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If you love the Skins Game that takes place every year during Thanksgiving weekend, you're not going to like what I'm about to tell you. The Skins Game has officially been postponed this year due to the economic problem. What's even worse is that IMG, which organizes the event, is actually saying that can't promise if it will ever return.

IMG had been negotiating a contract extension with LG when the Korean-based electronics company elected not to renew. "We did another pass through the market place and couldn't find a title sponsor," said Mark Steinberg, head of IMG's golf division. The unique format of the Skins Game began in 1983 on a high note with Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Tom Watson but recently TV ratings have plunged. IMG said they plan to bring the Skins Game back in 2010 to Indian Wells, Calif., but that starts with finding a title sponsor.

The first professional photo I ever took was at Arnold Palmer's request and was for the Bay Hill Invitational program cover featuring Arnie, Payne Stewart who had just won his first U.S. Open, and Ian Baker-Finch, who had just won the British Open. It's no secret that Ian's game left him after that but he's decided to make a comeback of sorts. Now he's a CBS golf analyst but he says he will play in the Colonial this year which marks the 20th anniversary of his only win on the regular PGA Tour.

It's hard to believe that Payne died 10 years ago. He was supposed to be at our Champions for Children annual benefit for the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children but had to cancel to take the business trip when his Lear Jet crashed in South Dakota. His son Aaron was 10 years old at the time is now 20 and a redshirt freshman golfer at Payne's alma mater, Southern Methodist University. Aaron never wanted to play golf when he was younger, preferring skateboarding, surfing and playing football but after Payne's death he started watching videos of his famous father and something clicked and he wanted to play.

"I kind of just fell in love with it," he says now. "I wish I would have started playing earlier because I could have learned so much from my dad." In Dallas, Aaron works not only with his SMU coach but also with Chuck Cook, Payne's former instructor. Cook is "working overtime" to get Aaron caught up, "teaching him shots and teaching him how to flight the ball. But golf is a difficult game. " Still, Cook sees a world of potential in the younger Stewart, who plans to make golf a career. Actually he has played in one professional event, the Father-Son annual tournament. One of Payne's best friends, two-time U.S. Open Champion Lee Janzen, received a special exemption to team up with him a few years ago, knowing that Payne certainly would have wanted to play the event with Aaron.



Another SST PURE Win at The Players

Henrik Stenson, who won the Players Championship on Sunday, first started asking SST to PURE his clubs in 2008. This is the second jewel of the season won by a player with a history of PUREing his clubs. Angel Cabrera won the Masters last month. The total victories won by players who asked SST to PURE their clubs is now 13, but that number is hardly unlucky. It's only a milestone along the way to another record-breaking season for SST PURE.

Look at these statistics for 2009. Stenson's victory was the ninth week in a row that a player with a history of having SST PURE their clubs won. The total winnings, just on the PGA Tour, of all the players who have PUREd their clubs now is over \$62 million.

As I seem to be writing weekly, the top 20 is totally dominated by players with clubs in their bags that have been PUREd by SST. At the Players SST placed 14 players in the top 20: Stenson won and Ian Poulter, who first started PUREing his clubs a few weeks ago, had his best Players Championship finish as the runner-up. Kevin Na was third, Jim Furyk fifth and Aaron Baddeley, Vijay Singh and Tim Clark tied for ninth. How significant is this next bit of information? Eight of the top ten players asked SST to PURE their clubs! There was a tie for 14th between a large list of players with PUREd clubs; Matt Kuchar, Mike Weir, Paul Casey, Masters Champion Angel Cabrera, Robert Allenby and Camilo Villegas.

SST PURE Tour rep Arnie Cunningham was really busy this week and kept the SST PURE PGA Tour Shaft Alignment Lab operating at full capacity. Players under contract to all the major manufacturers have their clubs PUREd using the very same patented programs and computers that your local SST PURE licensee uses to PURE your clubs.

So have you PUREd your clubs yet? If not what are you waiting for? The world's best players ask SST to PURE their clubs, to scientifically locate the most stable position a shaft must be orientated in the club head. PUREing makes a huge performance difference that every player, regardless of handicap, will benefit from. Find your local SST PURE licensee at www.sstpure.com.

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