

Those who watched Nick Hardy evolve from a high school prodigy in Northbrook to Big Ten Freshman of the Year at the University of Illinois to a two-time U.S. Open participant as an amateur could have predicted a bright future in professional golf for the two-time All-American. The future is now for the college star, as Hardy will make his pro debut at the Rust-Oleum Championship at Ivanhoe Club in Mundelein beginning June 7. He'll play for

cash the week after completing his senior year at Champaign-Urbana with a last appearance in (presuming the Fighting Illini make it) the NCAA Championship at Karsten Creek in Oklahoma. Hardy, who was given a sponsor's exemption by tournament director Scott Cassin, will battle a field of 155 others at Ivanhoe, including former PGA Tour title holders as well as future stars as eager as Hardy to break through. Along with the tournament trophy, participants earn

points toward earning coveted PGA Tour playing privileges. Recent alumni of the web.com Tour include Jason Day and Keegan Bradley. The 72-hole event runs through Sunday, June 10. It won't be Hardy's first pro tournament – along with the two U.S. Opens he qualified for, he's also teed it up at the John Deere Classic – but it'll be the first one where he's in pursuit of more than silverware and pats on the back. He'll be changing gears in short order.

# Rust-Oleum Hails Hardy's Professional Debut

**By Neal Kotlarek**



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## RULES OF THE GAME

JOHN MORRISSETT



# It's Still 2018 in Rules World

As announced by the R&A and USGA in March, a very different version of the Rules of Golf takes effect on January 1, 2019. Unlike in other sports, the Rules are not changed on a whim, and are amended only after much thought. To ensure that, the game's governing bodies create a self-imposed revision period for such changes. This process also makes sure that there is a sense of continuity for the game, with the Rules not changing frequently. The year 2019 is that rare year when everyone in golf needs to make an effort to learn the Rules changes.

In the history of the Rules of Golf, there are now four particularly significant years: 1744, when the first known code was written; 1952, when the USGA and R&A first agreed on a joint set of Rules for the world; 1984, when the Rules were substantially reorganized and improved; and now 2019, when the format and style of the code receives a makeover in both substance and appearance.

This modernized code contains a number of benefits in content, structure, and style. Just a few of the highlights:

- Plain, simpler language
- A format emphasizing the player's perspective
- More intuitive procedures and results
- Several changes that should improve the pace of play
- More consistent relief procedures
- The incorporation of several hundred current Decisions into the Rules themselves.

To elaborate on the above topic of pace of play that is near and dear to all of us, there are a number of changes that, when combined, should result in a quicker pace, whether in recreational or competitive rounds:

- A shorter search period for a ball (three minutes instead of five)
- A new Local Rule for a ball lost or out of bounds
- The ability for committees to define more areas as "penalty areas" that do not require a return to the tee for a lost ball
- Official encouragement to play "ready golf"

- Reference to a specific amount of time to make a stroke (40 seconds)
- An alternative form of stroke play setting a maximum score that a player can take on a hole.

While the prospect of learning a very different set of rules is daunting to both players and officials, those who have devoted time to studying the current Rules of Golf will have a fair amount of "unlearning" to do while they learn the new code. My advice: so as not to complicate matters and potentially make a mistake in applying the Rules this year, wait until after this season to spend any significant time on next year's code. Knowing and applying one set of Rules is hard enough – don't challenge yourself by trying to keep track of two different codes at the same time (and mistakenly apply a 2019 rule in 2018).

Here in the Midwest where the weather dictates a shorter golf season than we would like, for once we can take advantage of the off-season. Except for perhaps one or two golf getaways, most of us will have from November until March

or April to learn the 2019 Rules of Golf before we need to apply them. Especially when armed with all of the educational material that the USGA will roll out later this year, that timeframe allows plenty of opportunity to become comfortable with the new Rules. The USGA's use of video, diagrams, and summaries on its website to help explain the 2019 Rules will nicely complement the new code and make it less intimidating for all of us.

