

DeSantis, Scott question Worrell

Both seek information about Orlando shooter's past cases

By Christopher Cann and Cristóbal Reyes
Orlando Sentinel

Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.S. Sen. Rick Scott are demanding information from Orange-Osceola State Attorney Monique Worrell following the recent back-and-forth

about the handling of past cases involving the shooter accused of killing three people and injuring two others last week in Pine Hills.

The pair sent letters Tuesday chastising Worrell for what they describe as her office's failure to hold Keith Moses, 19, accountable. Prior to his arrest last Wednesday, he had been taken into custody as a minor more than a dozen times on charges including domestic battery, burglary, grand theft and drug possession.

"The failure of your office to hold this individual accountable for his actions — despite his extensive criminal history and gang affiliation — may have permitted this dangerous individual to remain on the street," said the letter from the governor's office, doubling down on DeSantis' earlier statements accusing Worrell's office of negligence.

"Clearly, Mr. Moses should never have been in a position to commit those senseless crimes last week," the statement continued. "We must determine if Mr. Moses was

enabled by gaps in our sentencing laws that must be corrected or, to be frank, your office's failure to properly administer justice."

Citing the Florida Constitution, DeSantis demanded a response to six requests for information regarding Moses' criminal history and the investigations in his prior cases. The state attorney's deadline to respond is March 14.

Scott, who blasted Worrell last week and

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SAKIS MITROLIDIS/GETTY-AFP

TRAINS COLLIDE IN GREECE

Police and emergency crews search wreckage after a train crash Wednesday in the Tempi Valley near Larissa, Greece. At least 32 people were killed and another 85 injured after a collision between two trains caused a derailment late Tuesday night, authorities said. A fire services spokesman confirmed that three carriages skipped the tracks just before midnight after the trains — one for freight and the other carrying 350 passengers — collided about halfway along the route between Athens and Thessaloniki.

See story in Nation & World, Page 1.

ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART

Chief curator's tenure ends

By Matthew J. Palm
Orlando Sentinel

With zero public fanfare, Hansen Mulford has retired as chief curator of Orlando Museum of Art after a career there that stretched more than 40 years.

The departure is attention-getting, not only because of the longevity of Mulford's tenure: With his retirement, the museum's three top officials during the Basquiat scandal of 2022 — former board chair Cynthia Brumback, former director Aaron De Groft and now Mulford — all have left their jobs.

De Groft was fired in June, shortly after the

FBI seized 25 works of art that the museum had attributed to Jean-Michel Basquiat, an acclaimed artist who died in 1988. It turned out the FBI had been investigating the works' authenticity for years and had served a subpoena on the museum before the exhibit, titled "Heroes & Monsters," opened in February 2022. The museum went ahead with the exhibit anyway — though multiple trustees later told the Orlando Sentinel they had no knowledge of the subpoena at the time — and De Groft championed the works to the press.

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Orlando Museum of Art Chief Curator Hansen Mulford speaks on Jan. 20 at the museum in Loch Haven Park. RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Policy delaying access to records

By Anthony Man
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A practice of subjecting certain requests for public information to extra review by Gov. Ron DeSantis' office has resulted in delayed citizen access to records showing how government policy is formulated and public money is being spent.

Sometimes the information is delayed for months. Other times it is released shortly before major holidays, which means when it finally becomes public the information doesn't get much attention because people are busy with other things.

The practice was first reported by WKMG-Ch. 6 in Orlando, which — as part of its efforts to obtain records about

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Demings proposes tourist tax task force

By Stephen Hudak
Orlando Sentinel

With tourist-tax collections soaring over \$300 million in 2022, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings announced the creation of an advisory committee to explore how to use future uncommitted revenues.

He said the proposed TDT Citizen Advisory Task Force won't have registered lobbyists or elected officials as members and should represent a diverse, cross-section of residents. It will have representatives from the tourism industry, including Disney, Universal and SeaWorld, the Central

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ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL

Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Yardage: 7,466. Par: 72 | Today-Friday, 2-6 p.m. (Golf Ch.); Saturday-Sunday, noon to 2:30 p.m. (Golf Ch.), 2:30-6 p.m. (NBC)

COMMENTARY

LIV Golf has made The Arnie, PGA better than ever

This will undoubtedly be the most unpopular statement you will see or hear all week at The Arnold Palmer Invitational.



