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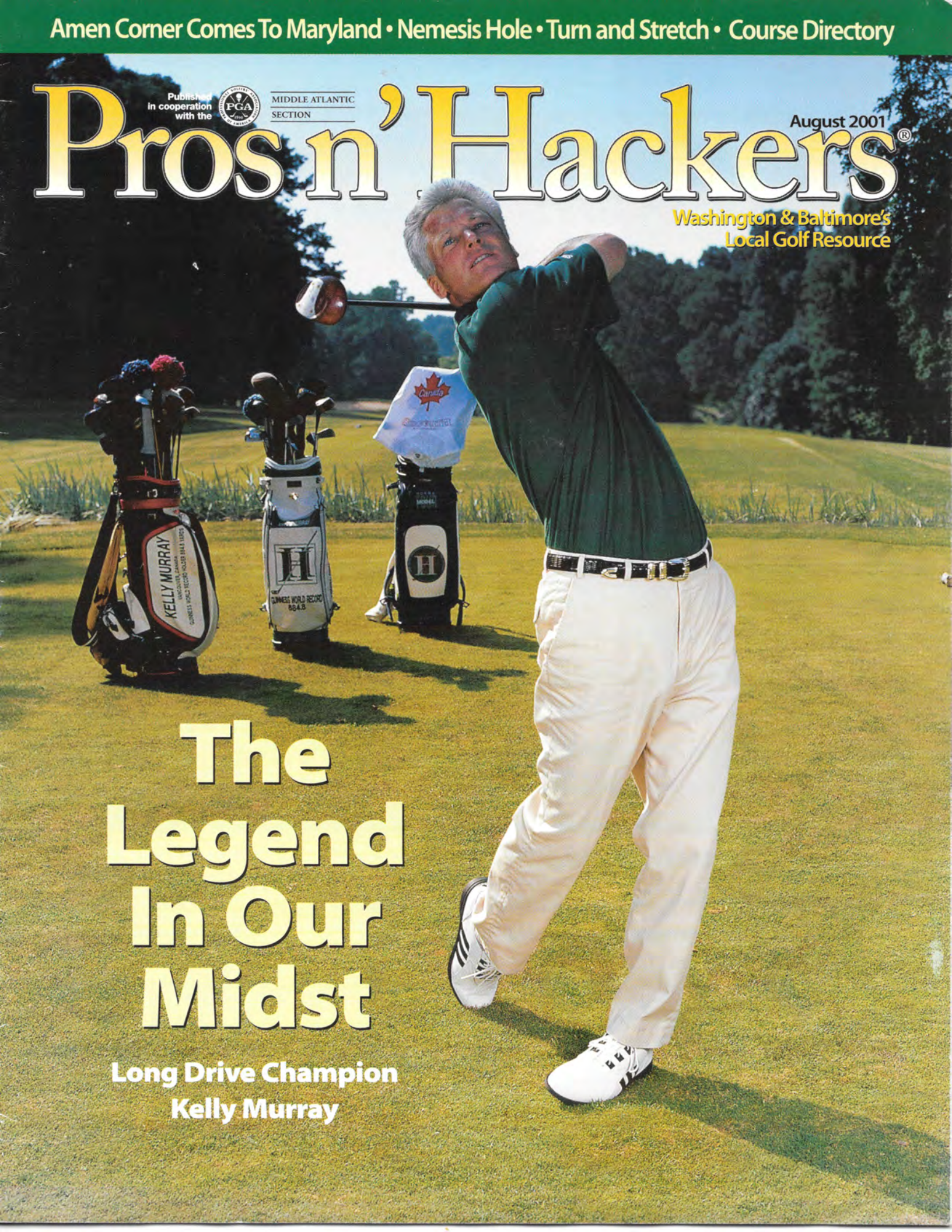
