

Play Where the Professionals Compete: America's Original Golf Trail

Jason Dufner has played it. So have Michelle Wie, Graeme McDowell, Annika Sorenstam, and millions of other golfers. America's Original Golf Trail attracts golfers globally and continues to add professional golf events televised around the world. July 2015 brings a new chapter to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's history – the PGA TOUR and the Barbasol Championship in Auburn/Opelika.

"We are excited to announce the creation of the Barbasol Championship and to present an outstanding new playing opportunity for our members beginning next season," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem. "Barbasol has been a leader in the industry for more than 90 years and we are delighted to forge this new relationship with such an iconic brand. We are equally pleased to partner with the Robert Trent Jones Trail Foundation and to bring this tournament to the renowned Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and Grand National's exceptional Lake Course." Grand National is one of 11 facilities of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail that now includes 26 golf courses throughout Alabama.

Making Golf History

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail not only made history as the largest golf course construction project, it continues to make the spotlight through hosting professional competitions. In 2011, 16-year-old Lexi Thompson made golf history when she sank her final putt on the 18th green to win the Navistar LPGA Classic, becoming the youngest ever in the LPGA at that time. The next morning, golfers from throughout the region were able to play the same Senator Course at Capitol Hill on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. While everyone certainly will not hit shots as far as Lexi or putt as well as Stacy Lewis, all are welcome to play the same tournament courses along America's Original Golf Trail.

In 2014, two LPGA tournaments were held along the RTJ Golf Trail. The Airbus LPGA Classic was played on the Crossings course in Mobile with American Jessica Korda winning. In September, the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic was held for

the first of its three-year commitment with MJ Hur setting a tournament record. In 2015 the PGA TOUR professionals will take on the Lake Course at RJT Grand National.

Public Golf with Professional Quality

Here is an overview of the three Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail locations and their tournaments which have been recently highlighted on the professional golf stage. Best of all, outside of the tournament dates, these three locations and the entire Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail are accessible to the general public for play.

PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship

July 13 – 19, 2015

RTJ Grand National, Opelika

A new PGA TOUR tournament sponsored by Barbasol, the No. 1 shaving cream brand in the U.S., will debut in 2015 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National. A four-year agreement establishing the Barbasol Championship was announced by



The Crossings Course Magnolia Grove



Jessica Korda



Grand National



Governor Robert Bentley and representatives from the PGA TOUR and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Foundation, which will serve as the tournament host organization.

The Barbasol Championship will be held at the Grand National - Lake Course July 13-19, 2015, the same week as The British Open. "Alabamians pride themselves on the beauty, hospitality and charm of our state, and we are excited to showcase that to the world with the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship in the Auburn-Opelika area," Governor Robert Bentley said. "This event will bring tens of thousands of people, from all over the world, to see the beauty that Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has to offer." The Barbasol Championship will become part of the FedExCup competition, awarding 300 points to the winner.

"We are extremely pleased to be partnering with the PGA TOUR and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail," said Tom Murray, President and CEO of Perio Inc., the parent company

of Barbasol. "As we approach Barbasol's 100th, bringing together two of America's most respected, iconic brands is further proof of our long-term commitment to expanding our sports partnerships."

In 1997, the Lake Course played host to what is now the Web.com Tour Championship, the season-ending championship for the PGA TOUR's Web.com Tour. The tournament also was held at RTJ Golf Trail courses in Mobile (1998), Dothan (1999-2000) and Prattville (2001-2005). Grand National, which has two championship courses – the Lake and the Links – plus a short course, was among the original eight facilities. A golfing community and Marriott Hotel are adjacent to the courses at Grand National.

Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic

August 24 – 30, 2015

RTJ Capitol Hill, Prattville

Mi Jung Hur walked off the 7th green with a bogey Sunday —her only of the day—just as Stacy Lewis exited the 8th green just ahead with a birdie. The four-shot lead, which Hur shared at the start of the day with Paula Reto, had been quickly dwindled down to one, and the world No. 1 was on a roll at 4-under through eight holes. But from there, Hur reeled off her best golf in a week unlike any other in her career, pouring in birdies on five of the final 11 holes.

She saw Lewis was charging and began her response with a birdie on No. 9. Then, when Lewis again cut the lead to one shot on No. 10, Hur poured in a 35-foot putt on No. 11 to regain control. She followed with birdies on Nos. 13, 14 and 16 to hold off Lewis and her final-round 66 with a 66 of her own for a four-shot win and her second career victory at 21-under-par.

Hur wanted this so bad for three years. She first won in 2009 and finished 31st on the money list in 2010. But the three years that followed were trying – a frustrating swing

change that never seemed to click. Sunday was the fruits of all that labor, and the tears flowed before she had even left the 18th tee box. Tears of joy or tears of relief? "Three year relief," Hur answered.

