



PGA
Utah Section

The Professional Golfers' Association of America
Utah Section News
Making Your Golf Game Better — Making Golf A Better Game

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Miraculous Finish at the Utah Senior Open

By Mike Sorensen



Steve Schneider drove the par-4 15th hole at Toana Vista to 20-feet and then drained the eagle putt to lead his charge to the Joey Bonsignore Utah Senior Open win.

As he stood on the tee at the 343-yard par-4 No. 15 hole at Toana Vista Golf Course on that late July afternoon, Steve Schneider had pretty much given up any hope of winning his third straight Utah Senior Open title.

Up to that point, Dave DeSantis has been in control of the tournament since taking a two-stroke lead after the first round and leading throughout the second round. Schneider thought he was four strokes behind (he was

actually three down) and with four holes left he didn't like his chances.

But in an instant, his attitude changed when the steady DeSantis suddenly and inexplicably pulled his tee shot left and out of bounds.

"I said 'I've got to do something,'" Schneider said. "'I've got to do something miraculous.' So I hit driver."

Miraculous or not, Schneider did something very good, hitting his drive onto the green, 20 feet from

the pin. Then he stepped up and drained the putt for an eagle-2. With a two-shot penalty DeSantis completed the hole with a double-bogey-6.

Just like that, Schneider was leading the tournament by one and he added a birdie at 17 while DeSantis parred in, giving Schneider an unexpected two-stroke victory.

For the 52-year-old Schneider, who is a part-owner of Schneider's Pebblebrook Golf Course, where he works as a superintendent, it was his third

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Steady Dave DeSantis led after the first round and most of the final until a wayward drive on hole 15 relinquished his lead.



Low Amateur honors went to Brett Sampson.

straight Utah Senior Open victory in three tries.

"This is the third time – a threepeat," Schneiter said afterwards. His second round 67 gave him a two-day total of 137, while DeSantis, a teaching pro at Riverbend Golf Course, finished with a 71 and a 139 total.

Schneiter's only regret that day was that he wasn't back in New Jersey, playing in the PGA Championship, which he had played in 11 times previously, a record number for a club professional.

But he missed out this year – fellow Utah club professionals Tommy Sharp and Joe Summerhays both made it – and instead he teed it up with his longtime fellow professionals in Utah, which was a good consolation prize.

"I love to compete," said Schneiter, who was very complimentary of Toana Vista superintendent Mel Duke and the condition of the course. "These are the purest greens around."

Amateur Brett Sampson won amateur honors and finished third overall at 140, while Kim Thompson finished fourth at 141 and amateur Steve Poulson was fifth at 143 and second among the amateurs. Roy Christensen and Scott Brandt tied for fourth at 145, just ahead of Tom Costello and Quentin Sasser at 147.

Following Sampson and Poulson among the amateurs were Patrick Murphy at 145 and Randy Hicken and Kurt Jamison at 146.

For the long-hitting, 53-year-old Sampson, it was his second Utah Senior Open amateur victory to go along with his 2014 win.

Like Schneiter he had to rally on the back nine to win. He had gone 4-over in a three-

hole stretch on holes 6, 7 and 8 and then after making birdie on 9, he bogeyed 11. From there, however, he made five birdies on the last seven holes, giving him a 32 on the back side.

"I thought if I could shoot two 70s I would win," Sampson said.

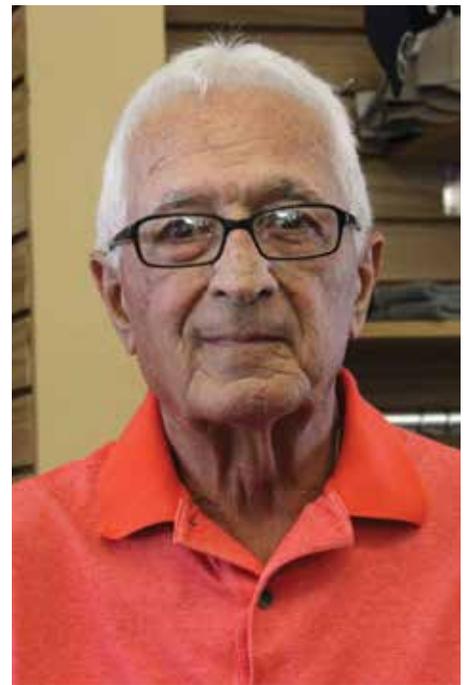
Edwin Erickson won the amateur Flight 1 with a 167 total, while Ruben Escobedo was the Super Senior (over-60) winner with a 151 total.

Reid Goodliffe won the Super Senior Division with a 149 total, seven ahead of Robert Rudd, while Bruce Summerhays won the Legends Division (over 70) with scores of 73 and 76, seven ahead of Wayne Volk.

Every year, the tournament honors one of its own, a top senior golf professional who been important to golf in Utah. This year, longtime Alpine head professional Joey Bonsignore was honored with his name on the tournament title and a special presentation at the dinner the night after the first round.

The 72-year-old Bonsignore doesn't play competitively much any more and he wasn't happy with his first-round 94. However, Bonsignore did enjoy the shot of the tournament when his 6-iron second shot from 170 yards on the par-5 No. 10 hole hopped into the hole for a rare double-eagle.

As for Schneiter, he still has aspirations of playing on the Champions Tour, for he almost earned his card for last year, before faltering the final day and missing exempt conditional status by one shot. He is still a regular on the Intermountain circuit and had played in the Colorado Open the week before the Senior Open, proudly carrying his own bag for 72 holes.



Tournament honoree Joey Bonsignore recorded a rare double-eagle during first round action.

Schneiter is already exempt to the Senior PGA Professional Championship tournament next spring when he has the chance to qualify for his fourth straight Senior PGA Tournament on the Champions Tour since turning 50. DeSantis, Thompson, Christensen and Brandt also qualified for next year's Senior PPC.

Mike Sorensen is a sportswriter for the Deseret News and a frequent contributor to Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

In Full Swing

By Chris Stover,
Utah Section PGA President

Wow, is this summer going fast. It has been full of golf, from watching the success of Utah's PGA Tour young guns to our Section's junior golf programs and initiatives to all of our member's club events and tournaments and everything in between.

