

The Met Golfer EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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This page: The flag of 102nd Met Open Presented by Callaway host Hollywood Golf Club waves among the display honoring host clubs of championships passed—a presentation that has become a great tradition at the Met Open. Photo: Barry Sloan.



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WALKER CUP WINNER

Hagestad celebrates the Walker Cup win alongside his father, John.

Call it the cherry on top. After achieving his goal of earning a selection to the U.S. Walker Cup team, 2016 MGA Player of the Year Stewart Hagestad and the U.S. claimed a dominating 19-7 win over Great Britain and Ireland at The Los Angeles Country Club.

“There was such an internal team importance of winning back the Walker Cup that the entire team really committed to putting in as much effort and care into the preparation for the matches as possible,” said Hagestad about the weeks leading into the Match.

Though Hagestad dropped his first match against Jack Singh Brar on Saturday, he delivered on Sunday, defeating Singh Brar by a 2-and-1 margin as the lead match in the closing session. “Luckily, after steadying myself during the first couple holes, I was able to play well and earn a point for our team,” Hagestad said. His victory provided the U.S. its 13th point, leading to a joyous scene for Hagestad at the club where he’s a junior member. “To celebrate with my friends, family, and teammates who were all there, made Sunday’s match a memory that I will never forget,” said Hagestad.





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A WIN OF HIS OWN

A lot can change in a year's time, just ask Josh Rackley. Last August, the Tam O'Shanter Club assistant was on the bag as his boss Mark Brown won the Met Open Championship Presented by Callaway for the third time (*bottom inset*). This year, Rackley was the one carrying away the Walker L. Trammell trophy and the \$27,500 winner's share.

"He showed me how to play without fear, how to win this golf tournament," said the 27-year old, who was one of just two competitors to register three sub-par rounds at the classic Walter Travis-designed Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, N.J.

Though two early bogeys led to a rocky start in the final round, Rackley closed his outward nine with three consecutive birdies to quickly jump atop the leaderboard – where at one point eight competitors stood within a two-shot margin. Rackley never knew exactly where he stood down the stretch, but aimed for consistency on his final nine, saying, "I tried to find the middle of the green on some of the holes and if I had a wedge in, I would try to go after it – just try to make pars and eliminate the big mistakes."

While others dropped several shots on the way in, Rackley remained poised, carding just one bogey and closing with seven straight pars en route to a two-shot win. Victory in the Met Area's premier open is certainly reason enough to smile, but placing his name under his mentor Brown's and returning the trophy to the shop adds to the satisfaction. "That's what puts the biggest smile on my face – we get to keep the trophy at Tam."



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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

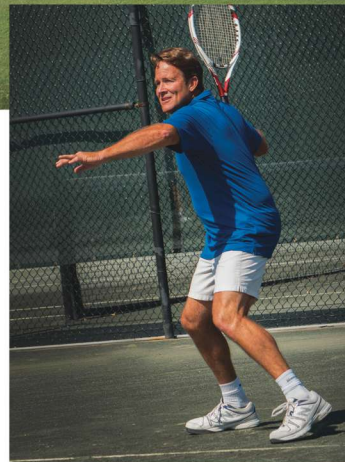
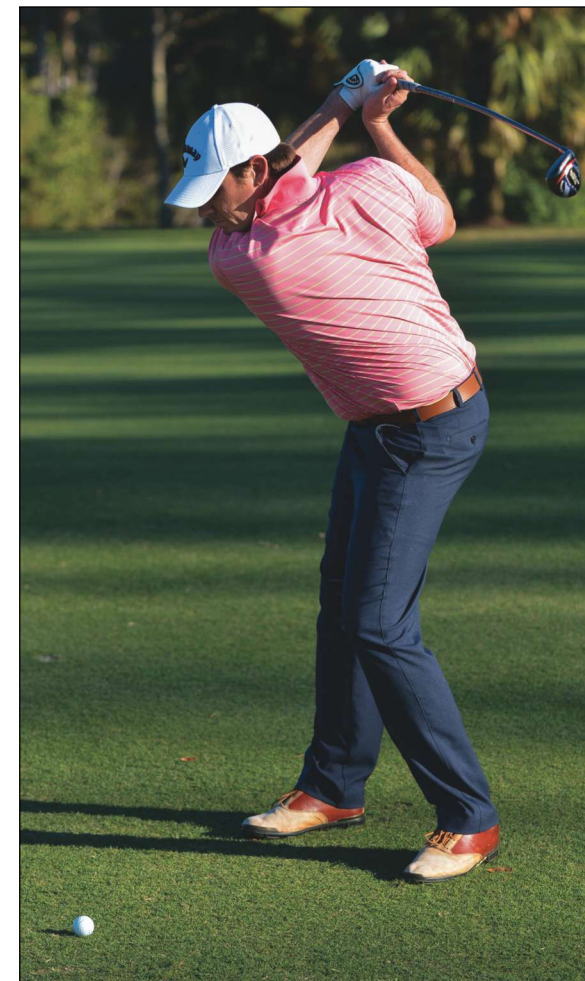


