

STORMING THE COURSE

CAN LIGHTNING STRIKE TWICE FOR BRIAN GAY?



2009 CHAMPION
BRIAN GAY
67-66-67-64 — 264 **-20**

STORM CHASERS:

BOO WEEKLEY



The pride of Milton, Fla., fell short of a historical Heritage three-peat last year. He's back again, looking to get his game back on track.

DAVIS LOVE III



No golfer has had more success in the Heritage than DL3. He was good enough in 1987, 1991, 1992, 1998 and 2003. Why not 2010?

STEWART CINK



The two-time Heritage champion brings a high profile into this year's tournament, thanks to a major putt at Turnberry.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

TODAY: First round, Harbour Town Golf Links, all day
FRIDAY: Second round, Harbour Town Golf Links, all day
SATURDAY: Third round, Harbour Town Golf Links, all day; Tartan Day judging in the tent by the clubhouse. Fans are encouraged to wear their best Heritage garb, noon-2 p.m.
SUNDAY: Church service at 18th green, 7:30 a.m.; final round, Harbour Town Golf Links, 8:30 a.m.; closing ceremonies at 18th green, after play

TOURNAMENT AT A GLANCE

What: 42nd annual Verizon Heritage
When: April 15-18, 2010
Where: Harbour Town Golf Links, The Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island
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 Calibouge South with view of the marsh and Harbour Town Yacht Basin.
Defending champion: Brian Gay
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

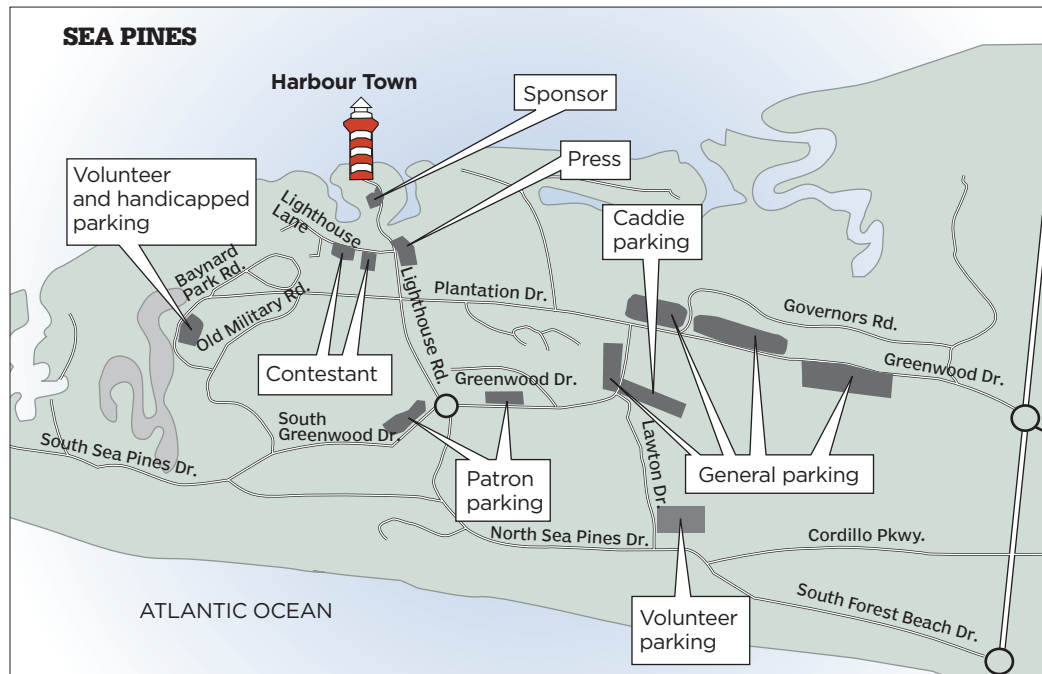
Tway, Loren Roberts, Nick Price, Glen Day, Stewart Cink, Jose Coceres, Justin Leonard, Peter Lonard, Aaron Baddeley, Boo Weekley.
Total prize money: \$5,700,000.
Winner's share: \$1,026,000.
Playoff: If necessary, a sudden-death playoff will be conducted, starting at the 18th hole.
Field: 132 invited players who qualify in at least one of the 22 categories of eligibility.
Title sponsor: Verizon
Tournament director: Steve Wilmot
Director of golf: John Farrell
Course superintendent: Jon Wright
Consultant: Gary Snyder
Live TV: THE GOLF CHANNEL — Thursday: 3-6 p.m.; Friday: 3-6 p.m.; Saturday: 1-2:30 p.m.; Sunday: 1-2:30 p.m.; CBS — Saturday: 3-6 p.m.; Sunday: 3-6 p.m.
Replay: THE GOLF CHANNEL — Thursday: 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Friday: 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Saturday: 9:30-11:30 p.m.; Sunday: 9:30-11:30 p.m.

TOURNAMENT 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
 264: Brian Gay ('09)
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: 7 back, Stewart Cink ('04)
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), Brian Gay ('09)
HIGH FINISH BY WINNER
 75: Peter Lonard ('05)
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY
 10: Brian Gay ('09)

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
 Tommy Armour III and Lee Janzen ('09); Robert Allenby and Ben Curtis ('08); Jerry Kelly ('07); Blaine McCallister 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
 30: Jay Haas
LONGEST CURRENT CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES STREAK
 24: Davis Love III
LAST MONDAY FINISH
 2007

LAST BACK-TO-BACK WINNER
 Boo Weekley, 2007-2008
FIRST-TRY WINNERS
 Arnold Palmer ('69); Bob Goalby ('70); Stewart Cink ('00), Jose Coceres ('01), Peter Lonard ('05), Boo Weekley ('07)
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)
HIGHEST SCORING AVERAGE
 2005: 73.246
LOWEST SCORING AVERAGE
 2003: 70.621



PARKING

As you reach Hilton Head Island on U.S. 278, take the Cross Island Parkway to Sea Pines Resort (a \$1.25 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, security 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 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

Handicap-parking passes will be issued by Sea Pines Security, located on Greenwood Drive in the Community Services Associates building, one mile inside the main gate. To reach the security office, call 671-7170.

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. Find more information online at www.verizonheritage.com.

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.

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. Their use is optional to players. Objects larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches will not be signed.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Leave your cell phones, beepers, radios, signs or banners and coolers at home.

CONCESSION STANDS

They are located near the second green, the eighth green, the 10th fairway, the 13th green, the 15th green, the 17th green and the 18th green. Concessions also are available at the Heritage Pavilion near the clubhouse.

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ON THE RADAR

AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING PERFORMANCE IN '09, ALL EYES ARE ON DEFENDING CHAMPION BRIAN GAY

By BRANDON PARKER

Brian Gay figured he wasn't asking for much, a simple guy living for what seemed like a simple dream of playing at Augusta National. The course's plush greens and royal fairways were laid out not too far down the road from one of his childhood homes in Louisville, Ga., making even the PGA Tour's most cagey club appear within Gay's grasp. And while he was at it, why not satisfy another fantasy of beating Jack Nicklaus? After all, it seemed like every time he turned on the TV to watch the prestigious Masters, there was the Golden Bear, slipping on one of his record six green jackets. Surely he thought about such things as he strolled down the picturesque 18th fairway at Harbour Town Golf Links last April, his lime green pants rippling in the wind and hordes of family members awaiting him next to the waterside green.

No, Nicklaus wasn't one of the many opponents sitting 10 or more shots behind Gay's record-breaking score of 20 under par. But he did outdo his boyhood idol by becoming one of just six golfers since 1970 to register a double-digit win.

And no, the newest jacket in Gay's wardrobe wasn't a green one. Yet as the 38-year-old pointed out to his wife, Kimberly, in defense of his pants selection that Sunday, there actually was a sliver of green lining his newly minted tartan jacket.

Indeed, this was a fitting moment for Gay, whose true colors were finally showing through after enduring an unexpected journey that lasted quite long for a golfer who lives off his short game.

"Sometimes I'll forget about that weekend (at the Heritage) and somebody will remind me and I'll go, 'Wow, I actually won,'" Gay recalled. "It's hard to win a golf tournament on the tour, and to win by 10 strokes, it was just unbelievable."

Granted Gay's debut at the Masters last week didn't go as well, with him missing the cut after carding a 7 over par. But all wasn't lost, as family and friends came in town to celebrate his induction into the University of Florida Hall of Fame.

And to think, all of this for a guy who, following an All-American career with the Gators, had to wait six years to earn his tour card and 293 starts to capture his first win. Naturally, this initial vic-

BRIAN GAY

Height: 5-10 **Weight:** 155
Turned pro: 1994
Birthplace: Fort Worth, Texas
College: Florida
PGA Tour wins: 3



Fast fact: Was inducted into University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame six days ago

tory took place in another country, in Mexico at the Mayakoba Golf Classic, serving as a quiet backdrop for the grander Accenture Match Play Championship that same weekend.

Still, Gay entered that season's final tournament 30th on the money list. That meant he only needed a decent performance at Disney to maintain his spot and earn an automatic trip to the Masters.

Instead, he missed the cut, finishing 31st on the money list by a few thousand dollars and, once again, just short of his dream.

As if it wasn't enough to not have fortune on his side, Gay had to deal with the fact that even though Augusta was within driving distance from his Southeastern home, it wasn't necessarily within driving distance of his game.

"I've always been average to short off the tee, but I've always been straight and had a good short game," Gay said. "But the last four or five years, length has become such a big part of the game that you really have to be on with the short

game and especially the putter on these long golf courses.

"So, it's frustrating at times to play those courses at such a disadvantage. There aren't too many weeks where I feel like everyone has a chance."

Harbour Town Golf Links, meet Brian Gay. Like the Mayakoba Classic, the two seemed made for each other.

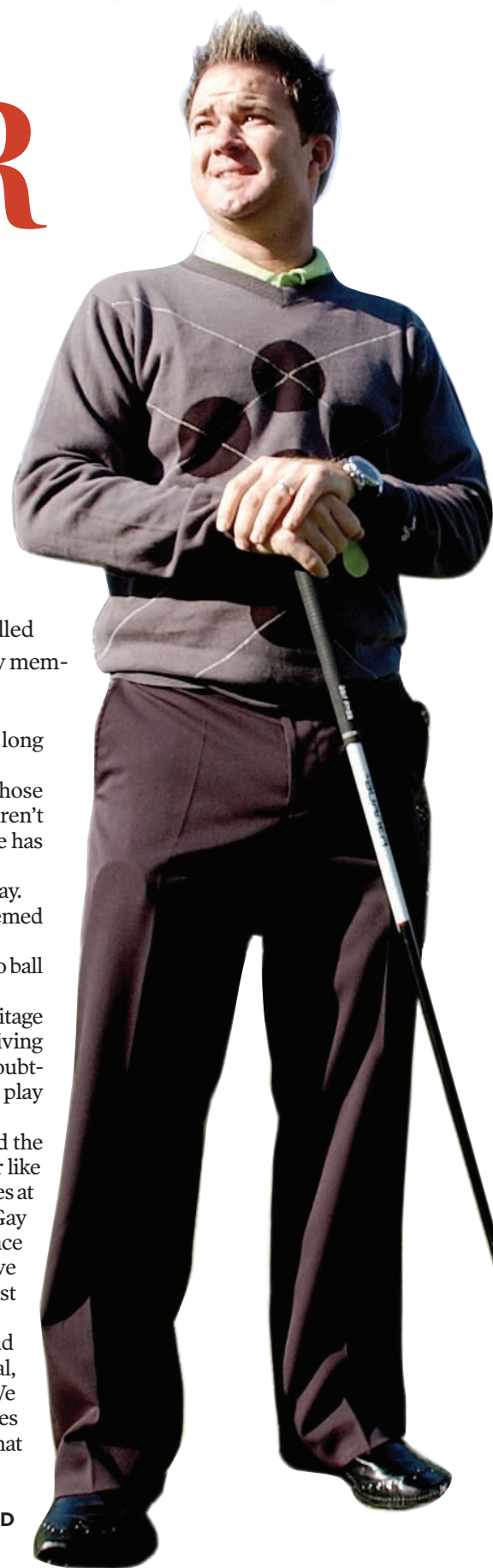
Tight fairways, tiny greens and gracious to ball strikers.

