

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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***This page:** Trevor Randolph of Arcola earned the clinching point in the 15th Governor Hugh L. Carey Challenge Cup matches, punctuating a thrilling comeback for the MGA over the Golfing Union of Ireland at his home club. Read more on page 11.*

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Six different handicap systems exist across the world today. That all changes in 2020, when the World Handicap System – developed by the USGA and R&A with input from existing handicapping authorities – makes its debut.

Designed to encourage more golfers to obtain a handicap, the new system will provide a consistent measure of playing ability while producing handicaps that are portable from course to course, country to country. The new system makes it easier to first establish a handicap and increases the max handicap, making it more accessible and inclusive than ever before. With handicaps updating daily under the WHS, a number of new safeguards will ensure accuracy and limit extreme fluctuations.

Interested to see how your Handicap Index may change under the World Handicap System? MGA members can check their October 15 eRevision Newsletter and click the link in the top news note to learn more.

Want to learn the key changes coming under the WHS? Visit the MGA's WHS resource page for more information, plus look for MGA-administered WHS webinars in November and December.



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Metropolitan Golf Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523 •
914-347-4653 www.mgagolf.org •
mgagolf@mgagolf.org

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Great Golf Resorts of the World, Inc.
2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325
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CEO & Publisher: Richard K. Summers

COO & Art Director: Peter J. Sansone

President: Brian Folino

Production/Pre-Press: Frederick Yantz

Design: Jim Gerhard, Matt Hulnick, Steve Higgins, Max Kohls

General Manager: Julie Yuen

General Manager, Digital Operations: Matt Frey, PGA

Production Marketing Coordinator: Katelyn Leer

Operations: Tom Gauss, Alex Padrón, James Turchick

Accounting: Larisa Kotlyar, Stacy Lombardo, Joycelynn Canselo

Advertising: For information, please contact: Tim McGovern at 914-347-4653, ext. 345, or Brian Folino at 661-312-6412

Vice President, Real Estate & Travel: Mike Agee

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World class chefs and gourmet food, great wine, gorgeous accommodations and fantastic golf. What more do you need? Oh, and add in some really super guests and throw in a few live bands and some DJ's. 2018 was our first time attending this event. When I first saw the ad in Met Golfer Magazine, I thought that for the price, this was a no brainer. But now having experienced Epicurea I can say that the experience far exceeded my expectations. My wife and I do a lot of traveling and we don't usually repeat destinations. But we will be back in 2019.

—Ken and Debra Kawaller (New York)



The Epicurea event is such a wonderful combination of great food, wine, golf and a beautiful beach...how can you go wrong! This event surpassed our expectations. The food was truly superb. We were able to meet and mingle with all of the chefs. Niccolo from Antinori Wines did an excellent job of presenting their wines. The friendliness of the staff at The Reef, combined with the terrific staff from *PGA Magazine*, made this a most memorable vacation.

—Jim and Marsha Watson (New Jersey)

Visit EpicureaGolf.com for detailed information, updates and reservations.

THRICE as NICE



After an admittedly slow start to the season, Brad Tilley of Sleepy Hollow dialed in his equipment and went to work on his game, even receiving some help from friend and European Tour player Hugo Leon. He advanced to match play at the Met Amateur, and then continued to grind on his game in preparation for a busy stretch of fall golf. His three Mid-Amateur trophies prove that the work has paid off.

“It’s unbelievable,” said Tilley of the accomplishment. Until Tilley, no player had even won all three in their career. “I would have been really happy to be in contention in any of them or win one. To be able to come pull it off for three in a row and to be an MGA champion again is a massive honor.”



**Sept. 27-29 | NYSGA Mid-Am
Tuscarora Golf Club | Marcellus, N.Y.**

Tilley claimed the title in wire-to-wire fashion and was the only player to turn in three sub-par scores as he shot a record-setting 9-under-par 204 to win by seven shots.



**Oct. 3-4 | WGA Mid-Am
Tamarack Country Club | Greenwich, Conn.**

Tilley called his 2-under 70 during the opening round’s cold, rainy conditions one of his best of the year. The score separated himself from the field and after a windy final round, Tilley won by three shots.



**Oct. 7-8 | MGA Mid-Am
Wee Burn Country Club | Darien, Conn.**

The feat didn’t come without dramatics, as Tilley drained a par-saving, 50-foot putt on the final hole after hitting his initial tee shot out of bounds. He had entered the day one shot back, but the putt proved to be the exclamation point on his outstanding run.

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Golf's Stars Come Out to GlenArbor



One of golf's biggest icons, Gary Player, came back to a course he's very familiar with, hosting the 2019 Berenberg Gary Player Invitational at GlenArbor Golf Club on October 7. As part of The Player Foundation's global series, the event benefits underprivileged children and communities across the world.

