

BUICK INVITATIONAL

THIRD ROUND, TORREY PINES SOUTH

"The South Course kind of did what it did. You hit a couple bad shots like Camilo (Villegas) did on 9 and make double, and it comes up and bites you when you least expect it." **JOHN ROLLINS**

Two-man shootout



Charley Hoffman (left) looks into a tree on the first fairway, where he lost a ball. He went on to triple-bogey the hole and finished the third round with a 74. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune photos

Rollins out-drives Villegas to set up today's showdown

By **Tod Leonard**, STAFF WRITER

John Rollins doesn't have the flowing locks of a European soccer player or a cool nickname. He doesn't look like a SoCal surfer or runway model in Milan. Probably the only time he has his chest to the ground is to play with his 14-month-old daughter.

Competing in a group alongside Poway native Charley Hoffman and Colombian hunk Camilo Villegas yesterday in the third round of the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines, he was just a Joe to most, the third wheel.

Sometimes, that's not such a bad thing to be. Hoffman provided the early drama by losing his first tee shot in a tree, Villegas butchered the par-5 ninth hole with a double bogey, and all Rollins did was shoot a solid 2-under-par 70 on a rainy, tough day to give himself a three-shot lead heading into today's final round.

"Obviously, everybody wants to see Spider-Man do

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John Rollins, driving on the seventh hole on the South Course at Torrey Pines, secured his fourth career lead after 54 holes, ending the day 12-under and three strokes ahead of Camilo Villegas.

NICK CANEPA

Torture, pain and agony: They're par for the course



I've always wondered why anyone would want to play golf for a living — or for pleasure, because it doesn't afford any. For starters, you have to actually participate in something that really isn't a sport but torture that just missed the cut at the Spanish Inquisition.

I love watching it, for whatever sick reason, but to actually play it? Bring your clubs, leave them at the caddy shack and go straight to the 19th hole. Now that's country club living, without the thumb-screws.

Golf is nuts. Crazy things happen. Why would you wish this on your loved ones? Yesterday, I just watched a little agony at the Buick Invitational.

Charley Hoffman's first shot of the day hit a tree on the Torrey Pines South Course. If you golf, you

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Camilo Villegas



LEADERS THROUGH ROUND 3

| Golfer | Score |
|--------------------|--------------|
| -12 John Rollins | 70-64-70-204 |
| -9 Camilo Villegas | 63-70-74-207 |
| -7 Nick Watney | 69-69-71-209 |
| -6 Luke Donald | 70-69-71-210 |
| -6 Paul Goydos | 72-66-72-210 |

INSIDE

Hoffman left pine-ing: Triple bogey on first hole after tee shot gets stuck in tree all but finishes Charley Hoffman's hopes. **Page 2**

NOTABLES

| Golfer | Score |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| -5 Charley Hoffman | 71-66-74-211 |
| -1 Retief Goosen | 71-71-73-215 |
| -1 Phil Mickelson | 70-72-73-215 |
| +3 Padraig Harrington | 71-74-74-219 |
| +3 Pat Perez | 73-73-73-219 |

Glad to be alive: Pete Bender, who has caddied for some of the best PGA Tour players, says he's 'blessed' to be back on the bag. **Page 3**

TODAY ROUND 4

First shot: 8:45 a.m., South Course, 1st and 10th tees

TV: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Golf Channel; noon-3:30 p.m., Channel 8

WEATHER FORECAST

Cloudy, with a few showers, temperatures ranging from 50 to 59 degrees. Winds 5 to 10 mph.

Online: For continuous live updates on tournament play today, go to the blog and live scoreboard on the *Union-Tribune's* golf page at golf.uniontrib.com

U-T Multimedia: Go to golf.uniontrib.com for videos of news conferences and photo slide shows from third- and final-round play.

SPORTS SECTION >> Aztecs rout Air Force in men's basketball, while Toreros defeat USF to end four-game losing streak. **D1**

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