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Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club

Dad's Day Gift Guide

Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor

Scoring with Todd Sones

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Crystal Tree GCC

Cover: Crystal Tree GCC

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Jim Owczarski on the PGA Tour

How do you market fun? Even the most optimistic golf industry analyst will tell you that participation numbers have flat lined. You, I'm afraid to conjecture, just may be part of the problem. If you are having a difficult time finding a fourth player to fill your weekend tee time, then perhaps it's time you consider your on-course behavior. We are not talking here about hotheads that slam and toss clubs; those behaviors almost always lead to a one-and-done relationship. It is also a bit humorous to see a slob throw a fit on his way to a cool 103 on the scorecard. "Yeah buddy, that chunked chip shot at 16 kept you from breaking 102!"

Are you a gracious player? If you are, then you probably field too many calls over any given week to keep your marriage intact. What is a gracious player? The definition is more subtle than obvious. Sure, a gracious golfer follows the standard etiquette of the game, but the true meaning of the term involves far more than that. The gracious golfer tends to make comments like, "tough break," after an unfortunate rub on another person's approach shot. Or maybe the gracious golfer just whispers the word, "nice," after a commendable pitch out from the trees. These

are subtle cues that inform the rest of the foursome that "we are all on this tugboat together."

Over the years, we have watched players who lumber through two rounds a year but lose interest after nine holes due to an over-served jerk in their scramble foursome. You know the player I'm referencing. For the last 15 years, his weekends have



been filled with soccer, little league, and family time. Now, as an empty nester, he chooses to take up the game, again. It never fails: during his first three holes, he hangs his head after a guy in the foursome comments that his swing, his clubs, and his shoes are all obsolete and need to be scrapped. By the time the group tees off on the back nine, our part-time golfer friend is thinking about what stamps to purchase for his fishing license.

Is there a point to this lament? Yes! Grab that cubicle mate at the office, or that friend that hasn't hit the course in a decade, and treat him or her to a 9-hole round. No matter what troubles befall that player on the first two or three holes, try hard not to be a Little League parent. Simply let them have their whacks. If they want a pointer, be assured that they will ask for one. And if they eventually reach the point of frustration...six simple words will give them a mental hug and bring the moment into proper perspective: "Hit another one. We got time."

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True Blue Style

Antigua's 2012 Performance Collection brings cool wedgewood and cobalt shades to the course. A perfect pairing of the Versus polo with Chill wind shirt will start your early morning round with a warm swing. Both shirts are made with Antigua's Desert Dry Xtra-Lite moisture management fabrics, so as the temperatures and the heat of competition rise, you will remain ice cool under the collar.

You can forget about ripcord sounds. The Chill wind shirt is soft to the touch and quiet during the swing. Not to mention made of a stretch fabric that will not hinder your shoulder turn.

\$65 Versus
\$80 Chill

www.antigua.com

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For less than a buck, you can play St. Andrews, Pebble Beach, or six other courses on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. Tiger Woods PGA Tour 12 is an addictive app with fantastic graphics and smooth touch controls. Challenge Tiger, or other PGA and LPGA Tour stars, with your custom player, or take the competition to your friends. Our favorite feature is the Tiger Challenge, which pits you against friends via Wifi or Bluetooth.

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Hirzl golf gloves are geared for performance. The Trust Control model is slightly thicker than traditional golf gloves, but when compared to standard golf gloves, Hirzl's kangaroo leather offers three times the grip in dry conditions and five times the grip in wet conditions. The structured palm facilitates a soft grip, which is ideal for unleashing power drives. The Trust Control glove also has a long-life, reset feature. Simply throw it in the wash, let it air dry, and your glove is back to 'like new' for a longer life.

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If your short game tools are in need of new grips, try Lamkin's Performance Plus 3GEN Wedge Grips for more consistency around the dance floor.

\$9.99 www.lamkingrips.com



Paula's Peepers

LPGA Tour sensation Paula Creamer is always pretty in pink. Her eyewear collection from Sundog is not only stylish, they help her score on the course.

Creamer's Freestyle Mela-Lens™ glasses come in seven color/lens combinations. The Monel Nickel-Free aviator frames are lightweight with uni-fit temple pads, while Sundog's Mela-Lens™ technology is what takes these shades beyond accessory status. The company's Mela-Lens™ utilizes synthetic melanin to filter blue light and block UV light for protection and performance. Wearers will not only look great, they will experience enhanced visual definition, superior clarity, and minimal visual fatigue.

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The Linkrat:
We are skipping our Best Buys rating rubric for this month's course review. The par-3

layout at Zigfield Troy is a completely different animal than most golf facilities we visit; thus, we will not bother to compare apples to oranges.

The Troy name has been a part of Chicago golf for over 75 years. Zigfield Troy was a touring professional in the 1930s, and he had his own driving range in Chicago. In 1976, he moved the facility to its current location on 75th Street in Woodridge. Zigfield added and co-designed the par-3, nine-hole course in 1980. The course is

still owned and operated by his three sons: Dennis, Tim, and Mike. Following the lead of their father, all are exceptional golfers.

Zigfield Troy Golf is more than just an executive course. The facilities include a driving range and an alpine mini-putt course that is a no-brainer for families to enjoy. I plan to bring my kids back to play both courses.

The staff is to be commended. "Sarge" greeted us as if we were old friends and provided a few pointers on how to attack

the course. Staffers at golf facilities across Chicagoland could learn a thing or two about customer service from Sarge.

The par-3 course is neat. Each green is contoured and challenging. We met Dennis Troy after our round. I putted well and shared this with him. His responded thusly: "Sounds like we need to speed them up a little bit."

During our round, we saw both lovebirds and seasoned couples; a mix of junior golfers; and a few guys who were sneaking in a

continued on page 28

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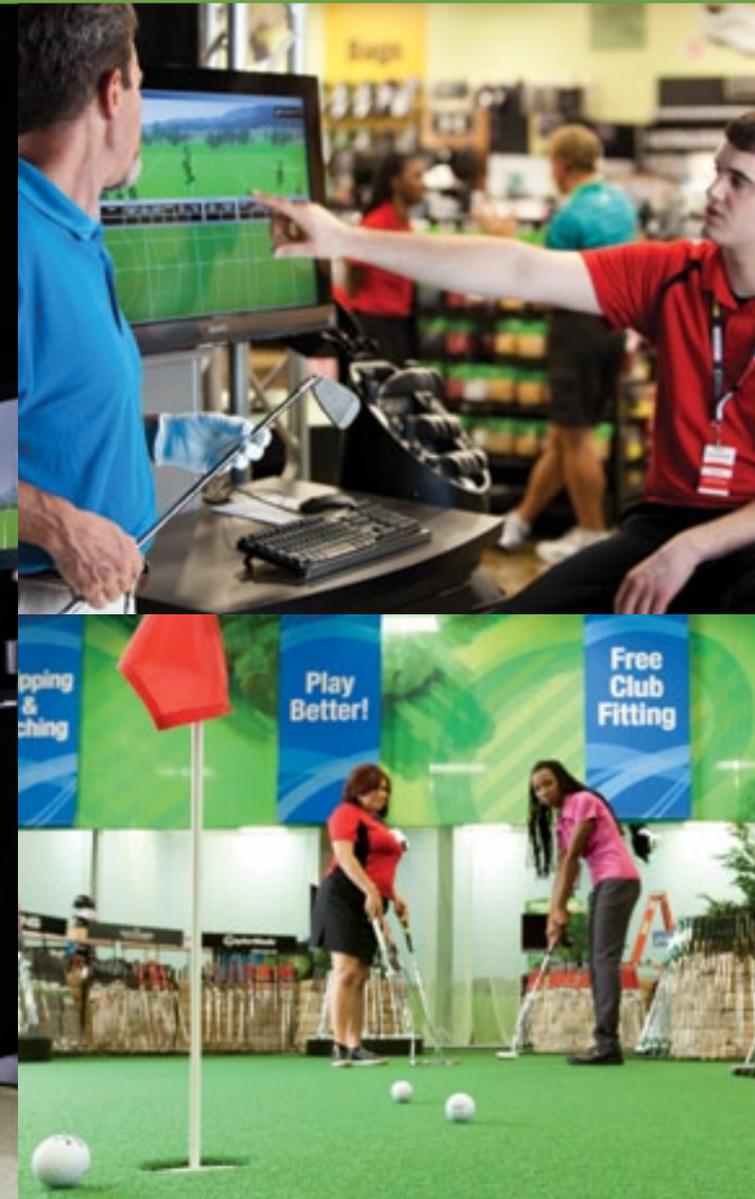
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SWEET HOME CHICAGO

Youth Skills Challenge Announced by Illinois PGA

The PGA of America and the Illinois PGA are hosting a summer-long youth golf skills competition that will culminate in a final showdown held during the 39th Ryder Cup matches at Medinah C.C. The competition, which is free of charge for all participants, is conducted by the Illinois PGA and will test the driving, chipping, and putting skills of Illinois junior players ages 6-17. TaylorMade/adidas will provide prizes and event support.

"It's exciting that junior golfers throughout the state will have the opportunity to compete in the Ryder Cup Youth Skills Challenge," says PGA of America President Allen Wronowski. "This is a fun way to connect junior golfers of all abilities and their local PGA professionals."

Juniors can register online to select the date and facility they would like to use for qualifying in the competition. For more information on the Ryder Cup Youth Skills Challenge, contact www.ipga.com.

Junior Camps Offered This Summer At Wood Dale's Top Golf Chicago

Junior golf camps are back this summer at Top Golf Chicago, one of the area's premier golf and entertainment centers. Instruction occurs across the complex's unique technology-based games with certified instructors. The weeklong camps are designed to introduce golf fundamentals, rules, history, etiquette, and more to kids ages 7-14 years old.

Availability is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.topgolf.com or call 630-595-4653 ext. 1033.



Evans Scholarships Announced For Chicago Area Caddies

Nearly 100 students from across Chicagoland have been awarded Chick Evans scholarships, a full tuition and housing scholarship, for this fall. Evans Scholars are golf caddies selected based on a strong caddie record, academic excellence, demonstrated financial need, and outstanding character.

The students will attend a university where the Evans Scholars Foundation operates an Evans Scholarship House, including Northwestern University, the University of Illinois, Northern Illinois University, Purdue University, the University of Colorado, Indiana University, the University of Wisconsin, and Marquette University.

The Western Golf Association has administered the scholarship program since 1930. The association conducts championships for professional and amateur golfers (including the BMW Championship), promotes the use of caddies, and oversees the foundation. The Evans Scholarship program is among the largest privately-funded scholarship programs in the country. There are currently 825 caddies enrolled across the nation as Evans Scholars. More than 9,400 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr founded the program.

