

Deibert Takes Home First Player of the Year Honors; Ingraham Wins Senior POY

The Philadelphia Section's tournament season came to end on Monday, October 25th as the Section held its' Fall Meeting & Foursomes event. The fall meeting is a bookend for the Section's tournament schedule and also allows the Section to honor the 2010 Players of the Year.

The 2010 race for The Haverford Trust Company Player of the Year came down to the last week of the season. Heading into the final event, the Match Play Championship, Travis Deibert (Commonwealth National GC) held a 118-point lead over Stu Ingraham (M Golf Range) and a 125-point lead over Rich Steinmetz (Spring Ford CC). With the Championship worth 300 points, all three players had a chance to earn the title. However, with none of the players making it past the quarterfinals, Deibert was able to hold on and earn his first Haverford Trust Co. Player of the Year title.

Among the highlights for Deibert in 2010 were victories at the inaugural Jersey Shore Pro-Am, the Variety Tournament of Champions event and the Woodcrest Invitational. Additionally, Deibert finished in the top 10 in more than half of the events in which he competed, including second place finishes at the prestigious Haverford Trust Co. Golf Classic and the 2010 Callaway Golf Philadelphia PGA Assistant Championship. In the final standings, Deibert bested Ingraham by less than 120 points and was able to erase some of the memories from his second place finish in 2009.

For Ingraham, not all was lost. Despite falling just short in the Haverford Trust Co. Player of the Year race, Ingraham mounted a late season charge and was able to surpass George Forster (Radnor Valley CC) and earn his first Robert "Skee" Riegel Senior Player of the Year. In the final standings, Ingraham finished only 20 points ahead of Forster but the margin was large enough to block Forster from taking home his fifth consecutive title.

Some of the highlights for Ingraham in 2010 were senior victories at the Section's Jersey Shore Pro-Am, Conestoga Classic, TaylorMade-Adidas Classic, and the Doylestown Open. Ingraham also fell one shot short of earning his second Section Championship in the last three years. On a national level, Ingraham finished 11th at the PNC in French Lick, IN and earned entry into the PGA Championship at Whistling Straights. Ingraham also finished 6th at the Senior PNC and will compete in the 2011 Sr. PGA Championship at Valhalla GC. Additionally, Ingraham captured the Section's DeBaufre Scoring Average title for 2010. The DeBaufre Scoring Average title and trophy, a gift from the DeBaufre family and longtime Philadelphia Section PGA Professional Tim DeBaufre, honors the player with the lowest overall stroke average for a tournament season. This is the fifth year overall and second consecutive year that Ingraham has won this award.

The final year-end award was given to the Section's Most Improved Player, Don Allan (Woodcrest CC). Allan broke into the winner's circle with 1st place finishes at the GALV Lehigh Valley Open and the Shawnee Open. Allan also had multiple top 10 finishes included a fourth place finish at the Senior Section Championship which earned him a spot in this past October's Senior Professional National Championship.

This year's fall meeting also allowed the Section to honor a longtime member of the Philadelphia PGA field staff. Mr. Fran Nixon, a former sales representative for Wilson Sporting Goods, has served the Philadelphia Section in one capacity or another for the past 50 years. Upon receiving his award, all in attendance gave Mr. Nixon a standing ovation for his accomplishments. The Section and its members thoroughly thank Mr. Nixon for his tremendous dedication to the Philadelphia PGA.