

# SEA TO SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 5 | MAY 2019



**GREETINGS**

**FROM THE SEA** *By Mike Williams • GCSASC President*

The other day I was chatting with a non-golfer friend of mine and we were discussing some of the elements that the Superintendent does in his job description. He had no idea of how many hats we wear and what our job is truly about. I mentioned that a small benefit is that we find enough golf balls that we don't really buy any when we go out for a round. I happened to show him that I had three large buckets full of golf balls that I'll never use as long I live. He then asked, "Who made the first production golf ball," which left me without an answer. I knew some history, but not enough to field his answer correctly, so I had to look it up.



**WOODEN GOLF BALLS:** By many accounts, it is presumed that the earliest games of golf were played with a wooden ball in the 14th century. It's been refuted that wooden balls were never used in links golf in Scotland, but instead they were

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used in early games that were similar to golf. The evidence of the use of wooden golf balls is scarce, hence the debate around whether they were used by golfers.

**HAIRY GOLF BALLS:** From 1486 through 1618, the Scottish received and used the hairy golf ball imported from the Netherlands. The hairy golf ball was a hand-sewn round leather ball filled with cows' hair or straw. In 1554 the hairy golf ball was being produced in Scotland by the "cordiners and gouff ball makers of North Leith." These balls continued to be used even after the introduction of the featherie golf ball in 1618 because they were less expensive, thus becoming known as the 'common' ball. They were used until the early 18th century.

**FEATHERIE GOLF BALLS:** In 1618, the 'Featherie' golf ball was introduced, which was made similar to the hairy golf balls, but with goose or chicken feathers. Since the featherie golf ball was filled with feathers, it was able to be stuffed more full than the hairy, making it harder and able to fly farther. To make a featherie, the feathers and leather would be shaped while wet. Upon drying, the leather shrank and feathers expanded creating the desired hardness for the ball. Once dried, the featherie would be painted and the ball-maker would add their mark. This process of making a featherie was very time-consuming, which made them more costly. A few drawbacks to the featherie were that it was

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## GREETINGS

## FROM THE SAND

*By Chris Hoyer • Hi-Lo Desert GCSA President*

As you read this, a lot of things have come and gone and hopefully with a lot of fun and success at the same time. My favorite, as I'm sure is many peoples favorite, is the Masters. I absolutely love how evenly matched almost all the golfers are now, and the leaderboard could be filled with big names at any given moment! Not to mention the friendly competitions that are had amongst friends.

Another great event that will have passed is the April event at The S Club in Rancho Mirage. I know it will be great success as we are having Dr. Ball out to do our first outdoor seminar on tree health and proper pruning. He held everyone's attention very well the last time he was here, so looking forward to another fun event. Thank you Mike Olson for hosting!

My least favorite part of the month of April is all the festivals. The valley is overtaken by hundreds of thousands of concert-goers that fill the streets and restaurants. The valley literally turns into one big circus for about a 3 week period as we move from 2 weekends of Coachella festival to a last weekend of Stagecoach festival. I do, however, enjoy participating in that one!

The last part of this is the transition from our beloved Cyndy Neal to Marc Connerly and Connerly & Associates managing our chapters.

We have seen a very smooth transition and I am looking forward to many positive things coming from Connerly. He has already demonstrated that through his ties

in multiple chapters and many organizations, we will be able to stay up on many changes or possible detriments to our industry.

Some of our upcoming events will include Desert Willow on May 14th, as well as our annual over-seed chat on June 6th, 2019. The May meeting will also be our election meeting, as it is time for the changing of the guard.

Please mark that one on your calendar as it is shaping up to be a great event and I'm sure our host Jared Stanek will have the place in excellent shape. •••

## Everybody Is Rooting for Tiger... Except My Wife

*By Don Ebarb • Marbella Country Club*

Placid is a good word to describe the final pairing at Augusta Sunday, and for the first time in the history of the Masters they will go off split tees to try and outpace a storm rolling in for the final round.

If you have been in the top 5 on Sunday at Augusta you have had a pretty good shot at winning since 1990.

