

# NWO GOLF LINKS

December 2016

## GOLF LIFE NAVIGATORS

CAN HELP PLAN YOUR  
GOLF RETIREMENT

TOP GOLF  
STORIES OF  
**2016**

GOLF LIFE  
NAVIGATORS

**PLUS**

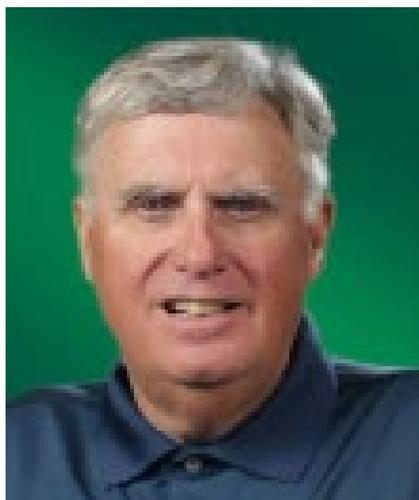
- Golf Loses Another Legend
- Christmas Gift Ideas from Ed
- Big Box Store Club Fitting Advice
- Celebrate the Holidays at French Lick Resort
- The First Tee of Lake Erie Partners with Ernie Els for Autism



**CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS FOR  
GOLFAHOLICS**

GOLF LIFE  
NAVIGATORS

# Merry Christmas Golfaholics!



FRED ALTVATER



**Of all the hazards, FEAR is the worst.”**

~ SAM SNEAD

It's December and that means only one thing, Santa Claus will soon be bringing new range finders, clubs, balls and other great golf stuff to good little golfers around the land.

The December issue of NWO Golf Links will try to help Santa out with some ideas for his favorite Golfaholic. We are providing several pages of gift ideas that can be bought online or in a retail shop right here in Toledo.

We cover anything and everything golf and hope you will find something that will make your golfer smile on Christmas morning.

The major golf tours have all ended their seasons and hopefully Tiger Woods will return to action full time next year. Since this is the final issue of 2016 we have listed our top golf stories for the year. It was a fantastic year to be a golf fan and it was a difficult task limiting the best stories to a workable number.

2016 included a historic battle between Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson at Royal Troon, a Ryder Cup that will be remembered for many years to come and it was the first time golf competed in the Olympics since 1904.

The announcement that Inverness Club will host the 2021 Solheim Cup was an early Christmas present for golfers in northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan.

This is the last issue of our second year as a digital magazine. As we look forward to 2017, we at NWO Golf Links want to thank all our readers, contributors and advertisers for a successful 2016. We love bringing faithful Golfaholics the best in golf news, views and information.

MERRY CHRISTMAS GOLFAHOLICS EVERYWHERE!!

HO HO HO!!

You Know You are a Golfaholic if: You have read every issue of NWO Golf Links!!

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# Golf Life Navigators *Knows Retirement*

Do you sit at your office desk and dream of the day, when you can trade in your office chair and Bluetooth earbud for a condo on a golf course or white sandy beach in Florida?

After a leisurely 18-hole round and delicious repast in the grill, does your dream day end with a leisurely stroll on a sun-drenched beach or watching the sun slowly fall into the water?

The time to set the plan in motion to reach that goal is now. **Golf Life Navigators**

(GLN) is ready to help you make your **DREAM** a Reality.

**-Do you** like the up-scale and high-energy southeast coast of Florida or prefer the laid-back atmosphere of the southwest coast?

**-Do you** want to be nearer to Orlando for the parks and excitement, when the grandkids come to visit or keep some seasonality to the weather?

**-Do you** envision starting each day with a sunrise over the Atlantic or would you

rather catch the sun set each day over the Gulf of Mexico?

**So many questions.....So few answers!**

Lynn Josephson and Jason Becker, two PGA Professionals, created **Golf Life Navigators** to help future retirees sort out the complex decision-making process of locating the right retirement community.

**GLN's Ambassadors** in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C, as well as,



Michigan and Ohio have intimate knowledge of the golf club landscape and can help with your retirement planning.

One satisfied GLN couple from New Jersey, Neil and Marla Pinsker told us,

***“We had been doing research on our own for a few months, but with GLN’s thorough knowledge and expertise, they helped us narrow the search and zero in on just the right place;”***

Whether you want to find a home in Florida, Arizona or California, they know the best communities and through a proprietary software program called the ProGuide<sup>3™</sup>, can narrow the choices to the right communities for you. The ProGuide<sup>3™</sup> made its debut on November 1st and



**JASON BECKER, PGA**

President & Co-Founder



**LYNN JOSEPHSON, PGA**

Vice President & Co-Founder

has proven to be the most significant tool consumers can use when considering relocation. The online profile will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and GLN officials suggest each spouse should complete their own. This will help the Navigator staff filter the options with his and her desires in mind so they can find a club they both will love.

As everyone and everything becomes more analytically driven, GLN is using statistical data to confirm retirement choices. Statistics show that since 2012, 300,000 Americans annually move to Florida and the planning for that migration begins near the age of 50.

In Florida alone there are over 1,200 golf course and retirement communities. If





the Villages seem a little too busy and not your kind of place, but you want golf, sun, and sand, GLN can help you locate the perfect retirement community.

Speaking of statistics, Golf Life Navigators has partnered with university PhD's to better identify consumer satisfaction levels, through loyalty analysis. They use this data to help each individual family make the right decision, the first time and avoid the landmines that can ruin retirement.

GLN is armed with the intimate knowledge and statistical data to simplify the relocation

process and alleviate the stress that normally accompanies it. They understand the important relocation motivational factors and use the data to help you plan.

Let GLN do the leg work and analysis.

Said Jeff and Pam Rush from Michigan of the GLN experience,

***"Jason Becker of Golf Life Navigators, provided a list of clubs that fit my criteria as far as membership cost, travel time, etc.....after the second visit, we joined!"***

GLN Co-founder, Jason Becker has been a long-time

PGA Professional in Southern Florida. He has witnessed the Snowbirds flock to Florida every year looking for the perfect facility that fits each individual lifestyle. He has seen golfers frustrated, when they failed to pick the right golf club. Once you pay your buy-in fee to a private club, it is difficult to void the purchase, if the proper exit strategy was not in place at the outset.

GLN has partnered with the best Florida golf communities to help golfers nearing retirement in the north, get matched with the perfect golf club in Florida, Arizona and California.



Ebe and Linka Scherkus from Toronto said of the experience,

*“Proximity from the golf club to our beach home was important to my husband. We spoke with Golf Life Navigators and within 24 hours were at the perfect club. We joined that day and could not be happier.”*

Jason and his team spend time with each couple and do intensive background research to locate the appropriate golf club and facility for each Golf Life Navigator client.

