

# The Met Golfer

# EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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*This page: 2016 Met Amateur champion Stewart Hagestad certainly made his first U.S. Mid-Am a memorable one, as his come-from-behind victory will be recalled as one of the most dramatic finishes in the championship's history. For more on the thrilling win, see page 10.*

# A GOOD TIME for 9

**W**e can all agree that some golf is better than no golf at all. That's part of the reason why the USGA launched its Play9 initiative in 2014, and this year bolstered the campaign with official Play9 Play Days on the ninth day of each month through golf's prime season, May through October.

On September 9, Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx—a nine-hole facility and home of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York (TFTMNY)—fittingly hosted a special Play9 event. Representatives from the MGA, USGA, PGA TOUR, and TFTMNY played alongside TFTMNY participants for an enjoyable 9 holes of golf.

Playing 9 holes is a great option when you're pinched for time and unable to play 18, but it may be an even better option for those who are just learning the game. "With the kids, it helps them get out and gain confidence and have fun," say TFTMNY Executive Director Ed Brockner, comparing priorities at The First Tee that also match the emphasis of Play9. "For a lot of kids getting started, playing 9 holes is about all they can handle. It's a big success in making them comfortable in a less intimidating way."

For more information about Play9, visit [www.usga.org/play9](http://www.usga.org/play9), and share your Play9 round on social media with the hashtag #Play9Golf.

Players came away having made friends and memories at the USGA Play9 Play Day at Mosholu Golf Course.



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## INSTRUCTION

# IT'S ALL *in the* Hips

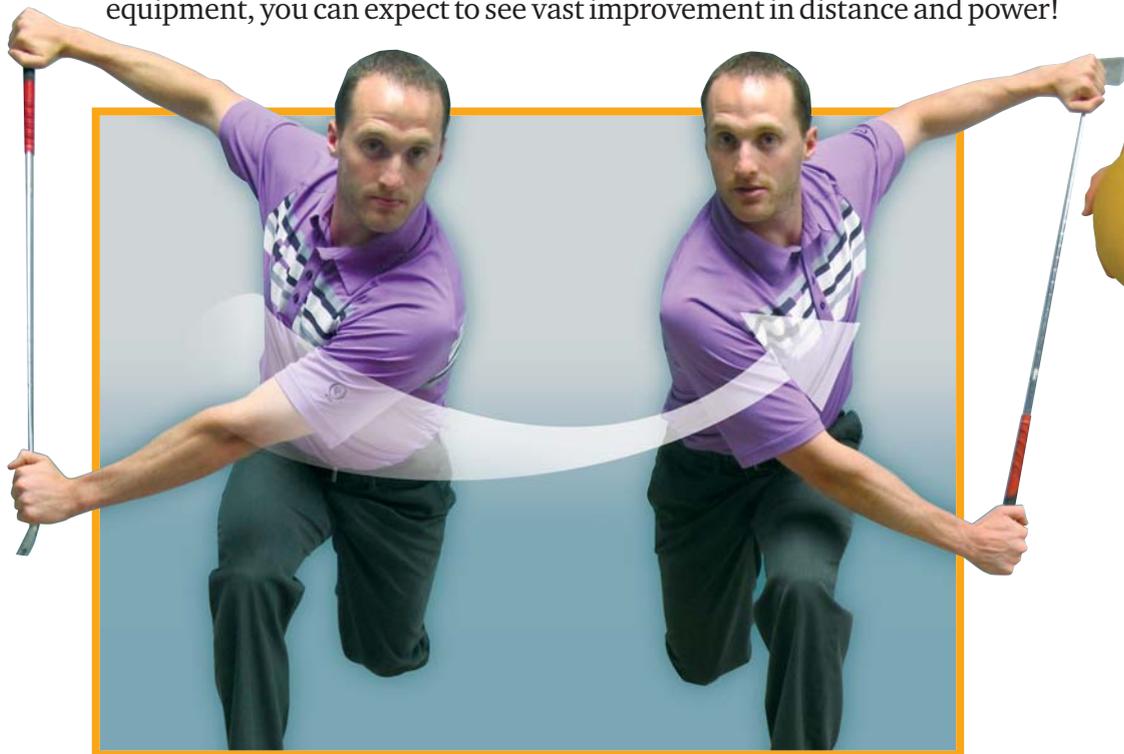
BY KEVIN DISHON

Doctor of Physical Therapy Kevin Dishon is a Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) certified level II fitness and medical professional working in Fairfield County, Conn.

