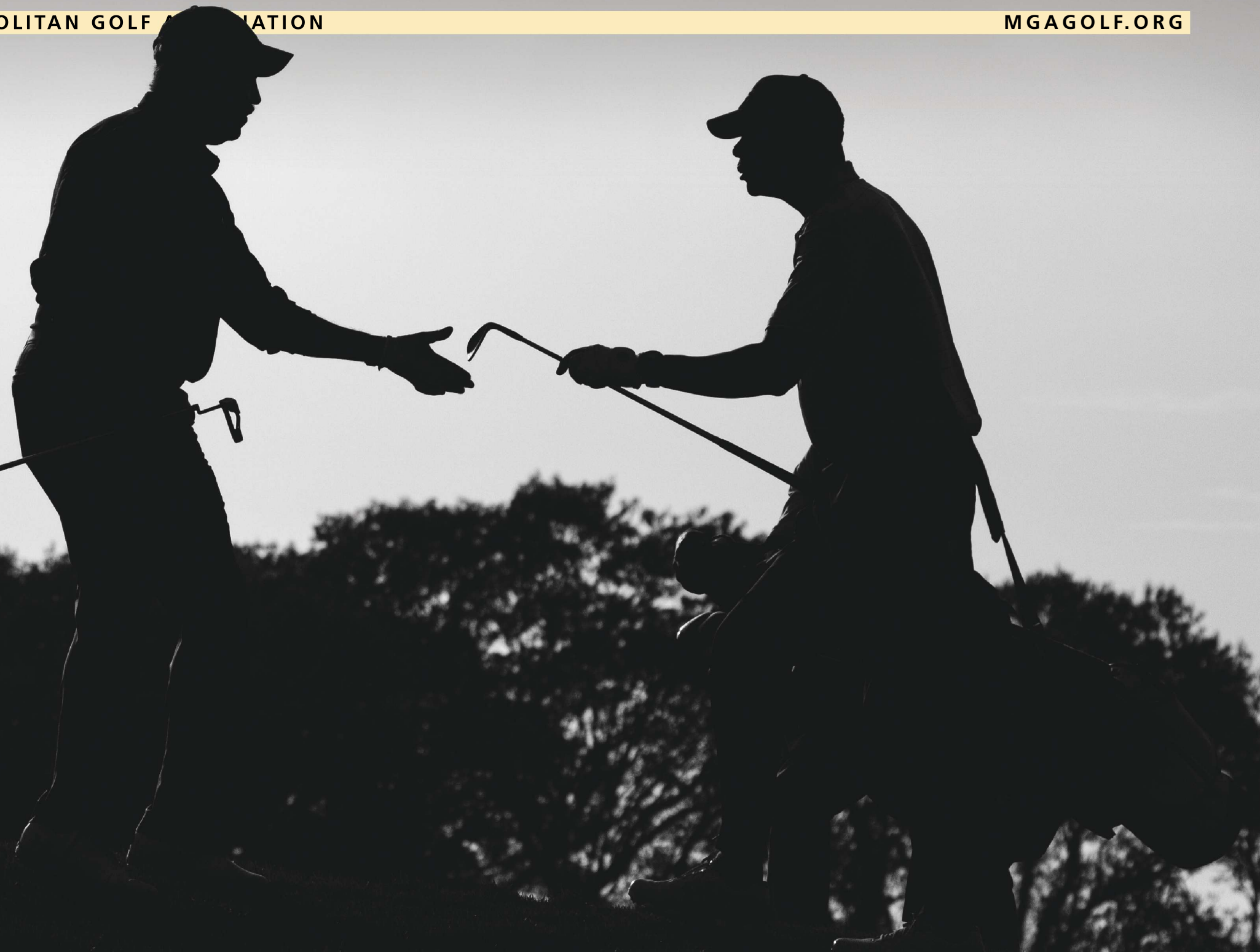


## In This Issue

May 2018

- 2** **By the Numbers:** Learn the figures and facts you'll want to know leading into the 118th U.S. Open Championship.
- 5** **MGA Foundation:** The annual Day of Golf highlighted the MGA Foundation's cornerstone GOLFWORKS program and next year's PGA Championship venue.
- 8** **Met Moments:** Five-time MGA champion Bob Housen stands among the inaugural class inducted into the NJSGA Hall of Fame.
- 11** **Gear:** Grip it and rip it with confidence this season by considering the latest and greatest in grip options.
- 14** **Beyond the Met:** Check out these top honors and accolades collected by collegiate competitors from the Met Area.
- 17** **People:** Michael Leary's volunteer experience with the MGA has exceeded his greatest expectations.
- 20** **Travel:** You're probably familiar with some of its private clubs, but should check out the public golf options found all around Pittsburgh.
- 22** **Parting Shot:** We remember Doug Ford, whose 1956 Met Open victory helped him get back on the winning track.

