's wife (Winifred) said, 'If he's not coming here, I am.'"


Top Pro-Winn

JACK NICKLAUS

Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye designed the new Harbour Town Course. The site of the 1969 Heritage Classic.*

EXPECTED TO COMPETE

George Knudson, Bruce Crampton, Kermit Zarley, Bob Dickson, Dave Stockton, Tony Jacklin, Roberto DeVicenzo, Lee Trevino, Arnold Palmer, Julius Boros, Dave Marr, Dan Sikes, Doug Sanders, Jack Nicklaus, Frank Beard, George Archer, Gay Brewer, Bob Goalby, Bob Charles, Gardner Dickinson, Al Geiberger, Miller Barber, Terry Dill, Chuck Courtney, Bobby Nichols, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Ken Venturi, Gary Player, Bob Lunn, Mason Rudolph, Marty Fleckman, Tom Weiskopf, Dean Refram, Bruce Devlin, John Paul Cain, Billy Casper, Bob Murphy, Ray Floyd, Doug Ford, Steve Opperman

CONDITIONS OF PLAY

The First Annual 1969 Heritage Golf Classic will be a four-day, 72-hole tournament at stroke play for a purse of $100,000. 144 professionals and amateurs will comprise the starting field. Every top-ranking professional in the United States is expected to compete.

All contestants will play the first two rounds on Thursday, November 27th, and Friday, November 28th. The 70 lowest scorers and those tying for 70th place after 36 holes will play the third and fourth rounds on Saturday, November 29th, and Sunday, November 30th. In case of a tie at the end of 72 holes of regulation play, a "sudden death" playoff will be conducted to determine the champion.

The tournament week will begin on Monday, November 24th, round to determine the champion.

a qualifying round for all those players who are entered ort exempt from qualifying. Tuesday, November 25th, the tourna- nice day for all the contestants in the tourn Wednesday, November 26th, will be devot and their amateur partners compet our event. In this the pros wil

TION

Image courtesy of Sea Pines Resort

A brochure touts the first Heritage but doesn't mention Harbour Town Golf Links, which wasn't completed until days before the first round.

HERITAGE RECORDS

BEST 9-HOLE SCORES
Front: 28: Craig Barlow ('03).
Back: 29: Steve Flesch ('01), Chris Perry ('00); Brad Faxon ('97), Jeff Maggert ('06.)

BEST 18-HOLE SCORE (ANY ROUND)
61: David Frost ('94) (second).

BEST 36-HOLE SCORES
129: Jack Nicklaus ('75); Phil Mickelson ('02)

BEST 54-HOLE SCORES
197: Justin Leonard ('02).

BEST 72-HOLE SCORES
265: Loren Roberts ('96).
266: Davis Love III ('98); Hale Irwin ('94).

HIGHEST SCORE BY A WINNER
283: Arnold Palmer ('69).

BIGGEST 36-HOLE LEAD
6: Darren Clarke ('05); Jack Nicklaus ('75); Johnny Miller ('74).

BIGGEST 54-HOLE LEAD
8: Tom Watson ('79).

BEST RECOVERY
After 18: 6 back, Davis Love III ('87).
After 36: 6 back, Bob Goalby ('70); Fuzzy Zoeller ('83); Glen Day ('99).
After 54: 9 back, Stewart Cink ('04).

LOW START BY WINNER
62: Peter Lonard ('05).

HIGH START BY WINNER
74: Bob Goalby ('70).

LOW FINISH BY WINNER
64: Stewart Cink ('04).

HIGH FINISH BY WINNER
74: Arnold Palmer ('69).

LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY
7: Davis Love III ('98).

LOWEST ROUNDS
First: 62, Davis Love III ('02); Peter Lonard ('05).
Second: 61, David Frost ('94).
Third: 62, Gil Morgan ('95).
Fourth: 62, Loren Roberts ('94).

HOLES IN ONE
Blaine McCaister and Jeff Sluman ('96); Gil Morgan ('95); David Edwards ('94); Bob Gilder ('92); Greg Norman ('00); Tom Kite ('81); Lanny Wadkins and Bob Wynn ('79); Johnny Miller ('74); Richard Crawford ('71).

LOW 36-HOLE CUT
142 (even par): 1996, 2001, '02, '03, '06.

HIGH 36-HOLE CUT
152: 1971 (10 over).

LOWEST NUMBER MAKING CUT
70: 1986, '76, '73.

HIGHEST NUMBER MAKING CUT
84: 1998 (at 144).

MOST CUTS MADE
24: Hale Irwin.

MOST CONSECUTIVE CUTS MADE
15: Chip Beck, Peter Jacobsen.

MOST YEARS PLAYED
30: Jay Haas.

MOST CONSECUTIVE YEARS PLAYED
29: Jay Haas.

LONGEST CURRENT CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES STREAK
21: Davis Love III

LAST MONDAY FINISH
1980 (full round), 2001 (playoff)

LAST BACK-TO-BACK WINNER
Davis Love III 1991-92

FIRST-TRY WINNERS
Arnold Palmer ('69); Bob Goalby ('70); Stewart Cink ('00), Jose Coceres ('01), Peter Lonard ('05).

MOST YEARS BETWEEN WINS
21: Hale Irwin ('73 and '94).

OLDEST WINNER
Hale Irwin, 1994, 48 years, 10 months, 14 days.

YOUNGEST WINNER
Davis Love III, 1987, 23 years, 6 days.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS WHO MISSED CUT
Davis Love III ('88 and '93); Greg Norman ('89); Nick Faldo ('85); Tom Watson ('83).

MOST WINS
Davis Love III, 5

BEST FINISH BY AMATEUR
284: Lanny Wadkins, 1970, second place.
283: Ben Crenshaw, 1972, third place.

FEWEST PUTTS, 72 HOLES
92: David Frost ('05) set PGA Tour record, breaking record of 93 putts set by Kenny Knox in 1989 Heritage Classic.

FEWEST PUTTS, 18 HOLES
18: Kenny Knox, 1989, tied PGA Tour record, in first round.

FEWEST PUTTS, 9 HOLES
8: Kenny Knox ('89'), John Inman ('94).

SUDDEN DEATH PLAYOFFS
2004: Stewart Cink defeated Ted Purdy.
2003: Davis Love III defeated Woody Austin.
2001: Jose Coceres defeated Billy Mayfair.
1999: Glen Day defeated Payne Stewart and Jeff Sluman.
1995: Bob Tway defeated Nolan Henke and David Frost.
1990: Payne Stewart defeated Larry Mize, Steve Jones.
1985: Bernhard Langer defeated Bobby Wadkins.
1982: Tom Watson defeated Frank Conner.
1980: Doug Tewell defeated Jerry Pate.

LONGEST PLAYOFF
5 holes: 2004, 2001.

HIGHEST SCORING AVERAGE
73.246: 2005.

LOWEST SCORING AVERAGE
70.621: 2003.

