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In recent times the story line at the British Open starts with the course and then the weather, but this year it was also a story line that paralleled the U.S. Open. A wounded warrior won over a seasoned player the crowd sentimentally loved. Padraig Harrington was considering dropping out of the Open on Wednesday because he had reinjured his wrist last weekend doing exercises designed to strengthen it. I'm getting so tired of the print media that continues to focus on "name" players like Tiger, Phil and Sergio. The Open is about history and the exciting players that rise to the top, like young amateur Chris Wood, who may follow in Justin Rose's footsteps. As an amateur 10 years ago Rose made his golf world stage debut at Royal Birkdale and last year won the European Order of Merit Championship. Wood now gets to play in the 2009 Masters and was only one of many fascinating stories if the media cared to look.

"**Golf as an Olympic sport**" took another step forward. 2016 is the earliest it could start so the PGA Tour, Royal & Ancient, European PGA Tour, LPGA, U.S. Golf Association, PGA of America and Augusta National have joined forces to lobby the International Olympic Committee. The IOC will decide in October 2009 on adding two sports to the Olympic program at the same meeting where it picks the 2016 host city. **So what is the real ruling why Michelle Wie was disqualified this weekend?** She had already walked outside the roped-off area around the tent when the volunteers called her back to sign her card. Wie, now playing her best golf of the year, was disqualified the day after this happened once LPGA officials found out. They still let her finish her Saturday, where she shot 5-under par 67 to get to 17-under par for the tournament. Instead of being one stroke off the lead LPGA officials called her into a private area and told her she was disqualified.

**In the "I should have stayed home and played my beloved Milwaukee event"** department, Jerry Kelly took out some frustration on the hallowed R&A for their course set up on Thursday when he shot 83. He blamed the R&A for not moving up a few tees in 30 miles per hour wind, which he said made it impossible for him to reach four of the par 4s. "I was really surprised because the R&A usually uses common sense," Kelly said. "The weather was playable, but not with that setup. Do you want to take half the field out of the championship just because you can't hit it far enough? Basically, if you're not a long hitter out there today (Thursday), then there are seven or eight par 5s."

R&A chief executive Peter Dawson didn't understand the fuss. Three of the holes in question were the 499-yard sixth, the 11th and the 16th hole, which are moderate in length (just under 440 yards) but required a carry of some 210 yards to reach the fairway. However, the R & A did shorten the course for both the weekend rounds.



## Harrington Repeats at Open with SST PUREd Clubs

**Padraig Harrington is a strong advocate of the benefits** of having SST PURE his clubs. Many weeks you'll notice we list him as having clubs PUREd even though he's not entered in that event. The reason is that every club built for Harrington also must be PUREd before he'll even test it. Padraig told me a year ago that "I'd be very foolish if I didn't take advantage of something (SST PUREing) that improves my game without my having to do anything."

**In winning his second British Open** in a row, Harrington hit extremely accurate shots, which could also serve as a definition for how SST PURE improves the performance of any club by locating the shaft's most stable position and assembling the shaft in this PUREd position into the club head.

**If you watched the Open you saw** two of those shots came under extreme pressure on the last two holes. One resulted in an eagle to ice the Claret Jug. Finishing with a final round 1-under par 69, Padraig had the confidence in his clubs to execute the shots that required so much skill in the incredible weather conditions faced this year. Considering he did it with a sore wrist, his defense is remarkable and his play was extraordinary.

**Other players with SST PUREd clubs with an outstanding British Open** were: Henrik Stenson in third place, Jim Furyk in fifth, Ernie Els, Paul Casey, Steve Stricker and Robert Allenby in seventh, and K.J. Choi, Davis Love III and Rocco Mediate rounding out the top 20.

**Richard S. Johnson gave SST PURE** its second win this week when he won the U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee. Johnson beat a great field that included multiple 2008 winner Kenny Perry (who SST PUREs his clubs). He finished in the top five along with Chad Campbell and Dean Wilson.

**The total winnings for just PGA TOUR players with SST PUREd clubs has now climbed to more than \$86 million in 2008.**

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