

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

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This page: Shadows fall on the driving range at Sterling Farms Golf Course during this month's WE Golf event at the Stamford, Conn., facility. For more on WE Golf, see page 7. Photo: Barry Sloan



BREAKTHROUGH AT BAYONNE

In a season that began with Al Small defending his home turf in the 90th MGA Senior Amateur at Fairmount, Darin Goldstein provided the perfect bookend by winning the 11th MGA Mid-Amateur at his home club of Bayonne.

Though Goldstein, 36, didn't become enamored with the game until after his collegiate days at Duke where he played tennis, he's quickly turned into one of the Met Area's top competitors since he began competing regularly in championships around 2010. His win, however, was still somewhat of a breakthrough as he captured the Westmoreland Cup for his first-ever MGA title.

"It means a ton, especially to do it at my home course," said Goldstein after a three-under 68 in the final round which gave him a two shot victory. "A couple years ago when Brian Mahoney mentioned this tournament was going to be held here, I circled it on my calendar."



Goldstein fired the final round's only score in the 60s, which propelled him toward his first MGA title.

BARRY SLOAN



Find complete championship coverage, including a full recap and additional photos, on mgagolf.org.

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A Relished Return

A lengthened Shinnecock Hills Golf Club will be on full display next summer, when the U.S. Open makes its highly anticipated return to the historic venue, June 14-17. The added length—stretching the course to 7,445 yards after playing to 6,996 yards in the 2004 U.S. Open—is the product of work completed by design partners Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, who aimed to make the course play more like William Flynn’s 1931 design.

“The best changes that we made are mindful to the Flynn architecture and its angles,” said superintendent Jonathan Jennings during a U.S. Open preview day early in October. “The characteristics of the original design of the golf course are accentuated with the changes.” Key changes respect the course’s landscape, bringing strategic bunkers and slopes back into play.

While Coore and Crenshaw’s work also widened fairways, the USGA narrowed several landing areas this fall—most notably on the par-four 3rd and par-four 18th. Additional updates include a number of enlarged greens, expanded closely-mown areas, and more naturalized areas featuring sand dunes and fescue, all elements that will surely test the game’s best next summer.

The 2018 U.S. Open will be the fifth hosted by Shinnecock Hills, with the sixth already scheduled for 2026.



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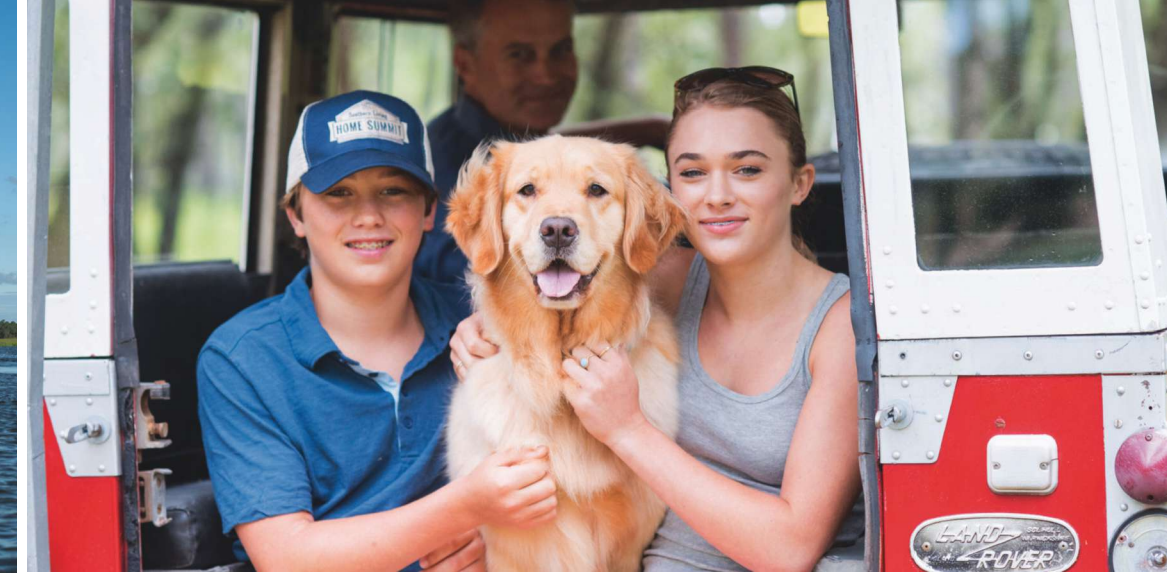


