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April 2014, Vol. 18 No. 2



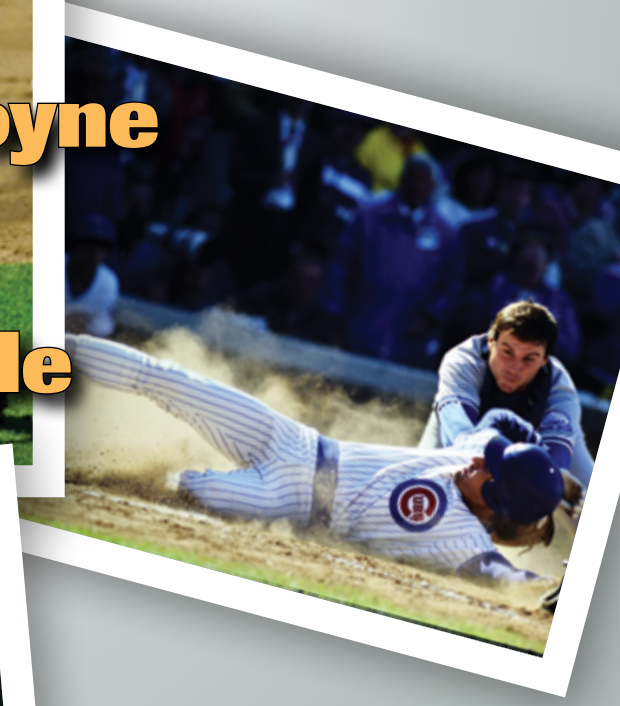


Exclusive Interview with Ryne Sandberg

Michigan Magic: Boyne

The Payton Effect

Mom's Day Gift Guide



Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor



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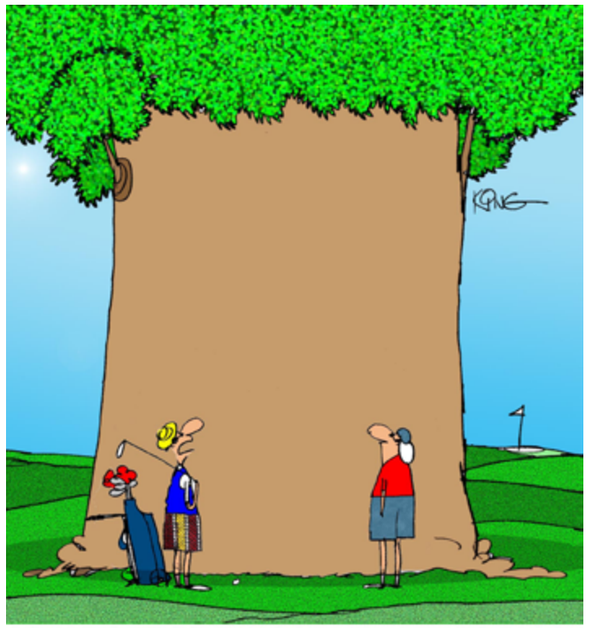
NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

A decade ago Tour talk centered on Tiger Woods pouncing on Nicklaus' records and Michelle Wie, a teenager with oodles of potential. After ten years, which is longer than most other professional sports careers, Woods is in the news more for his swing-in-the-rut updates. Wie has proven to be a solid competitor, yet her name is not spoken in the same tones as Annika or Nancy. Greatness is a tough nut to crack. And when greatness is savored, it is already fading. The Woods legacy is secure… and so is Jack's record.

As we approach the Masters week we have genuine excitement. The green jacket could settle on anyone's shoulders in the field. Woods is on IR. But, just like our NCAA brackets, a Cinderella story could be in the works. Is Kevin Streelman this season's Dayton? Or will we see a leaderboard topped with players looking to add one last major tournament to their resume? It has also been ten years since Phil Mickelson broke the major championship barrier with his Masters victory. Always a crowd favorite, but not settling into his wait for the Champions Tour, Augusta National may be one of Lefty's few remaining chances to capture another major championship.



"That's just my luck. There's one tree on this course, and I'm right behind it."

This season has sent PGA Tour golf fans google-ing final round leaders to figure out "who is this guy?" A name like Mickelson, or Furyk, would lock us to the flat screen. Our hope is that if a green jacket is placed on the shoulders of a first-timer, then let it be Steve Stricker.

As a couple of 40-somethings ourselves, nothing warms the heart like an "old dude" beating the kids. And with our delayed golf season, backs still aching from shoveling snow, and waning distance off the tee, a victory by a fellow mid-life traveler is just what the swing doctor ordered.

Stay logged on to www.golfchicagomagazine.com for dates and details. Be sure to follow us on Twitter for unique updates and newsy items of interest. We would also like to send our thanks to all our friends and readers who made it to the Chicago Golf Show in February. We always enjoy hearing your thoughts, so keep 'em coming!

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Masterful Limited Edition

In honor of Masters week, Nike Golf is releasing a trio of limited-edition styles to match a green jacket. Nike's TW '14, Nike Lunar Control, and Nike Lunar Clayton models will be available in the iconic Augusta green at select retailers. Our favorite is the Lunar Control with Lunarlon technology. This responsive, lightweight performance shoe includes Flywire structured support and a full leather upper. These shoes will not stay on the shelves for long, so go green and get in line for Nike's limited-edition Masterful styles.

$180 TW '14 $160 Lunar Control $250 Lunar Clayton



Innovative Game Changer

A local company has designed a golf bag/push cart that not only simplifies the bag + cart + trunk equation, ALPHARD's Duo Golf Cart could change the look of your foursome. The Duo Golf Cart is a perfect blend of form and function. The one-piece unit, when folded, is the size of a standard cart bag, which means it will fit in any car. With most pushcarts, users spend precious time setting up their cart and loading their bag onto it in the parking lot. However, ALPHARD's combo cart is ready to push in less than 20 seconds. Simply raise the bag, unfold the handle, and you are wheeling toward the first tee.

A true innovation is that the bag is really a skin that can be detached and/or replaced. This bag has a clever ball pocket, storage on the handle, and even aftermarket accessories like a seat. There is also a cooler pouch that is large enough to hold a six-pack! If you attended the Chicago Golf Show, then you surely noticed the huge buzz this cart made with golfers. This cart was easily the runaway hit of the show and is already one of GOLFChicago's picks for top products of 2014.

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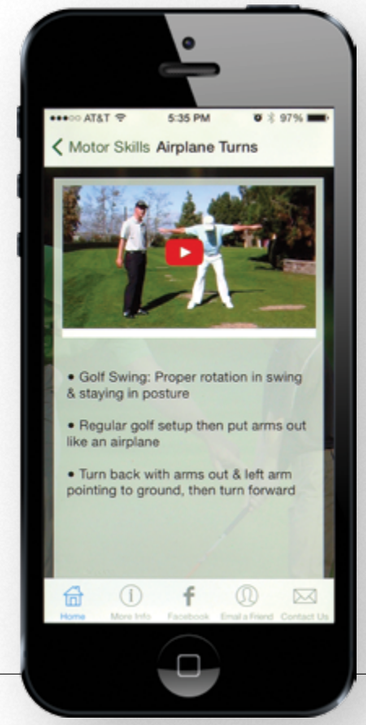

App of the Month

If you are that hands-on parent who has been waiting to teach little Ben and Anna the game you love, then iJuniorGolf's App is the first step toward a lifetime of golfing memories. With short, manageable lessons, iJuniorGolf puts over 100 video lessons in the palm of your hand. iJuniorGolf helps the parent be consistent and prevents "over-teaching." Each lesson provides the parent with specific focus, so the student can work on one thing at a time. Most importantly, iJuniorGolf gives parents the confidence and ability to teach golf fundamentals correctly.

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Wind Play for the Windy City

SHORT GAME ADVISOR



Dave Pelz

Tour players know that the toughest conditions for scoring are when the wind is blowing. As the breeze kicks up, elite golfers must assess, estimate, and play for the effects of wind on every swing, including short-game shots and even putts.

