

ASSOCIATIONS

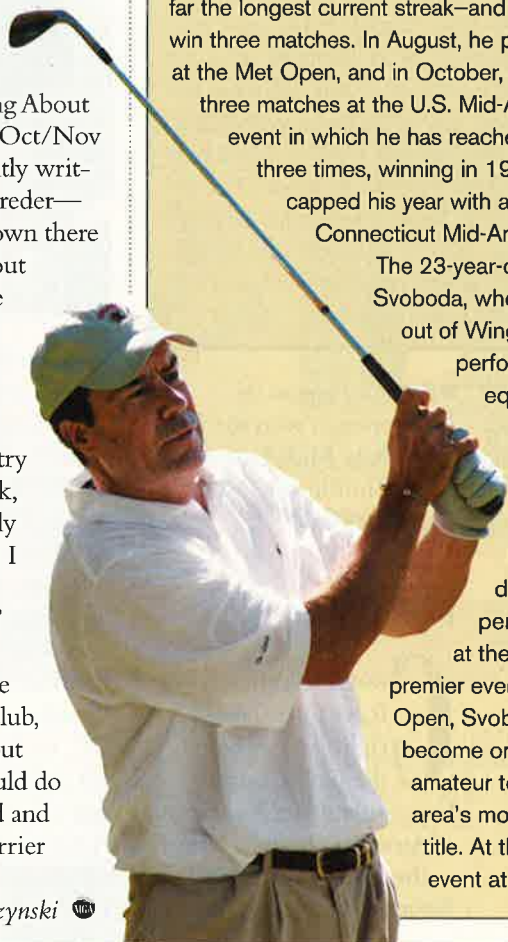
ED INGLES, A LONGTIME sportscaster and former WCBS radio sports director, was elected president of the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association. He succeeds Bruce Smith of Sporty Bear Productions, who served for four years. Pat Norton of Norton Communications was elected vice-president. ■ Rosemary Mankiewicz received the WMGA's Judy Bell Award at its annual meeting. Mankiewicz is a former WMGA president who has served Met Area golf as a volunteer for more than 25 years.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

"There's Something About Mary" (Up Close, Oct/Nov 2003) was eloquently written by John Steinbreder—but I've always known there was something about her. While in grade school, Mary wanted to apply to be a standard bearer at the Westchester Country Club Classic. "Look, Dad," she said, "only boys can apply." So I said, "Just sign it as 'M. Lopuszynski.'" She did and was accepted. When she showed up at the club, they were aghast, but she insisted she could do it. The club yielded and thus the gender barrier was pierced.

—Joseph P. Lopuszynski



MGA Player of the Year Award

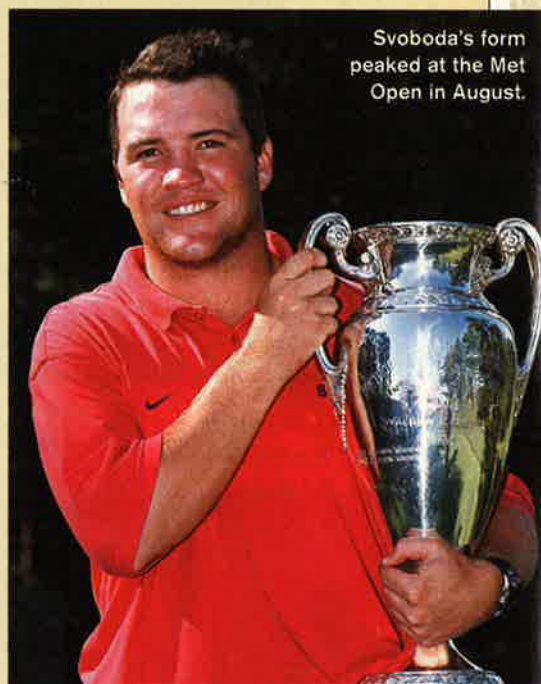
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IT WAS TOO CLOSE TO CALL. SO, FOR JUST the second time in the 28-year history of the MGA Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year Award, two players—Jerry Courville Jr. and Andrew Svoboda—will share top honors. While Courville nipped Svoboda by a few points in the official standings, the MGA Executive Committee deemed that each deserved a piece of the title for his extraordinary play and near-record point total.

Courville, who plays out of Shorehaven Golf Club in Connecticut, has now won six Player of the Year Awards, second only to George Zahringer's nine. He began his season by winning his fourth Hochster title at Quaker Ridge in June, then finished second at the Ike Championship at Meadow Brook. At the U.S. Amateur at Oakmont, Courville qualified for match play for the 10th time—by far the longest current streak—and went on to win three matches. In August, he placed 12th at the Met Open, and in October, he won three matches at the U.S. Mid-Amateur, an event in which he has reached the finals three times, winning in 1995. He capped his year with a win at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur.

The 23-year-old Svoboda, who plays out of Winged Foot, performed equally well en route to his first Player of the Year title. In a dominating performance at the MGA's premier event, the Met Open, Svoboda became only the sixth amateur to win the area's most coveted title. At the 54-hole event at Metede-

conk National in Jackson, NJ, he had the low round of the field in both the first and final rounds on his way to a five-stroke victory. Earlier in the season, Svoboda capped a record-breaking collegiate career at St. John's



Svoboda's form peaked at the Met Open in August.

with individual wins in seven college tournaments, accomplishments that are not reflected in the point system. Svoboda also qualified locally for the U.S. Open, placed fifth in the WGA Open, qualified on site for the U.S. Amateur and, later in the season, posted wins in both the Boff and Nassau Invitationals. In the latter, the field included eight players from the Golfing Union of Ireland's national team, in town for the Carey Cup Matches, making his win all the more impressive.

George Zahringer, who earned his first selection to the Walker Cup Team this year and reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur and the semifinals in defense of the 2002 U.S. Mid-Amateur title, finished third on the Honor Roll. Met Amateur champion Mike Stamberger and New Jersey veteran Allan Small rounded out the top five. For the top finishers in the MGA, Met PGA, NJSGA, and WMGA player of the year races, see page 10.