Mike Bianchi

The PGA Tour will cringe at what I'm about to say. PGA Tour players will wince. Traditional golf fans will be offended. Arnie himself, sitting up in That Big 19th Hole in the Sky, will likely spit out his mouthful of iced tea and lemonade (with a little Ketel One mixed in) when he gets wind of this column. But it must be said even at the risk of getting my daily meal ticket revoked at Bay Hill's media hospitality tent. Forgive me, Arnie, for what I'm about to say, but here goes: Thank you, LIV. Thank you, LIV Golf Tour. Thank you for making The Arnold Palmer Invitational and the PGA Tour better than ever.

There, I said it. When The Arnie tees off today at Bay Hill, it will be the most star-studded field in the history of the tournament (Tiger's heyday notwithstanding). In all, 27 of the top 30 players in the world will be here, and the only reason three are missing — No. 5 Cameron Smith, No. 23 Joaquin Niemann and No. 27 Abraham Ancer — is because they are members of the LIV Tour. When Arnie was alive, his tournament always attracted really good fields because the world's top players wanted to show their respect to a man who meant so much to growing the game. Even after Arnie passed away seven years ago, the PGA Tour increased the tournament's status and its prize money as a show of respect for the King. But the field this week is off-the-charts good mainly because LIV lit a fire under the PGA Tour's derriere. With more and more players defecting for LIV's big paychecks, the PGA Tour started pouring money into its own purses. It established The Arnie and 13 other tournaments as can't-miss events by increasing the purses from \$12 million to \$20 million. The stars are pretty much required to play in 12 of these 13 "designated" tournaments. In addition, it's being reported that many of these designated events, starting next season, will become limited fields (only the top 70 or 80 players) with no 36-hole cuts. Hmmm, that sounds eerily similar to what the LIV Tour is already doing. What does this all mean? It means it's a win-win for most everybody. The PGA Tour stars win because they're competing for a lot more money. Meanwhile, the PGA Tour fans win because we get to see all the top stars regularly playing against each other in tournaments other than the majors. If this had been done years ago, LIV would probably not exist today. Rory McIlroy, who has become the de facto spokesperson for PGA Tour players,

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Arnold Palmer interviews a young Phil Mickelson after he won The Arnold Palmer Invitational in 1997. He's now on the LIV Golf Tour and is persona non grata at Bay Hill this week. ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE



Excitement overcomes Spain's Jon Rahm after a birdie putt during the final round of his victory at Los Angeles' Genesis Invitational in late February. RYAN KANG/AP



Scottie Scheffler participates in the final round of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club last month. CLIFF HAWKINS/GETTY IMAGES



Rory McIlroy has been at the top of the game and the rankings more than all but three players. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Race to the top

Fight for No. 1 among Rahm, Scheffler and McIlroy resumes at the API

By Edgar Thompson | Orlando Sentinel

World No. 1 Jon Rahm still has time to catch Tiger Woods. Every time the 27-year-old Spaniard ascends to the top of the rankings, he is reminded of the possibility. "I hear I would have to be No. 1 until 2035 or something like that, in a row, to reach Tiger's record ... great," Rahm quipped. For now he is focused on remaining No. 1 at a time when the top spot in golf has been a hot potato among Rahm, Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy. Each has a reasonable chance to sit atop the rankings Sunday evening following the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

The game within the game at Bay Hill Club & Lodge is secondary to winning Palmer's prestigious event and earning the \$3.6 million winner's check. Yet, three

alpha males and fierce competitors playing their best do not yield an inch, or ranking spot, without a fight. Consider Scheffler's repeat win Feb. 12

at the Phoenix Open returned him to No. 1 for the fourth time since he first reached the spot a year earlier after winning the 2022 event. Seven days later, Rahm won the Genesis Open to overtake Scheffler. In three of the five occasions he's reached No. 1, Rahm supplanted a player one week after he'd reached the top spot. "Any time you get some really good competition it's very motivating," Scheffler, the defending champion, said. "I got the one in Phoenix and then Jon went out the next week and beat me by a bunch of shots. It's fun to have guys playing at the top of their games." McIlroy has been at the top of the game and the rankings more than all but three players — Woods, Greg Norman and Dustin Johnson. The 33-year-old future Hall of Famer first reached No. 1 after a record-setting performance at the 2011 U.S. Open. He has held the top spot for a total of 122 weeks and on nine different occasions.