Amateurs, on the other hand, seem to adjust for the wind only when it's blowing hard toward obvious trouble. Even then, they often fail to consider how it affects wedge shots. You know this is you if you've ever looked up and seen what should have been an easy sand wedge into the green track toward the pin but fall short into a bunker. It happens both in severe wind and in pleasant, 7 mph breezes.

In my work with more than 200 PGA and LPGA Tour pros over the years, I've measured wedge distances in cross-, tail-, and headwinds at various speeds. I continue to assess the effects of wind in my own backyard, the proximity of which allows me to chart precisely how wind can help or hurt short shots.

Although wind is a challenge, you can use it to your advantage—but only if you know how to deal with it. The trick is to minimize shot height and spin rate. Here are a few ways to strategize on breezy days when hitting short-game shots into the green.

Playing Downwind

Position the ball way back in your stance, close the clubface, and hit the shot crisply. This will produce a penetrating shot with ample backspin. The ball will fly lower—minimizing the wind effect—while still stopping short of any trouble behind the green.

Playing into the Wind

Try hitting this shot with a pitching wedge, 9- or 8-iron with an easy swing. This will produce a lower ball flight with minimal backspin, both of which will minimize the wind effect. The resulting shot will land short of the green, release, and then roll up and onto the putting surface. This is a much more predictable play than hitting a high-trajectory, high-spinning shot at the pin.

Playing in a Crosswind

The important thing to remember here is that the ball will turn with the wind the whole way, including after it hits the ground. It's the last bounce and roll that often surprises golfers, sending what are normally well-played shots far away from the pin.

I play most of my golf near my home in Austin, Texas. The wind can really kick up here, and I pride myself on my ability to adjust for it. These techniques apply to Chicago, too, if you take the above advice to heart, and at least accept the fact that wind affects all shots, not just the long ones..



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Instability to Improve Your Game

THE FITNESS EDGE

Brad Jourdan PT, DPT

An unstable golf swing does not usually end with a satisfying result. But adding instability to your exercise program may help your swing, especially when you have an uneven stance, or you are standing on a soft surface. Your body will automatically correct for these conditions by training with a fitness routine that includes balance challenges.

Balance discs are inflatable discs that are utilized in occupational and physical therapy clinics for people who are recovering from injury. They can turn a basic lunge, pushup, or even your practice swing into a challenging activity. This is because the discs will give, requiring you to adjust to the softer surface emphasizing balance, coordination, and strength.

Pushups can be done in many forms to work your arms, shoulders, and core muscles. The walk-over pushup is a combination of pushups. Start with your right hand on the floor and your other hand on a balance disc and do a pushup (figure 1). Next move both hands on the disc and do another pushup (figure 2). Finally move your left hand off the disc and repeat. The goal is to go from each position while keeping your weight only on your hands and toes. Repeat two or three times each direction.

Performing lunges on a balance disc is a great way to further engage your lower legs and core muscles. Stand with your front foot on a disc in a lunge position and squat down to a depth you can control while you focus on tightening your gluteal and abdominal muscles (figure 3). Perform ten repetitions with each foot forward. Initially this may be enough, but once you are comfortable with this exercise try rotating your shoulders towards the front foot (figure 4).

Proper weight shift is essential to bring the clubhead through the ball. Practice your swing while standing on the balance discs. If your weight shift is correct, there will be more pressure through the inside of the back foot as you reverse the back swing towards the ball. If your tendency is to keep weight on the back leg, then you will find it difficult to put weight through the inside of the back foot. As you swing, focus on keeping your hips and ankles firm to compensate for the soft surface. Consider taking the discs out to the range and see what happens. You might eliminate some excessive motion that leads to errant shots.

Good results tend to happen when your body is familiar with the task it needs to perform. Balance discs add instability to exercise and may help you to respond to those more challenging shots.


Figure 1


Figure 2


Figure3


Figure 4



Release Your Bunker Fears

SWING ALCHEMIST



Jason Guss

One of the most intimidating shots in golf is the greenside bunker shot. Most tour players will tell you they would rather be in a bunker than in the rough. As a matter of fact, there are many times when good players (if they error) will try to error into a bunker. Becoming a great bunker player, in my opinion, comes from understanding how to play the shot, and then trusting the shot you are about to play. Setup is very important in the bunker play. Most instructors will tell you to play the ball closer to the front of your stance, which I agree with. As a general rule, I like to see the ball placed about three inches inside the front foot. You need to dig your feet into the sand for proper stability and to lower your divot. This also helps test the type of sand you are in. It is essential that you place about 75% of your weight on your forward foot.

The next step is very important in bunker play: You need to open the face of the sand wedge. The easiest way to open the face the correct amount is to hold the sand wedge square in front of you. Think of the club head as a clock. The toe of the club would be at 6 o'clock. To open the face the correct amount, turn the toe of the club to 8 o'clock. This is if you're right handed. If you were left handed, you would turn the toe of the club to 4 o'clock. This opening of the club head makes your sand wedge bounce through the sand instead of digging. Now you have created the correct foundation for a successful bunker shot.

From there, all we have to do is make a good bunker swing. There a couple key things that most people try to do in the bunker. First, they try to hit 2 to 3 inches behind the ball, which is correct, but by digging your feet into the sand has already taken care of hitting behind it. Also, most students I see hit too far behind the ball already, so this also scares me. Second, keep your head down. This is another thing that scares me in the bunker because it is very important in a bunker that your club head speed continues through your finish. When you keep your head down too long it stops your body from continuing through into the finish. This also slows the club down and most likely will leave the ball in the bunker. Instead of keeping your head down try to think about keeping your eye on the ball. This means as soon as the ball leaves the face—let your eyes follow the golf ball (demonstrated in the picture).

Just remember these steps next time you find your ball in a bunker:

1. Take a good setup with the ball slightly forward.
2. Feet dug into the sand.
3. Weight forward and club face open.
4. Make an aggressive swing, taking some sand slightly behind the golf ball.

Let your body release into its finish and let your eyes follow the ball out of the bunker—you'll want to see the results!

Jason Guss is Director of Golf Performance at the Jason Guss Golf Academy at Hawk Hollow Golf Course in East Lansing, Michigan



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The Ripple Effects of Sweetness

Todd Mrowice

Jordan. Ditka. Halas. Banks. These names are synonymous with Chicago sports. They're icons that have shaped the image our great city. Another such name is Payton.

One of the most memorable moments in my life came when I was just 10 years old. I was at a local driving range with my dad on a typical summer day when I heard and saw someone very familiar in the shack where you'd pick up your buckets. It was Walter Payton.

I mustered up the courage to ask him for an autograph to which he quickly cut me off. "You want my autograph, son? Before I give it to you, you're going to sit here and eat an ice cream cone with me! You like chocolate or vanilla?"

So there I sat, on a hot summer day, eating an ice cream cone…with Walter Payton. We talked about school, golf, and what I wanted to be when I grew up. At the end of it, he signed my piece of paper, and told me that I better stay in school and be nice to my mother or he'd "come get me."

That was Walter Payton. There are thousands of stories like mine. With his son, Jarrett, there will be thousands more, because he is the man embracing his father's legacy while creating his own.

Sports radio host, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, retired football player, social media guru, and philanthropist are titles currently on Jarrett Payton's resume. That is in addition to being a husband and father. Like his dad, Jarrett loves to play golf. Aside from participating in numerous golf outings throughout the year, Payton also hosts his own golf outing to benefit his foundation, which works with communities and schools on anti-bullying programs.

"Unfortunately, anti-bullying is a cause that needs a lot of attention, especially here in Chicago," said Payton. " The foundation does not have a paid staff, which means 100% of the proceeds go to education and programs we're developing."

Perhaps the biggest benefit for his cause is that Jarrett Payton carries a name that is beloved by not just Bears fans, but football fans around the globe. Something that Payton recognizes and is grateful for as he continues to build awareness.



"The way I look at it, if people know me as Walter Payton's son and that helps me make a difference in the world, I'm all for it. I actually wear that as a badge of honor for my family," said Payton. "Aside from my wife (Trisha) and son (Jaden), the foundation is my greatest accomplishment. I honestly had no idea it would get as big as it has in less than three years since we started it."