a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the Intracoastal at the signature 17th hole. Whether you're a beginner or an avid golfer, these three courses will test your skills and provide you with the variety of play every golfer searches for.

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.

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Irons for the Better Half

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Here's the thing about the latest irons for good golfers: They include game-improvement features. Hey, even Tour pros need some forgiveness – which is why they're gravitating to these new models. Imagine how they'll help those of you flirting with par.

Titleist's 718 AP2 (\$1,499/set with graphite shafts, \$1,299/steel) is already popular on Tour. But as brand officials say, the iron is also great for 9-handicaps. Sure it's forged and weak lofted, but it also maximizes speed, forgiveness and consistent distance – in part because of perimeter tungsten weighting. Its refined leading edge enhances clean turf interaction.

Mizuno's MP-18 (\$1,200) features an ultra-thin, cambered topline for that classic look at address. The sole is a touch wider than its predecessor MP-4, which increases playability. Its compact clubhead sports a low heel that better players prefer. The set's short irons are relatively small but pack a generous sweet spot.

TaylorMade's forged P790 (\$1,499/graphite, \$1,299/steel) has a medium-compact clubhead donning a thin topline – for a better player's look. SpeedFoam is injected into the cavity, to improve ball speed while softening feel. A cut-thru sole pocket lends flexibility in the low clubface, enhancing forgiveness, distance and consistency.