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"Any time you get some really good competition it's very motivating. I got the one in Phoenix and then Jon went out the next week and beat me by a bunch of shots. It's fun to have guys playing at the top of their games."

Scottie Scheffler

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Max Homa, seen here hitting from the fourth tee during the Genesis Invitational golf tournament on Feb. 16, has shown signs of being a contender in The Arnold Palmer Invitational. RYAN KANG/AP

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL

Bianchi

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said something eye-opening last year when his Tour was in the midst of making the changes to upgrade its product.

“I think if you’re trying to sell a product to TV and to sponsors and to try to get as many eyeballs on professional golf as possible, you need to at least let people know what they’re tuning in for,” McIlroy said. “When I tune into a Tampa Bay Buccaneers game, I expect to see Tom Brady throw a football. When I tune into a Formula 1 race, I expect to see Lewis Hamilton in a car. Sometimes what’s happened on the PGA Tour is we all act independently and we sort of have our own schedules, and that means that we never really get together all that often.”

Translation: It took the LIV Tour to actually make the PGA players care about the good of their sport Tour.

Even so, there remains much animosity toward Phil Mickelson and some of the other LIV defectors who have bolted the PGA Tour because they wanted more financial security and autonomy.

However, couldn’t a case be made that the LIV Tour was started for some of the the same reasons the PGA Tour itself came into being? Let’s not forget that Jack Nicklaus along with Arnie were the key figures in the rival American Professional Golfers (the touring pros) breaking off from the PGA of America (the club pros) in the late 1960s.

Then, as now, lawsuits were filed and there were hard feelings on both sides. Some of golf’s old-time superstars back then — Sam Snead, Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen — sided with the traditional PGA of America while the popular golfers of the day, Jack and Arnie, believed that the touring pros (APG) deserved more money and more clout over a sport that they were mostly responsible for popularizing. Finally, the touring pros stared down the PGA of America and the APG got its way and eventually rebranded itself as the PGA Tour.

“It was the best thing that ever happened to the Tour,” former Masters winner Bob Goalby told Golf Magazine a few years ago. “When you look at how successful it has been, and all the money these guys play for now, so much of it came from those days.”

The same could be said about these days. Just as the rebels from the APG made professional golf better back then, the LIV rebels have made pro golf better today. Of course, it’s not exactly the same in that the LIV Tour is funded by the mega-billions of Saudi Arabia’s Sovereign Wealth Fund. And, yes, rooting for the Saudis to succeed is like rooting for the shark to devour the skinny-dipping hottie at the beginning of *Jaws*.

To make it worse, the arrogant, unlikable Greg Norman is the front man for LIV, but as galling as it is to admit, Norman is right when he talks about LIV’s impact on the PGA Tour.

“Since LIV’s come on board, the PGA Tour has stepped up,” he told ESPN recently. “They would never have done that without competition. Competition’s the best thing in any sport. The competition that LIV brought, the [PGA] Tour players should be thanking LIV.”

If the PGA Tour players won’t do it then a PGA Tour fan like myself certainly will:

Thank you, LIV, for making The Arnie better than ever.

Email me at mbianchi@orlandosentinel.com. Hit me up on Twitter @BianchiWrites and listen to my Open Mike radio show every weekday from 6 to 9:30 a.m. on FM 96.9, AM 740 and HD 101.1-2



Scottie Scheffler hits from the fairway en route to victory during the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando. JOHN RAOUX/AP

World’s best golfers brace for brutish Bay Hill course

By Edgar Thompson

Orlando Sentinel

Xander Schauffele doesn’t recall the particulars of his sole appearance in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Three years later, he certainly hasn’t forgotten the golf course — just like every player who’s teed it up lately at Bay Hill Club & Lodge.

The layout Palmer designed and tweaked until his 2016 death leaves a lasting impression and some scar tissue.

“It’s just a really hard property,” Schauffele said. “The level of difficulty they’re putting up here is real.”

Things are going to get real today when the tournament’s best field in decades tackles the brutish 7,466-yard, par-72 track. Bay Hill will test every facet of the game and chip away at the patience and attitude of every golfer in the 120-player field.