Plus, it probably didn't hurt that the Heritage took place the week after the Masters, giving Gay a chance to scratch that itch he undoubtedly felt watching the world's best golfers play without him on his backyard course.

And he and his family have reciprocated the love that Harbour Town shows for a golfer like Gay. Buoyed by her husband's top-16 finishes at three of the last four Heritages, Kimberly Gay is convinced that the Lowcountry's embrace is why fellow Southern natives Davis Love III and Boo Weekley also earned their first big wins here.

"When you come to a place like this and feel so comfortable and everybody is real, I think it makes a difference," she said. "We love coming back and I think that translates to when (Brian) goes to play and there's that feeling of home."

Please see GAY on 8D



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Staff illustration, The Island Packet

Search for title sponsor continues

By **JOSH McCANN**
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843-706-8145

When they learned Hilton Head Island's marquee sporting event would lose its title sponsor after 2010, organizers of the PGA Tour's Verizon Heritage said they hoped to find a new one before this year's tournament.

With time dwindling until the pros tee off this morning, no new title sponsor is in sight.

Although tournament organizers continue to work closely with the PGA Tour to search for potential replacements, they have "no movement" to report, tournament director Steve Wilmot said.

"There have been hundreds of discussions, but there really haven't been any negotiations," Wilmot said.

As Verizon's final tournament as title sponsor approaches, time is beginning to become an issue, Wilmot said.

Wilmot assured reporters in

March that Hilton Head would host the Heritage in 2011 even if organizers can't find a new title sponsor, although doing so would require significant aid from secondary sponsors, community donors, reserve funds and television contracts.

It would also be hard to rely on such an arrangement long-term, said Simon Fraser, board chairman for the Heritage Classic Foundation, which conducts the tournament.

"We will do what we can for 2011," Fraser said. "After that, it becomes more difficult."

Wilmot plans to speak with PGA Tour officials during the tournament about what might happen if no company emerges to pay the \$7 million to \$8 million necessary to sponsor the Heritage.

Soon after the event, tournament officials plan to negotiate new contracts with the Tour, which has brought an event to Hilton Head for the past 41 years, and the Sea Pines Resort, where the tournament is played on Harbour Town Golf Links.

Although Wilmot has said it would be possible for the tournament to get by temporarily without a title sponsor, he hopes that won't be necessary. Just in case, state lawmakers are considering loaning local officials as much as \$10 million for the event from a reserve fund.

ECONOMY, POLITICS AMONG FACTORS

Fraser said the tournament's quest has been hampered by the recession and a political

climate in which many companies are leery of shelling out large sums to sponsor golf events.

"It's kind of hard to announce sports sponsorships at the same time" as layoffs, Fraser said.

Although anger about companies sponsoring golf events during the recession has waned, "it's still out there," Fraser said. The Heritage also might face competition from other PGA Tour events.

The Wall Street Journal reported in January that 13 of the tour's events don't have a lead corporate sponsor for next year. That figure includes eight events for which the tour hopes to renew an expiring deal with an existing title

Please see SPONSOR on 16D

CAN'T BEAT THE HERITAGE

If one event is synonymous with Hilton Head Island, it's the Verizon Heritage, which is back for a 42nd installment this week. Mere mention of Hilton Head evokes images such as the Harbour Town Lighthouse, the boats lined up on the Calibogue Sound to watch the action on the 18th green and the annual party and fashion show that breaks out on a certain golf course on the island's south end each spring.

So determining the biggest sporting event in Beaufort County doesn't take much time or effort. But we dug around and came up with a few of the top contenders for the No. 2 spot — we'll call them the best of the rest:

• Beaufort County has played host to countless golf events, but most pale in comparison to the Heritage in terms of their impact on the area. Perhaps the lone exception was the 1989 Nabisco Championship. The precursor to Tour Championship, the Nabisco brought all the top golfers to Harbour Town for a second time that year, and Tom Kite beat Payne Stewart in a playoff to earn a \$450,000 payday.

• Before moving to Charleston (and with the exception of 1975 and 1976, when it was played in Amelia Island, Fla.) the Family Circle Cup WTA event called Hilton Head Island home. Played in Sea Pines Plantation, the Family Circle Cup boasts a champions list that includes tennis legends such as Chris Evert, Tracy Austin, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf, Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Hingis.

• For the better part of the 1980s, the Bud Light United States Triathlon Series held its national championship on Hilton Head Island. Nearly 2,000 triathletes raced across land and sea for the annual event.

• The Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament brought its national championship to Hilton Head Island in 2003, attracting hundreds of participants and creating an estimated \$131,400 economic benefit for the town. Hurricane threats forced the tournament to be rescheduled in 2004, and the event did not return in 2005.

• Two years ago, Bluffton's Oscar J. Frazier Park was the site of the Dixie Junior Boys World Series, where state champions from 11 states throughout the Southeast duked it out on the diamond, bringing big crowds with them.

• The National Senior Windsurfing Championships were held at Palmetto Dunes Resort for a number of years beginning in the late-1980s.



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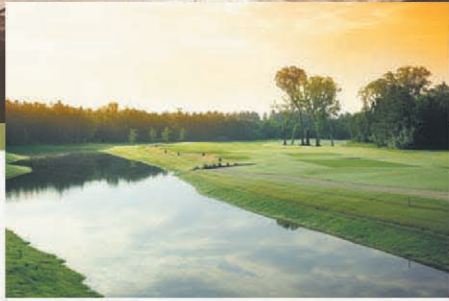
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PALMETTO PRIDE

TEN GOLFERS IN HERITAGE FIELD HAVE SOUTH CAROLINA TIES

By JUSTIN JARRETT
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843-706-8120

As the only annual PGA Tour event in South Carolina, it's common for golfers from the Palmetto State to refer to the Verizon Heritage as a "home game."

But competition for the home-course advantage keeps getting stiffer.

South Carolina golfers had a banner year in 2009, highlighted by Greenville native Lucas Glover's U.S. Open title at Bethpage Black, and players with deep Palmetto State roots have already won twice in 2010, proving the state's mark on professional golf won't soon fade.

"The whole state is pretty big into golf," said Bill Haas, who earned his first PGA Tour victory at the Bob Hope Classic in January. "I'm proud to tell everyone how many players are from here."

Indeed, the 2009 PGA Tour money list was littered with players who were raised in South Carolina or played their collegiate golf here. Six players with strong ties to the state finished among the top 87 on the money list last year, and three of them are among the top 31 so far this year.

The state's golf roots run deep, all the way down to the S.C. Junior Golf Association, which proved to be a capable training ground for players such as Glover, Haas, Jonathan Byrd, Dustin Johnson and D.J. Trahan, all of whom have PGA Tour victories to their credit.

"For me, that's where it all started," Haas said in a conference call after his win at the Bob Hope Classic. "I think you can give a lot of credit to S.C. junior golf. They run their tournaments right, make it competitive while it's fun. When you win the state junior, it's a big deal and not just another notch on your belt."

Growing up in Greenville, Haas didn't start playing national events until his senior year in high school, but he faced plenty of stiff competition before then, recalling that Glover was "the guy to beat" in state events.

After "hitting the wall" in 2008, Glover took some extended time off at the end of the year and came back with a career year in 2009. Propelled by the U.S. Open victory — the first men's major championship by a South Carolina native — the Greenville native and former Clemson star finished ninth on the money list and jumped into the top 20 in the Official World Golf Rankings.

The win at Bethpage Black, Glover's first victory since 2005, made him a household name among golf fans. But Glover made it clear he's not content to coast off the momentum generated by his U.S. Open title.

"I don't want to fizzle out after two wins or after one big win," Glover said the week after

winning the U.S. Open. "I want to use that as motivation to keep getting better and back in that situation. I'm not planning on winning five majors in the next four years; I'm planning on getting back into contention. And to do that, I'm going to have to keep working, because everybody else is."

Even if Glover doesn't repeat as U.S. Open champ, it's not too far-fetched to think the Palmetto State could reign again.

This year's U.S. Open makes its way to Pebble Beach Golf Links, where Johnson, a Columbia native and former Coastal Carolina star, repeated as champion of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in February.

Although he concedes Pebble Beach will be "a totally different course" for the U.S. Open, Johnson will be among the favorites, and with one PGA Tour victory in each of his first three seasons as a professional, Johnson appears poised to make a major breakthrough.

"As long as I keep playing the way I'm playing, I don't think there's anything I can't do," Johnson said after his second victory at Pebble Beach. "It's all up to me. You know, I've got to keep working hard and keep practicing hard, and good things will come."

The good things have come often for Johnson this year; he already has four top-25 finishes, including the win at Pebble Beach, and ranks sixth on the money list.

Among the South Carolina natives who are full-time PGA Tour players, Johnson is the only one who is not in this week's field.

Haas is also off to the best start of his career, ranking 12th on the money list after top-25 finishes in four of his first eight events and a tie for 26th last week at the Masters.

After 13 top-10 finishes in his first six years as a pro (four of them as a full-time PGA Tour member), Haas is in the midst of a breakout year. He picked up his first professional victory in January at the Bob Hope Classic, making him and his father, Jay Haas, the eighth father-son duo to win PGA Tour events.

The fact he earned that distinction at a tournament his father also won during his career added another layer of significance to the milestone.

"That was special," Bill Haas said. "It will be something we can look back years to come and both of our names will be on the list of past champions there, so that's pretty neat. I wouldn't have cared if that win came anywhere, whether he had won it or not, but I think that does make it a little more special."

For one of these guys to become the first South Carolina native to win a "home game" at Harbour Town, well, that would be pretty special, too.

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVES WERE RESTLESS IN 2009

Six players with South Carolina ties finished among the top 87 players on the PGA Tour money list in 2009, led by Palmetto State natives Lucas Glover and Dustin Johnson, who finished among the top 15 and combined to earn more than \$6.5 million last year.

