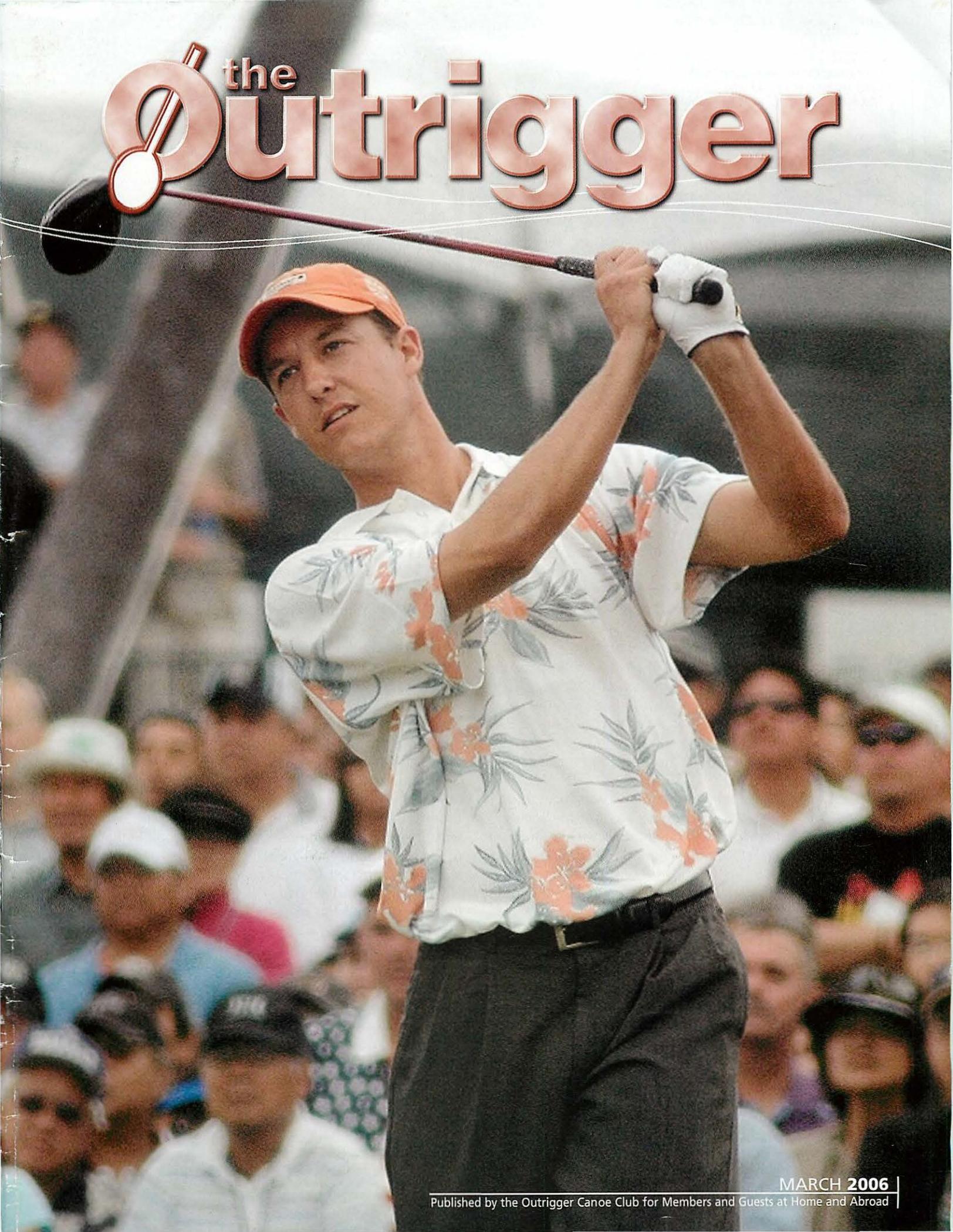


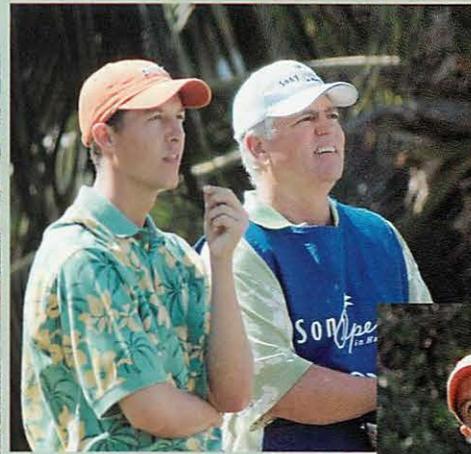
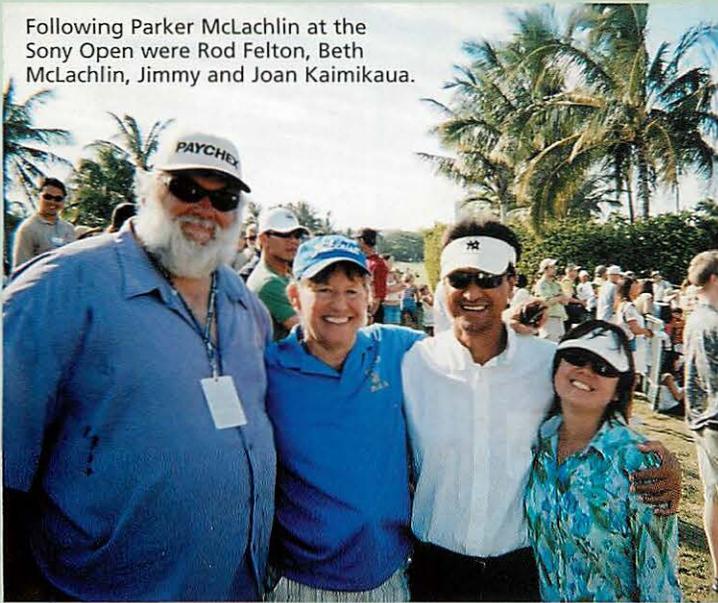
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MARCH 2006

