

DRIVE 2019

IN FOCUS

JUVIC PAGUNSAN

Sung Hyun Park

No park and play for two-time major champ

Kim Joo Hyung

TCC Invitational crown stays in Korean hands

Tony Lascuña

Davaoño vet defies Taiwanese, Thais, time in PGTA overseas jaunt

Clyde Mondilla

Resilient Del Monte ace back in the spotlight with Philippine Open triumph

BIG DREAMER

PRINCESS SUPERAL

two of a kind

PGT: A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, SUCCESS

TOP GUNS, YOUNG TURKS
LAUD PRO TOUR, RARIN' TO GET
BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS



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COVER STORY

two of a kind

A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, SUCCESS



INFOCUS
JUVIC PAGUNSAN

BIG DREAMER
PRINCESS SUPERAL



DRIVE, the Philippine Golf Tour Annual Review, is the official publication of Pilipinas Golf Tournaments Inc.

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PGTI MANAGEMENT

ENRIQUE K. RAZON, JR.

Chairman and President

Sports management and promotions through Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc. is part of Mr. Razon's growing business portfolio, which includes port operations, property development, integrated resorts and tourism among others. He is Chairman

and President of global port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), the country's benefactor of golf, The Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Solaire Resort and Casino in Entertainment City Manila.



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Annual ICTSI Invitational, which started in 1991; The Country Club (TCC) Invitational – Don Pocholo Razon Memorial Cup, which was launched in 2003; and the ICTSI-sponsored golf event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in 2005 at the TCC in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. A mass communications graduate of the De La Salle University Manila, she is a member of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, Asia-Pacific Association of Communication Directors and the Public Relations Society of America.

California handling key accounts: Chevron, Sprint, Mexicana Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Nike, Ford, Kodak and Unilever. Concurrently, Ms. Ventosa is the General Manager of The Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.



NARLENE A. SORIANO

Executive Director

Ms. Soriano has been the Head of ICTSI Public Relations since 1990 and the concurrent Executive Director of the ICTSI Foundation, Inc. since 2010. She is also the Director of Corporate Communications for Bloomberry Resorts Corp., operator of Solaire Resort and Casino. Ms. Soriano manages the ICTSI Golf Program, a sports advocacy program supporting the development of select top amateur and professional golfers in the country. She has been organizing golf tournaments for the Razon Group: the



MA. SOCORRO S. VENTOSA

General Manager

Ms. Ventosa has over 20 years experience in advertising and marketing both in the Philippines and the United States. She has held management positions in the Philippine operations of automaker Ford Motor Co. and sports apparel company Nike. Ms. Ventosa started her career in J. Walter Thompson in the ad agency's offices in Manila and San Francisco,

THE GOLF PROGRAM



In 2005, the Philippine Government called on the private sector to support the hosting of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games). Global port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) responded to the call by supporting the Philippine Golf Team's campaign in the SEA Games and by hosting and co-organizing the Games' golf event at The Country Club (TCC) in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. This sponsorship gave birth to the ICTSI Golf Program with the ICTSI Public Relations Office as program manager.

At that time, ICTSI was on its 13th year of organizing the ICTSI Invitational, attended by over 100 business executives doing business with ICTSI. On one hand, the ICTSI Public Relations Office was on its third year of organizing The Country Club Invitational – Don Pocholo Razon Memorial Cup, the Philippines' richest professional golf tournament established in honor of the late Enrique "Don Pocholo" Razon Sr., ICTSI Founding Chairman. The TCC Invitational is one vehicle where Enrique K. Razon Jr., ICTSI Chairman and President, supports golf development in the country. Mr. Razon is also the Chairman of the TCC.

The Philippines won the gold and silver medals in the team categories of the men's and ladies events, respectively; and gold and silver medals in the individual men's and ladies categories.

Likewise, ICTSI successfully hosted and co-organized the golf event at the TCC. Since the 2005 SEA Games, ICTSI has been leading the private sector in the development and promotion of golf in the Philippines. The Company has become the country's largest corporate benefactor of the sport.

The ICTSI Golf Program approaches golf development in the Philippines holistically. It primarily focuses on golfer development by providing athletes their training requirements, assistance in competing in local and international tournaments, and by helping sustain a vibrant golfing community in the country. The Program also fosters value formation, instilling honesty, sportsmanship, respect and integrity among its beneficiaries.

The Golf Program selects promising Filipino golfers. It has a golfer management system, which provides personal and athletic development, and long-term career pathing. To achieve these, the Program has two (2) subprograms that journey with a golfer's growth:

AMATEUR

Through a golfer management system for female amateurs, ICTSI supports select golfers in their training needs, including coaching, physical fitness and provision of equipment and uniforms; home schooling/academic scholarship; and participation in local and international tournaments. The Program follows a strict merit and evaluation system in retaining its beneficiaries. It also assists amateur players in their transition to professional players.

PROFESSIONAL

Through its sponsorship of the men's and ladies' circuits of the Philippine Golf Tour (PGT) and LPGT, the country's national pro golf league, ICTSI supports the country's professional golfers by providing them with a tournament circuit that showcases their talent, hones their skills, and allows them to earn from the sport. Through a golfer management system for pros, ICTSI assists select players at the top of the Order of Merit of both the men's and ladies circuits in their regional and international campaigns.



In 2015, ICTSI further enhanced the Golf Program, specifically its subprogram

for amateurs, by involving its corporate social responsibility unit, the ICTSI Foundation, Inc. Through the Foundation, the Program hopes to include qualified and interested youth from the marginalized sector.

On one hand, the Golf Program is seen to enhance the Foundation's sports program – the third pillar of the Foundation's core advocacy, the youth. Aside from sports, the other two pillars are education and community welfare. The Foundation's programs are designed to provide support mechanisms that would help young beneficiaries develop their full potential.



VISION

A brighter future for the Filipino golfer: locally, globally.

MISSION

To advance the growth of professional golf in the Philippines and to help promote the country's top golf courses as venues for international tournaments.

PGTI fulfills its vision-mission through a golf program with the Philippine Golf Tour (PGT) as its flagship tournament circuit.

GOALS

Organization of the Philippine Golf Tour

To provide professionally organized, regular tournaments for professional golfers in the country's leading golf courses.

Development of world-class Filipino golfers

To select and support upcoming and talented Filipino professional golf athletes in their local and international campaigns.

To support Filipino amateur golfers through the opportunity of participating in the professional tournaments of the PGT.

Promotion of Philippine Golf worldwide

To help promote Philippine golf courses in particular, and the Philippines in general as a major golfing destination.



OF COMEBACKS, BREAKTHROUGHS

THE LONGEST winning run and a landmark victory in Taiwan marked the continued surge of local golf in 2019.

Returning to the Philippine Golf Tour, Juvic Pagunsan recalled the form that made him Asia's No.1 and the country's best in 2011, annexing four straight crowns and regaining the PGT Order of Merit trophy while taking part in just five of nine events.

Defying advancing age once again, the 49-year-old Tony Lasuña topped the Nan Pao TPGA (PGA of Taiwan), besting a couple of Thai aces and a Taiwanese star to become the first Filipino to rule a PGT Asia event on foreign soil.

While Lasuña's feat was more financially rewarding, Pagunsan's romp at the Bacolod Golf Classic, Negros Occidental Classic, Iloilo Golf Challenge and Riviera Classic proved more impressive.

Repeatedly besting a talented field that included rising and leading local and foreign stars over a two-month period has never been done before in the circuit, which started with three test legs in late 2009.

Formally launched with 14 tournaments in 2010, the PGT has been the staple source of income for Filipino pros with Lasuña dominating the Order of

Merit race from 2012 to 2014. He last topped the OOM in 2016.

Pagunsan was OOM king in 2011 before bringing his swing and talent to the lucrative Japan PGA Tour. He returned and reclaimed the throne last year.

The individual brilliance shown by Pagunsan and Lasuña should augur well for the PGT, PGT Asia, the Ladies PGT and local golf in general.

"The PGT has grown from when we started (in 2009). From three events, we grew this to 14. We added the ladies tour five years later and had successful tournaments co-sanctioned by the TPGA (PGA of Taiwan) and China LPGA," said Colo Ventosa, general manager of the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc.

"Today more than ever, we can truly say that Philippine golf has reached its full potential after a decade of year-long tournaments that showcased not only our pros' talent and skills but also the country's championship courses as part of our commitment to make it a top golfing destination this side of the region," added Ventosa.

She said that the competition has become tougher, fiercer as shown by four events decided over playoffs and via 1- or -2-shot victories.

The third year of PGT Asia also saw the region's emerging circuit break barriers with two PGTI co-sanctioned events in Taiwan and Lasuña grabbing the limelight in Tainan City.

"We also flourished in launching the PGT Asia with tournaments at \$100,000 prize money which continues to give the foreign and local players the chance to compete on a different level and setup," said Ventosa.

She also hopes other local players would join the PGT Asia co-sanctioned events abroad after only Jay Bayron and Lasuña vied in the first two PGTA events overseas with the latter even topping the second.

"I believe they will realize the opportunity they are missing and will eventually join these tournaments," added Ventosa.

Like their male counterparts, the Filipinas also showed their mettle in the seventh Ladies PGT that featured a record 14 tournaments, including two spillovers from the 2018 edition.

South Korean Sung-Hyun Park's participation in The Country Club Ladies Invitational boosted the circuit's status and brought out the best from the locals, particularly then amateur Yuka Saso, whose skills impressed no less than the world No. 2 and two-time Major champion.

While the Thais still dominated the LPGT with four victories, the Filipinas also showed their mettle when Dottie Ardina, Princess Superal and Pauline del Rosario prevailed at Beverly, Northwoods and John Hay, respectively, while on a break from their respective foreign stints.

No wonder, Ventosa feels satisfied.

"We are committed to grow the ladies tour. In fact, we are continuously working on putting up more co-sanctioned tournaments," she said.

Overall, the PGTI top official said the 2019 season went well with players, particularly the foreign bidders, all coming out satisfied and happy.

"We have also maintained the prize money in our PGT events and PGTA. And we are happy and open to have foreign players play here against our locals. The big number of aspirants in the PGTA qualifying school in the past three years has been very encouraging and this is so since they know they can boost their stock by playing here where competition is on a higher level," she said.

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A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, SUCCESS



TOP GUNS, YOUNG TURKS LAUD PRO TOUR, RARIN' TO GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

WHAT STARTED as a trial mini three-leg tour in 2009 turned out to be a big multi-circuit now covering three sections with the flagship Philippine Golf Tour wrapping up its milestone 10th season, the Ladies

PGT swinging to its eighth year and the three-year-old PGT Asia providing a new, rewarding venue not just for the Filipino golfers but also for the foreign campaigners honing and building up for other pro circuits around the world.

True to its mission of advancing the growth of Philippine pro golf and at the same time promote the country as a top golfing destination this side of the globe, the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc., through its sponsor and long-time golf patron ICTSI president/chairman Ricky Razon, continues to provide top-notch tournaments year-in, year-out to help the Filipino golfers break through and establish themselves in the global golfing arena.

It also inspires the young players, including the amateurs, to hone and polish their craft with an eye of gaining a crack at golfing glory and fame someday.

More importantly, the PGT continues to help boost the players' personality and confidence and improve their lives even as they hope and look forward to its continued, unhampered staging in the next decade or so.

"No one really sponsors golf in the country and the players are very lucky to have Mr. Razon and his passion for golf on their side," said PGTI general manager Colo Ventosa. "Without him, I don't know where Phl golf will be."



FRANKIE MINOZA

"I'm happy that we have the tour. But I think we have to develop it more although we have to boost the ladies circuit. Hopefully, more players would compete. My advice to them (players) is that they should practice hard. One should not be satisfied with one win. All champions do nothing but train and practice hard"



CLYDE MONDILLA

"The PGT helped me grow into the person I am now. It molded me into becoming a better man since I became a lot more independent since I turned pro.

As an amateur, playing in the PGT was my biggest motivation. I did train a lot, vowing to play against the best someday.

As a player, joining the PGT also boosted my confidence while competing with top-caliber players the past eight years.

I think the PGT will grow bigger in the next 10 years and probably a lot more players will excel since it is a growing circuit. I am forever grateful to the PGT'



TONY LASCUÑA

"We had a hard time coping up when I turned pro in 1997 since the tournaments were few and far between. If not for the PGT, I think I would still be riding a tricycle and spending one's time unprofitably.

We are really very thankful to Mr. Razon for putting up the circuit and sponsoring our campaign here and abroad. The tour is a big help for the local pros as well as the amateurs, who now have something to look forward to'

In the doldrums for sure, like in early 2000s when sin products were barred from sponsoring sports tournaments and golf taking a major hit when it lost its biggest benefactor that had the local tour slide into virtual stupor.

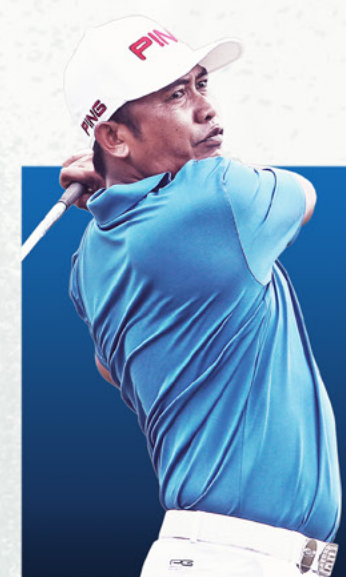
Now, Phl golf is swinging to greater heights.

"We started with three tournaments in the PGT and grew this to more than 10. We added the ladies tour and we were also successful in launching the PGT Asia with tournaments offering a prize fund of \$100,000 each which provide both the local and foreign players a new, different venue to compete," Ventosa said.

"The PGT has grown from when we first started. We increased the number of tournaments and also opened the circuit to a field of foreign players," she said. "While the veterans continue to dominate, we've also seen the emergence of a number of young players."

The PGT, according to Ventosa, is serving its purpose of giving Filipino players a venue to hone their skills and be able to compete internationally, citing Lascuña's feat in Taiwan in 2019 where the veteran campaigner broke a two-year title drought with a victory in the second PGT Asia event abroad.

While Juvic Pagunsan dominated the 10th season of the PGT in record fashion,



JHONNEL ABABA

"Since I turned pro in 2010, my life, more than my game, improved a lot especially when I started winning. I trained a lot to toughen up and playing against the best in the PGT also developed my personality and bolstered my confidence"



JAY BAYRON

"It (PGT) is the best thing that ever happened to Philippine golf. Without ICTSI and the PGT, the pro players' future would be uncertain. But in return, we should do what we are supposed to do, that is always play our best and prepare for each tournament like it would be our last"



IRA ALIDO

"Ten years of PGT definitely has helped a lot of local talents in developing their talent and skills. As for me, it is where I started my professional career. I have honed and grew my game playing in the circuit with lots of great players that the Tour has attracted and will keep doing so in the future. I hope to follow their footsteps and take my game to the next level"



KEANU JAHNS

"The PGT has helped me a lot over the years not only with my golf but also with the way I see things in my life. Competitive golf has made me realize that things won't always go our way and forcing the issue isn't the best way to go about it. Altogether, the most important lesson I've learned playing pro golf is to be patient and content. Just because things don't go your way today doesn't mean it'll be the same tomorrow"

Ventosa quickly brushed off the notion that his presence could work against the circuit, saying: "His (Pagunsan) mere presence is actually enough to inspire younger players to do better."

"Juvic is one of the country's best players, winning not only here but also abroad. I think the younger players aspire to play like him and eventually compete like him overseas. He actually challenges the young to do better," she added, mentioning the likes of Ira Alido and Justin Quiban as among those with potentials to become the country's next golf stars.

"If they just put their heart and soul into it, they would be able to compete with even the best in the region," said Ventosa.

Looking forward to a new decade, Ventosa said the PGTI and ICTSI will be focusing on tournaments in Luzon and will further boost the ladies circuit, most specifically putting up more international tournaments.

"The tour is for the players and we will always strive to make sure we provide them with the best venue to compete and prepare them for overseas campaign," she said.

DOMINATION



JUVIC PAGUNSAN

JHONNEL ABABA

TONY LASCUÑA

KIM JOO HYUNG

REYMON JARAULA

GUIDO VAN DER VALK

PAGUNSAN SETS PGT NORM, CHARTS 4 STRAIGHT WINS TO CLAIM OOM PLUM

TAKING AN early break from the lucrative Japan PGA Tour – his base for the last decade or so, Juvic Pagunsan had no inkling of extending his campaign on the Philippine Golf Tour after romping off with a seven-stroke victory at home in Bacolod. Neither did he expect to find his name on top of the money list at the end of the circuit's milestone 10th season. But golf has its own way of rewarding excellence and Pagunsan boasts of an impressive range of homegrown golfing talent to be denied of such accolade. After Dutch Guido Van der Valk posted a

wire-to-wire victory to kickoff the 2019 campaign in Cebu, Pagunsan entered the fray and dominated the second leg in Bacolod by seven. He next defended his crown in Negros Occidental via a four-stroke romp then decided to continue and did what he does best in Iloilo, edging Michael Bibat in sudden death before ripping the field again in harsh conditions at Riviera. He skipped the Pueblo de Oro leg – ruled by first-time winner Reymon Jaraula – for a much-needed rest and though his return at Del Monte didn't produce the desired result (he wound up eighth behind champion Jhonnel Ababa), he nevertheless had secured the Order of

Merit crown with more than P2 million in winnings. Sure, Tony Lascuña came charging back with back-to-back victories at Apo and South Pacific – which Pagunsan also skipped to resume his campaign in Japan – to close out the 2019 campaign that somewhat put some semblance of variability to a season practically designed for Asia's former No. 1 shotmaker. "I'm very happy to win four straight (on the PGT). It seems that as I grow older, I am able to achieve more goals," said the reticent Pagunsan, who boasts of one of the most fluid, rhythmic and smoothest golf swings, at least in the region,

While some would have wished him to stay in Japan or compete elsewhere, others still prefer and want him to campaign here. "Juvic's presence always adds up the challenge," said former OOM winner Clyde Mondilla, winless on the PGT in 2019 but claimed one championship every Pinoy pro would ever dream of – the Philippine Open. "He's a yardstick and an inspiration, especially for the young players aiming to make it big someday," said Lascuña, whose victories in Taiwan and in the PGT likewise heralded the return to form of one of the country's most prolific players whose game went on a downswing the last couple of seasons.


Despite Pagunsan's virtual "one-man rule", organizing Philippine Golf Tournaments, Inc. general manager Colo Ventosa said 2019 was another good year for the circuit while describing Pagunsan's record run and Lascuña's feat in PGT Asia Taiwan as "big" in terms of impact on the PGT. "The veterans continued to show why they are still the players to watch out for," said Ventosa. "Juvic's winning four straight and Tony's feat in Taiwan and then winning back-to-back on the PGT were high points for PGT." She stressed that the circuit, put up by ICTSI in 2009 to advance the growth of Phl pro golf and at the same time promote

the country as a top golfing destination, has grown big from when it first started with a commitment to nurture and further develop it locally and globally. "We continue to increase the number of tournaments and attract more and more foreign players," Ventosa said. "We've also seen a number of young talents emerging the last couple of years. The PGT is serving its purpose of giving them a venue to hone their skills and eventually be able to compete in various international competitions." Rightly so. Even if Pagunsan decides to campaign and tries to dominate again here next season.

THE COUNTRY CLUB INVITATIONAL
APRIL 23-26, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P5,000,000

1 KIM, JOO HYUNG

	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
KOR	75	71	70	74	290	+2	P1,500,000

STAYING FOCUSED

KIM PUTS ASIDE PERSONAL WOES, OUTDUELS JAHNS



'It's quite hurting and disturbing upon learning that my grandma has been diagnosed with cancer. But I wanted to win so I kept playing till the end'



2 JAHNS, KEANU
Philippines
P700,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	75	71	71	291	+3



3 MONDILLA, CLYDE
Philippines
P450,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	73	70	76	292	+4



4 QUE, ANGELO
Philippines
P330,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	75	74	75	297	+9



5 PAGUNSAN, JUVIC
Philippines
P250,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
77	73	76	76	302	+14



Kim Joo Hyung flattens the opposition with awesome shotmaking, iron play and poise.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	NED	78	74	75	76	303	+15	P185,000
7	STOJANOVSKI, PETER	MKD	75	76	78	76	305	+17	P145,000
=	QUIBAN, JUSTIN	PHL	76	77	75	77	305	+17	P145,000
9	ABABA, JHONNEL	PHL	74	79	79	74	306	+18	P112,500
=	SHIN, MICAH	USA	79	77	72	78	306	+18	P112,500



THE COUNTRY CLUB

Sta. Rosa, Laguna

A Tom Weiskoph masterpiece, the par-72 The Country Club course tests not only the players' golfing skills but also their mental toughness. It is one tough, exacting course that always guarantees days of great theater of golf and a wild finish. Its sheer length and wind factor also put stern options on shotmaking and precision – plus the ability to bounce back from disaster that has been a norm rather than a rule on a venue that has hosted top-notch championships, including the Philippine Open.

THE COUNTRY Club Invitational was supposed to be a clash among the "Best of the Best."

At least for 2019 edition, it should have been more aptly billed "Youth vs Youth."

In what turned out to be a battle royale between up-and-coming shotmakers, Korean Kim Joo Hyung stood out the tallest by outdueling Keanu Jahns in the closing holes to top the P5 million event.

At 16, Kim thus became the youngest winner of the highlight event of each Philippine Golf Tour season with the record feat eerily duplicating his achievement in Pueblo de Oro in 2018 when he recorded his first pro victory and emerged as the youngest player to win a PGT tournament.

This one, however, was far more impressive.

The star-studded field featured four former champions, including two seeking a record feat, and the top 26 in the 2018 PGT Order of Merit rankings.

But by displaying precision, correct judgment and poise at the tough The Country Club course, especially on the holes that mattered, Kim pulled it off, keeping the coveted crown in Korea's hands following Micah Shin's victory the previous year.

To think he was weighed down by a mental baggage going to the final 18 holes of the 15th staging of the annual event held to honor the memory of ICTSI founder Don Pocholo Razon.

"It's quite hurting and disturbing upon learning that my grandma has been diagnosed with cancer," said Kim, who only learned of the bad news after the third round.

"But I set that aside since I didn't want it to affect my game," he

added. "I wanted to win so I kept playing till the end. I'm happy I made it."

Such concentration certainly came to the fore when he faltered and got caught by a surging Jahns, 22, with the two going into the last three holes all tied up.

Then Kim hit a solid drive and a superb approach shot to within four feet at the difficult par-4 16th, calmly sinking the putt after Jahns muffed his birdie bid from six feet.

And not even a bogey on the treacherous 18th could spoil Kim's claim to fame, his 74 and a 290 total netted him P1.5 million while leaving Jahns ruing what could have been.

"I need to toughen up more," said Jahns, who made a 71 for 291.

"Let's give it to him (Kim). He deserved it," said Clyde Mondilla, the Philippine Open winner and co-leader with Kim since the second round who stayed level after 10 holes but reeled back with bogeys on Nos. 11 and 13. He eventually finished third with a 76 for 292.

Angelo Que failed to get going and ended up with a 75 for fourth at 297 while fellow three-time winner Juvic Pagunsan wound up fifth at 302 after a 76.

Kim's ascent was hardly deemed inevitable with a 75 start. But when his game started to click, he shot a 71 to seize control with Mondilla and brace him for what lies ahead.

"The course is difficult and the hot weather adds up to the challenge. So I have to stay focused," said Kim after a 70 in the third round.

Stay focused he did.



1 Keanu Jahns tries to stop Kim's rise to TCC fame to no avail 2 Frankie Miñoza (left) seems to point the right direction to Clyde Mondilla in a rare meeting of Del Monte's best 3 As three-time champion, Angelo Que knows only too well a slight mistake at TCC could lead to a fat number 4 It couldn't have come at a worst time for Guido Van der Valk to get sidetracked by one of the few big trees at TCC 5 Smooth-swinging Juvic Pagunsan hardly recovers from a rough start on a treacherous course he has reigned three times 6 Former Phl Masters champ Jerson Balasabas hits a bailout shot from a tough spot 7 Reading one's line of putt at TCC's sleek surface comes in many forms, like that for Zanieboy Gialon.

CLUB FILIPINO DE CEBU INVITATIONAL
JUNE 5-8, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P3,000,000

1 VAN DER VALK, GUIDO

	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
	66	65	73	70	274	-10	P550,000

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

DUTCHMAN CASHES IN ON BREAKS TO BREAK SLUMP



'The course is tough but I played solid and it's always war whenever you're out there'



2 GLEESON, DAVID
Australia
P292,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	72	63	68	276	-8



2 BIBAT, MICHAEL
Philippines
P292,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	72	68	69	276	-8



4 SALVADOR, ELMER
Philippines
P165,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
68	70	69	70	277	-7



5 BAYRON, JAY
Philippines
P130,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	71	73	68	279	-5



Not even a tough stance from a tough lie could stop Guido Van der Valk from snapping a long spell.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	ABARING, RICHARD	PHL	71	73	66	70	280	-4	P107,500
=	ENGINO, ALBIN	PHL	70	69	67	74	280	-4	P107,500
8	RATES, JOENARD	PHL	73	70	70	68	281	-3	P85,000
9	ECHAVEZ, PAUL	PHL	75	68	72	67	282	-2	P68,333
=	LASCUÑA, TONY	PHL	70	73	67	72	282	-2	P68,333



CLUB FILIPINO DE CEBU INC.

Danao City, Cebu

Situated in the beautiful mountains of Danao, the Club Filipino Inc. de Cebu 18-hole golf course offers a different kind of challenge for both the regular players and the men of the tour with its tight fairways and hilly terrain forcing one to re-think whether to attack or play it the other way around. Its last line of defense also holds key to a player's title bid.

FATE HAS this funny way of playing tricks on Guido Van der Valk.

It took the Dutchman five years before he can realize a win on the Philippine Golf Tour. Just when everybody thought the follow-up is sure to come, the wait lasted another 14 months.

But Van der Valk doesn't mind. Through all the dry spells heightened by near misses he persevered.

Concrete proof of that was his finishes among the upper half of the PGT's Order of Merit capped by a No. 4 placing in 2018 and No. 3 last season.

But victories still satisfy one's competitive spirit, making Van der Valk's latest feat so much sweeter.

If only he was more eloquent

enough to express what he feels even more.

"It's nice to win again," was how Van der Valk put it following his triumph in the ICTSI Club Filipino de Cebu Invitational.

He actually didn't need to do much talking since his game does it for him.

And it was especially on during that one sweltering stretch when he displayed some sterling shotmaking to foil his challengers and reign in the P3 million event.

"I played solid and it's always war whenever you're out there," said Van der Valk.

Some smiles from Lady Luck must also be factored in for Van der Valk did not exactly close out the way he had wanted. But he did show poise by hitting a solid

wedge shot for birdie on No. 14 that put him back up by two and kept the lead to the finish with a 70 for a 274.

Those trying to launch a final round challenge simply wilted.

Aussie David Gleeson, who razed Van der Valk's day-old course record with an eight-under 63 in the third round, pulled to within one twice but could not quite carry his rally home.

"I actually didn't know that I got closer to him," said Gleeson, who had aimed at completing a record comeback from 14 strokes down before settling for joint second at 276 with Michael Bibat, who made a 69, after a 68.

The cushion Van der Valk built up in the first two rounds also certainly helped although he tried to downplay those, obviously having learned to

temper his expectations from all his previous heartaches.

"The course is tough with narrow fairways and tricky greens with the wind adding up to the challenge," said Van der Valk after an opening 66.

Then, after sizzling with a then-record 65 in the second round, he quipped: "There was nothing special, but I've got a good swing and the ball carried real well."

When he fumbled with a 73 in the third day that cut his lead to two, Van der Valk was his typical unassuming self.

"I had no problem with my game. It happens, the breaks just went against me down the stretch," he said. "No predictions, but I will play my usual game."

And that's when fate smiled at him once more.



1 Shaky putting in the stretch puts David Gleeson's record third round 63 and final day rally to naught 2 Errant approach shots slow down Michael Bibat's final round charge 3 Despite emerging as the lone player to have churned out a run of under-par scores (68-70-69-70), Elmer Salvador still came up short in his title bid 4 Richard Sinfuego hits a rare chip shot from the gravel-strewn cart path 5 James Ryan Lam typifies his second round struggle that had him barely surviving the cut 6 Jhonne Ababa finds himself on top but in a wrong spot 7 Tony Lascuña can't seem to re-display the form that used to make him the tour's most feared player.