Player might know GlenArbor's course better than anyone; he designed the course that opened in 1996 and refers to the sprawling layout in Bedford Hills, N.Y., as his "masterpiece." He brought a few friends to New York with

him: 14 Major Champions, 6 Ryder Cup stars and other top players from the tours around the world, including Mark O'Meara, Morgan Pressel, Beatriz Recari, Azahara Muñoz, Fred Couples, Lee Trevino, and native Long Islander and LPGA Tour winner Annie Park (pictured top right with Tom Lehman).

Speaking to the media before the tournament began, Player said, "Out of all the things I have achieved in my life and career, I am most proud of the impact The Player Foundation has made on those in need. From ensuring

proper education for underserved youth to helping communities in need, my Foundation continues to be the driving force behind all that I do."

Player teamed up for an afternoon of golf with LPGA European Tour star Azahara Muñoz and added another win to his golf resume as their team took home the Baobab Tree Trophy after a sudden death playoff.

The entire event was the perfect example of golf's true impact and the power that the game has in bringing people together to give back, raising more than \$114,000.

Black and White and Cred All Over

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Among Odyssey's 18 different Stroke Lab putters are shapes for every taste. But Phil Mickelson—among other Tour pros—have begun playing a brand-new model. Just debuted, the *Stroke Lab Ten Black* is already the brand's No. 1 putter on the PGA Tour. The super-high MOI, multi-material mallet features the Stroke Lab shaft that redistributes saved weight toward the head and grip. That completely re-balances the putter, to help improve tempo and consistency. Its head weight is out toward the perimeter, to improve inertia. The forgiving putter also sports a new Microhinge Star insert that feels firm, sounds solid and rolls true. The hi-def, thick-white-line-on-a-black-crown alignment system eases the process of aiming. "We want this to be super easy to align, and for it to literally be a point-and-shoot product," says Sean Toulon, senior vice president of Callaway and general manager of Odyssey. The company also unveiled a sibling model, the *Stroke Lab Black Bird Of Prey*. Officials say it showcases one of the most distinct head shapes they've ever made yet has all of the physical characteristics and performance benefits of the Ten Black. Each of the new putters sells for \$300, and will be available in November.



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Coming in Clutch for the CAREY CUP

The MGA entered the closing singles session of the 15th Governor Hugh L. Carey Challenge Cup trailing its Golfing Union of Ireland opponents, 4-2. But, with Brad Tilley of Sleepy Hollow, Thomas La Morte of Knickerbocker and James Nicholas of Westchester securing wins over the Irish squad's three Walker Cup team members, the comeback was on. Joe Saladino of Huntington grinded out a tie for another half point, leading the outcome to come down to the final putts of the final match. After winning the par-4 17th with a clutch up-and-down for par, Trevor Randolph of host Arcola Country Club poured in a 12-footer for bogey on the challenging par-4 18th. The Irish had a chance to win the hole – which would have tied the final match, created a 6-6 overall tie and allowed them to retain the Cup – but the par putt curled off the edge and sealed the 6.5 to 5.5 comeback victory for the MGA.

Visit mgagolf.org for the full recap, photos and videos from the 15th Governor Hugh L. Carey Challenge Cup.



The Mark Messier Foundation works to enhance educational opportunities, physical fitness and overall health of New York City's underserved children.



RANGERS REUNITED

Mark Messier invited a few special guests to his fourth annual Mark Messier Foundation golf outing at Anglebrook Golf Club in Lincolndale, N.Y., last month. Twenty-five years after the New York Rangers captured the Stanley Cup, Messier had six of his former teammates share the day with the field and afterward participate in a lively discussion hosted by Jimmy Roberts of NBC Sports. Pictured (front, L-R),

Adam Graves, Kevin Lowe, Brian Leetch, Messier, Mike Richter, Jeff Buekeboom and Stephane Matteau gather with the winning team (back, L-R) of Angelo Bovino, Brad Karp, Brian Grieve and Howard Blaustein. Messier, the fearless team captain that helped end the Rangers' 54-year Cup drought, was the fifth player in that group, showing that although time passes, the six-time Cup champion just keeps finding a way to win.



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INTRODUCING ZSTRICK

MGA Partner GOLFZON this month opened its first North American location under its new brand ZSTRICK, doing so right here in the Met Area. The MGA received a first-look at ZSTRICK's 11,000 square-foot space at Chelsea Piers Connecticut in Stamford, which features 10 simulator bays, lounge areas and a full menu for food and drinks.

Customers – who can book bays by the hour with no membership required – will enjoy GOLFZON's award-winning technology. Swing Plate adjusts to simulate course slopes from tee to green, while multi-surface hitting mats, auto tee-up, intelligent ball flight data and rich graphics all combine to create the most realistic and convenient simulator experience available.