After retiring from football, Walter Payton was well known for staying active in the community as a restaurant owner and in the world of auto racing. It was not uncommon to spot "Sweetness" cruising the Northwest Suburbs in his newest ride or signing autographs on a routine trip to the store. Payton also hosted golf outings every summer, a tradition that Jarrett has kept going.

On June 5th The Jarrett Payton Foundation will host its third annual golf outing at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club for what is becoming one of the premier golf events to be at in Chicago.

"The reason I host a golf outing is because I remember going to the ones my dad held every summer. Seeing it sold out year after year made it a no brainer when we decided to start my own foundation," said Payton. "People can expect to come out for a fun day on the golf course. We'll have breakfast, lunch, and a silent auction. It all benefits Project: NO BULL and the Jarrett Payton Leadership Academy."

To register or learn more about the golf outing visit www.jarrettpayton.org.

While Walter could often be found on the golf course, he chose to pass along something to Jarrett that he would find much more valuable than any swing tip.

"My dad always said that it didn't matter if you're good at golf or not. Just make sure that I always have business cards with me. Business gets done on the golf course."

Payton's fondest memory of his dad playing golf was when Walter teed it up with President

continued on page 23







The Mother Lode

Mom's Day Golf Guide



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Antigua apparel is all about sheer comfort. Their new 2014 Spring Collection incorporates innovative poly yarns that allow for softer, smoother, and more comfortable fabrics. Antigua's spring color palette includes versions of neon and ultra-bright hues. These colors not only brighten her wardrobe, they have Desert Dry™ XTRA-LITE performance fabric to keep mom cool throughout the round.
www.antigua.com



Does Mama have a bit of a sweettooth? If so, icewine could be just the treat.

When an early frost hit vineyards in Franconia, Germany in 1794, the distressed growers decided to press the grapes anyway, hoping to salvage at least a part of the crop. What later immerged from the barrels was icewine.

Relatively recently, icewines have started to also come from Canada, including those from Peller Estates.

Harvest doesn't begin until temperatures are consistently below 14º F, when the juice separates into ice crystals and a sweet concentrated syrup.

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Sweet Home Chicago

Chicago Spotlight

Hero's Golf Odyssey

It all began when John Zook's wife sent him words of bliss that every golfer longs to hear, "Keep playing." Zook took those words to heart, then to the highways across America, and began an epic journey to play the 184 military golf courses in the United States.

Zook, a retired Master Sergeant engineer from the US Army, served two tours as an infantryman in the 4th Division in the highlands of Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. He returned home decorated with two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, four accommodation medals, and the Combat Infantry Badge. When asked about his heroics, Zook quickly changed the subject to his new passion: golfing at the military bases across the United States. The 65-year-old Oswego resident has played 184 military golf courses, which is the total number of courses on bases across the 50 states. His quest was accomplished in just over three years. Fellow retired servicemen Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Cassaza, Colonel Bill Logel, and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Wilczak accompanied him for many of the rounds. The finish line was more than a goal to collect a logo ball from each course. Zook shares his experiences on his blog at www.golfrecon.blogspot.com and encourages more sailors, soldiers, and airmen to utilize their exclusive membership to follow him onto some of the best golf courses he has played.

While Zook had a number of courses under his hat before the idea of playing every Department of Defense course became a mission, the tour de force began in late 2010 with the purchase of a new Chevy Equinox. After he dropped his son off at college and stopped at Fort Campbell in Kentucky for a round of golf, he then drove to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio) and played golf with Cassaza, Logel, and Wilczak. After their rounds, Zook shared, "I told them that we need to do this more often. We all agreed." Zook, after his wife told him she was painting some rooms and to keep playing, went on the road and tackled 30 military base courses in 40 days. Each night he took advantage of the on-base housing before waking up to reveille, eating chow in mess halls, and teeing it up in a whirlwind tour of duty that dipped into the south and took him along the Eastern Seaboard before stops in D.C., Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan.



His final stop was Alaska.

Does this quest sound like it requires cashing in an IRA to fund it? For active and retired personnel, the green fees are below most municipal rates, but they offer a sliding scale: the higher you are ranked, the more you pay. Nearly every course is funded by revenue, not taxpayer dollars, so these are not luxuries, but a morale booster to our service men and women. As a rule, most of the facilities are restricted to individuals with a military ID card; however, most bases allow guests and some even allow civilians to play. The Department of Defense oversees each course, and their facilities range from the resort amenities at Shades of Green at Disneyworld, the only Armed Forces Recreation Center in the continental United States, to no-frills layouts, like the nine-holer at Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base in California. "Barstow is a Marine supply base. To get to the course you have to drive through a drain culvert to go under the railroad tracks," Zook shared. "There are nine holes that go out along the tracks. It's in the desert and it's just golf holes, but the greens are usually decent."

The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is home to the nationally ranked Eisenhower Course, a Robert Trent Jones, Sr. design. There are other courses designed by renowned architects. A small dose of gems like Jones, Jr.'s course at Fort Gordon, Donald Ross at Fort Bragg, and even a rare William S. Flynn at the Naval Academy. Zook's favorite stops include: Pensacola Naval Air Station and Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida; San Diego Naval Station in California; and the aforementioned AFA courses in Colorado Springs. He also mentions that the bases around San Antonio, Texas, have, "fantastic golf courses and top-notch rooms."

If you are fortunate and receive an invitation to a military course, the pace of play is normal, but Zook reports that on rare occasions he experienced the hurry-up-and-waits while teeing it up. Zook warns, "You are on a military base, so they play retreat and our national anthem at 5:00 pm. Be prepared to stop play, get out of the cart, take your hat off, and face the closest flag."

Sir, yes, sir.

—Greg Jourdan

GOLFChicago Wire

Premier Central Wisconsin Course Announces Management Change

The Northbrook-based sports management firm KemperSports has added its fourth Wisconsin property to its extensive portfolio across the country. The Castle Course at Northern Bay Resort in Arkdale features an 18-hole replica golf course ranked in 2006 as America's fourth best public layout. The championship course includes near-identical holes of Augusta National's Nos. 13 and 16; Oakland Hills No. 5, and the No. 17 island hole at TPC Sawgrass.

"After assuming ownership in 2010, we have been encouraged by the overall results, however, we felt the need to create a partnership with a firm that specializes in high-end golf resort management," said President Darrel Malek. "After a thorough review, we found that the expertise, capabilities and values of KemperSports were perfectly aligned for them to partner with us in order to expand on the progress we've made. We are also looking forward to seeing all of the new guests that their outstanding marketing network will bring to experience everything that Northern Bay has to offer."

The complex is located 30 miles north of the Wisconsin Dells along the shores of Castle Rock Lake.

Renovation Work Slated For Mount Prospect Layout

The Mount Prospect Park District and local architecture firm Esler Golf Designs have announced major renovation plans for Mount Prospect G.C. that will include the addition of a full driving range, short game practice areas, a teaching tee, expanded putting greens and a putting course to the popular municipal layout located in the northwest suburbs. The $6 million project (pending full approval by the Village Board) will also include replacement of the course's irrigation and drainage system, construction of a new maintenance structure, and the redesign of select holes.

One of the more intriguing aspects of the plan is the addition of family tees to expand interest in the golf course by making it more inclusive. Built as a private club in 1929, the course is noted for its bentgrass fairways, impeccable conditioning, and tree-lined fairways. With Board approval, the first phase of the renovation work will start this spring.

GOLFChicago Wire

Mistwood G.C. Receives National Recognition

Awards keep piling up for Mistwood Golf Club. The Romeoville club re-opened last year following a major renovation project performed by Michigan architect Ray Hearn. Recognized by *GOLF* magazine as the 2013 "Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play," the championship course had over the past two years been the recipient of numerous improvements, including 20 stacked, sod-wall bunkers reminiscent of great Scottish and Irish courses. The complex last year also opened a 5,000 sq. ft. performance center that combines 11 climate-controlled hitting stations, two indoor heated bays and 32 outdoor stations along with an indoor putting lab and a full-service bar.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as the Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play by *GOLF* magazine and to be recognized alongside so many great courses," owner Jim McWethy said following announcement of the award. "We wanted to elevate Mistwood into the ranks of the best courses in the Midwest, and this award is a testament to the vision and quality of work that architect Ray Hearn and our team performed on this project. I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished."





