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Jack Nicklaus was holding interviews earlier this week before his Memorial Tournament, which starts Thursday in Columbus, Ohio. Tiger had not yet announced he couldn't play, and the questions were about comparisons between the greatest player in the 20th century, Nicklaus, and the heir to the throne, Tiger. **"The problem is it's hard to compare eras,"** Nicklaus said. "It's a different game today, and a lot of guys from before, like even Hogan and Player, would have had a hard time today because of the distance you need to drive it. That's just a fact of what the game is."

Woods has been fixated on Nicklaus's 18 major titles since he was a kid. Despite what many people think, it's not the money and fame that drives Tiger. It's beating the Golden Bear's records, which were posted on Tiger's bedroom walls when he was a kid. Nicklaus won the U.S. Open four times and he also established another record that should not be overlooked. Nicklaus was second 19 times in the 162 majors he played. So how does Jack evaluate his competition back then? "I don't know if we had as many good players, but the great players we had all were multiple major winners, so when I slipped up, there was somebody else on their 'A' game."

In his opinion, Nicklaus said, the Royal and Ancient sets up British Open courses tougher than the USGA does for the U.S. Open. "I think the USGA is consistently very good with the way they set it up. They make it a complete exam. When somebody wins a U.S. Open championship, you should earn it. The setups have been fairly consistent. The conditions sometime exacerbate the setup, then the course can get out of hand, like what happened at Shinnecock."

It's a Ryder Cup year, so let's look at the current teams' makeup if it were held today. The Americans: Tiger Woods, Stewart Cink, Jim Furyk, Phil Mickelson, Boo Weekley, Anthony Kim, Zach Johnson, Steve Stricker, J.B. Holmes and Justin Leonard. For the Europeans you would see Lee Westwood, Henrik Stenson, Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose, Padraig Harrington, Daniel Chopra, Martin Kaymer, Ian Poulter, Luke Donald and Robert Karlsson. Lots of new comers to this prestigious event so it will be fun, but remember the captains (Paul Azinger and Nick Faldo) also get more captains' picks than in the past and are sure to balance the rookies off with experience.

If you watched the senior PGA Championship this week and thought the name Bill Britton seemed familiar, it is. He's a club pro now in New Jersey but actually played the PGA Tour for 15 years. He won once and was the runner-up three times. In 1990 he finished fourth in the PGA Championship and seventh in The Masters.



SST PURE once again dominated the top positions in both the PGA and Champions Tour events this week. At Colonial, players with a history of SST PUREd clubs in their bags captured eight of the top 15 positions as well as finishing second and third at the Senior PGA Championship.

At the Crowne Plaza Invitational the SST players were: Jeff Quinney, Matt Kuchar, Tommy Armour III, Paul Goydos, Brian Gay, Brett Quigley, Briny Baird and Jerry Kelly. Have you noticed that almost every week I'm mentioning Matt Kuchar and recently Briny Baird? **Kuchar has worked hard on his game** and the kid we remember from his smiling at the Masters as an amateur is working his way back into the top echelon on the PGA Tour. Baird has been a new player with confidence ever since The Players Championship.

At Oak Hill Bernhard Langer came back from a poor Sunday start to finish second and local favorite Joey Sindelar, from nearby Elmira, N.Y., notched a third-place finish.

I need to emphasize a point here. We only provide the names of players that SST knows for sure have played with clubs they have analyzed and retro-PUREd. The manufacturers also bring shafts to the SST PURE Shaft Alignment Lab that are used when they assemble clubs for their contract players. All the major manufacturers bring SST shafts and while we suspect some other very recognizable names should be included when they win, unless we have definite confirmation we don't include them in our reporting.

There are two such names I would like to list but SST deals only in facts in the names they release. They also scientifically document results that result from PUREing a shaft with a computer printout showing each shaft's improvement.

The lab did PURE clubs this week for J.J. Henry, David Duval, Rory Sabbatini, Fulton Allem, Sean O'Hair, Notah Begay, Kevin Na, Lee Janzen, Robert Garrigus, Hal Sutton, and Frank Lickliter among others. Players who we can confirm that have played with shafts PUREd by SST have won 14 times this year on the PGA and Champions Tour and now have won more than \$53 million on just the PGA Tour alone.

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