

LGA CORNER: INSIDE THE ROPES
(continued from Page 11)

in the rough on the right. Olson hit his approach just a touch fat, the ball finding the front bunker. Kim had a tough angle, having to go over the tall Monterey pine trees that guard the green on the right. He didn't quite clear the trees, his ball tumbling into the right front bunker. Neither player got it up-and-in for par and we headed for the first tee, my second extra hole match in as many days. After the long trek up the hill and around the clubhouse to the first tee, Kim pulled his drive just into the rough on the left, then Olson absolutely killed his drive down the right side with a little cut, leaving only about 210 yards into the par-5 hole.

Once we reached their drives, Kim called me over, indicating that he felt he might be entitled to relief from a sprinkler head. His ball was in pretty deep rough and once he took his stance, his right foot was indeed squarely on the sprinkler head.

We determined his nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole, and he dropped within one club length of that point. His drop found a much better lie than his ball had originally been in, another good example of a circumstance where the rules can actually help you. His second shot just skirted the bunkers that sit about 50 yards short of the green, ending up in the rough, but sitting up, about 30 yards out. Olson then hit a very good shot to the front fringe about 50 feet from the back left hole location. Kim hit a wonderful shot, landing it just onto the green, the ball feeding back to the rear of the green, finally coming to rest about 3½ feet left of the hole.

The pressure was now squarely on Olson. The ebb and flow of match play is something we don't see often enough in competitions at this level. It's as much about who is mentally tougher as it is about who hits the better golf shots. Olson hit his putt and it was dead on line but a bit firm. He had elected to leave the flagstick in the hole and the ball glanced off the flagstick and ended up about 7-8 feet behind the hole. Still out, his next putt slid in on the left side for birdie, shifting the pressure back onto Kim to make his 3½ footer in order to extend the match yet another hole. After looking at his putt from all angles, Kim stroked it just a tad too hard, the ball lipping out on the high side. The suspense, and the match, was over. Olson had won one up in 19 holes. I congratulated both players and expressed my appreciation at being able to be a part of their match. They were both gracious — one in victory, the other in defeat. These championships always seem to validate what's so great about this game we love so much. Integrity, sportsmanship, and the other similar qualities that our game embodies seem to always be on display.

It's was a great week at Olympic. The courses were all I had expected them to be...and more. As mentioned earlier, the U.S. Open comes here in 2012. It will be a wonderful venue for that Championship.

See you next month...Inside the Ropes

*Carr McCalla is the Executive Director of the LGA.
He can be reached by e-mail (cmccalla@lgagolf.org) or by*

The unabridged version of Carr McCalla's column can be found at www.teetogreenmagazine.com or on the LGA website (www.lgagolf.org).

Louisiana Golf Association accepting applications for P.J. Boatwright Internship

The Louisiana Golf Association is currently accepting applications for the 2008 USGA P.J. Boatwright Internship in Golf Administration. The internship, which will last approximately 10-11 months, is designed to give the aspiring sports administrator hands-on experience in the growing field of golf administration.

The intern will work out of the LGA's offices in Lafayette and will be involved in all aspects of the LGA's programs.

"This will be a wonderful opportunity for someone to see what golf administration is all about," said the LGA Executive Director Carr McCalla, a former P.J. Boatwright Intern himself with the Tennessee Golf Association. "We are looking for someone with an interest in learning this side of the golf industry. The USGA continues to support state golf associations in numerous ways and we are extremely appreciative of their support in providing monies to fund this internship."

The USGA started the internship program in 1991 following the death of P.J. Boatwright, Jr., a former USGA Executive Director and Director of Rules and Competitions. As a memorial tribute, the USGA funds the internship program for regional golf associations throughout the country. The intern's responsibilities will include tournament administration, conducting course ratings, assisting in the handicapping department, and many other organizational and administrative duties. The individual selected will also attend a one-week orientation seminar at Golf House, the USGA's headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersey.

Anyone interested in learning more about this position is encouraged to contact Kevin Jones at (337) 265-3938 or by email at kjones@lgagolf.org. The internship is scheduled to begin in early 2008.

Benoit, Conn team up to win LGA Senior 4-Ball Championship

Darell Benoit of Belle Chasse and Wiley Conn of Mandeville fired a nine-under par 63 on Sept. 17 to take home the title in the 2007 Louisiana Golf Association Senior 4-Ball Championship played at The Atchafalaya Golf Course at Idlewild in Patterson.

Benoit and Conn entered Sunday's final round one shot behind the leaders after their six-under 66 in Saturday's first round.

They turned the front side in 5-under par on Sunday, then Benoit made eagle three on the par-5 13th hole to give them a three-shot cushion with five holes to play over eventual runners-up John Davis and Bill Land of Lafayette.

Davis had also made eagle three on No. 13 to get his team to 10 under. Davis and Land birdied the par-4 14th to get within two, then whittled the lead another stroke as Land made an eagle on the par-5 16th, with Benoit making birdie to keep his team in front by one. Birdies for both teams on No. 17 set the stage for a dramatic finishing hole, with Davis and Land still just one shot back.

After Davis and Land made par, Benoit was faced with a tricky four footer to save par, which he made to ensure their one-stroke victory.