

All I Want for Christmas — 2005*By: Nathan Grace Date: Nov. 20, 2005*

I've been told by my better half that I need to stop writing about the effects of the hurricane season on the Gulf Coast because, as she says, people read my column to get a laugh and see what I think about golf-related issues. To that end, she is right, and following a two month period of writing about Katrina and Rita, it is time to move forward in this column. Fittingly enough, it is also that time of year again for my golf Christmas list. As always, whether or not you celebrate Christmas, this list is primarily golf centered (world peace, etc. is a given each year), herewith:

7. **A Full Time Rules Official for Michelle Wie.** When in doubt, call a tournament official. I guess B.J. can always write that off as youthful indiscretion. After all, she's only 16 and no sixteen year-old should be throwing away tens of thousands of dollars over a bad drop. And you thought you got upset with your kid's cell phone bill?

6. **Healthy Hearts and Knees.** And a whole cornucopia of other health concerns for players from David Toms to Ernie Els. These guys are good, but they need to stay healthy too. And that's not to mention Casey Martin who may have to give up playing professionally now if he cannot use a cart.

5. **Wie vs. Pressel vs. Creamer.** Sure, Annika is still the dominate player in women's golf, but some good old-fashioned cat fighting would be a huge shot in the arm to the LGPA Tour and their bottom line. There is no Arnie vs. Jack scenario on the LPGA Tour and, even though they won't be members until they get a little older, there's already no love loss between Wie and Pressel. Of course, Creamer has the track record already to put her credibility above the other two. These girls may "rock," but 2006 could be one of the livelier years on the women's circuit. Check next month's column for more in-depth analysis.

4. **An end to Tiger's slump.** Once and for all, I wish Tiger could piece together at least one win next year—maybe the Texas Open—so he can get his game back on track and his critics would....oh, wait. That's been done already. Or has it?

3. **A Major for Chris DiMarco.** C'mon! Who would you be happier to see finally win one after being close so many times recently. And what a great performance at the President's Cup? At least he hasn't been labeled the "best player not to win a major." Or at least, he hasn't been labeled as such yet...

2. **A Return to Normalcy for the Gulf Coast.** Okay, I know I said I wouldn't bring this up again, but the residents of the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle through Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana need some Christmas wishes. It will take years and a great deal of investment, but each day things get better and we should all continue to think of them and pray for them.

1. **A Healthy Baby Boy.** What's this, you ask? For whom? My wife and I are expecting our third child in early December and we already know it will be a boy. In fact, he may be here before most of you reading this in print get a chance to read this. To all of you who have already sent us your well wishes, we thank you. I know this too is not exactly golf related, but there are more important things in life than golf as we all have come to know.

Nathan Grace is a golf course architect and member of the Golf Writers Association of America whose freelance "Lipouts" column appears in a number of regional and national golf publications. If you would like to read past columns from the archives, log on to www.lipouts.com. Copyright 2005.