

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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November 2016

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*This page: Jack Nicklaus' fireside chat with Jimmy Roberts, who will receive the 2016 MGA Distinguished Service Award, was a highlight of the PGA of America's Annual Meeting in New York City this month. See more from the event on page 7.
Photo: Montana Pritchard/PGA of America*

Passing **A+** Grades



LUKE GRABOYES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
SENIOR • WATCHUNG, N.J.

After earning medalist honors at the Ivy League Men's Golf Championship to close out his junior season, Graboyes carried his top finishes into the fall season, earning a third place finish at the Alex Lagowitz Memorial Invitational and finishing second at the Cornell Invitational. He finished ninth in the fall-closing Connecticut Cup and led his team in scoring average.



THOMAS LA MORTE
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
JUNIOR • DEMAREST, N.J.

La Morte tallied a trio of top-10 finishes this fall, including a tie for seventh at the Golfweek Program Challenge and a tie for fifth at the Wolfpack Intercollegiate. His best finish came at the ODU OBX Collegiate, where his tie for fourth led the Camels to victory and later earned him Big South Golfer of the Week honors.



CHRISTINA PARSELLS
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SOPHOMORE • BERNARDSVILLE, N.J.

A hole-in-one and an eagle in the final round of the Ron Moore Women's Intercollegiate led Parsells to a Georgetown single-round record of 5-under 67 and Big East Female Golfer of the Week honors. Her best finish of the fall season—in which she helped the Hoyas to three runner-up finishes—was a tie for sixth at the William & Mary Fall Invite.

As fall returned, so too did the grind of college golf for many of the area's junior competitors. The first half of the collegiate golf schedule produced top finishes, record-setting performances, and conference accolades—all most likely just a taste of what we can expect from these and other Met Area competitors during the spring season of championships.



LINDA WANG
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
FRESHMAN • FRESH MEADOWS, N.Y.

Wang quickly acclimated to the collegiate game this fall. In four events, she never finished higher than sixth and helped St. John's to two victories. An individual crown at her team's very own invitational—played at The Saint Andrew's Golf Club—capped off the fall and led to her being named Big East Female Golfer of the Week.

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A Deserving DISTINCTION

BY HELEN STOCK



Knickerbocker commemorated the opening of The Golf Library with a special ball marker.

Only a special kind of person gets a library named in their honor—and if anyone were worthy of such recognition, it's sportswriter and Pulitzer Prize winner Dave Anderson. That's why Knickerbocker Country Club in Tenafly, N.J., was thrilled to honor Anderson, who's been a Knickerbocker member since 1980, by tying his name to the newest addition to the clubhouse—The Golf Library. In an effort led by Anderson's friend and fellow Knickerbocker member Mike Beckerich, the club found it to be the appropriate time to honor their member who has accomplished so much. On October 30, 75 members and friends gathered for a special ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Anderson Library.

The library includes the 22 books authored by Anderson himself, plus about 400 more from Anderson and Beckerich's personal libraries, the majority of which are golf oriented, and a collection of different trophies and memorabilia. The centerpiece of the room is a handmade gift—a collection of golf balls with letters arranged as if they were a keyboard—from Tom Watson and his father given to Anderson after he received the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary for his New York Times sports column. The club plans on adding to the assortment of books and collectibles while also developing a speaker series with other Met Area clubs.

Also on display is a letter written by *GolfDigest* editor-in-chief Jerry Tarde, which in part reads, "Dave knows everybody in golf and is one of the most respected writers in the game, so we always thought of him as a golf specialist. ... It's only after you see him in action across every major sport that you realize his peers think of him as a specialist in every sport."

Anderson, a longtime board member of the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association, retired from the New York Times in 2007 but has continued as a contributing columnist.

