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Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Spring 1 2022, Vol. 26 No. 2

ZERO FRICTION'S SECRET TO SUCCESS

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Features

12 **Mother's Day Gift Guide**
Make her day with a wide selection of goodies

18 **Zero Friction**
Golf innovation being created in Oak Brook

20 **WJ Golf**
A dream realized



Cover: John Iacono of Zero Friction. Cover photo: Yaam Media

Departments

- 5** **Opening Shot**
- 6** **The Good Stuff**
New goodies for 2022
- 8** **Profiles**
Our Drive, Putt, and Chip kids
- 10** **Instruction**
Using your putter to improve your ball striking
- 14** **Fitness**
Injuries are not inevitable
- 16** **Chicago Spotlight**
Naperville's Emily Taylor
- 22** **Travel**
PGA to mix it up at Harbor Shores
- 24** **On the Corkscrews**
A Port to seek
- 26** **Travel**
The Midwest's golf Mecca
- 32** **Sweet Home Chicago**
What's happening in our Windy City
- 39** **GOLFChicago Map and Directory**
- 46** **Final Putt**
Rich Harvest hosts controversial LIV Invitational

OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

With so much uncertainty in the world right now, golf has once again stepped in to make us feel that all is not lost. As it was when the world first began opening up a bit a year after COVID-19 turned our lives upside down, it was golf that allowed us back outside doing something we all love.

And with the nightmarish scenes in Ukraine that we have been seeing on the nightly news for more than a month, it's The Masters that we are all eagerly awaiting, if nothing else but to take our minds off of things for a few days. Yes, spring is definitely in the air and courses have been packed, albeit with both public and private club golfers paying more than ever for 18 holes and 4 to 5 hours of mostly pure joy.

Speaking of The Masters, Chicago will take center stage as writer Joe Aguilar introduces us to the area's Drive, Chip, and Putt regional finalists who will be competing for championship honors at Augusta National this month.

We also share an inspirational story of Emily Taylor, a Naperville mom who started her own headcover design company just after the start of the pandemic and now has a thriving business. Her story is as unique as the headcovers she bedazzles for her clients.

Senior writer Neal Kotlarek takes us around the lake to Benton Harbor, Michigan, and Harbor Shores Resort, which will host the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. You'll then head farther north to Gaylord, Michigan, and see why this part of the state can truly be considered a golfing Mecca. Neal finishes the issue with the Final Putt where he takes a hard look at the controversial decision by Rich Harvest Farms to host an event on the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Neal also discusses the numerous questions that have yet to be answered, including who will be playing in the event and where we will be able to watch it.

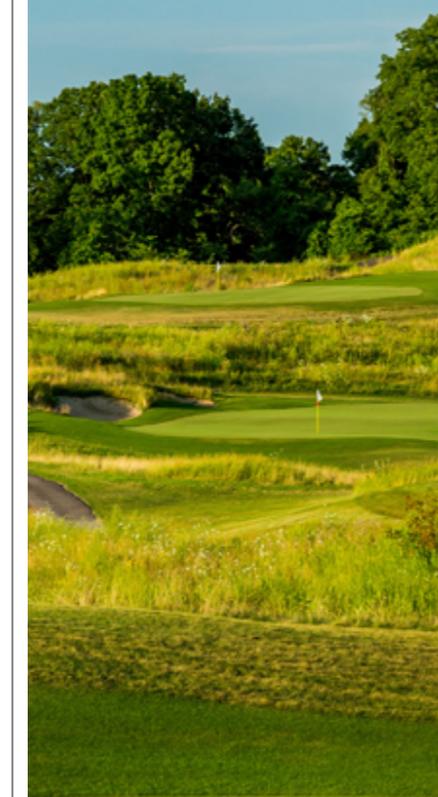
On a lighter note, our Mother's Day Gift Guide and Good Stuff provide insight to some great products for both mom and you. Whether it's an electric bike that can carry your golf bag, the latest in hybrid technology, a training aid that helps keep your hips and shoulders moving in the right direction, or TaylorMade's super cool Spider GT model designed with mom in mind, it's just a few pages away.

Our Sweet Home Chicago department will take us to legendary Canal Shores in Evanston, out to southwest suburban Sycamore for the grand opening of Sub 70's new fitting studio, and to DuPage County for some sweet deals on great golf. We'll also introduce the new Under Armour Junior Tour, a national youth golf league for boys and girls ages 6 to 18 of all skill levels, with athletes competing in a fun, friendly, and competitive environment while developing the skills and self-confidence to improve their golf game.

So kick back, hit some putts, and enjoy what I hope will be the warmth of April. It's a great time to be a golfer.