	*Money list rank	*2009 earnings
Lucas Glover	9	\$3,692,580
Dustin Johnson	15	\$2,977,901
Bill Haas	61	\$1,425,418
Brett Quigley	62	\$1,412,780
Jonathan Byrd	67	\$1,316,771
D.J. Trahan	87	\$1,078,256

*Based on 2009 PGA Tour money list

MARK ANDERSON

Height: 6-1 Weight: 180
Turned pro: 2009
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: MC (2009)
Palmetto roots: Beaufort resident, played at University of South Carolina



KEVIN JOHNSON

Height: 6-0 Weight: 200
Turned pro: 1989
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: MC (2001)
Palmetto roots: Played at Clemson



JONATHAN BYRD

Height: 5-9 Weight: 165
Turned pro: 2000
PGA Tour wins: 3
Best Heritage finish: T16 (2004)
Palmetto roots: Anderson native, played at Clemson



BRETT QUIGLEY

Height: 5-11 Weight: 160
Turned pro: 1991
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: T5 (2006)
Palmetto roots: Played at University of South Carolina



BRENT DELAHOSSAYE

Height: 5-7 Weight: 155
Turned pro: 2005
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: First Heritage
Palmetto roots: Greenville resident, played at Clemson



SAM SAUNDERS

Height: 6-0 Weight: 200
Turned pro: 2009
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: First Heritage
Palmetto roots: Played at Clemson



LUCAS GLOVER

Height: 6-2 Weight: 195
Turned pro: 2001
PGA Tour wins: 2
Best Heritage finish: T7 (2008)
Palmetto roots: Greenville native/resident, played at Clemson



D.J. TRAHAN

Height: 6-3 Weight: 185
Turned pro: 2003
PGA Tour wins: 2
Best Heritage finish: T17 (2008)
Palmetto roots: Mount Pleasant resident, played at Clemson



BILL HAAS

Height: 6-2 Weight: 185
Turned pro: 2004
PGA Tour wins: 1
Best Heritage finish: T27 (2006)
Palmetto roots: Greenville native/resident



CHARLES WARREN

Height: 5-8 Weight: 160
Turned pro: 1998
PGA Tour wins: 0
Best Heritage finish: T44 (2007)
Palmetto roots: Columbia native, played at Clemson



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WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

Tournament director Steve Wilmot gives golfers a shot at the big money with exemptions.

It's among the toughest jobs Steve Wilmot has as tournament director of the Verizon Heritage, and no, I'm not talking about finding a new sponsor for the island's signature PGA Tour event. That task is far more a mission than a job these days.

Rather, I'm talking about choosing the players who will receive sponsor exemptions from among nearly 100 talented golfers, an annual task that can keep Wilmot up at night and left to make a lot of uncomfortable phone calls during the day as March begins to turn to April.

Every year Wilmot receives enough formal request letters to fill a three-ringed binder for one of the eight "free" spots, enough to cause plenty of pause as he and other advisers decide who gets the exemptions.

The requests come from young players looking to break through, longtime veterans looking to rediscover their game and even local players just seeking to make a name. They all come to Wilmot, who for the weeks leading up to the event, is certainly Johnny on the spot.

"It's a very tough decision when it comes down to it," Wilmot said recently as he tossed around who would round out the 2010 Heritage field. "If you think about it, I'm giving someone a chance to get hot for four days and earn a million bucks. It's something I've always taken very seriously."

While Wilmot is certainly the central figure in doling out Heritage exemptions, a number of the eight are already promised by sponsors and previous Heritage Classic Foundation commitments. As sponsor of the tournament, Verizon gets to choose two players it would like to see among the field of 132 professional golfers



JAMES McMAHON
jmcMahon@golfersguide.com

that will tee it up this week at Harbour Town Golf Links.

This year, Verizon's last go-round as Heritage sponsor, the powers that be tapped veterans Chris DiMarco and Rocco Mediate, a pair of players who have claimed as much notoriety for battling Tiger in a major championship than actually winning one. Those popular selections, however, are typical of the goals sponsors seek with their selections as they look for popular veterans who might drive the gate and have paid their dues through years of supporting the PGA Tour and the companies that support it.

"As part of the deal the sponsor gets two picks but we've always been able to steer them toward players that we probably would have extended invitations to," Wilmot said. "They always pick players that help the tournament and are good for the event."

From the remaining six exemptions, one is always allocated to the winner of the Players Amateur that is held each summer at Belfair Golf Club and is sponsored by the Heritage Classic Foundation. Although it goes to an amateur, the spot has not been wasted by any stretch. Former Players winners are headlined by major champion Ben Curtis and other impressive players such as Camillo Villegas, Bill Haas and rising star Rickie Fowler.

This year, 2009 Players Am champion Bud Cauley, a sophomore sensation at the University of Alabama, will play on that exemption. Cauley is choosing to play in the Heritage although it is

opposite the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship; a difficult decision, albeit one that that shouldn't surprise anyone who knows what one good week on the PGA Tour can mean for a young golfer.

"He earned it and he has chosen to accept it," Wilmot said of the exemption for Cauley. "He's worked hard and this is a great opportunity for him."

That same significant opportunity is afforded to five other players each year who look to turn good fortune delivered by Wilmot into a small fortune by the end of Heritage week. While there are other restrictions placed on the remainder of the exemptions Wilmot can give out, including two that must go to partial qualifiers from Q-School or the Nationwide Tour, the truly difficult decisions come from the final three or four spots that must be filled.

Wilmot and those with whom he huddles consider myriad factors when looking at who will get inclusion in the tournament, including past exemptions, current state of their game, level of previous involvement with the tournament and local ties to the region and state.

In the past, the Heritage has been generous in providing exemptions to former Clemson and South Carolina players as well as professionals with ties to the local area.

That theme is in place this year as Clemson graduates Charles Warren and Kevin Johnson and South Carolina graduate Mark Anderson, the 2008 Players Am champion, will be included among the field that tees it up today.

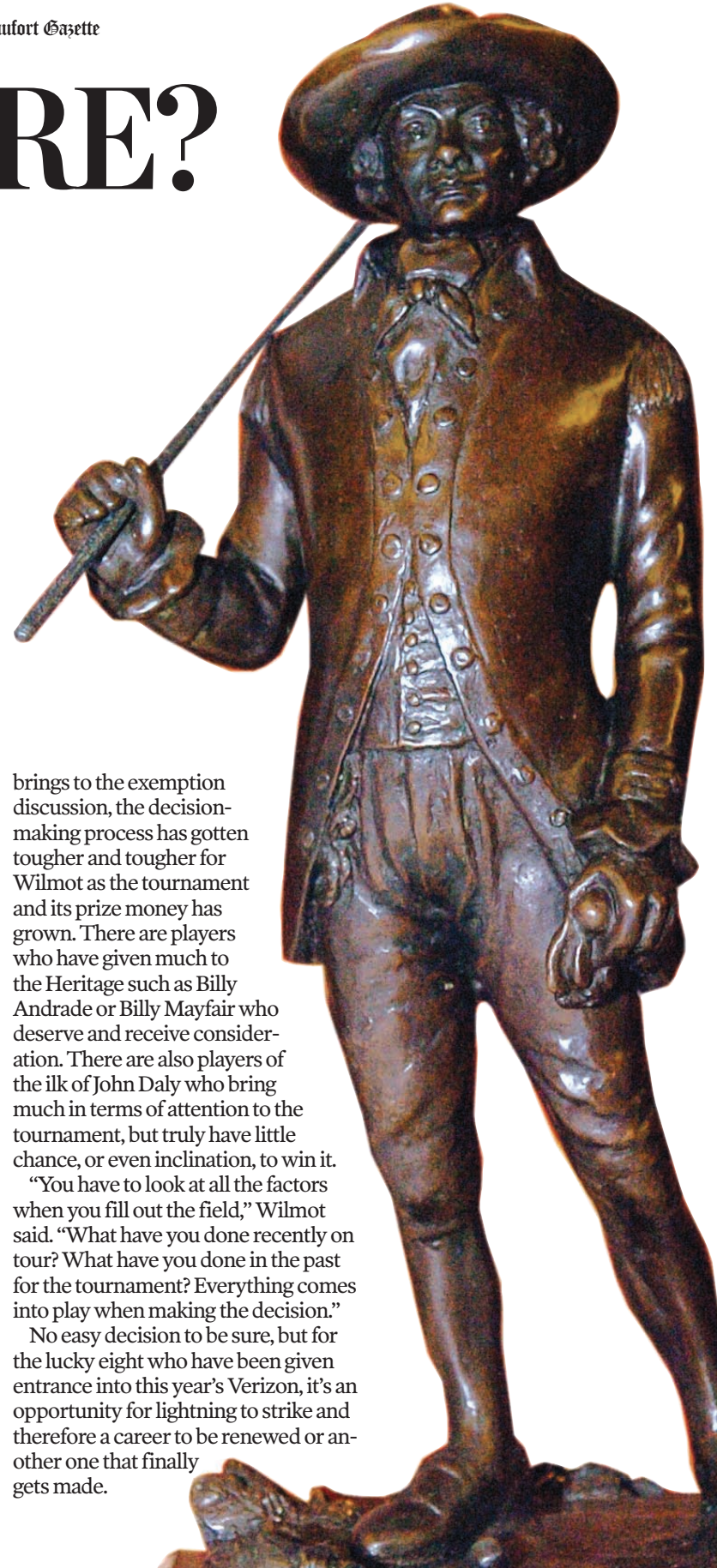
"Having so many players that have local or state ties to the event certainly makes that part of the process," Wilmot said. "We certainly look at the Clemson and USC ties because that brings a lot of regional interest to the tournament. And, of course, those guys can play."

Bottom line, no matter the ties, justifications or reasoning that any player

brings to the exemption discussion, the decision-making process has gotten tougher and tougher for Wilmot as the tournament and its prize money has grown. There are players who have given much to the Heritage such as Billy Andrade or Billy Mayfair who deserve and receive consideration. There are also players of the ilk of John Daly who bring much in terms of attention to the tournament, but truly have little chance, or even inclination, to win it.

"You have to look at all the factors when you fill out the field," Wilmot said. "What have you done recently on tour? What have you done in the past for the tournament? Everything comes into play when making the decision."

No easy decision to be sure, but for the lucky eight who have been given entrance into this year's Verizon, it's an opportunity for lightning to strike and therefore a career to be renewed or another one that finally gets made.

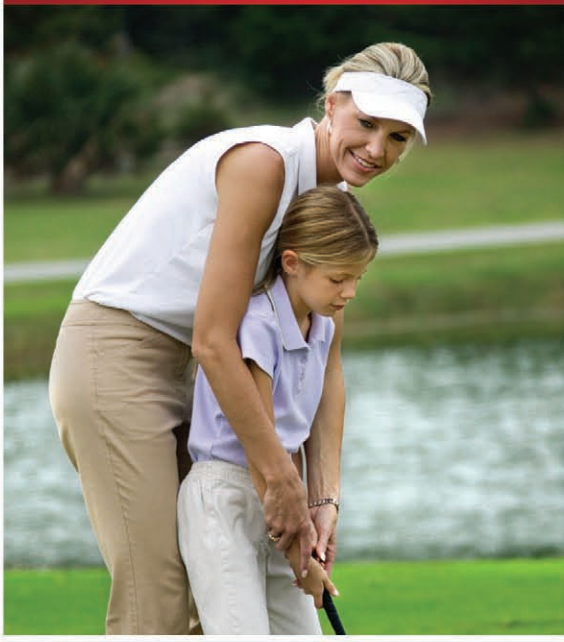


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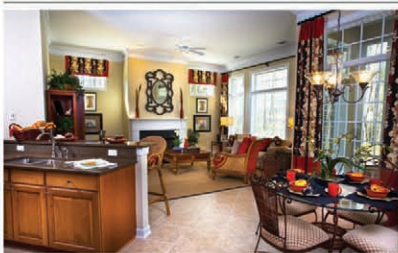


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Heritage purse not increasing for first time in 17 years

By STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8182

Sergio Garcia announced April 2 he would play the Verizon Heritage — good news for tournament director Steve Wilmot and his staff. The phone rang more often with each big name to commit, and the ticket sales, potential for concession sales, secondary sponsorships and chance of landing a title sponsor for 2011 increased.

