

P26: TEXAS TWO-STEP
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Puts its Best Foot Forward

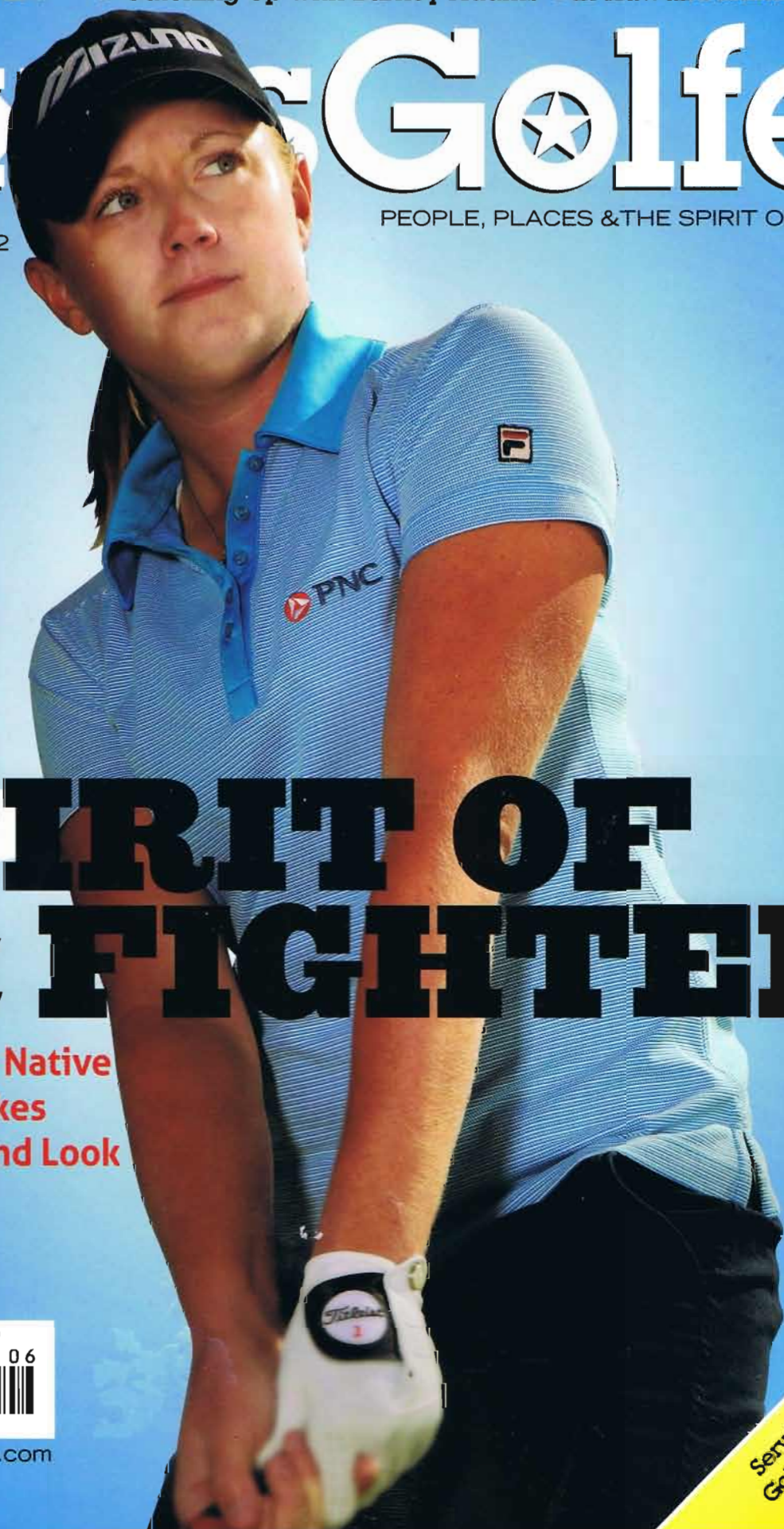
P32: Q&A
Retired? No Way.
Catching Up with Barney Adams

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Kauai Glimmers Like a Star
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Texas Golfer

MAY/JUNE 2010
VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2

PEOPLE, PLACES & THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME



SPIRIT OF *a* FIGHTER

The Woodlands Native
STACY LEWIS Takes
on the LPGA...and Look
Out World!

