

Senior Moments

Quarterly newsletter of the Society of Seniors - North America's Premier Sr. Amateur Golf Organization

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Fiddlesticks!

Two terrific challenges for the 2007 Dale Morey in Ft. Myers

Inside:

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Norman Swenson



Message from the President

by Yancey Ford

As summer ends, we are looking forward to a fantastic fall finish to the Senior Amateur season and, of course, to what we know will be a great SOS Dale Morey Stroke Play Championship at the Fiddlesticks Country Club in Ft. Myers, Fla. Don't forget the dates for the Morey and the concurrent John Owens Super Seniors championship at Fiddlesticks: **October 22 - 25**. An entry form is included with this newsletter — and remember, you also can enter online via the Society of Seniors website (www.societyofseniors.com).

I am delighted to see that the interest level for the *GolfWeek* Senior and Super Senior rankings has remained at a high level all year. Through the end of July, SOS member Paul Schlacter had an 85-point lead over U.S. Senior Amateur Champion Mike Bell in the Senior category, while Bob Hullender led Richard Anderson by 210 points in the Super Senior division.

When I studied the most recent rankings, I noticed that one SOS member was ranked 13th in the Senior category and 25th in the Super Senior division. Congratulations to you, Walt Martin. You are a real iron man — and a very dedicated player.

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Senior rankings?"*



Which begs the question: Could the same player finish No. 1 in both the Senior and the Super Senior rankings? Why not!

The next question is: Can

Schlacter and Hullender be caught? I think it is far too early to declare winners because there are several major events still to be played. Included among these testing competitions are the U.S. Senior Amateur, which earns the winner a total of 150 points; the Dale Morey and John Owens championships, each worth 125 points to the winner; and the Ralph Bogart Invitational, with 100 points to the winner.

In addition, the British Senior Amateur, the U.S. Senior Challenge and the Azalea Senior all have a rating value of 75 points to the champions.

What was it that Yogi Berra once said? It ain't over 'til it's over.

I suspect there will be numerous changes in the rankings throughout the rest of the schedule given the number of events and points still out there. So, keep focused, give it your best and play in as many events as possible.

On behalf of the membership in the SOS, I wish to thank Jim Achenbach and *GolfWeek* for the time they expend in putting together these senior golf rankings. It is no small administrative task, and the *GolfWeek* people are meticulous in their compilations. The rankings have created a lot of buzz among the players and have been good for senior amateur golf.

See you soon.

GolfWeek Rankings

Senior

1. Paul Schlacter 390
2. Mike Bell 305
3. Don Marsh 255
4. Ted Smith 245
5. Wally Adams 220
6. Robert Shelton 155
6. Gary Kirwan 155
8. Steven Hakes 150
9. Gary Hardin 140
9. Tim Miller 140
9. Ron Carter 140

Super Senior

1. Bob Hullender 530
2. Richard Anderson 320
3. David King 240
4. Gus Kozina 215
5. Brodie Baker 210
6. Curtis Wagner 185
7. Charles McClaskey 170
8. Mills Rendell 160
8. Bill Ploeger 160
10. Joe Cadle 140
10. Don Wood 140

New Members

The Society of Seniors welcomes
the following new members:

Bob Berg
Redding, Calif.

Greg Hetzer
San Pedro, Calif.

Jim Holtgrieve
St. Louis, Mo.

Phil Leckey
Tampa, Fla.

Buddy Marucci
Villanova, Penn.

Walt Noell
Winston-Salem, N.C.

H. King Oehmig
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Frank Perry
Fayetteville, Ga.

Mike Walters
Tampa, Fla.

Danny Yates
Atlanta, Ga.



The 2007 Dale Morey Championship

Everything's in place at Fiddlesticks for another great SOS experience



For the second straight year the SOS Dale Morey Stroke Play Championship, including the John Owens Super Seniors Championship, will be played in south Florida, this time across Alligator Alley from Quail Ridge at the Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers. The dates for the 2007 championship: **October 22 - 25**. If you plan to attend the competitions at

Fiddlesticks, please enter now.

As those of you who were there will recall, the 2006 SOS championships at Quail Ridge in Boynton Beach were conducted in a flawless manner and played in near perfect conditions, thanks in no small part to the diligence and organization of the Quail Ridge and SOS staffs. Fiddlesticks sent a management team to study the operation at the 2006 Morey, and everything there will be in place for another smoothly-run competition. Fiddlesticks was on a recent short list to host an upcoming U.S. Senior Amateur championship, and it is expected that the club will be awarded a different USGA event within the next few years.



