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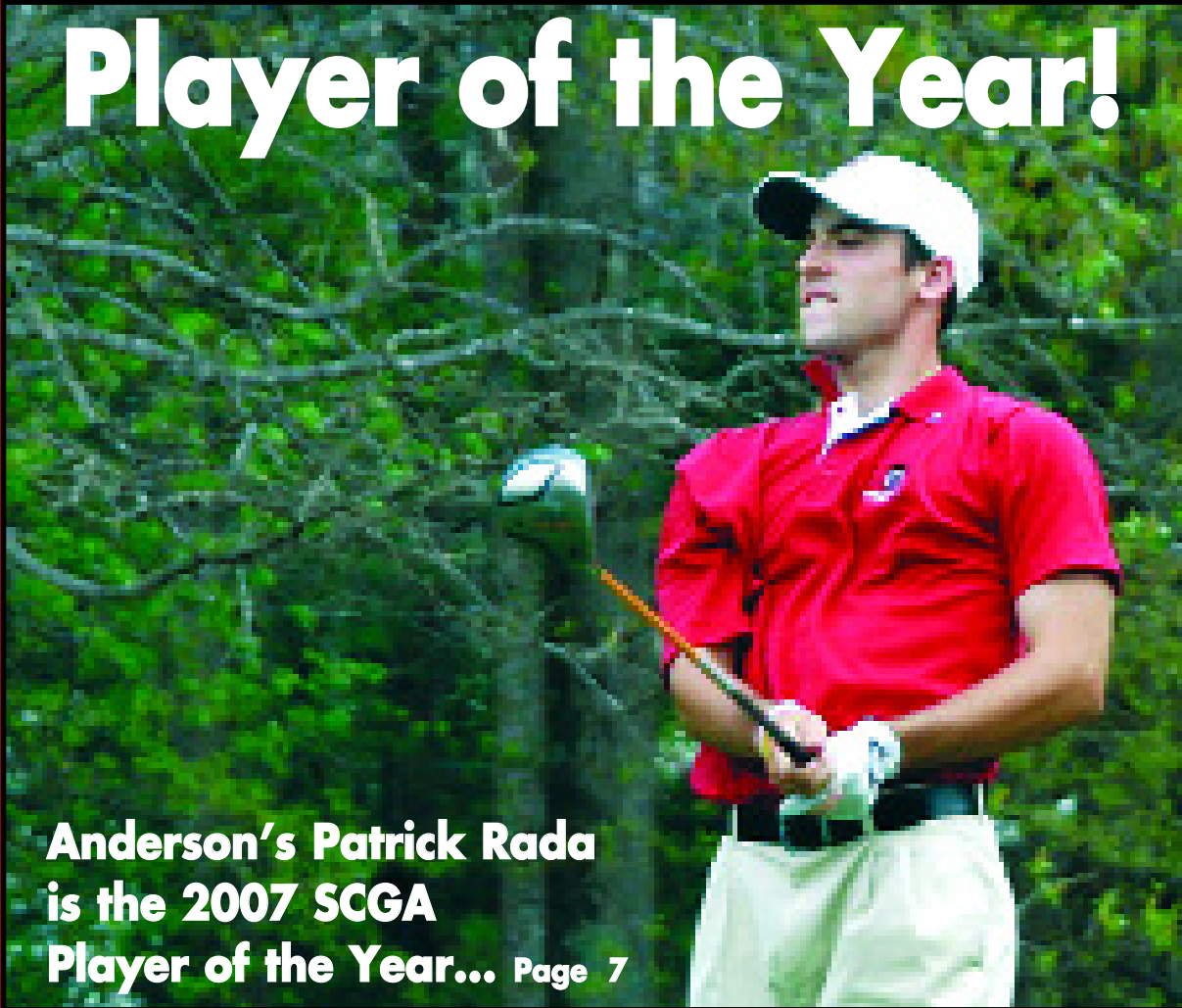
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Player of the Year!



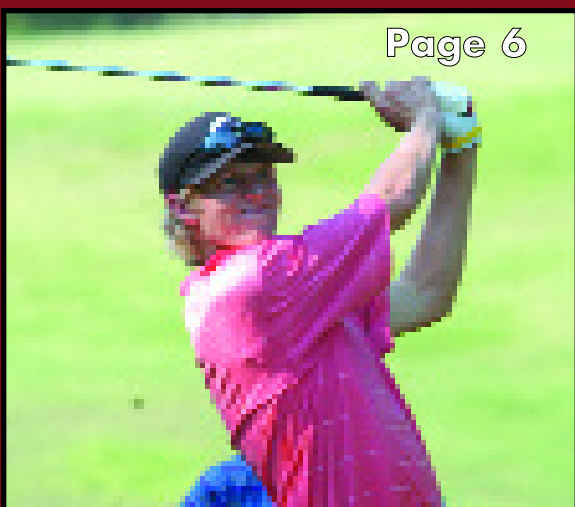
Anderson's Patrick Rada is the 2007 SCGA Player of the Year... Page 7

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SC's Top Junior!

Oh Brother!

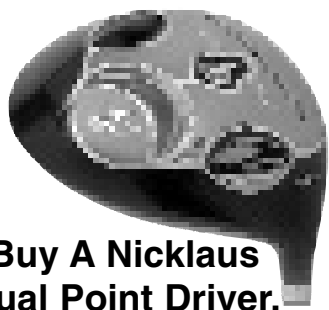
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Stephens wins CGA honor

Greer golfer named Carolinas top junior girl

Haley Stephens has been named the Carolinas Golf Association's Junior Girls Player of the Year.

The 17 year old high school junior from Thornblade Club won the award after an outstanding season.