CAREER SCORING AVERAGE
(at least two career appearances)

Player	years	average
Aaron Baddeley	2	68.67
Brad Elder	2	69.25
Ernie Els	8	69.47
Tom Lehman	12	69.54
Stewart Cink	7	69.62
Davis Love III	21	69.65
Mike Sposa	2	69.75
Carlos Franco	3	69.83
Payne Stewart	12	69.95
Phil Mickelson	7	70.07
Jim Furyk	8	70.17

CAREER MONEY LEADERS

Player	Dollars
Davis Love III	2,518,088
Stewart Cink	1,635,644
Jim Furyk	1,089,072
Billy Mayfair	964,878
Aaron Baddeley	954,000
Peter Lonard	947,660
Jose Coceres	900,480
Justin Leonard	785,208
Glen Day	777,063
Ernie Els	772,446

TOP 10 FINISHES
11: Davis Love III
10: Tom Kite
9: Hale Irwin
8: Craig Stadler
7: Gil Morgan, Tom Watson
6: Ernie Els, Bob Murphy, Hal Sutton, Lanny Wadkins
5: Chip Beck, Ray Floyd, David Frost, Mark McCumber, Larry Mize, Greg Norman, Nick Price, Payne Stewart, Tom Weiskopf, Fuzzy Zoeller.

FEDEX

Continued from 18E

byproduct of the new system. Instead, he says, the FedEx Cup is a platform to create greater interest in golf.

"The PGA Tour attracts a loyal, nice audience," Crosby said. "But if it's going to grow, it's going to grow by attracting a more diverse following."

SAME OLD SAME OLD?

Tiger Woods has played the Heritage only once, back in 1999, and in recent years, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh have not played Harbour Town Golf Links, either. Ernie Els and Jim Furyk, though, have been regulars. This season, the tournament field sports 14 of the top 30 money leaders and 11 of the top 30 in the Official World Golf Rankings, down one each from a year ago. However, the Heritage attracted three of the top 10 in the World Rankings, up one from a year ago.

If the Heritage field doesn't improve noticeably because of the FedEx Cup, one possible explanation is that it falls too early in the season.

Even Pampling conceded he's trying not to alter his usual schedule too much, and he's not alone.

"I haven't altered anything," J.B. Holmes said. "I think the only thing it will alter for anyone is when you're coming down to the championships, if you're going to get into the four in a row. If you're not in, maybe you'll play the week before to try to get in, or something like that. It hasn't really changed my schedule. I play the golf courses that I liked and I take a week off when I need to. You can't really schedule it to make somebody play every week because you can't do that out here. You get tired, you're worn out, you're gone all the time — you've got to take a break when your body tells you to or you're going to play worse golf."

Two-time Heritage champion Stewart Cink said his standing in the FedEx race probably wouldn't affect his schedule much.

"It won't until we get to the very end of the season, and then it might, if you're looking to pick up some extra points and vault ahead into the playoffs," Cink said. "We already play what we consider to be our optimum number of tournaments. If I played more, I would be watering it down a little bit, and if I played less, I would be champing at the bit a little bit more to get out there."

A CUP WITH NO BOTTOM?

Crosby is confident the FedEx Cup will be a success for all involved.

"There will be some individual tournaments that will benefit, but overall, it's designed to help make the PGA Tour bigger," Crosby said. "There's not a downside. Ultimately, it will provide more exposure for the PGA Tour, and more exposure for the Verizon Heritage."

However, even Finchem has acknowledged a potential downside to the FedEx Cup Series: European Tour players would be less likely to play in autumn events, since they would essentially be locked out of the end-of-year seeded tournaments.

The tour also will have to work hard to bring FedEx Cup points into common parlance in a sport in which success has long been measured by performance in major championships and standing on the money list. It has started by replacing the money list statistics it provides to the Associated Press with FedEx Cup standings, though that list still shows the amount of money each golfer has earned.

"The reason we can play 19 events for $6 million is because we have a points race, because we've changed the structure of the tour, because we have a new TV contract," Furyk said. "We need to promote that and get the public aware that we're playing for points. But it's going to be difficult. It's going to take awhile for the players to get used to."

PGA Tour sophomore Charley Hoffman also sees a problem with the Fall Series events that will be played after the Tour Championship. Fan interest might fall off severely for those events, which will be played mostly to determine money list exemptions for the following season.

"If you're going to have the Tour Championship when it is, then I think the tour should end then," Hoffman said.

There's also the issue of the formula itself.

NASCAR's Chase was conceived to maintain fan interest by ensuring it was still mathematically possible for the points leader to be overtaken in the final races. However, by allowing only 10 drivers into the chase, the circuit also ran the risk of shutting out popular drivers having an off season, as was the case in 2005, when Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. didn't qualify for the season-ending series. (The system was altered this season to allow 12 drivers to compete for Chase points.)

The PGA Tour won't likely suffer that fate — remember, 144 golfers will qualify for the first of the four-tournament playoffs — but even Crosby expects the system to be tweaked a time or two.

"I would suggest that the FedEx Cup as we know it is probably going to be tweaked," Crosby said. "NASCAR is still tweaking its model; all the points-based systems are still tweaking their models. We've got to see how it works in the real world, and then we can make adjustments."

The Associated Press and the McClatchy-Tribune News Service contributed to this report

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VERIZON HERITAGE TOP FIVE FINISHERS

The top five finishers in the preceding 35 Heritages are as follows:

1969
1. Arnold Palmer 68-71-70-74—283
T2. Bert Yancey 76-69-72-74—286
T2. Rich Crawford 71-69-72-74—286
4. Doug Ford 74-68-75-70—287
5. Homero Blancas 74-69-69-76—288

1970
1. Bob Goalby 74-70-70-66—280
2. a-Lanny Wadkins 63-74-69-68—284
T3. Bob Murphy 75-71-70-70—286
T3. Billy Maxwell 72-73-70-71—286
T3. Arnold Palmer 73-70-72-71—286

1971
1. Hale Irwin 68-73-68-70—279
2. Bob Lunn 71-68-71-70—280
T3. Jack Nicklaus 71-69-71-70—281
T3. Frank Beard 71-69-71-70—281
5. Arnold Palmer 69-74-69-74—286

1972
1. Johnny Miller 71-65-75-70—281
2. Tom Weiskopf 71-73-72-66—282
T3. Lon Hinkle 68-72-72-71—283
T3. Bobby Nichols 70-69-77-67—283
T3. a-Ben Crenshaw 73-72-71-67—283

1973
1. Hale Irwin 69-66-65-72—272
T2. Grier Jones 70-68-71-68—277
T2. Jerry Heard 69-71-67-70—277
4. Jim Weichers 67-73-72-68—280
5. Gary Player 69-72-68-72—281

1974
1. Johnny Miller 67-67-72-70—276
2. Gibby Gilbert 71-71-68-69—279
3. Rich Crawford 7 4-70-66-70—280
4. Tom Kite 73-68-71-69—281
5. Leo Thompson 71-74-67-70—282

1975
1. Jack Nicklaus 66-63-74-68—271
2. Tom Weiskopf 70-65-68-71—274
3. Charles Coody 71-69-74-65—279
4. John Mahaffey 70-70-70-70—280
T5. Bruce Crampton 69-70-71-71—281
T5. Tom Kite 69-68-69-75—281

