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April 2018, Vol. 22 No. 2



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TOP-5

7

TOP-10

13

TOP-25

20

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Cover: Cog Hill's PGA Jr. League team from 2017 exemplifies the fun to be had in junior golf. (Photo: Mike Schoaf / Southwest PGA)

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OPENING SHOT

DAVE
AND
TIM

The crocus may or may not have bloomed in your backyard, but spring is here. That mountain of snow has melted. The sun is higher in the sky. Thunder occasionally rumbles. You may have even hit the links on a reasonably warm – above 45 degrees – day.

The key indicator is on the television screen. Golf's on the telly 24/7, but for those of a certain age, the annual transmissions from Augusta, Georgia – off the television map for the other 51 weeks of the year – mean earth still follows a proper orbit and warmer days are ahead.

Amen (corner) to that.

The Masters is the one tournament that we can't get enough of, and perhaps the limited hours on the air – even the five hours on Sunday seem to go by in



"The company is losing money, so many of you won't have a job next month. On a bright note, I finally shot under 80 last weekend."

seconds – is why. Few will watch all of the U.S. Open across four days, or even a regular tournament on the circuit, which might cover 12 or 14 hours, but the Masters? We're glued to the set, and often have the iPad with one of the extra channels that Augusta offers. Who can resist watching action at Amen Corner all day? It's a magical place, Augusta National. It changes every year, sometimes subtly, occasionally outrageously, as when Hootie Johnson turned into Johnny

Appleseed and planted pine trees everywhere but downtown Aiken to toughen the course. But the place is always green, manicured more perfectly than a Hollywood star, and always ready for its close-up.

It's also a different place. Fans can't bring in cell phones, so there's no chance of a buzz, unless you hit the concession stands with the 1980s prices for the \$4 beers. There's also no official course rating for the layout, and the green jackets never announce Stimpmeter speeds for the roly-poly greens. (Upon the switch from bermuda to bent a generation ago, they ran 18, which is equivalent to infinity, a member whispered to someone sworn to secrecy.)

Augusta National is treated with more reverence than it should be – did you know it's a for-profit company following a bankruptcy way back? – but it's earned a special place in golf.

Even when the azaleas bloom early.

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THE GOOD STUFF



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This is for the golfer who has everything: A golf towel with a magnetic corner that will, as magnets are wont to do, stick to clubs, metal clubheads, golf cart posts, and so on. Monument Golf calls the removable patch “industrial strength,” but the idea is attractive. You can’t lose your golf towel if you have it stuck to your clubs or your cart. It comes with a white or grey towel.

www.monumentgolfer.com

\$24.95 MSRP

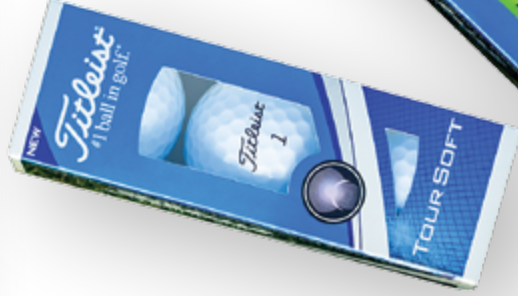


Sun (Mountain) On A Rainy Day

Have a leaky rain jacket? The Elite Rain Jacket from Sun Mountain may be the answer for stay-dry playability. Boasting a knit fabric that features 20K waterproof and 30K breathability ratings, Sun Mountain says it has more four-way stretchability than anyone else’s rain gear. There’s a two-year waterproof guarantee. Available in six sizes, and in platinum, navy or black.

shopsunmountain.com

\$299.99 MSRP



From The Softies At Titleist

The famed Titleist Pro V1 and its cousin, the V1x, isn’t for everybody. The firm’s Tour Soft might be. A 342-dimple ball with a grafted urethane cover made from a mix of four materials and the brand’s largest core, the promise is for high ball speed even at mid-60s compression, and what is called “advanced short game control.” If you don’t like white, it’s also available in day-glo yellow.

www.titleist.com

\$34.99 MSRP



A Ping With More Zing

Game-improvement is a manufacturer’s phrase for clubs for medium-and-up handicappers. Ping calls the G700 iron series game-improvement, but the clubs have the look of a club a Tour player could wield. The hollow-bodied clubs move weight from the clubface to make for more loft and easier shotmaking. The standard set begins with the 4-iron and runs through the sand wedge at 54 degrees, with the lofts for the “power spec” set 1.5 to 2 degrees less.

ping.com

Prices vary from \$160 to \$175 per club depending on shaft.



Go Rogue

No, not politically. On the tee, Callaway is getting a lot of mileage out of its Rogue driver and fairway metals, and with good reason. They employ 2017’s new development from the Epic driver, Jailbreak technology, which dampens the natural twist of the clubhead by the use of titanium bars behind the clubface to prevent it from deflecting. In the Rogue, the bars are lighter but as effective. The clubface itself is of variable thickness, and the driver is 460 cc, larger than the Epic. All this wizardry, plus options for a draw-friendly driver and the Sub Zero, with adjustable weights to lower spin rate in both the driver and fairway woods, has made the clubs popular on the pro tours.

www.callawaygolf.com

\$499.99 (driver), \$299.99 (fairway woods) MSRP

Sweet Home Chicago

\$60 Million and Counting

Urban renewal does not come cheap.

Nor do high-end golf courses.

Put the two together, and even a rich man might consider taking out a loan or begging for donations.

That, on a municipal level, is the case with the proposed rebuilding of the Jackson Park and South Shore golf courses on Chicago's lakefront. A controversial concept when it was announced last year, the project is now in its second iteration, and the announced \$30 million price tag of 2017 has doubled.

So said Chicago Park District general superintendent Mike Kelly when the revised routing was revealed to the public this winter. He was upfront in noting that much of the money for the course had to be raised, and that much of the rest – including \$25 million for a pair of critical underpasses that would connect portions of the course – had not been allocated to the project in any budget.

There is every likelihood, of course, that the \$60 million cost will go up. Environmental issues, notably the relocation of a nature sanctuary, are still in question. So is the construction timetable. Kelly noted that once construction began, it would be at least 18 months.

The project is already a year behind the envisioned schedule, and Jackson Park and South Shore remain open in their original configurations as separate 18- and 9-hole park district courses.

"We did slow down and we have a better project for it," Kelly said.

The golf course design, by Beau Welling of Tiger Woods' design company, was changed considerably from the original concept. It now features a clubhouse on the south end of the course. The front nine returns to the new clubhouse so nine-hole rounds could be accommodated. South Shore's gigantic old clubhouse, now called the Cultural Center, remains.