To optimally prepare your body for golf, you must train off the golf course with similar movement patterns exhibited on the golf course. Rotary strength is crucial for gaining both speed and power in the golf swing. By completing these three simple rotary exercises that require little to no equipment, you can expect to see vast improvement in distance and power!

### Lunge with Rotation

Start in a standing position holding a golf club with your hands on both ends. Lunge forward with your right leg, holding the position before your left knee touches the ground. From here, turn right as far as possible, while maintaining both hands on the golf club. Hold it for 2 seconds, then switch legs and rotate to the left. Perform three sets of 10 reps on both sides.



### Medicine Ball Passes

Begin with your back facing a wall or a partner while holding a medicine ball at your waist. Step towards the wall/partner with your left leg while slightly bringing the ball to your right hip. Lead with your hips, turn towards the wall and throw the ball as hard as you can for three sets of 10 reps.



### Discus Turns

Begin in your normal backswing stance, with the exception of your hands at waist height. Using your hips to start the motion, rotate your body and arms so that you shift your weight from your trail leg to your lead leg. Complete the exercise with your hands above your head for three sets of 10 reps. To challenge yourself, you can either add more reps to the prescribed sets or hold weights in your hands.

**C**olin Burns is one of the longest serving general managers in the Met Area—especially at one club—and will celebrate his 25th anniversary at famed Winged Foot Golf Club on October 1. Burns, who grew up in New Jersey, began his career at Plandome Country Club. After four-and-a-half years at the Manhasset, N.Y., club, the opportunity arose at Winged Foot, where he has become a leader in the industry.

*Extra: What are some of your most memorable experiences at Winged Foot?*

**Colin Burns:** It's hard not to think about the two majors [the '97 PGA and '04 U.S. Open] which I actively participated in ... But, beyond some of the fun things, something you can't help but remember is September 11. I was thinking about it before with the 15th anniversary just having passed. The Club rallied together and it was a real demonstration of family—something that's really hard to forget.

*E: In which aspects of your position have you seen the biggest changes?*

**CB:** Certainly technology has had a tremendous impact on the operation. The other day I was explaining to someone what it was like when we had handwritten chits. How they had to be put into these pigeon holes alphabetically, then they had to be sub-sorted further alphabetically. We would get statements out two months after a transaction ... Now, we have servers and point-of-sale and handheld devices and it certainly is, in that respect, a different world.

*E: What is Winged Foot already doing to prepare for the 2020 U.S. Open?*

**CB:** We're working on some of the overall logistics such as the layout and where tents will go. Just the other day I had a conference call with Mike Davis, Mike Butz, and Gil Hanse about the West Course restoration in relation to the U.S. Open, so there's that type of high-level planning that's being done now. We're thinking about the calendar and how it will impact what is normally a very busy schedule here.

*E: What are the day-to-day characteristics that make Winged Foot such a special place?*

**CB:** There are two core groups that are kind of obvious that make the club so special: the membership and the staff. The membership is without fail generous, kind, caring, and always there for staff members. They have a genuine respect for the staff ... As for the staff, I'm still at 25 years somewhat junior amongst some of our more senior staff ... Continuity is what makes Winged Foot very special in terms of the staff.

