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2011 Champion's Corner

With 2010 Defending Champion, Brian Gill PGA



Brian, on behalf of the Endicott College Invitational, our valued sponsors and supporting fans, we are delighted to not only have you here for a pre-ECI interview, but also to have you back once again in arguably one of the best fields of amateur golf.

Mr. Gill, your game has excelled tremendously over the last few years and we are excited to hear all about it, so let's cut to the chase!

MZ: Brian, this is what, your third year now as a PGA professional, correct? How has this elite status changed you as a golfer and as a person?

BG: Actually, this is my fifth season as a PGA Professional. I feel like it has changed me as a golfer being given unlimited access to courses, practice facilities, and equipment through my contract with Nike. As a person I have grown as anyone will in the post-college working world.

MZ: What was your winter like? Were you down south working? How many rounds have you tallied thus far in 2011 and is your game good enough right now to win a third ECI?

BG: I spent my winter coaching a local high school golf team at an indoor facility. Unfortunately I was not able to head down south for any rounds in the warmer weather. So far I have only played one full 18-hole round outdoors, and two 9-hole rounds



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outdoors. I feel with the practice I will try to squeeze in between now and the ECI my game should be ready to compete for the top spot. But as you said earlier, the field is strong as always at this event.

MZ: OK, so having said that, excluding you, name two other players who might be capable of winning the 2011 ECI.

BG: My biggest competitors this year will probably be John Dailey and Alex Lawner. John edged me out a few years ago (take a look at the video on the homepage) and is always near the top of the leader board. Alex had a strong showing last year and could have easily taken the title had I not had some of those lucky bounces. Of course, with a field like this anybody is capable of winning. We will just have to wait and see how the leader board shapes up.

MZ: Brian, how important is this event to you? Certainly with your busy schedule, you have a lot going on as an assistant pro at Clinton Country Club. The fact that you take the time to play in this event means a lot to me, as well as the rest of the field. I think everyone can tip their hats to you in regards to your recent accomplishments in your career...

BG: This event is important to me because it is a great tune up for the Travelers Qualifying event and the season as a whole. I in turn want to show my support to the people who do all of the work for this event; Marc Zirolli and John Dailey. That is another main reason to keep coming back.

MZ: This will be your third consecutive year trying to qualify for the Travelers Championship. What is your long-term goal as a PGA professional?

BG: This year should be the last year that I work as a PGA Professional, but I plan on trying to continue to qualify for the Travelers beyond 2011.

MZ: Your brother is caddying for you at the ECI this year to get you ready for the Travelers qualifier. In essence, you guys are a two-man team. In what area do you think your brother will help you the most?

BG: First, I still need to make sure Red Tail will allow me to have him caddy with me. But if he is able to it will be helpful for the both of us to get used to working together in this capacity.

MZ: Red Tail Golf Club has been the host of the ECI since 2004. Where does this golf course rank out of all the tracks you've played over the years – Top 10? Top 20?



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BG: In terms of public courses, it is in the top 5 that I have played. Its use of waste areas is very unique which is a nice change from the typical course you might see in New England.

MZ: Brian, the ECI will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary next spring. There are talks of a 36-hole event over two days. Give me your two cents – where should this event be played to honor of this milestone?

BG: I would like to see a 36-hole event next year whether it takes place over two days or not. I am always up for 36 holes in one day. It would be nice to see it back at Essex for the nostalgia of it all, but could see it being difficult to plan an event there. Maybe we could go play Cape Ann Golf Course (unless Marc gets us kicked out again for calling it a “Dog Track”).

MZ: Can you believe we’ve had this event going strong for nine years now, and counting??

BG: It’s great to see how many people continue to support it after all this time. Thanks to Marc and John for continuing to put it together for us all.

MZ: Thanks Brian. Best of luck this year at defending your title at the ECI as well as preparing for the qualifier for the Travelers Championship. See you at Red Tail!

BG: Thank you Marc. Can’t wait for May 1st. Now all I need to do is start practicing.