

FORE Magazine Assistant Editor Mike Peck dies at age 62

Mike Peck, assistant editor of the Southern California Golf Association's FORE Magazine for nearly 20 years, died Friday, Dec. 9 at the age of 62. He had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage three days earlier.

Peck joined the FORE Magazine staff in 1986 and contributed thousands of articles and photographs to the bimonthly publication, which is one of the nation's largest golf magazines in terms of circulation (160,000). He was also active in the association's media relations efforts and produced many print communications pieces for the SCGA, one of the nation's oldest (founded in 1899) and largest state/regional golf associations.

Prior to joining the SCGA, Peck was sports editor of the Antelope Valley Press for 10 years. For three years, he was public information director for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Southern Section, where he worked with Tom Morgan, who would later become the SCGA's executive director.

"It has been my privilege to have known and worked with Mike over the past 35 years," said Morgan. "He was the consummate sports journalism professional. We will all miss him very much, but we are grateful for his many contributions that have helped to make FORE Magazine the best in the business."

Peck covered nearly all of the SCGA's major tournaments throughout his 19-year-career. Among his favorites was Tiger Woods' record-breaking victory in the 1994 SCGA Amateur Championship; a signed scorecard from Tiger's third-round 62, together with an action photo he took of the then-18-year-old Woods, hung on Peck's office wall.

Among his many duties, Peck collected hundreds of solicitations

per month for the magazine's bimonthly *Sweet Shots* section, compiled an extensive list of SCGA club champions for an annual section in FORE's January/February issue, and wrote and photographed the annual *Hawaii Golf Guide* that runs in FORE's March/April issue and the spring issue of NCGA Golf.

"Mike and I clicked from the very first day he came to FORE Magazine," remembers Bob Thomas, SCGA senior director of communications and FORE Magazine's editor and publisher. "We each had our strengths and weaknesses and together we made a great team. I'll miss him as a wonderful colleague, but more important, I'll miss him as a dear friend."

Peck loved all sports but always had a soft spot for high school athletics. Even after joining the SCGA, he continued to work occasionally as a television commentator for high school football games. In a tribute printed in the Antelope Valley Press, Brian Golden wrote, "Time and distance made no matter. Mike chased the scores for every [local] girls and boys team the length and breadth of Southern California like the pursuits we too often see on local TV." Another AV Press writer, Rich Breault, wrote, "Our Friday night high school coverage was second to none, and Mike was a big reason why. It was important to him."

Peck was also a passionate music lover with an extensive collection of records; his son, Tony, remembered him as a "human jukebox." His wife, Janet, added, "He could remember and sing the lyrics from hundreds of songs." When SCGA President Bill Cunerty quoted the Eagles' song "Hotel California" in one of his *President's Message* columns last year, Peck knew the song well enough to correct the quote. "I'll always remember us debating who the citizens in Boston were asked to vote for in the Kingston Trio's song "MTA," says Thomas. "As usual, Mike proved to be right."



Mike Peck

Peck was born in Glendale and went to junior and senior high school in Palmdale. He worked on student newspapers at Palmdale High and Antelope Valley College.

In addition to his wife, Peck is survived by his children, Tony Peck of Santa Barbara, CA; Angela Bowe of Larkspur, CO; and Merilee Bishop

of Lancaster, CA. He is also survived by step-children Laura-Lee Huber, Coffeen, IL; Shawna McLean, Playa del Rey, CA; Crista Davis, Grant Fork, IL; Eva Bartony, Williamson, IL; Michael McLean, Edwardsville, IL; and Ann Taylor, St. Peters, MO, and 22 grandchildren.

At the family's request, there was no memorial service. The SCGA has established the "Mike Peck High School Golf Fund" in the SCGA Foundation; checks (made payable to the SCGA Foundation) may be sent to 3740 Cahuenga Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91604.

San Diego's Barona Creek Golf Club was selected by the PGA Tour as the host site for the 2007 Nationwide Tour Championships, which are slated for October 27 through November 4. The Championships will also return to Barona Creek in 2010.

For the 11th time in its 34-year history, the Century Club matches are all square. The annual competition between a selected team of San Diego County golf professionals and their amateur counterparts stands at 17 matches apiece after the pros' 14-10 victory. Of the three formats employed over three days at the Santaluz Club, the amateurs managed only a win in the four-ball portion. Former SCGA director Wayne Bell captained the amateurs, while Chip Boldin of Pro Kids Golf Academy led the pros. Among the amateur winners in the singles competition were former SCGA Amateur champion Pat Duncan and 2004 Tournament of Club Champions winner Gerry Simoni.