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This page: The Met Area's top juniors will take on beautiful Baltusrol Golf Club in the Carter Cup, the MGA's Junior Stroke Play Championship, on July 30. The USGA recently announced that the site of the 2016 PGA Championship will also play host to the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur. Photo by AJ Voelpel.



With such parity on the PGA TOUR, a single stroke can be the difference between a player sitting up on the awards dais or in the clubhouse bar during the trophy ceremony. At the Quicken Loans National at Congressional Country Club, golf enthusiasts watched as errant approach shots leaked into the lateral (red) water hazard that borders the left side of the 18th hole. One spot, approximately 30 yards from the green, the hazard pinches the fairway and gobbles up golf balls.

To the chagrin of on-looking Rules experts, countless TOUR Pros took relief under Rule 26-1c (two club lengths from where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard – **A**) In this situation at Congressional, the player's relief option requires him to drop the ball, in the rough, on a side hill – **B** – leaving a very difficult pitch shot. Did they consider all their options?! In this particular situation, because of the shape of the hole/hazard, a player could proceed under Rule 26-1b and drop a ball behind the hazard, keeping the point at which the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard directly between him and the hole – **C** – going back as far as he wants.

Therefore, based on the curvature of the hazard, players could have gone back another 20 to 30 yards and dropped the ball in the fairway with a level lie, giving them a significantly better chance of recovery. Something so simple often overlooked by the world's best - who doesn't like choices?!

What's the **RULE?**

By Brian R. Mahoney



X A **B** Rule 26-1c

X C Rule 26-1b

Trump – Bedminster

to Host Met Open and MGA Caddie Scholarship Pro-Am

Support our Met Area Caddies

Preceding the 99th Met Open Championship at Trump – Bedminster is the MGA Foundation Caddie Scholarship Pro-Am on Monday, August 18. This event benefits the Caddie Scholarship Funds of the Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester Golf Associations as well as the WMGA Foundation's girls junior programs. Combined, the three caddie funds are currently supporting more than 500 caddie scholars at colleges and universities around the country. Throughout the Pro-Am's 47 year history, more than a million dollars has been raised and this year, with Donald Trump's generosity in making both Bedminster courses available for the Pro-Am, we have a special opportunity to raise record funds for these worthy causes. Both golf courses are spectacular and there are openings still available. Teams consist of three amateurs and a pro, and the pro does not have to be playing in the Met Open to play in the Pro-Am. It's a fun day and the tax deductible donation supports hundreds of very deserving young people, so round up your team at your club and sign up today!



**Click
Here**

Find out more
information and
register your team.

54 Holes in... The Poconos

By Zack Alcorn

The Pocono Mountain area offers varying activities year round, with spectacular golf destinations headlining the summer list. With numerous affordable courses and places to stay so close by, the Pocono region is a golfer's delight.

COURSES

- 1 **Woodloch Springs Golf Course** – Nationally recognized by *Golf Magazine* as "one of the finest courses in America," Woodloch Springs takes you through serene forests, rolling meadows, and a perilous tee shot on the 14th over Hells Gate Gorge as water rushes below you some 200 feet.
- 2 **Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort** – Legendary golf architect A.W. Tillinghast's first ever design and site of the 1938 PGA Championship, Shawnee boasts 27 holes of championship golf that can be enjoyed by all skill levels. 24 holes lie on Shawnee Island, which offers stunning views of the Delaware River.
- 3 **Mount Airy Golf Course** – Designed by architect Hal Purdy and inspired by *Sports Illustrated's* "best 18 holes in America," Mt. Airy offers thrilling championship golf along with everything else the "4 diamond resort" has to offer.

LODGING

- **Endless Mountain Resort** – With multiple renting and lodging options and its proximity to several golf courses and other recreational activities, this resort is a perfect destination for the whole family.

OFF-COURSE

- **CBK Mountain Adventures** – Choose one of seven different attractions ranging from zip lining to hopping on a mountain coaster. No matter what route you take, kids and parents will never be bored on any of these exhilarating adventures.

Chipping with Sole

BY GREG BAKER

There is nothing worse than having a simple up and down for par, hitting it fat and walking away with a double bogey. Here are some pointers to avoid the chunks and heavy shots. Follow these simple tips and you will be saving shots around the greens and not making those silly mistakes.

Greg Baker is the Head Professional at Rockaway River Country Club, host of the 2014 Met Junior Championship Sponsored by MetLife.



Whenever I come across a chipping/pitching situation I always try to make my selection easier by choosing between a few clubs. I use my 8-iron, PW, GW, and 60-degree almost exclusively.



Once I make my club selection, I go through some very basic fundamentals I was taught many years ago. I set up with a slightly narrow and open stance which allows your arms to swing freely down the target line. I try and keep $\frac{3}{4}$ of my weight on my forward left foot and I play the ball slightly back in my stance, however I try to maintain true loft on my club by not having too much forward shaft lean.