Fiddlesticks features beautiful landscaping and even this sparkling waterfall.

played by the field during the first two rounds. The Long Mean layout at Fiddlesticks plays at 7,077 yards from the tips and is considered slightly more difficult than the Wee Friendly course, which tops out at 6,575 yards. But oftentimes the Wee Friendly is not so aptly named, as SOS players no doubt will discover if they happen to be driving the ball poorly.

When Rick Woulfe, the defending champion in the Morey, and spunky Charles McClaskey, the reigning champion in the Owens, arrive at Fiddlesticks, what they will find is a club that offers two somewhat different 18-hole courses, each of which will be



The Long Mean finishes with a flourish at the twin island greens at the 9th and 18th holes.

The Long Mean features the picture-perfect signature holes at Fiddlesticks, the par-four 9th and the par-five 18th with their adjacent island greens. There seems to be an ocean of water on the Long Mean, but the tee-shot landing areas are slightly more generous than those on the Wee Friendly. Still, it is a course that will favor the player who can hit his tee shot a considerable distance and position it in the right spot on the fairway from which he can play a more comfortable approach shot to some very well-protected greens.

As for the Wee Friendly, the Fiddlesticks members like to call it a "Shotmaker's Course," mainly because its shorter length offers players the opportunity to craft their approach shots onto greens that are substantially more receptive than those on the Long Mean. Miss the tight fairways, though, and those approach shots will be your third or fourth shots.

The SOS is delighted with the positive relationship it has forged with the staff and the members at Fiddlesticks, and we look forward with great anticipation to the playing of the 25th annual Dale Morey Championship. Please send your completed Entry Forms back to us now!

See you in Ft. Myers.

An entry blank for the SOS Dale Morey Championship is included with this newsletter. SOS members can also file their entries on the Internet via the SOS website (www.societyofseniors.com)

SOS Profile: Norman Swenson

As you read this, Norman Swenson no doubt is in some far away foreign land playing in some senior amateur national championship. The 60-year old Swenson has residences in North Carolina and in Florida, but his real home is in Seat 27C — an exit row, for sure — on some Air Frisbee flight to Mexico or New Zealand or Scotland or England or Bermuda or Canada or Korea or Scotland or Czechoslovakia or Hungary or Germany or Portugal or Sweden, just a few of the places where Norman has hit a five iron in the past year. Just think of the frequent flier miles.

“My wife Shelley and I love to travel,” Swenson says. “One year we even drove 4,600 miles throughout the British Isles and Ireland.” And they like to show up at the doorsteps of their friends — as they recently at the Montana home of Maury Povich and his wife, Connie Chung — and stay awhile as they move between tournaments.

Swenson, who grew up in North Carolina, was a competitive junior player and later a member of the Wake Forest golf team that included such future pros as Lanny Wadkins, Leonard Thompson, Joe Inman, Jack Lewis, Logan Jackson (now a reinstated amateur) and the late Jim Simons. “Jay Sigel was my freshman coach,” Swenson says. Unlike his pro-bound teammates, Swenson put golf on the back burner after graduation and entered the portrait photography business.

“In 1982 I helped start American Studios with two other partners and four more employees,” Swenson says. “In time we had an exclusive arrangement for all the portrait studios in more than 2000 Wal-Marts. By 1995 we had more than 8,000 employees and did more than \$140 million in annual sales. And then we sold the business to the Photo Corporation of America.”

By then Shelley and Norman were the parents of three — Ashley, Norman the Third, and Perry. Ashley lives with her husband in Palm Desert, Calif., and recently delivered Grandchild No. 1 to her parents. Norman the Second says Norman the Third is “a NASCAR guy who has no interest in golf.”