Whether taking a lesson, practicing on the range, or playing a competitive or fun round with a group of friends, ZSTRICK provides options for players of all skill levels. Customers can even take part in daily and monthly competitions, with contests allowing players to compete simultaneously against each other for both cash and point prizes.

With cooler weather approaching, MGA Members shouldn't hesitate to check out the space and take advantage of an exclusive rate. Simply show your digital Handicap Card on the My MGA App to receive 50% off the first hour of your first visit to ZSTRICK.

Learn more about GOLFZON's industry-leading technology, available in your own home.



GOLFZON has been a *Golf Digest* Editors' Choice for best golf simulator from 2017-2019.



IT'S JUST A PAR.

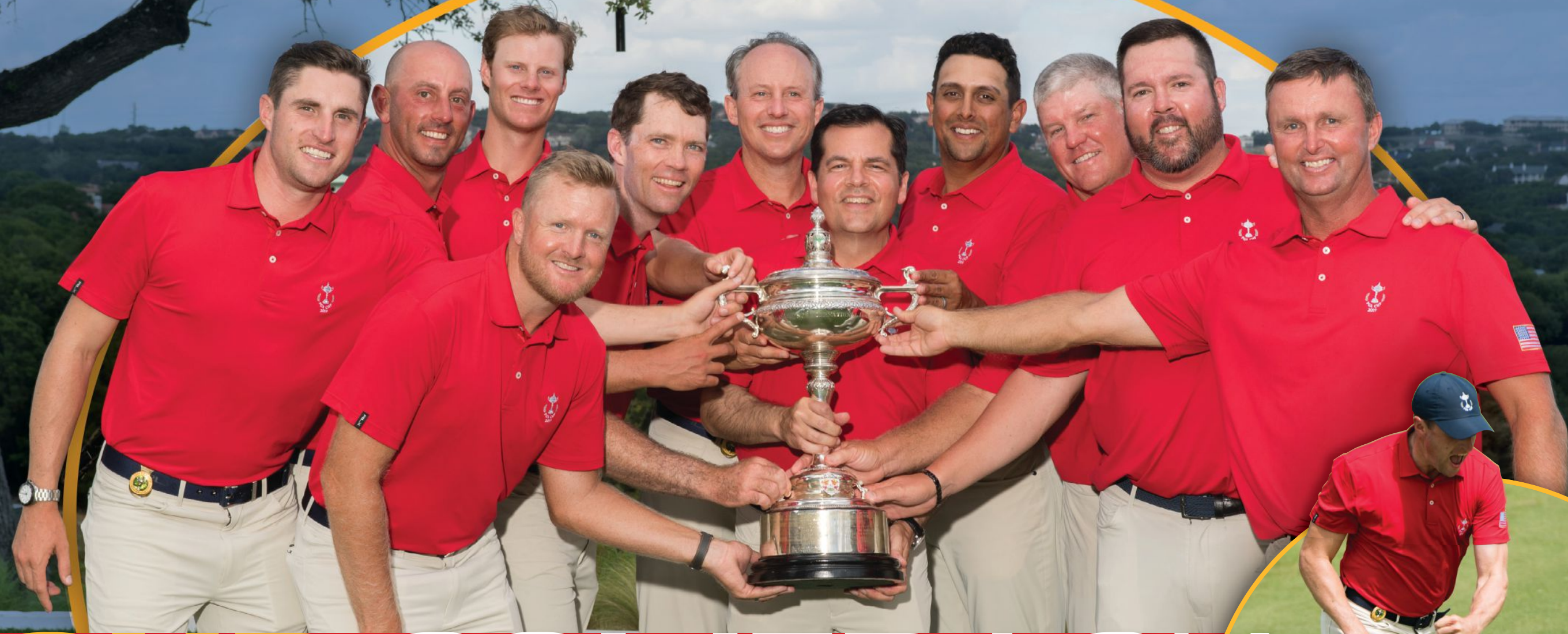
Until you splash it out of the sand and it's rolling slowly across the green and seems to be in slow motion as it clinks against the flagstick and drops into the hole. Until you give your best Tiger fist pump and your friend reaches up for a high five. Until you're looking out at the palm trees and the fairway that dips into the waterway and realize you truly feel alive. It's just a par. Until it isn't.