La Grande Arche © 2016 Johan Otto Von Spreckelsen, a signature building of Paris



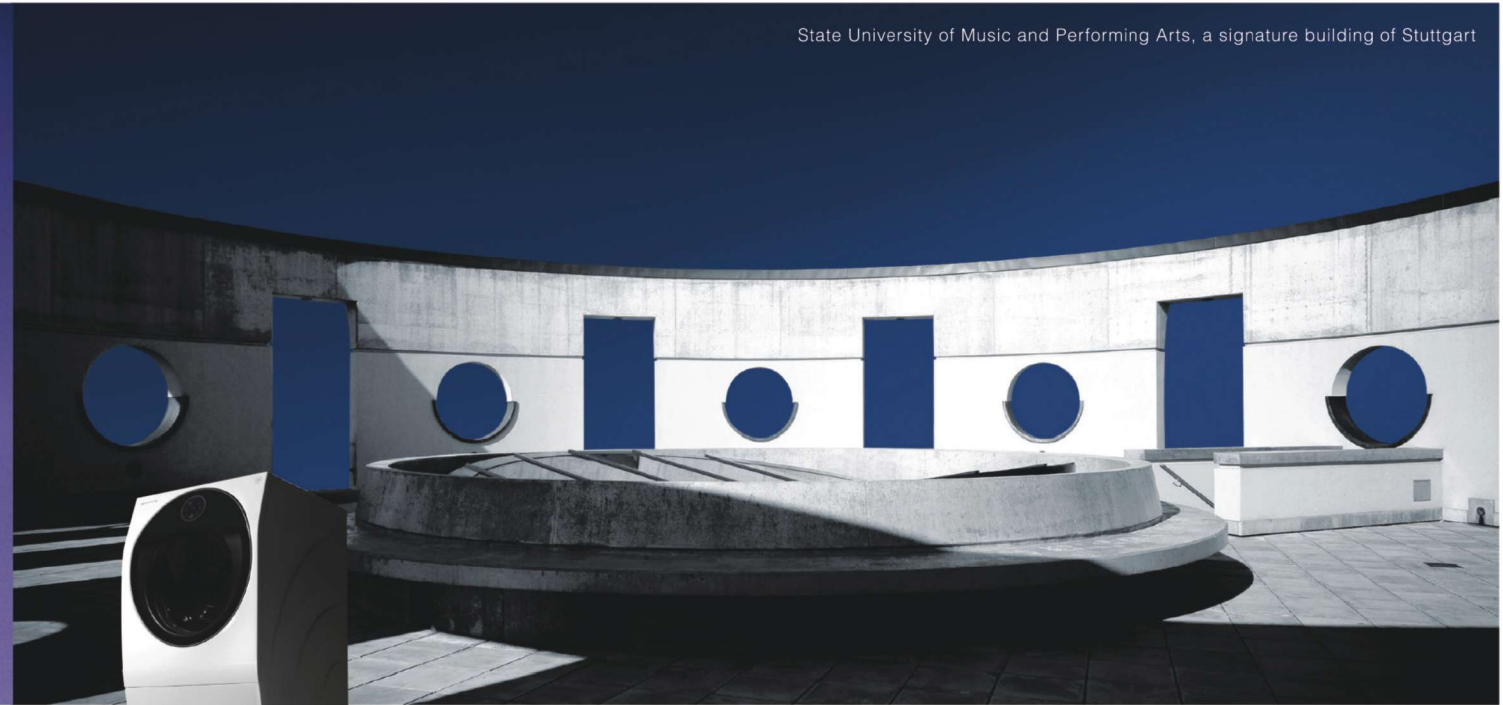
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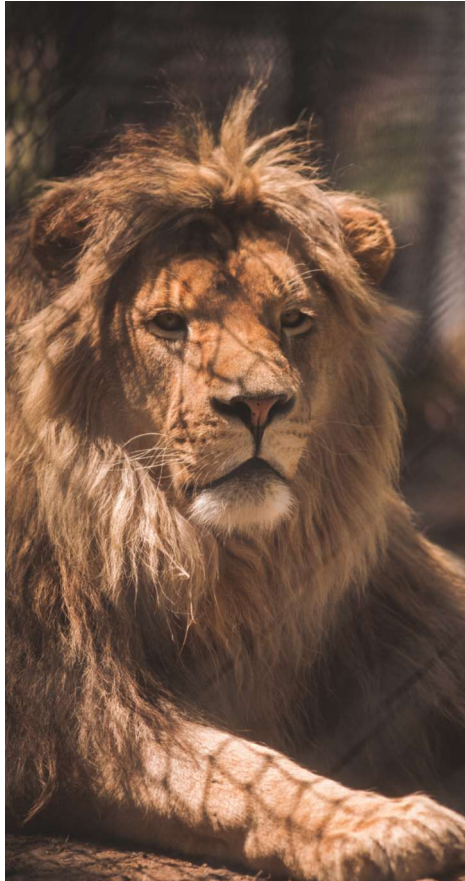
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SUMMER SESSIONS

This summer's MGA/MetLife Youth Clinics provided unique learning opportunities, both on and off course, for participants from several First Tee of Metropolitan New York locations.

Science, technology, and the game's history stood at the center of July's clinic, when 120 juniors and coaches visited the USGA in Far Hills, N.J. The day was full of educational opportunities as juniors completed a scavenger hunt in the Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History, putted and learned about agronomy on the Pyne Putting Course, and saw the role technology plays in equipment at the USGA Research and Test Center.

Prior to the 102nd Met Open Presented by Callaway, juniors received instruction from a rising star on the PGA TOUR. Lexus athlete Patrick Cantlay swung by Hollywood Golf Club just before competing in THE NORTHERN TRUST at Glen Oaks Club, providing short game tips to area juniors. Cantlay focused on bunker play, giving several participants memorable one-on-one lessons.



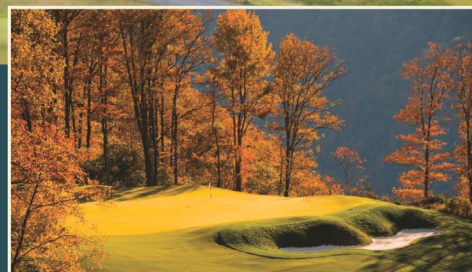
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Bolstered by the 11-site Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, golf in Alabama provides some of the most scenic, challenging, enjoyable, and affordable public golf options in the country. If you find yourself in Birmingham – the state’s largest city – be sure to get your name on a tee sheet for one of these standout venues.

