



MEDIA GUIDE

PURE Insurance Championship

September 20 – 22, 2024

MEDIA INFORMATION

The Media Center is in the Stevenson Room, located on the lower level of The Lodge at Pebble Beach.

2024 Media Center Hours

- 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 18
- 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 19
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 20
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday, September 21
- 10:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sunday, September 22

PARKING:

Media parking is in the Casa Palmero Parking garage (**Lot 2**).

LUNCH:

Lunch vouchers for Pebble Beach Market are available for credentialed media. Due to capacity restrictions, a wait may incur. Please plan your mealtimes accordingly.

CREDENTIALS/ACCESS:

Only members of the media with a PGA TOUR Champions or PURE Insurance Championship media badge will be admitted to the working Media Center.

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Photographers must wear their wristband or sticker in plain sight at all times.

CAMERA POLICY:

The tournament is not liable for equipment left unattended. No camera equipment will be allowed in the Media Center. The Media Center will not offer lockers for equipment storage.

CAMERA REPAIR OR ASSISTANCE:

Green's Camera World — Del Monte Shopping Center, 555 Del Monte Center, Monterey
Tel: 831.655.1234, Mon-Sat, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Sun 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

INTERVIEW PROCEDURES:

All interviews will be facilitated by PGA TOUR Media Officials; media is prohibited from approaching players on their own. Player interviews will take place in the Flash Area ONLY; access to the Flash Area will be closely monitored and determined by PGA TOUR Champions Media Officials (i.e., an on-site media credential does not guarantee Flash Area access).

TELEVISION BROADCAST: Golf Channel

ALL TIMES PACIFIC (PDT)

Round	Date	Air Times	Network
1	FR 09/20	03:00 PM - 06:00 PM	GOLF
2	SA 09/21	03:00 PM - 06:00 PM	GOLF
3	SU 09/22	03:00 PM - 06:00 PM	GOLF

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Instagram:
 - @PUREfirsttee
- Facebook:
 - /PUREFirstTee
- Twitter:
 - @PUREFirstTee
- TikTok:
 - @purefirsttee
- Hashtag:
 - #PUREChamp



FACT SHEET

Tournament Week:	September 17-22, 2024
Site:	Pebble Beach Golf Links & Spyglass Hill Golf Course
Purse:	\$2,300,000
Field:	80 PGA TOUR Champions players; 80 First Tee junior participants; 160 Amateur twosome teams
Defending Champion:	Thongchai Jaidee (Professional)
Format:	Three concurrent competitions: Professional (individual); Pro-Junior Team Male/Female (team best ball); Amateur Team (foursome best ball)
Schedule:	<p>Tuesday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Practice Rounds – Spyglass Hill (pros & ams only) 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Practice Rounds – Pebble Beach (pros only) 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Hay Par 3 Course (all contestants)</p> <p>Wednesday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Practice Rounds – Pebble Beach & Spyglass Hill</p> <p>Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Practice Rounds – Pebble Beach GL & Spyglass Hill</p> <p>Friday & Saturday Approx. 7:00 a.m. Round 1 & 2 – Pebble Beach & Spyglass Hill 80 professionals each paired with 1 junior & 2 amateurs Amateurs will partner with different pro-junior teams on Friday & Saturday</p> <p>Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Pebble Beach Low 50 Professionals & ties; low 24 Pro-Junior teams (12 male, 12 female); & low 10 Amateur teams. The awards ceremony immediately following play on the 18th green.</p>
Tie Breaker:	Professional: Sudden death from hole 18 Pro-Junior/Pro-Am: Final Round team score by hole; from 18 backwards
Benefiting Charities:	Monterey Peninsula Foundation, First Tee

TV Coverage:	Golf Channel (PDT)
	Friday 3:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	Saturday 3:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Chairman: Clint Eastwood

TOURNAMENT PHONE NUMBERS

GOLF PROFESSIONALS:

Pebble Beach Golf Links	831.625.8565 – Eric Lippert
Spyglass Hill Golf Course	800.877.0597 – Patrick Gannon

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS:

Pebble Beach Golf Links	831.233.9534 - Bubba Wright
Spyglass Hill Golf Course	Bob Yeo

GOLF SHOPS:

Pebble Beach Golf Links	831.622.8723
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THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH:

Stillwater Bar & Grill	831.624.3811
Gallery Café	831.625.8524
The Tap Room	831.625.8577
The Terrace Lounge	831.625.8535
The Bench	831.625.8524
	800.654.9300

AIRLINES SERVING MONTEREY:

Alaska Airlines	800.252.7522
Allegiant Air	702.505.8888
American Eagle (American Airlines)	800.433.7300
United Airlines	800.241.6522

CAR RENTAL:

Avis	831.647.7140
Alamo	831.648.7000
Budget	831.373.1899
Enterprise	831.242.2020
Hertz	831.373.3318
National	831.373.4181

TAXIS:

Central Coast Taxi	831.626.3333
Yellow Cab (Seaside)	831.646.1234

TOWING SERVICE:

Carmel Chevron AAA	831.624.3827
Monterey Garage AAA	831.375.4175

OTHER:

Groome Transportation (Airbus)	831.373.7777
Monterey-Salinas Transit	831.424.7695
CCM&E Destination Services	831.646.5952

PAST CHAMPIONS

Year	Professional	Pro-Junior Team	Junior Chapter
2023	Thongchai Jaidee	Brian Gay and Brayden Casolari (Male) Justin Leonard and Alyssa Stewart (Female)	First Tee – Pine Mountain First Tee – Greater Dallas
2022	Steve Flesch	Alex Cejka and Bryson Hughes (Male) Charlie Wi and Megan Meng (Female)	First Tee – North Florida First Tee – Greater Trenton
2021	K.J. Choi	Rocco Mediate and Colin Vineberg (Male) Tim Petrovic and Sydney Craven (Female)	First Tee – Greater Baltimore First Tee – Monterey County
2020	Jim Furyk	-	-
2019	Kirk Triplett	Tom Lehman and Sam Sommerhauser (Male) Kirk Triplett and Ashley Menne (Female)	First Tee – Greater Sacramento First Tee – Phoenix
2018	Ken Tanigawa	Kevin Sutherland and Matthew Sutherland	First Tee – Greater Sacramento
2017	Bernhard Langer	Bernhard Langer and Justin Potwora	First Tee – Greater Portland
2016	Paul Broadhurst	Michael Allen and Patrick Fernandez	First Tee – Phoenix
2015	Estéban Toledo	Mark O'Meara and Jack Avrit	First Tee – Central Coast
2014	John Cook	Lee Janzen and Chris Meyers	First Tee – Tucson
2013	Kirk Triplett	Kirk Triplett and Michelle Xie	First Tee – Silicon Valley
2012	Kirk Triplett	Mark McNulty and Tyler Broach	First Tee – Richmond and Chesterfield
2011	Jeff Sluman	Ben Crenshaw and Casie Cathrea	First Tee – Greater Sacramento
2010	Ted Schulz	Russ Cochran and Spencer Jones	First Tee – Cleveland County
2009	Jeff Sluman	David Eger and Will Bishop	First Tee – Lexington
2008	Jeff Sluman	Fuzzy Zoeller and Sydney Burlison	First Tee – Monterey County
2007	Gil Morgan	Morris Hatalsky and Harold Varner	First Tee – Gastonia
2006	Scott Simpson	Dana Quigley and Scott Langley	First Tee – St. Louis
2005	Hale Irwin	Jim Thorpe and Amit Odaiyar	First Tee – Greater Sacramento
2004	Craig Stadler	Craig Stadler and Aaron Woodard	First Tee – Denver

SUMMARIES AND RESULTS

2023

In his second start at the PURE Insurance Championship, Thongchai Jaidee followed a 7-under 65 in round two with a 5-under 67 in the final round (**final score 202**), resulting in a sudden death playoff with Justin Leonard. It took four extra holes for Jaidee to outlast Justin Leonard in a playoff to win the 2023 Pure Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee. This was Jaidee's second win on the Champions Tour, where he also clinched the 2022 American Family Insurance Championship.

In the junior portion of the competition, **Alyssa Stewart of First Tee – Greater Dallas** won the girls division by eight strokes at 28-under, paired with pro Justin Leonard (runner-up at 14-under). Brayden Casolari of First Tee – Pine Mountain, won the boys division at 21-under, paired with pro Brian Gay (10th place finish/-7).

LEADERS – First Round. Nine players shared the lead after the first round. Jerry Kelly -4 (68/SH), Richard Green -4 (68/PB), Vijay Singh -4 (68/SH), Arjun Atwal -4 (68/PB), Steven Alker -4 (68/SH), Mike Weir -4 (68/PB), Y.E. Yang -4 (68/SH), Dicky Pride -4 (68/PB), Brian Gay -4 (68/SH). **Second Round.** Justin Leonard -10 (69-65-134, PB/SH), Thongchai Jaidee -9 (70-65-135, SH-PB), Paul Stankowski -8 (71-65-136, SH-PB), Arjun Atwal -8 (68-68-136, PB-SH), Y.E. Yang -7 (68-69-137, SH-PB), Steven Alker -7 (68-69/137, SH-PB). **Final Round.** Thongchai Jaidee* -14 (69-65-68-202, PB-SH=PB), Justin Leonard -14 (68-68-69-205, PB-SH-PB), Arjun Atwal -11 (68-68-69-205, PB-SH-PB), Paul Stankowski -10 (71-65-70-206 SH-PB-PB), Y. E. Yang -9 (68-69-70-207, SH-PB-OB), Steven Alker -9 (68-69-70-207, SH-PB-PB)

**won in 4-hole playoff*

COURSES

Pebble Beach Golf Links: Par 72 / 6,481 yards

Spyglass Hill: Par 72 / 6981 yards

WEATHER

Friday. Mostly cloudy, with a high of 69. Wind SW 8-15 mph

Saturday. Partly cloudy, with a high of 66. Wind NW 8-15 mph

Sunday. Mostly sunny, with a high of 66. Wind NW 6-12 mph

2022

With a clutch putt for birdie on the 54th hole, **Steve Flesch** won the PURE Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee, marking his third PGA TOUR Champions title and second this season. **Ernie Els** fired a bogey-free 8-under 64, the field's low score of the week, to finish T2 at 10-under 206, his second top-5 finish in his third PURE Insurance Championship start. Charles Schwab Cup leader **Steven Alker** uses a second-consecutive 3-under 69 to finish T2, his second consecutive top-5 finish in the event. With just two bogeys all week, **Paul Stankowski** finishes T2, good for his best PGA TOUR Champions finish in his 26th start; comes off a T5 finish at the 2021 PURE Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee.