On October 19, the MGA and Lexus partnered to present WE Golf, a women's golf initiative designed to introduce professional women to the game. Sterling Farms Golf Course in Stamford, Conn., hosted the event, with attendees breaking into small groups to receive fundamental instruction and an introduction to basic etiquette—all in a laidback, fun environment.

In addition to setting a foundation for (or building upon) involvement with the game, the women heard from guest speaker Cynthia Howard, Director of Media Sales at the PGA TOUR who is also a board member of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York. Howard discussed both the personal and professional benefits of playing golf, encouraging the women not to stress over skill, but to enjoy the game and embrace the opportunities it may present.

Attendees received a special gift bag from Lexus and also enjoyed refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres to close the evening. Look for more WE Golf opportunities presented by the MGA and Lexus in 2018!





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Twice as Nice

Having played golf for 25 years, Tony DiPietrantonio of Knollwood Country Club couldn't believe it when he scored his first-ever ace on the club's par-three 3rd. Scoring a hole-in-one so early in the round certainly lends itself to joking about another later on, but for DiPietrantonio, 52, the joke turned into reality when he holed out again on the par-three 16th.

DiPietrantonio used a pitching wedge from 129 yards for his first, with the ball hitting the green and taking one hop into the hole. "Our caddie confirmed that it went in the hole and I was in shock. We jumped, and screamed and couldn't believe it," said DiPietrantonio. "All golfers around us were aware of the hole-in-one."

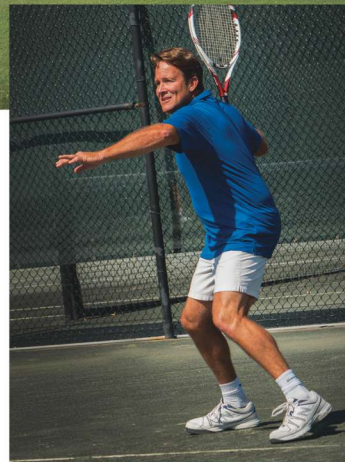
Then, hitting a six-iron from 191 yards on the 16th, DiPietrantonio—a 6 Handicap Index—hit another pin-seeker. "That looks good!" exclaimed friends John Pilla and Ike Iachetta. Hitting the green, the ball took a couple bounces and rolled into the hole, once again causing a raucous celebration amongst the group.

The hole-in-one excitement at Knollwood continued the very next day, as Michael Maloney—who rounded out DiPietrantonio's group that witnessed his incredible feat—made his very own ace on the 3rd hole!

Holding his hole-in-one golf balls, Tony DiPietrantonio celebrated his accomplishment with his friends and witnesses Michael Maloney, John Pilla, and Ike Iachetta following the round.



