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Top-ranked women's golfer Lorena Ochoa said she would consider following Annika Sorenstam and take on a male player, but said does not have any firm timetable set up. By the way, Annika beat her in this weekend's LPGA Skins Game.

Steve Stricker, who was the Comeback player of the year for the past two seasons, had a chance to visit the White House this week while participating in Tiger's event at Congressional. He was among a group of 14 players invited by President Bush for dinner and fireworks in a twofold celebration – the Fourth of July and President Bush's birthday on Sunday, July 6th. "I had to look it up online," Stricker said. "I wasn't sure if we were celebrating the Fourth or his birthday. I guess it's both." He learned of the invitation when he received a call from the White House itself. "It was kind of a weird call," Stricker said. "And then you give them all your vital information. It's a pretty interesting background check."

I've written a bunch of instruction articles with Tom Pernice Jr., and if you come to a tournament on Monday you'll often see him talking with the spectators or working with other players to help their games. As a former member of the Tour's policy board he was known to speak his mind even when it involved PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem. On Friday after firing a record 63 at Congressional he lit it up in the media tent during his interview, criticizing Finchem for not doing more to resolve two contentious issues: U-shaped grooves that produced extra spin out of the rough, and tournaments that have become second-tier because they are rarely – if ever – visited by Tiger Woods or any of the other top players.

"I think there are several things that commissioner Finchem has done a great job on, and I think there have been several things that he's very weak on," Pernice said. The USGA and R&A proposed limiting the amount of spin produced by U-shaped grooves last year. U-shaped grooves have allowed some golfers to drive tee shots into the rough with virtual impunity, knowing that the extra spin will keep the approach shot on the green. Pernice thinks it's time for the Tour to act. "Why isn't the PGA Tour and Tim Finchem stepping to the plate and using our own rules?" Pernice said. "Tim's been against it all the time. We should have our own rules, and this way we could use V-grooves and everybody can have the same set, and driving the ball in the fairway might make a difference."

Pernice also said the tour should require Woods and other top players to play more events. "There are some things that the tour could do to help the sponsors," Pernice said. "I think there's got to be something. Michael Jordan didn't get to skip and not go play in Madison Square Garden against the Knicks because he didn't like playing there or whatever."



Once again, SST dominated the top 20 as players with a history of asking SST to PURE their clubs had another spectacular weekend. Fredrick Jacobson finished second at the AT&T National, while Jim Furyk, Dean Wilson and Robert Allenby tied for third. Other top-20 players included Alex Cejka, Tommy Armour III (who continues on a hot streak after asking SST to PURE a complete new set of clubs for him), Peter Lonard, Bo Van Pelt, Rocco Mediate and Steve Stricker. Mediate continues to show his stellar U.S. Open showing was not a fluke. Olin Brown once again led the field in driving accuracy and Allenby led in Greens in Regulation.

Over on the Champions Tour SST players also did quite well, with Gary Koch capturing second place.

SST has won 18 championships in 2008 and the total winnings for players with SST PUREd clubs has now climbed to more than \$78 million.

So now some of the players will head over to Europe to prepare for the British Open at Royal Birkdale in two weeks, while others head out to the John Deere Classic. Defending Open champion Padraig Harrington, who has PUREd his clubs for years and once told me that he'd "be foolish not to PURE his clubs because it improves his game without having to do anything," is ready as are some of the top players in the world who ask SST to PURE their clubs. Look for a great Open from SST players like Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk, 2007 Masters Champion Zach Johnson, Paul Casey, Henrik Stenson, D.J. Trahan and others.

So why do we mention the pros who win and do well every week? To prove to you that PUREing works. Computers prove that PUREing a shaft locates the most stable position for each shaft to be orientated in the club head to reduce oscillations that develop as a result of random assembly. Every shaft has manufacturing deficiencies that only the SST PURE proprietary programs and computers can analyze and identify. The most important news in all of this is that you can have your clubs PUREd just like the world's best players on the very same equipment through a network of highly trained SST PURE licensees. You can PURE your current set of clubs or any new ones you purchase or are custom fitted for. PURE your clubs this week!

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