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*This page: Here's to hoping for big birdies both on and off the golf course during this Thanksgiving season.*



# ON THE FOREFRONT

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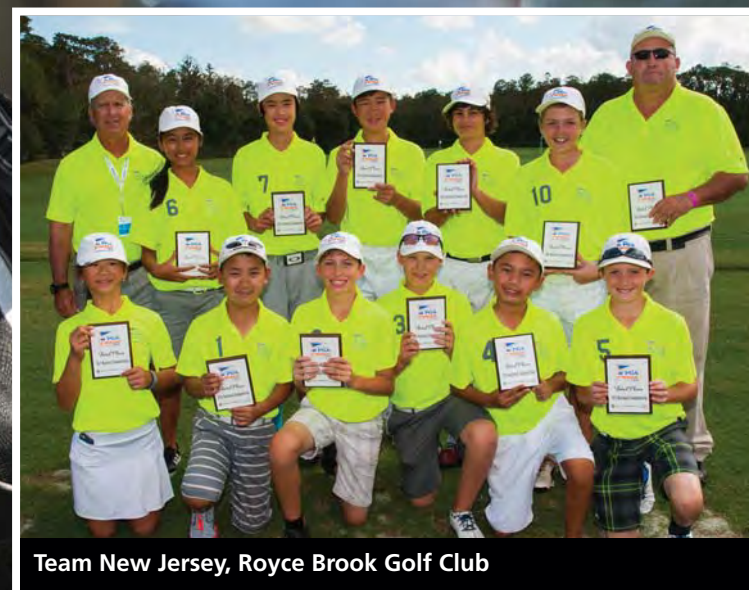
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Assistant Coach Bill Balash, who helped lead the team along with Captain Anthony Latham, encourages players during the third-place match, which New Jersey won 6.5 to 5.5 over Ohio.

**P**GA Junior League Golf has been a major success for New Jersey, not only in its impressive growth but also in its results on the national stage.

The PGA projected more than 30,000 youth participants and 2,500 national teams for PGA Junior League Golf in 2015, with New Jersey's program growing to more than 500 boys and girls, spread out over 60 teams. That's one of several reasons the New Jersey PGA Section was honored with the Herb Graffis Award at the 99th PGA Annual Meeting on November 11. The award, which the NJPGA accepted for the second time in four years, recognizes a PGA Section for extraordinary and exemplary contributions in Player Development.

The youth initiative, which has experienced rapid growth throughout the Met Area, is now in its fourth year of national competition and a team from Royce Brook Golf Club has advanced through qualifying three times to represent New Jersey in the finals. This year's PGA Junior League Golf Championship was contested at Walt Disney Resort's Palm Course for the first time, November 5-8, and Team New Jersey placed third in the eight-team field. Four two-person scrambles comprise the scoring for each team vs. team match. Substitutes are allowed every three holes, bringing the team atmosphere found in other junior sport leagues to the game of golf.



Team New Jersey, Royce Brook Golf Club

# THE LEARNING CURVE

**F**ollowing his stellar 2014 season which ended with MGA Player of the Year honors, David Pastore has had an exciting (and educational) 2015. The Greenwich, Conn., native competed mainly on the Mackenzie Tour, but also made two Web.com Tour appearances and had a special PGA TOUR debut after Monday qualifying for the Travelers Championship. Now he's preparing for the Final Stage of Web.com Tour Q-School.

**EXTRA:** *You had a big year with the MGA in 2014, winning two majors and taking Player of the Year honors. How would you describe your year since?*

**David:** I'm very happy with the way I've played and the progress I've continued to show at the professional level, but I haven't placed first in any events since the Met Amateur. I've played just as well, if not better, and had top finishes, but it shows that winning takes a little magic. It gives me more perspective on how sweet it was to win three big events in a span of a few months in 2014.

**E:** *What was a major takeaway from competing on the Mackenzie Tour (PGA TOUR Canada) in 2015?*

**D:** I'd say learning how to travel and play multiple weeks in a row – what to pack, adjusting to different courses and different cities; also, the importance of a good caddie.