Stephens won the CGA Fall Invitational and the Festival of Flowers Women's championship. She also reached the semi-finals at the Carolinas Junior Girls Championship.

Stephens also had top-ten finishes in The Blade Junior Classic, the South Carolina Junior Girls Championship and the Charles Tilghman Junior.

The Junior Boys and Junior Girls awards are based upon a nine week, eleven-event series of junior tournaments run by six associations in the Carolinas.

Stephens will be honored at Carolinas Golf Night at the Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, NC on Friday, February 15, 2008.

Coastal Carolina graduate and Walker Cup golfer Dustin Johnson of Myrtle Beach was named the Carolinas mens Player of the Year. Johnson is now on the PGA Tour.



Haley Stephens of Greer has been named the Carolinas Golf Association Junior Girls Player of the Year.

Johnson wins Picard Junior

Torey Johnson of Moore won the 14th annual Picard Junior Championship at the Wild Dunes Links Course on Isle of Palms.

Johnson finished in a tie with Elizabeth Freeman of Charleston at the end of regulation play. Each golfer shot rounds of 76.

Johnson won the girls championship with a birdie on the third sudden-death playoff hole.

New rules for USGA handicaps

Beginning January 1, all South Carolina clubs that offer USGA handicaps to members must revise handicaps twice per month.

Handicaps will be revised on the 1st and 15th of each month, per USGA guidelines.

Clubs that participate in the Handicap Program of the Carolinas will receive software mandating these additional handicap revisions.

Until 2008, all handicaps in the Carolinas are revised once a month on the first of each month. Carolinas golfers have sought more frequent handicap revisions which prompted the change.

Reeves scores ace on par-4 hole

Crawford Reeves made a hole-in-one on the par-4 350 yard seventeenth hole during the final round of the Holiday Open at Southern Oaks.

Reeves used a driver to record the ace. "I'm still in shock a little," said Reeves. "It was an amazing shot and it was the first hole-in-one I have ever made," said the Eastside high school golfer.

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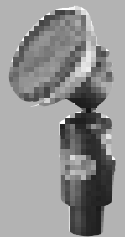
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Musgrove Mill Golf Club near Clinton has been purchased by McConnell Golf of Raleigh, North Carolina. The course has been ranked among the top-100 modern courses in the country since it was opened. The Arnold Palmer designed course will become the fourth course in the McConnell group. The course will host the 2008 South Carolina Amateur Championship next August.

Musgrove Mill sold to McConnell Golf

Raleigh based group to operate club near Clinton

The Arnold Palmer designed Musgrove Mill Golf Club is now a part of McConnell Golf of Raleigh.

The club near Clinton was purchased by the group for an undisclosed price and is now one of four courses owned by the company.

The club had been an equity membership club. Terms of the sale were not disclosed, but it is believed McConnell Golf assumed the club's debt in return for the property.

"Our company's focus is on golf. Our objective is to acquire the best group of courses anywhere in the country," said John McDonald, the vice-president of sales and marketing for McConnell Golf.

The company began in 2003 with the acquisition of Raleigh Country Club. The Cardinal and Treyburn Country Clubs were added last year.

Company president John McConnell started the golf business after building and selling a pair of medical service com-

panies.

The company found out about the availability of Musgrove Mill through a business contact in the Clinton area.

"John had played golf at the club while in Clinton on business a few years ago. He wasn't in the golf business then, but he and the client kept in touch," he said.

McConnell Golf does not operate the way most golf management companies run their business. The company does not believe its membership courses are for every golfer.

"We are somewhat restrictive in our membership," said McDonald. "We restrict the number of golfing members so we can guarantee certain levels of play and certain timeliness of play," he added.

The company also expects a certain quality of play from its members. There are handicap restrictions at McConnell Golf clubs.

"We are looking for high quality players or someone who is interested in becoming a high quality player. We want to promote the game in all its excellence," said McDonald.

The company believes Musgrove Mill is a great addition to their portfolio

of courses.

The club has hosted numerous Carolina's championships and will host the 2008 South Carolina Amateur next August.

"The course has been ranked into the top-100 almost since it opened and it has been well maintained. We think we will be able to bring some of our "best practices" to the club and make it even better," he said.

The company plans to increase the maintenance budget for the club and possibly redesign the practice area.

Musgrove Mill members will not see many changes. McDonald believes the only thing they will notice is the improvements.

"Current members will enjoy the benefits they have today and see some upgrades to their club and facility. We have our system in place and it is in operation right now," he said.

The addition of Musgrove Mill is another step in creating a national corporate membership. The unique features at Musgrove Mill add another dimension to what McConnell Golf can offer to its members.

"The course and the club really speak

for themselves. It makes a nice addition to our properties and it fits nicely with our national membership," he said.

The club's private cabins and out of the way location make it a perfect place for a corporate getaway or conference.

"With the cabins and the club we can set up two or three day golf outings in a tailor made venue," he said.

The company's business plan to limit membership has allowed McConnell Golf to concentrate on golf rather than constantly chasing new members.

"We work backwards. We set the goal and try to get the number of members we need to operate the club successfully and then we get out of the membership business," said the company vice-president.

The company expects to acquire more golf courses on the level of Musgrove Mill in the future.

"Instead of delivering value to shareholders we see our job as delivering quality golf and value to our members," concluded McDonald.

Editors Note: We have reprinted this entire story from our December issue because of a computer error that scrambled much of the copy in some copies of the story last month.

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Trahan takes top senior honors

Second Carolina PGA Senior title for Inman golfer

Don Trahan earned his second Carolinas PGA Senior Player of the Year honors following the 2007 golf season.

The Inman pro earned two wins during the season in Carolinas Senior PGA events. He finished on top of a strong field of Carolinas professionals to earn the honor.

