

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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August 2015

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This page: Junior golfers from the First Tee of Plainfield visited MetLife Stadium for a Youth Clinic, and got more than the typical experience than most stadium goers would receive. Read more about their visit on page 11.

THE MIND GAME

BY TIM HARTIN

After all these years, Bobby Jones' quote, "Competitive golf is played mainly on a five-and-a-half inch course...the space between your ears," remains as true as ever. Enter Dr. Nick Molinaro. A licensed psychologist with 35 years of experience, Dr. Nick has worked with a range of high-level amateur and professional athletes but has developed a particular niche—and passion—with the game of golf.

Dr. Nick grew up in Mountainside, N.J., and when the need for glasses dashed his aspirations of being a pilot, he was drawn to psychology. Another dogleg was thrown into his career path in 1991. Sharing the passion of racing with his late grandfather—who raced in the 1919 Indy 500—the after effects of an 85-mph crash at Lime Rock grabbed his attention and shifted his psychology focus to sport.

Though he was a late-comer to the game of golf at age 51 (he's now 68), his love for it quickly grew and his specialty became even more evident. Dr. Nick's ability to relate results from The Attentional and Interpersonal Style assessment directly to a client's golf game, especially in pressure situations, helps them develop a new approach and thought process for competition.

He's attended two U.S. Opens and U.S. Women's Open with clients, but some of his most recent work has also led to new opportunities. Dr. Nick is the first Sport Psychologist to appear on Golf Channel's The Golf Fix with Michael Breed. After helping one of Breed's assistants make marked improvements, he and Breed connected. He first appeared on the show February 9, and is scheduled to be featured September 7, 14 and 21. Additionally, Dr. Nick has become part of the Marquee College Consulting, a unique, specialized network of personnel that work to prepare student-athletes for athletics at the next level.

Want to change how you approach the game? Here's a tip from Dr. Nick: "It's about intention and attention. Your intention drives your attention and your attention drives your performance. If you intend on not hitting the ball in the water, then your attention will be driven to that; however, if you intend on hitting a great shot, your attention will shift to executing the mechanics necessary to hit a great shot."

Dr. Nick with the Golf Channel's Michael Breed at Trump Golf Links Ferry Point.



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Metropolitan Golf Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523 •
914-347-4653 www.mgagolf.org •
mgagolf@mgagolf.org

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CEO & Publisher: Richard K. Summers

COO & Art Director: Peter J. Sansone

Executive Vice President: Brian Folino

General Manager, Operations: Patrick Cherry

Production/Pre-Press: Frederick Yantz

Design: Jim Gerhard, Matt Hulnick, Steve Higgins, Marina Kohls

Advertising Production Manager: Julie Yuen

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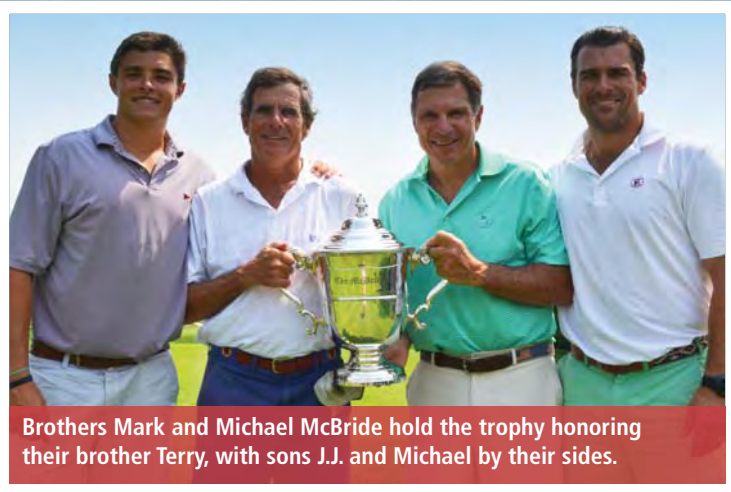
Advertising: For information, please contact: please contact: Tom Ott at 914-347-4653, ext. 321, or Nick Fischer at 914-347-4653, ext. 345, or Brian Folino at 623-337-5802 (office) or 661-312-6412 (cell)

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A Family's Honor

BY TIM HARTIN



Brothers Mark and Michael McBride hold the trophy honoring their brother Terry, with sons J.J. and Michael by their sides.