**E:** *What was it like to make your PGA TOUR debut in your home state at the Travelers Championship?*

**D:** That was probably the highlight of my summer. Qualifying for the Travelers made it possible for so many of my friends and family to watch me in my PGA TOUR debut. Any other PGA TOUR event and I wouldn't have had so much support, simply because this is our home event.

**E:** *What will you remember most from the Travelers Championship?*

**D:** The atmosphere and feeling of being around the best players in the world.

**E:** *What did you learn from your experience at the Final Stage of Q-School last year, and how can you apply it to this year?*

**D:** I feel a little bit more comfortable knowing what to expect this year. I know the majority of the players now, I have more experience on the courses, and I have an idea of what scores I need to shoot to achieve what I want. Hopefully I can improve on my finish this year.



Met Area players sightseeing on a Mackenzie Tour stop in Banff, Alberta, Canada (L-R): Mike Ballo, Jr., Mike Miller, David Pastore, Ryan McCormick, Max Buckley.



Pastore on the range at the Travelers Championship.

# POWER to the People

BY SCOTT KRAMER

**T**he latest drivers can make you outright mighty off the tee, thanks to clever use of multiple materials. Within each of these adjustable models, various materials are positioned, sculpted and connected in a way that maximizes launch conditions and reduces ball spin – for appreciable increased distance.

The SpacePort sole window on Cobra's KING LTD (\$449) looks futuristic. It enhances impact sound and helps create a low-deep CG, achieving distance without sacrificing forgiveness. Under its carbon fiber crown lies a trench around the perimeter of the titanium face that increases ball speed across the face. Loft is adjustable.

Adjust the hosel on Tour Edge's 460cc Exotics EX9 (\$300) to fine-tune launch conditions, and enhance draw through an interchangeable heel weight. The aerodynamic design helps you generate clubhead speed, while variable thickness across the face improves launch. Internal sole and crown ribs help generate a crisp, titanium impact sound.

Wilson Staff's FG Tour F5 (\$380) can be quickly adjusted to one of six lofts and three sole weights, so you can attain your ideal launch angle, ball speed and spin rate. The forgiving 460cc clubhead features variable face thickness, which maximizes ball speed and performance wherever you make contact.



# BLAST FROM THE PAST

BY TIM HARTIN



Lacking a stand, golf bags required golfers to also carry wooden rods which were used to prop up the bags on the course.

Many may think the only place for near century-old golf clubs is a display case; however, for some, a collection has spurred a revered competition. On October 26-27, the ninth Hickory Grail was contested at Baltusrol Golf Club with mashies and niblicks making their return to the fairways. Conducted by the British Golf Collectors Society, "The Grail" is the oldest international hickory match in golf. It takes place every two years between teams from the United States and Europe with 24 matches—including foursome, fourball and singles play—deciding a victor.

While the Americans claimed the 16-8 win, the camaraderie and experiences shared between the passionate hickory supporters are likely to serve as the

lasting memories. Competitors convened from 12 states, England, Scotland and Sweden for the event and organizers left no detail overlooked. In addition to utilizing hickory shafted golf clubs, competitors dress in plus-fours and 1920s garb, use classic golf bags and even play with a mesh-pattern ball replicating those from the early twentieth century.

The event was bookended with ceremonial events, beginning with a flag raising ceremony featuring a welcome from USGA Executive Director Mike Davis and closing with a cordial dinner. "The true winner is hickory golf," remarked U.S. Captain Mark Wehring of Texas. "Our historical contests engender a sweet spirit of respectful competition among those who join in the quest."



David Brown of the U.S. displays his mesh-patterned golf ball and 1920's driver.



Flags from competitors' home states and countries hang from the clubhouse terrace at Baltusrol Golf Club.

PHOTO: JONAS FACK/TEAM EUROPE

PHOTO: INSGA

PHOTO: MATT DODDS/TEAM USA

Seeking great golf and sunshine during the winter months? Tucson delivers. With a variety of spectacular desert courses and more than 350 days of sunshine a year (it's touted as one of the sunniest cities in the United States), look no further than The Old Pueblo as a rejuvenating destination.

