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Spring 2021, Vol. 25 No. 2

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Cover: L: Morgan Payne / River Forest Country Club / Senior, University of Illinois
R: Patricia Perez / Glen Oak Country Club / Senior, University of Illinois Photo: Charles Cherney/WGA



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OPENING SHOT

Todd Mrowice

I'm not known for making many declarations in life, but I'm going to make one right now with the eyes of the world upon me. I'm declaring that it's summer! I don't care what Tracy Butler or any other learned meteorologists or fancy degree-holding scientists have to say. It's May, baby! Breakout the shorties, take the doors off of the Jeep (only if you own a Wrangler), and let's have ourselves a good old fashioned Chicago summer...while adhering to CDC and local guidelines, of course.

As a golfing public, we need this. We deserve this. Let's keep all of this positive golf mojo going. Whether you purchased new clubs or you're dusting old ones off, get out and enjoy the fresh air. It's a great time of the year to take some lessons or get your kids involved in the game if they aren't already. Reconnect with friends that you didn't play with last year because of all of the COVID restrictions. Take a little road trip and experience a new golf destination (ideas below). However you choose to experience golf this year, make it fun. And hey, send us some pictures.

Our cover for this issue features the amazing Evans Scholars Foundation. Dave Silbar takes us down a road filled with captivating individual stories that seize the essence of this program and the tremendous work it has done, and continues to do.

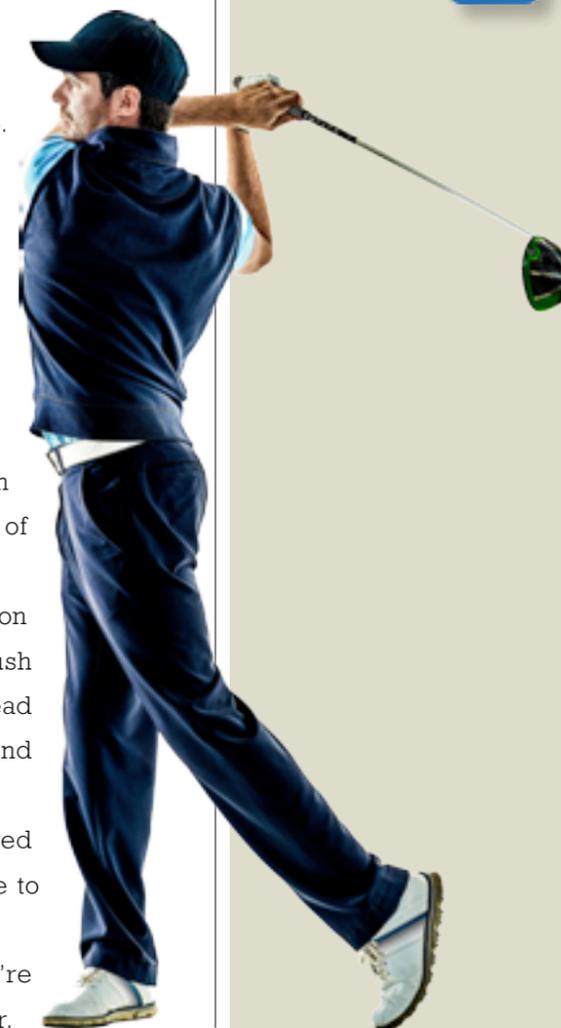
If you're looking for a golf destination, Neal Kotlarek gives you two undeniably great options in the state of Michigan. The Island Resort & Casino, which is an Upper Peninsula getaway, and a golf mecca in the city of Gaylord.

Dave Lockhart delivers another "Link's Gem" as he takes us back in time to the Kankakee Elks Country Club, and Stephen Hawk will give you a great option to sip with "On the Corkscrews." Also, don't skip Jantzen Miserak from The Golf Practice as he takes us through the importance of golf strength and conditioning.

All of that plus our "Good Stuff" to keep you informed on the latest and greatest products. We also put together a push cart feature for all the walkers out there. And if you're a head cover connoisseur, you'll enjoy some of the ones we've found at Chicago-area courses.

Finally, "Final Putt" takes us through the freshly paved path of gambling on golf and all of the outlets available to make your wager.

As always, thank you to all of our loyal readers. We're looking forward to sharing the fairways with you this year.



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THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Todd Mrowice



Sweet Like Honey

The Queen B series from Bettinardi is a staple, and the B6 model is the perfect marriage of blade and mallet. This re-engineered classic is turning heads in an all-new Rose Gold PVD finish with a thinner topline and softened round edges on the toe and heel. A single-bend shaft provides an easier and precise setup at address. The 2021 Queen B lineup offers four models in total.

\$400
bettinardi.com



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arccosgolf.com



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\$50 to \$70
thecloverwhiskey.com



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\$29.99
superstrokeusa.com

If the Boot Fits...

PUMA's Ignite genre of shoe has become one of the most popular in the game. Their new Fasten8 Disc integrated webbing straps for a secure fit. A Flat-Knit Mesh structure and PVRFrame TPU overlay make this shoe breathable with a one-year waterproof warranty. Also available in a standard lace option and in six colorways.

\$120
cobragolf.com



One Size Fits None

Did you buy your suit from the rack? Didn't think so. Edel brings truly custom-fit wedges to consumers with the new SMS wedges which feature three interchangeable weights to finely tune to your swing. Available in four grind options and seven lofts, these wedges are carved from Japanese 1025 carbon steel and feature full face grooves for optimum spin.

\$199.99
edelgolf.com



Jantzen Miserak

Don't Move Your Lips. Just Shake Your Hips.

From driving the ball a long distance to having the touch to hit a delicate chip shot around the green, golf is a game with many elements. As golfers we have been taught that spending countless hours at the practice facility searching for consistency will lead to lower scores. But fatigue is bound to set in after hours of practice and playing rounds of golf that could last a full afternoon.

When your hips get tight and your lower back starts to flare up, that is when we often overlook an essential element of the game. Physical fitness.

At the end of the day, our body is what swings the club. I've found that the better a golfer can be in tune with their body and how it moves, the better their ball striking becomes.

In the off season I coach a golf conditioning class. This golf-specific program is designed to develop students' body, mind, and at the end of the day, their scores. More specifically we focus on:

- Body awareness
- Mobility of joints
- Core strength
- Power/Speed
- Physical endurance
- Injury prevention

These attributes of fitness are all designed to help any athlete perform, particularly golfers. Increased body awareness and wrist and grip strength will allow golfers to swing the golf club more efficiently, resulting in better ball striking. Overall strength and conditioning will help golfers maintain better posture while swinging and walking during practice and play on the course.

So how can you begin? For starters, let's prime for movement.

Spine and hip mobility are always two things I focus on with my students, particularly in the gym before training sessions. My goal is to loosen up their thoracic spine and basic hip movements of internal and external rotation. For the spine, the thoracic is the middle portion of the spine most responsible for allowing you to maintain posture. Golfers that lack mobility in their thoracic spine can more often than not experience lower back pain in the lumbar spine. To avoid this tendency I recommend looking in the mirror from a side view. Try to achieve a completely straight spine! Most golfers will need to "scoop" their hips under and then elevate their chest

to essentially stretch the spine straight. After finding a straight spine position, "hug" your arms around you and begin to rotate as much as possible from side to side while maintaining a straight spine. Try to rotate further with each repetition to create a new range of motion.

With our hips and how they work in the golf swing, I tend to mobilize and work a lot of internal rotation of the hip joint. Think of a track athlete jumping hurdles. The way their back leg has to rotate back to their body to get back in stride after jumping a hurdle is generally the same motion of the hip we need in our back swings as golfers. Internal rotation of the right hip for a right-handed golfer allows for stability and prevents shifting side to side while swinging into the backswing. This same motion in the target side hip can create tremendous power in the downswing transition.

After mobility, I want the student to feel success within that new range of motion.

I think a lot of the time when golfers are told to "swing more with their body," they just fire their hips. This can cause a very draw-biased swing or missed

shots like a drop kick or thinned shots. A more successful way of articulating this to students, I've found, is to focus on their entire torso turning at the same time to start the swing. Cueing students to move this way allows them to move their thoracic spine in a bigger range of motion.

I really enjoy using a shaft extension on the end of a golf club to help blend this thoracic rotation. Using your body to start the swing can make the club feel foreign, so I like having an extension to connect students back to the club. After swinging back to a strong position, by the time of impact you should be able to feel the extension on the target side hip and then stay connected into the follow through.

Give these movements a try. Prime for more rotation in the spine, open up those hips, and connect it all together with the help of a shaft extension. I hope this leads to a smooth and pain-free swing.

Jantzen Miserak is Senior Coach and Junior Program Director at The Golf Practice www.thegolfpractice.com



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Big changes are coming to The Bluffs in 2021! Visit our website at heritagebluffs.com/construction-updates to stay up to date with everything happening!

(815) 467-7888 HeritageBluffs.com



A Golden Oldie

One of the beauties of our sport is all of the unique and wonderful land that we play and compete on. The Kankakee Elks Club sounds more like a place to gather than to play the game. Turn back the clock to the late 1920s when two of golf's most respected curators, William B. Langford and Theodore Moreau, devised a plan for a private course and getaway for the high rollers of the day. Set alongside the Kankakee River, this semi-private facility has been open to the masses for many years, and boy are we lucky. Unspoiled and quiet, the pure undulating landscape is a welcome change from the hectic, sometimes humdrum, courses of Chicagoland. Langford, a Chicago native, was quite a player and brainiac back in the day. He excelled at Yale University, where he was captain of the golf team, and then continued his education receiving a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. Moreau was the creative shaper, crafting subtle mounding throughout the layout, punctuated by fun and distinctive elevated greens where most putts can present a challenge.

Dr. Karl Keller a longtime member and Kankakee Elks Country Club Trustee says this about the layout, "The biggest thing people notice when they first get here is the green complexes which are mostly all elevated. You don't want to have

situations where you short-side yourself or go over the greens."

Langford and Moreau came along in the golden age of architecture and their most impressive and popular course may be Lawsonia Links in Green Lake, Wisc. That course is a one of the top ranked in the Land of Cheese and is truly a must-play inland links layout. By the way, Langford was recognized for his entire body of work by being inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame in 2019.