Randy and Jeanne Reihmann from Iowa commented,

*“The best part of the GLN experience was talking about my future over 18 holes of golf with Jason and Trevor. Not only did I learn a few tips from the pro’s, but we also filtered through dozens of club options while on the course. After four hours the search was complete and we had a plan.”*

In addition to PGA Professionals that will help retirees find the perfect golf club, Golf Life Navigators has a team of real estate professionals that will match each couple with the perfect home and community suited to each preference.

Don’t try to go it alone, when you are considering, where and when to purchase a retirement property. Golf Life Navigators is experienced, has the data and the professionals to help you make one of the biggest decisions for your retirement years.

You can learn more about Golf Life Navigators by listening to a series of informative podcasts on TuneIn.

Plus, you can visit their website: [www.golflifenavigators.com](http://www.golflifenavigators.com) or call 800-447-8707 to begin your journey with a ProGuide<sup>3™</sup> today!



# FRED'S CHRISTMAS LIST

With Christmas right around the corner, here are a few helpful hints for gifts that will please any golfer.

## Carnoustie

Imagine slipping into your most comfortable sweatshirt, the one you wear when you are lazing on the couch watching the big game. Carnoustie has been producing functional and high-quality golf apparel for many years.

While you are clad in a cozy sweater, everyone else sees a well-dressed man wearing a quarter-zip herringbone pullover that is perfect for any social occasion. Made of luxurious brushed cotton interlock fabric,



this classic look is available in several colors.

Carnoustie has been offering the finest golf apparel for over 20 years. They always combine the finest fabrics with quality workmanship to produce

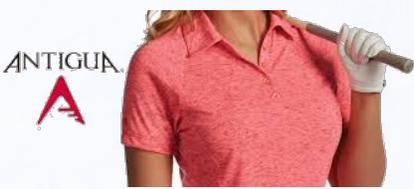
elegant styling in their exceptional collection of sportswear.

Learn more about Carnoustie at: <http://www.carnoustiesportswearonline.com/> and find a comfortable, yet stylish shirt, or sweater for your favorite golfer.

## Antigua

The last thing you want to be worrying about when you are on the golf course is your wardrobe. Antigua Golf apparel guarantees that you will always look and feel your best when you are on the golf course.

Antigua has been a leader in the sportswear business for over 36 years. They continue to use modern innovation to make golf apparel comfortable, as well as, stylish. Their latest efforts for 2017 combines Desert Dry moisture wicking technology to create a great looking



shirt that will perform, even the under the harshest perspiration situations.

Antigua outfits some of the best professionals in the game today including, Toledo's own, Stacy Lewis.

When you are feeling the heat on the course make sure you are wearing an Antigua Golf Shirt or Jacket with Desert Dry moisture wicking technology to keep you cool and dry.

To view Antigua's complete line of Golf Apparel visit: <https://antigua.com/>

### Components Plus



Dan Bunge at Components Plus just off US 23 at Exit 5, north of the Michigan line, has his pro shop stocked with everything Santa Claus needs to fill the dreams of every good little golfer.

-Name brand, stay dry, moisture wicking golf shirts are available for \$29.99 each or two for \$40.00.

-He also has a large supply of golf gloves priced at four for \$20.00. This price cannot be beaten anywhere and is worth the drive to Components Plus.

-Every golfer would like to find a new Range finder under the Christmas tree and



Components Plus is offering up to a \$100.00 rebate on select Golf Buddy Range product.

Take the short drive to Components Plus (beside The Legacy) and check his huge inventory of Golf Apparel, Equipment, Range Finders, Balls, and everything else your favorite golfer needs to be the best outfitted and prepared golfer on the course next spring.

Or purchase online and have it shipped right to your door: <http://componentsplus.com/>

### Club fitting from Golf PIT



Every golfer wants an expert club fitting from Santa.

The Golf PIT recently moved from their old location on Reynolds Road to McDivot's on Angola Road, but they still offer the same service, expert club fitting and repair.

A new indoor hitting bay is under construction to assure area golfers will be able to be properly fit for a new set of clubs in any type of weather.

The Trackman Launch Monitor will capture your exact swing speed, launch angle and spin rate to fit clubs that meet your unique swing.

When you buy a new pair of shoes, you first



must be fitted. It's the same with the proper golf clubs. Don't spend a ton of money on clubs that aren't right for you.

Get your Golfaholic a Club Fitting from The Golf PIT.



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Third Street Cigar in Waterville is the area's finest cigar emporium. The huge walk in humidor is filled with thousands of cigars that will satisfy any aficionado's taste.



They also have private rooms to watch the big game, while you enjoy your favorite cheroot, panatela, corona or president.

If you have a cigar lover on your shopping list, don't forget to stop by Third Street Cigar in downtown Waterville. For store hours and more visit: <http://thirdstreetcigar.com/>

**Play it Again**

Play It Again Sports on Monroe Street, just down from the Franklin Park Mall, is filled with hundreds of used golf clubs. Odds are, if your Golfaholic has a specific club in mind, Play It Again Sports has it on hand.

Don't take the chance of getting a knock-off brand on the internet, when you can touch it and try it at Play It Again Sports.

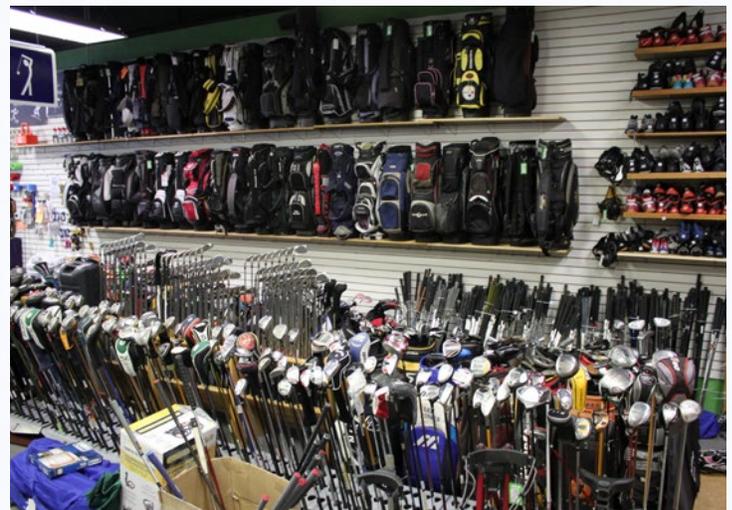
If you are looking for new set of clubs for your little golfer, Play It Again Sports has a full line of

various sizes of junior clubs at the best prices in town.

Stop by Play It Again Sports to view their great selection of golf equipment, bags and junior clubs.