Tournament officials will look for more help than player commitments — warm weather would help drive beverage sales, for instance. They will hope for every possible revenue-driving scenario this week.

The tournament is concerned with its bottom line. And its bottom line determines how much the Heritage Classic Foundation donates to various area charitable organizations.

In 2009, the foundation gave \$1.3 million, down a half million dollars from 2008. The tournament received

“Whether it was \$50,000 or a couple hundred thousand it saved us, it helped us. It also sent a message to the fact that we’re sensitive to the economic plight out there and the tour is”

Steve Wilmot, Verizon Heritage tournament director

a boost when the PGA Tour relaxed its contractual requirement that the Heritage raise its purse this year to \$6 million. The purse will remain \$5.7 million, holding steady after increasing 17 consecutive years.

“Whether it was \$50,000 or a couple hundred thousand it saved us, it helped us,” Wilmot said. “It also sent a message to the fact that we’re sensitive to the economic plight out there and the tour is.”

The Heritage’s contract with the tour required it raise its purse each year. Since Wilmot began as tournament director in 1997, the purse has risen more than \$4 million.

Television contracts cover 64 percent of the purse. The Heritage funds the rest.

According to its Web site, the Heritage Classic Foundation needed to tap reserve funds to distribute the \$1.3 million in 2009.

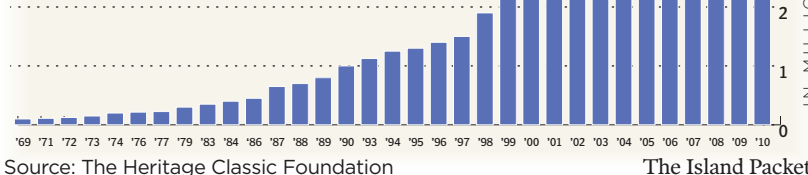
Grant recipients include various area arts organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, museums and health agencies.

The foundation, a nonprofit organization, was formed in 1986 as the tournament’s general sponsor. Through 2009, the organization had given almost \$20 million to area organizations.

The success of the 2010 giving de-

PURSE REMAINS AT \$5.7 MILLION

For 17 consecutive years, the purse for the Verizon Heritage was increased. This year however, the 2010 purse will remain at \$5.7 million, the tournament’s high. The golfer who wins will receive a check for \$1.026 million.



Source: The Heritage Classic Foundation

The Island Packet

pends on the secondary sponsorships, ticket and concession sales and the weather, Wilmot said.

Verizon, which will not return as title sponsor after its contract expires in December, picks up the tab for much of the purse not covered by television contracts.

For the grants to continue in 2011,

“a lot of stars have to align,” Wilmot said.

“That’s why, more than ever, we hope people are watching and see the great field we have...”

“Our plan and intention is to have an event next year. And we’re going to do everything in our power to make sure that happens.”

GAY

Continued from 3D

But even she was caught off guard when their Hilton Head “family,” from the resort massage therapist to a salesperson, plainly told Kimberly that 2009 was her husband’s time at Harbour Town.

“I just kind of laughed it off and said ‘OK, thanks,’” she recalled. “But then everything started coming together and by Saturday, I started feeling really good. And usually I don’t. Nothing personal (against Brian); that’s just golf. You lose much more than you win.”

And as the one constant amidst her husband’s capricious career in golf, she would know. If indeed opposites attract, the Gays are a sound case study. Never mind the extroverted boldness running through Kimberly’s Florida State blood versus the quiet, ho-hum ways that Brian possessed well before his days as a Florida Gator. It’s the Gays who paint the tour’s picture-perfect unit, turning almost every one of Brian’s tournaments into a family affair.

So was the case at last week’s Masters. Tuesday saw daughters Makinley and Brantley caddy for their father in the par-3 contest. Then, during Friday’s second round, most of the gallery following Brian was sporting Gator orange and blue, thanks to arrangements made by Kimberly to mark her husband’s Hall of Fame induction and celebration that night. Such scenes are rare ones among pro golfers, but it’s really all this couple knows.

Mind you, Kimberly spent the day after their engagement cheering Brian on at the 1996 U.S. Open. And, not too long after they got married, she once caddied for him at a tournament in Asia.

Yet, for as tough as Brian’s ascent into golf’s contenders was — “You appreciate the journey, but you’re not always happy,” Kimberly admits. “You’re not always happy at all.” — juggling the life of three-time winner Brian Gay has proved just as daunting for this family.

That’s because the guy with the spiky hair, cool shades and sometimes-eccentric wardrobe is now a celebrity, typified

OUT OF THE BLUE

Defending champion Brian Gay has played the Heritage 10 times.

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	Finish
2000	76	76	--	--	152	CUT
2001	67	71	72	71	281	T42
2002	75	71	--	--	146	CUT
2003	70	74	--	--	144	CUT
2004	77	71	--	--	148	CUT
2005	76	78	--	--	154	CUT
2006	66	67	73	70	276	T9
2007	70	70	67	73	280	T16
2008	71	73	--	--	144	CUT
2009	67	66	67	64	264	1st



by constant autograph requests, piles of mail and a whirlwind schedule.

“As a kid, I never thought about being famous or for people to know me,” Brian Gay said. “I just wanted to beat Jack Nicklaus when I was a little boy.”

Added Kimberly: “It’s busy, busy, and I think that’s the part we didn’t anticipate. But it’s adapting and changing toward that because we’re so used to being under the radar. We knew this was our dream ... and now our kids have a very full life, at home and on the road. We do whatever we have to do to give (Brian) a sense of normalcy. Our biggest challenge is to keep our children grounded in such a privileged life.”

And in a sense, by growing up on the golf course, Makinley and Brantley are simply following in their father’s footsteps. With the military duties of Brian’s own dad plopping him next to a golf course in Fort Rucker, Ala., Brian spent many days challenging himself and his friends to chip-in and putting contests on the course’s several practice areas.

Time after time, shot for shot, Gay would empty a bag of 100 golf balls from a tee sitting 80 yards off the green, perfecting a rhythm that explains his current top 10 rankings in driving accuracy

and putting average, respectively, on the tour.

“We’d play games with each other and take so many wedge shots,” Gay fondly recalled, “and I think that’s what made a big difference.”

Soon, Gay started receiving invitations to play with the course’s older patrons, commencing his continued reliance on a spot-on short game and targeted putting skills.

“When I was 11 years old, a guy would out-drive me by 30 yards and I may not be able to reach the green in two (shots),” Gay said with a grin. “Then I would pitch it up there and make the putt and we’d be tied. It always felt harder for me, but that was kind of my game.”

Hard as it was — and sometimes still is — Gay’s approach has more than “kind of worked.” The short game might be his specialty, but shortcuts aren’t his style. That’s why Gay refused to satisfy his dream of playing at Augusta National through a friendly round with his buddies. He wanted to earn his way on to the course. And after 16 hard-fought years, that invitation appeared Christmas morning on his dining room table.

It’s this quiet confidence that also allowed Gay to follow up a Heritage performance that featured a record-low three bogeys with a win at the St. Jude Classic five weeks later, proving that he’s no one-hit wonder.

Still, catching the field by surprise is no longer an option. Beginning today, all eyes are on Gay to see if his return to Harbour Town will once again feature a stay atop the leaderboard.

“Defending champ is a bittersweet place to be. When we went back to Mexico (in 2009) after Brian won, it was tough,” Kimberly said. “It’s about all those memories that go into it. It’s humbling and you also wonder, ‘Oh my gosh, could this ever happen again?’”

Essentially, that’s the beauty and curse of the chase. For so long, Gay fought to prove that he belonged in a game that he seemed too conservative for and on a course that he had connected with well before he stepped on the amateur circuit. Now that he has, the expectations are chasing him.

TIDBITS FOR TOURISTS: HOW TO GET AROUND THE HERITAGE

Welcome back to the Lowcountry, golf fans, tourists, citizens of Ohio and people whose vacation wardrobe appears to consist solely of floral-print short-sleeve button-up shirts and khakis! This is Heritage Week, when the island opens its arms to you and your spendiness, when grown men go in search of tartan and when security in Sea Pines goes from normal levels to something you might expect where Iron Man lives. We locals always love this week, mostly because we never get tired of watching your habitual misunderstanding of our bizarre traffic patterns, but in the interest of easing your adjustment, please enjoy these free tips for getting around during the Heritage:

1. Yes, we know about the traffic: That got a little bit away from us. There’s basically one road, and it will certainly be clogged this week. If you have a 6 p.m. dinner reservation tonight, you are already pathetically late. Next year, bring jet packs.

2. There are no streetlights: This was a decision made by planners long ago in order to maximize the number of people driving slowly looking for restaurant signs, because planners long ago were totally hilarious. More importantly, it keeps it pretty, and lets all the snakes crawl around unchecked in peace.

3. Traffic circles: Really, not that hard. The right lane is for turning right. The other lane is for everything else. And if you cut over from the right lane into the left lane at any point, our town charter allows us to coat your vehicle in several bags of condensed milk.

4. The alligators are real: Yes, it’s cool to see them. But it’s actually illegal to mess with them. And to Buckeye nation: You will achieve no sense of vengeance by provoking the



JEFF VRABEL
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gators. If it’s you vs. them, the gators will win.

5. The tiny bugs are called no-see-ums: They seem to like bug spray and they cannot be killed by conventional means. Only hexes, and even then you have to be pretty skilled in the Dark Arts. So every time you or a member of your party slaps their arms and says, “I can’t believe these bugs!” — do a shot. It will calm you right down, as well as make your blood less delicious.

6. In Sea Pines, deer tend to leap out in front of your car: Well, just the ones on Ambien. We’ve got a call in to Ted Nugent.

7. Be on the lookout for Palmetto Bugs: We call them Palmetto Bugs, because Four-Inch-Long Mutant Armor-Plated Cockroaches That Can Fly And Hold Grudges takes a lot of time to type. Actually, we’re kidding about the armor. When you squish them, they create a three-foot blast radius. Wear plastic.

8. Use the airport to get to town: That way, you’ll skip the scenic 15 mph drive to the island. Also, if you suggest upgrading the runway to accommodate bigger, more luxurious planes, you’ll be an instant hit with the locals.

Other tidbits for tourists:
• If you’re actually trying to boo Boo Weekley, you’re stuck. It’s sort of the same problem with Springsteen — not everyone likes him, they just haven’t figured out a practical way to register their disappointment.
• Shouting “Get in the hole!” works only about 25 percent of the time.

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Heritage a tough nut to crack

I went out on a limb last year and predicted Boo Weekley would win the Verizon Heritage. That obviously didn't happen. In fact, my "Hanlin's 10 who have a shot" list nearly missed the target entirely.

Just three cracked the top 25, five finished from the mid-30s to the low-60s and two missed the cut. You could say the crystal ball was a little cloudy last year.

In my defense, the Heritage is a tough nut to crack. It's hard to compare how golfers have played at other courses because Harbour Town Golf Links is unlike any course on the PGA Tour.

Several guys play well here and it's hard not to take one of them when it comes time to pick a winner. Guys like Brian Gay usually don't come to mind.

What he taught me is most golfers in the field are very good and can win this thing if a bit of luck comes their way. With that in mind, I developed a new strategy for predicting this year's champion.

I tacked the list of golfers to the wall of my cubicle and threw my red "magic" marker at it like a dart. The plan was to pick whatever golfer it marked, but the end result was less than magical.