BACOLOD GOLF CHALLENGE
JUNE 12-15, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P2,500,000

1 PAGUNSAN, JUVIC	PHL	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
		68	65	63	64	260	-20	P450,000

WALK THE TALK

JUVIC DOES HIS 'THING' ON THE COURSE, ROOTS FIELD



'When I'm on the course, my mindset is to stay focused because you develop bad habits if you don't'



2 BAYRON, RUFINO	Philippines	P320,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
65	67	68	67	267	-13



3 SINFUEGO, RICHARD	Philippines	P160,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
66	69	69	65	269	-11



3 ALIDO, IRA	Philippines	P160,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
68	65	70	66	269	-11



5 CONCEPCION, FIDEL	Philippines	P110,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	68	66	67	270	-10



The present and the 'future' take center stage after Juvic Pagunsan dominates the field while on a break from Japan PGA Tour where he is based.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	PASTOR, MARCOS	SPA	65	67	68	71	271	-9	P95,000
7	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	NED	71	66	67	69	273	-7	P84,000
8	LASCUÑA, TONY	PHL	71	67	67	69	274	-6	P70,000
9	ABABA, JHONNEL	PHL	69	70	70	66	275	-5	P60,000
10	BIBAT, MICHAEL	PHL	65	71	73	67	276	-4	P51,666



BACOLOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Binitin, Murcia, Negros Occidental

Short by the pros' standards, the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in Binitin remains challenging with its rolling terrains and narrow fairways and greens, thus putting premium on iron game and accuracy where one would never know what the next turn on the fairway would hold since the par-70 layout is situated in an area strongly influenced by a wind tunnel canal.



1 Tackling the short but tight Bacolod Golf and Country Club requires accuracy off the mound as what the likes of Guido Van der Valk, Mhark Fernando, and two others had found out **2** If Ira Alido could keep his consistency, observers believe the young gun could be due for a big win **3** Rufino Bayron typifies his frustration not only over a flubbed birdie putt but in another failed bid to end a long title drought **4** Richard Sinfuego makes the most of his rare crack at glory, finishing joint third **5** Spain's Marcos Pastor makes putting look a lot tougher than it had seemed **6** The future of Philippine golf could come from these kids manning the Bacolod driving range.

SOME MAY find Juvic Pagunsan perplexing at times.

While Pagunsan is all bonhomie outside of a golf course and even before each round, he is often taciturn and standoffish when on it.

Of course, there is a ready explanation.

"I always take my game seriously," said Pagunsan, stressing he gives his 100 percent every game.

"When I'm on the course, my mindset is to stay focused because you develop bad habits if you don't," he added.

The Filipino ace defied the challenge of both the star-studded field and a short but tight, tricky course to dominate the ICTSI Bacolod Golf Challenge at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club.

A closing six-under 64 put the icing on Pagunsan's victory as he pooled a 20-under 260 total for a seven-stroke romp over pal Rufino Bayron in the P2.5 million event.

Bayron hit just one birdie in 12 holes but shot down three in the next five and took solo second at 267 despite a last-hole mishap for a 67, his best finish, worth P320,000, in a long while since winning in the other regional event at Orchard in 2014.

It wasn't as easy as it looked, however, as Pagunsan had to work for every cent of the P450,000 winner's purse.

What stood as an overnight four-shot lead for Pagunsan was whittled to just one after the final round's first six holes, no thanks to his one-over card and the fine starts by his pursuers, led by Spain's Marcos Pastor and Bayron.

But Pagunsan rediscovered his touch with a three-birdie binge from No. 7 that stretched his lead back to three strokes.

"I was a bit nervous at the start but after I birdied No. 7, I kind of regained my confidence," said Pagunsan.

Although he wavered a bit, it wasn't the case the previous day when Pagunsan was so locked in, as evidenced by his sizzling 63 that shoved him past overnight co-leaders Bayron and Pastor.

"I was so focused and my driving was solid," said Pagunsan.

Pretty solid indeed as he hit all the fairways and missed the green just once for a 32-31 card he spiked with a 30-foot eagle on No. 16.

That scintillating round was several notches above his opening round 68 when he was still in the process of renewing

his acquaintance with some fellow pros whom he hadn't seen much since he started making Japan his base and compete in the much more lucrative tour there the past few years.

Once the pleasantries are done with it was time to buckle down to business.

And Pagunsan sure did.

An eagle-aided 65 boosted Pagunsan from joint eighth to just one back of Bayron and Pastor, right there providing a clear message to the rest of the remaining field about his intentions.

As usual, Pagunsan was guarded in his pre-championship statements.


"I just stayed focused on my game, but we'll know (in the third round) if I'll get a chance," he said.

Few, including the ones he hardly spoke to, doubted him.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL CLASSIC
JUNE 19-22, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P3,000,000

1 PAGUNSAN, JUVIC

	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	66	66	68	69	269	-11	P550,000

TOUGH GUY

JUVIC BUCKS ODDS, PERSONAL WOES TO REIGN AGAIN



Juvic Pagunsan rakes in another victory after going under-par for the second straight week.

2 LAM, JAMES RYAN Philippines P430,000		3 VILAIRATANA, PETE USA P190,000		3 SALAHOG, NILO Philippines P190,000		5 SINFUEGO, RICHARD Philippines P115,000	
R1: 69 R2: 64 R3: 71 R4: 69 TOTAL: 273 TO PAR: -7		R1: 68 R2: 67 R3: 73 R4: 66 TOTAL: 274 TO PAR: -6		R1: 68 R2: 68 R3: 65 R4: 73 TOTAL: 274 TO PAR: -6		R1: 66 R2: 72 R3: 70 R4: 68 TOTAL: 276 TO PAR: -4	



'This is one of my toughest wins. I really struggled and couldn't focus'

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	HASHIMOTO, RYUI	JPN	69	67	71	69	276	-4	P115,000
=	GIALON, ZANIEBOY	PHL	68	67	71	70	276	-4	P115,000
8	BAYRON, JAY	PHL	71	67	67	72	277	-3	P85,000
9	TWYMAN, GEORGE	ENG	70	68	71	69	278	-2	P68,333
=	JARAUULA, REYMON	PHL	70	71	67	70	278	-2	P68,333

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Bacolod, Negros Occidental



The Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club, outside of its twisty fairways and a number of water hazards, torments players with its wind conditions day-in, day-out. Some have exaggeratedly described the gust as gale force but one is bound to amplify impressions especially on a course where a short par-3 seems so far away, unreachable by irons when the wind blows against one's face. Formerly known as Marapara, the par-70 NOGCC always poses an interesting round, contrived smartly by man. But often nature joins the picture.



WITHOUT QUESTION few are able to cope with the almost unbearable pressure of having a bull's-eye pinned on one's back.

Undeniably, Juvic Pagunsan is one of those who can. The Filipino ace overcame stiff competition aggravated by personal problems, the onset of fatigue and the threat posed by an equally determined slew of challengers to occupy a special niche on the Philippine Golf Tour. "This is one of my toughest wins. I really struggled and couldn't focus," said Pagunsan after retaining the ICTSI Negros Occidental Classic crown, in the process becoming the first player in two years to score back-to-back victories on the circuit.

Indeed, Pagunsan came up with his "worst game" yet right on the final round, scrambling for a one-under 69 that was still enough to give him an 11-under 269 total and a four-stroke win over a late-charging James Ryan Lam. He shrugged off an early pressure from unfancied Nilo Salahog and a brief challenge from Lam, finishing with three birdies against two bogeys and winning by a big margin despite that so-so closing card.

With the win, which came only a week after he topped the Bacolod Golf Challenge in nearby Murcia, Pagunsan matched Clyde Mondilla's feat when the latter emerged victorious in the Manila Southwoods Championship and the Philippine Masters in May 2017.

Pagunsan also became the first player to successfully defend his title in the circuit since Tony Lascuña won the Forest Hills Championship in 2016-17 while his latest victory was more comfortable than last year when he needed two extra holes to foil Jobim Carlos.

His latest accomplishment almost never came to be, but not because of the familiar pressure

brought to bear by a crack starting field of 105. Pagunsan's most major concerns actually stemmed both from within and outside of the old Marapara course he used to call home. Later on, the soft-spoken pro related he almost pulled out of the tournament to attend to his ailing wife, Maria Elena, who was rushed to a hospital just before the tourney started. Only after being assured of her recovery did he decide to continue. "I barely slept since I had to watch over my wife," said Pagunsan. That lack of sleep resulted in him losing some energy as the tournament, played out in hot conditions, progressed.

It almost took its costly toll, but not quite. Undoubtedly, familiarity with the par-70 layout that features twisting fairways and a tough backside littered with water hazards and deceptive holes where he first honed his skills helped, along with the moral support he got from his former townmates who call him their hero.

Most importantly, there was his innate will to win. It did take some time for Pagunsan to get into his zone and for his all-around game to click. Once it did, there was little the rest could do.


Four birdies in his last nine holes gave him a first round 66, just two shots off the pace. He followed that up with another four-under card to wrest control before settling for a 68 in the third round to stay ahead by one.

"I sort of lost my energy and aggressiveness after seven holes due to hot conditions, but I still aimed for at least a two-under card," said Pagunsan. "I think I'm tired."

In the end, however, he bucked them all, including that extra weight on his back.

ILOILO GOLF CHALLENGE
JUNE 26-29, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P3,000,000

1	PAGUNSAN, JUVIC									
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
		69	68	68	67	272	-8 (Playoff)	P550,000		

SETTING THE NORM

PAGUNSAN EDGES BIBAT IN PLAYOFF TO NAIL THIRD WIN-IN-ROW



'I just tried to keep the leaders in sight and I am so happy to win again'



2	BIBAT, MICHAEL									
	Philippines									
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR			
		65	70	70	67	272	-8			



3	MENOR, RENE									
	Philippines									
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR			
		69	66	68	70	273	-7			



4	ALIDO, IRA									
	Philippines									
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR			
		68	73	67	66	274	-6			



4	CONCEPCION, FIDEL									
	Philippines									
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR			
		66	70	68	70	274	-6			



With his world-class skills, the future (on the PGT) seems boundless for Juvic Pagunsan after annexing his third straight championship.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	BALASABAS, JERSON	PHL	71	71	70	64	276	-4	P100,000
=	JARAUOLA, REYMON	PHL	70	66	69	71	276	-4	P100,000
=	PASTOR, MARCOS	SPA	69	66	68	73	276	-4	P100,000
9	FERNANDO, ANTHONY	PHL	67	71	70	69	277	-2	P71,500
=	NAMUANGRUK, KAMMALAS	THA	66	68	74	69	277	-2	P71,500



ILOILO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Santa Barbara, Iloilo

The oldest golf course not only in the country but also in Southeast Asia, the Iloilo Golf and Country Club offers not just a challenging venue when one walks into its hallowed grounds. It also boasts of a museum filled with golf memorabilia and golf archives showcasing its over 100 years in existence. Designed with an abundance of trees, tall hills, rolling terrains and water hazards that littered throughout the fairways, the par-70 layout provides a difficult playing venue for even the lowest handicappers and the pros.

WHAT MAKES Juvic Pagunsan a distinct talent?

He can either be mercurial or methodical in his approach to golf.

He can break away early or slowly work his way up to the top. Just like what he did in the ICTSI Iloilo Golf Challenge at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club, Inc. in Santa Barbara.

Coming from back-to-back victories at Binitin and Marapara in Bacolod, Pagunsan initially wanted to skip the leg to take a respite and attend to his ailing wife.

She, however, got well in time and he got the itch to play and see whether the streak stretches.

"Now, I can fully concentrate (on my game) although I don't want to sound so confident. But as always, I'll give it my best shot," said Pagunsan before the P3 million tournament started.

He opened with a one-under 69 for joint 12th with 10 others and five shots off surprise pacesetter Makato Iwasaki of Japan.

Improving to a 68 on Day 2, Pagunsan climbed a bit at 137, sharing 10th among 40 qualifiers, led by Thai Kammalas Namuangruk, who was at 134 following a 68.

The third round produced new frontrunners in Marcos Pastor of Spain and local hero Rene Menor, who matched outputs for the third straight day (69-66-68) and were tied at 203.

According to Menor, whose house is located near hole No. 17, he could have been the solo leader were it not for short putt misses on Nos. 3 and 8.

Pagunsan echoed Menor's sentiments despite another 68 that shoved him to a share of fourth at 205.

"I struggled with my putting on the first three days so I polished my stroke. I'm happy it produced good results," Pagunsan said after besting Michael Bibat on the first playoff hole – birdie against par – for another P550,000 champion's purse.

Playing in second-to-last flight at the back, Pagunsan and Bibat submitted 67s for 8-under 272 totals after regulation play.

"I just tried to keep the leaders in sight and I am so happy to win again," said Pagunsan, who could have won outright were it not for a missed birdie putt on the 72nd hole. "It was pure luck."

Bibat, Menor and the other title contenders readily dismissed Pagunsan's parting words, of course.

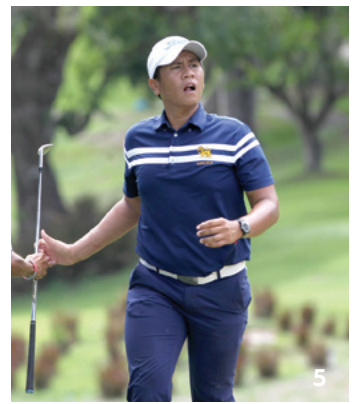
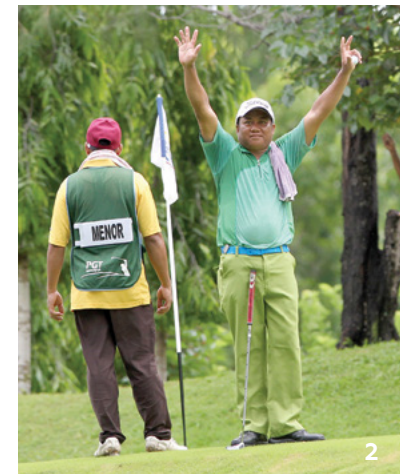
They knew Pagunsan was chosen by his peers as Asian Tour player of the year in 2011 after topping the Order of Merit.

They knew the smooth-swinging Negrense would not have notched three straight wins in the 2019 PGT circuit without latent talent and superior skills.

That he has yet to win the coveted Philippine Open hardly diminished Pagunsan's stature in the local circuit.


While he competes mostly in the money-rich Japan PGA Tour, where he is also aiming for a breakthrough victory, Pagunsan manages to squeeze in a few appearances in the PGT and PGT Asia.

And each time, he always makes an impact.



RIVIERA CLASSIC
AUGUST 7-10, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P2,500,000

1 PAGUNSAN, JUVIC										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	68	72	67	70	277	-7	P450,000			

IN THE ZONE

PEERLESS PAGUNSAN ROUTS RIVIERA FIELD FOR RECORD PGT RUN



'There are many good players out there, so I need to focus on my own game and not be complacent'



2 LASCUÑA, TONY									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	72	70	72	71	285	+1	P320,000		

3 MONDILLA, CLYDE									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	71	72	74	69	286	+2	P180,000		

4 ZARAGOSA, RUPERT									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	69	78	71	69	287	+3	P140,000		

5 VAN DER VALK, GUIDO									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
NLD	69	73	74	72	288	+4	P110,000		

Like wine, Juvic Pagunsan seems to get better with each passing year.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	DEPILO, RICO	PHL	69	78	76	68	291	+7	P77,250
=	ARBOLE, ART	PHL	70	79	71	71	291	+7	P77,250
=	TAKAHASHI, KEISUKE	JPN	72	70	74	75	291	+7	P77,250
=	AUNZO, FERDIE	PHL	74	71	68	78	291	+7	P77,250
10	ALIDO, IRA	PHL	76	70	74	72	292	+8	P56,000

RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Silang, Cavite



Take two great golfers, a huge tract of land with deep ravines and great views, toss them together and you have the Riviera Golf Club, Inc. which boasts of two courses (Couples and Langer) that offer distinctly different golfing experiences. The Couples will remind one of a resort course in Hawaii with its tall palm trees and large, undulating greens while the Langer layout presents an entirely different picture and challenges where the landing areas are narrow and emphasis on length and accuracy.

When Juvic Pagunsan is on a zone, no one else comes close.

This was proven once again in the PGT Riviera Classic when he posted a record fourth straight triumph with a whopping eight-stroke romp over Tony Lascaña.

While the others struggled with the howling winds and incessant rains, Pagunsan tackled them with surgeon-like precision and closed out with a 70 for a seven-under 277, the only one among 80 starters to tame the dreaded Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

Lascaña, despite his sterling credentials spiked by four PGT Order of Merit titles, was unable to keep pace and finished one-over 285 after a 71.

Other touted bets fared worse, including 2019 Solaire Philippine Open champion Clyde Mondilla, who settled for third at 286 following a 69.

As the gray, cloudy sky finally

cleared up in the final round, so did Pagunsan's runaway victory.

Though devoid of drama as Pagunsan holed out with the top purse of P450,000 virtually in the bag even before the last round started, the Negrense couldn't help but be happy with what he has done.

"I am very happy to win four straight (on the PGT). It seems that as I grow older, I am able to achieve more goals," said the 41-year-old Pagunsan, who swept the last three stops of the Visayas swing of the circuit composed of the Bacolod Golf Challenge, Negros Occidental Classic and Iloilo Golf Classic to emerge the man to beat at Riviera.

Hardly affected by the six-week break the circuit took, Pagunsan continued his hot play with a pacesetter 68.

Despite tumbling to a 72 in the second round, he even raised his lead by two over Lascaña, the

Netherlands' Guido Van der Valk, and Japan's Takahashi Keisuke.

With the gale-force wind forcing the participants to make club adjustments, Pagunsan refused to let his defenses down.

"Nothing is certain here even if I'm in the lead," said Pagunsan after Day 2. "There are many good players out there, so I need to focus on my own game and not be complacent."

True enough, Pagunsan fought back when his pursuers thought he was on the brink of collapse in the third round after a bogey on No. 12.

Pagunsan knocked in four straight birdies from No.13 in gathering dusk to save a 67 and pulled away by six shots over Lascaña and Ferdie Aunzo.

While Pagunsan was conducting mopping up operations, Lascaña, Mondilla, Van der Valk and Rupert Zaragosa were jockeying for the crumbs of a runner-up finish.

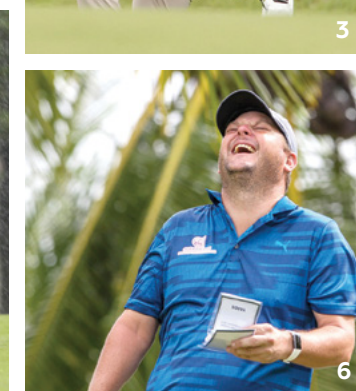
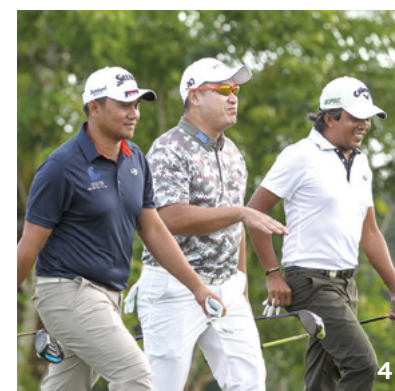
Former Callaway Junior World champion Zaragosa scored a 69 and displaced Van der Valk, who carded 72, at fourth at 287.

Clearly, they were too distant to offer a challenge to Pagunsan, who rediscovered the form that pushed him to the top of the Asian Tour in 2011 without winning a tournament.

Luckily for the local pros and the slew of foreigners in the PGT, Pagunsan intends to bring back his act to the more lucrative Japan Tour, his base in the last decade but where he's still searching for a breakthrough win.

Pagunsan may be a major attraction on the local tour, but he's carting away bundles of money that should have been distributed more evenly.


But golf doesn't penalize talent and skills but miscues and mediocre performances.



1 Tony Lascaña knows Pagunsan is one damn good player and tough to beat but didn't expect to be crushed by 8 2 Japanese Keisuke Takahashi relishes the rare chance of playing with two of the country's top guns in Pagunsan and Lascaña in the third round 3 Not even a body language could tilt the balance for Philippine Open champion Clyde Mondilla 4 In a featured group that includes two Philippine Open champions in Clyde Mondilla (left) and Angelo Que (center), it was non-winner Juvic Pagunsan who had the last laugh 5 Players take cover during the typhoon onslaught 6 Dutch Guido Van der Valk laughs off his shaky performance in the last three days after an impressive 69 7 Que has to fight not only the in-form Pagunsan and other elite rivals but also endure severe weather conditions.

PUEBLO DE ORO CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P2,500,000

1 JARAULA, REYMON											
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS				
PHL	66	66	69	70	271	-17 (Playoff)	P450,000				

NO DOUBLE WHAMMY

RISEING STAR FINALLY DELIVERS AT 'HOME'



'I tried not to let the pressure take the best of me. I took a gamble in the playoff and it paid off'




2 LASCUNA, TONY										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	70	70	64	67	271	-17	P320,000			



3 ALIDO, IRA										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	68	68	69	67	272	-16	P160,000			



3 ABABA, JHONNEL										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	72	65	68	67	272	-16	P160,000			



5 ENGINO, ALBIN										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	74	66	68	68	276	-12	P96,333			



It was long time coming but for Reymon Jaraula, it was all worth the excruciating wait.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	BIBAT, MICHAEL	PHL	70	68	69	69	276	-12	P96,333
=	BAYRON, JAY	PHL	66	67	70	73	276	-12	P96,333
8	GIALON, ZANIEBOY	PHL	67	71	71	68	277	-11	P70,000
9	ABANO, JOHVANIE	PHL	71	67	68	72	278	-10	P60,000
10	NAMUANGRUK, KAMMALAS	THA	74	71	67	68	280	-8	P53,500



PUEBLO DE ORO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental

With wide but winding fairways that fan out from the clubhouse, the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club offers a daunting challenge present in every Robert Trent Jones Jr. creation. It is divided by a large, bisecting deep ravine with menacing bunkers and roughs, not to mention the love grass that adds to the variety of challenges that could test even the best in the fold.



1 They all liked their chances but Tony Lascaña, Ira Alido, Jhonnell Ababa, Jay Bayron and Guido Van der Valk could only offer wry smiles in the end 2 Michael Bibat (right) and Van der Valk both point to a direction leading to somewhere but victory 3 Journeyman Rico Depilo knows it's just a matter of time – plus breaks – before he could unleash such a striking pose in the final day.

ALL REYMON Jaraula wanted was to tally his first victory as a pro.

So, when it finally came by way of a playoff against one of the best local players and at his home turf to boot, he was doubly elated.

After six years of trying, the 27-year-old find from Del Monte, Bukidnon finally nailed besting four-time Philippine Golf Tour Order of Merit winner Tony Lascaña on the second extra hole of the up-and-down course.

The reedy Jaraula benefitted from his familiarity with the layout where he honed his game and once served as teaching pro to share the halfway mark lead. He surged ahead after the third round and ended up tied with Lascaña at 17-under

271 following a 67 and 70, respectively.

"I just couldn't believe that I finally won," said Jaraula, who shrugged off the bitter memory of a late meltdown at the PGT Asia Aboitiz Invitational at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club a week before the Pueblo event.

That time, Jaraula was co-leader after 36 holes but faltered with a 77 and 76 and ended up at joint eighth.

Given the same opportunity on a course he knows better than the rest of the field, Jaraula vowed never to let the crown slipped off his hands again.

"I feel I can go all the way. I have been hitting it pretty well and playing without pressure at all," Jaraula said after seizing control with back-to-back 66s.

His words turned out to be prophetic.

Despite Lascaña's constant threat in the final round he spiked with an eagle on No. 15 and a birdie on No. 18 that forced a playoff, Jaraula stood his ground.

"I tried to play it safe knowing that I'm in control but Lascaña made some clutch shots in regulation," said Jaraula. "But I stayed focused and tried not to let the pressure take the best of me. I took some gamble and went for the pin in the playoff and it paid off."

Lascaña just shook his head after his par putt on the 18th stopped a few inches off the cup as he missed extending the match.

"I thought I hit it right on the

second playoff (hole) but it fell short," rued Lascaña, who watched in awe as Jaraula drilled in a 26-footer to force the second extra hole and later the title-clinching 12-footer.

Like Lascaña, Jay Bayron, the 2010 PGT Order of Merit king, was impressed with Jaraula's skills.

"He's really good," said Bayron after playing alongside Jaraula in the first two rounds.

Jaraula showed promise right in his pro debut when he placed third at Palos Verdes in 2013.

Victory eluded him the next five years though, leaving him wondering whether he's up to the task.

When he nearly achieved it at Wack Wack, Jaraula felt it would be just a matter of time.

DEL MONTE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P2,500,000

1 ABABA, JHONNEL	PHL	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
		67	67	67	71	272	-16	P450,000

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

ABABA GETS HIGH WITH ROCK-SOLID START



'I actually felt I could win after making two eagles on Day 2. I really had a great game and it motivated me in the end'



2 JARAULA, REYMON	Philippines	P320,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	69	64	67	274	-14



3 VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	Netherlands	P180,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	69	68	68	275	-13



4 GIALON, ZANIEBOY	Philippines	P115,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	65	69	72	277	-11



4 MONDILLA, CLYDE	Philippines	P115,000			
R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	69	65	72	277	-11



Jhonnel Ababa gives his putt some kind of coaxing on his way to a two-stroke victory.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	LASCUÑA, TONY	PHL	67	70	72	68	277	-11	P115,000
7	LANGAMIN, NOEL	PHL	72	68	68	70	278	-10	P84,000
8	PAGUNSAN, JUVIC	PHL	69	73	69	68	279	-9	P70,000
9	SINFUEGO, RICHARD	PHL	70	69	74	67	280	-8	P58,000
=	FERNANDO, ANTHONY	PHL	71	70	72	67	280	-8	P58,000



DEL MONTE GOLF CLUB

Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon

A mountain-top course at the vast Del Monte Plantation of Manolo Fortich in Bukidnon, the Del Monte Golf Club is one perfect venue to play at any time of the day and any day of the year. A medium-size layout built by pro cager Peter Crawford (first 9) and local golf legend Celestino Tugot (last 9), players can view its magnificent landscape as they play along with man-made lakes, pine trees and greens as the recognized features of the course, which also serve as hazards with sand traps also adding up to the challenge, particularly on Nos. 7 and 16.



The good thing about laying down a strong foundation is having the option to choose the best finishing touches.

This holds true not only in building construction, but also in competitive golf.

Look at what Jhonnel Ababa did in the ICTSI Del Monte Golf Championship at Del Monte Golf and Country Club in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Ababa fired three straight five-under 67s to take command and proceeded to end a long title spell on the Philippine Golf Tour.



With a built-in four-shot lead over Clyde Mondilla and Zanieboy Gialon, Ababa opted to abandon his aggressive style and switch to a conservative hole-by-hole approach in the final round of the P2.5 million tournament.

Sticking to this strategy, Ababa played pressure-free in the homestretch.

"I didn't attack and played relax at the front and just made the most of my birdie chances," said Ababa, noting he didn't have to do the chasing anyway. "I made a mistake on No. 15 on wrong shot selection and made a 6 (double bogey) but it hardly mattered as my putting kept me going."

In fact, Ababa remained unfazed even when hometown talent Reymon Jaraula, who was six strokes off after 54 holes, joined his chasers following a frontside 31.

Pulled down by that double bogey and a bogey on No. 17, Ababa settled for a 71 and a two-stroke victory with a 16-under 272 total worth P450,000.

Jaraula closed out with a 67 to place second at 274 while Manila-based Dutchman Guido Van der Valk landed third at 275



after birdying four of the last five holes for a 68.

Mondilla and Gialon wound up joint fourth with Tony Lascaña, who rallied with a 68, at 277 following a pair of 72s.

"This victory meant so much to me – confidence-wise," said Ababa, who settled for top eight finishes in his last three tournaments in the tour.

Though he's the winningest in PGT Asia with four titles thus far, Ababa snared only his first PGT crown since ruling the rain-shortened 2018 ICTSI Club Filipino De Cebu Invitational in Danao, Cebu.

No wonder, Ababa wasn't among the pre-tournament favorites dominated by Juvic Pagunsan, winner of four straight legs, including the last three in the Visayas swing of the circuit.

Ababa is hopeful, however, his Del Monte victory will trigger a better campaign in the 2020 PGT.

According to Ababa, runner-up in the 2018 PGT Order of Merit but is down to seventh in the 2019 OOM derby, he had an inkling of the impending victory by the halfway mark.

After all, he still shared the early lead with Lascaña despite blowing eagle chances on Nos. 6, 9 and 14.

Then he gunned down a pair of eagles in the second round.


"I actually felt I could win after making two eagles (holes 2 and 10) on Day 2. I really had a great game and it motivated me in the end," said Ababa, who compensated for his left-veering drives with precise iron play and putting in the pivotal round.

As it turned out, Ababa's four-stroke cushion after 54 holes proved solid enough to withstand the pounding of the chasing pack.

1 After a hot, record four-win run, Juvic Pagunsan cools down with an eighth-place finish 2 After a breakthrough playoff win over multi-titled Tony Lascaña at Pueblo de Oro, local ace Reymon Jaraula loses momentum with a poor opening round output at home 3 Though he may be familiar with the course he calls home, Clyde Mondilla still gets to land in some unfamiliar spots on errant shots 4 After back-to-back 70s, Greg Gonzalez finds the tight Del Monte layout with age-old trees tougher than he had expected 5 Dutch Guido Van der Valk comes up short of his bid for a second PGT diadem with a mediocre short game.