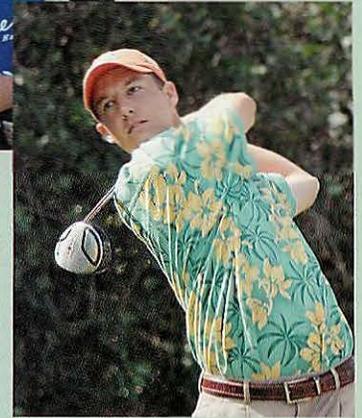
Published by the Outrigger Canoe Club for Members and Guests at Home and Abroad

Following Parker McLachlin at the Sony Open were Rod Felton, Beth McLachlin, Jimmy and Joan Kaimikaua.



Parker discusses strategy with caddy Scott Simpson.

A big swing for Parker.



A MEMORABLE WEEK AT WAIALAE WITH PARKER MCLACHLIN

By Jim Gaddis Photos by 808Golf.com

When Chris McLachlin called I forgot my manners. Without the slightest hint of a greeting, I immediately asked Chris if his son, Parker, had qualified for the Sony Open Golf Tournament. Like the quality Punahou teacher he is, Chris pointed out my lack of phone etiquette and quickly corrected my flaw.

"At least say hello first!" He then offered a long, detailed account of Parker's playoff at Pearl Country Club which allowed me to conclude five nervous minutes later that Parker had, indeed, earned a tee time with the big boys at Waialae, not to mention a certain 16-year-old female Punahou phenom.

I'll always appreciate that Chris included me in the first wave of phone calls.

The national and international news was focused on Michelle Wie, which was as it should be. But Michelle's good friend 10 years her senior, Parker McLachlin, had hundreds of Islanders buzzing with delight at his success in earning an entry.

Parker had fans watching his every shot at the Tuesday practice round. Most of the news print focused on his caddy, former U.S. Open Champion Scott Simpson.

Fourteen years earlier, Parker and I stood together on the practice tee at Waialae Country Club cleaning clubs as caddies for our PGA professionals Scott Simpson and Curt Byrum. Parker was a 90-pound 12-year old. I was a lame-legged 40-year-old Danny Kaleikini Show bartender.

It was a bonus for my son, Kainoa, and I to have four of the five golfers I planned to follow play next to each other on Thursday and Friday. We didn't have to race around the course to find our friends. I caddied for both John Cook and Tom Byrum in the 80s and 90s.

Kai and I have always been their biggest local fans. John and his wife, Jan, spend all of their free hours at the

Outrigger Canoe Club. Their kids love to surf and John paddles when he gets the chance.

My daughter, Courtney, and Kai enjoy spending time with Tom and Dayna Byrum. Paul Azinger has been a fellow fly fishing buddy. Now Parker was on our must-see list.

Parker's gallery on Thursday may have been deceiving. Parker claims he was picking up Michelle's overflow of fans because he was playing one group ahead. But those who know Parker know his personal gallery was genuine. Mom Beth, dad and kid brother Spencer took turns pushing a very proud Grandpa Paul around in his wheelchair to watch the action.

Beth and Spencer had their blue *Shaka for Paka* shirts on. Well wishers constantly gave Parker's wife Kristi the thumbs up following clutch shots. A good number of Outrigger Canoe Club members, Punahou alumni and other friends and family were thrilled with Parker's two-over 72 in constant 40 mph winds.

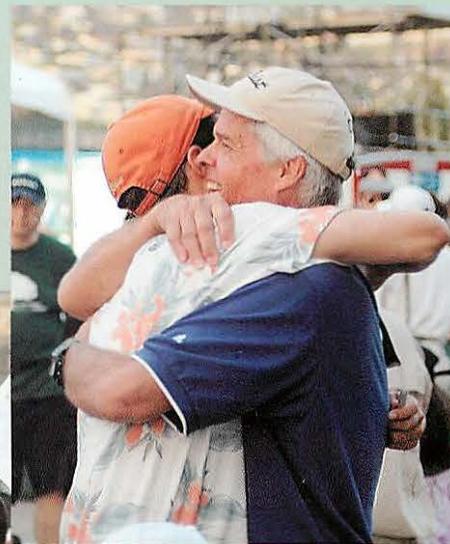
Parker's round on Friday exhilarated his ever increasing gallery with high hopes and crossed fingers. Parker was close to making the cut. Monday's qualifying round was huge. Making the cut at the Sony in Hawaii tournament would be gigantic. Parker kept us on our toes with every shot, especially a clutch five-iron out of a fairway trap on 18 to keep par within reach and a three-over par ticket to the weekend.