Mistwood G.C. is long-time home to the Illinois Women's Open. The course was recognized by *Golf Digest* magazine as one of the top remodeled courses in 2013. For more information visit the course website: www.mistwoodgc.com.

Cog Hill Tops *Golfweek* Rankings

Golfweek's state-by-state "Best Courses You Can Play" rankings appeared in the magazine's March 21 issue and 10 of their top 15 Illinois courses are in Chicagoland. Not surprisingly, topping the list is Cog Hill's Dubsdread course. "For more than 50 years, we feel we have provided our valued customers with one of the best daily-fee golf experiences in the country." said Frank Jemsek, CEO, Cog Hill Golf and Country Club.

The Highlands of Elgin moved up the rankings to second, and its sister-course, Bowes Creek was another top ten selection. The rankings are based on *Golfweek*'s panel of raters that evaluates courses using the following criteria: overall strength of routing, feature shaping, natural setting, greens, variety and memorability of holes, conditioning and maintenance, and landscape management.

Golfweek's Illinois "Best Courses You Can Play" Rankings

1. Cog Hill GC (No. 4 – Dubsdread), Lemont
2. Highlands of Elgin, Elgin
3. Harborside International (Starboard), Chicago
4. The Glen Club, Glenview
5. Weaver Ridge, Peoria
6. Ravisloe CC, Homewood
7. TPC at Deer Run, Silvis
8. Bowes Creek, Elgin
9. Eagle Ridge (The General), Galena
10. Cantigny, Wheaton
11. Pine Meadow, Mundelein
12. ThunderHawk, Beach Park
13. Kankakee Elks Club, Saint Anne
14. Stonewall Orchard GC, Grayslake
15. Gateway National Golf Links, Madison

Spring Registration Open For The First Tee Programs

Harborside International, the Diversey Driving Range, Robert A. Black G.C., Cog Hill Golf and Country Club, Jackson Park Driving Range, South Shore G.C., Foss Park G.C., the Waukegan Park District and Glenwoodie G.C. will all offer junior golf programs this year through The First Tee of Greater Chicago.

Interested in learning more about The First Tee programs? Visit Harborside International's open house on the city's south side on Saturday, April 26th from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Coaches and staff members will be on hand during the event which will also offer drive, chip, pitch, putt, and life skills stations.

For registration information, visit The First Tee website at: www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org.

First Tee Event To Highlight Newest Golf Fashions

GOLFChicagoTV's Rebecca Halpern and Anne Kavanagh of FOX News Chicago will co-emcee The First Tee 2014 Golf Fashion Show at John Barleycorn – River North at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 10th. Along with previews of the newest spring golf fashions, guests will be treated to music, great food, specialty drinks, and television recaps of the day's Masters tournament highlights.

Expected celebrity models at the fashion show include Amy Jacobson of AM 560 – The Answer radio show and Dan Roan of WGN News at Nine.

A limited number of tickets remain available for the event. Cost is $85.00 per ticket. Visit www.TheFirsTeeGreaterChicago.org for more information or to buy tickets.

White Pines, Maryville Academy Team Up At April 11th Reception

An evening of golf, food, contests and fun will be served up at White Pines Golf Dome Friday, April 11th, all in the name of the Maryville Crisis Nursery. Golf Dome owner Mike Munro put together the event as an informal kick-off of the golf season with all proceeds dedicated to the Crisis Nursery, which provides shelter and counseling services to Chicago area families in times of personal or family crises. Cost is $50 for adults and $25 for juniors 18 and under.

Event attendees should register no later than Wednesday, April 9th to ensure a spot. Send checks payable to Maryville Academy at: White Pines Golf Dome, 500 West Jefferson, Bensenville, IL 60106. For more information, call Mike at 630-422-1060.

Celebrated Architect Touts Latest Renovation Project

Robert Trent Jones, Jr., one of America's premier golf course architects, visited Chicago in late February to promote his makeover of SentryWorld golf course in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. A planned reopening of the course in August will unveil a course that is both "longer and shorter," according to the designer as he referenced the extension of some tees to make the course more challenging for low-handicap players and the addition of front tees to make the course more accessible to high-handicap players.

The most eagerly anticipated changes made to the course are two new par 3s that will add both drama and beauty to the property. The 151-yard No. 3 starts from a tee lined by trees and ends up at an 'infinity green' protected by water. The 161-yard No. 12 calls for a tee shot over SentryWorld's biggest lake to a peninsula green.

"The game of golf has changed a lot since 1982 when SentryWorld opened," Jones said while attending the Chicago Golf Show. "Our work at the course includes revised routing, reorganized routing and lengthening of par 4s and par 5s to provide greater challenge." The 200-acre course's iconic No. 16, which features thousands of colorful flowers surrounding the green has been preserved and enhanced.

For more information on the newly renovated SentryWorld golf course, visit the property's website: www.sentryworld.com.

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Down Memory Lane

Dubs Celebrates 50th

Joe Jemsek had a dream of a country club course for the average Joe. A dream where he could test himself as if in the U.S. Open. All because he had seen and talked with some of his regulars while attending the 1949 U.S. Open at Medinah Country Club. While Cary Middlecoff was winning the Open, Jemsek was beginning to dream of building a course as tough as Medinah's No. 3 course, but one anyone could play.

It took 15 years, but that dream became reality in 1964, when he opened Dubsdread, the second new course in as many years at the Cog Hill complex he bought from the Coghill family in 1951. Jemsek hired Dick Wilson, one of the best-regarded course designers of the 1960s, and associate Joe Lee to build Cog's third course, and then kept them on for the fourth course, with the order to build a course worthy of a championship.

Wilson and Lee delivered. Dubsdread – Jemsek named it after a favorite test of his near Orlando, Florida – instantly became the most difficult public course in the Chicago area, and among the best courses of any kind in the country.

"Wilson was an old-time southern gentleman, very courtly," Jemsek said in 1991. "He had that knack, that touch. He wanted a player to hit every club in his bag during a round." Wilson would also tip back a few too many too often, so Jemsek instituted a rule: Lunch would be brought to Wilson, rather than Wilson go to lunch, stopping by the bar first. "That's the most exclusive damned clubhouse I've ever seen in my life," Wilson told Lee. Unlike the fanfare with the opening of anything today, Dubsdread simply opened. Ray Floyd, sponsored on the tour by Jemsek then, remembered playing it before a cup had even been cut in a green, just to experience the routing.

"It's a straightforward, marvelously designed traditional golf course," Floyd said when he played in the Western Open on Dubsdread in 1991, the first of 20 occasions the course hosted the Western-turned-BMW Championship.

The Western years brought further fame to the course that had already climbed into most top 100 lists, and a pair of victories by Nick Price followed by five by Tiger Woods proved the best players played best on the layout.

Fifty years on, the BMW has driven off, but you can still play it, which is exactly what Joe Jemsek intended.

—Tim Cronin



Profiles

continued from page 15

Bush George H.W. Bush. Realizing towards the end of the round that while it was a great experience meeting the President, his dad was actually there to talk business with him, something that Jarrett says he will never forget.

With all of the community work Jarrett Payton is doing these days, one would think the last thing he'd have time for is a day job. But Payton couldn't refuse when WGN asked him to cohost with Harry Teinowitz and Spike Manton on The Game 87.7 FM. The "Jarrett, Harry, and Spike Show" can be heard weekdays from 3 to 7 pm.

"Getting to talk sports, not just football, five days a week with those guys is one of the best jobs I've ever had," said Payton. "The three of us add our own flavor to the show and I couldn't be happier to be a part of the WGN family."

Certainly though, there aren't enough hours left in the day to say...promote your own craft beer, right? Let's just say that if



an opportunity comes knocking that Payton likes, he's going to find the time.

"I teamed up with Argus Brewery, a Chicago company, and we rolled out my signature 'Swheatness Brew.' (See what they did there?) I never intended on getting into the beer business but it was a perfect situation with Argus being a family owned company from our area, which I was able to connect with," said Payton. "After all, some of the best conversations are had over a beer."

