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# HOGAN TROPHY CANDIDATES LIGHT-UP PGA TOUR

During a late July weekend, recent Ben Hogan Trophy Award finalists celebrated victories when 20-year-old Matthew Wolff eagled the 72nd hole to win the PGA Tour's inaugural 3M Open, while Jon Rahm captured the Irish Open, an event first established in 1927, for his eighth career worldwide win.

In addition to Southern California native Wolff, a 2019 Hogan Award finalist, and Spain's Rahm, the only two-time Hogan Trophy Award winner (2015, 2016), three Hogan finalists from the past three years cashed six-figure checks in Minnesota. Collin Morikawa, another Southern California native and a finalist in both 2018 and 2019, finished one stroke behind Wolff, while 2017 finalist Wyndham Clark enjoyed a Top-5 finish and 2019 Hogan Trophy Award winner Viktor Hovland placed tied for 13th.

A week later, Dylan Frittelli, a 2012 Hogan Trophy semi-finalist won the John Deere with Morikawa finishing fourth four strokes back. Several weeks later, Morikawa, who was also a 2017 semi-finalist, bested the field at the Barracuda Championships in Reno.

Since the Hogan Trophy Award dinner in May, the trio of Hovland, Morikawa and Wolff have earned a combined $3.8 million in winnings, made 26 out of 30 cuts and posted 10 top-25 finishes on the PGA Tour, including Hovland's low amateur finish (T-12) at the U.S. Open. All three earned their PGA Tour cards for the 2019/2020 season and vastly improved their Official World Golf Ranking—Wolff (117), Morikawa (87) and Hovland (101). Other Hogan Trophy success stories include Wyndam Clark,

***A few weeks after being FOG's 2019 Honoree, Brooks Koepka won his third major golf title, the PGA Championship.***

the 2017 finalist has three Top 10's and winnings of $1.3 million, Patrick Rodgers, the 2014 winner has earned over $6 million and Doug Ghim, the 2018 winner earned his Tour Card for this season by finishing 23rd on the Korn Ferry Tour, the current name for the PGA's developmental tour. Of course, UCLA's Patrick Cantlay, FOG's 2018 Honoree and 2012 Hogan Trophy winner had a breakout year by winning the Memorial Tournament and as of this writing is #7 in the world.

The Ben Hogan Trophy Award is a joint venture between Friends of Golf (FOG), the Golf Coaches Association of America and the Hogan Trophy Award Foundation and presented by Konica Minolta. The award is annually presented by FOG co-founder, Eddie Merrins and goes to the collegiate golfer who has exhibited the most success that year representing his university while taking into account their overall amateur record.

Along with those mentioned above, Hogan Trophy Award winners, finalists and semifinalists are making their mark on the PGA Tour. Bryson DeChambeau, a 2014 semifinalist and 2016 FOG Honoree, finished second at the 3M Open and already has recorded five PGA Tour victories. Other notables with Hogan

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

*"The finest one day tournament of its kind in the USA." – Byron Nelson*

*(Hogan Trophy Award story cont.)*

***Norway's Viktor Hovland (center) captured the 2019 Hogan Trophy after winning the 2018 U.S. Amateur and being low amateur at both the 2019 Masters and the 2019 U.S. Open. However, the other two finalists, Mathew Wolff (left), and Collin Morikawa (right) have already achieved PGA Tour victories.***

Trophy Award ties include Rickie Fowler, Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth, Patrick Reed, Kevin Tway, Beau Hossler, Aaron Wise, Russell Henley, Kyle Stanley, Kevin Chappell, Webb Simpson, Chris Kirk, Ryan Moore, Bill Haas, Hunter Mahan, Graeme McDowell and many more.

## WE GET LETTERS

In this space, we traditionally print excerpts from letters FOG receives from high school and college coaches and administrators thanking the organization for financial support and other contributions to their programs. However, in this edition we wanted to spotlight FOG's involvement with the Southern California Professional Golf Association's Scholarship program. As part of the scholarship application process, those seeking financial aid must write a one page description of how they have and will continue to be a "Friend of Golf."