The past six APIs produced scoring averages over par. Some years are more brutal than others.

Palmer aimed to present a fair, unforgiving test, but conditions recently have bordered on cold-blooded.

Tyrrell Hatton won the most devilish API in 2020 at 4-under 284 total, the highest winning score in the event’s 44 years at Bay Hill. In 2022, scoring eased up enough for Scottie Scheffler to prevail at 5-under 283.

“I’ve spoken a little bit about liking the harder golf courses out here and that’s definitely what this place is,” Scheffler said Wednesday.

No regular PGA Tour stop plays more difficultly.

Bay Hill’s scoring average of 1.886 strokes over par in 2022 ranked behind just the U.S. Open, PGA Championship and the Masters. In 2020, the APIs plus-2.106 average was the highest during any tournament.

That year, Schauffele tied for 24th without breaking par for four rounds. With hot and windy conditions the first three days, the world’s sixth-ranked player see more bogeys on the horizon.

“It’s always very difficult,” he said. “The forecast shows a very windy Friday, so it’s very much an execution-style golf course.”

Schauffele’s word choice was apropos, if unintended. But golfers off their game will have nowhere to hide.



Tiger Woods throws grass in the air to gauge the wind on the 8th hole during the final round of the 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando. ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE

Unlike many Tour stops, Bay Hill forces mid- to long-iron approach shots in a modern game often relegated to driver-wedge contests. Four par-3s averaging 261 yards and three long, but reachable par-5s require the world’s best to showcase their ball-striking genius with the longer clubs.

Last week’s Honda Classic winner Chris Kirk said the set-up favors him.

“Iron play, wedge play is definitely my best strength as a golfer,” he said. “It plays into my hands a little bit with it being a very strenuous second-shot golf course.”

Tee shots are no picnic, either. Miss the fairway and welcome to gnarly 4-inch rough, with an added twist.

“They started mowing the grass — this is new for me — towards tee boxes, which is just abso-

lutely horrendous,” Schauffele said.

Golfers who miss the fairway need to take their medicine to get back into play rather than compound their problems with a hero shot.

Rock-hard putting surfaces present the next challenge.

“You can like drop a ball on the green and you can hear it pop up,” PGA Tour rookie Justin Suh said. “It’s firm.”

Holding the green with approach shots prevents players from attacking pins. Two-putting from long distances can wear on a golfer.

Given the skill and nerve required at Bay Hill, world No. 1 Jon Rahm, who will play his second API, sees why Tiger Woods won the event a record eight times.

“I learned why Tiger has had such success here,” he said. “It’s a ball-striker’s golf course. Obviously, like everywhere else, you have to be good on the greens.”

Bay Hill also favors a left-to-right ball flight that Woods and Rahm rely on. The 27-year-old Spaniard has won twice at Torrey Pines, once at Memorial and now hopes to add another win at a course Woods’ dominated.

“I’ve been able to do well on most of ‘em,” he said.

Meanwhile, McIlroy seeks his second win in Palmer’s tournament.

In 2022, he opened with 7-under 65, faded on Friday and collapsed during the weekend. Following a third-round 76, the ever-popular Irishmen criticized the course.

On Wednesday, McIlroy’s stance softened as have the conditions at Bay Hill. Low scores could be an option again.

“It feels like a really good shot will hold. You’ll be able to hold the fairways a little bit more,” he said. “It might not be as penal. It will still be penal because the rough’s thick. Good shots will hopefully get rewarded a little more.”

Bay Hill also has a reputation to uphold and an identity golfers and fans have come to expect.

“There’s danger lurking everywhere,” world No. 8 Max Homa said. “It’s good that we have an event like this. As much as it tests your physical skills it tests your mental skills.”

Email Edgar Thompson at egthompson@orlandosentinel.com or follow him on Twitter at @osgators.

API

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While another tussle at the top is old hat to McIlroy, he appreciates the interest the fight for No. 1 generates.

“Winning golf tournaments, playing well, it sort of takes care of all of that stuff,” he said. “If I was purely a fan of the game and I see what’s going on, especially at the top, it’s a pretty cool thing. But like everyone knows, there’s so much parity in our game right now that any given week, any given tournament someone can pop up and sort of put their hand up and claim to be one of the best players in the world.