No matter how busy his schedule, or whatever opportunities life brings him, Jarrett Payton always keeps the city of Chicago, Bears fans, and his father's legacy close to his heart.

"This city is my extended family; it has been since my dad came here in 1975. I'm stopped by people every day that tell me how my dad impacted their lives or have a funny story about him. I love that people do that because it helps my family and I keep his legacy going."

It's clear that Jarrett is creating his own legacy that will leave its stamp on Chicago.




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MICHIGAN'S SUMMER OASIS FOR GOLFERS

BY

RORY HUGHES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

BRIAN WALTERS

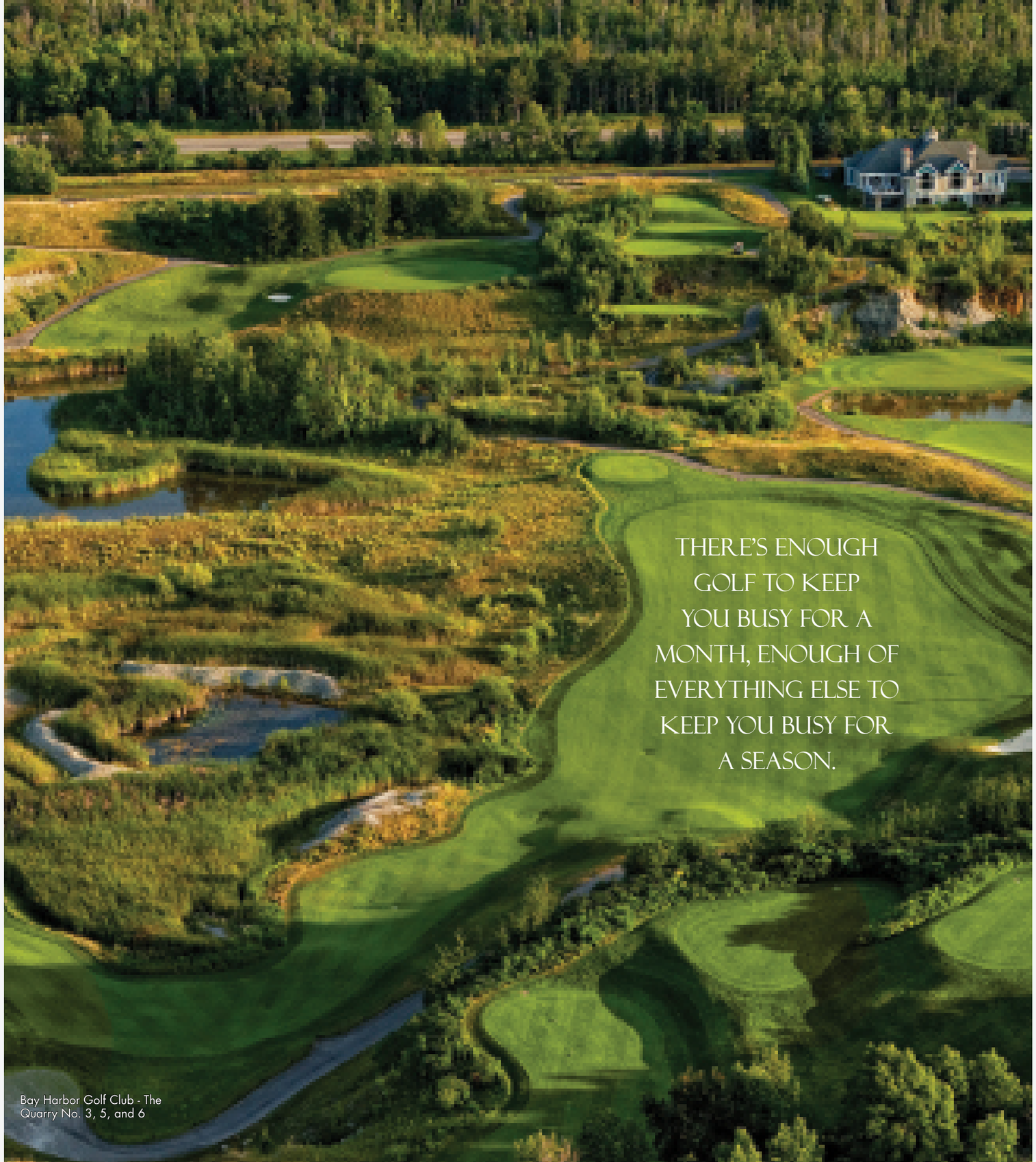
Who would have thought that Home Improvement wasn't the peak of Tim Allen's career? Although the affable Michigander has put out some watchable films (Toy Story comes to mind) since the hit show, his most compelling performance has been as the voice behind the "Pure Michigan" campaign. His low, soothing utterances describe picturesque Michigan landscapes that hypnotize unsuspecting viewers into firing up Travelocity and booking a flight to an underrated, freshwater oasis of world-class golf in and around Petoskey.

And while some "golf destinations" relegate non-golfing travelers to overpriced carnival rides, processed dinners at Applebee's, smoky casinos, and cramped theaters screening the latest Channing Tatum debacle, northwest Michigan stands on its own as a destination even without the golf. Along the blinding, blue water of Lake Michigan awaits a mash-up of breathtaking pastoral beauty and quaint small-town charm, featuring world-class fishing, hiking, exquisite dining, brew-pubbing, horseback riding, zip-lining, and anything else people with pulses enjoy. There's a reason Ernest Hemingway devoted an entire collection of short stories to the Petoskey area. That guy, tortured though he may have been, knew how to have a good time.

But if it's just golf you're looking for, this is also your place: *Golf* magazine ranked the area as the #2 destination in the country for "concentrated golf quality." Boyne Highlands is the ideal base camp from which to attack the array of golf gems; clean, cozy, and doubling as a ski resort, its Bavarian charm complements the surrounding on-site golf majesty, specifically The Ross Memorial, The Heather, The Hills, and The Moor.

When Donald Ross professed, "It has been my good fortune to bring happiness to many men... and great trouble to many men," he probably didn't expect someone to replicate 18 of his most famous holes and put them in one place. In the case of the Ross Memorial course, we can take comfort in the fact that happiness trumps trouble and enjoyment trumps frustration. Though difficult to highlight a signature hole on a signature-hole-filled course, the 434 yard par-4 4th, which mimics the #14 at Pinehurst #2, is a good place to start. Like many of Ross' holes, it's longer than it looks and the green is more dramatic than it looks. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the course is that while each hole is so much different from the next, the serene, north woods horizon provides cohesion, resulting in a true golf course rather than merely a gimmicky collection of holes. Playing this track is like going to a dinner party where every appetizer—Seminole Golf Club, Oakland Hills, Oak Hill, Inverness, Aronimink (to name a few)—is delicious. The entrée is #10, a replica of the 14th at Royal Dornoch in Scotland, a course to which Tom Watson referred as "the most fun I've ever had playing golf."

While the Ross playing experience inspires awe, The Heather inspires white knuckles. With a 141 slope from the back tees at 7,154 yards, this course—the first at Boyne—baits you with wide fairways, then beats you with sand, water, and wetlands in places that you just can't help but hit. Even if you hold it together on the back, 18 is a 454-yard beast that, even with a bombed drive, requires a 170-200-ish all-carry strike to a slim, slippery green. It's a finishing hole that can quickly morph you into Kyle Stanley, Robert Garrigus, or (insert name of PGA



Bay Harbor Golf Club - The Quarry No. 3, 5, and 6

tour player who has gagged on himself on the last hole to close out a minor tournament that you're only watching because you happened to wake up from a two-hour nap).

If 18 ruins your round at the Heather, make the easy jaunt to The Hills for an equally demanding but no less enjoyable test. Arthur Hills is to risk-reward what Ben Crane is to slow play; it's just who he is. The fairways are wide and inviting but if you happen to miss one, bring your beach towel; apparently Hills liked the Sleeping Bear Dunes so much that he decided to bring them to his course. The yellow splotches (bunkers, waste areas) on the yardage guides seem to be as prevalent as the striped green splotches (fairways). A weak cut off the tee should be fine most of the time, but if you start to spray or hook it even a little, you'll be looking at 165 out of the sand, up a hill, and onto a green that's burying an elephant.