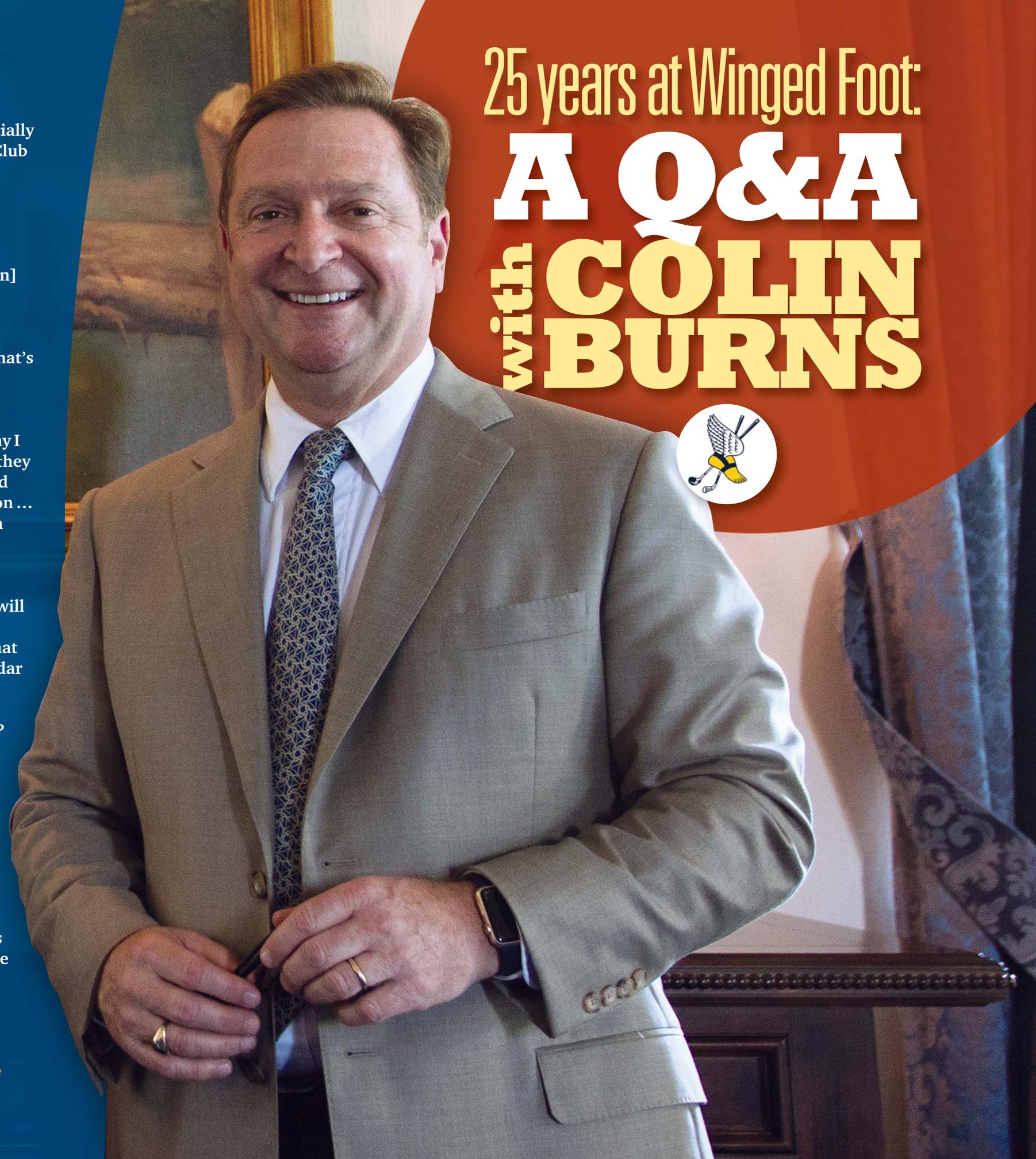
*E: What are you looking forward to in your coming years at Winged Foot?*

**CB:** When you look at the time between now and 2021, which is when the Club will celebrate its centennial, there's a lot going on. We have significant capital projects that we're planning, the West Course restoration is about to begin, and we have the U.S. Open in 2020, then the centennial. It's going to be a very intense, compressed four-plus-year period and I'm very enthusiastic about it.