The marker said Chris Stroud is going to win the tournament.

Sorry dude, that's just not going to happen.

In the end, I decided to go with some advice given to me by Hank Haney (big-time name drop right there).

"Whoever is the hottest at the time," he said. "Very few players have ever been able to sustain it on a consistent basis. Obviously Tiger and Jack Nicklaus did, but it's a game that comes and goes. Whoever is playing good coming in here will be the player to watch when they get here."

Ten-four good buddy. My 2010 Heritage pick is Ernie Els! Wait a second. Big Ern isn't coming this year? What's up with that?

You see him out there more than you see that little kid in the stroller dressed up like Payne Stewart. Oh well. Guess I'll go with K.J. Choi instead.

These five can win the tournament:

- **K.J. Choi:** No golfer in the field is playing better than Choi right now. He was second in the Transitions Championship, tied for 17th in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and tied for fourth at Augusta. He hasn't played here in nine years but his game fits this course. I don't see him cooling down.

- **Ian Poulter:** Currently ranked No. 5 in the World Golf Rankings, Poulter has played consistently well this season. He won Match Play Championship in Arizona and tied for 10th last week. He hasn't played well here in the past but that will change.

- **Matt Kuchar:** This guy is going to win a tournament soon. Why not here? He's No. 2 in the tour's all-around rankings at the moment and has three top 5 finishes.

- **Aaron Baddeley:** Some golfers seem to have this course figured out. Baddeley is one of those golfers. After missing the cut in his first trip here in 2001, he won it in 2002 and has been in the hunt the past three years. Ten of his 18 rounds at Harbour Town have been in the 60s.

- **Boo Weekley:** I have to throw the Haney theory out the window for this one. Yes, Boo has struggled this year. Still, when his rowdy Harbour Town supporters get behind him (and they certainly will), great things can happen. In his three trips here, he has won twice and tied for 13th last year. Don't count him out.



Weekley 'refreshed and ready to play'

By **JUSTIN JARRETT**
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843-706-8120

Boo Weekley has never kept it a secret that golf isn't always his top priority. He would rather be hunting or fishing than hanging out on the links.

With only one top-10 finish since 2008, though, the two-time Verizon Heritage champion has been forced to juggle things around a bit.

"Just trying to figure out how to play again," Weekley said in a phone interview last month. "Ain't nothing going on in my world except golf. That's all we're doing. We just play golf and try to get it all figured out so sooner or later it'll all come together and we can get a win and break this spell we've been under."

That rough spell came on the heels of a two-year span in which Weekley won twice — both at Harbour Town Golf Links — made more than \$5 million and vaulted into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Rankings. He also

BOO WEEKLEY

Height: 6-0 **Weight:** 210
Turned pro: 1997
Birthplace: Milton, Fla.
College: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Was on a high school golf team with Heath Slocum



made the 2008 U.S. Ryder Cup team, where his colorful antics and strong play made him a fan favorite.

Weekley burst into the golf world's collective consciousness when he earned his first PGA Tour victory in a windy Monday finish at Harbour Town in 2007, then repeated the feat in a runaway a year later.

He has been slowed by injuries over the past two years, though, missing a month last year with a shoulder injury that forced him to withdraw from the Players Championship and battling plantar fasciitis throughout this year. He made 19 cuts in 22 events last year,

but finished in the top 10 only once and earned only \$1.1 million, less than half his total from 2008. In nine starts this year, Weekley has made five cuts and his best finish is a tie for 24th at the Puerto Rico Open.

"The putter's been giving me the most problems. We ain't made nothing this whole year," Weekley said. "We've hit the ball decent for at least three days, and then one day we usually hit it just a little sideways, and that's the day that the putter's got to bail me out a little bit, and it ain't doing it."

That phenomenon got him at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill last month, where a bad final round dropped him to a tie for 25th after being in the top 10 all week.

That came at the end of a stretch in which Weekley played six consecutive weeks, prompting a two-week break for turkey hunting and fishing before he came to Harbour Town to shoot for a third tartan jacket in four years.

"I will be refreshed and ready to play," he said.

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Hole No. 1
Yardage: 410
Par: 4
Handicap: 13
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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.



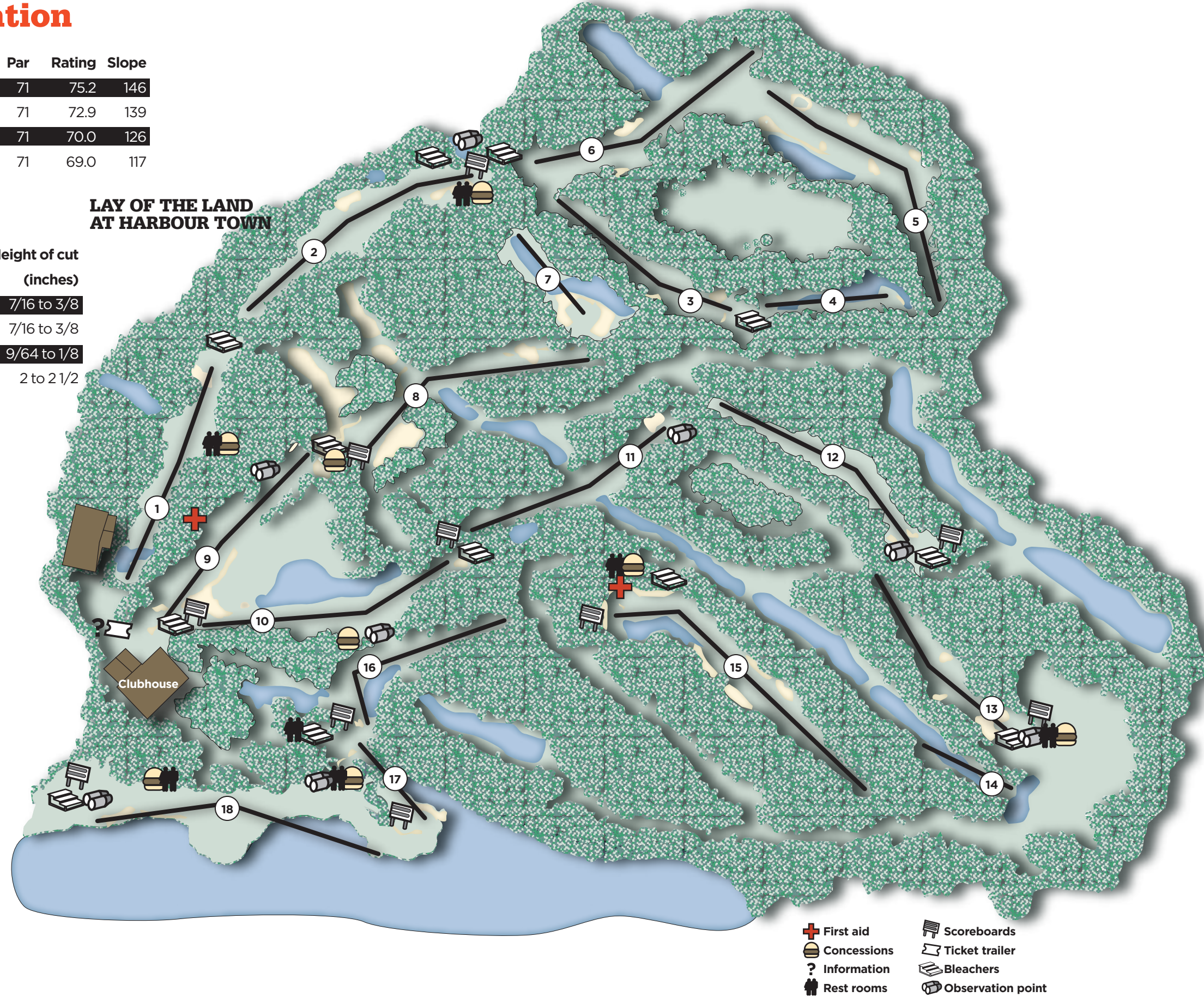
Tee information

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

LAY OF THE LAND AT HARBOUR TOWN



- First aid
- Concessions
- Information
- Rest rooms
- Scoreboards
- Ticket trailer
- Bleachers
- Observation point

Images courtesy of HoleView

BACK NINE

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



Hole No. 11
Yardage: 436
Par: 4
Handicap: 8
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
Key: Reaching 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
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
Key: Aim for the middle of 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.



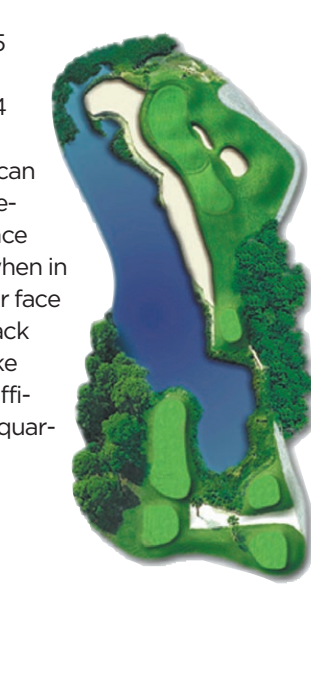
Hole No. 15
Yardage: 571
Par: 5
Handicap: 6
Key: Stay to the middle of the fairway. Bunkers, water and waste areas abound to swallow all but the best-placed shots. This green used to be next to impossible to hit in two, but in recent seasons, PGA Tour golfers have reached more often.




Hole No. 16
Yardage: 395
Par: 4
Handicap: 16
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
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
Key: Aim your tee shot for the famed clubhouse 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.



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 our newspaper 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 Stimpometer:** 10 to 10.5 feet
- Soil conditions:** Sandy loam and clay
- Superintendent:** Jonathan Wright
- Head PGA professional:** John Farrell

Cink returns to Harbour Town with higher profile

By LANCE HANLIN
lhanlin@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8156

One newspaper called him “Stewart Stink.” Another publication claimed he was “Public Enemy No. 1.” Other headlines dubbed him “The Man Who Killed Bambi” and “The Troll of Turnberry.”

With one 8-foot putt last summer in Scotland, mild-mannered Stewart Cink suddenly became the biggest villain in professional golf to some.

Forget that he had just won the biggest tournament of his life and finally removed his name from that ghastly “Best Players to Never Win a Major” list.

The Claret Jug was supposed to go to 59-year-old Tom Watson, and Cink stole it away from him.

Sporting a neon green hat and matching shirt, Cink won the British Open with clutch putting and solid iron play, beating Watson in a four-hole playoff.

It's not that fans were rooting against Cink. He just ruined the perfect story Watson was writing all week — possibly the greatest golf story of our generation.

Cink understood.

The situation was nothing new.

“I've played plenty of times with Tiger and heard the Tiger roars and the Mickelson roars,” Cink said. “I'm usually the guy that the crowd appreciates but they're not behind me 100 percent of the way. You know they aren't. That's the sort of role I've been cast in my whole career.”

That won't be the case this week at the Verizon Heritage.

Without the likes of Tiger and Phil, two types of golfers inside the ropes are a big deal to the fans

STEWART CINK

Height: 6-4 **Weight:** 205

Turned pro: 1995

Birthplace: Huntsville, Ala.

College: Georgia Tech

PGA Tour wins: 6

Fast fact: The most-followed professional golfer on Twitter with more than a million followers



outside of them — former Heritage champions and former major winners.

Cink is both.