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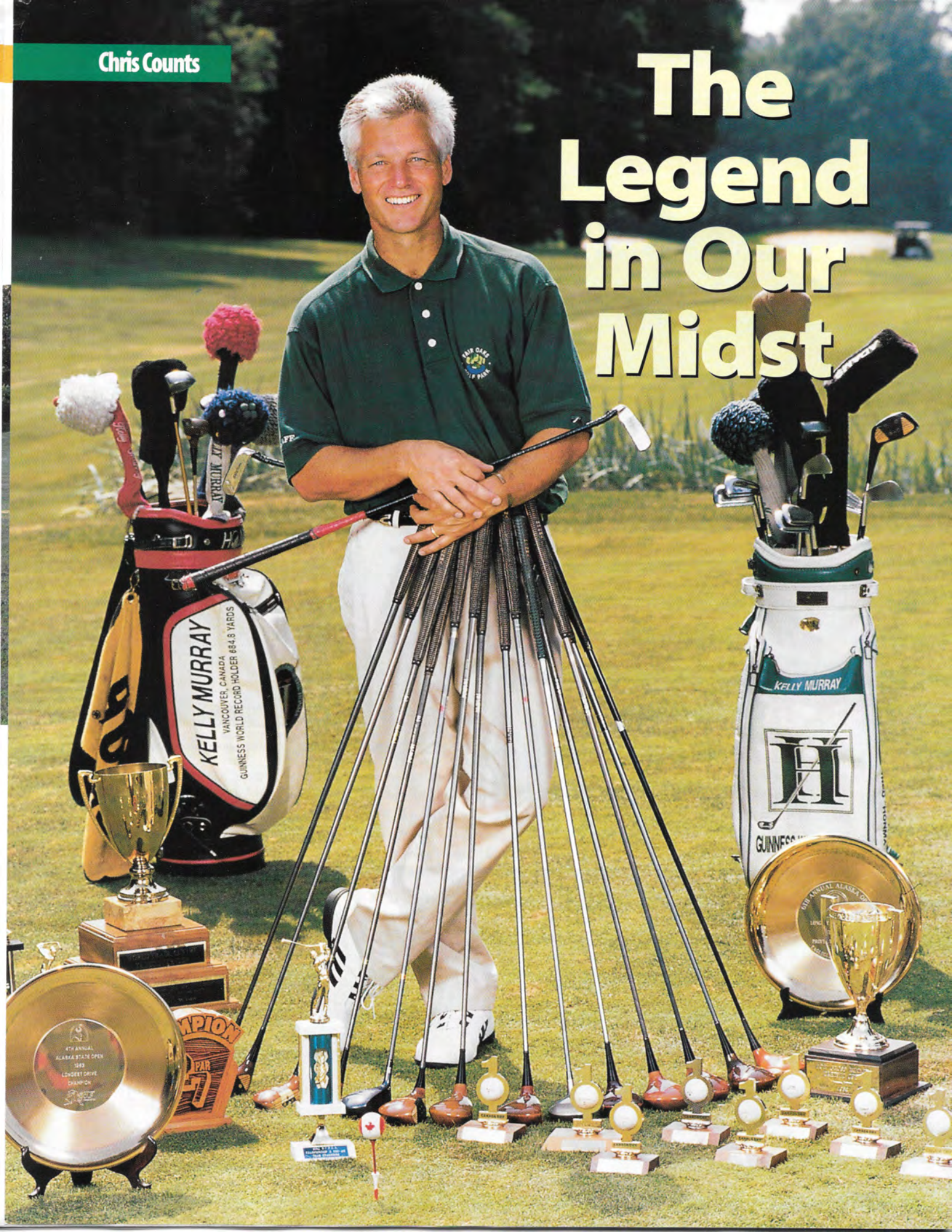