*"I've never taken for granted where I am and what my responsibilities are. I've always worn the Winged Foot logo very proudly," says Burns about what working at Winged Foot means to him.*

# 25 years at Winged Foot:

# A Q&A with COLIN BURNS



# DAMAGE CONTROL

By Jeff Pepe, Senior Manager, Rules Education and Championships

**W**hat golfer doesn't like putting a new club in the bag? While old clubs are often swapped for the latest in technology, another reason for change is due to damage. And if you're playing a round of golf when this damage occurs, there are key Rules focusing on club conformity and playing characteristics of which you should be wary.

The PGA TOUR has had numerous examples of clubs being damaged mid-round. In one case in 2015, Robert Streb tossed his putter toward his bag as he walked off the 9th putting green during the final round of the Greenbrier Classic—the shaft snapping as a result. In a less shining example, Zac Blair hit himself in the head after missing a birdie putt at this year's Wells Fargo Championship, bending his putter in the process.

Under Rule 4-3a: "If, during a stipulated round, a player's club is damaged in the normal course of play, he may: (i) use the club in its damaged state for the remainder of the stipulated round; or (ii) without unduly delaying play, repair it or have it repaired; or (iii) as an additional option available only if the club is unfit for play, replace the damaged club with any club." How do we know when a club is unfit for play? When it is substantially damaged, e.g., the shaft is dented, significantly bent or breaks into pieces; the clubhead becomes loose, detached or significantly deformed; or the grip becomes loose. A club is not unfit for play solely because the club's lie or loft has been altered, or the clubhead is scratched.

In both cases, the putters were damaged, but not in the normal course of play—rendering the club unable for use for the remainder of the round. Streb utilized a wedge as he continued play, even getting into a playoff where he was then able to replace the damaged putter (because the playoff was not part of the stipulated round when the damage occurred – see Decision 4-3/12). Unfortunately for Blair, he continued using his putter and later noticed the alteration. Upon informing an official of the situation, Mr. Blair was disqualified for breaching Rule 4-3b, using a club that was damaged other than in the normal course of play.

Another application is available to non-TOUR golfers with adjustable clubs that become loose during the course of a stipulated round. Feel free to use or fix your adjustable clubs if they become loose during normal play, but make sure to return any adjustments to their pre-damaged state—just don't take your time doing so, or you'll be penalized for unduly delaying play.



# REACHING THE PEAK

BY TIM HARTIN

“It’s an absolute dream come true,” expressed Stewart Hagestad after winning the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship in dramatic fashion at Stonewall in Elverson, Pa. “This is something I’ve dreamed about ever since I can remember ...”

He no doubt dreamed of a USGA victory one day, but the way it came about is most likely beyond anything he could have scripted. Hagestad trailed for 31 consecutive holes during the 36-hole championship match. He was five down with 11 holes to play. Then four down with just five holes remaining. And his back was really against the wall when it became two down with two to play. But, against the odds—and against 2014 Mid-Am champion Scott Harvey, no less—Hagestad was determined to come out on top.

“I didn’t want to go to sleep tonight knowing I left anything out here,” remarked the 25-year old who was making his U.S. Mid-Am debut. “Just one hole at a time, one shot at a time.”

Birdie putts found the hole on Nos. 32, 33, and 35 in the match (Nos. 14, 15, and 17 on Stonewall’s Old Course), each eliciting a little more emotion in the form of fist pumps from the 2016 Met Amateur champion. A pin-seeking 6-iron on the 36th led to a conceded birdie, allowing Hagestad to pull even with Harvey for the first time since the fourth hole of the match. On the first extra hole, the 169-yard, par-3 ninth, Hagestad hit a towering iron that ended 14 feet from the hole. After Harvey missed a birdie try of his own, Hagestad put the exclamation point on his rally with his birdie putt dying into the hole.