The PURE Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee is the only event of its kind where 78 First Tee teenagers from 54 chapters across the country are paired up with PGA TOUR Champions players and amateurs from the business world. To be selected, juniors were measured in both golf proficiency and life skills knowledge.

Megan Meng won the Pro-Junior portion of the event for the girls with professional partner Charlie Wi. The team carded a 22-under 194 with a birdie putt on no. 18 to win by one stroke. At 18-under 198, **Bryson Hughes** emerged victorious for the boys' division with partner Alex Cejka.

Three juniors made hole-in-ones at Pebble Beach during practice rounds:

- **Cooper Groshart** from First Tee–Central Coast / No.7 (Wednesday).
- **Theresa Shaw** from First Tee–Greater Sacramento / No. 17 (Thursday).
- **Sophia Bardunias** from First Tee–Tri-Valley / No. 5 at (Thursday).

LEADERS – First Round. Chris DiMarco -6 (66/PB) Steve Flesch -6 (66/SH) Timothy O'Neal -6 (66/PB) Ken Duke -5 (67/SH). **Second Round.** Paul Stankowski -8 (136/67 PB) Ken Duke -8 (136/69 PB) Steve Flesch -7 (137/71 SH) Steven Alker -7 (137/69 PB). **Final Round.** Steve Flesch -11 (68/205 PB), Ernie Els -10 (64/206 PB), Steven Alker -10 (69/206 PB), Paul Stankowski -10 (70/206 PB), Brian Gay -9 (67/207 PB), Brett Quigley -9 (69/207 PB)

Pebble Beach Golf Links: Par 72 / 6,864 yds & **Spyglass Golf Course:** Par 72 / 7,025 yds

WEATHER: Friday – Sunny, with highs in the lower 70s. Wind NW 6-12mph. Temperatures have reached the lower 70s this afternoon and will fall into the middle 60s by sunset. The marine layer may return tonight with low clouds and possible fog. Temperatures are forecast in the upper 50s by morning. **Saturday** – Due to fog, the start of round two was delayed three hours, from 7:10 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. The marine layer remains stuck over Pebble Beach this afternoon with low clouds and light fog. Pebble Beach looks to stay mostly cloudy today with temperatures in the 60s while Monterey experiences full sunshine with temperatures in the 70s. Low clouds and light fog is expected overnight, but areas of dense fog are still possible.

Sunday. The marine layer lifted to 400 feet above the surface of the ocean, resulting in a low overcast for Pebble Beach in the morning. The marine layer pulled back from the coast at times throughout the day but was otherwise a mostly cloudy day with light winds and afternoon temperatures in the 60s. Round two resumed at 7:30 a.m. and concluded at 10:13 a.m. Final-round tee times were between 11:15 a.m. – 1:27 p.m. off tee Nos. 1 and 10.

2021

South Korea's K.J. Choi secured his first PGA TOUR Champions title preserving a two-stroke victory over Bernhard Langer and Alex Cejka at the 2021 PURE Insurance Championship in Pebble Beach, California. His three-round total of 203 (67-68-68) was 13 under par. It was Choi's first win in the United States in 211 starts dating back to the 2011 PLAYERS Championship, breaking a winless streak of 3,787 days (10 years, 4 months, 11 days).

Choi, 51, became the first PGA TOUR Champions winner from South Korea and the fourth international player to win the PURE Insurance Championship in its 18-year history, joining Langer (Germany), Paul Broadhurst (England), and Esteban Toledo (Mexico). He also became the 11th rookie to win on PGA TOUR Champions during the 2020-21 season. Seven past

champions participated in this year's tournament including Kirk Triplett, Jeff Sluman, Ken Tanigawa, John Cook, Langer, Broadhurst, and Toledo.

With a runner-up finish at the Sanford International a week ago, Choi was particularly gratified by his maiden PGA Champions victory. "Winning is very difficult, so the first win is exciting," he explained. "I'm trying to be in the mindset." He cited hard work, stretching, and maintaining a regimen as factors in his recent solid play.

Choi isn't leaving himself much time to savor the victory, as his namesake tournament—the K.J. Choi Invitational – is being contested in South Korea this week. He is also a supporter of junior golf, with the K.J. Choi Foundation Junior Championship, a 54-hole stroke play tournament consisting of 81 juniors, is a fixture on the American Junior Golf Association summer schedule.

The PURE Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee is the only event of its kind where 81 First Tee teenagers from across the country are paired up with 81 PGA TOUR Champions players and 156 amateurs during an official PGA TOUR Champions tournament.

The team of PGA TOUR Champions player Tim Petrovic and junior golfer Sydney Craven, (First Tee - Monterey County) won the Pro-Junior division (team net best ball) at 26 under. The Pro - Junior male winner was Colin Vineberg (First tee – Greater Baltimore) with partner Rocco Mediate at 23 under. Playing a net best ball with their juniors and pros, Matthew Schreibeis and Steven Pincus won the amateur division at 38 under.

LEADERS – First Round: Stuart Appleby -6 (66 PB), Alex Cejka -6 (66 PB), Tom Lehman -5 (67 PB), K.J. Choi - 5 (67 SH). Second Round: K.J. Choi -9 (135/68 PB), Alex Cejka -7 (137/71 SH), Bernhard Langer -7 (137/66 PB), Jeff Maggert -6 (66/138 PB), Doug Marron -6 (69/138 PB), Marco Dawson -6 (69-138 SH, Ken Tanigawa -6 (69/138 PB. Final Round: K.J. Choi -13 (68/203 PB), Bernhard Langer -11 (68/205 PB), Alex Cejka -11 (68/205 PB), Scott Dunlap -10 (66/206 PB), Steven Alker -9 (67/207 PB), Paul Stankowski -9 (68/207 PB).

Pebble Beach Golf Links: Par 72 / 6,864 yards (R3: 71.679; Cumulative: 71.437)

WEATHER: Friday – Early patchy fog and mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid-60s. Winds out of the WSW at 6-12mph. Saturday – Mostly cloudy skies with highs in the mid-60s. Winds out of the W 5-10 mph. Sunday – Cloudy skies in the morning gave way to afternoon sun. Highs in the mid-upper 60s. Winds out of the WNW at 4-8 mph.

2020

For the second year in a row a playoff determined the winner of the Pure Insurance Championship. Jim Furyk, 50, defeated Jerry Kelly on the first playoff hole on Pebble Beach Golf Links (#18) to secure his second PGA TOUR Champions title in as many starts. Furyk becomes the third player to win his first two starts on the PGA TOUR Champions, joining Bruce Fleisher (1999) and Arnold Palmer (1980).

Kelly carded eight birdies enroute to matching the lowest round of the day with a 7- under par 65, climbing eight places up the Sunday leaderboard. The Wisconsin native owns a total of

seven victories, seven runner-up finishes and 38 top-10 finishes in four years on the PGA Tour Champions.

Ernie Els missed the playoff by one shot after bogeying the 18th hole. It was his only bogey of his final round.

“I feel very fortunate, it means a lot,” Furyk said. “I hadn’t won – like I said, when I won at Ally, in five years.” He added, “This is why we play the game, it’s why you work so hard, to have this feeling.”

The week’s weather was mostly sunny with highs near 70 each day.

The field included six past champions of the PURE Insurance Championship. There were three holes-in-one including Ernie Els, Robin Byrd and Robert Karlsson.

The format was different this year due to COVID-19. There were no First Tee participants. Each professional was paired with an amateur participant. The entire tournament was played at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Professional Brandt Jobe and his amateur partner James Smith combined for a three-day total 192, 24 under par to take the 2020 pro-am title. Smith has played in the tournament from the very beginning only missing two events since 2004.

LEADERS – First Round: -8 Jim Furyk (64 PB), -7 Cameron Beckman (65 PB), -7 Ernie Els (65 PB), -7 Stephen Leaney (65 PB), -6 Dicky Pride (67 PB), -6 Doug Baron (66 PB); Second Round: -9 Ernie Els (135/70 PB), -8 Dicky Pride (136/70 PB), -7 Retief Goosen (137/68 PB), -7 Jim Furyk (137/73 PB), -7 Cameron Beckman (137/72 PB), -7 Fred Couples (137/67 PB), -7 Stephen Leaney (137/72 PB). Final Round: -12 Jim Furyk (204/67 PB), -12 Jerry Kelly (204/65 PB), -11 Ernie Els (205/70 PB), -9 Mike Weir (207/59 PB), -9 Retief Goosen (207/70 PB).

WEATHER: Friday– Partly sunny with a high of 70. Saturday – Partly sunny, high of 66; winds out of the W/NW 10-15 mph. wind 8-15 mph. Sunday – Mostly sunny, highs near 70; winds out of the W/NW 5-10 mph.

2019

Kirk Triplett won the PURE Insurance Championship for the third time Sunday at Pebble Beach Golf Links, beating Billy Andrade with an 8-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff.

The 57-year-old Triplett also won the PGA TOUR Champions event in 2012 and 2013. He has eight senior victories, also winning a playoff in March in the Hoag Classic down the coast in Newport Beach.

"I started hitting the ball pretty good about the middle of last summer and that's given me new life," said Triplett, a three-time winner on the PGA TOUR. "I've had a lot of chances to win and I feel very competitive and I'm pretty thankful for that."

Playing four groups ahead of Andrade, Triplett birdied the storied 18th hole in regulation for a 5-under 67 and 9-under 206 total. Andrade, playing in the final group, also closed with a birdie, holing a 7-footer after hitting his second shot through the green.

The 55-year-old Andrade missed a birdie try before Triplett holed the winning putt in the event that pairs PGA TOUR Champions players with juniors from The First Tee programs around the country.

Triplett helped Sam Sommerhauser of the First Tee of Greater Sacramento win the junior boys' title at 23 under.

"From the individual perspective, I was really more focused on my junior today because we were in good shape," Triplett said. "We got off to a good start and I was just kind of playing more to help him. The leaders were at 10 and I was at 6 or 7. I just never really felt in touch with that aspect of the tournament, I was really trying to help Sam. Boy, the guys came back a little bit and I made some birdies. It changes fast out here, especially here."

When asked about being dubbed "Mr. Pebble Beach," Triplett said that moniker "feels pretty good." He added, "I come up here at other times during the year. I take instruction from Laird Small at Pebble Beach Golf Academy and have for 25, 30 years. He's been instrumental in my success. I just like coming up here, it's a fun place for me."