As for Perry, now 24, she has total interest in golf. Following a strong junior career, she played on the University of Texas golf team and

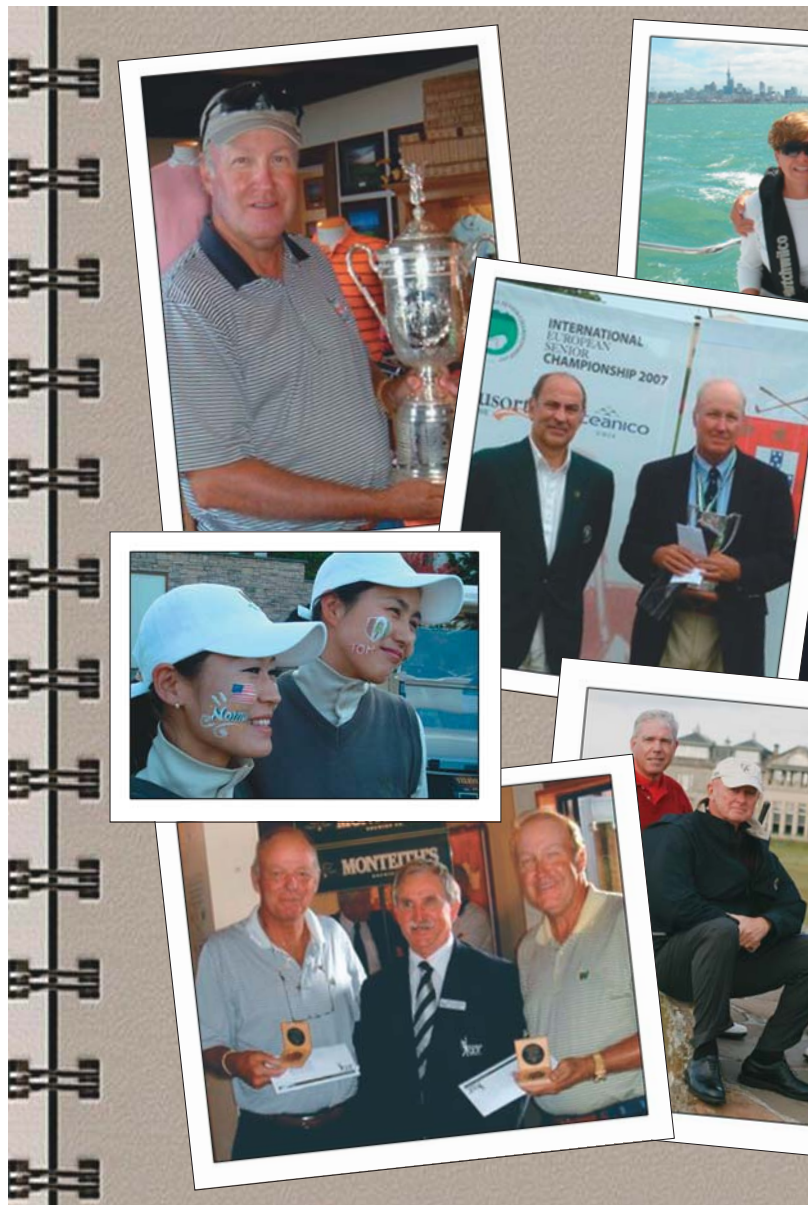
now competes on the LPGA's Futures Tour.

Having sold his interest in the photography business, Swenson turned his focus to competitive golf. “I couldn't wait 'til I turned 55 so I could go on the senior amateur circuit,” says Swenson. Over the last six

years Swenson has played in some 180 tournaments — or 30 per year. He has competed in two U.S. Senior Amateurs, four British Senior Amateurs, two British Senior Opens and a whole lot of club championships. “I've won titles at nine different clubs,” he says.

So, let's follow Norman in action as he moves about the globe hoping that his golf clubs arrive where he arrives and that the ATMs don't spit back his VISA card. We begin with the 2006 Bermuda Senior Invitational played last November, just after the SOS Dale Morey championship at Quail Ridge, Norman's home club when he is in Florida. Swenson went home with a victory.

In January of this year, Swenson teamed with John Dennis to win the International Four-Ball championship at the Fox Club in exotic Palm City, Fla., just a drive up Route 95 from downtown Boynton Beach.





In February, Norman flew off to Guadalajara, Mexico, and won the Mexican Senior Amateur Championship, a tournament organized by the great John Kline.

Later that month, the Swensons jetted away for a month in New Zealand — that's like 23 hours in the air, each way — with their friends the Brookersons, David and Donna from Philadelphia. Norman played in the New Zealand Senior PGA Championship pro-am along with Bob Charles, among others. After that, Swenson and Brookerson won the team championships in the New Zealand Senior Amateur and Swenson placed second in the individual competition. "But first in the 55-and-over division," he says.