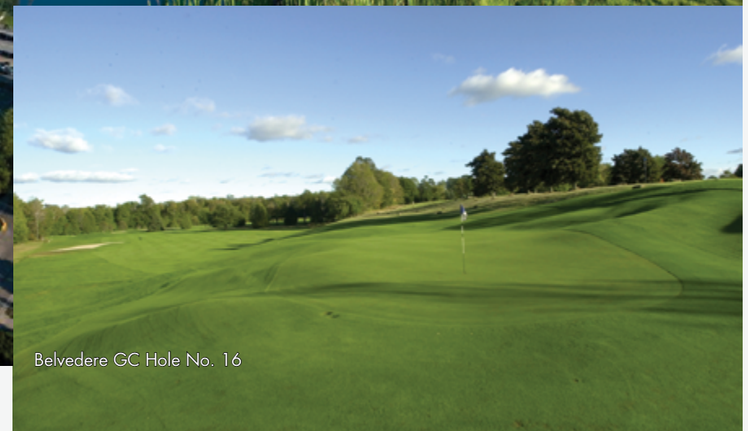
A short drive from Boyne, Bay Harbor—love child of links golf, parkland golf, and Golden Tee 2014—melds dramatic scenery with world-class design. Three distinct 9s—The Links, The Preserve, and The Quarry—meander through thick woods, over a quarry, and alongside the blue abyss of Lake Michigan. While fairways are wide-ish on most holes, the wind can make going after pins a reckless proposition, especially on the par 3s. At best you carom off a rock into Lake Michigan, at worst you end up in the living room of a million-dollar summer home. But it's hard to get frustrated with majestic, crystal blue Lake Michigan peering at you from all sides. In case


Boyne Highlands Hills


Bay Harbor Golf Club - The Links No. 7


Harbor Springs


The Heather


Belvedere GC Hole No. 16

the aforementioned tracks don't whet your appetite, the Petoskey area hosts a bevy of other courses with a range of design difficulty: the classic, rolling Moor at Boyne Highlands; the aptly named Crooked Tree across the street from Bay Harbor (soon to be redesigned by Arthur Hills to be a bit less "crooked"); the classic, understated throwback Belvedere Country Club in Charlevoix where the greens and the freshly-made burgers are equally immaculate.

So make the trip to Petoskey and Harbor Springs and you won't need Tim Allen to tell you what you're missing. There's enough golf to keep you busy for a month, enough of everything else to keep you busy for a season.

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www.boyne.com

Bay Harbor Golf Club
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www.belvederegolfclub.com

Ryne Sandberg

Chicago Cubs legend talks baseball, the summer of 1984, and a little golf.

by Dave Weretka

For a generation of Chicago sports fans, Ryne Sandberg has a place on the Windy City's Mount Rushmore next to Walter Payton, Michael Jordan, and Carlton Fisk. Ryno, inducted into MLB's Hall of Fame in 2005, was a ten-time All-Star, won nine consecutive Gold Gloves, and still holds the major league record for second basemen with a .989 fielding percentage.

Ryne, along with his teammates, made 1984 a special summer for baseball fans. This season, he is managing the Philadelphia Phillies, the club that drafted him out of high school, and we chatted at spring training to talk balls with stitches and balls with dimples.

GOLFChicago: How does it feel to come full circle as the manager of the team that initially drafted you?
Ryne Sandberg: It feels very comfortable and natural. I've enjoyed seeing familiar faces from the past, including Dallas Green, Pat Gillick, and Ruben Amaro Jr. I've also now had a chance to bring former teammates and friends on my staff; Larry Bowa, Juan Samuel, and Pete Mackanin

GC: Which one of your career highlights are you most proud of?
Sandberg: Being part of two post-season teams was very special. The 1984 and 1989 teams were great, and to be able to share those [memories] led by Jim Frey and Don Zimmer was a great opportunity. Also, I'm proud of spending six seasons in the minor leagues preparing to be a major league manager, which I'll have the chance to do this season.

GC: Where does the '84 season rank with all the years that you played?
Sandberg: The '84 season is right at the top. I was 24 years old and it was my first taste of winning. The entire city of Chicago was electric all summer. It was an experience that I wanted to duplicate for the rest of my career. Not making it to a World Series still hurts, even today, but I now have the opportunity to bring that experience to the Phillies organization.

GC: What did you enjoy most during your playing days here in Chicago?
Sandberg: Other than the two winning seasons, I loved playing day baseball for most of my career at Wrigley Field. It gave me the opportunity to have a (somewhat) normal lifestyle where I was able to be home around 4 or 5 p.m. and have dinner



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Cubs

and the evening with my family. I also always saw the ball better at the plate during the day at Wrigley Field.

GC: Do you think the league is taking the right steps to make sure the game remains clean?

Sandberg: Yes, I know the aggressive testing policy is taking the right steps to keep the game clean. I do still believe that, in some cases, we may need to have a longer penalty and to make the penalty more severe.

GC: When did you pick up the game of golf and who was influential in leading you to the game we love?

Sandberg: I believe it was when I was 10 years old. My brother, Del, who is 6 years older than me, cut two greens in our front and back yards. We would take a pitching wedge and hard plastic golf ball and play to each green from across the yard. When I was 12 or 13, we would ride our bikes, with clubs across the handlebars, to a couple of the courses in the Spokane [Washington] area. I grew up playing Indian Canyon, Downriver, and Hangman Valley.

GC: Which of your teammates did you enjoy getting out on the links with and why?

Sandberg: I enjoyed getting my first glimpse of Pebble Beach during an off day in San Francisco in 1984. A group of us went down for the day and teed off at Spyglass in the morning and Pebble Beach in the afternoon. We had two or three foursomes. Jodi Davis, Keith Moreland, Rick Sutcliffe, and Fergie Jenkins were all there.

GC: Favorite courses to play while in Chicago?

Sandberg: I've always enjoyed playing Shoreacres in Lake Bluff where I'm an honorary member. I've had many great rounds with my good friend Peter Bensinger and my son, B.R. I also love playing The Glen Club.

GC: Now that you've moved out of the Chicago area, what will you miss most about the city?

Sandberg: Probably the restaurants. Chicago has a great restaurant scene and there were a few that we went to regularly. Ron of Japan is a great Japanese steakhouse that I miss. My family would go there often.

GC: What would you like to impress upon your players that is of greatest importance as you begin this new chapter in your career?

Sandberg: Teaching my players the right way to play. Teaching them respect for the game and how to be the ultimate teammate.



