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**Designer Beau Welling completes the work on the  
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**PC's Ticket is  
punched**

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# Tigers in post season, USC not selected

## Clemson to play in Louisville, USC did not clear 500 mark

South Carolina ended the college golf season ranked 24th in the country, but the 500 rule that kept cross state rival Clemson out of the NCAA tournament last year got the Gamecocks,

Clemson bounced back from missing the NCAA tournament last year to be placed in the Louisville Region.

College teams must have a winning record to be selected for the post season. The record is built on individual player wins in tournament play.

The Gamecocks however, received a consolation prize of sorts.

South Carolina is the first school to have four players selected to participate as individuals in regional play.

Molly McLean, Ella Galitsky, Maylie L'Amour and Virana Heck will be in the field as individual entrants.

Furman, as the SoCon Champions will play in the Chapel Hill R3 regional, (Story on Page 7 of this edition.)

The College of Charleston is in the field and will play at the Louisville Region.

The top five teams at each regional site will advance to the NCAA Women's final

Anderson, Bickens, Oconee, Greenwood, Laurens, Cherokee, Union and Abbeville counties or a member of a golf course in these counties, can enter the champion-

ship.

The 30-hole tournament is scheduled for August 10-11. Additional information is available by email at [upstateladiesamateurgolf@gmail.com](mailto:upstateladiesamateurgolf@gmail.com).



## Todd and Brown win Super Senior 4 ball

Walter Todd (Laurens) and Jack Brown (Greer) held on to win the 2026 SCGA Super Senior Four-Ball after a sudden-death playoff. The side shot rounds of 63 and 67 to post a two-day total of 14-under-par. Jack Brown made birdie on the first playoff hole to secure the victory for the side



## Park is Big South Freshman of the Year

Wren High School grad Dylan Park was named the top freshman in the Big South Conference.

The Winthrop golfer had an outstanding year for the Eagles with

He paced the conference in stroke average during the regular season at 71.30, and was one of four Big South golfers with three Top 10 finishes prior to the Conference Championship.

Park's best showing was a runner-up finish at the Wofford Invitational with a 6-under par 207.

Park tied for fifth at the Conference Championship with a 4-under 209 to earn a spot on the All-Championship Team.

## O'Donnell wins CGA Mid-Am title.

Sean O'Donnell from Pinehurst reached 8-under 205 to secure a one-shot victory and his first Carolinas Golf Association championship.

# Fast! Firm! Fun! Play the best bent grass greens in the Upstate

After winning four SCGA Senior Player of the Year awards, Mike Lawrence finally captured the Senior Championship. (SCGAPhoto)



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# Spartanburg Day School wins SCISA AAA title

**Petty is 3A medalist, Griffins win team title by twenty-five shots**

By Stan Olenik  
Editor-Publisher, The Golf Club

Todd White has been there.  
Davis Petty is on his way there.  
And now, Spartanburg Day School is there.

Where?

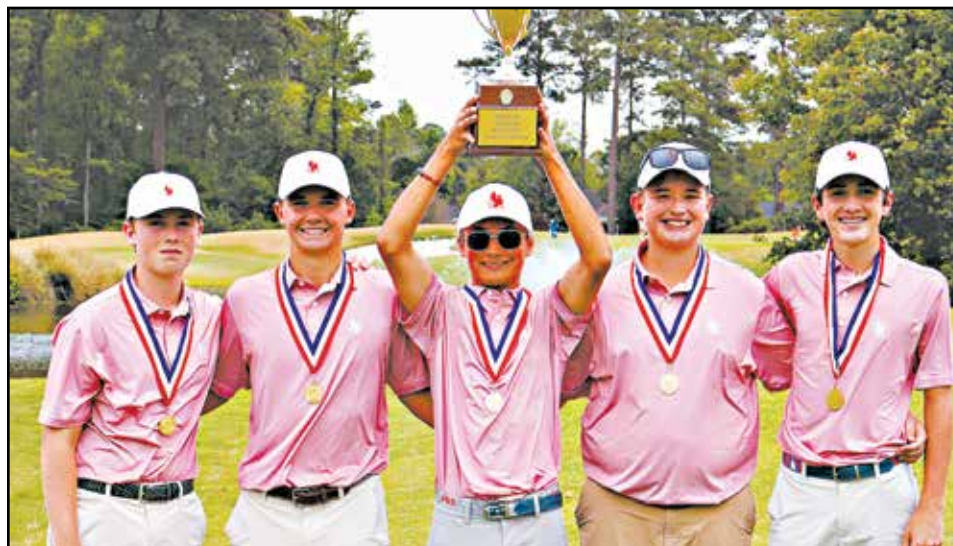
At the top of SCISA Class 3A, where the Griffins are state champions.

When White made the move from coaching Spartanburg High School to Spartanburg Day, he brought with him the unquestioned qualities of a winner. A two-time state amateur champion, his playing career grew to include victories in the U.S. Senior Amateur and the British Senior Amateur, along with a place in the South Carolina Golf Association Hall of Fame.

Petty's path has been different, but just as well known. First noticed as a nine-year-old taking on older players at The Creek Golf Club, he went on to win national titles on the sub-junior level across the country.

Together, they joined a talented—but at times still developing—group of young golfers looking for direction.

When White arrived as head coach and Petty transferred in for his freshman year, they brought with them a level of experience and confidence that settled in over the course of the season. It wasn't about changing everything—it was about



*The Spartanburg Day School Griffins celebrate their victory in the SCISA State 3A championship. The team won the title by 25 shots over Hilton Head Prep. Team members included Medalist Davis Petty (also below) A K Milner, Kingston Linder, Reid Hines and Matthew Roff. (Spartanburg Day School Photos)*

reinforcing what was already in place.

**White gave them direction.**

“Instead of focusing on the outcome, let's focus on the process we have to go through to achieve what we want,” White said. “They bought into what we're trying to do with the program—doing it the right way. The way they conduct themselves on the golf course, the way they manage their emotions, not only from an etiquette side, but also to maintain composure to help their game.”

**Petty provided the presence.**

A proven performer on big stages, the freshman gave Spartanburg Day a consistent force at the top of the lineup, allowing the rest of the team to develop at its own pace, knowing they had both a leader and



a backstop.

