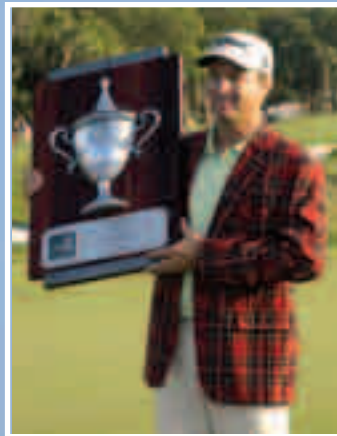


DAVIS LOVE III WINNER OF THE 2003 HERITAGE



PHIL MICKELSON ACCEPTS HIS TARTAN JACKET



CHARLES E. FRASER AND JACK NICKLAUS

been garnering attention for more than 35 years? Part of it has to do with its smash debut. The inaugural championship received a huge boost when Arnold Palmer, then at the height of his popularity, won the title, at what was then known as the Heritage Classic, in 1969. The tournament morphed into the Sea Pines Heritage Classic a few years later. Then it was the MCI Heritage Classic, then the MCI Classic, the Worldcom Classic, last year simply The Heritage, and now is referred to as the MCI Heritage. While the constant name changes are confusing, one thing remains constant. Donning the champion's tartan blazer at Harbour Town is a highlight for any PGA Tour player, no matter how glittering his resume may be.

And make no mistake – one of the appeals of the annual spring fling on Hilton Head is that the roster of tournament victors reads like a “who’s who” of the game. Arnold Palmer set a precedent that first year, and has been followed by a veritable Hall of Fame roster that includes names like Nicklaus, Irwin, Miller, Love, Stewart, Zoeller, Leonard, Watson, Norman, Faldo, Langer and Price. What’s more impressive? The fact that Harbour Town champs have won 67 Majors combined? That the championship roster has won more than 380 tournaments on Tour? Or that since the tournament debuted, only four Major winners haven’t attempted to conquer the subtly twisting fairways of this wonderful Pete Dye design? (Use that last one to stump your pals in the next golf trivia contest in the 19th hole. The quartet consists of Jose Maria Olazabal, Ian Woosnam, Ben Curtis and Paul Lawrie.) No matter how you look at it, Harbour Town is on a short list of non-Major events that every player would love to win.

Last year’s staging was a thorny task, as a variety of woes hindered the tournament. Besides the soft economy, the war with Iraq and the untimely passing of Sea Pines visionary Charles