"These young men and women have excelled in academics and in service to their schools and communities," says John Kaczowski, president and CEO of the Western Golf Association. "We welcome them to the Evans Scholars family and look forward to their continued success as college students."

For a list of students, designated colleges, and country club affiliations, visit the Evans Scholarship website: www.wgaesf.com.

Area Design Firm Slated To Renovate Addison's Oak Meadows

Greg Martin, President, Martin Design Partnership, and his design team have been selected by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to prepare and execute a master plan for renovation of Oak Meadows Golf Course in Addison, Illinois. Specifically, the design company will address flooding issues that arise from nearby Salt Creek.

The company brings substantial public and resort golf design experience to the park district. The Martin Design Team, selected from more than 20 submittals, includes Art Schaupeter and Forrest Richardson, along with EC Design [irrigation] and Engineering Resource Associates [civil and environmental engineers].

According to Martin, the Oak Meadows project has a specific goal. "We need to address the unique needs of this golf course from strategy and playability, to water quality, wetland expansion, storm water management to its historical significance and tournament capabilities."

Martin's vision for the project goes well beyond flood control. "Oak Meadows will provide multiple environmental benefits and access to a beautiful Illinois landscape," he says. "Not only will Oak Meadows be a great golf course, but it will be highly functional landscape that will make the citizens of DuPage County proud," he added.

Martin's notable designs in Illinois include; Coyote Run [Flossmoor], Phillips Park [Aurora], The Links at Carillon [Plainfield], Whitetail Ridge [Yorkville], and a co-design of Rich Harvest Links with Jerry Rich. Martin's most recent Illinois renovation project was at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. For more information about Martin Design, visit www.mdpltd.com.

I'd like to see the fairways more narrow. Then everyone would have to play from the rough, not just me.

—Seve Ballesteros

Art Exhibit Celebrates Ryder Cup Matches

Legendary artist LeRoy Neiman will be among the artists contributing works for the "Tartan Art on the Avenue" public exhibit celebrating the September 25-30 Ryder Cup Matches played at Medinah Country Club. The exhibit will feature distinctively marked or painted 5-foot golf ball sculptures to be on display along Chicago's Magnificent Mile from September 13 – October 10.

Along with commemorating the matches, the exhibit will raise funds on behalf of the Illinois PGA Foundation and Ronald McDonald Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana.

Later this spring, local artists affiliated with Columbia College Chicago, the Chicago Artists' Coalition, and the South Shore Arts will begin designing and painting at least 100 custom golf ball sculptures – marking their ball – in the spirit of professional golfers from around the world coming to Chicagoland for the Ryder Cup. Those interested in supporting Tartan Art and owning a piece of this historic exhibit can find out more at www.rmhcni.org.

Sakas and Johns Added To Glencoe Golf Academy Staff

Two of Chicagoland's finest players have been added to the staff of the north shore club's golf academy offered at Glencoe Golf Club. Bill Sakas is a Class A PGA member who brings students 35 years of experience teaching and playing in professional tournaments. Sakas is a former touring pro and played in two U.S. Opens.

A native Australian, Travis Johns has been a PGA member for over 10 years and played on several pro tours, including the Australasian PGA, Tarheel Tour, and the Golden Bear Tour. He was named Illinois PGA Player of the Year in 2010.

Infiniti Golf Inks Deal With Golfsmith Europe

West Chicago golf club manufacturer Infiniti Golf has announced an agreement with Golfsmith Europe to distribute the company's clubs across Europe. The new enterprise will include distribution of Infiniti's complete line of custom irons, drivers, and wedges. The agreement provides Golfsmith Europe with exclusive rights to sell and distribute Infiniti Golf's products to consumers through its retail network and website.

"This is a great opportunity to expand our international business and fortify the importance of custom fit clubs for every player, everywhere," says Eric Yeh, president of Infiniti Golf.

Infiniti Golf was founded in 1987 and produces a line of premium drivers, hybrids, irons, and wedges for purchase at retail shops across the country. Yeh may just be the most passionate and enthusiastic club manufacturer in the industry. "Every golfer from a neophyte to a touring professional has a unique swing," he states. "So it only makes sense that the player gets equipped with a set of golf clubs that conforms to his or her swing. Golf is a tough enough sport as it is. Why make the game even more difficult by playing with clubs that don't fit your swing speed or body type?"

To view the company's 2012 clubs and to locate a custom club dealer in your area, visit www.infinitigolf.com.

Talking about golf is boring. Playing golf can be interesting, but not the part where you try to hit the little white ball; only the part where you drive the cart. —Dave Barry



GOLFChicago Challenge on facebook

Do you recognize this statue? If you are the first to name the course where he resides, you'll win a \$25 Golfsmith gift card. The contest begins on May 17 on facebook.com. All you need to do is "like" GOLFChicago Magazine, post the correct answer, and you are eligible.



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Both Sakas and Johns will be on hand for an exhibition and free golf clinic at the academy on May 12th. Three sessions featuring a short demonstration and hands-on instruction are scheduled. Reservations to participate in the event are required. Visit www.glencoegolfclub.com for more information.

Driving Range Opened At South Side Golf Complex

Proof that interest in golf remains high across Chicagoland comes from Orland Park's Silver Lakes Country Club. The grand opening of a spectacular new driving range is scheduled to take place May 11th, with festivities to include custom equipment fittings along with an appearance from former World Long Drive Champion Joe Hajduch. The range was scheduled to open May 7th, while the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 1:30 pm on May 11th.

The new practice facility includes a public driving range and short game area to complement Silver Lake's 45-hole layout. Construction for the new complex began last September. Located just west of the clubhouse, this is the first driving

range offered at Silver Lake since it was established in 1927. The layout features natural grass hitting stations with multiple target greens and a dedicated short game area set to open in coming weeks.

"We are very excited about opening the new practice facilities," says Director of Golf Bert Coghill. "We've been fielding about 20 calls a day inquiring when the driving range is going to be open. I feel that Silver Lake is now equipped to offer our customers the best golf and practice experience possible." The range is open to the public and will be accessible from sunup to sunset each day. For more information, contact the club at www.silverlakecc.com.

Cantigny to Host Clinics for New Golfers

The Cantigny Golf Academy is launching a "Welcome to Golf" clinic series to introduce golfers young and old to the game. The clinics are geared to new players and those who are getting back to the game, or simply need to refresh skill sets. Five different clinics will be offered that cover the "how to" basics of golf, as well as the rules, etiquette, and safety. Each clinic consists of three one-hour classes for a total price of \$59.

Family members, friends or guests may join the clinics for an additional \$20 each.

The five "Welcome to Golf" clinics include; On-Course Introductions, Rules and Etiquette, Basics and Fundamentals, Family Clinic, and Get Your Spouse (or Friend) into Golf.

There are five sessions available for each clinic with the first sessions starting in May. The exception is the Family Clinic, which will be conducted three times with the first session in June. Weekday evening and weekend clinics are available.

Clinic schedules, class descriptions and registration are available online at www.CantignyGolf.com or by calling the Cantigny Golf Academy at 630-260-8199.

Allen and Tour Edge Exotics Set World Ball Speed Record

A national sandwich chain promotes its delivery service as "freaky fast." That said, Jimmy John's has nothing on professional long drive champion Maurice Allen, who generated a ball speed of 211 mph using a fairway wood. Using an Exotics XCG5 fairway wood made by Batavia club manufacturer Tour Edge, Allen bested a Guinness world record for fastest golf

drive set by Jason Zuback in January 2007 at 204 mph.

"We're really proud of Maurice," says Jay Hubbard, vice president of marketing at Tour Edge. "What makes the record more amazing is that Zuback generated his ball speed with a driver. For Maurice to achieve that speed with a fairway wood is out of this world!" Video is available at www.touredge.com.

The income tax has made liars of more Americans than golf.
—Will Rogers

St. Charles Country Club Looks to Bright Future

St. Charles County Club has achieved a milestone in its long-range Comprehensive Economic Plan. The Club's multi-million dollar debt was retired five years ahead of schedule due solely to the contributions of its membership.

"We can all be very proud that the club is now debt free, on financially sound ground, and we can look forward to many years of

future enjoyment of a club which has been able to retain its long-standing tradition as the premier private family club in the far western suburbs," said Patrick Keeley, Club President.

Douglas Stewart CCM, COO stated, "Private country clubs have not been immune from the economic challenges that impact virtually all businesses and organizations. The club's mortgage payments represented a drain on its financial resources and affected its ability to continue to provide the services and features desired by its members. The most plausible solution to this financial challenge was implemented – requesting members to voluntarily contribute to a "Legacy Membership" and other contributions to pay off the debt. St. Charles Country Club can continue to be independent and enhance its value to its membership and the greater St. Charles community."

St. Charles Country Club is a private club that includes an 18-hole golf course, a 6-hole quarry course targeted to families and casual golfers, tennis and aquatic facilities, banquet accommodations, and three restaurants.

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Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

At the 2008 British Open at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Fredrik Jacobson found his ball on a slope in a bunker. He was concerned that the unusually strong winds might cause his ball to move after he took his stance, thereby causing him to incur a penalty stroke for the ball moving after he had addressed it. He expressed this concern to the referee, who replied that as play had not been suspended because of the wind, Jacobson needed to continue to play. Jacobson carefully entered the bunker and took his stance, and, sure enough, the wind caused the ball to move. The Rules of Golf then called for a penalty stroke after a player had addressed his ball, and a player whose ball

lay in a bunker or water hazard was considered to have addressed the ball when he had taken his stance. Note: outside a hazard, a player was considered to have addressed the ball when he grounded his club and taken his stance.

