

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

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Exclusive Interview with Kevin Streelman

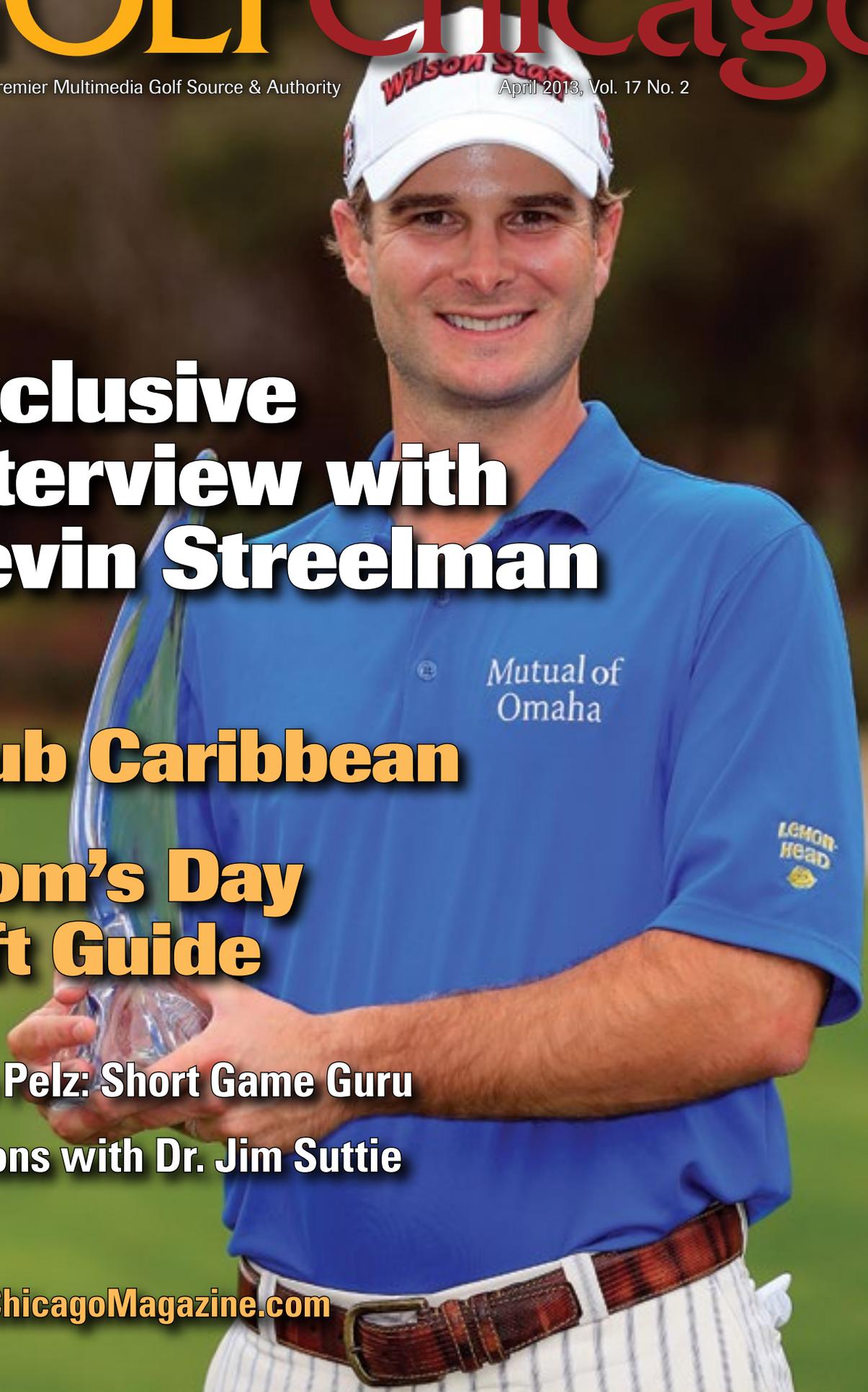
Club Caribbean

Mom's Day Gift Guide

Dave Pelz: Short Game Guru

Lessons with Dr. Jim Suttie

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NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

Despite a late March snowstorm, our favorite season is teeing off. We will also have a couple professional tours coming to town this summer. And with the tours comes a few nasty habits that golfers will pick up. As we watch the professionals putting for millions of dollars, we must remember that they are putting for millions of dollars. Not quarters. Not dollar bills. We'll give the Tour pro a pass for slow play on the green. However, because you have committed to read this column, you are going to help speed up play across Chicagoland.

Slow Play. It is one of the principle reasons people are playing less golf. Trust us, standing in the middle of the fairway, leaning on a 6-iron, and hoping the slow-some in front of you will pick up its pace is not going to turn a five-hour

round into a three-and-a-half-hour quick clip. We need to change our playing habits.

Let's pledge to mark our golf balls just to clean them and immediately putt out. Yep, slap it with the flat stick, and then keep slapping until you hear the ball hit the bottom of the cup. For you Official Rule sticklers, yes, the ball should come to a rest before re-slapping. Or not, you make the call. Our intent is not geared toward shaving strokes, but to get



"I'm tellin' ya, that may have been Jim who went into the woods for his ball, but that's not who came out."

home on time for the weekend activities that have forced us to choose between a marathon round of golf and little league, soccer, and cookouts with the family. Not to mention time to tend the fescue-riddled home turf.

The de-marking strategy also rewards good play. If you are closest to the cup, then study your line and learn the green as the other three stooges putt toward the prize. Our Father Time bailout plan also rewards scramblers; after they pitch, chip, flip, or blast, they should have a little time to take that glove off and pile their short game sticks at a convenient greenside spot. But please remember, our intention is selfish. We want to save our good graces on the homefront.

Let's review! For the salvation of our summer fun, GOLFChicago readers (and staff) will play ready golf. But on the green we'll play "one mark golf"—mark it, clean it, putt it 'til you hole it.

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Growing the Game Editors Pick

Golf has a number of initiatives to grow the game, yet adult participation numbers continue to drop. If we want to excite young players, then we need to brand this sport as a fun game everyone can play. Fastgolf™, a Chicago-based company, has created a portable golf game that could have the same appeal as other backyard games. With oversized clubs and balls, and a genius collapsible target, players can play this game in their backyards, parks, and even around a campground. Fastgolf is affordable, safe, and perhaps most importantly, fun.

Our reviewers included a couple of grade schoolers and their non-golfing mom. All three were laughing as they sent balls soaring and skidding toward the targets. Their local schoolyard was transformed into a custom-designed course that included playground sets and ball fields. No greens fee. No dress code. No worries. Fastgolf is family fun that will build a passion for the game we love.

\$129 Pro Package
www.FastgolfUSA.com

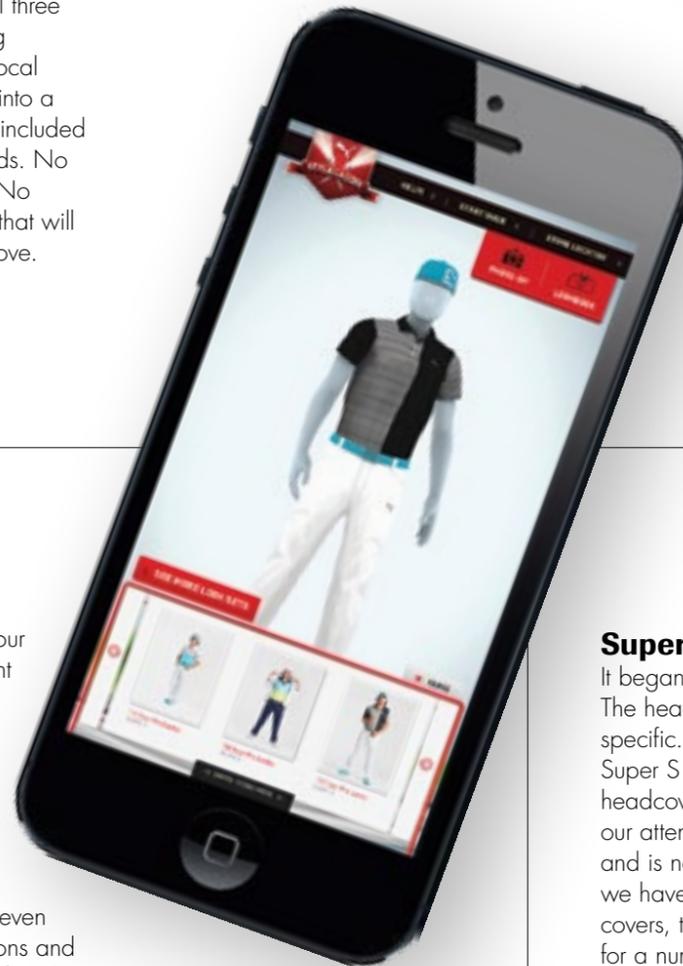


Let the Sun Shine

Sundog Eyewear's Mela-Lens™ technology filters harmful blue light and provides protection from ultra-violet light. They are also designed for performance on the course. The Mela-Lens technology delivers enhanced definition, superior glare reduction, maximum visual clarity, and soothing visual comfort. Sundog delivers performance shades that are affordable, and at least half the price of other sunglasses with similar features. New styles for 2013 include the Draft model that looks as good on the clubhouse patio as it will on the course.

\$55

www.sundogeyewear.com



App of the Month

If you have issues because you mix plaids with stripes, then the Puma STYLECADDIE™ will set your fashion-forward sense in the right direction. This app allows users to create a virtual dressing room that allows users to mix and match the stylings of Rickie Fowler, Lexi Thompson, and other Puma Golf athletes to create your own personal style! The virtual dressing room even allows users to view their creations and share the 360° head-to-toe with friends.

The Puma STYLECADDIE app is available as a free download in the Apple App Store and will soon be available in the Google Play Store.

Super Long

It began with the cover. The headcover, to be more specific. The new Adams Super S Speedline driver's headcover is what grabbed our attention first. It is old school and is now the first stock headcover we have ever mentioned. Beyond the covers, the Super S driver is remarkable for a number of reasons. The graphics, a matte white crown with subtle branding, are a sign that Adams is embracing change. The FastFit Adjustability allows users to change the club loft up to 2°. The Velocity Slot Technology adds forgiveness by enlarging the sweet spot.

The skinny: The Super S driver is long and surprisingly straighter, especially with the ability to adjust the loft. When you compress the ball, the sound is a blistering scream, so expect to turn a few heads on the tee box.

\$299 www.adamsgolf.com



New From the Vault

Rife Golf has released their new Vault Series putters that include 14 new models. This series includes Tour-proven putters with new materials and finishes, not to mention the company's RollGroove™ face with less loft and more grip that produces the truest "no skid" roll we have tested. Our favorite is the Legend that returns to the company's 2 Bar weighting system that is still a trusted occupant in many golf bags. The Legend has an aluminum face that provides more feel to each putt, not to mention the 2 Bar system that is equally helpful with alignment.

Throughout the season, Rife will be releasing new models from the vault: be sure to stop in the pro shop and roll a few putts.

\$230 www.rife



Double-Breaking Putts Demystified

INSTRUCTION

SHORT
GAME
ADVISOR



Dave Pelz



Accurately reading ‘break’ (a task that includes gauging both the starting line and the speed of the putt) is one of the most difficult things to do in golf, as evidenced by the high percentage (about 9 in 10) of missed putts that tail off below the hole. And the difficulty factor flies off the charts when you have to deal with more than one break.

When you play a lot of modern golf courses, you’re sure to run into at least one of these extreme double-breaking putts in every round. It took me several attempts to make the putt so we could record its actual roll track into the hole (you can see the video we shot of this putting lesson at www.pelzgolf.com). But the more I rolled it, the easier it became to understand and “see” how to get it close each time. Here’s how you can do the same thing on the course.

