



By: Steve Hosid
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I have known John Daly for years. I have a picture in my office of John helping us put photo plaques together at the first Skills Challenge after he won the PGA Championship at Crooked Stick. He was in my PGA Tour book on driving. At his first Bay Hill Invitational I went and got him out of his motor home as he was about to miss the pro-am. I took the pro-am photo and then John, without warming up, decided to play a 9-iron off the tee on the 365 yard hole asking me where the green was. This week nothing could save him when he missed his starting time and his excuse was pretty lame. You always know the pro-am schedule on Monday. Arnie gave him a special exemption to play the tournament as long as John played the pro-ams on Monday and Wednesday. John let Arnie down, but more important he let us all down. Everyone wants to see him succeed in overcoming his character weakness, but when will that happen?

The clock mercifully did run out on George Lopez this week as host of the Bob Hope Invitational. I think old ski nose made the decision during a heavenly round of golf with Bing Crosby. I wrote earlier this year that Lopez could not attract his celebrity friends, and the tournament was quickly losing the luster of seeing the real top stars playing with the pros.

The new host will be announced in a few weeks but I can confirm that it's going to be the King, Arnold Palmer, who won the event five times. I was at the last Bob Hope event that Bob attended and it was sad in so many ways because he really didn't know why he was there ... except when he saw Arnold. "Arnie," Hope called out and the two embraced. Arnie coaxed him to hit the ceremonial first ball.

I asked Arnie a few years ago before they selected Lopez if he would consider hosting the event, but they were in the process of changing Bay Hill into the Arnold Palmer Invitational and Arnie said the time wasn't right. Arnie has a home at the Tradition, a course that he designed and that may be the most gorgeous course in America. His late wife, Winnie, suggested he plant wild flowers all over and every morning as the sun warms they bloom into a magical array of colors. I did a book at Tradition and nobody cares about the instruction, it just looked so darn great.

I never did like multi-course events unless there were celebrities playing and they needed the extra venues. That's why I think the PGA Tour made the correct decision on just playing the Byron Nelson on the TPC course this year instead of splitting the early rounds with Cottonwood Valley.

Did you catch this? Vijay Singh recently changed his irons from 2-degrees flat to 1-degree upright.



Watson Wins No. 9 for SST in '08

Denis Watson spends lots of time in the SST PURE Shaft Alignment Lab whenever it's at a Champion Tour event. He had a fantastic 2007 and is starting off 2008 with a victory even earlier in the season. Watson defeated defending Charles Schwab Cup champion Loren Roberts in a three-man playoff at the AT&T Champions Classic. Roberts also has a history of having SST PURE his clubs.

Watson's victory is the ninth win for SST PURE on both the PGA and Champions Tours so far in 2008. To even get in a playoff Watson came from 20th position and fired a 7-under par 65. That takes confidence. And confidence in your equipment is what SST PURE is all about.

When SST PURE analyses a golf shaft, regardless of the manufacturer, their patented computers and programming identify that shaft's "sweet spot," the only stable position it can be inserted in the hosel so that oscillations are eliminated. Randomly inserting the shaft causes unpredictable oscillations that could encourage a fade when a player may be trying to draw the ball into a tucked pin.

Over at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, do you remember Fred Couples first-round 65? He had just had clubs PURED by SST. Tom Lehman had his best event of the year, tying for eighth. Tom had SST PURE his clubs too. So did Woody Austin, John Daly, Colin Montgomerie, Luke Donald, Brandt Snedeker, Charlie Wi, Bob Hope winner D.J. Trahan, Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh to name a few.

Brian Gay, who SST PURES his clubs and won earlier this year, led the driving accuracy category on the tough Bay Hill course. Sean O'Hair, another player with a history of SST PUREing his clubs and who won last week, fired a tournament-low 63 to tie for the third round lead than then "slowly" worked his way back up to a tie for third with Vijay Singh, who also SST PURES his clubs. Singh is just about ready to win again having recovered from some viruses.

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