He won the first Heritage he played in 2000 with a two-stroke victory over Tom Lehman, and came from a record nine strokes down to beat Ted Purdy in a playoff to win the 2004 event.

“It's for sure one of my favorite tournaments on the tour, no question about that,” Cink said. “It's hard to say whether the level of enjoyment and just relaxation has led to two wins or two wins has led to that feeling. I don't really care. Either way, they're both here. ... I've always loved this island.”

Cink got his first taste of Hilton Head in 1992 as a member of the Georgia Tech golf team, playing tournaments at Palmetto Dunes. He got his first look at Harbour Town in 1996 after playing a different island course, site of a TearDrop Tour event.

“I finished, like, third place and made I think \$1,100,” Cink said. “My wife and my oldest son were here and we came over and ate at the Crazy Crab. Saw the lighthouse and went up in it and everything. I just saw the 18th hole and thought, ‘God, what a great looking hole.’”

Cink joined the PGA Tour in 1997, went on to earn Rookie of the Year honors, but didn't find his way back to Harbour Town until he won the event in 2000.

“I committed to the tournament every year but had to withdraw at the last minute for some strange reasons,” Cink said. “One year my wife had surgery, one year we had a child the week before and then one year I pulled out from just being tired and didn't want to come down. And that was probably the biggest mistake I've made since I've been on tour. The place is really special. I just wish I had played more.”

Cink hasn't made the mistake of not coming since, competing in every tournament since 2000. He has missed just one cut in nine trips here, earning five Top 10 finishes and close to \$2 million.

And thanks to last year's British Open victory, a guy that is “Public Enemy No. 1” to some just may be the most popular fellow to follow this week at Harbour Town as he looks to bag his third tartan jacket.

“I think the confidence that I have is the two times I've won this, when I've come from behind by quite a bit, actually,” Cink said. “So if anything, I know to be patient here because anything can happen.”



Harbour Town still state's top-ranked course

By BOB SPEAR
The (Columbia) State

Harbour Town Golf Links, most of the Verizon Heritage, has been selected the top golf course in South Carolina by the S.C. Golf Course Ratings Panel.

Harbour Town, at Sea Pines Resort on Hilton Head Island, has been chosen the state's best since the panel, composed of 125 members from throughout the state, began its rankings in 2005.

“I could play Harbour Town every day and never get bored,” former U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk said in 2008.

The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Resort, which staged the 1991 Ryder Cup and will host the 2012 PGA Championship, climbed to second.

Although the order changed slightly, the same courses from 2008 composed this year's top 10.

“There are so many outstanding courses that you're really

splitting hairs,” said Michael Whitaker, the organization's executive director.

Sage Valley Golf Club in Graniteville finished third in the balloting, followed by May River Golf Club at Palmetto Bluff, Greenville Country Club's Chanticleer Course, Long Cove Club in Hilton Head, Secession Golf Club in Beaufort, the Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, Kiawah Island Club's Cassique Course and Yeamans Hall Club in Hanahan.

Architects of the top courses represent a Who's Who in the field. Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus combined on Harbour Town, and Dye designed the Ocean Course and Long Cove. Nicklaus also has May River to his credit. Robert Trent Jones Sr. produced the Dunes and Chanticleer.

Others include Tom Fazio (Sage Valley), Bruce Devlin (Secession), Tom Watson

(Cassique) and Seth Raynor (Yeamans Hall).

Kiawah Island Golf Resort earned top honors among state golf resorts.

Sea Pines placed second with Palmetto Bluff, Barefoot (North Myrtle Beach), Grande Dunes (Myrtle Beach) and Wild Dunes (Isle of Palms) following. Grande Dunes and Wild Dunes tied for fifth.

TOP 50 COURSES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina's Top 50 Golf Courses as selected by the S.C. Golf Course Rating Panel

1. Sea Pines Resort, Harbour Town GL, Hilton Head	18. Chesapeake Creek Club, Okatie	35. The Reserve at Lake Keowee, Sunset
2. Kiawah Island Resort, Ocean Course	19. Colleton River Plantation, Nicklaus Course	36. DeBordieu Club, Georgetown
3. Sage Valley Golf Club, Graniteville	20. The Golf Club at Briar's Creek, Johns Island	37. Thornblade Club, Greer
4. May River Golf Club, Palmetto Bluff	21. Country Club of Charleston	38. Barefoot Resort, Dye, N. Myrtle Beach
5. Greenville Country Club, Chanticleer Course	22. Cherokee Plantation Golf Club, Yemasee	39. True Blue Plantation, Pawleys Island
6. Long Cove Club, Hilton Head Island	23. Colleton River Plantation, Dye Course	40. Greenville Country Club, Riverside Course
7. Secession Golf Club, Beaufort	24. Haig Point Club, Daufuskie Island	41. Grande Dunes Course, Myrtle Beach
8. The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach	25. Belfair Golf Club, East Course, Hilton Head	42. Camden Country Club
9. Kiawah Island Club, Cassique Course	26. Tidewater Golf Club, Little River	43. Heron Point, Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head
10. Yeamans Hall Club, Hanahan	27. Cliffs at Keowee Falls, Salem	44. Berkeley Hall, North Course, Bluffton
11. Palmetto Golf Club, Aiken	28. Belfair Golf Club, West Course, Hilton Head	45. Daniel Island Club, Beresford Creek Course
12. Caledonia Golf & Fish Club, Pawleys Island	29. The Cliffs at Glassy, Landrum	46. The Reserve Golf Club of Pawleys Island
13. Bulls Bay Golf Club, Awendaw	30. Daniel Island Club, Ralston Creek Course	47. Florence Country Club
14. Musgrove Mill Golf Club, Clinton	31. Cliffs at Keowee Springs, Six Mile	48. Columbia Country Club
15. Kiawah Island Club, River Course	32. Wild Dunes Resort, Links, Isle of Palms	49. Pawleys Plantation, Pawleys Island
16. Old Tabby Links, Spring Island	33. Wachesaw Plantation, Murrells Inlet	50. Mount Vintage Plantation, North Augusta
17. Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards, Sunset	34. Country Club of Spartanburg	



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You will also have an opportunity to meet numerous Seabrook residents, and discover what a friendly, varied, intelligent and interesting extended family this is, and to hear how we are supported by our exceptional staff, with their remarkable longevity of service to the Seabrook.

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Maureen Rosene
Director of Sales/Broker in Charge

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GOLF DIGEST TOP 10 IN SOUTH CAROLINA

1. Kiawah Island Resort, Ocean Course	11. Secession Golf Club, Beaufort
2. Long Cove Club, Hilton Head Island	12. Greenville CC, Chanticleer Course
3. Sea Pines Resort, Harbour Town GL, Hilton Head	13. The Heritage Club, Pawleys Island
4. Kiawah Island Club, Cassique Course	14. Grande Dunes Course, Myrtle Beach
5. Sage Valley Golf Club, Graniteville	15. Colleton River Plantation, Nicklaus Course
6. Kiawah Island Club, River Course	16. The Reserve Club, Woodside Plant., Aiken
7. Musgrove Mill Golf Club, Clinton	17. Tidewater Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach
8. Yeamans Hall Club, Hanahan	18. Kiawah Island Club, Turtle Point
9. May River Golf Club, Palmetto Bluff	19. Daniel Island Club, Ralston Creek
10. The Golf Club at Briar's Creek, Johns Island	20. Country Club of Charleston, Charleston

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Love chasing after 6th Heritage title

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

After opening his season with a fifth-place finish at the Sony Open in Hawaii, Davis Love III found himself in a familiar position — an even more familiar position than the winner's circle, where he has ended up 20 times in his storied PGA Tour career.

"I've done it for 25 years — had one good week and then start trying too hard," Love said.

Four missed cuts later, Love decided it was time for a break, and after two weeks off, he returned last month at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, where he tied for 14th. Perhaps he was back to pressing too hard a week later, missing the cut at the Shell Houston Open, where only a victory would have earned him an invitation to the Masters Tournament.

"When you're going good, you just go home and figure out what you're going to eat and what

DAVIS LOVE III

Height: 6-3 Weight: 175
Turned pro: 1985
Birthplace: Charlotte, N.C.
College: North Carolina
PGA Tour wins: 20



Fast fact: Designed Eagle's Pointe in Bluffton and Ocean Creek on Fripp Island

you're going to watch on TV," Love said. "But when you miss a couple cuts in a row or you get into a bad streak, you start saying, 'I've got to fix it.' And the biggest fix for me was to get away from the golf course and then come back and start over and do the things that I know how to do."

He has always known how to play Harbour Town Golf Links, where he has won a record five times, most recently in 2003.

A sixth victory here would go a long way toward helping Love achieve his goal of making the U.S.

Ryder Cup team for a seventh time, though he will be part of the 2010 event in Wales regardless of whether that happens.

He was named in February as one of Corey Pavin's assistant captains, joining Tom Lehman, Jeff Sluman and Paul Goydos.

"It's the best of both worlds," Love said. "I get to try to make the team, and if I don't make the team, I still get to go. It's an honor for me to be in this group."

Whether he is a player or a captain, Love will be reminding the U.S. team not to try too hard — a lesson he knows too well and a problem he thinks is especially prevalent when playing in an event like the Ryder Cup on foreign soil.

"We want to play golf to have fun and enjoy the experience," he said. "A lot of them, they might not get to play six of them. We want them to soak this in, enjoy it, play the game and play like you know how to play and don't worry about the outcome."

Furyk brings new outlook to Hilton Head

By SAM McDOWELL
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843-706-8123

Jim Furyk figured he'd just heard for the last time exactly how long the drought had lasted.

When his putt fell on No. 18 to clinch the Transitions Championship at Palm Harbor, Fla., last month, he tried his best to forget about the previous 32 months without a win.

He didn't have long. In his post-round press conference after defeating K.J. Choi by one stroke on March 21, someone in the media room reminded him that it had been more than 2½ years since his last victory on Tour.

"Actually, it was about 20 minutes ago," he corrected.

Furyk said he never doubted his ability to win again on the PGA Tour. And frankly, why should he have?

Even without picking up a win — which he admitted constantly bothered and disappointed him — he finished in the top five in the FedEx Cup standings in both 2008 and 2009.

But confidence and calmness don't always go to-

JIM FURYK

Height: 6-2 Weight: 185
Turned pro: 1992
Birthplace: West Chester, Pa.
College: Arizona
PGA Tour wins: 14



Fast fact: David Feherty described Furyk's swing as "an octopus falling out of a tree"

gether, as Furyk said he learned toward the conclusion of last season.

"I think I was putting a lot of pressure on myself, and I realized it," Furyk said a week after his win. "By the end of last year, I realized I was putting a lot of pressure on myself."

"It's like when you go out and putt, you know you have to make a bunch of putts to play a good round," he explained. "But if you just dwell on it, it's tough to knock putts in."

The negative — or at least worrisome — thoughts are a thing of the past, he said.

No matter where he finishes a tournament, Furyk

said he will try not to carry over anything from one week to the next or even from shot to shot, a change in his mindset from the previous few years.

"I think I freed myself up," he said. "I was struggling to do that and I think my attitude changed the last few weeks."

He'll put that new outlook to the test at this week's Verizon Heritage after his performance in the Masters. Furyk finished 12-over par in two days and missed the cut last week.

He arrives to the familiar location of Hilton Head Island and comes to a course in Harbour Town Golf Links that has provided some inconsistency over the last five years.

