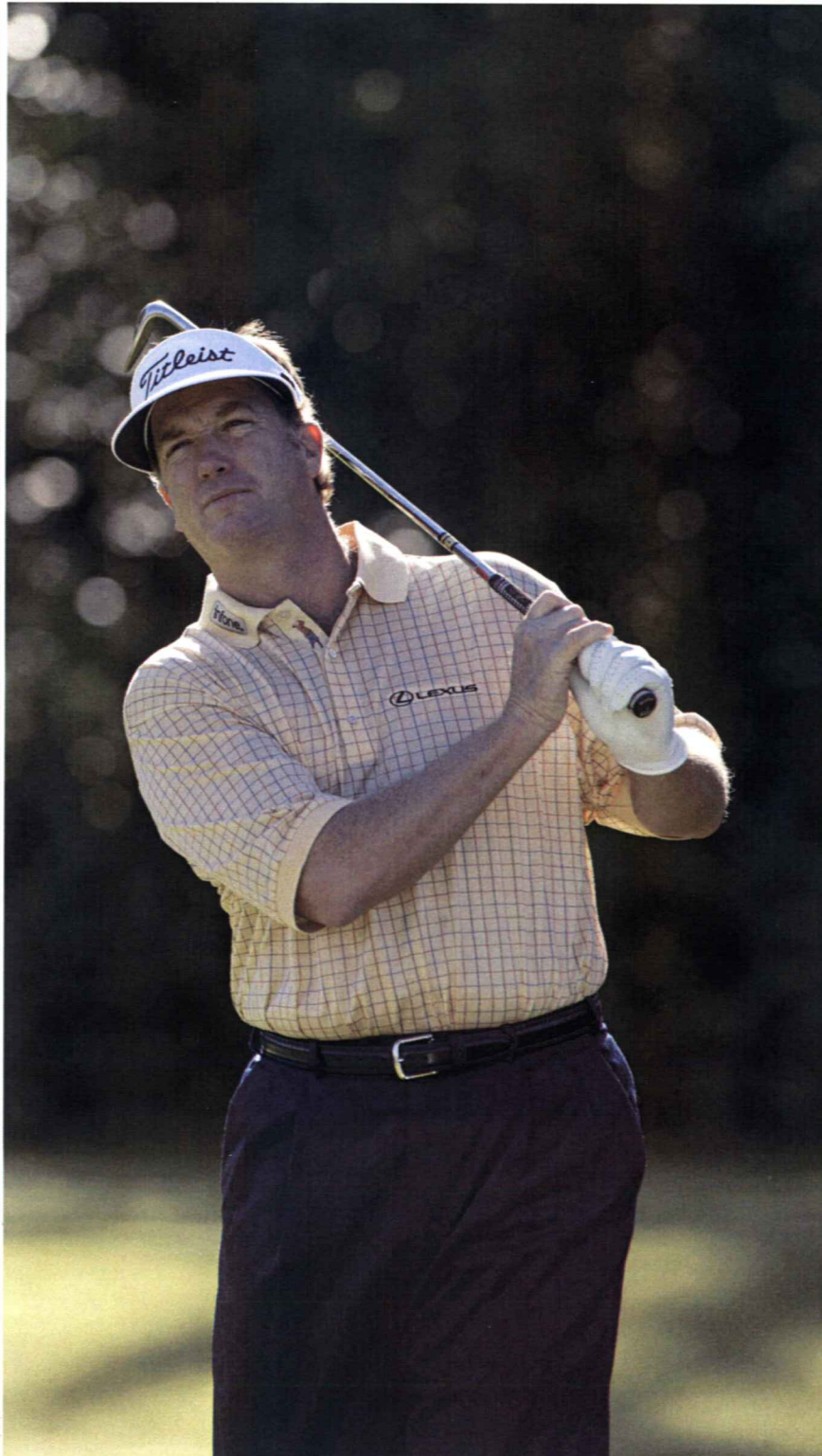


Portland State senior Taya Battistella, the Big Sky Conference women's golf champion, takes aim at the NCAA Western Regional.



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FREDRICK D. JOE/THE OREGONIAN

A life in full swing

Peter Jacobsen is playing his best golf in years, and that's just part of his tale

By MIKE TOKITO
THE OREGONIAN

PETER JACOBSEN

The waiting area at Peter Jacobsen Productions in Beaverton leaves little doubt about what drives the company and its founder.

The carpet between the two couches has two golf holes cut in it. Several golf balls are scattered about. A few putters lean against the reception counter.

Golf spawned the company and the long list of off-the-course activities that keep Jacobsen as busy as any golfer in the world.

Jacobsen, one of the most popular and well-known athletes Oregon has produced, is playing some of his best golf in years. Two weeks ago, he shot 12 under par and finished ninth at the Shell Houston Open, gaining his second consecutive top-10 finish and 76th in 27 seasons.

He had hip surgery to remove bone spurs in mid-2001. Now healthy, he is 85th on the money list and even talking about getting a win against the youngsters before he turns 50 and moves on to the Champions Tour next March.

"I've been working really hard on my game, practicing a lot," Jacobsen said. "I'm just playing well."

But for Jacobsen, golf is not confined to inside the gallery ropes of the 618 PGA Tour events he has played in. His on-course success — six tour wins, three international victories, three playoff losses, 76 top-10 finishes, two Ryder Cup appearances — are just part of the scorecard.

He also is a course architect, promoter, entertainer, arcade game icon, TV commentator and author.

"I think it only adds to what I do," Jacobsen said of his many

This year: The Portland pro, in his 27th year on the PGA Tour, finished in the top 10 in his last two starts and is 85th on the money list.

This week: Playing in the Wachovia Championship in Charlotte, N.C., starting Thursday.

By design: He and partner Jim Hardy have nine courses open that they have designed and six in the works, including a public course in Astoria.

On the air: His golf/comedy show, "Peter Jacobsen Plugged In," is in reruns on The Golf Channel, with new episodes pending, including one shot this past weekend at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Air times at www.thegolfchannel.com.

Future: Turns 50 on March 4, making him eligible for the Champions Tour.

"When I came out of the University of Oregon, I never thought I had the game to make it on the tour," Peter Jacobsen says. In 27 years on the PGA Tour, he has earned more than \$6 million.

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