*"Having never even played the sport, let alone step foot on a course, I decided to dedicate my freshman year (and unbeknownst to me, my life) to golf. I instantly fell in love. Picking up the unfamiliar swing over the summer to perfecting my short game throughout my first season was a challenge, but I was determined to be the best. I listened attentively to my coach and to older girls on the team. With amazing support, I soon picked up on the small nuances of the game. The next few years, our program grew and grew into nothing it had been before. I placed as the 4th position on our varsity team, competing in league matches, our league tournament, and the CIF Team Championships. Even on the bad days, I loved playing. I would always come back, working to improve and to beat my last score. Although I am still not the best player in the world, I have enjoyed every minute of my friendship with golf."*

**Jenna Stuck, Royal High School**
**Attending: UC Santa Barbara**

*"The relationships that I have formed through golf have taught me many valuable lessons—from respect and honor, to the importance of emotional stability and developing a healthy competitive drive. I aim to continue to be a friend of golf to be able to serve as that trusted teammate for anyone who needs it. I hope to continue to give back to the game and evolve as a person. Through volunteering at junior camps or adult classes or by simply helping a friend learn to enjoy the game. I believe that I can organically grow the game and help others develop the same love for golf that I have. Through sharing my experiences, both my successes and failures, and showing others how the game can be part of a very rich, fulfilling life, I know I am and can continue to be a Friend of Golf."*

**Christian Schrodt,**
**J Serra Catholic High School**
**Attending: Colorado School of Mines**

*"In the early stages of my golf career, an old family friend introduced us to programs such as SCGA Junior, SCPGA and AJGA. Through the experiences I have had with these programs, it made golf more accessible and it helped make my introverted self become more social and competitive, developing the demeanor I carry with myself today. The accomplishments I have achieved since then, such as placing 3rd at the CIF while shooting a personal best of one under par, has propelled me forward and contributed to my optimistic persona. I know I am and will continue to be a friend of golf in the future due to my past involvement and adventures with the sport. From being a resourceful neighbor, a captain on my high school golf team and an official under U.S. Kids Golf Orange County Local Tour, I have learned how to communicate with others, in both golf and personal affairs. I believe that the friendships I have made through golf are worthwhile and genuine, which is something I would like to pass down to the next generation of golfers. I am very thankful for the opportunities the SCPGA Foundation and Friends of Golf have given me throughout my junior golf career."*

**Emilie Nguyen, Villa Park H.S.**
**Attending: Missouri University of Science & Technology**

*"Anyone who has ever played the game of golf knows that it is far from friendly, and yet, that might be what attracts me the most. Yes, there are bad days when I go to the range and it feels as if I've never held a club before, times when I don't see anything visibly wrong with my swing but the ball refuses to go in the direction I want it to, or rounds when I finished with such an outlying high score that I want to sell my clubs, but that's the beauty of the game. Golf has a love-hate relationship with every single person that dares to accept its challenge, and that putt that finally drops for a birdie makes us completely forget about the rough patches in the past holes. I have grown up playing several different sports including soccer, basketball, and even running track, but golf definitely takes the crown of being the most difficult. However the feeling of accomplishment that I leave the course with after a good round is so much greater, and I still feel encouraged to improve my score even more, trying again to beat the unbeatable game. This challenge of having more good days than bad and always trying to improve my score has proven to me that I am a friend of golf, and I will respect this game for as long as I play. I feel that having a friendship with the game of golf is a beautiful feeling, and it is my goal to become a high school teacher and golf coach so that I can share my experience with young golfers and show them that golf is more than a just a sport."*

**Morgan Sjoerdsma,**
**Martin Luther King H.S.**
**Attending: Cal State Los Angeles**

## BENTON BECOMES THIRD RAZORBACK TO CAPTURE DINAH SHORE TROPHY

Keeping with the tradition of honoring extraordinary young women, the 2019 Dinah Shore Trophy was awarded to Kaylee Benton of the University of Arkansas. Criteria for the award not only takes into account a golfer's prowess on the course, but their performance in the classroom and extracurricular activities to support their communities.

Benton, the third Razorback to capture the Shore Trophy, checked all the boxes. She was a semi-finalist at the 2018 U.S. Women's Amateur after leading her team to the Southeastern Conference title and recorded an average score of 72.1 her senior year. She was a two time Scholar All-American and finished her education above the required 3.2 GPA.

