

# GOLF WEEK

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## THE FORECADDIE

THE  
MAN  
OUT  
FRONT

### Tap-ins & lipouts

#### A formidable foursome

When Vinny Giles and John Harris took on Jay Sigel and Bob Murphy on Jan. 26 at Quail Ridge CC in Boynton Beach, Fla., there was a common thread. In fact, when Giles told Lanny Wadkins with whom he was playing, Wadkins pegged it immediately. "That's four U.S. Amateur champions," said Wadkins, who is one himself. Not only that, but it was four champions from different decades: Murphy (1965), Giles (72), Sigel ('82-'83) and Harris ('93). For the record, Giles and Harris, who are Quail Ridge members, won the match, 3 and 2. The exhibition raised \$12,500 for charity.

#### Korda to Asia

The Man Out Front hears Jessica Korda will make her LPGA debut at the season-opener in Thailand. Korda, who turns 18 on Feb. 27, will play on a sponsor exemption. Her father, Petr, will help manage her career, along with his business partner, Tomas Vrana, and Patricio Apey, who managed Petr throughout his tennis career. In 2010, Jessica Korda made the cut at the Kraft Nabisco, competed at the U.S. Women's Open at Oakmont and was runner-up at the U.S. Women's Amateur in Charlotte, N.C.

#### Odds and ends

Venezuela's Jhonattan Vegas has a new nickname, Jhonny Vegas ("I like it," he tells The Man Out Front), and he probably could use a new cell phone, too. His nearly blew up after his victory at the Hope, as he estimates about 1,000 calls arrived in three days. . . . The Forecaddie caught up with Vijay Singh at the Farmers Insurance Open after the Big Fijian fell out of the top 100 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time since 1989. Singh, who turns 48 on Feb. 22, told TMOF that he's proud of that run. Then he smiled and said, "I'll be back. The last two (injury-riddled) years I'm trying to forget. I'm starting to feel everything come back."



Mike Davis

## Can't tell the players without a program

Not that he's qualified to fill the post, but The Man Out Front was eyeing the job description for the U.S. Golf Association's open executive director position when he stumbled upon some startling news: The folks at Golf House also are seeking directors for the U.S. Women's Open and the U.S. Amateur.

Hey, aren't those titles already held by Mike Davis, one of The Forecaddie's favorite people in the game?

Turns out, they are. But before TMOF could start speculating that this is the latest indication a turnstile has been installed in Far Hills, Davis put up a stop sign.

Those hires have been in the works for a while, Davis said through a spokesperson, even before David Fay chose to retire from the top job. Hiring people to run the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Amateur would afford Davis more time to oversee U.S. Open courses and more time "managing my department and the staff who report (to me), he said.

The Forecaddie has known Davis to be a stand-up guy, so he accepts this explanation and will start breathing a little easier. As for Fay's replacement? It's a big topic for this weekend's annual USGA meeting in Phoenix. We could have a new hire by March 1.

## A rare photo op

He can't remember the last time he let work get in the way of a good thing, but that doesn't mean The Man Out Front doesn't have respect for those who exhibit proper discipline.

Take Jimmy Johnson, for example. Arguably one of the game's top caddies, Steve Stricker's looper also is a longtime Dallas resident and passionate football fan. With Super Bowl XLV in his hometown, Johnson was offered a chance to be a "photo runner" for Forecaddie pal Scott Halleran of Getty Images.

That's right, a few weeks after fellow caddie Jim "Bones" Mackay worked the same job at the exciting BCS Championship Game, Johnson was seemingly going to do his pal one better. At least until work beckoned - his man Stricker chose to play in the Qatar Masters.

Why would a Cheeshead such as



Jimmy Johnson and Steve Stricker

Stricker not stick around for the big game? Well, Strick may hail from Wisconsin . . . but he's a Chicago Bears fan. As for Johnson, shed no tears. Johnson told The Forecaddie he offered his Super Bowl spot to a good friend.

"He's already told me he's indebted for life," Johnson said.