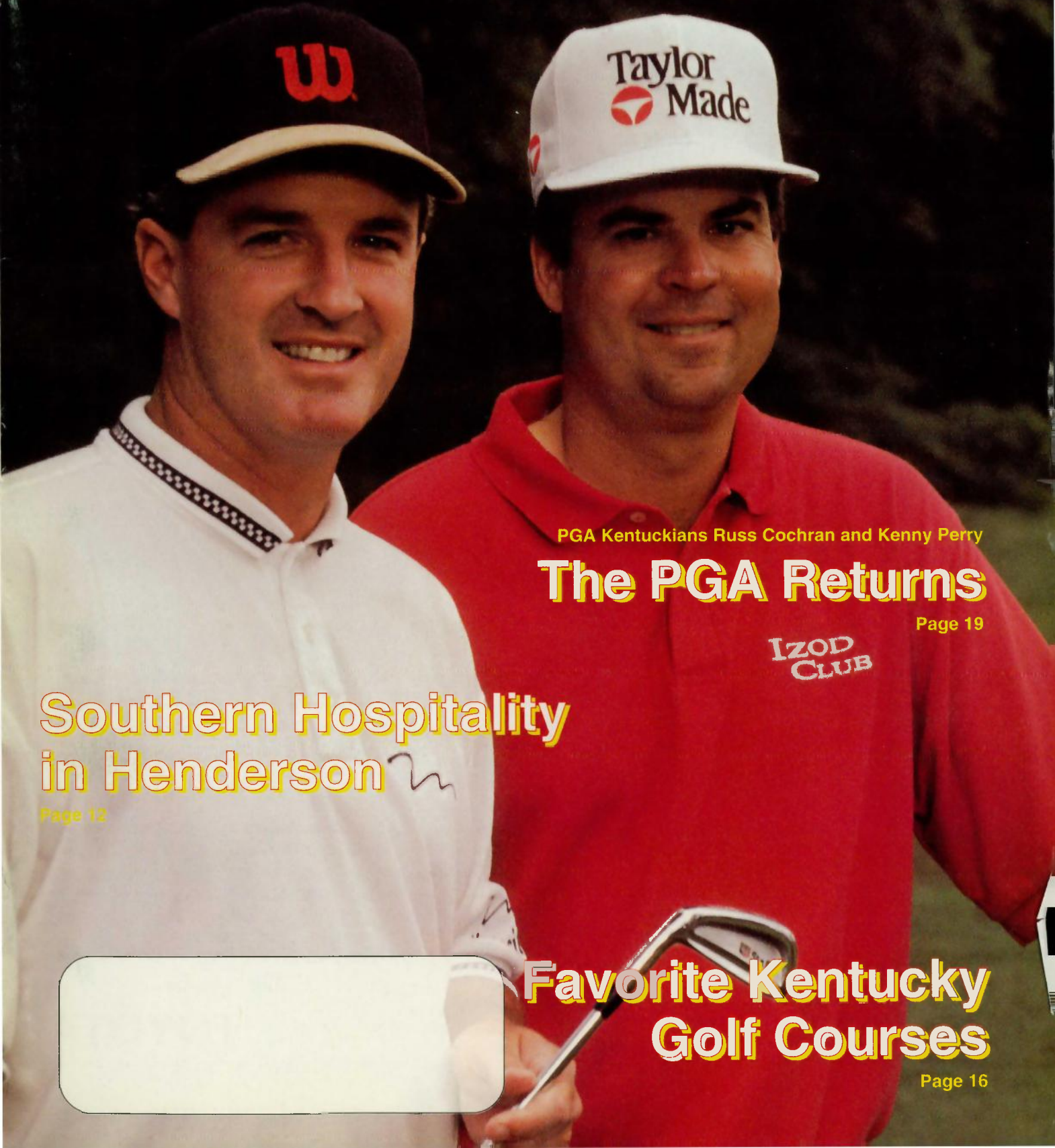


Kentucky Living

JULY 1996



PGA Kentuckians Russ Cochran and Kenny Perry

The PGA Returns

Page 19

Southern Hospitality in Henderson

Page 12

Favorite Kentucky Golf Courses

Page 16

PGA Championship

If you're in Kentucky in March, the sport is basketball. Come the first week of May it's thoroughbred racing. Derby Fever emanates from Louisville's Churchill Downs, and fans cheer the favorites as "down the stretch they come." Despite their respective places as the most recognized sports in Kentucky, basketball and thoroughbred racing must now make way for a new event, the 78th annual PGA Championship, hosted at Valhalla Golf Club outside of Louisville, August 5-11.

Established in 1916 as a national championship with an initial purse of \$2,580, the PGA Championship has developed into one of the world's premier sporting events, attracting an international field of professionals vying for a share of the \$2 million prize. The PGA Championship is one of four major golf championships, including the British Open, the U.S. Open and the Masters. In 1992 Valhalla Golf Club was announced as the site of the 1996 PGA Championship. According to PGA of America Chief Executive Officer Jim Awtrey, "Louisville is ideal for welcoming a major golf championship. Valhalla Golf Club and the city of Louisville were initially selected to host the PGA Championship for a variety of reasons — a top-quality golf course and club, a supportive community and a proven city infrastructure capable of handling international sports events." The PGA Championship was last held in Kentucky in 1952 at Louisville's Big Springs Country Club.