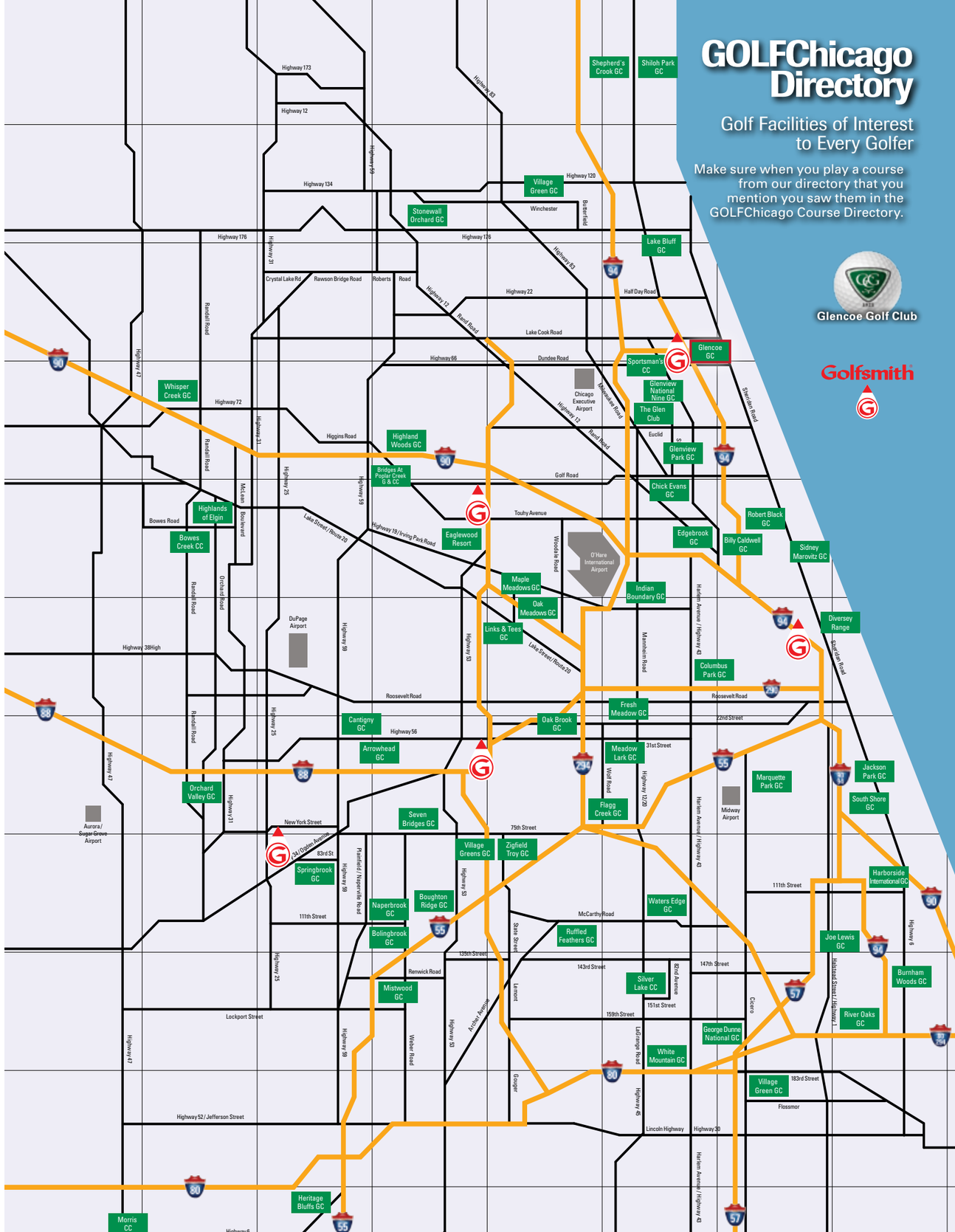
Photo courtesy of the Chicago Cubs



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Cubs



Photo courtesy of the Philadelphia Phillies



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

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bowescreekcountryclub.com

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- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
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theglenclub.com

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

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

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

Glencoe Golf Club & Golf Academy

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

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

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

Lake Bluff Golf Club

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

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

Mistwood Golf Club

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

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

Orchard Valley Golf Course

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

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine*.

One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs , water hazards, waterfalls and more.

PLUS…a program for everyone!

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

Stonewall Orchard

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

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

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

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

Water's Edge Golf Course
7205 West 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-671-1032
watersedgegolf.com

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

PLUS…a program for everyone!
- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club

Whisper Creek Golf Course
12840 Del Webb Boulevard
Huntley,IL 60142
847-515-7680
whispercreekgolf.com

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

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

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

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

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

White Pines Golf Club & Banquets
630-766-0304 500 W
Jefferson Ave
Bensenville, IL 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

36-hole championship course situated on over 240 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. Ten minutes from O'Hare International Airport, White Pines in Bensenville is a perfect choice for anyone looking for a challenging game of golf any time of the year.
White Pines Golf Club offers a superb setting, sure to make you feel like you are "away from it all."



Blackberry Oaks
630-553-7170
Bristol

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

Boughton Ridge
630-739-4100
Bolingbrook

Coyote Run Golf Course
708-957-8700
800 Kedzie
Flossmoor IL 60422
coyoterungolf.com

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

Eaglewood Resort and Spa
630-773-3510
1401 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL. 60143
eaglewoodresort.com

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

The First Tee of Aurora & Fox Valley
630-499-0680
1001 Hill Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
thefirstteeaurora.org

The First Tee of Greater Chicago
773-885-8258
2901 W. Lake Avenue,
Suite A
Glenview, IL 60025
thefirstteegreaterchicago.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course
708-246-3336
6939 S. Wolf Road
Countryside, IL 60525
flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

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

Fox Bend Golf Course
630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Par 72
Yardage: 6,890 – 5,325
Weekday: $38 walk
$54 ride
Weekend: $43 walk
$59 ride
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes
Resident rates available

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa
262-248-8811
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

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

Par 30
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.
Weekday: $14 walk
$22 ride
Weekend: $16 walk
$24 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: No
Banquets/Outings: No

Hamilton County Golf
Indiana's Premier Golf Destination!
indianaspremiergolf.com

Indian Oaks Country Club
815-824-2282
Shabbona, IL
9 Holes
3,379 yards
indianoakscc.com

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

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

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Maple Meadows Golf Club
630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com

West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: $32 walk
$49 ride
Weekend: $41 walk
$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website

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

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

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

Par 72
Yardage: 6677
Weekday: $39.50
Weekend: $49.50
Mid-day Rates: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Super Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

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

Par 72
Yardage 6541 - 5341 yds
Weekday: $67.50 w/cart
Weekend: $71.50 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

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

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

Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: $32 walk
$49 ride
Weekend: $41 walk
$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

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

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

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

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

Par 72
Yardage: 6,896
Weekday: $41.50
Weekend: $51.50
Mid-day Rates: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Super Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Village Greens
630-985-3610
Woodridge

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation
westerngolfassociation.com

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

Zigfield Troy Par 3
630-985-9860
1535 W. 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517

Play a Three-Ball Scramble

ON THE SHELF

Between the Covers

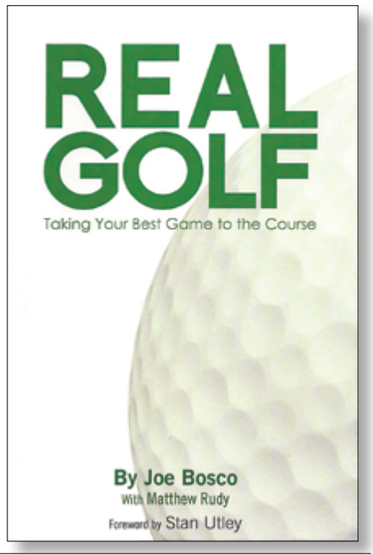
Real Golf: Taking Your Best Game to the Course
By Joe Bosco with Matthew Rudy
78 pages
$14.99
www.positivecoach.org

Renowned area golf professional Joe Bosco is advocating surprisingly simple and radical approach to golf practice. Bosco's first book, entitled *Real Golf: Taking Your Best Game to the Course*, encourages players to hone their skills on the golf course rather than the driving range.

In the one-dimensional driving range environment, Bosco argues that shots have no consequence. These shots do not simulate what players execute during an actual round of golf. Bosco recommends using a dynamic three-ball scramble practice regimen on the golf course to master mechanics and hone skills.

Real Golf is a personal narrative about how Bosco has changed his teaching philosophy to include scramble elements to on-course lessons and practice. This is not a groundbreaking approach; most of us have played an extra ball when the course is slow or empty. However, Bosco's results are remarkable. Bosco has coached dozens of high school state champion junior players and over 50 club champions.

Bosco shares his students' experiences as they replayed poor shots and began to enjoy success. His students were not chasing skulled or chunked duds. Bosco advised them to reload and hit the shot again. With stress and anxiety released in the poor attempt, these golfers began to consistently hit more greens and fairways. Bosco's students began to learn how to perform, not merely execute a swing. *Real Golf* is a quick read that will have lasting effects on your scorecard and your enjoyment of the game.





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Da Wine uh Da Coach

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk

Sports fan or not, if you live in Illinois you almost surely have heard of Mike Ditka, immortalized as Da Coach in the "Bill Swerski's Chicago Superfans" sketches that were a staple of the 1991 - '92 season of *Saturday Night Live*. After a career as a Hall-of-Fame NFL player, and a Super Bowl Champion coach, Ditka went on to become a restaurateur (four locations), ESPN commentator, cigar purveyor, and celebrity spokesman.

