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This page: In 2019, the MGA will conduct 20 qualifiers for USGA championships, including the U.S. Open sectional which will return to Century Country Club (9th hole pictured) and Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, N.Y. For more on the latest USGA championships slated to take place in the Met Area, see page 12.



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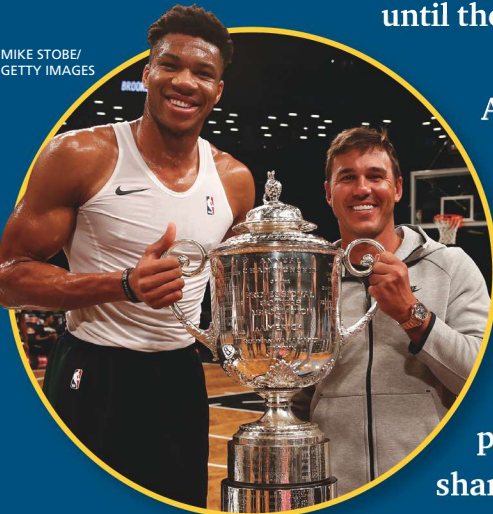

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Setting the Stage

After defending his U.S. Open title with a victory at Shinnecock Hills last summer, reigning PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka will aim to write a similar script this May at Bethpage Black. “You always try to come back and make sure you’re in a good spot to defend your title, and that’s what I’m hoping to do,” said Koepka, visiting New York City on a media tour with less than 100 days until the PGA Championship.