*This page: More than 170 MGA Foundation supporters took on Bethpage State Park's famed Black Course on the Foundation's annual Day of Golf. See more on page 5. (Photo: Barry Sloan)*



# 118TH U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

**A**fter much anticipation, the U.S. Open Championship returns to the Met Area and Shinnecock Hills in June for its 118th edition. Once the first tee shot is struck, there will be plenty of numbers to keep track of, but here are a few figures to know as USGA and MGA charter member Shinnecock Hills welcomes its fifth U.S. Open Championship.

**9,049** – Number of entries the USGA accepted for the 2018 U.S. Open. The final field will be comprised of 156 players.

**276** – Winning score from the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills, won by Retief Goosen (-4).

**45+** – Hours of network coverage for the U.S. Open on Fox and FS1. More than 115 hours will be available via live streaming.

**37,000** – Size in square feet of the merchandise “tent” constructed for the 2018 U.S. Open.

**2** – Number of holes in the new playoff format for the U.S. Open. In the event of a tie, it would take place following the completion of the 72 holes of stroke play.

**7,445** – The total yardage at which the course can play from its back tees. Each round will vary due to course setup and conditions.

**4** – Number of holes played in the USGA’s Celebration of Champions, a June 12 public exhibition at Shinnecock Hills honoring winners of all 2017 USGA championships.

**41.57** – In yards, average width of fairway driving zones. This compares to an average of 26.57 yards in 2004’s U.S. Open.

**6** – Number of qualifying rounds for the 118th U.S. Open Championship conducted by the MGA this year, including the June 4 sectional at Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, N.J.

## The Met Golfer EXTRA

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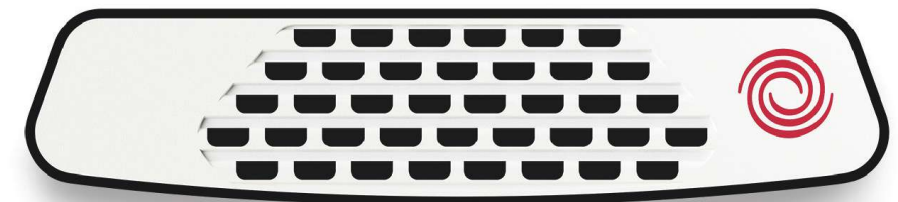
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# CORNERSTONE SUPPORT



The MGA Foundation held its 24th annual Day of Golf at Bethpage State Park on May 14, allowing more than 170 supporters to test their skill on the Park's famed Black Course and hear first-hand the positive impact of the Foundation's cornerstone student-intern program, GOLFWORKS.

"This job has taught me to be assertive and diligent when it comes to the tasks at hand. But most of all, I have learned that hard work is appreciated and respected," remarked MaryKate Saunders, a second-year GOLFWORKS intern at Deepdale Golf Club in Manhasset, N.Y.

Each year, nearly 300 students like MaryKate gain valuable experience while employed at more than 80 MGA Member Clubs through the GOLFWORKS program. The program, launched in 1994, has provided outstanding opportunities for young people in the Met Area thanks to generous support from MGA Member Clubs, Foundation donors, and the official supporter of the MGA Foundation, MetLife.

GOLFWORKS student interns Rayjuan White and MaryKate Saunders joined by MGA Foundation Director Peter Nicholson (left) and MGA Foundation Chairman and MGA President Michael Sullivan at Bethpage State Park.



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# The Call for the Hall



A special part of Housen's induction was having many family members in attendance. "Our family is very strong," he said. "We help each other and support each other."

**A**fter sorting through its 118 years of golf history, the New Jersey State Golf Association selected 16 of the state's most influential names and welcomed them as the inaugural class of NJSGA Hall of Fame inductees in a May 1 ceremony. Many of those inducted left their mark beyond the bounds of New Jersey, including amateur Bob Housen.

Following the suggestion of an area professional, Housen—79 and a longtime member of Manasquan River—began competing in championships in his 30s and just hoped to play well. "I never in my wildest dreams ever envisioned that I would win six State Amateur Championships or be in six U.S. Senior Opens and play with the likes of Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus," said Housen, who finished as low amateur in the U.S. Senior Open in both 1988 and 1995.

