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The U.S. Open at Bethpage is two weeks away, but the TV towers are already going up on all 18 holes. I visited with my friends at NBC to get some inside info on how they plan to cover this Open and was surprised to find out that they are going to concentrate a lot more on the fans than in past years. The thinking is that based on the last Open at Bethpage seven years ago, the shouts and reactions by the galleries were an integral part of the action. So this year producer Tom Roy plans on 53 cameras to give him plenty of coverage to explore behind-the-scenes action.

"One of the things we talk about at NBC," said Roy, "is the crowd isn't as important as the athletes. But we'll see about that. We have not only the tight shot of the player making a putt, but also being able to cut to the crowd erupting with the player in the foreground." I love fans too, but most of all I enjoy the actual golf coverage and hope we can hear the discussions between player and caddy.

If Angel Cabrera is still playing tournament golf in 2016 he'll be able to defend the U.S. Open title he won at Oakmont in 2007 as the USGA just announced the club will host the Open.

Tiger Woods grew up in Los Angeles as a Lakers fan and lives in Orlando as a neighbor of many of the Magic players. So who is he rooting for in the NBA Finals? "The Lakers," Woods said, "Because I grew up rooting for Magic and Kareem."

Great news for golf and the Champions Tour! Peter Jacobsen is making his first start in a tournament since hip surgery nearly a year ago. Peter really understands what both sponsors and fans need and provides it willingly. Also a very successful businessman, Peter has been mentioned by some influential policy board members as being an ideal candidate to replace Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem when he decides to retire. Peter would be the perfect guy to steer the Tour through these difficult economic times with sponsors dropping events left and right.

Remember David Frost, the one-time PGA Tour champion and wine entrepreneur? David is a long time friend and I've had him host clinics at events I produced for The Golf Channel. Now as prepares for his September Champions Tour debut he finds himself in the lead of an event, at least for a day. Frost was the first-round leader of the Wales Open this week. When we shot him for one of my books a few years ago the site was Preston Trails in Dallas. My wife, Jill, was going to hold the reflector screen and as were waiting for David she walked over to the clubhouse to use the ladies room. Some of you are gasping now because you know that Preston Trails is a stoutly enforced men's only club (something I had forgotten). They came running and told me that not only couldn't she hold the screen, she couldn't even sit in the car in the parking lot. We moved the shoot to Preston Woods.



SST Wins with Tiger and Langer

Has golf ever seen a 13-week winning streak? That's what players who asked SST to PURE their clubs this year have accomplished in 2009!

Tiger Woods' victory at the Memorial was the 18th victory of 2009 for SST and it was followed within minutes by Bernhard Langer's victory on the Champions Tour. **Golfweek published an article earlier this year** by James Achenbach stating that in a blind test of a dozen set of irons Tiger chose the only two sets that had been SST PUREd as his gamers and backups.

The total now stands at 19 victories in 2009, including the Masters by Angel Cabrera and TPC by Henrik Stenson. Tiger owns the King and the Bear trophies with his earlier victory this season at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and now The Memorial. Is there anyone who doubts he's back in form and perhaps even more accurate than ever? There can't be if you saw his last two approach shots, particularly the one on the 18th hole from 189 yards which finished 14 inches from the hole to set up a birdie tap in.

More than \$78 million has been won this year just on the PGA Tour by players who asked SST to PURE their clubs. The high total is due to the total domination of the top 20 and this week is a perfect example as SST also finished 1,2,3. Start off with Tiger's victory, Jim Furyk in second and Jonathan Byrd in third. Matt Kuchar and Davis Love III tied for fifth along with third-round leader Matt Bettencourt. Ernie Els was eighth and Will Mackenzie tied with Mike Weir for 10th. Rounding out the top 20 was K.J. Choi at 13th and Jerry Kelley, Dustin Johnson, Luke Donald and Michael Letzig tied for 14th.

SST PURE players led the stats too as Tiger led in scoring average, Dustin Johnson led in driving distance, Furyk was the driving accuracy leader, greens in regulation leader was Ernie Els and the best scrambler was Byrd.

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