The par-70 course, a better layout than Welling's original, plays anywhere from 2,998 to 7,161 yards for customers, and with the use of wayback tees, including one that would play over a public beach on the 16th hole, 7,341 yards for a tournament, should one be held

there. (The beach would be closed if the BMW Championship or a similar tournament played through.)

One thing that could push the project to happening – and some industry insiders think it's a 50-50 proposition at this point – is its inclusion in the South Lakefront Framework Plan. The Obama Presidential Center, planned for a part of Jackson Park immediately north of the golf course, is also in that plan.

"This is part of the Framework Plan, and the Framework Plan will not be published until we've got a consensus on golf," Kelly said. "I need the community's support and I need the donors' support. It is our intention that this will be a privately fund-raised golf course and that it will be something supported by the community and the donors."

Kelly argued that the two existing courses were outdated, saying Jackson Park had narrower fairways than Oakmont Country Club – which is hundreds of yards longer and effectively widened its fairways only after taking down every tree – and that South Shore had smaller greens than Pebble Beach. As it should, since it's a course with short par 3s, unlike Pebble, where only the par-3 seventh is of a similar length.

While the city and park district plan on trading some land to make room for the Obama Center – which will eliminate Cornell Drive as a shortcut from Stony Island Avenue to Lake Shore Drive – the Framework Plan is expected to be debated and tweaked for several months.

Remembering Brent Wadsworth

In golf, the name Wadsworth conjures up visions of earth movers and tractors, clearing or creating a landscape for a new course.

But Brent Wadsworth, who died February 6 at his Yorkville home at 88, was more than a man who liked to get his hands dirty as a worker in the field whose course construction company came to be recognized as the best in the country.

He was a philanthropist, both privately and through the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation, which was founded in 1997, 40 years after his first

Down Memory Lane

The First World Championship'

George S. May was never bashful.

Thus, when in 1943 the flamboyant impresario of Tam O'Shanter decided golf needed a boost and arranged a 36-hole match between Harold "Jug" McSpaden and Sam Byrd, winners of the All-American Open at Tam and the Chicago Victory National at Beverly, respectively, he didn't call it an exhibition.

He called it the first World Championship.

The winner – which turned out to be McSpaden – collected \$1,000, double what runner-up Byrd earned – but more important, May was pleased that 2,500 fans came out on an October weekend 75 years ago, spurning college and pro football turnstiles to watch his concoction.

The All-American was already popular. Now he

saw a second opportunity to bring in fans. After World War II ended, he took advantage. In the 1946 World Championship there were four players, then eight and 12 in subsequent years. And in 1949, May expanded to a 72-hole full-field showcase featuring men's and women's pro and amateur divisions with network TV coverage on DuMont. Crowds flocked to Tam to see pros play for ever-increasing purses.

It was the 1953 edition, the first on coast-to-coast TV, that proved May's gamble correct.

Lew Worsham

sank a skidding 104-yard wedge shot on the final hole for an eagle 2 to beat Chandler Harper by a stroke. First-time viewers thought golf was a snap, Worsham collected \$25,000, Harper pocketed \$10,000 and May crowed. The next year, the first prize of \$50,000, captured by Bob Toski, was more than anyone won across the rest of the season.

McSpaden's \$1,000 in 1943 was laughably small by today's standards, but the raging war and travel restrictions meant there were only three regular tournaments all year. Combined with his \$2,000 for winning the All-American, he was the Tour's leading money winner with only \$3,000 – which is why the PGA Tour to this day omits the number, saying "statistics not compiled."

– Tim Cronin



construction job. The last few years, it has donated upwards of a half-million dollars to various golf organizations across the country, ranging from junior golf operations in New Jersey, Tennessee and Nebraska to park districts with burgeoning junior programs, such as Rockford's.

The foundation's main goal is building – with the parent for-profit company doing the construction – youth-friendly golf courses, layouts of three, six or nine holes, and often convertible via multiple tees, where kids could both learn how to play the game and be comfortable on the course.

"Links Across America," it's called, and one of the first courses was the four-hole layout and practice area on Lockport Township High School's east campus. If there's another high school with even one real golf hole on its property, we don't know about it. But that innovative thinking is what Wadsworth and his late friend, golf pro Leon McNair, believed would bring new golfers to the game.

Wadsworth started as an architect with designer Larry Packard, then saw construction as a field with

a future and went all-in on that end. His design and construction of Fox Bend, which opened in 1967, was his lone solo design project in the Chicago area. Naturally, when Fox Bend's layout was tweaked a few years ago, Wadsworth was the constructor of choice.



Brent Wadsworth

The company handles large and small projects, and built a reputation of solid work on short notice. The best example came when downpours and a flood turned Rae's Creek into a torrent and obliterated Augusta National's 11th and 12th greens one winter. With the Masters a few months away, the club called Wadsworth. Armed with plans detailing the contours to millimeters and an unlimited budget, the firm rebuilt the holes perfectly.

Wadsworth also built Shadow Creek, the Las Vegas wonderland course, and local layouts ranging from Cantigny to the recent reconstruction of the Preserve at Oak Meadows.

Hang Out as a Volunteer

The Rust-Oleum Championship is seeking volunteers for the June 4-10 tournament at Ivanhoe Club in Mundelein. They're available in such areas as hole marshal, standard



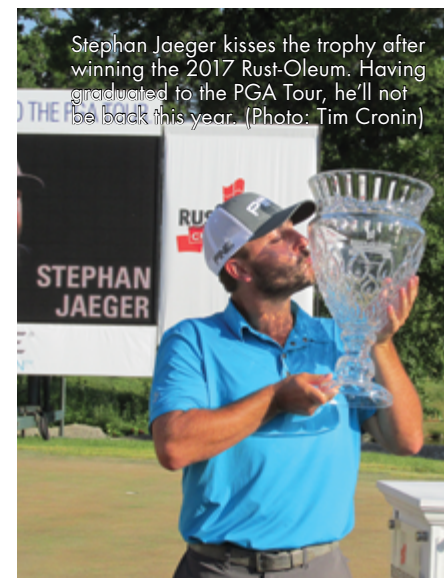
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"Volunteering at the Rust-Oleum Championship is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to see some of the world's top golfers up-close, meet new friends, and support the tournament's charity mission," tournament director Scott Cassin said. "Many of our volunteers love the experience so much they can't wait to come back."



Volunteers may register at rustoleumchampions.com/volunteer or email kacy.simon@mmsgolf.com.

The Chicago area's web.com tournament features a field of up-and-coming young players, former college stars, and other players who aspire to qualify for the regular PGA Tour.

The \$35 Volunteer Package includes a tournament logo golf shirt, a tournament logo golf cap or visor, a tournament credential with lanyard, a meal for each shift worked, six "any day" tickets, and, best of all, a discounted round of golf at private Ivanhoe Club (three shifts minimum, and a cart fee applies).