There was a comfort, too, that only a father can provide. She had it every time she looked over to her bag to pull a club. She had it every time she needed help reading a green. He was her first swing coach and he was there on the bag all four days of the win she's waited on for five years. "If I had a missed shot or missed putt, he can pick right away what's wrong, what's going on in my swing," Hur said, "so I can have a right feel right away after a missed shot, so it was really helpful for the week."

Just behind Hur was Lewis in second at 17-under-par. Paula Reto finished in third at 14-under-par. Kris Tamulis posted the best finish of her career with a four-place

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Stacy Lewis



The Senator Course at Capitol Hill



Mi Jung Hur





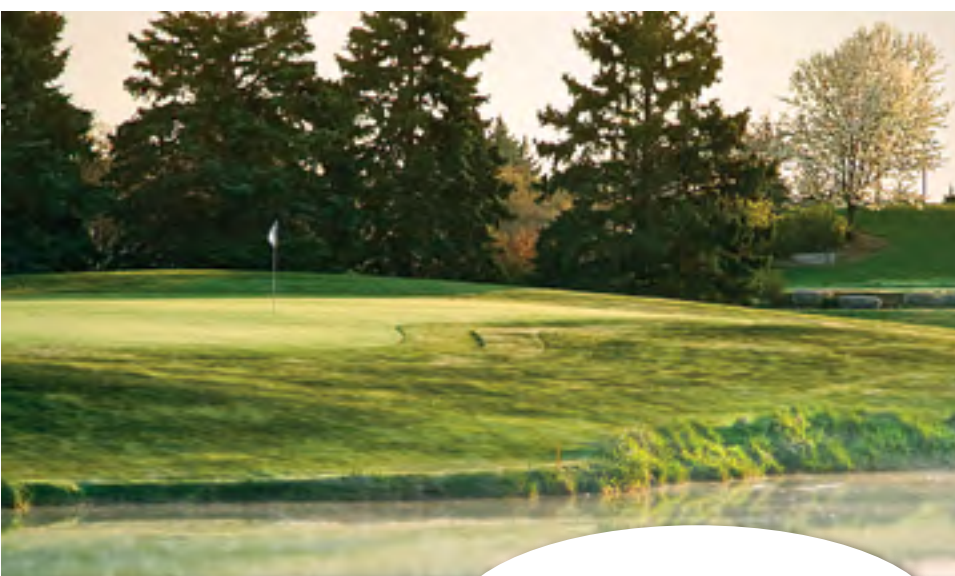
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America's Original Golf Trail

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finish, and Jody Ewart Shadoff and Moriya Jutanugarn tied for fifth.

Local favorite and Auburn University alum Cydney Clanton took away a lot of positives from her performance at the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. Clanton had a few of her best rounds in Prattville, shooting a first round 66 and final round 67 to finish tied for seventh.

Airbus LPGA Classic

May 18 – 24, 2015
RTJ Magnolia Grove, Mobile (Tentative)
Jessica Korda became the third two-time winner on the LPGA Tour last year when she won the 2014 Airbus LPGA Classic by a stroke (-20) over Anna Nordqvist (-19). It was once again a stacked leaderboard at an LPGA event with an exciting fight to the finish, with eight players within four shots of Korda at the end.

Korda joins Nordqvist and Webb with two wins in 2014, and said this win was a sweet one because she felt she hasn't been playing up to her standards after Bahamas. "I have not been playing well since I basically won in the Bahamas, and still trying to work on the same swing thoughts that Grant and I have been working on, so for it to finally pay off here is really nice," Korda said. In 2013, Korda came up one stroke short of eventual champion Jennifer Johnson (-21) but this year the 20-under was enough for a victory.

"My confidence just was rising every single day," Korda said. I just love it here. I love Alabama, I love this golf course, and hopefully we'll have this tournament for a very, very long time."

Her putts started dropping on the back nine with six birdies after she made the turn. It was just enough to hold off Nordqvist and Michelle Wie, Charley Hull, and Catriona Matthew, all at 18-under, after what she deemed was a frustrating day.

Lexi Thompson had a number in mind that she had to shoot in order to win the Airbus LPGA Classic and she ended up coming up short in the long run despite shooting a 6-under, including four birdies on the back nine. Thompson has many supporters across Alabama, a fact that was not lost on her. She fed off their energy and felt the love as she and her group played that day. "My group had pretty good crowds the whole week, so it was very nice to see," Thompson said. "I love my fans here."

For more on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, its Resort Collection, and professional golf tournaments, visit www.rtgolf.com.

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