For Housen, playing the game provided a quality platform for helping others while also keeping different elements of life in perspective. "I always felt I had to keep everything in balance and the one that helped me to do that the best was my wife Marjorie, she is just wonderful," Housen expressed.

Housen also owns five MGA titles, having won the Ike in 1976, the MGA Senior Amateur in 1997 and 1999 and the Father & Son Championship in 1996 and 2008. He was also part of the very first Governor Hugh L. Carey Challenge Cup in 1990. "It's very humbling to say the least," says Housen of the recognition.

## Inaugural Class of NJSGA Hall of Fame Inductees

Carolyn Cudone  
 William Y. Dear  
 Dr. Ralph Engel  
 Johnny Farrell  
 Vic Ghezzi  
 Charlotte Glutting  
 Arthur (Red) Hoffman  
 Bob Housen  
 Nestor J. MacDonald  
 Byron Nelson  
 Maureen Orcutt  
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—Michele Greenfield, WMGA, and Member, Glen Oaks Country Club

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—Chef Scott Pikey, Executive Chef, Mayacama Country Club

"Joan and I had a great time on the trip. The food was fantastic and the other participants were great. We made a bunch of new friends on this trip and look forward to joining you for a third trip in the future."

—Glenn Carlson, PGA Head Professional, Torrington Country Club



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Talk about a massive void for the millions of Baby Boomers and others trying to navigate to a club membership and a golf community home in the Sun Belt that best fit their unique needs.

Responding to this growing demand, Golf Life Navigators set out to fill that void and meet those needs. With considerable forethought, we've dedicated ourselves to making the process involved in one of life's biggest decisions stress-free ... maybe even fun! That's why we created an online questionnaire called the ProGuide<sup>3</sup>.

In the free ProGuide<sup>3</sup>, which takes less than 10 minutes to complete, golfers provide answers to critical areas of the search process, including:

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- Social Expectations
- Location
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- Real Estate
- Amenities
- Lifestyle
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Based on your specific criteria, the ProGuide<sup>3</sup> then produces up to six best-matched clubs (see image to the right), thereby saving you countless hours and considerable dollars in searching for your ideal golf club community.

### "eHarmony® Meets Zillow® for Golf"

The automated ProGuide<sup>3</sup>, unveiled by Golf Life Navigators in August 2017, effectively created a model we refer to as "eHarmony® Meets Zillow® for Golf."

The power of the automated ProGuide<sup>3</sup> drove Golf Life Navigators to exciting, new levels of acceptance. In all, more than 4,100 avid golfers have now completed the automated ProGuide<sup>3</sup>, with more than 10,000 best-matched clubs having been generated for those consumers interested in transitioning to private clubs and resorts throughout the Sun Belt.

Our overwhelming success during the second half of 2017 convinced us that our business, which had been operating strictly in Florida from the launch of Golf Life Navigators, could be replicated in other Sun Belt states.

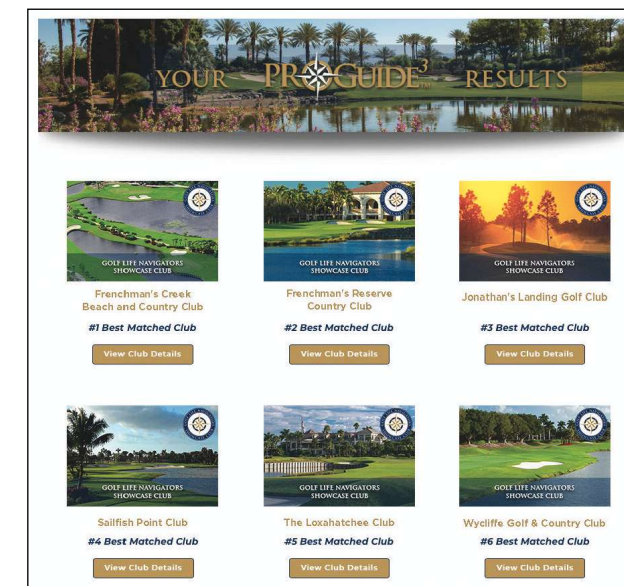
Therefore, in January, we expanded to three more golf-rich states – North Carolina, South Carolina and Arizona. In those states, Golf Life Navigators works closely with the thousands of private clubs and resorts that are actively seeking new members, and we train a select group of Golf-certified Real Estate Agents about the lifestyle that so many golfers demand.

