

The Met Golfer EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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November 2013

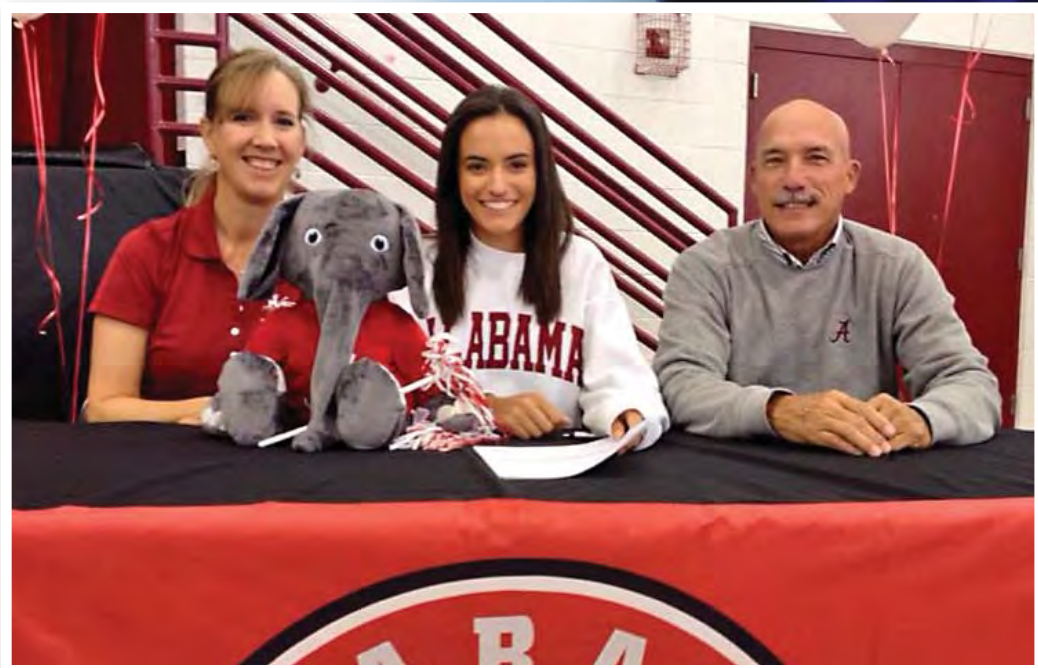
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This page: Earlier this month, Century Country Club Assistant Professional Frank Bensele became just the second player ever to capture his third National PGA Assistant Championship. His final round 3-under 69 (10-under total) was good enough for a commanding six stroke win at PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Photo by Megan Blank.

Pen Pals

BY JEFF DAY

The signing period for top junior golfers from the Class of 2014 started on November 13. Golfweek/Sagarin Junior Girls No. 1 ranked Nicole Morales (pictured below with her father, Miguel, and swing coach, Cheryl Anderson) of South Salem, N.Y., inked a National Letter of Intent to the University of Alabama, while No. 12 ranked Alice Chen (pictured with parents Sean Chen and Qiuyan Wu) of Princeton, N.J. committed to Furman University. Morales is a past winner of the MGA/WMGA Public Links Championship, while Chen shared medalist honors at this year's USGA Women's State Team Championship, which she helped capture for New Jersey.