“I’m just happy to be in that conversation.”

The 2023 conversation is shaping up to be as hard to follow as the one in 2015. That year, McIlroy, Jordan Spieth and Jason Day each held the top spot four different times. McIlroy ended the season there.

To get back McIlroy would have to win the API while Rahm finishes worse than a two-way tie for fifth, according to the Twitter account

of world rankings wonk Nosferatu. Scheffler has a few paths to No. 1, including a repeat win and Rahm finishing worse than a two-way tie for second.

Rahm said the best scenario is taking home the trophy.

“If you’re going to do it in any way, you want to get to No. 1 by winning,” he said. “One of those times that I got to it I think it was JT [Justin Thomas] had a bad finish, and I finished 10th in a tournament. That doesn’t feel nearly as well.

“But when we’ve been playing the way we’ve been playing, it’s a lot of fun.”

Woods made the No. 1 ranking a formality during his unprecedented stretch of golf from 1997-2009, less so during 2013 comeback. When the dust settled, he’d held the top spot for 683 weeks, doubling Norman’s 331 total.

Woods’ dominance riveted fans and grew the PGA Tour’s popularity along with tournament purses. A ranking system started in 1986, after the heyday of Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Palmer, became a popular measuring stick.

The battle among golf’s current Big Three — Rahm, Scheffler and McIlroy — now has the golf

world’s attention. It could for some time.

Rahm hopes so.

With 45 weeks at the top, he is just 16 shy of catching his idol, Spanish sensation Seve Ballesteros, who was No. 1 for 61 weeks. Once there, Nick Faldo (97), McIlroy (122) and Johnson (139) would be in range.

Norman is 5 ½ years away. Catching Woods would require almost seven more.

Or Rahm could lose the top spot this week or next at the Players Championship and have to start again. This scenario is more likely.

“They’re both great, great competitors,” Rahm said of McIlroy and Scheffler. “It’s hard to say anything about Rory that hasn’t been said already. When he’s firing on all cylinders, it’s a thing of beauty.

“Scottie, I would say he has a great ability to post a really good score. It’s pretty remarkable.”

The admiration is mutual. The goal is the same. Someone will be No. 1. Why not me?

Email Edgar Thompson at egthompson@orlandosentinel.com or follow him on Twitter at @osgators.

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL

The King is still here

‘Sincerely Arnold Palmer’ offers stroll down memory lane for fans of golf legend who helped transform Orlando



Arnold Palmer smiles after winning the 1956 Eastern Open in Baltimore. BALTIMORESUN



Palmer surveys his Bay Hill golf course on Feb. 25, 1979. The first Bay Hill Invitational tournament (now the Arnold Palmer Invitational) was played a week later. ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE

By Edgar Thompson
Orlando Sentinel

A trip to Bay Hill Club & Lodge inevitably becomes a walk down memory lane for Arnie’s Army. Fans of Arnold Palmer and spectators at his long-standing tournament should bring a comfortable pair of shoes this week. Reminders of The King are everywhere on the property he made his home away from native Latrobe, Pa., while forever changing Orlando. But the “Sincerely Arnold Palmer — the Latrobe Legacy Campaign” will give people a chance to more deeply examine many sides of Palmer’s rich and unique life.

“Our goal is to remind everybody that the legacy of Arnold Palmer is about living an incredible American life of global significance,” said Ken Boehner, chairman and president of the Arnold and Winnie Palmer Foundation. “He was rewarded by two genuine loves; one, the love of golf and the other the love of people.” Following Palmer’s Sept. 25, 2016, death, his family and foundation aimed to ensure he remained relevant to past and future generations. The API is an annual reminder of Palmer’s impact in golf. Many of the 120 players in this week’s star-studded field either recall a personal interaction or have a strong sense of the tournament namesake’s imprint on the game. “When you come to a place like this, for someone like me who loves the history of the game, to be able to see a lot of his quotes, see the part of history, how much of the history of the game he’s a part of and to even just see what this golf course was, see the pictures and the tournament he’s created is really, really unique,” world No. 1