As part of his restaurant venture, Ditka also became interested in wines, and launched his eponymous private label in 2006, when he partnered with Mendocino Wine Company to do the actual winemaking.

However, in part because of limited distribution, sales were disappointing, falling more than 28 percent by the summer of 2012. At that time, Da Coach decided that a relaunch was necessary, and teamed up with Chicago-based world-wide wine powerhouse Terlato Wines International.

Although Ditka is the public face of the line, and continues to weigh in on the final result, the production chores are now handled by 2Sons Winery. 2Sons is a wine making team that works out of the Rutherford Hill winery in Napa Valley, another Terlato holding.

With the Terlato muscle behind Ditka's wine, the line has been completely rebranded, distribution has been substantially increased outside of the Chicago area, and output has risen from 5,000 to 16,000 cases, comprised of eight labels.

2012 The Hall of Famer Chardonnay $20
This wine greets you with a lemony color and aroma. The taste features grapefruit (plenty of zippy acidity), with supporting hints of apple and honeysuckle. Some of the wine spent six months in barrel during fermentation, while another portion was in stainless steel; the ratio was designed to keep the evidence of wood in the background. It ends with a rather one-dimensional short finish.

After this winter, I'm sure you are eagerly awaiting spring. As soon as the thermometer hits 70, ice down a bottle of The Hall of Famer and pair it up with Artichoke and Lemon Fritters, Warm Pancetta-Wrapped Endive Salad, or Asian Chicken in Ginger-Lemongrass Broth.

2011 The Coach Cabernet Sauvignon $15
Come on! Shouldn't this really be named *Da* Coach? The wine world could always benefit from a bit more humor and a bit less stuffiness. Regardless, this easy-drinking cab is very approachable. It is transparent garnet in color, somewhat lighter in appearance and body than most cabernets, perhaps because it is "only" 78% cabernet sauvignon, abetted by 15% merlot and 7% cabernet franc.

The nose sports aromas of raspberry and a bit of red currant. The raspberry continues on the palate, supported by an undertone of dark chocolate from the abundant but not overwhelming tannins.

Enjoy this wine with Rack of Spring Lamb with Roasted Garlic, Pork Chops with Morels and Thyme (you do hunt for your own morel mushrooms, don't you?), or Veal Stir-fry with Snow Peas and Snow Pea Shoots.



leo849@comcast.net



Double Bogey Bogey Par Birdie Eagle

Tiger's Major Withdrawals

FROM THE FRINGE
Insights on the PGA Tour



Jim Owczarski

Illinois' own Luke Guthrie dared wear "Tiger red" the first Sunday of March in the Honda Classic, but the 24-year-old from Quincy didn't earn the majority of his television time for his style choice. Rather, the man for whom that color is synonymous shook Guthrie's hand after 13 holes and stiffly walked off the course.

It was just the seventh withdrawal of Tiger Woods' illustrious career, but it was yet another injury that kept him from competing at the highest level of the game. Of those seven withdrawals, four have come in the last five seasons.

Ironically, and sadly, the body that changed the game of golf is going to prevent Woods from eclipsing the greatest record in the sport.

Woods' devotion to fitness, to treating golf as an athletic venture, revolutionized the sport. Golfers are now lean, muscular, and fast. Sure, the ball and the equipment may be hot, but the mid-level guys knocking it around prior to the turn of the last century didn't look like this.

After his walk-off in Florida, some major-less golfers took to Twitter and criticized Woods' bulk, or the fact he pushes too much weight. That's an opinion, of course, and easy to say when you don't have to move four Wannamaker Trophies, three Claret Jugs, and three Championship Cups around the house.

Seriously though, bulk has nothing to do with it.

There's no way Woods has just decided to rock the bench press and ignore the very basic core fundamentals of golf strength and conditioning. While he may not have invented golf fitness, he sure as heck has made a lot of people rich by making it a vital element to a pro career.

Perhaps, simply, his body can't take it anymore.

It happens sooner for some, later for others, and for a lucky few, never at all.

And it shouldn't diminish his legacy one bit.

Woods' effort at the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines is the single greatest sporting performance I've ever seen, and probably ever will see. All it could possibly be compared to is, perhaps, a heavyweight championship fight of yesteryear. The sheer willpower, the physical strength, the intolerance for defeat, and astounding mental fortitude to play golf on a broken leg and a shredded knee is beyond our understanding.

It's why, even as he was dominating the game like no one has before—or likely will again—his peers still called him the most "underrated" player in the game.

They knew what he was doing was ridiculous.

Woods will probably win another major championship before he retires. Julius Boros (48), Jack Nicklaus (46), Phil Mickelson (43), and Darren Clarke and Ernie Els (42) all have proven that the game's best can pull one out of the hat even in the twilight of their careers.

To win five more, however, with a bad back and creaky knees? It's too much to hope for, let alone expect.

Outside of his own ailments, one of the reasons Woods won't break Nicklaus' record is because of how fit everyone else in the game has become. Players are more athletic, stronger, and able to hit the ball mile after mile. They don't wear down, at least physically.

And I think these physical breakdowns have hastened Woods decline mentally. It's hard to live on that razor's edge, to be that cool, that ruthless, for an entire career. Many seasoned golf observers say they've never seen a better clutch putter than Woods in his prime, but that air of invincibility is gone.

Part of that is because he's pressing, and he's pressing because he doesn't know if that back is going to flare up, if that elbow is going to scream, if that knee is going to pop.

I don't think he's scared of injury. Watch him. He goes all out until some part of his body tells him to pull it back, but in spite of that he pushes on. It's just that now, at 38 years old, he can't cross the line and deal with the repercussions later, like after Torrey Pines in 2008. He can't afford to miss many more practice sessions, or majors.

Woods is the greatest golfer of all time, even if he never wins another major championship. If you look at his career as a whole, even to this point, it surpasses Nicklaus in every category but one.

Many will scoff at that—they'll say that's the only one that matters. Well, if that's the case, then Michael Jordan can't be considered the greatest basketball player ever, or Walter Payton the greatest football player.

Total championships are a nice tiebreaker, but we know transcendent greatness when we see it, and Woods was that in his prime. It's just unfortunate it didn't last as long as we would've liked.

Woods' effort at the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines is the single greatest sporting performance I've ever seen, and probably ever will see.

Locals Look for Bigger Waves in Second Half

We're entering the back half of the 2013-14 PGA Tour season and "Illinois' Finest" hope to bounce back from a rough first half. Former world No. 1 Luke Donald is still trying to recapture that form, as he hasn't won anywhere since May of 2012. A tie for fourth at the Valspar Championship may signal that he is finally rounding into form. D.A. Points, a 2013 Tour winner, hasn't finished higher than a tie for 28th. 2013 Tour winner Kevin Streelman had a tie for eighth at the ISPS HANDA World Cup of Golf and a tie for third at the Tournament of Champions in January, but since then he hasn't cracked the top 25.



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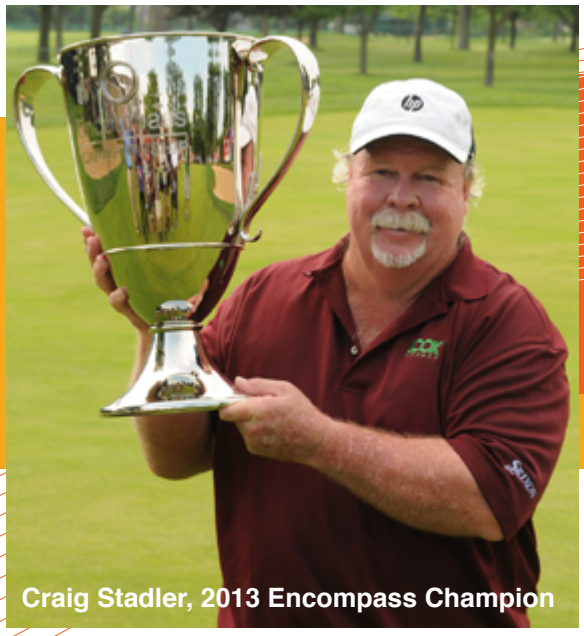
Craig Stadler, 2013 Encompass Champion

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