CONNECTING

with a Smart Grip

Cobra Golf is banking on the future with its latest driver. The KING F7 (\$419) features a smart grip that contains a built-in computer sensor. This electronic chip that bears a three-year battery life essentially tracks your driving game. So on each hole, it calculates how far you hit your tee shot and to where. Later on after your round, it'll show you how accurate your driving has been, your average distance, and how you compare to other people on Cobra's network. The math magic all happens in the companion smartphone app, and is seamless to golfers. There's no synchronizing involved, either: You just step up to the ball and play. And if you're wondering, the club is USGA-approved. Its 460cc clubhead combines an ultra-lightweight carbon fiber crown with a forged titanium, variable-thickness clubface. The weight savings from that recipe allows for heavier areas low and deep in the clubhead, which translates to forgiveness on mishits. Both the loft and center of gravity are adjustable. Don't dismiss the computer chip's wow factor: It's no gimmick. In fact, it would be surprising if other clubs weren't sporting this kind of technology sometime soon.



A Return to its Roots

Holding its 100th Annual Meeting in New York City was a fitting final touch on the PGA of America's year-long centennial celebration, as the organization returned to the city where it was founded 100 years ago. The PGA's past was honored throughout the week, with historic photos and a special 1916 commemorative print from *The New York Times* on display.

While history was a focus throughout the event, Met Area professionals also stepped into the spotlight as national award winners. Mike Adams (*above, left*) of Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, N.J., was honored as the PGA Teacher of the Year. Adams has instructed U.S. Presidents, celebrities, and professional golfers over the years, but has also had an immense impact on those working under him as he's mentored 21 GOLF Magazine Top 100 Teachers. Bryan Jones (*above, right*) of Black Oak Golf Club in Long Valley, N.J., was honored with the Horton Smith Award, recognizing his contributions toward the education of PGA Professionals. Additionally, Tom Henderson of Round Hill Club in Greenwich, Conn., was sworn in to the PGA Board of Directors and Derek Sprague (*left*), Managing Director at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, N.J., concluded his presidency, with Paul Levy of Indian Wells, Calif., being elected as the 40th President of the PGA of America.

A true highlight of the event was an appearance by Jack Nicklaus (*above, center*). Nicklaus, who has 50 years of PGA membership, was joined by NBC Sports' Jimmy Roberts for an hour-long fireside chat.