Andrade won four PGA TOUR titles and teamed with Joe Durant for his one senior title four years ago.

"You give yourself opportunities and you can't win all of them, but this one's going to hurt a little bit," Andrade said. "I had opportunities on the back nine, I made a couple mistakes and made a couple bogeys. If I didn't do it, then I would have been in a different situation."

Triplett jumped from ninth to fourth in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

"I don't really think about all of that stuff too much," Triplett said. "I just try and play the tournaments that are in front of me. I'm 57 years old. Anything you get after 54, 55, I think is kind of gravy out here."

Triplett improved to 3-0 in playoffs and matched Jeff Sluman's tournament record with his third victory. Andrade is 1-3 in playoffs.

"This is all gravy. We're out here playing old-man golf and we've got great sponsors and great places like Pebble Beach," Andrade said. "There's really not more you can say about how great

this place is and how great these tournaments are. In this situation, you don't want to lose, you want to win. Disappointing."

Paul Broadhurst was a stroke out the playoff, shooting a 68. Tom Gillis (69) was 7 under, and Tom Lehman (69), Tom Byrum (69), Billy Mayfair (69) and Marco Dawson (71) were 6 under. Second-round leader Steve Flesch had a 75 to tie for ninth at 5 under.

Ashley Menne of the First Tee of Phoenix won the girls' title.

Actor Alfonso Ribeiro and Golf Channel personality Matt Ginella combined for a three-day total of 179, 12 under-par, to take the 2019 team title by two strokes.

2018

Never making it to the PGA TOUR, Ken Tanigawa's career experience competing at the Pebble Beach Golf Links was limited to the years in the '80s and '90s that he played in the California State Amateur Championship, the longtime home of the event.

But when the PGA TOUR Champions rookie from Los Angeles had a chance to win on the final hole of the PURE Insurance Championship Impacting The First Tee, he pounced on it like he was Mark O'Meara, or Phil Mickelson, who have won TOUR events at Pebble Beach five times.

Tanigawa rolled home a 35-foot eagle putt on the iconic 18th hole at Pebble Beach to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory, his first as a professional in a sporadic career that saw him play one year on the Web.com Tour and spend a few years on the mini-tour circuit.

"It's just unreal," Tanigawa said of his spectacular finish that saw him post a final score of 205, 10-under-par, overtaking two-time tournament winner Kirk Triplett and Marco Dawson, who both were in the clubhouse at 206. "I was just trying to hang in there," Tanigawa said. "It means a lot. To me this is a magical place."

Having kept his composure after giving up an early three-shot lead by struggling to a 4-over-par 40 on the front nine Sunday, Tanigawa still trailed by only one shot when he reached the 18th tee. He nailed a clutch, 315-yard drive, then reached the green with his second shot.

It was almost exactly how he played his final hole in Saturday's second round, reaching the 18th at Poppy Hills Golf course in two. He made the putt Saturday from 30 feet – good for a two-shot lead going into Sunday. And with considerably more pressure, Tanigawa made it again.

Tanigawa said playing with junior partner Linette Jun, from The First Tee of the Silicon Valley, for all three rounds, was good for him. "It helped me relax, really," he said. "Talking with her deflected some of the competitiveness. I think it's fun."

The pro-junior team competition finished 54 holes in a three-way tie at 199, 16-under-par. Tour pro Kevin Sutherland and his nephew Matthew Sutherland of the First Tee of Greater Sacramento (and son of former tour pro David Sutherland) survived a three-way scorecard playoff at 16-under-par 199 to become the first "family team" in tournament history to capture the pro-junior championship. Also finishing at 16-under were Caroline Wales of The First Tee of Coachella Valley with pro Stephen Ames, and Yena Jang also of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento with pro Duffy Waldorf.

John Tracy and Shawn O'Grady combined for a three-day total of 39-under-par 176 to take the 2018 team title by two strokes. After a first-round 62 at Pebble Beach, the duo charged to the front with a round of 15-under-par 56 – the low score of the tournament – Saturday at Poppy Hills and closed the deal with a 58, 14-under, Sunday at Pebble Beach.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including actor Alfonso Ribeiro, musicians Pat Monahan and Kelly James, former 49ers star Harris Barton, Houston Astros owner Jim Crane, and Golf Channel travel guru Matt Ginella.

LEADERS – First Round: -6 David Frost (66 PB), -5 Olin Browne (67 PB), -5 Marco Dawson (67 PB), -5 Hale Irwin (67 PB), -5 Ken Tanigawa (67 PB). Second Round: -10 Ken Tanigawa (133/66 PH), -8 Marco Dawson (135/68 PH), -8 Tom Gillis (135/67 PH), -8 Gary Hallberg

(135/67 PB), -7 Olin Browne (136/69 PH), -7 Kirk Triplett (136/68 PH), -7 Duffy Waldorf (136/68 PH).

CUT: The 36-hole cut to the low 50 and ties came at 2-over-par 145, with 51 pros advancing. The limit of 23 pro-junior teams made the cut at -7 (136). Six pro-junior teams among the eight tied at 136 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Early morning clouds, sunny skies in the afternoon, highs in the upper 50s; wind 8-15 mph. Saturday – Mostly sunny, high of 65; wind 8-15 mph. Sunday – Mostly sunny, high of 68; wind 8-15 mph.

2017

The first year under a new name, the PURE Insurance Championship Impacting The First Tee was a three-day scoring record spree, with the methodically magnificent Bernhard Langer finishing with the one that mattered most.

Langer – who at age 60 is playing like he’s 50 and looks like he can play until he’s 70 – shattered the tournament scoring records with a winning total of 198, 17-under par, for his first career victory at Pebble Beach. The previous records for low total, as well as relationship to par, were set in 2004 by Craig Stadler, who won the Monterey Peninsula’s inaugural PGA TOUR Champions tournament with a total 201, 15-under.

Winning by three shots ahead of Jerry Kelly, Langer’s historic finish followed Saturday’s 63 by Kenny Perry at Pebble Beach Golf Links, which at 9-under-par broke the tournament course record. (The overall record is 61.) That followed Friday’s first-round 63 by Scott McCarron, whose 8-under-par start set the overall course record at Poppy Hills Golf Course – in the group ahead of Langer, whose 64 bettered the previous course record of 65.

Trailing by one shot after the first round and leading by one shot after the second, Langer seemed vulnerable when twice he dropped back into a tie with Kelly after bogeys at the par-3 fifth and par-4 eighth.

But Langer, considered one of the most disciplined and perseverant playing in the game – at any age – steadied himself and his game, pulling away with three consecutive birdies on the 13th, 14th and 15th holes for a three-shot lead with three to play and closed with three steady pars to put it away.

Langer’s performance also led to him and partner Justin Potwora winning the pro-junior team competition, only the third time in tournament history that a pro won both the individual and team titles (Craig Stadler 2004, Kirk Triplett 2013). Langer and Potwora, 17, of Eugene Ore., representing The First Tee of Greater Portland, finished at 194, 21-under-par, to win by two shots.

The amateur team competition wound up in a two-way tie at 177, 38-under par, with the twosome of Michael Rubio and Kelly Jensen winning in a card tiebreaker over Tager Olson Neil Hughes.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including actor Kevin Sorbo, whose “Herculean effort” in the opening round included a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth hole at Poppy Hills.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, actor Alfonso Ribeiro and 2015 Miss America Kira Kazantsev were on amateur teams, as were returning tournament “regulars” like former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who made the cut with daughter Heidi Ueberroth as his partner, and longtime 49ers all-star lineman Harris Barton, who also made the cut to 10 teams for Sunday.

LEADERS: First Round – Scott McCarron -8 (63 PH), Bernhard Langer -7 (64 PH), Kevin Sutherland -5 (66 PH), Russ Cochran -4 (67 PH), Scott Parel -4 (67 PH), Jerry Kelly -4 (68 PB), Scott Dunlap -4 (68 PB). Second Round – Bernhard Langer -12 (131/67 PB), Kenny Perry -11

(132/63 PB), Scott Parel -10 (133/66 PB), Jerry Kelly -9 (134/66 PH), Scott McCarron -8 (135/72 PB), David Frost -8 (135/65 PH).

CUT: For the first time, there was a 36-hole cut to the low 50 and ties, with 53 pros at even par 143 advancing. The customary maximum of 23 pro-junior teams made the cut at -10 (133). One junior among the four tied at 133 was eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 8-14 mph.

Saturday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 6-12 mph. Sunday – Sunny and warm, temperature in the mid-70s, winds 6-12 mph.

2016

England's Paul Broadhurst made his first visit to Pebble Beach a victorious one. The journeyman European Tour professional handled Pebble Beach Golf Links like someone who had been playing there all his life, capturing the final Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach with a birdie on the most famous 18th hole in golf.

Broadhurst's total of 204, 11-under par, was one shot ahead of Northern California native Kevin Sutherland – who actually has been playing Pebble Beach most of his life – and Bernhard Langer, the dominator of the senior circuit, who crept up the leaderboard with a closing 66 and tie for second. Joe Durant, whose Sunday charge gave him sole possession of the lead temporarily with a birdie on the 14th hole, finished fourth at 206.

A member of the European Ryder Cup team in 1991 – the famed “War on the Shore” at Kiawah Island – Broadhurst has rarely competed in the United States, making only five appearances stateside in a career that began in 1988. He won six times on the European Tour and earlier in 2016 won a major, the Senior British Open Championship, which earned him a spot with the PGA TOUR Champions – and a ticket to Pebble Beach.

Broadhurst – who is still renowned in the British media for his 2-0 Ryder Cup record – was considering a switch to golf instruction five years ago. “But I decided I wanted to carry on playing,” he said.

Broadhurst's first look at Pebble Beach Golf Links came in a Thursday practice round, and then he came back the next day with a smooth 66, 6-under par, in his first competitive round at Pebble, for a two-shot lead. He followed that with a 70 Saturday at Poppy Hills Golf Course, for a two-day total of 7-under, leaving him one shot behind Sutherland.

Sutherland, a Sacramento golf legend, and former Fresno State all-American has competed at Pebble Beach since he was a teenager in amateur championships. He won the 2000 Pebble Beach Invitational, a non-tour event and in 2016 was competing in a PGA TOUR event at Pebble Beach for the 22nd consecutive year – 19 straight at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (1995-2013) and three more in The First Tee Open.