1976
1. Hubert Green 68-67-66-73—274
2. Jerry McGee 71-69-71-68—279
T3. Hale Irwin 69-67-77-67—280
T3. Gibby Gilbert 68-70-69-73—280
T3. Don January 67-72-74-67—280

1977
1. Graham Marsh 65-72-67-69—273
2. Tom Watson 67-67-66-74—274
3. Ben Crenshaw 66-74-68-68—276
T4. Ray Floyd 72-76-66-72—277
T4. Gene Littler 72-70-70-65—277

1978
1. Hubert Green 70-70-70-67—277
2. Hale Irwin 69-68-73-70—280
T3. Orville Moody 73-70-67-71—281
T3. Larry Nelson 69-68-68-76—281
T5. Mac McLendon 73-72-68-69—282
T5. Graham Marsh 72-71-69-70—282
T5. Alan Tapie 71-69-72-70—282
T5. Craig Stadler 70-70-67-75—282

1979
1. Tom Watson 65-65-69-71—270
2. Ed Sneed 69-69-71-66—275
T3. Mike Morley 69-68-72-70—279
T3. Tom Kite 69-68-71-71—279
T5. Bill Rogers 69-68-72-71—280
T5. Ray Floyd 72-68-69-71—280

1980
1. x-Doug Tewell 69-66-72-73—280
2. Jerry Pate 66-69-73-72—280
T3. Ed Sneed 70-74-70-68—282
T3. Lon Hinkle 68-69-70-70—282
T3. John Mahaffey 68-69-70-75—282
T3. Gary Player 70-71-69-72—282

1981
1. Bill Rogers 71-69-68-70—278
T2. Bruce Devlin 70-71-71-67—279
T2. Craig Stadler 71-70-71-67—279
T2. Hale Irwin 68-70-73-68—279
T2. Gil Morgan 67-72-72-68—279

1982
1. x-Tom Watson 69-68-72-71—280
2. Frank Conner 71-66-70-73—280
3. D.A. Weibring 69-73-70-70—282
T4. Bobby Clampett 70-71-72-70—283
T4. Bob Shearer 69-71-71-72—283
T4. Doug Tewell 68-71-71-73—283

1983
1. Fuzzy Zoeller 67-72-65-71—275
2. Jim Nelford 68-68-70-71—277
T3. Mac O'Grady 68-65-73-73—279
T3. Bob Eastwood 67-67-71-74—279
T5. Hale Irwin 70-66-71-73—280
T5. Mark McCumber 70-69-68-73—280
T5. Craig Stadler 70-71-67-72—280
T5. Tom Kite 75-68-67-70—280
T5. Calvin Peete 72-68-70-70—280
T5. David Graham 70-69-69-72—280

1984
1. Nick Faldo 66-67-68-69—270
2. Tom Kite 68-67-70-66—271
T3. Gil Morgan 64-73-71-66—274
T3. Ronnie Black 69-67-71-67—274
5. Don Pohl 69-67-69-71—276

1985
1. x-Bernhard Langer 68-66-69-70—273
2. Bobby Wadkins 65-68-72-68—273
T3. Hal Sutton 72-67-68-67—274
T3. Tim Norris 70-71-66-67—274
5. Mike Smith 73-67-68-67—275

1986
1. Fuzzy Zoeller 68-68-69-71—276
T2. Roger Maltbie 67-72-69-69—277
T2. Greg Norman 70-68-69-70—277
T2. Chip Beck 70-67-70-70—277
5. Jay Haas 71-70-66-71—278

1987
1. Davis Love III 70-67-67-67—271
2. Steve Jones 67-66-67-72—272
T3. Mark Wiebe 69-67-70-67—273
T3. Gene Sauers 69-67-64-73—273
T5. Howard Twitty 66-69-72-67—274
T5. M. Calcavecchia 66-73-67-68—274
T5. Bob Murphy 69-70-66-69—274

1988
1. Greg Norman 65-69-71-66—271
T2. Gil Morgan 71-64-69-68—272
T2. David Frost 69-64-69-70—272
4. Fred Couples 68-65-68-73—274
T5. David Ogrin 67-69-71-69—276
T5. Paul Azinger 65-70-73-68—276

1989
1. Payne Stewart 65-67-67-69—268
2. Kenny Perry 65-67-70-71—273
T3. Fred Couples 71-72-69-65—274
T3. Bernhard Langer 69-70-67-71—277
T5. Lanny Wadkins 72-69-70-67—278
T5. Craig Stadler 70-70-70-68—278
T5. Kenny Knox 69-70-67-72—278

1990
1. x-Payne Stewart 70-69-66-71—276
2. Larry Mize 71-69-70-66—276
2. Steve Jones 68-73-66-69—276
T4. Steve Pate 67-69-73-68—277
T4. Greg Norman 70-70-67-70—277

1991
1. Davis Love III 65-68-68-70—271
2. Ian Baker-Finch 75-64-65-69—273
3. Lanny Wadkins 68-68-70-68—274
T4. Payne Stewart 68-68-70-69—275
T4. Hale Irwin 70-70-66-69—275
T4. Mark O'Meara 68-69-68-70—275

1992
1. Davis Love III 67-67-67-68—269
2. Chip Beck 69-65-71-68—273
3. Nick Price 71-71-66-66—274
T4. Russ Cochran 70-69-70-66—275
T4. Fuzzy Zoeller 73-67-67-68—275

1993
1. David Edwards 68-66-70-69—273
2. David Frost 67-67-70-71—275
T3. Don Pooley 67-70-70-70—277
T3. Fuzzy Zoeller 70-69-68-70—277
T3. Ian Baker-Finch 68-70-69-70—277
T3. Mark McCumber 68-68-70-71—277
T3. Paul Azinger 70-68-66-73—277

1994
1. Hale Irwin 68-65-65-68—266
2. Greg Norman 67-66-67-68—268
3. Loren Roberts 69-70-68-62—269
T4. David Edwards 70-71-65-64—270
T4. David Frost 70-61-72-67—270
T4. Nolan Henke 69-69-66-66—270

1995
1. x-Bob Tway 67-69-72-67—275
T2. Nolan Henke 66-72-70-67—275
T2. David Frost 71-68-66-70—275
T4. Woody Austin 71-72-69-64—276
T4. Nick Faldo 74-64-70-68—276
T4. Mark McCumber 70-71-64-71—276

1996
1. Loren Roberts 66-69-63-67—265
2. Mark O'Meara 68-69-65-66—268
3. Scott Hoch 71-68-65-66—270
4. Davis Love III 68-68-68-67—271
T5. Nick Price 72-67-69-65—273
T5. Vijay Singh 70-67-69-67—273
T5. Tom Watson 67-67-72-67—273

1997
1. Nick Price 65-69-69-66—269
T2. Brad Faxon 66-69-70-70—275
T2. Jesper Parnevik 72-71-66-66—275
T4. Lennie Clements 67-68-73-70—278
T4. Tom Lehman 66-73-67-72—278
T4. Hal Sutton 67-74-71-66—278