UPPER and LOWER *Body Separation*

BY BRICE BUSSE

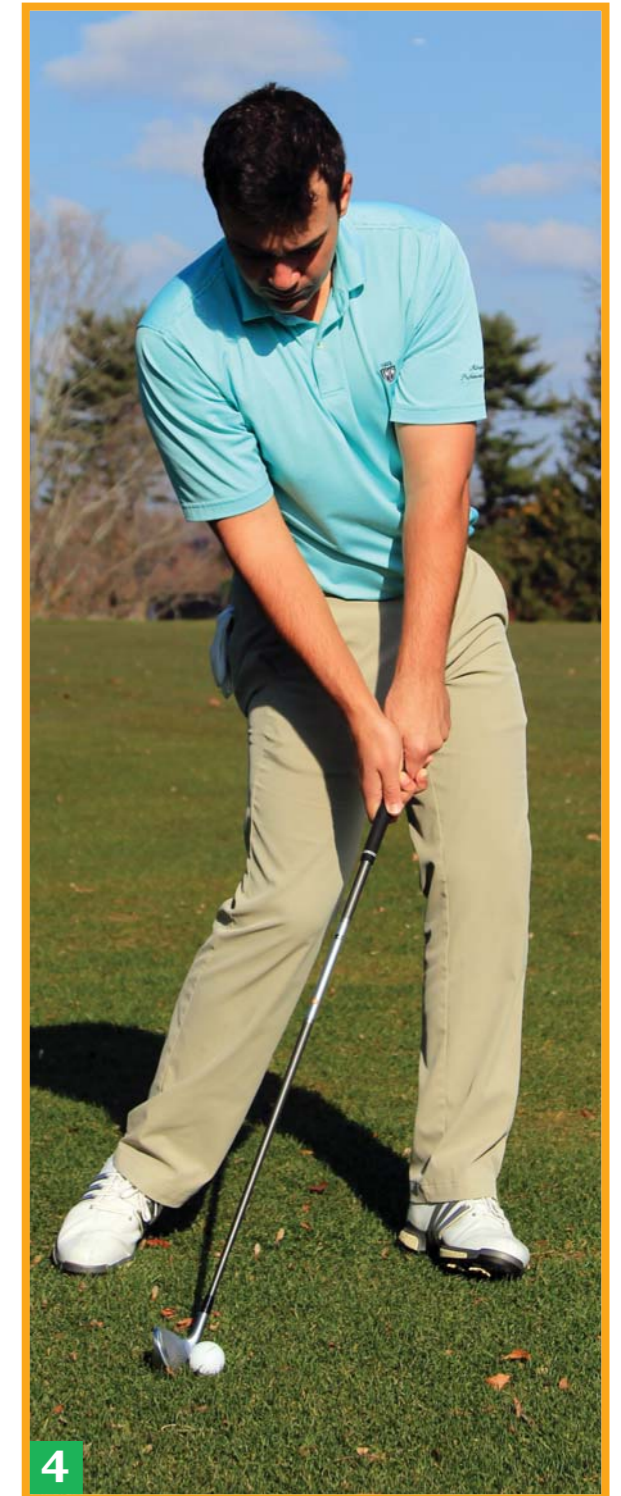
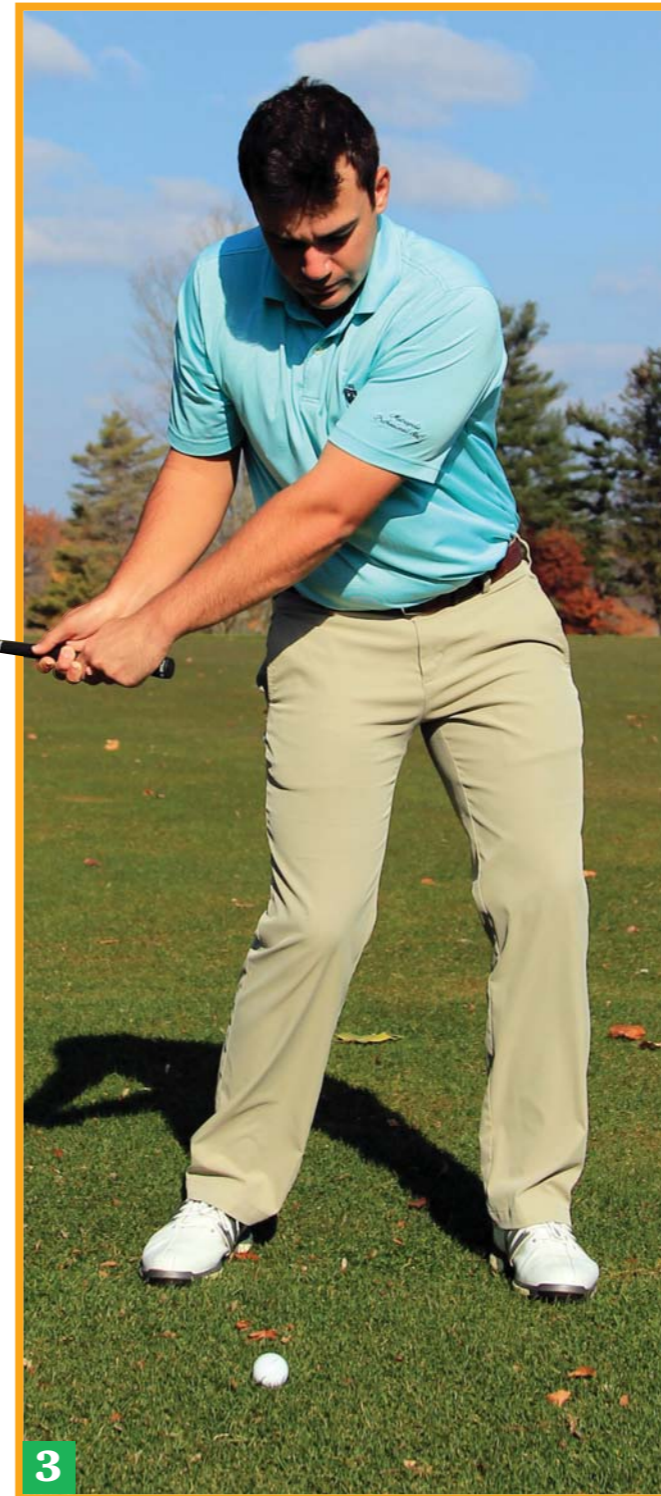