After Sutherland took the lead with a 68 Saturday at Pebble Beach, to go 8-under, made 11 straight pars to open the final round. Steady, but not spectacular, Sutherland slipped back to second, then third. It wasn't until a birdie on the par-3 17th that he had one last chance to win. One shot behind Broadhurst, Sutherland made the birdie he needed at the 18th – burning the edge of the hole with his eagle chip from in front of the green – but it was not enough.

“One thing about Pebble, I didn't get the first seven holes,” Sutherland said. “I didn't make any birdies on those holes, so it kind of puts you behind a little bit. I played the back side solid, but it's a little disappointing coming up one short.”

Broadhurst, who also was on the front edge of the par-5 18th green in two, putted from 30 feet to inside four feet and calmly dropped the putt for the victory.

“I was well aware of what was going on and knew I needed to birdie the last to avoid a playoff,” Broadhurst said. “Probably hit two of the best shots I've ever hit up 18. Perfect tee shot and a really good utility into the green just on the front edge. I managed to two-putt from 30 feet, so yeah, (I am) absolutely delighted.”

The Pro-Junior competition went to a scorecard tiebreaker, when two teams finished at 197, 18-under-par. The team of pro Michael Allen and Patrick Fernandez, 16, of Phoenix, were determined the winners, over pro Billy Andrade, and Ross Funderburke, 15, of Roanoke, Va. Both teams shot 64 in the closing

The amateur team competition produced “local champions.” Joe Huston, Executive Director of the NorCal Golf Association – whose headquarters is at Poppy Hills Golf course – and David Baker, a board member of the NCGA’s Youth On Course program, led wire-to-wire, finishing at 178, 37-under-par.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including “regulars” like longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth. This year actor Alfonso Ribeiro and former major league pitcher Mark Mulder competed, as did Golf Channel’s Matt Ginella, who made the cut.

Sunday’s action started early, with 18 groups returning to Poppy Hills to complete their second round. Fog delayed Saturday’s start of play at Poppy Hills 1 hour, 21 minutes.

Also on Sunday a new sponsor for 2017 was announced – the Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange (PURE), a New York-based insurance company, with a four-year agreement in place through 2020.

LEADERS: First Round – Paul Broadhurst -6 (66 PB), Kevin Sutherland -4 (67 PH), Jay Don Blake -4 (68 PB), Craig Parry -4 (68), Tom Pernice Jr. -4 (67 PH). Second Round – Kevin Sutherland -8 (135/68 PB), Paul Broadhurst -7 (136/70 PH), Greg Kraft -5 (138/68 PB), -5 Woody Austin (138/ 69PH), five players tied at -4.

CUT: All 81 pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -6 (137) and lower. Six of the nine teams tied at 137 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 6-12 mph. and Saturday – Morning fog, then mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 8-15 mph. Sunday – Areas of smoke, otherwise mostly sunny, temperature in the mid-70s, winds 6-12 mph.

2015

Not much scares Esteban Toledo. Certainly not on the golf course. Before playing on the PGA Tour, Toledo was a professional boxer, with a 16-1 record. In Mexico, he grew up in a house with dirt floors and no plumbing, and as a boy made money diving for golf balls in a pond at the club in his hometown of Mexicali. A few years back, he rescued two women from a car crash on an LA freeway.

So, a few members of World Golf Hall of Fame didn't bother Toledo as the career journeyman fought his way to victory in the Nature Valley First Tee Open. Toledo's final-round 69, 3-under-par at Pebble Beach Golf Links, gave him a 54-hole total of 206, 9-under-par overall, good enough to beat the legendary Tom Watson by one stroke.

Watson, whose illustrious career includes three victories at Pebble Beach – most notably the 1982 U.S. Open Championship – was trying to become the oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history at age 66. After shooting his age with a 65 on Saturday, Watson closed with a 67 for 207, 8-under-par overall.

Two other Hall of Famers – Vijay Singh and Colin Montgomerie, tied for third at 208, with another, Fred Couples, just another shot back at 209.

“There were so many good players right there,” Toledo said. “But I know I am capable of winning. I am not intimidated by anything.”

Except maybe by scoreboards. Just a little. “They make me nervous,” Toledo said. “But that just makes me concentrate better.”

Holding a two-shot lead with two holes to play, and not sure yet he was in first place, Toledo's tee shot went wide right, missing the green at the par-3 17th hole, leading to a bogey. He was now one shot ahead of Watson, who was four groups ahead of Toledo, already finished at 8-under-par.

“I didn't look at a scoreboard until the third shot at 18,” Toledo said of standing in the final fairway, a short shot away from the final green, which he hit in regulation and two-putted for par and victory.

Although Toledo played in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am 13 times, he had only one Top 20 finish and missed the cut 10 times. Winning the Nature Valley First Tee Open was somewhat unexpected, but Toledo cherished it, since his “second home” was in Northern California.

Toledo was “discovered” hitting golf balls in Mexicali by a vacationing couple, Jon and Rita Minnis, of Milpitas, Calif., about an hour or so north of Pebble Beach. He moved into the Minnis home and they financially supported as he developed his golf game to a professional level.

“This tournament is very special to me,” Toledo said. “I dedicate it to (the late) Jon Minnis, who sponsored me in the United States. I felt him with me out there. This was for him.”

In the Pro-Junior competition, a battle down the stretch was finally decided on the final hole when junior Jack Arvit, 16, of Arroyo Grande, Calif., and Hall of Fame pro partner Mark O'Meara made a birdie-4 to go 20-under for the tournament and win by one stroke. They shot 61 in the first round, followed by a pair of 67s.

The amateur team competition was just as close, won by the twosome of Keith Woodward and Mark Van Buskirk, at 37-under-par, good for a one-shot victory.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including country star Colt Ford, longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who again teamed with his daughter Heidi Ueberroth, former President of NBA International.

LEADERS: First Round – Tom Byrum -5 (67 PB), Jesper Parnevik -5 (66 PH), Mark McNulty -4 (68 PB), Colin Montgomerie -3 (68 PH), Sandy Lyle -3 (68 PH), Woody Austin -3 (68 PH).
Second Round – Colin Montgomerie -8 (135/67 PB), Olin Browne -7 (136/65 PH), Esteban Toledo -6 (137/66 PB), Woody Austin -5 (138/70 PB), Fred Couples -5 (138/66 PB), three players at -4.

CUT: All 81 pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -8 (136) and lower. Two of the five teams tied at 136 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday and Saturday – Sunny, temperature in mid-70s, winds 8-15 mph. Sunday – Light overcast, temperature in the low 70s, winds 6-8 mph.

2014

When John Cook came up to Pebble Beach Golf Links from Southern California as a teenager in 1972 to watch the U.S. Open Championship, it began a lifelong relationship with the Monterey Peninsula that has seen him win tournaments on the legendary course at more levels than anyone in history:

- Amateur (1975 California State Amateur)
- High School (1976 California State Championship)
- PGA Tour (1981 Bing Crosby Pro-Am)
- PGA TOUR Champions (2014 Nature Valley First Tee Open)

“This is a very, very special place to the Cook family,” he said after four clutch par saves on the closing nine Sunday salvaged a 3-under-par 69 for a 54-hole total of 204, 11-under for the 11th annual First Tee Open at Pebble Beach. It was just enough to edge Tom Byrum by one shot and was two ahead of both Skip Kendall and the hard-charging Roger Chapman, whose 65 Sunday at Pebble Beach was the low round of the tournament.

“I didn’t have my best stuff, but my short game showed up at the right time,” Cook said of his ability to get up-and-down for par – including on the par-3 17th hole, where Byrum was unable to save par from the front right bunker.

From 1980 through 2007, Cook played in 23 of 27 Bing Crosby/AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Ams, as well as three U.S. Open Championships at Pebble Beach. His win in the First Tee Open came in his seventh appearance since 2008 – for a total of 33 career starts in official tour events on the famed links.

“I have played it so many times in so many different conditions, I know how to manage the golf course,” said Cook, who also won the team title in the 1991 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, with actor Jack Wagner as his partner. “I know that you don’t ever go around Pebble Beach without a little drama.”

The most dramatic shot of the week, however, was not by Cook. It belonged to junior golfer Chris Meyers, who Sunday made the first double eagle in the 95-year history of tournament golf on the famous par-5 18th hole at Pebble Beach to win the Pro-Junior title.

Using a 4-iron, the 17-year-old from Arizona holed out his second shot from 203 yards for a “walk-off” victory. And that was after Meyers’ tee shot went off the rocks and bounced back into the fairway, reminiscent of the legendary shot that helped Hale Irwin win the 1984 Crosby Pro-Am.

Meyers and tour pro Lee Janzen were one shot behind two pro-junior teams with one hole to play, but the historic double eagle picked up three shots to pass everyone, finishing at 22-under-par.

The Irwin connection to this year’s tournament applied to Cook as well, since Cook joined Irwin as the only players to have won at Pebble Beach on both the PGA Tour and PGA TOUR Champions.

Leading by one stroke going into the final round, ahead of Byrum and Skip Kendall – who open-qualified for the First Tee Open on Tuesday – Cook found himself two behind Byron through 12

holes. But a Cook birdie at the 13th, coupled with Byrum bogeys at 14 and 17, gave Cook a chance to play the 18th more cautiously than normal. "I didn't have to take any chances," said Cook, who hit a 3-wood off the tee. "I just made three good shots there and made my par."

It was Cook's 10th win on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit, to go with his 11 victories on the PGA Tour.

This year marked return of Poppy Hills Golf Course to pro tour golf competition. The completely renovated course up the hill from Pebble Beach welcomed back many of the tour pros who played the AT&T Pro-Am when it was played at Poppy Hills from 1991 through 2009.

The amateur team competition was won by twosome of David Johnson and Paul Porteous, who finished at 179, 36-under-par, two shots ahead of the field. They shot 60 in the first round at Poppy Hills with pro Sonny Skinner, and 58 in the second round at Pebble Beach with pro Steven Ames. The amateurs closed with a 61 on Sunday at Pebble Beach playing with pro Gary Hallberg.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including NFL legend Herm Edwards, TOMS Shoes/Eyewear founder Blake Mycoskie, longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who again teamed with his daughter Heidi Ueberroth, former President of NBA International.

LEADERS: First Round – Blaine McCallister -5 (66 PH); John Cook -4 (67 PH), John Inman -4 (68 PB), Tom Byrum -4 (68 PB), Skip Kendall -4 (67 PH), Lee Janzen -4 (68 PB). Second Round – John Cook -8 (135/68 PB); Skip Kendall -7 (136/69 PB), Tom Byrum -7 (136/68 PH); Marco Dawson -6 (137/69 PH); six players at -5.