Jon Rahm said. “There’s very little to say about him. Loved by many, admired by even more.” The Legacy Campaign brings much of Palmer’s life in Pennsylvania nearly 1,000 miles south to Florida. Artifacts abounded back in Latrobe, where Palmer’s office and workshop had become neatly cluttered during many decades. “If we were to stuff any space with all these incredible artifacts, it would require a 50,000 square foot warehouse,” Boehner quipped. Select letters, trophies, trinkets, photographs and golf clubs are displayed this week near the 18th green at the Lexington Cottage, where the Palmers hosted friends and family and eventually the tournament winner. “We want people to feel that kind of intimacy and that connection and closeness to Arnold,” Boehner said. Boehner’s personal favorite among the memorabilia is a painting of a western Pennsylvania barn by President Dwight D. Eisenhower he gave to Winnie Palmer. To the left of the landscape painting are Palmer’s Presidential Medal

of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal. A photo of Arnold Palmer and Eisenhower, an avid golfer, is among the many displayed. Next to it Palmer and IMG founder Mark McCormack are walking and chatting. Also on the walls are copies of Palmer’s congratulatory letters to fellow champions, including Tiger Woods, Tom Watson and Lydia Ko, and thank-you notes to the legion of fans who wrote him. Palmer’s most important trophies are impossible to miss, from his 1954 U.S. Amateur win, two Open Championship victories, four Masters championship and 1960 U.S. Open title. After digging into the life of one of golf’s greatest champions, those who have the golf itch can swing one of Palmer’s clubs in a simulator for a charge of \$19.60. The proceeds will go to Palmer’s Foundation and continue his family’s vast charitable efforts six years after his passing. “We’re encouraging the Army to support Latrobe and that legacy of philanthropy and giving back,” Boehner said. The Legacy Campaign will continue past this week, largely back in western Pennsylvania, but eventually the many places Palmer’s impact is felt. “Our goal is to share all of this continually, 365 days a year, at Bay Hill, in Latrobe, and everywhere else that Mr. Palmer mattered,” Boehner said. “That’s a lot of places.” Email Edgar Thompson at egthompson@orlandosentinel.com or follow him on Twitter at @osgators.

ODDS & ENDS

McIlroy enjoys Pro-Am pairing with pitcher CC Sabathia

By Edgar Thompson
Orlando Sentinel

Rory McIlroy is one of the biggest hitters on the PGA Tour. But the 5-foot-9 Irishman was eclipsed by former Cy Young Award-winning pitcher CC Sabathia during the Pro-Am for the Arnold Palmer Invitational. “He’s a big man,” McIlroy said. “I wasn’t into baseball that much growing up, but I know that he was a legend of the game and obviously played for arguably the biggest team in baseball ... pretty cool.” Mind you, Sabathia, who stands 6-6 and pushed 300 pounds during 11 seasons with the New York Yankees, was no match for McIlroy. Sabathia’s size did not translate to distance. Then again, a man who won 251 games was not paid to hit. “When he connected with it, yeah,” McIlroy said. “He needed a little work on his grip. So I tried to help him with that.” Wednesdays on the PGA always yield unique pairings. Sharing fine points is part of the fun for the engaging, easygoing McIlroy. “You can always pick up little things from them that you can maybe try to cross over into your sport,” McIlroy said. UCF coach Gus Malzahn golfed with Webb Simpson at Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Another interesting group-

ing featured musicians Ben Rector and Russell Dickerson, along with IndyCar driver Scott McLaughlin, playing with 2023 Ryder Cup captain Zach Johnson. Arnie’s good works During Monday’s junior golf clinic, the Arnold & Winnie Palmer Foundation presented a grant for a new transit van to the First Tee Central Florida, addressing the transportation of participants. The foundation also named three First Tee scholarship recipients: ■ Brock Hildebrand. A senior at Winter Park High and First Tee member since 2014, Hildebrand will attend UCF. He is a member of the school’s golf team who received an internship to PGA TOUR Superstore, where he will continue work while also coaching with First Tee. ■ Sara Rintoul. A UF junior major in business management, she is an original First Tee Central Florida member and was selected to the inaugural national First Tee College Scholarship Class in 2020. She interned at the API in 2022. Also a Special Olympics volunteer, Rintoul will be intern this summer with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati. ■ Cole Chastain. After nine years with First Tee Central Florida, he