Brice Busse is the Director of Instruction at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, N.Y.

Many golfers have trouble with distance and consistency because they have a difficult time separating their upper and lower body. Consistency and power are lost when the body moves as one solid unit. In order to generate better swing patterns, work on separating your upper and lower body movements.

Illustration

A good illustration of upper and lower body separation can be seen in downswing. Here, you can notice the differences in motion between the white and orange alignment rods (images 1-2). The white rod along the hips is always ahead and more open to the target than the orange rod along the shoulders. The lower body leads the motion and in turn pulls the upper body around through impact for a nice full finish.



Try This

A good drill to practice lower body movement starts with a normal set up. Take the club back so it is parallel with the ground and pause in that position. Once you have the club in the proper position, try your best to keep the club and your hands in place and work on rotating your left hip out of the way (3). As you continue to rotate your hip, your hands will be pulled down towards the ball into a good impact position (4). The goal of this drill is to feel like your hips are leading the motion of your hands.

Tiger Takes the City

Tiger Woods and Stephen Colbert shared several laughs during Woods' appearance on *The Late Show*.

Though many golf fans are still awaiting Tiger Woods' return to the golf course, his public appearances have increased in recent months and even included a stop in the Big Apple.

On October 20, Woods was a guest on *Charlie Rose* as he discussed life on and off the golf course, even saying his only regret is not spending another year at Stanford. A more lighthearted conversation followed on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* where Woods shared his continued drive to compete, the intensity he poured into video games as he recovered from multiple back surgeries, and the low-down on the golf games of past U.S. Presidents.

The media stops coincided with the Tiger Woods Foundation's 20th anniversary, which was celebrated on the same evening among 400 guests at the New York Public Library. The "Celebration of Unexpected Champions" featured a silent auction, dinner, inspiring stories from Earl Woods Scholar Program alumni, and a conversation between Woods and Nike founder Phil Knight moderated by Charlie Rose.

THE
LATE
SHOW
with

LAYOVER ▶ TAMPA

BY TIM HARTIN



Formerly mined for phosphate, the Streamsong land allowed for the creation of eye-popping landforms such as this around Streamsong Blue's par-3 seventh hole.

It's no secret that the Sunshine State is filled with prime golf destinations. While similar characteristics of resort golf can sometimes become repetitive, the varied landscapes of the greater Tampa area offer some of the most unique and captivating golf experiences in all of golf-rich Florida.

COURSES:

1 Streamsong Resort – The striking landscapes of Streamsong Resort, approximately an hour southeast of Tampa, present an incomparable Florida golf experience. Its Blue and Red courses—designed by Tom Doak, and Coore and Crenshaw, respectively—feature towering sand dunes, native grasses, natural bunkers, and lakes that surround gently rolling fairways designed to be walked. Gil Hanse's Streamsong Black is slated to open fall of 2017, with its terrain likened to the Sand Belt of Australia.

2 Innisbrook Resort – Northwest of Tampa, Innisbrook is home to four championship layouts and a nine-hole family course. The famed Copperhead Course is a favorite for many PGA TOUR players, with its tree-lined fairways, undulations, and water hazards providing character and challenge. The Island Course can prove just as challenging and while the North and South courses play to the shortest lengths at Innisbrook, both require quality shot-making.

