

# The purity of our game

By **CARR McCALLA**

Are you as tired of all the labor strife that overwhelms our professional team sports as I am? Wouldn't you prefer to read about what's happening with the Saints instead of the NFL lock-out? Sounds as if a lock-out is also a fore-gone conclusion for the NBA heading into the 2011-12 season. And baseball isn't without its dysfunction either as it seems that the sport isn't too confident that the owner of the Dodgers (who is the owner anyway, is it Mr. McCourt or Mrs. McCourt?) can run the club. And isn't it finally time to build a second baseball Hall of Fame.....you know, the one for the steroid/HGH users. There would be one in Cooperstown for the players that truly deserve to be there.....and one in say, Death Valley (or some similarly appropriate location), for Bonds, McGuire, Palmeiro, Clemens, and who knows how many others.

Have you ever wondered why golf doesn't seem to get the kinds of negative press that the other sports do? Could it be that our game is just different? After all, our game doesn't require that a 'striped shirt' be on hand for every shot.....in fact, the integrity of our game dictates that competitors call penalties on themselves (what a novel idea). Players at the professional tour level of our game are actually paid only when their play produces results. They don't sign 'guaranteed' contracts that pay them an amount based on the ambiguous 'market value.'

Don't you think you were initially drawn to the game because it doesn't have the inherent problems/issues that some of our other sports do? Think about it.....once you've played a couple of rounds with a new acquaintance can't you make a pretty good judgment as to how trustworthy they are? Let's never take for granted how fortunate we are to have found this great game.....and commit to introducing it to as many new players as we possibly can.

## **JUNIOR AM, 4-BALL, AND MID-AMATEUR REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE**

Registration opened on April 1 for the 2011 LGA Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships. Entry forms have been mailed to all LGA Member Clubs, 2010 LGA Championship participants, and LGA Gold and Silver Sponsors; forms may



also be printed from the LGA website at [www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org). The Junior Am will be held at Beaver Creek GC in Zachary July 6-8; Koasati Pines at Coushatta in Kinder will be host to the Four-Ball Championship on July 16-17; and this year's Mid-Amateur will take place at English Turn G & CC in New Orleans on Aug. 5-7, with qualifiers around the state to be conducted in early and mid July. To enter any of these LGA Championships, simply forward your completed application to our offices prior to the deadline date, or enter online at [www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org) by clicking on the link for "Online

Tournament Registration" and following the prompts.

Registration (online and hard-copy entries) for the Senior Amateur (University Club in Baton Rouge) and Senior Four-Ball Championships (Money Hill G & CC in Abita Springs) will be available on June 1.

## **LGA DISCOUNT CARD NOW AVAILABLE**

If you belong to an LGA Member Club and have not received your LGA discount card as of yet, check with your club's head golf professional or club manager. Once your club has submitted its 2011 individual membership dues (those invoices went out on March 1), cards are immediately sent to the club for distribution. The 2011 cards are valid April 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012, and entitle you to receive one free cart fee at each of 11 Audubon Golf Trail facilities. Use the discount card one time and you've recouped the vast majority of your \$19 membership fee. Use it at all 11 facilities and it translates to a \$180 value. Audubon Golf Trail facilities where the LGA discount card is valid include: Audubon GC/New Orleans, Atchafalaya GC at Idlewild/Franklin, Black Bear GC/Delhi, Carter Plantation/Springfield, Cypress Bend GC/Many, Gray Plantation/Lake Charles, The Island/Plaquemine, OakWing GC/Alexandria, Olde Oaks GC/Shreveport, Tamahka Trails GC/Marksville, and TPC Louisiana/New Orleans.

## **FAREWELL, MR. RUDOLPH**

We lost one of our game's good guys recently. Mason Rudolph, whose son Mase is on the LGA's Board of Directors, passed away last month in Tuscaloosa. Mr. Rudolph qualified for the U.S. Open less than a week after his 16th birthday and went on

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