

Grimes named to Curtis Cup team again

Virginia Grimes of Meridian, Miss., is one of eight ladies that will represent the United States at the 2006 Curtis Cup Match on July 29-30 at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Bandon, Ore.

The other members of the squad selected by the USGA Women's Committee are: Amanda Blumenherst, 19, of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Jennie Lee, 19, of Henderson, Nev.; Taylor Leon, 19, of Dallas, Texas; Paige Mackenzie, 23, of Yakima, Wash.; Amanda McCurdy, 22, of Eldorado, Ark.; and Jenny Suh, 20, of Fairfax, Va.

Grimes, 42, has played on two victorious Curtis Cup teams in 1998 and 2000.

She was the 1998 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion and the runner-up in 2004. She is a two-time South Atlantic Women's Amateur champion, in 1998 and 2006, and has won two Women's Southern Amateurs (1987 and 1996).

In addition, she was a member of the Alabama team that won the USGA Women's State Team Championship in 1997. Grimes, a 1987 graduate of Auburn University, was elected to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

LATE RONNIE MELANCON NAMED AS LGA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT FOR 2006

The late Ronnie Melancon of St. Francisville has been named recipient of the Louisiana Golf Association's Distinguished Service Award for 2006. The award was initiated in 1984 by the LGA to honor individuals who have contributed to the betterment of the game in Louisiana.

Melancon, who passed away in March after a lengthy battle with cancer, served as the Director of Golf at The Bluffs Country Club and Resort (formerly known as The Bluffs on Thompson Creek) from 1994 until 2004, and as operations director from 2004 until his death. He was a true friend to the LGA and to all golf constituencies across the state. A native of Baton Rouge, Melancon got his feet wet early in competitive golf, winning the LGA Junior Amateur Championship in 1961 at Alexandria Golf and Country Club, besting Lafayette's Buddy Short 2 and 1. Short went on to capture back-to-back LGA Amateur Championship titles in 1969 and 1970.

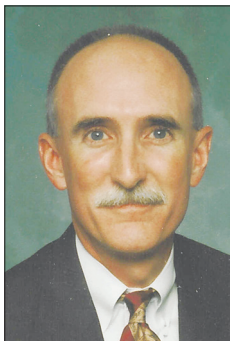
Melancon also had a long and successful career in marketing and promotions, including a stint at WAFB television in Baton Rouge.

LGA corner: Inside the Ropes (continued)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

getting up. I was downstairs in the lobby to catch the shuttle to the course by 5:45 and it took us about 20 minutes to get to Winged Foot. Andy Yamanaka is also walking with our group today (we occasionally have two officials walk with a group when we have more officials than there are groups). Andy is the lead official for the Japanese Tour and this was his first U.S. Open as a rules official. He had, however, been to five other Opens as a caddy for Isao Aoki. It was a treat being with him today. Our group was Bob Estes, Brett Quigley, and Tadahiro Takayama. None had played particularly well on Thursday so they all needed to play well today to make the cut. No rulings again today. I can't remember working a USGA Championship where I had absolutely no rulings, usually the law of averages will dictate that something relatively benign such as cart path or sprinkler head (obstruction) relief will come up. There's really not a whole lot that can happen from a rules standpoint here other than the TIOs that I mentioned earlier. There are no cart paths on the course. They have a wonderful caddy program at Winged Foot and you're required to walk unless a disability of some sort precludes it.

Estes has a reputation of being a tad on the meticulous side (in other words...slow), but today we played at a pretty good pace. It helps being an early group and we were only close to being out of position once all day. Estes shot 72 after an 80 on Thursday, Quigley had 73 after also shooting 80 on Thursday, and Takayama had 75 after a 77 on Thursday. All three missed the cut, which fell



Carr McCalla

at 9-over par 149. Once we finished I headed to the merchandise tent to make my obligatory purchases. I was told that the USGA sells approximately 100,000 caps at an Open Championship. At \$26 a pop, that's \$2.6 million in caps alone, not to mention the shirts, outerwear, accessories, etc., that is also sold. With TV rights, merchandise, etc., the U.S. Open provides a huge percentage of the USGA's annual revenue.

I grabbed a bite to eat at the hospitality tent and shuttled back to the hotel to shower and pack before heading to the airport for my 6 p.m. flight back to God's Country. There was a mix-up with the transportation service that was to take me to LaGuardia for my flight. They were supposed to pick me up at 3:30 and when they hadn't arrived by 3:45, I called the USGA transportation office at the course to find out where they were. After a number of phone calls back and forth it was apparent there'd been a mix-up. I was able to get a cab at around 4:15, finally arriving at the airport at 5:15. Fortunately there weren't long lines at the curbside check-in or at security and I got to the gate just as they were beginning to board the plane. I arrived in Baton Rouge (through Atlanta) at around 10 p.m. and back into Lafayette and home by 11:30. It's Teri's (my wife) birthday tomorrow so I've got a date with NBC tomorrow during the day (for 3rd round action) and one with Teri for tomorrow night.

It's always exciting working the Open at these wonderful old venues. Winged Foot is truly a gem. I was pleased to hear that the USGA Executive Committee announced last week that the Open's going to Merion for the first time in many years in 2013. I'm heading to the Senior Open in three weeks at Prairie Dunes in Hutchinson, Kansas, another wonderful old course. I'll plan on reporting on my trip there next month where I'll be Inside the Ropes Again.

Carr McCalla is the Executive Director of the LGA. He can be reached by e-mail (cmccalla@lgagolf.org) or phone (337-265-3938).