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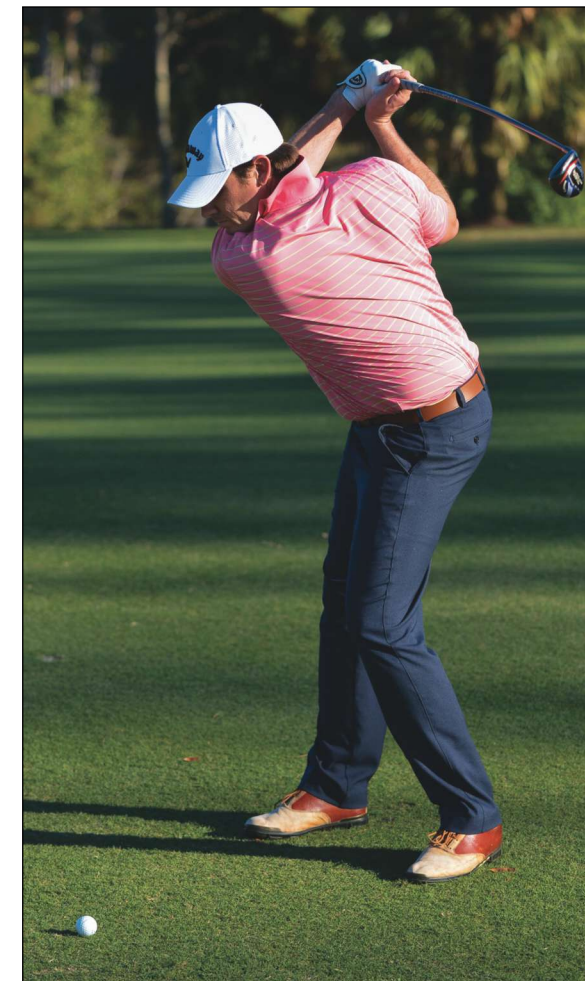
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The Fazio and the Hills courses at Old Trail provide a pure golf experience nestled among the natural beauty and rolling terrain of the nature preserves. This golfer's paradise presents a true test for players up to the challenge. The "Fazio" has been described as one of Tom Fazio's best designs and is revered as Jonathan's Landing's true championship course. 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 Village location, just a few miles east into the heart of Jupiter, is home to the JL Village course, designed by Tom Fazio. Meandering around the Intracoastal Waterway and neighborhoods of the gated community, this course features



a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the Intracoastal 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.

Tennis enthusiasts will enjoy an active schedule on our Tennis Center's ten Har-Tru courts with matches and inter-club leagues. Jonathan's Landing also has a modern Fitness Center & Spa, offering a full range of cardio and strength exercise equipment, a variety of group fitness classes, individualized personal training programs and exceptional spa services.

Members can enjoy dining at The Landing outside on the patio overlooking the lake or alongside a tropical waterfall setting. This is the perfect place for Members to relax and enjoy casual post-round camaraderie or an evening cocktail with friends and family around the fire pit.

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Friendly Faces

BY SCOTT KRAMER

The very part of the putter that makes impact with a golf ball on the green – its face – is essentially what provides feedback to your hands. And that helps you discern harsh feel from soft, solid, lively or dead. Thus, putter manufacturers invest a lot of time, money and effort into coming up with mass-appealing faces. Such is the case with three new putter series. PING's Sigma G series mallets – which as of this month now include the Craze-E and Tyne H – sport face inserts made of Pebax Elastomer. It's a lightweight, high-energy-return compound that's also used in athletic shoe soles for its elasticity. In golf, that translates to a soft, responsive feel. Odyssey's new O-Works Red and Black Putters sport the company's Microhinge insert technology that Phil Mickelson and other Tour pros play. The insert helps get the ball into a better roll at impact via improved topspin – regardless of the stroke. The stainless steel Microhinge plate is co-molded into a thermoplastic elastomer layer, which enhances feel. TaylorMade's six just-announced TP Red mallets each sport an aluminum Pure Roll insert that combines 45-degree grooves with a softer polymer between the grooves – promoting better forward roll and reducing skids. Jon Rahm, Jason Day, Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose all play putters with Pure Roll inserts.



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RISING STARS AND STRIPES

Old Westbury, N.Y.'s Prescott Butler and 11 fellow American juniors earned their spot in golf history on September 26, claiming the inaugural Junior Presidents Cup behind a 14-10 win over the International team at Plainfield Country Club in Edison, N.J.