Tiger has put himself in position to complete the greatest comeback in sports history on Sunday. Watching Woods control his breathing while walking through the golf course is one of the most amazing things I've ever witnessed. Tom Watson mentioned he did not win a major championship until he learned how to control his heartbeat.

There have been few who have transcended their own sport. Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan; Mike Trout is well on his way, but I don't believe anybody has changed their sport like Woods has.

Tiger is playing against himself every week on the PGA TOUR. These young kids like Spieth, McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, and Tony Finau are all a cre-

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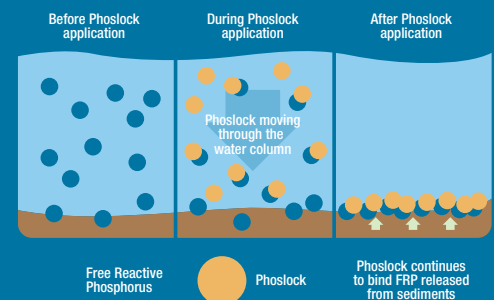
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## From the Field

JEFF JENSEN

GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region



As we head towards the Dog Days of Summer, I want to remind you that the California BMP Committee is hard at work finishing up the state BMP guide. As you are reading this, we should be finishing edits to the final two chapters of the 17-section document.

With the assistance of Blankinship & Associates, we will then be downloading the state information to the GCSAA BMP template site with an official launch of the guide at the Northern California Tri-Chapter Meeting on August 5 at Brookside Golf & Country Club in Stockton.

The California GCSA plans to hold additional education sessions throughout the state in association with chapter meetings beginning in late 2019 or early 2020. The focus of these sessions will be accessing the online tool, making edits to meet course needs and adopting the guide at the facility level. Access to and use of the guide will be free to all golf course superintendents.

A special thanks goes out to those who have contributed to completion of the guide, including Jim Schmid and Terry Vassey from the Hi-Lo Desert and Nate Radwick from Southern California. It wouldn't be possible without the volunteer efforts of these individuals. Funds to complete the guide have included a \$15,000 grant from GCSAA as well as contributions from the annual California Room at the Golf Industry Show.

From the communications and outreach world, GCSAA continues to work diligently to promote superintendents through our relationship with Sirius XM PGA TOUR Radio.

Katrek and Maginnes ON TAP (XM 92, Sirius 208) features a weekly interview with a golf course superintendent or special guest from the turf world.

Numerous superintendents from California have been featured over the first quarter of the year including Bel Air Director of Golf Course Grounds and Greens Justin DePippo. The segments take place at 3:00 p.m. PST every Wednesday.

If you have an interesting story to share or know someone who would make a good guest on the show, please reach out to me and I will do my best to work with our communications staff to arrange it. More information on Katrek and Maginnes ON TAP is available at [www.kmontap.com](http://www.kmontap.com).

Thank you for your continued support and if I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me at [jjensen@gcsaa.org](mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org) and visit my website at <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest> for updates from around the region as well as a calendar of events. •••



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## EPA Reaffirms Finding That Glyphosate Does Not Cause Cancer

*Donnelle Eller • Des Moines Register Published April 30, 2019*

**“There’s no evidence that glyphosate causes cancer,” said Alexandra Dunn, an EPA assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention. “There’s no risk to public health from the application of glyphosate.”**

“There’s no evidence that glyphosate causes cancer,” said Alexandra Dunn, an EPA assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention. “There’s no risk to public health from the application of glyphosate.”

It’s the next step in the EPA’s process to re-register the herbicide, popular with farmers growing food and with families and businesses killing weeds.

The agency said its scientific findings on human health risk are consistent with the reviews by several other countries and federal agencies. Two California juries have ruled in favor of men with lymphoma and blamed the herbicide for their disease. Bayer AG, which bought Monsanto last year, said it would appeal the decisions.

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“The EPA does not comment on litigation ... but our available scientific data does not support a cause-and-effect relationship between exposure to glyphosate and Parkinson’s disease or non-Hodgkin lymphoma,” Dunn said.

The Environmental Working Group slammed the finding, saying it ignores “a growing body of independent research showing a strong connection between glyphosate and cancer in humans.”

