

The Post and Courier

BRASWELL COLUMN: Organizers busy as PGA Championship draws near

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With less than 200 days remaining before the 2012 PGA Championship will be played at Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Ocean Course, transportation, parking and public safety are the big focal points for tournament organizers. Thirty-five state, county and local officials are working on those issues and an official PGA Traffic Plan will be released once all traffic studies are finalized.

The tournament, which will be played Aug. 9-12, is expected to bring 50,000 visitors from 44 states and 10 different countries. The tournament already has broken five single-day ticket sales records and is expected to generate a \$193 million economic impact.

"You're going to see the continued effort to keep people informed about the Championship logistical details and what this means to South Carolina, the region and the Charleston community," said Roger Warren, president of Kiawah Island Golf Resort and general chairman.

"We are going to produce an event that will be memorable for its quality and experience, which will leave people talking about it for a long time to come."

Ford honored again

Frank Ford III of Charleston received his fourth South Carolina Golf Association senior player of the year award earlier this month during SCGA Golf Day at Columbia Country Club. Ford, 59, won the SCGA Senior and finished third in the British Senior Amateur. Clemson golfer Corbin Mills, who won the USGA Public Links Championship and the Players Amateur, was the SCGA player of the year.

Mike Murphy of Bluffton, who officiates a number of tournaments in the Lowcountry, received the Charles Drawdy Distinguished Service Award. South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism was recognized with the Tom Fazio Service to Golf Award and the Country Club of Spartanburg was named the club of the year.

Charleston Interclub

Wescott won the Charleston Area Men's Interclub Golf Association match played at Charleston National, finishing with a score of 11 points. Dunes West was second with 8 points and RiverTowne third with 6 points. Dick Shaw of Coosaw Creek was the top individual, scoring 11 points. Bob D'Amato of Crowfield was second with 10 points and Bob Beggs of Legend Oaks was third with 9 points.

Wescott leads the overall standings after two matches with 27 points. Stono Ferry is second with 24 1/2, followed by RiverTowne, 17 1/2; Charleston National, 17; and Crowfield, 15.

Hurricane Jr. Golf Tour

Reona Hirai of Summerville took first place in the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour event played at Hilton Head National, shooting a two-day total of 144. Jamie Wilson of Mount Pleasant finished third in the boys 11-14 age group with a 36-hole total of 155.

Harbour Town No. 2

In a poll of PGA Tour players, Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island was the golfers' second favorite of courses on the PGA Tour, finishing behind Augusta National. Quail Hollow in Charlotte finished 14th in the voting, while Sea Island, Ga., was 15th.

Upcoming

--**Feb. 5:** 5th annual Powerball Golf Tournament, Country Club of Summerville. Register as single or team, call (843) 873-2210 ext. 1.

--**Feb. 10:** College of Charleston baseball Take Me Out to the Ballgame tournament, Patriots Point Links, \$100 per player. Call (843) 953-3683 cofcsports.com.

--**March 6:** 3rd annual Knights of Columbus golf outing benefiting the Daughters of St. Paul, Daniel Island Club, \$100 per player, Contact Jack Urbanic 843-886-2591 or 843-860-2261.