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Remember last week when I told you it looked as if Colin Montgomerie was being advanced up in the rotation to next year's European Ryder cup captaincy? Well this past week brought yet another twist to the story. Jose Maria Olazabal is apparently contesting the "leaning to Monty" movement. Olazabal was assistant skipper to Nick Faldo on last fall's losing team and left the United States with praise ringing in his ears over how he had done the job in stark contrast to the barrage of criticism that fell on Faldo's head. What threw all this into a confusing mix is that "Ollie" wanted to make the team next time around as a player.

Here's what I understand the problem is: Age. A stormy meeting of the European PGA Tour's 15-man tournament committee in Abu Dhabi last week reportedly wanted a captain who is closer to the age of the players. This was seen as being in reaction to the 51-year-old Faldo's struggles to communicate with players and press in Louisville. But as Montgomerie would be 51 by the time Gleneagles came around in 2014, he reportedly was told that it was now-or-never this time around.

Start learning this name: Ryo Ishikawa. At 17 years old he's already setting the golf world on fire and is scheduled to make his U.S. Tour debut in Los Angeles this year at the Northern Trust played at Riviera. A month later he plays at Bay Hill because Arnold Palmer just extended him an invitation to play at his Arnold Palmer Invitational. And then a few weeks later he gets to drive up Magnolia Lane as a result of his invitation to play in the Masters. Who was the youngest player to ever tee it up at the Masters? Tommy Jacobs, who beats Ishikawa by days.

Charlie Sifford is 81 and was just granted an historic exemption to play in another PGA Tour event long after his career ended. You have to appreciate the history behind this because Charlie wanted one back in 1961 so he could join the PGA Tour as the first African American. Now, his name will grace a rule exemption with similar hopes of opportunity. In offering the exemption to Sifford the Northern Trust Open will offer a sponsor's exemption to a player who represents the advancement of diversity in golf but who wouldn't otherwise be eligible. "It's something that should have been done a long time ago," Sifford said at a press conference last week. "This is a wonderful thing. It will give someone a chance." Sifford is known as the Jackie Robinson of professional golf. He won twice on the tour, including the 1969 Los Angeles Open at Rancho Park. In 2004, he became the first African American to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Paul Goydos took a year off from the Tour in 2004 to gain full custody of his young daughters. His ex wife was found dead on Saturday as a result of unexplained causes.



SST PURE Wins With Langer

Fresh off three worldwide victories in the opening week of the season, SST PURE won again on Sunday when Bernhard Langer captured the first Champions Tour event of 2009. The consistent Langer fired three rounds in the 60s to beat Andy Bean, another player with a history of asking SST to PURE his clubs. Langer who was both the rookie of the year and the player of the year on the Champions Tour in 2008 won with precision shots under pressure.

That's what I can write about every week when it comes to players who PURE their clubs because a PURED shaft works with the players not against them. Randomly assembled clubs can't perform up to the standards of PURED clubs. It is scientifically impossible. Why? Because every shaft has inconsistencies in the construction. Assemble them randomly in the club head and this shows up under loading and unloading as oscillations with patterns that are widely inconsistent.

Take that same set of clubs and have the shafts PURED using SST's patented and proprietary technology and that shaft's inconsistencies are revealed. Then SST PURE can determine the exact position that shaft must be oriented in the club head to eliminate those oscillations.

It was another dominating week on the PGA Tour for players with SST PURED clubs. Look at the top 20: Mike Weir, Steve Stricker, Bo Van Pelt, Tim Clark, Brad Adamonis, Chad Campbell, Richard S. Johnson, Rich Beem, last year's Hope champion D.J. Trahan, Robert Garrigus and Brian Gay.

Pros who PURED some clubs this week included: **Peter Lonard, Kirk Triplett, Lee Janzen, Scott McCarron, Jesper Parnevik, Brian Gay, Tim Petrovic, John Daly, D.J. Trahan, Fred Couples, Matt Kuchar, Bo Van Pelt, Jeff Overton, John Rollins, Bob Estes, Robert Garrigus, Brad Adamonis, David Duval, and Ken Duke.**

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