Shag Bag

The Blackberry Amateur has begun taking entries for this year's tournament, June 23-24 at Blackberry Oaks in Bristol. Players with 8.0 or lower handicaps can register at blackberryamateur.com; fee is \$140. ... The Niles Park District is applying a \$1.3 million makeover to its Tam O'Shanter nine-hole course for a late spring

reopening. Greens and bunkers are being reshaped and tees updated, with drainage improved to allow the course to reopen more quickly after downpours. Bob Lohmann's firm did the planning, while Wadsworth is carrying it out. ... In contrast, Lake Bluff's park district is considering closing its golf course as it reaches its 50th anniversary, citing financial losses and a need to spend money on clubhouse upgrades if the course remains open. Some 200 people were at a late-February meeting and most wanted the course kept open. The course, which opened in 1968, is mostly on a flood plain. ... Kyle Holmes is the new manager of Harbor Shores GC in Benton Harbor, Mich., which hosts the Senior PGA Championship again this year over Memorial Day weekend.



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Tackling The Downhill Wedge

Downhill wedge shots are difficult, and it doesn't take much of a downhill slope to create a problem. Changing your orientation to the ground by tilting your shoulders is the best solution to hitting downhill shots, as long as the slope isn't too severe.

The solution to a downhill lie: The proper set-up for downhill slopes is to spread your stance (feet) more than normal to provide a wider base, then lean forward to get your spine closer to perpendicular to the sloping ground. This will also place a disproportionate and unusual loading on your forward leg, knee and ankle, and make keeping your balance as you swing a real challenge.

Because this forward weight distribution is unusual doesn't mean it's wrong. In

fact, for downhill trouble lies, it's the exact position you need to maintain through impact in order to execute a successful, powerful escape from this lie.

Set your shoulders parallel to the ground, keep your balance as well as you can on your backswing, then make a good through-swing. Allow yourself to walk forward on your follow-through to keep from falling. You can play the ball in the middle (or slightly back in your stance if you want to provide a little "fudge margin," to avoid hitting the shot fat), and plan on the ball coming out low and running longer than normal once on the ground.

When the slope is severe: When the downslope gets too steep to stand with your shoulders parallel to the ground,

make a walk-through finish. Stand vertically, but set up aiming way left. Open your clubface and hit a cut shot from the sidehill lie you've created (see the setup in the Golfer's Eye View photo). Aiming far left changes the downhill lie to a sidehill lie, with the ball below your feet. This is still not an easy shot, but if you can't catch the heel of your wedge on the ground before impact, you can hit a cut slice around your target.

Practicing this in the mirror is a great way to internalize the adjustments and the feel of swinging from the proper position. Now you're getting the feel of putting your body into position (wide stance and minimum spine tilt or lean) to make good solid escape swings from sloping lies. Good scoring to you!



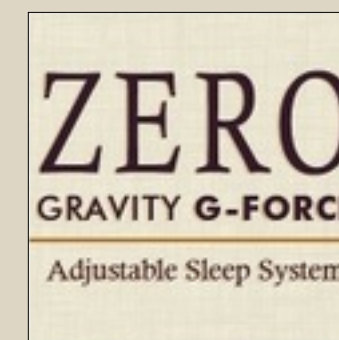
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Those kids with the numbers on their shirts? That's Cog Hill's seventh-place team in last year's PGA Jr. League National Championship. (Photos: Mike Schoaf, Bill Ibrahim)

Junior Golf is the Sport's Growth Engine

By Dave Lockhart

Flipping the dial on the old TV, sans a remote control back then, is how I discovered the game of golf as a 14-year-old kid on the far northeast side of Chicago in the Rogers Park community. From there I spoke with my parents who had a couple of friends that were avid players, so perhaps they could guide me and show me the finer points of the game.

One of those friends took me out to Evanston Community Golf Course (now it's Canal Shores) and we just went out on the quiet course late in the day where I was taught some of the basics and proceeded to hit a couple of ground balls, pretty straight if I remember correctly. So I was hooked.

From there I started getting golf magazines and instructional books in order to hone my game. Moving onward in my progression was a PE golf class in high school. That consisted of "some instruction" from the teacher and hitting whiffle golf balls off of an AstroTurf mat into the wall of the gym, or just clanging around off the old wooden bleachers. Of course there was no video, so the only real way to see your swing was to look into a mirror! What am I getting at with all this hyperbole is that learning and playing golf as youngster has come a long way in the past forty-plus years.

Now in Chicago, you have a number of top-notch

organizations, including the Illinois Junior Golf Association, The First Tee of Greater Chicago, the American Junior Golf Association, and the team-based PGA Junior League. Plus, nearly every golf course around town has junior group lessons, or a junior program of some sort for boys and girls.

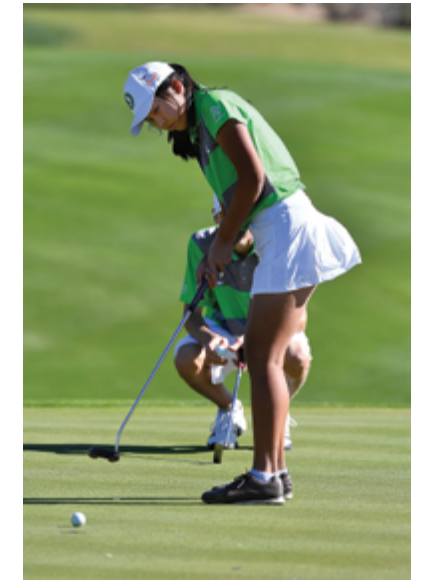
One of the finest programs to look into is The First Tee of Greater Chicago. They facilitate programs at 24 golf course locations throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area. Sessions begin in April and run through October. A key component of the First Tee is offering group lessons for youth ages 7-17, regardless of background and experience.

"Golf is a sport for a lifetime, so having fun and learning the basic fundamentals at an early age will not only prepare them for success on and off the golf course, it will increase the likeliness of them becoming a golfer for life," executive director Lisa Quinn said.

The off-the-course equation is a First Tee key. It focuses on nine principles – core values, the group calls them – to be followed on and off the course, backed by nine healthy habits. In many ways, golf is used as the hook to get children to be better people. And given the pleasant learning environment, they may stay in the game as adults.

Another great place to start getting your children involved





Junior Golf's Growth

is the Illinois Junior Golf Association. The IJGA is dedicated to providing playing opportunities for its members ages 8-18, conducting educational clinics and events, and serving as a junior golf information clearinghouse. Each year the IJGA provides and manages over 140 separate events throughout Illinois. These include one-day 9-hole and 18-hole tournaments, and 36-hole and 54-hole major championships.

Jordan Abdel-Haq, the IJGA's executive director, knows it's key to start kids off early in our sport.