Not only did Hagestad become the fifth Met Area player to claim the U.S. Mid-Am title (joining Jeff Thomas, Jerry Courville Jr., Ken Bakst, and George Zahringer III), but he also authored the largest comeback since a 36-hole final was introduced for the championship in 2001. Additionally, the win presents him with a likely invite to the 2017 Masters Tournament and is a big step toward earning a Walker Cup invite for 2017—yet another dream that could become reality.

Hagestad’s gritty performance included five birdies over the final six holes of the championship match.



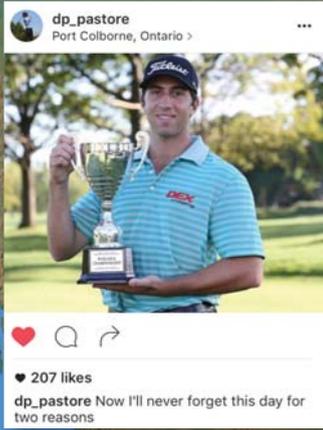
# STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

BY SCOTT KRAMER



**T**hree major club brands have potentially just revved up your long game, unveiling powerful drivers that aim to find you more fairways. Callaway's 460cc Big Bertha Fusion (\$399) promises to be extremely forgiving on mis-hits, while generating more distance when you hit it on the screws. The feat is accomplished via the use of high-tech, thin-and-light materials—aerospace-grade titanium and ultra-light triaxial carbon—that are constructed to significantly raise the club's moment of inertia for impact stability. Stock shaft lengths are 45.5" for distance and 44.5" for control. Mizuno's adjustable-lofted JPX900 (\$500) features a fresh CORTECH clubface that's five grams lighter than its predecessor JPX850, freeing up discretionary weight while expanding the COR area—boosting forgiveness and ball speed on mis-hits. Two eight-gram adjustable weights on an unbounded track make for unlimited settings, so that you can precisely dial in spin and vertical launch parameters. And while Titleist's 460cc 917 D2 and 440cc 917 D3 (\$550 each) offer adjustable independent loft and lie angles, as in past models, they also sport a new SureFit CG weight system that lets you tweak ball flight to a neutral, draw or fade setting—via two interchangeable weight tubes that lock into the soleplate in various orientations to essentially straighten ball flight.

# Social SNAPSHOTS



**Cherry Hill Club – Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada September 11**

Five-time MGA champion David Pastore wins the Niagara Championship on the Mackenzie Tour (PGA TOUR Canada) for his first professional victory.

**Chelsea Piers NYC September 1**

The Ryder Cup Trophy Tour has crossed the country and some of its earliest stops were right here in the Met Area.



**Fleesensee G&CC – Fleesensee, Germany September 13-16**

Ryan McCormick, winner of the 2012 Met Amateur, was one of several Met Area competitors taking on the European Tour's First Qualifying Stage. McCormick and Kevin Foley both advanced to the Second Qualifying Stage, which takes place Nov. 4-7.



**Pebble Beach GL – Pebble Beach, Calif. September 13-18**

The First Tee of Metropolitan New York participant Faith Francioso of Wantagh, N.Y., competed alongside Olin Browne in the Champions Tour's Nature Valley First Tee Open.

**Arcola CC – Paramus, N.J. September 18**

Taking advantage of a calm portion of the season, the MGA held its 49ers Club Championship, with Mike Kendrick and John DeTemple claiming victory behind a net score of 5-under.



**Stonewall – Elverson, Pa. September 15**

Stewart Hagestad's incredible rally to win the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship produced a host of congratulatory tweets.

September turned out to be an especially busy month on both the professional and amateur levels of golf, with a lot of excitement for Met Area golf fans. Catch up on some of the can't-miss moments as seen through social media.

BY TIM HARTIN

# LAYOVER BOSTON

Both the golf and the views of the Boston skyline at Granite Links Golf Club will surely capture your interest.

**W**ith Boston's proximity to the Met Area, it's a likely destination for either business or a weekend getaway. Golf options to fit your schedule abound in either case, with quality courses within the city itself and even more when traveling outside city limits.