Petty has often said his goal is to become the best player in the state. That takes talent—but just as importantly, it takes commitment. That mindset spread through the rest of the lineup.

When Petty claimed medalist honors at the early-season Parks Hutto Bengal, the new addition cemented his role with the team.

One player can win an individual state championship—as Petty did with rounds of 69 and 66 for a 9-under-par 135—but when the players finishing right behind him are teammates, the result is something bigger.

**It's a team championship.**

Kingston Linder shared second place with teammate Matthew Roff, and long before the final scores were turned in at the Hackler Course, Linder believed the outcome was already clear.

“We had a lot of player development over the last year, a lot of growth from our returning team, and obviously Davis coming in was a big key to the success we had this year,” he said.

For a group that has grown up together playing junior golf in Spartanburg, Petty's arrival wasn't seen as an interruption—but as an extension.

“We've all been friends for 10-plus years playing golf together,” said A.K. Milner. “So when we got together on the same team, it just worked out great, and the year has been a lot of fun.”

*Griffins .....Continued on Page 18*

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# Hanna wins it all at the Southern Cross

## Bennett Scaletta shoots final round 6-under 65 for medalist honors and two shot win

By Stan Olenik  
Editor-Publisher, The Golf Club

Bennett Scaletta wasn't any different from the rest of the elite field at the Southern Cross.

At least not at the start.

Like many of the top players in the field, the Hanna High School standout had the résumé—state titles, major junior wins, two South Carolina Junior Player of the Year honors.

But there was one line missing The Southern Cross. Now, there isn't.

Scaletta checked that final box with rounds of 73 and 5-under 66 for a 138 total, good for a two-shot victory at Palmetto Golf Club.

Getting there, however, was anything but routine.

### A problem you couldn't see

Early in the first round, something didn't feel right.

"I was doing the same thing I always do—same swing—but the ball was going in crazy places," Scaletta said.

At first, there was no obvious explanation. Then came a small clue—a rattle in his driver.

That happens sometimes. Loose epoxy, nothing unusual.

### But this wasn't that.

"I looked at the back of the club and there it was—a crack," he said. "You wouldn't see it unless you were really looking."

With no time for a fix, Scaletta put the driver away and improvised.

"I just left it in the bag and hit 3-wood. Luckily at Palmetto, you don't really need driver."

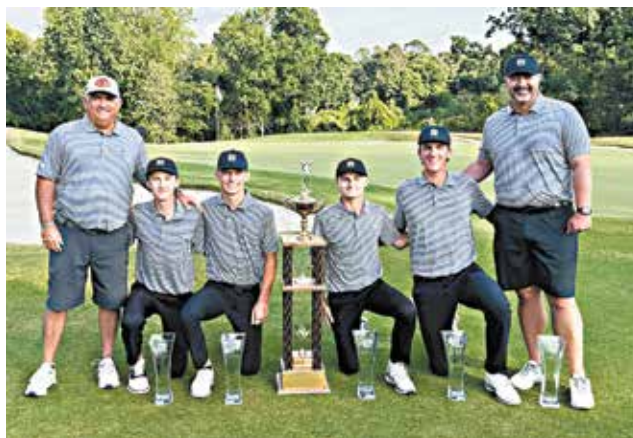
He still managed to grind out a 73—but he would start the final round six shots off the lead.

### A reset—and a charge

Help arrived the next morning. Scaletta's father brought a backup driver head from home. A few swings



Bennett Scaletta shot a final round 6-under par 65 to win medalist honors at the Southern Cross played at the Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken. (Scaletta Photo)



## Erlenkeuser's clutch birdie on final hole earns Yellow Jackets the Southern Cross team title

If Bennett Scaletta's win was the headline, Hanna's team title was the statement.

Starting the final round six shots back, Hanna wasn't even the top story on the leaderboard.

Oceanside Collegiate Academy—the defending state champions and top-ranked Class AAAA team—set the pace at 214, followed by perennial contender Bishop England at 215 and surging Gaffney at 219.

Hanna stood at 220.

Within striking distance—but with work to do.

"We had some ground to make up, but we didn't feel like we had to change anything," Hanna coach Eric Bona said. "Just go out, play our game and see what happens."

What happened was a complete team response.

The spark

The foundation had already been laid late in the opening round.

Erik Erlenkeuser, who would finish just one shot off the individual lead after day one, delivered a moment that kept Hanna within range—an eagle on the par-4 18th.

"He hit a phenomenal chip," Bona said. "One hop, checked, and went right in."

Instead of falling further behind, Hanna had something to build on.

Finishing the job

While Scaletta made his charge on the final day, the team effort behind him never let up.

Cal Harbin battled through a demanding round where every shot mattered, grinding to post a score that would count.

Erlenkeuser, after a difficult stretch in the second round, refused to let things slip away.

He fought through the back nine, made key pars when needed—and closed with a birdie on the final

Reeves .....Continued on Page 18

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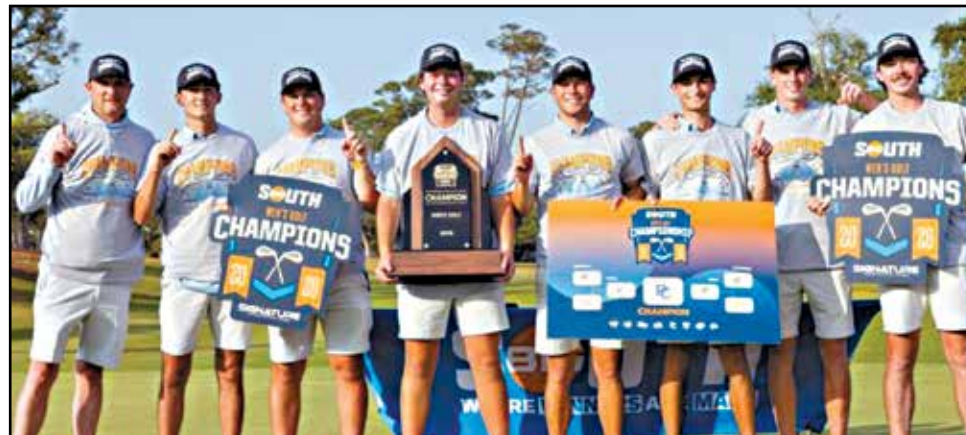
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The Presbyterian Blue Hose will make their first trip as a team to the NCAA Division I golf championship, PC won the Big South Match Play championship in the tournament played at the Ocean Island Golf Club on Fripp Island. Jeep Patrick (left) was named the player of the year in the conference. Spence Hagood hit the biggest shot of the tournament to help PC top High Point. (Big South Photo)

## Blue Hose make their first trip to an NCAA Division I Regional Presbyterian wins Big South Championship

By Stan Olenik  
Editor-Publisher, The Golf Club

Last year, long-time Presbyterian College golf coach Thomas Addison and Big South individual champion Jeep Patrick got a taste of NCAA postseason golf.