The golf course has long been a forging ground for father-son relationships. For that reason, the Father & Son Championship has become one of the MGA's most beloved events, as it celebrates the bond between these family members.

This year's event, the 65th edition which was contested at Fresh Meadow on Long Island, took on a whole new meaning as father-son teams vied for the newly dedicated McBride Cup for the first time. The new trophy honors the late Terry McBride, who passed away this past year after a battle with cancer.

Terry first won the event with his father Joseph in 1964, and dominated the field the next two years as well. Just several years later in 1970, Terry's brother Michael stepped in to claim the title with their father. The family's tradition continued some 30 years later, as Michael and his son Michael, Jr. put the McBride name atop the championship's leaderboard once again in 2001. With this strong family history, there was no better way to honor Terry's memory, than to name a beautiful and new trophy in his memory.

Though McBride duos have always proven to be top contenders in the Father & Son Championship, David and Jon Doppelt became the first to hoist the McBride Cup. Fittingly though, the Doppelts are another family who own a longstanding golf history and have strongly supported the game in the Met Area.

With a meaningful trophy adding even more significance to the Father & Son Championship, the event is sure to flourish for years to come.

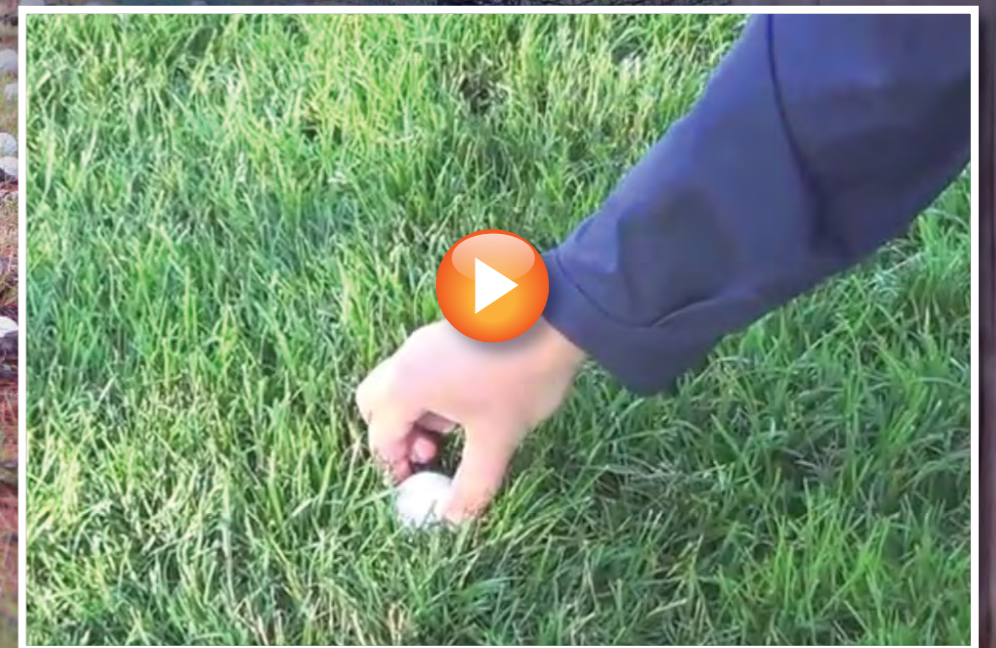


David & Jon Doppelt were the first winners of the new McBride Cup.

Know Your BOUNDS

By Maddi Vetrano

At the 100th Met Open Championship, Winged Foot Golf Club's East Course undoubtedly presents the perfect formula for the most exciting and challenging championship yet. Throughout play, competitors will face challenges of all sorts and the MGA's own Managing Director of Rules, Competitions and GHIN Services, Brian R. Mahoney is here to take us through a few Rules scenarios that may just make for some interesting twists out there on the course.