"While there are certainly very competitive juniors and events at this level, the Youth Development Program is geared more for development and as such, is less competitive as a whole than our older divisions," Abdel-Haq said. "We believe it is like anything else. The earlier you start, the more reps you are afforded and the comfort level with the pressure of tournament golf (which is much different than a recreational round) is greater as the juniors begin to enter the more competitive events.

"From a social standpoint, it also takes some time for juniors to get comfortable with their peers/fellow competitors and that can sometimes be easier when starting young because everyone else is probably fairly similar in terms of their years of experience in the IJGA."

Golf is the perfect sport for your kid, and the ideal babysitter. The recipe is plain to see – fresh air, exercise, learning the game, meeting new people and making new friends. It's the safest sport there is, keeps the kids out of trouble, off the streets and onto the lush green fairway.

"The First Tee is more than a sports program for youth," Quinn adds. "Its coaches create positive relationships that

inspire young people to discover their individual potential. Plus, golf is unique from other sports because players learn values like honesty and responsibility by calling penalties on themselves and reporting their own score. The sport is the perfect platform for helping kids develop character because just like in life, players experience the highs and lows of the game."

Abdel-Haq believes the values of golf are a terrific platform for kids of all ages.

"Parents should consider entering their kids into the game of golf (not just the IJGA) because of all the qualities and skills that the game teaches a young person," Abdel-Haq said. "Furthermore, the IJGA gives juniors the chance to compete and see how they stack up against their peers. But just as important, it provides an outlet for social interaction and exercise, in what we feel is one of the safest sports available for young juniors.

"Regardless of the level of competition that the junior attains, the ability to play the game of golf can be beneficial beyond junior golf and if nothing else, is an activity that can be enjoyed throughout the entire life span."

The PGA Jr. League, to use the organization's preferred spelling, is another terrific group to look into. The Chicago area currently has more than 20 courses offering open enrollment – families don't have to have an existing relationship with the golf course in order for their kids to participate. Parents can visit www.PGAJrLeague.com and enter their zip code to find nearby courses and register online. This list of courses is expected to grow.

PGA Jr. League is a fun and engaging way for boys and girls ages 13 and under to learn and play golf with expert coaching





The following facilities in the Chicago area are now offering PGA Jr. League open enrollment:

- Arrowhead GC, Wheaton
- Cantigny Golf, Wheaton
- Cog Hill G&CC, Palos Park
- Coyote Run GC, Flossmoor
- Deerfield GC, Riverwoods
- The Glen Club, Glenview
- Glenwoodie GC, Glenwood
- Forest Hills CC, Rockford
- Naperbrook GC, Plainfield
- Pine Meadow GC, Mundelein
- Randall Oaks GC, West Dundee
- Redtail GC, Lakewood
- Royal Fox CC, St. Charles
- Royal Hawk CC, St. Charles
- St. Andrews G&CC, West Chicago
- Springbrook GC, Naperville
- Topgolf, Naperville
- Village Greens of Woodridge, Woodridge
- Village Links of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn
- Whitetail Ridge GC, Yorkville

from PGA and LPGA Professionals. Some facilities offer 16 and under programs. Kids play in a supportive, two-person scramble format that encourages mentorship, builds confidence and promotes sportsmanship. They also wear team jerseys with numbers. Cog Hill's team has advanced to the national championship the last two years.

Early in March, the Illinois PGA announced an alliance with Junior.Golf, an Austin, Tex.-based marketing company, to use their computer platform to make it easier for players – parents and kids alike, to find and sign up for everything from lessons to leagues.

“With the increased influence of technology in the sport, we are committed to supporting Illinois PGA members with tools that give them a competitive advantage to grow their business and increase the number of golfers playing in Illinois,” Illinois PGA executive director Carrie Williams said.

Kids can also learn by watching, so here's another heads up. Harbor Shores Golf Club in Benton Harbor, Mich., will be hosting the Senior PGA Championship from May 22-27. All juniors age 17 and under receive free access with a ticket adult. Bring the entire family to see these living legends up close and personal; visit www.SrPGA.com for more info.

Junior golf opportunities have grown by leaps and bounds since the 1970s. I wouldn't change the way I learned the game, but perhaps if I learned the game through one of these groups I might have been a little better. Instead of always tweaking, it would have been great to learn the game properly with correct fundamentals at an early age.

Yes, opportunities for junior golfers are plentiful to say the least!



For groups of 8 or more, please contact:
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New Look for Royal Fox

By Neal Kotlarek

In an era when other area country clubs are struggling to survive, Royal Fox Country Club in St. Charles is nearing the completion of a regal renaissance. Opened in 1990, the private club underwent an evaluation by membership, staff and the new ownership group early last year with the singular goal of upgrading every aspect of the facility, from the golf course to the clubhouse to the food service to the club's other amenities.

The resulting action plan was specific: Spare no expense to make Royal Fox the premier country club and residential community in the western suburbs and the only dual private club membership opportunity with privileges at their sister club in Long Grove, The Grove Country Club (formerly Hillcrest Country Club).

"Royal Fox is a unique club in many ways," explained club general manager and PGA Professional Brian Tulk during a late February sneak preview of interior clubhouse renovation. "Much of our membership lives either on the club grounds or nearby. Thus, the club is virtually an extension of their homes. They can utilize the picturesque surrounding areas for evening walks and many use our fitness center in the mornings. Whether the members are meeting other members and their families to watch a ballgame in the evening or stop in for the happy hour after work, we want the experience to be special."

That said, the new ownership group which bought the club last year felt it was time to reward long-time members and to make the complex an extra-special experience for guests and new members.

"The first order of business when I started in April of 2017 was to organize a business plan to make top-down changes and improvements, which included the acquisition of a brand new equipment fleet to provide our superintendent the resources needed to improve the daily turf maintenance operations," said Tulk. "Mike Siefken, the golf course superintendent, has made it a top priority to deliver tournament conditions every day."

The centerpiece of the club is a championship golf course designed by local legend Dick Nugent, whose credentials include the public Harborside International in Chicago and the private Dunes Club in New Buffalo, Mich., ranked by many experts as the finest 9-hole course in America. Nugent, who died New Year's Day at age 86, utilized the property's naturally rolling terrain to construct a 6,816-yard, par-71 gem that over the years has hosted seven Illinois Opens and multiple CDGA qualifying events.

If Charles Dickens would have written about the course, he surely would have called his work "A Tale of Two Courses," as the tree-lined and bunker-filled front nine gives way to a water hazard-laced back nine. The stars of the front nine are two delightful par 3s. The 200-yard fifth hole calls for a hybrid or fairway wood to a massive tiered green surrounded by six bunkers. The putting surface on No. 8 is more open with only three bunkers fronting this formidable 220-yard challenge. A par on either hole feels like a birdie.