Benton, who was born in Tennessee but grew up in Buckeye, AZ, also excelled in her community work. She took part in the Hurricane Harvey Canned Food Drive, and was involved in the local Boys & Girls Club, the Children's Ministry at The Rock Church and Book Hogs, an on-campus organization where student-athletes work with elementary school children to better their reading skills.

***Benton joined fellow Razorbacks Stacy Lewis and Emily Tubert in winning the Dinah Shore Trophy, an award that takes in account a scholar-athlete's success on the course, the classroom and the community.***

"That's so cool!" Benton said about her award in an interview with Golf Channel. "I'm just very proud of that. I worked really hard this year and I try so hard to contribute to this team and to this world in other ways besides golf."

The Dinah Shore Trophy is a joint venture between FOG, the Ladies Professional Golf Association and major LPGA sponsor, ANA Inspiration.

## 2019 FOG TOURNAMENT DAY

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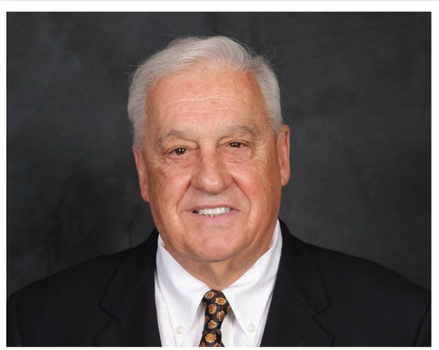
# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
## SAL CIMBOLO



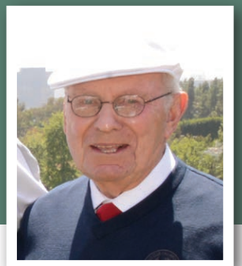
I sat down to write my message after reading the essays from the high school students applying for college scholarships through our partnership with the Southern California Professional Golf Association (SCPGA). My guess is everyone who has been in a responsible position at a non-profit organization wonders once in a while if they're truly making a difference. When I ponder that question regarding my decades of involvement with Friends of Golf (FOG), I need to look no further than the individuals and programs that ultimately benefit. Our mission has become more than simply ensuring the future of the game. It's also to provide opportunities for young boys and girls who in the past thought golf had boundaries and they were on the outside looking in. The idea that golf included many intangibles that would help them navigate the path of life never occurred to them until FOG and the youth organizations we support came into their life. The SCPGA essays of which excerpts appear on Page 2 in the We Get Letters section, are a terrific reminder of our mission being fulfilled. The words of these young student-athletes tell me the future of golf is in good hands. They also confirm that the work we do has made a positive impact on people's lives. Some of the stories reflect on the hardships some have endured while others talk about the friendships golf has allowed them to make or the lessons golf teaches that they've already recognized benefit their schoolwork or drive to improve. I've had so many other reminders during my tenure with FOG. The letters we receive annually from high school coaches that thank FOG for making their golf program possible. Our Turn Wood and Iron into Gold (TWIG) program where high school coaches drive as much as 120 miles each way then line-up to have an opportunity make their program accessible to more student-athletes by grabbing the used equipment donated to FOG each year. The young Latina from SCGA who spoke at a FOG banquet and talked about how the golf course was her safe haven and a respite from the on-going violence in her neighborhood. Some may say it's just golf. However reading these essays and hearing these stories tell me it's more than just golf. It's making a difference. FOG has come a long way from an organization that supported UCLA golf to college golf to high school golf to youth golf organizations. It makes me very proud to be associated with FOG for all these years and grateful to our wonderful sponsors, our participants and to the many who have donated their time to make a significant difference in the lives of those that needed it.