Kankakee Elks looks innocent and open at first glance, but the routing is stellar. Once you get out there and tee it up, you will notice that to do well it's about positioning your ball for the best angle to the pin. There is only one water hazard and only a handful of sand bunkers that come into play. Back in the day, here was an interesting quote from Langford, "Hazards should be placed so that a player can avoid them if he gauges his ability correctly, so that they will make every man's game more interesting, no matter what class player he is, and offer a reward commensurate with the players ability."

This course was integrated into the land and not forced upon it. It was created in the era before bulldozers, so this place has a natural and real feeling about it. It's like stepping back in time. You'll be sure to hit every club in the bag on this

par-72 design with a slope of 124 and a rating of 71.6 from the nearly 6,600 yard back tees.

"I think the best thing here is the value and the quality of the golf. I think if you come down here and play it once, you'll want to come back many times to enjoy the Langford design, it's a beautiful course," said Jim Webber, Kankakee Elks County Club's Director of Golf

Located just outside of Kankakee in the town of St. Anne, Ill., this facility is about an hour south of The Windy City. Beat the crowds and take a trip over here to play this track. It is an incredible bargain, coming in at only \$28 on the Monday special, \$35 on Tuesday through Friday, and \$45 on weekends and holidays.

It's an old-fashioned design that won't beat you up; however, you still have to employ ball position strategy and, of course, putt your ball well to score well. The bottom line is that you can't re-create the golden age of architecture, so get here and enjoy this step back in time. Kankakee Elks is certainly a hidden gem and a true "Links Gem" for sure!

Kankakee Elks Country Club
www.elksclub627.com
 2283 Bittersweet Drive
 St. Anne, IL 60964
 815.937.9547



Photos: Andy Johnson of The Fried Egg



7th Hole



14th Hole

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Where to Watch The Best in 2021

Between the Chicago area and some short road trips, you can get out and watch the best players in the world in 2021. Of course, all events and states will have their own restrictions based around COVID-19, but if you're up for it, here's what's coming our way:

Evans Scholar Invitational

May 26 - 30, The Glen Club (Glenview)



The Korn Ferry Tour's Chicago stop is at one of our most respected public courses in The Glen Club. Curtis Thompson won in

2020 with household name Will Zalatoris as a runner-up. Scottie Scheffler won in 2019. Attendance is complimentary thanks to SERVPRO of Glenview.

esinvitational.com

Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

June 17 - 20, Blythefield Country Club (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

If you want to watch the best women in the game you'll have to make the short drive to Grand Rapids, MI. Plenty of golf along the way for yourself, too! This event has been a birdie barrage for Brooke Henderson as the defending champion and winner in 2017.

meijerlpgaclassic.com

John Deere Classic

July 8 - 11, TPC Deere Run (Silvis)



Celebrating 50 years, the JDC is so much more than a golf tournament. This event raises millions of dollars annually with the Birdies for Charity program. In 2020, with a canceled event, \$12.2 million to 465 Quad City-area charities! Dylan Frittelli is the defending champion from 2019.

johndeereclassic.com

Women's Western Amateur

July 19 - 24, Park Ridge Country Club (Park Ridge)



With this event, the PRCC will host a Women's Western Golf Association event for the third time, but the first since 1944! The field includes highly accomplished international amateurs, many of whom will be seen at the collegiate and professional

levels going forward.

womenswesternamateur.com

Western Amateur

July 26 - 31, Glen View Club (Golf)



156 invited amateurs will vie to have their name etched on the George R. Thorne Trophy along with Woods, Mickelson, Crenshaw, Nicklaus, and so many more. The 156 gets cut to 44, then ultimately to the "Sweet Sixteen" to compete in match play

on Friday and Saturday.

thewesternamateur.com

Ryder Cup

September 24 - 26, Whistling Straits (Kohler, Wisc.)



The 43rd Ryder Cup was originally scheduled for last year, but so were a lot of things. On their soil, the U.S. will try to avenge a 2018 loss to Europe where the Fleetwood/Molinari pairing dominated. Steve Stricker

captains the U.S. (fitting for Wisconsin) and Pádraig Harrington leads Europe.

rydercup.com

Arnold Palmer Cup Coming to Rich Harvest Farms: What to Know



Rich Harvest Farms is getting an encore as host course of the Arnold Palmer Cup. It's the only club to have that distinction, aside from Mr. Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge, as Jerry Rich's creation in Sugar Grove also hosted the event in 2015.

The Arnold Palmer Cup takes place June 11 - 13 and is truly one of the most unique events in golf as it showcases a collection of the best young golf talent across the world. The structure of a United States versus International team competition is nothing new to the game, but when teams are comprised of 12 men and 12 women, all at the collegiate level, that is what makes it polarizing.

Points are awarded based on each match with formats consisting of match play, mixed four ball, mixed foursomes, and singles. As in similar competitions, the most points after four rounds takes the trophy with a tie going to the current holder. In this case, that would be the International team as they won it in 2020. The United States is looking to end its drought as they haven't won since 2018 despite owning the all-time series lead 12-11-1.

In early May, members of both teams were announced with the state of Illinois having two representatives.

Irene Kim, a sophomore at Northwestern and Preseason Big Ten Honoree, will represent the U.S. along

with some returning Palmer Cup players in Julia Johnson (Ole Miss), Gina Kim (Duke), Emilia Migliaccio (Wake Forest), and Latanna Stone (LSU).

The U.S. squad is rounded out by Ricky Castillo (Florida), Pierceson Coody (Texas), Allisen Corpuz (Southern California), Rachel Kuehn (Wake Forest), Brooke Matthews (Arkansas), and Trent Phillips (Georgia).

Competing in their first Palmer Cup are Sam Bennett (Texas A&M), Jacob Bridgeman (Clemson), Nick Gabrelcik (North Florida), Ryan Hall (South Carolina), Hanna Harrison (Dallas Baptist), Lauren Hartlage (Louisville), Dylan Menante (Pepperdine), William Moll (Vanderbilt), Trevor Norby (Oklahoma Christian), Brad Reeves (Arizona), Erica Shepherd (Duke), Benjamin Shipp (NC State), and Kate Smith (Nebraska).

The Illinois tie-in for the International team is Adrien Dumont de Chassart, a junior at the University of Illinois and recently named co-Big Ten Golfer of the Year. The Belgian will be joined by teammates representing 14 countries including Puwit Anupansuebsai (San Diego State/Thailand), Alex Fitzpatrick (Wake Forest/England), Yuxin Lin (Florida/China), Ingrid Lindblad (LSU/Sweden), David Puig (Arizona State/Spain), Paulne Roussin-Bouchard (South Carolina/France), and Emma Spitz (UCLA/Austria), and Agathe Laisne (Texas/France).

Competing in their first Palmer Cup for the International team are Penny Brown (Stirling/Scotland), Eugenio Chacarra (Oklahoma State/Spain), Adrien Dumont de Chassart (Illinois/Belgium), Isabella Fierro (Oklahoma State/Mexico), Karen Fredgaard (Houston/Sweden), Allan Hill (Maynooth/Ireland), Bo Jin (Oklahoma State/China), Pontus Nyholm (Campbell/Sweden), Virunpat Olankitkunchai (Maryland/Thailand), Joseph Pagdin (Florida/England), Ana Pelaez Trivino (South Carolina/Spain), Julian Perico (Arkansas/Spain), Emily Price (Kent State/England), Hugo Townsend (Boise State/Sweden), Beatrice Wallin (Florida State/Sweden), and Lauren Walsh (Wake Forest/Ireland).

Rich Harvest Farms adds its second Arnold Palmer Cup to a growing list of hosted events including the 2017 NCAA National Golf Championships. The club is consistently recognized on all major course ranking guides and is also home to the Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois.

For more information on the 2021 Arnold Palmer Cup visit arnoldpalmercup.com.

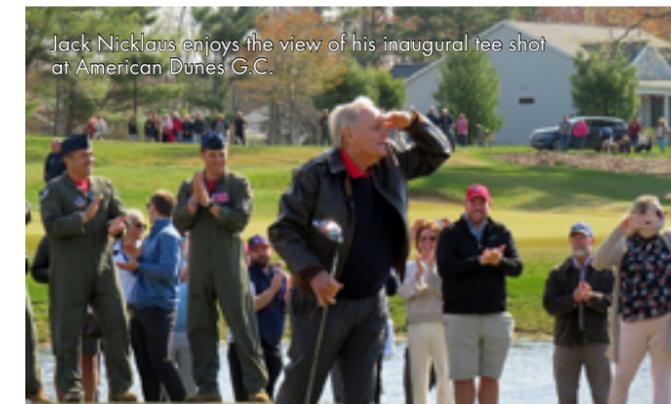
For more information on Rich Harvest Farms visit richharvestfarms.com.

Nicklaus Opens Grand Haven's American Dunes G.C. with a Bang

If Grand Haven, MI seems like an unlikely spot for a gala celebration, it is. This idyllic area abutting Lake Michigan in southwest Michigan is known far more for tulip festivals and farmers markets than it is for golf royalty. But on the first Sunday of May, Jack and Barbara Nicklaus were joined by the likes of Nancy Lopez, Kid Rock, celebrated fighter pilots Robert Pardo and Steve Wayne, country singer Lee Brice, and even the Budweiser Clydesdales to celebrate the grand opening of American Dunes Golf Club.

It was conceived in 2007 by former fighter pilot Lt. Col Dan Rooney as a funding engine for the Folds of Honor

scholarship program that has aided the children of disabled and deceased veterans with more than 29,000 scholarships. The public golf course is located at the former Grand Haven G.C. but was redesigned as a dunes layout gratis by Nicklaus. The legendary PGA Tour superstar and golf architect oversaw the removal of over 2,000 trees to unveil the dunes hidden underneath. The original golf course was owned by the Rooney family. The new property, which features iconic images and boot prints of fallen U.S. soldiers, will earmark all profits to the scholarship program.



An F-16 pilot with three tours of duty, Rooney partnered with four other investors to establish American Dunes LLC to pay for the layout renovation. Nicklaus waived his standard \$3 million design fee to support the charity. Supported by a 21-gun salute, the playing of taps, and a military plane fly-over, Nicklaus launched the inaugural tee shot down the first fairway while hundreds of community members, patrons, guests and celebrities applauded. Even prior to the course opening following the ceremony, some 11,000 rounds have been booked in support of Folds of Honor. For more information and to initiate a tee time reservation, visit www.americandunesgolfclub.com



Klein Creek to Host Folds of Honor Par-3 Event

If you're a great stick on par-3 holes and you love your country, mark your calendar for Monday, June 14th. That's the date when Winfield's Klein Creek Golf Club will host a very special Par-3 Flag Day Tournament in which all 18 holes are set as par 3s, with \$10,000 hole-in-one prizes on all holes and where 18 finalists earn the right to participate in a \$1 million shootout. Best of all, proceeds from the event will

benefit Folds of Honor—the charity started by Lt. Col Dan Rooney which provides scholarships to families of America's fallen and disabled veterans. For a green fee of \$250, players will receive lunch, a 1 p.m. shotgun start, 5 p.m. happy hour, the \$1 million shootout, and a 7 p.m. dinner. For more details and registration, visit www.kleincreek.com/FOH.