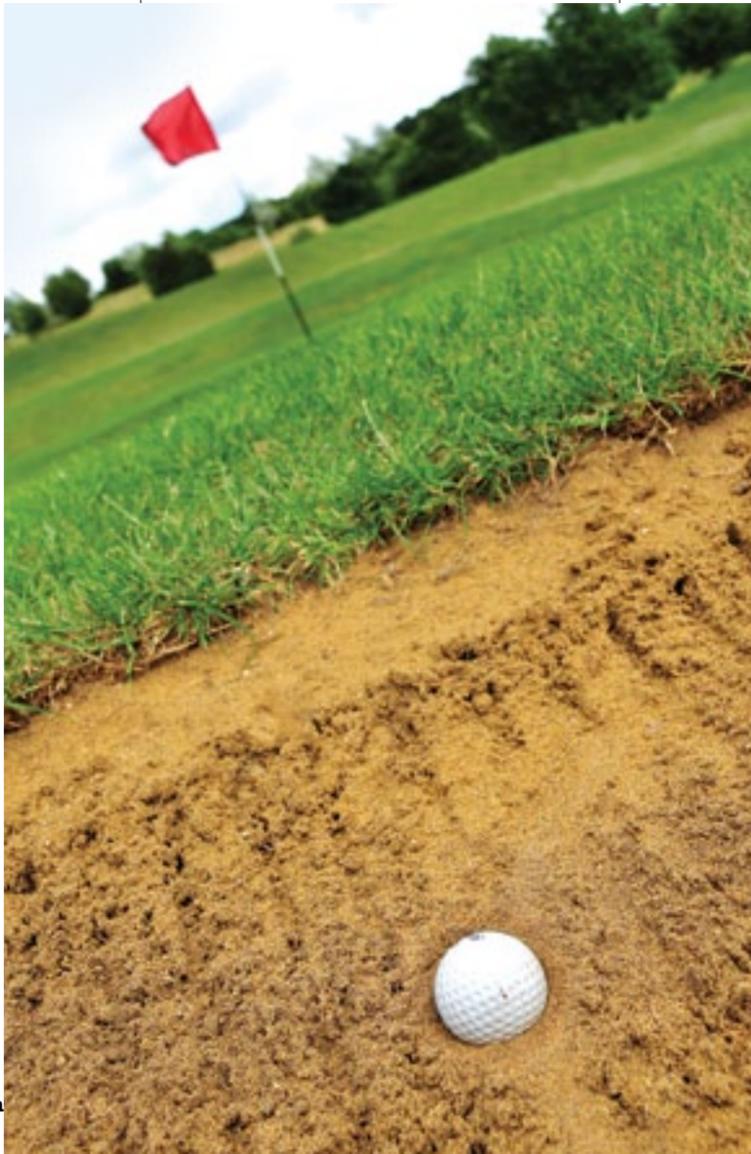
What was so disturbing about the Jacobson case was that, unlike a player whose ball lay through the green or on the putting green and could protect himself against such a penalty by not grounding his club, there was no opportunity for Jacobson to protect himself as he needed to take a stance to play the ball. This situation caused the Rules of Golf Committees of The R&A and United States Golf Association to review Rule 18-2b and consider how the Rule could be amended to avoid such a situation in the future. After several years of discussion, the two bodies unveiled a revised Definition of "Addressing the Ball" and Rule 18-2b, among the Rules changes for 2012. Now, a player is

considered to have addressed the ball when he has grounded the club "immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball, whether or not he has taken his stance." Rule 18-2b still provides a penalty for the ball moving after address, but an Exception has been added to absolve the player from penalty when it is clear that something else (e.g., wind) caused his ball to move after he has addressed it. Therefore, if the Jacobson incident were to happen today, there would be no penalty, as he would not be considered to have addressed the ball, and he would play the ball from its new position.

The aforementioned illustrates one of the more significant changes to the Rules of Golf for 2012. The fact that it may come across as less than earth shattering is a good thing. After all, as the first known written code of Rules dates back to 1744, it is reassuring that, after nearly 270 years, dramatic changes are not needed.

The other most significant change for 2012 involves Rule 13-4. Previously, except in rare circumstances, a player or his caddie was not entitled to rake a bunker before the player's first shot from it. The reason was that such raking would be considered "testing the condition" of the bunker (i.e., the player might learn about

the depth of the sand). Over the years, that position led to a number of unfortunate penalties for well-meaning players. For example, a player's ball lies in the front of a long bunker; on the way to his ball, the player retrieves a rake from the back of the bunker, some 15 yards behind his ball, and instinctively tidies up the marks in the bunker caused by the lifting of the rake. Starting in 2012, there will be no penalty. This change is a positive one as (1) it is difficult to argue that a player could gain more useful information by raking than by digging in with his feet (which he is allowed to do), (2) players often breach this Rule while practicing proper etiquette (caring for the course), (3) this Rule is repeatedly breached by unknowing golfers at all levels and (4) the Rule already allowed raking before a second shot from the bunker. It is important to keep in mind that the raking, whether before a first or subsequent stroke from the bunker, may not breach Rule 13-2 (e.g., improve the area of intended stance for the next stroke).



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Hole 18

The 6,810-yard course is decidedly strategic with splashes of heroic decisions throughout the RTJ Jr. design. Director of Golf Gabe Exiner does not hold back on exclamation points when he describes the course. "Every hole is unique and memorable," he says. "They play differently each day depending on the wind conditions and tee placements." He adds, "Regardless of playing ability, players are challenged day-in and day-out." One surprise players new to the club will appreciate is the dramatic elevation changes. By the middle of your round, it is very easy to lose sight of the fact that one is standing in Northern Illinois where most of the land is as flat as a Milwaukee bowling alley.

The aforementioned dramatic elevation changes are encountered on the first tee. A downhill launch site is countered with an uphill, across-a-pond approach to the first green. This 426-yarder is not a firm handshake out of the box, but a call to bring your 'A' game after scorecards are exchanged. At hole 2, a strategic 405-yard, dogleg left, shot placement is essential to match par. Cutting the corner will lead to a likely blunder. Warns Exiner, "Choose your tee box carefully. It is a long way to clear the trees that run on the left side of the dogleg."

While it is difficult to name one signature hole at Crystal Tree, There are three that tickle the gray matter. The short, 148-yard 12th hole is reminiscent of the terrain in northern

Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club

RTJ Jr's Southside Gem

Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. once opined that "like pool, golf is a game of position." At Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club in Orland Park, Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s design emphasizes strategy and shot placement.



Hole 1



Hole 5



Hole 12

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Michigan. The one-shooter plays across a dry ravine and uphill to turtleback green. Exiner warns, "Missing the green is hazardous to your score." Take heed of his advice and dial in an iron toward the middle of the green. The most demanding hole from tee to green is the par-4, 16th hole. The approach requires the player to work the ball right to left. Once on the dance floor, rolling the ball toward the hole is tricky, with a raised spine bisecting the green.

Exiner describes the final hole as, "The most picturesque finishing hole in the Chicago area." Whether you are swinging from the tee box, walking down the fairway, or watching from the clubhouse veranda, this hole is special. Diagonal fairway bunkers and a water hazard line the right side of the hole, while the stately clubhouse rises above the mounding along the left side of the hole. While your eye will be drawn to the clubhouse, members will assure you that the green breaks sharply away from the clubhouse. Play a little more break and keep it on the pro side.

A great track at a private club in Chicagoland is not hard to find. However, at some private clubs, a new member trying to find a game can be as difficult as the application process to join the club. This is not the climate at Crystal Tree G and CC. Membership director Carl Cutinello shares, "Our club has designated tee times for member-only play. Each day golfers throw their name into the hat and are paired up." Cutinello adds, "Crystal Tree has a welcoming spirit beyond the golf course." The club's social and recreational offerings are a priority to Crystal Tree's members. This is evidenced by theme nights that include

wine tastings, kids' nights, holiday parties, and even book clubs.

Crystal Tree is especially focused on the kids. With fine junior golf and tennis programs, the club is building competitive athletes and the next generation of golfers. Obviously, young golfers learn the game on a spectacular RTJ Jr. course

The comprehensive practice range and short-game center ensure members can fine-tune their swings at a top-notch facility.

Crystal Tree features four new Har Tru Clay tennis courts that provide players with a playing surface on par with the best in the Chicagoland area.

The club's pool and cabana are a centerpiece for summer fun. With over 11,000 square feet of sundeck space, members can lounge and relax around the 6,000 square-foot pool. The hatchet-shaped pool has a 55-foot wide zero-depth entry with water toys and geysers; the pool's depth increases only one foot per 14 feet, and so kids and swimmers have plenty of room to roam or swim. The cabana offers light refreshing beverages and food, but the celebrated eats are in the clubhouse.

The membership attending special events and theme nights enjoy the club's upscale two-story, 55,000 square foot clubhouse. Entering through the grand foyer, the double cascading staircases frame the lounge that opens to the veranda. With a panoramic view of the aforementioned 18th hole, the balcony may be the best view from any clubhouse across Chicago.

The clubhouse features banquet facilities ready to equip parties of up to 300 people. Members and their guests

alike appreciate Danish chef Jimmy Christensen's growing reputation for his culinary artistry. While risk/reward is a common theme on the golf course, Christensen appreciates the membership's open-mindedness while dining, "they are always open to new items on the menu." In addition to 18-ounce Delmonico Bone-In Rib Eye, specialties from Seared Ahi Tuna to his Pistachio Crusted Jumbo Sea Scallops are the club's signature menu items.

Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club offers families much more than the usual fare associated with private clubs. The climate is welcoming and the facilities are state-of-the-art. The golf course may be what sparks your interest; however, the membership's welcoming spirit and authentic passion for their club is what will seal the deal to join.

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The Proven Path of GolfTEC

Back in 1995, Joe Assell and Mike Clinton had a theory about golf. While hundreds of millions of dollars were spent annually on high-tech golf clubs and golf balls, players seemed to be ignoring one other important aspect of the game: how to play it.

Fellow graduates of the golf management program at Mississippi State, the two men developed a golf instruction program that they believed could revolutionize the game. The plan called for a standardized, structured teaching format taught by PGA professionals who would use state-of-the-art technology to work one-on-one with students. Today, 17 years after implementing their business theory, Assell and Clinton oversee 145 GolfTEC centers across North America run by over 350 PGA professionals.

Kurt Kollmeyer, who manages GolfTEC operations across the North Chicago region and also serves as director of instruction at the Vernon Hills location, joined the company during its infancy. "It seems like a long time ago," he says while gazing at a map showing GolfTEC locations. "But in a relatively short span of time our staff has literally given millions of lessons to hundreds of thousands of clients."

The gateway to the company's success, says Kollmeyer, is through a process used at every facility. "All of our centers use the same five factors to help our students," he says. The strategy starts with video and motion measurement of a player's swing. That swing is then compared on a video monitor to the swings of over 150 Tour players to analyze the differences. "We might spend 45 minutes in the interview and diagnosis process without hitting a golf ball," Kollmeyer says.

Following the initial analysis, lessons create a start-to-finish swing sequence that can be repeated by the player over and over again. Next, performance videos are posted on a GolfTEC website and feature the player's swing videos, along with the coach's notes and practice drills to reinforce every aspect of the improvement program. "Players can access these videos and receive lesson recaps 24/7," Kollmeyer says. The final two steps are practice sessions that utilize interactive video feedback with slow motion and stop action

sequences, and precision-matched clubs to ensure that the player is using equipment that fits his or her game. The personal club fitting process integrates motion measurement, digital video, and a database providing close to 1,000 club options.

Kollmeyer emphasizes the stark contrast between the methodology used at GolfTEC centers and the techniques used at golf schools, ranges, and many retail shops. "For starters," he says, "our statistical analyses of the Proven Path method shows a 95% success rate for our clients. We also firmly believe that the video comparison between the player's swing and a Tour player's swing is invaluable. "All of our lessons are one-on-one," Kollmeyer continues. "While someone might point out that group sessions are cheaper, I don't buy into that theory at all. Focusing on a single player in a private session ensures that the player receives

100% of the coach's attention. A group session, on the other hand, can mean lots of distraction in between swing tips, which can cause some students to quickly fall back into their bad habits."