The Heber Valley PGA Junior League has had a blast this summer. It's been fun to work with the kids and see them improve and just as satisfying visiting with the parents who are thrilled to have a local program to help their kids learn the game. The transition of ownership to the PGA of America hasn't been without a few double bogies but I am confident that going forward the issues will be worked out. Thanks to all who are running PGA Junior League Golf programs or one of your own at your facility. You really are making a difference.

Before we know it, the Utah Open will be here and high school boy's golf will be in full swing. I just want to give a shout out to the Utah Section PGA Staff for running wonderful UHSAA State Championships for the 1A boys and the girls this past spring and we hope you enjoy the championship recap in this issue of the Newsletter. The championships along with the Utah Section PGA All-State Banquet is truly a highlight for me to be involved with and something we should all, as a Section, can be proud to be a part of. This year's banquet featured Scott Mitchell, former University of Utah and NFL All-Pro quarterback, and contestant on NBC's "The Biggest Loser" television show. His message about self-belief and competing was well received by our All-State golfers. Thanks to Scott for taking time out of his busy schedule.

Finally, congratulations go out to both Joe Summerhays and Tommy Sharp for finishing in the top 20 at the PGA Club Professional Championship and qualifying for the PGA Championship. The Utah Section PGA has enjoyed representation over the years on a National level and it will be fun to follow both Joe and Tommy as they tee it up in the first major championship of their careers.

Chris Stover is the Utah Section PGA president, head golf professional at Wasatch State Park and a frequent contributor to the Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

#THXUTAHPGAPRO

By Devin Dehlin



Executive Director Devin Dehlin

As we celebrate the centennial year of the PGA of America, we have heard the national theme #THXPGAPRO. I would like to stick to this theme and take this opportunity to thank all of our professionals here in the Utah Section.

The impact that you have on the game and lives everywhere is something that should not go unnoticed. Our Section has such a great reputation nationwide largely because of our focus on growing the game at its earliest levels. Our junior programs not only give kids an opportunity to fall in love with this game, but influence their lives for the good in many ways. This emphasis that you have placed on junior golf displays itself on our nationally acclaimed high school golf program. We receive requests every year from other Sections wanting the model we use for this successful program.

Another area the Utah Section Professionals shine is the amateur golf schedule we provide for Utah golfers. If you are an amateur golfer in Utah the opportunity to play in tournament events is second to no other state in the country. What a great way to keep golfers engaged and wanting to improve.

You as a professional wear many hats. You are a motivator, counselor and leader in the community. Above all else, everyone wants to call their local professional their friend. At times you play the role of therapist as you sit in the pro shop and listen to the play-by-play of their round, give swing tips, encouragement and the occasional ruling to settle who won the bet. No one does more to bring this game to the community than you.

In closing, I would like to take this chance to personally thank you for the support you have given me and the staff at the Section office. We love working with all of you and teaming together in our mission to grow the game. We are here to help you where we can, so please reach out and let us know your needs.

I have worked in many positions in the golf industry in the last thirty-five years, but I am most proud of my current title as Executive Director of the Utah PGA. What an honor and a privilege to represent all of you and I am humbled by the trust you have put in me.

Thanks "Utah PGA Professionals" for making our Section great!

The Utah Section PGA Celebrates 30 years! Or, “Time flies when you’re having fun”

By Scott Whittaker

In October of 1986 the Utah Section PGA became the 41st Section of the PGA of America! The newly installed Section Officers: President Lynn Landgren, Vice President Ken Pettingill and Secretary Scott Whittaker along with newly hired Executive Director Jeff Beaudry traveled to the PGA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana to be acknowledged as the newest Section of the PGA. That 1986 PGA Annual Meeting was a groundbreaking event for Utah golf. It denoted the start of a positive and cohesive administrative structure that could now address the needs of both PGA members and golf in general in a direct and responsive way.

Utah golf has always shared its own wonderful and unique golf characteristics including its share of unique and great golf characters. The formation of the new Utah Section, which includes some neighbor members and clubs in adjacent states, freed these innovative individuals to remold the local golf industry into a uniquely successful PGA Section.

A lot of the programs, member benefits and promotions of the PGA of America are similar amongst the 41 PGA Sections. Establishing us as a new Section within the PGA reenergized our membership and allowed us to as the “baby” of all the Sections, put our own unique spin on many PGA programs and initiatives. Our professionals work closely with their clubs and associations allowing us to create many exciting enhancements to Utah’s golf industry.

Can’t Get There from Here!

The Utah Section began its PGA life as the Central Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Section of the PGA. This was a fun but fairly dysfunctional time for the Central Chapter members and its officers. The Rocky Mountain Section covered an area that encompassed most of the western U.S. and including everything west of Colorado. Managing a workable tournament schedule and providing



Steve Schneider is one of many Utah Section PGA members that have represented Utah well nationally over the last 30-years.

PGA governance over that great demographic territory was nearly impossible. We had no set Section office for many years with the Section office and the major Section events traveling every two years to each four (Las Vegas was included at one time) then three chapters.

The Player of the Year Award was not awarded to the player with the most/best tournament wins but was selected from nominations put forth from each Chapter. The other Section Awards were also chosen in this manner. This voting method usually guaranteed that the Chapter in charge of the Section governance that cycle won the majority of the awards,

garnering both hosting Section and Chapter officer’s votes.

Although traveling to various stops in the Section championships or Annual Meeting was sometimes an interesting experience, it could challenge the average Rocky Mountain Section Member both financially and with time constraints. The Central Chapter would often charter a plane to take us to the Section Championship when held in Bozeman and Billings Montana (Yellowstone Chapter).

Breaking the PGA Mold

As the Central Chapter Golf Professional

membership numbers grew to the minimums required by the PGA Constitution the then Rocky Mountain Section Officers from the Central Chapter promoted a bold alignment plan to the PGA of America Boundaries Committee. Officers Doug Vilven, Reid Goodliffe, and Ron Branca made an intelligent and passionate plea to the boundaries committee to make the Central Chapter its own Section. They based the proposal on the unbelievable geographical, financial, and member services inequities challenging the Rocky Mountain Section members. To almost everyone's great surprise the Boundaries Committee approved the proposed boundary changes and forwarded the issue to the PGA Board of Directors for their subsequent approval. Since that monumental decision, no other new PGA Sections have been formed.