They were there at the Auburn Regional, taking in the experience, trying to play their best — and realizing just how big the stage could be.

But even in the middle of it, there was something missing.

“It would have been even better if the whole team was here,” Patrick told his coach.

**A year later, they are.**

This time, Addison and Patrick aren't going alone.

They're bringing the entire team with them.

Presbyterian earned its first NCAA Regional berth as a team by winning the Big South Match Play Championship, knocking off High Point and defending champion USC Upstate to extend its season.

For a program like Presbyterian College, that moment carries a little extra weight.

Known simply as PC around South Carolina, the school is one of the smallest NCAA Division I programs in the country. The Blue Hose have built their reputation less on championships and more on consistency — producing solid players and graduates who move on to success beyond the course.

The golf program has followed that same path.

Under the guidance of the Addison family — first his father Tommy for 13 years, and now Addison since 2005 — PC has long been respected within the state's



The Blue Hose not only got to celebrate a conference championship and a trip to the NCAA Regional, the team also picked up Big South Honors for Addison as Coach of the Year and Patrick as the Player of the Year. (PC Photo)

golf circles, even if the wins didn't always follow.

“It's a very special place,” he said. “It's more than a job to me because I get to follow in my dad's footsteps.”

The breakthrough from a good team to a conference champion didn't come out of nowhere.

Presbyterian earned the No. 1 seed after stroke play and then had to fight its way through match play to finish the job.

In the opening round, PC dropped the first two matches before winning the final three to advance — a sign early that this wasn't going to come easy.

One of the defining moments came from Spence Hagood, who faced a decision late in his match.

From more than 250 yards to a green protected by a front bunker, he chose to take on a 3-wood rather than lay back — a shot Addison would later call one of the

best he had ever seen.

It flew the bunker, landed just a few feet from the hole and effectively sealed the match.

“He looked at me and said, ‘That's the best golf shot I've ever hit in my life,’” Addison said.

Moments like that carried Presbyterian through a tight bracket and into the NCAA field.

There's something else about this team that makes the run stand out.

All five players in the lineup that secured the championship are from South Carolina — products of strong high school and junior programs across the state.

Patrick is from Hilton Head, Hagood from Greenwood, Richard Anaclerio is from Aiken, Gage Gaskins from Lexington and James Rhodes from Columbia.

“The South Carolina Junior Golf Association and High School golf in the

state is so good we really don't have to go overseas, out of the country to find good players, they are all around us in the state,” said the PC coach.

Players who had success along the way.

Players who had their moments.

Maybe not always at the right time, or on the biggest stages, but good players nonetheless.

“They've all had success,” Addison said. “They've just kept working, and the last couple of weeks, some guys really stepped up and posted numbers that helped us get to where we needed to be.”

It showed when it mattered most.

Last year gave Addison and Patrick a glimpse of what the postseason looks like.

Regional assignments will be announced next week, but the Blue Hose are in — not just one player, but the entire team.

There will be time to take it in — to collect memories and enjoy the chance to play on a big stage.

But the Blue Hose aren't going just to look around.

They're taking their clubs.

“We're not going up there to lay up,” Addison said. “We're going to give it a go and see what happens.”

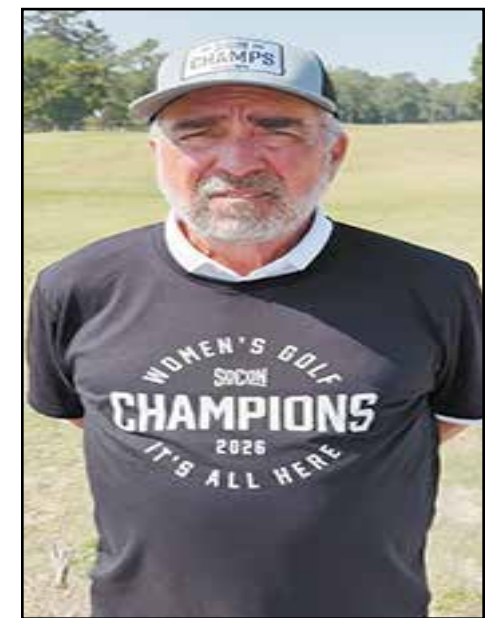
It doesn't need to be any more complicated than that.

A good team that played great when it mattered.

And now, for the first time, Presbyterian is going to the NCAA Regional as a team.

Regional play begins on May 12th at six sites around the country.

The NCAA championship will be played in Carlsbad, California at the Omni LaCosta Resort.



The Lady Paladins are going to the NCAA Post Season Regional in Chapel Hill with a new attitude. Audrey Ryu won her second straight SoCon individual championship. The team won its seventh SoCon championship under the guidance of coach Jeff Hull. Hull was named the SoCon Coach of the year. (Furman Photo)

# Lady Paladins on their way to the NCAA

## Seventh SoCon title for Hull, Ryu is medalist for second time

The Furman Lady Paladins are on their way back to NCAA regional competition.

This year, Furman will compete in the Chapel Hill Regional with hopes of advancing to the national championship — and this time, there’s a different feel around the program.

In the long history of Furman’s successful women’s golf program, winning a Southern Conference title and moving on to postseason play was once almost expected. It wasn’t taken for granted, but it may not have always been fully appreciated either.

Furman head coach Jeff Hull has seen both sides of that reality.

