

# Reflections on a Tournament

By AGA Intern Mark Hennie

In early May, I packed up my bags in Boulder, Colorado and headed for the heat of Arizona as the 2004 USGA P.J. Boatwright Jr. Intern for the Arizona Golf Association. I landed here because I love this game and wanted to become involved in the administrative side. I arrived in Phoenix thinking that I had pretty good knowledge and felt fairly confident that I knew how a tournament would be conducted. Was I ever wrong! What I came to learn was that “there is more than meets the eye” when it comes to conducting a tournament.

Contrary to popular belief, golf tournaments don't just happen. From the moment the contract with the golf course is signed, we go to work making every preparation necessary to run a smooth golf tournament. It starts with phone calls, emails, web site and letters necessary for pre-tournament registration and mailings to each participant. Pre tournament preparations include everything from determining the details of each event, to advertising the events in our magazine and on our website, to receiving entries, to verifying membership, to handicap lookup and investigation, to pairing participants, to creating score cards and scoreboards, to marking the golf course along with an assortment of other preparations that go on behind the scenes at the AGA.

Marking the golf course is required in advance of every tournament. The course must be marked, identifying and defining the area where play is permitted. We make sure the markings are clear using the rules of the game as indicators - margins of water hazards and lateral water hazards are identified with yellow and red stakes, out of bounds is clearly defined, etc. In addition we are responsible for establishing local rules, ground under repair, and obstructions vs. integral parts of the golf course.

Once the golf course is marked, we must set up the course. Course setup includes both selecting the teeing grounds as well as the

# Kern's Kachina

## Tucson resident Ben Kern played steady golf in

## capturing the 80th Arizona Amateur



For the most part Kern earned the coveted trophy by making the fewest mistakes.

**T**HE 80TH ARIZONA Amateur began with 156 contestants. After 36 holes of stroke-play qualifying, and five singles matches, two golfers remained. The final round of this year's championship was an all-Tucson match between Ben Kern and Morgan Brown.

It may not have been the best-scoring final in the 80-year history of the Arizona Amateur, but the emotional roller coaster of scrambling pars and missed birdie opportunities took contestants Ben Kern and Morgan Brown on a beautiful ride through the Flagstaff Ponderosa Pines at Forest Highlands Golf Club-Canyon Course.

In the end, Kern defeated Morgan Brown 2 and 1 to capture the 80th Arizona Amateur Championship presented by Nova Home Loans. With the victory, he joined his father, Jeff, who won the 1977 title, as state amateur champions. They are only the second father-son team to do so, joining Kim Bannister (1925, '27 and '29) and Kim Jr. (1938 and '45).

“I didn't play very well, but I kept the ball on the course and didn't put myself in any real trouble out there,” said the 19-year-old

Kern of his final match.

Ben, a junior at Kansas State University, started strong, winning the first hole. He then won the par-3 sixth hole to go 2 up. The match remained that way until the par 4 ninth, Forest Highland's signature hole. Ben's tee shot found the hazard on the left, while Brown ended up on the side of the mountain on the right. By the time the hole concluded, the half-way point of the match, Ben's lead was only 1 up.

Brown's par on the 10th hole brought the match back to all square, where it remained until the par 5 636-yard 15th hole. Kern hit his second shot over the green, then chipped from the rough and

1	Beljan, Charlie	Mesa, AZ	138	Mehr	2 up	Mehr 3&2	Mehr 1 up	
64	Mehr, Bryan	Phoenix, AZ	152					
32	Mueller, Mark	Mesa, AZ	148	Mueller	2&1			
33	Rosen, Matt	Tucson, AZ	148					
16	Whalen, Billy	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA	144	Schwartz	2&1	Schwartz 2&1		Critchfield 2 up
49	Schwartz, Ryan	Phoenix, AZ	150					
17	Witz, Ryan	Tucson, AZ	144	Witz	4&3			
48	Schaller, John	Scottsdale, AZ	150					
8	Watkins, Aaron	Mesa, AZ	142	Watkins	1 up	Watkins 1 up		
57	Whiteman, Brett	Scottsdale, AZ	151				Critchfield 2 up	
25	Banek, Reg	Marana, AZ	147	Nichols	21 Holes			
40	Nichols, Jeff	Mesa, AZ	149					
9	James, Marty	Tempe, AZ	143	Rickerd	4&3	Critchfield 4&3		
56	Rickerd, T.J.	Chandler, AZ	151					
24	Critchfield, Kendall	Mesa, AZ	147	Critchfield	4&3			Kern 3&2
41	Peterson, Brett	Mesa, AZ	149					
4	Tyler, Nathan	Tucson, AZ	140	Tyler	5&4	Tyler 3&1		
61	Edin, Johan	Phoenix, AZ	152				Kern 4&3	
29	Cichewicz, Andy	Mesa, AZ	148	Cichewicz	4&2			
36	Hillis, Sean	Mesa, AZ	149					
13	Mast, Will	Scottsdale, AZ	144	Kern	1 up	Kern 4&3		Kern 4&3
52	Kern, Ben	Tucson, AZ	151					
20	Rustland, Clark	Provo, UT	145	Rustland	6&5			
45	Duffey, Timothy	Cave Creek, AZ	150					
5	Wilks, Josh	Tucson, AZ	141	Meyers	4&3	Meyers 2&1		
60	Meyers, Dan	Oro Valley, AZ	152				Meyers 1 up	
28	O'Grady, Shane	Chandler, AZ	147	Kobayashi	1 up			
37	Kobayashi, So	Tempe, AZ	149					
12	Hakes, Steven	San Diego, CA	144	Hakes	3&2	Hakes 1 up		
53	Maynard, Curtis	Scottsdale, AZ	151					
21	Mowbray, Zach	Mesa, AZ	146	Mowbray	4&3			
44	Dowell, Ben	Scottsdale	150					