**COURSES:**

**1 Granite Links Golf Club** – Though a private club, a number of daily tee times allow visitors to experience an outstanding 27 holes of golf upon a property that features formerly mined quarries. The predominantly links-style layout in Quincy offers expansive views of the Boston skyline, large greens, and a challenging routing that lends many shot-making opportunities.

**2 George Wright Golf Course** – Tree-lined fairways, gentle elevation changes, and delicate greens make this classic Donald Ross design stand among the best in the area. The municipal course, which is less than 10 miles from downtown, has also been rejuvenated in recent years thanks to the City—much like its nearby companion William J. Devine Golf Course which is also worth a try.

**3 Red Tail Golf Club** – Red Tail's rolling fairways traverse through wooded hills for an incredible natural golf setting in Devens, nearly an hour from Boston. Styles collide in the main features of the Brian Silva course: tree-lined fairways, elevation changes, and later waste bunkers which resemble playing in the south. All combine for a serene round of golf.

# CAPTURED

## BY JULES

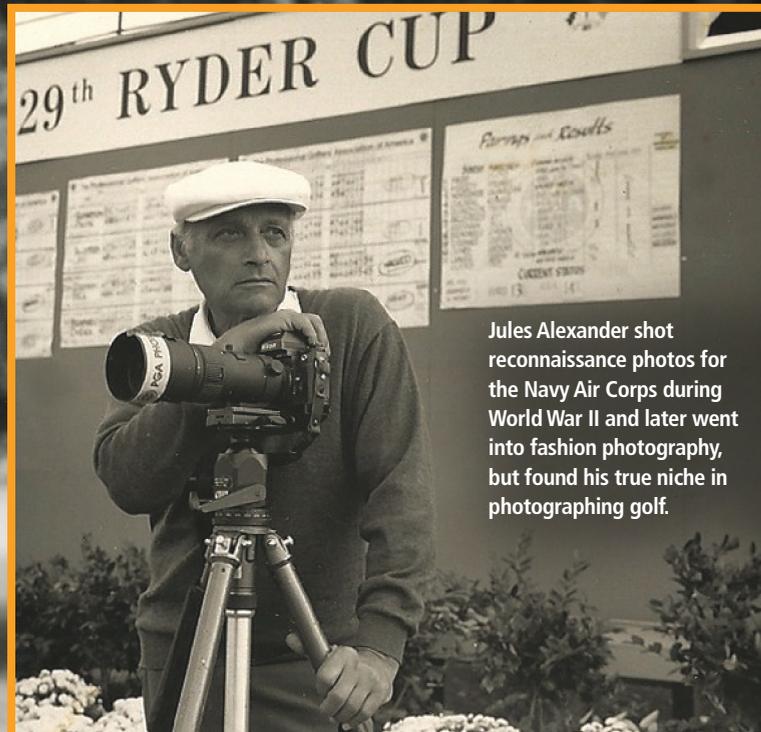
BY JAY MOTTOLA

**T**he game lost one of its true artists when world-renowned photographer Jules Alexander passed away on August 19 at the age of 90. For more than 50 years Jules's creative eye and ever-present camera captured some of the game's most iconic images. From elegant black and white photos of Ben Hogan first taken at the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 1959 to stunning photos of Tiger Woods in his prime, no photographer captured the soul of the game or its great players better than Jules.

However, Jules Alexander was much more to the game than just a talented photographer. He truly loved golf and was a lifelong member at Westchester Country Club, where he lived at the time of his death. He was passionate about everything golf—he loved to play, loved to talk golf and just be around the game. He was so proud of his two sons Paul and Carl who became noted Met Area golf professionals. And he could play, winning two MGA Father & Son Championships with Carl.

Jules will be missed by his countless friends in golf but his legacy will live on through the timeless elegance of his work.

Jules Alexander's favorite photo seen here bares the title "Alone on the Green," framing Ben Hogan at Winged Foot as he leans on his putter and stares off into the distance.



Jules Alexander shot reconnaissance photos for the Navy Air Corps during World War II and later went into fashion photography, but found his true niche in photographing golf.