I don't know if anyone had great expectations on Saturday. Just being there on the weekend was good enough for us. Parker was the lone Hawaii connection playing on Saturday and Sunday. He was paired with a former number one player in the world, David Duval. Duval got a kick out of the size of the gallery. (I know I'd leave tons of names out if I tried to list Parker's fans behind the

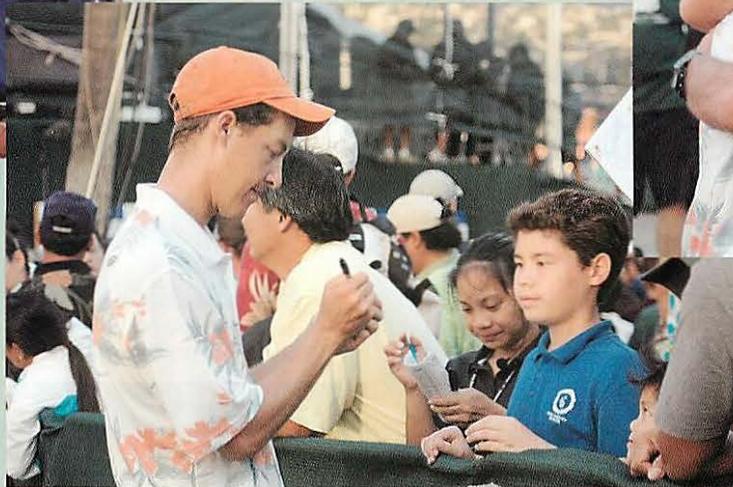


It was a Sony big week for the McLachlins: mom Beth, wife Kristi, Parker, Dad Chris, and front, Grandpa Paul.

A hug for dad when it's all over.



Parker signs autographs for young fans.



ropes. You know who you are.)

If qualifying and making the cut wasn't thrilling enough, Parker had more in store for his family and friends. How much better could it get? My guess is that there were well over 200 Parker McLachlin fans focused in on a heavenly, windless day at Waialae. No one could hope or dream of a better round of golf.

By the time the 10th tee rolled around, Parker had a new nickname—the Beach Boy. Some fans in the gallery truly believed Parker was deliberately aiming for the sand traps so he could show off his miraculous beach play. Parker saved par on number eight with an amazing sand shot, got up and down for a bird on nine and then holed out from 40 feet out of the bunker on 11.

The crowd erupted with joy and exhilaration. A long birdie on 17 sent Parker's fans into a frenzy. If qualifying was huge and making the cut was gigantic, then firing a five-under 65 was indeed totally colossal. Parker wasn't the only guy on cloud nine. We were all floating.

The media was all over Parker after his round. The Golf Channel did a special story for their tournament coverage. It was too good to be true. We were all proud as peacocks.

What comes after icing on the cake? Perhaps a major paycheck. Sunday's round with former British Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia and big hitter Jeff Gove again carried no great expectations. All of our crazy hopes and wild dreams had long been fulfilled.

With another huge gallery, Parker never allowed his beaming smile to slip from his face. Kristi was beaming as well! There were no miraculous shots or low numbers on Sunday. Parker strolled off the 18th green feeling like he just won the tournament.

His 74 was forgettable but his experience was the memory of a lifetime for each and every one of his fans.

Danny Kaleikini gave him a generous introduction and a big hug in front of the enormous crowd.

There were countless congratulations following an hour of signing autographs. It was a thrilling week for so many OCC members whether they were members of the gallery or just focused on the local sports news.

Beth had been squeezed by a thousand hugs, Chris' fingers ached from a thousand handshakes and Spencer's shoulder had a dent in it from non-stop slaps to his back.

As Parker and Kristi flew home the next day, Kainoa and I were lucky enough to be able to etch another perfect memory in our lives. My old friend, Kimo Kahoano invited me to play Waialae Country Club with him the very next morning. The rough was still thick and the green slick.

Kai caddied for me and played a few holes. Uncle Kimo's dynamic personality and graciousness made us feel at ease. Even after Kainoa reminded me that Parker made a birdie out of the same trap it took me three shots to escape from, I was in heaven.

Kimo taught Kai how to putt then treated us to a wonderful lunch. We talked about the great future Parker had in store for his fans in Hawaii and how we would be cheering him on for years to come at Waialae.

P.S.: Two short weeks after Parker and his caddy, Scott Simpson, thrilled OCC members with four solid rounds at the Sony in Hawaii, the duo decided to thrill us again. On Sunday, January 29th, Parker carved out a second place finish at the Panama Championships earning his largest paycheck as a nationwide tour professional. On the very same day, Simpson secured a second place finish at the Turtle Bay Championship. Let's hope this is the start of an incredibly successful 2006 for the Outrigger Canoe Club's own Parker McLachlin.