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THE GOOD STUFF



Carry in Style

Linksoul is a company that's behind some of the hottest golf apparel today, but its Linksoldier Golf Bag is one of the most subtle, yet stylish ways to carry your clubs. Available in charcoal or an army green color, the Linksoldier bag weighs only 4.8 lbs. and is a breeze to carry. Storm flap pocket closures, a beverage pocket, and ample space for anything you carry to the course is welcome in this heathered-material bag. Its wide stand mechanism provides ideal balance when it stands up or gets strapped to a golf cart.

\$225 linksoul.com

Ready Player 2

A "tradition unlike any other" deserves a fun shirt like any other, and the Magnolia t-shirt from Player 2 hits on so many levels. The brand's signature gloved hand dropping a second ball is an ode to one of the most iconic logos in golf. Made from a silky smooth cotton, it has a trendy heathered look in green, navy, or gray. Player 2 prides itself on the stretch and recovery of its shirts, so give it plenty of wear in April and beyond. This tee is a limited edition, so get yours now!

\$35 player2.com



Look Good, Play Good

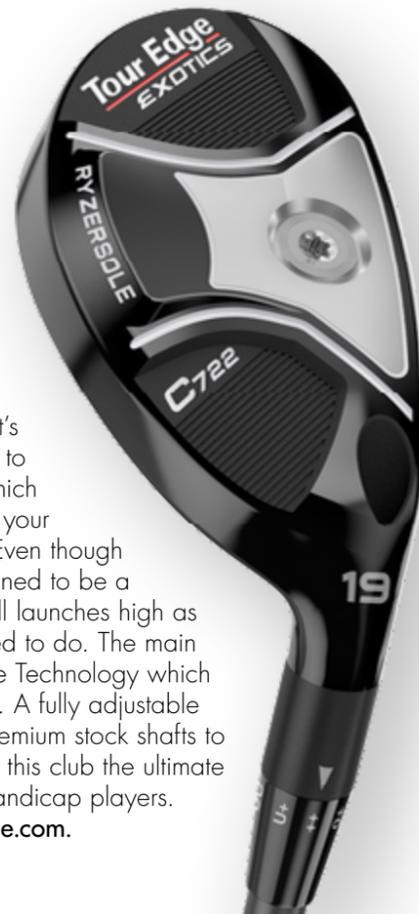
ECCO ushers in the newer generation of BIOM Cool Pro with its C4 shoe, a sneaker-style spikeless shoe with all of the benefits that you need. With 360-degree breathability and full waterproofing, the C4 has GORE-TEX surround construction, which is combined with ECCO's Exhaust Grid making this shoe ventilated and cool on the hottest days. ECCO Performance Leather and MTN GRIP add to the overall luxury of this shoe which is available in four distinct color options.

\$225

Ready to Ryze

Tour Edge knows how to build high-performance hybrids, and the new Exotics C722 is a low-profile design that's intended for the better player. It's also a compliment to its E722 hybrid which is built for more of your everyday player. Even though this hybrid is designed to be a low-spin club, it still launches high as a hybrid is intended to do. The main feature is Ryzersole Technology which keeps the CG low. A fully adjustable hosel and three premium stock shafts to choose from make this club the ultimate tweener for low handicap players.

\$249.99 touredge.com



Up Your IQ

Big Max is behind some of the biggest advancements in push cart technology, and the new IQ 360 model gives you a compact-folding cart that's big on maneuvering. The front wheel rotates 360-degrees for effortless turning while also having full ability to lock in place, even on hilly terrain. An expanded organizer panel gives you plenty of room for accessories and the one-move folding mechanism makes getting this cart broken down and loaded up as simple as one...two...well, actually it's just one.

\$289.99
us.bigmaxgolf.com



Be Still My Hips and Shoulders

Very few golfers have heard of the crucial motion measurements of hip and shoulder sway, yet they are two important parts of the golf swing. The inventors of the Eclipse Golf training aid have come up with a genius product to help keep your hips and shoulder from moving away from the target in the backswing (doing so moves your low point away from the ball, and that's a bad thing). If you've ever hit a ball thin or hit the ground behind the ball (chunks) don't listen to your buddy who tells you to keep your head down (the worst piece of advice in the history of golf). Instead, you need to keep your hips and shoulders from moving away from the target during your backswing. When using the eclipse, a black top disc covers a white bottom disk. During the backswing, if you see any portion of the white bottom disk (aka, an eclipse), then you know you are swaying away from the target.

\$49.99 www.eclipse.golf



Let's Ride!