APO GOLF INVITATIONAL
OCTOBER 2-5, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P3,000,000

1 LASCUÑA, TONY										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	65	68	73	69	275	-13	P550,000			

BIG HOMECOMING

LOCAL HERO MARKS APO RETURN WITH WIRE-TO-WIRE VICTORY




TONY LASCUÑA:
Home is the champ

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	JARULA, REYMON	PHL	72	75	68	70	285	-3	P115,000
7	ALIDO, IRA	PHL	74	67	72	73	286	-2	P100,000
8	ECHAVEZ, PAUL	PHL	72	71	71	73	287	-1	P85,000
9	BISERA, RAMIL	PHL	71	70	76	71	288	0	P71,500
=	ARBOLE, ART	PHL	72	71	73	72	288	0	P71,500

'I was actually in doubt whether I could win again on the PGT. But I knew that I still have the desire and fire to go for a championship'



2 JAHNS, KEANU									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	72	73	68	65	278	-10	P370,000		



3 SALAHOG, NILO									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	71	72	68	71	282	-6	P215,000		



4 MONDILLA, CLYDE									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
PHL	72	73	68	71	284	-4	P147,500		



4 VAN DER VALK, GUIDO									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS		
NLD	71	70	72	71	284	-4	P147,500		



APO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Davao City

Host of the Philippine Open in 1995, the Apo Golf and Country remains one of the country's toughest courses with its narrow fairways, water hazards and unpredictable putting surface bringing out the best or the worst from every bidder. With varieties of unique tropical trees like coconut and mahogany lining up Davao's gem of a layout, Apo also features bunkers and water hazards, including a large pond placed in an unorthodox position, directly in front of No. 11 which is the main challenge to beat at the course.



1 In the hunt after three rounds, Nilo Salahog fades with a shaky stint on Apo's last line of defense **2** Del Monte star and Phl Open champ Clyde Mondilla fails to put it all together at Apo **3** Like Lascuña, Jhonnel Ababa, Ferdie Aunzo and Ramil Bisera, among others, know the Apo layout like the back of their hand but failed to cash in on their familiarity with the quaint layout unlike the former **4** Young Keanu Jahns hopes to put into good use what he has learned from his veteran, multi-titled rival **5** Coming off a stirring triumph in Taiwan, Lascuña blasts the opposition with his A-game at home **6** Like most of the contenders, Dutch Guido Van der Valk struggles on Apo's unpredictable surface **7** As in his previous campaigns, Ira Alido looms large in the early going, only to fall short when the going got tough.

WITH THE emergence of a slew of young turks and the rigors of playing seven straight tournaments, including one overseas, finally taking their toll on his 49-year-old frame, Tony Lascuña has had some misgivings over his chances in his homecoming of sorts in Davao.

"I was actually in doubt whether I could win again on the PGT (Philippine Golf Tour) with the young guns starting to dominate. But I knew that I still have the desire and fire to go for a championship," said Lascuña, who last won a local tournament at Forest Hills in 2017 and only had a couple of days rest before preparing for the ICTSI Apo Golf Invitational at the Apo Golf and Country Club.

But after shaking off a bogey start at the backside of the tight,

tree-lined layout where he grew up, worked as caddie and honed his skills, there was no stopping one of the best players to have come out of the country's spawning ground of golf talents.

With a large dose of confidence following a highly emotional win in Taiwan, Lascuña recalled his fiery form and sizzled with an opening seven-under 65 for a three-stroke cushion he held and preserved till the 72nd hole.

But the victory didn't come easy. In fact, he had to defuse young and tall Keanu Jahns' final round charge, matching the Fil-German's scorching finish to card a 69, clinch the crown and complete a back-to-back triumphant campaign.

Seven strokes behind Lascuña after 54 holes, Jahns mounted a fiery rally at the front with five birdies in a flight ahead

and moved within two with a chip-in birdie from 15 yards on No. 16, which Lascuña, however, matched to all but secure the championship.

"I played cautiously and meticulously all throughout but when I saw that he (Jahns) threatened to within two, I told myself that I needed to birdie the 16th...and I did," said Lascuña after completing the wire-to-wire victory with a 13-under 275 total.

"I tried to chase him but my effort fell short. He's so good," said Jahns, whose 65 matched Lascuña's opening charge and whose 278 total tied his best finish in the circuit.

As Lascuña looked forward to a trouble-free closing round, the 22-year-old Jahns sizzled early with four birdies in the first five holes, including three

straight from No. 3 and capped his frontside attack with another birdie on the ninth for that 31.


In a flight behind, Lascuña just went through the motions after opening with a birdie, settling for pars in the next 14 holes. But with Jahns, who also lost The Country Club Invitational crown by just one to young Korean Kim Joo Hyung early in the season, pulling to within two after No. 16, Lascuña hacked a solid wedge shot from 115 yards for a tap-in birdie on the par-4 16th then matched Jahns' closing birdie for good measure.

"I'm not getting any younger and playing seven straight tournaments is no joke," said Lascuña. "But I think I still got what it takes to win."

No one – not even the veterans – would ever dispute that, for sure.

SOUTH PACIFIC CLASSIC
OCTOBER 9-12, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P3,000,000

1 LASCUÑA, TONY										
	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS			
PHL	72	70	68	66	276	-12	P550,000			

TONY SPARKS

LASCUÑA CAPS MILESTONE SEASON WITH BACK-TO-BACK WINS



'I simply played a superb game (in the final round). But I just want to think that this (tournament) is really mine'



2 ALIDO, IRA
Philippines
P370,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	69	71	70	279	-9



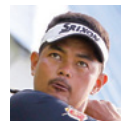
3 KEONINH, LEXUS
USA
P190,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
68	75	72	67	282	-6



3 BIBAT, MICHAEL
Philippines
P190,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	69	70	73	282	-6



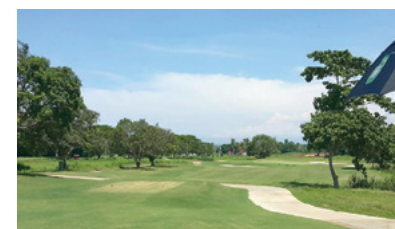
5 MATSUOKA, KEI
Japan
P107,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	70	70	69	283	-5



SOUTH PACIFIC GOLF & LEISURE ESTATES

Davao City



The Philippine Golf Tour couldn't have wrapped up its milestone 10th season fittingly than holding its final leg at the new South Pacific Golf & Leisure Estates in Davao. Another championship course developed by the Sta. Lucia Development Inc., the par-72 layout is a rolling course that features long par-4s and sleek surface with Bermuda 410 turf grass on the tees, roughs and fairways and Zoysia grass on the greens with a great landscape of creeks and ponds, making it truly a championship course.

HE HAS racked up victories – in wire-to-wire, runaway or come-from-behind fashions – here and abroad in a pro career spanning 22 years. Still, Tony Lascuña ranks his exploit in the inaugural ICTSI South Pacific Classic as one of the sweetest.

Not just because he came back from joint 18th after 18 holes, moved to a share of eighth halfway through, seized solo fourth after the third round and foiled not just one or two – but three rivals of varied skills and talents by a wide margin in the end.

He was ecstatic because: "I simply played a superb game (in the final round). But I just want to think that this (tournament) is really mine," he said, after closing out with a course-record 66 to beat young Ira Alido by three.

Talk about confidence and

Lascuña, 49, always has a large dose of that whenever he competes. Fighting spirit? He has developed that spunk through years of competitions. Throw in guts, resiliency and luck, the affable Davaoño shotmaker seems to never run out of those stuffs even when faced with the toughest of the tests.

But for sure, he has his own share of letdowns, frustrations in pursuit of golfing glory – only he would always come out of those setbacks wiser, stronger.

One of the winningest on the local circuit, Lascuña actually went on a slump after lording it over the PGT Order of Merit field in 2016 but never got discouraged. He unceasingly worked on his game, particularly on putting, until he finally put it all together – in faraway Taiwan where he bested a slew of Thai and Taiwanese rivals with a couple of bailout shots in the clutch to snare the Nan Pao

TPGA (PGA of Taiwan) Open crown of PGT Asia in Sept. 2019.

That stirring victory sparked some sort of a run for the former four-time PGT Order of Merit winner as he also dominated the Apo Golf Invitational and then ruled the South Pacific Classic in an explosive finish to close out the milestone 10th season of the country's premier circuit.

After pulling to within one after 54 holes, Lascuña had hinted at another championship run.

"The pressure is now on them," he said after starting the third round four shots off Alido but gunned down six birdies to negate a double-bogey mishap on the par-3 No. 3 for a 68 to threaten to within one.

He was right. While he played with confidence and poise of a veteran campaigner and unleashed solid drives, superb iron play and putting to produce seven birdies, joint leaders Michael Bibat, Clyde Mondilla

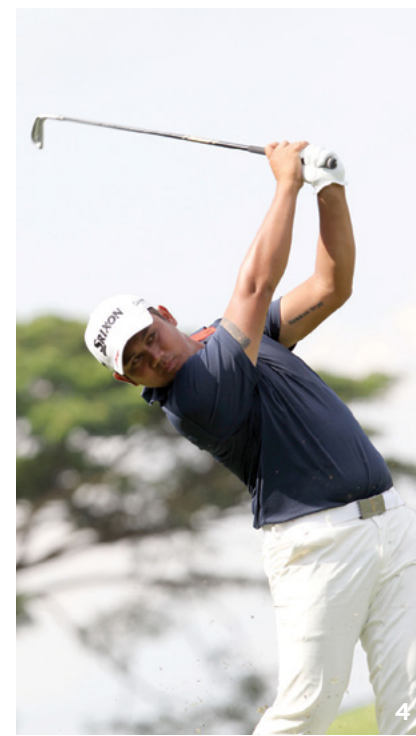
and Alido cracked under pressure and hobbled one after the other while trying to match Lascuña's charge in a flight ahead.

Lascuña spiked his fiery birdie-binge with four in the decisive stretch as he turned what had appeared to be a tight finish into another title romp.

He sizzled early with three birdies against a bogey at the front but it was not until he banged in another birdie from short range on the 10th that he caught up with Bibat at nine-under overall. He then stormed ahead for good with back-to-back birdies from No. 12, a blitz that the erstwhile joint leaders had failed to match.

"This (victory) is sweet," he said.

Closing out the season in such fashion is indeed nice and satisfying – and inspiring for a player looking to do better in his golden year.



1 Ira Alido (right) and Michael Bibat are all smiles, believing they'd be disputing the crown between themselves until Lascuña rallied to have the last laugh 2 American Tarik Can can't seem to figure out what went wrong in his 36-hole performance 3 Micah Shin runs out of holes in his comeback bid in a campaign hampered by a forgettable opening 76 4 A shaky finish seems too uncharacteristic for erstwhile joint leader and reigning Philippine Open champ Clyde Mondilla 5 Lexus Keoninh of the US jumps into contention with a sizzling final round charge that however proved short to merit a maiden championship 6 Obscure Ramil Bisera chips his way into contention, albeit briefly.

Happiness is winning a third straight time for back-in-form Tony Lascuña.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	NISHIMURA, RYO	JPN	74	73	66	70	283	-5	P107,500
=	DEPILO, RICO	PHL	74	66	72	71	283	-5	P107,500
=	MONDILLA, CLYDE	PHL	71	70	68	74	283	-5	P107,500
9	AUNZO, FERDIE	PHL	71	72	71	70	284	-4	P71,500
=	SINFUEGO, RICHARD	PHL	71	70	71	72	284	-4	P71,500

Seventh Heaven

WORLD NO. 1'S ACT HIGHLIGHTS
UNFORGETTABLE LPGT SEASON



THE LOCAL acers dominated four events, the Thais kept their win run going, a young Taiwanese amateur came out virtually unscathed in stormy conditions and humbled the pros and a rising Korean star made quite a stir with two victories to spike a rookie pro campaign.

But the seventh season of the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour will be best remembered for Sung Hyun Park's rare stint in The Country Club Invitational, the two-time Major winner being the biggest golfing star to visit the country since Tiger Woods played an exhibition match with former local great Cassius Casas at Mimosa in Pampanga in 1998.

Unlike in Woods' appearance, however, the Solaire Resort and Casino's brand ambassador did vie in a top-notch championship – and nearly got toppled by a talented Fil-Japanese amateur. But the Seoul native, one of the very few to win the Rookie and Player of the Year honors in the LPGA Tour in 2017, lived up to the hype, displaying grace under pressure and pulling through in a nerve-wracking finish.

That has been the theme of the 2019 LPGT season – majority of the outcomes decided practically on the last hole, including the two spillover tournaments of the 2018 edition that saw Korean amateur Lee Ji Hyeon stun Thai pros Waralee Atcharek and Chakansim Khamborn at John Hay and Thai veteran Yupaporn Kawinpakorn outlast compatriot Pimpadsorn Sangkagaru at Pradera Verde.

Two championships even went over the distance.

Former LPGA Tour campaigner Dottie Ardina actually kicked off LPGT's Year 7 with a runaway triumph at Beverly Place but Korean rookie Hwang Min Jeong shocked multi-titled and Order of Merit winner Princess Superal by one at Splendido; Park barely held off Yuka Saso at TCC; and Thanutra Boonraksasat escaped with another hairline victory over Superal and Chihiro Ikeda at Southwoods to spark another impending run by the country's perennial regional rivals.

Arpichaya Yubol scored an LPGT breakthrough

and made it two-for-two for the Thais with another one-stroke squeaker over Saso at the Manila Golf Ladies Masters before Pauline del Rosario, who bagged the OOM title in her rookie year with four victories in 2017, dominated the Royal Northwoods stop in a rare LPGT appearance following her decision to hone up abroad.

Ikeda then broke a long title spell by edging Del Rosario in sudden death at Tagaytay Midlands; young Taiwanese amateur Hou Yu-Chiang hacked out a shock playoff victory over Thai Wanchana Poruangrong at Pradera Verde before Superal recalled her fierce form and ruled the John Hay jaunt, and so did Nemittra Juntanaket at Mt. Malarayat.

Hwang rekindled her old fire at Mt. Malarayat where she reigned as a rookie in 2015, rallying from behind to edge Ikeda by one before Taiwanese Hsieh Yu Ling kept the Party Golfers Ladies Open crown at home with another one-shot win over compatriot Chang Ching-Ling in a tournament that had Daniella Uy rallying from nine down and threatening in one stretch, only to fade out in the end.

With four victories and the same number of near misses, the Pinay bets' performance in 2019 had been above par, given the depth of the field in each championship with Colo Ventosa, general manager of the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc., seeing another cutthroat competition in the upcoming season and hopeful of the locals' sustained charge, including in LPGA of Taiwan co-sanctioned tournaments.

"Of course, we'd like to see our local players do well and dominate," she said, pointing to former Junior World champion Uy as one of the local players to watch in 2020. "We will continue to help them by providing them the venue to do so."

That should guarantee another exciting, highly competitive season.



SUNG HYUN PARK

DOTTIE ARDINA

THANUTRA BOONRAKSASAT

PRINCESS SUPERAL

HWANG MIN-JEONG

ARPICHAYA YUBOL

HSIEH YU LING

NEMITTRA JUNTANAKET

YU CHIANG HOU

CHIIHIRO IKEDA

PAULINE DEL ROSARIO



AIN'T WALK IN THE PARK

UNFLAPPABLE TWO-TIME MAJOR WINNER OUTWITS AMATEUR SASO IN THRILLER

'I didn't expect to play this well. I know the course is hard but I also know that I could do better'



Sung Hyun Park shows her high regard to the event and the field by meticulously studying her line of putt in the stretch of the final round.

1 SUNG HYUN PARK

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
KOR	69	66	74	209	-7	\$17,500

2

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	68	72	211	-5

3

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	74	73	219	+3

4

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	72	76	221	+5

5

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
77	74	73	224	+8

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	MOUNCHOO, PATTARAPORN	THA	75	77	72	224	+8	\$3,733
=	SIRISAMPANT, WANNASIRI	THA	73	75	76	224	+8	\$3,733
8	KHAMBORN, CHAKANSIM	THA	74	77	74	225	+9	\$2,316
=	PONGTHANARAK, CHOMMAPAT	THA	80	70	75	225	+9	\$2,316
=	LIN TZU-CHI	TWN	71	77	77	225	+9	\$2,316

SHE CAME. She saw. She conquered.

But it's not just The Country Club Ladies Invitational crown she had captured but also the hearts of the Filipino players and fans not only for her world-class skills but also for the humility and kindness she showed in sharing her knowledge and expertise with the local aspirants.

Sung Hyun Park's first-ever foray on the local turf actually couldn't have come at a better time as she hit town right after gaining the world No. 1 ranking for her victory in the Women's World Championship in Singapore the week before the TCC event.

Just imagine the best player in the world flaunting her stuff and competing in a local, LPGA of Taiwan co-sanctioned tournament.

Solaire Resort and Casino hit the jackpot when it linked up with the South Korean ace in a record-breaking main sponsorship deal, not just for one season but two as chief backer of her campaign in the LPGA Tour and elsewhere.

Solaire executive vice president for

casino marketing Cyrus Sherafat said it was an easy decision to have the 25-year-old shotmaker, who became only the second player to win the Rookie and Player of the Year honors on the LPGA Tour in 2017, as Solaire's newest brand ambassador.

"When the opportunity came, it was the fastest decision in company history," said Sherafat. "She's the No. 1 in the world, we are No. 1 in the Philippines. We are so happy that she's part of the team."

The contract is said to be the richest ever in Korean women's golf history.

Consequently, Park's visit has left the Philippine golf community humming, being the first high-profile golfer to visit the country since Tiger Woods in Jan. 1998 when he played one-on-one with the then Phil's top player Cassius Casas at Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Pampanga.

But Park's stint in the TCC Invitational was far from being an exhibition. In fact, it was a top-notch competition, at least for those whom she slugged it out for the crown in all three days at what

has long been regarded as the country's toughest course.

She did win – which was a given. But the manner in which she displayed her poise and self-control, particularly in the nerve-wracking stretch – perhaps for her pursuers, spoke well of the caliber of the player who boasts of two Major championships.

"I really had fun and the course was in great shape," said Park, referring to the long, treacherous Tom Weiskoph-designed layout, which provided a true test of golf for its length, hazards, sleek surface and wind factor that put premium on shotmaking, precision and mental toughness.

"I don't think it will be easy," she said after a couple of practice rounds at the TCC. "But I will do my best and keep my own game. I'll just do my best as always in every tournament."

She was right.

Backing her esteemed world ranking with a kind of start rarely seen on an exacting course like the TCC, Park put on a near-flawless shotmaking for all the

huge gallery, which included a host of foreign media, to see, gunning down three birdies while drawing the oohs and ahhs from the crowd before holding sway in windy conditions at the back.

"I didn't expect to play this well. I know the course is hard but I also know that I could do better," she said after opening with a two-stroke lead over Yuka Saso and Taiwanese Wu Hsiao-Ling and Lin Tzu-Chi with a 69.

Park did surpass her first round performance, churning out a bogey-free 66 for a 135 that put her four strokes clear off Saso, who in turn kept impressing her fancied rival with her own superb game.

"She's really good," said Park of Saso, who closed out with a 33 for a 68 and a 139.

But just when everybody braced for a Park romp, Saso provided not only a world-class challenge but also the drama in a third straight high noon duel with the world's best, pulling to within one with two holes left.

But as if it was in the script, the Fil-Japanese succumbed to



1



2



3



2

1 Despite missing pulling off an epic upset, amateur Yuka Saso earns the nod, not to mention respect, not only of Sung Hyun Park but also the rest of the field and the gallery 2 for turning it into a thriller of a finish. 3 Princess Superal comes up short in a power duel with Park and Saso.



4



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6



8



7

4 Fans get treated to three days of world-class shotmaking not just from the world No. 1 but also from the rest of the talented international cast 5 The Korean ace shows her mortal side as she takes a respite before teeing off. 6 The world No. 1 with the 'Park's Army,' made up of close to 30 Korean women who have travelled with Park and those who are based here 7 The Korean ace gets a rock-star treatment after scoring the expected but scary win 8 Dottie Ardina share a light moment with Park before taking on the heavy load of matching the latter's power and class 9-14 The Thais, led by LPGT-TLPGA leg winners Yupaporn Kawinpakorn and Renuka Suksukont, the Koreans, headed by Hwang Min Jeong, also a two-time LPGT leg titlist, the Taiwanese, spearhead by talented amateur Yu Chiang Hou, and other local aces, including Pauline del Rosario and Chihiro Ikeda, struggle to get into the early mix with shaky starts.



9



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14

pressure, blowing it all with a wet double bogey on the par-3 17th.

That gave Park the cushion she needed to secure the victory as she closed out with pars for her worst card (36-38) for a seven-under 209 total, including an opening 69, beating Saso by two as the latter birdied the tough closing hole to save a 72 and a 211.

"We make mistakes...that's okay," said Park, referring to her bogey on No. 15 off an errant drive that enabled Saso to threaten to within one and sparked

hopes for a possible playoff or a shock reversal in the \$100,000 championship, which the former was expected to dominate given her status.

But Saso pulled her tee-shot into the water on the 17th. Instead of taking a drop, she opted to hit another shot which she dumped into the bunker, paving the way for Park's march to victory in the latter's first official tournament since claiming the world top ranking with a victory in Singapore.

She thanked her fans, who

included close to 30 Korean women making up the "Park's Army," and those who are based here.

Turning to Saso, who matched Park's power and superb iron play in the last 18 holes, she said: "She's (Saso) a pro material,"

For many, Saso, who impressed Park as early as during the latter's golf clinic days before the event, also came out like a winner for her gallant stand.

But the amazing week for Phl golf belonged to Park, who said she relished her brief but memorable

stay in the country, profusely thanking the hospitality of Solaire chairman Ricky Razon.

"When Mr. Razon heard that I suffered from a bum stomach, he sent a doctor right away and gave my medications. After my practice, from the course, I rode a helicopter with Mr. Razon for the first time.

"I was really honored and happy that I'm treated well. It's an amazing experience," said Park.

It was too for the entire Philippine golfing community looking forward to her return.



THE COUNTRY CLUB

Sta. Rosa, Laguna

A Tom Weiskoph masterpiece, the par-72 The Country Club course tests not only the players' golfing skills but also their mental toughness. It is one tough, exacting course that always guarantees days of great theater of golf and a wild finish and whose sheer length and wind factor put stern options on shotmaking and precision on a course that has hosted top-notch championships, including the Philippine Open.

BEVERLY PLACE CLASSIC
JANUARY 23-25, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P750,000



CONFIDENCE BOOSTER

BRACING FOR THE BIG LEAGUE, ARDINA SCORES BIG AT BEVERLY PLACE

'I needed to build on my confidence since I am facing the best golfers in two tournaments. I have to be in top form, mentally and physically'



Mission accomplished for Dottie Ardina in her buildup for LPGA Tour return.

1 **ARDINA, DOTTIE**

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	72	67	67	206	-7	P150,000

2 **DEL ROSARIO, PAULINE**

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	72	71	69	212	-1	P95,000

3 **PHUNTUMABAMRUNG, PUNPAKA**

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
THA	70	71	72	213	0	P60,000

4 **CHAYANUN, CHONLADA**

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
THA	69	72	75	216	+3	P52,000

5 **SUPERAL, PRINCESS**

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	70	74	73	217	+4	P43,750

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	KONSUNTHEA, ORNNICHA	THA	69	75	73	217	+4	P43,750
7	WEDCHAKAMA, ALISARA	THA	75	71	73	219	+6	P35,666
=	UY, DANIELLA	PHL	72	73	74	219	+6	P35,666
=	LADGRATOK, MOOKHARIN	THA	69	76	74	219	+6	P35,666
10	KERDRIT, NARISARA	THA	71	77	72	220	+7	P29,500



FOR ALL her exploits – from her jungolf years to her amateur days all the way to the pros, this one ranks high in the list.

Not for the winnings or for breaking the foreign bets' domination of the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour but for the timing it had presented.

"This victory means so much to me," said Dottie Ardina after making the most of her rare LPGT stint by winning the ICTSI Beverly Place Ladies Classic in emphatic fashion.

After regaining her full status on the US LPGA Tour with a sterling performance in Symetra Tour with five runner-up finishes in 17 starts in 2018, the former five-time US Kids Golf Championship winner looked for what she described as a confidence-booster and the kickoff leg of the seventh season of the country's premier ladies circuit served as a fitting tune-up for such tough undertaking.

"I needed to build on my confidence since I am facing the best golfers in these two tournaments. I have to be in top form, mentally and physically," said Ardina, referring to the Handa Vic Open and Australian Open, both in Australia, the first two LPGA events she was to compete in.

She actually turned in a mediocre 72 start at the par-71 Beverly Place, settling behind the hot-starting Thais Ornnicha Konsunthea, Chonlada Chayanun and Mookharin Ladgratok, whose identical 69s put them a stroke ahead of local aces Princess Superal and Chihiro Ikeda with another pair of Thais – Punpaka Phuntumabamrung and Narisara Kerdrat – matching par 71s.

But come Day 2, order was restored.

Defying tough conditions, Ardina fired a four-under 67 and quickly gained a two-stroke edge she would never relinquish, more so a lead nobody would ever threaten.

Flaunting a near-impeccable iron game, she churned out the lone-under par card to seize control at 139 with Phuntumabamrung and Chayanun dropping to joint second at 141s after 71 and 72, respectively.

"My irons were good but the greens are hard and I struggled with my putting. I missed at least five birdie chances inside seven feet and could've finished with a seven-under card," said Ardina.

Chayanun did rally with three birdies in the last five holes to save a 37-35 card and tie Phuntumabamrung, who matched par, at second.

"I played really bad," rued Chayanun.

But even if she had played good, along with the rest of the fancied bets, including 2017 LPGT Order of Merit winner Pauline del Rosario and reigning OOM titlist Superal, there seemed to be no way for them to stop Ardina from winning.

With no one able to come up with a scorching windup, Ardina turned the final round into a victory walk with another 67 for a runaway six-stroke triumph (206-212) over del Rosario, who shot a 69.

The victory also snapped the foreign bets' strong showing in the circuit's sixth season where they won eight of the 12 tournaments, including six by the Thais, with Korean Lee Ji Hyeon and Yupaporn Kawinpakorn bagging the two tournaments that spilled over to 2019 at Camp John Hay and Pradera Verde, respectively.

But Ardina made sure to start the new season right for the local aces in a victory that was also a triumph of the spirit for a former prodigy whose journey to reach the LPGA Tour status took close to 20 years to complete.

1 The Beverly Place Classic features not only the country's aces and a slew of Thai campaigners but also a bevy of beauties, including Marianne Bustos and Alex Etter and Thais Tiranan Yoopan and Sarinee Thitiratanakorn 2 A bunker visit is but a regular fare at Beverly Place and Pauline del Rosario isn't spared of the challenge that somewhat slowed down her charge 3 Unable to clear the fairway trap, Thai Chonlada Chayanun still gets her desired result after 18 holes of play – on top of the leaderboard 4 On target in the first two days, Thai Punpaka Phuntumabamrung fails to hit the mark when it mattered most in the final round 5 In the thick of things after an opening 70, Princess Superal seems to hint at giving up the fight after a so-so second round 74 6 Which club to use on an apparently easy lie on a trap appears to bother Thai Alisara Wedchakama 7 Unable to break par in three days, Daniella Uy knows it's only a matter of time before she could score a breakthrough 8 Despite a run of over-par cards, Samantha Dizon still comes out on top of the race for low amateur honors.



BEVERLY PLACE GOLF CLUB

Mexico, Pampanga

Designed by golf legend Gary Player, the Beverly Place Golf Club is a challenging course despite its par-71, 6438-yardage. It features menacing bunkers that come into play in most holes, man-made lakes and unpredictable surface. Water hazards are strategically placed, particularly on Nos. 2, 8 and 15, and a hidden creek on the opening hole that will force a player to be more careful in saving precious strokes.



FATHER KNOWS BEST

YOUNG KOREAN HEEDS DAD'S ADVICE, EDGES VETS IN PRO DEBUT

'I struggled with my putting but I'm glad my father was there to help me read my lines of putt'



From the amateurs to the pros, this player-father/caddie tandem remains a force to reckon with.

1 HWANG, MIN-JEONG

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
KOR	68	72	70	210	-6	P150,000

2 SUPERAL, PRINCESS
Philippines
P95,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	68	70	211	-5

3 CHAYANUN, CHONLADA
Thailand
P60,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	69	73	213	-3

4 PHAEWCHIMPEE, WAD
Thailand
P52,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	74	67	214	-2

5 SANGKAGARO, PIMPADSORN
Thailand
P45,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	76	68	216	0

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	75	72	72	219	+3	P41,000
=	LADRATOK, MOOKHARIN	THA	72	77	70	219	+3	P41,000
8	KONSUNTHEA, ORNNICHA	THA	76	74	70	220	+4	P35,000
9	PHUNTUMABAMRUNG, PUNPAKA	THA	71	75	75	221	+5	P32,500
10	KERDRIT, NARISARA	THA	75	72	76	223	+7	P27,833

FOUR YEARS after humbling Princess Superal and Cyna Rodriguez as a wide-eyed 14-year-old amateur upstart at Mt. Malarayat, Hwang Min-jeong faced practically the same challenge, plus more – and produced the same result.

