

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



In This Issue

September 2015

- 2 Beyond the Met:** Annie Park has excelled at every level, now she's set for the LPGA Tour.
- 4 Winning:** Pat Morell created a premium handcrafted pedestal for the Walker L. Trammell trophy.
- 5 Legends:** Westchester Country Club celebrated the outstanding golf achievements of its longtime member Peter V. Bisconti, Jr.
- 7 54 Holes:** In Maine, where the state's golf courses match the high quality of its lobster.
- 8 Championships:** With his win at the 100th Met Open, Ben Polland's name now joins his mentor's on the famed trophy.
- 10 Gear:** Cobra focused on shape and Mizuno on materials in their newest sets of 'players' irons.
- 11 Rules:** The MGA's Brian R. Mahoney advises what to do if your ball makes a move on the green without being struck.
- 13 Met Moments:** Kyra Cox has had a breakout summer and now she's sure to have a memorable experience in April.
- 14 Big Picture:** A dedicated group of women and Long Island country clubs are committed to rallying against cancer.
- 16 Parting Shot:** The MGA fondly remembers Yogi Berra and his passion for the game of golf.

This page: For the first time, Met Open winners came together for an unforgettable night at a past champions dinner. Winged Foot hosted the special evening to help kick off the historic 100th playing of the Met Open.

AnnieUP

A dream will soon become reality for Annie Park, after the Long Island native has torn through the Symetra Tour this season with three wins in just nine starts. With the Tour's schedule waning, the 20-year-old solidified her place on the LPGA Tour in 2016 thanks to her September 13 win at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort Charity Classic. The victory lifted Park—the 2013 NCAA individual champion and two-time All-American at USC—to No. 2 on the money list, where the top-10 finishers earn their LPGA cards for next season. “It has been a lifelong dream of mine to play on the LPGA Tour since I started golf when I was eight years old,” Park said after her win. “I’m speechless and I can’t wait to play on the LPGA next year.” The former USC star decided to forgo her senior year with the Trojans to chase her dream, but remains enrolled in a full class schedule. She will continue to balance academics and professional golf in the spring and is on track to graduate in 2016.

