



# REBEL RUNNER

Editor: Michael Brown, Freshman

Sponsored by UNLV PGM Student Association

Butch Harmon	1
President's Corner	1
Marathon	2
Tournaments	2
PGM Road Trip	3
PGA Checkpoint	3
Level 4	3
Director's Message	4

## BUTCH HARMON SPEAKS AT PGMSA MEETING



Photo courtesy of Butch Harmon Golf Schools

The UNLV PGM Program had the honor of having world renowned golf instructor Butch Harmon speak at the March 6th PGMSA Meeting.

Harmon is best known for having been Tiger Woods' golf coach early in the great champion's career, though they have since gone their separate ways.

In April of 2007, it was announced that Harmon would start working with Phil Mickelson. He has also worked with other major champions such as Greg Norman, Davis Love III, Fred Couples and Justin Leonard, and with younger stars such as Adam Scott and Natalie Gulbis.

The meeting was held at the beautiful Rio Secco Golf Club, where Mr. Harmon holds his world-class golf schools.

The focus of Mr. Harmon's presentation was to instill in the PGM students a sense of what it takes to be a truly successful instructor, golf professional and contributing citizen to the game of golf.

Mr. Harmon captivated the entire room with personal insights into his historic career in the golf industry, as well as with inspirational stories and life advice. He had everyone laughing with tales about his father, Tiger Woods, and his struggles in the golf industry.

The entire PGM family would like to thank Mr. Harmon again as we will forever remember his words and wisdom.

Michael Brown, PGMSA Editor, Freshman

"There's one position in the golf swing that matters: Impact. Everything else is window dressing."

Butch Harmon

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The professional golf management program picked up right where we left off in the fall and hit the ground running for the spring semester. After everyone took some much needed and deserved time off for winter break, students were eager to get back into the swing of things. The semester kicked off by a trip to the annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida. We had the great opportunity to check out all the new products and meet an array of PGA Professionals such as President

Brian Whitcomb and PGA Master Professional Bill Cioffoletti. The learning didn't stop in Florida! In March we were honored to have one of the top instructors in the world, Butch Harmon, speak at our monthly PGMSA meeting.

This semester has already begun to stand out as a great time for the association. New traditions are being established and friendships are continuing to grow. The student association is as strong as it ever has been but not without



PGMSA President, Reese McCall

the support of the students, faculty, Las Vegas community and all those who support one of the top programs in the nation!

Reese McCall, PGMSA President, Senior

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## 100 HOLE GOLF MARATHON: PLAYING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



On May 9th, seniors John “Bud” Gazaway and Reese McCall, along with Director Chris Cain and Graduate Assistant Brian Soulé will participate in a 100-hole golf marathon benefitting the First Tee and PGA Chapters of Southern Nevada.

The fundraiser will be held at Angel Park Golf Club at the Cloud Nine Short Course, and our participants will join dozens of others in an effort to raise \$100,000 for junior golf.

In an ongoing effort to support the area’s golf community, the UNLV PGM Program will be sending these four athletes to participate in the event with a goal to raise \$10,000.

The money raised by the four UNLV participants will benefit the PGA Southern Nevada Chapter’s efforts to grow the game through junior golf.

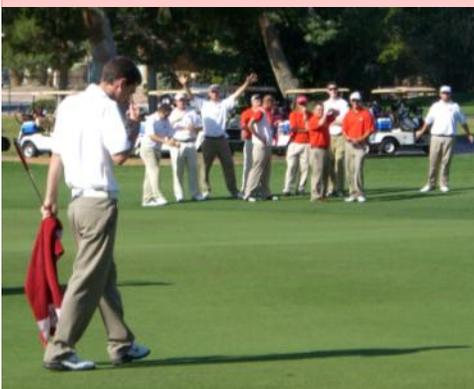
When asked about his participation in the event, senior Bud Gazaway said, “I’ve never been much for marathons, but I can assure you that I’m excited about this event. It’s going to be a great day, and the money we raise will surely make a difference in Las Vegas.”

**For information regarding how to donate to this cause, please see the insert in this newsletter.**



**PGA**  
Southwest Section  
Southern Nevada Chapter

## TOURNAMENT SEASON PREP FOR 2008 DIRECTOR’S CUP



Evan Ives leaving the 8th green at Las Vegas National during the 2007 Director’s Cup

The UNLV PGM Program is always striving to give students hands-on experience in the golf industry and one of the first steps in this process is to learn how to run a golf tournament. In the first two events of the spring semester, the freshman and sophomore classes did an outstanding job of planning, setting up and running PGM tournaments.

“Tournament Operations is a crucial element of the golf industry and it is important for students to get first-hand experience which will help them later on during their internships” said UNLV PGM Graduate Assistant, Mike Pius.

The freshmen class took charge of the Spring Opening at Angel Park, under the leadership of freshman class representative Jeff Kragt, the tournament was a tremendous success. Conditions were ideal, with light winds and sunny skies. Scores were low with sophomore Matt Leestma firing a 70 to take home the first-place trophy.

The Running Rebel Classic at The Badlands gave the sophomore class a chance to shine. With sophomore class representative Shawna Richardson leading the way, the sophomores hosted a fabulous day of golf. The course played tough, as there was a premium on accuracy, and a talented short game.

The tournament was shortened to 16 holes as some players were unable to finish due to darkness. Senior Matt Henderson finished atop the pack with a 16-hole score of 64, lapping the competition.