1998
1. Davis Love III 67-68-66-65—266
2. Glen Day 67-67-72-67—273
T3. Phil Mickelson 67-71-65-73—276
T3. Payne Stewart 69-71-64-72—276
5. Fulton Allem 68-71-68-70—277

1999
1. x-Glen Day 70-68-70-66—274
T2. Jeff Sluman 72-67-68-67—274
T2. Payne Stewart 68-64-72-70—274
4. Chris Perry 69-66-68-72—275
T5. Nolan Henke 71-70-65-70—276
T5. John Huston 68-67-69-72—276
T5. Corey Pavin 70-69-68-69—276

2000
1. Stewart Cink 71-68-66-65—270
2. Tom Lehman 70-70-67-65—272
T3. Vijay Singh 70-70-71-64—275
T3. Edward Fryatt 67-74-65-69—275
T3. Dan Forsman 66-71-68-70—275
T3. Larry Mize 73-67-65-70—275
T3. Ernie Els 68-67-66-74—275

2001
1. x-Jose Coceres 68-70-64-71—273
2. Billy Mayfair 65-68-69-71—273
T3. Carl Paulson 71-63-71-69—274
T3. Bernhard Langer 69-69-67-69—274
T3. Scott Verplank 68-67-69-70—274
T3. Vijay Singh 65-68-67-74—274

2002
1. Justin Leonard 67-64-66-73—270
2. Heath Slocum 67-68-66-70—271
3. Phil Mickelson 65-64-72-71—272
4. Bernhard Langer 71-65-68-69—273
T5. Scott Verplank 67-68-72-67—274
T5. Billy Mayfair 65-68-72-69—274
T5. Davis Love III 62-69-72-71—274

2003
1. x-Davis Love III 66-69-69-67—271
2. Woody Austin 68-70-65-68—271
T3. David Gossett 71-67-68-66—272
T3. Geoff Ogilvy 68-67-70-67—272
T3. Chris Riley 69-70-66-67—272
Sutton 67-66-71-68—272

2004
1. x-Stewart Cink 72-69-69-64—274
2. Ted Purdy 69-67-65-73—274
T3. Carl Pettersson 72-71-66-67—276
T.3 Ernie Els 69-70-68-69—276
T.3 Patrick Sheehan 71-66-69-70—276

2005
1. Peter Lonard 62-74-66-75—277
T2. Jim Furyk 71-68-71-69—279
T2. Billy Andrade 72-69-70-68—279
T2. Davis Love III 69-70-69-71—279
T2. Darren Clarke 65-65-73-76—279

2006
1. Aaron Baddeley 66-67-66-70—269
2. Jim Furyk 64-67-68-71—270
T3. Billy Mayfair 65-69-68-69—271
T3. Vaughn Taylor 63-70-72-66—271
T5. Jerry Kelly 68-69-66-70—273
T5. Brett Quitley 68-70-68-67—273

x — won in playoff
a — amateur

Most top 10 finishes: Davis Love III (11); Tom Kite (10); Hale Irwin (9); Craig Stadler (8); Gilm Morgan, Tom Watson (7); Ernie Els, Bob Murphy, Hal Sutton, Lanny Wadkins (6); Chip Beck, Ray Floyd, David Frost, Lanny Wadkins, Larry Mize, Greg Norman, Nick Price, Payne Stewart, Tom Weiskopf, Fuzzy Zoeller (5).

DID YOU KNOW?

• Since the Verizon Heritage first teed off in 1969, every American Ryder Cup golfer has participated in at least one tournament at Harbour Town Golf Links.

• The only major championship winners never to have played the Heritage are **Ian Woosnam** and **Paul Lawrie**. Woosnam makes his Heritage debut in today's opening round.

• Verizon Heritage champions have won a combined 67 major championships and 389 PGA Tour events.

• The Heritage's purse is seven times greater than it was in 1988, and this year's purse is greater than the combined payouts for the tournament's first 19 years.

• **Davis Love III** has won five Heritage titles, more than anyone else. **Hale Irwin** has won three times. Six others have two titles — **Johnny Miller**, **Hubert Green**, **Tom Watson**, **Fuzzy Zoeller**, **Payne Stewart** and **Stewart Cink**.

• **Darren Clarke**, the 2005 runner-up, has dropped the Heritage from this 2007 playing schedule, the first time since 2002 he has not appeared at Harbour Town Golf Links. He has pared back his playing schedule this season to spend more time with his children.



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VERIZON HERITAGE

Tennis great Smith quietly influences island golf, too



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I knew I was in trouble the minute I saw the shoes. My golf partner was playing in a pair that had his name stitched on the sides.

Actually, it was the name of one of his businesses: Stan Smith Events.

Yes, THAT Stan Smith. The Hilton Head Islander who has been synonymous with tennis since winning the U.S. Open in 1971. The one with a signature adidas tennis shoe that's such a piece of Americana it even made it into a rap song. They've sold so many pairs (almost 40 million) that someone who met him recently said, "Oh, you're Stan Smith the shoe."

Let me introduce you to Stan Smith the golfer. That would be Stan Smith, the member of the Heritage Classic Foundation board. Stan Smith, the 2-handicapper. Stan Smith, the one who taught himself to play the game and penciled in a 79 when we played Harbour Town in last month's media day.

Before you mutter something about how life ain't fair, think again.

Hilton Head has long benefited from Smith's quiet moxie.

Smith has been the touring tennis pro for Sea Pines Resort since the year he won that U.S. Open. He was ranked No. 1 in the world that year, and the next, when he won Wimbledon.

He was 24, single, and had worked a deal with Sea Pines founder Charles Fraser that gave him the keys to 706 Schooner Court in Harbour Town.

Today, Smith and Margie, his wife of 33 years, live in a large home in Spanish Wells, where they've raised a family and nurtured roots in a nomadic life. Smith is still the Sea Pines touring pro and top tennis adviser. He conducts clinics, wears the Sea Pines lighthouse logo and talks it up in a who's-who life that still has him on the road half the year.

After linking with Sea Pines, the former NCAA champion from southern California would go on to become an international hall of famer known as much for his sportsmanship and classy demeanor as his 39 singles titles, 61 doubles titles, seven Davis Cup championships and national player development, including coaching an Olympics team.

He immediately gave credibility to a resort that had only six tennis courts but always sought new ways to sell lots and an active lifestyle.



Courtesy The Verizon Heritage

Former U.S. Open and Wimbledon winner Stan Smith, left, chats with PGA Tour golfer John Cook during a 2004 Tartan Club reception during Heritage week. Smith is the touring tennis professional for Sea Pines, and he also serves on the Heritage Classic Foundation board.

"The golf stroke is similar to the tennis swing in that your get coiled, and then you uncoil with your legs, hip, shoulder, arms and racket, or golf club, in that order."
Stan Smith, U.S. Open and Wimbledon winner and 2-handicapper

Somewhere along the way, Sea Pines reached 30 courts, and it hosted more than half a dozen international tennis tournaments, highlighted by 25 years of the Family Circle Magazine Cup at Sea Pines Racquet Club.

And now, as a trustee of the Heritage Classic Foundation, Smith is rewarding his hometown in the other sport that has made it famous. Besides being a part of this week's Verizon Heritage, he's personally hooked on golf.