"I was very pleased to win the award back in 2002 when I was playing a lot more. I'm not getting any younger, so it is nice to win it again," said Trahan.

In addition to the wins at the Yamaha Callawassie Island Senior Open and the Rock Barn Senior Open, Trahan's season was another model of consistency.

"The two wins were good, but I really played well in just about every tournament. I think I had a chance to win a few others if I had been able to make a charge in the second round," he said.

Trahan has rarely been out of the top three or four in the season standings since beginning to play on the senior circuit.

In addition to his two championships, Trahan has also finished as the runner-up in the player of the year race three times.

"I've been playing very steady for my old age (58) and it's been fun competing with the young guys who are just 50," he joked.

Trahan has posted ten senior wins, more than a dozen second place finishes and more than twenty top-five finishes over the years.

"I wish we had more events to play and more players to participate. The guys who play are all outstanding players, but I think the competition would be better if we had a few more players involved in the senior events," he noted.



Don Trahan of Inman won the Carolinas PGA Senior Player of the Year Award after an outstanding 2007 season. Trahan won twice on the Carolinas PGA Senior circuit.

"The Swing Surgeon" as he is known as a golf instructor has always been an outstanding ball striker, but this year's championship may have been due in large part to a revitalized putting game.

Trahan's return to the top of the standings among Carolina seniors was accomplished due to a revitalized putting stroke.

The Player of the Year actually picked up an important putting idea from one of his students.

"I feel more confident that I can tee it up and win now because of the changes I made in my putting stroke," he said.

"I had been staying down to low through the ball. Now I come up a little faster and get a little more shoulder into the putt and take my arms and hands out of it. It has made a big difference for me," said Trahan.

The first place the new putting technique helped Trahan was on long putts. "When I didn't putt well it was usually because I would come up short. My long putting always seemed to leave me with a lot of six or eight footers," said Trahan.

Trahan began to roll in some 30-footers this past season and also gained more confidence on his mid range putts.

"I had a tendency to pull a lot of short putts but this new approach has allowed me to be more aggressive and I've been making more putts all year," he said.

Trahan now teaches at Shanks Driving Range as well at two locations outside of Charlotte. He also operates a golf school at Hilton Head.

"Between teaching and going out on Tour with DJ (Trahan's son, PGA Tour player DJ Trahan) I haven't been able to play as much as I would like to so that makes winning this even better," he said.

While the award signifies an outstanding season on the course it is also has helped Trahan's teaching business.

"Better players like to know that the people they are working with do know how to play. It is hard to believe someone when they tell you about playing under pressure if they have not been there themselves. Being the Carolinas Senior PGA Player of the Year adds to your credibility," said the Swing Surgeon.

Trahan is in the final stages of developing a web site that he expects will be on line by spring. He can be reached at (864) 909-3969.

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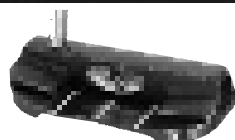
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Austin Ernst of Seneca receives the SCJGA Junior Player of the Year from Beth Daniel. The award is named for the LPGA Hall of Fame golfer from Charleston. Jacob Burger of Orangeburg (above-right) won the Jay Haas Junior Player of the Year award from the SCJGA. Burger won the season long points championship in the closest competition in the 13 year history of the award.

Ernst, Burger win top SCJGA honors

Seneca golfer wins top girls honor in South Carolina

The quality of junior golf in South Carolina was evident in the race for the SCJGA Junior Player of the Year award.

Austin Ernst of Seneca and Jacob Burger of Orangeburg won the season long points race with a flurry in the fall portion of the season.

Ernst is one of the youngest winners of the Beth Daniel Award as the top female junior in the state.

Ernst had an outstanding year which included being named an AJGA Rolex Junior All-American.

The top junior girl in the state won AJGA titles at the Ringgold Telephone Junior Classic and the Mooney Rome Classic.

Ernst also won the South Carolina AAA individual state title during the high school season.

The top finisher in the Heritage Classic Foundation Junior Rankings posted wins at the CGA South Carolina Junior Match Play championship and the Joe Cheeves Junior Invitational. She also was part of the winning team at the SCJGA Tradition Four-Ball.

Ernst was able to win the season long title over last year's champion, Rachel Uremovich of Hilton Head, by 52 points.

The two AJGA victories late in the year helped the young golfer earn the title. As a member of the Class of 2010 Ernst could become the first junior girl to win the Beth Daniel Junior Player of the Year title three times.

It was also a strong late season finish that helped Burger to the SCJGA Junior Boys Player of the Year title.

The 2006 SCGA Junior Champion started the season in second place in the points race.

McCuen Elmore of Cheraw, the 2006 winner of the award, and Wesley Bryan of Chapin joined with Burger to stage the tightest race in the 14 year history of the award.

Burger won the title by only 8 points to claim the Jay Haas Junior Player of the Year Award.

"Wesley and I pretty much knew it was going to come down to us and down to the last tournament of the season," said Burger.

Burger won the SCJGA Players Championship and the George Holiday Junior to win the points race.

"This is really a big thrill to win this award," he said. "It is as important to me as winning any golf tournament," added Burger.

The SCISA State High School indi-

vidual champion also posted a number of high finishes during the year to stay near the top of the rankings.

The future Clemson golfer finished second at the 2007 SCGA Junior Championship, second at the Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational and second at The Blade Junior Championship.

Since the award began in 1995 three players of the year have gone on to play on the PGA Tour. Kyle Thompson, Matt Hendrix and Bill Haas have become tour players.

All of the winners of the award have played college golf with the majority of the Haas Award winners going to Clemson.

Burger and last year's award winner Elmore will be enrolled at Clemson next year. Five award winners have gone to Clemson while four have chosen to play college golf at South Carolina.

