



advance

HIGH ACHIEVERS.
NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
NOVEL IDEAS.

CATCHING UP WITH ...

Paul Casey

The defending Shell Houston Open champ eyes a repeat and the 2010 Ryder Cup

Last April, English golfer Paul Casey earned his first victory in a PGA Tour event, winning the Shell Houston Open at Redstone Golf Club. He also had two wins in Europe in 2009 — placing him third in the world rankings — before tearing a rib muscle in July. Now recovered, Casey, 32, is excited about defending in Houston (the tournament begins April 1) and competing in this year's Ryder Cup matches, taking place October 1–3 in Wales.

Q. Why is the Shell Houston Open such a good tune-up for the Masters?

A. Tournament Director Steve Timms and his staff set up Redstone Golf Club to replicate the conditions found at Augusta National — green speeds, grass height, even the mowing patterns. This makes Redstone different from most regular tour stops, but it's a great way to tune up.

Q. What was your secret to winning it last year?

A. It was really windy on the final day, so playing to the center of the greens was crucial.

Q. Away from the course, what do you like about Houston?

A. The beautiful Houstonian Hotel [111 North Post Oak Lane]. I felt hidden away in the woods yet near the center of

town. The fitness club is far and away the best of any hotel I've ever stayed in. I travel with a road bike and I stumbled upon a group of cyclists riding in Memorial Park nearby. I joined in a couple of times as a way of getting my workout for the day.

Q. Do you do anything different in a Ryder Cup year?

A. No, you can't look ahead. I have to play great golf and qualify for the European team. Then I will aim to arrive in Wales in the best form possible.

Q. How do you like Europe's chances?

A. I think with Monty [Colin Montgomerie] at the helm we will have a great chance. We should have some great rookies, including Rory McIlroy and Martin Kaymer.

— James A. Frank

MY FAVORITE ...

City: Scottsdale. I went to Arizona State University. I love it there.

Charity: My own, the Paul Casey Foundation. I set it up at Foxhills, near London, the club that gave me a scholarship as a junior. My aim is to give those who might not normally have the opportunity a chance to enjoy instruction in a range of sports, not just golf.

Technology: My Nike + running sensor. I plug it into my iPod and love to use it on the road. I can track exactly how far I run.

Web site: paul-casey.com

STEVE HEAD

Continental is an official sponsor of the Shell Houston Open.