

B. Gay hopes his next stop is PGA

■ SCORES, 7D

By JOHN PATTON
Herald Writer

When they first met six years ago, it was an odd pairing. He was a Gator. She was a Seminole. He was a golfer. She had no idea what a birdie was.

Regardless, that Halloween day, after being introduced by a mutual friend, Brian Gay and Kimberly Gilmore hit it off.

Within four and a half years, they were married.

"I'd say we didn't have much in common," Kimberly said. "But we grew very close."

This week, the couple is in Pompano Beach for the four-day Florida Open at Palm Aire. After the first round of the \$100,000 tournament, Brian's 3-under-par 68 put him two shots behind leader Tim Petrovic and one behind Howard Mash of Boca Raton and Tim Balmer of Fort Lauderdale.

This stop is the latest in a lengthy journey for the Gays. After some time on the Golden Bear and Asian tours (where they honeymooned), Brian earned his Nike Tour card last November.

So, in April, the Gays left their townhouse in Palm Beach Gardens and drove to Greenville, S.C., for the first of 22 Nike stops.

Brian made 16 cuts, including a 10th-place finish at the Carolina Classic. They made ends meet through Kimberly. She had three different jobs on the road: with The Golf Channel, the Tour

Wives Association and Darrell Survey.

Now Brian, who has made 10 of his past 11 cuts, hopes he is playing well enough to earn his PGA

card. This is a big week, as it is Brian's final event before next week's second of three stages of the PGA Tour Qualifying School.

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