

Coaching Challenges, Technology, Debate Take Center Stage



12th PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit marks sellout in first visit to Orlando

By Bob Denney

Emboldened by a fast-paced, two-day format that guided many of the game's premier teaching minds outside the tee box, the 12th PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit made a successful Orlando debut on Jan. 24-25.

Eighteen captivating presentations, wrapped around the theme of "Getting Results," presented a sellout audience of more than 550 representing 47 states and 12 countries more than a notebook full of impressions at the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott. The PGA of America's largest educational event, the first staged prior to a PGA Merchandise Show, was supported by *Golf Magazine*, Golf Pride, GolfTEC, SkyCaddie and TaylorMade.

"You represent some of the most important caretakers of the game," said PGA President Allen Wronowski in his welcoming remarks. "By your

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Attendees watch Mark Sweeney demonstrate green-reading methods during a breakout session.

presence today, you follow in the footsteps of those generations of professionals before you who believed that those who dare to teach must never cease to learn."

This was a PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit that picked up from the momentum of its predecessors in the tradition of offering as much spice and ingredients as a fine Italian sauce. The 21-member PGA Instruction Committee, the Summit "design team," offered a schedule of topics that motivated beyond the event; "breakout sessions" that engaged attendees with the presenters at stations throughout the property; and sought instant feedback from the grandstands by e-mailing questions and comments to a central web address.

On opening day at the main stage, Charlie King of Greensboro, Ga., outlined the "New Rules of Golf Instruction," followed by Lynn Blake of Atlanta, the founder of Lynn Blake Golf, who opened his presentation, "Alignments Are Forever" with the declaration, "This is our time for renewal. We teach each other what we want to learn."

"A system of alignments frees me from the netherworld of position golf and the tyranny of the method of the day," said Blake. "Alignments solve problems that students bring to every single lesson. Your students will enjoy their greatest successes if they follow those alignments. Methods come and go, but alignments are forever."

Blake gave College Football Hall of Fame Coach Lou Holtz a golf lesson before the coach delivered a 41-minute, compelling address (see related story on