While in New Zealand, Swenson and Brookerson had an adventurous ride on New Zealand's Americas Cup yacht. "We were out there in a 24-knot wind," Swenson says, "and suddenly the boat starts going through the water sideways. I thought the boat was going to flip over

and we were going to drown." They made it back safely to shore, which was a better ending than the yacht experienced; New Zealand lost the Americas Cup finals to Switzerland earlier this summer.

Swenson came back to Florida so Shelley could do their laundry, but not for long. After playing in a number of tournaments in the U.S., Swenson packed his Passport again and flew off to Korea — a dozen or so time zones and about 7,500 miles away — with fellow SOS member Tom Case to represent Pine Valley in the World Club Championships. "We lost in the finals," Swenson says. "They made an eagle on the 18th hole to tie us and then another eagle on the fifth playoff hole to win." It was a long flight home.

Swenson returned to the good ol' U.S.A. just long enough to regrip a few clubs and stock up on new golf balls before he packed himself off to Scotland to play in

the Scottish Senior Amateur outside Glasgow. After that, Swenson joined fellow SOS members John Baldwin, Steve Sander, Taco Tom McLean, Jim (Hockey Puck) Cecchini, Bill Erwin and Larry White for a series of matches against members from the R&A and a few other clubs. Then he flew over to Ireland to play in the Irish Senior Amateur in Dublin.

Golfed out, the peripatetic Swenson met Shelley in Dublin and went on vacation, which meant a flight to Prague, a train to Nurnberg and then a cruise down the Danube to Budapest before a flight to London for a connection to Portugal, where Norman played in the European Senior Amateur at Faru. Rested, not weary, Swenson won the championship by three shots with rounds of 73-68-75 for a 54-hole score of 216.

Finally, the Swensons revisited the U.S.A., but soon Norman was off to lovely Prince Edward Island for the Canadian Senior Match Play championship. Swenson placed fourth in the qualifying competition but lost 1-down in the first round to eventual champion Don Marsh.

Back home again, Norman cheered on daughter Perry as she tried to qualify locally for the Women's British Open at St. Andrews, but unfortunately Perry fell short by three strokes. "I was going to caddie for her at St. Andrews," says Swenson, a member of the R&A and practically a St. Andrews regular.

As this issue of *Senior Moments* went to press, Swenson was rushing to the Charlotte airport to make a flight to Scotland, where he would be one of 350 players competing for 27 spots in the British Senior Open at Muirfield. "Damn cars," Norman said over his cell. "I may not make my flight. The car wouldn't start this morning so I had to get it jumped. Then there was a wreck on the interstate and traffic was backed up for miles. When I finally got going, a rock bounced against my windshield and cracked it. Unbelievable."

The good news is that Norman made his flight, if just barely. The bad news is that he did not qualify for the Open.

So, for the nomadic Mr. Swenson, it was back to North Carolina, but maybe not for long. He smiles. "You see, there's this new tournament in Mongolia and. . ."

Golf talent runs in the Swenson family. Currently on the LPGA circuit, daughter Perry won the Doherty Cup as an amateur in 2004.



2007 Senior Amateur Schedule

USGA Senior Amateur

September 1 - 6

Flint Hills - Wichita, Kansas

Contact USGA.org

Canadian Senior Stroke Play

September 5 - 7

Kawartha GC - Peterborough, Ont.

Contact RCGA.org

Totteridge National Sr. Invitational

September 7 - 9

Totteridge GC - Hannastown, Penn.

Contact Bill Baloh (724) 309-2945

Sunnehana Senior Invitational

September 10 - 12

Sunnehana CC - Johnstown, Penn.

Contact Phil Saylor (814) 244-1653

SOS Fall Super Senior Classic

September 17 - 19

The Windermere Club - Columbia, S.C.

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

Azalea Invitational

September 26 - 28

Charleston CC - Charleston, S.C.

Contact Urquit Morris (843) 556-4111

U.S. Sr. Challenge Invitational

October 1 - 4

Gallardia CC - Oklahoma City, Okla.

Contact John McGuiness (515) 262-5609

World Super Seniors

October 2 - 4

Tanglewood - Clemmons, N.C.

