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### Aggieland2015

### PALMER CONTINUED

be an Aggie. I didn't recruit him because of the situation that we had on the team. He said, 'Okay, I still want to come to Texas A&M.'"

Ellis, Palmer and the golf team developed a unique relationship. Ellis joked that Palmer wasn't the best putter on the team at first.

"We would have putting matches amongst the team and I sometimes, and he was our patsy. 'Come on Ryan. Come on Ryan. Get over here and putt!' He couldn't - he couldn't beat a drum. He was terrible. I thought he would be a good player," Ellis said. "There was no question he would be a good player, but to do what he does now, week in and week out, who that person was when we were trying to bring him over to be our patsy, make some money off of him, I don't know who that person was, he's entirely different now. He's someplace, he's in someplace that no longer exists."

Palmer earned All-Conference honors all three years at A&M and was the Aggies' scoring leader for two seasons. He also made the 1997 Big 12 All-Tourney team along with Miguel del Angel.

Del Angel said he remembers spending time watching The Masters with Palmer in college.

"We would go to Ryan's house and watch The Masters," Del Angel said. "It's kind of surreal having him out there. We used to play some of the golfers out there like Paul Casey, Tiger Woods and Luke Donald. It's nice to see Ryan on TV."

Ellis said Palmer is not only known for his skill, but for his sportsmanship and character on and off the course. Palmer created a charity, the Ryan Palmer Foundation, and works to stay involved with the Aggie community.

"Ryan is the type of person that if you can't get along with him, then you've got a problem," Ellis said. "He was always a joy to be around, a joy to coach. Everything I ever asked him to do, he did. He was always hard working, fun to be around and very talented."

After graduating from A&M with a degree in parks and recreation, Palmer turned professional in 2000 and earned his PGA Tour Card in 2003. He has won three tournaments on the PGA Tour - the 2004 FUNAI Classic, the 2008 Ginn sur Mer Classic and the 2010 Sony Open.

Last season was Palmer's best statistically on the PGA Tour. Despite no tournament wins, he made the cut in 20 of 23 events and finished with 10



Lawrence Snelser — THE BATTALION

Ryan Palmer, Class of 2000, is shown above at the Valero Texas Open at the end of March.

top-25s and eight top-10s, which included finishing second at the Humana Challenge and at the Honda Classic.

This season, Palmer is off to a hot start. He has made the top 25 in seven of eight tournaments and has tallied three top-10s, including a tie for second at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Palmer credits his recent run of success to changes in his game.

"I've gotten better physically with the workouts I've been doing," Palmer said. "I hit a lot more fairways and a lot more greens. When I'm putting well is when I'm having my good events and my good weeks. The combination of driving the ball well and putting the ball well [has] helped [me the] last few years."

Although Palmer has graduated, he

still spends time in AggieLand with his wife, Jennifer, who graduated from A&M with a biomedical sciences degree.

"I try to go to as many football games as I can, that's for sure, and I keep up with the guys on the golf team and JT," Palmer said.

Palmer has earned \$18,318,471 since 2004. However, he said it's not about the money.

"I never look at the money side of it or what I have monetary wise," Palmer said. "At this point in my career, it's just a matter of competing, trying to be the best in the world and winning golf tournaments."

Palmer will tee off at 11:42 a.m. and is paired with three-time major winner Irish golfer Padraig Harrington and Danish golfer Thomas Bjorn.

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### ANTHONY CONTINUED

really committed to the educational part and the outreach as much of the performance.

**THE BATTALION: What kind of dance styles do you offer in your company?**

KORESH: It's closest to the contemporary modern dance genre, but it's because there's not really other ways of describing what it is that we do. Because what we do is really dance, and dance doesn't have a specific style, not in my opinion. The second you put a style on it you limit what you can do or cannot do. So it encompasses everything and it's from folk dance to contemporary to modern dance to jazz to hip hop moves. The moves are the derivative of everything in life, but the style itself is really content driven. So we will use anything to deliver a message we're trying to deliver. It's quite accessible, it's major, it's very passionate, it's very physical, very technical, and has all the ingredients for a fantastic, fantastic show.

**THE BATTALION: What sets the dance company apart from others?**

KORESH: Our ability to connect with audiences. What we do creates a dialogue between the performer and the audiences. It's something that the audience connects with immediately when they watch what they watch. We do a lot of Q&As,

question and answer, after. Besides all the outreach programs that we do, we connect with the community itself. To some degree, some of what we do is not just performance, it's residency. So we come to an area, we're there from four days to a week, and we are a part of the community and a part of the fabric of the community and so when we leave, we leave also a memorable experience for everybody. And then coming back is a desirable thing for that community, they feel invested in us. I think us being invested in the community creates a chain reaction that they community is invested in us. And so now there is a relationship and through the relationship you can actually develop a deeper understanding of what we do and what the means of the viewer are and the community are. And so that's one of the things that differentiates us, beside the fact that we are - the dancers are technically superb and the choreography is quite visually stimulating.

**THE BATTALION: You all do a lot of touring also, you aren't permanently based in Philadelphia season-round?**

KORESH: We're primarily a touring company. This season alone we've been to about 25 different communities in the country as well as outside the country. We were in Belarus not too long ago, we just got back from Seattle and North Carolina. So many different places. We're going to Florida next week and we're going to Alabama and Mississippi.

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