CUT: All 81 pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -8 (135) and lower. Only one of the seven teams tied at 135 was eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Sunny, temperature in upper 60s, winds 5-15 mph. Saturday – Overcast, temperature in mid-60s, winds 5-15 mph. Sunday – Overcast, temperature in the 60s, winds 6-12 mph.

2013

Not only did Kirk Triplett repeat as champion of the Nature Valley First Tee Open, but he also virtually repeated the way he did it. That included:

- Starting the day a few shots off the lead (three behind Tom Lehman)
- Making a run on the front nine (three birdies for a 33)
- Taking the lead alone near the middle of the round (through nine holes)
- Sinking a clutch par save at the 15th hole (from 8 feet)
- Posting the low round of the day at Pebble Beach Golf Links (68, 4 -under-par)
- And, yes, wearing his trademark white, wide-brimmed bucket hat.

That allowed Triplett to become the second repeat champion (Jeff Sluman in 2008-2009) and the second pro to also sweep the Pro-Junior competition that is paramount to format of the unique event (Craig Stadler in the inaugural First Tee Open in 2004).

“My experience at Pebble Beach helped,” said Triplett, whose total of 205, 11-under-par, was good enough for a two-shot cushion – also the same as before. In the 2012 First Tee Open, Triplett was four shots behind through 36 holes, shot 31 on the front nine, took the lead alone on the 11th hole, and shot 66 for a total of 206.

This time around, not only did Triplett notch his second career PGA TOUR Champions title, he and Michelle Xie, 15, of Palo Alto, Calif., won the Pro-Junior by two strokes as well. Xie, a high school junior, helped her partner seven shots to finish at 18-under-par.

Originally from Pullman, Wash., Triplett’s familiarity and appreciation for the Monterey Peninsula dates back to the 1980s, when as a college golfer at the University of Nevada, Reno (Class of 1985) he was a member of the NorCal Golf Association and competed in amateur events in Pebble Beach.

“I made just enough birdies to pick away at Tom’s lead,” Triplett said of his good start, while Lehman made three bogeys as he slipped to a 37. “It was a matter of who could stay away from bogeys on the back nine.”

Besides avoiding bogeys on the back nine, Triplett was the only player who did not make a bogey in the final round, when a fast, dry Pebble Beach track played to a Sunday scoring average of 74.383 (and 74.160 for the week).

“This year nobody was going to run away with it on Sunday,” Triplett noted. “There were no 63s or 64s out there.” Or many 60s at all, as only four of 81 players broke 70; Doug Garwood and Dan Forsman shot 69 to tie for second at 207, and Willie Wood shot 69 to finish sixth.

Still, when Lehman birdied the 13th from inside three feet, he tied Triplett for the lead. Moments later, Triplett birdied the always tricky/often treacherous par-5 14th – the only one of the contenders to manage that. And when Lehman followed in the next group with a bogey at the 14th, it gave Triplett a two-shot lead with four to play.

It was hardly a slam dunk. Triplett needed to grind out a two-putt from across the green on the 15th, then get up-and-down from the back rough of the 16th green, and again from the front bunker on the par-3 17th. That all accomplished, he held a two-shot lead on the 18th tee.

“You always dream about being in contention playing the 18th hole at Pebble Beach,” Triplett

said. He was in contention and in control, making a routine par that made another dream come true.

Like most of the players in contention Sunday, Triplett opened the week at Del Monte Golf Course, where 21 of the top 22 first-round leaders played – led by Bernhard Langer, who equaled the tournament course record with a 9-under-par 63. But the highlight of the day – maybe the week – was by junior Alice Duan of Reno (The First Tee of Northern Nevada), who holed out an eagle at the 10th hole at Pebble Beach, live on the national television broadcast.

The amateur team competition was won for the first time by a husband-and-wife twosome, Egon and Abigail Durban, of Atherton, Calif. Playing with pros Steve Elkington (65 first round) and Chien Soon Lu (53 second round), they finished with a 62 for a total of 180, 36-under-par, was two shots clear of the field.

The 2013 amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including Hall of Fame catcher Johnny Bench, former U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and TOMS Shoes/Eyewear founder Blake Mycoskie, who joined Panetta as a guest speaker at the annual Legends & Leaders dinner. Other familiar faces in the field were “Blue Collar Comedy” star Ron White, longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who teamed with his daughter Heidi Ueberroth, Global President of the NBA.

LEADERS: First Round – Bernhard Langer -9 (63 DM), Tom Lehman -5 (67 DM), Andrew Magee -5 (67 DM), Kirk Triplett -5 (67 DM), Mark McNulty -5 (67 DM), Doug Garwood -5 (67 DM), six tied at -4 (68). Second Round – Tom Lehman -10 (134/67 PB), Russ Cochran -9 (135/67 PB), Kirk Triplett -7 (137/70 PB), Bernhard Langer -7 (137/74 PB); four tied at -6 (138). Final Round – Kirk Triplett -11 (205/68 PB), Doug Garwood -9 (207/69 PB), Dan Forsman -9 (207/69 PB), Tom Lehman -8 (208/74 PB), Russ Cochran -7 (209/74 PB).

CUT: All 81 pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -8 (136) and lower. Three of nine teams tied at 136 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Sunny, temperature in the low 70s, wind 8-15 mph. Saturday – Sunny, temperature in the mid-70s, wind 5-15 mph. Sunday – Sunny, temperature in the low 70s, wind 5-15 mph with occasional higher gusts.

2012

Four shots off the lead going into the final round, Kirk Triplett did not head to the golf course Sunday thinking, "I am going to win today." But by the time he chipped in for a birdie on the par-4 16th hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links, he knew it was, indeed, going to be his day.

The birdie gave Triplett a three-shot lead with two holes to play and with two closing pars he wrapped up his first PGA TOUR Champions victory at the Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach. Triplett finished at 206, 10 under par, two shots ahead of Mark McNulty and four ahead of Jay Haas and Bill Glasson.

Triplett's closing 6-under-par 66 was the low round at Pebble Beach all week, as well as the low finishing round by a winner of the First Tee Open, matching inaugural champion Craig Stadler in 2004. A rookie on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit, but hardly a novice of Pebble Beach Golf Links, Triplett, knew, "You play the first seven holes at Pebble Beach and see what shakes out."

Triplett, who started the day tied for sixth after a pair of 70s, shook up the leaderboard right away, holing out for an eagle on the par-5 second hole. With birdies at No. 4 and No. 7, he was 4-under for the day and then birdied No. 9 for a 31 through nine, which was the low score on the front side at Pebble Beach all week, as well.

As the 36-hole leaders stumbled through the front side over par, Triplett took the lead with a birdie on the 11th hole and despite a bogey at No. 12, stayed ahead of the pack with a clutch par save on the 15th and timely chip-in on No. 16.

"It was a special day at a special place," said Triplett, who estimated his victory came in roughly his 35th professional event at Pebble Beach, counting his 17 appearances in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, "almost as many" appearances in the Pebble Beach Invitational (which he won in 1996) and two U.S. Opens (1992, 2000).

Originally from Pullman, Wash., Triplett's familiarity and appreciation for the Monterey Peninsula dates back to the 1980s, when as a college golfer at the University of Nevada, Reno (Class of 1985) he was a member of the NorCal Golf Association and competed in amateur events in Pebble Beach.

And prior to the first round of the Nature Valley First Tee Open, Triplett visited his longtime swing instructor, Laird Small, director of the Pebble Beach Golf Academy, to work on a few things.

Triplett was not the only player in the hunt with connections to Pebble Beach. Tom Kite, who won the 1983 Bing Crosby Pro-Am and 1992 U.S. Open, was tied for first after each of the first two rounds, with Carmel's Bobby Clampett also in the thick of things, only three shots behind going into Sunday. But Kite double-bogeyed the par-5 6th hole en route to a 39 on the front, finishing with a 76, and Clampett struggled to a 77 as both wound up out of the picture.

Only McNulty, the South African who started the final round in second place, did not drop out of sight. Sinking a birdie putt on the 16th right behind Triplett, McNulty was in position to catch the leader with two more birdies but managed only pars to settle for second.

McNulty did, however, come away with a victory in the Pro-Junior portion of the competition, as his partner, 18-year-old Tyler Broach of Chester, Va., birdied the final two holes himself to win

by a shot. In a three-way tie for the lead coming to the famous 18th at Pebble Beach, Broach sank a 15-footer to give his team a total of 196, 20 under par.

The amateur competition was won by Glenn Weckerlin, an executive with Chevron, one of the tournament sponsors, and Maj. Tim Hansen, a student at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and a guest of Chevron. The 2012 amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including "Blue Collar Comedy" star Ron White, a first-time participant, and pro football coach/analyst Herm Edwards, who also was a guest speaker at the annual Legends & Leaders dinner. Other familiar faces in the field were 1981 U.S. Amateur Champion Nathaniel Crosby, longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, teamed with his daughter Heidi, Global President of the NBA.

LEADERS: First Round – Tom Kite -5 (67 DM), John Cook -5 (67 DM), Mark McNulty -4 (68 DM), Loren Roberts -4 (68 DM), Tom Pernice Jr. -4 (68 DM). Second Round – Kite -8 (136/69 PB), Brad Bryant -8 (136/67 DM), Bobby Clampett -5 (139/68 PB), Peter Senior -5 (139/70 PB), McNulty -5 (139/71 PB).

CUT: All 80* pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -8 (136) and lower; no tiebreaker needed. (* -- One WD during second round reduced original field of 81 pros.)

WEATHER: Friday – Morning fog, then sunny, temperature in low to mid 60s, wind 7-15 mph. Saturday – Morning fog and mostly overcast throughout the day, temperature in the low 60s, wind 5 -10 mph. Sunday – Morning fog and overcast throughout the day, temperature in the low 60s, wind 5 -10 mph.

2011

Jeff Sluman became the only three-time winner of The First Tee Open, navigating treacherous conditions on the final day at Pebble Beach Golf Links to capture another title in only his fourth trip to the Monterey Peninsula on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit.

On a cool, breezy Sunday when the course played to an average of 1.3 strokes over par, Sluman was the only player who teed off after noon to break par, with a 2-under 70 that gave him a 206 total, 10-under for the tournament. It was enough for a two-stroke advantage over second-round leaders Jay Haas, David Eger and Brad Bryant.