Furyk has missed the cut in two of the last three Heritage tournaments, including last year. But he's also finished in the top four in three of his last five trips to Harbour Tour, including back-to-back second-place finishes in 2005-06.



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FRIDAY: BEAGLES
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SATURDAY
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OTHER CONTENDERS

ROBERT ALLENBY

Height: 6-1 **Weight:** 185
Turned pro: 1991
Birthplace: Melbourne, Australia
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 4
Fast fact: Has yellow duck headcovers to publicize Challenge Cancer Support Network



K.J. CHOI

Height: 5-8 **Weight:** 185
Turned pro: 1994
Birthplace: Wandoo, South Korea
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 7
Fast fact: First Korean golfer to earn PGA Tour card



SERGIO GARCIA

Height: 5-10 **Weight:** 160
Turned pro: 1999
Birthplace: Castellon, Spain
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 7
Fast fact: Started playing golf at age 3; became club champion at age 12



ROCCO MEDIATE

Height: 6-1 **Weight:** 190
Turned pro: 1985
Birthplace: Greensburg, Pa.
College: Florida Southern
PGA Tour wins: 9
Fast fact: Played in the 2005 World Series of Poker Main Event



AARON BADDELEY

Height: 6-0 **Weight:** 175
Turned pro: 2000
Birthplace: Lebanon, N.H.
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Says if he wasn't a professional golfer he would have become a preacher



TIM CLARK

Height: 5-7 **Weight:** 165
Turned pro: 1998
Birthplace: Durban, South Africa
College: N.C. State
PGA Tour wins: 0
Fast fact: Recorded his first hole-in-one at the age of 8



J.B. HOLMES

Height: 5-11 **Weight:** 190
Turned pro: 2005
Birthplace: Campbellsville, Ky.
College: Kentucky
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Was on Taylor County (Ky.) High School golf team as third-grader



KEVIN NA

Height: 5-11 **Weight:** 167
Turned pro: 2001
Birthplace: Seoul, South Korea
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 0
Fast fact: Appeared in January 2010 episode of "CSI: Las Vegas" along with other golfers



BRINY BAIRD

Height: 5-11 **Weight:** 185
Turned pro: 1995
Birthplace: Miami Beach, Fla.
College: Valdosta State
PGA Tour wins: 0
Fast fact: In 1999, hit target from top of hotel roof to win free chicken wraps for spectators



CHRIS DIMARCO

Height: 6-0 **Weight:** 180
Turned pro: 1990
Birthplace: Huntington, N.Y.
College: Florida
PGA Tour wins: 3
Fast fact: Had raucous fan taunt "Nnnnnooooonan!" during pressure putt in '02



TREVOR IMMELMAN

Height: 5-9 **Weight:** 178
Turned pro: 1999
Birthplace: Cape Town, So. Africa
College: None
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Was scratch golfer by age 12; father was former commissioner of Sunshine Tour



IAN POULTER

Height: 6-1 **Weight:** 189
Turned pro: 1995
Birthplace: Stevenage, England
College: Barclay School
PGA Tour wins: 1
Fast fact: Developed own clothing line at ianpoulter.co.uk



RICKY BARNES

Height: 6-2 **Weight:** 200
Turned pro: 2003
Birthplace: Stockton, Calif.
College: Arizona
PGA Tour wins: 0
Fast fact: Father Bruce was a punter for the New England Patriots



LUKE DONALD

Height: 5-9 **Weight:** 160
Turned pro: 2001
Birthplace: Hemel, England
College: Northwestern
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Avid painter and collector of contemporary art



ZACH JOHNSON

Height: 5-11 **Weight:** 160
Turned pro: 1998
Birthplace: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
College: Drake
PGA Tour wins: 6
Fast fact: Sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at Wrigley Field in 2007



MIKE WEIR

Height: 5-9 **Weight:** 155
Turned pro: 1992
Birthplace: Samia, Ontario, Canada
College: Brigham Young
PGA Tour wins: 8
Fast fact: Dropped puck before Maple Leafs playoff game against Flyers in 2003



PAUL CASEY

Height: 5-10 **Weight:** 180
Turned pro: 2000
Birthplace: Cheltenham, England
College: Arizona State
PGA Tour wins: 1
Fast fact: First man to win three consecutive Pac-10 championships (1998, 1999, 2000)



RICKIE FOWLER

Height: 5-9 **Weight:** 150
Turned pro: 2009
Birthplace: Anaheim, Calif.
College: Oklahoma State
PGA Tour wins: 0
Fast fact: World's No. 1 ranked amateur for 36 weeks in 2007 and 2008



MATT KUCHAR

Height: 6-4 **Weight:** 195
Turned pro: 2000
Birthplace: Winter Park, Fla.
College: Georgia Tech
PGA Tour wins: 2
Fast fact: Won consolation title of national doubles tennis championship with wife in 2009



BRANDT SNEDEKER

Height: 6-1 **Weight:** 185
Turned pro: 2004
Birthplace: Nashville, Tenn.
College: Vanderbilt
PGA Tour wins: 1
Fast fact: Named PGA Tour Rookie of the Year in 2007



Golf Channel, CBS to broadcast tourney

From staff reports

The 2010 Verizon Heritage will receive a total of 25 hours of television coverage over the next four days. Today's opening round and Friday's second round will be shown live from 3-6 p.m. and replayed from 8:30-11:30 p.m. on The Golf Channel.

Saturday and Sunday's live rounds will air from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on The Golf Channel and 3-6 p.m. on CBS. Both rounds will be replayed from 9:30-11:30 p.m. on The Golf Channel.

"Golf is the hardest sport to do in television," said Lance Barrow, coordinating producer of golf and football for CBS Sports. "There is more than one ball, nobody has numbers on their backs and nobody ever calls a timeout and stops playing. In golf, you don't get any breathers. That's the real challenge."

The broadcast team will include host Jim Nantz and analyst Nick Faldo, a former Heritage champion, in the booth. Ian Baker-Finch and Gary McCord will be the tower announcers, while David Feherty and Peter Kostis will walk the course.

"Without question, they're the best in golf," Verizon Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmot said. "It's a great partnership for us and

this community. The eyes of the world are upon us."

The tournament was also featured on The Golf Channel's "Inside the PGA Tour" which aired on Tuesday and will be replayed several times this week. The Heritage will also be the focus of the channel's "Golf Central" show at 6 p.m. each night of the tournament.

The tournament is also available to 580 million households in 225 countries through the PGA Tour's broadcast partners. Real-time leaderboards, scorecards and a live shot tracker will also be featured on the PGA Tour's official Web Site, PGATour.com.

HERITAGE LIVE TV SCHEDULE

	Golf Channel	CBS
Today	3-6 pm	---
Friday	3-6 pm	---
Saturday	1-2:30 pm	3-6 pm
Sunday	1-2:30 pm	3-6 pm

(Replay from 8:30-11:30 pm on Golf Channel)

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Suzan Weber

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Jeff Hall
Rob Reichel
Kristel Kretchmer
Tommy Austin
Barbra Finer
Jeannie Lawrence

Mike Lawrence
Jim McClellan
Tristan O'Grady
Mary Pracht
Lee Simmons
Lorri Weldy
Diann Wilkinson

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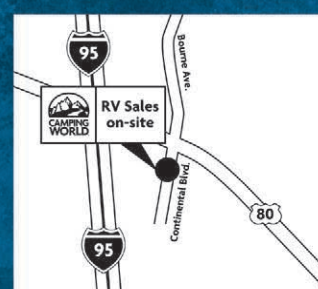


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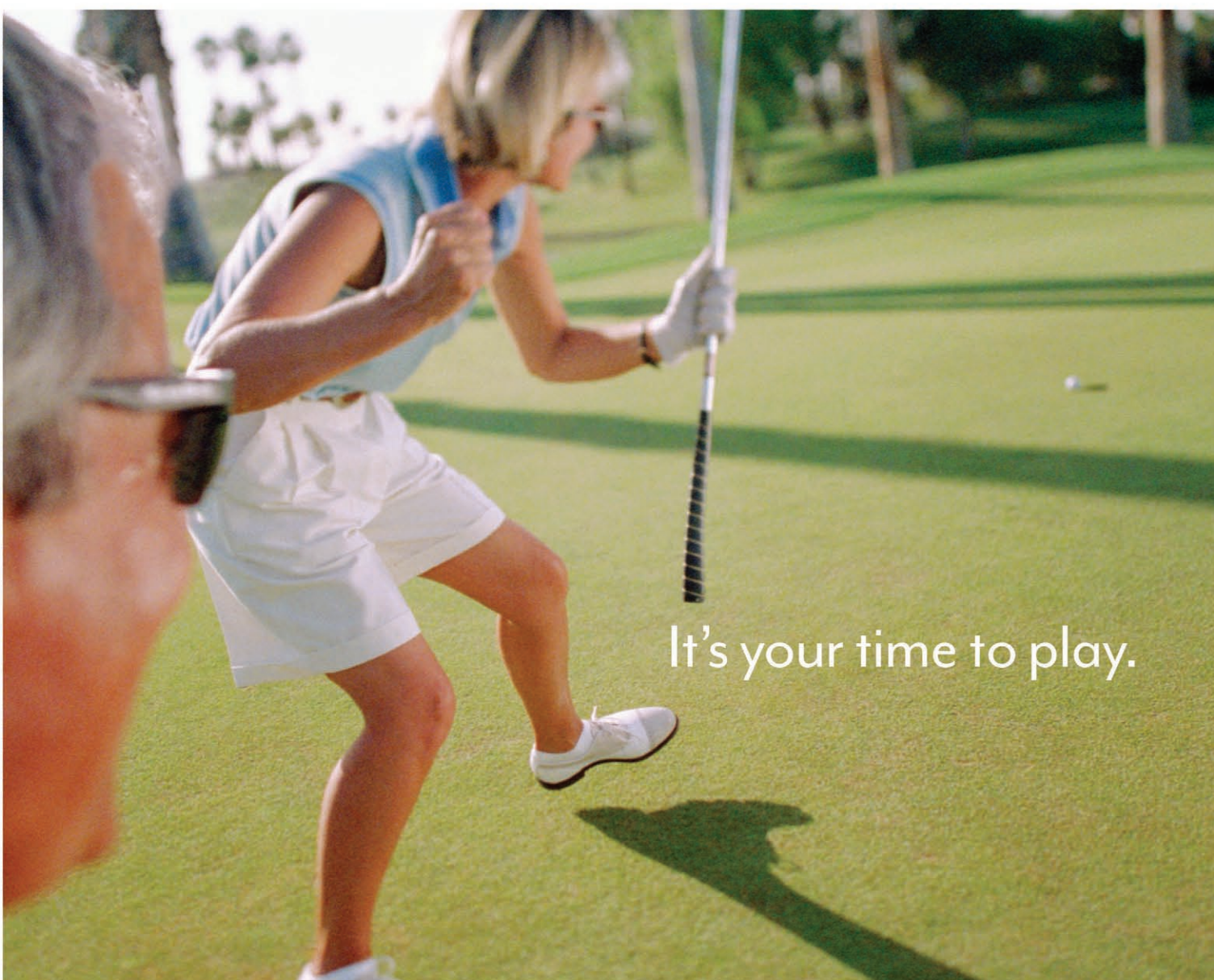
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SPONSOR

Continued from 4D

sponsor, two that have lined up combinations of lesser sponsors and one that has sufficient reserves to survive 2011 without a title sponsor, spokesman Ty Votaw said.