Brown Named New Director of Golf at Grand Geneva



Grand Geneva Resort & Spa has announced Ryan Brown (formerly at Eagle Ridge Resort) as successor to Dave Hallenbeck as Director of Golf at the popular Lake Geneva resort. After 48 years running golf operations,

Hallenbeck has announced his retirement but will continue in a new role as golf ambassador at the property.

"We are very excited to welcome Ryan to the Grand Geneva team," said Stephen Magnuson, managing director. "He brings a wealth of knowledge, skill, and expertise in golf marketing and the sport in general."

Brown will oversee and manage daily operations and golf initiatives at Grand Geneva's two award-winning golf courses, The Brute and The Highlands. An 11-year PGA member, he began his career working at Boyne Resorts in Michigan and was an assistant pro at Pine Lake Country Club in Detroit.

Paul Joins Bolingbrook Golf Academy

BJ Paul has been named PGA Director of Player Development at Bolingbrook Golf Academy. The program is based out of the panoramic Bolingbrook Golf Club. In accepting his role, Paul stated that his goal was to help golfers locate "their true potential, on and off the golf course." Paul has been teaching golf for over 18 years and teaches all ages and ability levels.



From left, Amanda, Sarla, Lois, and BJ Paul.

New for the 2021 season are spring training classes that focus on the fundamentals of putting, chipping, pitching and full-swing. Paul oversees other PGA Professional

golf instructors who conduct the classes at the academy. For more information on men's, women's and junior classes (both spring and summer sessions available), call 630-771-400, ext. 4500 or contact Paul at bjpaul@bolingbrookgolfclub.com.

Naperville Junior Golfer Awarded Youth on Course Scholarship



Photo: Buffalo Agency

Youth on Course, a non-profit dedicated to "opening doors, supporting dreams and transforming the lives of young people," announced its 2021 scholarships which total \$296,000 to 20 recipients. Among those 20 is Naperville's Leland Pan. A senior at Matea Valley High School in Aurora, Pan is heading to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with an intended major of political science.

For more information on Youth on Course and the opportunities the organization provides to help young people grow both on and off the golf course visit youthon-course.org.

Heritage Bluffs Initiates New Clubhouse Construction

Channahon's popular Heritage Bluffs has unveiled designs on a new elegant clubhouse expected to open in 2022. The club's website showcases renderings of a new bar area, dining room, and outdoor patio. All of which are a part of an approved design by the Channahon Park District Board of Commissioners from a board meeting this past January.

As described on the club's website: "With the mission of bringing people together in mind, the design is centered around moments and the experience. Whether that moment is a round of golf and lunch on a Tuesday or a special occasion, the hope is that everyone will leave the Bluffs anticipating their return."

The centerpiece of this 166-acre public facility just south of Joliet is an acclaimed championship golf course designed by Dick Nugent. Recognized as one of the top 10 new public golf courses in the nation by *Golf Digest* when it opened in 1993, the course is characterized by sweeping sand bunkers, large greens, great views, and hilly topography.

Heritage Bluffs Golf Club is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary with birds and wildlife sightings readily available. The *Zagat Survey* lists the course as one of the top 50 best values in the U.S. For tee times, visit www.heritagebluffs.com

Raoul, Kin Earn First Place at First Tee Champions Challenge

Two members of the Greater Chicago Chapter of the First Tee won the 3-day Champions Challenge event played at Quail Creek Country Club in Naples, Fla. Ahmad Raoul and Mason Kim competed against 11 other First Tee chapters from around the country and were coached by Erika

Shavers. They also participated in a community service project at the Collier County Museum during their trip.

The First Tee is an international youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its core values to young people. For more information about summer programs run by the group, visit www.first-teegreaterchicago.org.



Ahmad Raoul (left), Erika Shavers and Mason Kim

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We've Got You Covered

Not all that long ago, head covers were an afterthought. The manufacturer provided one with the club you bought, it would get sun-drenched for a decade or two, and then you would inevitably lose it or just pitch it due to it being unsightly. And that was if you cared. We all know someone that doesn't seem to mind the incessant "clanking" in the back of the golf cart. Or, even worse, someone that doesn't mind using an old sock.

But in the present day, head covers are an extension of your golf bag. They fall under the "look good, feel good, play good" mantra. And there are companies thriving with handcrafted, limited-run offerings that can offer a subtle classic look, or can say just about anything you want on them.

Golf and country clubs all across the U.S. have caught on to the trend, and recognize that carrying a premium head cover in their golf shops is almost a badge of honor that gets displayed and played. Thankfully, Instagram has provided an easy outlet for clubs in the Chicagoland area to show theirs off.

Arrowhead Golf Club Wheaton

It is no surprise that one of the area's top public courses has a premium cover, featuring the club's signature arrow design and script sprawled over your choice of red, white, or blue.

Cantigny Golf Club Wheaton

The iconic leaf logo that you'll find on most Cantigny merch, but incorporating the Chicago flag (driver cover) or your choice of the Stars and Stripes or Chicago flag on the mallet covers.

Chicago Highlands Club Westchester

The bluebird, the skyline, Harry Caray, Chicago Fire Dept. shield, Wrigley marquee, Navy Pier, and the Chicago flag. If you're lucky enough to play here, why wouldn't you get one?

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club Lemont

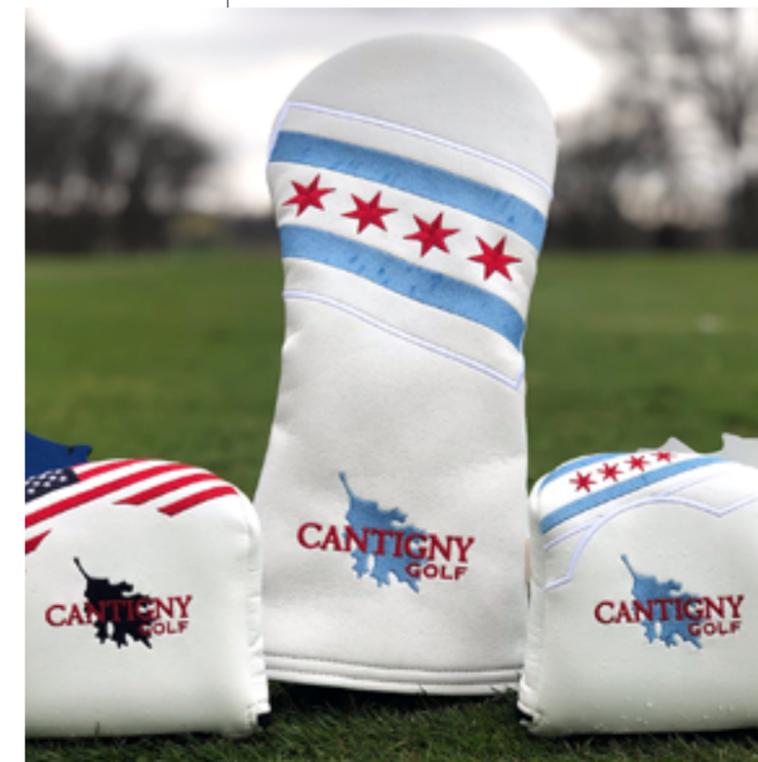
How cool would this putter cover look in your "man cave"? The legendary Dubsdread layout being the focal point with the club logo and course yardage stitched into a sleek black cover.

Schaumburg Golf Club Schaumburg

The simplicity and functionality are key here. SGC's classic crest, which has been in place since 1989, is stitched into a jet-black synthetic front. Very Gary Player-esque. The back is plush and is the type of cover you should travel with.

Olympia Fields Country Club Olympia Fields

The regal clock tower is all you need to know where this cover came from. Pretty sure these covers smell like professional golf. The hard part? Old Glory or the Four Stars.



All photos provided by the listed clubs.





The Harbor Shores Experience

When it comes to escaping city life for a golf adventure, Chicagoans are blessed to be a short drive away from some of the best courses in the country across Michigan and Wisconsin. Whether it's up the sunrise side (Wisconsin) or the sunset side (Michigan) of Lake Michigan, an endless variety of award-winning championship golf awaits.

For those looking to avoid a long drive, a two-hour jaunt out of the city to the southwest corner of Michigan fits the bill perfectly. A few exits into Michigan, take the exit to Benton Harbor and enjoy a short lakeside drive toward Harbor Shores Resort.

When my foursome drove across Benton Harbor, we immediately noticed the revitalized areas and multi-purpose developments that have sprung up over the last decade since the opening of Harbor Shores. The marquee attraction of this expansive property is a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design golf course which, since 2012, has hosted the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship every other year, which returns in 2022.

The course is a treat for many reasons, most critically: the layout's scenic location, including one hole towering above the blue waters of Lake Michigan; the course's challenge featuring strategic bunkering and water hazards abutting many greens; and the property's historic transition from blight to championship golf venue.

More than 75 years ago, Benton Harbor was a booming industrial town when local Whirlpool plants and factories were transformed into Franklin Delano Roosevelt's arsenal of democracy as it transitioned to building components for fighter planes.

Following the war, the town evolved into a vibrant manufacturing center through the 1960s, only for it to slowly devolve into a cycle of poverty and crime over the ensuing two decades. By the early 2000s, a plan was desperately needed to level empty factories, remove millions of tons of industrial materials and contaminated soil, and find a new source of jobs and hope for Benton Harbor's future.

Our foursome checked into the resort and secured one of the property's new Champions Villas, conveniently located along the first fairway next to the clubhouse. Golf luxury is the best way to describe this 2,000 square foot, 4-bedroom/4-bath unit equipped with a full kitchen and open living space. It was a spacious accommodation for our group as the villa can host as many as eight.

