



Tara Joy Connelly

With a commanding total of

7,507 WGAM Player of the Year points for the decade,

Tara Joy Connelly — despite not earning a single point

until 2003 — easily topped the WGAM point system.

Based on the stats and her competitive standing, she has

earned the WGAM

Player of the Decade.

On the facing page,

Tara answers a round of questions.



2000-09

Anne Marie Tobin

WGAM Player of the Year Points

1. Tara Joy Connelly	7,507.00
2. Karen Richardson	5,841.67
3. Tracy Welch	3,987.25
4. Joanne Gatlin	3,933.05
5. Dana Harrity	3,833.00
6. Natalie Galligan	3,735.10
7. Kirsten Davis	3,711.30
8. Lisa Anderson	3,535.17
9. Anne Marie Tobin	3,109.00
10. Alison Walshe	3,080.00

A Round of 18 Questions with Tara

1. Most memorable Massachusetts win: “The 2009 Massachusetts Women’s Open – a come-from-behind win with my dad on the bag! Neither my husband J.P. nor my mother believed me when I called to tell them. Also, the 2003 WGAM Amateur at Belmont... the first year we moved back to Massachusetts. Belmont is one of my favorites – I’ve won both the WGAM Match Play and Stroke Play Championships there.”

2. Most memorable non-Massachusetts event you played in: “I like the Women’s Eastern Amateur – I had a good finish in 2006 at Gulph Mills in Pennsylvania... I stayed with good friends and played Pine Valley that week. The USGA State Team Championship is also always memorable. The 2007 event at The Woodlands in Texas was great. The members hosted a ho-down themed welcome party that was over the top! The course was pretty great too!”

3. The one event you’d most like to win (anywhere): “Before my prime golf is through, I’d really love to win the USGA Women’s Mid-Amateur. It’s my favorite event of the season and the one I really try to peak for. To win an event like that, you need all the stars to be aligned: skill, luck, determination... and more luck!”

4. Most challenging Mass golf course: “When a course is in tournament condition, they all play tough! To be on top of your game, you have to approach them all as difficult. It’s like letting up on a ‘breather’ hole and before you know it, you’ve just made double.”

5. Best element of your game: “Attitude. I play tournament golf because I enjoy the competition but rarely take myself too seriously. I keep it in perspective and realize golf is just really a game of averages. You hope that a lot of the time you play well and then you hope to perform great more than poorly. In terms of my physical game, I’m a very strong driver of the ball and seem to be able to dial in my long irons.”

6. Toughest Mass match play opponent of last decade: “Claire Sheldon. We’ve had some great matches and we really like to play with and against each other. Our matches always seem to have great golf.”

7. Pre-competition morning routine: “Two cups of coffee... shower... 20 minutes of yoga... 45 minutes warming-up... 20 minutes of chit-chat. I think Pam Kuong put you up to this? We travel together a lot!”

8. Main pre-shot thought(s): “T-A-R-G-E-T. I play my best when I just think about where I want the ball to go rather than how it’s going to get there. One of my big pep talks is “...get out of your own way!”

9. Golf-related superstition(s): “None fit to print.”

10. Favorite team event: “Football! Especially New England Patriots football – I hear Tom-Terrific, Randy Totally-Moss-ome and Wes Welker play golf together. I’m available if they need a fourth.”

11. Golf teaching guru (pro you personally go to most for advice): “It depends on what I’m looking for; my husband J.P. Connelly (the golf pro at Cohasset), Tom Cavicchi, Norman White and Bill Harmon. And Bob Quirk is always kind to make sure my equipment maintains the specs I need.”

12. Touring professional most admired: “Mr. Clutch – Tiger. I’m available to play with him too :)”

13. Favorite golf course (anywhere): “I like to think of this question as invitations I wouldn’t pass up: Pine Valley, Somerset Hills, Myopia, Yeamans Hall, Kittansett, Longmeadow, May River, Vesper, Belmont, Huntingdon Valley, Hyannisport, The Country Club and Charles River. I’m booking for Spring 2010 now!”

14. Favorite winter golf destination: “Anywhere over 75 degrees with a beach or desert. I don’t like the cold so Arizona, Florida and the Caribbean top my list”

15. Favorite golf movie: “The only golf movie there is to know: *Caddyshack!*”

16. Favorite golf book: “I don’t read them – I’ve been thinking about starting though. I like Vince Flynn, Brad Thor and David Baldacci.”

17. Favorite golf TV announcers and average amount of time watching golf on TV in a week: “Frank Nobile – I like his accent. I only watch about 5 minutes a week, except for Master’s week when my TiVo runs overtime.”

18. The one non-golf thing most golfers would be surprised to hear about me: “I am always looking for winter hobbies because our winters just seem to drag on. I like skeet shooting but J.P. won’t let me own a gun. He likes to bowl – he beats me like a drum at bowling.”