PHOTO: SYMETRA TOUR



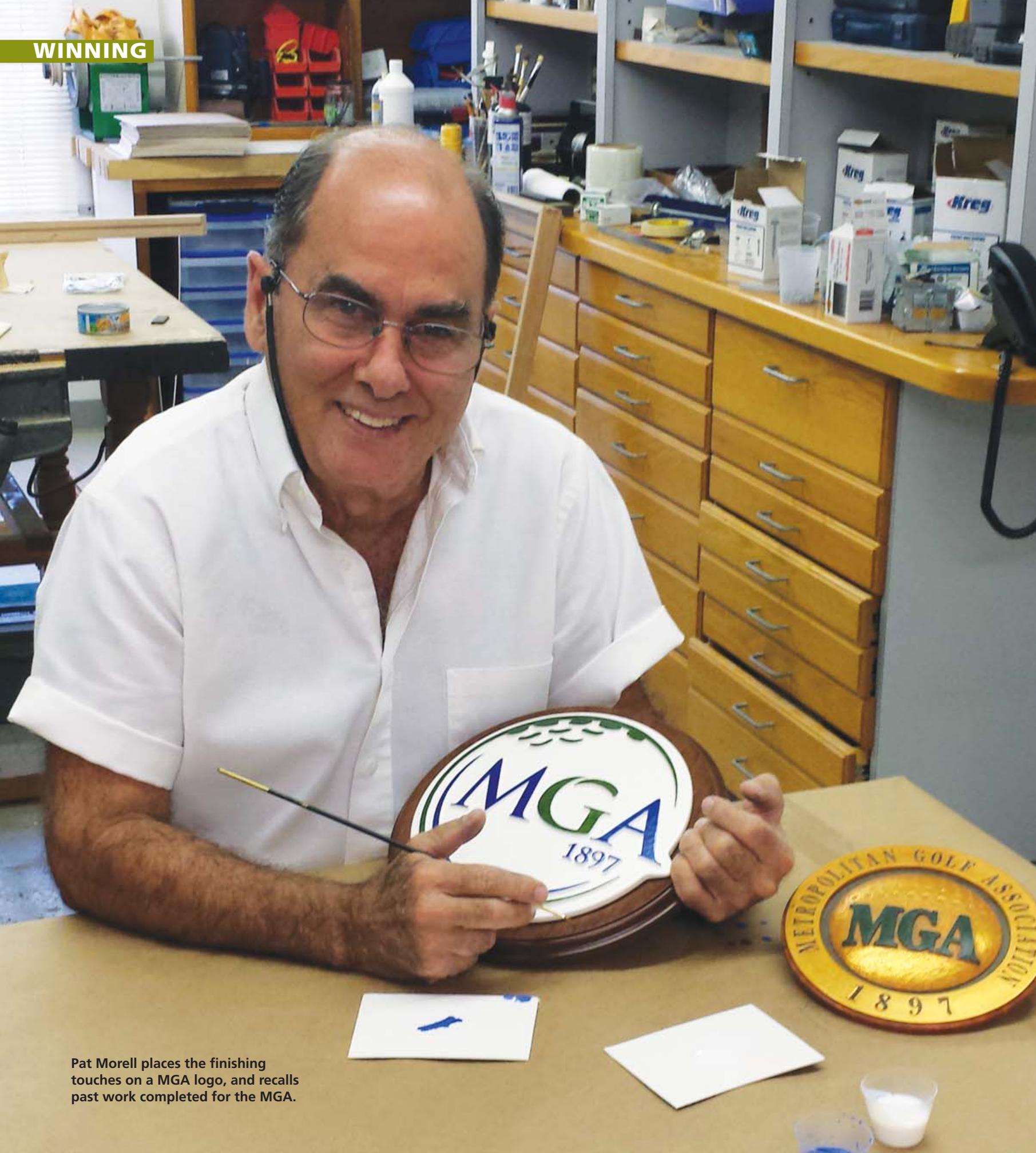
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WINNING



Pat Morell places the finishing touches on a MGA logo, and recalls past work completed for the MGA.

CHAMPIONSHIP CRAFTSMANSHIP

BY TIM HARTIN

The celebration of the historic 100th Met Open presented the MGA with an opportunity to properly focus some attention on the Walker L. Trammell trophy, which was given in 1941 and first awarded to the Met Open winner in 1949. In addition to making the first-ever replicas which can now be purchased, the MGA also procured Pat Morell to create a 32-inch tall, handcrafted cherry pedestal to stunningly display the trophy. Morell—the Founder and Creative Director of Morell Studios—has become the go-to guy in the golf industry for high-quality awards and recognition products, having created multiple masterpieces for the PGA of America and personalized products for greats such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player.

The opportunity to complete this project for the MGA was extra special to Morell, as it rekindled a relationship that began nearly 20 years ago when the master craftsman had a hand in multiple projects involving MGA awards. Morell is excited for some of his latest work to be displayed in the Met Area, saying “We’re thrilled with the prospects of broadening our work with the MGA.”

The MGA logo was the most time-consuming portion of the two-week project, according to Morell; but, work on such a detailed feature is where he shines. The four hand-painted logos provide an outstanding personal touch for the piece, which delivers an elegance to match the trophy of the MGA’s premier championship.



Morell’s work for the PGA Grand Slam of Golf.



Morell Studios’ VP of Sales Bill Carroll accompanies 100th Met Open champion Ben Polland.