COURSES:

- 1 Ross Bridge** – Ross Bridge, which opened in 2005, is the newest venue on the RTJ Golf Trail and is often considered the Trail’s premier stop. The layout navigates through a stunning landscape highlighted by rolling hills, towering trees, a pair of lakes, and a cascading waterfall. Though it can stretch to nearly 8,200 yards, generous fairways and elevation changes (plus several sets of tees), lend to an outstanding experience for all players.
- 2 Oxmoor Valley** – Oxmoor Valley, another stop on the RTJ Golf Trail, provides two championship courses. The Ridge Course features dramatic elevation changes and undulations along with tree-lined fairways as it carves through the forest, while the Valley Course is slightly more open and uses well-placed bunkers for its defense. Still want more? Try a challenging round on the scenic Short Course, where 18 one-shotters test your iron play.
- 3 Limestone Springs Golf Club** – Just north of Birmingham, the Jerry Pate designed Limestone Springs carves through a valley forest surrounded by scenic bluffs and ridges. Elevated tee shots, creeks, small lakes, and rock outcroppings add to the serene setting. Players will be tested from tee to green with its winding fairways and collection of bunkers and water hazards.

Ten holes at Ross Bridge play alongside lakes, presenting many expansive views—like this one of the 17th and 18th greens.



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Aces Wild

Part of golf's excitement is never knowing what the round ahead may hold. Sometimes, the result is even beyond your highest expectations. For cousins Mike McBride, Jr., and Jack McBride, an August 23 round at National Golf Links of America turned into what is sure to serve as a lifelong memory, with both scoring a hole-in-one.

Mike's came first on Short—National's sixth hole—with his sand wedge finding the bottom of the cup from 110 yards. If that wasn't special enough, Jack secured an ace of his own on the 13th hole—named Eden—using an 8-iron from 174 yards. Dom Maggio and Will McDonough shared in the excitement, and hopefully benefitted post-round from Mike and Jack's fortune on the course.

The group following Mike Jr.'s, hole-in-one.



Mike Jr., and Jack following Jack's hole-in-one.

NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA						
PAR	NAME	SELF	OTHER	STROKES	OFFER	OFFER
1	Valley	3	2	11	4	15
2	Sahara	4	4	15	4	19
3	Alps	4	3	7	4	11
4	Redan	3	3	13	4	17
5	Hog's Back	3	3	9	4	13
6	Short	3	2	9	4	11
7	St. Andrews	5	4	9	4	13
8	Bottle	4	4	5	4	8
9	Long	5	5	7	4	10
36	OUT	39	35	33	40	
10	Shinnecock	4	3	4	4	11
11	Platou	4	3	10	4	17
12	Sebonac	4	3	18	3	21
13	Eden	4	4	12	4	16
14	Cape	4	4	6	4	10
15	Narrows	4	4	14	4	18
16	Punchbowl	4	4	16	4	20
17	Picconic	5	4	8	4	13
5	Home	5	5	33	42	
	IN	76	73	66	92	
	TOTAL					

