Sammi E Smith\* (sesmith@stetson.edu), DeLand, FL 32724, and William W Miles (wmiles@stetson.edu), DeLand, FL 32724. The choking index: An Analysis of performance under pressure on the PGA tour.

In nearly all sports, athletes are frequently placed in pressure-filled situations. The way the athlete responds to that stress is a crucial component in determining the outcome of the competition. An athlete who performs well is classified as a clutch performer, while one who does not perform well is referred to as a choker. In this presentation, we examine this phenomenon in the sport of professional golf. There are three main pressure scenarios that are considered: the pressure of the last round of a tournament, the additional pressure of the last round of a tournament when in contention, and the pressure of being close the cutline during the second round. Five separate indices were created to rank a golfer's tendency to *choke* in these situations. Using these five indices, several multiple regression models were proposed to predict the Official World Golf Ranking. In addition, a correlation analysis between the five indices and the multitude of statistics kept by the PGA tour was conducted. Based on this analysis, the indices developed represent new measures for the sport of golf and do not correlate with any current statistics kept by the PGA. (Received September 12, 2014)