According to Kollmeyer, most every GolfTEC center is designed the exact same way to reduce variables. "We video conference each other regularly to ensure that every center uses the same techniques and the same strategies," he says. "I'm pretty sure that if a student visits a GolfTEC center in California, he will get the same instruction and have the same experience he would receive in Illinois or in Florida." Along with full swing analysis, coaches also work on chipping and putting techniques.

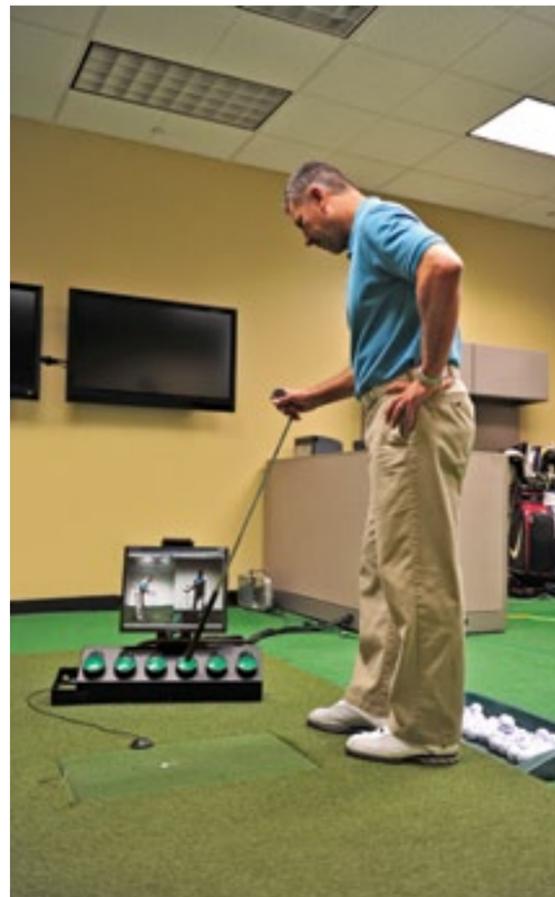
In 2004, GolfTEC formed a partnership with Golfsmith and offers its Proven Path process at over 57 Golfsmith retail stores to

complement its stand-alone stores. In total, there are currently 10 GolfTEC centers in the Chicagoland area, including Lincoln Park, Deerfield, Des Plaines, Downer Grove, Oakbrook, Schaumburg, and Naperville.

Ever since they started GolfTEC 18 years ago, co-founders Assell and Clinton have emphasized community involvement. Along with no-cost lessons provided to local educational, athletic, and youth organizations, the company contributes annually to Patriots Day for the benefit of men and women in active military service.

"I think that one of the greatest tributes to our program is that it works for just about everyone," says Kollmeyer. "Beginners see the benefits of our process just as scratch players see the benefits."

For more information about GolfTEC and locations, visit www.GolfTEC.com.



WHITETAIL RIDGE

Whitetail Ridge Golf Club is Kendall County's newest golf course and banquet facility. The Greg Martin designed par 71 layout opened in 2007 and features two distinct nines. Whitetail Ridge is fully open to the public and has quickly become a favorite of many golfers in the western suburbs. The 24,000 square foot clubhouse features a ballroom that can seat up to 350 people, and a Bar & Restaurant that is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Book your next event at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club and experience our brand of "Radical Hospitality" from the moment you walk in the door.

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U.S. Women's Open Championship Preview

It's hard to believe that it's been 14 years since the 1998 U.S. Women's Open Championship was last staged at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin. The 2012 version on July 2-8 will feature great players from the past, including 1998 Champion Se Ri Pak; Hall-of-Famers Juli Inkster (1999 and 2002 Champion); and Karrie Webb (2000 and 2001 Champion). Also in the field is 2011 Champion So Yeon Ryu who defeated her fellow countrywoman Hee Kyung Seo in a three-hole playoff at the The Broadmoor in Colorado. Other notables vying for our national championship include Michelle Wie, Brittany Lincicome, Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis, Cristie Kerr, Morgan Pressel, and the world's No. 1 ranked golfer, Yani Tseng.

The tournament hosts a field of 156 professional and amateur female golfers from all over the world. Amateurs and pros alike can try to qualify for the Open approximately four to six weeks in advance of the Championship at qualifiers held around the country. If you are an amateur trying to qualify you must have an up-to-date USGA Handicap Index not exceeding 4.4. To give you an idea of how many ladies try to qualify annually, since 2004 between 1000 and 1200 pros and amateurs have aspired to join the field of 156 competitors *each year*—so you better have your 'A game' if you try to qualify!

The Golf Course

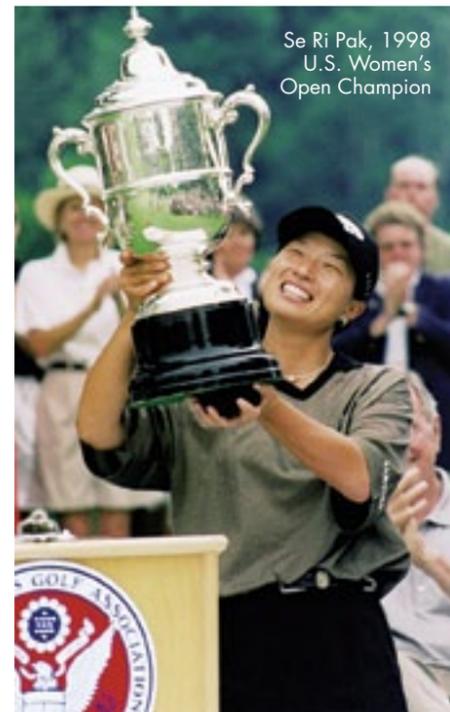
Blackwolf Run was designed by the venerable Pete Dye and opened for play in June of 1988. It was named that year's "Best New Public Course" in the country by *Golf Digest*. Both the River and Meadow Valleys are regularly ranked in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest* and the "Top 100 You Can Play" by *GOLF Magazine*. The course has been host to several professional championships, including The Andersen Consulting World Golf Championships in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

The current layout is comprised of two beautiful and challenging 18-hole courses: the Meadow Valleys and River. However, for the U.S. Women's Open, it will revert to its original single-course configuration—the

same layout that the players experienced back in 1998. The single-course layout is comprised of holes 10-18 of the Meadow Valleys course and holes 1-4 and 14-18 of the River course. Course upgrades include renovated greens, new sand and contouring of bunkers, and new grasses throughout the 18-hole layout. Pin placements and weather conditions will play a key role in how hard or accessible the course plays during Championship week.

Volunteers

More than 2,400 volunteers are needed to work on 16 different committees from Marshals and Merchandise Tent to Transportation. Several committees are already full so make your plans quickly if you wish to join in the fun of volunteering for this prestigious event. The fee is \$150 and in return you receive: one Volunteer Badge that allows you access to the championship all seven days; two Official Volunteer Golf Shirts; one Official Volunteer Wind Jacket; one Official Volunteer Hat or Visor; 50% off one Championship Badge; commemorative Volunteer Pin; food and beverage vouchers;



Se Ri Pak, 1998 U.S. Women's Open Champion

complimentary parking all week; 15% off all purchases made in the 2012 U.S. Women's Open Merchandise Pavilion during the week of the Championship; exclusive unadvertised promotions at The American Club Resort throughout 2011 and 2012; and a complimentary subscription to the volunteer e-newsletter.

Tickets:

There are a variety of single-day and ticket package options available.

- \$90 – Mother's Day Ticket Package – available until May 14
- \$150 – Mother's Day Badge Package – available until May 14
- \$15 – Practice Round Ticket
- \$45 – Championship Ticket
- \$90 – Trophy Club Ticket
- \$150 – Championship Badge
- \$275 – Trophy Club Badge

Juniors 17 and under will be admitted for free when accompanied by a credentialed (badge or ticketed) adult.

For more details on ticket packages, visit www.2012uswomensopen.com.



Kohler/Sheboygan Area

There is so much to do and see near Blackwolf Run you may want to take some days off to take in the sights and maybe even play some golf yourself. Hotels abound, and the highly rated American Club Resort is a vacation in itself. From charter fishing excursions on Lake Michigan, to some of the nation's best golf courses in Whistling Straits and The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, your trip up north can include not only watching the world's best female golfers compete in the U.S. Women's Open, it can include playing some golf, doing some fishing, and eating at one of the fine dining establishments in Kohler/Sheboygan. Check out their websites at: www.visitsheboygan.com or www.americanclubresort.com.

It's approximately 145 miles from Chicago to the Sheboygan area, so set up a day trip, a long weekend, buy those tournament tickets, book a hotel room, make a tee time, charter a fishing boat—whatever you choose, the fun place to be in early July will be north of the border. We'll see you there!

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Best Buys

continued from page 9



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quick round during their lunch break. The driving range had a steady flow of players, too. Zigfield Troy is a great example of the Chicago golf scene.

We finished our round in under an hour. Mike Troy reported that this is a common occurrence. Playing time, he explained, increases a bit due to increased play during weekends.

The Linkrat will surely return! How can you not love a course where everyone walks? The chief complaints for declining participation in golf are time and cost. Zigfield Troy Golf provides solutions for both concerns.

Lefty:

Zigfield Troy has been around for over 30 years now. Even though I grew up only 10 minutes away, I never took advantage of the opportunity to play this course.

This course is a great way to improve your short game. I managed to card a 1-over par 28, while the Linkrat had a 29. Our match was just as intense as it is on a championship 18-holer. For the record, I took a dollar from him. As we approached the ninth tee, we agreed that while the course is short on yardage, it does not come up short on the fun scale.

Many holes barely reach the century mark in yardage, but with a 'two club' wind

the day we played it, we found it even more challenging. I like to swing the big stick, but Zigfield reminded me how much fun it is to get creative with my wedges. Hole #2 is not for the squeamish. A tortoise shell green and a false front will kick errant shots aside. Hole #8 played downwind, and with a front pin placement was a test for our game. If I had played here during my junior golf days, today I would be a much better player. I will bring my kids here to learn the game.

Do yourself a favor and stop saying, "I'll get over to Zigfield Troy next year." Get out there and hit this sporty executive track and still have some money for lunch.

The Linkrat and I are thinking about entering the Zigfield Troy Open. This unique tournament is open to all players, so visit www.zigfieldtroygolf.com for more details.

