



By: Steve Hosid

Instruction Editor - PGA TOUR Partners Magazine

June 23, 2008

Golf has survived for centuries, and in spite of the hand wringers predicting a doomsday because Tiger can't play, trust me, the sport and the PGA Tour will be just fine. When Rick Riley says on ESPN that "the British Open will now become Quad Cites and the FedEx Cup will be an empty envelope," that's a slight at some great players who compete and win worldwide. Will Tiger be missed? Certainly. But was the Masters diminished or less exciting because last year Zach Johnson won or by Trevor Immelman's victory this year? Or how about Padraig Harrington winning the British Open last year? Was that just a fluke or did his outstanding play over the four days earn him that championship? Or will we really miss Tiger's ho-hum performance in virtually ever Ryder Cup event he's played in? Tiger is a major draw and his U.S. Open victory last week was a lesson in heroics, but we'll still be treated to some outstanding golf. But for the media Tiger was an easy story and in every event he played they focused just on him. Now that he's not playing they have to really work to come up with story angles. But let's still enjoy professional golf. As Arnie said this week, "We'll still be fine!"

Rocco Mediate is a friend of mine and was in my book on putting, so it was upsetting when Johnny Miller made some irritating comments about him last Monday. Miller said Mediate "looks like the guy who cleans Tiger's swimming pool." He also said, "Guys with the name 'Rocco' don't get on the trophy, do they?" NBC asked him to apologize for those remarks and released his statement: "I apologize to anyone who was offended by my remarks. My intention was to convey my affection and admiration for Rocco's everyman qualities and had absolutely nothing to do with his ethnicity. I chose my words poorly and in the future will be more careful."

Phil Mickelson may not have had a great Open but he's agreed to be part of the four-man field in this year's Skins Game. Mickelson, the No. 2 player in the world golf rankings, will join defending champion Stephen Ames and two other players in the \$1 million event at the Indian Wells Golf Resort on Thanksgiving weekend. Sergio Garcia, as the reigning Players Championship winner, is automatically offered a spot in the field. Now that would make for an interesting event.

Someone tried stealing Justin Leonard's identity but was caught when he tried to use it where Leonard is well known. Convicted felon Joel Bridger's alleged impersonation came to a halt in a Texas post office attempting to pick up mail in Leonard's name and flashed identification which had Leonard's information but Bridger's photo. The clerk said, "I know the Leonard family, and you're not Justin Leonard." Leonard learned of the incident and contacted PGA Tour security, which then contacted the FBI.



SST PURE Gets Sweet 16th for 2008

Another championship week for SST PURE with Jeff Sluman's victory and a strong showing by SST PURE players in the Travelers Championship. SST has now won 16 times this year and players who have asked SST to PURE their clubs have won more than \$71 million so far in 2008. Not only are SST players winning, but they also dominated the top 20.

What makes this all even more impressive is a look at the top-20 finishers this week and the number of them who have a history of asking SST to PURE their clubs. Tommy Armour III put together an outstanding event (he led the GIR stat), as did Vijay Singh, who I predict will win a major this year. After having his clubs PURED for the first time earlier this year, Brad Adamonis is having the best season of his career and finished this week with a career-best sixth place. Others in the top 20 are Michael Allen, Kenny Perry winner of this year's Memorial, Corey Pavin, Ben Curtis, defending Order of Merit champion Justin Rose, Briny Baird and Bob Hope winner D.J. Trahan, who had a great U.S. Open last week.

Players who had clubs PURED this week at the Traveler's championship included: Olin Browne, Nick Flanagan, Marco Dawson, Tommy Gainey, Scott Sterling, Paul Claxton, Padraig Harrington, Matt Kuchar, Chad Collins, Craig Kanada, Brad Faxon, and J.J. Henry to name just a few.

Jeff Sluman's victory in the Bank of America Championship was his first since joining the Champions Tour and he finished 17-under par. It was a win, place and show finish for SST as Loren Roberts, the 2007 Charles Schwab Cup champion, finished second and Dana Quigley thrilled his New England fans with his best finish of the year in third.

When SST PURE analyses a golf shaft, regardless of the manufacturer, their patented computers and programming identify that shaft's "sweet spot," the most stable position it can be inserted in the hosel so that oscillations are eliminated. **Make this week your week for PUREing your clubs.**

The Pros Competitive Edge© has been copy written by Strategic Shaft Technologies, LC; SST PURE®, SST PURED®, PURE™, PURED™, PUREing™, retro-PURE™ are property of of Strategic Shaft Technologies, LC

WWW.SSTPURE.COM