We couldn't wait to get to the first tee the next morning to experience the course where some of the Champions Tour's legendary golfers have played. Nicklaus tabbed the layout as one of his 18 favorite designs of all time. It was built largely on what was once polluted land crowded with factories. In fact, Nos. 4 and 5, a fun challenging par 3 and par 5, were once a dumping site for a company that made automobile brakes. Holes 14 and 15, two of the most scenic holes now on the property set along the Paw Paw River, were a former Superfund site once occupied by a company that used radium and mercury to manufacture components for fighter planes. Through singular engineering and vision, the course now runs across four remarkably diverse and beautiful terrains including a photogenic setting along the

coastal dunes of Lake Michigan. When we reached holes 7 through 9, we knew we had reached hallowed ground. Nicklaus strategically routed these holes through the sand dunes adjacent to the revitalized Jean Klock Park. Someone in our group cleverly referenced this stretch as "Golden Bear Dunes."

The back nine brought more beauty and challenge around wetlands and the Paw Paw River. The 10th hole serves up a 20,000 square foot green which was the site of one of Jack's greatest shots ever. Do yourself a favor and search for the video to watch the greatest golfer ever sink one of the most unlikely putts imaginable. The course appropriately finishes with a great par 4 which runs directly along the river. Not too long ago, this body of water was contaminated. Today, it is a popular spot for canoeing and is now home to over 30 species of fish.

In addition to the villas, another major component to the development, complementing the golf experience, is The Inn at Harbor Shores. A 92-room luxury hotel on the St. Joseph River, The Inn also features 14 luxury suites, two top-floor condominiums, a rooftop meeting space, and a wide selection of dining options.

As we drove away from the property, our group unanimously approved a return visit. The resort's Champions Package was perfect and included two nights lodging, unlimited golf and, yes, unlimited food and beverage for the four of us. To book the package or find more information on Harbor Shores Resort, visit www.harborshoresresort.com or call (269) 927-4653.



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The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on just about every facet of our lives. Thankfully for those of us that love this crazy game, we had an option to escape, even if it was for nine holes. We worked around pool noodles and not having beverage carts and we're coming out stronger on the other side. With riding cart restrictions, many took to retailers near and far to find themselves a push cart. If you were lucky enough to score one it was like winning the lottery. Manufacturers could never have prepared for the onslaught of demand that came their way. With production carrying through the winter months, you can now find yourself a trolley if you so desire. As we look back on how the pandemic changed our golf practices we'll find that it created a renewed love for taking our courses in, step-by-step. Here are some of our favorite push carts for this year.

Clicgear Model 8.0+

Our only featured model with four wheels, the Model 8.0+ from Clicgear is the ultimate in stability. This cart has a patented slide-to-close mechanism making for an easy collapse. A front brake lever powers dual front-wheel brakes and has accessory mounts for all of the cool Clicgear extras. Available in three colors. Weight: 22 lbs. | \$319 clicgearusa.com



Bag Boy Nitron

One step is all it takes to quickly deploy the Nitron from Bag Boy with assistance from Nitro-Piston Technology. This cart has a compact folded design and features Top-Lok Technology, a patented bag-to-cart attachment system. Includes an extra large accessory space and umbrella holder. Available in seven color options. Weight: 16.75 lbs. | \$259.95 bagboy.com



MGI Zip Navigator

And here you've been pushing this whole time?! The Zip Navigator from MGI is lavish. It's (by far) the most expensive featured here, yes. But it has a full directional remote control which allows you to roam free from the fairway to the trees. Automatic downhill speed control, Lithium 24v 380w battery, and so many jealous onlookers. Weight: 34.96 lbs. | \$1,495 us.mgigolf.com



A Good Walk (a Little Less) Spoiled

Todd Mrowice

BIG MAX Auto Fold FF

Europe's leading trolley company is making big strides in the U.S., particularly with their Autofold FF model. Flat Fold technology allows this unit to fold in a matter of seconds and, you guessed it, super flat. Thus, the Autofold FF fits easily into your trunk or wherever you store it for the winter. Available in four colors. Weight: 17.41 lbs. | \$329.99 us.bigmaxgolf.com



Sun Mountain Speed Cart GX

Since 1999, the Speed Cart from Sun Mountain has had numerous installments, each better than the last. The new Speed Cart GX comes with a mesh basket and a standard size drink holder. Improved upper and lower brackets allow for easier bag adjustment and it folds in two steps. Available in eight colors. Weight: 17.85 lbs. | \$249.99 sunmountain.com



Walker Trolley Cape Model 1.5

There's a push cart for just about everyone. The space conscious, the new-age, and even the tech savvy. But what about the purists? The Cape 1.5 might look like a throwback, but the materials are sheik. Waxed canvas, leather, and anodized aluminum. It's like pushing your clubs in a Rolls Royce. And yes, those are air-filled rubber tires. It even holds up on rainy days as the bottom storage area has a drainage feature. Weight: 19 lbs. | \$429 walkertrolleys.com



From Grant Letter to Offer Letter

How earning an Evans Scholarship is a gift for life.

Dave Silbar



It would have been easy for Daniel Shkempi to have buried his head in the sand when his father passed away in 2016. At the time, Daniel was an eighth grader in the midst of applying to several northside college preparatory schools.

Instead, he continued to bury his head into his schoolwork and landed his first job, as a caddy at nearby Oak Park Country Club. Shortly thereafter, he received some overwhelmingly good news: admission into prestigious Walter Payton College Prep.

"I was playing basketball when my mom opened the acceptance letter and she came out crying, she was so happy," Daniel recalls. "When I learned why she was crying the emotions swept over me. I was so happy. We were both standing there sobbing."

The son of Albanian parents, Daniel is one of eight Oak Park Country Club caddies who received the coveted Evans Scholarship for academic excellence this year. The takeaway: full coverage of his college tuition, most likely to either Purdue University or the University of Illinois in Champaign, and a sense of relief for both himself and his mom, who works as a personal caregiver.

"My dad always wanted me to succeed academically, and I wouldn't have been doing the right thing had I sat around and moped every day (following his death) so I continued to get good grades and continued to try my hardest in school and everything else that I did," recalls Shkembali.

Like most Evans Scholars, Daniel's story is as unique as it is inspiring. Born the 4th of July, 2003, his summer days are spent working at the club from sun up until sundown, oftentimes arriving at 6 a.m. and not leaving until 9:30 p.m.

"I knew about the Evans Scholarship when I started and knew I had to work my hardest to earn it," he says. "I can't believe I'm going to say this, but I feel as if the Evans Scholar acceptance letter meant even more to me (than being accepted at Payton College Prep). Getting a full ride to college to further my education means so much to me. I know my dad is watching over me and that he is so proud."

The Evans Scholarship is named for Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. and is administered by the Glenview-based Western Golf Association. Criteria for winning the scholarship is based on a strong caddy record, excellent academics, demonstrated financial need, and outstanding character. An estimated 300 scholarships were awarded across the country for the class of 2021.

Unlike Daniel, Elijah Lancaster knew nothing about the Evans Scholarship and even less about the game of golf when he showed up on the steps of Evanston Golf Club looking for a job back in 2012. As an 8th grader getting ready to attend Niles West High School in Skokie, Lancaster is the oldest of seven children, with three of his siblings being adopted.

"With six brothers and sisters, I knew I needed to get out of the house and find a job if I wanted to go to college," recalls Lancaster. "I was going to have to pay for college but had no idea that the Evans Scholarship existed."

Eight years later, Elijah's life has come full circle. He is an Evans Scholar finishing up his collegiate career at the University of Colorado in Boulder. A double major (finance and accounting), he will begin his professional career in the fall working for consulting giant RSM in Denver.

For Elijah, the caddy learning curve was fairly severe at first, especially considering he didn't know anything about the game. "When I first started, I recall seeing a fellow caddy pull out a rangefinder and had no idea what it was," he laughs. "I caddied really hard that first year and at the year-end awards ceremony got my own rangefinder as a prize. I was working about 60 hours a week, biking several miles to and from work; I would leave home at 5:15 and stay at the club the whole day. Since there was a ton of caddies, I had to set myself apart. A lot of times I would get two loops per day and some of the others I wouldn't get any."

Evanston Golf Club also gave Elijah the encouragement he needed to learn how to play.



advice and there were so many who were willing to meet with me. I wasn't asking them for a job, but so many had influential roles with some big companies and were willing to talk to me. It shows you the type of fraternity Evans Scholars truly is."

Elijah's Niles West teammate Desmond O'Shaughnessy, also an Evans Scholar, will graduate this year from Northwestern University

and is equally as thankful for the opportunity. A triplet, the Evans Scholarship meant that there was one less college tuition bill Desmond's parents would be receiving.

A math and economics double major, Desmond worked last year for the Northwestern Global Poverty Research Lab, a research center for development and economic and other disciplines. In the summer of 2019, he received a grant from the Department of African studies and studied Swahili for two months in Zanzibar.

An Evans Scholar via Ridgemoor Country Club, O'Shaughnessy started caddying during his sophomore year of high school. "The Evans Scholarship has been the most important part of my four years here at Northwestern," he says. "It's cool in a lot of aspects because it takes a bunch of different caddies who are like-minded in work ethic and we have to learn to come together in order to all get along and kind of form our own culture. It's been a great alternative to regular Greek Life because it brings together a lot of people from a diverse background with different interests, and I've benefited enormously from that."

"Since the beginning of our Program in 1930, the Evans Scholars Foundation has had a life-changing impact on young caddies who have financial need," said WGA Chairman Kevin Buggy. "These students put in years of hard work both on the golf course and in the classroom

He played all four years at Niles West, his final two seasons as a member of coach Mitch Stern's varsity team. "Elijah may not have been our best player, but he was always dedicated to his team and always determined to work on improving his game," his coach remembers. "I was confident that Elijah would be successful in whatever path his career would take him following high school."

Maximizing his Evans Scholarship was a goal that Lancaster set well before he ever stepped foot in Boulder. "I will have secured a double major as well as a minor in education, which will be helpful when I enter the business world this fall," he notes. "I've always wanted to be in a position of leadership, whether working as a pastor in a church or a leader in the business world. The Evans Scholarship has allowed me to really set myself up well for after college."

The scholarship also paid dividends during Elijah's search for his first post-college job. COVID-19 has made finding a job much more difficult for graduating seniors as they are now competing with a large chunk of the American workforce who have found themselves jobless due to the pandemic.

"The alumni have been incredible throughout my job search," adds Elijah, who estimates he sent more than 200 resumes to companies across the country. "I reached out to a lot of Evans Scholars alumni on LinkedIn asking for

to qualify for the Evans Scholarship. They have shown dedication, commitment, and sacrifice, and we are honored to help them pursue their dreams of a college education."