3 Word Woods Golf Club – An hour north of Tampa, World Woods' Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses—both products of Tom Fazio—own stark differences in key features. Generous fairways are framed by sprawling waste bunkers and tall pines at Pine Barrens. Meanwhile, Rolling Oaks is a more traditional, tree-lined layout highlighted by giant oaks, rolling fairways and pristine white bunkers. There is also the nine-hole Short Course, which blends the two styles.

As growth continues for PGA Junior League Golf, so too does the success of New Jersey's Royce Brook Golf Club all-star team led by captain Anthony Latham, the PGA Director of Junior Development at Royce Brook. This year, more than 36,000 juniors participated in PGA Junior League Golf, doing so on 2,900 teams in 600 leagues nationwide. The season concluded with the fifth National Championship, to which Latham's team advanced for the fourth time. While Latham has been pleased with the success, he has also particularly enjoyed seeing more youth picking up golf.

Extra: *What aspects of PGA Junior League Golf do participants seem to enjoy the most?*

Anthony: Without a doubt they enjoy the team concept, wearing the numbered jerseys and the recreational environment. They play with their friends, make new friends and learn the game in a competitive, yet relaxed setting. Most kids grow up playing team sports, so this is a concept that they're familiar and comfortable with. Also, the scramble format allows them to shoot low scores and have fun with less pressure.

E: *What do you think has made your Royce Brook team so successful on a national level?*

A: The kids are very skilled, proven champions. They all have been playing competitive golf individually at the highest levels. We've also had the same kids for three-plus years. They know how to prepare for the event and have become a very close unit. Their experience certainly contributes to our success.

E: *As a youth instructor, how do you balance education and fun during a lesson?*

A: Kids today need to be challenged with games and measurable improvement. Being creative with training aids and today's technology certainly contributes to the fun also.

E: *What factors do you feel are most important in continuing to attract youth to golf?*

A: You have to keep it fun, fast and free from restrictions. Kids need access to courses and practice areas without being treated as outsiders. They need to have ways to play the game, or similar games such as Starting New at Golf, 6-hole Partners and PGA Junior League Golf.

E: *What has been your favorite part of captaining a PGA Junior League Golf team?*

A: Without a doubt, watching these kids grow as players, embrace the spirit of team play and learn the value an individual has in contributing to his/her team's success. The recognition and travel for regional and national tournaments has been very rewarding as well. I've experienced moments with families and players that will last a lifetime and will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Team New Jersey finished fourth in this year's PGA Junior League Golf National Championship, which was held Nov. 19-21 at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.

CONSISTENT CONTENDERS



Captain Anthony Latham talks with team member Derek Weaver at the PGA Junior League Golf National Championship.

WINNING



POLLAND

Playing with Poise



Polland carded a final-round 69 to come from behind and claim the Assistant PGA Professional Championship.

Quality performances over the past two years have led to a variety of playing opportunities for 100th Met Open champion and Deepdale assistant professional Ben Polland. The 26-year old has competed in the PGA Championship each of the last two years and in late October claimed

victory at the Assistant PGA Professional Championship. With Polland aiming to take his game to the touring ranks, he's treated each opportunity as a learning experience.

Polland had his first real taste of tour life this summer, playing in eight Mackenzie Tour (PGA TOUR Canada) events. "Traveling for consecutive weeks and playing on a tour is where I lacked experience," Polland says. "I know for a fact that I grew as a tour player this summer."

Next up for Polland is the Final Stage of Web.com Tour Qualifying School, December 8-11 at Orange County National in Winter Garden, Fla. He successfully advanced through the first two stages and will now be among those seeking full status on the tour in 2017. While he certainly gained confidence from his recent victory, he knows it's a clean slate every time he tees it up in a new event. "I try not to build my expectations off of past performances," he explains. "All I know is that I play my best golf when I play within my abilities, and stay in the moment."

Instead of results, Polland bases his approach off the experience he's gained from his biggest moments and from being around those playing at the highest level. "Playing practice rounds with some PGA Tour players during the PGA Championship reinforced the way I look at things like this," he says. "If I can approach every round—no matter the circumstance—with a positive state of mind, quality preparation, and a rock-solid routine, I will feel comfortable."