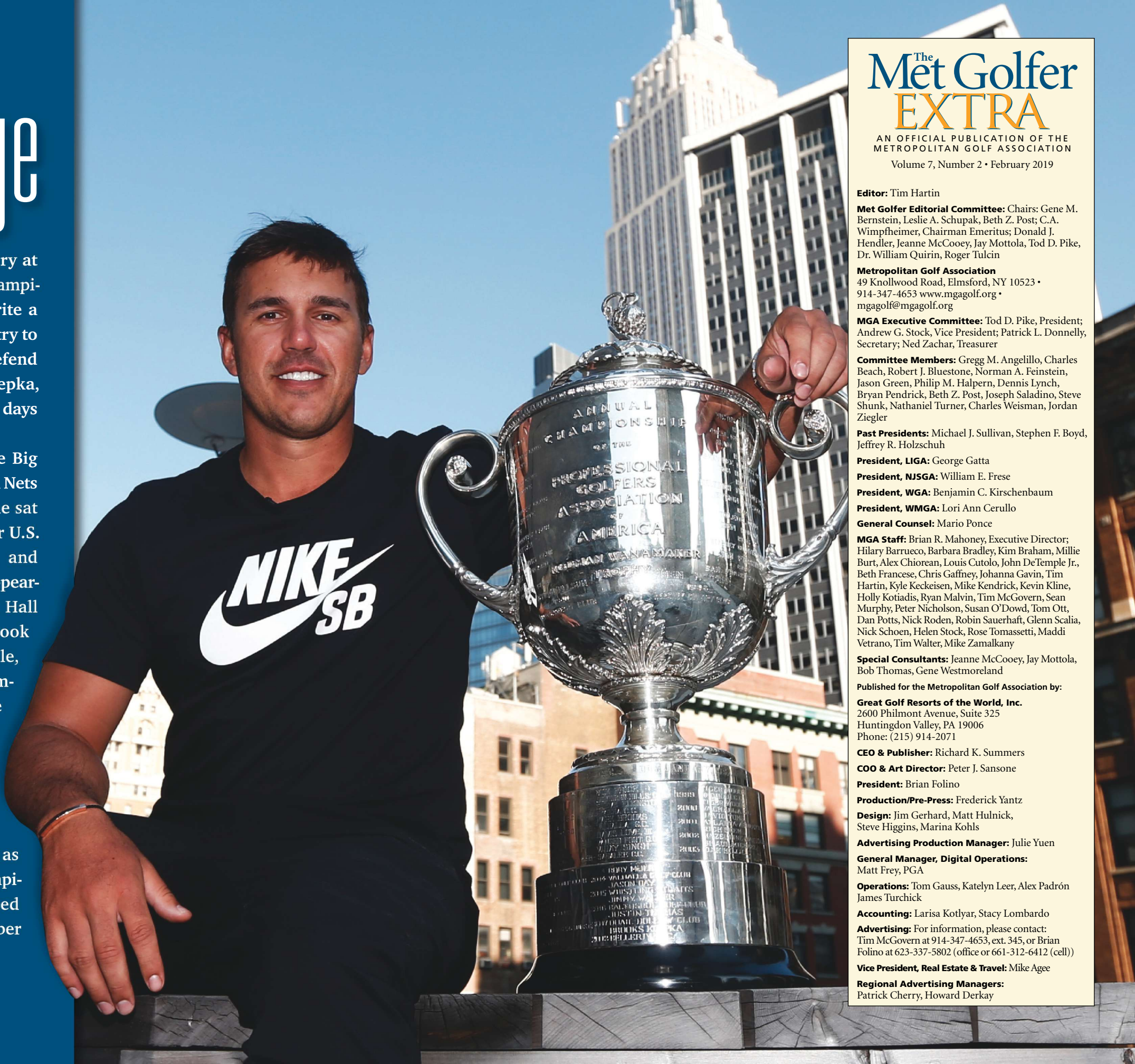
MIKE STORE/
GETTY IMAGES

Koepka kept busy in the Big Apple, attending a Brooklyn Nets basketball game where he sat courtside next to former U.S. President Bill Clinton and making several media appearances, including a Town Hall on SiriusXM. He also took part in a media roundtable, sharing his enthusiasm to compete in the Met Area once again, saying, “I’m super excited. New York fans are a lot of fun, and any time you

“I’ve never felt smaller,” said Koepka after standing next to Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks.

can play in front of them and you’re doing well, I think that’s an added bonus.”

Area golf fans have certainly shown their excitement as Bethpage Black prepares to host its first-ever PGA Championship. On February 14, the PGA of America announced that week-long tickets have sold out and a limited number of single-day tickets remain available.



The Met Golfer EXTRA

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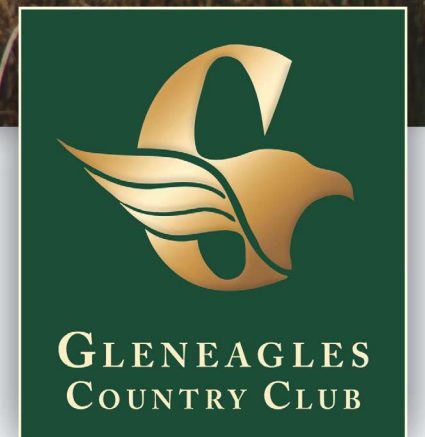
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Storybook Ending

Every golfer dreams of making the drive down Magnolia Lane. This April, Princeton, N.J., native and Furman University graduate Alice Chen will do just that. As one of the top 30 Americans in the Women's World Amateur Golf Ranking™ at the end of 2018, Chen earned an invitation to the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship—setting up a better-than-imagined finish to her highly accomplished amateur career.

Extra: *What was your reaction to receiving the invitation?*

Alice: When I got it in the mail, it was very special to open it with my parents by my side. The invitation itself was beautiful and I was overwhelmed with excitement and gratitude to receive this opportunity.

E: *How have you been preparing to compete in the Augusta National Women's Amateur?*

A: I have been working out a lot to improve my strength, endurance, mobility, and stability. All of these are important and are the basis for increasing swing speed, which I've also been diligent about improving. I look forward to shifting my training to being mostly back on the golf course soon.

E: *What are you most looking forward to about this opportunity?*

A: I look forward to soaking up every bit of this experience. Few people get to be part of the first of anything so it's really cool to be part of history. I'm excited to drive down Magnolia Lane and hit shots from iconic spots where pros have made their mark in Masters history.

