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**The PGA Tour picked up its first title sponsorship renewal of the year** when The Travelers agreed to a four-year contract extension that keeps golf in Connecticut through 2014. The Travelers Championship, a tradition in the Hartford area since 1952, was among 20 tournaments on the PGA Tour that had title sponsor contracts expire in 2010.

**Joe Durant and Rich Beem have been writing to PGA Tour events** for an exemption after losing their full status last year. They realize this is not the best time to get their hopes up. Among those who got a tee time at Riviera next week are Jeev Milkha Singh of India, Oliver Wilson of England and Ryo Ishikawa of Japan. A few weeks later, Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland and Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain will be at the Honda Classic.

**Phil Mickelson has won 34 PGA Tour events, including the 2004 and 2006 Masters and the 2005 PGA Championship.** But as Californian Nick Watney won the Buick Invitational Sunday at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif., Mickelson tied for 42nd. This was on a course he loves and where he grew up. He missed the cut the week before at the FBR Open in Scottsdale, Ariz. What's going on? Mickelson says his game is "rusty," but believes it's not that far off. He'll play in the AT&T National Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, Calif., that starts Thursday.

As part of his practice, Mickelson has been working with a new driver from Callaway, the company whose clubs he plays. Mickelson carried two drivers en route to winning the 2006 Masters and he played the first two rounds of last year's U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, where he tied for 18<sup>th</sup> without a driver. This time he's been looking for a driver that fades to the left a little — he's a left-handed player — but that doesn't "go hard left for me." His new FT-9 driver sends the ball off the clubface a little faster with optimum spin rate but it's designed to optimized with a slight cut.

**Darren Clarke has given up a chance to qualify for the Accenture World Match play Championship** by pulling out of this week's Malaysian Open. At 73rd in the world, Clarke would probably have needed to finish first or second to climb into the top 64 in time for the cut-off point next Monday. Clarke won the World Match play event in 2000 by beating Tiger Woods in the final. His next tournament will now be the U.S. Tour's Honda Classic in March, after which he will have a month to try to make it into the Masters field by climbing into the world's top 50.

**Twenty-nine of the top 50 players in the world have committed to play in** this week's Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club. The field, one of the strongest on the PGA Tour so far this season, includes third-ranked Padraig Harrington, No. 4 Vijay Singh, No. 5 Phil Mickelson, the defending champion; No. 8 Geoff Ogilvy, No. 10 Kenny Perry, No. 13 Ernie Els and No. 14 Jim Furyk.



## SST PURE Dominating PGA Tour Stats

**The stats so far this year on the PGA Tour are heavily dominated by** players with a history of having SST PURE their clubs. Let's begin with the FedEx point category, where Zach Johnson leads and Kenny Perry is third. In the money won category Perry is first, having won \$1.280 million with Johnson a close second at \$1.278 million.

**In the scoring average category Johnson, Luke Donald and Tim Clark** are in the top five. Brian Gay leads top-10 finishes with Zach Johnson, Kenny Perry and Kevin Na all registering in the top five. In the glamour category, driving distance, Robert Garrigus is the leader averaging 314.9 yards per drive. Jonathan Byrd is second. As far as driving accuracy, a category SST PURE wins almost every year, Brian Gay is the leader with Tim Clark and Mark Calcavecchia rounding out the top three.

**The SST PURE PGA Tour Shaft Alignment Lab was busy again this week, as it is every week. Clubs were PUREd for defending FedEx champion Vijay Singh, J.B. Holmes, Matt Kuchar, Nick Faldo, Brant Snedeker, Bob Estes, Scott Sterling, David Duval, Billy Andrade, Paul McGinley, Len Mattiace and J.L. Lewis.**

**The buzz about SST PURE was all over** Pebble Beach as a result of *Golfweek* magazine columnist James Achenbach's article that quoted sources at Nike saying that Tiger Woods selected two PUREd sets of irons in a blind test as his primary and backup sets.

**When you have your clubs PUREd** by your local SST PURE licensee you'll also be able to immediately see and feel the difference. SST PURE uses its patented technology to locate the most stable position that a particular shaft must be orientated in the club head. So it's not a surprise that the world's best player would also detect the positive difference playing clubs that had been PUREd.

**You don't have to be a pro to benefit from SST PURE.** Contact your local SST PURE licensee this week and find out how easy it is to PURE your clubs.

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