## PHILANTHROPIC GIVING IN ESTATE PLANNING

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Over the years, several individuals have remembered Friends of Golf (FOG) in their wills or living trusts contributing a significant amount of money and creating a legacy for themselves and the families they left behind. These legacy gifts, sometimes referred to as planned giving, have meant a great deal to FOG and its mission of supporting young boys and girls from the early stages of their development through college. Although there may be tax benefits for this type of donation to FOG since it's a recognized 501(c) non-profit, there are many other reasons. FOG has stood the test of time and recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Plus FOG depends almost exclusively on volunteers and is able to maintain extraordinary financial efficiency. Well over 90% of all funds raised go directly to the youth organizations and schools FOG supports not to salaries of high priced executives. Although financial gifts are more common with this type of donation, FOG also needs used golf clubs and other golf equipment for its Turn Wood and Iron Into Gold (TWIG) program that supports several sections of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). For additional information about including FOG in your estate planning, please visit the FOG website's sponsor page and click on the logo of one of our wealth management partners.



# 19th HOLE
By Lil' Pro



***Brooks Koepka, pictured here with the Lil' Pro and the Golf Channel's Tim Rosaforte, spent extra time with the young golfers participating in the FOG Golf Clinic.***

Seven of my former UCLA players are currently playing regularly on the PGA Champions Tour and five of them are currently in the Top 30 of the Charles Schwab Cup Money List. Scott McCarron is first with three wins this year and almost $2.5 million in winnings. He's not a big man, but he's kept himself in great shape and hits the ball far which makes the golf course shorter. Scott was on my team that won the 1988 NCAA Championship along with Ken Tanigawa, who has two wins on the Champions Tour. He eagled the 72nd hole to win the 2018 PURE Insurance tournament at Pebble Beach and the 2019 Senior PGA; considered one of the majors on the Champions Tour.

Another former UCLA player, Kevin Chappell, the only Bruin to ever win the NCAA Singles Championship was in the news recently. He became only the 11th golfer to shoot a sub-60 score on the PGA Tour when he fired a 59 at the Military Tribute at the Greenbrier. He had a birdie putt on the 18th Hole to shoot only the second 58 in PGA Tour history but barely missed. Along the way, he tied Mark Calcavecchia's PGA Tour record of nine straight birdies. In 2016 and 2017, Kevin finished in the Top 30 in FedEx Cup points and qualified for the 2017 President's Cup team. Back problems and surgery slowed him in 2018 and he only played in three tournaments. Currently he's playing under a medical exemption and the Greenbrier tournament signaled his return. My lowest score on the PGA Tour was a course record 66 at Medinah. A fellow by the name of Tiger Woods shot a lower score after the course had been reconfigured, so my score still stands as the record for the old layout. Eight of the 11 sub-60 scores have been shot since 2010. This is due to better equipment and the balls going farther, but it's also due to the players getting stronger. When I was playing, the golfers headed to the bar after their round concluded. These days, they go workout.

A shining example of that is our 2019 Honoree, Brooks Koepka. Apparently he worked out prior to the final round of the PGA Championship, a tournament he eventually won recording his third major golf championship. He's a sign of the future. People wonder why he performs so well in majors. The answer is he combines four important ingredients for success in golf; physical talent, mental approach, technical skills and spirituality. This last ingredient may come from religion, education, parents and other sources but it helps in stress situations because that's when true character comes out. Brooks was an absolute delight as our Honoree. He did everything we asked and even spent over an hour following the clinic with a couple of junior golfers that we had participating.

UCLA's golf team features sophomore Devon Bling, who was runner-up at the 2018 U.S. Amateur which earned him spots in the 2019 Masters and 2019 U.S. Open. Their fall season begins in October and includes a three day multi-team competition in Hawaii. In 2008, the NCAA returned to having match play determine the National Champion. Stroke play is used to determine the top eight teams and seed them. I was originally opposed to this, but I've changed my tune. I believe it's important for our young golfers to get used to match play since that's the format used for international competition like the Ryder Cup, Solheim Cup, Presidents Cup, Walker Cup and others. This is one reason Patrick Reed has performed so well in international match play competition. His coach at Augusta State emphasized match play and his Reed-lead teams won back-to-back NCAA Championships in 2010 and 2011. Of course, the irony of this is there is no match play during the regular season. All competition now is three day stroke play tournaments featuring as many as 20 teams.

***Kevin Chappell became only the 11th PGA Tour player to break 60. However, Jim Furyk, pictured here with FOG Chairman, Sal Cimbolo at the 2018 FOG Champions Dinner, is the only golfer to break 60 twice and the only one to shoot a 58 in PGA Tour competition.***

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