Photo: Barry Sloan

THE WESTCHESTER CHAMP

Westchester Country Club recently hosted an evening of celebration in honor of Peter V. Bisconti, Jr.'s golf accomplishments. One of the great amateurs of the Met Area, Bisconti won an unprecedented 15 club championships at Westchester from 1965 to 1995. He was also a runner-up on seven occasions during the same span, and went on to claim five senior club championship titles. Bisconti also won such notable area titles as the Travis and Richardson, and he made three appearances in the U.S. Amateur (1967, 69 & 71).

His keen understanding of the game led him to a stellar career as MGA Tournament Director from 1975 to 1979, raising the bar on MGA tournament operations before moving on to similar work with the LPGA.

Peter was the second of three generations to hold membership at Westchester, showing how golf is engrained in the Bisconti family—which was named as the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association's Family of the Year in 1990. Bisconti won the MGA Father & Son Championship with his father in 1986 and later won with his son Greg, the current head professional at St. Andrew's Golf Club, in 1993 and 1994. With his outstanding successes spanning five decades, Peter V. Bisconti, Jr. is a true champion of the game.

Peter Bisconti joined by his successive MGA tournament directors, Gene Westmoreland (left) and Brian Mahoney (right).



54 Holes in Maine

BY TIM HARTIN

Just off Samoset's fourth green, the Rockland Breakwater juts nearly a mile into Penobscot Bay.



The cool, crisp air of fall offers some of the year's best golfing conditions and, at a day's drive or a quick flight from the Met Area, Maine provides spectacular options for a weekend golf getaway. Whether you're seeking a relaxing trip to the coast or a leaf-peeping trek to the mountains, a high-quality selection of courses await in the Pine Tree State.

COURSES:

- 1 Samoset Resort** – With pristine playing conditions and striking Atlantic Ocean views from 14 holes, Rockport's Samoset is a true seaside experience. Sights of the ocean are endless on the front nine, with the signature par-5 fourth serving as the highlight, hugging Penobscot Bay. After briefly weaving through the coastal forest to begin the final nine, water views return for the challenging home stretch.
- 2 Sugarloaf Golf Club** – Skiing is king at Sugarloaf, but the golf course at the foot of the mountain has made quite the name for itself. The Carrabassett Valley course meanders through thick woodlands and demands accuracy, while the scenery—especially in the fall—is second to none. Images of the jaw-dropping vistas from the 10th and 11th teeing grounds will undoubtedly be etched in your mind.
- 3 Kebo Valley Golf Club** – Steeped in history, this classic course in Bar Harbor is Maine's oldest golf club and the eighth oldest in the United States. Small greens, several blind shots, and other unique architectural features have withstood the test of time and still challenge today's golfers. Just be sure to best President Taft's score of 27 on the 17th hole.

WHERE TO STAY:

- **Bar Harbor Inn & Spa** – This oceanfront location provides serenity with acres of gardens and a shoreline path, matched with convenience to Bar Harbor's quaint Main Street. Elegant rooms, on-site spa services, plus fine dining deliver the necessities for a luxurious stay.

OFF-COURSE:

- **Acadia National Park** – Discover the beauty of Maine's rugged coast at Acadia National Park. Activity options abound, whether you seek leisure or adventure. With 125 miles of hiking trails, the ocean at your fingertips and attractions such as Thunder Hole and Cadillac Mountain, there is something for everyone.

MET OPEN *Magic*

Victory Runs Deep

BY MADDI VETRANO

With the milestone that was the 100th Met Open behind us, there is now another man that walks the grounds of Deepdale Golf Club as a Met Open champion. After a long and arduous championship, Ben Polland took home the coveted trophy and, as he joins the reputable list of past champions, there is one name that stands out as even more special to the Deepdale assistant professional. For the past four seasons, longstanding Deepdale Director of Golf Darrell Kestner has acted as a mentor to Polland, which only made for a better victory at the Met Open, a title Kestner has claimed three times. “Just to be in his company, means a lot to me,” said Polland just minutes after his victory at Winged Foot Golf Club. “There are a lot of special names on there, I feel honored to be on it.”

