

## Taylor Made Invitational and Adidas Pro-Am

In 2001, I was fortunate enough to meet Chuck Presto, Josh Algra and Andy Semrad at the National Assistant's Championship at Port St. Lucie. TaylorMade adidas were the title sponsors for this event. I was under contract with a rival company at the time, but wasn't pleased with my equipment. The company that I was with had not worked hard enough to get a driver fit to me properly during the year. As a no name assistant, they were in no hurry to help me out either.

With a 8th place finish in my first appearance at this championship a friendship was born with the TaylorMade family. I change equipment companies the very next year. Little did I know what this change would mean to me and my career. I went onto win three National Assistants Championships in the next four years, setting records each year that I won this event. The equipment that TaylorMade and adidas provided to me propelled my career in a direction that I can't explain. Taylor Made has provided me with many great friendships and a great company, what else could a club pro ask for from a sponsor.

In 2003, I was entering the TaylorMade Invitational for the 1st time. I had heard from several club pro's what an excellent event this had become. I approached several of my member's to join me for some sun, beer and golf for a week in Puerto Vallarta, they quickly signed up. The whole week was outstanding. We stayed at the Westin hotel all week long during the event. Dr. Mike Fauks, Dr. Randy Robinson and Hal Holiday took time away from their hectic work schedule to participate in this event. Little did we know how we were going to play, let alone be treated. The entire staff at Vista Vallarta was extremely gracious and friendly. KC Crandall and the bag staff ran a first rate operation from the first practice round until the final day of competition.

I have never played in a more organized, more fun, more exciting first class pro-am than this one. Pat Mateer and the entire staff of ChampionshipGolf made this event possible. From the time you get off the plane until the time you go home, it is all about golf, friendships, excellent service, great food and superb entertainment. I wish every Pro-Am I played in was run this well.

Fast forward to 2010---I have played in 7 Taylor Made Invitational's and 4 adidas Pro-Am's in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. I have also been fortunate enough to win 4 of these events. When I return home to Oklahoma in late November from this event, the first thing I do is put this on my calendar for the next year.

**It is the only Pro-Am, that I know of, that I can play 72 holes with a professional purse of \$100,000 side by side with my members.** They get to participate in a great event at a great venue as well. They get to feel the pressure down the closing holes of the final round. They get to see their professional perform at the highest level of competitive golf. They get to feel Craig Thomas, Rick Schuller, Ryan Helmnie, Bob Sowards, Charlie Bolling, Gordon Vietmeier, Jim Woodward, Dennis Winters, Jimmy Letourneau, Brad Lardon and many other great players breathing down your neck as we turn to the back nine that final day.

What an experience!!

We have also found a great home over the last few years at the Casa Magna Marriott resort. Dennis Whitelaw and the entire staff go above and beyond to make sure all of your needs are met. You can't ask for better accommodations or better service anywhere else. We are treated to the services of Jim Flick, Mike Malaska and Phil Blackmar on the driving range every day. What an honor for not only our members but us professionals as well. We are truly blessed to receive such wonderful swing instruction, great putting tips and pressure chipping pointers during our week at Vista Vallarta GC.

If you want to meet several great company's, excellent staff, great people than the 2011 TaylorMade Invitational and the 2011 adidas Pro-Am in Puerto Vallarta Mexico is the place for you!!

I will be there again! Come join me!

*Kyle Flinton*

2010 Taylor Made Invitational Champion