Good Bones

Utah has a long and unique relationship with the game of golf. Out of area golfers and golf media types, as well as new players to the Utah golf game are often surprised at the richness of our golf history. Golf grew in community importance in the Salt Lake City area during the late 1890's and in the Ogden area in the early 1900's. The game of golf has flourished as both a recreational sports activity and a major component of our social and economic history ever since.

Near the time that the fledgling Professional Golfers' Association of America formed its historic golf organization in 1916 Utah residents were already enjoying the game and setting themselves apart as an avid golf community. The PGA of America is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year and the Utah Section of the PGA is also celebrating its 30th anniversary. Many PGA Members may not realize the many great years that local professionals enjoyed and celebrated golf prior to 1986.

The Utah State Amateur Championship is the oldest, continuously held championship in the world. While the great Bobby Jones was earning the title "the greatest amateur golfer" ever, Utah golf was producing its own amateur champion George Von Elm who bested Jones in a match during the US Amateur championship in the early 1920's.

The Utah Open, created in 1926, is one of the most prestigious state opens in the. It was



Doug Vilven has provided many years of leadership to the Utah Section PGA.

once part of the PGA Tour and has ran each year except for one since its inception. Utah Hall of Fame members George Schneiter, Sr. established and played in the first PGA Tour nationally in the late 1950's. Utahan Terry Malan managed that first tour for several years prior to settling back in Utah as the Golf Professional at Willow Creek CC.

One Big Happy Family

The Utah golf community shares a great cohesiveness and comradery within Utah's major golf organizations and great players. This common goodwill that is shared amongst the different clubs, players, and professionals has strengthened and supported the game over many years. This cohesive attitude is further represented by the formation of the new Golf Alliance for Utah. This umbrella organization includes within its membership virtually all of the major Utah golf organizations and top golf facilities.

The Utah Section is in many cases literally, one big family. Not only does Utah boast one the highest percentage of golfers as part of its general population but Utah has benefited from having some of the greatest golf families in the whole country. Names like Schneiter, Branca, Summerhays, Dehlin, Stone/Hualde, Pettingill, Ridd, Abegglen, McArthur, Blair and many, many others, populate our trophies, awards and leadership and golf facility management/ownership lists as well.

We Know how to Play and Manage the Game

The Utah Section PGA professionals have a great reputation as being skilled players even before their formal existence as a Section but even more since then. We also know how to host events. Our golf professionals manage and administer the largest number of amateur events in the country each golf season.



Section member Bruce Summerhays' win of the 2008 Utah Open is just one of many treasured memories of the Section's 30-year history.

Calendar over 350 individual open and amateur events each year shows the depth and breadth of our promotion of the game. When you add in all the club level events that our professionals plan, administer and score each season, it shows how deeply we care about promoting golf in our Section.

Our playing prowess is apparent when you review our championships records each year. Many of our members have had great success outside the section over the past 30 years. Steve Schnieter has won the PGA National Professional Championship (the PNC) twice. He has represented the Utah Section on winning Club Professional Ryder Cup teams and played in several PGA Championships. Jimmy Blair is a former U.S. Senior PNC championship winner and represented us in many PGA and PGA Tour events. Chis Moody and Milo Lines have won PGA Assistants Championships. Many Section Members have successfully competed in PGA Tour Events. Utah Golf Hall of Fame and Utah Section PGA Members Bob Betley and Bruce Summerhays had great careers on the Champions Tour. If you are interested in more of Utah's great playing history take a close look at our major event trophies.

Utah Section's Golf Legacy

From the beginning of the Utah Section we

have shown a great desire to promote and protect the game of golf. Perhaps our greatest legacy is our support junior golf. Many of our PGA members gained their love of the game through high school golf. The Utah Section PGA boasts the most expansive high school golf support program of any section across the country. Our financial commitment to Utah High school golf over the years measures into the hundreds of thousands dollars. Many individual members' coach or host high school teams each season representing their great commitment to the game. The Section Staff administrates ten high school championships each year. The Section hosts the number-one All-State Golf program in the country each year. The crowning jewel of the high school program was the development, sanctioning, and administering a separate girls' golf program in 2008. This award winning program increased girl's golf participation from about six players per year under the old program to over 1,500 now.

In 2005 the Section determined a need for a recreational and competitive golf program to bridge the gap between the hundreds of club level programs and the Utah Junior Golf Association programs. Since that time the Utah Section PGA with the support of its membership have developed and run: Parent/Junior events; Itty Bitty Jr. Tour; Little Linksters Tour; JET Tour; and several

individual junior events and championships. Many PGA Members show their support for junior golf by hosting events and putting on clinics. The legendary Jimmy E. Thompson and many other professionals have supported our junior golf programs monetarily.

In keeping with the public golf traditions of our Utah area the Utah Section has supported other golf organizations and golf programs. Utah is the mecca for high quality, low cost golf across the country.

The Utah Section has been blessed over this past twenty-five years with a great legacy of leadership. Dedicated PGA Professionals have given their time and collective resources to help serve members and others in the game of golf. PGA events and programs are an important part of Utah golf and will continue to serve and support our golf community for the next 30-years.

I could literally fill up the new PGA 100 year Anniversary Promotion of #THX PGA PRO with the names of Utah Section Golf Professionals that have made the Utah Section PGA a great golf section of America!

Scott Whittaker is a former executive director of the Utah Section PGA and currently serves as the chairman of the Golf Alliance for Utah.

PGA 100-Year Celebration

By Kurt Kragthorpe



Jeff Beaudry



Emily Copier Jones

Emily Copier Jones is too young to have her golf story account for all 100 years of the PGA of America's existence, but she represents the evolution and revolution of the game in Utah and across the country.

The BYU assistant women's golf coach and teaching professional at The Country Club of Salt Lake City was featured in the Utah Section PGA's segment of a Golf Channel series, highlighting each of the PGA's 41 sections. It was part of the PGA's Centennial celebration, a tribute to the world's largest sports organization and its impact over 100 years.