If time constraints keep you from playing the final four holes known as The Bear Trap on the PGA National's Champion course,



you can face a startlingly similar sequence of finishing holes at Royal Fox. The 378-yard 15th plays much longer due to water along the entire left side of the fairway and deviously-positioned fairway bunkers to the left and right of the landing area. The 427-yard 16th calls for a tee shot avoiding water down the left side of the fairway and a creek crossing the landing area 240 yards from the tee. No. 17, a manly par 3, demands a formidable tee shot over a large pond to a large tiered green also protected by an L-shaped bunker on the back side.

Finally, the 550-yard 18th is a true three-shot par 5, as the tee shot must be kept away from a large pond that rests along the

left side of the fairway 80 yards up to the green. From there, the putting surface is surrounded by both more water and three snaking bunkers, the green complex atop a bulkhead-fronted bluff. If no one has ever referenced this as Nugent's Revenge, I just did.

While the design of much of the course remains intact, irrigation and drainage upgrades have been vastly improved to ensure that the layout quickly recovers from drenching storms. Phase One of the course project involves bunker renovations, cart path pavement and replacement of the invasive grasses around the fairways and greens in the transitional areas where multiple

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Upon reflection, it's safe to say that Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones got it all wrong. Time, truly, is not on his side. Nor, more importantly, is it on the side of most golfers. While we may never identify the masochist who invented golf so many centuries ago, it is safe to say he had far more time available back then than we ever will. Who among us – besides perhaps our Golfer-in-Chief – can regularly budget the four or five or six hours it takes to play a round of golf?

Golf course managers across the nation have, of course, spent many sleepless nights pondering this question. Some have created speed-of-play programs aimed at getting players through rounds in under 4.5 hours. Others have rigged their courses up in various loops of 12 holes and four holes to accommodate busy schedules. Still others have just split courses into separate nines to promote nine-hole rounds.

It's easy to find a nine-hole course, or a 18-hole (or more) facility that will sell a nine-hole round. But what about after the final putt drops? This is where GOLFChicago comes in. Fortunately for time-sensitive area players, the metro area is home to over a

dozen terrific stand-alone nine-hole courses along with larger golf facilities which offer more than 18 holes.

Herewith, a gazetteer to some of the better courses and bistros, some at the course and some nearby, where time-strapped players needing hydration and food following their rounds can both raise a glass and chow down. It is by no means complete, so consider it an appetizer to what can be found in our area.

Cantigny Golf, Wheaton

We start in the western suburbs, where Cantigny Golf has embraced nine-hole golf in a big way. The 27-hole complex in Wheaton is promoting a "Couples Nine and Dine" event on Saturday, June 16 that includes nine-hole green fees, range balls, prizes for net and gross winners, an obstacle course putting contest and a BBQ dinner with head pro Patrick Lynch. They set a fine table at Cantigny. The two-person scramble event will be repeated on July 21 and, assuming its success, summers and years into the future.

www.cantignygolf.com

Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course, Chicago

This popular nine-hole gem rests east of Lake Shore Drive on the city's north side and features terrific views of both the city and Lake Michigan. Built as a nine-hole addition to the original (and now long-gone) nine holes at Diversey Ave. in Lincoln Park, the 3,265-yard course was among two in Chicagoland ranked among the 25 best nine-hole courses in America by *Golf World* in 2010.

As the golf course is just a few blocks away from Wrigley Field, there are more dining and pub options here than any other place in the city. The Cubby Bear Lounge (where you might find a band playing after twilight golf) at Clark and Addison and Murphy's Bleachers at Waveland and Sheffield are fan favorites with a Cub-centric atmosphere, while fine dining options include Mia Francesca (3111 N. Clark St.), Diva Thai & Sushi Bar (3542 N. Halsted St.), and the newly constructed Budweiser Brickhouse Tavern (3647 N. Clark St.) immediately northwest of the ballpark.

www.sydneymarovitz.cpdgolf.com

Downers Grove Golf Club, Downers Grove

No guide to nine-hole courses in metro Chicago can exclude this remarkable layout. Celebrated as the site of Charles Blair Macdonald's first design, the original Chicago Golf Club was built on farmland in Belmont (which later became Downers Grove) and was so successful it compelled club members to purchase an additional plot of land in nearby Wheaton. After the club changed addresses in 1895, the Downers Grove property was operated by the Illinois Golf Club for a year, briefly farmland again, and evolved into the Belmont Golf Club in 1899 on some of the same property Macdonald used, plus an adjacent plot of land.

It is that course that transitioned 69 years later when the city park district purchased it. Downers Grove says only five holes remain from that design, largely that of Herbert James Tweedie, after renovations were made over the years to accommodate a driving range.

Built on a surprisingly hilly landscape, the course winds through trees that were surely not part of Macdonald's original



Nine, Dine and Wine

Area golf courses serve up couples nine and dine specials

By Neal Kotlarek

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Stable Strength = Faster Swing

With golf season fast approaching the Chicago area, it is very important to prepare your body for a stable golf swing that can produce more speed without risking injury. Working and teaching at one of the premier health clubs in the country has taught me that just because a person might become stronger, it does not make them faster or more efficient with their golf swing. In order to produce longer drives and more consistent contact with your irons, you need stability to support increased speed. Core, ankle, thigh, glute and shoulder stability are essential to make your 2018 golf season a success.

That strength doesn't come overnight, but here are two exercises demonstrated by myself and Matt Bailey.

In the first exercise you can use a fitness band to engage core and shoulder stability. If you do not have one, a golf club will suffice.

(Photo 1) Start position is with your front foot planted flat in line with the front knee. The rear foot is placed behind with the toes down, heel up. This is a balance and stability position. Stretch out the resistance band to engage the core and shoulders.

(Photo 2) Second position is to turn away like you would do in a golf swing. Maintain your balance and hold for three seconds.

(Photo 3) Third position is rotating as fast as you can in the other direction while maintaining balance. You should feel ankle, thigh, glute, core and shoulder stability. Hold the finish move for three seconds.

Repeat the move five times and reverse the feet and swing direction in order to work both sides.

Don Morris is the PGA teaching pro at Midtown Athletic Club in Chicago.



