



## PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit



Supported by GOLF Magazine, Golf Pride, GolfTEC, SkyCaddie and TaylorMade

The PGA of America's largest educational event, the PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit was inaugurated in 1988 in Dallas, as a forum for ideas and teaching methods. Since its origin, the Summit has evolved from indoor sessions (1988-2000) to an all-outdoor classroom amphitheater at the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance (from 2002 through 2008), and to its first visit to Orlando, Fla., at the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott.

In January 2011, the 12th PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit featured 18 captivating presentations, wrapped around the theme of "Getting Results," before a sellout audience of more than 550, who represented 47 states and 12 countries. The Summit was supported by *GOLF Magazine*, Golf Pride, GolfTEC, SkyCaddie and TaylorMade.

The 21-member PGA Instruction Committee, the Summit "design team," offered a schedule of topics that motivated beyond the event; scheduled "breakout sessions" that engaged attendees with the presenters at stations throughout the property; and sought instant feedback from the grandstands by e-mailing questions and comments to a central e-mail address. Several of the presenters also appeared in live video lessons two days later in the PGA/USA TODAY Golf Tips Hotline 2.0 at the PGA Merchandise Show.

The Summit's opening day line-up included Charlie King of Greensboro, Ga., who outlined the "New Rules of Golf Instruction"; followed by Lynn Blake of Atlanta, the founder of Lynn Blake Golf, whose opened his presentation, "Alignments Are Forever" with the declaration: "This is our time for renewal. We teach others what we want to learn."

Blake gave College Football Hall of Fame Coach Lou Holtz a golf lesson before the coach delivered a 41-minute, compelling address. The opening day also included PGA of America Director of Fitness and Performance David Donatucci and Tampa Bay Rays hitting coach Derek Shelton engaging in a discourse on "Out of the Park Power," or how the transfer of major league hitting techniques – set-up, power creation, balance, and focus – can be applied to the golf swing. Mark Sweeney, the founder and president of AimPoint Technologies, discussed the system of multiple green-reading methods that are used on every professional tour in the U.S., by more than 25 college coaches.

Dr. David Cook, a motivator, mental training coach, author of the 2006 best-seller, "Golf's Sacred Journey – Seven Days at the Links of Utopia," discussed and showed a trailer of the full-length feature film "Seven Days in Utopia." The film, which received technical support by PGA Professionals, stars Robert Duvall and Lucas Black, and makes its national premiere in August.

The Summit's final day schedule featured Michael Breed's energetic "Path to Positive Putting Performance," which was followed by an all-star line-up of Lynn Marriott and Pia Nilsson, founders of VISION 54, and "Coaching for High Performance." PGA Teacher of the Year Mike Bender (2009) focused on getting practice results into play; before Ed Mitchell and James Leitz teamed for a fascinating technology



Lou Holtz inspired and entertained those in attendance at the 12th PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit held at the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott in Orlando, Fla.

session that studied Golf Club Performance and the D-Plane Ball Flight Model.

The afternoon schedule included Bobby Clampett's study of impact, which included a revealing self-analysis of a playing career. Reigning PGA Teacher of the Year Todd Anderson followed by presenting the "Top 10 Ways to Better Results," and closing the Summit was ageless Bob Toski, 84, a spry 139 pounds and the first living instructor inducted into the World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame.

One of the most unique and emotional presentations in a Summit took place the morning of Day Two when a pair of amputees – Champions Tour Professional Ken Green and Ret. Marine Lance Cpl. Tim Lang of Ann Arbor, Mich. – teamed with PGA Professional Jim Estes of Olney, Md., in "Challenges in Coaching." Green was named the Champions Tour Comeback Player of the Year in 2010 after undergoing an automobile accident in June 2009 that resulted in the loss of his lower right leg and the deaths of his brother, girlfriend and pet dog. Green returned to competition 10 months later.

Lang, 26, who lost his lower right leg in a roadside bomb explosion near Fallujah, Iraq, in October 2006, has undergone 48 total surgeries spanning four years. Lang met Estes during his recovery at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and began to gain confidence in hitting a golf ball.

In barely three years playing the game, Lang has broken 80 regularly, including rounds of 74 and two 75s.

"The time I spent in the hospital, there was a lot of down time, where it was a perfect road to depression," said Lang. "Golf has been like a savior to me."