

son was awarded the other of three scholarships available- the Garske Legacy Scholarship supported by the good folks at Par Aide. (Thanks again Steve Garske for supporting this.) Now, the truth is, I used a lot of Par Aide products anyway, but you can be damn sure I don't even bat an eye at other products after he landed his scholarship, just like you can be damn sure I will show at every scholarship scramble humanly possible from here on out. How can I not?

My final observation is from last week's U.S. Open. By now I'm sure every one of you saw or heard about Pinehurst's irrigation elimination and the USGA's boast that this is how golf is supposed to now be and on and on. A colleague of mine was actually in attendance last weekend and these thoughts were conveyed by him initially, but I couldn't agree more.

First of all, it looked pretty cool. The native areas framed the holes very nicely and while it didn't present much of a challenge to the pros like normal US Open rough, it seemed to be accepted by the players generally well. But at what cost?

Cost seems to be the interesting fly in the ointment. The powers that be will tell you about the wonderful cost savings by eliminating

irrigation heads and the cost saving from not watering all day long. That works for the tournament, but what about after? Gone will be the plethora of volunteers to pick all the weeds out of the non-irrigated rough. Gone will be the Bermuda edges that have been worn to dirt from lack of virility. Up will be the cost to fix those issues. The budget to take care of No.2 after the tournaments, despite the cost savings from lack of water- probably up. Greens fees to play No.2 after all this water savings? Yeah, right.

I'm all for water conservation and the proper, efficient use of irrigation. Forced brown just doesn't work. The public golfer is not going to accept it, no matter how hard you try -at least on the public side. For private clubs, if a particular membership buys into it, it may. Ultimately, the people will let us all know with their dollars, simple as that. That's my opinion.

Right now however, dry brown grass is the absolute last thing we all need to worry about. Happy swimming!