Compare our need to learn the Rules by the Spring of 2019 to the PGA Tour's need to play by the new Rules in early January in Hawaii; not that there is any downside to playing golf in Hawaii in January! It will be interesting to see from television next winter how visible the Rules changes are.

In the meantime, just remember that we have a full season ahead of us to which the current Rules of Golf apply. In other words, no knee-high drops until January!

*John Morrisett is the Competitions and Marketing Director at Erin Hills.*



## Rust-Oleum

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"I've had a great college experience at the University of Illinois and have learned a lot from coach [Mike] Small," Hardy said. "I look forward to a strong finish with my teammates and then moving on to the next phase of my golf career. I know how valuable a sponsor exemption is and I am very appreciative to the Rust-Oleum Championship for giving me this opportunity."

Among the hopefuls joining Hardy at the tournament will be Wheaton's Tee-K Kelly, 23, who currently competes on the Latinoamerica Tour. Kelly, who cut his teeth on Medinah Country Club's trio of courses, was an All-American at Ohio State and currently lives in Estero, Fla. He was also awarded a sponsor's exemption. In his first year as a professional in 2017, he won the Puerto Plata DR Open in the Dominican Republic and recorded four other top 10 finishes on that circuit. Kelly is a two-time Illinois Amateur champion whose mother, Blue Kinander Kelly, was a member of the 1988 NCAA champion University of Tulsa golf team.

"We know they intend to compete at a high level and use the tournament as a springboard to future success," Cassin said.

This will be the third consecutive year that the Rust-Oleum Championship will be played on the regal grounds of Ivanhoe Club after originating in Cleveland in 2014. Last year's winner was Stephan Jaeger of Germany, whose 14-under-par score topped American Ted Potter Jr., by two strokes. (Both Jaeger and Potter were qualified for the following week's U.S. Open, and Jaeger made the cut.) The 2016 winner, the tournament's debut at Ivanhoe, was Max Homa.

The move to Mundelein brought the tournament within a few miles of Vernon Hills, the headquarter city of Rust-Oleum, which manufactures paints, wood stains, and roof coatings, among other consumer products. Reached at his corporate offices, company president and chief operating officer Tom Reed said that Rust-Oleum and the web.com Tour were a natural fit as business partners.

"We feel that golfers fit the profile of Rust-Oleum customers," Reed said. "Golf is an outdoor game played by active people who are often do-it-yourselfers. Golfers also play their game whether rain or shine. So

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we make products that obviously appeal to do-it-yourselfers. Those products are used outdoors and were developed to hold up in all weather conditions. In short, golfers are our type of people."

As important to Reed as the connection between golf and Rust-Oleum products is professional golf's long-standing commitment to donate tournament proceeds to charitable causes. "Ever since the first Rust-Oleum Championship was held, we've sought out local charities both small and

mid-sized to help them get going," Reed said. "After we identify the charities we are working with, we publicize what they do, what their causes are and then support them each with sizable donations."

One of those causes is Orchard Village. Founded in 1972, Orchard Village empowers people with developmental challenges to achieve integrated and fulfilling lives within their communities. Today, more than 70 clients live in residences spread throughout Skokie, Glenview, Morton Grove, and Niles. This non-profit organization has been a charity partner of Rust-Oleum Championship and earns money by sell-

ing tournament tickets prior to the event. Along with those funds, Rust-Oleum Cares has donated \$35,000 to the organization which is also a designated charity in 2018.

"Beyond raising money for great causes, we encourage tournament participants to get involved in these efforts," Reed said. "Last year, four players joined a group of Rust-Oleum team members in doing recreational things with Orchard Village residents. I'm pretty certain that everyone involved in those events would tell you it was both a fun and rewarding experience."

Other participating charities partnering with the tournament this year are The Sports Shed, Partners For Progress, and Glasa. Over the history of the Rust-Oleum Championship, the company's charity arm has donated over \$800,000 to charitable causes.