And her thrilling one-stroke escape over Superal in the 2019 ICTSI Splendido Ladies Classic to launch her pro campaign spoke well of her maturity and readiness to really go big-time after a flourishing career in the ranks she spiked with a record 16-stroke romp in the Philippine Amateur Open in 2018.

In that four-year stretch before finally deciding to join the pro league, Hwang toiled in amateur tournaments here and abroad to hone and sharpen her skills with the able guidance and support of father-caddie Hwang Byung Sug.

They would often clash over the

manner in which ploy to use in tackling a particular challenge or approaching a specific target with Sug preferring for an attacking kind of game and Min-jeong favoring to go the conservative way.

But they do agree on one thing – win at all costs.

And their endearing partnership came to fore again at Splendido, where Hwang reigned in wire-to-wire fashion, banking on a pair of back-to-back birdies to open both nines and take charge with a 68, three ahead of Thais Saraporn Chamchoi, Chonlada Chayanun and Punpaka Phuntumabamrung.

Superal was nowhere to be found with a 73 but the reigning Ladies Philippine Golf Tour Order of Merit titlist struck back with a tournament-best 68 in the second round and pulled within one off Hwang, who was joined in the lead at 140 by Chayanun (69)

after slowing down with a 72 following a brief tussle – again – with her father.

"I could've posted an eight-under card but just couldn't get the right reads. But it's all my fault because I didn't listen to my father," said Hwang.

But ranged against a veteran Thai campaigner and a local favorite, Hwang didn't flinch in the final 18 holes and delivered as promised, hurdling her pro debut by edging Superal no less by one, 210-211, with a gutsy closing 70.

She admitted to have gone through some anxious moments slugging it out with the former US Girls' Junior champion but the Incheon native played tough when the going got rough and heeded her father's advice in the clutch, particularly on the greens where battles are often won and lost.

Hwang leaned on a two-shot swing against Superal on No. 12

to hike her lead to four then kept her composure in the face of the latter's make-or-break charge in the stretch to pocket the title by the slimmest of margins.

Superal actually pounced on a similar birdie-bogey swipe on No. 14 and threatened to within one again with another birdie on the 15th. But she failed to cap her rally with flubbed birdie putts in the last three holes, also ending up with a two-under card that enabled Hwang to preserve the lead and snare the victory worth P150,000.

"I was nervous every time Superal putts because I know she'd make it anytime," said Hwang. "In contrast, I struggled with my putting but I'm glad my father was there to help me read my lines of putt."

And lined her up for a triumphant pro debut.



1 While her rivals were honing up their respective games, Korean Hwang Min-jeong was busy doing her own thing during a lull in play 2 A wayward drive proves costly for a chasing Princess Superal, who ran out of holes in her comeback bid 3 Fourth at Beverly Place and third at Splendido, Thai Chonlada Chayanun should be aiming for at least a Top 2 finish the next time out 4 Multi-titled Chihiro Ikeda could be pointing to the sport's next big star (Sam Dizon) 5 A late burst of tournament-best 67 nets Thai Wad Phaewchimplee solo fourth 6 A playful Marvi Monsalve never runs out of antics that endear her to the rest of the pack 7 Teammates give Samantha Dizon some cooling down after the latter nailed another low amateur honors 8 Relishing their friendship forged through the LPGT, Daniella Uy (second row, right) and her Thai pals take a groupie after another three days of battle.



SPLENDIDO TAAL GOLF CLUB

Laurel, Batangas

Located on hilly terrain, the Splendido Taal Golf Club is both beautiful and demanding. It offers not only the vast course but also the scenic view of Taal volcano. Being it close to the mountain ridges, the par-72, all-weather championship course provides a true test of golf with its length, ravines, bunkers with the wind blowing from all over at any given day.

MANILA SOUTHWOODS CHAMPIONSHIP
MARCH 12-14, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P1,500,000



MIXED FEELINGS

THAI GETS THE BREAKS,
ENDS LONG TITLE SPELL

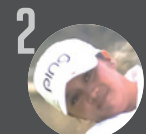
'I don't know what to say. I have mixed emotions at this point but I'm definitely feeling good'



Thanutra Boonraksasat quenches her thirst for victory with a final round escape over Princess Superal.

1 BOONRAKSASAT, THANUTRA

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
THA	68	66	69	203	-13	P350,000



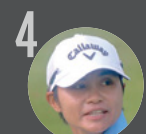
2 SUPERAL, PRINCESS
Philippines
P155,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
64	69	71	204	-12



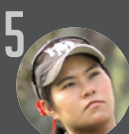
2 IKEDA, CHIHIRO
Philippines
P155,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	68	66	204	-12



4 KAWINPAKORN, YUPAPORN
Thailand
P115,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	69	69	205	-11



5 CHAYANUN, CHONLADA
Thailand
P95,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
68	67	71	206	-10

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	PHUNTUMABAMRUNG, PUNPAKA	THA	67	73	70	210	-6	P77,500
=	YOOPAN, TIRANAN	THA	69	72	69	210	-6	P77,500
8	LEE, JEONG HWA	KOR	70	71	70	211	-5	P59,000
=	UY, DANIELLA	PHL	69	73	69	211	-5	P59,000
10	KERDRIT, NARISARA	THA	71	68	73	212	-4	P47,250

WINLESS IN five years, Thanutra Boonraksasat has started to wonder if she would ever get to clutch a championship trophy again – given a run of mediocre finishes in a number of tournaments in China, Taiwan, Manila and back home.

But like any Thai fighter, she never lost hope, never lost the drive, the heart and the will to win.

So despite coming off another forgettable joint 11th place finish at The Country Club Ladies Invitational, the 29-year-old shotmaker from Nonthaburi still raised hopes of coming up with a strong finish – at the very least – in the Manila Southwoods Championship of the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour.

Never mind if she's hardly mentioned from among the early contenders dominated by her fellow Thais, led by Yupaporn Kawinpakorn, Supakchaya Pattaranakrueang, Saraporn Chamchoi and Chonlada Chayanun.

Never mind if focus is on the local aces, among them Princess Superal, Pauline del Rosario, Cyna Rodriguez and Chihiro Ikeda, each eager and raring to dish out a better, stronger performance following a stint with Korean world No. 1 Sung Hyun Park at TCC.

And never mind if she isn't too familiar with the bunkers that litter over the 6437-yard Legends layout. While the heat and the wind remain a factor, the water hazards and other risks present in the TCC Ladies Invitational aren't actually too much of a concern for her and the rest of the 54-player field.

But even if she had opened with a rather impressive four-under 68 in the P1.5 million event, she still found herself trailing a hot-starting Superal by four after the latter flashed an impeccable touch on the greens and came away with a bogey-free eight-under 64 to seize a three-stroke lead over three Thais not bearing the name of Boonraksasat.

"I'm so happy with my putting. Although I struggled with my driving, I read it quite well on the greens," beamed Superal, who

actually bucked a shaky stint on the mound with superb iron shots and awesome putting, drilling in eight birdies inside six feet, including six in a brilliant backside stint for a personal best 34-30 card and a big cushion over Chakansim Khamborn, Punpaka Phuntumabamrung and fancied Kawinpakorn, who shot identical 67s in hot but near-ideal conditions.

But a switch in tee-time in the second round worked wonders for Boonraksasat, who sizzled in the privacy of an early start and fired a 66. Suddenly, she was within one off Superal at 10-under 134 with 18 holes to play.

The Filipina ace actually lost handle of the lead in one stretch but checked her impending skid by finishing with flourish, birdying the last four holes for a 69 to regain a one-shot lead over Boonraksasat.

But the Thai rode on that momentum and pulled through in a high-noon final round duel of wits with Superal, seizing control at the back then bucking a wobbly finish to hack out a one-stroke victory, 203-204, worth P350,000.

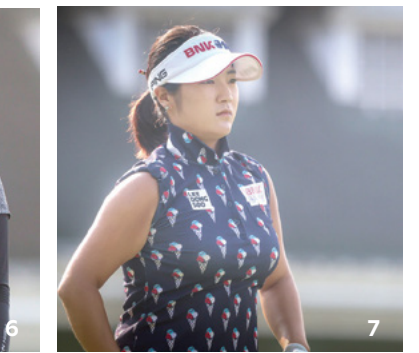
Not only did she snap a long title spell but also join the growing list of winners from the country's perennial regional rivals, who have dominated the circuit with seven victories out of 12 tournaments in 2018.

"I don't know what to say. I have mixed emotions at this point but I'm definitely feeling good," said Boonraksasat, who dumped her approach shot into the left bunker on par-4 No. 18 and ended with a 5 but still prevailed by one as Superal also found the rightside trap off a 9-iron approach shot and missed a 16-footer for a crack at a playoff.

"I was left with 111 yards but the ball was in a tough lie. It's just too bad that the breaks didn't go my way in the end," said Superal.

Luckily for Boonraksasat, they went her way.

1 After a solid start and a strong second round finish, Superal appears ready to jot down another win until Boonraksasat changed the script 2 A scorching final round assault of 66 still proves a stroke short for the rallying Chihiro Ikeda to force a playoff 3 Chonlada Chayanun keeps a positive mindset despite coming up short again 4 A tournament-long bout with her driver keeps Splendido leg winner Hwang Min-jeong from contending for the crown again 5 Sofia Chabon makes the most of her rare stint on the LPGA by bagging the low amateur honors 6 Two years after romping off with the OOM crown with four victories in her rookie season, Pauline del Rosario is still finding ways to keep the ball rolling again 7 Lee Jeong Hwa knows it's only a matter of time before she could regain the form that netted her a number of titles.



THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (LEGENDS)

Carmona, Cavite

The Legends is a friendly course for high handicappers and at the same time presents a real challenge for more accomplished golfers trying to shoot low numbers. Slightly shorter than the Masters, the Legends layout is designed around 'traps' and water hazards and dominated by high mounds.



IN THE MOOD (FOR A MELODY)

'PIANO' SCALES PAST
ASIAD GOLD MEDALIST,
POCKETS MGLM DIADEM


'I played bad and couldn't
find a way to fix it. It's quite
unfortunate that it happened
in the final round'



Putting first from a longer distance than Yuka Saso, Arpichaya Yubol bangs in the winning putt to the delight of the Thai crowd but to the chagrin of the huge local gallery.

1 YUBOL, ARPICHAYA

THA	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
	70	68	71	209	-4	\$17,500

2  **SASO, YUKA (AM)**
Philippines


R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	71	72	210	-3

3  **CHEN, HSUAN**
Taiwan

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	72	71	212	-1

3  **CHANG, TZU-YI (AM)**
Taiwan

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	65	75	212	-1

5  **KOH, SOCK-HWEE**
Singapore

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	75	68	213	0

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SANGKAGARO, PRIMPADSORN	THA	70	71	73	214	+1	\$5,600
7	DEL ROSARIO, PAULINE	PHL	71	72	72	215	+2	\$3,733
=	PONGTHANARAK, CHOMMAPAT	THA	70	73	72	215	+2	\$3,733
=	NAKAYAMA, MINA	JPN	71	69	75	215	+2	\$3,733
10	LEE, HSIN	TWN	71	74	71	216	+3	\$2,450

CHALLENGED BY a difficult task of drilling one long pressure-packed putt and facing an amateur but a crowd favorite with world caliber skills in sudden death, Thai pro Arpichaya Yubol did just what she was supposed to do.

Knock it in and knock Yuka Saso down.

"I'm very happy but it's quite surprising (to win)," said Yubol after burying a delicate 12-foot birdie putt on the 54th hole (No. 18) of the posh Manila Golf Club then fist-pumping while rushing through the back of the green to celebrate her feat in the Manila Golf Ladies Masters with her fellow Thais.

That was even before Saso could stroke her own birdie bid from a shorter distance (eight feet) that would've forced a playoff. But the pressure to deliver amidst Yubol and the Thais' premature celebration proved just too mounting, too heavy for the Asian Games gold medalist to overcome.

And Saso came up short in the end of a tournament she was

tipped to win and on a course where she reigned as Philippine Ladies Open champion early in the season.

But Yubol, nicknamed "Piano," had other things in mind.

Coming off a so-so joint 18th place finish at The Country Club Ladies Invitational, the 17-year-old Saraburi find, who racked up five straight wins in the Thai LPGA Series in the previous season, stalked the hot-starting Saso after 18 holes and tied the Fil-Japanese, who was also coming off an impressive joint third place effort in the historic Augusta National Women's Amateur, in the second round.

Though another amateur, Taiwanese Tzu-Yi Chang, stole the thunder with a solid six-under 65 in Day 2 and grabbed a one-stroke lead over Yubol and Saso, observers believed the duo will slug it out for the championship.

They were right. As Tzu succumbed to pressure and reeled back early with bogeys, Saso took charge with a solid three-under card after 10 holes to lead by three over Yubol, only to stumble and

flounder with an uncharacteristic four-bogey miscue in a five-hole stretch from No. 12.

That enabled the fired-up Thai to force a tie at three-under overall heading to the deciding hole which she birdied to record her first LPGT diadem with a 209 total after a gutsy 71 and highlight a season that included seven other top 10 finishes in 16 tournaments in various circuits across the region.

In contrast, it was a heart-breaker of a finish for Saso, who appeared headed to duplicating her romp in retaining the PLO crown at MGC with a flawless card after 10 holes. But the 17-year-old ace lost her touch and rhythm, dropping strokes on Nos. 12, 13, 15 and 16 then missing her birdie bids in the last two holes to settle for a 72 and second at 210.

"I was playing solid at the front but bad breaks derailed my game at the back. But that's golf," said Saso, who threatened to pull away with birdies on Nos. 4, 7 and 10 inside five feet.

Yubol's victory also underlined Thailand's domination of the

circuit as she joined compatriots Yupaporn Kawinpakorn (Pradera Verde) and Thanutra Boonraksasat (Southwoods) in the winners' circle in the early going of the seventh season of LPGT. The Thais also won six of 11 tournaments in 2018.

Hsuan Chen, also of Taiwan, matched par 71 and tied Chang at third at 212 but claimed the runner-up prize with Singapore's Koh Sock-Hwee ending up fifth at 213 after a 68.

"I played bad and couldn't find a way to fix it. It's quite unfortunate that it happened in the final round," rued Chang, who dislodged Saso from the top with that second round six-under card.

But the final round belonged to Yubol.

"I really didn't expect to win since this is my first time here and I'm not familiar with the course," said the multi-titled Thai.

But for many, her victory didn't come as a surprise. After all, she's Thailand's LPGA Tour 2018 Order of Merit topnotcher for nothing.



1 Saso tries to do it all, carrying her bag and holding her ground against Yubol 2 Taiwanese ace Hsuan Chen loses steam after a superb start and winds up joint third with amateur Tzu Yi Chang 3 Chang says it all with a muffed birdie putt 4 Fancied Babe Liu pulls to within four after a 67 in the second round only to bomb out with a closing 77 5 Pauline del Rosario (left) and Princess Superal, winner of the LPGT OOM titles the past two years, end up seventh and joint 21st, respectively 6 Japanese Mina Nakayama is a certified goldmine with her charm and class 7 Miguel Tabuena takes time out from his hectic schedule to support one of the highlight events of 2019 LPGT.



MANILA GOLF CLUB

Forbes Park, Makati City

The well-kept, exclusive Manila Golf Club offers the most difficult challenges one may face given its tight, out-of-bounds layout of each hole, the doglegs and challenging hazards tactically placed at the backside of the par-71 layout.

ROYAL NORTHWOODS CLASSIC
APRIL 24-26, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P1,500,000

BACK IN THE GROOVE

DEL ROSARIO
RECALLS FIERCE
FORM TO STOP THAIS

'I just made sure there
would be no repeat of
a Thai victory this time'



Essentially winning a 54-hole tournament in two days is no mean feat for Pauline del Rosario.

1 DEL ROSARIO, PAULINE

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	66	67	71	204	-12	P270,000

2 UY, DANIELLA
Philippines
P185,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
75	70	73	218	+2

3 BOONRAKSASAT, THANUTRA
Thailand
P105,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	69	77	219	+3

4 SUPERAL, EAGLE ACE (AM)
Philippines

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	76	72	220	+4

5 IKEDA, CHIHIRO
Philippines
P76,750

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
75	77	74	226	+10

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	GULYANAMITTA, NUMA	THA	75	73	78	226	+10	P76,750
7	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	74	80	74	228	+12	P60,000
8	CHANG, HSUAN PING	TWN	77	75	77	229	+13	P51,500
9	YOOPAN, TIRANAN	THA	79	74	77	230	+14	P42,000
10	DIZON, SAMANTHA (AM)	PHL	75	79	79	223	+17	-

TWO YEARS after embellishing her pro debut with an Order of Merit crown, Pauline del Rosario is back on the podium again – tougher, fiercer, better.

But it was her big appetite for winning that came to the fore in all three days of the ICTSI Royal Northwoods Classic – no, make it two as the former Philippine Ladies Open champion actually needed just a couple of rounds to dispatch a talent-laden field and get back into the winning groove.

But more than nailing her first victory since racking up four wins in her rookie season on her way to topping the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour OOM derby in 2017, Del Rosario said stopping the Thais' surge spurred her to dish out her best.

"I just made sure there would be no repeat of a Thai victory this time," said Del Rosario, referring to Thanutra Boonraksasat's come-from-behind triumph over Princess Superal at Manila Southwoods where she wound up joint 10th.

The Filipina ace also groped for form and settled for joint seventh at the Manila Golf Ladies Masters won by another Thai – Arpichaya Yubol – but finally found her range, rhythm and touch with brilliant six-under 66 and 67 cards at Northwoods for an impressive 11-under 133 card after 36 holes.

The rest failed to even pose a veiled threat, enabling Del Rosario to roar to a whopping 14-stroke victory over Daniella Uy in the P1.5 million event.

Boonraksasat did fire a 69 but could only pool a 142 to fall by nine after two rounds, Uy shot a 70 but stood way behind at 145 and Numa Gulyanamitta, also from Thailand, limped with a 73 and was too way off at 148 in a tie with local amateur Eagle Ace Superal, who made a 76.

So Del Rosario played pressure-free in the last 18 holes and turned in her worst round – a 71 that however still proved to be the best as Superal could only match par and Uy (73) and Boonraksasat (77) stumbled with over-par cards

in their desperate bids to gain on Del Rosario.

Though she fell short in matching Princess Superal's record 16-shot triumph at Tagaytay Highlands in 2018, the lopsided triumph was enough to herald Del Rosario's return to the top of the LPGT ladder after a string of mediocre finishes following a swing change under coach Patrick Leahy.

Virtually securing the victory after 36 holes, Del Rosario just went through the motions in the final round but still shot three birdies against two bogeys while checking on her swing, short game and putting more than checking on her rivals.

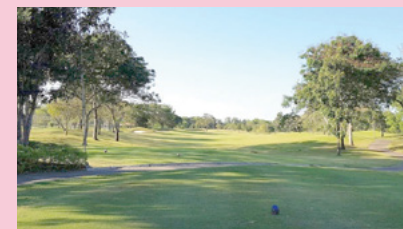
She finished with a 12-under 204.

Uy, meanwhile, sustained a bogey-free 70 in the second round with three birdies in the first seven holes in the final day but the former Junior World titlist hobbled at the finish, bogeying four of the last 10 to finish with a 73 though she still claimed runner-up honors with a 218.

In contrast, Boonraksasat failed to keep the momentum of her three-birdie backside binge in the second round for a 69 as she ended up with 77 for a 219 that likewise halted the country's perennial regional rivals' domination of the circuit that saw them rack up seven victories in 2018.

But Del Rosario just couldn't stand seeing another Thai reign at Northwoods again.

1 With her ever-improving form, making it to the elite circle of LPGT winners is just a matter of time for Daniella Uy **2** On target for a second victory in three tournaments, Thai Thanutra Boonraksasat loses sight of the crown with a final round meltdown **3** Boonraksasat (left) pumps her fist after knocking down a birdie but Del Rosario comes up with a knockout of a win in the end **4** Chihiro Ikeda looks a bit sluggish while doing some pre-shot routine **5** Fast-rising amateur Eagle Ace Superal continues to amaze the pro field with another strong performance **6** Saruttaya Ngam-usawan never loses her drive for a championship despite going winless since humbling Cyna Rodriguez here in 2016 **7** In an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with Boonraksasat (left), Del Rosario didn't blink.



ROYAL NORTHWOODS GOLF CLUB

San Rafael, Bulacan

Noted golf designer Graham Marsh has made good use of the gently rolling hills of Bulacan and turned Royal Northwoods into a world-class course where one has to work his way around a lot of bunkers and hazards. Marsh also made ample use of mounds and undulations so the course will drain quickly.

MAKING THE RIGHT MOVE



IKEDA DOES IT RIGHT, ENDS LONG DROUGHT IN STYLE

'I went for the right side because I felt the angle there is a lot easier'



After escaping with a playoff win, Chihiro Ikeda fails to flee her pals and supporters in a celebration that was long time coming.

1 IKEDA, CHIHIRO

PHL	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
	70	73	72	215	-1 (Playoff)	P150,000

2 DEL ROSARIO, PAULINE
Philippines
P95,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	72	69	215	-1

3 UY, DANIELLA
Philippines
P60,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	68	77	217	+1

4 SUPERAL, EAGLE ACE (AM)
Philippines
-

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	76	71	218	+2

5 YOOPAN, TIRANAN
Thailand
P52,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	74	74	219	+3

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SOISUWAN, ONKANOK	THA	72	76	74	222	+6	P45,000
7	ABELAR, NICOLE (AM)	PHL	79	72	75	226	+10	-
8	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	76	77	74	227	+11	P42,000
9	TAN, VALERIE	BRN	75	74	80	229	+13	P37,250
=	PATTARANAKRUEANG, SUPAKCHAYA	THA	76	77	76	229	+13	P37,250

1 Despite landing on a tough spot off an errant shot, Pauline del Rosario still put herself on a top spot in the stretch 2 Another Top 5 finish keeps Thai Yoopan Tiranan on the lookout for the elusive win 3 Daniella Uy loses grip of the lead with a forgettable birdie-less windup 4 Even before their sudden death faceoff, Ikeda (right) and Del Rosario have taken different routes to fuel their respective title drives 5 With a second straight low amateur trophy, things are looking up for Eagle Ace Superal.



BETWEEN GOING right and left, Chihiro Ikeda took the side she believed she had more chances of winning.

She was right.

Pulling her trusted wedge, Ikeda deftly hacked her approach shot on the par-5 18th of Midlands to within six feet and calmly rolled in the putt, frustrating the fancied Pauline del Rosario on the second playoff hole and ending a 15-month spell with a victory at ICTSI Tagaytay Midlands Ladies Challenge.

"I went for the right side because I felt the angle there is a lot easier," said Ikeda, who went on a slump with a slight hand injury after topping the Eagle Ridge leg in early 2018.

In contrast, Del Rosario went to the left side but flubbed her own birdie bid from eight feet, failing to

add the crown to her huge 14-shot romp at Royal Northwoods.

"I targeted the left side of the green because I had a hard time pitching on the right. It's just too bad I missed my birdie putt," said Del Rosario, who nearly pulled off one of the stirring comebacks on the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour by battling back from seven down with a solid three-under card spiked by a birdie-birdie feat from No. 16.

The duo earlier pounced on erstwhile leader Daniella Uy's final round foldup to finish tied at 215 after 54 holes with Ikeda birdying the 18th in regulation to save a 72 and force a playoff with Del Rosario, who overcame a big deficit with a 69 but missed winning it outright with a missed putt from just about the same distance on the 18th.

Uy actually hung tough despite an opening 40 but the former Junior World titlist blew it all with a bogey on the 17th. She wound up with a birdie-less 77 and ended up third instead at 217.

After Ikeda and Del Rosario parred the first playoff hole, also on No. 18, they changed tactics in their third approach on the dogleg right finishing hole with the former proving to have come up with the right decision.

"I still feel some pain (in my hand). But I knew I could still contend. I stayed focused all throughout and kept believing I could win again," said the former SEA Games gold medalist, who knew she had her game back after finishing tied for second at Manila Southwoods.

Like del Rosario, amateur Eagle Ace Superal also charged back from seven strokes down to within

striking distance with three birdies in the first eight holes. But a bogey on the ninth slowed her down and bogeys on Nos. 13 and 14 dropped her out of the race.

But while it was a big win for Ikeda, it was a sorry finish for Uy, who surged ahead by three over the Fil-Japanese after 36 holes and held sway despite a 40 start in the final round only to waver in the stretch.

"I felt so much pressure and I had a bad game as well," said Uy. "But it was a good experience for me. I'm sure this will help me improve in the future."

The future indeed looks bright for the rising star but brighter for the veteran Ikeda, now back in the spotlight after struggling to contend for quite sometime with a spate of injuries.



TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB

Talisay, Batangas

The wind-swept Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club boasts of a championship course with a picture-perfect view of Taal volcano. Located amidst a dense forest 1,000 feet above Taal lake, the par-72 layout features rolling fairways, some aligned with different types of abundant trees, and well-maintained putting surface of Bermuda and Tifdwarf grasses.

PRADERA VERDE CLASSIC
JULY 17-19, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
\$80,000

SCENE STEALER

TAIWANESE AMATEUR HUMBLING THAI PRO IN SUDDEN DEATH

'I feel excited but there was no pressure. Although the wind picked up in the middle of the final round, I never lost my concentration'



Racking up two titles is indeed a noteworthy achievement for the 18-year-old Yu-Chiang Hou, who gets the traditional splash after turning the crack pro international field green with envy at Pradera Verde.

1 HOU, YU-CHIANG (AM)

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
TWN	70	72	69	211	-5 (Playoff)	-

1 **PORUANGSRONG, WANCHANA**
Thailand
\$14,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	69	70	211	-5

3 **UY, DANIELLA**
Philippines
\$7,200

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	72	71	213	-3

3 **FURUKAWA, MAYUNA**
Japan
\$7,200

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	71	73	213	-3

5 **YUBOL, ARPICHAYA**
Thailand
\$4,400

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	71	73	216	0



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	LADGRATOK, MOOKHARIN	THA	72	73	72	217	+1	\$3,360
7	HWANG, YE-NAH	KOR	72	75	71	218	+2	\$2,013
=	PHUDTIPHINIJI, DOLNAPA	THA	72	74	72	218	+2	\$2,013
=	SUPERAL, PRINCESS	PHL	71	75	72	218	+2	\$2,013
=	CHANG, HSUAN-PING	TWN	70	74	74	218	+2	\$2,013
=	CHULYA, JACKIE	TWN	75	68	75	218	+2	\$2,013
=	HAMCHOI, SARAPORN	THA	72	70	76	218	+2	\$2,013



AS WICKED as the weather was the chase for the title and the battle for the ICTSI Pradera Ladies Classic crown aptly went past regulation – the winner needing not just one but two extra holes to clinch it.

But what made it doubly surprising, if stimulating was that none from among the stellar cast of pros had taken the podium. Instead, a young amateur oozing with talent and whose skills and big fighting heart many believe would line her up for crack at a number of championships in the near future claimed the coveted honors.

In short, Yu-Chiang Hou came out the clear winner in an \$80,000 event that had faced uncertainties due to erratic weather, foiling Thai pro Wanchana Poruangsrong with a tap-in birdie on the second playoff hole at the Pradera Golf and Country Club.

Yu-Chiang, 18, is actually the other half of the rising golfing siblings from Taiwan, the other being Yu-Sang, 19, with the former posting a couple of runner-up finishes in the US, shocking the pros in the LPGA of Taiwan and scoring another victory in China before humbling the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour field in Lubao, Pampanga.

But despite a 70 start in harsh conditions, Hou was never mentioned as one of the likely title contenders given the depth of the pro field – from Thais Chonlada Chayanun, Wad Phaewchimple, Trichat Cheenglab, Saraporn Chamchoi and Wanchana Poruangsrong, to Japanese Mayuna Furukawa, Taiwanese Ching Huang, Hsuan-Ping Chang, Chen-Hsuna Shih and Ai-Chen Kuo and to locals Daniella Uy and Princess Superal, among others.

Though the world No. 9 stayed at joint third with 72 after 36 holes, Hou never got the chance to hog the spotlight as Furukawa came out unscathed in wet, windy play in the second round and dispatched

erstwhile co-leader Chayanun and Chang with a 71 to gain control at 140, a stroke ahead of Poruangsrong and two-up on Chamchoi, Uy and Hou, with Jackie Chulya and Arpichaya Yubol, both of Thailand, staying in the mix at 143.

But Furukawa and the other pros wobbled when the going got tough in the final round, leaving Hou and Poruangsrong to dispute the crown after closing out with 69 and 70 cards, respectively, for identical 211s in the 54-hole event which also served as Taiwan LPGA leg.

