

## 36th Pacific Coast Amateur Golf Championship to be held at San Diego CC Aug. 6-9

Ninety of America's finest amateur golfers — including more than a dozen from Southern California — will tee it up in the 36th Pacific Coast Amateur, which will be conducted at San Diego Country Club August 6-9, 2002.

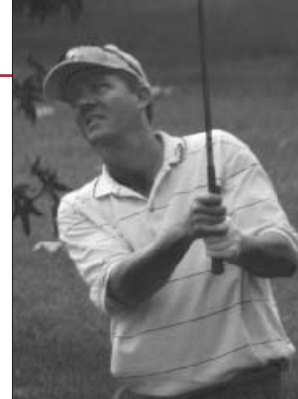
The 72-hole stroke play event is conducted annually by the Pacific Coast Golf Association. It's the first time that the tournament has been held in Southern California since 1994, when it was played at Bear Creek Golf & CC in Murrieta.

The schedule for the championship will be four 18-hole rounds, Tuesday through Friday, with the field teeing off beginning at 7:30 a.m. each day on the first and 10th tees. Spectators are welcome to attend; there is no admission charge.

Three-man teams invited by each of the PCGA's 18 member associations, as well as by associations from around the United States and the Pacific Rim, will compete for the Morse Cup. An individual competition runs concurrently with the team event.

Three veterans will comprise one team for the SCGA: 1996 U.S. Amateur Public Links and 1999 California Amateur champion Tim Hogarth; 1999 SCGA Amateur and 2000 SCGA Mid-Amateur champion John Pate; and 2001 SCGA Mid-Amateur and four-time SCGA Amateur champion Craig Steinberg.

UCLA teammates John Merrick, last year's SCGA Amateur champion, and Travis Johnson, runner-up in the 2000 California Amateur and this year's Pasadena City Amateur champion, will be joined on a second SCGA team by 2000 SCGA Amateur champion Scott McGihon.



*(l-r) Tim Hogarth, Craig Steinberg and John Pate will represent the SCGA in the 36th Pacific Coast Amateur Championship, to be played August 6-9 at San Diego CC.*

A third team representing the SCGA will be comprised of San Diego CC members, led by club champion Victor Zayas.

Southern Nevada and Corey Prugh of Spokane, WA, captured last year's championships, which were played at Forest Highlands GC in Flagstaff, AZ. Southern Nevada's 2002 team will include newly crowned California Amateur champion Eddie Heinen (see page 35).

One of the Public Links GA of Southern California teams will include 2002 U.S. Mid-Amateur champion Greg Puga, while George Zahringer, runner-up in the 2001 U.S. Mid-Amateur, will head up a team from the Metropolitan GA in New York.

Reigning NCGA Amateur champion Matt Bettencourt will lead the Northern California GA team.

Teams will also be coming from Peru and Ecuador and two are entered from the Republic of China (the Republic of China is one of the 18 PCGA associations).

The original Pacific Coast Amateur was played in 1901 on the links of the San Francisco GC at the Presidio. Championships were held annually until 1911, all being conducted in California except for the 1909 tournament, which was played at Seattle GC in Washington State.

The championship was revived in 1967, again at Seattle GC. The objective was to create a championship that would help gain Walker Cup consideration for players in the Western United States.

Several Pacific Coast Amateur champions have gone on to play in the Walker Cup (a biennial amateur

competition between the United States and Great Britain & Ireland that predates the professional Ryder Cup), including Dr. Ed Updegraff (1967 Pacific Coast champion), Mark Pfeil (1972, '74) Mike Brannan (1973), John Fought (1975), Ron Commans (1981), Billy Mayfair (1987-88), Randy Sonnier (1988), David Berganio, Jr. (1991), Todd Demsey, (1993) and Jason Gore (1997).

In 1997, the Pacific Coast Amateur was changed to emphasize the team format, thus allowing associations to pay expenses for their players and bringing several international teams into the championship.

Founded in 1897 on land that is now Balboa Park, San Diego CC has a rich tradition. The club moved to its present location in 1921 with an 18-hole course designed by William Park Bell (designer of dozens of courses throughout the western U.S. including — with George Thomas, Jr. — Ojai Valley Inn & Spa and Riviera CC).

San Diego CC hosted the first two San Diego Opens (now the Buick Invitational) in 1952-53, the 1964 U.S. Women's Open (won by San Diego native Mickey Wright) and the 1993 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, won by Jill McGill.

Among its members is Billy Casper, a two-time U.S. Open winner (1959, 1966) and the 1970 Masters champion. Casper and Wright are both honored in the San Diego CC clubhouse and Casper still holds the course record with a 62.