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Skins Game

by Brian Smith

ST ANDREWS... AUGUSTA... KILLARNEY... PINEHURST... PEBBLE BEACH.... THESE NAMES ARE synonymous with the great game of golf. But...Cypress Cove? Even though the competitors hail from all over North America and Europe, just as they do in most great tournaments, they were nonetheless shocked to learn that *Sports Illustrated* had dispatched a photographer and writer to cover their event.

Like the other great courses, Cypress Cove also has a long tradition, although not necessarily for golf. Rather, Cypress Cove is best known as one of Florida's first nudist resorts, established in 1964 in Kissimmee by Jim and Lyda Hadley—just down the road from another famous resort known as Disney World. It's been family-run ever since.

These golfers are far from a closed society; indeed the golfers competing in Cypress Cove's golf tournament have nothing to hide from the media... or from anyone

else for that matter. They are proof that golf is best played without polyester double knit, green plaid slacks and white belts, or even Tiger's new favorite salmon-colored shirts.

Golf is a game best played with your close friends. That the course is just a simple nine-hole pitch-n-putt does not deter the competitors. No, a day in the sunshine with your friends was all they could ask for...well a few appropriately placed double entendres never hurt...

See more on his website at briansmithphoto.com



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These images were shot for the March 2005 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, and were also exhibited at the PhotoPlus Expo in New York last fall in a display for Moab Paper and Colorvision.