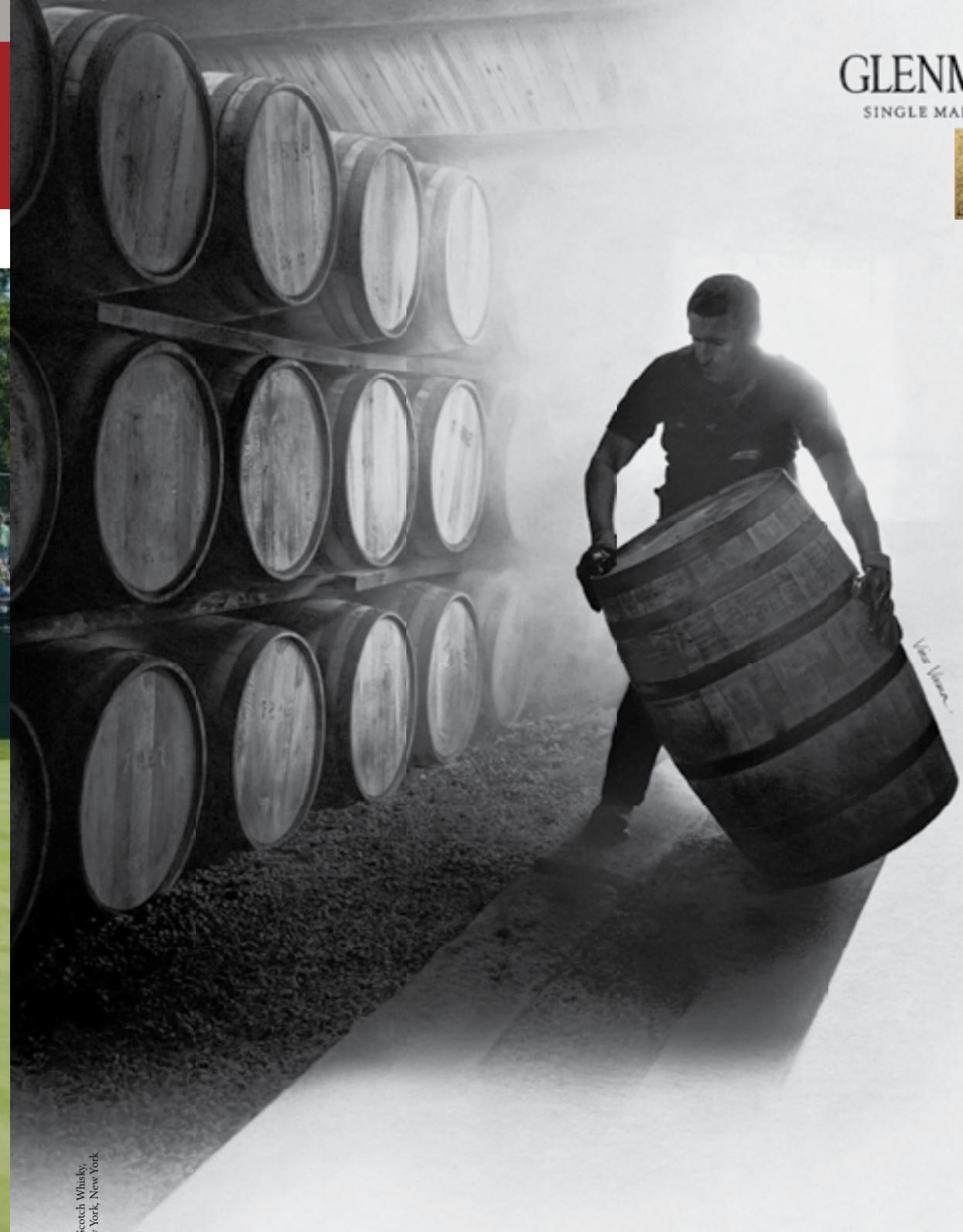
Handling The Breaks

Walk behind the hole and imagine how the ball will roll—and turn—as it slows near the cup. Try to “see” what the ball will be doing as it approaches the hole. For example, if you imagine it will approach the hole from the right side, then work backward along that line to see where it should be at about the middle of the putt’s overall roll. Then, look back to the putt’s origin and imagine how the putt should start in order to get close to the desired halfway point. Don’t worry at this point about making the putt. Just think about rolling it close enough to the hole to avoid three-putting.

Next, walk behind the ball and again imagine what line you must start the putt on in order to get it rolling in the right direction at its halfway point. Once you can visualize the complete ball track, turn your attention to speed. Make a few practice strokes from behind the ball to feel the power required to traverse the green all the way to the hole. This challenge is difficult, but doing it well is likely the difference between two- and three-putting. If you can perform the steps above without holding up the group playing behind you, take some extra time to try the putt again several times. Rolling three or four balls once your group finishes putting out will really help you begin to see the true line—valuable information for when you face double-breakers in the future.



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The GOLFChicago Interview

A note waited for Kevin Streelman in his locker at Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida, when he arrived for the Bay Hill Invitational.

Streelman, who likely floated to Arnold Palmer's tournament following his first PGA Tour victory at the Tampa Bay Championship in Palm Harbor just days before, opened it up.

"Congrats on your first win. Really proud of you and I'm glad you came to my tournament."

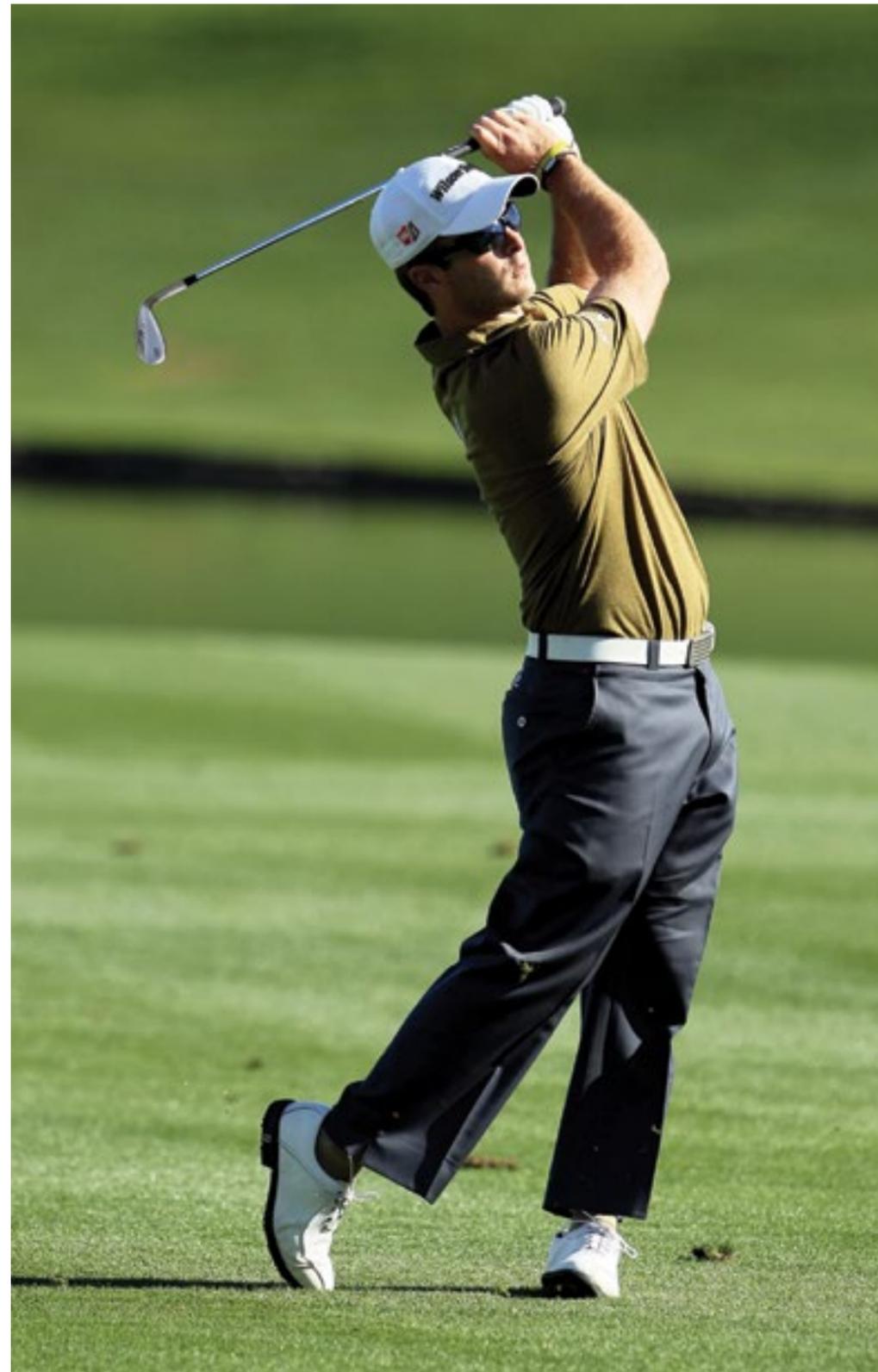
—Arnold Palmer

This note from Palmer was an added bonus for winning for the 35-year-old from Winfield, Illinois, who shared a few more sentimental moments with GOLFChicago before teeing it up in Arnie's tourney.

Masters Bound

by Jim Owczarski

Photos: Sam Greenwood, Getty Images



GOLFChicago: *When did you know that first victory was in the books?*

Kevin Streelman: On the 18th tee I felt pretty good. But after I hit that tee ball and just flushed it down the middle and then hit a wedge that hit the green and I got some claps and I knew it was a decent shot – I knew I could three putt from 20 feet. So it definitely kind of hit me. It was an overwhelming wave of emotion. It was incredible. I just had a ton of fun being out there, being in the heat of the moment and I actually performed and hit some real quality golf shots. That was a trip. I really had fun being out there.

GC: *Not everyone gets the opportunity to walk down the 18th fairway and soak it up. That had to be nice.*

KS: It really was. I got to take the hat off there and to know that ... by the time I picked up it was emotional. There [have been a] lot of miles driven since I left Winfield in the fall of 2001. I was living in my mom's car. There've been a lot of miles traveled since then. I'm not saying this is the end or anything but it's just a nice, nice little pat on the back. And this is for all my friends and family, and to get back to Augusta with mom and dad and Courtney. To me, that's what it's all about anyway.

GC: *What has the post-victory glow been like?*

KS: It's been surreal. It's been kind of fun, but it's been tiring. The fact I got up to 500 text messages, close to 250 to 300 voicemails and emails. I tried to get back to at least every text message but I can't get back to all the voicemail and email. I feel bad but I feel loved and supported and it feels

awesome. When I got to the course (the Tuesday at Bay Hill) and the guys were just awesome. All the reps, all the players, caddies, it was true support and happiness from everybody. That was really special.

GC: *You led right into it – The Masters. You've been there once before in 2011, but are you still going to check the mailbox every day for that invite?*

KS: It's so special. I got in before because of my FedEx ranking. I had finished in the top 30 a few years ago and there were some reporters that had written that maybe I shouldn't have got it because I hadn't won so in the back of my mind I wanted, not prove to others, but to prove to myself I could get back there on my own.

In my basement I've got a hitting bay and I've got some mirrors and a little practice center down there where I do a lot of my work, and on the mantle I've got that first Masters invitation framed. Next to it I put a second frame that's empty. I looked at that every day for the last two years. Now I get to fill that second frame with that second invitation. That's me proving it to myself.