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group, said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and President Donald Trump “completely ignore science in favor of polluters like Bayer.”

“This move by EPA should not come as a surprise. Under the control of Trump and Wheel-

er, the agency is virtually incapable of taking steps to protect people from dangerous chemicals like glyphosate,” Cook said

Dunn said EPA’s review was deeper than that of the cancer research agency, an arm of the World Health Organization. “It’s the only agency globally that has connected glyphosate to cancer,” she said, calling it an outlier.

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in U.S. agriculture, applied on more than 100 food crops, including glyphosate-resistant corn, soybeans and cotton.

“If we are going to feed 10 billion people by 2050, we are going to need all the tools at our disposal, which includes the use the glyphosate,” U.S. Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue said.

Amid concerns about traces of glyphosate showing up in food that children eat,

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# FROM THE BUNKER

BY CRAIG KESSLER • Director • Governmental Affairs • SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

When your full time job is to “advocate” for the golf industry, lots of issues, problems, challenges, proposals, laws, regulations, and media stories cross your desk. Some require immediate attention. Some are the recipients of ongoing attention. Some merit watching for future action. Taken together, they tell you lots of things that are valuable to know when your job is to seek best available outcomes in the public arena. They tell you the spirit of the times in which you’re playing the game. They tell you the strength of the hand you’re holding in that game. But perhaps most important of all, they tell you where things are generally headed so that you can prepare for challenges not yet on your industry’s radar screens, but challenges sure to come.

### HERE ARE A COUPLE OF SIGNS OF OUR INDUSTRY’S TIMES THIS MID SPRING 2019

At a March 19 Special Meeting of the Coronado City Council, City Manager Blair King informed the members that “in the summer of 2017 we explored the possibility of purchasing recycled water and we couldn’t find it anywhere in the South Bay; from that experience we found there isn’t a source of recycled water at whatever the cost – the resource is just not there.” That was King’s opening argument in persuading his Council to take the first of many steps in constructing a satellite recycling facility to irrigate Coronado’s parks, medians and municipal golf course.

It was an argument that proved successful. The Coronado City Council approved moving forward to construct a multi-million-dollar project that won’t break even for more than 30 years. A Council Member who expressed skepticism when the project was first broached ended up supporting it, noting that “there is a real possibility the state would cause us to turn our water off on the golf course” were we not to have access to something other than potable water to irrigate it.

It was an argument that the golf industry everywhere in the state ought to take to heart. As I wrote in this column last year, the era of “purple pipe” is all but over. Where aquifers make replenishment a via-

ble strategy for increasing local domestic supply and surpluses accomplish the same end through more direct means, public agencies are moving away from the construction of expensive purple pipe recycled conveyances in favor of various schemes of potable reuse -- what used to be called “toilet to tap.” As population grows, costs rise, climate warms, and droughts ensue, golf is going to find itself scrambling in a morass of competing interests for that precious potable water. Virtually all of those competing interests can lay higher public claim to it.

Whether Coronado or the myriad other locations I enumerated in this column last year, the 60% of California golf courses that rely in whole or part on potable water would be wise to begin thinking sooner than later how they too might avoid the abrupt state cutoff feared by the “skeptical” Coronado Councilmember. The Coachella Valley golf courses in particular may want to extend the logic of this particular “sign of the times” to their own justified fears of state intervention regarding the mandates of the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan.

Lest you think Coronado is acting precipitously and yours truly is unduly hysterical, take a hard look at the language of this legislative session’s SB 332. It categorizes potable irrigation of golf courses as a “frivolous use,” a categorization that carries a whole bunch of adverse consequences for those outdoor irrigators that do not have access to traditional recycled water or raw untreated water. And even those with access to the latter should not rest comfortably. “Raw” water when treated becomes drinking water, and restriction of it is sure to be the next shoe to drop in another period of prolonged drought.

SB 332 is likely to founder in the 2019 legislative session but not due to its categorization of potable golf course irrigation as a “frivolous use,” but rather for the onerous cost burdens it places on water providers and public utilities. The “frivolous use” categorization is likely to stay with this legislation as it gets re-introduced and perfected in future sessions; it’s popular

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KESSLER

with the environmental lobbies that hold great sway in Sacramento.