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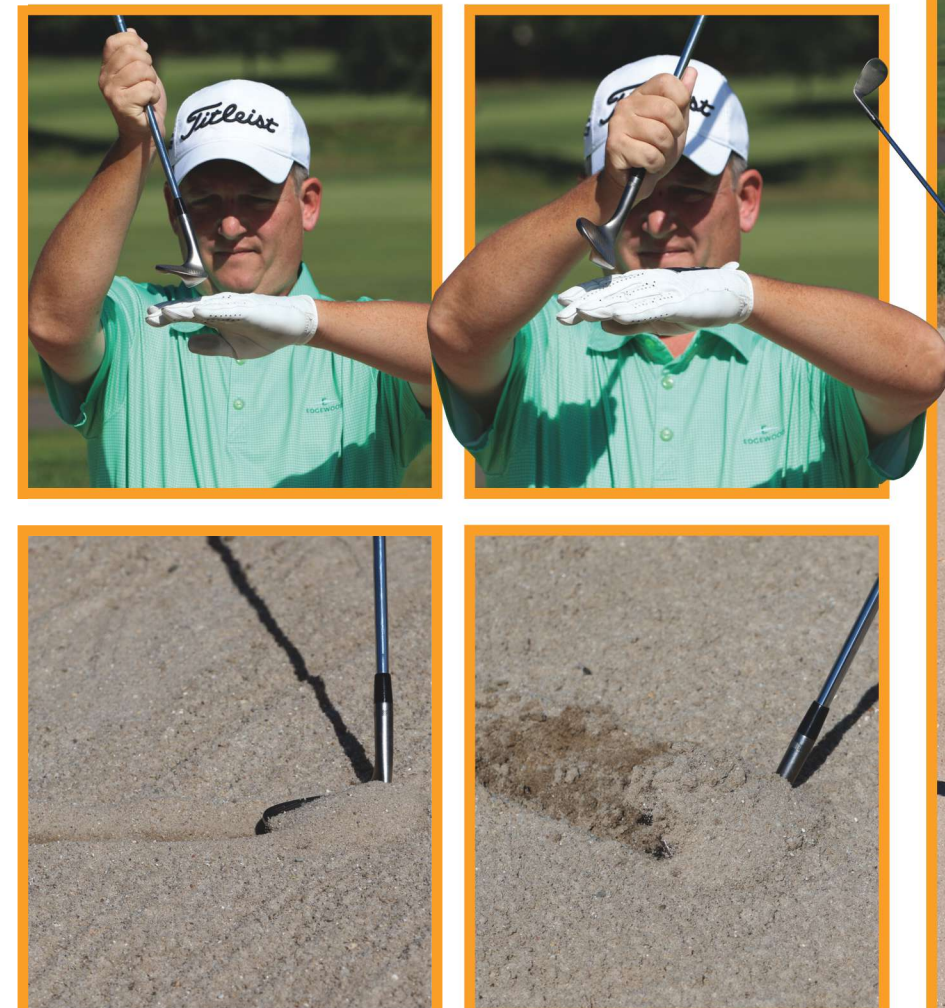
Saving it from the SAND

BY TOM FLATT

For many players, hitting a ball into the bunker may feel like a jail sentence. However, with a few simple thoughts, players can develop a consistent swing and entry point into the sand allowing for more reliable results. Now, you can feel like you've been given an opportunity to save a previous errant shot! Here are a few things to think of to become a more successful bunker player.

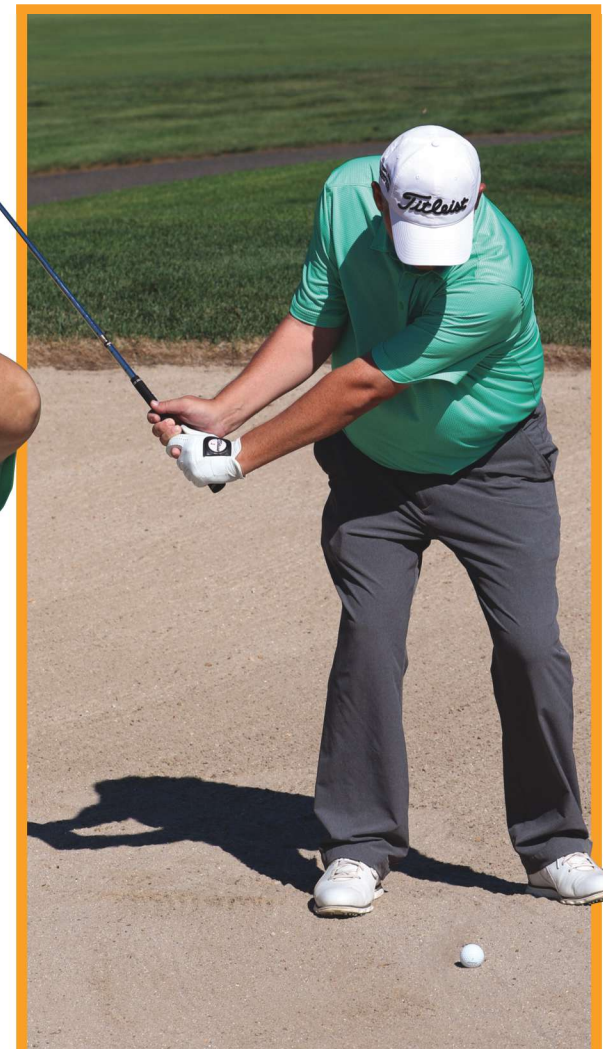
Create Bounce:

Bounce is the angle between the ground and the sole of a club at proper address or impact. We want to open the clubface of our sand or lob wedge not only to create more loft but also to create more BOUNCE on our wedge. This will allow the wedge to splash or slide through the sand. The less bounce, the more the wedge will dig into the sand and the shot will be heavy.