THE GOLF SWING

Golf, Smith says, is a lot like tennis.

"The golf stroke is similar to the tennis swing in that you get coiled, and then you uncoil with your legs, hip, shoulder, arms and racket, or golf club, in that order," he said.

He takes his driver back slowly, actually stopping the swing a little ways back and then starting again. And when he comes down through the ball, uncoiling his 6-foot-4 frame, it really does look like a tennis serve. It's violent, but smooth. "The arm pronates as you hit the ball, similar to a forehand," he says.

Get it?

"It's just what I figured out," he said. "I tried to figure it out myself."

He's played at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (carrying a Sea Pines bag). His best score is a 66 over the Dye Course at Colleton River Plantation. He's even had an adidas golf shoe named for him, the "Smithsonian."

Golf reminds Smith of tennis because it's an individual challenge, with no coach directing the action.

"You have to figure it out yourself," he said. "You have to be competitive. You have to have confidence in yourself. You can't be afraid to win. In tennis, the great players usually come to the fore at an important time in the match. In golf, you've got so much time between shots it's hard to keep your mind from wandering. But as you strike the ball, you have to be focused. You have to want the pressure on yourself when it counts."

By his stoic demeanor, you'd never know there was any pressure surrounding the little dimpled ball. You might get some dance in the squinting blue eyes, but no high-fives, no groans.

"If I get him lost in the car, that bothers him," Margie Smith said. "But not much bothers him. If he has a couple of bad holes, he forgets it. He's the same way in tennis."

FAMILY TIES

Now Smith wants Margie to play golf.

"It's something he wants us to do as a couple," she said.

She's working hard at it, trying not to be too hard on herself in a new sport. She was captain of her undefeated Princeton tennis team her senior year — the university's first co-ed class. And after taking 20 years off from tennis, she's back to her winning ways with a local league team.

But she said catching a few holes of golf together is attractive to them, in part because it's not Stan's job. If they knock tennis balls around, he's at work.

Margie and Stan have always done everything together. Not from the first time they met — she was a 13-year-old ball girl for him in a tournament. But by the time they got married in 1974, she went right on the pro circuit with him, traveling 45 to 46 weeks a year.

Tennis has always taken Smith to interesting places all over the world. When they decided it was a shame the children couldn't go with him to Japan, the family changed tactics. They all started going on the trips — after Margie became one of the island's earliest home-schooling parents, teaching them until they reached high school. Stan was the P.E. teacher and principal.

Maybe they should be put in charge of the county schools.

Ramsey, their oldest, was valedictorian at Hilton Head Preparatory School. He's assistant men's tennis coach at Duke University, where he got a degree in economics and was two time all-America, three-time all-ACC and two-time ACC Tournament MVP. He was a two-time recipient of the Tennis Magazine/Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award. He's a favorite golf partner for his dad. They play together in the Carlyle Cup alumni match between Duke and the University of North Carolina.

Trevor was salutatorian at Hilton Head Christian Academy, then became a fourth-generation Princeton legacy, where he was tennis team captain, all-Ivy League and winner of the national ITA/Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship. He married his longtime island neighbor, Jordan Ussery, and they live in Boston where he's in the Harvard MBA program. It's funny how things work. Jordan's parents, Johnny and Genie Ussery, met Stan and Margie Smith by chance at a spiritual enrichment program when the Usserys were honeymooning here in 1977.

Daughter Logan graduated from Hilton Head Christian and played tennis one year at the University of Virginia before graduating in 2005.

Austin graduated from Heritage Academy and is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina. She's the only one to earn a full tennis scholarship.

Genie Ussery said the whole family is like Smith.

"They would win tournaments and do great things, but you'd never know it," she said. "They never talked about it. They're extremely competitive, but keep it all in perspective."

A HOME WITH ROOTS

Smith also competes in the business world. He and Billy Stearns co-founded the Smith Stearns Tennis Academy in Sea Pines to train future stars. And Stan Smith Events helps corporations like American Express entertain select clients at sporting venues like the Grand Slam tennis events, the Olympics and the Masters.

And the Smiths compete to improve life in their hometown, though it is almost as quiet as his golf game.

Faith plays a big role in the family. Ramsey Smith said it is the underpinning for the family's values. They're members of Grace Community Church.

Smith and David Ames chaired the committee that raised $6.5 million for the Boys & Girls Club building on the island, where Margie volunteers as a tutor. Smith served on the national board of the Boys & Girls Club of America. He's proud of his roots on the public tennis courts, and knows the power of spending time constructively. Even as a Beta Theta Pi at the University of Southern California, Smith originated his chapter's sponsorship of Big Brothers of America, working with kids in Los Angeles' Watts area in 1966.

It was that kind of thing — not the tennis or golf — that stood out to Genie Ussery when she conspired with David Warren and Margie to put together a DVD of personal photographs in December when Smith turned 60.

Ussery said, "We ended it with that song 'You Can Make a Difference' because we realized that was the big story with him."

As it turns out, it's also a part of the story of Hilton Head.

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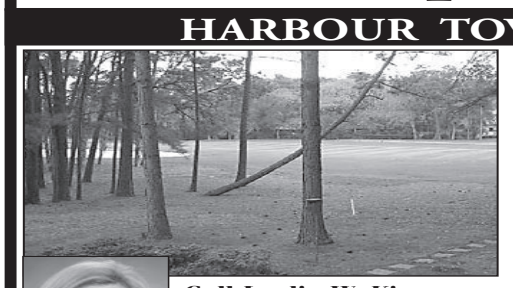


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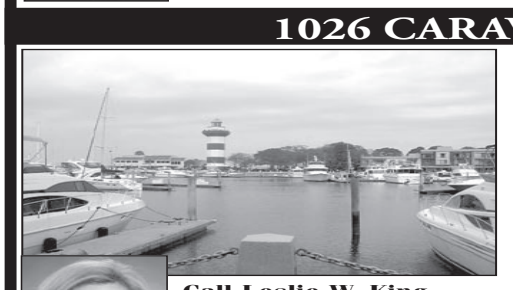




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VERIZON HERITAGE

For club pro, Heritage labor of love

By KATHLYN CLORE
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843-706-8123

He lives on Hilton Head Island with his family, spends hours at the golf course every day, volunteers often and is always happy for a chance to do it all again tomorrow.

No, he's not retired.

John Farrell is in his 16th year as head professional at Harbour Town Golf Links, site of the Verizon Heritage. Ask him to choose a favorite Verizon Heritage week though, and he'll let you know each is like a child — you might appreciate each of your children for a different trait, but you love them all equally.

"There's not one that I enjoyed more than the other," he said. "There are some that have been particularly successful for one reason or the other; maybe because of TV ratings or story line or successful retail sales. Those are things that I look for; we all look for. But the day after the last putt I start looking forward to the next one. It's that much fun to be involved with."

Farrell knows what he was saying about children — he's the seventh of nine. Growing up, his family belonged to a Pittsfield, Mass., golf club and his dad made sure his children respected the game.

"He instilled in us that golf is not a right, it's a privilege," Farrell said.