The Utah Section is only 30 years old, but its 335 members and apprentices are connected to the national body and its history, dating to the 1916 (see sidebar) founding at a hotel in New York. That's where the likes of Walter Hagen, Francis Ouimet and A.W. Tillinghast helped create an association that would promote the game.

That remains the PGA's mission, 100 years later. Now that a century has gone by, the "1916" notation on the logo "all of a sudden, just kind of hits you," said Devin Dehlin, executive director of the Utah Section PGA.

The anniversary is both a look back and a look forward for the PGA, offering an opportunity for all golfers to reflect on the influence of golf professionals, individually and collectively. Utah was featured during the sequence of Section Spotlight promotions. That's where Jones comes into play. She's a product of Utah

high school girls golf, having played for Skyline before competing for Weber State and then transferring to BYU.

You can view the Utah Section PGA's highlight online here: vimeo.com/164298845

Girls golf is "one of our biggest successes," Dehlin said, explaining the choice for the section's "Prized Program" as highlighted in each profile. Special Olympics was another prime option, but that program is more common in other sections, while the advancement of the girls program is more recent and unique to Utah, having produced some staggering numbers. Only about three dozen girls competed in the first state tournament, and now more than 100 golfers play in the championship in each of five classifications.

The stories were presented on Golf Channel's "Morning Drive" show during the PGA's 100-day celebration that aired earlier in the year. That's when Utah Section vice president Ryan Kartchner of Hidden Valley Country Club participated in a ceremonial tee-off during the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. The 100-day event concluded May 4 with PGA Instruction Day where free 10-minute lessons were offered.

The Centennial observance will continue throughout the year, with the PGA Championship at Baltusrol Country Club in New Jersey among the highlights.

Throughout Utah, the impact of pros such as Doug Vilven is felt by the mere existence of the state's own section. Utah formerly was

part of the Rocky Mountain Section, stretching to the Canadian border. So in 1986, originally headquartered in the home of executive director Jeff Beaudry, the PGA's 41st section was launched.

Utah's geography remains vast, compared with some other sections in the country, so bringing together the entire membership requires considerable effort. Yet Dehlin, who succeeded the retired Scott Whittaker last October, is determined to make every member and apprentice feel like part of the group. He's planning town hall events in selected pockets of the state. He wants those pros to have an answer to the question of "What does the PGA do for me?"

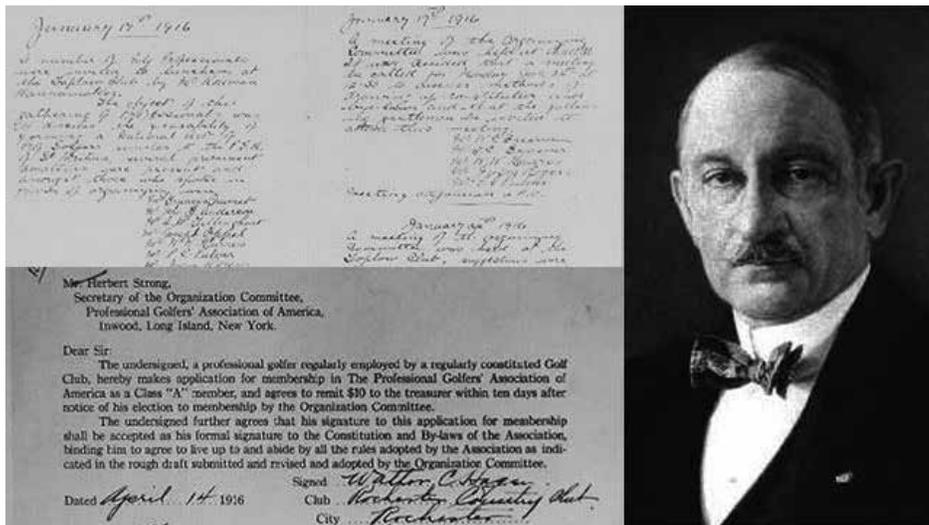
As for their customers, explaining the role of the PGA in the golf community remains important. Long after the PGA Tour became its own entity, confusion still exists about the PGA of America in relation to the PGA Tour. That's understandable, considering "Professional Golfers Association" is the name of each group.

Maybe it is best to think of the PGA of America as the "GPA," with the working title of golf professionals. In any case, especially during this centennial year, Dehlin wants Utah pros to wear the logo proudly. As he said, "It's something you should cherish."

Kurt Kragthorpe is a Salt Lake Tribune sportswriter and frequent contributor to Fairways.

PGA.com

By Mark Aumann



PGA of America Kicks Off Centennial with #ThxPGAPro Campaign



Jordan Spieth

In conjunction with the kickoff to the PGA Centennial celebration, the PGA of America unveiled #ThxPGAPro, a special grassroots commemorative program, designed to pay tribute and showcase the extraordinary impact of PGA Professionals.

The #ThxPGAPro campaign shares first-person accounts from a full range of golfers—PGA Tour professionals, amateurs and junior golfers—who shine a light on the PGA Professionals who inspired, mentored and coached them to achieve success both on and off the course.

“PGA Professionals have a tremendous impact on the lives of golfers nationwide, serving as a coach, mentor, trusted friend and a source of inspiration,” said PGA of America Chief Commercial Officer Jeff Price. “As we launch our Centennial celebration, #ThxPGAPro is a special opportunity for golfers of all ages and abilities to pause and offer their appreciation for the amazing work that PGA Professionals do to grow and teach the game.”

The campaign was launched with Jordan Spieth’s video aired on the Golf Channel. Meanwhile, golfers and employers everywhere are invited to upload videos, photos and messages throughout the year to tell their story in support of their favorite PGA Professional at ThxPGAPro.com or on their social channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) using #ThxPGAPro.

Rodman Wanamaker, with the minutes of the original 1916 meeting and Walter Hagen’s application for admission to the newly-formed PGA of America.

On this date 100 years ago, a lunch invitation in New York evolved into what’s now known as the Professional Golfers Association of America.

Based on the PGA’s own historical records, here’s a summation of the events that led up to what took place on Jan. 17, 1916.

