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20 club pros book tickets to PGA Championship

WOMEN'S PUBLIC LINKS | P26
Tiffany Joh crafts a stellar sequel



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Tiger's shocker

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Number crunching

Majors – One man's Sweet 16

Now that we know what we know – that Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open with a broken leg – we got to thinking: Where does this major championship rank? Here are *Golfweek* senior writer Jeff Rude's favorite 16 majors, based mainly on how dramatic, riveting and significant they were:

- 1. 1913 U.S. OPEN:** Ouimet win over Vardon, Ray boosts U.S. golf.
 - 2. 1960 U.S. OPEN:** Coronation of Palmer, the end of Hogan, the start of Nicklaus.
 - 3. 1986 MASTERS:** Nicklaus wins sixth jacket at 46.
 - 4. 2000 PGA:** Duel vs. Bob May is Tiger's most exciting major.
 - 5. 2004 MASTERS:** Hole-outs galore as Mickelson overtakes Els.
 - 6. 1977 BRITISH OPEN:** Watson outduels Nicklaus at Turnberry.
 - 7. 1999 BRITISH OPEN:** The Jean Van de Velde implosion.
 - 8. 2008 U.S. OPEN:** Wow factor Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.
 - 9. 1950 U.S. OPEN:** Hogan wins at Merion 16 months after wreck.
 - 10. 1955 U.S. OPEN:** Club pro Jack Fleck denies Hogan fifth Open.
 - 11. 1987 MASTERS:** Mize's OT chip-in stuns Norman.
 - 12. 2000 U.S. OPEN:** Woods wins by 15, biggest major rout.
 - 13. 1930 U.S. AMATEUR:** Jones completes Grand Slam at Merion.
 - 14. 1997 MASTERS:** After opening 40, Woods wins by 12.
 - 15. 1953 BRITISH OPEN:** "Wee Ice Man" conquers Carnoustie.
 - 16. 1964 U.S. OPEN:** Venturi barely beats heat exhaustion.
- HONORABLE MENTION:** Miller shoots 63 at 1973 U.S. Open.



The Toy Box

KBS steel shafts for irons, hybrids

THE SKINNY: A product of Femco Steel Technology, headquartered in Boulder, Colo., these new steel shafts were designed by Kim Braly, who worked with his father, Dr. Joe Braly, in the development of the original FM (Frequency Matched) steel shafts.

Four touring pros – Kenny Perry, Peter Lawrie, Darren Clarke (pictured) and Jeev Milkha Singh – already have used the iron shafts while winning tournaments.

The iron shafts, originally called KB but now known as KBS, are available in taper tip (KBS Tour) and parallel tip (KBS V-Launch) versions. Weights vary from 130 grams, the most popular weight among touring pros, down to 90 grams, which Braly said is "a great lightweight shaft for good players."

The KBS project has been spearheaded by Larry Boodle, the industry veteran previously with True Temper and UST. It was Boodle who launched the popular purple-and-gold Proforce shaft at UST. His title at KBS is director of business development and planning.

The KBS shaft, according to Braly, "has equal strength along the length of the shaft at any point. This allows more uniform bending along the shaft."

MSRP: \$25 for the iron shaft; \$50 for the hybrid shaft.

AVAILABILITY: Immediately from custom clubmakers and component seller The GolfWorks.



AFP/GETTY/MARK RALSTON

>> On the heels of its new titanium Tour Burner driver, TaylorMade has introduced new steel Burner fairway woods. The Burner fairway woods feature a large red B on the sole, similar to the Tour Burner driver. Two versions are available: High Launch and Tour Launch. The High Launch has a larger clubhead and comes in lofts of 15 (3-wood), 18 (5-wood) and 21 degrees (7-wood). The Tour Launch can be purchased in lofts of 13, 14.5 and 17.5. Fifty Burner fairway woods were in play at the Travelers Championship.

