

# SHORT STROKES

## Katrina/Rita Fundraiser: Golf for the Gulf

The SW PGA and Gainey Ranch Golf Club hosted a pro-am Scramble event on Saturday, September 24th that raised over \$193,000 for relief efforts on the Gulf Coast. Representing the AGA were President, Dave Barnes, Jim Linyard, Larry Brasch, and Rick Campbell who posted a respectable second place finish with a score of 58, one stroke behind the winning team from Gainey. A full field of thirty-six teams competed.

## USGA Amateur Status & Decisions on the Rules Changes

Beginning January 1st the USGA will remove Hole-in-One prizes from the Amateur Status code. This will allow amateurs to accept prizes without jeopardy. Another change will allow players to accept expenses for individual events if paid through the AGA. Full rules of amateur status will be available January 2006.

The USGA has also released several variations on Decisions on the Rules for next year. Look for the full version on the AGA website after November 1st.

## Jim Hamilton, AGA Volunteer of the Year, Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of long-time AGA friend and volunteer **Jim Hamilton** following a brief battle with cancer this past August.

For nearly 12 years, Jim was a fixture at AGA tournaments and most often was

found managing the scoring area at AGA and USGA events, along with volunteering with the PGA and LPGA Tours. In early 2004, he was honored as the AGA Volunteer of the Year.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim's family during this difficult time," said Ed Gowan, executive director of the AGA. "Jim was truly a wonderful individual. He touched so many lives through his association with the AGA and was a beloved member of our family. Words cannot fully express the loss that will be felt by his family and friends."

## An Unforgettable Summer

Each year, Arizona has its share of players who qualify for various USGA national championships and 2005 was no exception. Below are highlights of some of the notable performances:

U.S. Mid-Amateur—**Ken Kellaney**: Finished T-10 in stroke play and reached the quarterfinals. **Bryan Hoops**: Qualified for the final spot in match play in a playoff with 11 players for three spots. As the No. 64 seed, he upset the medalist in the first round and then reached the Sweet 16. Congratulations to **Tom Hays** and **Jeremy Defalco**, who qualified but did not reach match play.

On the women's side: Medalist **Kerry Portillion**, the 2005 Arizona Women's Amateur champion reached the final but lost to Mary Ann Lapointe of Canada 1-up. **Tui Selvaratnam** finished

ished T-2 in stroke play and reached the quarters. She was runner-up at the Arizona Women's Amateur this year.

U.S. Amateur Public Links—U of A's **Tyler Neal** reached the round of 32. Had he won that match, he would have faced Michelle Wie in the round of 16.

U.S. Junior Amateur—**Tim McKenney** and **Philip Francis**, the 2005 Arizona Public Links Champion, both reached the quarterfinals.

U.S. Senior Amateur—Arizona sent four players to the championship. **Steve Dallas** was the only one to reach the match play portion, losing in the first round. The others there were **Bill Swed**, **Allen Sharpe**, **Tim McAdam**, **Larry Lang** and **Herb Weber**.

## Keeping Up with the (Bobby) Joneses

What began 27 years ago as a game between strangers in Southfield, Mich., has blossomed into an annual traditional that has reached out to some 38 states and four countries. It is an exclusive tournament where name-dropping is the only means of entrance and no amount of money can secure a spot, even if you are a Nicklaus, a Palmer, a Rockefeller, a Trump or a Woods.

The only names that matter are Bob and Jones. Robert, Bob, Bobbie, Rob and Roberta Joneses are also welcome. Everyone else need not apply. The tournament is a tribute to Bobby Jones, the ultimate gentlemen golfer



**Tui Selvaratnam**

## RICK LAROSE— U of A men's golf coach for more than two decades.

Rick LaRose is one Wild Cat; not some fluffy kitty. His constant verbal barbs are the teeth and claws that alternately deflate and encourage his players, friends and program donors, all with the intent of making the University of Arizona golf programs better. His apparently tough and caustic exterior masks a dry sense of humor that keeps his players and opposing coaches guessing, and drives a search for excellence that is matched only by the successes of his ex-players—both in golf and in life.