Picture 1



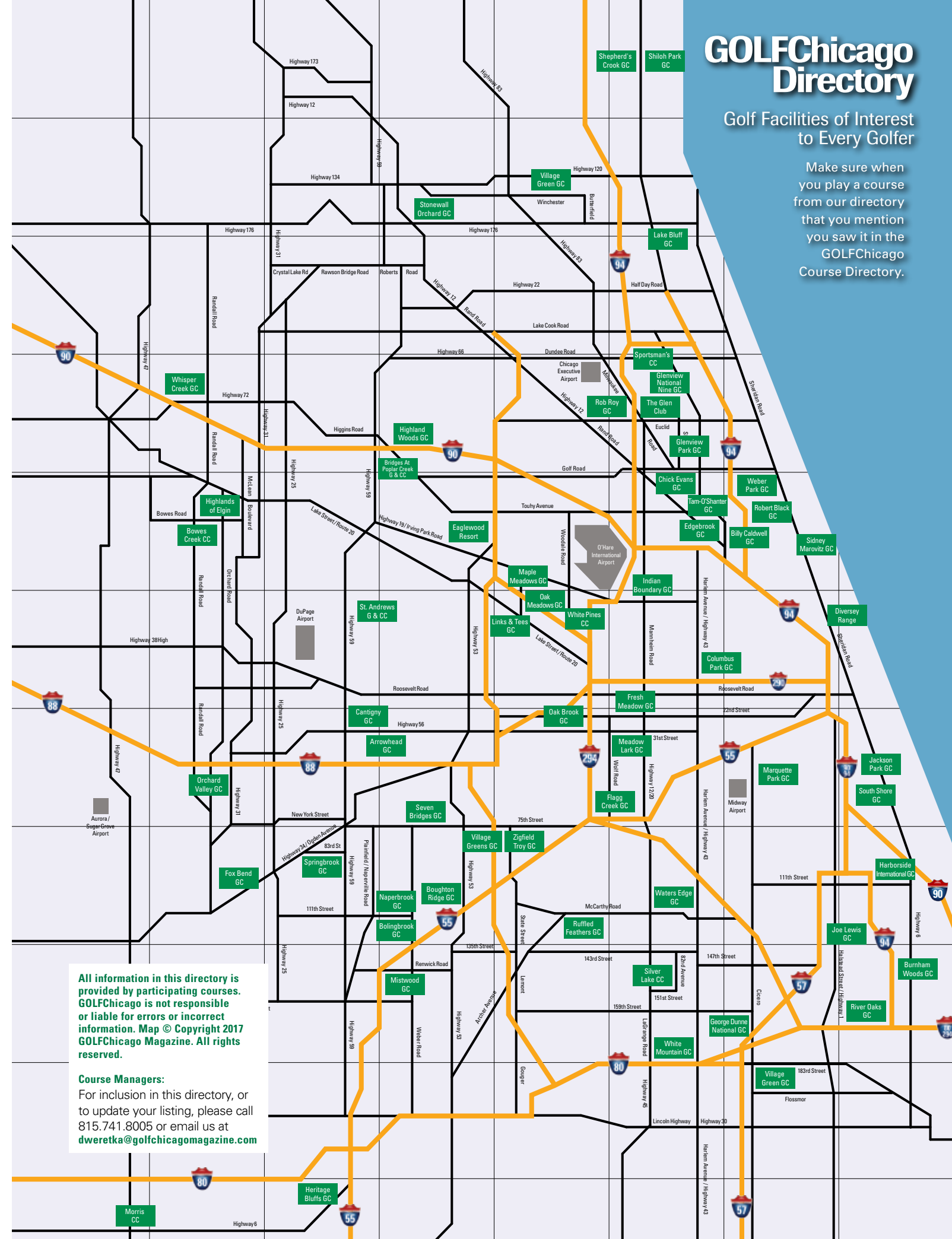
Picture 2



Picture 3

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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



All information in this directory is provided by participating courses. GOLFChicago is not responsible or liable for errors or incorrect information. Map © Copyright 2017 GOLFChicago Magazine. All rights reserved.

Course Managers:
For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



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. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club
630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
bolingbrookgolfclub.com
Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, 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 Blvd.
Elgin, Illinois 60124
bowescreekcc.com
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 can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf
630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com
Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic. Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits. The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under. The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join. Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests. NEW for 2018: The Woodside Pavilion for weddings and golf outings!



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



Fox Bend Golf Course
630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
www.foxbendgolfcourse.com
Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



The Glen Club
847-724-7272
2901 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
theglenclub.com
Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience. The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic 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 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



Glenview Park Golf Club
847-724-0250
Shermer Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
golfglenview.com
Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home. *Golf Inc* magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



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: 9 Holes
• South Shore: 9 Holes
• Diversey Range
The only double-deck range in Chicago.



Green Meadows Golf Club
630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
DuPageGolf.com
Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting. Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!
Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card Holders save on every round.
Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.
Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club
630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com
Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.
Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.
Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.
Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows
630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com
After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is NOW OPEN as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.
• 2017 *Golf Digest* Award Winner
• 2018 US Amateur Qualifying Site
This transformation, designed by golf architect Greg Martin, produced an award winning environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."
The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.
For news and tee-times visit DuPageGolf.com



Glenview Prairie Club
847-657-1637
2800 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
golfglenview.com
• Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
• Affordable Rates.
• 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
• 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
• Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.
After your round stop in for a cold beverage in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available.
Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!



Golf Center Des Plaines
847-803-GOLF
GolfCenterDesPlaines.com
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210
Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight Fall-Fall. The 80-bay lighted & heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



Harborside International G.C.
312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628
harborsidegolf.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 The Pier at Harborside restaurant.
Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club
815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL. 60410
heritagebluffs.com
18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.
Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.





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.



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. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hel's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Mistwood Golf Club

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

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.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200
600 See Gwun Ave.
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
golfmtprospect.com

The newly restored Mt. Prospect GC will take you back to a style of architecture made famous by names like Raynor, MacDonald, and Ross, with low square tee boxes, strategic cross bunkers, and challenging plateau greens, all in our quiet parkland setting. The redesign features most of the original routing, plus five new holes and historic "template holes" with names like Redan, Eden and Punchbowl.

Mt. Prospect is the closest thing to the conditions and feel of an old private club, with a daily fee rate. Come back to a new 90-year-old classic.



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a recently renovated practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard

25675 West Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-740-4890
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 in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.



Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

6700 West Howard Street
Niles, IL 60714
847-965-2344
niles-parks.org

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter!

OPENING EARLY JUNE.



Water's Edge Golf Course

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

Rated 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



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St./
Hassert Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green, and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
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, marshes, 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!



Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
robroygc.com

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-3100
standrewsgc.com

36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341-6818 yards
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues, and permanent tee-times. Guests will also enjoy the award-winning 32-acre Practice Center with premium range balls and 10 heated, sheltered hitting bays. Other amenities: golf carts with GPS, J.J.'s Bar & Grill, exquisite lakeside ceremony site, and live entertainment.



Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600
skokieparks.org
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping, and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.



Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb Blvd.
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 St.
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!