GC: *Did you feel yourself building towards this moment?*

KS: I've really cleaned up my practice routines with the help of my coaches. I have done my best to really let go of results and focus on something I'm doing every day, every week, every month, just trying to really focus on process and not just 'Oh, this feels good today, I'm going to go with this.' Or 'This is what worked last week.' We're constantly doing the same things every day that are good for



my golf swing, my game. Something as basic as alignment, ball position, grip, and posture are the stuff that get results. It's been huge having my new caddy (AJ Montecinos) with me and having my coaches (Darren May, Pia Nilsson, and Lynn Marriott) now for a year and a half. Last year was

really a rebuilding year and then this year we're seeing the fruits of all that labor we put in. We plan on having a big year this year. At the same time, I was at such peace on Sunday to let go of results, and whether I win or lose this it really doesn't matter because I'm looking at the fullness of my career

here. In the long term of my entire career, this is going to be good for me, this is the plan, and these wins and losses will happen along the way. But I'm working out, stretching, doing the right things, surrounding myself with the right people, doing the right things for the betterment of my long

term career. Then looking back, OK, I've got some great wins, hopefully some majors in there and what not. I'm not trying to get so up and down as far as winning, losing, missing cuts or whatever – just focusing on the big picture and then break down into the small picture, which is just do something every day to make yourself better. That's been my process since I was in high school.

It slowly takes time. There's not many Tiger's or Phil's out there. It's taken me a long time but I'm slowly figuring it out. What works for me, at least.
GC: *You mentioned your FedEx Cup standing a few years ago – an early season victory really sets you up for getting into those high dollar, limited-field events in a few months doesn't it?*

KS: A big goal of mine is to make sure I get to Chicago [or the BMW Championship at Conway Farms] through the FedEx. This doesn't

guarantee that but puts me in good position to get far in the FedEx. But to be honest – I'm trying to focus on this week – but it's hard to get Augusta out of my mind. Now I have the freedom to focus on the events I want to focus on. I'm looking down the schedule where Charlotte and The Players are awesome back-to-back weeks, we've got Colonial-Memorial coming up and then I still have to qualify for the U.S. and British Opens. Now I'm in Firestone and the PGA [Championship] as well. There are a lot of big events before I start to worry about the FedEx. If I can sneak in another win maybe I'll be in the top two or three in the FedEx. That's kind of [on] my short term radar, but in the back of my mind I always think about Conway Farms and getting back to Chicago.

GC: *Your story about getting to the Tour – the hundreds of thousands of miles, burning through a couple different vehicles – would you*

consider yourself an automotive guru at this point? Can we come to you if we hear some weird rattles or anything?

KS: No. Not at all. I'm so terrible at mechanical and house-building stuff. My wife's incredible. Courtney's great at it. I just ... ugh ... she won't even trust me with a hammer.

GC: *You have one course record at Carmel Valley Ranch in California – a 60 – do you ever go to some courses and say 'I'm going to blow this up today?'*

KS: It's a tough thing. Sometimes they only count when you're in a tournament and other times you don't want to upset the pro. If the pro has the course record you don't want to take it away. That's what Ben Hogan always used to say, or Byron Nelson, one of those two – he said never take the course records from one of the club professionals. I have had some pretty good rounds. I remember breaking 100 at Black

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6. Mountain Ranch Golf Club Fairfield Bay	
7. Red Apple Inn Heber Springs	
8. The Ridges at Village Creek Village Creek State Park	
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Sheep (in Sugar Grove) on all three nines there. I think I shot a 96 – I shot a 31, 32, 33 on the three nines. I would think that would hold there for a little while. I've definitely had some good ones at Arrowhead and Cantigny as well, but they weren't in an official tournament so I don't know if they're posted anywhere or not.

The fun one that I unfortunately got a bad break on was Cypress Point a few months ago. I turned in 30, and it's par 37. The course record is 8-under. I turned at 7-under. I end up getting to 8-under with two to go, and I caught a wind gust and hit it in the water on 17 and ended up making double bogey. I birdied the last and missed it by one. So that would've been a proud feather in the cap there because the guys who own that are Hogan and Gary Player. It would've been kind of cool to knock them off but I didn't do it. I didn't do it. It wasn't meant to be that day.

GC: It seems like there's been a rebirth of good television—do you have anything queued up on the Netflix or saved on the DVR at home?

KS: When we're away we just leave things to be recorded on our DVR so when we get back we catch up on Modern Family, Duck Dynasty – Duck Dynasty we've gotten into huge. Since we're on the road so much I'll buy some seasons of different shows I hear are good. I've gotten into Homeland and the final eight of Breaking Bad will be coming this year. I'll definitely be watching those.

GC: Steering it back to golf a little bit – what have you taken with you from your public course background to the Tour?

KS: The twilight deal Saturday and Sunday afternoons on whatever courses in the suburbs I could get on – it was the way I was raised. We weren't cheap but we were smart with our money and I loved playing different golf courses. If I had a match with Glenbard East at wherever their home course was that

upcoming Tuesday, on Sunday we'd go play a nine-hole practice round on the same nine I'd be playing. I played, it seems like, every single public course in the northern half of Illinois to be honest. What a great way to grow up. It kept me grounded and I appreciate what I have now. And still some of my best friends are Patrick Lynch at Cantigny and Billy Klemz at Arrowhead – he's one of my best friends in the world—and those relationships are all forged from me jumping out there and dropping balls on the chipping and putting greens when I was a kid.

GC: Unfortunately, without a regular Tour stop in the Chicago area and the John Deere Classic maybe presenting a scheduling conflict so close to the British Open, fans here don't get to see you as often – yet they support you as much as they can from afar. Now that you've broken through, any message for the people back home?

KS: Definitely – thank you. To everyone involved in Chicagoland golf. From the Illinois Junior Golf Association to the Illinois PGA. I feel so connected to all the organizations. I was just a kid who grew up there and loved golf and I played all the public golf around there. Now that I've been around the world and I've seen golf in Scottsdale (Arizona) and Texas and Florida, and knowing all the different pro's and stuff, I've never seen a group of people that take care of each other so well as they do in the Midwest and especially Chicago. In Phoenix, where I live, it's all about the bottom dollar, you've gotta make that money, and it blew me away at first. In Chicago it's like 'Do you want to come out to my course? Sure. Then I'll come out to your course.' Everyone takes care of each other and I miss that. If it wasn't for the winters I'd be raising my family there. Chicago will always be home to me. I really always look forward to getting back and hopefully we can do some big things at the BMW this year.

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The Pre-Swing Fundamentals

All of us want to be able to hit the ball better, farther, and with more consistency. Golf swings all look different, but the pre-swing and set-up fundamentals are similar for everyone. In order to develop a repeatable swing, we must have a good set-up. A good set-up includes: 1: The Grip, 2: Aim, 3: Alignment, 4: Posture, 5: Spine Tilt, 6: Weight Distribution, 7: Ball Position, 8: Tension Level, 9: Stance, and 10: Distance from the Ball. These fundamentals must be mastered before a consistent, repeatable golf swing can be attained.

The Grip [image 1]

The grip is probably the most important of all the pre-swing fundamentals because it has a direct influence on the clubface. A good grip has the palms of both hands facing one another. It is held basically in the fingers with little, if any, pressure in the grip.

Aim

The bottom of the clubface must be aimed at the target before the grip is taken. Place the club behind the ball, aiming it down your target line before gripping the club.

Alignment

Many golfers have trouble aligning their shoulders. The shoulders should be aligned parallel left of the target at address.

Posture

The correct posture gives the golfer the correct static balance at address. This posture includes a 20 to 30 degree bend forward from the hips, with a slight knee flex.

Spine Tilt [image 2]

Most good golfers turn around their spine on the backswing. In order to do this you must tilt your spine slightly to the right at set-up. This positions the head behind the ball. This spine tilt to the right allows the

weight to transfer to the right as the upper body rotates.

Weight Distribution

Your weight should be 60% on your right and 40% on your left for a driver. The mid-irons and hybrids will be 50-50, and the short irons and wedges will be 60% on the front leg and 40% on the back leg. The weight will be evenly distributed across your feet, not on your heels and not on your toes.

Ball Position [image 3]

Basically there are three ball positions. The driver is positioned slightly forward of the left arm pit; fairway woods, hybrids, and long irons are off the logo on your left shirt pocket; short irons and wedges are off the center of your chest.

Tension Level

Most errors in the golf swing are created by excessive tension at address. You can reduce

this by relaxing your grip and just allow your arms to hang from your shoulders.

Stance

In taking your stance the back foot should be square and the forward foot should be flared. This gives you the best chance of getting the correct footwork. The stance width should be slightly wider than the width of your shoulders for the driver, and no narrower than the width of the hips for the short irons.

Distance From the Ball

Your distance from the ball is determined by the club you are using and your posture. Keeping your upper arms in contact with your body and bending forward from your hips will give you optimum distance from the ball.

Work on these ten pre-swing fundamentals and the rest of your swing is guaranteed to improve. Next issue, we will move onto the next step, the Backswing.

INSTRUCTION

THE SWING DOCTOR



Dr. Jim Suttie



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

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CLUB CARIBBEAN

GOING COASTAL IN PUERTO RICO

BY DAVE WERETKA
WITH NEAL KOTLAREK

PHOTOS: JOANN DOST



ROYAL ISABELA: QUEEN OF THE CARIBBEAN

While historians claim that Ponce de Leon failed in his quest to discover the Fountain of Youth, visitors to the island of Puerto Rico undoubtedly disagree with such assertions. Even though no springs of age-reducing waters were ever located by the famed conquistador during his journeys, a good argument can be made that this Caribbean island's perfect climate and sheer beauty rejuvenate both the bodies and souls of all who arrive.

Puerto Rico—Spanish for “rich port”—is rich in history, natural resources, and adventure. From pearly white beaches to the El Yunque rain-forest to the centuries-old buildings in Old San Juan to outstanding black bean soup and other delicacies, the island is a true Caribbean paradise. Better yet, as a commonwealth of the United States, travelers from the States don't need passports and customs clearance when entering or leaving.

Appointed to be governor of Puerto Rico by King Ferdinand II in 1509, Juan Ponce de Leon had been one of 200 gentlemen volunteers who explored the New World with Christopher Columbus in 1493. Among the Caribbean sites toured on the trip was a large island the natives called Boriquen. The island which eventually became known as Puerto Rico must've intrigued him as he brought his family from Spain to settle the island and grow crops while mining for gold.

De Leon would eventually move on to other missions in search of gold, new territory, and the aforementioned Fountain of Youth. Upon reflection, however, one wonders why anyone would leave behind the wonders found on this 100-mile long by 35-mile wide parcel of land. With average temperatures ranging from 70 degrees to 90 degrees year round, Puerto Rico has over the centuries become a favorite destination of hikers, cruise line tourists, history buffs, and honeymooners. Inevitably, these same conditions that lure vacationers make the island an ideal golf destination, as well.

Over the decades, Puerto Rico has emerged as the Caribbean's golf capital. Major championship golf courses that dot the island include spectacular

designs by the likes of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and Jr., Arthur Hills, Tom Fazio, and Rees Jones. Last summer, this pantheon of great golf properties was expanded with the unveiling of the fabulous Royal Isabela course on the northwest side of the island. Built alongside a majestic 200-foot cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this links course has already been referred to as “golf heaven” by one national golf course review. *Golf Digest* magazine's Ron Kaspriske said that the “scene here borders on surreal and is reminiscent of several world-class properties.”

Prior to his acclaimed solo projects—including Quail Chase Golf Club in Louisville—architect David Pffaf worked with master designer Pete Dye for over 20 years on such landmark projects as the “Teeth of the Dog” course at Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic and Harbour Town Golf Club in South Carolina. One can find at least a few of Dye's trademarks across the Royal Isabela course including deep, sod-faced sand bunkers, rolling putting surfaces, and even an island green.

