

By the numbers

Bubble watch

With three events remaining in the PGA Tour season, players are battling to keep their cards for 2009. Here are players who are close to the all-important top 125 (exempt) and top 150 (partially exempt) benchmarks through the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open:

ON THE BUBBLE

	To	From	Vegas finish
Davis Love III*	125	133	T-6
Tag Ridings	150	148	MC

BIG MOVES

Marc Turnesa	75	138	Won
Michael Allen	117	135	T-3
Scott Sterling	148	166	T-8

LOST GROUND

Jay Williamson	127	123	MC
Martin Laird	128	125	T-47
Roland Thatcher	152	150	DNP

* Love could use exemptions for top 25/top 50 on the PGA Tour career money list.

— Source: PGA Tour

Davis Love III



DITTY IMAGES/MICHAEL COHEN

The Toy Box

Orange Whip Golf Trainer

THE SKINNY: Jim Hackenberg, aka Jimmy Hack, has been a club pro, teaching pro, PGA Tour caddie (for Patrick Moore, leading money winner on the 2002 Nationwide Tour) and is the inventor of the Orange Whip. Suddenly, the training aid is becoming popular.

Long-hitting Dustin Johnson, a new winner on the PGA Tour, carries one. So do many other pros, using the Orange Whip to focus on tempo and proper swing sequencing. Experiencing a feeling of lag in the golf swing is easy with the device.

Hackenberg tells golfers to think about balance and tempo when swinging his product. The club, with a large orange ball in place of a clubhead, has an extremely whippy shaft. It also has a counterbalance weight in the handle.

"(Noted instructor) Ernest Jones came up with a similar idea 80 years ago, basically swinging a ball or weight on the end of a chain," Hackenberg said. "It's not a new idea . . . although I think I've got the shaft and the weights just perfect."

Three versions exist: the 47.5-inch Orange Whip trainer, the 44-inch Orange Whip Golden (for most women or shorter men) and the lighter Orange Whip Hickory (for children).

MSRP: \$100 each (all three models).

AVAILABILITY: Immediately at many golf shops and retail stores, or at www.orangewhiptrainer.com.



>> Kapalua LPGA Classic winner Morgan Pressel played a Callaway HX Tour iX ball and had 14 Callaway clubs in her bag, including Callaway's Odyssey putter. She carried an FT-5 driver (8.5 degree), X-Forged irons (5-PW), 4H FT Hybrid, X Fairway 7-wood, FT Fairway 3-wood and X-Forged wedges (50, 56 and 60 degree).

>> Marc Turnesa played the Titleist Pro V1x ball and carried 12 Titleist clubs, including the Cameron Fastback putter, in his victory in Las Vegas. He carried the 909D2 driver (9.5 degree), 906F2 3-wood, ZM irons (4-PW) and Vokey wedges (54 and 60 degree). Turnesa's two non-Titleist clubs: Adams Idea Pro Gold hybrids (18 and 21 degree).

>> Aaron Baddeley was expected to add the Adams 9015 XTD driver and a set of prototype muscleback irons to his bag, perhaps at the Frys.com Open. The driver is 10.5 degrees (bent to 11) with a prototype shaft by newcomer Synergy. He also is testing Adams' Pugnelli wedges.

>> Vicky Hurst, a five-time winner on the Duramed Futures Tour who is expected to sign with Callaway, played Callaway's HX Tour iX ball and had 14 Callaway clubs in her bag. Hurst's configuration: FT-5 driver (9.5 degree), X Fairway 3-wood, FT Fairway 5-wood and 7-wood, X-Forged irons (5-PW), X-Tour wedges (50, 56 and 60 degree) and an Odyssey White Hot putter.