For Chicagoan Mary Dunne, it was the people skills learned via the Evans Scholars program that have enabled her to successfully work her way up the corporate ladder. The oldest of three sisters—all caddies and all Evans Scholars by way of Bryn Mawr Country Club—Mary is an advertising executive for media giant Viacom/CBS. A 2012 graduate from Marquette University, Mary's story is yet another in a long line of unique Evans Scholars folklore.

Along with sisters Margaret and Annie, Mary (whose maiden name is Moran) grew up on the near north side. When her grandmother was diagnosed with dementia when Mary was in 3rd grade, the Moran family moved her into their home. Mom left her job as a nurse at Swedish Covenant Hospital and dad left his as an accountant at Misericordia to take care of grandma.

"It was a huge sacrifice that my parents made but they somehow made it work," recalls Mary. "I never felt like I was missing out, though, and saw it as a blessing in disguise because my parents were around all of the time throughout my whole childhood. A lot of Evans Scholars aren't as fortunate. I never felt like my parents were absent because they were around all the time."

Gaining acceptance into Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Mary would rely on a CTA train and two buses for nearly all four years to get to and from school every day. Thanks to a recommendation from a neighbor, Mary landed her first job as one of only a handful of female caddies at nearby Bryn Mawr. And while her sister would eventually follow in her footsteps, Mary really helped pave the way.

"Because I was one of the only girls, it was a little lonely at the beginning, but was a great opportunity for me because I was so shy when I was younger," she laughs. "Hanging out with guys in the caddie yard shaped my career and taught me to be a more confident woman in the workplace. And that has gone well beyond just the office environment and has extended into my extracurricular activities with various Evans Scholars programming."

Serving as President during 2017 and 2018 for the Evans Scholars Leadership Council, Mary has played an integral role in helping young professionals expand their networks and get more involved in the Evans Scholars program as emerging business and civic leaders.

A former co-chair of the Evans Scholars Chicago Young Alumni Committee, Mary played a vital part in helping provide a forum to connect Evans Scholars through various events and activities, creating long-lasting alumni bonds, and encouraging continued commitment and contribution to the future of the Foundation.

Because I was one of the only girls, it was a little lonely at the beginning, but was a great opportunity for me because I was so shy when I was younger. Hanging out with guys in the caddie yard shaped my career and taught me to be a more confident woman in the workplace.

"Every couple of years I take on a new role and get little volunteer promotions, but the scholarship will be with me the rest of my life. These people will always be my tribe," she says.

And while it may have helped her come out of her shell as a young lady, the Evans Scholars program has helped Mary throughout her professional career path. In fact, she says that each job she's had since graduating from Marquette has in some way been fostered by her employer knowing about Evans Scholars.

"The credibility of the scholarship has been incredible," she says before chuckling, "Nearly every position I've held in terms of internships and jobs is somehow linked back to the Evans Scholarship. It's funny, but someone knowing what the scholarship was during my interviews made the rest of the rounds of interviews kind of melt away."

"Being in sales, I'm always meeting new people and hands down the best thing the Evans Scholarship taught me was people skills.

Introducing and creating first impressions with lots of new people, the scholarship gives me automatic credibility."

Aside from what it has meant for her professionally, Mary adds: "Putting the scholarship aside, caddying as a job makes you a more confident young woman. It introduces you to a variety of personality types; in life you'll have to work with lots of different people, and being a caddy allows you to read people better and to also learn how to be more empathetic. If someone has a bad shot and gets agitated, it may be more than just golf that's on his or her mind and it teaches you how to read people better."

She admits that once she was able to overcome her own mental barriers when she started at Bryn Mawr, everyone was very welcoming. Many had written wonderful recommendation letters for her as she was beginning the Evans Scholars application process and that's something she'll never forget.

She recently had an experience with a Bryn Mawr member she had never even met, but who had heard about Mary through the Fairway Network, a lady's golf league in the city and sub-

urbs. Betsy Solaro joined Bryn Mawr long after Mary had left the club, but after hearing Mary's story got in touch and invited her to play in the 2019 Member-Guest tournament.

"I thought this woman was either a little crazy or incredibly generous and of course it was the latter," recalls Mary. "She invited me back to the club to play in the tournament and we actually won! Now understand, we had never met face to face and that she only knew that I was a Bryn Mawr caddie and Evans Scholar. It was such a cool experience."

There are currently 1,045 Evans Scholarship recipients enrolled in 19 universities throughout the country, and more than 11,320 have graduated as Evans Scholars since the program was founded.

Adds WGA Chairman Buggy, "Once students graduate from college, our alumni stay connected to the program. The lessons they learn from caddying and earning the Evans Scholarship have a lasting impact and provide a foundation for success for the rest of their lives."

Dave Silbar is President of Silbar Public Relations and a Certified Personal Coach at GOLFTEC in Oak Brook.

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Sage Run Hole 5



Sage Run Hole 12

GREAT GOLFING, GAMING AND SCENERY OFFERED ACROSS MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

NEAL KOTLAREK

In many ways, architect Paul Albanese found the perfect parcel of land upon which to build the Sage Run course at Island Resort & Casino. Isolated from civilization on a rocky ridge fostered by a receding glacier, the course perfectly reflects the surrounding Michigan Upper Peninsula landscape. Picturesque, rugged, remote, and tranquil are just a few adjectives that come to mind when surveying the property from off the first tee. Starting at Hole 1

and proceeding through No. 18, golfers are reminded of the property's farmland roots as thick fescue grasses protect the fairways and rock outcroppings are located in unexpected areas around the vast acreage.

Sage Run is the second of two courses that serve as marquee attractions at the ever-growing entertainment complex. Presently offering 326 guest rooms and suites, the hotel is near completion of

a \$30 million tower that will add 100 new hotel rooms and eventually be connected to the current 11-story hotel building. An elegant dining room and convention space are planned for the top floor of the new project, which is expected to be opened this December. A pool with water park features will also cater to kids and young adult guests.

Island Resort & Casino is managed by the Hannahville Indian Community and originated in

1981. The idea for the casino evolved from car bingo games that were used as fundraisers to help the reservation's baseball team buy uniforms. Formerly known as Hannahville Bingo and Casino, the property evolved into a full-service resort in 2007 with the opening of the hotel. The Sweetgrass championship 18-hole golf course was unveiled a year later. The layout was immediately heralded as a "Best New Public Course in America" by *Golf Digest*.



Sage Run Hole 2



Sweetgrass Hole 15



Sweet Grass / Island Resort



Sage Run Hole 9



“Golf is a key aspect of the resort,” said Director of Golf Dave Douglas. “There are a lot of great courses across Michigan so we knew the bar was set high. The goal was to not just offer a fun and challenging 18 holes. We wanted to offer tournament-quality conditions that would make playing the course a fantastic experience.”

The resort’s emphasis on golf extends beyond the property’s own boundaries. Along with providing “Stay & Play” deals on the complex’s two courses, the resort also offers the popular “Perfect 4-Some Package” which provides guests discounts and access to the UP’s other two acclaimed nearby courses: Timberstone Golf Course in Iron Mountain, and Greywalls at Marquette Golf Club. Although all four courses have distinctly different characteristics, taken as a whole they reflect everything that makes golf in the Upper Peninsula so great: breathtaking scenery,

great conditions, and solitude far, far away from hustle and bustle.

Like Sage Run, Sweetgrass Golf Club was also the work of acclaimed designer Albanese. One of the clever touches across the course is a variety of fun green complexes including a slanted Biarritz green, Redan hole, and an island green at Hole 15. Albanese serves up unique stretches of holes that fit the eye perfectly and flow effortlessly. Added flourishes to the design are plaques and symbols placed around the course to honor the rich history of the Hannahville Indian Community and the area’s heritage going all the way back to the 1650s.

The highlight of the front nine is the beautiful and thought-provoking 9th hole. A long drive on this par 5 provokes the player to consider a heroic second shot over a long stretch of flowing ponds leading to the green along the left side. The smarter choice is

a layup short of a massive fairway bunker to set up a pitch to a large, sweeping green.

For the 10th year, Sweetgrass is scheduled to host the Symetra Tour’s Island Resort Championship this June 11 – 13th. Known as the “Road to the LPGA,” the Symetra Tour is considered the most established women’s developmental tour in the world. The tournament is considered one of the more high-profile events on the tour as the winner receives an exemption into the Evian Championship, one of the LPGA Tour’s major championships.

“The players rave about playing here,” Douglas said. “We don’t just hear them praise the course and the tournament while they’re competing here,” he added. “We get that kind of positive feedback from folks who run into players while they’re competing elsewhere in the country, which is the highest form of praise.”

Prepare for a seismic change in look and challenge after taking the eight-mile drive away from the resort to the Sage Run course. While a number of holes are gently rolling—similar to the Sweetgrass course—others are built atop, below, or across the ridge (geologically called a drumlin). The par-3 No. 5 might look short on the scorecard, but the green rests atop the ridge and is protected by fescue and sand. Use at least one extra club to ensure your tee shot carries all the way to the top. The 15th hole, on the other hand, plays far shorter as the par 4 dives down the ridge steeply off the tee before rising again slightly while leading to the putting surface.

Ever played over a rock creek before? The 18th hole calls for players to avoid one on the left side of this massive par 5 finishing hole.

“We’ve received a lot of great reviews from our guests on both the beauty and the conditioning



Timberstone



T. McC's Sports Bar



Sweetgrass / Island Resort



Sage Run Hole 3



Sage Run Hole 1

of Sage Run,” said Douglas. “Even though Paul (Albanese) developed both courses, there are few similarities between them. I think that’s a tribute to the architect. And those differences make playing the two courses more fun.”

Guests who take advantage of “The Perfect 4-Some” packages use the resort as a base and schedule two separate legs for visits to Timberstone G.C to the west and to Greywalls to the north. The customizable packages offer 3, 4 and 5 night lodging options to schedule rounds.

Timberstone Golf Course at Pine Mountain Resort was designed by Michigan’s own Jerry Matthews and exemplifies the architect’s commitment to natural design. The course is located on a sprawling 240 acres of land and features jaw-dropping holes carved through dense forested land and accentuated by lakes and streams. My favorite hole on the

course is the par-3, No. 4. Nicknamed “Miner’s Trick,” the hole calls for a mid-iron over sparse vegetation to a cucumber-shaped green protected on the left side by a pot bunker locals call the “Pit from Hell.” Land your tee shot in here and your score on the hole is almost certain to be something north of heavenly.