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Rada is SC Player of the Year

Anderson golfer wins SCGA's top award for 2007

Patrick Rada did not list being the South Carolina Golf Association Player of the Year as one of his goals for the 2007 golf season.

"I set goals to win tournaments or to improve my play, not to win an award like this," said the USC golfer. "Even if it wasn't a goal, it is great to win the award and it is a great honor," he said.

Rada did not appear to be in the running for the annual award until near the end of the season. A victory at the CGA Carolinas Amateur and a win at the SCGA Four-Ball Championship gave the Anderson golfer enough points to take the top spot.

"One of my goals was to win the state amateur, I didn't do that but my overall goal for the year was to continue to work hard and get better," he said.

Rada finished in front of Steve Liebler of Irmo who won the award the past two seasons. The 2007 SCGA Amateur champion Luke Hopkins of Greer finished third in the season long points competition.

In addition to the two major victories Rada finished fifth in the state amateur and was a semi-finalist in the CGA Match Play championship.

The highlight of Rada's season was his victory at the Carolinas Amateur. "I had some memorable matches in that tournament and my family was able to be with me the last two days and that made it even more special," he said.

During the match play portion of the tournament, Rada often found himself trailing his opponents.

"In the second round I was five down through eight holes and came back to win 2 up. It seemed like every match I played I was down and had to find a way to



Patrick Rada won the SCGA Player of the Year honors. The Gamecock golfer won the Carolinas Amateur title and the SCGA Four-Ball Championship. During the past season at USC the Anderson golfer won a tournament at Charleston Southern.

come back to win," said Rada.

Rada beat his USC teammate Warren Thomas for the Carolinas championship in the event played at the Long Cove Club on Hilton Head, Island.

During his first year at South Carolina Rada won a "B" team tournament at Charleston Southern.

"I shot rounds of 68-70-74 to win. It was definitely good experience and I played well," he said. "It wasn't against the highest level of competition but there were some very good players in the field. It was a good stepping stone in my college career," said Rada.

The business administration major

has already demonstrated outstanding success in the classroom. Rada was named to the 2007 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll.

The victory and the Player of the Year award certainly will be noticed by his coach at South Carolina but it is how Rada plays when qualifying for the spring season begins that will be most important.

After taking most of November off, the Gamecock golfer is now getting back on the course to prepare for the spring season.

"I just took off and relaxed. Playing hard from March until October wears on you pretty good. I took some time off, but started back to work in December," he said.

Rada spent a great deal of time on physical conditioning during the break. He believes the work he has done will pay off.

"Fitness is so important now I just took the winter to get stronger and more fit for the upcoming season," said Rada.

The USC sophomore spent some of December in Florida playing in amateur events to sharpen his competitive skills and to get ready for qualifying at USC.

"I don't think winning the Player of the Year award is going to get me any advantage as far as the golf team goes, but I'm sure it is something the coaches noticed," he said.

Between now and the qualifying sessions, Rada has a list of goals to meet in order to be ready to compete for a spot on the Gamecocks roster.

Last year South Carolina finished the season in the NCAA Championships and Rada would like to help this year's Gamecock team do more than just make the tournament field.

"The ultimate goal is to win championships, the SEC Championship and the national championship. We want to improve and believe the results will come," he said.

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Clint Wright and Joey Herbert (above-left) have added Anderson Country Club to their AAG group of courses. The group now operates Anderson, Boscobel, Brookstone Meadows, Pickens and Woodhaven golf courses. The five courses will be operated by the group and special membership options to join all courses are now available. Dee Watkins (below-right) will join the AAG staff and help develop an expanded junior golf program at the five courses.

AAG ads Anderson Country Club

AAG now operates five courses in the Western Upstate

Anderson Country Club is now part of the AAG Golf Group. The company that owns or operates four other courses in the Western portion of the Upstate has added the historic Anderson club to its portfolio.

"I grew up playing this course and got my first job as an assistant professional at the course," said Joey Herbert of AAG.

The group will now operate Boscobel Golf Club, Brookstone Meadows, Pickens Country Club and Woodhaven par three course in addition to Anderson.

"We had been looking for a fourth golf course that fit our operations profile," said Herbert.

The new operators have plans to rebuild the greens and make other significant changes to the course this summer.

"We haven't decided if we are going to put in hybrid bermuda or Mini-Verde on the greens, but we are going to make a

change," said Herbert.

The course is expected to be closed from the fourth of July to the end of the summer for the renovation project.

"When the course is shut down we are also going to make some changes to the course. There are a couple of holes that will be changed and we will make other improvements to the course," said Herbert.

The AAG Group is leasing the course and making it a part of the successful operations at the other four courses.

"One of the reasons we are working with established courses is that it is very hard right now to build a new golf course. Land values have increased faster than the value of golf courses and that has caused some operators problems," offered Herbert.

The economies of scale are in favor of the AAG Group's plans for their courses. Working from a solid base at Boscobel the group has been able to implement their plans successfully and help improve several golf courses that struggled before joining the AAG Group.

"We might better be called a golf co-

op than a golf management company," said Clint Wright of the AAG Group. "We are taking the personnel expenses of one golf course and using those people at all our golf courses. There is an advantage of scale that we are dealing with," he said.

Anderson Country Club golf professional Dee Watkins will have an important roll in the addition of the club to the AAG Group.

"Dee has 35 years of experience at the club and he is a real asset to our company. He will have an expanded roll in our junior golf program and help our Director of Golf, Coby Gambrell, at all our courses," said Wright.

While many golf course operators are worried about the future, the AAG Group sees a different golf environment.

Combining the five courses and offering a membership plan that allows golfers to play and belong to all courses is unique to the Upstate area.