E: *What will it mean to close out your amateur career with this event?*

S: I am convinced that God is faithful, because I couldn't have scripted it any better. Even when I play poorly—like at Stage 2 of LPGA/Symetra Q-School—He still turns it into something good, like being invited to play at Augusta and accepting the invitation. There are plenty of little things that I couldn't control for me to play in this event. For that, I am so grateful to have this opportunity and it will be all the more significant and important to me, as it will be my last amateur event.

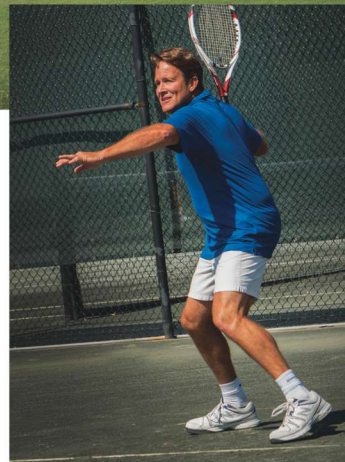
Read Alice's full Q&A, featuring extended answers, plus her awareness of the invitation criteria, how closely she followed her eligibility, and what parts of her game she'll focus on leading up to the event.



Chen's invitation to compete in the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship.

Chen—who, alongside her Furman teammate and fellow New Jerseyan Taylor Totland, won the 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship—is seen here teeing off on Shinnecock Hills' 10th hole in the inaugural Celebration of Champions during U.S. Open week in 2018.

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The Hills, designed by Arthur Hills, is a shot maker's dream. This course lends itself to the pristine, natural surroundings and is known for requiring accuracy more than power. The courses at Old Trail offer an unparalleled experience that, golf purists will agree, leaves you wanting to play these courses again and again.

The Village location, just a few miles east in the heart of Jupiter, is home to the JL Village course, designed by Tom Fazio. Meandering around the neighborhoods of the gated

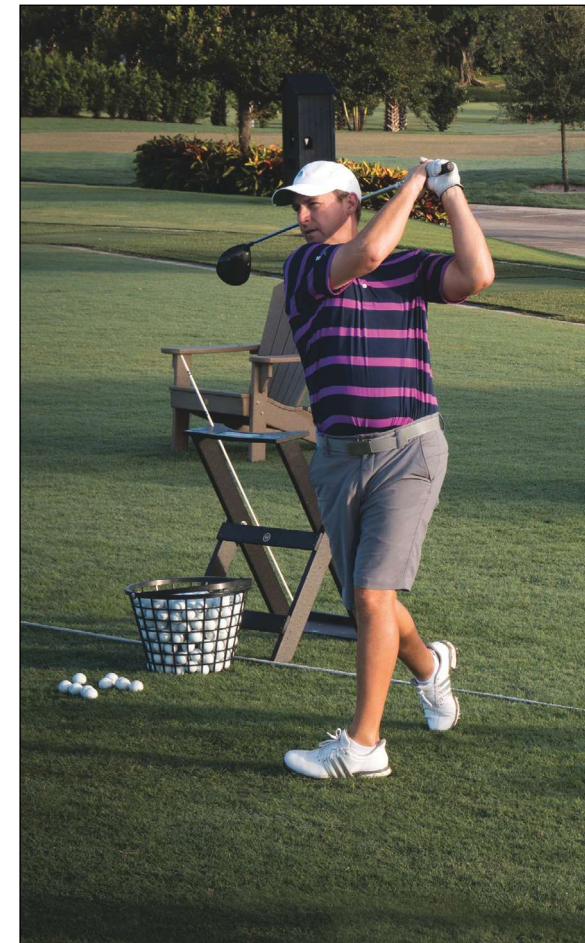


community and Intracoastal waters, this course features a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the scenic waterway at the signature 17th hole. Whether you're a beginner or an avid golfer, these three courses will test your skills and provide you with the variety of play every golfer searches for.