Ziegfield Troy Golf truly grows the game of golf. Expect fun, whether you are stopping in to pound balls on the range, take the kiddies out for an evening of mini golf, or introducing your spouse to her first round of golf on a real course. But Ziegfield Troy is more than just a beginner course. Players will be challenged on the par-3 course and may even leave with a little more creativity with their short game.



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Golf Without Fear

If downhill sand shots terrify you, you're not alone. Many of golfers have told us that this is the shot they fear most in golf. Understandably daunting, this shot can be executed successfully with a few adjustments.

I tell my students to hit this shot the same way they would a downhill lie in the fairway. You take your normal setup, then move your front foot down the hill and lean your upper body forward to get perpendicular to the slope. Play the ball back in your stance—the more severe the down slope, the farther back it should be. Set up with your hands ahead of the ball.

From a wide stance with your weight on your front leg, play the ball back in your stance, and with your body leaning forward, you should be able to make good contact on a downhill sand shot. The key to this shot is staying down past impact. Your shoulders and upper body will remain perpendicular to the slope until the ball is well gone and you extend into a full finish. You may need to step through with your back foot to maintain your balance on the follow-through, which is perfectly fine.

Remember, too, that downhill lies (coupled with the back-in-stance ball position and hands-forward posture) tend to reduce the effective loft of your club. You may want to practice this shot with a higher-lofted club than usual to see how far and how high you carry shots with this escape technique. Once you see shots consistently escaping the sand trap and landing on the green your confidence will grow on these shots.

Phil Mickelson is the best I've seen at playing shots from downhill lies. He practices them all the time, even though they aren't easy or commonplace. Can you find slopes to practice on? If not, you may have to recreate them in your yard and try some shots with almostGOLF balls.

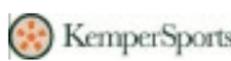
Downhill sand shots, when the ball is below your feet, can be extra difficult to play. I even know some PGA Tour professionals who don't particularly enjoy them, but we all have to deal with them, so we might as well get good at hitting them.

Good Scoring to You!

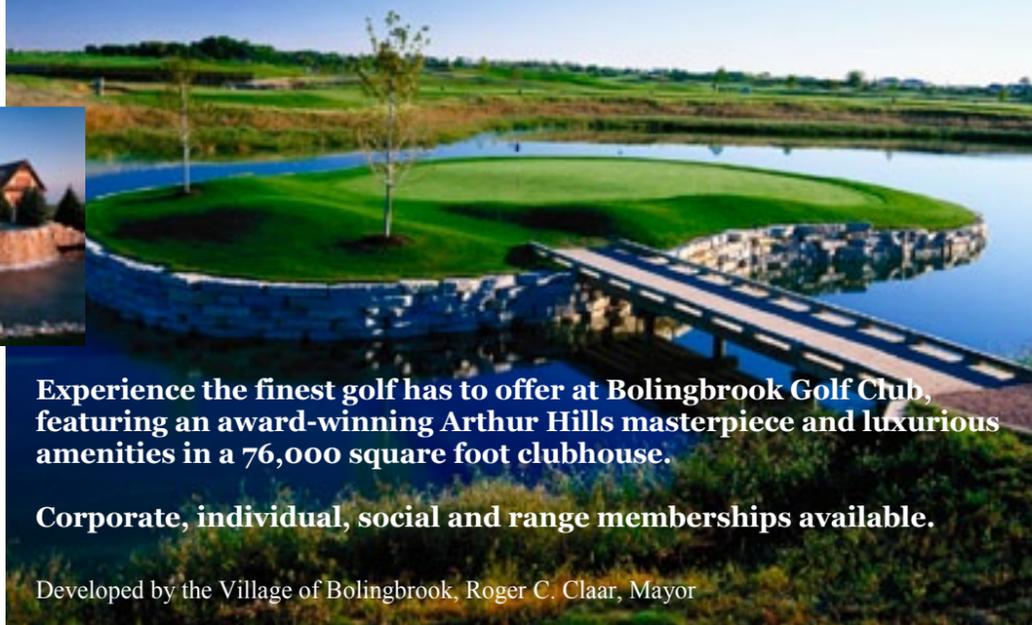





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Understanding Impact

I cringe when I hear television commentators say, "Whoa! He got ahead of that one," or, "See how she stays behind the ball at impact." I don't understand what they mean, because both must happen in a proper swing. At impact you must be ahead of the ball to strike it properly, but part of you cannot help but stay behind the ball, as well.

You already know what impact position looks like because you are inches away from it in a proper setup. In the first illustration, Rick demonstrates proper address position. Notice where his belly button, sternum, and forehead are in relation to the ball and to his spine angle.

To compress a golf ball, the club must strike down on the ball before the swing finds

its lowest point. The low point of a golf swing is directly below your sternum, so you must get your sternum ahead of the ball at impact. Your head stays behind to maintain proper spine angle.

In the next frame, Rick demonstrates proper impact position. He has transferred his weight to his forward foot, and his sternum has moved ahead of the ball. So has his belly button. Rick's spine angle has stayed the same, keeping his head slightly behind the ball.

Staying behind the ball leaves your sternum—the low point of your swing—behind the ball. This is what promotes chunked and topped shots. You're going to have to hit the ground first without making some radical adjustments.

Rabito's Corner

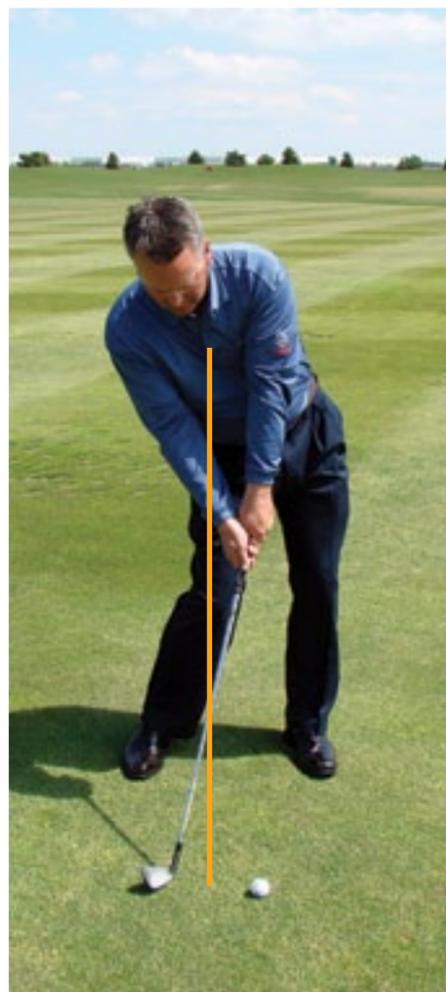


Carl Rabito



The force generated in a 100-mph swing can turn a golf club effectively into a 60-pound weight and cause compressive forces on the spine of up to seven times a player's body mass. Staying behind the ball at impact is out of position, and a body out of position at impact—with these kinds of forces at work—is a recipe for trouble.

Golf is a sport—a violent sport, if we consider the energy and force a swing can generate. It becomes obvious why a golf swing can be difficult to control or cause injury. Rabito Golf teaches the swing based on what happens at impact. Come on out and meet with us. Rabito Golf will help you find your swing.



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With breathtaking views...all the golf you could dream of on 14 beautiful and challenging courses...and comfortable and convenient accommodations set against the background of our shimmering Lake and rolling Ozark hills... don't you think it's time **YOU** hit the **TRAIL**?

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Flossmoor Country Club
Founded 1899

South Chicago's Premier Private Golf Club

Awarded 2009 "Renovation of the Year" from Golf Magazine
PGA professionals on staff • Top-rated junior golf program
First-class dining and banquet facilities • Newly designed pool complex

"Walk in the footsteps of the game's greats."
Bobby Jones, Chick Evans, Jock Hutchinson, Max Marston, Francis Ouimet, and you...

For more information, contact Mark Swinford, PGA, Director of Member Development
membership@flossmoorcc.org • www.flossmoorcc.org • 708.798.4700 ext. 214
Flossmoor Country Club • 1441 Western Ave. • Flossmoor, IL 60422

Applications for membership must be submitted and approved by the Board of Directors

Control Your Ball Out of the Bunker

When I play with amateurs, it's easy to see that most players have never been taught the basics of bunker play, or how to vary their distance control.

Basic greenside bunker play, like all shots, starts with the setup. When players attend our Scoring Zone program, most players have made crucial mistakes before the club ever swings.

The first step in the setup is opening the clubface. The key is to open the face before the grip is taken with the grip end behind the leading edge of the club head. This is a very important point, because with the grip behind the leading edge, the back edge will contact the sand first, allowing the club to glide through the sand creating a shallow divot [photo 1 and photo 2].

The next step in the setup is to align the shaft of the golf club at a right angle to your intended target line (the direction you want the ball to fly).

The third and final step in the setup is to Stand to the Handle (STTH). Standing to the handle is the foundation of every shot we teach in the Scoring Zone program. The phrase STTH means a couple of things. First, point the butt of the club exactly at the middle of the body. Second, make sure that the spine is 90° to the ground. The common mistake we see in most players' setup is pointing the shaft forward while tilting the spine back. Whenever a player tilts back, they will end up hitting a lot of skulled and fat shots out of the bunker. STTH is one of the things we find to help players immediately start hitting the ball out of the bunker [photo 3 and photo 4].

Once a player learns to set up correctly, a basic bunker shot is executed by primarily swinging the club back, with the arms keeping the club head outside of the hands with the face rotated open [photo 5].

In the downswing it's a matter of swinging the club head back in front of the body so that it cuts across the golf ball with the face open. The lower body should stay firm while the upper body pivots left so the weight ends up on the player's forward leg.

Once a player learns to hit basic bunker shots with some repeatability, there are three keys to learning to control distance; club face, steepness of angle of approach, and clubhead speed. For a shorter bunker shot (5-10 yards), use your most lofted wedge (58 to 60 degrees preferably), and open the clubface more than normal. Remember to set the clubface open before you take the grip. When swinging the club back, hinge or cock the wrists sooner, creating a steeper swing. To hit a longer greenside bunker shot (30-40 yards), first consider trying a pitching wedge or even a 9 iron, then set the face very slightly open. Limit the wrist hinge and engage the shoulders, creating a wider, more powerful swing arc. To keep it simple at our Scoring Zone School, I often tell players the back swing for longer bunker shots is controlled primarily with the shoulders and arms while short bunker shots are controlled with the wrist and arms. The downswing for all bunker shots is virtually the same. Swing the club back in front of the body, rotating the weight over the forward leg and maintaining whatever loft is set at the address position.