Today, Golf Life Navigators is proud to help thousands of avid golfers nationwide make one of their most important life decisions in an educated and progressive way. You've worked hard and want to make the right choice. That's where we come in, as your trusted advisor and ultimate resource in Discovering, Experiencing and Securing your Ideal Club Membership and Golf Community Home throughout the Sun Belt.

With the great Peter Jacobsen as a Partner and our Spokesperson, we promote golf, golf clubs and communities, while also offering a unique tool to connect golfers with their best-matched club.

Yeah, we've filled that void. No more guesswork. In fact, with Golf Life Navigators' automated ProGuide<sup>3</sup> at your fingertips, there's never been a better time to enjoy golf in the many outstanding Sun Belt clubs and communities.

Start your journey today...and we'll see *you* at the club!



# Hand Holding

BY SCOTT KRAMER

**W**ant your clubs to feel brand-new again? Replace their grips. It's truly comparable to installing new tires on your car – everything feels so smooth afterwards. If you haven't replaced your grips in the past year – you know who you are – you're likely adding needless strokes to your scores. That's because they've been degrading over time, whether it be from frequent play, oils in your palm, sweat, heat from the car trunk, cold or wet weather, or simple aging. They can quickly become slick and cracked. But fresh grips have more traction and tackiness, meaning you use less pressure to hold it during each stroke. That leads to less stress in your hands, arms and shoulders, and a more fluid swing with consistent results. Plus, getting your clubs regripped is both quick and relatively inexpensive. While your local pro shop will likely offer a variety of choices, consider these new models: GolfPride's Tour Velvet ALIGN (\$9.49/midsize, \$8.99/standard) has a raised red ridge down its underside, letting you hold it consistently every swing. Lamkin's all-weather TS1 (\$9.99) is made with new hybrid materials that are softer and more durable than traditional rubbers. SuperStroke's Soft Wrap TC (\$4.99) is ultra-tacky, feels soft and dampens impact vibration.



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# AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS



**JOHN PAK**  
Florida State University  
Freshman • Scotch Plains, N.J.

An impressive 70.5 scoring average during his first collegiate season led Pak to eight top-10 finishes and ACC Freshman of the Year honors. Pak notched his first individual win in the Seminole Intercollegiate and closed the season with a strong performance at NCAA Regionals, tying seventh.



**CAMERON YOUNG**  
Wake Forest University  
Junior • Scarborough, N.Y.

A 69.75 stroke average through the regular season helped lead Young to All-ACC honors for the second straight year. In eight events this season, Young tallied four top-five finishes, including a runner-up finish in the Stitch Intercollegiate.



**THEO HUMPHREY**  
Vanderbilt University  
Senior • Greenwich, Conn.

A stellar 69.79 stroke average and seven top-10 finishes, including a win in the Schenkel Invitational, led Humphrey to SEC Player of the Year honors. Humphrey has risen as high as eighth in WAGR this season and was also named SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year. The Commodores close the season at the NCAA Championship, May 25-30.



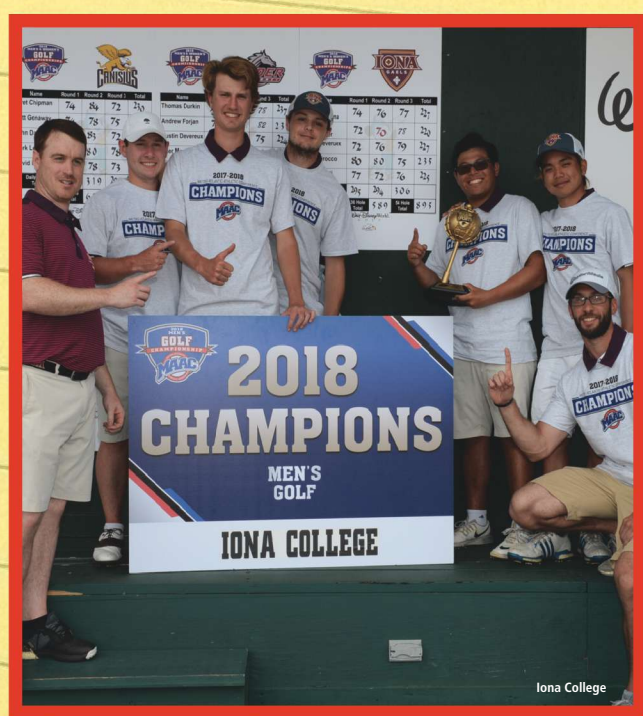
**JAMES NICHOLAS**  
Yale University  
Junior • Scarsdale, N.Y.