Contact Kitty Visintine (336) 778-6325

Persimmon Ridge Sr. Invitational

October 9 - 11

Persimmon Ridge - Louisville, Ky.

Contact Joe Pavoni (502) 551-0196

SOS Dale Morey Stroke Play

October 22 - 25

Fiddlesticks GC - Ft. Myers, Fla.

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

Yeamans Hall Sr. Invitational

October 22 - 24

Yeamans Hall - Charleston, S.C.

Contact Claude Brusse (843) 747-8855

Shoal Creek Sr. Invitational

October 29 - 31

Shoal Creek - Birmingham, Ala.

Contact Bob Wise (205) 408-1782

Dixie Senior Amateur

December - TBD

Palm Aire - Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Contact Randy Weber (954) 975-6225

SOS Ralph Bogart Invitational

Dec. 11 - 13

Twin Eagles - Naples, Fla.

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

2008 Preview: Senior Amateur Schedule

Riverwood Invitational

January 3 - 5

Riverwood CC - Port Charlotte, Fla.

Contact Hal Knuth (941) 624-3761

Gateway Invitational

January 7 - 9

Gateway CC - Ft. Myers, Fla.

Contact Greg Wetzel (239) 561-1014

National Senior-Junior Championship

January 7 - 9

The Dye Preserve - Jupiter, Fla.

Contact John Birmingham (561) 828-8082

Kingsway Senior Invitational

January 11 - 13

Kingsway CC - Lake Suzy, Fla.

Contact J.B. Belknap (941) 625-8898

Southern Invitational Four-Ball

January 11 - 13

The Fox Club - Palm City, Fla.

Contact John McKey (772) 546-9189

Adams/Golfweek Sr. Championship

January 14 - 16

Lake Jovita CC - Lake Jovita, Fla.

Contact Armond Cimaroli (407) 563-7015

Senior Temple Cup

April 3 - 6

Lufkin, Texas

Contact Jim Todd (888) 835-3673

SOS John Kline Super Seniors

April 29 - May 1

Barnesley Gardens - Adairsville, Texas

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

SOS Tutwiler Four-Ball Championship

May 6 - 8

GC of Georgia - Alpharetta, Ga.

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

Cotton States Seniors

May 22 - 24

Monroe, La.

Contact Debbie Rivers (313) 322-4523

SOS Dale Morey Championship

October 20 - 23

Twin Eagles - Naples, Fla.

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

SOS Ralph Bogart Invitational

December 16 - 18

Site to be determined

Contact John Harrigan (612) 991-1271

Tournament Talk

Chris Maletis of Portland, Ore.,

dominated play throughout in winning the Senior Division of the 104th Trans-Mississippi at the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. Maletis took medalist honors with a 36-hole score of 145 and then won five matches, including a 19-hole nail biter against **Bob Vidrickson** in the second round, to claim the title. He beat **Gary Seaman** 3&2 in the final match.

Marty West was the only SOS member to survive the cut in the 2007 U.S. Senior Open at Whistling Straits, thus earning a bye into the 2007 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship. West opened with rounds of 75 and 73 and finished with a 72-hole score of 301. Low amateurs in the Open were **Danny Green** and **George Zahringer**, who tied at 296. Other SOS members in the field were **Bill Leonard** and **Paul Simson** (both at 151 for 36 holes); **Mike Bell** and **Sam Farlow** (154); **Randy Reifers** and **Jim Rollefson** (165); and fresh off the injured list **Mike Rice** (86-83). Rollefson, who is from New Berlin, Wisc., survived a five-man playoff to earn his first Open spot. "I wasn't nervous," Rollefson said after making a four-foot putt to advance to Whistling Straits. "I'm a pediatric dentist and that's a whole lot more nerve-racking than golf."

Don Marsh of Alpharetta, Ga., defeated **Joel Hirsch** of Chicago 1-up to win the Canadian Senior Match Play Championship at Prince Edward Island. Marsh won three of his five matches by the same 1-up margin, and the other two by the same score of 5&4.

Tim Miller shot rounds of 71 and 70 for a 36-hole score of 141 to beat **Jim Smith** and **Jim Sechrist** by two shots and win the U.S. Senior Challenge in Polk City, Iowa.