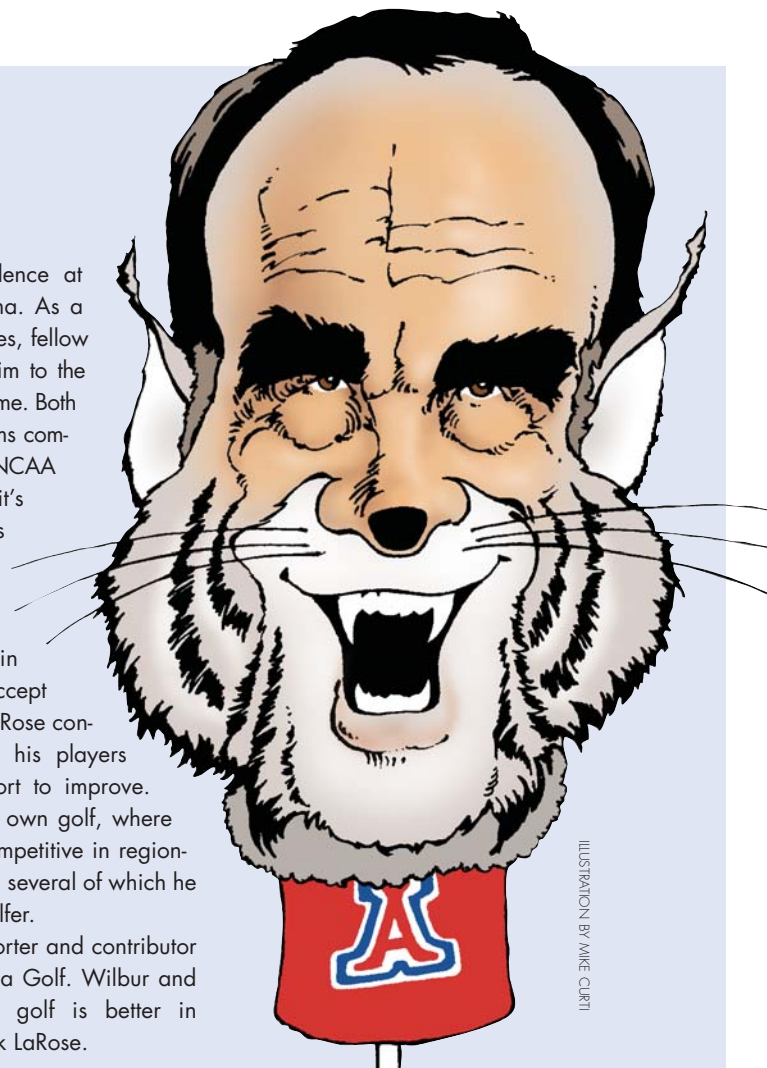
Rick was once heard chastising a player for three putting on a fast, downhill green, by holding a club at a 45-degree angle pointing up the shaft and saying, "This is uphill; the other way is DOWNHILL!" Everyone but the player and Rick laughed. On the other hand, when anyone around him needs a boost in morale, he is first to say something supportive and positive, making him a great partner in any tournament.

An excellent baseball player and former water polo coach, it comes as no surprise that he has been responsible for two

decades of golf excellence at the University of Arizona. As a testament to his successes, fellow coaches have elected him to the Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. Both men's and women's teams compete annually for the NCAA championships, and it's rare that either one falls out of the top rankings among collegiate programs for very long.

When so many in sports are willing to accept an excuse for failure, LaRose continues to demand that his players make a continuing effort to improve. This also applies to his own golf, where Rick continues to be competitive in regional amateur tournaments, several of which he has won as a senior golfer.

Rick is a great supporter and contributor to all aspects of Arizona Golf. Wilbur and Wilma's teams aside, golf is better in Arizona because of Rick LaRose.



**Legendary U.S. Amateur Champion Robert T. Jones Jr., has inspired a golf tournament named in his honor—only allowing entrants with his name.**

and one of the greatest of all time.

"I went to the phone book and started looking for Bob Joneses to play golf with," said Robert A. Jones, the tournament founder. "It was an opportunity for five Bobby's to get together on a Saturday morning for a round of golf. From strangers we became friends and here we are 27 years later with a two-day event."

For the first time, the Bobby Jones Open is moving west of the Mississippi and will be played at Talega Golf Club in San Clemente, Calif July 17-19, 2006. The tournament has a charitable component, having raised more than \$180,000 for Syringomyelia (SM), the neuromuscular disorder that put Mr. Jones in a wheelchair and ultimately led to his death in 1971.

To reduce the confusion at the host facility, each player adopts a nickname

that more often than not represents a player's background. Such is the case for Bobby "Sky Chief" Jones of Surprise, who will be competing next year for the seventh time.

"I first played in 1991 and thought it was a bit of a novelty," said the retired Texaco marketing executive. "I found out how much fun it was and I am delighted to have taken the plunge. It is a great group of guys and gals and we have raised some significant funds for the charity. I have made new friends from all walks of life and really look forward to next year."

Along the way, Bobby Jones luminaries such as Robert "Grandson" Tyre Jones, Jr and Robert Trent Jones, Jr. have participated.

For more information contact Bobby "Sky Chief" Jones at 623-975-6171 or by email at [cocoaj@cox.net](mailto:cocoaj@cox.net).