As one of two PGA advisors serving the Hilton Head Island Junior Golf Association, Farrell works to imbue that kind of respect for the etiquette and history of golf in the next generation of players through various grow-the-game initiatives — starting with his own three children.



"If you're not passionate about it, you won't be successful."

John Farrell,
Harbour Town head pro

Farrell's entire staff is involved in charitable works. First assistant Ben Hoover runs two programs, Hargray's Hooked-on-Golf as well as one called Pro Pals, in which local PGA professionals spend an hour a week teaching children who don't regularly play the game.

"We don't have a single guy on our staff that's not doing some kind of giving back on his own time," Farrell said. "We insist on that."

Hoover has worked at Harbour Town for two years, but will work his fourth Heritage this week. He interned at the Heritage while a student at Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C.

Assistant professionals and between 40-50 college interns help Farrell manage and coordinate retail sales operations as well as driving range and locker room operations during Heritage week.

Most of his time in the weeks leading up to the Heritage is spent tying up loose ends; making sure range balls, air conditioners and other deliveries find their way to the right places.

The unifying factor on Farrell's staff is a passion for the game.

"People think you play golf all day long in this job," he said. "We love to play and that's probably the reason we got into the game, but it's a year-round job. It's not like you can turn it off. If you're not passionate about it, you won't be successful."

Farrell said he knew early on he wanted to make his living in the golf business. He came to the island in 1984 because at the time, it hosted PGA Tour, LPGA and senior tour events. It's a decision he says he's never regretted — even the Monday after the Heritage concludes.

"The week of the tournament is easier," he said. "The week after we've got to pack up tents, truck trailers and scaffolding. And we're open for play. We've got the full fatigue factor, the staff is tired. But I don't have to force anybody to come in. They're happy to be a part of it."



Steve Wilmot didn't ascend to his title entirely by design, but he has seen the Heritage through crisis and overseen the PGA Tour event during a period of rapid growth during his tenure as tournament director.

FILE • The Island Packet

Wilmot hopped around some before making Heritage his warren

Tournament director in his third decade with tour event

By JUSTIN JARRETT
jjarrett@islandpacket.com
843-706-8120

If he had chosen the other path — er, bunny trail — one of the busiest weeks of Steve Wilmot's year would've just wrapped up. As it is, his most hectic time is just beginning.

But it's safe to say the Verizon Heritage tournament director made the right decision two decades ago.

"I was playing Santa Claus at the biggest mall in South Jersey," Wilmot said. "It was either be the Easter Bunny or come down here."

So Wilmot gave up his gig at Cherry Hill Mall and moved to Myrtle Beach to carve out a living in golf. He wound up running tournaments for the Carolinas PGA section, during which time he became acquainted with former Heritage tournament director Mike Stevens and Sea Pines' director of sports Cary Corbitt, who convinced Wilmot to move a bit further south.

What ensued has become one of the longest running jokes in these parts.

"I always tell people I came (to do this) for 10 months, 20 years ago," Wilmot often quips.

When he arrived, the Sea Pines Company was in bad shape financially, and the tournament was in jeopardy. Wilmot helped turn the situation around — Sea Pines was restructured and a separate non-profit entity, the Heritage Classic Foundation, was created to run the event.

The move is still paying off for Wilmot. After 10 years as assistant tournament director under Stevens, Wilmot took the reins in 1997, and the tournament has seen unprecedented growth.

In 1999, a sponsorship survey conducted by the Chicago firm IEG revealed that the Heritage Classic Foundation was short-changing itself on sponsorship dollars. Based on a current Clemson University study analyzing the tournament's economic impact, IEG's report told the foundation to up the ante.

"They found that we had undervalued our sponsorships, and one of the first things I did as tournament director was basically doubled the value of the sponsorships," Wilmot said. "And you know what? Nobody balked."

The tournament's purse has grown for 15 consecutive years, up from $5.3 million to $5.4 million this year with a record $972,000 going to the champion.

As a result of the rapid growth, the Heritage Classic Foundation doled out more than $1.9 million in charitable grants in 2006, bringing the total to nearly $15 million in donations since 1987.

About the only hiccup the tournament has experienced in recent years has been its ever-evolving name, a consequence of corporate overhauls within the title sponsor organization. This keeps Wilmot's closet in limbo as he constantly swaps out clothing with the old logo for duds with the new one. It also supplies him with a joke that's sure to get a laugh ... in the right company, anyway.

"I don't know how many people can say they've had 20 different business cards with the same phone number on all of them," he says. "But we've said before if this is our biggest problem, it's not a bad problem when you know there are some events out on tour that are going away."

Wilmot isn't averse to change. He says he's constantly working to find new ways to market the event and keep the growth curve going upward. Each year brings new lessons, and even after 21 years of putting on the same show, Wilmot says he's not even close to having everything figured out.

"The day I stop learning is the day I need to get out of the business," Wilmot often says. "And I plan on being in the business for a long time."

Long hours in store for superintendent

By KATHLYN CLORE
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Most of the year, Gary Snyder cruises the 20 miles between his home in Rose Hill to Harbour Town Golf Links blaring one of his favorite Sarah Brightman CDs. Then on the way home — he never leaves until he feels the roads will be fairly clear — it might be some 70s rock.

"I turn it on when I'm going on U.S. 278," Snyder said. "I roll up the windows and crank it up and just chill out. I kind of crank it a little big higher because then I just feel it — you can't feel it when it's toned down. So I just don't do that road rage, as you might say, on 278."

The Verizon Heritage amplifies Snyder's workload so much this week, though, the golf course superintendent will likely stay somewhere in Harbour Town to be on the course from about 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Snyder and his well-orchestrated staff of 18 work about 40-50 hours each of 50 weeks out of the year to manage the 6,973-yard course.

The other two — the week before the Verizon Heritage and the week of the tournament — their hours nearly double. So does the staff itself: A variety of additional superintendents, some local and others from out of state, as well as equipment operators, swell Snyder's staff to about 40 during the Heritage.



A variety of workers from other courses swell Snyder's staff to about 40 during Heritage week.

The game plan is set weeks in advance and changes little from year to year. Snyder knows who will hand-rake each bunker, who will mow greens and who will sweep the dew off each fairway before some players even commit to play the Heritage.

He's in touch with agronomists from the PGA Tour throughout the year; he meets with them to determine details such as mowing heights and green speeds. The Poatrivialis used on the greens, a rough-stock bluegrass, can be cut below an eighth of an inch, allowing for greens speeds up to between 10½ and 11 on the Stimpmeter.

Snyder stimps the greens himself during tournament week; each requires individual attention to achieve consistency throughout the entire course. Attaining uniformity in all aspects of the course, for each golfer, is a goal of all tour sites, Snyder said.

Snyder is one of the millions who will tune in to the 12 hours broadcasting Harbour Town; he has taped (now he uses TiVo) each Heritage of which he's been a part.

But the Ohio native — and avid Buckeyes fan — doesn't spend all his waking hours fretting about how Harbour Town looks on television.

When he isn't spending time with his family in Rose Hill — his parents, a married sister and a married daughter all make their homes there, participating in dinner clubs and enjoying life on the equestrian (not golf course) side of the Bluffton-area plantation — he and his wife spend time at their other home in Boone, N.C., or with their five grandchildren.