By the direction of owners (and former tennis stars) Charles and Stanley Pasarell, Pffaf moved little land in building the course and instead worked with the 426-acre property's existing contours, natural features, native flora, and forested land. The end result is a spectacular layout that looks and plays like a course that has been around for decades instead of a few years. Stanley Pasarell shares, “The golf course was there—it was just a matter of discovering it.” Adding, “The terrain is wild and rugged—almost Jurassic!”

Step up to the elevated first tee of the 7,538-yard (championship tees) layout and you know immediately that you are in for a wild ride. Make no mistake as to why forecaddie service is mandatory: the vast fairways combined with the natural contours and the coastal winds make virtually every hole an adventure. But know that the landing zones across the course are generous.

The front nine varies dramatically from the back nine. The initial grouping seems to flow naturally across the rugged landscape and includes rolling dunes and an island green. The 3rd hole is a blind downhill par 4. Trust the line provided by your caddie and take dead aim. Par is a good score here even if you are fortunate enough to hit the power slot that allows your tee shot to roll all the way to chipping distance of the green.

The 6th hole is named “Yogi Berra,” and you can play it either as a par 4 or as a par 5. It's amazing how different one's



Hole 10



Hole 12





Hole 9



Hole 13

strategy becomes when attacking a hole knowing you're supposed to take two to get to the green instead of three.

While ocean views are available across the course, the ocean actually comes into play on the back nine. Indeed, adventures are aplenty from Nos. 10 to 18 as golfers encounter cliffs and a double green with panoramic views.

The 435-yard No. 12 may just be the most exhilarating par 4 in the Caribbean. The tee shot calls for a long carry over a sheer cliff to reach a generous landing area. Execute the shot and you feel a sense of great accomplishment even if you don't manage par following a mid-iron approach shot to a well-protected double green.

One superlative follows another at Royal Isabela. The 13th hole serves up the most unique fairway I've ever played. The landing area on this par 5 is defined by coconut palm trees, which from the tee appear to tower across the entire hole. But a well-directed tee shot in between these obstacles sets up a second shot over a sand bunker and away from a sandy waste area. The green is perched above the cliffside. Birdies are attainable if you could navigate the subtle breaks on this green.

After finishing your round on the lunar-like 491-yard No. 18, you probably will want a do-over on the entire course. I guarantee that your second round will differ dramatically from your first one due to variance in winds and perhaps a transition to a different course length. Royal Isabela has six sets of tees to accommodate all handicap levels.

Royal Isabela is designated to become a private resort community that allows limited play to prospective members and residents. La Casa is a Spanish Colonial style all-purpose complex that serves as the vast property's gathering space. Perched high atop the ocean, La Casa is home to a signature farm-to-table restaurant, an open-air bar, a library lounge, outdoor tennis courts, a swimming pool, a fitness center, and a croquet lawn.

According to the Pasarell brothers, long-range plans for the property include another championship golf course. In the meantime, Stanley says, "I want [guests] to feel like they are coming to my home. I want you to make some memories and come back for more."

In one short year, Royal Isabela has become one of the gems of all of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. In due time, the property could very well join the likes of Bandon Dunes, Pebble Beach, and St. Andrews as one of the world's great golf destinations. For more information, visit www.royalisabela.com, or call 855-609-5888.



Hole 9

THE GOLF COURSE WAS THERE; IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF DISCOVERING IT.





Casa de Campo Marina

CLUB CARIBBEAN

GOING COASTAL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BY DAVE WERETKA
WITH NEAL KOTLAREK



Casa de Campo Villa la Brisa

DYE'S DIENTES DEL PERRO IS A DOMINICAN DELIGHT

Way back in 1969—at just about the same time when man was about ready to step out onto the moon's surface—golf architect Pete Dye took on a challenge that was nearly as daunting as the one facing Neil Armstrong and his colleagues.

According to legend, Dye was rumbling down a dirt road alongside the pristine shoreline of the Dominican Republic some 34 years ago in search of inspiration. He found it after passing through the town of La Romana on the southeast side of the island. The designer got out of his vehicle and beheld “the most beautiful seaside location for a golf course” he had ever come across. Dye had no idea at the time that his discovery would evolve into a lifelong commitment to this Caribbean country and its people.

In his autobiography *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker*, Dye recalls how sugar magnate Alvaro Carta offered to bankroll the designer's vision of a course winding along the coastline as the centerpiece of a lavish resort. The parcel of land chosen for the layout extended down from the sea upwards along coral cliffs. After plotting the layout hole by hole by hole, Dye became convinced that “something extraordinary was possible.”

And indeed, just about everything about this project was a few notches beyond ordinary. While the site was spectacular, it was covered with thick underbrush, stubby tropical trees, and cacti. In 18 months, Dye and his construction crew oversaw a staff of 300 Dominicans who molded the course essentially by hand. They cleared the underbrush with machetes and then used sledgehammers, pickaxes and chisels to crack the bare coral rock and limestone that covered the area. Noting how sharp the coral became when shattered, the workers referred to the remnants as “dientes del perro.” The phrase was embraced and became the name of the finished product: the “Teeth of the Dog.”

Finished in the Fall of 1971, the 6,888-yard golf course has remained a fixture on the world's top 50 golf courses to this day. Over the years, the course was complemented by 45

other holes all designed by Dye to create a golfer's paradise known as Casa de Campo resort. The sprawling 7,000-acre property features a luxury hotel, a beach, indoor and outdoor restaurants, an equestrian center, a spa, a shooting range, and many other amenities. But the centerpiece of the complex remains golf, with Pete Dye's original masterpiece justifying its well-earned reputation.

Even after four decades and a quantum leap in technological innovations, the course remains the gem of the Caribbean. You can play the course day after day and never tire of it. Every hole is different with each featuring a different intimidation factor. No matter the score you tally by round's end, you can't help but feel delighted to have experienced a course which is both challenging and exhilarating.

Just how good is Teeth of the Dog? Tom Doak, arguably the country's most discerning critic (and considered by some to be Dye's successor as the world's premier golf course designer) hailed the course as being “among the top 20 or 30 best courses in the world” in his *Confidential Guide to Golf Courses* book. Doak raves about the contours of the layout and over Dye's subtle refinements. The finished product, he states, “is chock full of outstanding holes with a spectacular bent to them, a tremendous selection of tees to temper the difficulties of the courses for any level of player, a routing with a near-mathematical symmetry to the angles of the doglegs and the location of the principal hazards, and a picture-postcard set of par-3 holes, three of the four consisting more of surf than turf.”

Gilles Gagnon, Director of Golf Operations, calls the course “a buffet of sensory overload.” Seven holes play along the Caribbean Sea and supports Doak's contention about the quality of the par 3s. “You won't find a better grouping of one-shooters anywhere. They range from a pitching wedge on one hole to perhaps a driver on No. 16, depending upon the wind direction.” Room for error is minimal.

As one of the designer's earlier creations, it is interesting to note that his signature “Dye-abolical” contoured putting surfaces are missing in action. While well-guarded and frequently elevated, the greens are relatively flat and set in an angular fashion. The 3rd hole is a mid-range par 5 that tempts long hitters to reach the green in two strokes. We found out the hard way that it is better to lay up on the second shot to set up a short-iron approach shot to this birthday-cake green.

The course's signature hole is the par-3 No. 5. From a tee box parallel



Teeth of the Dog



Casa de Campo Hole 15



Teeth of the Dog Hole 4



to the coastline, the golfer is asked to weave a short-iron over to a green protected by bunkers and the deep blue sea. One can't help but marvel at the technical elements involved in constructing this hole as the putting surface rises above the waves by only a few feet. Once you've putted out on the hole, take a minute to enjoy the view.

Highlighting the back nine are Nos. 15 through 17, which are all located on the sea. The par-4 15th is a dogleg right that ends at a green perched precariously above the sea. The 194-yard No. 16 is just as treacherous as its kidney-shaped green looks downright tiny next to the blue waters protecting its right flank.

While one might be tempted to play Teeth of the Dog over and over again, the resort's other Dye courses serve as memorable challenges and scenery in their own right. The Dye Fore Course is perched 300 feet atop the cliffs overlooking the Chavon River. The course previously known as the Dye Fore North Nine has been melded together with the new Dye Fore Lakes to create a dynamic 18-hole layout. Although 7,630 yards from the championship tees, the course plays a bit shorter as expansive fairways and greens allow for aggressive attacks off the tees and to the greens.

The Marina Nine is windswept and cascades down toward the Casa de Campo port. Rolling fairways and sea breezes challenge shot selection on every hole. The Chavon Nine serves up outstanding views of the Altos de Chavon—the resort's authentic 16th century Mediterranean village. The 6,461-yard Links Course is a full 18-hole layout that runs through the interior of the property. Even still, great views of the sea can be found across the course's rolling terrain. Sand bunkers abound across the course and tall bahia and guinea grass make the rough an additional hazard.

Away from Dye's handiwork, guests at Casa de Campo can enjoy world-class dining, shopping, entertainment, and both hotel and villa accommodations. Additional sport offerings include 13 tennis courts, a 245-acre shooting facility, three polo fields, a yacht club, a sailing school, deep-sea and fresh-water fishing, kayaking, and snorkeling at the resort's private beach. Spa services include massages, reflexology, body treatments, aromatherapy, steam baths, and plunge pools. Thirteen restaurants across the complex serve up everything from local cuisine to steaks, chops, pizza, and fine dining.

For more information visit www.casadecampo.com, then start planning your Dominican Republic golf fiesta.

EVEN AFTER FOUR DECADES AND A QUANTUM LEAP IN TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS, THE COURSE REMAINS THE GEM OF THE CARIBBEAN.



Casa De Campo Links Hole 15



Teeth of the Dog Hole 18

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Local Architect Martin To Tackle Area Projects in 2013

Golf architect Greg Martin continues to leave a strong impression on courses across Chicagoland. In 2012, Martin oversaw successful renovation projects at Arrowhead Golf Club, Prairie Bluff Golf Course, and Fox Run Golf Links. His company, Martin Design, is in the planning stages for improvements to Settler's Hill Golf Course in Geneva that includes expansion of the golf course and the addition of a 6-hole junior course. Later this summer, the company will start renovation work on Wilmette Golf Club. Those improvements will include green construction, drainage and irrigation, and wetland expansion. Martin Design is also earmarked to perform renovations at Oak Meadows Golf Course in the near future. For more information about upcoming projects for Martin Design, visit www.mdpltd.com.

PGA Junior League Debuts in Late May

The PGA Junior League is as much about fun and camaraderie as it is about competition. Young golfers ages 9-13 play in a two-player scramble format. Participants of all skill levels are welcomed to enter. With no individual scoring, the league offers a stress-free way to introduce sons and daughters to competitive golf. Each competition consists of four 9-hole matches. Teams wear numbered jerseys supplied by the league.

At the end of the season, All-Star Teams are formed to compete in the advancement phase of PGA JLG. Advancement will take place through Regional competitions. The resulting Regional Champions will compete in the PGA JLG Championship in September 2013.

For more information, use the PGA Junior League website: www.pgajrleaguegolf.com.

Big Ten Championship Returns to French Lick Resort

The University of Illinois men's team will attempt to earn a fifth straight conference title April 26-28 in the Big Ten Championship to be held on the Pete Dye course at French Lick Resort in southern Indiana. On those same dates, the women's championship will be held on the resort's acclaimed Donald Ross course.

"We are very excited to once again be hosting one of the top college championships in the country and to have these great players from the Big Ten Conference experience our world-class golf courses," said Dave Harner, director of golf at French Lick Resort. "Both courses provide a unique challenge for the players. The resort has become a perfect neutral site for the players and their families to participate in such a prestigious championship."