"We want our courses to provide golfers with top quality golf at a fair price and with good customer service. If you can do those two things you can keep



golfers happy and bring more of them to your courses," said Herbert.

The group has developed two new levels of membership that is available to golfers at each of the clubs operated by the group.

The Palmetto Membership allows golfers to play unlimited golf at all five of the group's courses.

"It is like being a full member at each of our courses. We are going to do a lot to make sure the membership has a lot of

AAG... Continued on Page 10

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Champions Tour honors for Haas

Second straight Player of the Year honor for Haas

You would not think Jay Haas is nearing the end of an outstanding career as a PGA Tour player, but at 54 the Greenville pro is starting to take notice of the clock.

"When I was 25 and 35 I thought my career would go on forever, but now I realize that there is a shelf life to this career," said the 2007 Champions Tour Player of the Year.

Haas is making the best of his prime years on the senior circuit finishing with the top award for the second straight year.

"I don't want to be looking back when I'm in my 60s and wishing if I had given it a little more effort at my age I could have won some more tournaments," he said.

Last year was another outstanding season for Haas on the Champions Tour. He finished as the leading money winner with over \$2.5 million dollars. He also was the top winner on the Tour posting four victories during the season.

"It was a little bit of a surprise to be the Player of the Year. I think I did some



Greenville pro Jay Haas was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in December. Haas is joined by SCGA Executive Director Happ Lathrop at the awards presentation in Columbia.

good things and probably the four wins were what made the difference for the award," he said.

Haas notched victories at the Toshiba Classic, The Liberty Mutual Legends, the Principal Charity Classic and the Bank of America Classic.

He played in 27 Champion Tour events. In addition to the four victories he

also posted four runner-up finishes and 18 top-tens during the season.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've won the money list two years in a row, that is big for me. It is something I never dreamed I could do when I was playing on the PGA Tour," said Haas.

While Haas was not able to win a major for the second straight year, his

overall play made him one of the contenders in every tournament he entered.

"I was able to do a lot of good things. I was probably a couple of rounds short of having an unbelievable year," he said.

If the Player of the Year honor and the top spot on the Champions Tour money list is not enough evidence of Haas' outstanding season, all you only have to look at the statistics.

Haas was above the Tour average in all major statistical categories for the season. He drove the ball longer than the average and was 5% more accurate off the tee than the rest of the Tour.

The Greenville pro hit 8% more greens and that helped him to use two fewer putts per round than the average player.

One other statistic may have been as important as any to demonstrate his success last year. Haas's scrambling percentage was 12% better than the Tour average. So when he got in trouble he was able to get out of trouble.

Haas finished second in the race for the Charles Schwab Cup after winning the trophy in 2006. This year he would like to reclaim the cup and also do something that has never been done on the Champions Tour.

Haas ... Continued on Page 12

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AAG...Continued from Page 8

value. We have plans for special membership events so golfers can really enjoy all the courses," said Herbert.

Members at each of the clubs now have the opportunity to play any of the other golf courses in the group but must pay a surcharge. The new Palmetto Membership eliminates the surcharge and expands some of the membership features.

Two of the group's clubs have swimming pools, but the membership does not include the use of the pools.

"We think if you don't want to use the pool, you shouldn't have to pay for it," said Herbert. "We offer a special pool membership at a pretty reasonable price and use anything we get above the pool operation costs to improve the facilities," he said.

In fact, the idea of using the proceeds from the operation of each of the clubs to improve the courses and amenities for golfers is one of the reasons Wright believes the group has been successful.

"We put a lot back into our courses. We think by doing that we make golf better for everyone," he said.

The partners in the AAG Group do not rely on the revenue from the golf clubs as their primary source of income, allowing them a little more freedom to make some long range decisions.

"I think if everyone who operates golf courses could do what we are doing, we would have a lot more happy golfers and a lot more golfers. It would certainly help to grow the game," said Herbert.

Growing the game is important to Herbert and Wright and the addition of Anderson and Watkins to the group will allow for improved junior opportunities.

"We are going to have our own junior academy now at each course," said Herbert. "With the five courses we are going to have more opportunity to get

young golfers on the course even on the weekends," he said.

Golf instruction will also improve as the group incorporates more of Mike Lawrence's and Todd Ellison's TGM Golf into plans at each of the courses.

"We know that having TGM is a vital part of our program because it helps golfers get better and make it more fun for them to play," said Herbert.

While Herbert and Wright believe the new membership plan is the best value for current members at all of the clubs, they are not forcing any members to change their membership.

"We appreciate the loyalty we have received from our members. If they don't want to change memberships they do not have to, but we think the best value is the Palmetto Membership," said Wright.

The group is offering a special reduced initiation fee for the Palmetto Membership before the improvements at Anderson are completed.

"There will never be a better time to join than right now. The initiation fee will go up, but our current members can switch over and new members can sign up for a very reasonable price," said Herbert.

The addition of the fourth full golf course for the group does not signal and end to the expansion plans for AAG. The right opportunity would have to present itself but Herbert and Wright are keeping their eyes open.

The group has been operating in Anderson and Pickens but could consider moving into other parts of the Upstate.

"If we add any more courses it will just make things even better for our current members and we are all about making sure our customers get to play a quality golf at a fair price," concluded Herbert.