While some forward lean is good, too much forward shaft lean exposes the leading edge of the club and could cause heavy or "chunk" shots.



I want to use the sole and bounce of my club to prevent from chunking a chip or pitch. Bounce helps you get out of the sand and can also help when the turf is wet and soggy. These situations rely on contact being on the sole of the club.



One way to practice this is to place a quarter on the ground and practice clipping the forward half of the coin. Feel that you use the sole of the club to bounce it off the quarter.

Xander the Great

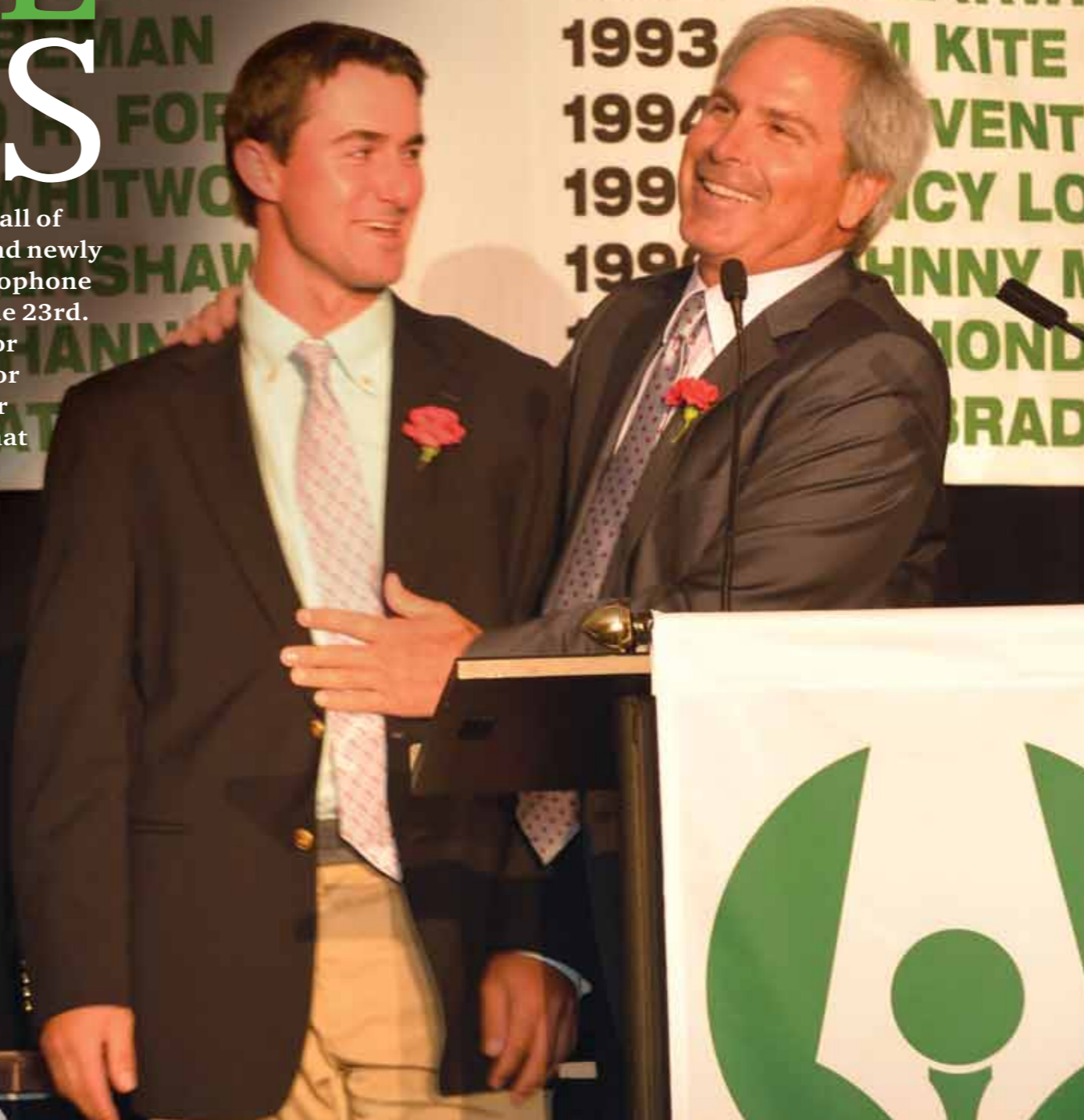
When Penn State Junior and golf team member Xander McDonald-Smith returned home to Rockaway Park, N.Y., for the summer, he wasn't thrilled with the state of his game. With no time to lament, Smith was catapulted into several local competitions and after gaining momentum from his win at the New York City Amateur at LaTourette, it wasn't long before he got back into a groove. He followed up that win with the low amateur finish in the Brooklyn Open at his home course Marine Park. Just three days later, he won the 67th MGA Public Links Championship at Charleston Springs Golf Course in dominating fashion, where he tied the record for largest margin of victory in the championship's history - five strokes. "It's starting to click, it's nice," the 21-year-old said after the victory, "when I won the City Am that was the first time I realized it." Xander's win was a proud moment for the MGA Foundation as he is a graduate of both its GOLFWORKS and First Tee Junior programs. Six years ago, Xander represented the Eisenhower Park chapter at the First Tee Open at Pebble Beach in 2008 where he and partner Champions Tour player Tom McKnight, finished tied for fifth. With the Met Amateur coming up, the New York State Amateur, and a Met Open qualifier on his schedule, McDonald-Smith has a chance to turn some heads – that is, if he hasn't already.