<http://www.playitagainsportstoledo.com/>

Shop local or online, any Golfaholic will be happy to find any of these items under the tree on Christmas morning.



# Christmas Gift Ideas from Ed

BY ED TRAVIS

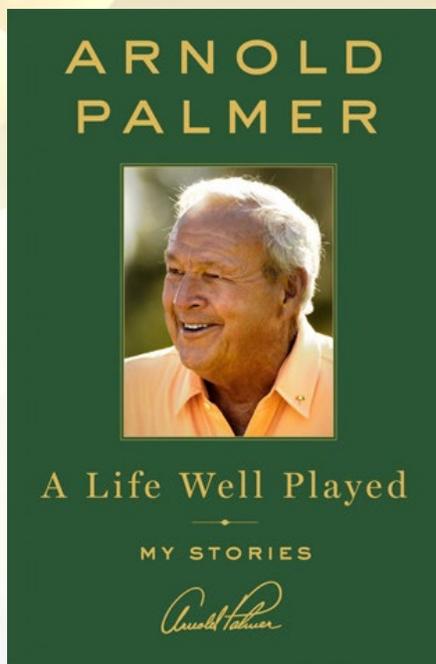


There are lots of gift guides for golfers but this year rather than the usual approach, we thought it would be a better idea to show the list of items that this writer and his friends want to find under the tree on Christmas morning.

Our thought process was simple, if we like them, other people will as well, so here are a few gift ideas for your favorite golfer.

## Palmer's Memories

**"A Life Well Played: My Stories by Arnold Palmer"** is 258 pages of anecdotes, stories and life insights by The King. Some you've heard before and some you haven't, but each is written in with the same straightforward honesty that characterized the man. Golfers and non-golfers have been enlistees in



Arnie's Army since the 1950s and this book is a fitting closure to a life well played. It is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble for \$16.96 or in local book stores.

## For Your Swing

One swing fault most of

us struggle with at times is holding the head relatively steady so the swing can rotate around the proper axis. If occasionally your head moves excessively from side to side, the PowerPlane can help. A bar laying on the ground senses head movement from a transmitter attached to your cap and signals whenever your head moves too much. For more information or to purchase the PowerPlane for \$189.00 visit: [powerplanegolf.net](http://powerplanegolf.net).



**Comfortable Performance Shoes**

New Balance Men's Golf shoe, the Minimus NGB1005 is built like running shoes. They are lightweight and have a waterproof upper. They provide excellent support for the foot, plus they are comfortable and promote balance throughout the swing. The Minimus is light on your feet at just 8.6 oz. Colors available come in White/Blue, Grey/Green, Grey/Orange, or Black for \$119.95 at NewBalance.com.

**Easy to Carry**

The Ping Hooper is at the top of the list for carry bags and is a perfect gift. It weighs only five pounds including the bag stand, but has more than enough pockets to stow away all your gear, with a full-length apparel pocket. An additional feature is the special pockets for your range finder and water bottle, plus a cart-strap channel, if used on a buggy. It also comes with a rain hood for \$215.00 at PingGolf.com.



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# CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT FRENCH LICK RESORT



If you are looking for a way to kick off the holiday season, the French Lick Resort in southern Indiana will get you in the mood. The festivities begin the middle of November in French Lick and continue throughout the month of December and into the New Year.

Not one, but two giant Christmas trees adorn both hotels at the resort. The lighting of the large outdoor

tree at the French Lick Hotel was held on Friday, November 18th and the 40-foot tree that adorns the beautiful West Baden Springs Hotel atrium was lit the following day, Saturday, November 19th.

In most households, the holidays are all about the food and French Lick holds to the same tradition. Both hotels feature buffets, with the bird as the main attraction and all the trimmings to add to the

experience. The chef even makes a gourmet turkey pizza.

Sinclair's restaurant, named for one of the original owners of the hotel Lee W. Sinclair, is located just off the atrium of the West Baden Springs Hotel. It offers a special Christmas feast throughout the holiday season and brings an air of European elegance to the resort.

The resort features two other fine dining experiences,

1875, The Steakhouse in the French Lick Hotel, plus Table One, which offers a view directly into the West Baden Springs Hotel kitchen, is available by reservation only and can privately seat a group of up to ten.

In addition, the French Lick Resort offers nine casual dining options between the two hotels and the Pete Dye Golf Club Mansion. From pizza to burgers, every dining option is available to suit any culinary taste.

To ring in the New Year, schedule brunch at, 1875: The Steakhouse. Savor steak,

seafood, pasta and quiche from an a la carte menu and toast new fortunes with Bloody Mary's or Champagne and enjoy signature table-side desserts.

The month of December at the French Lick Resort is filled with activities including, a craft fair, and cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus. Various holiday choirs entertain throughout the season, and, of course, Santa is available for those special holiday pictures.

The Dickens Carolers entertain in the West Baden Springs Hotel atrium every Saturday,

2:00-5:00 PM, November 19th to December 17th. Plus, a harpist entertains guests of the resort on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

French Lick is a truly special place in the hills of southern Indiana. It will renew your Christmas Spirit and remind you of holidays past.

Do your family a favor and take them for a night or two at French Lick Resort during this holiday season.



**FRENCH LICK RESORT**  
FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN · INDIANA



## Let us help you find the ideal golf and country club membership.



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### Testimonial:

“We had been doing research on our own for a few months, but with GLN’s thorough knowledge and expertise, they helped us narrow the search and zero in on just the right place”

- Neil & Maria Pinsker, New Jersey



# BIG BOX STORE CLUB FITTING ADVICE



By: Matt Saternus, [PluggedinGolf.com](http://PluggedinGolf.com)

Golfsmith, Dicks Sporting Goods, Golf Galaxy and PGA Tour Superstore are all included under the “Big Box Store” category and represent the majority of the retail golf equipment sales in the United States.

I do not want to bash the big box store, but rather educate golf consumers, about the hazards of golf retail. Hopefully you can make the best choices about where to spend your money and what to spend it on.

## Spiffs and Commission

Working on commission simply means that you get paid based on how much you sell. A spiff is a bonus that is paid for selling a particular item, or brand.

Having a motivated sales staff is a fine thing – it gives an incentive to help customers instead of whacking balls in the simulator – but it becomes problematic, when it is the reason to push certain products on unsuspecting golfers.

Stores that have house brands often pay a higher commission on those sales because there is more margin. Spiffs can also be a major incentive, especially if the sales clerk is making \$10/hour, and can earn an additional \$50 for selling Brand X.

A simple solution to this problem is to be direct. Ask your salesperson if they're paid on commission or with spiffs. You don't have to storm out if they are, but take their advice with a grain of salt.

