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From the “Why did he say this?” department: American Ryder Cup captain Paul Azinger may already have given the European team some inspiration to rally around its captain. Out of the blue, Azinger fired some pretty significant criticism towards European captain Nick Faldo. "Nick Faldo has tried to redefine himself," Azinger said. "Some people have bought it. Some have not. But if you're going to be a prick and everyone hates you, why do you think that just because you're trying to be cute and funny on air now that the same people are all going to start to like you? The bottom line is that the players from his generation and mine really don't want to have anything to do with him."

Azinger and Faldo briefly were together as on-air commentators for ABC but Paul apparently still harbors some Ryder Cup based hostility towards Faldo. Azinger had criticized Faldo's sportsmanship when they halved their Ryder Cup singles match at the Belfry in 1993. "He talked me into giving him a five-footer on the 16th," Azinger said. "He said, 'It's over. You guys have won.' So I waived the putt. Then Davis Love III ran over and told me the match was still tied. I can't tell you how irritating that was." Azinger also finished second to Faldo in the 1987 British Open.

Fifty-two-year-old Amy Alcott played her 34th and final Kraft Nabisco Championship this week and said after her round Friday she was through playing on the LPGA Tour. "I pretty much see this as closing the door," she said. "I just feel it's time." Amy won five majors and won what I still like to call the Dinah Shore event three times. I grew up in California with Dinah as a neighbor and I remember what she did to help the LPGA Tour when it needed it. Kraft should have kept her name in the title. It was Alcott who began the tradition of the champion jumping into the pond beside the 18th green at Mission Hills Country Club when she won in 1988.

After five years, Target is out as the sponsor of Tiger Woods' tournament in December at Sherwood Country Club. The event will now be known as the Chevron World Challenge. Although no financial details were revealed in the deal, IMG was believed to be seeking a \$7 million annual fee for title sponsorship. As part of its agreement, Chevron will also become a founding partner of the AT&T National, a regular-season PGA Tour event run by the Woods Foundation and played in the first week of July at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

How fast does time go by? Would you believe it's been 10 years since Mark O'Meara won the Masters? O'Meara said he told his caddie, "Why don't we just birdie the last two holes?" On 18 he reached the green in 2 and stood over his putt. "My mouth was dry, my heart was racing," O'Meara said. "When the ball was two feet off my putter, I knew I hit a good putt. Then I narrated it to myself: Looks pretty good, and only a foot away, it's going to go in. And then, please don't lip out. The ball moved to the left center of the hole and fell in. I thought, oh, what did I just do? I won the Masters."



SST PURE is poised and ready for a Masters victory next week, and based on how well some of the players with PURED clubs played in Houston the prospects look good. Some players decided not to play last week and put in a week of intensive practiced instead.

Let's look at the SST roster: Start off with defending champion Zach Johnson. The way Augusta had changed the course is set up perfectly for Zach to repeat. Another former Masters champion, Fred Couples, is rejuvenated this year. SST has PURED clubs for him and he's working with Butch Harmon. The Presidents Cup captain just finished fourth in Houston and claims if he can "roll the ball" he'll be competitive.

The defending U.S. and British Open champions, Angel Cabrera and Pdraig Harrington, are ready to play. Harrington skipped a number of events to put Augusta into his "cycle of three," feeling he has a chance to win in his third straight event.

Justin Rose and Sean O'Hair are two young players with great chances. Rose won the European Order of Merit in 2007 and O'Hair is at the top of his game. Two time comeback player of the year Steve Stricker is always a factor in any event he plays and Woody Austin is now an acknowledged world class player. Jim Furyk has come close and Ernie Els won this year already and has recovered from a virus and has dreamed of a green jacket for a long time.

Did you know that 38 players in the field have had SST PURE their clubs? SST also PURES shafts on Tour for the major OEM's, so it's also possible that others are playing with PURED clubs. However, unless SST knows specifically who is playing with the shafts they PURE we do not speculate on those names.

Just in case you don't know what PUREing is, SST does not manufacture shafts, but they make shafts perform better by analyzing shafts to find their most stable position. When SST PURE analyses a golf shaft, regardless of the manufacturer, their patented computers and programming identify that shaft's "sweet spot," the most stable position it can be inserted in the hosel so that oscillations are eliminated.

Pros have their shafts PURED in the SST PGA mobile Shaft Alignment Lab and amateurs can go to their local SST PURE licensee in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Australia.

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