When executed properly, with practice the keys will help any player become competent in greenside bunkers.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3: Incorrect



Photo 4: Correct



Photo 5

The Scoring Zone



Todd Sones



Todd Sones Impact Golf
located at Whitewater Run in
Vernon Hills, Illinois

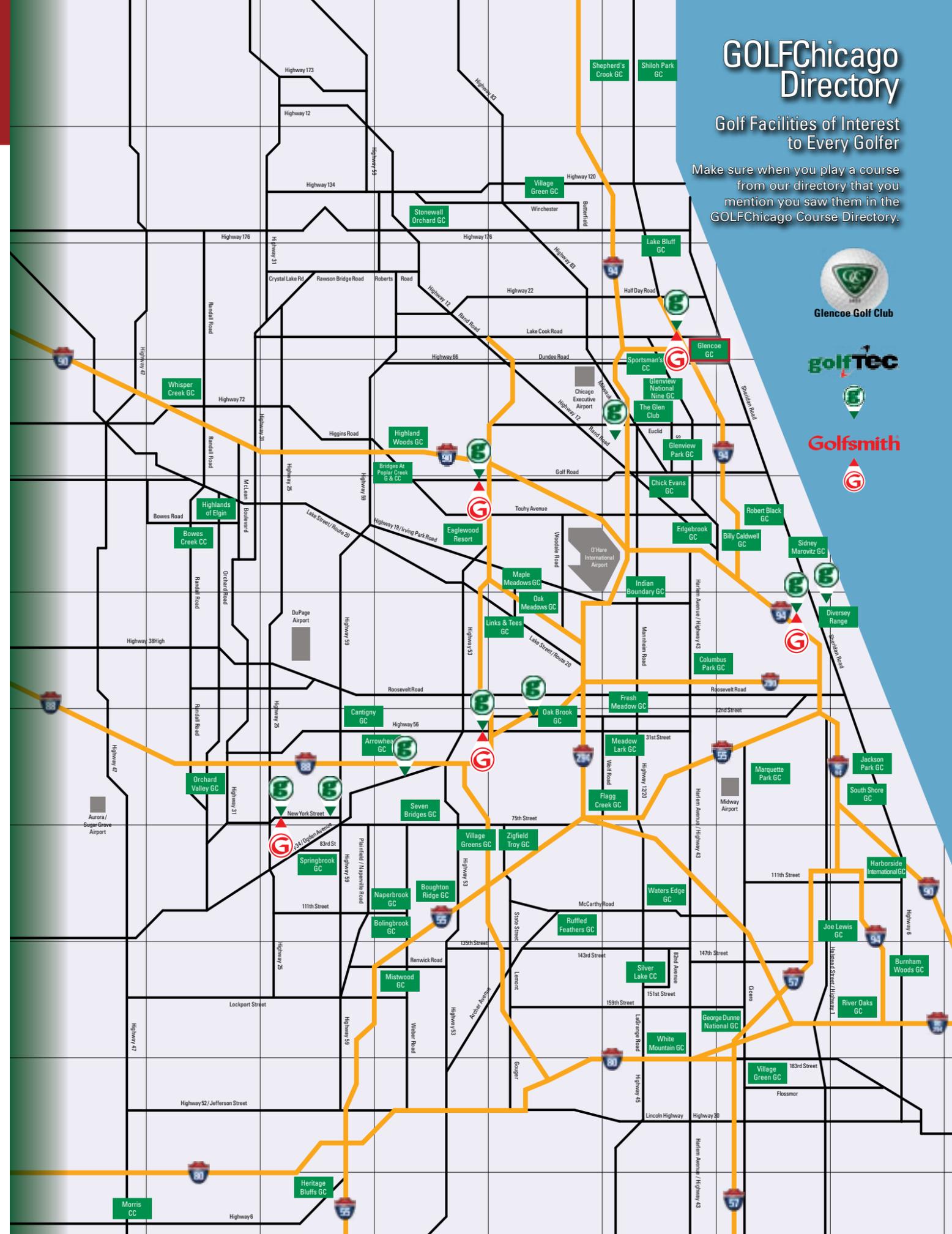
847-549-8678

www.toddsones.com

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.





Bittersweet Golf Club

847-855-9031
875 Almond Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
www.bittersweetgolf.com

In Season Rates:
Monday - Friday
Early Bird: 6 - 8 am:
\$35 with a cart and range balls
Prime: 8 am - 2:30pm:
\$39 including cart
Twilight: \$29 with cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings:
Up to 144 Players

Weekend and Holidays
5 - 10 am:
\$59 Cart, \$49 Walking
10 am - 12 pm:
\$49 Cart, \$39 Walking
12 - 2:30 pm
\$39 Cart, \$29 Walking
After 2:30:
\$29 Cart, \$24 Walking

18 Championship Golf Holes
Par 72 Yardage:
4952 - 6751
Rating/Slope
70.0/121 - 73.3/135
Premier Practice Facility
with PGA instruction
Lighted grass tee driving range

Named best golf course by the readers of the Daily Herald in 2010, Bittersweet Golf Club is a challenging and scenic 18-hole golf facility conveniently located in Gurnee, Illinois, with easy access to the toll way (I-94 and Eden's Expressway). Bittersweet offers the public 18 holes of challenging golf and an excellent practice facility with lighted driving range with natural grass tees.



The Bog

800-484-3264
262-284-7075
3121 County Road I
Saukville, WI 53080
www.GolfTheBog.com

18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5100 - 7200
Top Course Rating: 75.3
Slope: 143

Seasonal Rates:
\$55 - \$95
Carts: \$15
(view website specials)

- Arnold Palmer Design
- Ranked in the Top 10 Best Overall Golf Courses in Wisconsin by *Golf Digest*
- 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest* Highest Rated Golf Course in Milwaukee
- 297 acres of wetlands, woods, rolling hills, and wildlife habitat.
- Bentgrass greens, tees and fairways; bluegrass roughs; native grasses, and wildflowers.
- Five sets of tees for all levels of golfers.
- 117 bunkers and 10 holes where water hazards come into play.

Premier Practice Center

- Range Tees: 40000 sq ft
- Putting green: 4000 sq ft
- Bunker and chipping area
- Target greens: 6
- Full Amenities
- Golf Outing Specialists!
- Located off I-43, Exit 96 just 25 minutes from Milwaukee

www.GolfTheBog.com



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com

18 holes
Yardage: 7104 - 4931
Rating/Slope
73.8/135 - 68.2/116

Mon - Th: \$98, includes cart with GPS and range balls
Fri - Sun: \$110, includes cart with GPS and range balls
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Located just forty minutes southwest of Chicago, Bolingbrook Golf Club combines the elements of a world-class facility and championship golf. 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
www.bowescreekcountryclub.com

18 Championship Golf Holes
Yardage: 6794 - 4756
Rating/Slope:
73.2/142 - 68.1/121

Member for a Day Rates allows unlimited play for the day
Mon - Th: \$79 / golf, cart, and range
Fri - Sun: \$98 / golf, cart, and range
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Practice Facility: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

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!

A Rick Jacobson Designed golf course, it is everything you want in a golf course. "We tried to give the course a rustic look and used big, sweeping bunkers with fingers of grass drifting into the sand and fescue grasses as lips on the bunker faces," Jacobson said.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
www.cantignygolf.com

27 holes
Yardage per 18:
7,055 - 5,183
Rating/Slope:
74.2/140 - 70.4/122

Mon - Th: \$85 walking
Fri - Sun: \$95 walking
Cart: \$20 (7 days)
Caddie:
\$20 per person plus tip
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight rates: No
Practice Facility: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Cantigny was named "Best New Public Course in America" by *Golf Digest* in 1989, and since then has been a "Top 100 Public Course." It has hosted numerous championships, including three Illinois State Amateurs and the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links. Designed on spectacular terrain by Roger Packard, the course's beauty will take your breath away. The impressive Cantigny Golf Academy opened in 2008, and junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

Great golf and excellent food go together at Cantigny. As an incentive to sample the cuisine, golfers in 2012 will receive a \$10 voucher good for same-day redemption at Fareways Grill inside the clubhouse. You'll get a voucher when you play 18 holes at the regular rate during non-peak times—Monday through Thursday all day and Saturday/Sunday afternoons.



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
www.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 no matter where you live or work in the city. Play Your Favorite CPD course today!

PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access, and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

Robert A. Black – 9 Holes
2045 W. Pratt Boulevard

Sydney R. Marovitz – 9 Holes
3600 N. Recreation Drive (Lake Shore Drive)

Jackson Park – 18 Holes
6401 S. Richards Drive

Columbus Park – 9 Holes
5701 W. Jackson Boulevard

Marquette Park
6700 S. Kedzie Avenue

South Shore
7059 South Shore Drive

Diversey Range
141 W. Diversey Parkway



Flossmoor Country Club

708.798.4700
1441 Western Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422
www.flossmoorcc.org

"South Chicago's Premier Private Golf Club"
Founded 1899

Golf Course Architect
Herbert J. Tweedie, 1899
Redesigned by:
Raymond Hearn, 2009

Yardage, Rating/Slope
7136, 75.5/144
6764, 73.7/138
6437, 72.2/134
6112, 70.6/130
5503, 72.9/133

- Member Amenities
- PGA Professionals On Staff
 - Newly Designed Pool Complex
 - Meeting & Banquet Rooms up to 300
 - Top-rated Jr. Golf Program
 - Tennis Programs For All Ages
 - Excellent Dining Experience

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
www.forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. With ten courses, four driving ranges, and a miniature golf course, you are sure to find a place to call your home course.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY with the NEWLY revised FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

Billy Caldwell – 9 Holes
6150 Caldwell Avenue

Burnham Woods – 18 Holes
14201 S Burnham Avenue

Chick Evans – 18 Holes
6145 Golf Road

Edgebrook – 18 Holes
6100 N Central Avenue

George Dunne National – 18 Holes
16310 S Central Avenue

Harry Semrow – Driving Range & Mini Golf
1150 E Golf Road

Highland Woods – 18 Holes
2775 Ela Road

Indian Boundary – 18 Holes
8600 W Forest Preserve Avenue

Joe Louis – 18 Holes
13100 S Halsted Street

Meadowlark – 9 Holes
11599 31st St

River Oaks – 18 Holes
1 Park Avenue





The Glen Club

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

Offering a unique blend of membership and daily fee play.

2012 Green Fees range from \$105 - \$185.

General public may reserve starting times seven days in advance. Practice range is included in green fee. Carts: \$24
Caddies are available upon request.

Renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio brilliantly transformed the once-flat runways of the Glenview Naval Air station into a nationally acclaimed 18-hole layout, featuring dramatic elevation changes, meandering lakes, and running streams. Following its debut in 2001, The Glen Club was thrust into the national spotlight earning recognition from *Golf Magazine*, *Golf Digest* and *Sports Illustrated*. The Glen Club has hosted numerous professional and elite amateur events and is the home course for Northwestern University's men's and women's golf teams.