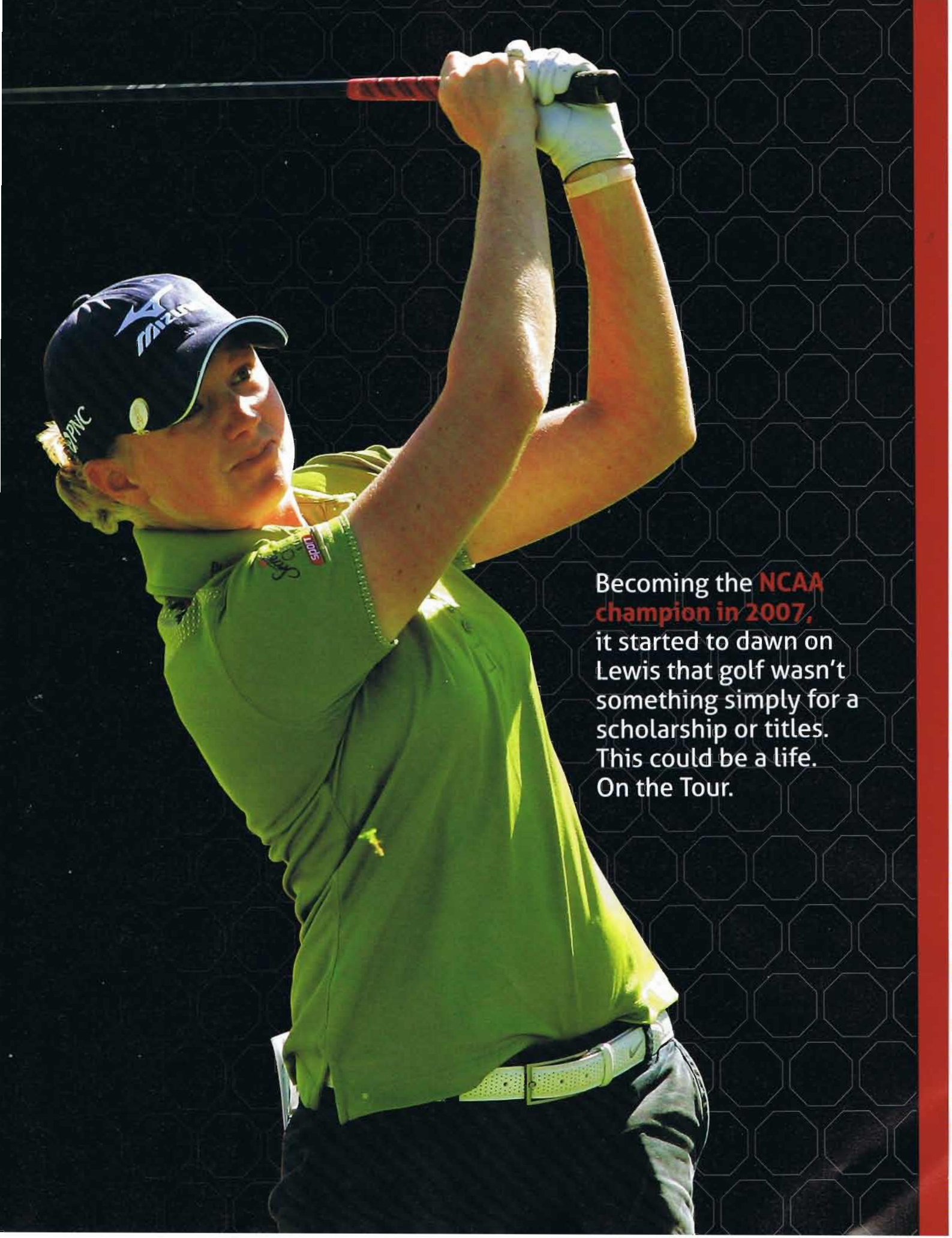
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Becoming the **NCAA champion in 2007**, it started to dawn on Lewis that golf wasn't something simply for a scholarship or titles. This could be a life. On the Tour.

other, a distraction. "It's hard to decide between working on my game and enjoying the places you're getting to go to," she says. Lewis admits to choosing golf much of the time, though the koalas tore her away long enough to get to an Australian zoo. "Hey," she laughs, "even I need a break."