Tour officials are primarily focused, he said, on the remaining two events: the Heritage and the CA Championships in Doral, Fla. The latter event is part of the World Golf Championships and therefore has a larger price tag than the Heritage, Votaw said.

Tour officials say they aren't facing substantially more events without title sponsors than usual.

The tour signed 13 sponsorship deals in 2009, including several extensions through 2016, and two more this year, commissioner Tim Finchem told the Journal.

The tour announced earlier this year, for example, a three-year title sponsorship agreement with accounting, tax and business consulting firm RSM McGladrey for a new event at the Sea Island Resort on the southern coast of Georgia.

The new event, scheduled for October, requires a significantly lower commitment than the Heritage, the Hilton Head tournament's officials said.

Votaw said the Tour has no deadline for the Heritage to have a new title sponsor.

"It's not a question of deadline," Votaw said. "We've got a long history with the Heritage."

Although the objectives of a title sponsor can vary, the Heritage has several factors in its favor, Votaw said.

The Heritage occupies a prime position immediately after the Masters on the PGA Tour's calendar, for example. Hilton Head, perhaps the tour's smallest market, is also a popular stop for players and their families, Votaw said.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Wilmot said in October he would be "getting nervous" about the Heritage's future if it does not find a new sponsor by October 2010.

Even though that date is approaching, Wilmot continues the search with a positive outlook.

He would like to have found a new sponsor "yesterday," but he remains hopeful "there's somebody out there."











The task of identifying and courting that somebody has changed Wilmot's routine.

Although he used to wake up early to work out, Wilmot now wakes up early to go to work, he said. He also is attending more evening social functions to advance the tournament's cause.

He admits to losing some sleep over the matter, but he said he is committed to ensuring the viability of the tournament, which has donated about \$20 million to charity since 1987 and has an estimated \$84 million annual impact on the state economy.

When asked to speculate about whether a new title sponsor would arrive in time to keep the Heritage on Hilton Head, Wilmot responded simply: "We need to have one."

FOLKS YOU SHOULD KNOW

									
NAME:	Cary Corbitt	Ed Dowaschinski	John Farrell	Bonnie Hunt	Morgan Hyde	Andy McMillen	Bill Wagner	Steve Wilmot	Jonathan Wright
JOB TITLE:	Director of sports and operations for The Sea Pines Resort	VP finance and administration	Director of golf	Executive administrator/volunteer coordinator	Assistant tournament director	Operations manager	Sales director	Tournament director	Golf course superintendent
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:	Golf and tennis operation, recreation, retail operations, resort facility maintenance and landscaping	Financial and tax reporting for Heritage Classic Foundation	Golf operations at the Harbour town Golf Links, Ocean and the Heron Point by Pete Dye golf courses	Coordinating some 1,000 volunteers, various secretarial duties	Tournament operations, pro-am administration, gifts, staff and volunteer apparel	Basically everything that goes on behind the scenes.	Sponsorship sales	A little bit of everything	Maintaining Harbour Town Golf Links
YEARS ON THE JOB:	30 plus years	23	20	41	13	2 1/2 years	6	24	2
HOMETOWN:	McCormick, S.C.	Staten Island, N.Y.	Pittsfield, Mass.	Thomasville, N.C.	St. Simons Island, Ga.	Salamanca, N.Y.	Jacksonville, N.C.	Moorestown, N.J.	Lexington, Ky.
GOLF HANDICAP:	PGA Class A Club Professional	22	Professional	Do not play	Do I really need to say? 28.	18	8 (Only when good Bill shows up)	16	10
FAVORITE HOLE AT HARBOUR TOWN:	15	18	9	18	17	13	18	15	15
LEAST FAVORITE AT HARBOUR TOWN:	I love all the golf holes	13	Don't have one	Do not have a least favorite	No. 8. It just has my number.	14	11	There are none. I love them all.	18. My ball always finds the marsh.
HOBBIES:	Golf, running, boating	Golf and travel	Family time, tennis, travel	Reading, ceramics, painting	Reading, playing guitar	Beach, watching all sports	Yard work, golf	Playing golf and basketball	Spending time with friends
PREVIOUS JOBS:	My position with the resort has seen much change over the years and continues to be very satisfying every day largely because of the company we work for	1969-1980 VP Tax Department Goldman Sachs & Co. CPA and Financial Consultant 1980-1997	Head Professional at Ocean and The Sea Marsh Courses	Telephone operator with Southern Bell, switchboard operator at University Hospital in Augusta, Ga., title clerk with major financial company	U.S. Army	Operations coordinator for 2008 Senior PGA Championship; 2005-2007 tournament intern for PGA Championships, Verizon Heritage, Senior PGA Championship	20-plus years in the hotel/resort industry	I worked with the Carolinas PGA Section prior to coming to Hilton Head in the summer of 1986 to work for Sea Pines in their pro sports department.	I worked at Haig Point on Daufuskie Island and Man O War Golf in Lexington, Ky.
IF YOU WERE NOT AT THE TOURNAMENT WHERE WOULD YOU BE?	I can't imagine not being there. The Verizon heritage is the only place to be April 12-18	Spending more time with my family and doing all the volunteer work I am still doing	With family	On a cruise or vacationing in Hawaii	Well, I would hope that I would be at another tournament	I hopefully would be working in the sports industry, preferably in a position I am in now	Probably still in the hotel business.	I always wondered what it would be like working in the front office of the NFL.	I honestly don't know what I would be doing, but it would definitely be on Hilton Head Island.

PGA TOUR STATISTICS

SCORING AVERAGE

1. Anthony Kim, 69.19. 2. K.J. Choi, 69.25. 3. Ernie Els, 69.44. 4. D.J. Trahan, 69.72. 5. J.B. Holmes, 69.77. 6. Charles Howell III, 69.86. 7. Justin Rose, 69.93. 8. Phil Mickelson, 69.95. 9. Bubba Watson, 69.97. 10. Jason Bohn, 70.00.

DRIVING DISTANCE

1. Bubba Watson, 301.6. 2. Angel Cabrera, 301.2. 3. Dustin Johnson, 300.5. 4. Graham DeLaet, 299.8. 5. Phil Mickelson, 299.1. 6. Chris Baryla, 297.1. 7. J.B. Holmes, 295.8. 8. Jason Day, 295.5. 9. Camilo Villegas, 295.3. 10. Andres Romero, 294.9.

DRIVING ACCURACY PERCENTAGE

1. Brian Gay, 75.82%. 2. Heath Slocum, 75.75%. 3. Jay Williamson, 75.60%. 4. Chris DiMarco, 74.73%. 5. Omar Uresti, 74.59%. 6. Tim Clark, 73.70%. 7. Paul Goydos, 73.40%. 8. Justin Leonard, 72.42%. 9. Jim Furyk, 71.95%. 10. Billy Mayfair, 71.63%.

GREENS IN REGULATION PCT.

1. Kevin Stadler, 75.13%. 2. Kevin Sutherland, 73.52%. 3. D.J. Trahan, 72.94%. 4. Troy Matteson, 72.78%. 5 (tie), Billy Mayfair, Henrik Bjornstad and Spencer Levin, 72.22%. 8. K.J. Choi, 72.02%. 9. Stephen Ames, 72.00%. 10. Graham DeLaet, 71.97%.

TOTAL DRIVING

1. Bo Van Pelt, 67. 2. Ryan Moore, 71. 3. Adam Scott, 72. 4. Kenny Perry, 85. 5. Blake Adams, 87. 6. Hunter Mahan, 88. 7. Fred Couples, 93. 8 (tie), Y.E. Yang and Charl Schwartzel, 95. 10. Davis Love III, 97.

PUTTING AVERAGE

1. J.P. Hayes, 1.696. 2. Tim Clark, 1.701. 3. Brandt Snedeker, 1.706. 4. Ryuji Imada, 1.715. 5. Joe Ogilvie, 1.716. 6. George McNeill, 1.718. 7. Tom Gillis, 1.724. 8. Geoff Ogilvy, 1.730. 9. Brian Gay, 1.731. 10. Kevin Na, 1.732.

BIRDIE AVERAGE

1. Kevin Streelman, 4.29. 2. Kevin Stadler, 4.28. 3. D.J. Trahan, 4.23. 4. Anthony Kim, 4.21. 5 (tie), Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, 4.19. 7. Matt Kuchar, 4.15. 8. Nick Watney, 4.12. 9 (tie), Tim Clark and Matt Every, 4.10.

EAGLES (HOLES PER)

1. Paul Casey, 50.4. 2. Dustin Johnson, 57.6. 3. Harrison Frazer, 66.0. 4. John Daly, 68.4. 5. Sean O'Hair, 74.6. 6. Matt Bettencourt, 79.7. 7. Lucas Glover, 84.0. 8. Kevin Stadler, 87.0. 9 (tie), Bubba Watson and Jeff Overton, 93.0.

SAND SAVE PERCENTAGE

1. Luke Donald, 84.09%. 2. Jeff Klauk, 71.79%. 3. Fred Couples, 69.23%. 4. Chris Riley, 67.86%. 5. Mark Wilson, 66.67%. 6. Rory Sabbatini, 65.91%. 7. Mike Weir, 65.52%. 8. Chris Tidland, 63.83%. 9. Michael Connell, 62.96%. 10. Ricky Barnes, 62.82%.

ALL-AROUND RANKING

1. Robert Allenby, 235. 2. Matt Kuchar, 249. 3. Fred Couples, 253. 4. Chris Couch, 337. 5. K.J. Choi, 348. 6. D.J. Trahan, 365. 7 (tie), Steve Elkington and Anthony Kim, 372. 9. Tom Gillis, 379.

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2009 SCORING SUMMARY

Table with columns: Name, Finish, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Total, Money. Lists top performers like Brian Gay, Briny Baird, Luke Donald, etc.

Table listing players who did not finish, including Robert Allenby, Steve Elkington, etc.

2009 HERITAGE RECAP

SportsFriday

Seeds take serious hit in Charleston 8B Madden hangs up his mic 3B
Cejka charges to early lead
Hot putter paves way for bogey-free 64

This course doesn't take it easy on them
W... When the weather breaks...

Mixed bag for local golfers
Has leads Palmetto State contingent with 68

Gay all alone at the top
The 2009 Heritages leader Brian Gay watches his lead...

Leader extends his edge with third-round 67
BRANSON PARSONS... "I don't know how I did it, but I did it."

Fitness follows tour everywhere it goes
SCOTT HAMILTON... "I've probably one of the most important things..."

SportsSaturday

Little drama in Family Circle quarterfinals 3B HHH lacrosse advances 3B
Second day goes Gay's way
Leader cuts through with 5-under 66

Hamilton sorely in need of a fresh win
F... Hamilton's performance...

ROUND 2 >>
What happened: Brian Gay shot a 5-under-par 66 to take the lead...

ROUND 3 >>
What happened: For the second time in three days, Brian Gay played bogey-free golf...

ROUND 4 >>
What happened: After taking a three-shot lead into Sunday, Brian Gay ran away from the field...

Gay calmly runs off with win
BRANSON PARSONS... "This, I think, is a great win."

Boos still fill air as defending champ leaves
BRANSON PARSONS... "I was a little bit surprised..."

SportsMonday

Price gets first Champions Tour win 7B Lisicki wins Family Circle Cup 8B
One for the record books

Family party shapes up as Gay triumphs
O... Brian Gay's victory...

Boos still fill air as defending champ leaves
BRANSON PARSONS... "I was a little bit surprised..."

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