is a sophomore at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, where he plays on the golf team and doubles majors in mechanical and material joining engineering. Chastain now volunteers with the local First Chapter in Texas. The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Orlando Health and the PGA Tour combined to donate \$25,000 to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida to address food insecurity in southwest Orange County. Partnership extended Mastercard, the Arnold & Winnie Palmer Foundation and the PGA Tour announced a multiyear extension to their long-standing sponsorship. Mastercard’s relationship with the Arnold Palmer Invitational began in 2004, and over the years the pairing has raised millions of dollars for children and families in the Orlando area and beyond. “We are grateful to have Mastercard’s backing as we continue to recognize Mr. Palmer’s place in history and his passion for helping others,” PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. The API is one of three player-hosted invitational, along with Tiger Woods’ Genesis Invitational and Jack Nicklaus’ Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. All

three are among the Tour’s new designated events offering a \$20 million purse, with \$3.6 million for the winner. Tickets, parking ■ Grounds tickets remain available for today for \$65 and Friday-Sunday for \$80. Mastercard holders receive exclusive pricing: a 10% discount on all tickets (excluding tax) when using their card. All tickets and parking must be purchased in advance. There will be no walk-up sales. Select White Claw Fan Deck tickets (\$115) for today are available. ■ General parking, located at the Universal Orlando parking garage, is \$15, paid at the Universal gate. Free shuttle service is provided to entrance near the Main Entrance at the 18th Tee Box. Shuttles begin at 6:45 a.m. today-Sunday to main entrance. Shuttles return beginning at 1 p.m. from the entrance at the 18th tee box and main entrance. Ride share drop-off will be on site in Lot 8. ■ New Fan Village on near the 9th hole offers a second Orlando Health Family Care suite and new ways to watch the live telecast. New concession options, a Bushmills Irish Whiskey bar and interactive opportunities are available.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Big 3 may get challenged by these guys

By Edgar Thompson
Orlando Sentinel

Beyond golf’s current Big Three of Jon Rahm, Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy, plenty of golfers in the 120-player field have shown the form in 2023 or in past visits to Bay Hill to contend at this week’s Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Best of the rest



Matt Fitzpatrick: The reigning U.S. Open champion battled a neck injury a month ago, but rise to the occasions at Bay Hill. The Englishman has four straight top 10s, including a tie for second in 2019.



Max Homa: The California native thrived on the West Coast swing. One of the game’s better iron players has held his own at Bay Hill, finishing T24 (2020), T10 (2021) and T17 (2022).



Viktor Hovland: He made the cut at four APIs, finishing T2 in 2022 despite going 74-75 in the final two rounds. The 25-year-old Norwegian’s scoring weekend average is 4 strokes higher. To win, this must change.

Keep an eye on



Chris Kirk: After top-3 finishes in two of three starts, Kirk won the Honda Classic to end a nearly eight-year drought. He looks to maintain momentum at Bay Hill, where he’s posted consecutive top 10s.



Keith Mitchell: He leads PGA Tour in total driving and is tied for 20th in par-5 scoring, a good way to tackle Bay Hill. Mitchell was top 10 in 2019 and 2020.



Jason Day: He won the 2016 API at the peak of his powers. After years of injuries, the 35-year-old Aussie is trending with three straight top 10s. His brilliant short game will factor in windy conditions.

Sleepers



Rickie Fowler: Now 34, the one-time rising star remains a fan favorite despite losing his form.

But the five-time Tour winner has found it in 2023, posting top 20s in three events. He would be as popular a contender as anyone.



Tommy Fleetwood: Coming off a tie for 20th at the Genesis Invitational, Fleetwood has four top 25s in six APIs, including three top 10s. A strong iron player who needs putter to cooperate this week.



Luke List: One of the game’s big hitters even at age 38, List has shown he can stand up to Bay Hill. He debuted in 2017 with a T17 and was T7 in 2018 and a T10 in 2019.

Email Edgar Thompson at egthompson@orlandosentinel.com or follow him on Twitter at @osgators.

Quick hits

This is the fourth elevated event of the PGA Tour season with a \$20 million purse. The previous three have been won by Jon Rahm (Sentry Tournament of Champions and Genesis Invitational) and Scottie Scheffler (WM Phoenix Open). ... The field is stacked with nine of the top 10 in the world and everyone from the top 50 except the seven players suspended for joining LIV Golf. ... Scheffler will go after his second successful title defense.



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