>> Stewart Cink's victory at the Travelers gave Nike Golf staffers three consecutive wins (Justin Leonard at the Stanford St. Jude and Tiger Woods at the U.S. Open). Cink, who finished fourth in driving distance (299.1 yards) and T-10 in driving accuracy (82 percent), used a Nike SQ Sumo² Tour driver (9.5 degree), SQ 2 3-wood (15 degree) and 5-wood (19 degree), Pro Combo OS irons (3-4), CCI Forged irons (5-PW), Pro Combo 54- and 60-degree wedges and One Black ball.

>> Titleist swept every equipment category at the PGA Professional National Championship: balls (181 players), drivers (151), fairway woods (253), utility metals (110), irons (146), wedges (347) and putters (121). Winner Scott Hebert used a Titleist 907D4 driver (9.5 degree), 906F2 3-wood, AP2 irons, 585 H utility metal, Vokey wedges (52 and 58 degrees), and a Scotty Cameron Newport putter. He played a Pro V1x ball.

– James Achenbach

Wired

With Martin Kaufmann

CBS allows a few golf shots to interrupt its commercials

If this space has harped on one point above all others, it's that televised golf often seems like a string of commercials interrupted occasionally by a few golf shots. For example, here's what CBS viewers saw starting at 4:06 p.m. Eastern time Sunday during the Travelers Championship, following a commercial break: two tee shots, one putt, an analysis of **Heath Slocum's** swing by **Peter Kostis**, another commercial break, followed by three approaches, one putt, one bunker shot, and another commercial break at 4:13 p.m. There are plenty of similar examples just from Sunday, but you get the picture. There's no flow to the broadcasts. (Sunday's broadcast was taped, which in theory should've made it easy to show more action.) We're all for the networks recouping some of the money they paid the Tour, but eventually advertisers are going to realize these are made-for-TV broadcasts.

BLIPS: It can be painful watching Kostis interview a player or sponsor, but he's the best at analyzing players' swings in ways that are easy for viewers to understand. He clearly showed how **Hunter Mahan's** spine and shaft angle are the same at address and impact, fostering consistency; noted that **Stewart Cink** was hitting putts on the toe of his putter; and had interesting thoughts on how **Tiger Woods'** swing might be affected by knee surgery. . . . Golf Channel executive producer **Keith Hirshland** has talked in the past about the PGA Professional National Championship being one of GC's signature events. If so, GC needs to give us more than just yardages and club choices; it needs to give us some good personal stories that help us identify with these anonymous club pros. . . . **Gary McCord** and Kostis referred repeatedly to the wind Sunday at the Travelers, with no specifics. Was CBS not able to assign someone on its expansive crew to find out how hard the wind was blowing and in what direction?

On the air

THIS WEEK (June 26-29)

PGA TOUR: BUICK OPEN

Golf Channel: Thursday-Friday (3-6 p.m.); CBS: Saturday-Sunday (3-6 p.m.)

LPGA: U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

ESPN: Thursday (noon-4 p.m.), Friday (3-7 p.m.); NBC: Saturday-Sunday (3-6 p.m.)

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR: FRENCH OPEN

Golf Channel: Thursday-Friday (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), Saturday-Sunday (8-11 a.m.)

CHAMPIONS TOUR: COMMERCE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

Golf Channel: Friday (1-3 p.m.), Saturday-Sunday (1-4 p.m.)

NATIONWIDE TOUR: FORD WAYNE GRETZKY CLASSIC

Golf Channel: Thursday-Friday (6:30-8:30 p.m.), Saturday-Sunday (6:30-9 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK (July 3-6)

PGA TOUR: AT&T NATIONAL

Golf Channel: Thursday-Friday (3-6 p.m.); CBS: Saturday (3-6 p.m.), Sunday (3-6:30 p.m.)

LPGA: P&G BEAUTY NW ARKANSAS CHAMPIONSHIP

CBS: Saturday (1:30-3 p.m.), Sunday (1-3 p.m.)

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR: EUROPEAN OPEN

Golf Channel: Thursday-Sunday (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

CHAMPIONS TOUR: DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

Golf Channel: Friday (1-3 p.m.), Saturday-Sunday (1-4 p.m.)