Met Am Military Man

BY DAVID KLENK



Peter Kim claimed the Met Amateur title on Baltusrol's Upper Course.

Peter Kim continues the recent streak of collegiate golfers claiming the MGA's oldest championship, the Met Amateur. But Kim's college experience is a little different than his contemporaries. As a rising junior on the Army golf team, his typical day includes formations, long marches, constant physical training, and zero free time. Additionally, summer training leaves little to no opportunity for a vacation or trip home, and a five-year commitment to the United States Army waits following graduation. Why, you ask, would one of the country's most highly sought-after high school golf recruits choose this when options include some other top golf programs in the country?

"It all started with a phone call from [Head Golf] Coach [Brian] Watts. I didn't really have much interest in West Point until he called me and invited me up. And then once we started the visit he showed me around the place, and I was just in awe of the way the cadets behaved themselves, the way they moved about, their demeanor, it was really impressive." The complete package and opportunity to serve his country obviously made an impact on Kim.

On how his West Point experience has changed his golf game and his life, Kim said, "The Academy makes you responsible for yourself. It really makes you own up to the things you do, on and outside of campus, especially on the golf course too. Also, all the restrictions they put on you, like tough, strict schedules, all these regimented things you have to do, that makes you become more disciplined, and become a better person overall." In fact, Kim had to get special permission for time away to compete in the Met Am, where his discipline may have made up for his limited participation time.

As an Organizational Psychology major interested in branching Armor, Kim won't be leaving golf by the wayside after graduation. Once his five-year service commitment is complete, he intends to give the professional circuits a shot, and proudly carry the Army name.