Greywalls at Marquette Golf Club may just be one of the most underrated golf courses in America. Due to its relatively remote location, this stunning 231-acre Mike DeVries-designed layout doesn’t get nearly the acclaim it so richly deserves. As its name suggests, Greywalls features walls of sheer rock that tower above greens and massive granite outcroppings that bisect fairways. Holes ride up, down, and across boldly contoured slopes, fairways framed by mature trees and sweeping bunkers. Views of nearby Lake Superior can be enjoyed across the course’s higher elevations. My

favorite hole on the course is the short 312-yard No. 5. A cleverly placed drive into the fairway allows the player to weave a short-iron between a mound of stone to the left of the green and a monolithic rock wall to the right.”

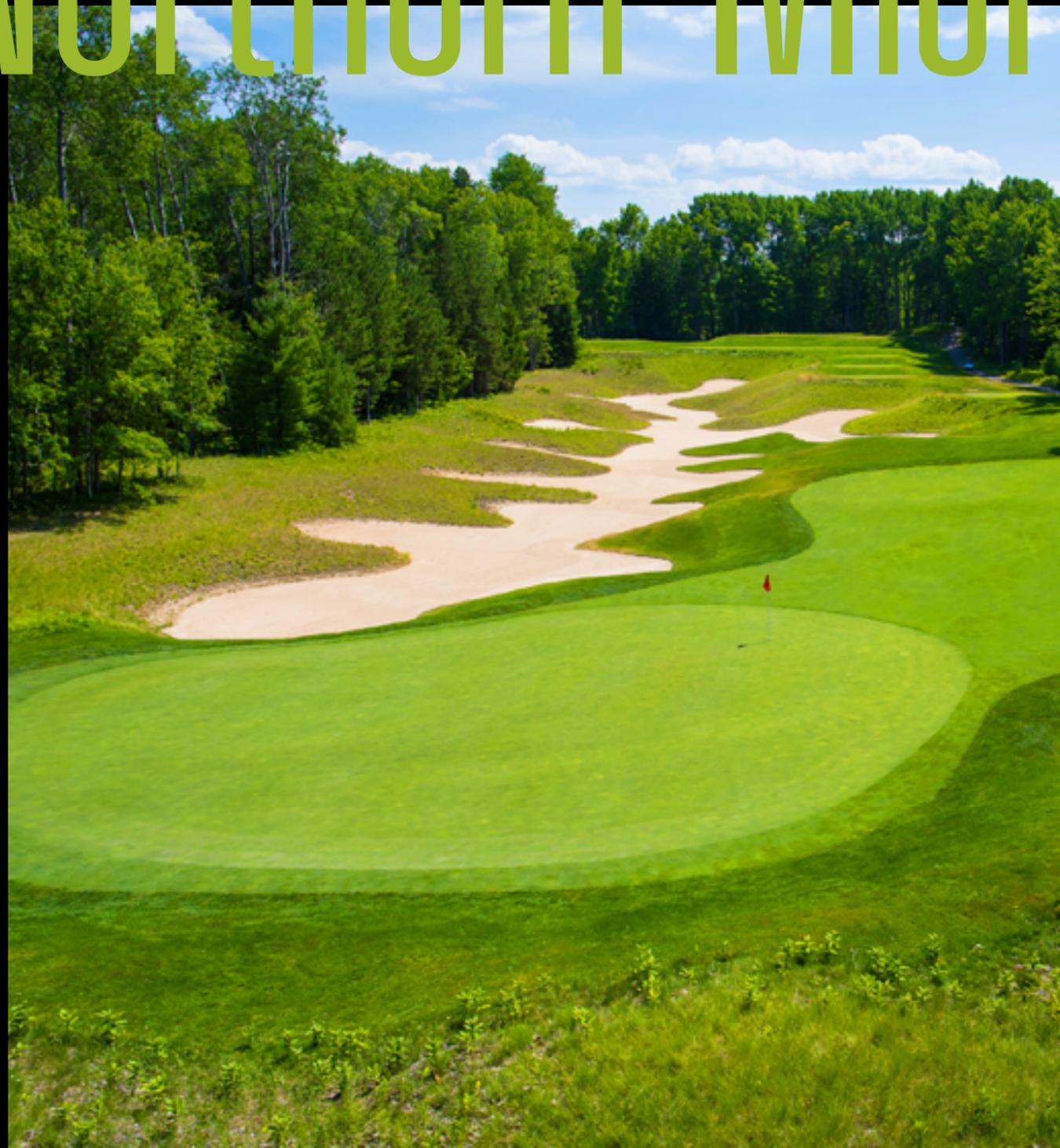
Along with highly-affordable hotel and green fee rates, “The Perfect 4-Some Package” includes a certificate for \$10 off a \$50 or more apparel purchase at either Sweetgrass or Sage Run.

As a full-service complex, Island Resort & Casino offers an array of dining options as well as a regular slate of entertainment, including top country music and rock acts. The 5 Bridges Steak & Seafood House features nightly chef specials and premium steaks and seafood. Other options include a pizzeria, the T. McC’s Sports Bar and a pub offering 18 draft options—one for each hole?—and 30 varieties of bottled beer.

The resort has expanded its gaming options significantly since its days as a car bingo destination. Table games are offered as well as slots, poker, and—of course!—bingo. There is also another level of entertainment for golfers with the addition of sportsbook entertainment. TwinSpires, the official online wagering site for Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby, offers various betting options around our favorite sporting events. TwinSpires has convenient kiosks inside and outside of the T. McC’s sports bar, thus allowing guests to watch and wager on their favorite sports teams.

Located in Harris, Mich., Island Resort & Casino is a scenic lakeside three-and-a-half to five-hour drive from Milwaukee and Chicago respectively. For reservations, package deals, virtual tours of the golf courses and more information, visit www.islandresortgolf.com.

Northern Michigan's Gaylord



A GOLF MECCA AND GREAT VALUE

Neal Kotlarek

Somewhere in the “Twittersphere” there surely exists an argument over which city deserves naming rights to “America’s Golf Capital.” Some will argue that Myrtle Beach in South Carolina with over 80 courses placed alongside the Atlantic Ocean earns that distinction. Others will state that Greater Palm Springs with over 130 emerald green courses in a desert setting most assuredly claims such honors. Still others will point out that the Paradise Coast of Florida has title rights to the moniker due to its 90 golf courses across the Everglades, Marco Island, and Naples. And don’t forget about Mesquite, Nevada!



Treetops Signature



Otsego Resort Tribute #5



Gaylord Golf Club

While each of these areas is certainly worthy of consideration for such high praise, there's still another candidate city for this title when adding into consideration a few special features like:

Which golf capital features a summer season allowing players to start their day at 7 a.m. and continue to play until 10 p.m.?

Which golf capital features one of America's premier par-3 courses that sets the standard for challenge, drama, and beauty?

Which golf capital incorporates golf courses built through lush forests, across steep valleys, over lush marshes, and sprawling meadows, at the bases of ski hills and alongside rivers and lakes?

Which golf capital is headquartered in an Alpine city of 3,645, features 17 diverse golf courses spread around the community, offers a "2 For 1" Golf Passport at 15 member courses, and is located 360 miles from Chicago?

No need to consult Wikipedia or navigate through Google Maps to figure out this puzzle. Located in the cool fresh air of Northern Michigan, Gaylord has long heralded itself as "America's Summer Golf Mecca." Once a sleepy village known for its lumber mills and cigar manufacturing, the city began a radical transformation in the early 1980s when an auto parts mogul brought acclaimed golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr. to the top of a ski hill he owned and asked him to consider the design of a golf course constructed in the Pigeon River Valley beneath them, where all they could see were the tops of mature trees. Not only did Jones eagerly

accept the assignment, he went on to build the 6th tee of his "Masterpiece" course on the very spot where the two stood. And the view of the tree tops inspired the name of the golf resort. Today, Treetops Resort houses four championship courses along with the aforementioned par-3 course given the clever name Threetops.

Even as Treetops was evolving into a mega-golf resort, 20 miles away in the town of Lewiston, Ron Otto—the inventor of the insulated garage door—had turned his interests toward building golf courses around a lodge owned by his father and mother. Over the next decade, Garland Resort became a 72-hole complex complete with luxury accommodations and elegant dining.

"The story is as amazing as it is unlikely," said Paul Beachnau, executive director of the Gaylord Golf Mecca and the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau in a March interview. "Even as Treetops Resort and Garland Lodge & Golf Resort were evolving, other entrepreneurs around Gaylord were realizing their own golf course projects. Today, this grouping adds up to 21 hotel properties, four resort destinations and 17 courses. "The principals of each property saw a unique opportunity to grow their own businesses by working together to bring groups of golfers to Gaylord. Through innovation, cooperation, quality, and value to the customer, the Gaylord Mecca was born."

The courses within this unique cooperative are as diverse as their individual stories. Built in 2000 by acclaimed architect and "U.S. Open doctor" Rees Jones, Black Lake Golf Club in Onaway wends its way through hardwood forests and features wide, rolling fairways and sprawling bunkers. Owned by the United Auto Workers but available for public play, the layout is ranked by *Golf Digest* as one of the top 50 public courses in America. The 18-hole championship course is complemented by a 9-hole par-3 walking course. Elegant and highly affordable accommodations are available at the adjacent UAW Black Lake Conference Center.

Once a private ski lodge named Hidden Valley, Otsego Resort is located a few blocks from Downtown Gaylord and features two golf courses, a conference facility, rooms, suites and condos, and a 1,200-acre wildlife preserve. The headline attraction of the property is The Tribute, designed by Rick Robbins and former PGA Tour star Gary Koch. Elevated tees and large greens are framed by forested land and wild grasses. The course winds through



Indian River



The Natural



Michaywe Pines



Monarch and Reflections at Garland

the Sturgeon River Valley and is ranked among the state's top 10 public golf courses by *Michigan Golf* magazine. Legendary architect William H. Diddel designed the more traditional Classic Golf Course at the resort which features great conditions from tees to greens.