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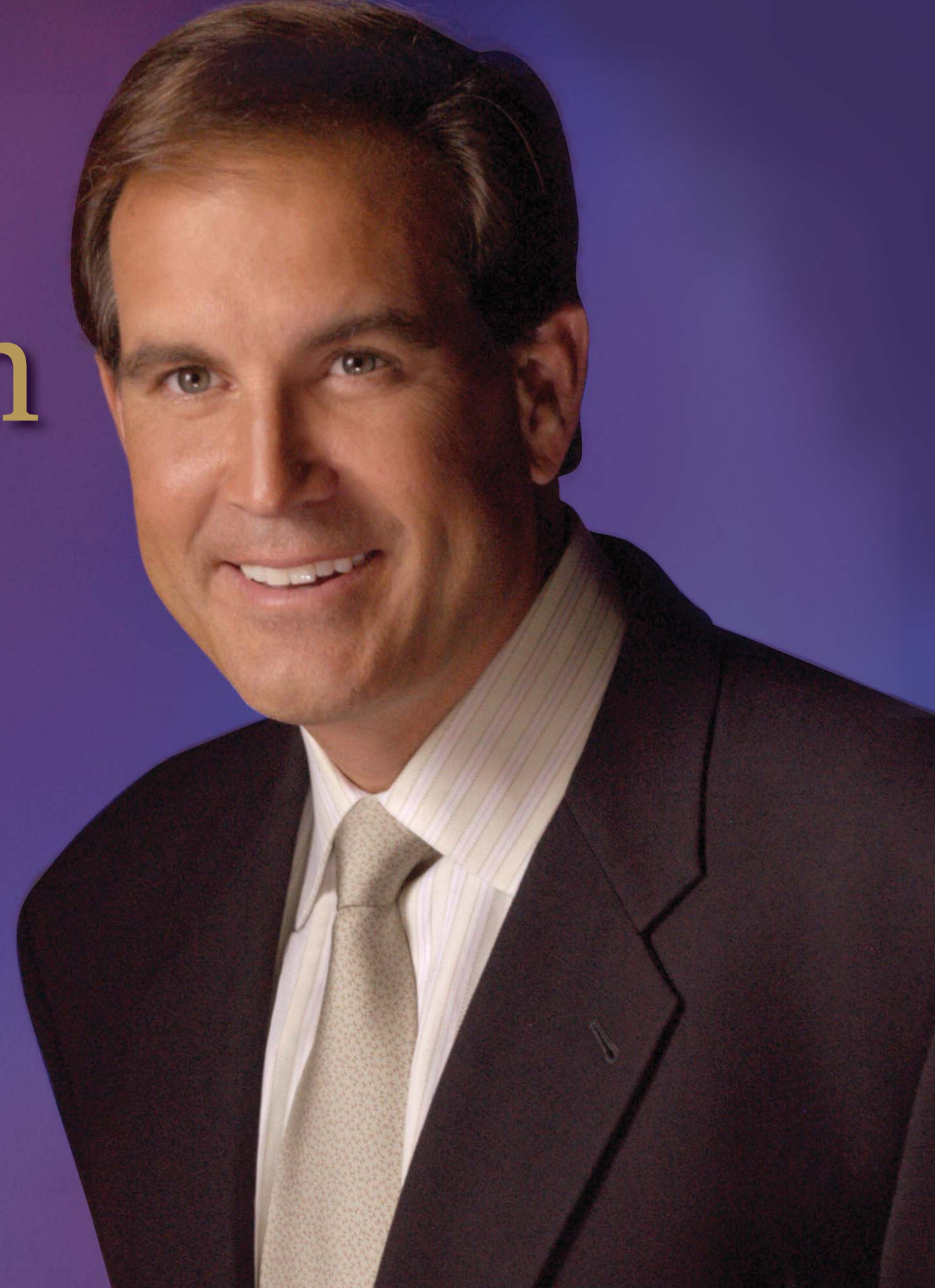
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Man of Distinction

“**M**ore than any other sport, golf has a heartbeat that cares about people. It’s the basic nature of the game: etiquette, kindness, playing by the rules and doing good things. Golf really set the course for my life, and because of it, I feel indebted to the game.”

—Jim Nantz, the 2013 MGA Distinguished Service Award recipient

For more on Nantz and the MGA Distinguished Service Award, [click here](#).



INSTRUCTION

Longshot

BY BOB RITTBERGER,
head professional at
Garden City Golf Club
in Garden City, N.Y.

Solid contact, proper trajectory, and finishing on-balance are three of the most recurring issues that exist with many amateurs when playing long iron shots. My suggestion: have a playing partner take a video of your swing to see if your body matches the three critical points I demonstrate in the following photos.

Success begins with adequate address fundamentals and commitment. A strong, athletic set-up with correct ball placement (just inside the left heel) is vital to hitting high, solid long irons.