The scientific evidence that sustains the safety of Glyphosate (Roundup) may be strong, and the evidence that correlates Glyphosate with a certain form of Lymphoma may be incredibly weak; however, as Bayer keeps losing lawsuits, the pressure to settle the many that have been brought based on these early losses is sure to grow. Losing breeds feeding frenzies when the loser has deep pockets. And once that happens the insurance carriers may begin to withdraw from underwriting Glyphosate use, and more and more municipalities are going to be persuaded to use that as all the evidence they need to sustain ordinances that ban the use of Glyphosate in their parks, medians, and golf courses.

AB 533 is a bill to extend exclusions from taxable income all financial incentives and/or rebates associated with various forms of water conservation in-

vestments. At least, it was a bill to continue all such exclusions until it was amended to exclude only turf removal rebates. Its past iterations included a whole host of investment tools capable of reducing water consumption, many of them amenable to the golf industry. No more; now it's all about ripping out turf - another "sign" that this particular time may contain a measure of anti-turf animus that bodes ill for an industry that is turf dependent.

If these "signs" distress you, they should. If they cause you to want to jump into the public arena and change the hearts, minds and spirits that produce them, give me a call. You're my kind of person, the kind who understands that nothing of value ever comes easy and enjoys nothing more than the opportunity to make a difference. •••



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**ANA Inspiration** *Contributed by Nate Glaser • Heritage Palms Golf Club*

Huge congratulations are in order for David Hay CGCS, Jared Taylor, and the rest of the Turfgrass Staff at Mission Hills Country Club for a great showing of golf course conditions in this year's ANA Inspiration (Golf's First Major)



Photo Credit: CBS Sports

On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Jin-Young Ko became this year's champion of the tournament here in Rancho Mirage. The ANA is traditionally known as "golf's first major." This year however, some, if not most, of the world's attention was stolen and focused on the Inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur.

The first thing we need to accept is that women playing a competition at Augusta National is a tremendous thing for women's golf. Augusta National, opening the gates for women - first to membership and now to the Augusta National Women's Amateur tournament - can only produce good things for women and the game of golf. Being a father of two little girls sure can change one's perspective!

Anyway, it's not Augusta National hosting a women's amateur tournament that is a problem. The issue is that Augusta National hosted the tournament the same week as the ANA, the first major of the year on the LPGA. It should be a week where the golf world focuses on the history and tradition and the great play at Mission Hills Country Club.


By its very nature, anything that happens at Augusta National will surpass anything else in golf at the same moment, and that was true this April. When the amateurs played at Augusta National on Saturday, (only one of the three rounds were actually played at Augusta National), it inevitably took the spotlight away from the third round of the major championship in Rancho Mirage, where the best women golfers in the world were playing.

Again, this was wonderful history being made at Augusta National, but it was history that could have been made the week before or two weeks later. The ANA Inspiration is contractually obligated to play its event on the first Sunday in April. That's not true of the ANWA event, yet somehow it appeared in the same week as the LPGA's first major.

Some proponents of the two events have argued that the addition of the ANWA will make this week a celebration of women's golf, that the excitement of the new tournament and the excitement about the major championship will give women's golf more exposure than ever. That may be true, but that feels like an argument being made in order to lessen the conflict. And what about the amateurs who could have played in the ANA Inspiration, a long-time tradition of the tournament, who were also invited to play in the ANWA? I can't imagine having to choose between the two events, as a teenager no less.


I would guess, this is a fight the LPGA probably can't win. The LPGA could complain loudly, but that might actually hurt their cause. I would guess, there will be talk of moving the ANWA or moving the ANA Inspiration dates. There will be talk of watching the best players in the world on the LPGA compared to the talented amateurs playing at Augusta National. But for now, the ANA Inspiration just has to weather the storm and hope that this time next year, either the tournament date is moved or the focus is on the LPGA major and not on the amateurs playing the Masters course. •••

*Side note: I had an opportunity to play the Dinah Shore course on Monday, the day after the tournament. How the hell any of those ladies broke par is beyond me!*



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## GCSASC Education & Golf Meeting

Angeles National Golf Club • April 11th

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Presenter Gina Rizzi with GCSASC President Mike Williams



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## FROM THE SEA

hard to get perfectly round, it lost distance if it got wet, and it would potentially split open upon impact.

