



NEWS FROM THE TOUR

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This year's Skills Challenge will have a great format. Four PGA Tour veterans will team with their caddies and it features some really big names. Greg Norman, Peter Jacobsen, Fred Couples and Rocco Mediate will be paired with their caddies, Greg Norman Jr, Mike "Fluff" Cowan (now with Jim Furyk but originally with Peter), Joe LaCava and Matthew Achatz, respectively.

Fluff was ecstatic about the invitation. "When they first told me I was invited, my reaction was disbelief and that was before I knew anything about the \$820,000 prize money," he said. "I've worked the event two or three times for Peter years ago when it was eight tour pros competing. I don't think that will give me an edge, though. You still have to hit the shots." This year's challenge will once again be staged at the Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club in Miami, Fla.

Joe LaCava, Couples caddie is certainly up for the challenge. "I love this format because I never lay up or chip out," he said. "I'm playing more now with some time off from the regular tour schedule. One of my goals is that I don't want to embarrass Fred." The event will be taped for broadcast on NBC on Dec. 27-28. The competition includes eight events, including long drive, trouble shots, putting and chipping.

Andy Bean had his clubs stolen a few weeks ago while playing at the Greater Hickory Classic in North Carolina. The stolen clubs included TaylorMade irons that were one of only 10 sets manufactured. He turned to a makeshift set that he initially didn't expect to keep long. "I had those clubs for four years and I wouldn't have taken anything for them," Bean said. "But to tell you the truth, I've just played some very good golf the last month."

Hal Sutton has turned 50. That means it's time to take him to the next Champions Tour event so he can get back to playing with his friends and having fun again. That's exactly what he did, and the location was almost perfect. The Administaff Small Business Classic in Houston is as close to his Shreveport, La., home as he could get. Sutton turned 50 on April 28, but only found the urge to return to competitive golf in the last month. He hasn't entered a tournament since the 2006 Nissan Open and has only played about 40 rounds in the past four years. "I felt like coming here this week, to a place where I'd had some success, might be somewhat comforting when they call out my name on the first tee, because it hasn't been called out in quite some time," Sutton said.

I spent some time with my close friend Arnold Palmer in the Bay Hill locker room. I told Arnie that I can be driving through rural Nebraska, as I did recently, and hear his radio commercials for Adminisatff in the middle of nowhere. Arnie at 79 looks great and still has great enthusiasm for golf.



SST Gets 32nd, 33rd Victories for '08

In what was to become another great week, SST PURE picked up its 32nd victory this year when Jim Furyk won an overtime battle with another great SST player, Pdraig Harrington, to win the Grand Slam of Golf at the Mid-Ocean Course in Bermuda.

But the week turned out pretty good for Harrington, winner of his second consecutive British Open and the PGA Championship, when it was announced the Irishman was named PGA Player of the Year. Another multiple major winner who has SST PURE his clubs, Retief Goosen, finished third. This was Furyk's second Grand Slam Championship and he picked up a winner's check of \$600,000.

Then as Sunday rolled around SST picked up victory No. 33 as Bernhard Langer won the Administaff Small Business Classic in Texas. Fred Funk and Dennis Watson finished in the top five. The win was Langer's third this year and a defense of the title won in 2008. The two-time Masters Champion has found a home on the Champions Tour.

As the results started coming in from The Justin Timberlake event in Las Vegas on the PGA Tour, the depth of SST PURE's PGA TOUR dominance was even more evident as the top 20 looked like a convention of players with SST PUREd clubs. Congratulations to second-place finisher Matt Kuchar and Chad Campbell and Michael Allen for their top-five finishes.

So let's put in some totals for 2008. SST has now won 33 PGA and Champions Tour events and the money won by players who have asked SST to PURE their clubs totals more than \$126 million on just the PGA Tour.

The SST PURE Shaft Alignment Lab is still busy out on the Tour and this week Tour Rep Arnie Cunningham coordinated PUREing for Kevin Na, Brenden Pappas, Bob Estes, Jeff Hart, Paul Azinger, Dean Wilson, James Driscoll, Nick Flanagan, Joe Durant, Paul Claxton, and J.J. Henry.

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