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Man Versus Machine

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Chances are good that a person designed your current driver. That's so 2018. This year, Callaway tapped artificial intelligence and machine learning to help make its new Epic Flash (\$530). While that's commonly used to design tech gear, it's never been previously used in golf. In this case, A.I. precisely shaped the clubface thickness for maximum ball speed. The titanium face looks normal on the outside, but its underside has unique topography that makes a noticeable distance boost when you make solid contact. Meanwhile, Jailbreak technology behind the face promotes faster ball speed all across, while adjustable perimeter weighting lets you shape draws, fades or straighter shots. Of course, you can also get some great new drivers designed with the human touch. PING's multi-material G410 Plus (\$540) features an easy-to-use movable weight on the extreme rear of the head — with settings for draw, neutral and fade. That lets you customize CG location and directional control, without sacrificing ball speed. And TaylorMade officials individually inject resin into the face of every M5 (\$550) to dial ball speed exactly to the USGA limit. An ultra-thin titanium face is shaped to straighten mis-hits and maximize distance. You can also adjust launch settings to your preference.





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What better way to celebrate your 125th anniversary than by hosting your fifth USGA championship? That will be exactly the case for historic Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Conn., which the USGA this month announced as host for the 3rd U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship, July 9-12, 2020.

"We're looking for venues that fit the word 'special' and can provide that ultimate test, just as it would any other U.S. Open Championship," said USGA Director, Championships Matt Sawicki. "Certainly with the pedigree of Brooklawn and the championships we've hosted here, we think that players are resoundingly going to be excited and enthusiastic about coming to compete here and we think it's going to be a wonderful championship venue in 2020."

The USGA's return to Brooklawn adds to the string of national championships slated to take place in the Met Area in upcoming years, joining the 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club, the 2021 U.S. Women's Amateur at Westchester Country Club, the 2022 U.S. Amateur at The Ridgewood Country Club and the 2026 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club.



Laura Davies claimed the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open in 2018 at Chicago Golf Club.

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Oitavos Dunes: Just west of Lisbon, Oitavos Dunes overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and provides a links-like feel at times. The Arthur Hills design also navigates through dense stands of umbrella pines and along brush-covered dunes, leaving no surprise that it's considered a top 100 golf course in the world by *Golf Magazine*.

West Cliffs: West Cliffs, situated north of Lisbon on Portugal's Silver Coast, opened to high acclaim in the summer of 2017. Designed by Cynthia Dye—niece of Pete Dye—the spectacular course provides stunning Atlantic Ocean views throughout while melding seamlessly with the landscape's rolling dunes and seaside vegetation.

Troia Golf: This Robert Trent Jones layout lies south of Lisbon on the Troia Peninsula—which can be accessed by ferry. Though trees line many holes, sand dunes, the Atlantic Ocean, and Serra da Arrábida steal one's eye. Jones considered the short par-four 3rd, which runs along the Atlantic, as one of the best holes he ever designed.

The par-three 14th at Oitavos Dunes provides one of many jaw-dropping scenes found throughout the round.

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For a pre-round meal or a 19th-hole cocktail, enjoy the upscale American fare at Champions Bar & Grill. No visit here is complete without an evening at BLT Prime—a modern American steakhouse offering dry aged steaks, fresh seafood and panoramic views of the Blue Monster.

The resort's unparalleled golf experience is even further enhanced by the extensive retail offerings throughout the property. The 7,000 square foot golf shop, a leader in both fashion golf brands and equipment, is the crown jewel of retail at Doral. As one of the pioneer shops in the nation, the golf shop carries the most classic golf apparel to the new cutting-edge fashion brands, geared to those golfers who want to make a statement with more than just their score. Guests will find limited edition merchandise and specialty items along with the largest collection of golf clubs, junior and women's apparel. The Blue Monster shop, the only location on property to get the famed Blue Monster logo, is a perfect spot for traditional golf apparel, accessories and gifts. The expansive Royal Palm Pool complex features a family friendly zero-entry pool, a serenity pool for adults, a 125-foot slide, Kids Camp program and 18 poolside cabanas. Guests can rejuvenate at the state-of-the-art fitness center featuring Technogym equipment and Kinesis Workout Systems, or play on Four Har-Tru tennis courts. A newly refreshed spa offers a tranquil retreat for pampering and relaxation with an array of spa treatment options for women, men and junior. Located in the heart of the City of Doral, the legendary landmark is now poised to be the most spectacular golf destination, forever befitting the name Doral in all its past, present and future glory.