PGA OF AMERICA HISTORY: 1916-1919

Rodman Wanamaker was an ardent golfer and heir to Wanamaker’s, a well-known Philadelphia department store. In 1914, there were just 41 golf courses nationwide, but by 1916, the sport was growing quickly. But the majority of the clubs at that time refused to admit professionals to their clubhouses.

But Wanamaker saw the public’s growing enthusiasm for golf as the beginning of a national trend. He also saw a business opportunity: more golfers means more equipment, and if they bought that equipment at Wanamaker’s, even better.

So what if there was a national organization of golf professionals, who could help promote interest in the game and grow the sport? On Jan. 17, 1916, Wanamaker invited a group of New York-area golf professionals, accompanied by several prominent amateur golfers, to a luncheon in the ninth-floor restaurant of the Wanamaker Store in New York City.

The minutes of that first informal gathering still exist in hand-written form. When that first meeting concluded, James Hepburn, a former British PGA secretary, had been named to chair a seven-member organizing committee. James

Hepburn, John (Jack) Hobens, Jack Mackie, James Maiden, Gilbert Nicholls, Herbert Strong and Robert White were chosen to pursue the matter further, and an organization of American golf professionals took its first step toward becoming a reality.

Three months later, on April 10, 35 charter members -- including Walter Hagen -- met again to officially apply for membership into the fledgling PGA of America. Wanamaker donated \$2,500 and a trophy toward the first PGA Championship, which was held later that fall at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, N.Y.

The Association’s first order of business was to establish the organization’s objectives. The members agreed to the following:

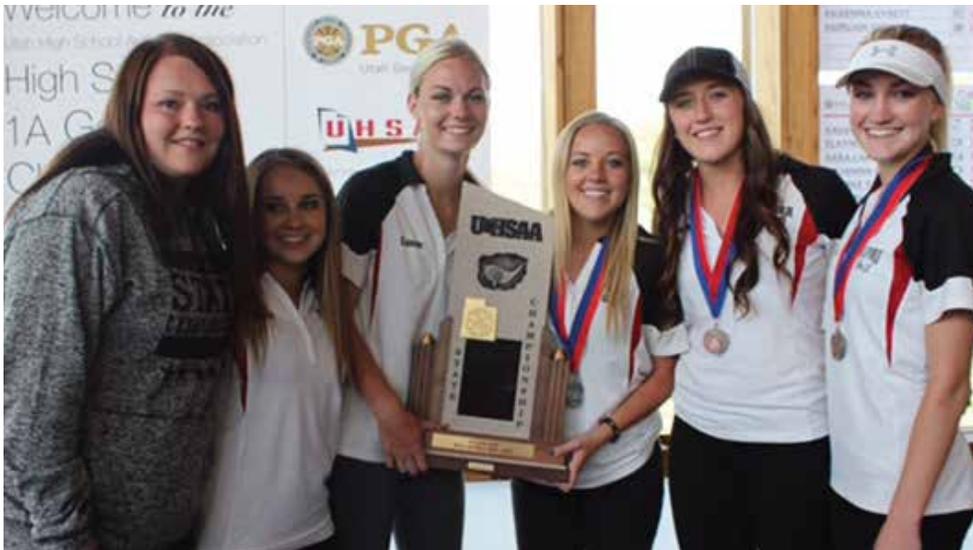
- Promote interest in the game of golf.
- Elevate the standards of the golf professional’s vocation.
- Protect the mutual interest of its members.
- Hold meetings and tournaments for the benefit of members.
- Assist deserving unemployed members to obtain positions.
- Establish a benevolent relief fund for deserving members.
- Accomplish any other objective, which may be determined by the Association from time to time.

A century later, the more than 28,000 members of the PGA of America continue to dedicate themselves to the same goals set forth by Wanamaker in that initial meeting -- to promote and grow the game of golf.”

High School State Champs Crowned at Wasatch Mountain and Soldier Hollow Golf Courses

By Megan Terry

The 2016 Girls High School State Championships and 1A Boys State Championship were held mid-May at the Utah State Park's Wasatch Mountain and Soldier Hollow golf facilities. Teams from across Utah came to compete to name individual and team champions at the 36-hole golf courses. The championships were conducted by the Utah Section PGA and Utah High School Athletic Association



1A Girls: Milford Girls Earn 12-Point Victory

The Milford Tigers clinched the 1A High School Girls Golf State Championship at Soldier Hollow Golf Course. Soldier's Silver Course is anything but a walk in the park, but the Tigers faced the test claws-out and brought their A-game. Of the top seven individual finishers on the leaderboard, three were Tigers.

Led by Nicole McDermott's 65 Stableford points, the Tigers were 12 points better than the Manila High Mustangs. Manila's Katy Schofield shot a 93 and contributed 69 Stableford points to Manila's team score to become the 1A individual medalist.

2A Girls: Rowland Hall Dominates 2A Field to Earn Second Championship

The Rowland Hall Winged Lions became two-time state champions on Soldier Hollow's Silver Course after defeating the Emery High Spartans by 21 modified Stableford points. Of Rowland's four-person team, three earned top six honors with a team total of 267 points.

Individual medalist Zaria Thompson led the Winged Lions by rounding up 82 points with her gross score of eight-over-par 80. Teammates Maddie and Caity Kwun shot 82 and 95 respectively. Maddie's ten-over-par added 80 points to the team's total, and she was the runner-up medalist behind Thompson.

Not far behind Thompson and Maddie Kwun, Emery's Taijah Price and Sydnee Guymon captured the fourth and fifth medalist spots. Price carded an 88 and 74 points, and Guymon shot 90 to add 72 points to Emery's team total. Beaver High's Hayven Willden was the fifth place medalist with her 94 gross score and 68 points, and the sixth place medalist was Rowland Hall's Caity Kwun.





3A Girls: Desert Hills Wins Seventh Consecutive State Championship

The Desert Hills Thunder girls' golf team achieved greatness on Soldier Hollow's Gold Course by capturing yet another state championship marking an impressive seventh consecutive state championship.

The Thunder's Kyla Smith played a large role in leading the team to victory with a two-day total of 172 modified Stableford points. She shot a Round 1 score of two-over-par 74 and a Round 2 78, allowing her to finish in second place individually.