Robert Shelton ran away from the field in the Cotton States Senior Invitational in Monroe, La., shooting rounds of 73-70-71 for a 54-hole score of 214 that was four strokes better than runner-up **Don Marsh** and five better than third-place finisher **Gerald Siemon**. In the Super Senior division, **Bob Hullender** did what he does with numbing regularity, winning by a strong seven strokes after rounds of 75-70-72 for a 54-hole score of 217. **Curt McClure** was the runner-up.

Ron Carter won the National Senior Hall of Fame championship at the High Point (NC) Country Club, shooting a final-round 70 for a 54-hole score of 212 that was one better than runner-up **Logan Jackson**.

Ned Steiner, the wily New Jersey veteran who has become the world's leading source of information on \$101 million Boston Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, went north to Ontario for a partner in the Anderson Memorial at Winged Foot, came back with fellow Redtail Club member **Dick Lockwood** — and together they survived a seven-hole playoff to qualify for match play and then won three straight matches for the championship. "Don't expect a call from Buddy Marucci asking for your Walker Cup shirt size," a friend kidded the jubilant Steiner.

Dr. Dirt Cleans Up in 2007



Brad Bryant joined the Champions Tour after finishing in 3rd place at the 2004 Qualifying School - since that time he's accomplished so much that he's now considered one of the best players on the tour and after last month's win at the U.S. Senior Open - he can finally be called a Major Champion.

Bryant fired a final-round 68 to separate himself from the rest of the field at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisc. Bryant's win marked the third straight U.S. Senior Open victory for the Adams Golf Tour Staff (Allen Doyle won in '05, '06).

Using his Idea Pro Hybrid to help navigate the very demanding terrain at Whistling Straits, Bryant ranked first in Greens In Regulation by hitting 15 of 18 greens in each of the final two rounds. He also played a 7.5-degree Insight BUL driver and ranked sixth in overall driving distance.

The Open win landed Bryant in first place in the Charles Schwab Cup Points race and in second place on the 2007 Money List with over \$1.6 million earned.

A few weeks earlier Bryant put together another final round charge of 7-under par to capture his second consecutive Regions Charity Classic victory.

Bryant's four-round total tied that of fellow Adams Golf Tour Staff Pro R.W. Eaks, putting both players into a sudden death playoff. With a 13-foot putt for birdie on the third playoff hole, Bryant was awarded the \$240,000 winner's check.

The Adams Golf Tour Staff has now won 7 tournaments on the Champions, Nationwide and LPGA Tours, combined in 2007. Champions Tour winners include: Tom Watson, Brad Bryant (2), Scott Hoch, and R.W. Eaks; Nationwide Tour Winner - Scott Sterling; LPGA Winner - Brittany Lincicome.

Without Question: Hybrid Leader is Adams



The numbers tell the story: Adams Golf is the hybrid leader on tour. As of July 17th (John Deere Classic) the amount of Adams Golf hybrids played on the PGA, Champions and Nationwide Tours, combined in 2007 was at 2,778. The next closest manufacturer was at 1,672 and after that, the third place hybrid company accounted for 723 in play. A vast majority of tour pros are playing Adams Golf hybrids these days, specifically the Idea Pro.

On the PGA TOUR, Adams hybrids have ranked #1 at eight different events. Additionally, the winners of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, the Colonial and the AT&T National all played Adams Golf hybrids.

In every tournament this year, Adams has claimed the #1 hybrid played by the Champions Tour pros. Adams Golf hybrids topped the equipment count at the U.S. Senior Open with 88 in play. Along with Brad Bryant and Tom Watson both playing Idea Pro hybrids, four other Top 10 finishers played either Adams Golf hybrids or fairway woods.

On the Nationwide Tour, Adams has been #1 each week on the hybrid count dating back to August 2006. Adams Golf hybrids perform when it matters most with 10 tournament champions in 2007 carrying Adams hybrids in their bags.

Adams Golf Strengthens R&D Department

Adams Golf has hired industry veteran Scott Burnett to lead its metal woods product development team as part of the company's growing research and development



Scott Burnett

department. Burnett will report to Tim Reed, vice president of R&D, and will oversee the metal wood product development process including concept, design, analysis, prototyping, and testing of Adams Golf drivers and fairway woods.

He joins a diverse team of talented individuals that make up the Adams Golf R&D organization and represents the tenth staff addition within the last 12 months. Prior to joining Adams Golf, Burnett spent the last five years as vice president of research and development at Titleist. Before joining Titleist, he served as director of product development for Taylormade-adidas and prior to that as director of product development at Adams Golf.