French Lick Resort is a \$500 million historic restoration and casino development project that includes the West Baden Springs Hotel, French Lick Springs Hotel, and the French Lick Casino. This resort features 686 guest rooms and suites; a 51,000-square-foot, single-level casino; 45 holes of golf (including the fully restored 1917-designed Donald Ross Course at French Lick), the new, 18-hole Pete Dye Course at French Lick, and two full-service spas.

Golf is the cruelest game, because eventually it will drag you out in front of the whole school, take your lunch money, and slap you around.

—Rick Reilly



GOLFChicago Challenge on Facebook

Does this hole look familiar? It's on one of the most popular courses in Chicagoland. If you are the first to correctly identify it, you will win a \$25 Golfsmith Gift Card.

'Like' GOLFChicago Magazine on www.facebook.com, then post your answer after April 15. Earlier entries will be not be eligible for the prize.

GolfTEC Celebrates Milestone Accomplishment

Golf improvement group GolfTEC projects that one of its centers will give the company's 4-millionth lesson some time in mid-April. Started in the Denver Tech Center Mall in 1995, the company today boasts 176 centers across the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Korea. GolfTEC employs 550 personal coaches—many of them PGA professionals—and is considered the largest provider of private golf lessons in the country.

"I couldn't be more excited about our 4-millionth lesson," says company president and CEO Joe Assell. "Every step along the way, every time we open a new center, hire another coach, or help another golfer get better is proof that our idea works."

GolfTEC centers are located across Chicagoland, including locations in Des Plaines, Deerfield, Fox Valley, Halsted Row, Lincoln Park, Naperville, Oak Brook, Schaumburg, and Vernon Hills.

I'm working as hard as I can to get my life and my cash to run out at the same time. If I can just die after lunch Tuesday, everything would be perfect.

—Doug Sanders

Discount Golf Program Enters Chicago Market

A new club has been opened in our fair city. The Chicagoland Golf Club is designed for Chicago area golfers looking to play a variety of area courses at discounted rates. Members reserve tee times at a variety of championship courses across the area via the club's website and then sign-in upon arrival at the course. Available courses include Thunderhawk Golf Club, Makray Memorial, Pheasant Run Resort, Orchard Valley Golf, and Prairie Landing Golf Club. Green fees are not paid at the course and are instead charged by Chicagoland Golf Club as golf rounds are booked. Membership to the club starts at \$249 for weekday play rates and \$349 for "full membership" which accesses discounted rates seven days per week. Members also have discount access to Toronto, Canada, courses where the program originated. For more information, visit the club's website: www.chicagolandgolfclub.com.



Johnson Expected to Defend Deere Title in July

Hometown favorite and tournament board member Zach Johnson hit a six-iron approach shot to within a foot of the hole and went on to make birdie to win the 2012 John Deere Classic in a sudden death win over Troy Matteson. The victory earned Johnson both a spot in the British Open and the adulation of the gallery who came to cheer on the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native. The tournament is held at the TPC Deere Run course in Silvis, Illinois, 150 miles west of Chicago.

The 2013 John Deere Classic will be held July 11-14 and is expected to lure many of the Tour's top players, including Johnson. They will be playing for a purse of \$4.6 million with \$828,000 going to the champion. Grounds passes are \$24 with advance purchase. Ages 13-18 are half-price when tickets are purchased at the gate. Last year's event raised a record \$6.79 million for 493 local and regional charities. For more information, visit the tournament website: www.johndeereclassic.com.

Swinging at daisies is like playing electric guitar with a tennis racket: if it were that easy, we could all be Jerry Garcia. The ball changes everything.

—Michael Bamberger

LPGA Tour Returns to Chicago in 2016

The summer of 2016 will be truly special when the LPGA Tour returns to the Chicago area for a very unique event. The International Crown is coming to Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove for the second staging of this history-making tournament featuring 32 players from eight countries with one team taking the Crown. The first staging of the tournament will take place in 2014 at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland. This global match-play event will feature four-player teams from eight countries with teams being formed based on the world golf rankings. The initial playing of the International Crown will be a great precursor to golf returning to the Olympic Games in 2016, where we will likely see many of these talented golfers vying for Olympic gold.

Rich Harvest Farms is well acquainted with hosting an international tournament in conjunction with the LPGA Tour. The 2009 Solheim Cup was a true masterpiece in the world of golf events as witnessed by the thousands of fans from the U.S. and Europe who came out sporting their patriotic colors, waving their flags, singing songs, and rooting on the best players from both sides of the Atlantic. For more information on The International Crown, please visit www.lpgainternationalcrown.com.



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Luke Donald

Conway Farms Set To Host 2013 BMW Championship

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus remarked that “the only constant in life is change.” Those words will ring true in the ears of tens of thousands of gallery members and volunteers when they arrive at the 2013 BMW Championship September 9-15. The new host course of the event is the elegant Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, a Tom Fazio-designed private club opened in 1991. According to Vince Pellegrino, Western Golf Association vice-president of tournaments, the new venue has been greeted enthusiastically by sponsors and the general public. Reached in late March, Pellegrino announced that the Wednesday pre-tournament pro-am was sold out and a Monday pro-am was added to meet demand. “We’ve had a tremendous response to our corporate hospitality sales,” Pellegrino says. “We are also receiving lots of interest from golf fans across the North Shore and from across the state border in Wisconsin.”

The BMW Championship had been hosted for most of the last 21 years at Cog Hill’s “Dubsdread” course in the southwest suburbs. Conway Farms is home to Northwestern University golf team and boasts PGA Tour superstar (and NU grad) Luke Donald as a member. The tournament is the penultimate event in the FedEx Cup playoffs. Its 70-man field is expected to include the world’s top-ranked players, including six-time champion Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson, and Donald.

Tickets are \$40.00—a reduced rate from 2011, the last time the BMW Championship was played in the Chicago area. Children 16 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Active and retired military members are free any day of the tournament by showing a valid military ID at the ticket office.

“The biggest winner of the 2013 BMW Championship will be the Evans Scholars Foundation,” Pellegrino says. All proceeds will benefit the foundation, which awards full tuition and housing scholarships to deserving caddies from modest means. Since 1930, more than 10,000 young men and women caddies have attended some of the finest universities due to the Evans Scholarship program.

For tickets, visit the BMW Championship website: www.bmwchampionshipusa.com.

My best score ever was 103, but I’ve only been playing 15 years. —Alex Karris

Spring Workshops at Cantigny Golf Academy

Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, home of the 2013 Chicago Open (October 7–9), is offering workshops with Dr. Paul Callaway at their year-round Cantigny Golf Academy facility. These affordable clinics run through the end of May, and require pre-registration by calling 630-567-7572. The costs for each session is \$10 for adults and \$5 for junior golfers under age 18. For more information, visit www.cantignygolf.com or email Dr. Callaway at Paul@CallawayGolfFitness.com.

The Glen Club Recognized For Outstanding Services

National awards for The Glen Club have over the course of 11 years become almost routine. Recognized by most golf publications as one of the top 10 new public courses when it opened in 2001 and as the top public golf course in Illinois by *Golf Magazine* in 2008, the Glenview golf complex was recognized in March as 2012 “Facility of the Year” by KemperSports golf course management firm.

The award was presented to General Manager Don Crowe at a leadership conference and was based upon various criteria, including increased membership, guest satisfaction, and financial performance. Brad Fry of Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, Michigan, was also recognized at the event as “Golf Superintendent of the Year.”

Golf is very much like a love affair, if you don't take it seriously, it's no fun, if you do, it breaks your heart. Don't break your heart, but flirt with the possibility.
—Louise Suggs

KemperSports Announces Williams, Farber Promotions

Randy Farber was named general manager of Bolingbrook Golf Club in March, replacing Mike Williams who was promoted to Regional Operations Executive by golf club management firm KemperSports. Williams had served as general manager of Bolingbrook G.C. since 2009. Originally hired as head golf professional in 2005, he also served as assistant general manager of the club.

Farber has more than 20 years of experience in hotel, restaurant, and golf management. He previously served as general manager at Highland Park Country Club and was director of food and beverage at Bolingbrook G.C. from 2008-2012.



Mike Williams



Steve Skinner and Josh Lesnik celebrate KemperSports’ Club Management Company of the Year award for 2012 from *BoardRoom* magazine with members of The Glen Club staff.

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A Game for the Ages

Several years ago I received a physician referral to evaluate and treat a 94-year-old gentleman that was admitted to the hospital. When I entered the room he was lying on the bed comfortably reading a newspaper. After exchanging pleasantries and some standard questions I asked him if he ever needed to use a cane or walker. With a slight grin and chuckle he responded "No, but lately I have needed to use my sand wedge for support to get out of deeper bunkers." While most of us will not play golf into our 90s, the beauty of the game is that it can be enjoyed by people of all ages. How we treat our bodies may change how long we can golf.

Aging does have an effect on our bodies and to what extent depends on several factors including lifestyle, genetics, previous injuries, and illnesses. Muscles lose mass and fibers causing a potential decrease in strength and power by the age of 40. Joints experience degenerative changes because cartilage wears down, while ligaments and tendons lose flexibility and tolerance for strain. This contributes to a decrease in range of motion and flexibility along with an increased chance of overuse injuries such as tendonitis. Bones have a decrease in mineral absorption resulting in a decrease in bone density. Due to cartilage and bone degeneration, osteoarthritis may become an issue for some.

The result of these changes is a decrease in strength, flexibility, range of motion, and balance. As we age, recovery times are longer following activity, so at 60 we cannot recover from activity as quickly as we did at age 30. People also become less active, increasing the effects of aging along with increasing the risk of conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and some cancers. The good news is that regardless of our age we can minimize the effects of aging by doing a few basic things. First make sure you have a yearly physical with your physician to assess your health and medications. Then begin an exercise program appropriate for your age and make proper nutrition a priority.

Physical activity is an essential component of living a healthy life and adding consistent exercise can have a significant impact by slowing or stopping the decrease in strength,

flexibility, and balance, along with reducing the chance of injury. A good exercise program focuses on the entire body, but for the aging golfer you may want to focus on the trunk, hips, ankles, and shoulders. A great resource for information on the types of exercise for the aging adult, nutritional considerations, and living with some common chronic conditions is The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.org. If you prefer a more specific program, many health clubs or physical therapy clinics offer one-on-one assessments specific to golf.

A proper diet and nutrition are keys to aging well and prolonging your golfing career. Hydration is important for all ages, but especially as we age because our body does not control fluid levels as well. This could cause problems year round, but especially during

those hot summer rounds, so consider drinking non-caffeinated and non-alcoholic beverages on the course to avoid dehydration. Avoid eating foods high in fat and seek healthier options such as fruit and granola bars while on the course. Go with a turkey sandwich at the turn instead of a hot dog. Most of the top golfers on the Champions Tour are not adjusting their swing to maneuver around a 44-inch waist—unless of course your last name is Stadler.

The gentleman I mentioned at the start of the article did a lot of things right and was blessed with the ability to play golf well into his 90s. Most of us will not play that long, but if you take preventative measures you will increase your chances to stay out on the course, and you might play the best golf of your life after you get your AARP card.



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\$62
www.justinwine.com



At just 9.2 ounces, the Adizero Tour is the lightest women's tour shoe adidas has ever created. The sporty design is a decidedly feminine. Available in four color options, your #1 gal will be the talk of the tee with Adizero on her feet.

\$120
www.adidasgolf.com



A lighter big stick will send her drives bounding down the fairway. Add Callaway's OptiFit Hosel and mom can set the Razr Hot X driver to match her swing. The Lady Razr HL Combo set is offered with multiple set configurations and includes hybrids!