Poruangsrong, however, missed winning it on the first playoff hole with a flubbed eight-foot birdie putt on the par-5 No. 9 of the all-weather layout that withstood the nature's wrath in the first two days and brought out the best from the surviving field in the final round.

In the end, however, youth prevailed over experience as Hou outthit Poruangsrong in their second shot on their third trip on the ninth then hacked a solid wedge shot from 60 yards to within inches off the cup after the Thai sent her own approach to within eight feet.

But Poruangsrong succumbed to pressure and muffed her birdie try, enabling Hou to claim the crown with that "gimme" that capped her gutsy play against the leading pros on the two circuits in all three days.

"I feel excited but there was no pressure. Although the wind picked in the middle of the final round, I never lost my concentration," said Hou. "I was hitting some great second shots which was important because it gave me less pressure on the greens, knowing that I was going to have a lot of chances no matter what."

Truly, Hou did play pressure-free all throughout and it was the pros who wilted under the weight of stopping a young gun, who started playing golf at age eight and has made remarkable progress the last three years, from stealing the thunder, the spotlight and the crown from the revered women of both tours.

1 Thai Wanchana Poruangsrong literally had a 'rough' time handling the pressure from a young but talented rival **2** Daniella Uy hopes to get better, tougher after another botched title run **3** Despite her final round meltdown, second round leader Mayuna Furukawa of Japan still finds her joint third place effort with Uy something to cheer about **4** Hsuan-Ping Chang celebrates after sinking a long putt but it was compatriot Yu-Chiang Hou, who whooped it up in the end **5** Princess Superal never had the chance to get untracked in cold, windy conditions **6** Players tackle the tough conditions in various ways.

PRADERA VERDE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Lubao, Pampanga

The par-72 Pradera Verde Golf and Country Club is a relatively flat course but remains challenging with its bunkers and hazards, which come into play in almost all holes as well as its sloping long fairways and big but undulating greens that could bring the best – and the worst – from each player of any caliber.



JOHN HAY CHAMPIONSHIP
AUGUST 14-16, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P1,000,000



COOL, CALM, CALCULATING

SUPERAL BLITZES PAST SLEW OF RIVALS FOR SLUMP-ENDING ROMP

'I didn't mind where I stood (before the start of the final round) and just focused on my game. I was so confident when I Grabbed the lead at the turn'



Not a good place for Princess Superal to get soaked although Sam Dizon's act somewhat helped wash away bitter memories of defeats for the former US Girls' Junior champ.

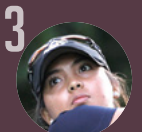
1 SUPERAL, PRINCESS

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
PHL	68	68	61	197	-10	P250,000



2 IKEDA, CHIHIRO
Philippines
P120,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
63	69	69	201	-6



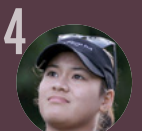
3 AVARICIO, CHANELLE (AM)
Philippines

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	65	70	205	-2



4 NUALRAKSA, AJIRA
Thailand
P85,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	72	66	207	0



4 SINGSON, MAFY (AM)
Philippines

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	69	67	207	0

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	UY, DANIELLA	PHL	69	70	70	209	+2	P76,000
7	GULYANAMITTA, NUMA	THA	70	71	75	216	+9	P65,000
8	MARIANO, PAMELA	PHL	70	74	73	217	+10	P60,000
9	YOOPAN, TIRANAN	THA	76	76	66	218	+11	P46,000
=	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	76	73	69	218	+11	P46,000

1 Save for her sterling second round 65, it was practically an uphill battle for top amateur Chanelle Avaricio 2 Despite a huge lead after 36 holes, Chihiro Ikeda still fails to shoulder herself past a hot-finishing Superal 3 Thai Ajira Nualraksa watches her putt drop into the cup to spike a closing 66 4 Seems like it would take more than grit for Valerie Tan of Brunei to score an LPGT breakthrough 5 Everything is A-okay for Daniella Uy except her finish 6 Alex Etter (left) and Marvi Monsalve look all set and ready for another mission after their LPGT obligation 7 Thai Alisara Wedchakama fails to check a slew of bogeys that ruined her bid in the first two days 8 Supakchaya Pattaranakrueng of Thailand looks for a good spot to land from a poor lie.



WHETHER SHE'S ahead or way behind, Princess Superal never gets rattled or flustered.

Six years after setting a record observers say may never be equaled, the reigning Ladies Philippine Golf Tour Order of Merit champ reigned in cool, breezy Baguio again, winning the ICTSI Camp John Hay Ladies Championship – in reverse fashion.

Four down with 18 holes to play on the short but tricky John Hay layout, Superal knew she still had a chance to overcome the huge deficit and end a 16-month title spell on the country's premier circuit.

For as long as she stayed composed and in control of her game and kept her iron game and putting going, the former US Girls' Junior titlist believes no block would be too tough to hurdle.

Even against a fellow multi-titled pal.

And buck the odds she did – coming through with not just a scorching final round charge but also spiking it with an eagle for a bogey-free 61 that netted her a four-stroke victory over a stunned Ikeda in the P1 million event.

"I'm very happy. It's not actually a sweet revenge but it's fulfilling to win again," said Superal, whose closing eight-under 31-30 card gave her a 54-hole total of 197 worth P200,000 that also ended a long slump on the circuit she used to dominate.

That romp actually started right at John Hay, when as a promising amateur in 2013, she bested the pro field with a mind-boggling 17-under 190 total, finishing the 54-hole event, which served as the final leg of a five-stage inaugural ladies pro circuit, without a bogey.

The 2013 SEA Games double

gold medalist would also become the first Philippine-born female golfer to win a USGA (US Golf Association) championship – the US Girls' Juniors – in 2014.

She would finish runner-up in the OOM derby right in her rookie pro campaign in 2016, would drop to third the following year before reaching her full potential by taking the top honors in the next two years, including in 2019 despite missing a number of tournaments while playing in the Japan Step Up Tour.

Like the other pros, however, Superal suffered a dip in form after winning back-to-back at Tagaytay Highlands and Riviera in 2018, going winless in a long stretch marred by a number of near misses.

Some thought the spell would extend to John Hay as she struggled and trailed Ikeda by five after 18 holes and hardly moved

closer to the leader after the second round.

But four birdies at the front in the final round shoved Superal from four down to 1-up over Ikeda then the diminutive but talented shotmaker fired two more birdies at the back and drilled in a 12-foot eagle putt on the par-5 16th to spike a blistering closing round and reign again.

"I didn't mind where I stood before the start of the final round and just focused on my game. I was so confident when I grabbed the lead at the turn and was so pumped up after I birdied No. 12," said Superal.

What a way to turn a once sagging campaign around.



CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB

Baguio City

One of the country's oldest golf courses, the par-69 Camp John Hay remains a regular stop of the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour for the unique challenge it poses to every campaigner, particularly Nos. 7, 8, 13 and 16. Golf legend Jack Nicklaus, who re-designed the layout in 1999, also drizzled a number of water hazards and abundant pine trees throughout, thus creating a difficult playing field for even the best of golfers in the fold.

MT. MALARAYAT CLASSIC
AUGUST 14-16, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
P750,000



BOUNCING BACK

THAI BUCKS AWFUL START TO PRODUCE AWESOME RESULT

'I had a good game and just hung tough out there. This victory is a big boost to my confidence'



For Nemittra Juntanaket, a false start doesn't necessarily leads to a flawed campaign.

1 JUNTANAKET, NEMITTRA

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
THA	72	73	71	216	0	P150,000

2 **SANGKAGARO, PIMPADSORN**
Thailand
P95,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
76	70	76	222	+6

3 **HWANG, MIN-JEONG**
Korea
P56,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
77	75	71	223	+7

3 **NUALRAKSA, AJIRA**
Thailand
P56,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
76	72	75	223	+7

5 **GULYANAMITTA, NUMA**
Thailand
P45,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
75	74	75	224	+8

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SOISUWAN, ONKANOK	THA	75	73	78	226	+10	P42,500
7	WEDCHAKAMA, ALISARA	THA	75	79	73	227	+11	P37,250
=	SUPERAL, PRINCESS	PHL	75	73	79	227	+11	P37,250
9	MARIANO, PAMELA	PHL	79	74	76	229	+13	P31,000
=	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	74	77	78	229	+13	P31,000

A LOST ball on the first shot would've dampened the spirit of golfers of lesser stuff. But Thai Nemittra Juntanaket used her flawed drive as motivation to realize a dream finish in the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour.

But it took a lot of grit and mental toughness to accomplish the mission and the comely shotmaker dished out both to claim the ICTSI Mt. Malarayat Ladies Classic crown in wire-to-wire fashion for her second career victory.

"I had a good game and just hung tough out there," said Juntanaket after fending off an early threat from compatriot Ajira Nualraksa in the final round with a clutch birdie to check a brief skid before pulling away in the stretch to score a

breakthrough with a closing 71 at Mt. Malarayat's composite course (Mt. Makulot and Mt. Malipunyo).

She actually braced for a title shootout with Pimpadsorn Sangkagaro and Nualraksa in hot, windy conditions on a rolling championship course that offers several options off the mound and requires precision to get the good landing spots on its undulating, tricky surface that shattered the bids of many a contender, including local ace Princess Superal.

But Juntanaket outgunned her fellow Thais and went 3-up with birdies on Nos. 3 and 4 but stumbled with three bogeys in a six-hole stretch from No. 6, enabling the rest of the best to close in again.

She, however, dashed their hopes just as quickly, drilling a birdie on No. 12 to build another three-stroke cushion over her nearest pursuer – and with no one able to put up a strong finish, Juntanaket rolled to an emphatic six-stroke triumph on a 216 total she spiked with another birdie on the difficult closing hole. It was her first win in her two-year stint in the country's premier circuit and second overall after ruling the Pan Thai Open in 2017.

Winning the P150,000 purse from out of the total prize fund of P750,000 actually was far from Juntanaket's mind, no thanks to a disastrous triple-bogey mishap on the par-4 No. 1 on a lost ball off a wild drive.

But what came next was a series of well thought-out shots that saw

her produce three birdies in the last six holes to even grab the first round lead at 72. She then held sway in the next round despite a 73 marred by two bogeys in the last three holes to hang to a one-shot edge over Sangkagaro then took the best dished out by her pursuers and emerged better in the end.

"I was fully motivated by the support of my team, including my swing coach and my parents and this victory is a big boost to my confidence," said Juntanaket.

For sure, it does. With her resiliency and big fighting heart – and now an extra large dose of confidence, this 22-year-old find from Phayao is headed for more honors here and elsewhere – with or without a wayward first drive.



1 Just a stroke off the pace after 36 holes, Sangkagaro Pimpadsorn loses steam and sight of the crown with errant shots when it mattered most 2 Onkanok Soisuwan, Numa Gulyanamitta and Alisara Wedchakama provide the Thai delight to the championship 3 Ajira Nualraksa braces for a strong final round assault that never came 4 Shaky putting hampers Princess Superal's final round charge 5 Like Pimpadsorn, Soisuwan wavers at the finish in a failed attempt to defend her crown 6 Amateur Mafy Singson doesn't need to look too far or too high to figure out her options from a stymied lie 7 Hwang Min Jeong simply runs out of holes in her late attempt to snare the crown she won as an amateur in 2016 8 Juntanaket must've some inkling of a triumphant campaign before hitting her first, if wayward, drive.



MT. MALARAYAT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Lipa City, Batangas

Composed of three nines named after the adjacent mountains – Mt. Makulot, Mt. Lobo and Mt. Malipunyo, the all-weather, 27-hole Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club provides an all-around golfing experience for all ages and skills. Kept in perfect shape year-round, even during rainy season, it boasts of 419 Bermuda fairways, surrounded by different bunkers and water hazards, and Tifdwarf greens.



FAST LEARNER

KOREAN TOUGHENS UP IN CLUTCH, PICKS UP SECOND VICTORY

'One thing I learned from this tournament is that you have no time to relax till the last hole'



Two victories in a rookie season will surely send one's confidence soaring.

1 HWANG, MIN-JEONG

	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
KOR	68	69	71	208	-8	P150,000

2 IKEDA, CHIHIRO
Philippines
P95,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	70	69	209	-7

3 TIRANAN, YOOPAN
Thailand
P56,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	70	71	210	-6

3 JUNTANAKET, NEMITTRA
Thailand
P56,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
66	71	73	210	-6

5 KAWINPAKORN, YUPAPORN
Thailand
P45,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	70	72	212	-4

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	PIMPADSORN, SANGKAGARO	THA	68	80	68	216	0	P42,500
7	PATTARANAKRUEANG, SUPAKCHAYA	THA	66	76	75	217	+1	P39,500
8	NUALRAKSA, AJIRA	THA	70	72	76	218	+2	P35,000
9	MONSALVE, MARVI	PHL	73	74	72	219	+3	P32,500
10	MARIANO, PAMELA	PHL	71	77	75	223	+7	P29,500

1 Chihiro Ikeda rues her failed bid to pull off what could've been a spectacular comeback 2 Thai Yoopan Tiranan seems A-okay despite coming up short again in pursuit of a first LPGT crown 3 Nemittra Juntanaket misses completing a back-to-back title feat with a shaky finish 4 Veteran Yupaporn Kawinpakorn can't seem to believe yielding the crown she won in impressive fashion last year 5 Despite her struggles on the course, Alex Etter continues to provide class with her charm 6 No, Brunei's Valerie Tan isn't asking for an intervention but just expressing her frustration over another so-so campaign 7 Former three-time Order of Merit winner Cyna Rodriguez appears not a bit bothered by dip in form 8 Supakchaya Pattaranakrueng chips into an early share of the lead, only to lose her grip with mediocre rounds in the last two days.



WHAT MAKES this 17-year-old Korean scarier is that she's able to easily adapt to different situations, under any conditions – the twin victories in her rookie season more than underscoring her readiness to mix it up even with the most accomplished players in the fold – and humble them.

And the lessons Hwang Min Jeong had learned in winning The Women's Championship at Summit Point should make her a lot tougher, fiercer come the eighth season of the country's premier circuit.

Under siege by a slew of veterans in the stretch, Hwang displayed the kind of poise rarely seen in an upstart, holding her ground in a backside duel of power and nerves and pulling through with a 71 in a day of faltering finishes to

claim the crown by one over Chihiro Ikeda.

True to her vow, the 2018 Philippine amateur champion won the championship she gained a crack at after getting a shared view of the top with Thai Nemittra Juntanaket with a 69 after 36 holes. She then birdied three of the first four holes in the final round to break off a tie and watched Ikeda's fiery rally fizzle out in a flight ahead to nail her second championship in a pro career she launched in winning fashion at Splendido.

"This championship means so much to me, I gained so much confidence from this win," said Hwang, whose 54-hole 208 total netted her another P150,000.

"But one thing I learned from this tournament is that you have no time to relax till the last hole.

The Thai (Juntanaket) is really good and when I saw on the boards that Ikeda is making a rally, I got nervous. I thought I would lose it or I would go to a playoff after holing out with a bogey. I'm so glad to win it all," said Hwang, who also credited his father-caddie-driver Hwang Byung Sug's role for her victory.

She was referring to her run-in of sorts with her dad in the second round when she opted to play it smart – and produced the desired result (69) with three birdies in the last five to rally from four down, catch Juntanaket, who carded a 71, at the helm and set up a final round shootout in the P750,000 event.

"I got a little confused because my father wanted me to attack and go for the pins but I opted to play it smart," said Hwang. "So he gave

me the chance to play my game at the back."

And play she did, birdying Nos. 14, 15 and 17 to save a 35-34 while pouncing on Juntanaket's flubbed par-putt from three feet on No. 15 to force a tie at seven-under 137 after the Thai ace slowed down with a 71 after a fiery opening 66.

But Hwang did vow to heed her father's advice in the final 18 holes and guaranteed no less than a victory.

"I think my father was right after all. So, I'll play it aggressively and try to get more birdies, or even an eagle (in the final round). This time, I expect to get the trophy," said Hwang.

She did, leaving the rest wondering how would they handle and probably stop her in the next LPGT season.



SUMMIT POINT GOLF CLUB

Lipa City, Batangas

The Summit Point Golf and Country Club prides itself as the only course in the country that brings together strategic elements inspired by some of the world's renowned golf holes, including Augusta National's No. 12 and Winged Foot's No. 10. Top golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. made sure that even with the variety of styles, the routing flows smoothly from one hole to the next, thus making the 7,107-yard, 18-hole layout a celebration of the best golf has to offer from around the world.

PARTY GOLFER'S OPEN - TAIWAN
OCTOBER 2-4, 2019

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



GETTING THERE

PINAYS INCHING CLOSER TO DREAM TAIWAN VICTORY; Hsieh Reigns

'Seven years. I thought I would've made it a little faster. But I have no choice but to stay strong and have hopes'



Hsieh Yu Ling survives a harrowing final round meltdown but not a splash of water from pals after salvaging a one-stroke victory that snapped a long title spell for the resilient Taiwanese.

1 HsIEH, YU LING

TWN	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
	69	66	74	209	-7	\$17,500



2 CHANG, CHING-LING
Taiwan
\$11,500

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	71	70	210	-6



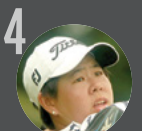
3 CHIU, LING-TI
Taiwan
\$7,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
71	70	70	211	-5



4 UY, DANIELLA
Philippines
\$3,880

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	70	68	212	-4



4 HUANG, CHING
Taiwan
\$3,880

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	72	68	212	-4

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	KUO, AI-CHEN	TWN	72	70	70	212	-4	\$3,880
=	CHONLADA, CHAYANUN	THA	73	73	66	212	-4	\$3,880
=	YEH, CHIA-JU (AM)	TWN	74	67	71	212	-4	\$3,880
9	YUBOL, ARPICHAYA	THA	71	70	72	213	-3	\$2,300
10	LADGRATOK, MOOKHARIN	THA	70	73	71	214	-2	\$2,050



CLIMBING FIVE rungs to joint 15th but falling nine strokes behind the leader with 18 holes left, Daniella Uy never entertained thoughts of making a run for the championship, at the very least. With the players in front of her, most specifically the Taiwanese, in firm control, the young Filipina shotmaker seemed all too contented of barging into the Top 10 and bettering the country's finish of joint 16th when the Ladies Philippine Golf Tour staged its first tournament in Taiwan in 2018.

But Uy mounted one big surge midway through the final round of the 2019 Party Ladies Golfers Open, battling back from nine strokes down off Hsieh Yu Ling and threatening to within two with seven holes left at the National Golf Country Club.

That sparked hopes for the former Junior World titlist to essay one of the most incredible comebacks in both the TLPGA (LPGA of Taiwan) and LPGT.

She came up short, though, hobbling and stumbling when it mattered most – dropping a stroke the 12th then bogeying the par-5 13th to fall behind by four again. She settled for pars the rest of the way and ended up joint fourth with a 68 and a 212 in the \$100,000 event ruled by Hsieh.

She blamed her putting stroke for blowing what could've been a gem of a fightback and steal of a win.

"I struggled with my putting and missed a lot of four-footers," rued the sophomore pro, who tied for 45th here in 2018 but sizzled with a six-under card in a seven-hole stretch from No. 5 in this year's final round, spiking her stirring rally with a pitch-in eagle from 50 yards off a rescue shot from 200 yards on the par-5 No. 7.

1 Amateur Yeh Chia-Ju relishes her rare stint in a championship flight of a TLPGA/LPGT tournament **2** In the hunt with a 72 start, Pauline del Rosario fades with over-par rounds in the last two rounds **3** Rookie pro Chanelle Avaricio looks back to her joint 40th effort with hopes of bettering her performance the next time the Party Golfers comes around **4** Chang Ching-Ling powers her way to title contention with 69-71 rounds **5** Former LPGT leg winner Huang Ching bucks a sore leg to churn out a joint fourth place finish **6** Daniella Uy is all pumped-up after charging back from nine down to within two **7** Thai Chonlada Chayanun jumps from out of nowhere to joint fourth with a fiery closing 66 **8** Wu Hsiao-Ling's hand gesture says it all – a five-under opening card that shoved her past a slew of rivals and into the solo lead.

She actually stayed within three despite her last bogey as Hsieh, who groped with a frontside 37, bogeyed the 10th although unlike Uy, the TLPGA's No. 7 ranked player toughened and closed out with a birdie-bogey game in the last eight holes, her 74 proving enough to hold off compatriot Ching Ling Chang for a one-stroke victory.

Hsieh, 27, topped it with a total of 209, anchoring her title drive with a bogey-free 65 in the second round and pocketing the top purse of \$17,500 in ending a long seven-year title drought.

"Seven years. I thought I would've made it a little faster," said Hsieh. "You couldn't have imagined the self-doubt that constantly goes on in me that has made me suffer. But I have no choice but to stay strong and have hopes."

Chang shot a 70 for second at 210 while Chiu Ling Ti completed the locals' podium sweep with a 211 after a similar 70.

Pauline del Rosario, the first Filipina to win on the lucrative TLPGA with a victory in the TLPGA and Royal Open in Taiwan in 2017, took the cudgels for the Pinays with a 72 start but lost her momentum in the second day and tumbled down with a 74. She hardly recovered in the final round and ended up joint 29th at 219 after a 73.

Rookie pro Chanelle Avaricio also made a 73 and wound up tied at 40th at 221 while the two other Filipina bets – Cyna Rodriguez and Marvi Monsalve – bowed out after 36 holes.

Despite her late meltdown, Uy proved her worth as a future title contender. And after absentee Princess Superal's joint 16th place in LPGT's first international jaunt in 2018 and Uy's tied for fourth effort, things are looking up indeed for the Pinay bets when the next Party Golfer's holds another bash in Taiwan in 2020.

NATIONAL GOLF COUNTRY CLUB

Miaoli County, Taiwan



The National Golf Country Club is a great design with winding fairways stretched over a hilly course leaning towards the Taiwan Strait with three well-positioned lakes. Fairways are carpeted with Bermuda grass and its sleek, undulating putting surface are covered with champion turf, which is also being used in the US and European Tours. The main challenge, though, remain the brutal wind that could blow one's bid at any given time.

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PAGUNSAN

JUVIC PAGUNSAN

PGT ORDER OF MERIT
WINNER/PLAYER
OF THE YEAR

PRINCESS SUPERAL

BACK-TO-BACK LPGT
ORDER OF MERIT TITLIST

two of a kind

IN FOCUS



FORMER ASIA'S NO. 1 BACK ON PGT THRONE WITH RECORD ROMP

X X X X

GIVEN HIS talent, skills and experience, many would cringe just finding his name on the roster. Yet, some would take it as a challenge or use it as motivation. Still, others would rather flout it and stay focused.

And that's what separates Juvic Pagunsan from his peers.

Focus.

"I always give my 100 percent (even when I have a big lead). I take my game seriously that's why some, even my co-players, mistakenly find me snobbish and conceited. But that's really my style. When I'm on the course, my mindset is to stay focused because you develop bad habits if you don't," said Pagunsan.

In sports, a certain amount of conceit or arrogance is expected, perhaps even needed to intimidate or terrify the opposition. Noted hurlers Roger Clemens and Nolan Ryan would stare down their opposing batters in an attempt to put them off guard and NBA superstars LeBron James and Kevin Durant would sneer in the face of their rivals after each slam.

Golfers do it differently. Many would curse themselves on every bad shot, some would blame their caddies for a flubbed putt while others would toss their clubs after an errant hit.

Pagunsan has had his share of outbursts or has been caught in a bad mood while campaigning on the Philippine Golf Tour. In 2013, he abandoned a top-level tournament of the country's premier circuit without prior notice, forcing the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc. to suspend him for two-and-a-half years.

That was actually the second sanction in two years for the talented but temperamental shotmaker, who can be brilliant on the course but who observers say possesses a complex character that makes him ignore golf rules and ethics with impunity.

That included his refusal to pay a fine (suspension due to misconduct) and instead opted to give up his slot in a major tournament put up by his former benefactor and where he is a former three-time champion.

But as a 2011 Asian Tour Order of Merit winner, he gained a card in the lucrative Japan PGA Tour, which he made as base during his suspension that saw him post seven top 10 finishes, spiked by a runner-up finish in the Mizuno Open in 2014.

More importantly, the Japan stint only made Pagunsan a lot tougher, fiercer, which he put in full display when he finally mended fences with the PGTI and made his keenly awaited return to the local golfing scene in 2015.

He didn't disappoint.

Ranged against a crack international field, he outclassed them with his world-class shotmaking, rolling to an eight-stroke romp in the Aboitiz Invitational at Manila Southwoods that served as his first victory in the PGT after his sacking.

He resumed his campaign in Japan but made sure to play on the local circuit whenever he's available or while on a break.

That's what he did when he signed up for the second leg of the 2019 circuit in Bacolod where – again, he didn't disappoint, much more letting down his provincemates by winning by seven.

The short break extended to weeks – and then months and – to the chagrin perhaps of the other touring pros – it turned out to be a prolific, if profitable campaign as Pagunsan also ruled the next stop in his hometown in Negros Occidental, foiled Michael Bibat in sudden death in Iloilo then fashioned out another romp in severe conditions at Riviera.

In a two-month swing, he racked up four straight victories, a new Tour record that could

be hard to crack given the level playing field – provided he's not around, like when he skipped the Pueblo de Oro leg that produced a first-time winner in Reymon Jaraula.

He came back to vie at Del Monte but struggled in the second round, failed to mount a comeback in the last two days and wound up eighth. He didn't see action in the last two PGT events – at Apo and South Pacific, which Tony Lascaña swept. But Pagunsan had piled up enough winnings to secure his second Order of Merit crown after his 2011 feat.

"Juvic is one of the country's best players and he has proved this by

winning not only here but also abroad," said PGTI general manager Colo Ventosa. "I think the younger players aspire to play like him and hopefully compete like him abroad. He challenges the younger players to do better."

True to his nature, however, he again avoided the spotlight, begging off from the traditional PGT annual awards and sending instead a representative to receive his trophy.

But that was a given. For him, he would rather spend the time honing up at the range or polishing his stroke on the green to make sure he would stay on top of his game when the new season unwraps.

As what Rory McIlroy said after he received congratulatory messages following his rise

back to world No. 1 early March 2020: "There's a lot of work to be done and staying on top is the hardest thing."

Pagunsan hardly received heartfelt congratulations after claiming the OOM crown with his record performance, not just because he deemed it right to snub the PGT bash but because, as his wont, he isn't keen on hogging the limelight and would rather celebrate the latest of his many feats by his lonesome or with his family and a select number of friends.

What irks him most is when some would quote him with words he never issues.

That's why he would shun interviews, sneaking out of the clubhouse right after turning in his scorecard. For him, it's enough to do his talking on the course, issue his statement with his scores and produce victories to convey his thoughts.

What matters is he delivers and then back to staying focused for the next mission.

JUVIC

PAGUNSAN



X X X X

LITTLE GIRL WITH BIG DREAMS

X X X

FORMER US GIRLS' CHAMP TOUGHENING UP IN BUILT, LENGTH IN QUEST FOR GLORY

Princess Mary Superal may lack in size, but doesn't give up an inch in will and determination.

"I want to be remembered as a little girl with big dreams," said the 23-year-old Filipina, the first player to win the Order of Merit crown in the seven-year Ladies Professional Golf Tour (LPGT) in back-to-back fashion last year.

Superal, who stands five-foot-one, has been spending the off-season improving her length off the tee with the help of long-time coach Bong Lopez.

"I'm currently hitting it between 230 and 240 yards, we want it around 250-260," said Superal who is finding hard to compete against taller and stronger opponents.

Lopez, who has been Superal's coach since her amateur days, said his prized student has actually grown stronger through the years.

"When she was an amateur, her swing speed was 83 miles per hour. Now she consistently hits it at 93. We are trying to increase it to 96 and hopefully 98," Lopez said.

Lopez explained that Superal's "smash factor" suffers every time she tries to hit it faster.

"This is the reason why her 93-swing is longer than her 96-swing now because she hits it purely," he said. "She just has to hit 96 more often so she gets used to it."

Another thing that Superal has committed to do is weight training, according to Lopez.

"This is important so she can get her body stronger," Lopez said of his prized ward, who ruled the John Hay Invitational and produced a number of top 5 finishes to emerge the top player in the LPGT for the second straight time despite limited stints owing to her Step Up Tour commitment in Japan.

Although she works with Lopez regularly at Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite, Superal

trains mostly at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, which is just a three-minute drive from their house in Dasmariñas, Cavite. She plays four times a week aside from hitting balls on the range and lifting weights.

The former No. 1 amateur and US Girls' Junior champion drives a 2003 Toyota Revo which she bought in 2013.

If the car is unavailable, riding a tricycle suits Superal just fine.

"It's just near, so there's no problem," she said.

Her dream is to buy a brand new compact sports utility vehicle.

"Hopefully, I get to earn well enough to buy one," she said.

Last year was a breakthrough of sorts for Superal.

She qualified for the Step Up Tour, farm league of the Japan Ladies Professional Golfers Association (JLPGA).