Think Up and Down:

We want to eliminate any thought of scooping the ball out of the bunker. The back swing should be more vertical than a normal swing to give us good leverage to swing down into the sand.



Hit the Line:

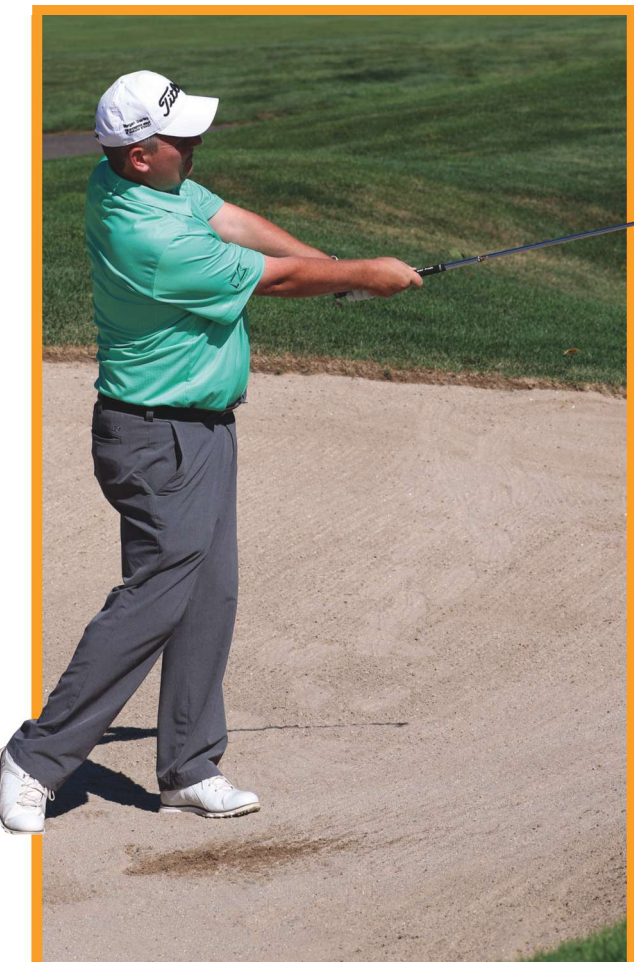
One of the reasons good bunker players are so consistent is because they enter the sand at the proper spot every time. A quality drill is to draw a line in the sand and envision the ball one inch in front of the line. If you swing and your club mark is way behind the line, chances are you hit it heavy. If your mark is in front of the line, you probably skulled it. Entering the sand right on the line every time will make you more consistent getting out of the bunker.

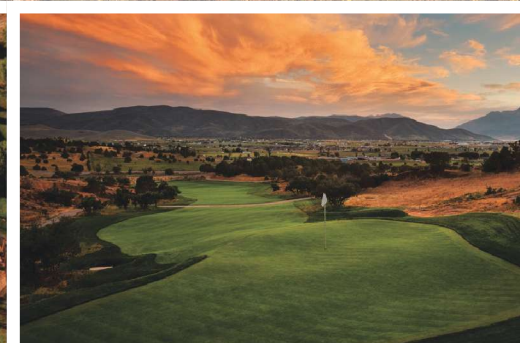


Tom Flatt is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, N.J., which hosted the 67th MGA Father & Son Championship in August.

Be Aggressive and Finish Forward:

A bunker shot requires you to slide your wedge through the resistance of the sand. So, be aggressive in the speed of your swing and just like most of your other swings, finish in balance with weight on your forward foot.