Callaway Golf
\$299 driver
\$599.99 club set



Pinnacle Golf's Going the Distance Awards Program celebrates golfers who have displayed dedication and passion to help defeat breast cancer. Visit www.facebook.com/pinnaclegolf to view this year's nominees. Be sure to buy mom a Pinnacle Gold Ribbon 15-ball pack to help the cause and add a few yards to her drives!

\$15.99 15-ball pack

Performance apparel brand Antigua's spring collection is brighter for 2013. The new color palette is expanded to six hues ranging from hot pink to a soft purple called "pansy." Other colors in the collection include cleverly-named hues like "fountain" and "kiss." Add a little color to mom's closet with Antigua—she'll wear it well. Antigua Women's Collection
www.antigua.com



Best Bang For Your Buck

OFF THE BEATEN CART PATH

Greg Jourdan

On the road less traveled lies a golf destination that went from cotton fields to golf courses. Santee, South Carolina's parsimonious golf rates share no correlation with the quality of golf offered to travelers. Golf packages as low as \$50 a day include a comfortable room and 18 holes with a cart. Even the high season is easy on the wallet with rates under \$100 a day.

Don't expect to play from crabgrass and goat tracks. While golf in Santee is value-priced, the area's four best courses are still loaded with thrills. Each of these courses can be played with a cart for under \$35. During low season, that \$35 will get you a drink, chips, and hotdog on the turn, too.

A dozen more tracks are within a half-hour drive; however, we recommend multiple plays at Santee National Golf Club and Wyboo Golf Club (in nearby Manning). Wyboo Golf Club is a Tom Jackson-designed gem that will be your favorite of the trip, especially with green fees under \$30. This could be the best bang for the buck in all of golf. Do not let the 6,400 yardage fool you; strategy and line of play trumps distance at Wyboo, but a well-steered big stick can turn this round into a personal-best scorecard.

Wyboo definitely tickles the gray matter from start to finish, as does Santee National Golf Club's twists and turns through the moss-draped hardwoods. Santee National, one of three courses in town, is a curious journey through a parkland layout with a handful of links-style holes. Somehow, the combination flows into an exciting round with numerous risk/reward opportunities. The other two courses in town are Lake Marion Golf Club and Santee Cooper Country Club. Although both courses are distinct, they do share a 1980s country club feel. Lake Marion is in the heart of Santee, and a trip to golf's "value city" would not be complete without teeing it up on the cornerstone of the Santee golf experience. The newer Lake Marion Golf Villas are an excellent home base for groups and couples alike. If sister course Santee Cooper has one thing, it's personality. Her doglegs will frustrate players who insist on hitting their drivers on every two- and three-shooter. Her greens will provide a pure roll that should

result in your best day on the greens in years. I suggest playing these two courses on the same day. Both require patience and a similar mindset to card a low number.

Santee offers over a dozen value hotels, but the best experiences will begin at one of her villas. In addition to the aforementioned villas at Santee National and Lake Marion, the villas at North Shore at Lake Marion are a lodging option that will please even the most discriminating member of your foursome. The four-bedroom villas sleep up to eight guests and afford plenty of room for cards and good times. You'll need some good eats before retiring to your bed, so be sure to pick up a meal at Maurice's Gourmet Barbeque (www.mauricesbbq.com). You will not be the first visitor to enjoy multiple meals at Maurice's place during your stay. For a sit down meal with heaping plates of southern comfort foods, The Clark's Inn & Restaurant is sure to please the entire foursome. Signature dishes include the Mango Pecan Roast Pork followed by their Apple Crisp or Pecan Pie.

Getting there is easy with flights out of Chicago's O'Hare and Midway stopping in nearby Charleston on a regular schedule. Once in historic Charleston, Santee is less than an hour's drive on I-95. If you want to travel a la Kerouac and put the rubber to the road for 14 hours, it is a marathon of interstate cruise control and truck stops, but worth the seat time.

If you are flying into Charleston, do not miss an opportunity to play The Links at Stono Ferry (www.stonoferrygolf.com). The course is just a short drive down I-26 from the airport and is much more than a spectacular golf club. Stono Ferry is a historic battlefield from the Revolutionary War. In 1779, the British traveled down the Stono River and fought the American Rebels on holes 12 to 14. The Links is one of the finest courses in the Palmetto State and has everything a traveling Yankee could ask for while playing golf in the Jewel of the South: moss draping from the hardwoods, stunning views, and a parcel rich with our nation's history.

Find more information; visit www.SanteeTourism.com and www.GolfSantee.com for golf packages and seasonal rates.



A Holistic Approach to Golf Performance

Despite the efforts of plastic surgeons and the cosmetic industry, none of us is getting any younger. Even if we occasionally fool the cashier into demanding our proof of age when buying a bottle of wine at the grocery store, our bodies serve as a harsh reminder that time is truly not on our side. Each April, golfers across the Midwest face the dreaded task of reconstructing their swings that have been hibernating for most of the previous five months. Visions of the Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz" dance through our heads as we make a mental checklist of all of the muscles we haven't used since last October. It might take a dozen swings for more agile golfers—and a few bakers' dozens for the rest of us—before we locate a semblance of our former selves.

A few of the wiser golfers amongst us have figured out a way to stay in golf shape during the off-season by either practice sessions at an indoor golf range or through a regular physical fitness regimen. John Dyrek, a personal trainer who lives in Chicago's south suburbs, is a strong proponent of both. "I am a body mechanic," he says. Dyrek works with golfers on strength, balance, endurance, power and flexibility to maximize their potential as athletes. "I have taught strength training for over 30 years," he says, "and transferred what I learned as it relates to the golf swing." Dyrek is a certified Nike Golf 360° Golf Performance Specialist. A year ago, Nike Golf announced a partnership with the acclaimed Gray Institute on a holistic approach to improving golfers' performance through physical evaluation and training along with custom club fitting and digital tracking applications. Dyrek is quick to point out that his work with golfers is not a substitute for the work of a golf professional. "Quite honestly," Dyrek says, "I don't care whether a student uses an interlocking grip or an overlapping grip or a baseball grip. My total focus is observing and working with body movements to improve performance.

"I don't give you swing-plane thoughts," Dyrek continues. "I help you move by assisting you on stretchability—from your ankles to your knees to your hips to your upper body."

Dyrek uses a baseball analogy on how body fitness can help a golfer. "Juan Marichal was one of the greatest pitchers in the game's history," he says. "And while everyone talks about how

strong Marichal's arm was, I'm willing to bet that if anyone had asked him, Marichal would say that his arm was one of the *last* things that made him a successful pitcher." Instead, Dyrek explains, it was Marichal's flexibility and the way he transferred his weight from back foot to front that made him a powerful and accurate Hall of Fame hurler.

"Golf is not an easy sport to master," Dyrek says. "A great tee shot 250 yards down the middle of the fairway requires a lot of skills, including balance, power, eye-hand coordination, strength, and flexibility. My job is to work *with*—not compete against—a golf professional to condition the student to be able to make a great golf swing.

"A golf professional is more an idealist while a personal trainer is more a realist," Dyrek continues. "I work on how the body moves while what the pro does is work on the actual swing."

"One of the benefits of working with a physical trainer is learning just how interconnected the body is," says Dyrek. "People come in sometimes with back pain and the trainer will see right away that it's not the back at all that's the issue—rather it may be that the real problem lies in the ankles or the shoulders or the hips."

The Nike 360° Golf Performance System includes both on-site and online training

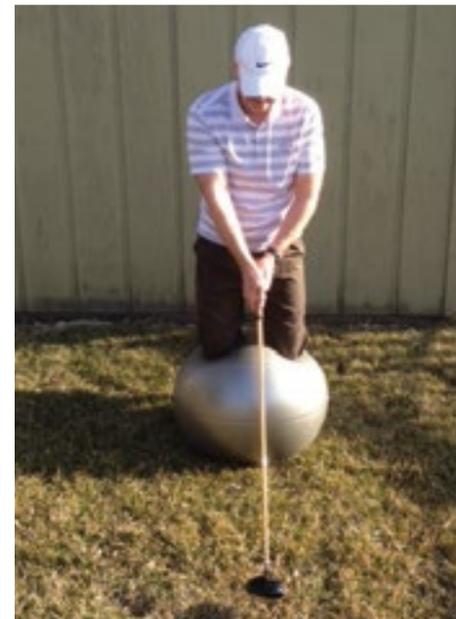


assistance for the golfer. Specialists, including Dyrek (who works at facilities in Downtown Chicago as well as Dyer, Indiana), provide personal training to transform human potential into human performance. Exercises focus on different body parts and movements to stretch and strengthen as well as improve posture. Some exercises might be simple turns of the hips to increase rotation. Others could involve dumbbells or a medicine ball. The body work performed by the trainer is complemented by exercises detailed on the system's website (www.nike.com/nikegolf/ng360), which provides training videos on various exercises.

Along with the focus on fitness, the Nike 360° Golf Performance System includes a free app for the iPhone to score golf rounds and track fairways hit, greens in regulation, and putts per round. That data can be input into a website to visualize stats and identify trends.

Dyrek, for one, is a believer in this holistic approach to golf fitness and game improvement. "The program is superior to all others I've seen," he says. "It gives golfers insight into both their bodies and their games."

For more information or to schedule a training session in the Chicago or northwest Indiana areas, e-mail John Dyrek at johndyrek@yahoo.com or call 312-501-1982.



PROFILES

Neal Kotlarek

The Best Sister Courses In Illinois...



Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve acre quarry lake. The collection of eighteen holes now provides golfers with an adventure through a variety of unique golf holes in a beautiful setting.

Bowes Creek Country Club offers our patrons a private club experience at a public golfer price. Instead of standard green fees, the club offers a "member for a day" fee, granting access to unlimited golf with a cart and full use of the facility. Annual memberships are also available in an array of options suited to your needs.

875 Sports Way | Elgin, IL 60124
847-931-5950 | www.highlandsofelgin.com

1250 Bowes Creek Boulevard | Elgin, IL 60124
847-214-5880 | www.bowescreekcc.com

First Tee of Greater Chicago

The First Tee of Greater Chicago has announced its calendar of events and fundraising activities for 2013. The First Tee is a national youth development organization devoted to impacting the lives of children through educational programs and life skills activities through the game of golf. The First Tee programs are open to all children from the ages of 7 to 17. The programs emphasize core values and healthy habits as ways to build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Participants advance through a series of levels.

Site locations for the programs are on the north and south side of Chicago through the Chicago Park District, Foss Park Golf Course in North Chicago, Glenwood Golf Course in Glenwood, and Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont. There are also First Tee programs for children of Active Duty, National Guardsmen and Reservist Military Families through a Department of Defense grant. Children can be enrolled in any of these local programs by going to the First Tee website: thefirstteegreaterchicago.org or by calling 847-729-9833.

The First Tee of Greater Chicago offers three additional leadership camps for participants. The first is the Humana Healthy Habits Awareness, which begins on July 17th and adds an additional focus on The First Tee's Nine Healthy Habits. The second opportunity is the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Financial Literacy awareness week starting July 22nd with two leadership camps at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont and at the Foss Park Golf Course. The last new leadership opportunity that will be offered is the Gongaware Junior Golf Camp in Franklin, Indiana, led by a PGA professional.

New this year to The First Tee of Greater Chicago will be the PGA Junior League, which will be conducted in the city of Chicago and at Cog Hill in Lemont. The league members will compete as a local team and then be given the chance to qualify for the national championship.

The First Tee is a 501C(3) charity and is fully funded by donations. This year it is holding a number of fundraising events open to the general public.

The inaugural Golf Fashion Show will take place on Thursday, April 11, at Untitled Chicago—a speakeasy-themed club located in River North. The event will feature golf's newest high-end apparel hosted by The PGA Tour Superstore.

Back for its third year will be Luke Donald's Taste of The First Tee Wine Tasting on Wednesday, June 19th at North Shore Country Club.