Hull began his career at Furman as an assistant under Kelley Hester, arriving at a time when the program needed rebuilding. Together, they helped return the Lady Paladins to national prominence.

“When we got here, we were not very good,” Hull said. “But we worked hard, and we became a very good team. In fact, we got good enough that we had national championship aspirations beyond just winning the SoCon.”

The program produced stars like Anika Award winner Natalie Srinivasan and Anna Morgan, who set the school record for tournament victories, along with several players with professional potential.

Furman was operating at a high level — but like most programs, there were valleys along the way.

Changes in college golf, including transfers, NIL, and the post-COVID landscape, have made sustained success more difficult. While Furman has remained near the top of the conference, the path has become more challenging.

Hull, who has now been part of nine SoCon championships — two as an assistant and seven as head coach — admits his perspective has evolved.

“When we were really good, we were always looking beyond the conference to the NCAA Tournament,” he said. “But over the last few years, my opinion has changed. I value our last two SoCon championships

more than some of those in the past.”

Last season, Furman didn’t have one of its strongest teams overall, despite having Audrey Ryu as the conference Player of the Year and medalist.

“Last year we had a good team, but it wasn’t a team that was going to be able to do something in the tournament,” Hull said. “This year is different.”

That difference showed in how the Lady Paladins won this year’s SoCon Championship at Columbia Country Club.

Furman built a lead and appeared to be in control heading into the final round — but midway through, momentum shifted.

“We made some bad decisions and took some big numbers where we shouldn’t

**Furman .....Continued on Page 18**

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The Country Club of Spartanburg's Superintendent Zac Ramey has experience preparing a course for the BMW Charity Pro-Am, dating back to his time at Thornblade Club. Now at the Country Club of Spartanburg, he's getting the course ready for Korn Ferry Tour rounds scheduled June 4-5.

# BMW comes to The Country Club of Spartanburg

## From Paint to Pins Zac Ramey will have Spartanburg ready

The first sign a professional tour is coming to town doesn't show up on the leaderboard—it shows up in stacks of paint.

For Zac Ramey, superintendent at the Country Club of Spartanburg, those pallets of yellow and red marking paint are just the

beginning. What follows is a steady, detailed transformation of a member course into a tournament-ready test.

"It starts with the details," Ramey said. "You look at everything—green speeds, fairway width, rough height—and make sure you're presenting the best product possible."

### Learning from the Best

Ramey didn't arrive at this moment by accident.

He came up through the profession working under some of the most respected names in the region, spending time at the Walker Course at Clemson with veteran superintendent Don Garrett before moving on to Thornblade Club, where he served as assistant under highly regarded superintendent Randy Long.

Those stops helped shape both his approach and his expectations.

"You learn how to do things the right

way," Ramey said. "And you learn what championship conditions are supposed to look like."

Now, with the Korn Ferry Tour arriving in Spartanburg, he finds himself in the lead role.

### Working with the Tour

Preparation has been a collaboration.

Ramey has worked closely with Bland Cooper, the tour's agronomist, who has

**Ramey... continued on page 18**

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# You will not need a program or a 13 year old Tic-Toc expert to identify the celebrities this year It's a Cinderella Story: Celebrities return to the BMW

## Bill Murray, Roger Clemens, headline this year's event

By Stan Olenik  
Editor-Publisher, The Golf Club

This year, the BMW tournament has a bit of a "Cinderella Story," with Bill Murray—forever Carl Spackler from Caddyshack—headlining a celebrity field that feels closer to the event's earlier, more recognizable days.

Murray, who doesn't just play a golfer but can actually play the game, is no stranger to this stage. He has played at Pebble Beach and other famous pro-ams including headlining the 2020 Monday After the Masters in Myrtle Beach.

Joining him is a group with legitimate name recognition. Former Cy Young winner Roger Clemens returns, along with former Carolina Panthers standout Steve Smith Sr., now an NFL Network analyst.

Media and sports personalities including Jimmy Roberts and Ryan Leaf will be in the field, along with Clint Dempsey, the former Furman University standout who went on to international stardom and now serves as a commentator.

### It's a noticeable shift.

In recent years, the tournament often stretched to present headliners—moving from Larry the Cable Guy to Scottie Scheffler's caddie and a handful of internet influencers who were sometimes greeted more with "why are you a celebrity?" than recognition. This year's field feels more in line with the era that featured names like Kevin Costner, John Elway, and Wayne Gretzky.

"As we celebrate the 26th edition of the tournament, we're excited to welcome an incredible group of celebrities," offered Michael McGovern the tournament director.

"From on-course play to off-course experiences, there's something for everyone to enjoy. It's a unique opportunity for the community to engage with the tournament in a variety of ways. It's a celebration that extends far beyond the course."

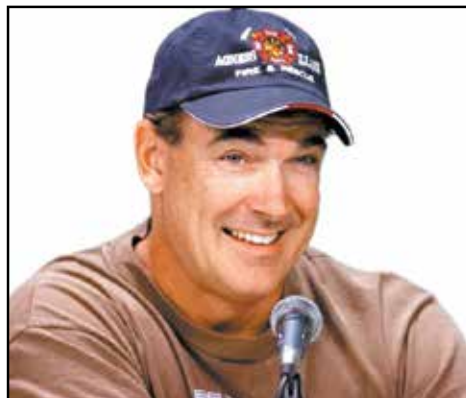
After missing a chance to properly celebrate its 25th anniversary, this year's event carries the feel of a reset.

### Some of that comes with baggage.

The ham-handed way the tournament



Bill Murray, the most famous groundskeeper in golf history, along with being an award winning actor will be in the celebrity portion of the BMW. Other celebrities scheduled to appear, but subject to last minute changes. Also announced and scheduled to appear are former Panther receiver Steve Smith, Sr., Sportscaster Jimmy Roberts, Furman grad and World Cup goal record scorer Clint Dempsey will be among the sports stars playing in the BMW. The tournament will be played on June 4th and 5th at Thornblade and the Country Club of Spartanburg with the weekend final two rounds at Thornblade on June 6-7th



Patrick Warburton is best known for his character David Puddy on Seinfeld. He also runs a celebrity golf tournament with proceeds going to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital. Roger Clemens is making a return to the Upstate. He is a 7x Cy Young Award winner. (GolfClub and Twitter Photos) broke its contract with Carolina Country Club to shift play to the Country Club of Spartanburg is now in the past. What matters next is what comes of it.