Superal stayed in Japan from March to October and competed in 18 tournaments, including two legs of the JLPGA where she had mixed results.

She failed to make the cut in her first JLPGA appearance, but made it to the weekend in her second stint in Japan's elite tour.

Superal said she will try again to qualify for the premier circuit in 2020.

In the Step Up Tour, Superal made a good account of herself by making the cut in all but four of the 16 events she took part.

She placed sixth in her debut in Fukuoka Prefecture and had eight Top 20 finishes.



"I thoroughly enjoyed my first stint in Japan, especially the competition," Superal said.

Because they moved from one place to another, Superal said she could not stay in one place in Japan and travels light.

At the end of the season, Superal was 48th in the money list with 2.65 million yen (roughly P1.3 million), almost the same as what she collected in the local tour.

But the experience is beyond compare, according to her.

"We lived in hotels where we did all the laundry and usually ate in convenience stores," she said.

Superal said she only had one big luggage containing six shirts and five pants for competition and several shirts, pants and sweaters for everyday use.

Superal said she continues to receive financial support from ICTSI, which she uses to pay off travel and accommodation expenses.

To assist her during her stay in Japan, Superal said she hired a Japanese-American manager who also acts as her translator.

His name is Yoko Hovde, a friend of Chihiro Ikeda, a Fil-Japanese who also played for the national team, winning the SEA Games individual gold medal in Laos in 2009.

Superal last played competitively during the first week of December and is raring to test her new-found strength in the first LPGT tournament in 2020 – hopeful to drive it longer, bigger and make the most of his limited campaign on the local tour – and at the same time give her bid for a third straight OOM championship a big shot in the arm.



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ONE WONDERS how the country would've fared in the Philippine Golf Tour Asia's first foray overseas had Tony Lascuña been injury-free. The multi-titled shotmaker was all set to go to Taichung for the Daan TPGA (PGA of Taiwan) with fellow Davaoño Jay Bayron but withdrew at the last-minute due to hand injury.

Bayron, himself a veteran internationalist, was left to carry the cudgels for the Philippines but just couldn't deliver in tough, stormy conditions and against the leading players both of the TPGA and PGTA.

But in PGTA's second jaunt in Taiwan, Lascuña, 49, showed what he can do when in top shape. Still with Bayron, the former four-time PGT Order of Merit bucked the odds, including a number of Thai aces and a Taiwanese star, and a couple of mishits in the clutch to snare the Nan Pao TPGA Open diadem.

"Age has somewhat slowed me down but the desire to succeed, the will to win are still there," said Lascuña, whose victory actually snapped a two-year title spell for one of the country's winningest players.

That dogged determination is what separates Lascuña from his peers and inspires a slew of rising stars eager to learn and grow side-by-side with the region's emerging circuit.

"There are younger players now who are determined to do well," said Colo Ventosa, general manager of the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc., pointing to Ira Alido and Justin Quiban as among those likely to emerge as the next golf stars. "If they put their heart and soul into this, they

would be able to compete with the best in the region."

Though the locals (Jhonnell Ababa - Pradera Verde and Juvic Pagunsan - Riviera) ruled the last two legs of the second PGTA which spilled over to early 2019, the foreign aces dominated the first two legs of the third edition with Namchok Tantipokhakul winning the kickoff leg ICTSI Luisita Championship and fellow Thai Wisut Artjanawat stunning the Taiwanese with a stirring come-from-behind win in Daan TPGA.

In one of his rare PGTA stints, Japan PGA Tour campaigner Angelo Que reigned on a course he calls home, scoring a runaway five-stroke romp at ICTSI Manila Southwoods Championship before American Tarik Can nipped Thai Nirun Sae-Ueng in sudden death to claim the Aboitiz Invitational diadem.

After Lascuña's escape act in Taiwan, Australian Tim Stewart finally ended an 11-year title search by toppling reigning Philippine Open champ Clyde Mondilla, also in a playoff, at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Open at Luisita then Pagunsan snatched the ICTSI Summit Point World 18 Challenge in another sudden death finish over Lascuña.

Two spillover tournaments at Eagle Ridge in January 2020 that would've served as the final legs of PGTA Asia's third season were scrapped due to Taal volcano's eruption although the PGTA moved the other event to Pradera Verde where Mondilla hacked out a highly improbable win that saw him fight back from five down with 18 holes to go and edge four others in the

most crowded playoff cast in both the PGT and PGTA history.

All told, it was another action-packed, thrilling season for the circuit with majority of the outcomes settled in close fashions, including three via sudden deaths.

Ventosa said they are diligently working on putting up more co-sanctioned tournaments abroad in the fourth season while hoping the local players would be able to realize the importance of competing on a different level and place.

"Little by little, our players are learning that they cannot just compete with the locals but with international players as well," said Ventosa. "After Lascuña's win, other players are now motivated to play and compete abroad."

Though travel and accommodation hinder most of the Pinoy players to vie internationally, Ventosa said they should realize that golf is their livelihood, stressing the need for them to tackle and hurdle these obstacles for their own sake.

"It's easier said than done. But that's why the local tour (PGT) is also around for them to compete and earn and eventually be able to go and play on a higher level and outside of their comfort zones."

"Eventually, I believe they would realize the opportunity they are missing," she added.

Then it's no wonder if a number of Pinoys would give Lascuña and Bayron the needed company the next time a PGTA co-sanctioned tournament is held abroad.



JUVIC PAGUNSAN

TONY LASCUÑA

ANGELO QUE

CLYDE MONDILLA

NAMCHOK TANTIPOKHAKUL

TIM STEWART

WISUT ARTJANAWAT

TARIK CAN

2 PGA OF TAIWAN CO-SANCTIONED EVENTS HIGHLIGHT PGT ASIA'S 3RD SEASON

BREAKING GROUND

REDEMPTION

CLYDE ENDS SLIDE, GLIDES TO SOLAIRE PHL OPEN VICTORY

PRIZE MONEY \$500,000



After a slump, Clyde Mondilla is back not just as a winner but a Phl Open champion.



MONDILLA, CLYDE

R1 R2 R3 R4
71 75 69 75

TOTAL TO PAR EARNINGS
290 +2 \$90,000

2 **PAEZ, NICOLAS**
USA
\$55,000

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
74 75 73 70 292 +4

3 **QUE, ANGELO**
Philippines
\$28,250

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
77 74 71 73 295 +7

3 **SAE-UENG, NIRUN**
Thailand
\$28,250

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
73 73 74 75 295 +7

5 **POLTHAI, TAWIT**
Thailand
\$20,500

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
67 76 76 77 296 +8

'I'VE WON A NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS BUT THIS ONE IS THE MOST MEMORABLE, MEANINGFUL. I WILL NEVER FORGET IT'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SAKSANSIN, POOM	THA	74	75	74	74	297	+9	\$15,450
=	TANTIPOKHAKUL, NAMCHOK	THA	75	70	75	77	297	+9	\$15,450
8	UNSON, BRETT	USA	73	70	73	72	298	+10	\$12,250
9	SUDSOM, CHARNG-TAI	THA	71	79	76	73	299	+11	\$10,700
10	MEESAWAT, PROM	THA	74	74	80	72	300	+12	\$9,137

HE COULDN'T have picked a better stage to re-launch a once-promising career that somewhat went on a downswing following a dip in form, a spate of injuries and personal woes.

But by winning the Solaire Philippine Open, Asia's oldest championship, Clyde Mondilla is back on his way to another crack at golfing glory the way he did when he claimed the Philippine Golf Tour Order of Merit diadem in 2017 and emerged on top of the PGT Asia money ranking in 2018.

Staying on top of one's game, however, is every golfer's dilemma. Aside from taking care of business – that is, staying in tip-top shape 24/7, honing and toughening up day-in, day-out, one also has to watch those aiming for the spot reserved for the best and the brightest – and most consistent.

Mondilla, 26, had gone through a lot not only to get back into the groove but also in fierce form, so to speak. After becoming the youngest

player at 16 to win the Philippine National Amateur Championship, he needed two years before claiming his first pro win in the ICTSI Canlubang Golf Invitational in 2014.

He next triumphed in 2015 then picked up one victory after another, including four in 2017, spiked by one-stroke escape over three rivals in the Philippine Masters.

But he stayed out of the fairways and away from spotlight majority of the next season due to various reasons, including a car accident on his way home to Del Monte, struggled and went winless upon his return before rediscovering his touch and form to snare the PGT's season-ending event at Luisita.

Then came his Philippine Open victory he would relish and cherish for the rest of his life.

"I've won a number of tournaments but this one is the most memorable, meaningful. I will never forget it," said Mondilla, who finished with a

72-hole aggregate of two-over 290 at one of the country's toughest courses.

He also broke a two-year run of playoff finishes in the country's premier championship, producing two clutch shots to check an impending skid, salvage a three-over 75 and fend off American Nicolas Paez for the dream championship.

Stumbling with a four-over card after 13 holes that saw Paez strike back from seven down to within two, Mondilla birdied Nos. 14 and 15 to go four-up again and all but clinch the crown.

With Paez birdying the last hole for a 70 and moving within two again with a 292 with Mondilla still to complete the last two holes, it was all up for the Filipino ace to win it, send the battle to another sudden death or blow it all.

He parred the closing holes, including the treacherous par-4 18th that had stymied a lot of title bids in the past, as he joined the elite roster of

Open winners that included 17 other Pinoys, headed by 12-time champion Larry Montes, although four – Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales, Artemio Murakami and Elmer Salvador – all won in an all-Pinoy field.

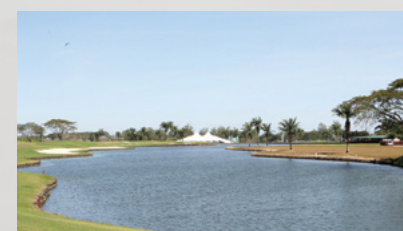
"When I saw Paez closing in on the leaderboard, I became wary but still confident," said Mondilla, who banked his biggest paycheck worth \$90,000 and became the third player from Del Monte to win the Asia's oldest National Open after six-time titlist Celestino Tugot and two-time winner Frankie Miñoza.

The triumph was also some sort of redemption for Mondilla, who needed to fight off personal woes and injuries that hampered his campaign in 2018. He also came off a missed cut stint in the ICTSI Riviera Challenge prior to the Phl Open.

But that early exit only served as an impetus for Mondilla to do better after finishing 56th here last year and back into a place reserved for great players.



1 Former champ Angelo Que makes one fierce but brief charge in the final round **2** Tough missed putts stymie Nicolas Paez's final round charge **3** One of the top favorites, Juvic Pagunsan fades with an uncharacteristic '11' on one hole in the third round **4** Some players, including Aussie Nathan Park, have the uncanny way of reading their line of putt **5-10** The tough The Country Club proves to be a calvary of sorts for Asian Tour campaigners Thais Prom Meesawat, Tawit Polthai and Nirun Sae-Ueng, Korean Kim Joo Hyung, Sam Gillis of the US and Korean-American Micah Shin.



THE COUNTRY CLUB

Sta. Rosa, Laguna

A Tom Weiskopf masterpiece, the par-72 The Country Club course tests not only the players' golfing skills but also their mental toughness. It is one tough, exacting course that always guarantees days of great theater of golf and a wild finish and whose sheer length and wind factor put stern options on shotmaking and precision – plus the ability to bounce back from disaster that has been a norm rather than a rule on a venue that has hosted top-notch championships, including the Philippine Open.

LUCKY BREAK

THAI CASHES IN TO FINISH OFF STUNNED FINN

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



TANTIPOKHAKUL, NAMCHOK

R1 R2 R3 R4
67 71 72 67

TOTAL TO PAR EARNINGS
277 -11 \$17,500

2 **PUTKONEN, TEEMU**
Finland
\$11,500

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
70 68 68 72 280 -10

3 **NAMUANGRUK, KAMMALAS**
Thailand
\$5,175

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
70 69 73 68 280 -8

3 **PASTOR, MARCOS**
Spain
\$5,175

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
75 70 65 70 280 -8

3 **SHIN, MICAH**
USA
\$5,175

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
74 69 67 70 280 -8

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	NED	72	65	72	71	280	-8	\$5,175
7	LASCUÑA, TONY	PHL	71	73	68	71	283	-5	\$2,850
=	NIYOMCHON, NATTHAPONG	THA	69	71	70	73	283	-5	\$2,850
9	LANE-WESTON, JACK	AUS	73	71	70	70	284	-4	\$2,175
=	SALAHOG, NILO	PHL	73	69	71	71	284	-4	\$2,175

Battling back from six strokes down in the final 18 holes against a stellar international field is one big feat for burly Thai Namchok Tantipokhakul.

1 A pedestrian opening 74 proves too much for Micah Shin to overcome and relive his breakthrough win in the CAT Open in 2016 2 Like Shin, Spain's Marcos Pastor comes up short in bucking a poor opening round 75 3 In the running in the first three days, Thai Tawit Polthai loses steam and sputters with a closing 73 4 Former Singapore amateur hotshot Choo Tze Huang sizes up his driver but fails to measure up with the crack field 5 Guido Van der Valk can't seem to figure out what went wrong after seizing control with a second round 65 6 So-so cards in the first two days dim David Gleeson's title-retention drive 7 In the lead after 54 holes, Finn Teemu Putkonen loses control on shaky putting 8 Bracing for a battle royale with Juvic Pagunsan, Thai Namchok Tantipokhakul hardly faced a challenge from the country's best bet.



NAMCHOK TANTIPOKHAKUL had a dream of a start in the ICTSI Luisita Championship.

The middle two rounds were mediocre at best, but it made the dream finish possible. Needing to overhaul a six-stroke deficit on the final day against a Finnish bet that was smoking hot in the first three rounds, the burly Thai shotmaker assembled a closing five-under 67 to win the year's first Philippine Golf Tour Asia event by a shot and affirm his status as one of the best players in the region.

"Finally, I made it. I'm very happy," said Tantipokhakul who has fallen short several times – counting a sixth place finish in the tougher Philippine Open just two weeks before at the demanding The Country Club

course down south – but finally hit paydirt worth a handsome \$17,500.

"I couldn't ask for more," added Tantipokhakul, who opened with a similar 67 but played the second and third rounds at a combined 143 while everyone else in the talented field was turning in low scores.

His victory punctuated the dominance of the foreign bets in the \$100,000 event as only two Filipinos – Tony Lascuña and Jay Bayron – wound up in the Top 16 with Justin Quiban and Arnold Villacencio checking in tied for 17th spot.

Teemu Putkonen of Finland held a three-shot lead over Philippine resident Guido Van Der Valk of The Netherlands after 54 holes following efforts of 70, 68 and 68.

But the long-hitting Finn

flinched when he couldn't afford to, matching par on a day when 10 players, who finished in the first 16 spots, submitted sub-par scores, as he lost by a stroke. He also failed to forge a playoff with a bungled putt from close range on the 72nd hole.

Van Der Valk, a buddy to former Philippine Open champ and national coach Rick Gibson of Canada, shot a final round 71 to finish at 280, tied with three others who included Micah Shin, in checking in three shots behind at 280.

Shin, an American-Korean who learned the game at the dreaded Apo Golf Course in Davao, started out on a limp, his opening 74 doing him in as not even the strength of 69, 67 and 70 in the last three rounds could help him pull this one off.

"I tried very hard, obviously," a

dejected Putkonen said of his closing effort. "My effort just wasn't enough."

Putkonen had a one-shot lead going into the picturesque 17th hole of the Robert Trent Jones, Sr.-created gem in Tarlac – a long par-3 whose wide green is guarded by a large lagoon in front – only to lose it with an uncharacteristic bogey.

He knew pretty well that he just fell into a tie with the Thai after that, but still couldn't set himself up for a playoff with a bogey on the par-4 18th with an unlikely three-putt miscue that had nerves playing a large part.

"That's golf," Putkonen said. "I saw him (Tantipokhakul) leading by one as I headed to the 18th. The breaks just went against me in the end."

And luck smiled at Tantipokhakul.



LUISITA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Tarlac City, Tarlac

The Luisita Golf and Country Club in Tarlac has prided itself as a regular venue of both the Philippine Golf Tour and PGT Asia for the tests and the challenges it offers – from its tight fairways, well-placed water hazards in all but seven holes and the wind that come into play in most holes and at any given day. Hands down, the well-kept par-72 layout, the only golf course designed by the renowned Robert Trent Jones Sr. in the country, is one of the toughest courses in the land.

WORK OF ART

THAI VET DOES THE UNTHINKABLE TO STUN TAIWANESE

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



Wisut Artjanawat ends a long title drought in Taiwan in improbable fashion.



ARTJANAWAT, WISUT

R1 R2 R3 R4
69 71 67 67

TOTAL TO PAR EARNINGS
274 -14 \$17,500

2 **SUNG MAO CHANG**
Taiwan
\$11,500

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
69 66 66 75 276 -12

3 **HUNG CHIEN YAO**
Taiwan
\$7,000

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
68 71 67 71 277 -11

4 **DONLAPATCHAI NIYOMCHON**
Thailand
\$5,600

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
70 71 68 69 278 -10

5 **WANG TSUNG CHIEH**
Taiwan
\$4,050

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
66 72 72 69 279 -9

'I DIDN'T EXPECT TO WIN. SIX SHOTS WERE TOO BIG A DEFICIT TO OVERCOME'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
=	SAE UENG NIRUN	THA	70	68	72	69	279	-9	\$4,050
7	TANTIPOKHAKUL, NAMCHOK	THA	69	72	71	68	280	-8	\$2,666
=	POLTHAI TAWIT	THA	67	70	71	72	280	-8	\$2,666
=	HUANG CHI	TWN	68	71	71	70	280	-8	\$2,666
10	LIN WENKE	TWN	72	73	68	68	281	-7	\$1,812

A WIN in any tournament can certainly boost one's confidence.

And it becomes even more memorable if it is fashioned out in a come-from-behind manner against a stellar international field.

Take the case of Thailand's Wisut Artjanawat, who fought back from six strokes down to top the Daan TPGA Open at the CCK Golf Club in Taichung, Taiwan.

"I didn't expect to win. Six shots were too big a deficit to overcome," said Artjanawat, whose stirring victory worked wonders for the 33-year-old's morale, which considerably flagged after a five-year title drought.

"It's a big confidence boost," said Artjanawat, who placed 22nd in last year's PGT Asia Order of Merit and groped for joint 29th in PGTA first leg at Luisita.

"Now I feel I can fight on the top level against the best in the region," added the former Thailand national team member.

The aforementioned dry spell is part of the reason why Artjanawat decided to make it as a regular in the region's emerging circuit and the PGTA's first overseas foray proved to be what the doctor ordered for the Thai.

Ditto for the PGTA as five of its mainstays wound up in the top 10. Not bad at all, considering it only fielded 65 golfers against 79 of the leading TPGA (PGA of Taiwan) campaigners.

Artjanawat also became the first foreigner to win in the 85-year history of the TPGA at the quaint military layout affiliated to Taiwan's Air Force.

Not in such mood to celebrate is Taiwanese Sung Mao-Chang,

who was deemed as the likely winner, a tag he bolstered by storming to a five-stroke lead going to the final 18 holes.

"I'll just play relaxed and in tempo and won't think too much (in the final round)," said Sung, a two-time winner in the Taiwanese circuit and No. 4 in the TPGA Order of Merit, after firing a second 66 for a 15-under aggregate after 54 holes.

Apparently, the 41-year-old did as he floundered right on the front nine where he scored a 39. He still held a three-stroke lead, but got swallowed up like the rest by Artjanawat's blistering windup. Sung could do no better than a 36 that gave him a 276 total.

After a frontside 36, Artjanawat's game gathered full steam as he scorched the backside with a 31, sparked by a 10-foot birdie on No. 10 and spiked by three straight birdies from No. 12 that gave him a two-shot cushion.

With Sung's challenge gone and no other clear pursuer in sight, Artjanawat secured the victory with another birdie on the 16th to churn out another five-under 67 and a 14-under 274 total.

The lone Filipino entry, Jay Bayron, ended up tied at 27th at 286 but relished the lessons he learned.

"It was a good experience," said Bayron. "I just hope more Filipinos would compete overseas in the future. Playing against a different set of rivals on unfamiliar courses will only make us better."

Artjanawat could rightfully claim: "Been there, done that."



1 As Sung Mao-Chang wavers, Hung Chien Yao takes charge in the stretch but reeled back with an errant shot into the trees 2 The challenge proves too much for lone Pinoy entry Jay Bayron to overcome in PGT Asia's first sortie abroad 3 Thai Namchok Tantipokhukul fails to barge his way into contention the way he did en route to winning the PGT Asia Luisita leg 4 Regular PGT Asia campaigner Spain's Marcos Pastor's struggles extend to Taiwan 5 After storming in front by five in the third round, Chang stumbles with a couple of bunker visits in the early going of the final round and never recovered 6 Wang Tsung Chieh and Tseng Tzu-Hao suddenly turn cold after hot starts in wet conditions.



CHING CHUAN KANG GOLF COURSE
Taichung City, Taiwan

A distinguished layout affiliated with Taiwan's Air Force, the Ching Chuan Kang Golf Course boasts of history spanning about half a century with the big pine trees adding challenge to the physical and mental game. Its elevated greens require sound chipping or pitching techniques with the noise of civil and military planes taking off or landing likewise testing each player's concentration and patience.

NO GRACIOUS HOST

AFFABLE QUE CRUSHES INT'L FIELD AT HOME

PRIZE MONEY \$100,000



With three 65s on a course he's too familiar with, there was no stopping Angelo Que from literally walking his way to victory.



QUE, ANGELO

R1	R2	R3	R4
65	67	65	65

TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
262	-22	\$17,500

2 **STEWART, TIM**
Australia
\$11,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
63	70	67	67	267	-17

3 **QUIBAN, JUSTIN**
Philippines
\$7,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
65	69	65	69	268	-16

4 **MONDILLA, CLYDE**
Philippines
\$5,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
66	68	69	66	269	-15

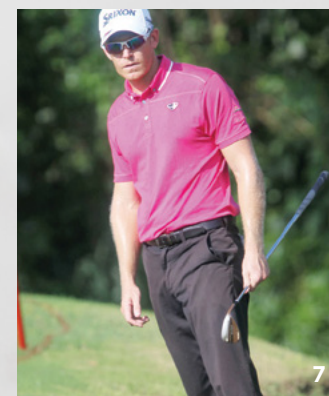
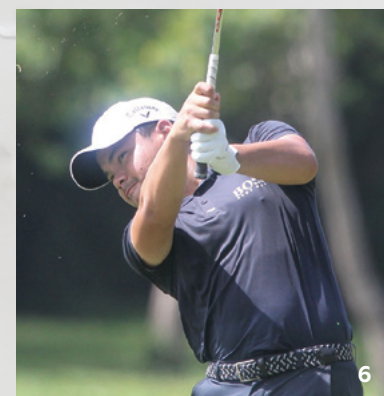
4 **HICKMAN, CHRISTOPHER**
USA
\$5,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
65	66	68	70	269	-15

'THEY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF BIRDIES IN SUCCESSION TO CATCH UP. BUT NO ONE DID'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	KEONINH, LEXUS	USA	65	71	69	65	270	-14	\$3,700
7	TABUENA, MIGUEL	PHL	68	72	66	65	271	-13	\$3,100
8	ARTJANAWAT, WISUT	THA	72	68	68	65	273	-11	\$2,316
=	KOORATAPISAN, SUTIJET	THA	70	66	70	67	273	-11	\$2,316
=	GIALON, ZANIEBOY	PHL	68	73	64	68	273	-11	\$2,316



1 Despite a tournament-leading opening 63 and a run of under par scores, Aussie Tim Stewart still fails to blast his way to PGTA fame **2** Justin Quiban can't seem to believe that even with a pair of 65s and 69s, he still fell short by six **3** Lefty Chris Hickman struggles to find the right shots to fuel his rare PGTA campaign **4** Four under-par rounds must've given Clyde Mondilla false hopes to his title drive **5** In the thick of things after 36 holes, Rufino Bayron shot himself in the foot with a 72-73 finish **6** A second round stumble keeps Miguel Tabuena from wedging himself into contention **7** American Brett Munson bows out early with an ill-fated opening 75.

Angelo Que has always called Manila Southwoods home.

And how homey he must have felt that one week in July last year.

In a printed red shirt and bright yellow trousers – screaming colors that have been his sartorial trademark on the tour the past few years – the long-hitter known as the “Human Highlighter” on the other regional circuit obliterated the field in the ICTSI Manila Southwoods Championship with great shotmaking and scoring to announce his return as champion.

Que took control with a third round 65 at the Legends course that was at his mercy, and then closed out with his third six-under par of the week to tally a 22-under 262 total that destroyed a stellar field that included the region's best and the country's finest, counting Miguel Tabuena and Juvic Pagunsan.

It was a great week of scoring for the jolly Que, who represented the club as an amateur in many team events and won national championships playing out of the Carmona, Cavite complex.

Australia's Tim Stewart gave chase in the final two days but never got close as Que played the final three rounds at an eye-popping 16-under, just one stroke off what Stewart had churned out in four days.

Que started the final day with a three-shot lead, bogeyed the easy opening hole that practically made the field think that they still had a chance.

They were wrong.

Que closed out his front nine with five straight birdies for a 31, sitting on a four-stroke lead at the turn for home.

And he knew from there that there wasn't anyone who was going to catch up.

“They would have to make a lot of birdies in succession to catch up,” Que, a former Philippine Open champion and Japan Tour regular, said. “But no one did. After I led by four after 10 holes, I knew I was already in control.”

Christopher Hickman of the US, who was in the final group with Que, was one of those who had a chance on the final day. But he couldn't play up to expectations.

Hickman was hitting the ball well, but wrestled with a balky putter in the final two rounds, especially on the final day as he closed out with a lukewarm 70 to finish tied for fourth with Clyde Mondilla.

“I hit the ball great but missed some putts,” Hickman said as Mondilla, another former Phl Open champion in the field, caught up with him after a 66. “There are some days that you putt well and some days that you don't. Angelo was such a great player.”

It was a tournament that had all the trimmings of a fiery finish as Tabuena and Pagunsan were on the roster and labeled as co-favorites with Que because of their familiarity with the Jack Nicklaus-created layout south of Manila.

Tabuena, the Rio de Janeiro Olympian, was slowed down by a second round 72 and finished nine strokes off Que, while Pagunsan, despite a 63 on the second day, played the final two days at a combined two-under and wound up 11 shots adrift.

There were several Filipinos who crowded the Top 20, but it was clear that when Que is on his game, he will be a tough man to beat.

Most especially if he's at home.



THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (LEGENDS)
Carmona, Cavite

Shorter than the Masters, the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods is long in challenge with high mounds dominating the par-72 layout, its bunkers designed mainly on the left side of the fairways and water hazards on the right side and whose sleek putting surface could make or break one's title bid.

CAN DOES IT BETTER

AMERICAN PROVES STEADIER IN PLAYOFF, RECORDS MAIDEN WIN

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



CAN, TARIK

R1	R2	R3	R4
72	71	76	73

TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
292	+4 (Playoff)	\$17,500

2 **SAE-UENG, NIRUN**
Thailand
\$11,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	73	74	73	292	+4

3 **LERTVILAI, PASAVEE**
Thailand
\$6,300

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	74	76	71	293	+5

3 **LASCUNA, TONY**
Philippines
\$6,300

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	75	72	73	293	+5

5 **ALIDO, IRA**
Philippines
\$4,400

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	72	73	77	294	+6

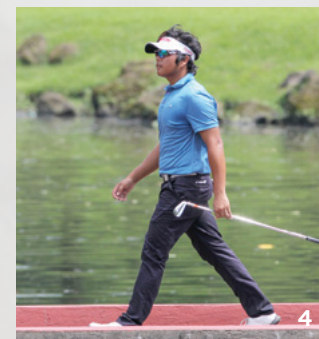
'I CAN'T BELIEVE I WON WITH A 4-OVER TOTAL. THIS IS MY FIRST WIN IN ASIA AND THIS WILL DEFINITELY BE MEMORABLE'



Tarik Can's caddie (inset) accentuates his player's all-important putt that netted the former not just a par-save but also a first championship to the disappointment of Thai Nirun Sae-ueng and Filipino Ira Alido.

RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SALAH, JOSHUA	USA	76	75	74	70	295	+7	\$3,400
=	NAMUANGRUK, KAMMALAS	THA	72	72	77	74	295	+7	\$3,400
8	ZARAGOSA, RUPERT	PHL	77	75	77	67	296	+8	\$2,316
=	STEWART, TIM	AUS	73	73	77	73	296	+8	\$2,316
=	JAHS, KEANU	PHL	73	76	72	75	296	+8	\$2,316

1 Pressure's too much for Thai Nirun Sae-Ueng to overcome in the stretch 2 Ranged against a slew of fancied bets, obscure Rico Depilo held his ground with a pair of 72s but flinched when the going got tough, limping with 76-83 to end up at 26th 3 So demanding is the fabled Wack Wack East that a slight mistake could stymie one's title drive as what befell Charles Hong, Thai Donlapachai Niyomchon and Michael Bibat, among others 4 The road to first victory seems to be a long one for young but talented Ira Alido 5 With a clear shot at the crown in joint lead after 36 holes, Reymon Jaraula's title dreams blurred in the menacing bunkers of WW East in the last two rounds 6 A muffed putt in a tight, fierce contest on a tough course could be so frustrating even for multi-titled players like Tony Lascaña 7 It isn't the best finish for a shot but Josh Salah still closes out with a 70 to salvage joint sixth.