Xander celebrates his Low Amateur finish at the Brooklyn Open with Marine Park's Director of Golf, Rich McDonough (left) and Mike Giordano, Co-Operator of Marine Park.

JUST A COUPLE OF GUYS

Back in 1980, this is what I used to look like,” joked Hall of Famer Fred Couples as he pulled NCAA champion and newly turned professional Cameron Wilson up to the microphone with him at the 63rd MGWA National Awards Dinner on June 23rd. Couples was awarded the Gold Tee Award, the highest honor presented by the Association, and Wilson was recognized for his recent accomplishments on the course. The Westchester Marriott’s ballroom was filled with a star-studded crowd that night, including fellow award winners Nancy Lopez, the Blackwelder family, John Feinstein, the New Jersey PGA, Knickerbocker Country Club, and Travelers.



- 1978 PATTY BERG
- 1979 TOM WATSON
- 1980 DICK SIBEROWF
- 1981 LEO FRABER
- 1982 DEANE BERMAN
- 1983 GERALD R. FOR
- 1984 KATHY WHITWO
- 1985 BEN SHAW
- 1986 HANN
- 1987 MOND
- 1988 BRAD
- 1989 SEVE BALLESTEROS
- 1990 DAVE MAR
- 1991 JOANNE C
- 1992 HALE IRWI
- 1993 M KITE
- 1994 VENT
- 1995 NANCY LO
- 1996 HNNY M

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IRON» »GAME

BY SCOTT KRAMER

When Justin Rose captured the Quicken Loans National and the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open, he did so with a 20-degree TaylorMade Tour Preferred UDI (Ultimate Driving Iron) in his bag. At that point, it was just a prototype club that TaylorMade was making available to TOUR pros who wanted to use it at The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, where fairways are firm and quick.

Rose said in using the club, he was controlling shots with more consistency than with a hybrid or fairway wood off the tee, achieving a low and penetrating ball flight. He also vowed to use a lower-lofted version at the Open Championship, for maximum roll and distance. Jason Day may also activate the UDI. He's spent time comparing it on-course to his TaylorMade Tour Preferred MC 2-iron.

Then on the day after Rose's Scottish Open victory TaylorMade officially brought the UDI to market for \$199. It features hollow construction with weight low and forward, resulting in fast ball speed and a launch angle that's higher than a traditional driving iron's.

There are some nice competitor models already on the market, too, including PING's 18-degree, wide-soled Rapture driving iron (\$220); Adams Golf's Pro DHy (\$200) that's technically a compact hybrid resembling an iron; and the two-year-old Titleist deep-CG 712U (\$259/graphite shaft, \$235/steel) with a hollow steel body.





Wie Saw it Coming

In 2006 a 16-year-old girl from Hawaii decided to give it a go against the men when she made it to the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying Round at Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, N.J. The once child prodigy had turned professional earlier that year and had to fight hard to gain entry into the all-male field of U.S. Open hopefuls. Her unprecedented move attracted some 6,000 spectators and more than 250 members of the media who came to watch the gutsy teenager try and best some of the Met Area's and PGA TOUR's top veteran players for a spot on golf's biggest stage. And for a while it looked like Wie would indeed rock the golfing world when she opened with a first round 68 and stood in prime position to claim one of the 18 spots in the field at Winged Foot, but a rocky finish to the second round led to a 75 and she failed to qualify for the U.S. Open. Eight years have gone by and Wie has experienced struggles, slumps, injuries, and a roller coaster of emotions. But this past June at Pinehurst No. 2 Wie broke through and claimed her first Major and fourth LPGA victory at the U.S. Women's Open Championship. For someone who is only 24 years old, and yet has had her every move observed and analyzed for more than a dozen years it must feel good to silence the critics - at least for awhile. So the future looks bright but I guess those at Canoe Brook back in 2006 knew it all along.