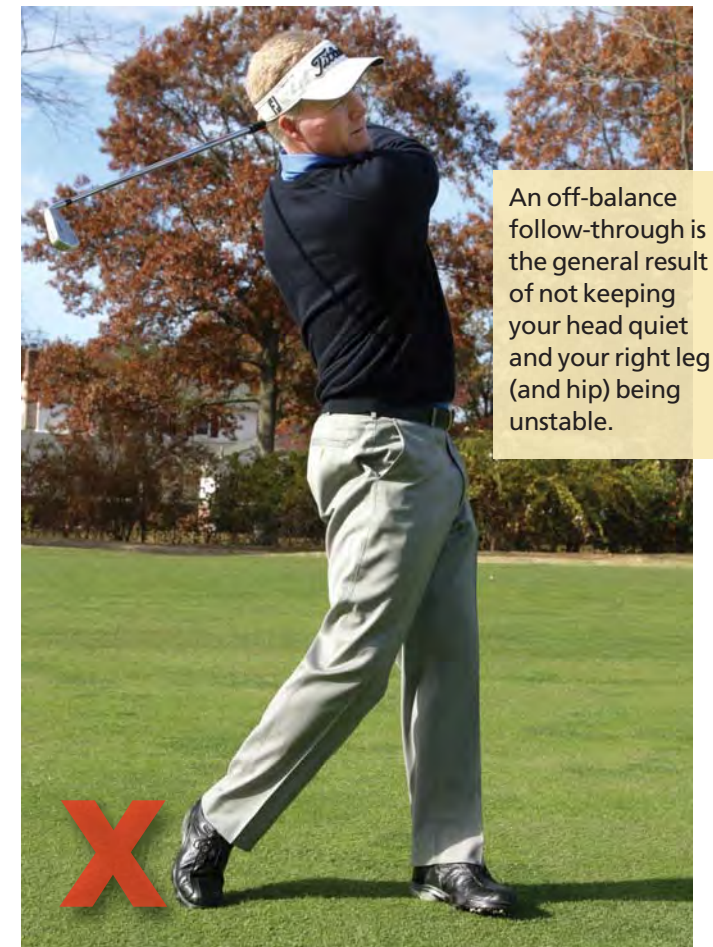
Swing anchors (the head and right knee) are keys to a consistent swing. This photo displays a strong pivot, and stable head and back leg positions.



Proper anchor positions at the top of the swing will promote a fundamentally sound and balanced downswing and follow-through.



Note the poor position of the right knee. Avoid swaying to generate power; it will lead to poor balance and tempo.



An off-balance follow-through is the general result of not keeping your head quiet and your right leg (and hip) being unstable.

STAR POWER

Met's BEST

Photos courtesy of John DeTemple (main) and Pat Cashman

“When I sat down with my coach [Gary Weir] at the beginning of the year, this was one of my main goals. There are a lot of great names on that Player of the Year Award list, and to be among them is pretty special.”

—Max Buckley, the 2013 MGA Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year

For more on Buckley's fantastic season, [click here](#).



Celtic Pride

As the old adage goes, the 30th time's the charm! Such was the case for the Celtic Golf Club, who broke through to win the Irish Metropolitan Golf Association (IMGA) Interclub Championship on their 30th attempt.

Celtic GC is made up of about 65 players (mostly Irish-Americans), who play out of Blue Hill Golf Course in Pearl River, N.Y., and Broadacres Golf Course in Orangeburg, N.Y.

Celtic GC President Tony Whelan said a total of 23 MGA clubs "without real estate" participated in the IMGA Interclub Championship this year, with Celtic and Spillane's Golf Society (who play out of the Golf Club at Mansion Ridge in Monroe, N.Y.) advancing to the finals.

Eighteen players represented each club in the 36-hole, home-and-home championship. Celtic held strong at Blue Hill and raced out to a 12.5 – 5.5 lead after the first series of singles matches. A valiant comeback by Spillane's at Mansion Ridge made things interesting for a while, but Celtic was able to hang on for the 19-17 victory and their first-ever IMGA title.