Since its inception, Garland Lodge & Golf Resort has been luring golf groups due to its rustic setting, scenic landscape, and impeccable conditioning. The property's four championship courses are Monarch, Swampfire, Reflections, and Fountains. Each has a distinct character. Swampfire has water views on many holes, even though it is not always in play. Monarch features wide fairways and large greens, and is built to "grip it and rip it." Though shorter at 6,373 yards, Reflections is made more difficult by water and bunkers placed near landing areas and greens. My personal favorite is the Fountains course which includes elevation changes along with lovely ponds, each adorned with artful fountains. Accommodations at Garland might look like modest cabins from the outside but are spectacularly elegant inside with great amenities.

Virtually every aspect of Treetops Resort is about scale. Each of the four championship courses stretches across hundreds of acres of virgin forest and bounds up and down valleys. The Masterpiece is a must-play if only to enjoy the view of the tree tops on the par-3 No. 6 which plays down to a massive green. Make sure to bring your camera to this tee for a photo that you'll show to all your jealous friends. The Premier course is the only Tom Fazio-designed

layout in all of Michigan and is made even more memorable by having only one water hazard across all 18 holes. The Signature course was designed by renowned golf professional Rick Smith and features softly rolling hills across stunning wooded landscape. Also designed by Smith, the Tradition is considered the most "player friendly" course at the resort as landing areas and greens are wide and forgiving.

No visit to Treetops is complete without enjoying the putting challenge of The Himalayas putting range—a tribute to the practice putting green at St. Andrews in Scotland. Still a second must-play at the resort is challenging friends to a friendly match at Threetops. This amazing, hilly par-3 course famously hosted some of the world's best players at the annual ESPN Par-3 Shootout from 1999 to the early 2000s. Tour legend Lee Trevino won \$1,090,000 with a hole-in-one on the 7th hole, called "Hang Time," and then he proceeded to send half of his winnings to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Gaylord Golf Club and Indian River are both classic, traditional courses featuring large rolling fairways, large greens, and perfect conditions. While a semi-private course, Gaylord G.C. has the look and feel of a private club and is a great walking course due to the proximity of greens to the ensuing tees.

Michigan's Jerry Matthews designed The Natural at Beaver Creek. Located three miles south of Gaylord, the course features large greens and fairways improbably located between spectacular natural wetlands.

The Pines Course at Michaywe is still another classic championship course designed by Don Childs. The course can play as short as 5,200 yards from the front tees or as long as 7,000 yards from the back tees.

Details on all of these courses along with details of Stay & Play packages and deals from local hotels are accessible by visiting the Gaylord

Golf Mecca's website: www.gaylordgolfmecca.com. Once on the site, be sure to request the association's *Northern Michigan Golfer* magazine which includes full color photos of each of the courses along with details on packages and accommodation options. The site includes a tab to access the amazing 2 For 1 Gaylord Golf Passport which will make your trip even more affordable.

DuPageGolf.com
 For tee times and exclusive specials

Green Star Award
– *Golf Digest*

Renovation of the Year
– *Golf Inc.*

Best Courses You Can Play
– *Golfweek*

EXPERIENCE DU PAGE GOLF

Maple Meadows Golf Course
Wood Dale, 630-616-8424
This 18-hole championship course is home to some of the area's best golf outings and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open.

The Preserve at Oak Meadows
Addison, 630-595-0071
Golf Digest Green Star Award Winner
Golf Inc. Renovation of the Year
Golfweek Best Courses You Can Play

Green Meadows Golf Course
Westmont, 630-810-5330
This 9-hole gem features quality conditions and traditional parkland styling.

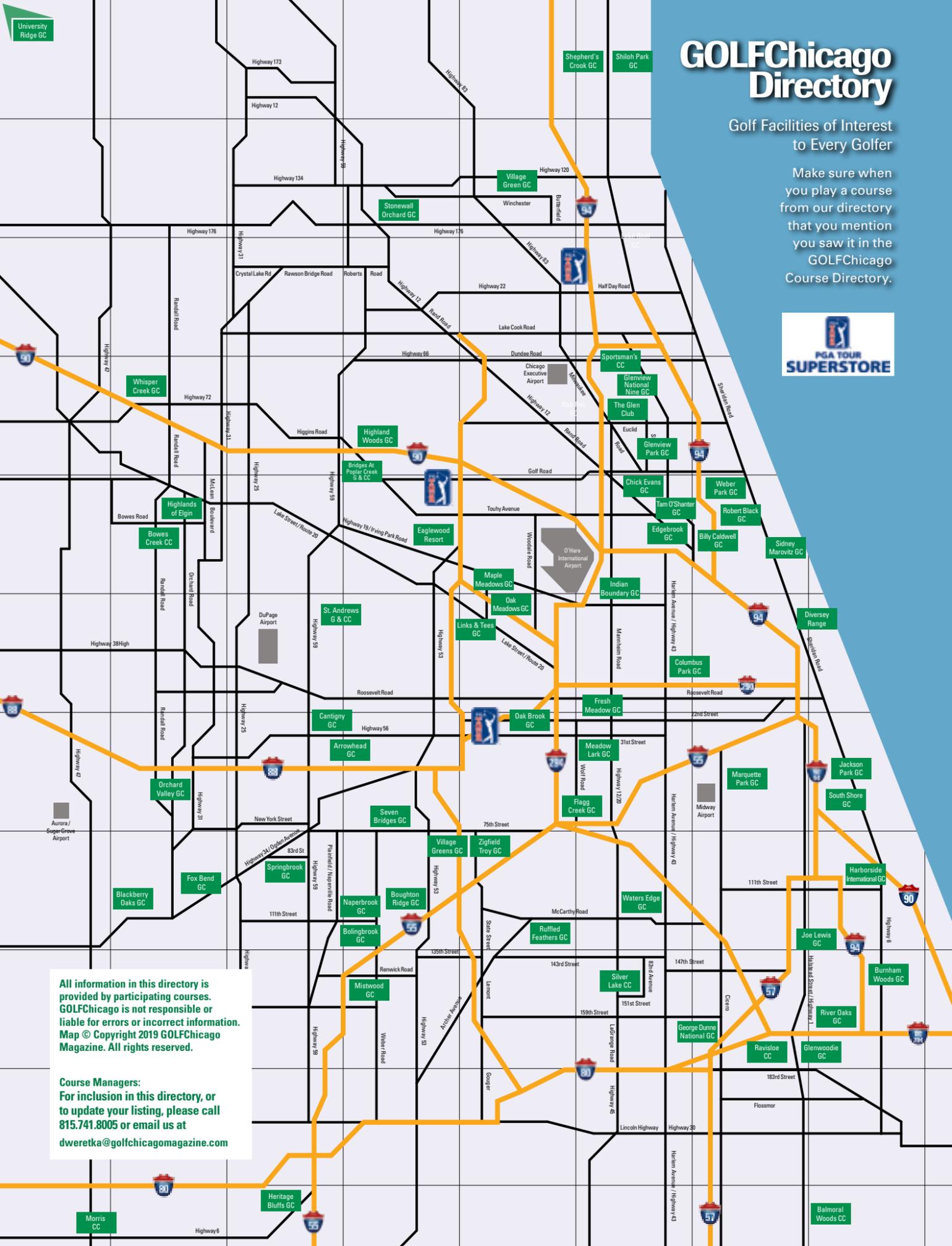
Get ready to experience The Preserve at Oak Meadows: 18 holes of award-winning golf set within 288 awe-inspiring acres of restored prairies, woodlands and wetlands and within minutes of O'Hare Airport.



**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**



Courses are owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.



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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



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.



Balmoral Woods Golf Club

708-672-7448
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.
Crete, IL 60417
www.balmoralwoods.com

A fun public golf course on IL-394 in Crete 40 minutes south of Chicago. The 18-hole course with a driving range is spread out over undulating terrain and features a number of holes with mature oak trees. It's the annual home to the Will County Amateur in the Spring. A "must play" course on the south side and a great venue for your next event or function. Book tee times online or check out other information about the property at www.balmoralwoods.com.



Blackberry Oaks Golf Course

630-553-7170
2245 Kennedy Rd.
Bristol, IL 60512
www.blackberryoaks.com

Located just 40 minutes west of Chicago, Blackberry Oaks Golf Course was built to blend and enhance the natural assets of the property, such as Blackberry Creek, the wetlands, the prairie lands and mature oak groves. Blackberry Oaks is a true "Link with Nature." Blackberry Oaks Golf Course features 18 holes of golf, a practice range, an exceptional junior golf academy and a fantastic restaurant. Please visit www.blackberryoaks.com to learn more and to reserve a tee time. Home of the Blackberry Amateur, the premier Midwest amateur golf event. www.blackberryamateur.com



The 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.



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, Illinois 60124
bowescreekcc.com

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member for a day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek provides the public golfer a private-club experience, without an annual membership.



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. 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. Cantigny Golf Academy offers clubfitting, all-weather practice, golf fitness, and more.



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!

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- 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.



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

866.264.4455
12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
www.coghillgolf.com

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, a Jemsek Golf Facility, is a historic 72-hole public golf facility located 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The year-round facility includes a driving range equipped with lights and heated Toptracer stalls, two golf shops, patio dining, and a pavilion for events, along with a 280-seat banquet hall.

- Rated in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest*
- 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



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 extensive renovations, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is a new world-class 18-hole course, practice facility, and environmental haven—designed by golf architect Greg Martin.

• *Golf Digest* Green Star Award Winner

• *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year

• *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play

• ASGCA Design Excellence Award

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 www.DuPageGolf.com



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- 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



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."



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.



PGA TOUR Superstore

1017 Butterfield Rd.
Downers Grove, 60515
1319 E. Golf Rd.
Schaumburg, 60173
295 Center Dr. Vernon Hills, 60061

PGA TOUR Superstore carries the largest selection of golf clubs, clothing, footwear, and accessories for your game. With the most advanced technology for club fitting, we also offer the Fitting Van Experience which is a TOUR caliber assessment. With three Chicagoland locations, come see why nothing compares to PGA TOUR Superstore.



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 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.



Golf Center Des Plaines

847-803-GOLF
353 N River Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
www.dpparks.org

9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210

Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round. The 80-bay lighted and 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.



The Highlands of Elgin

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

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. 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 features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



Klein Creek Golf Club

630-690-0101
1N333 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190
kleincreek.com

Klein Creek Golf Club is an 18 hole public golf course located one mile south of North Avenue and easily accessible from I-355. Designed by Dick Nugent, the layout features an open design in which water is present on 15 holes. Trees frame the layout's gentle doglegs, and tall prairie grasses border the fairways. Contoured mounding frames the fairways and greens, allowing a variety of approach options and great risk-reward opportunities.