## Lack of, or Misused, Fitting Capabilities

Most Big Box Stores have invested in first-tier launch monitors, but that doesn't necessarily mean that everything is on the up and up. One of the oldest tricks in the golf retail book is “juicing” the launch monitor to spit out distances far beyond what golfers will see in the real world.

**“Wow, Mrs. Haversham, you're hitting it 320 with that new driver!”**

There is a simple fix for this problem, bring your own clubs for comparison.

A more difficult problem is the lack of fitting components. If the shafts and heads available for testing

are out of date or missing, it allows the consumer fewer choices and less chance of getting a perfect fit.

There is no simple solution to this problem. Some ideas include, calling in advance with specific questions about the head and shaft options available, checking the components available before you begin your trial, as well as, visiting multiple stores to try different components.

**Selling What's in Stock**

Golfers are slowly learning that a set of clubs built to their

specific length and lie does not need to cost more than a stock set, plus free options may include the correct, shaft and grips.

Sales of in-stock merchandise are often more profitable than custom orders and clerks are incentivized to sell in-stock merchandise.

Most golfers want to walk out with their shiny new clubs in hand. Sales people know that you are eager to buy and will steer you toward an in-stock club rather than the

correct one that might need to be ordered.

If you are going into a store to buy clubs, arrive with the mindset that you will order them, rather than walk out with them that day. Accept that you will need to be patient to get the best fit and be skeptical of any fitting that results with an in-stock club that meets all specifications.

Hopefully this helps and you are now armed with the knowledge to combat the fitting problems of big box golf retail superstore.

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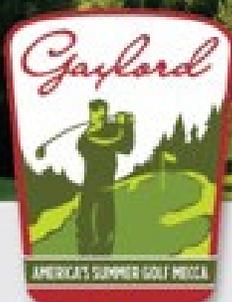
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# THE FIRST TEE OF LAKE ERIE PARTNERS WITH ELS FOR AUTISM

By Adam Reny

Everyone has heard of Ernie Els, a former world number one golfer, winner of 71 worldwide titles, including four major championships, and owner of one of the smoothest swings in golf. Els has had a Hall of Fame career and continues to compete at a high level well into his 28th season on tour.

What many do not realize, he is the father to a son with autism, Ben. The Els family relocated from England to West Palm Beach, Florida, when young Ben was diagnosed, to access the best treatment available.

Since that move, Ernie and his wife, Liezl have been extremely active in the autistic community. In 2009, they created the Els for Autism Foundation to support organizations that are working on research and treatment for the disorder.

The foundation took a huge step in 2015 by opening the doors to the Els Center for Excellence in Jupiter, Florida. The center works with over 300 autistic children, providing a variety of programs and opportunities including, a charter school, medical services, physical

activities and employment training and placement. The center has made a huge impact in the autism community in Florida and plans are in place to expand the efforts nationwide.

The center is a very welcoming place for the children and was built to make them as comfortable as possible. They invested in a properly trained staff and the equipment to meet the needs of their students. Every detail of the facility, from wall decorations to the height of the windows, was thoroughly thought out to ensure the



safest and most comfortable environment. It is truly a first-class facility, doing great work to prepare the students to lead productive lives.

**The First Tee of Lake Erie** piloted a golf training program last summer for Els for Autism. The Els Foundation is also working to implement the program around the country in conjunction with existing First Tee chapters. The local program was held at Crosswinds Golf Club in Perrysburg and was taught by three local coaches, who had received training from the staff at Els Center for Excellence last



June. The program works with basic golf principles to help teach and improve social and motor skills, two of the biggest challenges with individuals with autism.

The Els family has taken a stance to be a driving force behind treatment and care for children with autism all over the country. With the odds of being born with autism trending upwards, these types

of services will become more and more important.

The First Tee of Lake Erie is honored to partner with Els for Autism and play a part in helping children with autism in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Our staff and board are passionate about growing our reach into the future and continuing to offer opportunities to all children in our community.

For more information on Els for Autism, please visit [elsforautism.com](http://elsforautism.com) or contact me, Adam Reny at: [adam.reny@thefirstteeoflakeerie.org](mailto:adam.reny@thefirstteeoflakeerie.org)



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For more information on these programs plus a whole bunch more, check out our website at [www.heatherdowns.com](http://www.heatherdowns.com) or call the pro shop at **419-385-0248**.

# PGA HOLDS JUNIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP



BY **FRED ALTVATER**

The PGA of America started the Junior Golf League to resemble Little League Baseball or your child's soccer team, because children have more fun, when they are part of a team.

Golf is normally recognized as a solo endeavor, however we as adults normally play golf only in the company of friends, family or for business.

PGA Junior Golf League

encourages kids to bring a friend to learn to compete and play the game in a team format. The children are paired in two-man teams and pitted against other two-man teams during matches.

PGA Junior Golf League is available to both boys and girls under the age of 13. With local PGA Professionals heading up

each team, the kids receive the best training with their friends and teammates.

Registration for your local team or league typically takes place, February through April. The regular season of PGA Junior League Golf occurs. April-July.

When sufficient teams are established in a locality or region, a league can



be formed. The teams in that league then schedule matches versus one another.

Each match consists of two-man teams competing against a similar grouping from the opposing team in a scramble format. The match lasts for nine holes, broken up into three-hole segments called "flags," with each flag worth one point. A three-hole segment or flag tied by both teams is worth a half point. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins. Since there are four matches in each game, and each match

is played for a maximum of three points, a total of 12 points are available.

The PGA of America recently hosted the top two teams in the nation to the PGA Junior Golf League Championship held at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona.

An all-star team from Las Positas Golf Club in Livermore, California took the early lead over Team Georgia and the decisive point was earned by 12-year-old Alice Liu.

This was the second PGA Junior Golf League National

Championship for Team California, they also won in 2012.

Locally PGA Junior Golf League information is available by contacting Cody Morse at Detwiler Park Golf Club. Visit the website: <http://www.detwilerparkgolf.com/junior-golf-league/> or send him an email at [cwmorse@golftoledoohio.com](mailto:cwmorse@golftoledoohio.com).



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# TOP GOLF STORIES OF

# 2016

BY FRED ALTVATER

Last year was an exciting year in the annals of golf. Success of the Rio Olympics, disruptive rulings in major championships, a thrilling Ryder Cup and the death of the King, Arnold Palmer, were just a few of the top news stories from the year.

Here is a listing of our top golf related news items for the year.

## **Donald Trump Becomes President**

The top Golf Story of the Year has to feature President-elect Donald Trump. The golf establishment, as well as, the Republican Party deserted him, the Democrats regaled him, plus he beat every poll and pundit to win the Presidential election in November.