Gracie Richens, Dixie High athlete and Tuacahn Center for the Arts student, shot a two-day total of six over par to claim the medalist title. Richens shot a Round 1 74 and a Round 2 76 to earn 174 Stableford points, just two points better than Smith.

4A Girls: Corner Canyon Wins School's First State Championship

The Corner Canyon girls golf team made history at the UHSAA 4A Girls High School State Championship at Wasatch Mountain Golf Course by capturing the school's first state championship. They started out the two-day event strong by earning 321 modified Stableford team points in the first round and an eight-point advantage over Bountiful High School. Giving Bountiful a chance was never an option for the Chargers; they brought the heat during the final round by blowing past the Braves by 25 points and gaining the 33-point victory with 652 points.

Bountiful High's Jobi Einerson hit the ground running with an opening score of five-under-par 67, five strokes better than anyone else in the field after Round 1. Her Round 2 77 and two-day point total of 180 kept her in the race, but Provo High athlete Naomi Soifua's even par for both rounds was enough to force a sudden death playoff for medalist honors. In the playoff, after nearly dropping her birdie putt, Soifua made an easy tap-in par to become the 4A medalist.



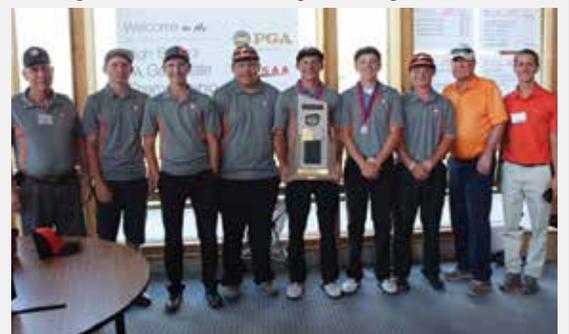
5A Girls: Lone Peak Captures State Championship by Three Points

The Lone Peak Knights gained an early six-point advantage over Bingham after bringing in 340 Day 1 team points. Masina Kaohelaulii carried the Knights with 175 total points helping the Knights to 678 overall points after the final round. The Lone Peak girls celebrated their victory by jumping in the lake behind the Wasatch Mountain Golf Course clubhouse.

Davis High's Laura Gerner shot a gross score of three-under-par 69 to earn 93 Stableford points and the individual lead heading to the final round. Gerner remained impressive during the final round to card a one-under-par 71 and 184 total Stableford points to secure medalist honors.

Megan Terry is the Utah Golf Association programs administrator and a frequent contributor to Fairways.

1A Boys: Valley High Makes a Comeback to Capture State Championship



The Valley High Owls of South Jordan, Utah, played two rounds of consistent golf on Soldier Hollow's Silver Course to claim the title of 1A state champions. The team started out the tournament in second place behind Rich High School but made a strong comeback during the final round.

Cobe Reck of Valley left the remainder of the field in the dust after carding a four-over-par 76 for both rounds. He easily set the scene for the Owls after earning the Round 1 lead, allowing teammate Isaac Stout to make a move. Stout shot 84-82 to assist Reck in catapulting Valley into winning position, and the Owls snatched the victory right out from under the Rich High Rebels' noses with a two-day team total of 684, eight shots better than the Rebel's.

In Their Own Words: Utah Section PGA Match Play Championship



Champion Pete Stone

I had been playing fairly well heading into the Match Play Championship. At the Match Play I tried to just get out of my way and play. Each match I just tried to take things one shot at a time and give myself birdie chances. Hubbard's greens are so good I just wanted as many opportunities to putt on them as possible.

Match Play is really fun, until you get beat. I find myself focusing better in Match Play and need to find a way to bring that to stroke play events. Hubbard GC is a great course for any format. You have to be smart and creative to get the ball to stop around a lot of the holes there.

Chris Moody is a very good player. I knew I would have to play well. Chris has proven he can win in any format, all over the country. I approached the final match with Chris just like the other ones. I tried to get out of my way, swing freely, and make putts. I felt pretty calm knowing it was the final match win or lose.

I drive the ball better now than I did when I won in 2012. The biggest similarity between this year and 2012 was my mental game. I was very comfortable both years. There are a lot of very good players in our section capable of winning the Match Play. I would like to encourage the younger players in our section to play a little more. I think most of us got into this business because we enjoy the game and competition.

My Match Play championships are certainly my biggest wins since joining the Utah Section PGA. I really enjoy competing with my fellow PGA Professionals and consider a lot of them good friends. If you want to improve and make some money playing you have to play tournament golf and get used to the environment.



Runner-Up Chris Moody

I had a swing thought that had been working when I was warming up on the range it was still working. When you are over a ball knowing with certainty where it's going it makes the game so much easier. Having been the three time champion I knew I had a target on my back. I never just expect to win by showing up.

The anticipation of seeing who is in your bracket after the pairings are made is always on your mind. When I saw that I would be playing either Zach Johnson or Tommy Sharp in the quarter finals it definitely caught my attention. In all honesty I don't care if I am playing a certain player in the first round or the finals. I just try to hit fairways and greens. Half the time I don't even know where my opponent's ball is.

I missed a couple putts on the first nine holes of the final match that I felt I should have made. I did make a couple of great putts that hit a lot of the hole that really could have gone in too. I felt that the swirling wind made it difficult to hit my approaches close that final round. There were a couple of times I really thought I made a good swing and my ball either came up a club short or a club long; tough to make birdies when your distance control is off.

Pete had a great ball striking round and didn't leave many opening for me. Heading into the back nine I really was trying to make birdie on every hole. Kudos to Pete for winning this year's Match Play Championship. Pete is a great dude and a great player.

Look Who Qualified for the PGA Championship at Baltustrol

By Mike Sorensen



Tommy Sharp



Joe Summerhays

Two Utah club professionals will played in the PGA Championship at Baltustrol Golf Club in New Jersey after qualifying at the PGA Professional Championship.

Joe Summerhays and Tommy Sharp finished in the top 20 at the annual event for club professionals at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, N.Y., to earn spots in the fourth of the golf majors this year. The top 20 finishers earn spots in the prestigious PGA tourney.