**GUTTIE/GUTTA GOLF BALLS:** In 1848, Dr. Robert Adams Paterson invented the Gutta-Percha ball, or Guttie. The guttie was made by using dried sap from the Malaysian Sapodilla tree. The sap had a rubber-like quality to it and upon heating could be formed into a sphere. The gutties soon gained popularity, as they were less expensive to make, were easily reformed if damaged and had better aerodynamic properties than the featherie. The guttie evolved further when it was discovered that the marks left on the ball after hitting the guttie with the club actually made the guttie more aerodynamic. Moving away from the original smooth surface, makers of gutties began intentionally indenting the surface of the balls to achieve a better and more consistent flight pattern. By 1890 gutties were being produced with molds which made their quality consistent and increased their affordability. One of the commonly used patterns on the guttie was known as the bramble, which were raised spherical bumps along the surface that made it resemble bramble fruit.

**RUBBER CORE GOLF BALLS - HASKEL:** In 1898, Coburn Haskell made a discovery while awaiting Bertram Work, of the B.F. Goodrich Company, when he wound a rubber thread into a ball and bounced it. Haskell discovered it had a lot of bounce and upon Bertram Work's suggestion to put a cover over it, the rubber Haskell golf ball was born. The early process of making the rubber Haskell golf ball involved a liquid-filled or solid round core which was wound with a layer of rubber thread to create a larger round inner core which was then covered by a thin outer shell made of balata sap. Initially the Haskell golf balls were made with the bramble patterns like the guttie balls. However, in the early 1900s it was discovered that inverting the dimples to go inward and concave gave the ball a better flight pattern that was easier to control; thus bringing the modern look of the golf ball to which we've become accustomed.

The balata sap initially used to make Haskell golf balls had a tendency to get indents on it, as it was relatively soft. In the mid-1960s, there was a new synthetic resin called Surlyn that was introduced along with new urethane blends that were used for golf ball covers. These new materials provided a more durable cover that was less apt to club indents. Golf balls began to be classified by how many components are used in layering and constructing the golf ball, either two-piece, three-piece or four-piece balls. In 1967, Spalding became the first company to patent and develop the solid golf ball by Jim Bartsch, which eliminated the layered technique and became known as the 'executive' model.

The rubber Haskell golf ball is the standard for the modern golf ball. The layering techniques allow for golf ball manufacturers to create golf balls with different properties that help with different areas of your game. Some balls can fly farther while some are designed to generate more spin. However some basic aspects must remain as the Rules of Golf, governed by the Royal & Ancient and the United States Golf Association, have set standards that the diameter of a 'conforming' golf ball cannot be smaller than 1.680 inches and the weight cannot exceed 1.620 ounces. The ball must also adhere to having spherical symmetry.

If you haven't registered for the S&R Tournament at Santa Ana CC on June 24th, please do so ASAP to avoid being on a waiting list, as the event should be sold out. Scholarship deadline is May 15th, so hurry and send in your applications.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at one of the Chapter's best attended events!