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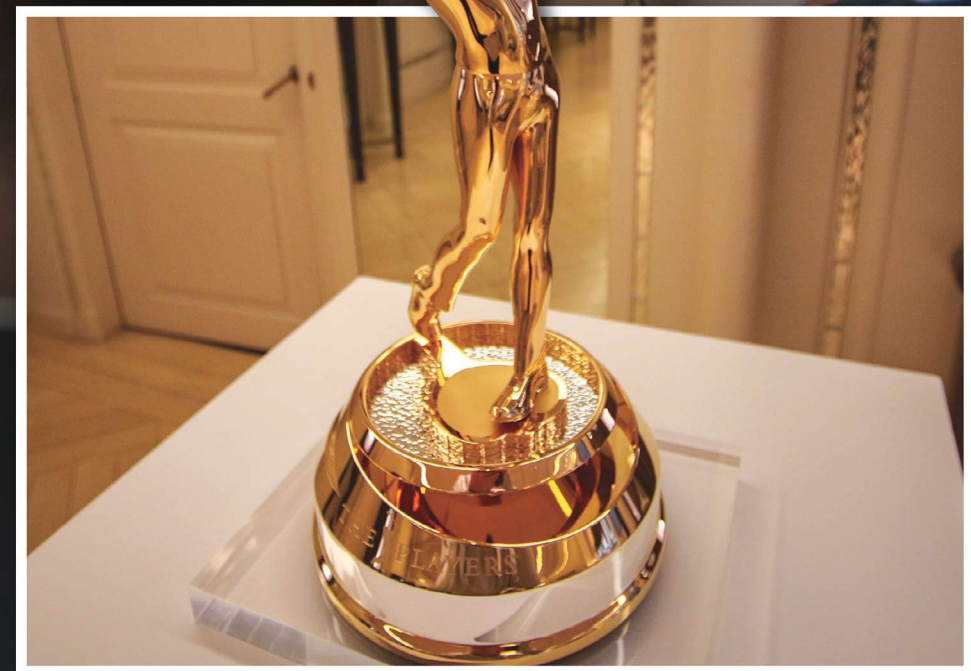
Next month when THE PLAYERS Championship returns to March on the PGA TOUR schedule, the PGA TOUR's premier event will also hand out new hardware.

On February 7, representatives from the PGA TOUR and Tiffany and Co., revealed the elegant, new trophy in New York City. "The logo really was our inspiration," said David Piccolo, VP Brand Creative, PGA TOUR. "So, we started with our swinging golfer ... the challenge was to bring this form to life three-dimensionally." Lengthy discussion went into every detail, from the swing and face—which incorporates aspects of each of the 38 different winners of THE PLAYERS thanks to computer modeling—to the flexed toe and the iconic island-green 17th on which the sterling silver figure covered in 24k gold vermeil stands.

The creation of such a piece incorporated processes new and old, such as electroforming to build layers of the figure to a seamless finish and hammer-striking to produce a shimmering appearance of water around the green.

The result? A stunning trophy that will embrace and personify the championship's history and prestige for years to come.

Tiffany & Co. Market Vice President Jeff Bennett, THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice and Piccolo unveil the new trophy for THE PLAYERS Championship.



The new trophy stands 17 inches tall and weighs 7.6 pounds. A larger—32 ¼ inches tall and 34.46 pounds—perpetual trophy will be on display year-round at TPC Sawgrass.