The 42-year-old Summerhays, who works

as a teaching pro at Oakridge Country Club in Farmington, shot a final-round 69 and finished in a tie for 10th place at 284 to qualify. He is the son of Bruce Summerhays, who was successful for more than a decade on the Champions Tour. Sharp, 34, a former State Amateur champion who teaches at the Golf Lab in Salt Lake, finished in 12th place at 284 after a 70 in the final round.

The PGA Championship was played July 28-31, a couple of weeks earlier than usual because of the Olympics, which are including golf this

year during the mid-August games.

Mike Sorensen is a sportswriter for the Deseret News and a frequent contributor to the Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

**Editor's note* The Utah Section PGA had TWO of the TWENTY Club Professionals in the PGA Championship this year. Way to make the Utah Section look good! We have had several Utah PGA Professionals qualify in the past, but having two of them in this year's championship made this year even more fun to watch.*

Utah Golf Community Will Miss Mike Borich

By Kurt Kragthorpe

Mike Borich valued his job behind the lunch counter at a municipal golf course, considering that's where his mother worked for nearly 40 years. Yet when a customer asked why he was spending his days serving sandwiches instead of swinging a club, he instantly realized he was out of place.

"I'm a golf pro," he said to himself.

So he asked if he could return to his most recent position, helping with course maintenance and teaching lessons at the unpretentious Pebblebrook Golf Links in Sandy. And that's where he died May 3 at age 58, after having a heart attack on the driving range.

So ended the golf career of a onetime Utah prodigy, a player whose precise ball-striking made "a different sound," as local pro Quentin Sasser recalled during a memorial event last Friday at Pebblebrook.

No formal service was held, but Pebblebrook's operators, brothers Gary and Steve Schneider, were not about to let Borich go without the Utah golf community's observance of a career that took him from Cottonwood High School to the U.S. Open. About a dozen club pros from around the state, four generations of family members and regulars from Salt Lake County courses Meadow Brook and Mick Riley convened to share stories and marvel about his golf potential, which could be best described as partially fulfilled. "He was born to play golf," said another local pro, Jeff Waters.

Name a Utah native who became a teenage golf star — from George Von Elm to Jay Don Blake to Daniel Summerhays to Tony Finau — and Borich's talent level compares favorable to any of theirs, at a similar stage. While he never qualified for a major professional tour, he remained a good player among club pros in his 50s, as a three-time winner of the Utah Senior Open and a contestant in the 2009 U.S. Senior Open.

Borich's life story reflects a continual quest of self-discovery, a search that included trying to maximize his golf ability amid the reality of how difficult it is to play the game for a living. His 58 years included enough twists and turns, stops and starts, old endings and new beginnings to cover three or four ordinary lifetimes. As he once said appreciatively of his self-destructive



college era, divided between the University of Utah and Weber State, "I got out of it alive."

His life included stages when he seemingly settled into a steady existence, only to seek greater fulfillment. Only this month, he apparently had found one more landing spot to channel his devotion to the game, bringing business cards to Pebblebrook to promote himself as a golf teacher.

And then the owner of "the biggest heart of anyone I know," in the words of Gary Schneider, died the next day.

That heart was repaired via quadruple-bypass surgery nearly 20 years ago, as one of several life-changing events for Borich. As of 2000, redirected by that experience, he thought he had found a permanent home as the head professional at Meadow Brook Golf Course in Taylorsville, where he owned the course record of 11-under-par 61 and twice shot 28 on the back nine. "I'm on a path now," Borich said then in a Tribune interview. "My life right now is my second wind."

He made it through local and sectional qualifying stages and played in the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, while working at Meadow Brook, near his childhood home in Taylorsville. The course's blue-collar clientele loved him, and he enjoyed playing with the regulars and just talking about golf —

occasionally too much so. "I have to get on him for some administrative stuff," a former boss once said.

That remained true at Pebblebrook, where he mowed the tees and maintained the range. "He spent more time talking than he did working, but that was Mike," Steve Schneider said. "He loved people."

That's what those close to Borich will most remember about him, while wishing his life had lasted longer. Coincidentally, he's not only the only Mike Borich who grew up as a sports star in the western Salt Lake Valley and died young (they lived a total of 100 years). The other Mike Borich, a college football player and coach, suffered from depression and died in 2009. Via subsequent study, he was diagnosed with the brain injury CTE, as a result of concussions.

The death of Mike Borich, the golfer, also happened suddenly — yet with some warning, due to his previous heart trouble. As Steve Schneider reflected, "He always said he wasn't going to live a long time."

Sadly, he was right, even if his death came only after he seemingly squeezed multiple lifetimes into those 58 years.

Kurt Kragthorpe's column was published in the Salt Lake Tribune May 23, 2016. Kurt is a sportswriter and a frequent contributor to the Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

Jeff Smith Posthumously Named Big Sky Coach of the Year

Jeff Smith Posthumously Named Big Sky Coach of the Year

Late Weber State golf coach and Utah Section PGA member Jeff Smith was not a fan of compliments, unless they were about someone else. Smith didn't like to be praised; instead, he liked to praise others. Smith never asked for what others could do for him; instead, he famously asked what he could do for others. Humility was the trademark of a man who loved three things, in no particular order- life, golf and people.

Smith, who was popularly known as "Smitty" around the college golf circuit, passed away in mid-February, after battling leukemia. His passing left a hole in collegiate golf, not to mention the hearts of his many friends and coaching colleagues in the Big Sky Conference. Thousands of tributes from around the world poured in in the wake of Smith's passing, showcasing a legacy of kindness and caring.

In response to his impact, the league's women's golf coaches unanimously voted Smith as the Big Sky Women's Golf Coach of the Year on Friday. Smith is the first Big Sky coach to win coach of the year honors, posthumously.

This is the third time Smith has been honored as the Big Sky Coach of the Year, previously winning the award after the 1998 and '99 seasons. Smith led the Wildcats to a Big Sky title in 2001, and recorded four runner-up appearances in the conference tournament. The Wildcats finished in the top-four of the Big Sky tourney 11 times in Smith's tenure.