•••

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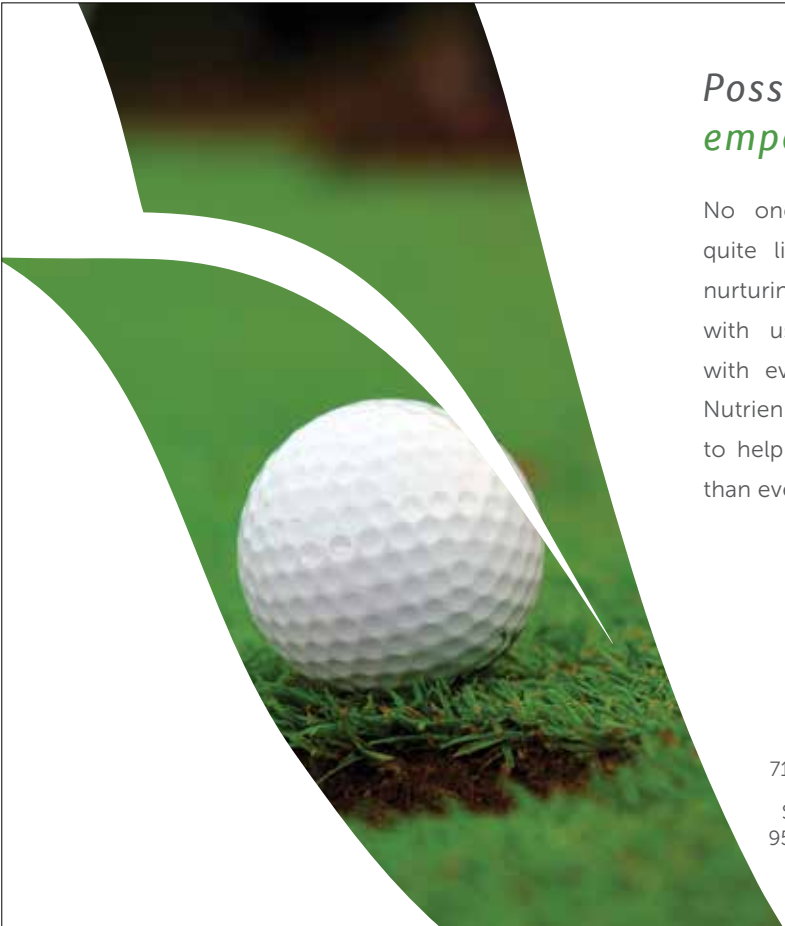
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Glyphosate

Dunn said EPA found no risk to pregnant women and children. “We also found no risk to children playing on residential lawn treated with glyphosate,” Dunn said. “Any family can purchase it to use on their yards.”

Environmental Work Group, among others, have questioned children’s exposure to herbicides through breakfast cereal, granola and other food. “We found no risks or concerns ... at the maximum allowed residue levels on cereals” and other foods, Dunn said.

While EPA did not identify public health risks with glyphosate, it did find risks through its ecological assessment. The agency proposes changes in use to protect nearby plants that pollinators, birds and other animals eat. EPA said glyphosate drifting could eliminate food sources for animals, such as milkweed for monarch butterflies.

To address those risks, EPA is proposing management measures to help farmers target pesticide sprays on the intended pest, protect pollinators, and reduce the problem of weeds becoming resistant to glyphosate.

In a separate action, EPA is updating label language for pesticide products for herbicides, collaborating with federal, state and other stakeholders on conservation efforts and increasing outreach on spray drift management and integrated pest management. Once the Federal Register notice publishes, the public will be able to submit comments on EPA’s proposed decision at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361. •••

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# Two Great Comebacks!

By Jeff Stephenson • *Nutrien Solutions*

Happy May, everyone; as I reflect on the incredible month of April (the first half as this is written) and we've seen two of the most incredible comebacks in the history of sports. The NCAA championship game showed us that a team that was the first ever 1 seed to lose to a 16 seed 365 days later would be cutting down the nets in Minneapolis was truly incredible; then Ti-



ger Woods “hold my beer.” The Masters tournament did not disappoint, as a 43-year-old from Southern California whose last victory at Augusta came before the iPhone emerged victorious.

I think the greatest part of the Tiger Woods comeback was how much he unites golf fans, sports fans, heck, even politicians. I just feel bad for everyone else who didn't get to watch the final round by the pool like most of us in the desert.

As we turn to May, with our election meeting taking place at Desert Willow, we will have an affiliate position available because all around good guy Andy Means is stepping down from the Board after many years of service. Andy has been a tremendous joy to work with and try to make laugh at our Board meetings. He will now have more time to focus on his true passion of being a Seattle Mariners superfan (a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2001).