Hometown favorite Bobby Clampett, who grew up on the Monterey Peninsula and graduated from Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, chipped in for birdie on the 12th hole to pull into a tie for the lead with six holes to play, but a double-bogey 7 at the 14th hole knocked him out of contention for his first Tour victory since 1982.

The 14th hole, which continually confounds players on the pro tours, also knocked Haas out of the lead when he too, took a 7. Haas, who started the final round with two birdies for a three-stroke lead, then played the next 14 holes 6-over par to fall three shots behind, not making another birdie until the final hole, when it was too late.

While the three-shot, uphill dogleg-right 14th played to an average of 5.299 for the final round, Sluman not only was the lone contender to birdie there Sunday, he was the only one to have birdied the hole both times he played it, making one on Saturday as well. "I might have won the tournament on that hole," Sluman said. "That is the hardest third shot in the world."

Although Sluman then bogeyed the comparatively easy par-4 15th, falling into a three-way tie for the lead at -10 with Haas and Clampett, he held together for three solid pars down the stretch to take a two-shot lead to the clubhouse that nobody was able to catch.

Sluman, who in 1992 was runner-up in both the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, did not win on the famed links until his 2008 rookie season on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit. He joined elite company as three-time tour winners at Pebble Beach, along with Mark O'Meara (5), Jack Nicklaus (4) Johnny Miller (3), Tom Watson (3) and Phil Mickelson (3).

The final round did not start with any indication of victory coming Sluman's way. In fact, when he bogeyed the par-3 fifth hole, he was five shots behind and said, "That was like a body blow. I pretty much forgot about winning the tournament at that point."

But, Sluman hung in there, realizing that, "The golf course was playing progressively more difficult all day," he said. And when Sluman finally looked up at a scoreboard on the 13th hole, he was only mildly surprised he was only one shot behind.

He then birdied the par-4 13th to move into first place for the first time all week, tied with Haas.

He then birdied the par-4 13th to move into first place for the first time all week, tied with Haas. "Pebble Beach always finds a way to come back and get you during the course of a week," Sluman said. "You have to have a game plan and stick to it. It's not like other golf courses. Par on every hole is a pretty good score."

The Pro-Junior portion of the competition was won by the team of Ben Crenshaw and his junior partner Casie Cathrea, 15, of Livermore, playing out of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento. After setting the 18-hole scoring record with a 12-under par, 60 in the second round at Del Monte, Crenshaw and Cathrea wound up at 193, 23-under par.

In this inaugural year of the title sponsorship by Nature Valley, the 2011 amateur field included a variety of luminaries. They included Oscar winner Clint Eastwood, chairman of the host Monterey Peninsula Foundation; comic Jackie Flynn; the Golden State Warriors' new owner Joe Lacob; and U.S. Navy combat pilot Lt. Nicole Johnson, who aced the par-3 fourth hole in the Core Values Cup on Sunday at Del Monte Golf Course.

LEADERS: First Round – Russ Cochran -8 (64 PB), David Eger -6 (66 DM), Brad Bryant -5 (67 DM), Morris Hatalsky -5 (67 DM), Jim Thorpe -5 (67 PB). Second Round – Jay Haas -11 (133/65 PB), Bobby Clampett -9 (135/66 DM), Brad Bryant -9 (135/68 PB), Mark Brooks -9 (135/64 DM), five players tied at -8 (136).

2010

Ted Schulz, who left the PGA TOUR after the 1999 season for the less stressful lifestyle of a teaching pro, turned his PGA TOUR Champions rookie season into a huge success with a triumphant return to Pebble Beach.

Taking a three-stroke lead into the final round, the 50-year-old Schulz broke free from a four-way battle for good with a vital birdie on the 17th hole, finishing with a 202 total, 14- under par, to win by one shot over Tom Pernice, Jr., with Tom Kite and Mark Calcavecchia tied for third at 204.

“I was very excited to come here,” said Schulz, who had not played at Pebble Beach since 1995. “I love it here, even though I have never played that well here.”

With a final-round 70, 2-under par, the victory was worth \$270,000 – the largest paycheck in Schulz’s career, which included wins in the 1989 Southern Open and 1991 Nissan Los Angeles Open.

“I didn’t like golf when I played the (PGA) TOUR,” said Schulz, who served as Director of Golf at the Cardinal Club, at the University of Louisville, from 2000 through 2008. “I got burned out. I didn’t miss it.”

Schulz, who made only three cuts in nine previous career starts at Pebble Beach, snatched the lead early Saturday at 132, equaling the tournament 36-hole record (set by Loren Roberts in 2009). Schulz, who played in the AT&T Pro-Am eight times and the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, made nine birdies and one bogey for a 64 that put him in the final group for Sunday.

“I was pretty nervous,” Schulz said. “Once I got warmed up, I felt pretty comfortable most of the day.” An eagle on the par-5 sixth hole helped, as did a slick save for par at the 14th – a hole that in 2010 enhanced its reputation as being potentially disastrous. “I thought it would take 4-under (in the final round) to win, but 2-under was enough,” he said.

Calcavecchia made an impressive First Tee Open debut, opening with a 64 at Del Monte that matched the tournament course record (set by D.A. Weibring in 2006). Also a PGA TOUR Champions rookie, Calcavecchia rang up eight birdies without a bogey on the Monterey Peninsula’s oldest course, which he recalled playing only once before, during a 1982 Monday qualifier for the Hawaiian Open (where he did not qualify).

Pernice, who was four shots behind Schultz to start the final round, pulled into a tie for the lead when he sank a birdie putt on the par-3 12th hole while Schulz was making a bogey in the group behind him at No. 11. Pernice bogeyed the 16th but bounced right back with a birdie at the 17th to tie again. However, while he was in the 18th fairway, Pernice didn’t realize he needed to close with a birdie, since Schulz nosed ahead again at the 17th. Both closed with pars on the 18th.

The Pro-Junior portion of the competition was won by the Double-Lefty Duo of TOUR veteran Russ Cochran and Spencer Jones, from The First Tee of Cleveland County, in Shelby, N.C. The champs completed the 54 holes at 195, 21-under par, one stroke ahead of Pernice and Jason Park, from The First Tee of Richmond & Chesterfield, Va.

While the unique event focuses on the juniors and pros, the amateur field had a few familiar

names, including several former First Tee Open junior competitors – Monterey County product Sydney Burlison, the only girl to win the junior title, Jacques Gatera and Hannah Summerhays. Notables in the field also included three of the four principle owners of Pebble Beach Company – Clint Eastwood, Peter Ueberroth and Richard Ferris.

LEADERS: First Round – 64 Mark Calcavecchia (DM), 66 Tom Pernice Jr. (PB), 67 Chip Beck (PB), Olin Browne (PB), Fred Couples (DM), Tom Kite (DM), Wayne Levi (DM), Scott Simpson (DM), Bob Tway (DM). Second Round – 132 Ted Schulz (64 PB), 135 Calcavecchia (71 PB), Kite (68 PB), 136 Pernice (70 PB), 137 five players tied.

CUT: All 78 pros advance, along with the limit of 22 pro-junior teams at 135 or lower. Two of the four teams tied at 135 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Morning marine layer caused 45-minute delay in starting the opening round, giving way to sunshine and light overcast; high in upper 60s, light wind. Saturday – Early morning marine layer gives way to partial sunshine and overcast most of the afternoon; high in the mid-60s, light to moderate wind. Sunday – Start of play delayed 45 minutes due to fog, remaining partly cloudy with high of the four principle owners of Pebble Beach Company – Clint Eastwood, Peter Ueberroth and Richard Ferris.

2009

As Jeff Sluman focused on each shot playing the final holes at Pebble Beach Golf Links, he kept hearing voices. Make that “a voice” – and a familiar one at that. It was the voice of his longtime friend, comic actor Bill Murray, who was rooting loud and often as Sluman, a fellow Chicagoan, completed the biggest comeback in tournament history to become its first back-to-back champion, as well.

“He is so funny, and will say something different on every hole,” Sluman said of Murray, who participated in the tournament as an amateur. “But you have to understand, he really wants us (pros) to play well and compete and win.”

Which is just what Sluman did, coming from six strokes back to post a 4-under-par 68 – including a hole-in-one on the 187-yard fifth hole – for a two-stroke victory. Sluman’s final total of 206, 10 under par, was followed by quietly effective Gene Jones at 208, with Tom Lehman and Mark O’Meara at 209.

“I always thought I would never have a chance to win at Pebble Beach,” said Sluman, who until 2008 did not finish better than runner-up on the Monterey Peninsula. “For me, this was a dream come true – walking down 18 with a large enough lead that Mr. Murray could heckle me.”

For two rounds, Loren Roberts made the most noise, setting a tournament record 132, firing a pair of 66s to go 12 under par. That gave him a two-shot lead over O’Meara, the legendary “Prince Of Pebble Beach,” who won the AT&T Pro-Am five times.

But while a brisk, biting wind showed up Sunday, the anticipated duel in the final pairing never did. Roberts misfired early and often, with a pair of 39s for 78. O’Meara wasn’t on target either, closing with a 75. Neither made a birdie until O’Meara’s on the 18th.

Jones, tied with Sluman at the start of play Sunday, worked his way into the thick of things with a 33 on the front. But a bogey at the 14th and a missed birdie putt on the 18th turned out to be key swings.

Sluman started his day with birdies on the first two holes and then really got rolling when he holed out an 8-iron at No. 5. Another birdie on the par-4 ninth gave him a 31, for a lead he would never relinquish. A bogey on No. 11 cut Sluman’s cushion to only one, but he came back to birdie No. 14 and then made pars on three of the final four holes – with a key save at the 17th.

As he prepared to putt out on No. 18, Sluman was interrupted by a raucous, “We love you Jeff” from you-know-who.

“I think it shows when you are having fun, you can still play well,” said Sluman, often paired with Murray in past AT&T Pro-Ams. “Golf is our job, but everyone else is supposed to have fun at it. And when you combine both, you can do better than you think.”

Sluman did better than everyone in the final round, his 68 was also the low score of the day.

Lehman shot the low round of the entire tournament on Saturday, a 7-under-par 65 at Del Monte. Hall of Fame legend Gary Player bettered his age (73) in the second round, with an even-par 72 at Del Monte. Tom Watson celebrated his 60th birthday on Friday, with an opening-round 70,

and a birthday cake on the tee. After five years without an ace in the tournament, there were two within a span of 45 minutes – first by Allen Doyle (7-iron) and then by Sluman, both at the fifth.