While Smith would have certainly pushed away the praise and adulation associated with winning a Coach of the Year award, others were eager to praise a man who was as famous for supporting other Big Sky teams as he was for his own.

Weber State athletic director Jerry Bovee said the honors are fitting for a coach who dedicated his life to seeing others succeed.

"This is an amazing honor for Coach Smith and his family," said Bovee, who considered Smith to be a close friend. "It reflects the sentiment of all who knew "Smitty" and is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to young people.



"Jeff would have wanted to thank his fellow coaches and the Big Sky Conference for this honor. Also, as he was prone to do, he would have credited his players and friends of our program for their support."

In spite of dealing with such an emotionally-draining personal loss, Smith's team honored their late coach on the course at the 2016 Big Sky Women's Golf Championships, shooting their lowest-ever round in tournament play (290) in the final round. Weber State finished fourth in the tournament, their best finish of an emotional spring.

Besides working as the coach of the Weber State women's golf program, Smith also served as the institution's Director of Golf, overseeing the men's golf program. He was a well-known supporter of the Weber State men's and women's basketball programs, and was a

cheerleader for anyone who was associated with Weber State University.

Smith was a native of Ogden, Utah, and graduated from Weber State in 1980 with a degree in business administration. He worked as a golf professional at El Monte Golf Course and Golf City, in Ogden, before becoming the Weber State women's golf coach in 1990.

He was also involved with giving the gift of golf to a variety of different audiences, working as the Director of Golf for the Utah State Special Olympics. Smith also worked on a national level with the Special Olympics.

A noted teacher of the game, Smith won the 1989 Utah PGA Teacher of the Year, and was a recipient of the 1996 PGA Junior Golf Leader Award.

Smith is survived by his two daughters, Tarra and Courtney.

Omega Utah Section Player of the Year Race



By Aaron Goodman

Once again thanks to the sponsorship agreement between the PGA of America and Omega, the Player of the Year, Senior Player of the Year and Assistant Player of the Year races have prize money to play for.

Omega is the Presenting Sponsor and Official Timekeeper of the PGA Professional National Championship and will also continue to support our local Section Championship and Senior Championship. The \$9,400 purse

money will be divided into a separate purse for each event.

The 2016 season is well underway and Tommy Sharp kicked it off to a great start with an early win at the Nike Winter Classic. He also notched a tie for first at the Glenmoor Open, a second place finish at the Spanish Oaks Open and won the Rose Park Open. Tommy's remarkable play has put him in the top spot in the Omega Player of the Year contest. Trailing

by a slim margin is four-time defending Player of the Year, Chris Moody. The Omega Player of the Year Leaderboard is crowded after that with familiar faces.

Gear up for an exciting season as there is more motivation than ever as players contend for The Omega Player of the Year honors at great venues throughout our Section this year!

Top 5 Omega Player of the Year:

1 Tommy Sharp	3231.25
2 Chris Moody	3129.00
3 Pete Stone	2415.00
4 Joe Summerhays	1690.00
5 Zach Johnson	1669.00

Omega Senior Player of the Year:

T1 Steve Schneider650.00
T1 Henry White.650.00
3 Dave DeSantis525.00
4 David Hall500.00
5 Stu Nelson400.00

Omega Assistant Player of the Year:

1 Chris Moody	3129.00
2 Pete Stone	2415.00
3 Zach Johnson	1669.00
4 Steve Schneider	997.50
5 Matt Baird	806.25

Utah Section PGA Tournament Calendar

The 2016 Utah PGA Championship Season is underway and thanks to support money from the PGA/PGA Tour, this championship season will feature more money, bigger purses, and deeper payouts. Be sure to mark your calendar now!

Siegfried & Jensen Utah Open
August 22-28, Riverside Country Club

Utah Section Championship/PNC Qualifier*
September 13-14, Toana Vista Golf Course
National Entry Deadline September 7

National Car Rental Assistant Championship*
September 19-20, Wasatch Mountain State Park GC
National Entry Deadline September 14

Pro-Assistants Championship
November 28-29, The Ledges & Sunbrook

Don't forget about the upcoming Utah PGA Affiliated events and the National Car Rental Pro-Am Series with added money and increased prizing for Emerald Club members, mark your calendar now!

Davis Park Open September 8
Carbon CC Pro-Am September 29

*PNC qualifiers require National PGA entry: online www.pga.org or call 1-800-474-2776

For registration and tournament information visit www.utahpga.com

Drive, Chip Putt Success

By Aaron Goodman



Aady Long



Cooper Jones

Park Meadows Country Club hosted the prestigious Drive Chip & Putt Sub-Regional Qualifying event in early August. 120 kids ages 6-15 had to earn their way there by outscoring over 500 players from local qualifying events; four held in Utah and one in the Rocky Mountain Section. The top three from each age/gender division from all five local qualifiers made up the Sub-Regional Qualifier field, a total of 15 competitors in eight age/gender divisions.

The competition consists of challenging each player in the three fundamental skills of golf: driving, chipping, and putting in a fun point-total format. Each player has three balls in each skill for a total nine shots. Several competitors, with their family and friends, made the trip to Park City for a total of nine shots; that's only nine swings, only nine chances to earn points.

The top 2 in each of the divisions earned their chance to move on to the next level of qualifying to be held September 10th at Olympic Club in San Francisco. From there,

the chance to play in the National Drive Chip and Putt Championship at Augusta National which is televised on the Golf Channel the Sunday before the Masters Tournament.

The bursts of cheers and the subtle fighting back of tears were both on display. Park Meadows Country Club was in excellent shape and they had the greens in pristine condition. Thank you Park Meadows!

Qualifiers:

- G7-9** Tehya Geake (Lehi), Tristyn Gree (SLC)
- G10-11** Aady Long (Lehi), Maycee Dehlin (Herriman)
- G12-13** Breanne Taylor (Highland), Victoria Romney, (Draper)
- B7-9** Morris LeCheminant (Orem), Preston Ross (Page, Az.)
- B10-11** Boston Bracken (St. George CC), Zachry Labrum (Draper)
- B12-13** Cooper Jones, (Highland), Preston Smithson (Cedar Hills)
- B14-15** Jayce Morrill (American Fork), Ben Seely (American Fork)

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