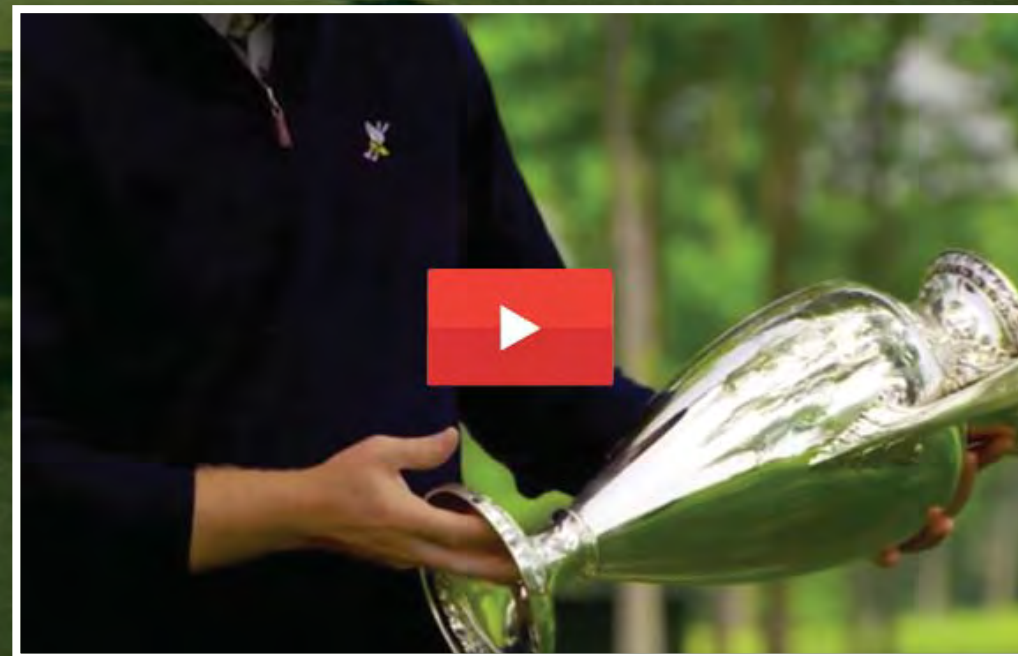
Return of the GREAT BIG BERTHA

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Hit Callaway's brand-new Great Big Bertha driver (\$450) and be prepared: it's long, forgiving and consistent, and feels plain crisp at impact. Fully adjustable for loft, lie angle, draw/fade and weighting, its ease of tuning in to any particular ball flight is painlessly quick and easy. The company is pushing the club's distance capability—evident in its “Leave No Yard Behind” advertising mantra. The keys to length here, claim officials, are the thinner face, use of multiple materials, and aerodynamic clubhead shaping. The lightweight clubhead comes in at 198 grams, allowing flexibility for the overall club weight through the company's 19 premium shafts. Combinations can range between 295 and 325 grams, meaning that most players will be able to find their utopian feel. While the Great Big Bertha is being targeted at the majority of skill levels, some PGA Tour pros like Pat Perez and Sang Moon Bae have already put it in their bags. If you try the driver, do yourself a favor and also check out the matching Great Big Bertha fairway woods (\$250 apiece). They present a seamless transition from the driver, right down to the sound, feel, performance and adjustability. Offered in five lofts, they each have large-ish, high-MOI clubheads that strive for—and achieve with ease—forgiveness.

THE MET OPEN

100 YEARS



The MGA is celebrating the 100th playing of the Met Open Championship, August 25-27, 2015, and is pleased to have completed a special video series "The Met Open – 100 Years" that explores the rich history of the Met Open, the MGA's premier championship. The full series is available on mgagolf.org.

Stadium GOLF!

Youth Clinic attendees took part in golf and football activities at MetLife Stadium.

It may not have been stadium golf in the Pete Dye at Sawgrass sense, but the third of four summer youth clinics conducted by the MGA Foundation and partner MetLife took on stadium golf on August 19, but not in the sense one would think of first. Instead of facing Pete Dye's renowned TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, 35 junior golfers took to the MetLife Stadium field for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The encompassing venue left the participants in awe as they were instructed on putting and chipping skills on the same turf where some of their favorite professional athletes compete. They also tried their hand with the stadium's most well-known sport, sprinting through an obstacle course and kicking a football off a tee.

After the on-field fun, the group had lunch in the Coaches Club suite and went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium—the New York Giants' four Vince Lombardi Trophies certainly standing out among the highlights. MetLife's mascot Snoopy accompanied participants through the day of enjoyment.



54 Holes in Asheville, North Carolina

BY JOSH KLEIN

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains and split by the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers, Asheville, N.C., is a hidden national treasure. Once the third largest city in the state, the “Land of the Sky” has shrunk to a town of just over 80,000. Yet, Asheville’s quaint feel only adds to its tourist allure; the southern gem collected over thirty travel accolades last year alone. With picturesque views and plenty to do, Asheville is the perfect spot for a golf vacation.

COURSES:

- 1 Omni Grove Park Golf Course** – Laid out in 1926, Omni’s recently restored course allows players to enjoy a taste of designer Donald Ross’ timeless architecture. To pass the Scottish engineer’s test, a consistent short-game is key. False fronts, concealed bumps, and unexpected run-offs make Omni’s greens some of the most thought-provoking in North Carolina.
- 2 Mount Mitchell Golf Club** – A winding drive north east of Asheville along the famous Blue Ridge Parkway guides you to the impressive Mount Mitchell Golf Club. Settled near the highest peak east of the Mississippi, this course presents a quality experience thanks to its setting and unique layout. With holes snaking through the Toe River Valley, Mount Mitchell is virtually flat, with the exception of its challenging par-3 sixth built into Black Mountain.
- 3 Sequoyah National Golf Club** – Those who venture west of Asheville and trek to the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains will find scenic Sequoyah National. Owned by the

Eastern Band of the Cherokee and designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., Sequoyah provides a scenic experience while submitting golfers to a rather grueling, 6,600-yard test. After 18 holes, unwind and enjoy a drink on the 180-degree outdoor deck overlooking the mountainside.