For ten years, when golf was struggling, Trump hosted events, twisted sponsors arms and brought millions to professional golf. He spent \$260 million to renovate the iconic Blue Monster, Doral in Miami and helped to keep the WGC-Cadillac Championship in the southern Florida area. He owns golf properties around the world including, historic Turnberry in Scotland.

When his campaign rhetoric about illegal immigration sent the media into a frenzy,



the ruling bodies of golf all considered moving or did move tournaments scheduled for Trump courses.

By winning the election, Trump may now have the last laugh, when the PGA of America, PGA Tour, The R&A, the USGA and the LPGA Tour are forced to come crawling back to Trump golf courses.

## No Tiger Woods in 2016

The last time we saw Tiger Woods competing on the PGA Tour was the Wyndham Championship in August, 2015. He missed the FedEx Cup Playoffs and went home to Jupiter to practice. Another back surgery ensued and this time around, he is being very cautious with his recovery and return to the rigors of professional tour golf.

He was a vice-captain for Davis Love on the victorious U.S. Ryder Cup team, but remained in the background. He announced that he would play in the first event of the

2016-17 season, the Safeway Classic, as well as, the Turkish Airlines Open on the European Tour, but at the last moment, he withdrew. He is scheduled to play in his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas and that will be the first look at the 14-time major champion's game this year.

Many questions remain and 2017 could be a critical junction in the golf career of Woods.



## The Rio Olympics was a Huge Hit



Golf had not been contested in the Olympics since 1904, the result was worth the wait.

Inbee Park and Justin Rose earned Gold Medals for South Korea and England, while Matt Kuchar, with the Bronze, was the only American to medal in golf.

Even though many of the big names decided to skip the games entirely, using the Zika Virus as an excuse, the stories of lesser known players, views of the Gil Hanse designed course and big name international stars fighting for a Bronze Medal was very compelling.

We can't wait for Japan in 2020.

## Dustin Johnson beat the Rules Officials to win the U.S. Open

USGA Rules officials noticed a slight bobble in Dustin Johnson's golf ball on the seventh green in the final round at Oakmont Country Club, but did not notify him of a possible penalty situation until he was standing on the 14th tee with a tenuous two-stroke lead. He, as well as, his playing companion, Lee Westwood and the attending Rules Official, argued that no breach of the rules had occurred, but a one-stroke penalty was added to his score at the end of his round.



Greens that approach 15 on the stimpmeter and super slow-motion cameras, in addition to, officials viewing video tape from various angles make these types of decisions a burden for players, fans and the game.

This was not an isolated incident in 2016 there were several violations assessed via video tape after and it affected the outcome of at least one event.

Rules officials must get a handle on the future use of video tape and how violations will be handled in the future, for all parties concerned.

### **Henrik Stenson & Phil Mickelson Put on a Show at Royal Troon**

Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson put on a show for the ages at the Open Championship at Royal Troon in July. Both men refused to lose and when one would gain an advantage the other would reach new heights and dare the other to match him.

Mickelson opened the tournament with a first-round 8-under-par 63 and surged into the lead. Mickelson still led after the second round, but Stenson fired a 65 and closed to within one shot of the lead.

Mickelson's third round 70 moved him one shot behind Stenson, who carded a 68 to take the third-round lead. The rest of the field had fallen far behind, Bill Haas was solo third, five shots behind Mickelson.

It was a two-man race on Sunday and they did not disappoint.



Mickelson fired a 65 and played one of the best rounds of his career and on any other day would have won his sixth major and second Claret Jug.

Stenson simply would not be denied his first major championship title. He was three ahead of Mickelson at the end of the day posting a nearly perfect 63 on a firm and fast Troon golf course.

Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus' "Duel in the Sun" at Turnberry in 1977 has long been touted as the best Open Championship, but the Stenson/Mickelson heavyweight bout in 2016 was it's equal, if not better.

### **Davis Love earned redemption as the Ryder Cup Captain**

In 2012 Davis Love was the captain as the U.S. Ryder Cup team that lost to the Europeans at Medinah. Team USA completely ran off the rails at Gleneagles in 2014 in a rout by the Europeans, which caused a flap between Phil Mickelson and team captain, Tom Watson.

Phil didn't like the way things were being handled by the PGA in picking a captain and developing a long-range strategy for maintaining a competitive team in the future. He fought for a committee to advise and consult with the PGA on every aspect of the U.S. Ryder Cup team and he got his wish.

The likeable and highly respected, Davis



Love was tapped once again to lead the U.S. Ryder Cup team out of the darkness and into the 21 Century.

It was difficult to disagree with any of Love's decisions leading up to the actual competition, In fact, he consulted with a wide-ranging group of advisors on every decision and evidently the advice was sound.

On Sunday, the singles matches of Rory McIlroy versus Patrick Reed and Phil Mickelson versus Sergio Garcia were epic and gave golf fans exactly what they wanted to see. Trying to pick which was better is like comparing, Mary Ann to Ginger, it simply can't be done.

With Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker, Tom Lehman, Jim Furyk and Bubba Watson as his assistant captains, Love's team forged out a 17-11 win over the Europeans, that brought an unprecedented six Ryder Cup

rookies with them to Hazeltine.

This was only the third American win in the past 10 Ryder Cups. For Davis Love it was sweet redemption for the bitter loss in 2012 at Medinah.

Maybe, just maybe, the PGA and the players have indeed created a system that will lead to future Ryder Cup success for the Americans.

France should be exciting in 2018.

### **Rory McIlroy won the FedEx Cup.**

Rory McIlroy was having a nice season in 2016. He finished top-ten in both the Masters and the Open Championship. Although, he was never a contender in either the U.S. Open or the PGA Championship, when his putting woes were at their very worst.

He did win at home in the Irish Open on the European Tour, but was having a sub-standard year for the former No. 1 world-ranked player. He even reneged on his commitment to enter the Olympic Golf Event in Rio de Janeiro and stayed home instead.

His disappointing season turned into a very good season with the start of the FedEx Cup Playoffs, however. McIlroy had never won the \$10 million FedEx Cup and announced that it was an important goal for him.

He finished T-31 at The Barclays, but



won the next event in Boston, the Deutsche Bank Championship. He slipped to a T-42 finish at the BMW at Crooked Stick and finished with a win at East Lake in the Tour Championship to collect the FedEx Cup and the \$10 million check that goes along with it.

In all, Rory had three world-wide wins in 2016 and earned over \$18 million in total prize money. I guess that can be categorized as a solid year and should take the sting out of not winning a major.

In addition, Rory headed up to Hazeltine for the Ryder Cup and although Patrick Reed got the best of him at the end, Rory and Reed had one of the best singles matches in Ryder Cup history.