A youngest grandchild, this one a girl "who can do no wrong," was born April 16, 2006. Snyder isn't entirely sure if this happened before or after Aaron Baddeley banged in a 7-footer on No. 18 for a one-shot victory over Jim Furyk.

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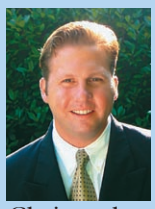
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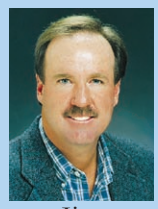
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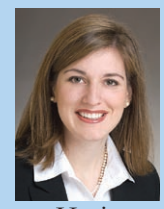

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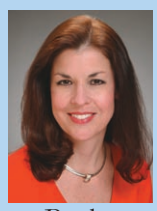
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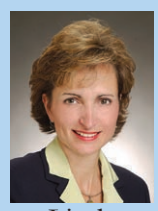

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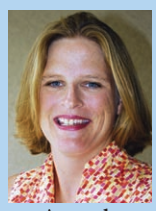

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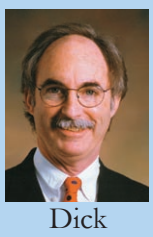

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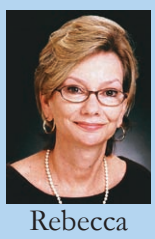

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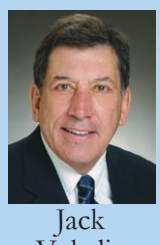

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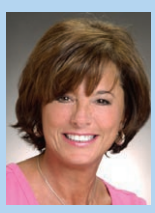

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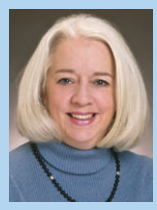

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Service Is More Than a Word... It's A Mission

VERIZON HERITAGE

Heritage helped create area's reputation as golf destination

By JEFF KIDD
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843-706-8121

The Verizon Heritage began in 1969 as a risky venture by Sea Pines president and developer Charles Fraser. Since then, tournament organizers on and near Hilton Head Island have deemed golf a venture worth the risk.

For as the Heritage grew into one of the most venerable events on the PGA Tour, Beaufort County became an alluring venue for big-time events.

"There was nothing down there then. Hell, you'd step on alligators," the late golf writer Charles Price once said. Price worked as an adviser to Fraser and Sea Pines during the first few years of the Heritage. He had his doubts as to whether Fraser's vision of creating a PGA Tour stop to rouse interest in his development would actually work.

But ...

"Golf put Hilton Head Island on the map. Some people said it was tennis, or it was this or that, but it was golf. It made the island just as it made Pinehurst," Price said.

The Heritage also played a role in helping Savannah land the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, a Champions Tour event that moved to its new home on Hutchinson Island from St. Augustine, Fla., in 2003. For the fifth consecutive season, it will be played the week after the Heritage.

The Heritage Foundation had hoped to run a new senior tour event in Savannah. Although the PGA Tour decided to move an existing tournament there instead, Tim Iley, executive director of the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, said the Heritage has lent valuable advice and support.

The Heritage remains the only major professional tournament on Hilton Head Island, but for much of its 35-year run, it has not been the only game in town.

The Champions Tour held an event at Shipyard Plantation in the 1980s, before the original Sea Pines Company brought the Senior International Golf Championship to Harbour Town for a brief stint that ended with Sea Pines' financial woes.

Those troubles also put the Heritage itself in jeopardy. But despite its brief period of insolvency, which ended when the Heritage Classic Foundation was established in the late 1980s as a charitable organization to run the PGA Tour event, the tournament has been a golf magnet for southern Beaufort County.

The PGA Tour held the 1989 Nabisco Championships (now the Tour Championship) at Harbour Town in 1989, two years after the Senior PGA Tour's Hilton Head Seniors International departed.



FILE • The Island Packet

Nancy Lopez tees off during the CPC International, an LPGA event that was held at Moss Creek in the 1980s and one of several pro events to have called the Hilton Head Island area home.

In 1991, the Amoco Centel Open, for pros between the ages of 40 and 50, attracted such notables as Tom Kite, Johnny Miller, Fuzzy Zoeller and six other major championship winners. It was played at Hilton Head National.

Southern Beaufort County also was an annual whistle stop on the LPGA tour. Moss Creek, located just before the bridge connecting Hilton Head Island to the mainland, played host to the CPC International from 1976 to 1983 and again in 1985. The event was discontinued after problems securing a sponsor and a change in the club's ownership.

And Colleton River's Jack Nicklaus Course played host to the Wendy's Three Tour Challenge in 1993. The event pits three-person teams from the PGA Tour, Senior PGA Tour and LPGA in team play competition. (The Senior Tour team of Raymond Floyd, Nicklaus and Chi Chi Rodriguez won the Colleton event.)

Other, smaller professional groups have frequented Beaufort County courses.

The Tear Drop and Tarheel tours and the Carolinas PGA Section have held professional events here. The S.C. Golf Association has held the South Carolina Amateur in southern Beaufort County in 2001 and 2002, events won by former island resident and current PGA Tour player D.J. Trahan.

College, amateur and junior golf also have strong presences. The Palmetto Dunes Collegiate Invitational once brought a top crop of college golfers, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, to Palmetto Dunes and Palmetto Hall until it was discontinued in 2001. Since then, though, the Lonnie Barton Memorial and Wexford Intercollegiate tournaments have brought intercollegiate golf back to the area.

Long Cove Club, like Harbour Town a Pete Dye creation, played host to the 2003 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, the 1991 U.S. Men's Mid-Amateur and the 2005 American Junior Golf Association's Rolex Championship.

The Players Amateur, started in 2000 and now run by the Heritage Classic Foundation, sports one of the strongest fields in amateur golf. Past champions of the Belfair event include Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open winner, and current PGA Tour pros Bill Haas and Camilo Villegas.

Change brings new faces to Heritage, Sea Pines

Simon Fraser replaces his father, Joe, as the Heritage Classic Foundation Board chairman.

By JEFF KIDD
jkidd@islandpacket.com
843-706-8121

New faces abound — and several familiar ones are in new places — as this year's Verizon Heritage tees off.

Among them is Simon Fraser, longtime general counsel for the Heritage Classic Foundation Board. Fraser, the nephew of Sea Pines and Heritage founder Charles Fraser, replaced his father, Joe Fraser, as chairman in September.

Other newcomers include:

• Steve Birdwell, who spent 15 years as Sea Pines' chief financial officer before becoming the company's general manager in November.

• Roy Angell, formerly in charge of the tournament's marshals, who is now the general volunteer chairman.

• Tim Crosby, the PGA Tour's new liaison to the Heritage. He replaces the tour's vice president of tournament business affairs Duke Butler, who announced his resignation earlier this year.

• Becky Carr replaces Ron McMurtrie as title sponsor Verizon's representative on the Heritage Classic Foundation Board.