Also highlighting the 2013 calendar is The First Tee of Greater Chicago Golf Outing, hosted at The Dunes Club in New Buffalo, Michigan on Thursday, July 18. The Dunes Club is a *Golfweek* and *Golf Magazine* Top 100 Course and *Golf Digest* rated The Dunes Club as the "Best Nine Hole Course in America."



First Tee participants at Ryder Cup ProAm



Luke Donald with friends from The First Tee of Chicago

GROWING THE GAME

Tim Kraft

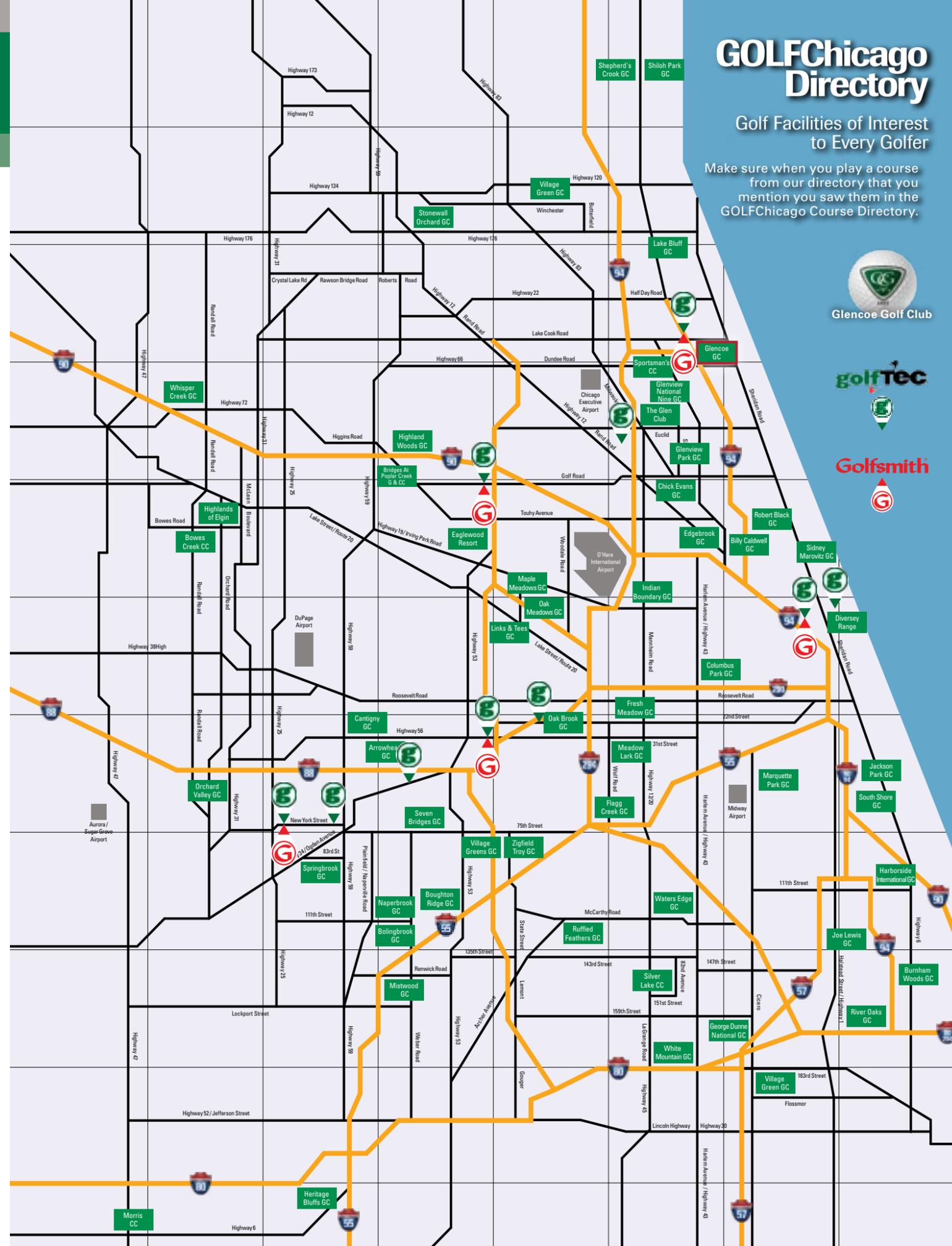
The Dennis Walters Golf Show is returning to Chicago this year on July 19th at Jackson Park. This show is a one hour combination of golf mastery and human inspiration. The show guarantees great golf, great fun, and delivers a great message.

The First Tee of Greater Chicago is dedicated to the belief that young people are society's future leaders and that programs introducing youth to the game will provide exposure to core values, such as respect, integrity, and perseverance. Supporters of this concept are invited to become donors and volunteers. Visit the First Tee of Greater Chicago website for more information and to sign up for this worthy organization's mailing list.

GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw them in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.





Arrowhead

630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

arrowheadgolfclub.org

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.

Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. Players are enjoying new bunker renovations and enhancements to the West, East and South Courses. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60490

bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features an Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest designed championship golf course, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available.

Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country, named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list, and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Boulevard
Elgin, Illinois 60124

bowescreekcountryclub.com

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, scenic Cantigny hosted the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship in 2007 and is home to the 2013 Chicago Open, Oct. 7-9. The Illinois State Amateur returns to Cantigny in 2014. The Cantigny Golf Academy is a prime practice and learning center, and junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.



Glencoe Golf Club & Golf Academy

847-835-0250
621 Westley Road
Glencoe, IL 60022

glencoe golfclub.com

The Glencoe Golf Club, known for excellent course conditions and lightning fast greens, is a great escape from the sights and sounds of the city, located only 20 minutes north of Chicago, just off the Edens Expressway.

- Grass tee practice range
- Short game practice area
- Jr./Sr. Discounts
- Golf Academy featuring premiere junior programs, clinics, and private lessons.



golfTec

10 Chicagoland Locations

golftec.com

Chicago - Halsted Row
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015
224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061
847-327-0605



Golfsmith

5 Chicagoland Locations

golfsmith.com

Fox Valley 60504
630-585-0872

Highland Park 60035
847-579-0219

Lincoln Park 60614
773-281-1494

Downers Grove 60515
630-495-4880

Schaumburg 60173
847-969-0347

Buy it. Try it. Keep it. Or return it and get another.

If for any reason you are not satisfied within the first 30 days after your club purchase, return your clubs to Golfsmith and receive a credit of up to 90% of the original purchase price toward your next club purchase.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123

highlandsofelgin.com

The new quarry nine and the original nine holes flow over beautiful rolling terrain, creating a diverse collection of holes. The new nine holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and are routed to take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole.



Chicago Park District Golf

312.245.0909
cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges and two miniature golf courses there's golf enjoyment for the whole family. PLUS... save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

- Robert A. Black – 9 Holes
- Sydney R. Marovitz – 9 Holes
- Jackson Park – 18 Holes
- Columbus Park – 9 Holes
- Marquette Park
- South Shore
- Diversey Range



Flossmoor Country Club

708.798.4700
1441 Western Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoorcc.org

Flossmoor Country Club provides golfing enjoyment, competition and family entertainment in the south suburbs of Chicago. In 1899, Flossmoor Country Club was founded and is now one of the oldest existing clubs in the Midwest and home to a classic style, world-class golf course. With rich history and traditions, the "Flossmoor Experience" emanates through various member golf tournaments and social events culminating in the finest club experience Chicago has to offer.



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800.460.0010
forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS...save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

- Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
- Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
- Chick Evans: 18 Holes
- Edgebrook: 18 Holes
- George Dunne National: 18 Holes
- Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



The Glen Club

847-724-7272
2901 West Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026

theglenclub.com

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located at the former Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas.

Enjoy the grand 48,000 sq. ft. clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and Membership.



Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East,
Chicago, IL 60628

harborsideinternational.com

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and Pier 37 Restaurant operated by Chicago's top restaurateur, Phil Stefani.

Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

lakebluffgolfclub.com

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bent grass fairways and greens. The club anxiously awaits hosting the 42nd Annual Lake County Amateur this July 27 and 28.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446

mistwoodgolf.net

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area. Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.



Orchard Valley Golf Course

2411 West Illinois Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506
630-907-0500

orchardvalleygolf.com

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine*. One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, waterfalls and more.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!





Stonewall Orchard

847-740-4890
25675 W Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030-9629
stonewallorchard.com

Cutting through hundred-year old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses.

Since opening in 1999, The Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open and currently sits on rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every September.

To learn more, visit stonewallorchard.com or call 847-740-4890.



Water's Edge Golf Course

7205 West 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-671-1032
watersedgegolf.com

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*.

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways, and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb Boulevard
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-7680
whispercreekgolf.com

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Whisper Rewards PLUS program
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-478-4653
whitemountaingolfpark.com

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf
- Practice Range with artificial and grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

PLUS...earn FREE stuff with the Playback Rewards program – join TODAY!

Blackberry Oaks

630-553-7170
Bristol

Bonnie Brook GC

847-360-4735
2800 N. Lewis Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60087
waukegangolf.org

Boughton Ridge

630-739-4100
Bolingbrook

Coyote Run Golf Course

708-957-8700
800 Kedzie
Flossmoor IL 60422
coyoterungolf.com

Par 71
Yardage: 6,478
Weekday: \$50 w/cart
Weekend: \$60 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes, \$31 w/ cart, Mon.-Thu. only
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Eaglewood Resort and Spa

630-773-3510
1401 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
eaglewoodresort.com

Par 72
Yardage 6,015 - 5,410 yds.
Weekday: \$39.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)
Weekend: \$45.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

The First Tee of Aurora & Fox Valley

630-499-0680
1001 Hill Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
thefirstteeaurora.org

The First Tee of Greater Chicago

773-885-8258
2901 W. Lake Avenue,
Suite A
Glenview, IL 60025
thefirstteegreaterchicago.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

708-246-3336
6939 S. Wolf Road
Countryside, IL 60525
flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

Par 33
Yardage: 2493 – 1865
Weekday: \$14 (resident)
\$18 (non res.)
Weekend: \$16 (resident)
\$20 (non res.)
Cart Fee: \$16
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Par 72
Yardage: 6,890 – 5,325
Weekday: \$38 walk
\$54 ride
Weekend: \$43 walk
\$59 ride

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes
Resident rates available

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa

262-248-8811
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W 201 West 63rd Street
Westmont, IL 60559
DuPageGolf.com

Par 30
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.
Weekday: \$14 walk
\$22 ride
Weekend: \$16 walk
\$24 ride

*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: No
Banquets/Outings: No

Hamilton County Golf

Indiana's Premier Golf Destination!
indianaspremiergolf.com

Indian Oaks Country Club

815-824-2282
Shabbona, IL
9 Holes
3,379 yards
indianoaksccl.com

Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

Golf Changes Kids' Lives
630-466-0913
P.O. Box 610
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
kidsgolffoundation.org

Links & Tees Golf Facility

630-458-2660
Addison, IL
Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range Magazine* as one of the top 100 learning facilities in North America.
addisonparks.org

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Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com

West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk
\$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk
\$58 ride

*Frequent specials on course website

East 9 – Par 34
Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.
Rate: \$16 walk / \$25 ride
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Martin Design Partnership, Ltd.