"We did some celebrating at Mansion, but we'll be doing a lot more at our Christmas party in December," Whelan said.



Climate Control

BY A.J. VOELPEL

Playability is the name of the game when it comes to gearing up for those chilly (and rainy) Northeast winter rounds. We desire outerwear that fits snug and keeps us warm, yet doesn't confine us from taking ordinary swings with the driver. With Dunning Golf's innovative layering system and Zero Restriction's latest jacket technology, our prayers have been answered.

Dunning's unique layering line offers several styles, colors and natural fabric options. The Long Sleeve (or short sleeve) Crew Neck Merino Base Layer is made of 100 percent Merino wool (a) and provides a form-fitting, insulated foundation. From there, the Stretch Thermal ¼-Zip (b) is a lightweight and breathable choice to coat the base. Top that with the Lined Merino Sweater (c) — a blend of polyester, nylon and wool — for the final addition.

For wetter and windier conditions, Zero Restriction's Stealth Jacket (d) is a no-brainer. It comes equipped with fully taped seams, adjustable Velcro cuffs, arm articulation (allowing freedom of swing), a full interior wind flap, and an anti-chafing chin guard. Oh, and it's truly waterproof; a guarantee ZR makes for the life of the jacket.



54 Holes In... Puerto Rico

BY CHRISTOPHER POWERS

Photo by Joann Dost

The winter is rapidly approaching in the Met Area, which means it's just about time to plan that warm weather golf trip. Puerto Rico, with its beautiful beaches and immaculate courses, isn't such a bad place to start...

COURSES

- **Royal Isabela.** A bit of a Scottish flair makes this links-style course a must play. Challenge yourself from the back tees that stretch out to over 7,500 yards or "tee it forward" from the whites. Either way, you'll be blown away by the majestic ocean views.
- **El Conquistador.** This course also provides gorgeous panoramas of the Atlantic, as well the El Yunque Rain Forest. The bunkers, hills and numerous elevation changes offer a unique challenge (and setting) for all golfers.
- **Dorado Beach.** The Ritz Carlton Resort features three pristine golf courses including The East Course, recently restored by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Native beach sands fill the bunkers while their Bermuda greens generally roll at double-digit speeds.

LODGING

- **El San Juan Hotel & Casino.** This historic facility overlooking Isla Verde Beach features nine gourmet restaurants and a spacious pool complex where you will find waterfalls, swim-up bars and much more.

OFF-COURSE

- **El Yunque National Rain Forest.** Take a hike in the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System where you'll discover extremely rare plant life and animal species.

Can't blame anyone for slow play on Royal Isabela's magnificent 14th.



Pace Makers

USGA Executive Director Mike Davis opened the day's discussion.

Photo by Jonathan Kolbe/USGA

The USGA is ramping up efforts to combat slow play, and to kick things off it hosted a **Slow Play Symposium** earlier this month at USGA headquarters in New Jersey. The symposium was one of the USGA's first steps in their plans to enlist the support of state, regional and national golf organizations to develop effective solutions to remedy an issue that is considered one of the biggest deterrents to the enjoyment and growth of the game.

With one of the largest concentrations of golf courses in the country right here in the Met Area, the MGA plans to work closely with the USGA on developing strategies that will help our member clubs and courses attack the problem at the ground level, and make the game more pleasurable for all.

Play the accompanying video for highlights of the symposium.



Monster Mashie

BY HELEN STOCK

Photos courtesy of Debbie Rauscher



Three years ago, Brent Studer, the head professional at Manasquan River Golf Club in Manasquan, N.J., and his family began the Trick-or-Treat golf outing to raise money for several local charities. The event, however, is far from your typical golf outing; every foursome must be decked out in Halloween costumes.

With penalties for removing any part of the costume, golfing gets tricky when one trades a golf shirt and khakis for a wig and face paint. Highlights from this year's outing (played at Hillsborough Golf and Country Club) included the band KISS, a foursome of Elvis impersonators, Caddyshack characters, and the cast of characters from the Wizard of Oz.