WHERE TO STAY:

- **The Omni Grove Park Inn** – A one-stop shop for a golf-oriented trip, the Park Inn is a charming mountain resort featuring classic Southern comforts and modern conveniences. With its championship golf course and a 43,000-square-foot subterranean spa on-site, the Omni Grove offers the ideal combination of play and leisure.

OFF-COURSE:

- **Biltmore Estate** – With 8,000 acres of Blue Ridge Mountain as the backyard and the country’s largest private home, a family could easily spend a week exploring the Biltmore property. Visitors looking to continue the outdoor adventure off the golf course can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, and fly-fishing, or even venture down the French Broad River.

Stunning mountain vistas such as this on Sequoyah National’s par-4 14th are available all around Asheville, N.C.

WINNING

Comeback Kids

BY TIM HARTIN

Heavy rain cut Team MGA's practice round short the day before the 52nd Williamson Cup, which brings together junior teams from 10 golf associations throughout the Northeast and Canada. However, that didn't faze Ryan Davis, John Felitto, Brent Ito and Ethan Ng, as the quartet returned from Saucon Valley's Wehill Course in Bethlehem, Pa., on August 12 with the victory, claiming the cup for the MGA for the first time since 2012.

The team wasn't able to get a preview of holes 12-18 due to the weather and, as luck would have it, the battle for the title began on the 10th hole. But, an even-par performance on the inward nine helped the team captained by the MGA's Foundation Operations Manager Lou Cutolo stay within striking distance of the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association, who took the first round lead.

Trailing by five, Team MGA quickly made up six strokes thanks to an even-par front nine which moved the team to the top of the leaderboard and provided pressure for their top opponents. Holding a one-stroke lead, Davis was the final player on the course for the MGA. Not knowing the exact situation, he calmly slid in a 15-footer for birdie on the par-5 18th and secured the two-shot win.

The victory was a record 11th for the MGA, and it's third in the last five years.



The victorious MGA Team (L-R): Ryan Davis, Brent Ito, Captain Lou Cutolo, Ethan Ng and John Felitto.

MET OPEN Magic

The Breakthrough Amateur

BY MADDI VETRANO

With the 100th playing of the Met Open upon us, our final flashback takes us to 1952, when Chester "Chet" Sanok stamped his name into MGA record books after becoming the first amateur to capture the Met Open title.

Winged Foot's West Course saw to the historic moment, in which a 6-foot-3-inch, 220-pound former caddie and New Jersey golf legend broke the 37-year streak and conquered a field packed with the country's best professional players. The then 72-hole championship, described by the New York Times as "one of the best tests of golf in the East," found an amateur to be the top player when the field featured the same competitors as found at the Masters, the U.S. Open, and the PGA Championship.

Going into the third round, there wasn't much evidence that Sanok would become the next champion, as he stood five strokes behind the top players gunning for the trophy. Despite this, Sanok pushed forward and fired a 69 in the third round to place him two strokes ahead of future U.S. Open champion Dick Mayer of Greenwich. Future Met Open and PGA champions Jim Turnesa and Doug Ford, Walker Cup amateur James McHale, and previous Met Open and Masters champion Claude Harmon also followed close behind.

If his 69 wasn't impressive enough, the final round was highlighted by Sanok's multiple recovery shots which helped him hold off his competitors with an even-par 72. The well-known skill of Sanok helped fuel momentum on multiple occasions, including a 12-foot putt for par on the 10th hole.

A short time later on the 12th, spectators thought that Sanok was losing steam after a tree stopped his drive just 50 yards from the tee. But, Sanok's par five on that hole caused an eruption in the crowd, all enchanted by Sanok's story.

Another drive having hit a tree on the 16th, Sanok put his second shot deep into the rough. But, his third shot knocked into an overhanging limb, careened off the bank of the green and landed 15 feet from the hole. The subsequent two-putt for an unlikely and impressive par served as the deciding moment as Sanok made the final stretch toward victory and history.

Sanok became a trail-blazer, paving the way for future amateur champions including Jerry Courville, Sr., George Zahringer, Jim McGovern, Johnson Wagner, Andrew Svoboda and John Stoltz to go beyond expectations and never look back.