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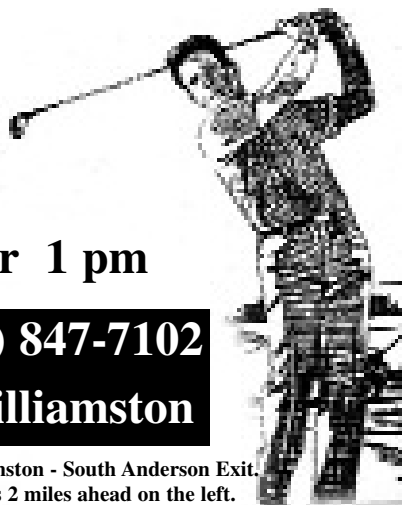
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Nicky Biershenk congratulates his brother Robbie after he sank a putt on the final hole of regulation to earn a place in the sudden-death playoff for the Holiday Open title at Southern Oaks. Biershenk made his second big putt on the first hole of sudden-death to win the tournament for the two Boiling Springs golfers.

Biershenks team up Boiling Springs brothers win at Southern Oaks

Robbie and Nicky Biershenk needed an extra hole to win the Southern Oaks Holiday Open tournament on Sunday. The Boiling Springs brothers birdied the first extra hole to win a sudden-death playoff with Corbin Mills of Easley and Crawford Reeves of Greer.

"It was great to be back in competition again," said Robbie Biershenk. "When we get together we can wing-ding it around a golf course and do pretty good," said younger brother Nicky.

The two former Spartanburg County Amateur champions fired a final round 60 to earn a spot in the playoff for the title at the Easley golf course. "We made three eagles in the final four holes and we thought we had this thing won coming off the last hole," said Nicky Biershenk.

What the clubhouse leaders did not know is that Reeves made a miraculous hole-in-one on the par-4 350 yard seventeenth hole at Southern Oaks.

"I'm still in shock a little," said Reeves. "It was an amazing shot and it was the first hole-in-one I have ever made," said the Eastside high school senior.

The amazing ace put the team of Reeves and Mills into the playoff with the Biershenks.

On the playoff hole, Robbie Biershenk hit a solid two-iron and then nailed his approach shot to within four feet of the hole.

"It was exactly the same approach shot I had earlier in the day and I probably hit my best shot of the tournament right there," he said.

Biershenk rolled in the four-foot putt to wrap up the win for the brothers. "This is a great feeling to get a win like this. There were a lot of good players in the field and when someone makes a shot like Reeves did you have to wonder if it is not your day," said Robbie Biershenk.

Golfers in the tournament contribute new toys as part of their entry fee. The toys are given to area children's homes to help provide Christmas gifts for the less fortunate.

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Name of the Event - Club - Date - Entry Information - Qualification
Contact or Registration Phone Number or Email
 to golfclub@charter.net

Haas...Continued from Page 9

"It certainly is a good year when the players recognize you," he said.

Last month Haas was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Association Hall of Fame for his outstanding career and his efforts to support golf in the state.

"We have been trying to get him into the Hall of Fame for years, but his schedule is always so busy," said SCGA Executive Director Happ Lathrop. "It is an honor that is well deserved among the many honors Jay has brought to our state," he added.

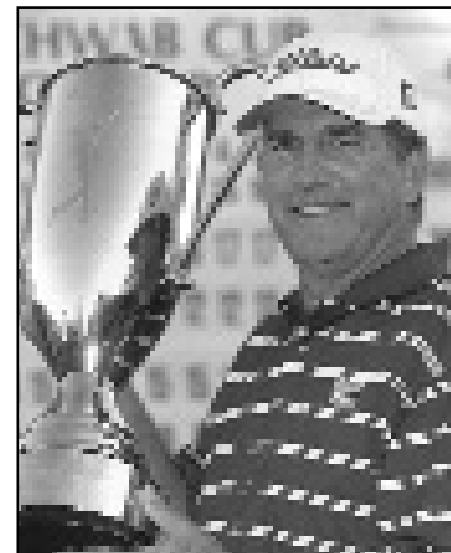
Every year Haas has talked about reducing his schedule and enjoying a little more time off from the Tour. Once again this year he is considering reducing his schedule by as many as five events. However the Champions Tour has not been as difficult as the PGA Tour for him.

"The schedule is pretty good. Often we play two weeks and they get a week off. The events on the East Coast are really good for me because I only have to be away from home for four days. We only play three days, that is pretty nice," said Haas.

In the old days Haas would load up a suitcase and travel to the West coast for as much as eight or nine weeks at a time. "It used to seem like you were gone and you would never come home and that is a huge difference for me," he said.

Haas believes he has been fortunate to avoid any major health problems. The top Champions Tour player believes it is a combination of good health and a fresh mental attitude that makes the difference between winning and just finishing on the Champions Tour.

"I think the most important thing an older player needs is mental energy. When I get a little worn down I lose a little bit of focus and I have to be aware of that," he said.



Greenville's Jay Haas would like to win a second Charles Schwab Cup on the Champions Tour this season. Haas won the Schwab Cup in 2006.

Haas points to Tom Watson as an example of a player who always seems to be fresh and ready to play when he appears at Champion Tour events.

"I still think Watson is the best player on our Tour. When he is healthy and when he wants to play he is the best player day in and day out. Almost every big tournament, he is there," said Haas.

With the start of the 2008 season just round the corner and the clock ticking, Haas is ready to accomplish more as he is in the prime of his Champions Tour career.

"I feel like I have given it a lot for 30 plus years. This year I want to be fresher going into major tournaments and be ready to play a lot little more mentally," he said.

A successful season and a finish on top of the money list would make Haas the only player in the history of the Tour to finish on top in three straight seasons.

"No one has ever led the money list three years in a row and that is my goal for the new season," concluded Haas.



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The leaders of every major golf organization in the Carolinas met at Furman to begin plans for a special program to help improve golf opportunities for junior girls. The session was sponsored by the Girls Golf Foundation of the Carolinas.

Linking girls to golf

Golf leaders in the Carolinas gather to improve girls golf

Golf for girls was the focus of the first Junior Girls Golf Summit held at Furman University.