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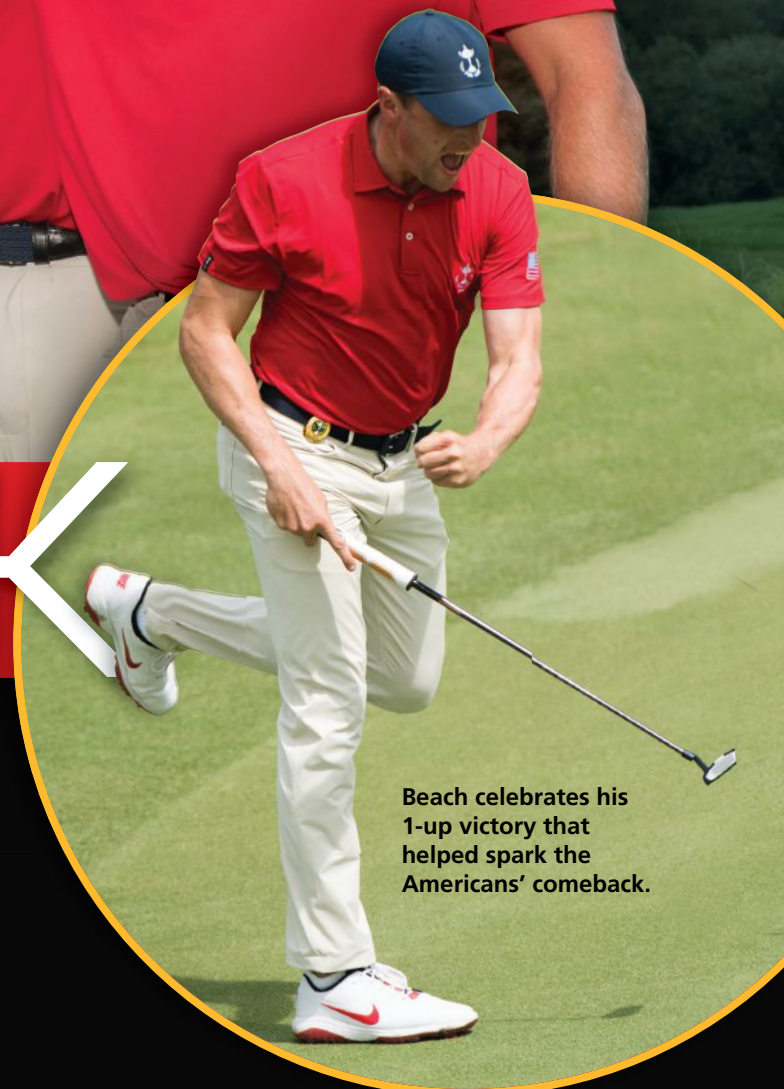
CUP COMEBACK

That's why they play the game... or, the matches in this case. The United States team – featuring the Met Area's Danny Balin of Fresh Meadow, Alex Beach of Westchester and Jason Caron of Mill River – trailed Great Britain & Ireland 10-6 entering the 29th PGA Cup's singles session, Sept. 29 at Omni

Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Austin, Texas. But, the Red, White & Blue won 8 of the 10 singles matches to clinch a historic 14-12 victory.

The win marked the first-ever comeback win on a Sunday in the event's history, and was the U.S side's first outright PGA Cup win since 2011. The final day's highlights included 2019

PGA Professional Championship winner Beach's clutch victory on the par-5 18th, as he chopped a chip from a side-hill lie in the greenside rough and rolled in a 10-footer. His 1-up victory boosted the U.S. side's momentum, while later on Caron secured a 3-and-2 victory to make the score 13-12.



Beach celebrates his 1-up victory that helped spark the Americans' comeback.



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I would've thought I'd miss the place I lived most of my life more than I do. But the truth is, I love the new home I've made for myself here. I have plenty of new friends. I get to do all of the things I love to do. And I see my family just enough to make our time together special. I might not be from here, but every time I pull into my driveway, I realize it's exactly where I want to be.

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WINNING

Drive Like a PRO



How do a lesson and lunch with a Masters and Open champion sound? That's exactly what MGA Members and Lexus Drive Like a Pro Sweepstakes winners Michael Noles, Vincent Foley and Kenneth Kim experienced on October 8 as they met with Mark O'Meara at Westchester Country Club.

As a true professional in every sense, O'Meara was welcoming and jovial with the trio, who enjoyed nearly 90 minutes of time on the range with the 16-time PGA TOUR winner and Lexus athlete. O'Meara hit a number of shots himself, going through fundamentals before spending one-on-one time with each player to sharpen their game. The experience wrapped up with lunch, where the quartet continued sharing stories with one another.

"Honestly, the experience far exceeded my expectations," said Kim. "To have the access and the amount of time for essentially what felt like a one-on-one session with Mark O'Meara was absolutely amazing, it will be remembered for the rest of my life."

Noles, Foley, O'Meara, and Kim shared a memorable experience as part of the Lexus Drive Like a Pro Sweepstakes.