Darrell Kestner and Ben Polland relish in having their names on the famed Walker L. Trammell trophy.



FORGING AHEAD

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Forged irons have long been golf's best-looking clubs – thanks to sleek shaping and thin lines. There are suddenly two new offerings available for better players.

Cobra Golf's KING Forged CB/MB Combo irons (\$1,099/set with steel shafts) are made with a five-step forging process, yielding a precise shape developed in collaboration with Rickie Fowler. A co-forged tungsten toe weight positions the center of gravity smack behind the center of the face, while milled face and grooves impart maximum spin and trajectory control. The standard set consists of cavity-back mid and long irons, plus muscle-back short irons and wedges. A dark black metal finish is simply stunning.

Meanwhile, Mizuno's MP-25 irons (\$1,099/set with graphite shafts, \$999/steel) for 2016 are forged from a single billet of 1025 Boron steel, which the brand claims raises the performance bar while preserving feel. "Boron enables more opportunities for our R&D team to push the limits of a forged 'players' iron, to increase ball speeds, distance and playability," says Chuck Couch, Mizuno USA's vice president of product development, golf division. A hidden pocket cavity in the long irons boosts the face flex at impact, for distance.



Gravitational Situation

By Maddi Vetrano

Just as we saw during the playoff at the 100th Met Open, when you're playing on greens as challenging and undulated as those on the East Course at Winged Foot Golf Club, gravity can be just as much of an opposing force as your competitors. Especially on the greens, a ball can move even without being hit. Thankfully, the MGA's Managing Director, Rules, Competitions and GHIN Services, Brian R. Mahoney is here to share a pair of situations that golfers may encounter on the green dealing with a ball that has made a move.

Tyler Hall is instructed by the MGA's Rules Chairman Rob Bluestone after his replaced ball moved during his pre-putting routine.



Babes
AGAINST CANCER



Commitment to a cause can lead to outstanding accomplishments, and commitment is exactly what a group of Long Island volunteers and clubs have shown in their support of BABES AGAINST CANCER. The series of fundraisers formerly known as the Babe Zaharias Tournaments began in 1972, when cancer-surviving women from several Long Island country clubs joined forces with the American Cancer Society (ACS) to raise money for breast cancer programs. The events, which vary from club to club and include golf and tennis tournaments, honor "The Babe" Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, a Hall of Famer who lost her battle with cancer at the age of 45.

Dedication has made the events thrive, as clubs' member volunteer committees organize and run the tournaments and the ACS provides gifts, prizes, and additional support. BABES AGAINST CANCER now raises more than \$1 million annually, totaling more than \$25 million since its inception. The partnership assures that 100% of the net proceeds go to ACS, splitting funds equally to prostate cancer research and breast cancer programs.

According to June Ingraham of the ACS, efforts were given by more than 600 volunteers and 5,000 participants at 35 Met Area country clubs in 2015, but there is an eagerness to add more clubs to the roster of participants in order to bring the efforts to a whole new level.



Clubs, such as Muttontown pictured here, hold their event anytime from June to September.

Members at North Hills Country Club's event.

Augusta Awaits

Kyra Cox has had a breakout summer on the golf course, but her latest achievement will most likely yield the most memorable return—she now gets to compete at Augusta National Golf Club in April. The South Salem, N.Y., native delivered a dominating performance at the Drive, Chip & Putt Regional at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., running away with her age group title on Sept. 13.

She reported that “practicing with a purpose,” was key in her success, in addition to not thinking about what could lie at the end of the process. “My main mindset was to stay in the moment,” Cox said about the series, which took her through local qualifying at Knollwood Country Club and sectional qualifying at Bethpage State Park. But, after posting the best score of all competitors at the New England Regional, Cox could finally let her mind go to Augusta’s hallowed grounds, saying the thought of “just stepping foot on the most iconic stage for golf is so exciting.”



