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I've known Robert Allenby for years, long before he qualified for the PGA Tour. We did a publicity photo shoot with him sitting in Ian Baker-Finch's ski boat just after Baker-Finch won the British Open, and Allenby's eyes were all lit up about how he wanted the chance to make some big money on the TOUR. Well he has but there is a problem.

Robert continues to be a force on the PGA Tour but he hasn't been winning recently. Since Allenby will mostly be playing the European Tour this year, every event this side of the pond takes on extra significance for the Australian who many felt would be the successor to Greg Norman as Australia's next superstar. Allenby still puts impressive figures on the board, including leading last year's PGA Tour category for most top -10 finishes, but injuries he suffered in a car accident in 1996 have taken their toll.

Allenby sustained a fractured sternum and head injuries when his car careened into a wall, and today he continues to experience aches and pains related to the crash. "There's things that go wrong with me all the time — lower back, neck, wrists — and it all stems back to that stupid car accident," he says. Compounding all this he just can't seem to get over the death of his mother and has been trying to win an event in her memory. It's been three weeks since she passed away and he finds his mind is wandering during crucial moments in tournaments. Take the Northern Trust a few weeks ago where he held a share of the lead on Saturday but finished 17th. At the Accenture he was eliminated uncharacteristically in the first round. He was a leader early at the Honda and finished fifth so things might be improving. What he really wants now is to win an event in his mother's memory. I think he will shortly, so remember my prediction.

In the truly remarkable category, Erik Compton shot two rounds of 69 before tapering off to finish 44th this week at the Honda. So why is this remarkable? He's the only two-time heart transplant recipient to be playing on the PGA Tour.

Jim Colbert had some fun again this week at the Toshiba Classic on the Champions Tour. Jim turns 68 on Monday and shot a stroke better than his age. He began the day 5-under through four holes and finished with a round that included one eagle, eight birdies, three bogeys, one double bogey and five pars. "My goal nowadays, I hate to tell you, is just to be able to tee off on the second and third round," he said.

When Eduardo Romero won the Toshiba Classic this week he joined Rodger Davis (Australia), Jose Maria Canizares (Spain) and Langer (Germany) as the fourth international winner.



Take 2: The second coming of Tiger Woods will take place at Doral this week as the world's best player plays in his second tournament since knee surgery last summer.. The significance of this is something we have been reporting for the past few weeks after *Golfweek* columnist James Achenbach wrote an article stating that Tiger's Nike clubs have been PUREd by SST. Here's the quote:

"Golfweek has learned through sources at Nike that Tiger Woods had his clubs checked and adjusted by SST. As revealed by Nike insiders, the company assembled a dozen sets of irons for Woods, with only two sets being PUREd. In blind testing Woods picked those two sets as his primary set and backup set."

Last week at the Honda, I found it interesting that in both driving categories players with a history of playing PUREd clubs were the leaders. Robert Garrigus led in driving distance at 311.9 yards and Ernie Els was the driving accuracy leader, hitting the fairway almost 77% of the time while the rest of the composite field was at 60%.

Players with SST PUREd clubs have already won four times this year and dominated the top 20 in virtually every event. This week was yet another positive example. Players with SST PUREd clubs in the top 20 were: Second-place finisher John Rollins, followed by Scott Piercy who just had clubs PUREd this week in the SST PURE Shaft Alignment Lab. Others were the improving Robert Allenby, who is playing just three weeks after his mom's death, Willie MacKenzie, Charlie Wi, Jeff Overton, Scott Verplank, Harrison Frazar, Kevin Streelman, Alex Cejka, and Brett Quigley.

The above-mentioned SST PURE lab was busy again this week and tour rep Arnie Cunningham reports that the following players had clubs PUREd: John Rollins, Scott Piercy, Steve Elkington, Bob Estes, Stuart Appleby, Jason Caron, Peter Lonard, J.B. Holmes, defending two-time British Open champion and PGA champion Pdraig Harrington, Mike Weir, Olin Browne, Buddy Marruci, James Driscoll, Shane Bertsch, Ken Duke, Mathias Gronberg, Ricky Barnes, and Tim Petrovic.

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