The spring semester tournament season includes two more events in which students can gain points to qualify for the Director’s Cup in late April. This premiere event was won by the underclassmen last year.

Michael Brown, PGMSA Editor, Freshman

### *The Spring Opening at Angel Park*

1st	<b>Matt Leestma</b>	<b>70</b>
2nd	Nick Rodgers	71
3rd	Mike Dunn	72
4th	Bud Gazaway	72

### *Running Rebel Classic at The Badlands* (Shortened to 16 holes due to darkness)

1st	<b>Matt Henderson</b>	<b>64</b>
2nd	Evan Ives	66
3rd	Mike Dunn	69
4th	Casey Barbee	69

Congratulations to freshman Mike Dunn for passing his Playing Ability Test at Angel Park in February!



Underclassmen Team Captain, Michael Seiden, accepts 2007 Director’s Cup trophy from Christopher Cain

## MESQUITE PROVIDES BACKDROP FOR FUN WEEKEND

A number of lucky students were treated to a weekend trip in picturesque Mesquite, NV on February 17th and 18th. The students stayed at the Oasis Resort Golf & Spa, site of the popular Golf Channel reality series "The Big Break: Mesquite." The students enjoyed two days of golf on both the Palmer and Canyons courses.

The trip and tournament was coordinated by PGMSA Vice President, Gary Xavier.

On the first day of the trip, the third official tournament of the Spring '08 semester was contested on the Palmer course. Scoring was impressive during

the first round, especially considering the challenging layout. With severe elevation drops (some over 150 feet), tight fairways, and many blind shots, the Palmer course played up to the expectations of its designer Arnold Palmer.

Sophomore Matt Leestma tamed the course and took first place with a 74 and was followed by juniors Rance Yanabu - 76 and Cris Novich - 77.

The second day was a slight departure from competition with players trying to make as many birdies as possible in a team best ball format. The team of Matt Leestma, Cris Novich, Brian Markel and Kevin Waters took home the top prize.



The 7th at the Palmer Course, a relatively short Par 3 at 160 yards, erased the hopes of winning for many players including one particular editor

Michael Brown, PGMSA Editor, Freshman

## PGA CHECKPOINT A SUCCESS!



Level 3 graduates at the Hotel College Stan Fulton Building

Months of studying for Levels 1, 2 and 3 PGA Checkpoints came to an end during the last weekend of February when PGM students completed knowledge and simulation tests for the PGA. Sophomores, juniors and seniors took part in testing that would advance their careers as PGA Professionals.

Following checkpoint on Sunday evening, graduates were celebrated at the Stan Fulton building for the first annual Level 3 Graduation Dinner. Graduates and their guests were treated to a surf-and-turf dinner at the event.

Friends, family and both PGA and UNLV faculty were on hand for this joyous event, where students were presented with their certificates of completion and pins from the PGA. The PGM program presented each UNLV Level 3 graduate with two gifts; an imprinted pad-folio and embroidered golf flag.

Congratulations to all students who passed checkpoint, we wish you continued success. We look forward to the next opportunity for you to shine.

Brian Soulé, PGM Graduate Assistant

## LEVEL 4 SOCIAL: A NEW TRADITION

On March 13th, the PGMSA launched a brand new social event called "Level 4". Held at the Ice House Lounge, students were able to enjoy each others' company in a social setting highlighted by the first annual "Senior Roast".

Emcee Gary Xavier led the festivities with comical banter. Nobody in the room was safe during the roast with Gary at the helm! Many friends of the senior class cohort took advantage of the opportunity to share hilarious stories of the celebrated seniors. Level 4 was a great success, and it will certainly carry on for years to come.



Seniors enjoying the first annual "Senior Roast"

## PGA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER JOE STERANKA VISITS UNLV PGM



PGA of America Chief Executive Officer, Joe Steranka

On May 1st, 2008, PGA of America Chief Executive Officer, Joe Steranka will be visiting UNLV to be honored at the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration Vallen Dinner of Distinction. This event will celebrate the contributions Mr. Steranka has made to the hospitality industry. The Department of Recreation and Sport Management, home to the PGM program, selected Mr. Steranka as its honoree.

Students of the PGM program and golf professionals in the Las Vegas Community will be present during a meet and greet session with Mr. Steranka prior to the Vallen Dinner of Distinction held at the Mirage Grand Ballroom.

Mr. Steranka will conclude our academic year by campus visitations from golf industry leaders such as: **Bill Cioffoletti**, PGA Master Professional and PGA Director of recruitment and Community Outreach; **Rick Martino**, PGA of America's

Director of Instruction; **Butch Harmon**, world renowned golf instructor; **Dwaine Knight**, UNLV Men's Golf Coach; **Jim Yachinich**, Director of Schools for The Golf Works; **Mike MacDonald**, Director of Recruitment for GolfTec; **Mark Kelbel**, Head Golf Professional for the Broadmoor at Colorado Springs; **John Grothe**, Director of Golf for Bandon Dunes Golf Resort; and **Brian Esposito**, Par for the Cure Founder.

It is hard to believe a month remains of the 2007/8 academic year. We are very fortunate to receive visitations from our industry leaders. Our students continue to be exposed with many opportunities for support and mentorship.

We are excited for the 2008/9 academic year. We are attracting students from every corner of the United States and the program continues to be elevated by our students' passion for excellence.

Christopher Cain, Director