BREAKTHROUGH WINS, some say, are the hardest ones to complete.

And Tarik Can will never forget his.

The amiable American won his first tournament in Asia by gutting it out in the first hole of sudden death over Thailand's Nirun Sae-Ueng over a course that is as fabled as anywhere in the region and with a scoring total that even he couldn't believe.

"I can't believe I won with a four-over-par total," the bearded shotmaker said after ruling the ICTSI Aboitiz Invitational of the Philippine Golf Tour Asia over the beast known as Wack Wack East right in the heart of busy Mandaluyong City.

After four demanding tests of golf over the tight, tree-lined layout which was home to the Philippine Open for decades, Can and Nirun wound up tied

with 292 totals after closing out with identical one-over 73s.

Can drained a par-saving putt from about 10 feet on their second trip to the majestic yet tough-as-nails 18th hole before watching his Thai opponent miss from a tad shorter distance that sealed his win.

"I managed to get it up and down from behind the green. This is my first win in Asia and this will definitely be memorable," he said after accepting the handsome trophy and check with \$17,500 out of the total kitty of \$100,000 (roughly P5.1 million).

The event was the highest-scoring leg on the PGT Asia the entire season as what usually happens when the age-old layout hosts as tournament in any tour's calendar.

Tony Lascaña finished a stroke out of the playoff also after a 73 in a tie with Thai Pasavee

Lertvilai (71) as only five players in the 52-strong field that answered the final round horn was able to break par. There were three who scored 72s and the rest turned in over-par scores as the fabled layout bared its teeth yet again and sent the talented field to its knees.

If there was any consolation for the large Philippine contingent, it was having five players finish in the Top 10 with young Ira Alido winding up at fifth with a 294 tally after blowing his title bid with a final day 77.

Rupert Zaragosa, the many-time national champion still shooting for his first win as a pro, fired a tournament-best 67 to climb into a tie for eighth spot at 296 with Jhonnell Ababa, who shot a 74 and Keanu Jahns, who closed out with a 75 and two others.

The East layout, which has just two par-3s and the same number of par-5s despite playing to a par

of 72, was unforgiving all week.

No player cracked par in the opening round and Can put himself in the mix early by tying for the lead with a level card along with nine others, including Alido.

Can remained tied for the pace after 36 holes, shooting a 71 to keep Del Monte's Reymon Jaraula's company even as Alido stood a stroke behind after a second straight 72.

Alido then returned a 73 to take a two-shot lead into the final day, only to falter when it mattered with that five-over card as he missed a great chance to write a great memory for himself and allowed Can the chance to write his own story of triumph.

No matter how bad he scored, because at the end of the day, he was the one who finished on top.



WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (EAST COURSE)

Mandaluyong City

Home to the Philippine Open, Wack Wack's East course remains one of the country's toughest courses with its rolling and elevated greens, including its signature par-3 No. 8. The well-placed water hazards and long, tight fairways plus the wind factor make it such a good venue for elite championships.

SHOWING 'EM HOW

LASCUNA DEFIES FATHER TIME, YOUNG FOES

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



Facing the specter of a playoff with a local favorite, Tony Lascuña pulls off two brilliant shots in the clutch, the last drawing a 9-iron shot from under a tree to save par on the 72nd hole and snare a one-stroke triumph over Liu Yu-Jui.



LASCUÑA, TONY

R1 R2 R3 R4
69 64 68 70

TOTAL TO PAR EARNINGS
271 -17 \$17,500

2 **LIU, YU-JUI**
Taiwan
\$11,500

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
67 66 71 68 272 -16

3 **SATTAYA, SUPUPRAMAI**
Thailand
\$5,666

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
67 69 68 69 273 -15

3 **HSIEH, TUNG-HUNG**
Taiwan
\$5,666

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
67 70 71 65 273 -15

3 **JANTAVARA, RATCHAPOL**
Thailand
\$5,666

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
70 68 65 70 273 -15

'THIS VICTORY PROVED THAT FILIPINOS CAN BE AT PAR WITH OR EVEN BETTER THAN OUR COUNTERPARTS IN THE REGION'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	SUNG, MAO-CHANG	TWN	67	71	68	68	274	-14	\$3,400
=	HO, YU CHENG	TWN	68	69	72	65	274	-14	\$3,400
8	LIEN, LU-SEN	TWN	69	67	71	68	275	-13	\$2,316
=	WANG, JEN L	TWN	67	68	71	69	275	-13	\$2,316
=	BENJAMIN, LEIN	USA	65	69	75	66	275	-13	\$2,316

AT 49 years old, Tony Lascuña not only has to contend with Father Time but also with golf's young guns.

But by ruling the Nan Pao TPGA (PGA of Taiwan) Open in Tainan City, he ably showed that he can still hold his own against both.

True, the amiable Davaoño shotmaker finished with a form that was far from the one he displayed in the second round of the \$100,000 event of the Philippine Golf Tour Asia and the TPGA.

But Lascuña's closest rivals could do little better and he did take care of his own part of the bargain to become the first Filipino to win a PGT Asia event abroad.

"This victory proved that Filipinos can be at par with or even better than our counterparts in the region and winning a PGT Asia event abroad is doubly meaningful since I'm the first Pinoy to do so," said the multi-titled shotmaker.

It also marked the first time he nailed a win since topping the ICTSI Forest Hills Championship in 2017. It was also his second victory overseas after edging Singapore's Mardan Mamat in sudden death in the Sabah Masters in 2013.

"It's been a long time and what makes this win a lot sweeter is that I made it here in Taiwan," said Lascuña. "But coming here, I was really confident of my form and my chances."

That determination was severely tested in a title chase that was up for grabs until the final putt and Lascuña himself left the door wide open for his closest pursuers with two hooked drives on the last two holes.

Each time, however, Lascuña's poise came to the fore and he ended up with a closing 70 for a 17-under 271 total and a one-shot win worth \$17,500.

"I was actually steady off the tee since Day One but that's golf and the pressure that goes with it," said Lascuña. "But I told myself to just stay focused and I knew I could salvage pars in the last two holes."

Local bet Liu Yu-Jui and Thailand's Ratchapol Jantavara and Sattaya Supupramai each had their chances, but the Pinoy ace simply foiled them all with a couple of spectacular shots that left his rivals and the gallery in awe.

Lascuña recovered from that errant tee shot on the 17th with a perfect lob shot from 45 yards for a tap-in par. On the 18th, he drew a 9-iron shot from 120 yards that rolled from the front of the green to the right edge for a routine two-putt par.

Making the victory even sweeter is the fact it was hardly expected from Lascuña, who withdrew at the last minute from the first PGT Asia tournament in Taichung due to a hand injury.

Many, however, noted that the dusky ace is slowly regaining the form that carried him to four PGT Order of Merit titles and is just coming off a number of top three finishes in the local circuit.

"For as long my irons, wedge and putting work, I see no problem. Though I give away some 40-50 yards off the tee to the younger, power hitters, I make up for this with my solid wedge shots," he added.

Young golfers, take real heed for that's experience talking.



1 Local favorite Liu Yu-Jui keeps exploding with big shots and pressing his bid till the end but comes up short against a determined Lascuña 2 Lee Cho Chuan provides not just a tough challenge for Lascuña but also color with his hairstyle and golfing attire 3 Back-to-back closing bogeys, including a bunker visit on the 18th, stymie Thai Ratchapol Jantavara's title aspirations while paving the way for Lascuña's stirring triumph 4 In command after 18 holes, the power-hitting Taiwanese-American Lein Benjamin wobbles with his iron game in the next two rounds but recovers with a closing 66 to salvage joint eighth 5 Taiwanese Lin Yung Lung gets into the early mix but loses sight of the lead with a mediocre 73 in the second round 6 Legend TC Chen flashes vintage form in the first two rounds but fades in the last 36 holes 7 A final hole mishap drops Thai Sattaya Supupramai from playoff contention.



NAN PAO GOLF CLUB

Tainan City, Taiwan

The 27-hole Nan Pao Golf Country Club is a great treat both of play and view with each of the three sections featuring streams offset by mahogany, camphor and hoop pine trees. It also features island-green par-3s with the par-5, 608-yard No. 1 (of Section B) as its signature hole where one is forced to carry over a pond 60-yard in width in front of the tee, another pond 50-yard in width lies on the fairway about 280 yards off the mound ready to catch errant shots and two menacing bunkers guarding the green.

THE HARD WAY

AUSSIE WOBBLER,
RECOVERS TO LOG
BREAKTHROUGH WIN

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000



A playoff win quenches Aussie Tim Stewart's thirst for a career breakthrough.



STEWART, TIM

R1	R2	R3	R4
67	67	67	72

TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
273	-15 (Playoff)	\$17,500

2 **MONDILLA, CLYDE**
Philippines
\$11,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	70	70	66	273	-15

3 **VAN DER VALK, GUIDO**
Netherlands
\$7,000

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	68	68	71	276	-12

4 **CONCEPCION, FIDEL**
Philippines
\$5,600

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
69	72	67	69	277	-11

5 **BOUAHOM, BEBE**
Laos
\$4,400

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	75	67	67	279	-9

'GOLF IS UNPREDICTABLE. MANY WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN ALONG THE WAY'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	BAYRON, RUFINO	PHL	69	70	71	71	281	-7	\$3,400
=	KEONINH, LEXUS	USA	69	65	75	72	281	-7	\$3,400
8	QUIBAN, JUSTIN	PHL	70	72	71	69	282	-6	\$2,450
=	ZARAGOSA, RUPERT	PHL	69	70	70	73	282	-6	\$2,450
10	GLEESON, DAVID	AUS	71	74	70	68	283	-5	\$1,900

IT WASN'T a kind of finish that would even make one a title contender, much more merit a championship.

But Tim Stewart did the unthinkable, closing out with a bogey-double-bogey finish and still clutching the coveted ICTSI Central Azucarera de Tarlac Open trophy.

And it's no ordinary feat for the Sydney-born shotmaker, who has had major success as an amateur. In fact, it was his first in a pro career spanning 11 years, a campaign played mainly in Asia while vying one season on the European and European Challenge Tours and another year on the PGA Tour China Series plus some tournaments on the Australasian Tour.

"Finally, I made it," said Stewart, visibly relieved after surviving Clyde Mondilla in sudden death and saving himself from

ignominy. "This is sweet. I couldn't ask for more."

There was nothing more to ask for, indeed. And he also had Mondilla to thank for after the Filipino ace came up short in his own comeback bid.

But the playoff finish wouldn't have been possible if not for Stewart's own undoing as the Aussie, who played more than 50 tournaments around the globe and 26 here in the county, blew a huge three-stroke lead with two holes to go with that horrible finish for a 72, enabling Mondilla to force a playoff at 273 after the latter fired an eagle-spiked 66.

But in a sudden twist of fate, Stewart still came out the victor with a routine par in their return trip to the par-4 18th and Mondilla the vanquished after barely hitting the green and flubbing a par putt from

five feet that would've extended the match.

But it proved to be a fitting ending to a week of uncertainties despite Stewart threatening to blow the field away with three straight 67s to post a huge four-stroke lead over Dutch Guido Van der Valk after 54 holes.

"Golf is unpredictable. Many weird things happen along the way," said Stewart, who won an invitational title with the amateurs in 2015.

Stewart's 15-under total also bettered the previous best of 14-under output put up by James Ryan Lam in ruling the event in 2018 with the victory, worth \$17,500, also erasing the stigma of a number of failed bids, including a pair of near-misses in the Luisita Championship of the PGT where he lost by two to Mondilla in 2018, and in PGT Asia Manila

Southwoods in 2019 where he was beaten by Angelo Que by five.

Surprised more than inspired by Stewart's late meltdown, Mondilla failed to complete what could've been one of the most incredible comebacks in the region's booming circuit, overshooting the target in the playoff with his 8-iron approach shot from 120 yards that landed on the right edge of the green.

"I bumped it to within five feet but missed it. It's (title) really for him (Stewart)," said Mondilla.

Despite his foldup in regulation, Stewart picked himself up in the playoff, blasting his 50-degree wedge from 112 yards to within eight feet. Though he missed the birdie chance, he clinched the win just the same as Mondilla wobbled in the end.

And that's what matters in big-time championships.



1 Blasting his way back from nine strokes down, Clyde Mondilla still comes up short in the playoff **2** Another strong start, another faltering finish for young but talented Ira Alido **3** Forcing the issue from a bad lie, Tim Stewart's bold move paid off in the end **4** A 69 start gets Micah Shin going on a course where nailed his first victory in 2016 **5** Coming off a record feat in Taiwan, Tony Lascaña rues an abrupt change in form, turning from awesome to awful with a joint 31st place finish **6** Like Rufino Bayron, anybody could go berserk after settling for joint sixth despite going under-par in all four days **7** One wayward shot at Luisita could ruin one's title bid like that of Richard Sinfuego **8** It's just a matter of time before the diminutive father-son tandem of Boyet and Rupert Zaragosa could overcome tall odds and pull off a king-size upset over the revered PGT Asia field.



LUISITA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Tarlac City, Tarlac

Long regarded as one of the finest 18-hole, par-72 championships courses in the country, the Luisita Golf and Country Club has been home to the President's Cup, one of the country's four Majors in the 90s. Situated on a 70-hectare area bounded on the east by a sugar central, it is the only golf course in the country designed by the renowned Robert Trent Jones Sr. The front nine is built mostly on an open but rolling ground while the backside is shaped by meandering creek.

REACHING THE SUMMIT

PAGUNSAN CAPS STERLING SEASON WITH PLAYOFF WIN

PRIZE MONEY
\$100,000

PJ Pagunsan may be pulling his dad Juvic's leg not for something that isn't true.



PAGUNSAN, JUVIC

R1	R2	R3	R4
71	64	64	71

TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
270	-18 (Playoff)	\$17,500

2 **LASCUÑA, TONY**
Philippines
\$11,500

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	67	64	69	270	-18

3 **LANE-WESTON, JACK**
Australia
\$6,300

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	72	66	66	271	-17

3 **MONDILLA, CLYDE**
Philippines
\$6,300

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
67	71	66	67	271	-17

5 **ABABA, JHONNEL**
Philippines
\$4,400

R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR
70	65	67	70	272	-16

'I'M VERY HAPPY WITH THIS WIN EVEN IF I HAD TO GO THROUGH 2 EXTRA HOLES'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	MUNSON, BRETT	USA	68	64	73	68	273	-15	\$3,700
7	CHUENBOONNGAM, CHONLATI	THA	68	73	66	69	276	-12	\$2,850
=	GILLIS, SAM	USA	68	70	68	70	276	-12	\$2,850
9	SUDO, KEITA	JPN	72	70	68	67	277	-13	\$2,300
10	TANTIPOKHAKUL, NAMCHOK	THA	71	70	72	65	278	-10	\$1,812

1 In the hunt after 36 holes, Englishman George Twyman comes tumbling down with a third round 73 2 Solid iron play keeps Clyde Mondilla in the mix 3 Even if he appears to be so, giving up is far from Jack Lane-Weston's mind as the Aussie closed out with back-to-back 66s to salvage joint third with Mondilla 4 Awesome with a course-record setting 64 in the first round, Micah Shin struggles (74) in the second day and fails to recover big 5 Tony Lascaña reacts after watching his putt disappear to force a playoff, only to come up short in sudden death 6 American Brett Munson tries to figure out what went wrong with his wedge and his huge halfway lead 7 Despite a run of under-par scores, Jhonnell Ababa falls short of wielding another magical run on PGT Asia where he has won four.



WHAT HAPPENS when you put together two of the best Filipino players of this generation in the final round of a tournament with big money on the line?

A slam-bang finish no less.

That was what fans were fortunate to witness on a riveting final day of the ICTSI Summit Point World 18 Challenge when Juvic Pagunsan and Tony Lascaña figured in a shootout for a Philippine Golf Tour Asia title that needed more than 72 holes to decide.

No one, of course, was surprised to see the two go mano-a-mano at the end of a memorable tournament. They're not only two of the most accomplished Filipino golfers the past decade, but also both were enjoying resurgence in form.

Pagunsan, a one-time winner of the Asian Tour Order of Merit, went on a historic run that saw him top the Bacolod, Negros, Iloilo and Riviera legs of the PGT in one hot stretch in June

and August while Lascaña has won thrice both on the PGT and PGTA.

There was no sign of an impending shootout after Round One at Summit Point, which saw Korean-American Micah Shin torch the course with a record 64 that beat the old mark by one stroke and gave him a one-shot lead over Thai Donlaphatchai Niyomchon.

Lascaña opened with a pedestrian 70. Pagunsan did even worse with a 71. But the cream always rises to the top, right? And so it was with Pagunsan, who matched Shin's eight-under par to move back into title contention.

While Shin fell as quickly as he rose after a second-day 74, American Brett Munson posted his own 64 to open a three-shot lead at 12-under 132 over Jhonnell Ababa (65) and Pagunsan at 135 and four ahead of Lascaña (67).

But Pagunsan sustained his momentum in Day Three, kept firing at pins and was rewarded with another 64 for a two-stroke

lead over Lascaña, who fired his own 64 with Ababa carding a 67 to complete an all-Filipino final threesome.

However, Ababa, the winningest in the young history of the PGTA with four victories, became a mere afterthought as Pagunsan and Lascaña went back and forth in a grinding duel that looked over as the former held a two-shot lead with three holes left to play.

But even the best makes mistakes, and Pagunsan was no exception. The 41-year old Japan PGA Tour mainstay bogeyed Nos. 16 and 17 to keep the door open for Lascaña, who almost stole the tournament from under Pagunsan's nose when his 20-foot birdie putt on the par-5 ninth – their final hole of the day – just grazed the cup.

The two ended up tied at 270 after a closing 71 from Pagunsan and a 69 from Lascaña, who, however, ended up regretting blowing his big chance to win the tournament in regulation. After the two birdied the first playoff hole from gimme distance, Pagunsan took charge

by splitting the fairway in their third trip down the par-5 ninth while Lascaña pulled his drive into the left rough.

From there, Pagunsan hit a 6-iron approach to the front of the green, coaxed a 52-degree wedge to within four feet of the cup. After Lascaña missed his birdie try from 30 feet out, Pagunsan calmly made his then raised both arms in the air in triumph.

"I'm very happy with this win even if I had to go through two extra holes," said Pagunsan of his escape act that capped a remarkable season that saw the smooth-swinging Asia's former No. 1 set a record of four wins-in-row in the PGT and claim the Order of Merit title.

The win, worth \$17,500, capped a big year locally for the former national amateur champion, who won four times on the local tour and twice in PGT Asia – the first one came in the Riviera leg in March – six victories in nine tournaments while on a break from Japan PGA. Not bad, right?



SUMMIT POINT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Lipa City, Batangas

The Summit Point stands out from among the country's championship courses, if only for being the only venue that features strategic elements inspired by 18 of the world's famous golf holes, including No. 12 of Augusta National, and No. 10 of Winged Foot. Robert Trent Jones Jr. made sure that even with the variety of styles, the routing flows smoothly from one hole to the next, thus making the par-72, 7,107-yard course a celebration of the best golf has to offer from around the world.

NEVER AGAIN

MONDILLA: NO MORE FINAL-DAY BOOKING AFTER PRADERA CAPER

Little did Clyde Mondilla expect he would unleash a fist up to celebrate an improbable escape act against not just one but four playoff rivals.

PRIZE MONEY \$100,000



MONDILLA, CLYDE

R1 R2 R3 R4
69 75 73 67

TOTAL TO PAR EARNINGS
284 -4 \$17,500
(Playoff)

2 **LASCAÑA, TONY**
Philippines
\$7,125

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
73 71 69 71 284 -4

2 **ZARAGOSA, RUPERT**
Philippines
\$7,125

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
71 71 71 71 284 -4

2 **KNOX, JOE**
England
\$7,125

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
71 70 72 71 284 -4

2 **NAKAJIMA, TORU**
Japan
\$7,125

R1 R2 R3 R4 TOTAL TO PAR
75 70 67 72 284 -4

'I WAS MORE NERVOUS THAN WHEN I WAS PLAYING. TRAFFIC WAS TERRIBLE AND I THOUGHT I WON'T MAKE IT'



RANK	NAMES	REP	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
6	LANE-WESTON, JACK	AUS	69	73	74	69	285	-3	\$3,700
7	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	NED	69	75	71	71	286	-3	\$2,850
=	ABABA, JHONNEL	PHL	69	73	73	71	286	-3	\$2,850
9	ALIDO, IRA	PHL	73	69	72	73	287	-1	\$2,083
=	JAHS, KEANU	PHL	71	70	73	73	287	-1	\$2,083



FIVE DOWN to start the final round in a leaderboard so crowded 12 players were pushing and shoving one another for a clear shot at the ICTSI Pradera Verde Classic crown, Clyde Mondilla had sort of excluded himself in the wild chase at joint 13th.

Not that he had given up the battle, only he was more concerned of the odds of him making it to his flight back home to Del Monte than salvaging the hotly disputed Philippine Golf Tour Asia diadem.

"I didn't expect to contend, much less win after starting the final round five strokes behind," recalled Mondilla, who booked a 9:20 p.m. flight home, giving him well enough time to cover the 3:30-hour travel period (106.6 kms) from Lubao, Pampanga to NAIA in Pasay on the premise he would finish early and won't contend for the championship.

Being too far behind the title contenders after 54 holes, Mondilla did finish ahead of the pack but his day's best five-under 67 in overcast skies and a 284 total kept him tied with four others at the helm.

That's when the problem cropped up as the possibility of him going through a playoff loomed.

"Can I make it to the airport by 9 p.m.?" an agitated reigning Philippine Open champ asked, his stocky frame slumped into a rattan chair at the sprawling Pradera Verde clubhouse while waiting for the last four flights to come in.

As the playoff scenario became clearer and clearer, Mondilla kept on downplaying his chances, even wishing for someone to better his four-

under overall total so could leave the complex at an instant. No one did and no one left.

But after beating four others – halfway joint pacesetter Joe Knox of England, third round co-leader Toru Nakajima of Japan and Filipinos Rupert Zaragosa and Tony Lascaña – in the most crowded playoff cast in both the three-year-old PGT Asia and decade-long PGT circuits, the 26-year-old power hitter got the option to spend the night somewhere in Pampanga or in Metro Manila and book a new flight.

"I'd still go," said Mondilla, after nipping Lascaña with a birdie on the second playoff hole to rule the \$100,000 championship. Knox, Nakajima and Zaragosa all failed to join the extended chase with botched bids on the first playoff hole, also on No. 9, in downpour.

Now grinning and thrilled over his feat worth \$17,500 – and the chance to make it back home in time, Mondilla barely made it to his flight. In fact, he had no time to change clothes and reached home still wearing his golf shoes and a glove in his pocket.

Looking back, however, the tension and the pressure only made the scintillating victory sweeter for Mondilla, who had to agonizingly wait for quite some time before getting a stab at a second PGTA championship following his victory at Wack Wack in the inaugurals of the region's emerging circuit's inaugurals in 2017.

"I was more nervous than when I was playing. Traffic was terrible and I thought I won't make it. I will never book a flight again on the same day of the final round of a tournament," he said.

1 Almost but not quite for Tony Lascaña, who barely missed extending the sudden death duel to another hole 2 Joe Knox fails to knock down the shots that would've kept the Englishman in the lead and in the title hunt 3 Finding Pradera's surface to his liking in the second and third rounds, Toru Nakajima couldn't track down the putts that mattered most in the end 4 Third round co-leader Marcos Pastor of Spain fails to hold his ground in a pressure-packed finale, reeling back and bowing out with three bogeys in the first 12 holes 5 Hot-starting Aussie Jack Lane-Weston turns cold in the middle rounds, falling short by just one stroke to make the playoff picture behind a strong finish 6 Diminutive Rupert Zaragosa has the momentum and the gallery on his side in the playoff but the Canlubang pro just couldn't pull off the big shots in the end 7 Jhonnell Ababa gives his shot for a fifth PGT Asia crown a big blast with a lead-sharing 69 in the first round.



PRADERA VERDE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Lubao, Pampanga

A relatively flat layout, the Pradera Verde Golf and Country Club remains a true test of golf, even for the men of the PGT Asia circuit for its length, big sand traps and hazards. It also features sloping fairways and undulating greens with the wind almost always adding up to the challenge for those aiming to put in low scores.

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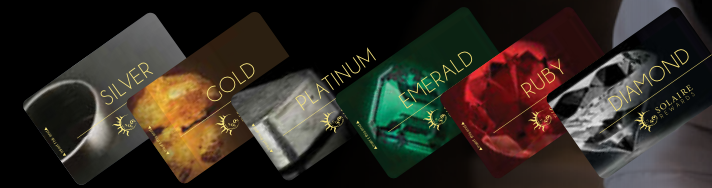
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Sung Hyun Park
South Korean 2-time
major champion



ALL SQUARE



TEAM NORTH
FOILS FANCIED
SOUTH, CLAIMS
DUEL VI CROWN



Surprisingly stamping their class in singles, the Northerners, with Cookie La'O (inset) at the helm, repeat over their Southern counterparts to level The Duel series at three.



STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB

Sta. Rosa, Laguna

One of the most coveted golf courses to play at south of Manila, the Sta. Elena Golf Club has maintained its winning reputation through the years with the well-kept Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed venue boasting of three different 9-hole layouts that allow for a variety of different plays to keep it interesting for golfers of any level.

WHEN THE sixth edition of The Duel went down to the wire at the Sta. Elena Golf Club, not a lot of fans were willing to put their money on the golfers from the North, even if they were the defending champions.

For good reason.

South without a doubt had the edge in terms of talent and depth, crucial entering the final-day singles where the team was to parade a roster led by Tony Lascaña, Reymon Jaraula, and Jhonnell Ababa, who had just swept the last four legs of the Philippine Golf Tour's 10th season.

The Northerners, in fact, had to climb their way back from a 2-4 deficit at the end of the opening-day four-balls, and, although they managed to claw back to level it at 6 after the second-day foursomes, still went to the deciding singles matches the clear underdogs.

North coach Cookie La'O, however, didn't have any shortage of unlikely heroes as the underdogs struck with a decisive 8 1/2-3 1/2 victory in the singles to retain The Duel trophy and square the annual head-to-head showdowns with South at three victories apiece.

"It's a question of making the right match-ups and they did well," said La'O after the surprisingly lopsided victory. "It's a job well done."

La'O's biggest heroes turned out to be Ira Alido, an 18-year old who seemed to have no business playing in this tournament among the best pros in the land, and Mars Pucay, a former Asian Tour regular who hadn't played well enough to make an impact on the local tour all season.

Alido, a former amateur hotshot, routed veteran Arnold Villacencio, 5&4, to set the tone for a shock final-day turnaround that saw the North team win

five of the first seven matches to seize control.

Pucay also had a hand in that torrid North start, halving the point with the red-hot Lascaña in the second pairing of the day to sustain the momentum.

Former PGT Asia leg winner Justin Quiban then wore down Rufino Bayron, 2&1 to give North the lead for the first time, but South wouldn't go away easily as Albin Engino dominated last year's PGT Order of Merit winner Jobim Carlos to fashion out a runaway 5&4 triumph in their side of the match-up.

North then dropped the hammer. Fil-German Keanu Jahns surprised PGT Asia's winningest player Jhonnell Ababa, 3&2, in a key match-up; James Ryan Lam overpowered veteran Elmer Salvador, 4&2; and Michael Bibat dominated Nilo Salahog, 5&4, as North pulled away to a three-point lead after the first eight matches.

Zanieboy Gialon and Jerson Balasabas provided two of the three wins for South, the former blasting Fidel Concepcion, 6&5, and the latter thwarting veteran Gerald Rosales, 1-up.

But not even those could slow down the North rampage as Eric Gallardo edged former PGT Asia leg winner Rene Menor, 1-up, Jun Bernis upstaged fancied Jay Bayron via the same scoreline and Joenard Rates held on to deny PGT Pueblo leg winner Jaraula, 1-up.

When the smoke of battle cleared, North won with plenty to spare, 14 1/2-9 1/2 to retain the Cup, which also meant P80,000 for each member of the winning team. The South members settled for the P40,000 prize.

More importantly, the country's lone Ryder Cup-style event is all square at 3 and should be a lot more interesting to watch when the next Duel is held.