Reed explained the tournament venue was an important element when the vision for the Rust-Oleum Championship was being created.

"We were looking to work with a club who shared our values, who offered excellent facilities that galleries would enjoy and who operated a golf course that challenged the players. Ivanhoe is that club," Reed said. "All the players tell us how much they love the course and its excellent conditioning," he added.

Designed by legendary architect Arthur Hills, Ivanhoe Club consists of three distinct nines – the Forest, Prairie and Marsh – which wind through and across varied topography as indicated by their names. The tournament course is drawn from those 27 holes. In 2017, *Golf Digest* magazine recognized Ivanhoe Club as one of the 20 best golf courses in the state along with the likes of Chicago Golf, Medinah Country Club, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, and Flossmoor Country Club.

The final field for this year's Rust-Oleum Championship will be announced in coming weeks as players finalize their schedules. As of press time, volunteer opportunities to assist in running the tournament were still available.

"Volunteering at the Rust-Oleum Championship is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to see some of the world's top golfers up-close, meet new friends, and support the tournament's charity mission," Cassin said. Volunteers can register at the tournament's website, [www.rustoleumchampionship.com](http://www.rustoleumchampionship.com), plus order tickets, get directions and more information.

## ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

**M**édoc is Bordeaux's largest and best-known wine region, and includes the lower-elevation Bas-Médoc and higher-elevation Haut-Médoc subregions. The Haut-Médoc is where the best and most famous Médoc chateaux are located.

Truly one of the legendary Médoc houses, Chateau Lafite Rothschild is situated in the famous wine-producing village of Pauillac. The estate was founded by Gombaud de Lafite in 1234. In the 17th century, the property was purchased by the Ségur family, including the 16th-century manor house that still stands. Lafite was one of four Bordeaux châteaux originally awarded First Growth status in the 1855 Classification, which was based on the wine quality at that time, and is the benchmark for French wines even today.

Your humble scribe bought a bottle of the then-just-released 1987 Lafite Rothschild for \$65, and that was quite a splurge. The 2016 is going for about \$715, and if you still need a unique Dad's Day gift, a shop in the UK is offering an 1812 (no, this is not a typo) for \$55,600 (not a typo, either).

But this isn't about *that* Lafite Rothschild. In addition to the wines produced from their prestigious vineyards, the Barons de Rothschild have for many years created a range of more accessible wines for everyday drinking; hence Rothschild's Légende line (formerly known as the first-growth's "third" wine, Réserve Spéciale). The relaunched Légende has been available in the U.S. since April 2016.

For the Légende lineup, winemaker Diane Flamand buys juice from 15 different growers and co-ops, then handles the élevage (which includes blending, fining, filtering, aging, and bottling). The full range includes Bordeaux Rouge, Bordeaux Blanc, Médoc, Saint-Émilion, and Pauillac. The Pauillac and Médoc wines are produced both from Lafite's own vineyards and from neighboring vineyards. The remaining fruit is sourced from partner suppliers.

**2016 Légende Bordeaux** \$18  
Deep crimson in color, this straightforward Bordeaux is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. It starts with hints of tart berry fruit, bitter green

## I Am Legend

herbs, and wet soil. The palate continues with flavors of red currant, raspberry, and pomegranate. The nicely oaked tannins are a fine support to the berry flavors. It ends with a fresh and fruity finish, and is ready to drink now.

Enjoy with beef stew with onions and red wine, stuffed lamb baked in pastry, or rabbit marinated in vinegar and herbs.

**2016 Légende Médoc** \$27  
This wine is also a 60/40 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot blend. The color is Intense red with hints of brick. It has a nose of cedar, black cherry, vanilla bean, and wet clay. With a surprising depth and complexity, the palate features sweet spices, red fruits, and licorice, plus a bit of iron before a rich, caramel-like finish.

Pair with pan-broiled steak, lamb stew with spring vegetables, or cassoulet.



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