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Two quick things about Tiger Woods before moving on to the rest of the golf world: His driver loft, and then the great thing he's doing for my old home region – upstate New York – and for his college teammate.

First the driver loft. During his rookie season Tiger played with a 6.5-degree lofted driver. At Muirfield, where he won The Memorial this year, Tiger first put into play to a driver with 10.5 degrees of loft. The reason: He has changed his release over the years, requiring a more lofted club. "I'm driving the ball more efficiently and still have the same power," Tiger said.

Notah Begay III and Tiger were teammates back at Stanford and remain close friends still today. Begay, who won back his card at Q School this year after struggling with back problems for several years, began a skins game challenge at the Turning Stone Resort, which is owned by the Oneida Indians. The PGA Tour makes a regular visit later in the year for the Turning Stone Resort Championship, but while Tiger won't be playing that event he will be there on Aug. 24 for the Notah Begay III Foundation Challenge. Scheduled to play last year, Tiger had to drop out while recuperating from his knee surgery. This year's appearance will certainly add to the \$180,000 Notah was able to raise last year for the event, which supports youth sports and wellness programs for Native Americans in New Mexico and other states. Woods and Begay will be joined by Mike Weir and Camilo Villegas. Knowing how long they've waited to see Tiger play in the area, the crowds will be huge.

PGA commissioner Tim Finchem revealed this week that after a year of random drug testing no Tour player tested positive for performance enhancing drugs. He sidestepped the question about the players being totally drug free, because cocaine and marijuana are not part of the test. He reiterated the line that "no incidences regarding performance enhancing drugs were found in the tests."

Padraig Harrington won back to back British Opens and last year's PGA Championship. This year he's way off track, coping with swing changes he made to draw the ball instead of his normal fade. So far he has seen little results for the effort. Now as he prepares to go for three straight Open Championships with only a week to somehow get ready, he says he's "running out of time." Three days were spent with coach Bob Torrance last week. "At the U.S. Open my backswing had totally gone off," said Harrington. "We weren't trying to change that, but I was focusing so much on my downswing. Last week we were doing a lot of covering of old stuff, putting things back in position. For my preparations to be spot-on I shouldn't be tinkering with my swing. I'm well capable of winning when I haven't prepared properly, but it reduces the chances."



SST Wins 17th Straight Tour Event

The three events Tiger Woods won this year are hosted by golf's greatest stars. The Arnold Palmer Invitational, The Memorial hosted by Jack Nicklaus and now the AT&T National hosted by Tiger Woods. Does Tiger PURE his clubs? *Golfweek* published a story earlier this year about how he selected the only two PUREd sets of Nike irons out of 10 sets in a blind test. One PUREd set was for his gamers and the other PUREd set for backups.

Woods victory means that the SST PURE win streak now has been extended to 17 weeks in a row. Twenty-two times this season a player who asked SST to PURE their clubs has been in the winner's circle. How powerful a statement is this? No other company, including club manufacturers or ball manufacturers, have enjoyed this long a winning streak in professional golf. SST PURE does not manufacture clubs, but they do make the clubs perform up to the standards the designers and engineers anticipated when they created the plans to build them. Their ideas on paper are excellent but in the real world of shaft manufacturing there are inconsistencies.

Only SST PURE can scientifically analyze a shaft using its patented and proprietary programs and computers. SST PURE identifies the only stable position that a shaft must be oriented in the club head. On a large scale manufacturing basis shafts are randomly inserted in the club head which from a performance standpoint is really a shaft lottery. Only the PUREd position eliminates the oscillations that make it impossible for even a pro to impact the same sweet spot impact point consistently. That's why the pros, the toughest and most dubious critics in the world, are flocking to the SST PURE PGA Tour Shaft Alignment Lab and PUREing their clubs.

More than \$96 million dollars has been won so far this year by players on the PGA Tour who asked SST to PURE their clubs. Improve the performance of your clubs by having them PUREd using the same equipment as the pros insist on every week on the PGA Tour. Contact your local SST PURE licensee and have your clubs PUREd. You can find them at www.sstpure.com.

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