Photo: USGA/Stephen B. Morton

DRIVE CHIP & PUTT CHAMPIONSHIP USGA **MASTERS** PGA

Northeast Regional Final - The Country Club - 14-15 Girls Division

NAME	DRIVE	CHIP	PUTT	OVERALL
C OX KYRA	45	55 ²	55 ²	155 ¹
D APRON JULIA	29	13	50	92
F ILLER MAISIE	28	17	55 ³	100
F ITZGERALD FIONA	15	55 ¹	45	115
G ARVIN ANGELA	22	31	41	94
H ODGE CAROLINE	27	35	35	97
M CLAUGHLIN JULIA	28	18	45	91
S HAO CHRISTINE	40 ²	25	55 ¹	120 ²
S MITH RYAN	12	31	26	69
T HIMME KRISTINA	38 ³	26	50	114
W ASHBURN KAITLYNN	12	40 ³	45	97

Kyra Cox posted the highest total across all divisions at the New England Regional, with 155 points.

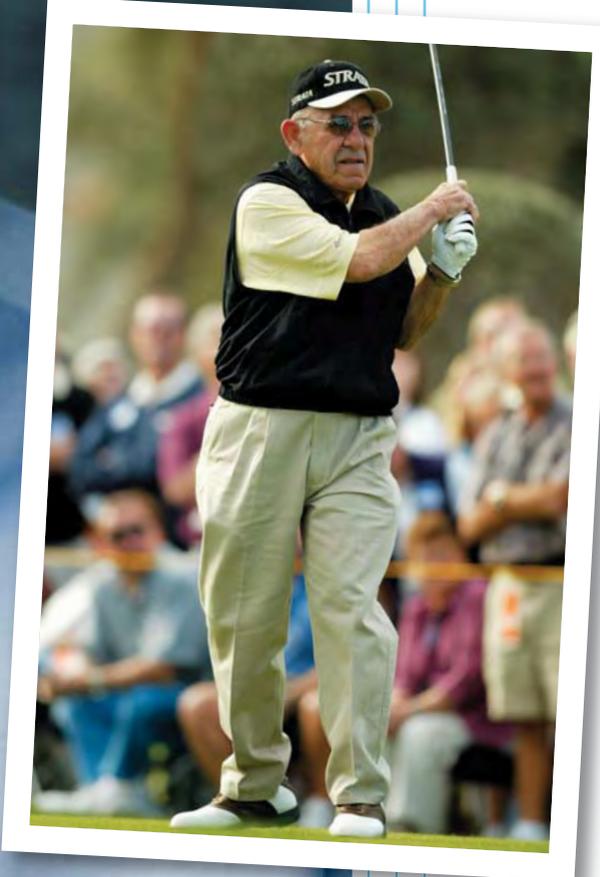


Photo: David Guilburt/Corbis



Farewell Friend

The baseball world lost one of its all-time greats with the passing of Yogi Berra on September 22, but the game of golf will also miss his presence. The Hall of Fame Yankee held a deep passion for golf and gave back through the game, as he formed the Yogi Berra Celebrity Golf Classic in 1990, held annually at Montclair where Yogi was a longtime member.



In 2005, Yogi was honored by the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association, being awarded the Bing Crosby Tournament Sponsor Award based on his work with the Celebrity Golf Classic. The event has raised millions of dollars since its inception, supporting educational programs at the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Little Falls, N.J., scholarship funding for inner-city youth, summer camps, and the Carmen and Yogi Berra Endowment Fund for scouts with special needs.

The award fit Yogi perfectly, as it is annually presented to an individual or organization that promotes and supports the game of golf through commercial sponsorships of quality events. Put simply by Pulitzer Prize winning sportswriter Dave Anderson, who presented Yogi with his 2005 honor, "Yogi Berra was God's gift to the world."

The MGA bids a fond farewell to the longtime friend of golf.

Photo: Darren Carroll/Icon Sportswire