To its credit, the Spartanburg club has every intention of elevating its role—turning its two rounds into a meaningful part of the tournament experience rather than simply another stop before returning to Thornblade for the weekend.

One of the more meaningful additions this year is tied to one of the country's premier junior events, the Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational.

The winner will receive an opportunity to compete in next year's BMW Charity Pro-Am—not as a celebrity or



sponsor exemption, but as a player in the field alongside Korn Ferry Tour regulars. It's a rare and valuable opportunity.

It also adds another layer of pressure to an already selective event. The Chapman Invitational routinely turns away dozens of elite junior players each year, and the addition of a pathway to a professional event will almost certainly increase both demand and expectations placed on the selection committee.

As always, the tournament's charitable mission remains central, with proceeds directed through Carolina Charities Inc. to organizations including the Bobby Chapman Junior Foundation, Folds of Honor Palmetto State, Gibbs Cancer Center, Mo-

bile Meals of Spartanburg, and the South Carolina Junior Golf Foundation.

Volunteer registration is ongoing, with opportunities available in both Greenville and Spartanburg. Go to [www.bmwcharity-golf.com](http://www.bmwcharity-golf.com) for additional information.

### The Bottom Line

There's no question the tournament has taken a step forward with this year's celebrity field. The names are more recognizable, the tone feels more authentic, and the event is trending back toward what it was at its best 25 years ago.

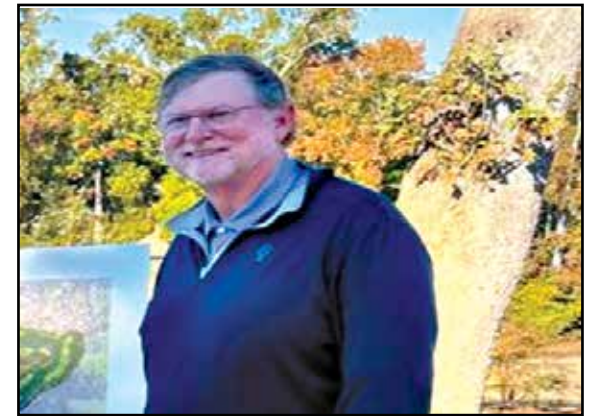
### Now comes the next step.

With the venues set and the celebrity field moving in the right direction, the tournament has an opportunity to deepen its local impact—not just through the Chapman exemption, but by using its remaining sponsor and local exemptions to support the growing group of aspiring professionals in the Upstate.

There are more than a dozen local players chasing a path through professional golf, many with ties to the same community the tournament seeks to engage. Offering a few of those players a place in the field—and building events around them—would strengthen that connection.

It would also give the tournament something it can't manufacture:

A chance for a few local players to write their own Cinderella story.



The Greenville Country Club paid tribute to Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees who designed and updated the Chanticleer Course. The Improvement Project began about 18 months ago and on May 21st designer Beau Welling will join the club membership in a special ceremony.. (GolfClub Photos)

# The Chanticleer Improvement Project

*There are some truly great golf courses in South Carolina.  
Nationally recognized courses respected not only in the state but around the world.*

*Chanticleer does not try to compete with those courses,  
It never has.*

*What it has is something different.  
Something those courses, no matter how celebrated, can't manufacture.*

## Golfers love Chanticleer

**By Stan Olenik**  
**Editor-Publisher, The Golf Club**

From the members who have always known they belong to something special... To the competitors who can't wait to qualify for the opportunity to play in a major championship at the course.

Golfers love Chanticleer.

That kind of loyalty and demand comes from experience and appreciation for the standard the course has set during its first 50 plus years.

That connection is what makes what's happening now at Chanticleer different.

When the Chanticleer improvement Project was begun the club was in process of making important decisions about the future of the course.

### **The Need For Change**

Age had crept up on Chanticleer.

The modern game had changed dramatically since legendary architect Robert Trent Jones carved the course through Greenville Country Club property in 1970. Golf changed and so did expectations.

But many of the issues facing Chanticleer were not immediately visible to members standing on tees or greens.

Beneath the surface, irrigation systems, drainage, cart paths and other infrastructure were all showing signs of age.

### **Some decisions had to be made.**

"We looked at all the different assets that we had — irrigation, drainage, greens, bunkers, cart paths — and everything was pretty much past its useful life as far

as the golf industry goes," said Jackson Hughes, who served as the club's owner representative during the project.

Hughes had significant experience in and around golf clubs. As a past president of the Carolinas Golf Association Hughes oversaw the development of the new CGA Headquarters and Museum in Southern Pines, NC.

What began as discussions about repairing greens and infrastructure eventually evolved into something much larger.

"After careful study it was determined, we might as well do a full renovation, not just kind of piecemeal it," former club president Michael Fletcher said.

### **Turning To Beau Welling**

The Jones family was consulted, but club leaders ultimately decided to entrust Chanticleer to someone who not only had established himself nationally as a designer and renovator, but also carried a personal history with the course itself.

The call was made to Beau Welling right down the street in Greenville.

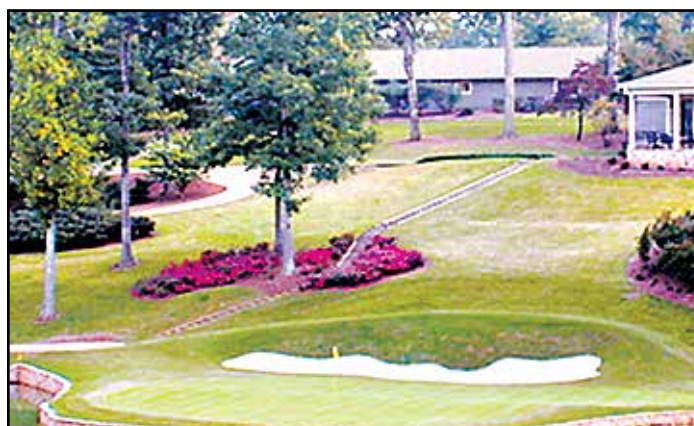
"I trust Bo," said Hughes, who once coached Welling on a youth sports team. "He has a nice reputation and it's getting an even bigger and better reputation as time goes along."