And she's happy she's finally realized that. In her mind, her rookie season wasn't a complete success, which she chalks up to just practicing too much for the sake of practice. She also fell victim, as early achievers often do, to high expectations. When they weren't met, it was, at least on the course, somewhat of a first. "You want to win every tournament," she says. "But my putting needs work."

That might tell you something about her humility, leaving out her first professional tournament. Lewis found herself leading—of all things—the 2008 U.S. Women's Open after three rounds. The whole golfing community, as you'd expect, could only marvel. This was the making of a legend, the story practically writing itself as the fairway seemed to welcome every Lewis tee shot. If she had one more brilliant round in her, Lewis would be the first pro in the modern era to win a major in their first professional event.

Then, on the final day, the book would close as fast as it had opened. Surely, if you have to lose, you want it early, you want it obvious, twisting the knife out of your back while the wound is at least still partially superficial. A double-bogey on the second hole and a few other shots not falling, and the galley eventually quieted as Lewis settled for third place. History would be made that day, but by Inbee Park, becoming the youngest U.S. Women's Open champion ever at the mere age of 19.

Still, third at a major is an undeniable accomplishment. And when it's your first tournament, it can even burden a career, es-

pecially when for many it can be the highlight of 20 years on tour, let alone the first 20 minutes. "I learned a lot of things my first year," Lewis assesses. "I learned you have to give yourself time to be successful."

For now, her aspirations are conservative. "My highlight has probably been staying in the top 50 on the money list and keeping my card," she reflects. So her goal isn't winning *all* the LPGA Championships or the Women's British Opens just yet, focusing on attempting to make the Solheim Cup team instead, representing her country, a unique chance to bond and learn from her fellow players.

Most of all, she's remembering to enjoy the game. "I still love coming up with new shots," she says. "Or figuring out how to deal with a certain situation. The game never stops challenging me."

Of course, right now—at LAX—her challenge is only to get home, waiting on yet another flight at the end of what seemed like a never-ending itinerary. She's thinking about that much-needed massage she'll allow herself, now with the normal back pains of everyday life instead of those that came with that once-unnerving, career-threatening curvature. Most of all, she can't wait to see her family, to talk to dad, Dale. After all, he was the one who got her on this crazy ride to begin with.

"It really did just start with playing with him and having a good time," she says. "He's even caddied for some of my events."

She's quick to bring up that he doesn't pressure her, and advises that she should only keep at it if it makes her happy. But she will admit that he's beyond elated at how far she's gone as a golfer. "He's living the dream," she laughs.

When you're holding the leader's bag at the U.S. Women's Open and it happens to belong to your daughter, do you ever really wake up? ■

12 Qs FOR STACY

Are you a neat freak or do you prefer the messier side of life?

The messier side - I have to be pretty motivated to clean.

If calories and fat grams didn't exist or matter, what dessert would you eat every day?
Cheesecake

If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would it be?
The CEO of a Fortune 500 company

What is the one thing you absolutely must do in order to get your day started right?

Watch the news or SportsCenter

What is your biggest pet peeve?
Slow drivers in the left lane

Are you a morning person or a night owl?

A night owl

Who is the most frequently dialed person in your cell phone call log?

My parents

What was your first job?

I'm not really sure. I guess babysitting - if you call that a job!

If you could be on a reality TV show, which one would you choose?

Amazing Race

What other sport would you like to be good at?

I would like to be good at snow boarding or surfing

What do you usually eat for breakfast before your round?

Cereal, fruit, or yogurt

What is your favorite activity you do when you want to relax?

Get a massage!