In the Pro-Junior portion of the competition Will Bishop, 16, of Lexington, Ky., teamed up with David Eger to finish at 199, 17 under par. A member of The First Tee of Lexington, Bishop helped his team 11 shots. They edged Sluman and his junior partner, Erica Schneider, of Sarasota, Fla. by one stroke.

LEADERS: First Round – 65 Jeff Sluman (DM), 66 Olin Browne (DM), Loren Roberts (DM), Tom Kite (DM), Mark O'Meara (PB). Second Round – 132 Roberts (66 PB), 134 O'Meara (67 DM), 136 Tom Lehman (65 DM), 137 Bob Gilder (68 PB).

CUT: All 78 pros advance, along with the limit of 22 pro-junior teams at 135 or lower. Four teams were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Early morning marine layer gives way to sunshine most of the day, low 70s in the afternoon, light wind. Saturday – Early morning marine layer gives way to sunshine most of the day, high 60s in the afternoon, light wind. Sunday – Sunny but cooler, mid-60s in the afternoon, with stronger winds in the afternoon.

2008

Jeff Sluman finally put Pebble Beach on his list of victories. In his first 19 events on the famous links – many that included funnyman friend Bill Murray in his pro-am foursome – Sluman’s resume included runner-up finishes in the 1992 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the 1992 U.S. Open. “It’s one of my favorite places to be,” Sluman said of Pebble Beach. Good thing, since Sluman wasn’t going to allow a few fog delays along the way to dampen his spirit.

The only player in the field with three rounds in the 60s, Sluman wound up in his favorite place on the leaderboard – first – punctuating his rookie season on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit with a five-shot, runaway victory in the fifth edition of the Walmart First Tee Open. And he even got to play again with Murray, one of a handful of celebrities in the amateur field (Harris Barton, TV news anchor Stone Phillips and US Olympic chairman Peter Ueberroth also played).

“I know I can play the golf course well,” said Sluman, who played Pebble Beach Golf Links 11 under par on the weekend to finish at 202, 14 under overall. “I have been there before on Sunday in contention, and I did draw from that experience.”

Sluman started the final round in a four-way tie with Loren Roberts, Phil Blackmar and John Harris, all at 9 under par. With seven players within three shots of the lead as everyone jockeyed for position on the front side – four getting to double-figures under par – there was more than enough reason to consider the playoff possibilities. It would be a first for the First Tee Open, but a familiar scenario here to Sluman, who was in a playoff at the 1992 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, which Mark O’Meara won on the first extra hole.

Sluman, with a textbook exercise in how to win at Pebble Beach, made four birdies on the front side and then steadily added pars – including solid saves at the ninth, 11th and 12th holes – while the rest of the field faded. It resulted in Sluman posting the low round of the day, a 5-under-par 67, with Murray rooting him along the final 10 holes.

“It was not an easy 18 holes,” Sluman said later of a performance that at times he made seem effortless. “And even though I have played here 100 times, you still gotta go out there and do it. It’s not elementary.”

Several players found that out the hard way.

When Blackmar birdied the par-3 seventh hole, he was 11 under and one shot behind Sluman. Then Blackmar, who survived a playoff in the Tuesday open qualifier to get into the tournament, double-bogeyed the eighth and drifted back into the pack, finishing tied for fourth.

Paired in the same group with Sluman, Roberts birdied the sixth hole to go 10 under that put him within two shots of the lead. But the “Boss of the Moss” made a mess of the back nine, bogeying four of his last five holes to shoot 76 and wind up tied for 14th.

Harris, who left his insurance company in Minnesota to join the Tour in 2002, did not have any of the magic that helped him win for the first time in 2006. He made three bogeys and a double (at No. 6) for a 41 on the front Sunday that erased any hope he had to win at Pebble Beach.

Fred Funk, on the other hand, jumped into the fray Sunday with four birdies in five holes. Two shots back at the start of the round, Funk twice tied Sluman for the lead – at 10 under and again at 11 under. But unlike the way he played two weeks earlier in a victory, Funk slowed down

with a bogey on the par-3 seventh and then backed up for good with bogeys on the 12th and 13th to end up in the tie for fourth.

Sluman said the First Tee Open was on his list of “must-play” tournaments for 2008. “Everybody – including Mr. Murray – told me this was the best event they play all year,” Sluman said. “You see the kids out here, the way they handle everything and it’s just great stuff.”

Fog caused two morning delays in the first round at Pebble Beach and a third in the late afternoon, which led to an ultimate suspension of play, while those at Del Monte were able to complete the round after a fog delay to the start of play. The tournament caught up Saturday, with play back on schedule Sunday.

The pro-junior portion of the tournament saw a girl win for the first time, as hometown favorite Sydney Burlison, 17, of Salinas and The First Tee of Monterey County teamed, with Fuzzy Zoeller for a record score of 191, 25 under par. The twosome led wire to wire, with Burlison, a few weeks from her freshman year at Stanford University, helping 10 shots in the second round. It was Zoeller’s second team win at Pebble Beach, where he teamed with another Salinas golfer, Mike Evans, to win the 1986 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

LEADERS: First Round – 66 Hale Irwin (DM), Chip Beck (DM), Fuzzy Zoeller (DM), Loren Roberts (DM), Andy Bean (PB); 67 Fred Funk (DM), Phil Blackmar (DM), Steve Thomas (DM). Second Round – 135 Phil Blackmar (68 PB), John Harris (66 DM), Jeff Sluman (66 PB), Loren Roberts (69 PB); 136 Craig Stadler (66 DM).

WEATHER: Friday fog in the morning and afternoon at Pebble Beach, where it remained in the 50s, and early at Del Monte, where it cleared for the rest of the day and climbed into the low 80s. Saturday fog covered both courses early, lightening to blue skies in the afternoon and temperatures in the 60s. Sunday the fog lifted early, leaving blue skies and temperatures in the 60s.

2007

Gil Morgan did not win as many times as he would have liked during his PGA Tour career. Seven victories aren't bad, but it's nothing close to his success on the PGA TOUR Champions, where win No. 25 came at the fourth Walmart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach.

Morgan, only a few weeks shy of his 61st birthday, followed up a second-round 65 at Del Monte Golf Course with a closing 67 at the Pebble Beach Golf Links that gave him a 202 total, 14 under par, two shots ahead of 62-year-old Hale Irwin, his long-time senior rival.

"A 60-year-old against a 62-year-old is not exactly the age you would expect at a 'First Tee' tournament," Morgan joked, alluding to the unique format that pairs a PGA TOUR Champions player with a junior amateur partner representing one of the junior golf chapters from around the country.

Morgan, an Oklahoma native, was paired with Lee Prince of The First Tee of Tulsa and seemed to thrive on the energy of the young players in his foursome each day. "The kids are always excited to be there," Morgan said. "No matter what happens, they have a smile on their face and keep coming back. That's the name of the game."

Certainly, it is appropriate of Morgan to come back to Pebble Beach and win 15 years after he was in prime position to win the U.S. Open Championship.

Morgan's birdie on the first hole Sunday morning made him the first player in the 2007 First Tee Open to get to 10 under par, which had a deeper meaning for him. In the third round of the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, Morgan became the first player in history to get to 10 under in the national championship. He got as low as 12 under after the seventh hole, but then three straight double-bogeys took him out of contention.

"That was a golden opportunity for me," said Morgan, who never won a major on the regular tour. "Some of the things that happened on a few of those holes didn't seem fair to me at the time."

This time, when a birdie on the par-4 fourth got Morgan to 12 under, he followed up with a par-birdie-par run and, maybe more importantly, then made pars along the cliffs at the eighth, ninth and 10th to remain at 13 under.

"I was thinking about that a couple of times," Morgan said of reflecting on his 1992 misfortunes. "I thought maybe this time Pebble Beach was feeling sorry enough for me that she gave me a reprieve."

Although he did not repeat the past, Morgan still held only a one-shot lead with eight holes to play. Irwin, despite starting the day with a double-bogey 6 on the opening hole, had kept grinding away and was right on Morgan's heels, figuratively and literally (Morgan playing in the foursome ahead of Irwin).

"Hale got me worried a little bit," said Morgan, who in the late 1990s went head-to-head with Irwin numerous times as the two dominated the senior circuit. "Usually, he ended up winning," Morgan quipped.

Not this time. The tournament turned in Morgan's favor during the span of only a few minutes. First, Irwin missed a four-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole that would have tied Morgan for the lead, just before Morgan rolled in a six-foot birdie putt up at the 16th green for a two-shot cushion.

"I brought it back to have a chance but couldn't pull that many rabbits out of my hat," Irwin said.

Morgan got up and down on the par-3 17th, and then put it in cruise control on the 18th, hitting a hybrid up the fairway and closing with an easy par.

"I hung in there and did the right things under the gun," Morgan said. "I always feel like I have an opportunity to play well at Pebble Beach. The golf course lends itself to my style."

There was plenty of style in the tournament, which featured the PGA TOUR Champions debut of German star Bernhard Langer. Tournament chairman Clint Eastwood made his return to competition since the inaugural First Tee Open in 2004. Comic George Lopez, who has a home in Pebble Beach, led the list of other luminaries in the field, which included former NFL star Harris Barton and ex baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth.

In the pro-junior team competition, Harold Varner, a 17-year-old from The First Tee of Lake Norman, near his hometown of Gastonia, N.C., birdied four of his final six holes to pull away for a four-shot victory. Varner, teamed with pro Morris Hatalsky, shot 33 on his own ball on the back nine Sunday, for a team 66 and total of 193. The runner-up team was junior Cameron Rappleye, of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento, and pro James Mason at 197, with five teams tied at 198.

LEADERS: First Round – 65 Morris Hatalsky (PB), Bruce Vaughn (DM), 66 Bob Gilder (DM), 67 Kirk Hanefield (DM). Second Round – 135 Hale Irwin (65 DM), Des Smyth (64 DM), Gil Morgan (65 DM), 137 – Tom Watson (70 DM), Joe Ozaki (65 DM), Lonnie Nielsen (69 PB), 138 – Jay Haas (65 DM).

WEATHER: Morning marine layer lifted early all week, providing sunshine throughout. Friday -- Temperatures in the high 60s at Pebble Beach, and in the mid-70s at Del Monte; winds 5-10 mph. Saturday -- Temperatures in the mid-70s at Pebble, and in the high 70s at Del Monte; winds 5-15 mph. Sunday – No fog in the morning, with temperatures in the high 70s at Pebble Beach, winds 10-15 mph.

