

## Tee Time



Fore!

"Obviously, it was a blowout, but it will still end up being one of the highest-rated tour events on a Sunday. We have no complaints."

— Rob Corroia, senior vice president of programming for CBS, on the TV ratings of the Buick Invitational

AT&amp;T PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM — FEB. 7-10

## The field's coming together for AT&amp;T

By JERRY STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

Fan favorite Bill Murray is busy filming. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady more than likely will be in Hawaii for the Pro Bowl. Patriots head coach Bill Belichick is still iffy. New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and sports announcer Al Michaels are in.

The player shuffle for next week's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am continues.

Along with Brees and Michaels, celebrities who have in recent days been added to the field include Formula One racer Rubens Barrichello Jr., and actors Luke Wilson and Josh Duhamel. Barrichello Jr., a native of Brazil, is a 10-handicap, while Wilson is a nine. Duhamel, who has been on the soap "All My Children" and most recently was in the film "Transformers", is also a 10-handicap.

Michaels, now with NBC after a nearly 30-year run at ABC, is most recognized for his broadcast ("Do you believe in miracles?") of the 1980 Winter Olympics ice hockey medal round match between the U.S. and Soviet Union. Brees, who helped lead the Saints to the 2007 NFC championship game, is an avid player, carrying a 4.7 handicap index.

On the professional side, Padraig Harrington has joined the field. Harrington, winner of last year's British Open, is currently ranked No. 10 in the world. The Irishman joins defending champion Phil Mickelson (No. 2) and Jim Furyk (No. 6) as Top 10 world-ranked players who will begin play Thursday at Poppy Hills Golf Course, Spyglass Hill GC and Pebble Beach Golf Links. Vijay Singh, who's currently ranked No. 11, is also in the field.

While professionals have until 2 p.m. Friday to commit to playing in the tournament, the celebrities/amateurs will have a small window through the weekend. By late Monday, however, that window will also shut. Pairings for the tournament will be released on Tuesday night.

In the status still-pending category, Murray is not expected to be coming due to filming commitments. Then again, as Monterey Peninsula Foundation president and CEO Ollie



DAVID ROYAL/The Herald

Padraig Harrington, the winner of last year's British Open and currently ranked No. 10 in the world, has joined the AT&T Pro-Am field.

Nutt said, "It's Bill. You never know."

According to Nutt, it's expected that Brady will honor his Pro Bowl obligations. Belichick, meanwhile, is expected to inform tournament officials of his decision after the Super Bowl.

"We're really hopeful with Belichick, but we don't expect to hear anything until Monday," Nutt said. "If someone like Bill (Murray) was to call sometime after Friday, we'd figure something out."

Tickets for the AT&T Pro-Am are available at the tournament box office (1-800-541-9091 or 831-644-0333) and online at [www.attpgolf.com](http://www.attpgolf.com).

## Wet courses

As one would expect, each of the three Pro-Am courses are wet this week due to the recent weather. The good news is that the courses were not hit too hard with rain.

"Considering that we got up to three inches over the weekend, we're doing amazingly well," Poppy Hills superintendent Manny Sousa said.

"We've dried off a bit, but we're definitely saturated," Pebble Beach superintendent Chris Dalhamer said. "It's not something you want ideally heading into a tournament, but Mother Nature is in charge."

Looking ahead, the forecast

calls for showers (60 percent) on Saturday. Showers are also forecast for Wednesday (50 percent).

Last year, showers dropped on the courses Thursday and Friday and rain fell on Saturday. In 2006, the weather was warm and dry all week, with temperatures reaching 77 degrees on Thursday.

## Poppy changes

Players can expect a few new looks when they go around Poppy Hills. For starters, a new back tee area has been constructed on the par-5 fourth hole, bringing its yardage to 603. By adding 50 yards, players will have to be more decisive on

club selection when approaching the green.

The other change involves the 405-yard par-4 14th. There, the tee was replaced and a fairway bunker was removed. The hole had a 90-degree dog-leg left, with trees lining the fairway. To allow the pros a chance at using driver, Poppy Hills general manager Tyler Jones and a committee decided to move the teeing ground to the right to open up the left side of the fairway. "We hope to put driver back in the professionals' hands," Jones said.

Another small change is on the par-3 15th, where the back tee was extended 20 yards.

## Celebrity Challenge

Nine players have confirmed their appearance in the annual 3M Celebrity Challenge, to be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Pebble Beach Golf Links. The list includes ESPN's Chris Berman, actors Don Cheadle, George Lopez, Kevin Costner, Andy Garcia, Kevin James, Ray Romano and Chris O'Donnell and Late Night TV host Carson Daly.

In the Challenge, 12 celebrities compete in a Modified Scotch format over five holes (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 17 and 18) for a \$29,000 purse, with winnings going to the charity of the celebrity's choice.

## Military Day

As part of Military Day, members of the armed forces, law enforcement and fire prevention (and one guest) will receive free admission to the tournament on Wednesday. Eligible personnel must present their active official department ID or badge at any ticket booth. Tickets are limited to a total of two per person.

## Youth Golf Exhibition

The Payne Stewart Youth Golf Exhibition, held in conjunction with tournament week, will be held Saturday on the Pebble Beach driving range. Free and open to the public, this year's exhibition (2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) will feature golf entertainer Dan Boever, who specializes in long drives and trick shots. Included in the festivities will be giveaways and a raffle for a set of clubs.

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