Just as important to club leadership was Welling's respect for Chanticleer's identity.

"Bo always said he would never try and make this anything other than a Robert Trent Jones golf course," Hughes said.

Welling, whose design work stretches from private clubs to international projects, had also become part of Augusta National Golf Club's ambitious effort to restore and expand public golf opportunities in Augusta through the renovation of Augusta Municipal Golf Course, known locally as "The Patch."

But Welling also understood the risk that came with touching one of South Carolina's most beloved golf courses.





“The GolfClub used Beau Welling’s original concept sketch to create a projected rendering of Chanticleer’s redesigned 18th hole.. Our cover image is our concept of the approach to the new 18th hole.

The familiarity that made him an attractive choice also created added pressure.

“It was by far the most unique project I’ve ever worked on because of this familiarity and this history,” Welling said.

And now, as he works to bring Chanticleer into a more modern era, the challenge isn’t just getting it right — it’s making sure it still feels like the place that helped shape him.

Welling understood exactly what the club was asking him to protect.

“I felt a real sense of responsibility,” Welling said.

That awareness helped convince club leadership they had chosen the right architect for the project.

#### Listening To Members

While club members were excited about the project, it wasn’t simply their enthusiasm Welling valued.

Through a series of meetings with players of different ages and skill levels, members helped provide a deeper understanding of what they loved most about Chanticleer — and what they hoped would be included in the renovation.

“We entered the planning process with no preconceived notion,” Welling said. “We started with goals and objectives and worked directly with members.”

Some of Chanticleer’s most recognizable stretches would remain largely intact, carefully improved rather than dramatically altered.

But the finishing holes — and the overall flow of the golf course — became the center of the biggest changes.

Welling, like many longtime Chanticleer players, believed the finish of a round never quite matched the strength of the golf course itself.

The old 18th hole was challenging and often influential in tournaments, but it was not the hole most

golfers remembered visually.

That distinction belonged to the old ninth.

For years, conversations around the club had occasionally drifted toward the possibility of flipping the nines. During the renovation planning process, however, the idea gradually evolved from casual discussion into something that simply made too much sense to ignore.

Surprisingly, the most dramatic decision of the entire renovation was not born from dramatic debate.

Instead, it became one of those rare golf decisions that felt almost obvious once everyone began looking at the course through the same lens.

“At one of the meetings,” Hughes recalled, “one of the members said, ‘Why don’t you flip them?’ And Bo said, ‘I think that’s a great idea.’ I think everybody loved that. That was it.”

The decision ultimately allowed Chanticleer to create a stronger closing stretch while preserving much of the routing and character members cherished.

#### Adding challenges and reclaiming the luster

Once the decision was made to flip the nines, the remainder of the renovation began to fall into place.

The old ninth hole — long considered one of Chanticleer’s most memorable visuals — would now become the finishing hole, bringing players home beside the clubhouse along one of the course’s signature settings.

But the routing changes also created an opportunity to strengthen the entire closing stretch of the new front nine.

That included the former 17th hole, now the eighth, a hole long admired for its risk-reward design.

Welling noted that Sam Snead once described it as one of the great par-5s he had ever played, but modern equipment had slowly changed the way elite players attacked the hole.

“If Bill Haas is hitting driver and a 9-iron into 17, I’m not sure that’s the greatest risk-reward hole anymore,” Welling said.

By adding length, repositioning bunkers and creating more

demanding angles, Welling said the goal was not to reinvent the hole, but to restore some of the strategic decisions that had gradually disappeared over time.

“We wanted to put some teeth back into Chanticleer,” Welling said.

At the same time, much of the golf course members loved remains unmistakably familiar.

For all the visible changes, club leaders insist the goal was never to reinvent Chanticleer or erase its architectural roots.

“Nobody was trying to strip Robert Trent Jones’ name off the golf course,” Hughes said.

Instead, the renovation was approached as an effort to strengthen and refine what was already there while preserving the personality generations of golfers had embraced.

#### The return to Chanticleer

On May 21, the membership will get its first real opportunity to answer the question that has followed the project from the beginning:

Is the Chanticleer they loved still there?

Will the familiar character remain beneath the new bunkers, new routing and modern touches?

Will finishing on the new 18th hole leave golfers with a sense of accomplishment rather than surviving the old 18th hole?

#### Welling’s Summary

Welling believes golfers will discover a course that asks more from strong players while creating more opportunities for others to enjoy the experience.

“I think the better player is going to find the new Chanticleer more difficult,” Welling said. “But I think a slower swing-speed or higher-handicap player is going to find it more accessible.”

For Welling, however, the reopening carries a more personal meaning.

The Greenville youngster who learned the game at Chanticleer accepted the challenge of renovating one of South Carolina’s most beloved golf courses knowing his work would forever be measured alongside the legacy of Robert Trent Jones.

#### Golfers love Chanticleer

When golfers step onto the tee, they will not be thinking about Welling or Robert Trent Jones.

They will be returning to the course they have loved for more than half a century — modernized, strengthened and ready for the love affair with Chanticleer to continue.



## Scaletta...

continued from page 5

on the range were all it took.

"I hit five balls and knew—it was going to be a good day," he said.

Even then, conditions didn't make it easy.

Rain came and went throughout the round, turning the Southern Cross into the kind of test where patience mattered as much as shot-making.

Scaletta didn't get off to the fast start his coach emphasized, but he didn't panic.

Instead, he pieced together the round.

A birdie here. A key par there.

And sometimes, survival.

"There were holes where making par felt like making birdie," he said.

### The turning point

After a slow start, Scaletta found his rhythm on the front nine.

He hit a string of approach shots tight, rolled in birdies, and suddenly the deficit was gone.

By the turn, he had the lead.

But the Southern Cross rarely gives anything away—especially coming home.

On the back nine, the challenge shifted.

With the lead in hand and the final groups chasing, Scaletta focused on minimizing mistakes.

A scrambling par on No. 13—after wisely choosing to chip out rather than force a risky shot—kept momentum on his side.