- A *Golf Magazine* Top 100 You Can Play in the United States.
- *Golf Digest* Best places to Play 4.5 Stars.
- Home of The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.
- Stay in one of our finely appointed overnight rooms.



Glencoe Golf Club

847-835-0250
621 Westley Road
Glencoe, IL 60022
www.glencoeclub.com

Par 72 | Yardage: 6,539
Rating / Slope
Blue: 71.6/130
White: 70.3/127
Red: 72.8/127

Weekday Fees
Early bird: \$30.00
Prime: \$ 41.00
Twilight: \$ 28.00
Super Twilight: \$ 23.00
Weekend Fees
Prime: \$ 49.00
Twilight: \$ 32.00
Super Twilight: \$ 23.00

- Sr./Jr. Discounts
- Grass Tee Range
- Outings Available

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.

The Golf Academy will now be featuring two of the area's best players to share their formula for success through private lessons, clinics, and summer camps. Bill Sakas and Travis Johns have both competed with impressive results in the professional ranks and bring that knowledge to their teaching. Learn the basics or improve your competitive edge with experienced instructors who back up their knowledge with tournament golf experience.



Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250
800 Shermer Road
Glenview, IL 60025
www.golfglenview.com

18 holes
Par 70
Yardage: 6,133

Mon - Th: 18 holes \$39
Mon - Th Twilight:
9 holes \$24
Mon - Th: Super Twilight:
(after 5 pm) \$20
Fri - Sun: \$48
Fri - Sun Twilight:
9 holes \$30
Fri - Sun/Holidays Super
Twilight:
(after 5 pm) \$20
Cart Fees:
9 holes \$10/rider
18 holes \$16/rider
Twilight \$13/rider
Tee Time Specials
available at www.golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. Beautifully landscaped with an extensive variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, this 18-hole, 6,133-yard, par-70 course features a choice of three bent grass tee boxes on every hole. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club but is open to the public and close to home. Since 1955, when the Glenview Park District purchased the Chesterfield Golf Course and began operating it as the Glenview Park Golf Club, the course has been continually upgraded and improved to add to your golfing enjoyment.



golfTec

10 Chicagoland Locations

Chicago - Halsted Row
60657
2847 N. Halsted Road
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park
60614
2782 N. Clybourn Ave.
Building C
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015
360 S. Waukegan
Suite B-2
224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016
353 N. River Road
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515
2020 Butterfield Road
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505
4302 E. New York Street
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563
1163 E. Ogden Avenue
Suite 401
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181
18W100 22nd Street
Suite 101B
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173
905 E. Golf Road
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061
701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Suite 116
847-327-0605



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123
www.highlandsofelgin.com

18 Championship Golf Holes
Yardage: 6510 - 5568
Rating/Slope:
71.6/128 - 66.8/116

Mon - Fri:
\$35 walk / \$54 ride
Weekends / Holidays:
\$43 walk / \$62 ride
Jr./Sr. Rates: Weekdays
Only
Practice Facility: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

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.

The prairie-style clubhouse with stunning golf course views is now open. The clubhouse features event rooms with expansive ceilings, full-scale food and beverage operations, locker rooms, and an expanded golf shop. The facility also features a lighted practice facility offering bent grass tees, 30 hitting stations, short game area, and a 9,000 sq. ft. putting green.



Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East,
Chicago, IL 60628
www.harborsideinternational.com
harborside3@aol.com

36 holes
Port Course
Yardage: 7,164 - 5,164
Rating/Slope:
75.1/132 - 70.4/123
Starboard Course
Yardage 7,166 - 5,110
Rating/Slope:
75.0/132 - 70.5/120

Mon - Thu: \$82 includes
cart & range balls
Fri - Sun: \$95 includes
cart & range balls
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes,
57-acre
Banquet/Outings: Yes,
Phil Stefani's

Located just 16 minutes from Downtown Chicago, directly on I-94, Harborside is the home of the PORT & STARBOARD Courses designed by Dick Nugent in the links tradition of windswept Scottish and Irish seaside courses. Ranked by *Golfweek's* 2010 "Best Courses You Can Play" Starboard #11 & Port #12 in Illinois and also the host of the Champions Tour in 2002. Amenities include a 24,000 sq. ft. Prairie Style Clubhouse with food and banquets by the Phil Stefani Restaurant Group and a 57-acre practice facility. Harborside is truly "Chicago's Course."



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
www.lakebluffgolfclub.com
proshop@lakebluffgolfclub.com

18 holes
Yardage: 6589 - 4969
Rating/Slope:
71.3/124 - 67.0/114

Mon - Fri: \$39 walking
Sat - Sun: \$49 walking
Cart fees:
\$18 (Mon - Sun)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Lake Bluff Golf Club was established in 1968 and in its 44-year history the course has become a "must-play" destination for golfers. Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, the golf course is one of only a few public facilities offering private club caliber amenities.

Lake Bluff Golf Club takes pride in the conditioning and playability of the course with features such as a million dollar state-of-the-art irrigation system. The professionally stocked Pro Shop and the Village Grill, which serves delicious food and a wide selection of beverages, are a couple of the superior amenities available to guests of the club.

Tee times specials are available exclusively through the club's website.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
www.mistwoodgolf.net
info@mistwoodgolf.net

Yardage: 6,768 - 5,231
Rating/Slope:
72.2/137 - 69.8/126

Mon - Th: \$35 - \$41 walking
Fri - Sun: \$42 - \$61 walking
Cart Fee: \$18
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes
IPGA Pro: Visanu Tongvarin

Home of the Illinois Women's Open
Rated 4½ stars by *Golf Digest*

Centered around a beautiful 67-acre lake, Mistwood is designed to challenge and reward golfers of every level. From the moment you arrive at Mistwood you will relish a classic golf experience including impeccable split fairways, highly-manicured and terraced greens, and an expert and attentive staff. Designed by Ray Hearn, Mistwood hosts the prestigious Illinois Women's Open and proudly features the five best finishing holes in the state. Other amenities include an 18-acre practice facility, a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and a spectacular restaurant offering a versatile menu.

Driving Directions to Club: Exit I-55 at Weber Rd and proceed south 4 miles to Renwick Rd. Turn right. Club is one mile on the right. Only 40 minutes from downtown!





Orchard Valley Golf Course

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

- Excellent course conditions and guest service
- 6,750 yards from the tips, yet enjoyable for all skill levels
- Conveniently located minutes off I-88 & a short drive from the western suburbs
- Visit Orchard's Bar & Grill for fantastic food & drink specials

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!



Seven Bridges Golf Club

630-964-7777
One Mulligan Dr.
Woodridge, IL 60517
www.sevenbridges.com

18 holes
Yardage: 7111- 5262
Rating/Slope:
74.6/144 - 68.5/130

Spring Rates: \$42 - \$75
Summer Rates: \$48 - \$107
All Rates include golf cart equipped with GPS
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Putting and Chipping Green & Hitting Bay
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Seven Bridges Golf Club, conveniently located in Woodridge, Illinois, enjoys a reputation for being one of the most innovative golf courses in the market. Depending on tee placement, Seven Bridges provides a setting in which golfers of all levels have to rely on their own guile to make the right shot-making decisions. A scenic, perfectly-groomed course, this Dick Nugent design has matured and grown into its well deserved reputation as a challenging yet rewarding test of your game.

Seven Bridges has been awarded 4 stars by *Golf Digest* and is the former host of the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic.

Seven Bridges offers a variety of programs to suit your golfing needs:

- Golf Pass Program
- Twilight Club
- Permanent Tee Times
- Corporate Memberships



Silver Lake Country Club

708-349-6940 ext.4
14700 S. 82nd Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
www.silverlakecc.com

North Course: 6,826 yds
South Course: 6,310 yds
Rolling Hills: Executive 9

18-Hole Rates:
Weekdays: \$18 - \$37
Weekends: \$22 - \$45
Carts: \$10 - \$16
Jr./Sr. Rate: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Midday Rates: Weekends
Banquets/Outings: Yes
Dir. of Golf: Bert Coghill

A Chicago Golf Tradition Since 1927. For four generations, the Coghill family has provided the finest golf experience in southwest Chicagoland. 45 holes spread over three courses. The North Course features long par 4s, water hazards and well-trapped greens. The South Course plays long par 5s, tricky par 3s, eight water holes, and large greens. Rolling Hills, voted #1 9-hole course by Chicagoland golfers, is ideal for casual and junior golfers.

****NEW UPGRADES for 2012!** New Tee Time Intervals for Improved Pace of Play, Renovated Sand Traps, More Permanent Tee Times, Pro Shop Updates, Online Tee Times and a Golfer Awards Program. Join our Birthday Club for a FREE Round (when you bring a foursome). Visit our *new* website and book your tee times online for hassle-free reservations.



Stonewall Orchard

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

18 holes
Yardage: 7074 - 5375.
Rating/Slope:
74.7/148 - 71.7/130

Mon - Th: \$70 walking
Fri - Sun: \$77 walking
Cart fees:
\$14 (Mon - Th)
\$18 (Fri - Sun)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

A Final Stage Qualifying site for the 2009 U.S. Open and host of the Illinois Section PGA Championship, the Arthur Hills-designed Stonewall Orchard Golf Club features 65,000 mature pine and oak trees, rolling fairways, tranquil wetlands and native wildlife across 18 brilliant holes. Consistently ranked as one of the top courses in Illinois, Stonewall Orchard's pure greens and perfectly manicured fairways make this a must-play for Chicago's golf aficionados.



Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032
7205 West 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
www.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 with bent grass greens and fairways offers:

- Superior course conditions and friendly service
- 6,400+ yards of golfing excellence, yet playable by all levels
- Complete day/night practice & range facility
- Visit 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.
Much MORE!



Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

- Meticulously maintained course conditions
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Arrowhead

630-653-5800
26 W. 151 Butterfield Rd
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www.arrowheadgolfclub.org
Par 71
27 Hole Golf Course
South/East 72/132
Yardage: 6734
South/West 72/132
Yardage: 6692
West/East 72/131
Yardage: 6637
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes
Restaurant/Bar: Yes

Blackberry Oaks

630-553-7170
Bristol

Bonnie Brook GC

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

Boughton Ridge

630-739-4100
Bolingbrook

Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club

The Grill at Poplar Creek:
847-781-3664
Banquet: 847-884-0219
Tee Times: 847-781-3681
Driving Range:
847-781-3653
Fax: 847-310-3621
1400 Poplar Creek Drive
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
www.poplarcreekcc.com

Bristol Oaks Golf Club

262-857-2302
16801 75th St.
Bristol, WI 53104
www.bristoloaks.com

The Bull

800-5THEBULL
Sheyboygan Mays, WI

Coyote Run Golf Course

708-957-8700
800 Kedzie
Flossmoor IL 60422
www.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
www.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
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Aurora, IL 60505
www.thefirstteeaurora.org

The First Tee of Greater Chicago

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2901 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A
Glenview, IL 60025
www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

708-246-3336
6939 S. Wolf Road
Countryside, IL 60525
www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org
Par 33
Yardage: 2493 - 1865
Weekday: \$18 (res. rate)
Weekend: \$20 (res. rate)
Cart Fee: \$16
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Glenview National 9 Golf Club

847 657-1637
2800 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60026
www.golfglenview.com
Email: glenviewnational9@glenviewparks.org
9 holes
2,000 yards
Par 31
Green Fees (per 9 holes)
Mon - Thu: \$16
Fri - Sun/Holidays: \$18
Juniors play free* Mon - Thu when accompanied by a paid adult.
*Up to three juniors

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
www.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

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Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

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

Links & Tees Golf Facility

630-458-2660
Addison, IL
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www.addisonparks.org

Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
www.DuPageGolf.com
West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: \$27 walk / \$44 ride
Weekend: \$35 walk / \$52 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
East 9 - Par 34
Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.
Rate: \$14 walk / \$23 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
www.mdpltd.com

Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. Hassert Boulevard
Plainfield, IL 60585
www.naperbrookgolfcourse.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
www.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

Oak Meadows Golf Club

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
www.DuPageGolf.com
Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk / \$49 ride
Weekend:
\$40 walk / \$57 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

SentryWorld

866-479-6753
Stevens Point, WI
18 holes
Par 72
6,951 yards
www.sentryworld.com

Shepherd's Crook

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

Shiloh Park

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

Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd Street
Naperville, IL 60564
www.springbrookgolfcourse.org
Par 72
Yardage: 6,896
Weekday: \$40.00
Weekend: \$50.00
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Village Greens

630-985-3610
Woodridge

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

www.westerngolfassociation.com

White Pines Dome

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

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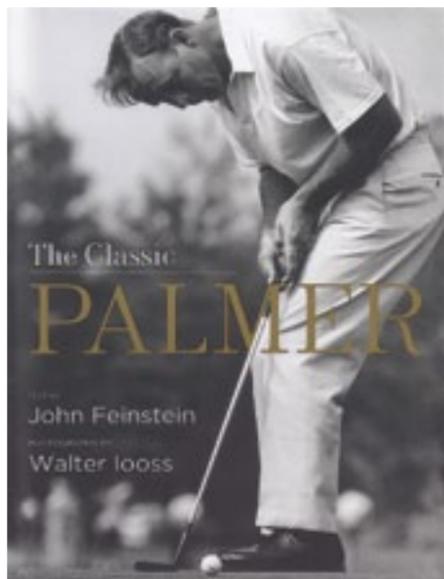
Course Managers:

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

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847-214-5880 | www.bowescreekcc.com

Palmer in His Prime



The Classic Palmer
 Words by John Feinstein
 Photographs by Walter Ioss
 143 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-58479-899-6
 www.stcbooks.com

Unless you are a card-carrying member of AARP, you were not alive when Arnold Palmer shouldered America's new found enthusiasm for professional golf. He may even be the reason your father began golfing. Arnold Daniel Palmer wasn't a country club kid that learned the game of golf as one of the spoils of the entitled. He was the son of a country club's greens keeper. When Palmer hit the Tour, he had Hollywood sex appeal, the forearms of a blacksmith, and the cocksure golf swing of a man with nothing to lose.

The Classic Palmer is a reflection of a man in his prime. Bestselling author John Feinstein narrates the impact Palmer has had on professional golf with this ode to an icon. Golf fans have heard many of Feinstein's tales, but even the most ardent student of the game has not seen Palmer's history in pictures.

Readers will quickly understand Palmer's initial appeal to golf fans of the 1950s through Walter Ioss' photography. Each image of Palmer's classic finish presents him in a meditative expectancy. Equally captivating are the faces of the gallery as they follow Palmer's shot as though it were a bolt of lightning hurled by a Greek god.

Palmer's legacy is brilliantly captured in *The Classic Palmer*. Ioss and Feinstein's efforts will one day be the tome of the King.

The Donald

No, this month's wines aren't associated with Donald Trump (a teetotaler, by the way), but rather, English professional golfer Luke Donald. The Luke Donald Wine Collection is the result of a collaboration between Donald and Bill Terlato, head of the behemoth wine distribution operation, Terlato Wines International.

Terlato first met Donald when the golfer was a student at Northwestern University. Terlato took lessons from Donald's coach, Pat Goss, who initially suggested the two get together. Along with an interest in golf, the two men shared an interest in sports cars and ultimately, wine.

Golfer-endorsed wines are a growing trend, and already include such players as Ernie Els, Nick Faldo, David Frost, Cristie Kerr, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, and Arnold Palmer. In 2006, Terlato approached Donald with the idea of creating a pair of wines for him under the Luke Donald label. He was adamant, however, that he didn't want merely a celebrity endorser. Terlato wanted someone who would be involved in the development of the product. The wines that resulted from this partnership are serious wines, rather than a vanity effort (and are priced accordingly).
 2010 Chardonnay \$30
 This 100% Chardonnay is sourced from vineyards in the Carnaros AVA, which lies at the northern end of San Pablo Bay (the northern section of San Francisco Bay).

The wine is pale yellow in the glass. On entry, it offers a full mouthfeel, That buttery sensation continues to develop on the palate, followed by just the right amount of acidity.

For this wine's flavor profile, Donald looked to the white Burgundies of France. The flavor is predominantly of tart citrus fruits; the wood (25% new French oak, 75% used French oak) is there, but is nicely balanced.

Enjoy this wine with Summer Vegetable Stir-fry with Couscous, Braised Greek Chicken and Artichokes, or Almond-crust Sole with Leek-and-lemon Cream.

2009 Claret \$40
 Befitting Donald's background, this red wine blend is a Claret. Although "claret" has no legal definition, it is generally a term used by

the English when referring to certain red wines of Bordeaux with a light, refreshing style.

This easy-drinking red blend (mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, 100% Napa Valley) is transparent ruby in color. The taste features wild black berries and subtle spice notes. This is supported by well-integrated tannins.

This Claret would go well with Chicken Simmered with Cream and Onions, Roast Duck with Cherries, or Braised Ham with Mushroom Stuffing.

These wines are limited production, each limited to less than 1000 cases, but are well worth seeking out.

Your questions, comments, and suggestions about this column, wines, or spirits are always welcome. Feel free to drop me an email at leo849@mchsi.com.



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For the Love of the Game

It's a cliché often heard in professional sports, yet fans oftentimes have a hard time believing most anyone plays anything for "the love" anymore. Money makes the world go 'round, and it's no different in athletics.

Yet there's something about golf that is connective, even though the sport can be very exclusionary.

Fans can relate to Kevin Na's 16, Ernie Els' putting woes, and even Tiger Woods' club kick. We've been there, done that. We may not see that money, or the endorsement deals, or play the best equipment, but there's an emotional rollercoaster everyone from Joe Sixpack to Rory McIlroy has thrown up on.

The love of the game comes through in golf, thanks in large part to guys like Winfield's Kevin Streelman, who busted it around the mini-tours for years, putting more zeroes on his odometer than his bank account.

He finally made it to the PGA Tour, and has figured out how to survive and thrive out there. This year, the 33-year-old who grew up playing Arrowhead Golf Club and Cantigny Golf in Wheaton has made the cut in six of his 11 starts through the Valero Texas Open, with four of them resulting in top 25 finishes, including two in the top 10 at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the Transitions Championship.

He's a millionaire, by career earnings, yet he's never forgotten what it's like to love the game – the good and the bad.

It's why he remains so connected to us, Joe Sixpack, through social media. He's active on Twitter @Streels54 and even jumps on the golf message board Golfwrx.com for chat sessions.

It's a unique step not many Tour pros take, yet it's one that comes second nature to Streelman. He may not have the hundreds of thousands of followers like Masters champion Bubba Watson (a win would change that, mind you) but he does connect on a real, personal level. His "Tweeps" find him on courses, say hello, share a laugh.

"I just enjoy talking to the fans and meeting them," he said. "I kind of view myself a lot of times as a fan, the way I was before I got on the Tour, and I know how I would have been liked to be treated."

It's a refreshing change of pace. For as connected as we all are now, it seems like the divide between fans and the athletes they cheer for is widening. Yet you can look up how Streelman prepared for his first Masters by viewing his yardage book online. Or his measurements from a variety of other PGA Tour stops.

You can ask him about his favorite golf courses or holes on Tour, or here in Illinois. He'll even break down his equipment to the precise degree and flex.

"That's how I like to do it," he said. "I joke with guys who show pictures of their private lives, but I think it's cool when they show different [things]—if we're playing the 16th or 17th hole on Cypress right now and just put a picture up. It kind of lets people in on something you couldn't do in a newspaper interview or a TV interview. It lets people get a little closer. It's kind of fun."

It's fun for us, too. Maybe it's a Midwestern thing, but if there's one thing you can say about the man known affectionately as "Streels," it's that he does indeed love the game.

- It's never too early to think about the Ryder Cup this September at Medinah Country Club, and best believe Illinois' own touring pros have it in the back of their mind.

Through the Valero Texas Open, fellow Illini Steve Stricker was eighth and Elmhurst resident Mark Wilson was 11th. If Wilson doesn't play his way into automatic qualification, his third place showing at the WGC-Accenture Match Play might go a long way in the mind of captain Davis Love III.

"I haven't talked to Davis about the Ryder Cup," Wilson said. "I'm just letting my play hopefully speak for itself and play some good golf and make the team on my own. But getting all that experience there in match play that week, it was really neat to play six matches and get some experience so that the next time I play match play will probably would be the Ryder Cup if I do make the team. It's nice that I had that many matches to feel the heat of match play."

- You won't be seeing Blackberry Oaks Golf Course head professional Chad Johansen out on the course at a PGA Tour stop anytime soon, but you may be seeing him more around the putting greens, or even on television.

Johansen, who I profiled here in GOLFChicago in June of last year, has had over 70 PGA Tour professionals use his invention – The Perfect Putting Aid – this season.

It was even featured briefly on Golf Channel's "On The Range" when Bo Van Pelt shot a final round 64 at the Masters. Van Pelt, the No. 1 putter on Tour in the category of Strokes Gained, was shown using the aid during practice.

Other players who Johansen has personally shipped a Putting Aid to include major champions Jim Furyk and Y.E. Yang, 2010 PGA Tour winner Derek Lamely and former Ryder Cupper Chip Beck endorse the product as well.

It seems like only a matter of time before a high profile touring professional latches on to this thing and takes it to another level.

It's fun for us,
too. Maybe it's a
Midwestern thing,
but if there's one
thing you can say
about the man
known affectionately
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