It's a good thing he won all that money, because he is getting married at the end of the year. As you know, weddings are not cheap these days.



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### Internationals dominate on the LPGA Tour

The LPGA Tour is in a very good place right now. Total purse sizes are increasing and the number of tournaments has increased from a low of 23 in 2009 to 35, plus the UL International Crown has grown in stature as a biennial International team competition and the Solheim Cup continues to gain popularity.

Even though the tour will lose the Swinging Skirts Championship in 2017, it is adding the New Zealand Women's Open and will partner with the Ladies European Tour to co-sponsor the Women's Scottish Open the week prior to the Ricoh Women's British Open.

Lydia Ko has been dominating the LPGA Tour for the last three years, but in 2016, Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn challenged Ko in every major category.

Ariya finished the year with five wins and 16 top ten finishes, plus she won the \$1 million Race to the CME Globe. Ko had had four wins in her 14 top-10's. Both won major championships and were first and second in the money race, Race to the CME Globe and Rolex Ranking.

Canadian Brooke Henderson also announced her presence on tour in 2016 with a win at the KPMG Women's PGA and the Portland Cambia Classic, as well as, 15 top-10 finishes to keep the pressure on the top two.



In Gee Chun from South Korea finished No. 4 on the regular season money list and added the U.S. Women's Open to her trophy case.

Lexi Thompson and Brittany Lang were the only American-born women to win on the LPGA Tour in 2016. Lang's win was a big one though. She collected \$810,000 for her win at the U.S. Women's Open in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

In 35 season-long events, International players won 31 times. Will this create a problem for the LPGA Tour going forward?

I think not, the LPGA Tour is stronger than ever and several talented, young American women are improving their games daily and will soon be popping up on LPGA Tour leaderboards.



### Golf Lost a KING

On September 25th, golf lost its King, Arnold Palmer at the age of 87. He succumbed to heart issues and will be remembered as the most important figure in golf in the past 60 years.

He brought the game into the colored television age with a swashbuckling style and grace that won him the affection of an army.

He was the man responsible for starting the Golf Channel, which resulted in one of the most successful cable channel start-ups in history.

In addition, his philanthropic contributions to the Arnold Palmer and Winnie Palmer medical facilities in the Orlando area will help generations for years to come.

Other stories of significance, Keith Pelley continued to shake up the European Tour,

Tim Finchem officially retired from the PGA Tour after 22 years at the helm. His successor, Jay Monahan will become the new PGA Tour Commissioner effective Jan 1, 2017.

Bernhard Langer won a record-setting fourth Charles Schwab Cup on the Champions Tour, while 45-year-old Phil Mickelson was so close to having one of his best years ever.

Even without Tiger Woods hitting one tee shot in 2016, the Young Guys made golf fun to watch. Golf is much more than a "Big 3." In addition to Jason, Jordan and Rory, Dustin Johnson, Henrik Stenson, as well as, 15 other prominent players are competing every week and in the big events to win titles and trophies.

**Bring on 2017!! We Can't Wait**



# GREG LIBERTO'S PRO PERFORMANCE SYSTEM WILL IMPROVE YOUR GAME

Greg Liberto is **The HEAD Coach**. He is an International speaker, author and coach who shows golfers how to transform their game and play their Best Golf Ever! He was recently a guest on Back 9 Report and this is a review of his interview.

The **Pro Performance System** is the culmination of his 10-year career in helping golfers improve their mindset on the course. The **Pro Performance System** combines his best ideas and programs, placing them in one usable program. From using this all-inclusive program, his clients have seen marked improvement to their concentration and confidence, both on and off the golf course.

Liberto has learned the difference between a successful golfer and one who struggles with the game can be traced to a lack of confidence

or focus. Unrealized factors within a player's mind can sabotage a golf score even before the golfer hits his first shot. Many times the correct mindset is the only difference between the golfer who wins versus the rest of the field.

Do you relate to these questions:

**-Are there factors in your life that prevent you from being successful on or off the golf course?**

**-Do you procrastinate?**

**-Do you fail to accomplish the tasks necessary to be successful every day?**

These same issues that prevent you from being successful on the golf course also carryover to daily life. The **Pro Performance System** uses several techniques to train the mind to

perform the mundane duties that will lead to becoming more successful.

It has been said that successful people are willing to do the tasks that unsuccessful people put off or fail to complete. The Pro Performance System offers drills to help train your mind to follow through and execute those mundane tasks.

Off course distractions, negative signals to your brain that you may not even be aware you are sending, require constant 24/7 communication to properly think, speak, and exhibit the proper body language to produce positive communication to ourselves.

Once an analysis is completed to determine exactly where you are and where want to be, an action plan can be created to get you on the right path.

A big part of improving your game and your life is determining your daily question. What question can you repeat to yourself every day that will help take you out of your comfort zone and help you attain the success you are seeking?

Given today's technology, with smart phones, video conferencing and other modern forms of communication, Greg can help teach his students anywhere in the world. He has even produced a Greg Liberto Focus app to send constant updates and reminders every day.

The Pro Performance System is designed for professional athletes, but will help amateurs, as well.

To learn more about the **Pro Performance System**, visit: <http://www.GregLibertoFocus.com>

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# THE OCEAN COURSE: FLORIDA'S OLDEST & MOST BEAUTIFUL

By Mike May

If there's ever a golf course that requires more brains than brawn to play, it's the Ocean Course at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. As their website notes,

***“the Ocean Course rewards wit over power, challenging its golfers to play the ball especially low and controlled.”***

When you step foot on the Ocean Course, it's quite clear that the superintendent is as concerned about maximizing the beauty of this par-70 layout as he is at maintaining the quality of the golf course. Playing at less than 6,200 yards from the back tees, it is

very appealing to the eye and always in the best possible condition. The fairways are very well maintained, the rough is playable, the bunkers are raked, and the greens are fair, but not too fast. With flowering shrubs, bushes, and palm trees lining the fairways, it's one of the most visually stimulating golf courses in America and a true delight to play. Six lakes and 87 bunkers also add to the visual appeal and add a degree of difficulty.

The Ocean Course at the Breakers is the oldest 18-hole golf course in Florida. Designed by Scotsman Alexander Findlay, the course

opened for play in 1896 and was the first course six-time British Open Champion, Harry Vardon played in the United States. Vardon went on to win the 1900 U.S. Open later that year at the Chicago Golf Club.

In 2000, Brian Silva redesigned the course by blending the course's original unique qualities with some modern concepts. Findlay would be proud of Silva's efforts.

Many of the golf's greatest names have played the Ocean Course at The Breakers. The record on the original course was set by Jack Nicklaus, who shot a 59, back in the 1970s.