The Legend In Our Midst

Long Drive Champion
Kelly Murray

Chris Counts

The Legend in Our Midst



684 yards... Most of us cannot comprehend that number. It's longer than any par-five we've ever played. For some of us, it's longer than we can actually see without the aid of a telescopic device.

But flipping through the Guinness Book of World Records, and there it is.... that number. To be exact the number reads 684.8 yards. The record?

Worlds Longest Drive... The furthest a golf ball has ever traveled off the face of a one-wood. The record holder? Reston resident, Kelly Murray.

Now mind you, this feat was accomplished on a Canadian airport runway, hence the mind numbing distance. But now consider that this same man, who must be a gargantuan figure, has won 103 of the 129 long drive competitions he has entered.

He once drove a golf ball 422 yards off the roof of a hotel. Sounds like one guy you would not want to meet in a dark alley.

At the 1985 Canadian Open, a PGA TOUR event, he led the tournament in driving distance. His nearest competitor, Greg Norman, was 25 yards behind.

But perhaps the most overlooked thing about Kelly Murray the Long Drive King, is

for hours upon end.

Those relaxation techniques could be what separate him from your run of the mill power hitters. How many of those guys do you think could birdie 8 of 9 holes, which Murray did at an Australasian Tour event in New Zealand? How many could shoot a 10-under-par 60, which Murray did en route to winning the 1986 Manitoba Open? That score remains the lowest score shot in a Canadian Tour event.

Point being, Kelly Murray is more than raw uninhibited power. He is a model of finesse. He is out of the ordinary.

Kelly no longer spends his days on the Canadian Tour. Now 44, he recollects the two Canadian Tour wins... the countless qualifying schools... the 10 years on the Asian Tour.. the countless long-drive exhibitions and competitions.... His tutorship under one of the greatest ball strikers ever, and perhaps Canada's most decorated golfer, Moe Norman.

He also recollects a 1998 car accident that severely injured his hand, shortening his appearance schedule. His is a life full of accolades, but Murray has now settled down in Northern Virginia, and is perhaps more content than he has ever been.

At Fair Oaks Golf Park in Fairfax he

"Quotable Quotes"

"Kelly, after watching you for 10 minutes trying to find a negative about your 6 inch tee, all I could come up with was 5 positives: gets you behind the ball; has you hit up on the ball; eliminates over the top move; increases your focus on the task at hand eliminating the OB's, lakes, etc from your mind; and allows you to sling whip the ball with maximum club head speed."

- Arnold Palmer
at Canadian PGA 1986

"Kelly Murray is a powerful and exciting golf entertainer. If you want to watch a Moe Norman disciple, then Kelly is your ticket. He hits the ball as far and as straight as anyone I have ever seen, and has lots of stories about the inimitable Moe. In addition to his golf talents, Kelly is truly one of golf's nice guys."

-Michael Ahrnsbrak
Former president of
the Middle Atlantic
Section, PGA

"He's a shooting star in the stable universe of the golf world. Watch him splatter personality around the course."

- Lorne Rubenstein,

GOLF DIGEST TORONTO GLOBE
& MAIL

"The galleries flock to see him give it a rip and he obliges them with an almost maniacal determination"

- Australian Golf Digest

"Murray golfs with an abandon that reminds one of Seve Ballesteros and Greg Norman. He's fun to watch and he can burn up a course when he's hot."

- Lorne Rubenstein, GOLF
DIGEST/TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL



his skill as a golfer, not just a ball striker. Case in point:

During that same Canadian Open in '85, Murray also led the field in putting, tied with Craig Stadler, 26-25 putts.

If the truth be known, this man that renders most Par-4's obsolete and drives the golf ball further than some of drive to the grocery store, is not an imposing figure at all. At 6'2, 210 lbs, Murray would rather spend time at Yoga class, a love that he developed while taking a class at San Jose State University, than he would lifting weights or pounding protein shakes. He practices the Hindu mind discipline

now puts his years of experience into his own Power Driving School, revealing the secrets that have made him a world-renowned driver of the golf ball. And yes, he still performs driving exhibitions.

Happily married and a father of one, Kelly is more than just a powerful swing, he is a people person, indeed a breath of fresh air from the normally stuffy sect of professional golfers that have proceeded and succeeded him. He is, no doubt, a legend in our midst. ♦

Free Show/Exhibitions: With Kelly Murray,
Fair Oaks Golf Park, Tuesday evenings 5-6 pm.
Kelly's Power Driving School:
Tues 6-9 pm, Wed 9-12 am. See ad on page 6.