1 For Justin Quiban (right) and Eric Gallardo, sweeping all their matches – from four-ball to foursomes and singles – is no laughing matter 2 Gerald Rosales and Keanu Jahns blow past their rivals in four-ball and foursomes with the Fil-German shotmaker matching Quiban and Gallardo's unbeaten run with a victory over Jhonnell Ababa in singles 3 Stung by their setback in four-ball play, Mars Pucay and Ira Alido bounced back strong in foursomes then produced the first two wins in the deciding singles to spark Team North's final day romp 4 Top South performers Tony Lascaña and Nilo Salahog seem to find it a lot easier moving a tree than displacing a fired-up Team North side 5 A strong start in four-ball gives Reymon Jaraula (left) and Elmer Salvador some kind of momentum and confidence that they, however, had failed to sustain in the next two days 6 Humbled in two straight editions, Team South could only vow for a big rebound in The Duel VII.

GIVING BACK TO THE SPORT

GOLF LEGEND RETURNS TO INSPIRE YOUNG GUNS

'I WANT TO CONTINUE PLAYING TO SERVE AS **INSPIRATION** TO OUR YOUNG GOLFERS'

Frankie Miñoza has returned to action after a six-month hiatus and vows to compete in local tournaments more often.

"I want to continue playing to serve as inspiration to our young golfers," said the 60-year-old golf legend, who finished joint 47th in the ICTSI Pradera Verde golf championship last January in Lubao, Pampanga. "This is my own way of giving back to the sport."

Known for taking good care of his body, Miñoza was diagnosed with tuberculosis last year and was ordered to stay home to recuperate.

"No golf, no physical activity," said Miñoza who spent long

hours watching Netflix.

He said he became ill following his return from the United States where he visited his eldest daughter working in New York.

"I had a terrible jet lag and couldn't sleep properly for two weeks," he said.

Miñoza said his conditions got worse while playing in a tournament in Visayas. He withdrew and caught the next flight back to Del Monte, Bukidnon where he lives.

"I went straight to the hospital, was tested and learned that I had tuberculosis," he said.

The inactivity and lack of appetite saw Miñoza's weight to plunge from 165 to 147 pounds.

But now he's back to 162 pounds as he tries to get back to his routine prior to his "incarceration."

He said he used to run five kilometers every day to stay fit and lifts some weights.

Miñoza still hits the ball longer than most pros half his age.

"The guy can still compete," said Philippine Golf Tour Asia leader Tony Lascaña who practiced with Miñoza at Pradera Verde.

Miñoza can quit now and spend the rest of his time living comfortably.

He owns large tract of lands in Bukidnon, a nice property in Bohol and two condominium units in Ortigas, Mandaluyong.

He has a fleet of Toyota vehicles composed of two Land Cruisers, two Hi-Lux pickup trucks, a Fortuner and an FJ Cruiser.

He supplies 65,000 chicken a month to San Miguel Corp.

Miñoza has a daughter working in New York and another daughter taking care of his poultry business.

His three other children study in good schools – one daughter a Japanese school scholar and another one taking up medicine.

The only son is entering college.

All Miñoza has to do now is to do what he does best – play golf – and inspire the youth.

DELIMONDO
NATIONAL PRO-AM
MAY 9-11, 2019

THE RIGHT CHOICE

PAGUNSAN PICKS UP RARE WIN WITH ACE PARTNER

CHAMPION

REY PAGUNSAN/AIDRIC CHAN

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR	EARNINGS
70	73	69	212	-4	P500,000

REY PAGUNSAN hasn't won anything in individual play in over a decade, never even came close to getting his hands on a trophy.

His luck was about to change at the Delimondo National Pro-Am at Splendido Taal Golf Club, where Pagunsan's partnership with reigning national juniors champion Aidric Chan produced instant magic.

Complementing each other well under the alternate-shot format, Pagunsan and Chan started



While pro Rey Pagunsan insists he couldn't have picked a better amateur partner, Aidric Chan believes the former's veteran smarts help anchor their title romp.

strongly and finished even hotter to rule the annual pro-am showpiece of the Philippine Golf Tour.

"I couldn't have picked a better partner. Aidric's so good," said Pagunsan of his teammate, a fellow Southwoods regular, at the end of an unforgettable three days at Splendido.

The first-time partners closed out with a three-under 69 that gave them a runaway six-stroke victory over Spain's Marcos Pastor and Nicole Abelar on a four-under 212 total.

Pagunsan and Chan bared their intentions early in the 54-hole tournament, opening with a two-under par 70 for a one-stroke lead over the late-charging Magno Arancon and Noel Langamin.

"I've never putted this well," said Pagunsan, who, thanks to crisp iron shots by his much-younger partner, rolled in all but one of the six looks at birdies he had during the round.

The score could've been lower – and the gap wider. But the pair

paid for their carelessness and stumbled with a pair of double bogeys in their opening round.

The putts, however, refused to fall in the second day, and the pair consequently wavered. They slumped to a one-over 73 and fell two shots behind new leaders and siblings Daniella and Lanz Uy.

The Uys birdied four of their last five holes to shoot a 69 and a two-day 141 total, leaving Pagunsan and Chan with a two-stroke deficit to make up in the final round.

2

**M. PASTOR/
N. ABELAR**
P335,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
74	75	69	218	+2

3

**J. SUAREZ/
P. BARRO**
P190,000

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
73	74	73	220	+4

4

**D. UY/
L. UY**
-

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	69	80	221	+5

4

**A. ARBOLE/
J. YAMYAMIN**
-

R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
72	72	77	221	+5

No problem.

Catching fire early, Pagunsan and his 18-year old partner all but blew the field away after an opening nine of 34. They stormed to leads to as many as seven after Chan rolled in their fourth birdie on No. 16.

As the pair poured it on, their rivals faded one after the other in overcast skies. Daniella and Lanz cracked under pressure and wavered with an opening 40 while Art Arbole and Joel Yamyamin settled for a two-birdie, two-bogey round, enabling Pagunsan and Chan to

cruise to victory despite a final hole bogey in the rain.

The Uys and Arbole-Yamyamin's wobbly finish likewise paved the way for the erstwhile 10th-running Pastor and Abelar to snatch runner-up honors at 218 after a 69 worth P335,000 for the pro while Joseph Suarez and Paqo Barro also snared third place with a 220 after a 73 worth P190,000 for Suarez.

Omar Dungca and Carl Corpus carded a 75 and tied the Arbole-Yamyamin tandem, which skied to a 77, and the Uys, who limped with an 80, at 221.

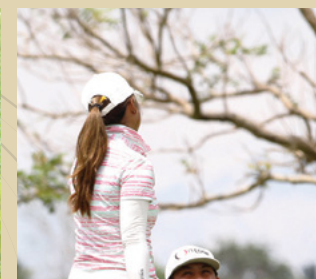
PRIZE MONEY P2,750,000

RANK	NAMES	R1	R2	R3	TOTAL	TO PAR
=	O. DUNGCA / C. CORPUS	76	70	75	221	+5
7	M. ARANCON / N. LANGAMIN	71	79	72	222	+6
=	J. MATHAY / R. MONSALVE	77	74	71	222	+6
9	J. GAMOLO / C. ROLIDA	73	78	73	224	+8
10	A. VILLACENCIO / R. SARMIENTO	75	77	75	227	+11

The victory meant a windfall of P500,000 for the 51-year old Pagunsan, a purse unheard of at this stage of the career. It was actually the former national team mainstay's second victory in team play after his partnership with Ryan Monsalve at Veterans in 2018 though he remained winless in individual competition that stretches back to over a decade ago.

Chan, who received merchandises and gift packs like his fellow amateurs, added another ware to his growing trophy collection.

1 Spain's Marcos Pastor would do everything to bolster his and teammate Nicole Abelar title drive 2 Daniella Uy whoops it up after lifting her tandem with younger brother Lanz to the lead in the second round only to fall with a thud after a closing 80 3 No, James Ryan Lam isn't making any proposal to teammate Marianne Bustos but was just dismayed over his failure to convert a birdie putt 4 Like any other pair, Zanieboy Gialon and Ian Dagatan feel they still emerged as winners despite failing to advance to the final round 5 In the early hunt with a 72, former champs Tonlits Asistio and Jude Eustaquio fade as they failed to wield their old magic in the last two rounds 6 Harmony and coordination did the trick for Rey Pagunsan and Aidric Chan 7 Marvi Monsalve and Laia Barro make their forgettable campaign memorable 8 Roger Dale must've set a standard too high for pro partner Gretchen Villacencio to reach 9 No, Anthony Fernando and Norman Enriquez are up to something other than play golf but are simply protecting themselves from the scorching heat and wind.



SPLENDIDO TAAL GOLF CLUB

Laurel, Batangas

Located on hilly terrain, the Splendido Taal Golf Club is both beautiful and demanding. It offers not only the vast course but also the scenic view of Taal volcano. Being it close to the mountain ridges, the par-72, all-weather championship course provides a true test of golf with its length, ravines, bunkers with the wind blowing from all over at any given day.

TRUE TEST OF GOLF

VARIETY OF CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES SET TCC APART FROM THE REST

VENUE OF THE YEAR

THE COUNTRY CLUB LAGUNA

THE COUNTRY Club has always been a daunting challenge to any golfer.

More so now.

Through the continuous efforts of stakeholders and management, the course underwent some major facelifts over the past few years, making it more formidable and further validating its claim as a world-caliber championship layout.

Of course, it also goes without saying that any shotmaker worth his salt would want to pass the latest of the TCC tests.

It sure would take some doing, given the new look the TCC now sports.

What was once an already big puzzle that puts premium on precision shotmaking and mental toughness became even more demanding with the renovations on practically every hole.

"One thing is certain: The refreshed and enhanced course will be a more competitive layout than the last time," said TCC general manager Colo Ventosa following the latest of the renovations.

Of course, that is one veiled dare that any golfer, especially one who

wants to overcome any challenge, can't simply pass up on.

Ventosa's lure is borne of the new look the TCC currently sports, with its holes more competitive than before – as majority, if not all, of the participants in the Solaire Philippine Open, the TCC Invitational (Razon Cup) and TCC Ladies Invitational, including then world No. 1 Sung Hyun Park, found out to their chagrin.

But they all loved the challenges it poses and the tests it offers and all agreed that it stood out among the other venues, which hosted the three circuits last season.

"Whenever you play the TCC, it's a survival of the fittest," said Clyde Mondilla, who won the 2019 Philippine Open at the dreaded layout on a two-over 290 total. "I've won a number of tournaments in other courses but this one is most memorable, meaningful. I will never forget it."

Tackling the TCC indeed would give every player lasting memories, both good and bad.

For one, the TCC now plays to a maxed-out distance of 7,844 yards from the back of the tournament tees, quite a stretch for a course that previously played at a distance of 7,237 yards. The distance, however, could stretch to over 8,000 yards should the pins be placed to the back of the greens.

The added distance simply adds spice to a course that already offers baffling winds that alter a golf ball's flight in mid-air as well as more visible hazards in bunkers, lakes, streams and sleek putting surface.

But that's not all.

The renovations also featured altering practically each and every hole's appearance, mandating a major shift in strategy on how to play each one.

Mainly for strategic reasons tees and bunkers were repositioned to either enhance or better define the hole strategy.

Take the even more risky propositions on Nos. 5, 8, 11 and 17 as fine examples.

Formerly a straightforward par-4, No. 5 was transformed into a more treacherous one with a lake added to the left side of the green and a creek running down the middle of the fairway waiting to gobble up those miscalculated tee shots.

The 8th hole, previously a soft par-5, now requires precision most since the green has been realigned while the length has been increased on the par-3 11th and now requires a shot of 276 yards to reach a lower and reconfigured green.

Only the fact it remained a par-3 would make No. 17 similar to what it was in the recent past since it has now become a virtual island green. Water still guards the front of the green, but it has now been expanded to encompass both sides of the green and a bunker added back left of the green. The easiest part of this hole is carrying the 175 yards to the center of the green. Then the real work begins on the undulating surface.

Some holes will be easier to recognize than others and will perhaps play much the same as before while others will be harder to distinguish and more difficult or challenging to score on.

For sure, satisfaction is guaranteed once the course, also known as the "Sweet Beast" for having been built in the midst of Laguna's sugar lands and refusal to be so easily tamed, is mastered by the more intrepid ones.



BEST OF THE BEST 2019



Jovic Pagunsan
PGT ORDER OF MERIT WINNER/PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Princess Superal
BACK-TO-BACK LPGT ORDER OF MERIT TITLIST



1 Princess Superal (second from right) holds her trophy as she poses with fellow awardees and organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc. executive director Narlene A. Soriano (right) after claiming her second straight Order of Merit diadem during the Philippine Golf Tour and Ladies PGT annual awards at The Country Club in Laguna. They are (from left) Colq Ventosa, general manager of best host venue The Country Club; Mario Pagunsan, who represented cousin and PGT OOM winner and Player of the Year Jovic; and top amateur Eagle Ace Superal. 2 Princess Superal and 3 Mario Pagunsan with Ms. Soriano.



The Philippine Golf Tour, Southeast Asia's largest local golfing circuit and the Philippines' premier battleground for its professional players, is backed by global port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI).

ICTSI has been supporting Philippine golf since 2005 when the Philippine government tapped ICTSI as one of its private sector partners in the hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) where ICTSI sponsored and co-organized the golf event of the Games at the Country Club in Santa Rosa, Laguna. After the Philippine SEAG, ICTSI continued supporting the country's top amateur players through an amateur golf program, and a junior golf program together with the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.



The brands of the adidas Group complement each other in a unique way to help athletes perform better, play better, feel better.



Taylor Made Makers of high performance golf clubs, clothes and gear, Taylor Made has a long history of quality and reliability. Their innovative products are the number one choice of the best golfers in the world.



Srixon Used by top PGA golfers like Vijay Singh and Karrie Webb, Srixon balls provide better flight for a golfer's drive. Together with Srixon golf clubs, golfers have seen better scores and performance on the fairway and in the driving range.



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Champion Detergent, one of the country's top detergent brands, has been providing superior quality products to uncompromising Filipino households since 1977. Celebrating its 40th year this 2017, it continues to serve the Filipino consumers beyond laundry detergents with its expanded portfolio that includes liquid fabric conditioner and dishwashing liquid.



Sharp Makers of high quality appliances, Sharp has been in the Philippines for the last 28 years. Sharp has stood toe-to-toe with the world's biggest manufacturers and has matched them in quality and service.



PacSports leads the way in distributorship and licensee of lifestyle brands and differentiates itself from other golf distributors with an extensive network and exclusive rights to golf products in the Philippines. Its vision is to remain a recognized leader in the industry by providing our customers with top-of-the-line products and bringing experiences beyond customer satisfaction.



Founded in 1994, KZG the #1 Custom ProLine™, offers equipment available only in the finest retail facilities with authorized KZG professional fitters on staff. KZG's program of partnering with only the top professional fitters to fit its award-winning equipment has catapulted KZG to a position of prominence in customized golf equipment. KZG's comprehensive selection of premium golf equipment includes the finest drivers, woods, irons, wedges and putters, in addition to a wide variety of accessories and apparel.



Summit Natural Drinking Water is the official bottled water of Philippine Olympic athletes. It has helped aspiring Filipino athletes maintain superior concentration and athletic edge with minerals that boost their hydration level.

ORDER OF MERIT

PGT EVENTS

1	PAGUNSAN, JUVIC	2,070,000.00	24	SABAN, ELMER	263,233.33	47	VILLANUEVA, DINO	84,500.00
2	LASCUÑA, TONY	1,991,930.00	25	FERNANDO, MHARK	259,208.57	48	GALLARDO, ENRICO	83,950.00
3	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	1,234,575.00	26	GIALON, ZANIEBOY	254,566.67	49	NAKAGAWA, KANATA	76,550.00
4	JARULA, REYMON	1,173,324.67	27	KEONINH, LEXUS	252,378.57	50	PARODI, EMILIO	72,950.00
5	BIBAT, MICHAEL	1,128,416.67	28	ROSALES, GERALD	233,573.57	51	BERNIS, ROBERTO JR.	71,125.00
6	ALIDO, IRA CHRISTIAN	1,023,950.00	29	PASTOR, MARCOS	233,000.00	52	STOJANOVSKI, PETER	69,000.00
7	ABABA, JHONNEL	928,605.00	30	ARBOLE, ART	232,328.57	53	PAGUNSAN, REYNALDO	61,775.00
8	MONDILLA, CLYDE	680,083.24	31	RATES, JOENARD	227,275.00	54	OSABEL, TEODORO LUCIO	56,631.25
9	JAHNS, KEANU	627,316.80	32	ZARAGOSA, RUPERT	219,850.00	55	SALAHOG, JR.	55,400.00
10	BAYRON, RUFINO	584,075.00	33	ABAÑO, JOHVANIE	205,400.00	56	MORILLA, FRANCIS	50,250.00
11	SALAHOG, NILO	562,951.25	34	NISHIMURA, RYO	193,031.25	57	GAMOLO, JELBERT	47,625.00
12	SINFUEGO, RICHARD	541,553.57	35	KEISUKE, TAKAHASHI	192,675.00	58	SUMCAD, ORLAN	46,500.00
13	LAM, JAMES RYAN	511,000.00	36	DUMANDAN, MARVIN	175,391.67	59	SAMANODI, KURESH	34,800.00
14	BAYRON, JAY	494,950.00	37	BISERA, RAMIL	156,275.00	60	PARK, JUN SUNG	32,500.00
15	CONCEPCION, FIDEL	460,000.00	38	ABARING, RICHARD	153,600.00	61	GONZALEZ, GREG	27,250.00
16	SALVADOR, ELMER	417,802.92	39	HASHIMOTO, RYUI	143,075.00	62	ETTER, KRIS	24,800.00
17	DEPILO, RICO	400,876.25	40	QUIBAN, JUSTIN	140,583.33	63	MARABE, ROLANDO, JR.	24,300.00
18	ENGINO, ALBIN	378,516.67	41	VILLACENCIO, ARNOLD	138,875.00	64	PARRA, JESUS RAFAEL	22,800.00
19	AUNZO, FERGIE	309,950.00	42	IWASAKI, MAKOTO	135,345.00	65	REYES, JAMA	19,500.00
20	BALASABAS, JERSON	308,716.67	43	LANGAMIN, NOEL	125,200.00	66	SUAREZ, JOSEPH	-
21	MENOR, RENE	295,500.00	44	TALMADGE, SEAN	119,850.00	67	SAKULYONG, PACHARA	-
22	ECHAVEZ, PAUL	278,041.56	45	PACTOLERIN, ROBERT	118,066.67	68	HWANG, MYUNG CHAL	-
23	MATSUOKA, KEI	276,016.67	46	PUCAY, MARS	110,975.00			

PGTA EVENTS

1	LASCUÑA, TONY	\$46,075.00	20	ALIDO, IRA CHRISTIAN	\$8,873.33	38	BIBAT, MICHAEL	\$4,966.66
2	MONDILLA, CLYDE	\$41,323.33	21	JANTAVARA, RATCHAPOL	\$8,848.55	39	GLEESON, DAVID	\$4,900.00
3	STEWART, TIM	\$32,570.00	22	CONCEPCION, FIDEL	\$8,645.00	40	FERNANDO, ANTHONY	\$4,892.50
4	TANTIPOKHAKUL, NAMCHOK	\$21,972.15	23	SHIN, MICAH LAUREN	\$8,311.00	41	BAYRON, JAY	\$4,460.19
5	ARTJANAWAT, WISUT	\$21,388.75	24	GIALON, ZANIEBOY	\$7,585.83	42	STOJANOVSKI, PETER	\$4,225.83
6	PAGUNSAN, JUVIC	\$20,735.83	25	BAYRON, RUFINO	\$7,063.33	43	FERNANDO, MHARK	\$4,102.50
7	CAN, TARIK	\$19,410.00	26	NIYOMCHON, NATTHAPON	\$6,711.43	44	DEPILO, RICO	\$3,910.00
8	QUE, ANGELO	\$17,500.00	27	BOUAHOM, THAMMASACK	\$6,610.00	45	KOORATAPISAN, SUTIJET	\$3,670.27
9	VAN DER VALK, GUIDO	\$16,005.00	28	MUNSON, BRETT	\$6,477.50	46	MARABE, ROLANDO, JR.	\$3,270.00
10	SAE-UENG, NIRUN	\$15,540.40	29	JAHNS, KEANU	\$6,433.00	47	TWYMAN, GEORGE	\$3,193.33
11	ABABA, JHONNEL	\$13,947.50	30	ROSALES, GERALD	\$6,210.83	48	TALMADGE, SEAN	\$3,148.07
12	QUIBAN, JUSTIN	\$13,095.00	31	CHUENBOONNGAM, CHONLATIT	\$6,005.00	49	TABUENA, MIGUEL	\$3,100.00
13	LANE, WESTON, JACK	\$12,650.00	32	JARULA, REYMON	\$5,656.67	50	DUMANDAN, MARVIN	\$2,768.50
14	PUTKONEN, TEEMU	\$12,632.07	33	SUDO, KEITA	\$5,552.50	51	VILLACENCIO, ARNOLD	\$2,742.50
15	NIYOMCHON, DONLAPATCHAI	\$12,071.27	34	JORDAN, DAMIEN	\$5,510.83	52	PUCAY, MARS	\$2,632.50
16	KEONINH, LEXUS	\$11,355.83	35	SALAH, JOSHUA	\$5,420.00	53	SALVADOR, ELMER	\$2,425.00
17	NAMUANGRUK, KAMMALAS	\$11,265.52	36	POLTHAI, TAWIT	\$5,259.65	54	VILLANUEVA, DINO	\$2,176.67
18	PASTOR, MARCOS	\$9,520.38	37	SALAHOG, NILO	\$5,072.50	55	ENGINO, ALBIN	\$1,987.50
19	LERTVILAI, PASAVEE	\$9,106.11						

56	ECHAVEZ, PAUL	\$1,950.00	78	HONG, CHARLES	\$890.00	99	ALDAKER, MOUMEN	\$-
57	RATES, JOENARD	\$1,923.33	79	SULLIVAN, JACK	\$810.00	100	CARLOS, JOBIM	\$-
58	KOH, DENG SHAN	\$1,858.25	80	DUNGCA, OMAR	\$800.00	101	CHANG, CHARLIE	\$-
59	SHIN, SEUNG WOO	\$1,851.25	81	BABU, VIKKASH	\$760.00	102	CHANTHAROTHAI, KITTIROJ	\$-
60	LAM, JAMES RYAN	\$1,833.00	82	VILAIRATANA, PETE	\$730.00	103	CHO, PHIL KYU	\$-
61	MORI, ISSEI	\$1,796.25	83	HWANG, MYUNG CHAL	\$700.00	104	CHOI, DABIN	\$-
62	CHOO, TZE HUANG	\$1,710.00	84	FOO, GREGORY	\$652.50	105	CHOOHWONG, WONGSAKORN	\$-
63	RENOLDS, LINDSAY	\$1,657.50	85	MATHAY, JET	\$652.50	106	EVANGELISTA, NICO	\$-
64	PHONGPHUN, TAWAN	\$1,630.05	86	CHANSUE, PARAMA	\$615.00	107	HIE, RORY	\$-
65	GALLARDO, ENRICO	\$1,323.33	87	SUAREZ, JOSEPH	\$605.00	108	HOOD, JULIAN	\$-
66	IRAWAN, JORDAN	\$1,303.33	88	PARK, JUN SUNG	\$585.00	109	JACKSON, GRANT	\$-
67	GERVINAS, SAM	\$1,275.00	89	AUNZO, FERDIE	\$525.00	110	KATIGBAK, GJ	\$-
68	TROCADO, LUKE	\$1,274.65	90	GONZALEZ, GREG	\$525.00	111	KIM, DAE WON	\$-
69	ETTER, KRIS	\$1,195.00	91	SAKULYONG, PACHARA	\$505.00	112	KIM, YOUNG HYUN	\$-
70	SEOK, JUN MIN	\$1,172.50	92	HOOD, RYAN	\$485.00	113	LEE, CHARLES	\$-
71	TAKAHASHI, NAOYA	\$1,168.33	93	SAMANODI, KURESH	\$465.00	114	LOPEZ, SEBASTIAN	\$-
72	GOMEZ, MATEO	\$1,080.00	94	RATTANAPHIBOONKIJ, VARANYU	\$465.00	115	MENOR, RENE	\$-
73	PRADITTAN, PUK	\$1,019.10	95	PARRA, JESUS RAFAEL	\$410.00	116	MOON, SEUNG RYUL	\$-
74	OSABEL, TEODORO LUCIO	\$1,012.50	96	LIM, ABIEL	\$360.00	117	REYES, JAMA	\$-
75	PARODI, EMILIO	\$903.75	97	YANAGISAWA, SEIJI	\$232.05	118	SUMCAD, ORLAN	\$-
76	PAYA VILA, SALVADOR	\$900.00	98	AKBAR, KEVIN CAESARIO	\$-	119	LA O', COOKIE	\$-

LPGT EVENTS

1	PRINCESS MARY SUPERAL	1,164,604.00	22	SUPAKCHAYA PATTARANAKRUEANG	256,150.00	45	NATTAPAN SIRITRAI	93,753.33
2	PAULINE DEL ROSARIO	955,082.59	23	WAD PHAEWCHIMPLEE	238,399.67	46	VALERIE TAN	92,875.00
3	DANIELLA UY	920,644.17	24	SARAPORN CHAMCHOI	223,163.00	47	JEONG HWA LEE	88,640.00
4	CHIHIRO IKEDA	836,745.00	25	ONKANOK SOISUWAN	214,412.00	48	KAMONWAN LUEAMSRI	86,440.00
5	THANUTRA BOONRAKSASAT	613,744.00	26	YENAH HWANG	181,493.00	49	PAMELA MARIANO	77,125.00
6	DOTTIE ARDINA	703,000.00	27	ALEX ETTER	181,020.00	50	JARUPORN PALAKAWONG NA AYUTTHAYA	72,966.67
7	PIMPADSORN SANGKAGARO	643,777.50	28	TRICHAT CHEENGLAB	172,760.00	51	AUNCHISA UTAMA	65,570.00
8	CHAKANSIM KHAMBORN	530,586.84	29	NARISARA KERDRIT	171,871.33	52	SARUTTAYA NGAM USAWAN	64,620.00
9	YUPAPORN KAWINPAKORN	524,070.00	30	GRETCHEN VILLACENCIO	168,950.00	53	CRISTAWAN RUNGRUANG	63,232.00
10	MIN JEONG HWANG	483,676.43	31	GOONLACHA PAIBOONPONG	157,806.67	54	CHOEUN BANG	63,083.33
11	CHONLADA CHAYANUN	402,998.00	32	ALISARA WEDCHAKAMA	154,201.67	55	CHING HUANG	61,352.00
12	CHOMMAPAT PONGTHANARAK	383,581.16	33	DOLNAPA PHUDTHIPINIJ	147,188.00	56	CHATPRAPA SIRIPRAKOB	60,270.00
13	ORNICHA KONSUNTHEA	375,390.00	34	SARAH ABABA	144,775.00	57	DA YUN KANG	55,350.00
14	WARALEE ATCHARERK	362,572.00	35	AJIRA NUALRAKSA	139,375.00	58	LUCY LANDICHO	53,000.00
15	MOOKHARIN LADGRATOK	351,746.67	36	CYNA RODRIGUEZ	138,415.00	59	PATRAPORN KRATURURK	52,750.00
16	WANNASIRI SIRISAMPANT	334,672.49	37	PLOYCHOMPOO WILAIRUNGRUENG	133,653.00	60	CHOUVAREST CHOURKITTISOPON	51,383.00
17	TIRANAN YOOPAN	324,976.33	38	HSIN LEE	128,577.50	61	AIRI TSUJIOKA	43,160.00
18	MARVI MONSALVE	297,125.00	39	LEE JI HYEON	117,433.33	62	TATIANA WIJAYA	37,500.00
19	PUNPAKA PHUNTUMABAMRUNG	283,560.00	40	HSUAN PING CHANG	114,750.00	63	YU NING HUANG	35,250.00
20	NUMA GULYANAMITTA	278,550.00	41	APPLE JEEN FUDOLIN	110,600.00	64	MIA PICCIO	31,980.00
21	ARPICHAYA YUBOL	264,800.00	42	SHERYL VILLASENCIO	108,300.00	65	KANOKWAN YOSPAK	29,500.00
			43	PREENAPHAN, POOMKLAY	104,100.00	66	HSIN NING YEH	20,750.00
			44	JI WON KANG	97,600.00	67	TIP SEEUMPORNROJ	18,500.00

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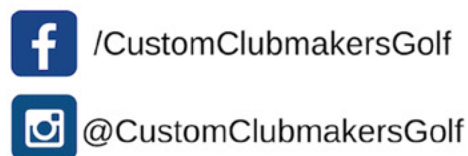


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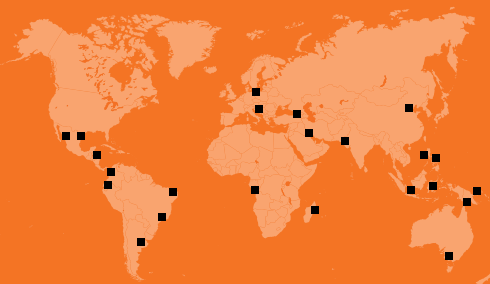
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