The list of participants for the event read like a who's-who of golf in the Carolinas.

Not only were major organizations represented at the Summit, in most cases the associations that govern, organize and promote golf in the two Carolinas were represented by their top officials.

"Our goal is to give junior girl golfers in North and South Carolina information, encouragement, instruction and opportunities to learn the game of golf," said Scott Hipp, a member of the USGA Junior Girls' Golf Committee.

The first step for the group was to find a way to get information to girls who might not have access to a club structure that encourages junior girls golf.

"We want to develop a central location on the internet that can help girls, parents, teachers and anyone who needs information," said Kevin Dehlinger, the head golf professional at Furman.

While the Carolinas have provided

numerous tournament opportunities for Junior girls, there is room to grow the number of players able to participate.

"We need to find a way to get girls started earlier. With all the college scholarships now available there are opportunities for good players if they take advantage of them," said Hipp.

Just like other areas of golf, participation is often influenced by personal relationships. Many young girls begin playing golf, but lose interest or opportunity as the level of competition increases and their numbers decrease.

"A lot has to do with peers and with friends for girls to stay with the game. If we can get more information to girls about events and opportunities they can make more friends. We want them to be able to enjoy the game into adulthood," said Inez Long, the Executive Director of the Women's South Carolina Golf Association.

The Summit organizers were pleased with the first session and believe they are off to a good start to increase opportunities and awareness for junior girls in the Carolinas.

"The leaders who can make this happen are committed to the project and that will make things better for girls golf in the Carolinas," concluded Dehlinger.

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Parent-Child in Jan.

Upstate schedules take shape for late winter and spring

The names of some of the area winter amateur tournaments may have to be changed if the mild weather continues.

The schedule for late winter and early spring is starting to take shape for area events. Many of the usual spring and summer events will be scheduled in the next month.

The Golf Club would like to inform as many golfers as possible of the opportunity to play in Upstate Amateur tournaments.

SCHEDULE REMINDER

If your club would like to have their tournaments listed in our schedule section each month please forward the information to golfclub@charter.net.

Information needed to list your event is the date, entry eligibility, format, entry fee and registration contact.

Upstate Parent-Child

The Upstate Parent -Child tournament will again be held on a school holiday in January. The event is sponsored by Southern Oaks, Galloway-Bell Insulation, Anderson Awards and The Golf Club.

The tournament is set to be played on the Martin Luther King holiday. The 18 hole tournament will be played on Monday, January 21 and have a shot-gun start at 10 AM.

The tournament is open to all kids, male and female between the ages of 8 and 17 years of age.

The tournament format is designed to create a challenge for all the players and an opportunity for fun family golf.

Each parent-child team will play six

holes of best ball, six holes of modified captain's choice and six holes of alternate shot competition.

The tees for juniors will be set up for boys and girls with the oldest junior players using the blue tees. Male parents will play from the blue tees while female players will tee off from the red tees.

Players will be divided into four age groups. Ages 8-9, age 10-12, age 13-14 and age 15-17 will each compete for trophies in each age division.

Entry fee includes golf, carts, trophies for the top five finishers in each age group and a meal after the round. Entry fee is \$85 per team.

Players are required to meet the Southern Oaks dress code and proper golf etiquette is expected of all golfers.

Entry information is available at Southern Oaks. The entry deadline is January 16 at 5 PM. Entries must be mailed or delivered to Southern Oaks. Call (864) 859-6698 for information.

The Blizzard (January 19-20)

The annual 2-man tournament will be played at Anderson Country Club and Brookstone Meadows.

The tournament is open to all Upstate golfers. Information is available at Anderson CC (864) 225-8291 or Brookstone Meadows (864) 964-9966.

Frostbite Open (February 16 - 17)

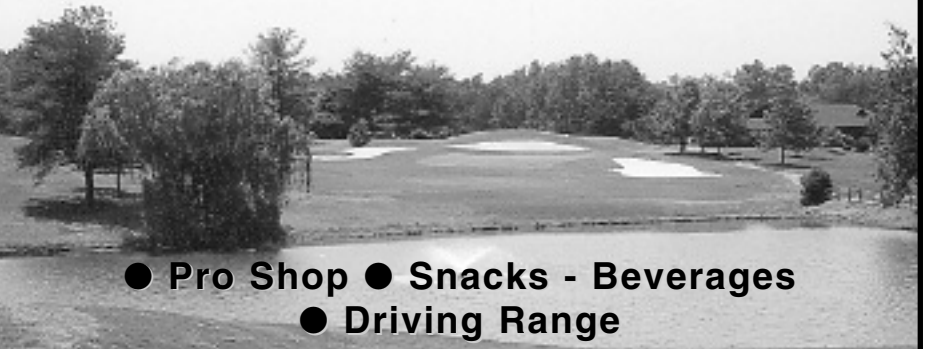
The annual three man team event will be played at Boscobel Golf Club. Entry is open to all area golfers.

The tournament is played in groups of six golfers (three to each team). The tournament is a captain's choice competition.

Entry information is available by calling Boscobel Golf Club at (864) 646-3551.

www.carolinagolfinfo.com will soon have the Upstate Amateur schedule available on line.

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our pros Kyle Thompson and Matt Hendrix helped golfers learn about the benefits of golf specific training methods at a special seminar held at SSI in Greer. Both professional golfers have been training with J.T. Threlkeld at SSI for several years. Lance Owens demonstrates one of the better stretching moves to help golfers get ready to play.

Fitness for success

Off season training pays off with early season success

So you took the holidays off from playing golf and now that the PGA Tour has started back on television you are getting the itch to get back on the course.

You may want to spend some time getting yourself back in shape before you try to do the same for your game.

