

SunSentinel

June 6, 2016

GOLF

Marathon efforts raise money to help South Florida charities for children

What's it like playing 150 holes of golf in one day?

For Gary Collins, who played from daylight to

dark, it was tiring, but incredibly rewarding.

"At the end of the

day, I was still functional," said Collins, 67, whose 150 holes bested his previous mark of 146 in the Florida Seminole Region's Club Managers Association of America Marathon Golf, which benefits nine South Florida children's charities, including Place of Hope, The First Tee of the Palm Beaches, Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, 4ForKids, SOS Children's Villages and Special Olympics Florida — Palm Beach County.

This year's sixth annual Marathon Golf, which concludes with marathons

Monday at Wycliffe and Addison Reserve and Tuesday at Hunters Run, had 17 teams playing at 10 clubs, including Mirasol, Harbour Ridge, Loxahatchee, Jupiter, Gleneagles, Fountains and Coral Ridge.

Collins, a former club manager who is now a partner at Master Club Advisors, which places golf pros, superintendents and chefs at golf clubs, said participants get people to pledge either a flat amount or an amount per hole.

Based on the pledges received so far, Collins said this year's event will surpass last year's \$155,000 and might exceed \$200,000.

"It makes such a huge difference in these kids' lives," said Collins, who emphasized that "every dime of the money we raise goes to the charities. ..."

Father's Day gifts

If your dad plays golf, there are loads of gifts he'd love to get for Father's Day,

which is June 19. And you don't have to spend a lot of money.

The improved **Pitchfix Twister 2.0** is the easiest and best way for dad to fix ball marks on the green. Twist the slim, streamlined device and three prongs appear. Push them down into the ball mark, pull them out, tap down the grass with a putter and the mark is fixed. Twist the Twister 2.0 to retract the prongs and dad can put it in a pocket without fear of poking a hole in him or his pants. The Twister 2.0 also has a magnet with a ball marker. It's available in 10 colors from several online retailers for under \$20.

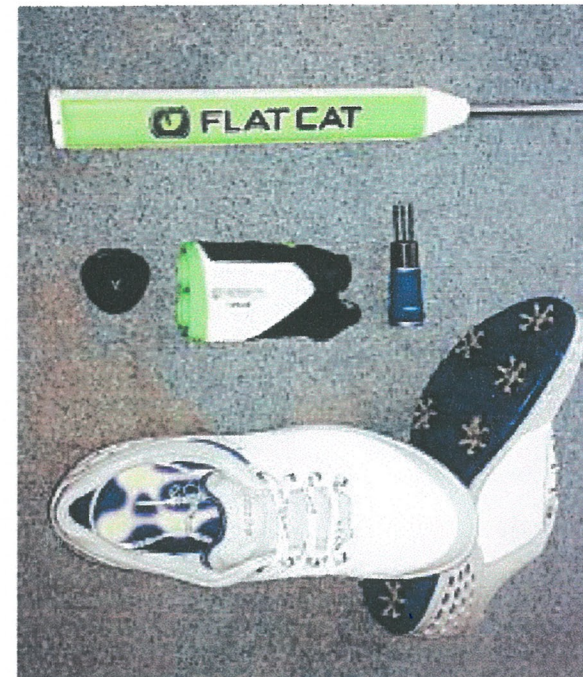
After dad fixes his ball mark, he'll make more putts with the new **Flat Cat** putter grip. The flat design helps golfers square the putter's face no matter their putting style, which translates into a better, more accurate roll. Endorsed by instructor **Hank Haney**, the Flat Cat is available in Slim, Standard, Fat and Big

Boy sizes for \$27.99 at flat-catgolf.com.

ECCO spikeless hybrid golf shoes are known for their fit, comfort and traction. The new **ECCO Mens Cage** brings the same attributes to a soft-spike shoe. The shoe has a lightweight heel cage for exceptional stability, water repellent leather uppers and a sole designed to match the shape of the foot. The Cage sells for \$200 or less at golf, sporting goods and department stores, as well as online at us.shop.ecco.com.

The **Nexus Laser Rangefinder** gives golfers the exact distance to the pin or a hazard for less than \$200, which is significantly cheaper than other rangefinders, yet with the same or better features. Quick, easy and comfortable to use, you can lock in on the flag and get distances to a 10th of a yard with 1-yard accuracy out to 400 yards. The Nexus is available at small golf shops and at precisionprogolf.com.

If dad prefers a GPS



STEVE WATERS/STAFF PHOTO

Golf gifts dad will appreciate include a Flat Cat putter grip, Voice Caddie GPS, left, Nexus Laser Rangefinder, Pitchfix Twister 2.0 and ECCO Mens Cage shoes.

device, the unique **Voice Caddie VC300** automatically gives distances to the front, middle and back of greens on 30,000 pre-loaded courses in nine languages. The tiny unit clips to a hat brim or belt and provides the distance

wherever you stop in seven volume levels. It includes a ball marker and USB cord to charge it through a computer. The cost is \$129.99 at voicecaddie.com.

swaters@tribpub.com or
Twitter @WatersOutdoors