Valhalla, the premier golf club of Kentucky, is the creation of Louisvillian Dwight Gahm and his three sons —



Returns to Kentucky

Russ Cochran, left, from Paducah, and Kenny Perry, above, from Franklin, received bids to play in the PGA Championship next month at the Valhalla Golf Club outside Louisville. Photos by Jim Battles.

Walt, Gordy, and Phil — who commissioned Jack Nicklaus to design a private, top-quality golf facility capable of hosting a world-class competitive event. Opened in 1986, Valhalla was named one of the top three new private golf courses the next year. *Golf Digest* ranks Valhalla Golf Club 36th among the top 100 courses in America, and it's rated number one in Kentucky. Set on 486 acres of rolling countryside east of Louisville, Valhalla's open design accommodates spectators' viewing, and 10,000 fans are expected to line the natural amphitheater that forms the course's 18th hole.

Steve Elkington, the 1995 PGA Championship winner, previewed the course in early May and was favorably impressed. "This course is going to take a lot of getting used to," said Elkington, who laughs that he plans to share "nothing" with his competitors. "It's a very big site with a lot of land. It has a major championship feel." His favorite challenge is the 410-yard par-4 15th hole. Woods and a creek define the fairway, and a narrow approach to the

A
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green demands accuracy. Elkington predicts some low scores on the front nine holes, which are built on a meadow and have few trees, but players will have their work ahead of them on the wooded back half of the course. Elkington will be in good company. Players eligible to compete include 150 of the world's greatest golfers: 1996 Masters winner Nick Faldo, last year's U.S. Open champ Corey Pavin, and John Daly, winner of the 1995 British Open and the 1991 PGA Championship. All past PGA Championship winners automatically receive a bid, which means former champions Nick Price, Paul Azinger, Payne Stewart, Larry Nelson, Raymond Floyd, and five-time winner Jack Nicklaus are expected to compete. Not since the 1936 and 1937 wins by Denny Shute has a defending champion won consecutive PGA Championships, but Elkington hopes to shut out the pressure and concentrate on his game.

In addition, two Kentuckians who have received bids are Paducah's Russ Cochran and Franklin's Kenny Perry. Cochran plotted his course to the PGA by competing at the junior golf, high school, and college levels. "I pursued a college scholarship, and I knew I wanted to play golf professionally," says Cochran. He attended UK from 1976 to 1979 and turned pro after college. In 1982 he qualified for his PGA card and is looking forward to the Valhalla challenge. Married with four children who share his interest in golf, Cochran is 37 years old. Kenny Perry's golf career began at age seven, and his prowess in school led to a golf scholarship at Western Kentucky University. He began his PGA experience in 1987. Perry is familiar with Valhalla, having played the course several times. "Valhalla is the best golf course in Kentucky," Perry enthuses. "I really enjoy courses designed by Jack Nicklaus. They require accuracy, and I play well on them." Perry, age 35, is married with three children (Lesslye, 12; Justin, 10; and Lindsey, 8) who are active in sports, and Justin enjoys golfing with his dad.

When the PGA crowds leave Louisville at the end of the tournament, there will be more than one winner. The PGA of America will donate \$50,000 to the Metro United Way of Louisville, which will provide nearly 1,000 volunteers to staff con-

Continued on page 27

turity," says this transplanted English-woman. "The more urbanized we become, the more need we have for the garden. There are fads and crazes in plants and plantings, but gardening is not a fad, it is here to stay."

Tip of the Month

When watering, apply 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water in a single application per week. Frequent sprinklings will encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought. When mowing lawns in the summer, mow .5 inch higher than usual during the dry summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless the grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to a buildup of thatch. Remember, if you are going to totally renovate your lawn, next month is the time to do that, beginning with a total-kill herbicide applied in early August.

Fred Wiche, farm and garden director for WHAS-TV and radio, will answer questions sent to him at P.O. Box 1084, Louisville, KY 40201.

PGA Returns

Continued from page 20

cession areas at the Championship. The WHAS Crusade for Children and Kentucky Harvest receive a portion of all ticket sales and contributions from selected activities at The PGA Golf Experience, an interactive festival and golf "theme" park, scheduled August 3-7 at the Bullitt Estate located directly behind the Oxmoor Mall in Louisville. Attendees can enter long drive contests and participate in bunker shots, putting and chipping challenges. Golf equipment, technology and services will be available. Photography and memorabilia will track the history, growth and future of the PGA of America, and a marketplace will offer official PGA Championship and PGA Golf Experience merchandise. Tickets are \$5 (\$4 presale at Louisville malls). Hours are 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, and Monday through Wednesday, August 5-7, and noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 4.

CBS Sports and Turner Sports will feature more than 25 hours combined coverage of the PGA Championship from August 8-11. Check your local newspaper for television and radio listings.

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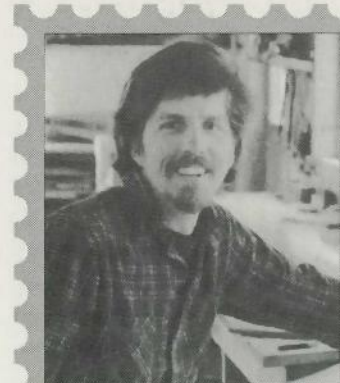
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