**COURSES:**

- 1 Sewailo Golf Club** – Golfers will be pleased with generous fairways and large greens at Sewailo, whose name means “flower world” in the Pascua Yaqui language. Yet, 65 bunkers, water on 10 holes and the potential for sweeping winds present a pleasant test. Just two years old, the layout has become well known as the harmonized desert oasis it set out to be.
- 2 Golf Club at Dove Mountain** – The Saguaro and Tortolita nines welcomed the world's best for the WGC-Match Play from 2009-14. Scenes with stately cactus are abundant on the Saguaro nine, while the Tortolita nine winds along the base of its namesake mountains where four holes are in a canyon setting.
- 3 The Golf Club at Vistoso** – This Tom Weiskopf design is nestled between the Tortolita and Santa Catalina Mountains. It features a unique composition made for excitement with five par-5s and five par-3s, while a new, spectacular view waits on every turn thanks to a figure eight routing.

**WHERE TO STAY:**

- **White Stallion Ranch** – This location stays true to its cattle ranch roots and traditions of the West. An array of welcoming room options, resort-like amenities and heralded horseback riding adventures make the ranch much more than just a place to lay your head.

**OFF-COURSE:**

- **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum** – Here, you'll find a zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, introducing you to animals (some of which are endangered) and plants native to the area. It's both an entertaining and educational stop, especially for those making their first visit to a desert landscape.

# 54 Holes in Tucson

BY TIM HARTIN



Sewailo's par-3 third is one of designer Notah Begay III's favorite holes, the green being heavily guarded by both water and bunkers.

PHOTO: CASINO DEL SOL RESORT



Golf carts aren't the only way to enjoy Tucson's mountainous desert scenes.

PHOTO: WHITE STALLION RANCH

# Heeere's Johnny (Miller)

Johnny Miller greets local PGA Professionals prior to his open discussion.

PHOTO: PAUL GIORDANO/MET PGA

After morning discussions on industry trends and continuing education topics during the Metropolitan PGA Section's annual professional roundtables at Pelham Country Club, area pros welcomed special guest Johnny Miller.

The Hall of Famer sat down with Glen Arbor's Head Golf Professional Brian Crowell for a fireside chat with attendees, shedding light on his earliest years on the PGA TOUR, providing insight on the golf swing, and sharing details on his transition to the television booth.

While Crowell—who has been around Miller in the broadcast world on several occasions—spoke to Miller's consistency on and off camera, Miller also displayed a

personal side when referencing his family on multiple occasions. "We had a saying growing up, that no amount of success can compensate for failure in the home," Miller reflected. "I wasn't failing in the home, but the greatest gift you can give your kids is your time, right? You can be as nice as you want, but if you don't give them your time and love, you're missing out on something more important than golf."

The sometimes bold announcer also ignited laughter as his well-known trait of sharing his opinion was displayed in covering topics such as the Ryder Cup and Tiger Woods. As far as his television career, Miller missed covering the U.S. Open, but is looking forward to being part of future British Open broadcasts, which NBC now holds the rights to beginning in 2016.

# SCHOOL SPIRIT

**W**ith the fall semester winding down, collegiate golf enters its brief hiatus before ramping up for the spring string of championships. The Met Area's best have been hitting the books and the links this fall, some for the very first time, and are producing noteworthy results.



Columbia University Athletics/Gene Boyars

**Senior**  
Columbia  
University  
**HARRISON SHIH**  
Saddle River, N.J.

Shih personified senior leadership this fall, pacing his Lions with three top-10 individual finishes in four events. He notched a career-best second place finish at the Tuxedo Fall Invitational, where his team took runner-up honors. Shih recorded an impressive 70.4 scoring average this fall.