White Pines Golf Club

500 W. Jefferson St.
Bensenville, IL 60106
630-766-0304
whitepinesgolf.com

East Course 18 Holes:
Par 70
Yardage: 5,150 - 6,371
West Course 18 Holes:
Par 72
Yardage: 5,751 - 6,624

Located within minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."

Situated on over 240 acres, the club has been a favorite among Chicago golfers since 1928. The Clubhouse offers a fully-stocked golf shop, an elegant banquet facility, and 37 Bar & Grill which offers patio dining. Call for senior and youth rates and specials.



Royal Fox

continued from page 21

varieties had taken root. Phase Two will incorporate grass bunkers and waste bunkers into the final design.

Even long-time residents and guests of the club will be staggered by the massive renovations performed across the interior of the clubhouse. "Our 30,000-square foot clubhouse is the epicenter of Royal Fox," said Tulk. "We studied every aspect of the building, from the patio to the veranda to the dining areas to the banquet facilities to the swimming pools and to the lounge. We saw different ways we could improve each area from a service and logistical approach and also to enhance the member experience."

The renovations to the Thomas Jefferson Monticello Estate-inspired clubhouse literally started from the ground floor up as the entire lower level of the building was gutted. The new layout includes a 19th Hole Lounge, new golf and social locker rooms, an improved fitness center and expanded pro shop, with all improvements totaling over \$3 million.

While much of the main upstairs area has remained intact, it will receive a facelift and the interior decorating team has their priorities in place.

"The upstairs Saloon is definitely the member's focal point of the clubhouse main level, providing expansive views of the golf course and a birds-eye view of the 18th green. We wanted to build on what works and modernize other areas that need updating," said Tulk.

Last year, the clubhouse roof was entirely replaced. Additional enhancement projects since include upgraded lighting, renovated restrooms, restaurant equipment, furniture upgrades, paint, tile and carpet are either already in process or planned for this spring. "Our private party and banquet business is thriving at both clubs and we've added a new director of sales to continue to grow," said Tulk. Several upgrades are also planned for The Grove this year and next.

"Our improvements haven't stopped with the golf course and clubhouse," said Tulk. "We have also recruited top talent to manage our golf courses and dining operations, starting with the addition of our new Executive Chef, Michael Lannon, who previously spent seven years as the Executive Chef at Naperville Country Club."

In April, Alex Mendez will become head professional at Royal Fox after a

long stint at Butterfield Country Club. He takes over from Chris Ettner, who moved to The Grove Country Club. Ettner will work alongside the club's new Director of Golf, Fred Reeder, who spent 20 years at the prestigious Point O Woods Country Club in Benton Harbor, Mich.

"We are truly excited to begin this year with several staff additions, program improvements and facility renovations we feel will set us apart from other clubs in Chicago," Tulk said.

Along with multiple dining areas and an outdoor swimming pool, the club maintains an active social calendar for couples, families and avid golfers. The Royal Fox Junior Coaching Programs are geared to juniors 6-13 and promote team building athletic skills. Regularly scheduled events include a Memorial Day & July 4th Pool BBQ Party, Mother's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving & Holiday Brunches, Father's Day Cookout, nightly specials and a variety of specialty wine and beer pairing dinners. The player development programs include golf clinics for all players throughout the season.

"Royal Fox and The Grove country clubs are unique in the Chicago metro area as both clubs are known for their premier golf and social events," said Tulk. "The club has a built-in reciprocity program with The Grove that allows players to experience a second club. We also have an amazing social environment that truly makes members feel like part of an extended family. Third, we are a family-oriented club with lots of programs and events geared toward every member of the family."

Regular golf membership at Royal Fox Country Club provides unlimited golf and amenity access to members and their families to both Royal Fox and The Grove, with a limited time offering to spread the initiation fee over time. Membership includes the primary member, spouse and children under 25. Young Executive memberships (under the age of 35) are available for individuals and families seeking a networking hub and social gathering space. Social memberships are also available and provide limited access to the golf course.

Royal Fox Country Club
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www.royalfoxcc.com
www.thegrovecc.com

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Nine, Dine and Wine

continued from page 23

vision of the property. One of the course's original holes, the long par-3 No. 8 may just be America's first redan hole as the green slopes aggressively to the right around a bunker.

There can be no better name for a restaurant unassociated with a golf course than Another Round Bar & Grill, at 5141 Main St. in downtown Downers Grove. There are 22 beers on tap in this Blackhawks fan haunt, including Gumballhead by Three Floyds, and complemented by killer mac(donald?)

and cheese. The restaurant is located less than five minutes from the golf course. www.dgparks.org

Schaumburg Golf Club, Schaumburg

Like the aforementioned Cantigny Golf, Schaumburg Golf Course was built as a 27-hole complex in 1926, the private Westmoor Country Club. Even in the middle year of a three-year renovation – one nine a year – the course will feature the luxury of late afternoon Nine & Dine events which launch on May 11 and have a continuous schedule through August 10. The \$30 package includes green fee,

cart and a \$12 voucher that night at the clubhouse's elegant Chandler's Chophouse & Grill.

The Langford and Moreau design was purchased by the village's park district in 1989 and renovated by renowned area architect Bob Lohmann, whose firm is now reprising its effort. Over the years, the course has hosted U.S. Open Qualifying events and the CDGA Mid-Am Championship. All three nines feature bentgrass fairways and undulating terrain.

www.schaumburggolf.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club, Bolingbrook

While Bolingbrook is an 18-hole course, the club is setting aside nine holes for a Couples Nine & Dine event on Friday, May 18 from 5:30–8 p.m. Spousal duos will compete in this net Peoria two-person scramble with prizes and hors d'oeuvres and drinks afterwards.

The 18-hole championship golf course was designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest and stretches to 7,134 yards from the championship tees. The club's spectacular clubhouse features The Nest Bar & Grill with daily food and drink specials.

www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park

Built in 1963, the executive nine known as Rolling Hills was created to complement the 36 holes on the property for decades, and inspired by the nine-hole course at Augusta National that opened three years earlier. Designed in-house by superintendent Ray Didier and pro Dudley Smith, and recently tweaked after the long-needed addition of a driving range necessitated the rearrangement of the South Course, Rolling Hills has seven par 3s and pair of drivable par 4s that might as well be par 3s on a windy day.

It's a quick play, fun for couples and beginners, and close to Orland and Tinley Park's vibrant shopping and restaurant scene, which includes The Tin Fish (18201 S. Harlem Ave.), the Bonefish Grill (15537 S. La Grange Rd.), a Cooper's Hawk Winery (15690 S. Harlem Ave.), a Rock Bottom restaurant (16156 S. La Grange Rd.), Isabella Italian Cafe (17211 S. Oak Park Ave.), and the perennially-crowded Cheesecake Factory on the west side of Orland Square, not far from Macy's, or, as traditionalists call it, Marshall Field's.

www.silverlakecc.com

Bon appetit!

ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

In 1976, an Englishman who owned a wine shop in Paris hit upon the idea of holding a blind tasting pitting ten of France's and California's best producers against one another. He enlisted nine French wine experts as judges; the French wines included the 1970 Haut-Brion, the 1970 Mouton Rothschild, and the 1973 Domaine Lefflaive Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles.

The famous tasting has come to be known as The Judgement of Paris. No one expected the upstart Yanks to really put up a fight against the French heavyweights. However, when the votes were tallied, the judges were shocked to discover they had awarded the top prize for the red to the 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, and top prize for the white to Chateau Montelena Chardonnay, both from Napa Valley. It was the shock heard 'round the world, and legitimized California as a world-class wine-making region.

Chateau Montelena has seen three cycles of family stewardship. The winery was founded in 1882 by Alfred L. Tubbs, a European immigrant and entrepreneur. The original property was 254 acres of rugged, stony, and loose land just two miles north of Calistoga at the base of Mount Saint Helena. (Montelena is a contracted form of Mount Saint Helena.) By 1896 Tubbs' winery was the seventh largest in the Napa Valley.

The Tubbs family sold the winery in 1958 to Yort and Jeanie Frank, who were looking for a peaceful spot to retire. The setting inspired Frank to excavate a lake and add landscaping to reflect the Chinese gardens of his homeland.

The modern renaissance of Chateau Montelena started under the leadership of Jim Barrett, who purchased the winery in 1972. The vineyard was cleared and replanted, and the chateau was renovated and outfitted with modern winemaking equipment, complemented by the highest-quality grapes from the Napa Valley. Shortly thereafter, Chateau Montelena stunned the wine world with its win at the 1976 Paris Tasting.

2015 Montelena Chardonnay \$58

This wine is brilliantly clear with a golden-straw color. The nose suggests pineapple and stone

Can't Keep 'em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Puhree

fruit. On the palate, there are flavors of fresh orange zest and ginger which segues into a long and spicy finish. The wine was aged for 10 months in 100% French oak.

Serve this legendary wine with white-fish with filbert and lemon sauce, chicken Marsala, or duck with mustard and leeks.

●●●●●
2015 Montelena Cabernet Sauvignon \$61
Dark ruby in color, this wine offers rich, complex aromas of fresh raspberries, strawberry jam, vanilla and black pepper. In the mouth, this wine makes a full soft round entry, after which the acid builds nicely, supporting the dominant flavor of dark stone fruit. Plenty of fine-grain tannin completes the mouthfeel, followed by a tremendous long finish.

Pair this Cabernet with beef in wine on skewers, grilled pork New Orleans, or leg of lamb in balsamic vinegar. ●●●●●



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Kicked Bucket

Put Dr. Phil, Judge Judy and Oprah in a room together and turn the cameras on. I sincerely doubt whether any or all could conjure an answer to life's eternal question: What happens to a golfer who has completed his bucket list and is still alive and puttin'?

All right, maybe Oprah knows the answer. She is, after all, Oprah. And the sad fact is that most golf bucket list creators never have to encounter this mystery, anyway. Given the difficulty level of some of the bucket lists I've viewed, most players check out long before the final item on their checklists have been checked. Items like: "Play 18 holes with Jason Day and Beyonce." And, "Receive an invitation to join Augusta National." Likelihood of either? To quote the indie rock band Dinosaur Jr.: "I don't think so."

Through some marvelous good fortune, I was both a witness and a participant in the completion of eight bucket lists late last year. The story started in April when my buddy Stu called with some astonishing news. He had just sold his ridiculously successful food business and wanted to celebrate his good fortune by hosting seven of his friends on a golf junket.

"There are lots of options," I helpfully volunteered, reciting factors like location, climate and affordability.

Stu cut me off in mid-babble. "There are no factors involved," he said curtly. "My buddies only have one destination and one item on each of their bucket lists," he declared. As Stu explained it, his pals wanted to play at the country's most famous resort; the place where U.S. Opens are won and lost; where the sea otters bark as you tee off; where Clint Eastwood hangs out; where Bing Crosby used to cavort, and where ocean waves crash beneath your feet as you sink your final putt.

"I think," I told him, "I get the picture."

Patience, along with ample amounts of cash, will secure rooms and tee times at Pebble Beach Resort in California. It took six months of waiting and the cost of a well-equipped Subaru Outback to launch our junket, which included rounds at Spanish Bay, Spyglass Hill and Pebble Beach Golf Links. We all met at San Francisco International and drove two rental SUVs south to the Monterey Peninsula.

Put together eight guys with diverse backgrounds and you yank open the double doors of your high school where every kid was defined by a skill or talent. Our octet included The Statistician

– the guy who organizes the teams and the stakes. Then there was The Prankster – the fellow who relentlessly teases every bartender, waitress and bellman. And of course there was The Jock – the local legend whose feats from 40 years ago are still celebrated in reverential tones. Somehow, somehow, I had walked onto the set of a geriatric John Hughes movie. The Breakfast Ball Club? Sad to say, none of us remotely qualified as The Good-Looking One.

Our rounds over the ensuing three days were a gratefully unrecorded version of an ESPN blooper reel. My tee shot on No. 2 at Spanish Bay was so far right that our caddies didn't even waste their time looking for the ball. My presumption was that they had already sized me up as a lousy tipper. At Spyglass Hill, we watched George's drive on No. 13 zip through the plexiglass cab window of a backhoe resting in the right rough. The caddies and landscaping crew all stopped to marvel at the ball's location inside the fortunately unmanned cab. George, of course, couldn't have cared less if he had killed the driver as he instead bemoaned the lost distance on his tee shot.

Playing the spectacular 8th hole at Pebble Beach, I trudged far off into the left rough and waited for my partner to hit his approach. The ball came off his club low, maybe 5-foot-8 or 5-9 off the ground. I knew this height exactly because I had to duck to avoid a hard shot to the temple. As I cowered, I watched in amazement as his ball hit the cart path curb and bounded past a bunker and through thick rough before miraculously settling 3-feet from the flagstick. "Greatest shot of my life!" Stu yelled with delight. Sadly, this was probably a fact.

We spent our final dinner at the resort reminiscing about three rounds that were memorable more for the story-telling and jokes than for the quality shot-making. After some speechifying about brotherhood, golf and the beauty of Monterey Bay, we were left to contemplate the fact that in a little less than four days we had each started and checked off the only item written on our personal golf bucket lists.

What does a golfer do after completing his bucket list? We pushed aside our desserts, pulled out our smartphones and began to consider a new adventure and the creation of a new single-item bucket list. The next time we meet will be at Bandon Dunes in Oregon on some week this summer.

Oprah, I'm fairly certain, would approve. ●

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