"It had been my goal since January," said 18-year-old Butler, whose junior ranking rose early in the season as he won his first AJGA event, logged a high finish at an AJGA invitational, and went 4-0 in the Wyndham Cup—the AJGA's team event. "Just to have the chance to make it was a great opportunity. Now that I've been on the team, and we won, it's been amazing."

For Butler—and the rest of the team—highlights came both on and off the course. Butler went 2-1 while donning the red, white, and blue for Captain David Toms, who players got to know through the week. "Just to hear him say there's not a big difference between us and the tour players was really inspiring," said Butler, who has verbally committed to Alabama. "It was really cool to hang out with a major champion and ask him questions."

With victory in hand, the final day became even sweeter when Jack Nicklaus—serving as an honorary captain alongside his International counterpart Gary Player—presented medals to the U.S. team at the closing ceremonies.



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LAYOVER ▶ SAN ANTONIO

BY TIM HARTIN

TPC San Antonio and La Cantera rightfully garner much of the golf-scene attention in San Antonio thanks to their recent spotlights for PGA TOUR and Champions Tour events, but many of the region's daily fee courses are well worth the try.

COURSES:

1 Canyon Springs Golf Club – From the architecture in its buildings to the longhorns likely to be spotted on the grounds, this club embraces its history as former ranch land. Though surrounded by a housing development, the landscapes still stand out with several forced carries and elevation changes. Native trees and grasses line fairways, while large greens welcome approach shots.

2 The Quarry Golf Club – After an enjoyable links-style first nine characterized by rolling, open terrain, the course heads to its namesake portion of the course—an old limestone quarry. The bowl-like setting provides stunning sights of rock outcroppings, with the par-three 12th and cape-designed 13th wrapping around a water hazard at the quarry's lowest point.

3 Hill Country Golf Club – The Oaks, The Creeks, and The Lakes layouts comprise Hill Country's 27-hole facility in the eastern part of San Antonio. Wider, more generous fairways make The Creeks the most forgiving, but each nine provides its own challenges, whether it's oak-lined fairways, a meandering creek bed, or several lakes.

A stunning waterfall sits behind the 18th green at Canyon Springs, providing a serene setting to end your round.

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Caddie and Golf Services Managers Association President Joe Pico (left) and Jay Mottola (right) present Barreiro with a scroll honoring his outstanding career.

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Joseph P. Barreiro

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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

A special gathering at Sleepy Hollow Country Club on October 15 honored longtime caddie and golf operations manager Joe Barreiro, who next March will retire following a 53-year career. From his start as a caddie at the age of 13 in 1965 to present day, Barreiro has provided unmatched service and leadership every step of the way.

Barreiro's program, which includes more than 80 young men and veteran caddies, stands as one of the premier programs in the Met Area, helping keep golf a walking sport at Sleepy Hollow. Through his career, Barreiro's training and mentoring has touched thousands of lives, with nearly 100 of his caddies receiving Westchester Golf Association Caddie Scholarships. In his honor, the club has started the Joe Barreiro Scholarship Fund. The campaign raised over \$75,000 in just two weeks, while that number has continued to grow and has now eclipsed \$120,000.

"It's an incredible tribute to Joe that so much money has been raised so quickly, and it's a great legacy that future Sleepy Hollow caddies will get a Joe Barreiro scholarship—how fitting," remarked former MGA executive director Jay Mottola.

Jeff Harrison, senior vice president of the Western Golf Association, made the evening's final presentation, announcing Barreiro as the latest inductee to the Caddie

Hall of Fame—a celebration of individuals who have devoted their lives to the game by caddying or supporting the role of caddies. The honor was unbeknownst to all those in attendance, creating a rousing applause for such a well-deserved acknowledgement for one of the Met's best.



Barreiro was touched to hear of his induction to the Caddie Hall of Fame. L-R: Jeff Harrison, Joe Barreiro, and Sleepy Hollow President Robert Mayer.