



By: Steve Hosid
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So now we know why Sergio has not played up to his potential this year. Was it because of a bad back or sore knee? No, it was a broken heart. Just at the time he was challenging Tiger Woods for the world No. 1 spot earlier this year, Garcia's relationship with Greg Norman's daughter Morgan-Leigh was ended by her. "I practiced hard, but when your head is not where it should be it doesn't matter how much you practice – you're not thinking about what you are doing," he said. "It's been getting better slowly. My family has really helped a lot and my friends being around me and trying to make sure that I am going the right way."

During the "Showtime Era" of Magic Johnson and Karim Abdul Jabar when the Los Angeles Lakers were winning NBA championships, then GM Jerry West was so nervous he couldn't stand to watch the games. So he came down to my home course Bay Hill and took lessons each year from Dick Tiddy, Arnold Palmer's teammate at Wake Forrest and our head pro. West, who was also a playing legend with the Lakers, is the new executive director of the Riviera Country Club's Northern Trust Open. The tournament, established in 1922 and originally known as the Los Angeles Open, has a legendary history. Its champions include such all-time greats as Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and current title-holder Phil Mickelson. But PGA Tour officials have watched its prominence fade, particularly in terms of the buzz it creates within Los Angeles. Attendance has dropped steadily over the past decade and when the tournament was last played in February, about 30,000 people watched a final weekend duel won by Mickelson.

West hopes to drum up local support, partly by drawing on his longtime relationships. One of those is with Tiger Woods, who in recent years has skipped the tournament. "Tiger used to come to Lakers games when I was there so I got to know him a little bit," said a smiling West. "Let's just put it this way: It would be really nice to see him come back to this tournament. We'll be working on that."

Thanks but no thanks: Michael Allen, who won his senior debut in the Senior PGA Championship in Beachwood, Ohio, has opted not to play in the Principal Charity Classic in West Des Moines, Iowa. With his victory last Sunday, Allen became eligible to play in this week's Champions Tour event at Glen Oaks County Club. Tournament director Jamie Alt said Allen had 30 minutes after his victory was official to commit to the Principal Charity Classic, and he decided against it.

Former PGA champion Davis Love III secured a spot in his 23rd consecutive British Open, putting together rounds of 67-65 to earn one of eight spots in the U.S. qualifier Monday.



SST Wins 12 Weeks in a Row

Winning never gets boring, and SST PURE has certainly earned the right to wave the victory flag this year.

Steve Stricker, who has a long history of asking SST to PURE his clubs, is the 17th winner so far this year for SST PURE by capturing the Colonial. Among those 17 wins in 2009 are the Masters, won by Angel Cabrera, TPC won by Henrik Stenson and the Senior PGA Championship won last week by Michael Allen. Perhaps even more impressive is the win streak: For the past 12 weeks in a row (that's three months) a player who asked SST to PURE their clubs has won on either the PGA TOUR or Champions Tour.

Even the world's best players are skeptical since lots of companies make game improvement claims. But SST has proven to them that by analyzing each shaft using the patented and proprietary SST technology they could identify and then align the shaft in the club head in the only stable position for that particular shaft.

More than \$73 million has now been won as a result of the wins and domination by players who have asked SST to PURE their clubs.

Let's look at the reason for the staggering amount of money won so early in the season. It's domination week after week of the top 20 besides the victory. This week Stricker won and Tim Clark finished second. Woody Austin and the quickly improving from injury Vijay Singh tied for sixth. Ian Poulter, who PUREd his clubs prior to the Masters and finished second at Augusta, is now preparing for the U.S. Open by playing some events and this week had a top-10 finish in eighth place. Jim Furyk and Kevin Na tied for ninth and were followed in the top 20 by Charlie Wi, Tom Lehman, Jeff Overton, Luke Donald and Sean O'Hair.

Tour rep Arnie Cunningham reports that the following players had clubs this week: Mark Turnesa, Fulton Allem, Mike Weir, Bob Estes, Tommy Armour III, Johnson Wagner, Mark Brooks, Jeff Overton, Cameron Beckman, Davis Love III, Nicolas Thompson, and Michael Bradley.

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