



NEWS

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CHAMPION COURSE NO.15 RANKED TOUGHEST PAR 3 IN FLORIDA¹

**RATING REINFORCES CHAMPION'S POSITION AS 3RD HARDEST COURSE
ON THE 2007 PGA TOUR²**

Palm Beach Gardens, FL (August 2007) – Having considered approximately 1,836 individual golf holes in discussions with over 70 PGA club professionals and avid golfers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel Golf Writer Randall Mell ranked No.15 on PGA National Resort's Champion Course to be the "best par 3" across a tri-county area. An impressive distinction when one considers the *hundreds* of public, private, and semi-private courses in South Florida – there are over 160 in Palm Beach County alone. But then the Champion course at PGA National Resort & Spa is not your typical resort golf course.

While rankings are often subjective, Mell found commonalities in criteria across his jury of professionals and avid golfers – most admired a great golf hole for the same reason they did a work of art; emotional impact - it touched them in some way. In some cases it ranked high because of the excitement, in others simply because it made them "pause and marvel."

In the case of No.15 on the Champion course, the challenge was determined to be both exciting and daunting. It clearly stands alone as a very tough hole. It also signifies the beginning of the famed *The Bear Trap* – a series of 3 holes on this Nicklaus designed course that have broken the games and spirits of some of the best players in modern time during a professional tournament.

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During the 2007 Honda Classic at PGA National Gavin Coles had his first falling into The Bear Trap when he sunk four balls in the water on No.15 in the third round finishing with an 11. The most famous turn of events happened to Ray Floyd during the 1994 Senior PGA Championship. Floyd had a one-shot lead over Lee Trevino in the final round...until he finished with the 15th green. He put two shots into the water and made quadruple-bogey 7, finishing three behind and losing the championship to Trevino.

Mark Wilson, winner of the inaugural Honda Classic at PGA National, said on the eve of the final round: "Standing on the 15th tee, even with a six-shot lead, I'm going to be pretty nervous still. You've got to hit some good shots coming in."

"When the senior tour played at PGA National, I remember you started worrying about the shot at 15 before you teed off," says Roger Kennedy, a nine-time participant in the Senior PGA Championship. "There's nowhere to miss. You have to hit a good shot there. You can't just bail left, because then you have to chip over a bunker toward the water, and that's a scary chip. You don't want to chunk it short in the bunker or skull it over the green in the water."

Proving to be a true test, Mell reported that No. 15 received the most nominations in its category by the PGA club professionals and avid players, but the vote was close – the other contender was “its brother” at the back of the Bear Trap, the 17th hole.

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