



By: Steve Hosid

Instruction Editor - PGA TOUR Partners Magazine

November 3, 2008

In a continuing story, another top PGA Player has announced his plans to play on the European Tour in 2009. He's one of the brightest young stars in golf – Anthony Kim. Kim is the latest in an ever growing list of PGA Tour players looking to cash in on lucrative European Tour events. This, of course, doesn't mean you won't see the two-time winner and Ryder Cup star on our shores next year since it's more of a joint tour membership. He'll play the lucrative events on the PGA and European Tours, so unless it's a major or a high-purse domestic event Kim will be overseas. Tough luck if you live in those communities who continue to put together outstanding events without larger purses.

Kim, 23, is ranked eighth in the world. He joins Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh, Camilo Villegas, former U.S. Open Champion Geoff Ogilvy and Robert Allenby who have already announced their intentions to play in Europe next year. The European membership Tour fee is \$3,280, and paying that makes them eligible for the season-ending \$10 million "Race to Dubai" for the top 60 players and the additional \$10 million bonus pool. The FedEx Cup pays half of that.

You would think Sergio Garcia would not be happy with this trend, since the big names who will play in Europe are likely to cut into his earnings potential, but his reaction is just the opposite. "Any time you get players from the caliber of Camilo and Anthony into the tour, it's great. It's an asset, it's good for golf, it's good for the European Tour," Garcia said. He also expects more players to follow because appearance money is offered at some European tour events, while the practice is banned on the PGA Tour. "Some of the tournaments we play in the Middle East ... are bigger than the ones they play in the U.S. You get good players there, so world rankings points increase," Garcia said.

There is still some golf news that's not based on money. Erik Compton, who advanced through the first stage of PGA Tour qualifying just five months after his second heart transplant, was given an exemption Tuesday to play the Children's Miracle Network Classic at Disney World this week. It will be his first PGA Tour event in three years. In case you haven't followed his story Compton received his first heart transplant at age 12 and became one of the top junior golfers, competing in the Walker Cup in 2001. He had his second transplant in May, but recovered in time to play the first of three stages of Q-school. In yet another remarkable rally, he closed with a 4-under 68 to tie for 23rd and advance to the second stage next month. He'll also be allowed to use a cart during the Disney event as he did at Tour school.



SST PURE continued its weekly dominance with two wins this week on the PGA and Champions tours. Ryan Palmer (no relation to Arnold, except he became a winner too) captured his first victory at The Ginn sur Mer Classic.

Next came a victory on the Champions Tour. And not just a win, but a nine-stroke "in your face" victory by Andy Bean in the four-round, \$2.5 million Charles Schwab Cup Championship. With the rest of the field in hot pursuit, Bean was buoyed by the accuracy of his SST PUREd clubs and confidently fired a 6-under final round. Loren Roberts took fourth while Jeff Sluman, David Eger and the ever-improving Nick Price all tied for fifth. Of course, all are long time advocates of playing with SST PUREd clubs.

Palmer's and Bean's victory raised the total to 36 victories in 2008 by players with PUREd clubs. Between both tours the players captured three majors: The British Open and PGA Championships by Pdraig Harrington and the Tradition by Fred Funk. The FedEx Cup was won by Vijay Singh who has played with clubs PUREd by SST for several seasons. In fact, every FedEx Cup playoff event was won by SST as Singh captured two events and Camilo Villegas the other two, including the TOUR Championship.

Victories are one important measurement but since so many players on the PGA Tour have asked SST to PURE their clubs in the PGA Tour shaft analysis lab can you can imagine how much money they've won so far this year? Drum roll please ... because the total is a staggering \$129 million-plus. That's the true indication of why asking SST to PURE your clubs is almost mandatory on the PGA Tour.

Why do clubs PUREd by SST offer consistency to a player? Here's why. Every shaft manufactured has inconsistencies in construction that only SST PURE has the patents and technology to analyze. Once the SST PURE computer has analyzed the shaft it determines the exact orientation that shaft must be inserted in the club head to eliminate the oscillations that can make it impossible for repeatable pro swings to impact the club face sweet spot consistently.

So now it's your turn because your clubs can be PUREd by the SST licensee near you. You'll see and feel the difference immediately! SST PURE®, SST PUREd®, retro-PURE®, PURE®, PUREd®, PUREing®, The Pros Competitive Edge® and Every Golf Shaft Has a Sweet Spot® are registered trademarks of Strategic Shaft Technologies, LC, Jupiter, Florida.

WWW.SSTPURE.COM