Nicholas won his first collegiate title at the Cornell Invitational in the fall and continued his high level of play throughout the season en route to Ivy League Player of the Year honors. In the Ivy League Championship, Nicholas helped lead the Bulldogs to their first conference title since 2011, finishing individually as runner-up in a playoff.



**CHRISTINA PARSELLS**  
Georgetown University  
Junior • Bernardsville, N.J.

Parsells logged a 76.37 stroke average for the season on her way to four top-10 finishes and her third selection to the All-BIG EAST team. She placed second at the BIG EAST Championship, helping her team claim the title for the second consecutive season.



This season, the Gaels captured their first MAAC Championship since 2002, as MAAC Coach of the Year and MGA member Sean Burke helped guide the program to its fifth such title. The squad was led by 2018 MAAC Rookie of the Year Justin Burkhamer and All-MAAC selection Paolo Matti.



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# A DEDICATED EFFORT

**M**ichael Leary—the recipient of the Jerry Mahoney Award as the 2017 MGA Rules and Competitions Volunteer of the Year—decided to expand his involvement with golf after retiring as a school business official. Having been an on-and-off golfer for some 20 years, Leary had an interest to develop a greater understanding for the game's Rules, leading him to the MGA's Rules and Competitions Committee in 2013.

“Everybody has been so willing to share their knowledge about the game of golf—about the Rules. It’s been a better experience than I could have ever hoped for,” says Leary, 65, who credits fellow

volunteers, MGA staff, and players for making volunteering such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

In 2017, Leary traveled throughout the Met Area from his Chester, N.Y., residence to volunteer at 24 events. His service epitomized the spirit of generosity and good will displayed by recipients of the JMA—which is named for past MGA Distinguished Service Award recipient Gerald T. Mahoney. “It’s the best thing you can do to give back to the game,” says Leary. “If you have the opportunity—the time, the interest—then call and join up.”

Rules and Competitions Chairman Charlie Beach (left) and Leary at the R&C Committee’s season-opening Tournament Officials Seminar, held this year at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.



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# LAYOVER ▶ PITTSBURGH

BY TIM HARTIN

**P**ittsburgh's golf reputation is buoyed by historic clubs such as Oakmont and Fox Chapel, but the Steel City and western Pennsylvania is also rich with public playing opportunities in all directions.

The new Shepherd's Rock course, designed by Pete Dye and Tim Liddy, perfectly complements Dye's testing Mystic Rock course at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort.

## COURSES:

**1 Nemaquin Woodlands Resort** – Though 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, a trip to Nemaquin is well worth the trip for the resort's two world-class layouts. The PGA TOUR tested Mystic Rock provides plenty of challenge and risk-reward opportunities, while Shepherd's Rock—new in 2017—features wide, sloping fairways and elevation changes that help deliver scenic views of the Allegheny Mountains.

**2 Totteridge Golf Course** – East of Pittsburgh, this Rees Jones links-style design stretches over 7100 yards. Players shouldn't take the open layout for granted though as missing the undulating fairways can prove penal due to traditionally thick rough. Its greens, most of which are open in the front, are known for rolling pure and fast.

**3 Pittsburgh National Golf Club** – North of the city, Pittsburgh National sits on an elevated property and was once a private club. Several holes wind through rolling wooded areas, while others cross relatively open terrain, providing a mix of both challenging and inviting opportunities throughout the round. Elevation changes add to the variety and scenery.



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# Remembering Doug Ford

After learning and sharpening his game on public courses around New York City, Doug Ford became one of the PGA TOUR's earliest icons. Ford, who passed this month at the age of 95, won 19 events on TOUR, including the 1955 PGA Championship and 1957 Masters; but, his win in the 1956 Met Open could be considered the "turning point" in his career.

According to a 1957 *Sports Illustrated* story, Ford was so discouraged with his play the prior year that he had taken about six months off. "My game had become so conservative that I had just about stopped scoring," Ford said. All that changed with his victory at Inwood Country Club. After fading the ball for years, Ford was forced to change his game plan, saying, "the wind was blowing like hell and I had to switch tactics and start hooking the ball into the wind." He entered the final round five strokes back, but with the wind relenting, Ford fired a 7-under 66 to win by three strokes and claim his first victory in a year.

Reinvigorated by the victory, Ford opened 1957 with wins at the Los Angeles and Panamas Opens and claimed the Masters in April, paving the way for the remainder of his Hall of Fame career.

During his early years Ford, whose father was a PGA Professional, spent time as a pro at several Met Area clubs, including Putnam, Tam O'Shanter and Spook Rock.