Stonewall Orchard

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

847-965-2344
6700 W. Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

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!
Year-round instruction available!



Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032
7205 W. 115th St.
Worth, IL 60482
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



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.



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 - Host to the Illinois PGA Professional Championship
- “One of Chicago’s top public courses you can play” — Golf Digest
2020 Golf Week #4 “Best in State”*

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk

The Grieve Family Winery is located in a secure and undisclosed location in Napa Valley. It is not open to the public, and tastings are offered exclusively to wine club members by appointment only. Remarkably, there is no access from Napa Valley itself; the rare visitor must navigate a long, winding dead-end road that begins in Sonoma Valley.

Although the exact location of Grieve Family Winery remains a mystery, we have determined that it is located north of Carneros in the Mayacama Mountains in a unique hilltop bowl-like depression called Lovall Valley. An area rich in history and steeped in myth, local lore has it that the name “Lovall” (pronounced “love-all”) originates from a high-class brothel that once existed in this secluded part of the wine country. And during Prohibition, valley bootleggers are said to have run their contraband from here to San Francisco.

Lovall hosts one of the coldest growing areas in Napa, much like the Sonoma Coast. The cold air and fog from nearby San Pablo Bay settle in from early evening through midday, remaining longer than in any other area in Napa. The soils are a mix of volcanic and sedimentary. A shallow but nutrient-rich top layer is predominately Perkins gravelly loam, with compacted volcanic discharge beneath which causes the vines to struggle.

As is often the case with the current generation of Northern California winery owners and winemakers, David Grieve first had a different, successful career; in this instance, he was a commercial real estate developer in San Francisco (and still maintains a similar business in Sonoma). But, in 2002 Grieve and his wife Kathleen decided to leave city life behind to settle in the bucolic Wine Country of Napa, and purchased a home on 10 acres in Lovall Valley, next door to a small Sauvignon Blanc vineyard. In 2004, they purchased the adjacent vineyard property as well.

Both David and Kathleen were long-time avid wine enthusiasts, but neither had much experience with Sauvignon Blanc. Once they owned property plated to the grape however, they studied up on the varietal and sampled Sauvignon Blancs

An Albatross by Another Name

from different producers to determine the kinds they liked best. Grieve began touring the surrounding countryside to explore the vines growing nearby, and soon discovered that the Lovall Valley offered unique circumstances for growing these grapes.

Soon, the Grieves took an even deeper dive and started producing a small quantity of wine from each year’s harvest. They sold the remainder of the crop to select, high-quality wine producers in the area. But all of this changed in 2008, when Grieve was introduced to wine-industry veteran and chef Vance Rose at a pop-up 12-course “underground” dinner that Rose would occasionally host. Not long after meeting, the two began making wine under the Grieve Family label, completing a total of eight vintages together, and in the process turning what had been a hobby into a genuine boutique winery.

In addition to producing wine, David is also an avid golfer. In fact, the Grieves had a fairway and putting green installed right next to the vineyard. They christened their inaugural releases as “Double Eagle.” In golf, the double eagle shot, also known as an albatross, is as rare as a hole-in-one, and the idea was to imply that the wine was just as exclusive.

In 2018, Bordeaux native Philippe Melka became winemaker. A self-described “soil nerd,” he has always been intrigued by the intricacies and demands of the land. He learned the craft of winemaking at such prestigious estates as Château Haut Brion, Petrus, Dominus, Silver Oak, and his own Melka Wines.

The Grieve’s Lovall Valley estate vineyard is organically and sustainably farmed. Due to the site’s unusually cool climate, harvests run at least two weeks behind other Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc vineyards, intensifying flavors by virtue of the prolonged hang-time. Harvest is done block by block, with the goal of ensuring recognizable sense-of-place flavors in the final wine.

Double Eagle Sauvignon Blanc 2018 \$48
This bottle features a front label made from rather extravagant foil-stamped genuine leather, I assume to invoke an



smhawk@winervana.com

association with old-school leather golf bags. The fruit was sourced from the Grieve estate vineyard, and saw fermentation in a concrete egg and sur lie aging. It pours a pale yellow, opening with mild aromas of tropical fruit. There is also an expected vegetal undertone, in this case green bell peppers rather than grass, which I’m not a fan of in any Sauvignon Blanc. The tropical fruit and a bit of lemon zest continue on the palate, which also features a soft, round mouthfeel. There is snappy acidity at the lingering end.

Double Eagle Red Wine 2018 \$89

This blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot was sourced from vineyards in Oakville and St. Helena. Like the Sauvignon Blanc, the front label is leather. It pours an opaque dark purple in the glass. The nose is mostly dark stone fruit, with vanilla and spice from the 18 months it saw in French oak, of which 67% was new. This carries on to the palate, especially plum, plus a lush mouthfeel and a hint of earth. It’s all supported by nicely balanced acidity and grippy tannins. The whole show wraps up with a long finish.

For more about Grieve and hundreds of other wines, be sure to visit winervana.com.



Pars and Parlays: Online Sportsbooks Winning Big on Golf

As golf balls plunged one after another into the water on the 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass during this year's Player's Championship, it was more than just the hearts of those hitting the shots that were dropping.

Online bettors also had a stake in the number of professional golfers who hit the green that week, with thousands wagering the over/under on the number of balls that would find that watery grave. Companies like PointsBet, DraftKings, FanDuel, and BetRivers have made it easy for the casual gambler to wager by offering a litany of prop bets like the Sawgrass over/under.

According to DraftKings, golf has become the company's fourth most popular offering behind the NFL, NBA, and MLB. "Football, baseball, and basketball usually run the show, but golf is becoming much more prevalent when it comes to us and online betting," says Reid Fowler, a content specialist and betting analyst with DraftKings. "Golf is the biggest growth area of any sport we have. You start talking about a sport that normally caters to an older demographic, but COVID has created a whole new subset of players. They're younger, they're working remotely, and they have discretionary income to spend."

In the past, major organizations like the PGA Tour would keep an arm's length from anything that encouraged gambling. But like all of its counterparts, the Tour has welcomed online betting with open arms, while companies like DraftKings are lining up to spend sizable amounts to become official sponsors.

Much like the legal use of recreational marijuana, online sports gambling is here to stay and it's growing bigger by the day. Now recognized as a global entertainment business, the PGA Tour has realized the power that it has in the marketplace. It's also been able to monetize its popularity through selling sponsorships to the myriad of online gaming applications that now exist.

"Companies like DraftKings, Bet MGM, and all the others have figured out a way to capitalize on the casual golfer who follows professional golf on TV," says Johnny Rosenstein, a Las Vegas-based handicapper for Sportswire.com. "They've made the game a lot more interesting to watch, even during the week."

Major tournaments like the Masters and U.S. Open are the ones that seem to grab the attention of groups of friends who have a blast picking their teams and then bantering via group text throughout the entire tournament. In these instances, the social aspect is just as important as winning a few bucks.

For golf, online betting has even found a way to move outside of what's happening tee to green,

with wagers like those offered by DraftKings during the Waste Management Phoenix Open. One of the more interesting prop bets: the over/under on the decibel level at the stadium-style 16th hole.

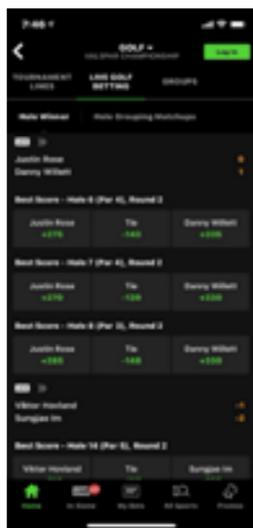
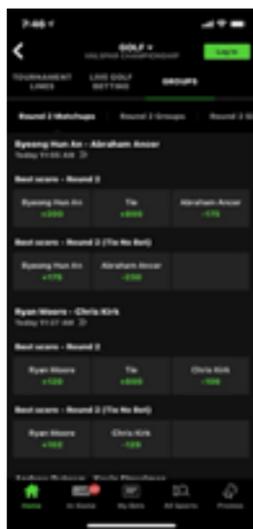
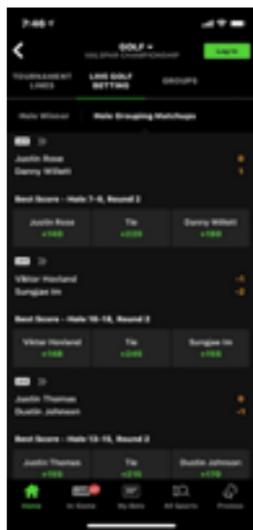
And if you think the Majors are where the bulk of the money is spent, many might be surprised at how many wagers are made during the Phoenix Open. Fowler notes that a large portion of its users take their winnings from the event and parlay it into the Super Bowl, which starts just minutes following the tournament.

And while Jordan Spieth, Rickie Fowler, and Tony Finau are among the fan favorites, there's a reason the odds are never in favor of the bettor when it comes to these guys. "The more popular players are always the ones the casual bettors are laying their money on and the books know that," explains Fowler. "If you're not breaking down the scores, the strokes gained on every hole or every putt, you're going to gravitate to people you know. Bryson (DeChambeau) and Patrick Reed are not fan favorites and that's why there's a better value on those guys. Most people bet with their hearts and tend not to bet on people they don't like."

Says Dominic Cappetta of Downers Grove, a public links golfer who practices and works with his personal coach at GOLFTec in Oak Brook, "I tend to bet on the guys I think will do the best for a particular week, but I also bet on my favorite player, Dustin Johnson. I look at a player's performance in recent weeks and watch highlights to see if certain players will do better on certain course conditions. For instance, if there's long open fairways, I'll pick a guy like Bryson or DJ because they're some of the longest hitters on tour."

As far as Cappetta's motivation for betting on golf: "I like betting on it because golf is one of my favorite sports to play and watch. I've played a couple of the prop bets that pop up on DraftKings, FanDuel, and Barstool Sportsbook. Stuff like Bryson, Dustin Johnson, and Collin Morikawa to all hit the fairway on a hole, or certain players to make the cut or finish in the top 10. I just like the odds and the potential payouts when it comes to betting on golf; they're probably the best payouts in sports for playing non-parlayed bets in my opinion."

"We see prop betting in the sports books and how that engages the general player, and that has been the same with golf," added Fowler. "It always makes the sport more fun to watch. First and foremost, bet responsibly. Don't bet the house on how many balls are going in the water at TPC Sawgrass or what the decibel level will be on 16 at the Phoenix Open."



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