Andy has been a staple in the valley, wearing the iconic John Deere green for many years. He was also in a fraternity back in the day, so it was a smooth transition from “buying” his friends in college to having an expense account. Andy will probably never get the true recognition he deserves for all his hard work to the association, probably because he's equally challenged both vertically and with male pattern baldness, but he's an incredible human. Andy, you will be missed on the Board and you've been like a cool older brother who constantly disappoints mom and dad while lowering the bar for me. Cheers, brother! •••

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ation of Tiger's legacy. He showed them how to have a better diet, how to stay fit, spend some time at the gym, how to be unflappable, how to intimidate and how not to be intimidated, but most importantly he taught them how to breathe.

Finau, who is in the final pairing with Tiger on Sunday, mentioned after the third round that Woods taught him to fear nobody and that he would be fine for the fourth-round pairing with Tiger, which came to fruition.

Why would this be the greatest comeback in sports history? America loves to give second chances to their heroes, and Tiger would have as good of a chance as anybody to get that second chance. Not only has Tiger had to chisel his way out of the mental aspects from an embarrassing marital hiccup, he's also had to come a long way in rehabilitating his body and mind to become a legitimate threat once again.

Ben Hogan's comeback was amazing after his car accident and broken bones in 1949, but bones heal, and there were some who thought Tiger would never fight his way back from the mental and physical scarring he had to endure.

Tiger has changed through all of the adversity. He is one of the guys now. He laughs more, he smiles more. I truly believe that now that his kids are older, he cares about what they think of him, and when you are as polarizing as Tiger, image is everything!

You can tell from Tiger's disposition that he wants the green jacket immensely. If he goes on to win Sunday, he will be only three back of Jack for 18 Major Championships, and with the way Woods is driving the ball he could easily notch two majors quickly, with Pebble Beach hosting the U.S Open this year.

I'm having a hard time controlling my heart rate here on the couch; I can't imagine what is going through Tiger's mind, but it's fascinating and the best TV I've seen in years. What an amazing day! If you have a soul, I hope you were rooting for Tiger on Sunday! •••

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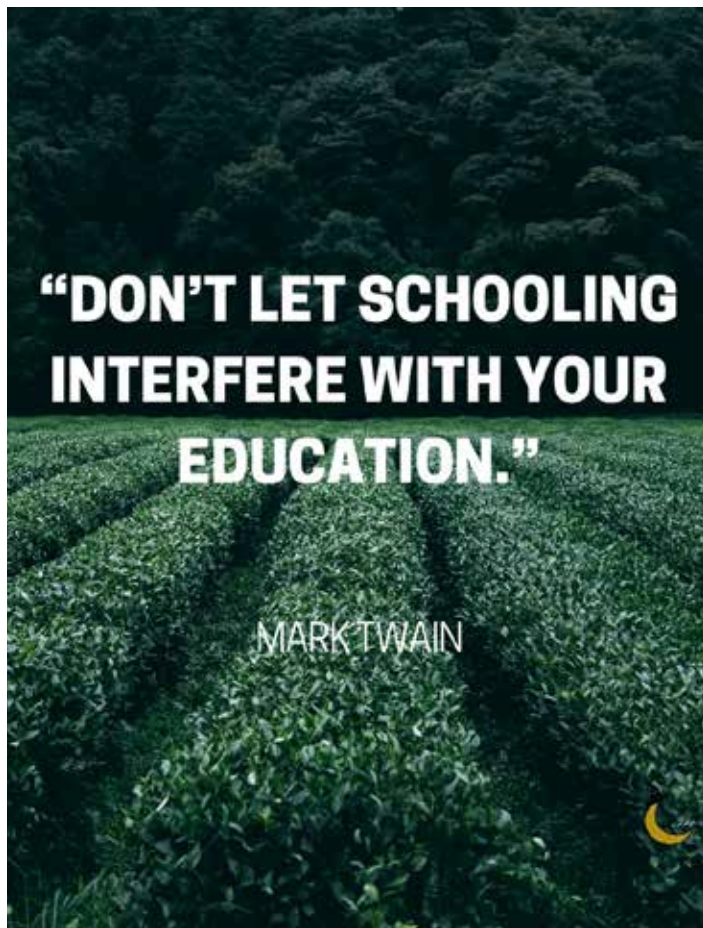
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