"That was huge," he said. "Just keeping things going."

### Closing it out

Standing on the 18th tee with a one-shot lead, Scaletta made a decision.

No driver.



Bennett Scaletta rolls in the winning putt to claim medalist honors at the Southern Cross played at the Palmetto Golf Club. (Hanna Photo)

Instead, he hit what he called an "amped-up" 4-iron into position.

"It went a lot further than I usually hit it, but it ended up in the right spot."

From there, he played it smart—wedged it to 12 feet and rolled in the putt to seal the win.

### Game over.

More than just another win

With everything already on his résumé, it would be easy to see this as just another victory.

It wasn't.

"This is the one I circled," Scaletta said. "It's the biggest tournament we play all year. I've done well in a lot of tournaments, but the Southern Cross is the known around the state and even in other states as being a premier tournament. You know you accomplished something when you win it."

And while the individual title mattered, something else stood out even more.

"The individual win is great—but I'm even happier we won as a team," he said.

## Hanna wins

continued from page 5

hole to help secure the margin.

"Those last holes are tough," Bona said. "And our guys just kept competing."

More than just a win

The Southern Cross isn't just another tournament.

It's widely viewed as the deepest field and toughest test in South Carolina high school golf—and one that had previously slipped just out of Hanna's grasp.

"This one's been a little elusive for us," Bona said. "To finally put it together here, it means a lot."

Against one of the strongest fields of the season—and in rain-soaked, demanding conditions—Hanna didn't just win.

They earned it.

## Griffins...

continued from page 6

For Petty, the transition—from Spartanburg High to Spartanburg Day, from familiar routines to new surroundings—was seamless.

"I've thought it's been definitely a good change," he said. "I've loved every second of being with this team, and I think we have a lot of room to grow. We've got the next four years, and hopefully more wins ahead."

While much of the roster is young, both ends of the lineup played key roles in the title run.

Senior Matthew Roff, who tied for second with Linder, left with only one regret.

"With as much fun as we've had this year, I almost wish I could come back," Roff said. At the other end, eighth-grader Reid contributed a first-round 77 to the team score and sees more ahead.

"I can't pick out just one thing that made the year special, it was the whole season," he said.

With White's coaching, Petty's ability, and a lineup that produced throughout, it's easy to see how Spartanburg Day believes it may have broken the hold programs like Hilton Head Prep have had on SCISA 3A golf.

"When they hired me, they gave me the title of head of the golf program," White said. "But those kids are the heartbeat, because they're the ones who make it go. I want us to enjoy this win for what it is—but it can also be the start of something very special here at Spartanburg Day."

White has been there. Petty is on his way there. And now, Spartanburg Day School is there.

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# The Amateur Players Tour is a place to play

## As it gets harder to find weekend golf the APT has an answer

A It's getting harder to find a place to play.

Not just any place—but a place where a regular golfer, the kind with a job, a schedule, and responsibilities that don't include weekday tee times, can tee it up and feel like part of something.

Public golf is shrinking. Courses are going private. Weekend tee times are harder to come by. And for the everyday player, the game can start to feel like it's moving just out of reach.

That's where Larry Lee comes in.

Lee runs the Upstate chapter of the Amateur Players Tour, providing organized weekend competition for golfers looking for more than a casual round. For years, he has been building something simple—and increasingly rare. A place where golfers can show up on a Saturday, play by the rules, compete, and feel like they belong.

It didn't start big.

"I had 10 players," Lee said of his first event. "We had a good time."

By the end of that first year, it was over 100 members. Today, the tour has grown to more than 200 players, and many events sell out, with golfers coming from across the



region—and sometimes much farther—to find something they can't always get anywhere else.

Access.

It's not just about getting a tee time. It's about getting a fair game, a structured competition, and a group of players who care about doing it right.

"They're part of my family," Lee said. "They're not all just showing up to play in a golf tournament."

That sense of belonging—and trust—has become the backbone of what he's built.

Lee has seen a number of versions of the weekend tour model over the years. For the past several seasons, he has aligned his work with the Amateur Players Tour, a national organization he believes provides the strongest structure he's worked with.

The sponsor names have changed. The umbrella organizations have come and gone. But no matter what the name on the banner, Larry Lee has made sure one thing never changed—if you wanted to play, he'd find you a place to do it.

Another part of that accessibility is flexibility. Golfers can join the Amateur Players Tour at any point during the season, without having to wait for a new year or a formal start date. And while many events have begun to sell out, Lee still does what he can to make room.

He'll keep a list. He'll move a time. He'll find a spot.

Because for Lee, turning a golfer away has never

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# APT...

continued from page 15

really been part of the plan.

In an era when golfers sometimes question formats, handicaps, or even whether a score means what it says, Lee has made fairness a priority. Players know when they tee it up, they're getting a legitimate competition.

And that matters.

Because for many of them, this isn't just a round of golf. It's their version of tournament golf. Their chance to test

themselves in a setting that demands a little more—every putt holed, every shot counted.

It's also an escape.

Lee's full-time job is a long way from the first tee. As a maintenance manager at a Duke Power nuclear station, his daily work comes with a level of precision and pressure that leaves little room for error. Golf offers something different.

A change of pace. A different kind of responsibility.

And, as his friends like to joke, maybe a little less glow.

But the attention to detail carries over.

Tournaments run on time. Courses are respected. Players are taken care of.

And in a golf landscape that continues to evolve—sometimes in ways that leave everyday players behind—Lee has created something steady.

A place where the game is still accessible.

A place where a golfer can count on having somewhere to play.

For more information about the Amateur Players Tour in the Upstate go to the Amateur Players Tour Upstate Facebook page or to sign up go to [www.aptgolf.org](http://www.aptgolf.org).



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# Anderson advances to NCAA DII Finals

## A third place finish in the South sends the Trojans to the finals

When Anderson University women's golf coach Denton Moore looked over the field for the NCAA South Regional, he made one major observation.

"There are going to be some very good teams that will not make the NCAA Finals. I hope we are not one of them," he said.

Moore had reason to be concerned even though the Trojans were ranked third in the country.

Based on past experience with previous Trojan teams, including one that had been ranked No. 1 during the regular season, this year's team still left him with some concern.