From an aesthetic point of view, the Ocean Course has 18 signature holes. Every hole can be a portrait on a postcard. All 18 holes have character, charm, and backbone, especially the 440-yard par-four 6th hole, where the green and the fairway are separated by a lake, which must be negotiated on your approach.

The final three holes are three of the best in south Florida. The 16th is a long par three to a

slightly raised green and plays even longer into the wind. The 17th is the course's only par five and is a right-to-left dogleg that demands accuracy. The 18th is a left-to-right par-four with a lake and a greenside bunker protecting the green.

Whether you play the Ocean Course in January or July, you will always benefit from the nearby Atlantic Ocean, which provides a steady cool, refreshing breeze off the ocean.



A final piece of advice is to use your brain to book a tee time so you can take your brawn to the Ocean Course. But, to thrive at this tropical delight, you'll need more brains than brawn to score well on this seaside site.



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# GOLF LOSES ANOTHER LEGEND

BY FRED ALTVATER

***Golf lost one of the greats in November, when Peggy Kirk Bell died.***

Most of today's golfers are not familiar with the name Peggy Kirk Bell, but to the women's game and to the game of golf in general, she ranks with the likes of Arnold Palmer, Bobby Jones and Sam Snead.

James Walker Tufts is recognized as the founder of Pinehurst and the man responsible for bringing Donald Ross to the area, but just down the road in Southern Pines, Peggy Kirk Bell and her husband Warren, a former NBA star, built and made Pine Needles into one

of the most popular stops in the greater Pinehurst area. In 1953, they added Mid-Pines to their domain and both properties are still owned and run by members of the Bell family today.

Like Arnold Palmer at Bay Hill, golf fans would travel to the Pinehurst resorts, just to meet Miss Peggy.

In 1921, she was born Margaret Anne Kirk in Findlay, Ohio. Even though young women were not encouraged to pursue athletics, she was an excellent athlete. She did not take up golf until she was 17-years-old, but compiled

one of the best amateur records of all time.

She attended Rollins University in Winter Park, Florida and her golf game continued to improve. She won the Ohio State Championship three consecutive years in 1947, 1948, and 1949. Later in 1949, she won the Titleholders Championship, which was a major championship for women. She also won the prestigious North and South Amateur Championship and was a member of the 1950 Curtis Cup team. Other





important victories included, wins at the Eastern Amateur and the Augusta Titleholders.

Realizing the need for an organized professional golf league for women, she along with 12 other women, including Babe Zaharias, founded the LPGA in 1950.

Jim Dodson, one of the foremost writers on golf in America, called Mrs. Bell, the female Arnold Palmer for her

impact both as a competitor and teacher.

Together with her husband Warren, the Bells bought the Donald Ross-designed Pine Needles Resort and Golf Course. They raised a family amid its lush-green grounds that today still draws thousands of golfers each year.

Palmer once commented about Mrs. Bell,

*“Peggy is a tribute to the game of golf. She has tirelessly given of herself to the game and her contributions have helped make it great.”*

After an exceptional playing career, Peggy Kirk Bell

became one of the most recognized teachers in the country, had the foresight to help start the LPGA, ran the family’s resort and raised 3 children along the way. She was outspoken, gracious and sought out by her guests.

She led a full life and yielded a tremendous influence on the game of golf in the United States.

Peggy Kirk Bell was a leader in the game of golf and like Arnold Palmer before her, will be sorely missed.



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## Niblicks

By Dean Harris





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For information on **The First Tee of Lake Erie** organization or programs, contact Executive Director, Adam Reny at

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 USGA

# USING A HANDICAP FOR FAIR PLAY

By Richard Todd

My neighbor and his wife recently retired from their careers and started playing golf. Being new to the sport they are high handicappers and not proficient, nor confident in their game. Because of these items, they feel they can't play at a regulation golf course for fear of holding up pace or being non-competitive with others, thus they only visit par-three and practice courses.

What they don't realize is **the game of golf has rules and options** to help them over these hurdles and allow them to play competitively and equitably regardless of the course, or who they compete against - It's called a GHIN.

GHIN, pronounced 'gin' like the drink but not as tasty, is the handicapping

service provided by the United States Golfing Association (USGA). This amenity is offered through clubs and associations so golfers can enter their scores from each round to receive a sanctioned number that can be compared to other golfer's GHINs to allow for strokes to be subtracted, to fairly compete against a better player.

And since every course plays differently (slope/rating), your GHIN Handicap score can be applied to each unique course to factor in that difference, known as a 'course handicap'.

The handicap system allows anyone of any ability to play on equal terms with other golfers. A 25 handicap can play against a scratch golfer on a level playing field, provided they each follow the rules.

Additionally, for those golfers that aren't as proficient or as long off the tee, the forward tees can be chosen. Each tee has its own stated rating to further allow for a fair match.

It's worth mentioning that even high scoring golfers can make it around the links in a timely manner. Remember to play ready golf, watch the clock when searching for lost balls, hit a provisional ball when in doubt if your shot can be found, and let others pass if they are playing faster and there's an open space in front of you.

Get yourself an official handicap and use it for equitable competition, whether that be in a tournament, a friendly match, or just for yourself to see how you perform from day to day.



# TGA PREMIER GOLF HELPS KIDS GROW & ACHIEVE

By Fred Altvater

In 2003 Joshua Jacobs had an idea to use innovative methods to train children in golf. TGA Premier Junior Golf was franchised in 2007 and TGA Premier Youth Tennis was founded in partnership with the United States Tennis Association four years later.

TGA is an acronym for, **Teach, Grow, Achieve** and has grown to become the largest provider of individualistic youth sports programs in the United States. Their programs are offered through schools, community centers, golf courses and tennis facilities. Before or after school programs, camps, leagues,

play days and family events are perfect venues for using the TGA training system to help children grow and learn.

TGA doesn't stop with sports alone, they use a multi-level, station based curriculum, that incorporates science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), to teach life skills, character development, physical fitness, in addition to the rules and sports etiquette.

Through their unique educational format, basic life skills such as, respect, honesty, perseverance and sportsmanship are built into each lesson plan.

When Jacobs could not find acceptable equipment that could be adapted to smaller hands and golf swings, he developed a TGA Brand of clubs and equipment for use in his teaching programs. The equipment can be used either indoors or outside, which adds to the flexibility of the teaching system.

Although there are other junior golf training programs, The First Tee, PGA Junior Golf League, and Youth on Course, Jacobs feels that TGA offers a complimentary teaching program that fits nicely with those existing junior programs and can provide a

feeder system for children to advance to the PGA Junior Golf League and Youth on Course.

