



TPC comes through for TPC

12:06 AM CDT on Thursday, March 27, 2008

When Tour officials approved the renovated TPC Four Seasons at Las Colinas, the EDS Byron Nelson Championship faced another remodeling job. The tournament had to find a location for its Classic Pro-Am in about four weeks.

The TPC decision required agreements from Four Seasons and Salesmanship Club officials to prohibit play until the Monday of tournament week. The Classic Pro-Am was scheduled for that Sunday on the TPC. Basically, the Four Seasons agreed to keep members and resort guests off the TPC for a month, and the Salesmanship Club agreed to find another pro-am venue.

Using the resort's neighboring course, Cottonwood Valley, would have been the simple solution the previous 14 years. But with all four rounds of the tournament and the pro-ams scheduled for the TPC, Cottonwood Valley was out of the mix. Members had tee times scheduled when the 11th-hour decision on the TPC came down.

Enter the TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney. The club, which will partner with the Salesmanship Club for this year's Nationwide Tour Championship, offered to host the Classic Pro-Am. Problem averted.

There's a reason nobody ever said being the Tour's all-time leader in charitable giving was easy. Consider: The decision to use one course translated into a \$1.7 million loss in revenue from the Gold Pro-Am, played the day before the Nelson. To recoup that, Salesmanship Club officials created a celebrity pro-am at the Vaquero Club for Tuesday of tournament week and convinced Chesapeake Energy to sign on as pro-am sponsor.



FILE PHOTO 2005

The EDS Byron Nelson Championship stood to lose about \$300,000 had TPC Craig Ranch

(above) not agreed to host the Classic Pro-Am.

Pro-ams drive the PGA Tour. The Nelson raises more than \$6 million annually for the Salesmanship Club's Youth & Family Centers. More than 25 percent of that revenue is generated by pro-ams. The Nelson stood to lose about \$300,000 without the Classic Pro-Am.

"Sometimes necessity leads to creativity," said John Nolan, the Nelson's 2008 chairman. "We are stewards of that money, so we have to find ways to raise it. With the help of David Craig, we've managed to avoid a potential problem."

\$80 million and counting: Tiger Woods has eclipsed the \$80 million mark in career earnings. That's pocket change for a guy who makes more each year in total earnings. Ropes can relate.

WGC = Woods Golf Championship: Strange that Woods' winning streak ended at a World Golf Championship event. He has been stingy with WGC titles, claiming 15 of 27. Geoff Ogilvy and Darren Clarke are the only other multiple WGC winners. Both have two. About 25 percent of Woods' career earnings have come in World Golf Championships.

Second home for Turco, Romo: Since changing its name from Columbian Country Club, the Honors Golf Club Dallas has attracted some big names. New members include Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and Stars goalie Marty Turco.

Worth the wait: On Sunday in Puerto Rico, Greg Kraft became the oldest first-time winner on Tour since ... drum roll ... Ed Dougherty at the 1995 Viking Classic. It took Kraft 43 years, 11 months and 19 days. Dougherty went 47 years, eight months and 19 days. But who's counting?

Home of first-timers: Five first-timers have broken through in the last six Zurich Classic of New Orleans, including the last three – Nick Watney, Chris Couch and Tim Petrovic. Couch, though, won't be in New Orleans. The 2006 champ will be about 100 miles away in Lafayette for the Chitimacha Louisiana Open. Sidelined by a shoulder injury, he is making a rehab start on the Nationwide Tour. Johnson Wagner, the 2006 Louisiana Open champ, will be in New Orleans.

Tap-ins: Adam Scott, Zach Johnson, Retief Goosen and Nick O'Hern came out of hiding at the WGC CA, posting their first top-10s of the season. ... Ian Woosnam makes his Champions Tour debut this week and Joey Sindelar will next week. ... Although second place has become familiar to Brad Bryant, he will find himself in uncharted territory if he continues his streak on the Champions Tour. Nobody has ever finished second in four straight.

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