His review of the season showed a team that played well, but perhaps lacked some of the flair past Anderson teams had displayed.

There was another even bigger reason for concern.

"Twelve of the 18 teams in the region are ranked in the Top 20. I know our team will give a great effort, but these are some pretty long odds," he said.

The effort was there as the Trojans



The the third ranked Anderson Trojans survived the South Region and will next play in the NCAA Division II Finals in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The Trojans finished tied for third in the regional that sent four teas to the national finals, (Anderson Photo)

stayed among the top five teams through the first two rounds of the 54-hole tournament.

Only four teams would advance from Cleveland Country Club in Tennessee, and entering the final round the Trojans were tied with Barry College for the final qualifying position.

"Sometimes there just aren't words for a performance," Moore said. "I had a hard time telling the girls how proud I was because I honestly just couldn't believe

what had just unfolded."

What Moore saw was the Trojans produce their best round of the tournament — and the best round by any of the top five teams on the final day.

Top-ranked Wingate won the regional title with Tampa finishing second.

Anderson's third-place finish was enough to advance to the NCAA Finals at PGA National Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida beginning May 12.

The best individual performance by a Trojan was turned in by Kennedy Gooding, who finished tied for 12th.

The consistency of the entire team throughout the regional is what allowed the Trojans' season to continue.

Moore's concerns were well founded, but the confidence he showed in his team — along with the help of assistant coach Kennedy McGaha — proved enough to send the Trojans to Florida for the biggest tournament of the year.

"I am just so proud of all of them. We got off to a tough start the first round, but we closed that round well and put ourselves in third. The second round the conditions were brutal, and we played pretty poorly. We were in eighth place, and in this region, the toughest in the country, nothing is going to be handed back to you.

"I told them all I need the absolute best 18 holes of the year, and then the third round started. The best round of the year is exactly what we got, and now we are Natty Bound again.

"We will head to PGA National in Florida this weekend. It will be one of, if not the toughest test the girls have ever seen. I can't wait to get down there with this team and go to work!"



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The Lady Paladins extended their season with the SoCon Championship and now will next play in the NCAA Regional in Chapel Hill. (SoCon Photo)

**Furman...**continued from page 7

have,” Hull said. “At the same time, Chattanooga was playing great.”

When Chattanooga took the lead with three holes remaining, it could have rattled most teams. Instead, Hull delivered a simple message: trust the process.

“Just keep playing, take it one shot at a time,” he told his team.

Adding to the tension was the uncertainty of live scoring. Scores were only updated every three holes, leaving both players and coaches without a clear picture of where things stood down the stretch.

Hull and assistant coach Mackenzie Raim Meek, like much of the field, were operating with limited information.

With no scoreboard to rely on, Furman simply played.

“The players didn’t know, and we didn’t know,” Hull said. “We told them to just play each shot. We really didn’t know until the last hole — when Audrey hit her shot to about 10 feet — that we were going

to win.”

Ryu once again earned medalist honors, and both she and Hull were recognized as SoCon Player and Coach of the Year.

Now comes the next challenge.

With a more experienced and battle-tested team, Hull believes this group has the ability to do more than just qualify.

“I feel like if we really do what we’re capable of, we can make it to the finals,” he said. “Last year we didn’t really have that opportunity. This team is different. We have more ability, and we’ve performed better. If things fall into place, I think we can make a run.”

Before the Lady Paladins head to Chapel Hill, however, there is one priority that comes first.

“Right now, they have finals,” Hull said. “That’s most important. After that, we’ll work on tightening some things up to be ready for the regional.”

**Ramey...**continued from page 8

made multiple visits to evaluate conditions and offer guidance. The process is less about mandates and more about refinement.

“They ask about what you’re doing, what your targets are,” Ramey said. “Then they’ll say, ‘This is where we’d like to see it.’”

Adjustments have included expanding tee boxes, refining surfaces, and potentially changing the course to a par 70 setup for professionals.

**Defending Without Distance**

At just under 6,700 yards, the course won’t rely on length to challenge players. Instead, the defense is more subtle.

“The strength of the golf course is in the greens,” Ramey said.

Firmness, angles, and precise pin placements will demand as much discipline as power, especially for players seeing the course for the first time.

**A Battle with the Elements**

If there has been a challenge, it hasn’t come from the tour—it’s come from the weather.

A cool, dry spring has made it difficult to grow the rough to tournament height, forcing Ramey and his crew to rely heavily on irrigation while waiting for warmer nights.

“Every time temperatures drop, it sets the grass back,” he said.

Even so, the course is moving toward the look and feel the tour expects—something not always easy for the membership to embrace.

“There have been some complaints,” Ramey admitted. “But a lot of members are excited to see what it’s like to play it the way the pros will.”

**A Profession That Shows Up**

Like most tournament weeks, preparation extends well beyond the home staff.

Superintendents from across the region, along with vendors and volunteers, will step in to help bring the course to life.

“It’s a brotherhood,” Ramey said. “Everybody in this business is willing to help.”

**Let the pros take their best shots**

At first glance, the scorecard raises a fair question.

At just under 6,700 yards, some will look at the layout and assume the professionals are headed for a week of low numbers—and they may be right.

But if that happens, it won’t be because the course didn’t hold up.

“If somebody goes deep, it’s because they’re playing great golf,” Ramey said.

The setup will ask for precision, discipline and the ability to finish—especially on and around the greens, where the course does most of its defending.

Ramey’s job isn’t to trick the field or protect par. It’s to present the course in the best possible condition and let the players decide the rest.

**Measuring the Week**

When it’s over, success won’t be measured in yardage or green speeds.

“For me, it’s handling whatever comes our way,” Ramey said. “You hope for the best, but you plan for the worst.”

There are issues for the tournament to consider in getting fans in out and around the course, but Ramey has his part of the tournament under control.

With a little help from the weather and a lot of attention to detail, Ramey’s goal is simple—have the course ready, let the players decide it, and give the membership something to be proud of.



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To schedule a tee time or check availability, call the Pro Shop at (828) 694-3042. For Group Play and Group Rates, please email [gjones@rumblingbald.com](mailto:gjones@rumblingbald.com).



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