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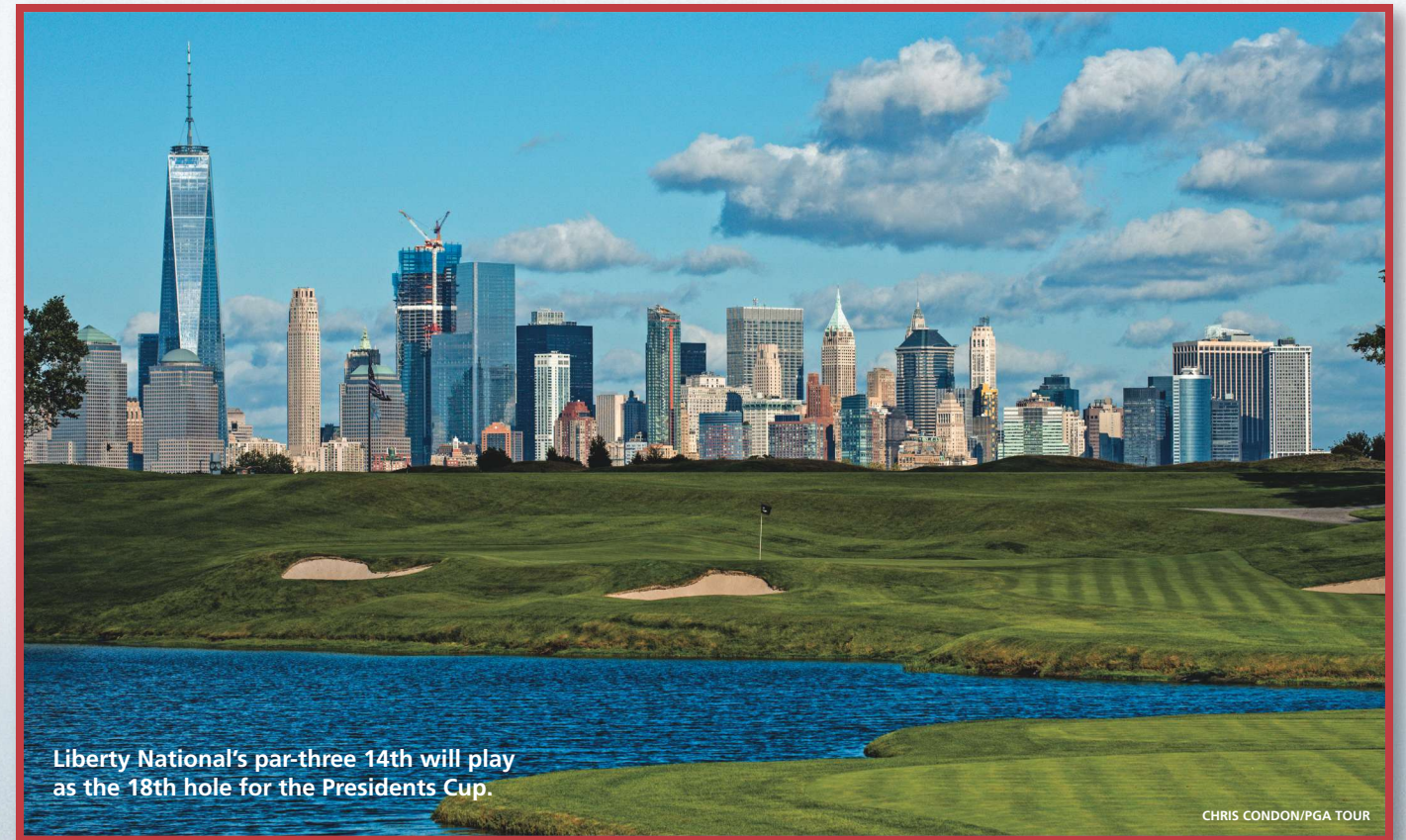
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Land TRANSFORMED

Golf fans will flood Liberty National Golf Club September 26 to October 1 for the Presidents Cup, enjoying stunning sights of the Manhattan skyline and Statue of Liberty while watching world-class competition between the U.S. and International teams. Fans have previously enjoyed the grounds for THE NORTHERN TRUST in 2009 and 2013, but what might go unrealized for some is the near herculean effort it took to construct the championship layout.

The property was once considered a toxic waste site; some areas strewn with corroded oil tanks and rusting warehouses and others serving as landfill. But, thanks to the vision of Paul Fireman—former chairman of Reebok who bought the property in 1997—the New York Harbor-front property was transformed and opened July 4, 2006.

More than six million cubic feet of soil was hauled in from the Jersey shore, contours were shaped, and elevation was raised 50 feet in some locations—all while also ensuring environmental standards were met. Golf course construction company Heritage Links was entrusted with carrying out the design plans of architects Bob Cupp and Tom Kite. The company has since revisited the course to fine-tune green complexes and other subtleties, while a recent project also flipped the range for the Presidents Cup, making it so competitors will fire directly toward the Manhattan skyline.



Liberty National's par-three 14th will play as the 18th hole for the Presidents Cup.

CHRIS CONDON/PGA TOUR