"Over the last five years we have made a significant commitment to our R&D organization and have built a world class team that serves as the keystone of our business strategy," said Chip Brewer, Adams Golf CEO and president. "Scott furthers this commitment and we're proud that he chose to re-join our team. The combination of his expertise with ours will make our organization stronger, enhance our product line and continue our pursuit of innovation, new technologies and increased market share in the metal wood category."

Burnett holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University where he also received his undergraduate degree in 1990. After graduating, Burnett spent four years as a Special Warfare Officer for the U.S. Navy SEAL Teams in California.

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Dr. Mo Knows Putting

by Dr. Morris Pickens

As you might imagine, I spend a serious amount of time working with my professional and amateur golfer-clients on the very broad subject matter of putting. What follows is a short list of some productive thoughts that I believe ought to be in your head when you take a putter in your hands. I would suggest that you select two or three of these thoughts — the ones you feel are the most relevant to your game — and focus exclusively on them with your putting. This will help you to stay focussed on the process of putting instead of worrying about the impending results of your putting.

Here are a few what I like to call “Pre-Putt Thoughts.”

First, let me offer some suggestions about what you ought to be thinking about as you are walking into or at the ball.

The way you walk into the ball sets the tempo for your putting stroke. Approach the ball in a slow and smooth manner, and your stroke will tend to be slow and smooth. Walk to the ball in a fast and jerky, almost running, manner, and your stroke will be fast and jerky with, of course, results that more often will be negative than positive.

If you take practice strokes on the green, make them be very realistic. Do not make practice strokes that are too hard or that are a continuous motion; they are not



productive for the upcoming putt. Each practice stroke should have a definite beginning and a definite end — and have a tempo similar to the putt you are about to play. There is nothing worse than watching a golfer take a practice stroke for his five-foot, left-to-right slider that would be better suited for a 50-footer up a severe hill.

Now, here are a few things to think about as you stand behind the ball to begin the putting process.

Tell yourself what the putt IS in terms of 1) Distance; 2) Slope; and 3) Break — and not what the putt means in terms of score. Focus on the fact that you have a 20-foot downhill, left-to-right putt — and not that you have a 20-foot putt for, say, a birdie

. In other words, describe the putt to yourself physically, not emotionally.

It makes no difference how the ball arrived at its location on the green. When you have a six-foot, uphill, left-to-right putt, well, it remains a six-foot, uphill, left-to-right putt regardless of how the ball came to rest there. A six-foot putt “left over” from a poor first putt is the same as a six-foot putt left after a miraculous

three-iron shot out of the woods, over the water and onto the green.

Remember: a putt is a putt. Just go hit it!

Pick spots or paths to putt to, but not both. If you visualize a ball rolling down a path to the hole, then

you should not focus on the left edge or two cups out on the left. Just keep seeing the ball roll down the path. If you don't visualize a path, then pick a specific target — for example, an old pitch mark or a discoloration in the green — equidistant with the back of the hole (or in the back of the hole) and putt the ball along a straight line to that point. Pick a spot or pick a path; either can be productive. But doing both will lead to inconsistency and more missed putts.

Your focus and ultimate evaluation should be centered around hitting a quality putt, not making the putt. If you hit enough quality putts, the majority of them will be made. Let the ball go into the hole. Don't try to force it. Finally, let me add that if you feel as though you are moving your head or ‘peeking’ over your putts, make it a point to see where the ball ‘was’ when it contacted the ballll. This will allow you to focus on a visual aspect of putting rather than a mechanical one. Great vision promotes playing. Mechanics promote over-thinking and a loss of feel.



Stephen Szurlej/Golf Digest

PGA Tour crowd-favorite Camilo Villegas always gets the lowdown on a putt.

Congratulations!

E.B. GEE, JR., 74, the Vice-President West of the SOS, will be inducted into the Arkansas Golf Hall of Fame this fall, a much deserved honor for the gentleman from Blytheville who has devoted so much of his time and energy to the game. E.B. has been a member of the board of the SOS since 1996 and a member of the USGA Senior Amateur committee since 1989; he has attended 15 of the last 16 championships as a rules official or starter or player (six times).

A former Arkansas high school champion and a three-year regular for the University of Arkansas golf team, E.B. is known as “Mr. Golf” throughout his home state.