TGA takes the certification of their teachers seriously. There are over 1,700 certified TGA faculty currently serving 3,600 schools across the country. They must complete online, as well as, personal training and have been observed teaching the TGA system before they can be certified.

The key is to keep the training fun, fast-paced and educational for the children and the parents.

TGA has found that 65% of the children that become involved in a TGA training program have never played golf and neither have their parents. As the child becomes more involved with golf through TGA, they also bring their parents to the sport, creating a growth opportunity.

The strength of TGA is the flexibility to be used in a variety of locations and situations. The life skills learned and STEAM educational aspects of the overall program help children complete the educational experience.

Through franchising opportunities, local golf or tennis professionals looking for an all-inclusive training program for children can use the TGA teaching system and better train their junior players. TGA provides the perfect vehicle for entrepreneurs seeking a sports business opportunity to become involved, make an impact in the community and help train children to become better citizens, while learning a sport.

For more information about TGA Premier Junior Golf and Tennis visit their website: <http://playtga.com/>

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# CONTRIBUTORS



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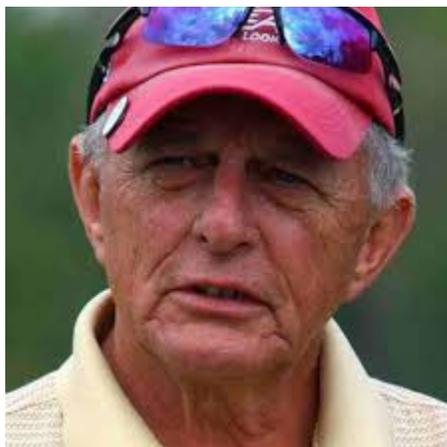
RICHARD E. TODD

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ED TRAVIS

Ed Travis is a national award winning golf journalist and has had a lifelong love affair with the game. He has competed in tournament golf both as an amateur and as a senior professional and though his competitive days are behind him, he still plays regularly and carries a handicap of 2. <https://www.facebook.com/ed.travis.98>



MATT SATERNUS

Matt Saternus is a co-founder of [PluggedInGolf.com](http://PluggedInGolf.com), a golf instructor, club fitter, and writer living in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

# VIDEOS

## Purdue Evans Scholar Zack Sielck



Here is another great story from Evans Scholars. Do you know someone that could benefit from becoming an Evans Scholar? Visit their website, WGA ESF.

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## Jordan Spieth's Drive Ends up in Puddle on Cart Path



Sometimes the Rules of Golf Can be Slightly Complicated. Check out this Ruling for Jordan Spieth involving casual water and a cart path at the PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

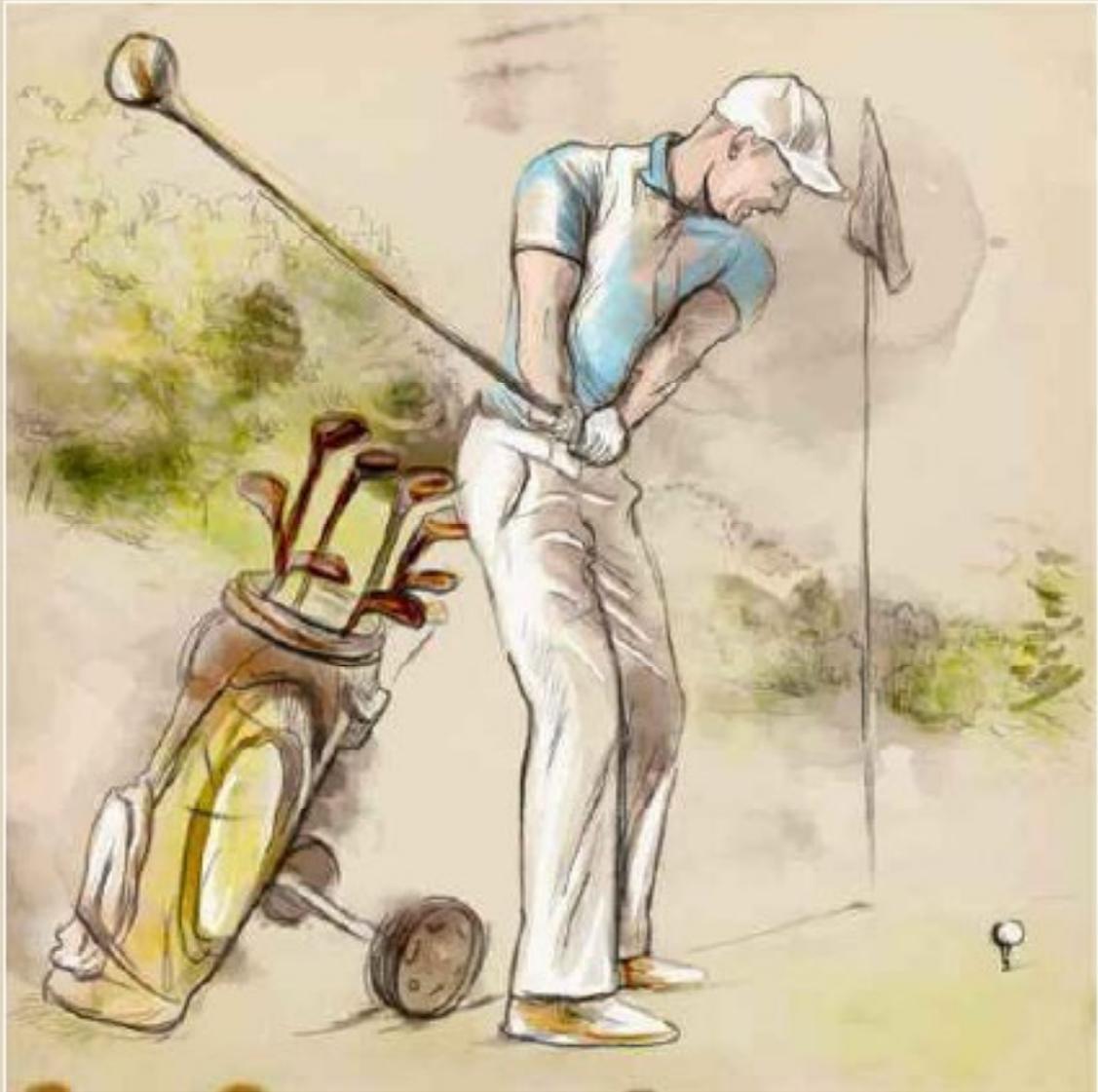
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## Little Interviews - Rory McIlroy



While Rory McIlroy was in Dubai for the DP World Championship, he agreed to an interview with Billy. We hope you get as big a laugh as we did from watching.

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