BETTY'S BEST BUYS

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Blue Heron Point - Boater's delight. Shrimp & crab off floating dock on tidal creek - less than 500 yds. to ICW. Spacious 3 br, 2 ba home on approx. ½ acre. Detached 3 car carport/garage/workshop. Priced below appraisal. **$895,000**

Haig Point on Daufuskie Island -Lovely 3 br, 2 ba stucco home. Acre homesite located on 2nd fwy. Wonderful artist studio could be family/media/biliard room or 2nd master. Spacious rooms w/ high ceilings throughout. 42' screen porch. Great value **$599,999**

Sea Pines ~ All the bells & whistles - Gorgeous renovation. 3 br, 2 ba home views 14th fwy. of Sea Pines CC. New Brazilian cherry floors, kitchen, spectacular master bath w/whirlpool tub & steam shower. SPCC membeiahip included. **Only $595,000**

Villas

North Forest Beach - Breathtaking view of landscaped courtyard, pools and ocean beyond from this gorgeous 2 br, 2 ba 3rd floor furnished Sea Crest villa. Pergo floor and whirlpool tub. 2 outdoor pools plus indoor pool & fitness center. **$1,085,000 F**

Sea Pines - Walk to beach from wonderful 3rd floor 2 br, 2 ba Plantation Club villa, rated premier w/Sea Pines Rental. You'll love this update. Beautifully furnished. Tile through main living areas. New appliances & cabinetry. Pools on site. Golf view. **$494,000 F**

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VERIZON HERITAGE

Heritage purse up another $100,000

From staff reports

The purse for the Verizon Heritage has increased for the 15th consecutive season, to $5.4 million. This year's winner will recieve a $972,000 check. Here are other facts about the purse:

It's lonely (but lucrative) at the top: Last season's winner, Aaron Baddeley, received $954,000, which is $18,000 less than this year's champion will receive. The difference is enough to buy a Aqua & Cognac diamond cluster bracelet on e-Bay or a fully loaded Ford Focus.

Other fabulous parting gifts: the winner also receives a red tartan jacket, one of the more ... er ... distinctive prizes in professional golf.

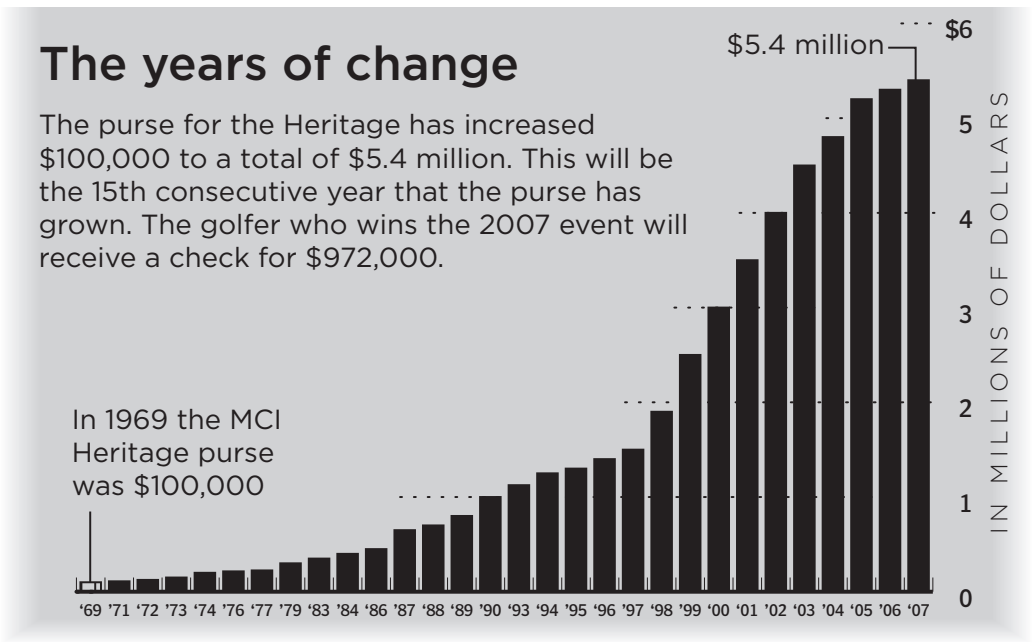
A rising tide: The total increase in prize money is $100,000.

But it's a neap tide: This marks the second consecutive season the purse has risen by $100,000. it rose by the same amount between the 1995 and 1996 tournaments, but the interim was marked by a period of wild growth. In the eight years between 1996 and 2006, the purse rose by at least $300,000 and by an average of $462,000 per year.

What they're saying: "We hope that this increase will once again assure us a quality field of the PGA Tour's top professionals," tournament director Steve Wilmot said when the increase was announced in January. The purse has more than tripled since 1997, when Wilmot was promoted from assistant tournament director.

Back in the old days: The total purse for the Heritage in its first season, 1969, was $100,000. Last season, 16 Heritage golfers earned that much in prize money. This year's winner's check will exceed the total prize money for the first six Heritages combined and will exceed the total purse for each of the first 21 seasons.

The pecking order: Of the 49 official events on the PGA Tour this season, 18 have purses smaller than the Heritage and six also will offer $5.4 million. Of the 18 smaller purses, six are Fall Series events that will be held after the FedEx Cup is decided.



SOURCE: The Heritage Classic Foundation THE ISLAND PACKET



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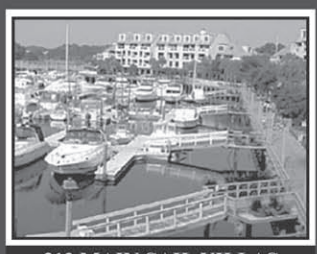
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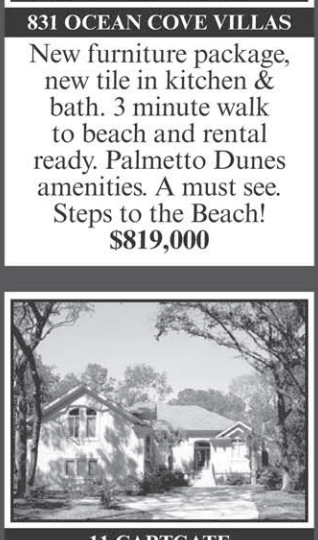

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831 OCEAN COVE VILLAS
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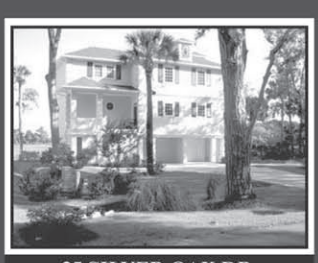

36 STARBOARD TACK
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29 SOUTH BEACH LANE
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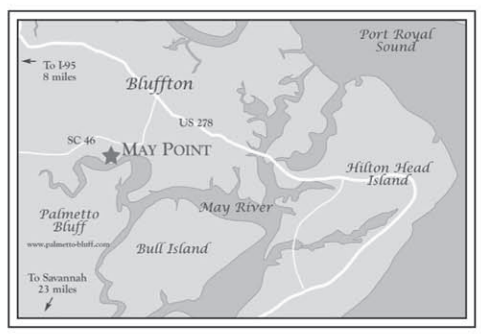
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