**Sophomore**  
Vanderbilt  
University  
**CINDY HA**  
Demarest, N.J.



Vanderbilt University

After being named to the All-SEC Freshman team last season, Ha picked up right where she left off, tying for seventh at the Mason Rudolph Championship and placing fifth at the Yale Women's Intercollegiate this fall. Her highest finish in four events was a tie for 17th, while she led her team with a 71.25 scoring average.



Raleigh Lunn

**Sophomore**  
Loyola  
University Maryland  
**JEREMY WALL**  
Brielle, N.J.

Wall finished the Terrapin Invitational as the only player under-par, claiming his first-ever collegiate win and helping the Greyhounds to a runner-up finish in the 11-team field. His victory led to more hardware, as he was named Patriot League Golfer of the Month for October.

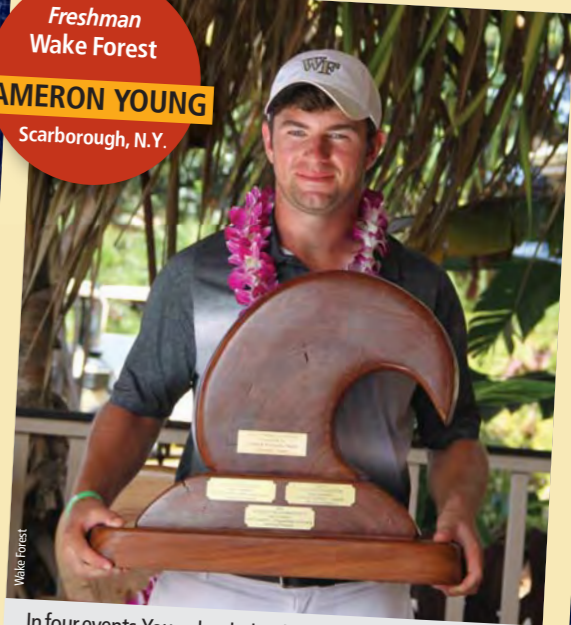


Georgetown University

**Freshman**  
Georgetown  
University  
**CHRISTINA PARSELLS**  
Bernardsville, N.J.

Parsells has settled in nicely with the Hoyas, improving her finishes in all four starts. In the last two events of the fall, Parsells led her team with a pair of top-10 finishes: T-10th at the Yale Women's Intercollegiate and T-9th at the Lady Blue Hen Invitational.

**Freshman**  
Wake Forest  
**CAMERON YOUNG**  
Scarborough, N.Y.



Wake Forest

In four events, Young has helped the Demon Deacons to three team titles plus a runner-up finish. Young shared medalist honors at the U.S. Collegiate Championship and took a two-stroke victory at the Warrior Princeville Makai Invitational, leading to ACC Golfer of the Month honors for October. He ranks No. 23 in Golfstat individual rankings and stands as the nation's highest-ranked freshman.



# TIP OF THE CAP



Henderson (left) receives the PGA Professional of the Year Award from PGA President Derek Sprague.

**Y**ear-end meetings are often headlined by award recipients, and as part of the PGA of America's 99th Annual Meeting on November 11, Tom Henderson collected his first-ever national award. Henderson, in his 29th year as PGA Head Professional at Round Hill Club in Greenwich, Conn., was named the PGA Golf Professional of the Year, the highest annual honor given to a PGA of America Professional which recognizes "qualities of leadership, strong moral character and a substantial record of service."

Henderson's leadership and service, on both a local and national level, is second to none; however, development has long been a focus for Henderson, whether in relation to youth golfers and his membership, or in his own career. He has continually introduced the game to young players, successfully using initiatives such as PGA Junior League Golf and the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship, in addition to his own seven-week Junior Golf School, while staying well-tuned to technological advances that he can pass along to his membership.

Henderson was given the Metropolitan PGA Professional of the Year honor in 2011, and has continued striving for improvement and professional growth. In 2013, he earned the first-ever PGA Certified Professional Program (CPP 2.0) designation in the area of Player Development.

One of the things he likes to hear most: "What's new this year?" Especially when a new season rolls around, this is a question for which Henderson will always have an answer.