## MATCH PLAY 80th Arizona Amateur Forest Highlands – Canyon Course July 19-24, 2004

2	Kellaney, Ken	Phoenix, AZ	142	Kellaney	8&6	Kellaney 4&3		
63	Marsh, Ji	Paradise Valley, AZ	152				Kellaney 3&2	
31	Minyard, Ben	Avondale, AZ	148	Minyard	2&1			
34	Wood, J.J	Yuma, AZ	148					
15	Tso, Shreve	Page, AZ	144	Tso	2 up	Tso 4&3		Moore 3&2
50	Walters, Kyle	Gilbert, AZ	150					
18	Carsrud, Scott	Cottonwood, AZ	145	Nash	19 holes			
47	Nash, Dave	Phoenix, AZ	150					
7	Prouty, Brian	Tucson, AZ	142	Prouty	2&1	Prouty 4&3		
58	Zieky, Jeff	Scottsdale, AZ	151				Moore 1 up	
26	Berkshire, Jeff	Litchfield Park, AZ	147	Berkshire	2&1			
39	Neal, Tyler	Tucson, AZ	149					
10	Moore, Pat	Tempe, AZ	143	Moore	1 up	Moore 3&2		
55	Park, Lenny	Phoenix, AZ	151					
33	Marsh, Ben	Paradise Valley, AZ	147	Swagar	2&1			Brown 4&3
42	Swagar, Ryan	Scottsdale, AZ	149					
3	Brown, Morgan	Tucson, AZ	140	Brown	2&1	Brown 1 up		
62	Peterson, Paige	Chandler, AZ	152				Brown 5&4	
30	Huard, Richard	Tempe, AZ	148	Carter	3&2			
35	Carter, Brett	Phoenix, AZ	149					Brown 2&1
14	Mueller, Jesse	Mesa, AZ	144	Berren	1 up	Grone 3&2		
51	Berren, Scott	Tucson, AZ	151					
19	Montgomery, M.	Scottsdale, AZ	145	Grone	2&1			
46	Grone, Brian	Mesa, AZ	150					
6	Medina, Tommy	Thatcher, AZ	142	Medina	6&4	Medina 3&1		
59	Nakasawa, Bentley	Yuma, AZ	152				Medina 1 up	
27	Krakowiak, Jeff	Glendale, AZ	147	Mueller	1 up			
38	Mueller, Johnny	Mesa, AZ	149					
11	Reasoner, Craig	Phoenix, AZ	143	McLaren	3&2	Strunk 1 up		
54	McLaren, Andrew	Scottsdale, AZ	151					
22	Strunk, Casey	Phoenix, AZ	146	Strunk	2&1			
43	DeBernardi, Duke	Scottsdale	150					

Kern def Brown  
2&1

# Reflections cont.

hole locations for each day of competition. While this may sound easy, we must take into consideration all aspects of the course and determine a setup that is both fair but challenging for every golfer.

During the competition, staff and volunteers make every effort to protect the field by applying the USGA Rules of Golf on a consistent basis. For example, when a competitor completes a round he must enter the scoring area where staff and volunteers are responsible for checking the scorecards for proper scores as well as making sure that both the competitor and his marker sign the card. A career round of 64 that took 4 hours to accomplish can be nullified in 30 seconds while in the scoring area if the competitor fails to sign or signs an incorrect score card.