Golf Course Architecture and Design
630-482-2532
335 N. River Street
Suite 201
Batavia, IL 60510
mdpltd.com

Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. Hassert Boulevard
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Par 72
Yardage: 6677
Weekday: \$38
Weekend: \$48
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Oak Brook Golf Club

630-368-6400
2606 York Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
oak-brook.org/recreation

Par 72
Yardage 6541 - 5341 yds
Weekday: \$65.00 w/cart
Weekend: \$69.00 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Course Managers:

For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at

dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

Oak Meadows Golf Club

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com

Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk
\$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk
\$58 ride

*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

SentryWorld

Closed for renovation for 2013 season
866-479-6753
Stevens Point, WI
18 holes
Par 72
6,951 yards
sentryworld.com

Shepherd's Crook

847-872-2080
351 N. Green Bay Rd.
Zion, IL 60099
shepherdscrook.org

Shiloh Park

847-746-5500
23rd and Bethesda Blvd.
Zion, IL 60099
shilohparkgolf.com

Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd Street
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org

Par 72
Yardage: 6,896
Weekday: \$40
Weekend: \$50
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Village Greens

630-985-3610
Woodridge

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

westerngolfassociation.com

White Pines Dome

630-776-0304, ext. 5
Bensenville, IL
whitepinesdome.com

Zigfield Troy Par 3

630-985-9860
1535 W. 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517

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Coming of Age on the Links

An American Caddie in St. Andrews

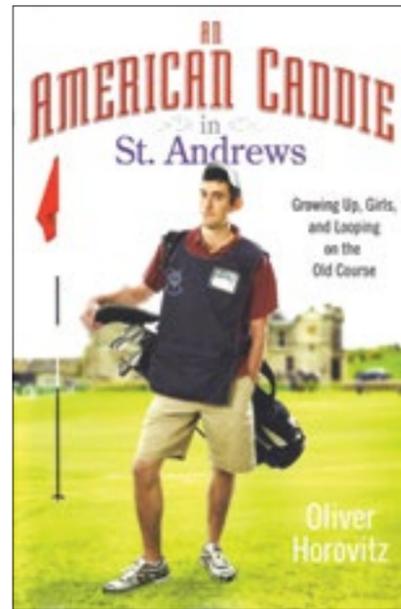
By Oliver Horovitz
\$26 (Hardcover)
323 pages
www.penguin.com
ISBN: 978-1-592-40729-3

The story of a Harvard College-bound kid's summer job sparks as much interest as a manual for the care of ingrown toenails. Oliver Horovitz's first summer schlepping a golf bag on the links at the home of golf begins much like that care manual; however, around page 30 something special happens for readers. Horovitz gets short-changed by a golfer and he becomes one of the dyed in the wool caddies at St. Andrews. While Horovitz is likeable during his first summer at the Old Course, it is difficult to sympathize with an Ivy Leaguer-to-be who carries a two-handicap.

Horovitz's narrative is brilliant as he describes the romance of caddying in Scotland as a coming of age encounter with 'real' people. The young man reveals the workings of the caddie culture and shares the underbelly of the St. Andrews tavern scene. Perhaps his humble and honest self-reflections are what separate *An American in St. Andrews* from the stacks of golf books that bore readers with a 40-somethings journey toward self-awareness with golf as a vehicle to peace of mind. Horovitz's journey takes readers from cold-shouldered co-workers to horrible golfers to training sexy co-ed models to caddie to tossing down tequila shots with Paula Creamer. Yeah, this is just the kind of book a 40-something in Middle America needs to get out of a mid-life funk. Thanks to Oliver Horovitz, we all get to live a second life as a looper on the links.

ON THE SHELF

Between the Covers



Like a Rock

The Stags Leap District AVA is in the very heart of Napa Valley. It runs from north to south for about three miles along the Silverado Trail, and its 1,350 [very prized] acres were first planted with Cabernet Sauvignon in 1961, for which it would soon become renowned. The name comes from an outcropping of red rocks at the area's eastern boundary, where a stag supposedly escaped his pursuers by leaping across the treacherous gap.

The Stags Leap District's reputation was assured in 1976, when the 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellar's S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon won the famous (some would say infamous) "Judgement of Paris" International Wine Competition, besting the likes of First Growths Mouton-Rothschild and Haut-Brion. This now-legendary growing region received AVA [American Viticultural Area] status in 1989.

Situated at the far southern end of Stags Leap, the Chimney Rock estate was started on a 180-acre parcel (which originally included a golf course, but that was turned over to vines long ago). Initially, 59 acres were planted with a combination of red and white grapes, and the first vintage of Chimney Rock estate wines was produced in 1989. In the mid-1990s, after a phylloxera infestation necessitated the replanting of the entire property, only red Bordeaux-variety grapes were used in recognition of the unique characteristics and potential of the Stags Leap District.

In 2004, the Terlato Family empire acquired sole ownership of Chimney Rock, and they have diligently worked to steadily improve this already excellent winery.

2008 Elevage Blanc \$42
Seeing the very pale straw color of this wine in the glass you might think, "well, this is a lightweight." But, you would be wrong. There is much to like in this unusual blend of Sauvignon Blanc [70%] and the rarely used Sauvignon Gris [30%]. The nose shows aromas of mango, pineapple, and vanilla, and there is a hint of coconut on the finish. Even so, this wine is strictly dry, with a full, rich mouthfeel. The fruit is nicely balanced with the proper amount of acidity.

Celebrate spring by pairing Elevage Blanc with Quail Stuffed with Ricotta, Bacon, and Greens, or Soft-Shell Crabs with Vegetable Slaw. ●●●●

2009 Cabernet Sauvignon \$66
I strive to be coolly unbiased in this column, but I have to be honest: this is one of my all-time favorite wines. The color is deep garnet red. The bouquet features black currant and vanilla. Although a classic Big Cab (with support from Merlot and Cabernet Franc), this wine is completely approachable. The dark fruit flavors are supported by smooth tannins and just the right amount of acidity for balance and liveliness. Aging was 18 months in 50/50 new/used French oak. 100% sourced from the Stags Leap District, this wine will easily cellar for ten years; ten days is more like it in mine. And although expensive, this Chimney Rock will easily compete with Cabernet Sauvignons costing twice as much.

Serve with Filets of Beef Stuffed with Roast Garlic and Herbs, or Goat Cheese-Stuffed Roasted Chicken. ●●●●●

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Leo McNeal



leo849@mchsi.com

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Small Gets Big Results

Ben Hogan once said that in golf, in order to find “it”—whatever “it” was going to be for that player—a player must dig it out of the dirt. It meant long hours on the range, blood on the palms, and sweat on the brow.

All professional golfers, at some point, have had their Come to Hogan moment. You either do it, or you don’t.

Mike Small knows this saying a little better than most, however. The University of Illinois men’s golf coach had a decade-long touring career, spending three full seasons on the then-Nike tour and one full year on the PGA Tour between 1990 and 2001.

He spent years digging in the dirt before realizing his effort might be best suited at breaking new ground at his alma mater. For the first part of his coaching career at Illinois, Small was the program’s star. He won Illinois Opens, PGA Professional National Championships, and played in Majors.

While he found his own game by playing less, Small was digging the Illini out of the dirt.

He coached and recruited hard, building teams that won Big Ten championships and qualified for five straight NCAA appearances. But something else was happening too—he was beginning to mold some of the best golfers in the world.

Two of those players are PGA Tour rookies Luke Guthrie and Scott Langley.

“They’ve both had great resumes the last three, four, five years and physically they deserve it, but I think mentally they belong,” Small said.

Langley, who turned 24 in March, rose to national prominence while in Champaign by winning an individual national title and placing as the low amateur in the 2010 U.S. Open. He earned his card through a tie for 17th at PGA Tour Qualifying School and made waves at the very start of this season by shooting an opening round 62 at the Sony Open.

He hung on to the end before tying for third and paid his coach—the ultimate grinder—the ultimate compliment.

“Coach Small at Illinois taught me how to be a competitor,” Langley said.

Not to be outdone, Guthrie shot a second round 63 to vault himself into contention at The Honda Classic leading to his own third place finish. It was the second time the 23-year-old had flirted with the top of the leaderboard, as he finished in a tie for fifth on a sponsor exemption at the John Deere Classic in Silvis last summer.

He also won twice and posted five other top 10 finishes on the Web.com Tour last year, success he traces right back to his coach at Illinois.

FROM THE FRINGE

Insights on the PGA Tour



Jim Owczarski

“Coach brings a lot of respect to the Illinois program with all of the experiences he’s had in golf,” Guthrie said. “The main reason I went there was just to learn under him and just try to get myself better every day, and I was able to do that at Illinois with what he provides.”

It’s impossible to say this early success will lead to a trophy ceremony for either player—winning on today’s PGA Tour is very, very difficult—but what can be said with certainty is that these two young guns are set up for it by the work Small did long before he brought them to Champaign.

“We have a great asset in learning from coach Small at Illinois, just being with him for four years, not just a couple lessons every once in a while,” Langley said. “He was a big influence on us and certainly instilled a lot of competitive aspects in me that I didn’t have before I went to school.”

Langley and Guthrie join alumni Steve Stricker, D.A. Points, and Joe Affrunti on the big tour this year, giving Illinois a larger national presence.

“It sure helps,” Small said. “When we started this thing 12 years ago I had played on the Tour recently and when I made the jump to this I knew how important having a presence on the Tour was to a college program. It’s a positive reflection. It shows you’re learning something, it shows you’re getting help from your pro in Champaign. Steve carried us the longest time and now D.A. is taking it. And I even had to play a little bit. That served its purpose. I’ve got some young guys out there and I’m hoping they stay and continue to have that Illini brand on the Tour.”

Small is still digging though. The 16,000-square foot Demirjian Golf Practice Facility is nearly complete, giving him yet another tool to recruit some of the country’s best players to the heartland. A private outdoor teaching center is also in the planning stages. But if they don’t come, eschewing Illinois for warmer year-round climates, that’s fine by Small.

“If you’re at Illinois you most likely want to be a PGA Tour player,” Guthrie said. “You can [aspire to that goal] when you go there.”

Small will take that endorsement, but know he’s not satisfied.

“You have to keep moving—you can’t stay stagnant,” Small said. “I’m trying to continue to cultivate and fundraise and bring new people into the program, not just players, but supporters and friends. That’s important just to grow our brand. So it never stops. You can never lose sight of what you’re doing here; you’re here helping these kids become better players. You can’t lose sight of that.”

He hasn’t after all these years, even as he’s put his head down, digging it out of the dirt.

We have a great asset in learning from coach Small at Illinois, just being with him for four years, not just a couple lessons every once in a while. He was a big influence on us and certainly instilled a lot of competitive aspects in me that I didn't have before I went to school.



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Fairway Wood	Swing Speed (mph)	Ball Speed (mph)	Spin Rate (rpm)	Carry Distance (yds)
Exotics XCG6 #3-15.0	107.6	157.4	3528	251.8
Callaway X Hot #3-15.0	107.6	154.9	3873	245.1
TaylorMade RBZ Stage 2 #3-15.0	107.1	155.7	4039	244.8
Cobra AMP CELL #3-15.0	107.9	156.7	4545	240.6
Ping Anser #3-14.5	107.2	151.1	3981	238.3
Adams Speedline Super LS #3-15.0	107.2	153.3	4377	237.1
Titleist 913F #3-15.0	107.2	155.2	4822	234.6
Nike VR S Covert #3-15.0	107.4	150.1	5252	222.5

Iron	Club Speed (mph)	Ball Speed (mph)	Spin Rate (rpm)	Carry Distance (yds)	Total Distance (yds)
Exotics XCG6 #6 iron	90.4	119.0	6471	162.9	166.7
TaylorMade Rocketblades #6 iron	90.5	115.2	7409	153.1	155.0

Trackman robot test results provided by golf technologies using Titleist ProV1X balls. Fairway wood shot analysis data represents average of all hits at 107 mph club speed. All clubs were tested using stock stiff-flex shafts and Titleist ProV1x golf balls. Iron shot analysis data represents overall average of all hits at 90 mph average club speed. Irons were tested using stock steel stiff-flex shafts.