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2006

“Cinderella Boy” Scott Simpson, with familiar golf sidekick Bill Murray alongside for the week, completed a “Cinderella Story” by finally winning at Pebble Beach for the first time in his career.

The California native, who has played on the Monterey Peninsula since he was an amateur, won the 1987 U.S. Open up the coast at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. However, it wasn't until he sank an 8-foot birdie putt on the final hole that he added Pebble Beach to his list of victory sites. "I was just excited to play in the tournament, let alone win it," said Simpson, whose closing 4-under-par 68 was good for a one-stroke victory over Jay Haas and Danny Edwards. Simpson, who began the final round trailing Tom Kite by two strokes, also captured his first PGA TOUR Champions title with a 12-under-par 204 total.

Simpson and Murray, the actor/comedian and star of the now legendary golf 1980 movie “Caddyshack,” have been playing partners since the 1993 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. They've missed a few years, but the two have built a solid friendship and a fan-favorite playing partnership. The Simpson-Murray tandem has not contested for the AT&T title, but they did finish seventh in 1995 and continue to play together at Pebble Beach and in various other tournaments.

Murray made the First Tee Open team cut to play at Pebble Beach on Sunday – playing his way up from Carmel Beach following a wayward shot at No. 9. Later, he watched from Simpson's gallery, providing plenty of banter. Simpson added a few one-liners of his own, while remaining on track to victory.

“But it was tough to make putts,” Simpson said. “It got windy and the ball didn't stay where you hit it. Thirty-six holes at Pebble Beach without a bogey, that's pretty cool,” said Simpson, who was bogey-free in the opening and final rounds. “It's unbelievable. It's a dream come true,” he stated, or, as Murray muttered in a famous “Caddyshack” scene, “a Cinderella story ...” The 50-year-old Simpson, a seven-time PGA TOUR winner who joined the PGA TOUR Champions circuit toward the end of the 2005 season, earned \$300,000, the second-largest paycheck of his career.

Japan's Masy Kuramoto signaled the start of Sunday's eventful round by shooting a tournament-record 29 early in the morning on the front nine at Pebble Beach. His birdie at No. 9, tied him for the lead as the final groups were getting off the first tee. His 7-under-par 65 vaulted him to a fourth-place finish after being 32nd through two rounds.

The tournament enjoyed some celebrity status with comedic actor George Lopez playing with Lee Trevino.

Gary Player, two months shy of turning 71, beat his age in the second round with a 3-under-par 69 at Del Monte. “My great dream is to show 30 million American kids, and kids all around the world, what can happen if you look after your body,” said the fit 5-foot-7, 146-pound South African, “and how effective you can be at 71 and over.”

In the pro-junior team competition, Dana Quigley and his partner Scott Langley, a member of the Gateway First Tee of Manchester, Mo., (currently The First Tee of St. Louis) went on a pair of birdie binges to close with a 9-under-par 63 to win by a stroke. Quigley and Langley, a 17-year-old high school senior, ran off birdies on holes 15, 16, and 17 during their opening nine, and then holes 5, 6 and 7 down the stretch to win.

LEADERS: First Round – 64 D.A. Weibring (DM), 66 Tom Purtzer (DM), Jay Haas (PB), 67 David Eger (PB), Scott Simpson (PB), David Edwards (DM), Loren Roberts (PB), Tom McKnight (DM). Second Round – 134 Tom Kite (65 DM), 135 Jay Haas (69 DM), D.A. Weibring (71 PB), 136 Dan Pohl (67 DM), Mike McCullough (68 PB), Scott Simpson (69 DM), Eduardo Romero (67 DM), Tom Purtzer (70 PB).

WEATHER: Cool with mild breezes all week. Friday marine overcast all day at Pebble Beach, with temperature in the low 60s, but sunshine most of the day at Del Monte, for temperatures in the high 60s. Saturday marine overcast broke mid-day at Pebble, with sunshine at Del Monte most of the day, for temperatures in the high 60s to low 70s. Sunday marine layer broke before noon, with the wind swirling at 20 mph, and temperatures in the low 60s.

2005

It didn't take long for The Walmart First Tee Open to have its first wire-to-wire winner. Not to mention breaking the "60" barrier on both the tournament scoring records and the short list of champions. And it took only one player to do all of that.

Hale Irwin fired three rounds in the 60s to lead from start to finish, earning his first victory after turning 60 earlier just three months prior to his return to the Monterey Peninsula.

"I relish the challenge of playing and going out at age 60 to play like I did when I was 50," said Irwin, whose victory started with a 6-under-par 66 at Del Monte Golf Course, and a 69-68 finish at the Pebble Beach Golf Links for a 203 total, 11 under par.

And this time, Irwin's victory didn't need a miracle bounce, as he did in the 1984 Bing Crosby Pro-Am, when his tee shot on the final hole at Pebble Beach caromed off the rocks and back into the 18th fairway, leading to a spectacular birdie that put him in a playoff. Irwin beat Jim Nelford on the second playoff hole, saving par out of a fairway bunker on the par-4 16th.

All he needed for his second Peninsula win was a 10-foot birdie on the par-3 17th and a routine par at the 18th to hold off defending champion Craig Stadler, first-day co-leader Gil Morgan and Morris Hatafsky, all one shot back at 204.

The second-year tournament made a site switch, with Del Monte replacing Bayonet Golf Course in the two-course rotation on Friday and Saturday.

Irwin took advantage of the change by making seven birdies Friday at Del Monte, which at 6,257 yards is one of the shortest courses on the PGA TOUR Champions circuit.

"I don't get too excited with first-round scores, but you have to be up there to have a chance," said Irwin, who shared the first-day lead with Dana Quigley, who made six birdies for his 66. "It looks like a course you can tear up, but it's a test."

Irwin still had company atop the leaderboard after 36 holes, as Morgan set the new tournament record at Del Monte with a 65 – on a day when 69-year-old Gary Player shot his age there, as well.

On Sunday, Irwin made seven more birdies, along with three bogeys, for his 68, and had anything but a "rocky" finish.

"I hit a lot of good shots," said Irwin, who was second in fairways hit for the tournament, and eighth in putting and greens in regulation. "I had some putting difficulty, but I am not complaining."

In the pro-junior team competition, The First Tee of Greater Sacramento was represented by the teenagers on both teams that tied at 197, 19 under par. Through a scorecard tiebreaker, pro Jim Thorpe and junior Amit Odaiyar were declared the champions. Thorpe's birdie on the final hole was enough to earn the title over pro Lonnie Nielsen and junior Colby Smith.

LEADERS: First Round – 66 Hale Irwin (DM), Dana Quigley (DM), 65 Doug Tewell (PB), Walter Hall (PB), Bob Gilder (PB). Second Round – 135 Irwin (69 PB), Gil Morgan (65 DM), 136 Don Pooley (67 PB), Craig Stadler (68 PB), Lonnie Nielsen (67 DM), Morris Hatafsky (68 PB).

WEATHER: Friday partly cloudy, in the low 70s. Saturday cloudy, in the low 60s. Sunday partly cloudy with scattered sunshine, in the high 50s and low 60s.

2004

Craig Stadler could not keep his mind focused on his golf game all week. Paying more attention to how his 16-year-old partner was playing, the 51-year-old Stadler finally won on the Monterey Peninsula, putting his name in the history books as the inaugural champion of The First Tee Open.

In a first-of-its-kind format that paired a PGA TOUR Champions pro with a junior amateur partner in an official event, Stadler followed up his win the previous week at the Tradition by showing his teammate, Aaron Woodard of Denver, that if you hang in there, good things can happen.

After opening with an even-par 72 Friday at Bayonet Golf Course -- on a day Stadler said he was "hitting it absolutely sideways, looking to shoot 80" -- he reeled off a 63-66 weekend at Pebble Beach -- 15-under-par -- to beat PGA TOUR Champions newcomer Jay Haas by three shots.

"I was rooting for Aaron so hard I didn't pay attention to my game," said Stadler, who drew some cheers himself Sunday, making seven birdies in finishing at 201.

Haas closed with a solid 68, 4-under-par, for 204 to finish second, with Hale Irwin and Tom Kite each shooting 70 for 209 to tie for third.

If Woodard -- whose father, Tom Woodard, played against Stadler on the PGA Tour in the 1980s -- learned anything from Stadler, it was not to give up. And, as the teenager put it, "The better you putt, the better you score." That's because his partner made almost everything for two days -- needing only 23 putts Saturday and 27 putts Sunday, ranking first in putting stats for the tournament, with 80 total for 54 holes.

"When you aim the putts at the hole and they all go in," Stadler said, "it's a pretty easy week."

For the week, Stadler ranked No. 1 in putting, with 80 in three rounds, but showed you can "drive for dough" as well, being No. 1 in driving distance (305.0 yards). His 17 birdies were a tournament high, and he was the only player in the field of 78 to make two eagles for the week.

It was also the week that Stadler, a San Diego native, finally won at Pebble Beach in a career that goes back to his playing in the California State Amateur in the 1970s. The closest he had come was finishing second in the 1982 Bing Crosby National Pro-Am, and being medalist in the 1974 State Amateur. He and partner Glenn Frey tied for first, technically, in the pro-am portion of the rain-shortened 1999 AT&T Pro-Am, too.

And while Stadler did not start well, he wasn't alone with his struggles at Bayonet, which for two days did not allow a score lower than 70. Moving to Pebble Beach for the weekend, Stadler seemed to find his comfort zone -- and, finally, the winner's circle.

"You play here for a zillion years like I have," he said, "and it's nice to be able to say, 'Yeah, I won there.'"

In the pro-junior team competition, Stadler completed a sweep, as he and Woodard finished first with a better-ball total of 194, 22-under-par. They finished ahead of three teams at 198.

LEADERS: First Round – 67 David Eger (PB), 68 D.A. Wiebring (PB), 70 Jay Haas (Bay), Bruce Lietzke (Bay), Peter Jacobsen (PB), Bruce Summerhays (Bay), Gary Koch (Bay), Jose Maria Canizares (Bay), Tom Watson (Bay), Mike Reid (Bay). Second Round – 135 Craig Stadler (63 PB), 136 Jay Haas (66 PB), 139 Tom Kite (66 PB), Hale Irwin (66 PB), D.A. Wiebring (71 Bay), Gary McCord (68 PB).

WEATHER: Sunny and warm all week, with highs in the 70s.