For me, the 80th Arizona Amateur at Forest Highlands in Flagstaff was the culmination of my internship and the main event of the summer. After "learning the ropes," I got to witness first hand what goes into a major championship. Waking at 4:00 a.m. to be at the golf course by 5:00 a.m. and nights that went on well into the darkness tested my patience as well as my motivation to continue. Constantly running around to make necessary preparations to ensure the tournaments success was a bit difficult at times. After surviving eight days of early mornings I have come to better understand the magnitude of preparations and work that goes into a major golf tournament. The stereotypes can be put to rest, and I am here to rectify what some may think. Trust me when I say, "golf tournaments are not a walk in the park."

made a 5-foot putt for birdie. His lead was back to 1 up.

"It was a relief to finally make one after so many putts burned the edges," Kern said.

Brown, a 33-year-old financial adviser, had a chance to bring the match back to all square on the 16th hole but missed his 6-foot birdie putt. He then attempted to even the score on the reachable par-4 17th. He went for broke but pulled his tee

shot into the trees along a rocky slope in an unplayable position. Brown opted to go back to the tee, hitting 3. Unfortunately, his second tee shot, which also went left, found the rough. When the hole concluded, Kern's par was enough to make him the champion, winning the match 2 and 1.

"We've both played some great golf this summer said Brown, who regained his amateur status two years ago after playing on mini-tours, "but today neither one of us had our 'A' game working."

For Kern, the victory made amends for last year's loss in the final match to five-time state amateur champion Ken Kellaney, who was eliminated in the quarterfinals this year.

"I've been thinking about having another chance ever since I lost that match," Kern said. "It would have been fun to play Ken again, but it really didn't matter. It's the biggest tournament I've ever won." ■

## SCOREBOARD



**AGA Wins AZ/Utah Shootout.** Team Arizona, led by Guy Gedeon (above, left, accepting the trophy from UGA Executive Director Joe Watts), captured their third straight Arizona-Utah Shootout victory to even the series at seven wins each. The AGA defeated the UGA 40½ to 31½ in the two-day competition held at The Gallery Golf Club in Tucson.

### AZ Mid-Amateur by Drive Time

Oro Valley CC

211	Erik Nielsen, Tucson, . . . . .	71-70-70
213	Armen Dirdadian, Tucson, . . . . .	70-71-72
214	Ken Kellaney, Phoenix, . . . . .	69-71-74

### Falcon Amateur by Drive Time

Falcon Dunes GC

130	Nathan Tyler, Tucson, . . . . .	64-66
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### AZ Four-Ball by NOVA Home Loans

Tonto Verde Ranch GC; Dove Valley Ranch GC; We Ko Pa

**Notes: First time that a senior team has won the overall championship**

202	Edward Smith, Mesa – Steve Dallas, Mesa, . . .	66-68-68
203	Tom Beach, Marana – Erik Nielsen, Oro Valley, . .	66-67-70

### AZ Division Match Play by Drive Time

Quintero G & CC

#### Masters – Final

Ron Burns, Scottsdale def. Jeff Zieky, Scottsdale 5 and 3

#### Seniors – Final

Gerry Graham, Mesa def. Joseph Rogers, Glendale 3 and 2

#### Legends – Final

Mike Perrault, Mesa def. Bob Mandeville, Scottsdale, 19 holes

## Mueller Foursome

Golf genes must run in the Mueller family. At ages 15, 17, 19 and 21, the Mueller brothers all competed in this year's 80th Arizona Amateur Championship. This is the first family to have four brothers play in any Arizona amateur golf tournament.

After encouraging their sons to get involved in a junior golf program, the parents (names??) of Michael (15), Mark (17), Johnny (19), and Jesse (21) can be justly proud of their boys. Only Jesse, who won this championship in 2001 at The Stone Canyon Club in Tucson, was exempt from qualifying. The other three earned their way into the championship through local qualifying tournaments.

Playing golf for these four brothers has been a family affair ever since they were little boys. All but the youngest made it to match play. Big brother Jesse, a senior at Arizona State University, was a strong contender for the title, but was upset in the first round of match play by Scott Berren of Tucson 1 up. In the second round, Bryan Mehr of Phoenix eliminated Mark 3 & 2, while brother Johnny lost to Tommy Medina of Thatcher 3 & 1.

Mark, a junior at Red Mountain High School, hopes to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Jesse and play for ASU. Johnny, a freshman at ASU, enjoys the game but is looking to make his living elsewhere. Michael, the youngest, has high aspirations and would love to play golf seriously when he gets older.