"I see it every day," said Lance Owens of SSI in Greer. "Guys coming out and going straight to the first tee and doing a couple of stretches and thinking they are ready to play," he added.

Owens, along with JT Threlkeld, have been working with golfers to improve their physical conditioning for years. They also work with golfers who injure themselves because they have not spent the right amount of time getting ready to play.

"This is the time of year when you can work on your conditioning and make it pay big dividends when you start back playing," said Owens.

While SSI has special programs for golfers who understand the value of proper conditioning, they also can offer a few simple tips to help the occasional golfer better prepare to take their next swing.

"It is important to do some physical activity all year round," said Threlkeld. "We see it with the professionals we help. They don't stop training, lifting or stretching when they start playing. They understand the value of conditioning all year and it is an example every golfer should follow," he said.

Simple stretching exercises from the couch while watching football games can be a plus.

"Keeping your core strong is the most important thing you can do," said Threlkeld. "Do some basic crunches and stretching to keep your hamstrings loose. Just reach down and touch your toes can help prevent some lower back injuries," he said.



But the real key to improved fitness is to establish a routine and keep it going for longer than a week or two.

"Just an hour or two a week can help improve any golfers physical conditioning if they are going the right things," said Owens.

"You have got to maintain the effort to get results if you only do something once or twice you will not get very much out of it," added Threlkeld.

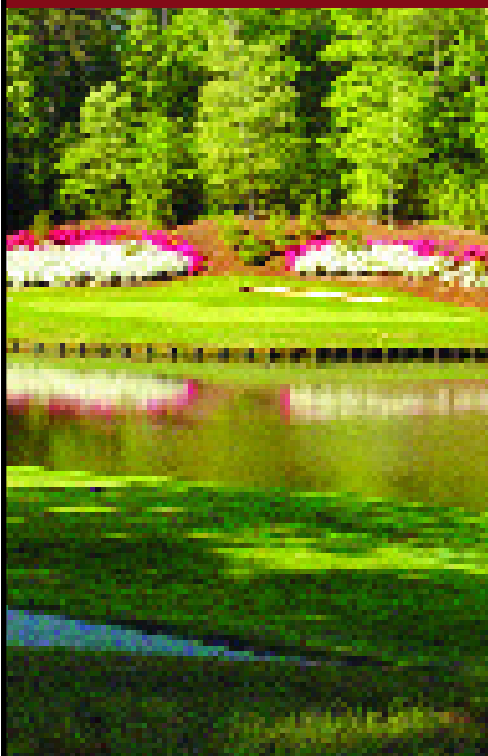
SSI has taken a leadership role in golf specific fitness. Professionals Kyle Thompson and Matt Hendrix have been working out at the facility for several years both during the season and especially in the off season.

"When you see how much work Tiger and other Tour players do, you can understand the value of conditioning. We have been able to help a lot of local amateurs, junior and seniors improve their condition and that has helped improve their play," said Threlkeld.

SSI is offering special programs for Juniors and Seniors in addition to their other golf specific training programs. Owens or Threlkeld can be reached at (864) 662-1025.

January Special Rate! \$38.00* Monday & Tuesday

Rate for 18 holes includes cart and green fee! *plus tax



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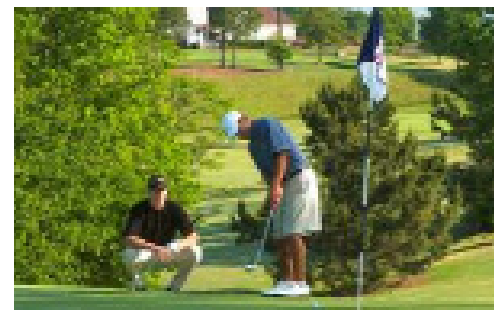
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Hgwy 8 - Country Club Rd.
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For Tee Times and Membership Information
(864) 878-6083



Highway 76
Pendleton
For Tee Times and Membership Information
(864) 646-3991

PALMETTO MEMBERSHIP

Our premier membership package. The Palmetto Membership is inclusive of all that we have to offer.

Membership Includes

- Unlimited playing privileges at all 5 facilities
- 7 day advanced tee times
- Participation in club events at each facility
- Charge privileges at each facility
- Standard club cart fees
- Walking allowed at no charge
- Special Discounts off Pro Shop Merchandise

Palmetto Membership Fees

- Initiation Fee \$1,000
- Family Dues \$135/month
- **Senior/*Junior Dues \$125/month
- ** Seniors - Over 55
- * Juniors - Under 30

CRESCENT MEMBERSHIP

Our Crescent Membership gives golfers the option of choosing 1 of our 5 facilities for their primary membership.

This membership has many of the same privileges offered in our Palmetto Membership

Membership Includes

- Choose your "Home Club"
- Boscobel Golf Club - Pickens Country Club
- Brookstone Meadows - Anderson Country Club
- Woodhaven
- *Unlimited playing privileges at all 5 facilities.
- (\$5 surcharge plus cart fee at "sister" clubs \$5 charge per nine walking at "sister" clubs)
- 7 day advanced tee times
- Charge privileges at "home" course
- Participation in club events at each facility (Limited to non-majors at sister facilities)
- Special Discounts off Pro Shop Merchandise

Crescent Membership Fees

- Initiation Fee \$600.00
- Family Dues - \$110.00/month
- Senior/Junior Dues - \$100.00/month
- ** Seniors - Over 55 * Juniors - Under 30



Anderson Country Club
1607 Market St.
Anderson
For Tee Times and Membership Information
(864) 225-8291



Highway 81
on Scotts Branch Rd.
Anderson
For Tee Times and Membership Information
(864) 964-9966

Woodhaven Golf Club Pendleton (864) 646-9511