The Divnick Golf HeyBike Ranger is revolutionizing the way you get around the golf course. If you're a single-rider, this is a fun and fresh way to change-up your hole-to-hole commute.

This bike has a powerful 500 watt motor and can go up to 25 MPH on cart paths. On grass, the bike has all-purpose tires that are puncture-resistant and make for a smooth, comfortable ride. Intelligent Pedal Assist has seven levels of speed if you don't feel like pedaling for a few holes. Two rounds of battery life, USB charger, and a heavy-duty rack for your clubs makes this bike a breeze on the course.

\$2,168 divnickgolf.com



Chicago Area Youngsters Headed to Augusta National

Eleven years after he wobbled in front of a TV and imitated a golf swing for the first time while watching Tiger Woods and friends try to conquer Augusta National during the Masters, Lediuz Felipe will soft-spike his way around the same famed course this April. Holding real clubs. And without wearing Pampers.

"Very nervous, excited," said Felipe, who's now 11 and a sixth grader at North Boone Upper Elementary in Poplar Grove.

Felipe (boys 10-11 age division) along with fellow Illinois junior golfers Martha Kuwahara of Northbrook (girls 14-15), Lisa Copeland of Naperville (girls 12-13), Michael Jorski of Clarendon Hills (boys 12-13), and Eloise Fetzer of La Grange (girls 7-9) all qualified last year for this year's Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals, which will be held on the eve of the 2022 Masters, April 3.

The story goes, Rosaline Felipe says, that one day in 2011, she plopped her toddler next to his playpen while she cooked dinner and her husband, Lawrence, talked on his phone. The Masters was on TV. While Rosaline checked on Lediuz every few

moments, much to her and her husband's surprise, Lediuz stood up, grabbed a drumstick, and took a golf-swing hack.

During a media event held earlier this spring at Medinah Country Club, where Felipe and other junior golfers had competed in the regional qualifier, Rosaline pulled out her cell phone and proudly showed off baby pictures of Lediuz. In one picture, with his toy club in hand, he sported a diaper.

"Embarrassing," Lediuz said with a sheepish smile.

The day after their one-year-old son's impromptu golf swing with a drumstick, the Felipes bought him a plastic golf set.

"Every day he would swing [the club]," Rosaline said, "and then go to sleep with it."

Rosaline has a video on her cell phone of little Lediuz picking up a small branch outside and swinging it like a golf club. Rosaline, who was born in Malaysia, and Lawrence, who is from the Philippines, don't play golf. But Lediuz, who also plays basketball, soccer, and chess, never has lost his enthusiasm for the game.

"It's peaceful," said Lediuz, who usually plays at Aldeen in Rockford and Timber Pointe in Poplar Grove. "It's relaxing ... fresh air."

For 14-year-old Kuwahara, an eighth grader at Wood Oaks Junior High in Northbrook, it wasn't exactly love at first sight with the game of golf. When she and her family were living in Japan, her grandfather, Yasuo, used to take her brother, Issa, to go play golf. Kuwahara, at the time, was competing in gymnastics.

DCP Nationals was broadcast on TV in Japan, Kuwahara said.

"It was my grandpa's dream to have one of his grandchildren [compete] in [the tournament]," she said.

After her grandpa died five years ago, Kuwahara said her brother recommended she try golf, so she went from flip flops to flop shots. Last fall, while competing in the Drive, Chip, and Putt regional qualifier at Medinah, Kuwahara was waiting for her turn to hit. A family friend, out of the blue, texted her family a photo of her grandfather.

"My family friend didn't know that we were here," Kuwahara said. "We were talking about the photo and my name got called."

The next thing she knew, she was earning her ticket to Nationals.

For Kuwahara, who plays out of the Glen Club in Glenview, it will be her first time visiting Augusta National.

"Very exciting," she said. "I'm very honored that I was able to make it."

Kuwahara, who was born in Libertyville but whose parents are from Japan, calls Hideki Matsuyama her favorite player. Last year, Matsuyama won the Masters to become the first Japanese golfer to capture a major. "He inspires me," she gleefully said.



Lediuz Felipe (2021_151)



Martha Kuwahara (2021_331)



Lisa Copeland (2021_260)



Eloise Fetzer (2021_094)



Michael Jorski (2021_222)

Who inspires the 7-year-old Fetzer? Start with her dad, Kevin, who once played in a U.S. Amateur and competed at Florida State University for two years as a walk-on. Like daddy, Fetzer, a 4-foot-4 lefty and member at La Grange Country Club, doesn't wear a golf glove when playing, a la Lucas Glover and Fred Couples.

The Cossitt Avenue School second grader first picked up a [plastic] golf club when she was two. "Golf has just always been a part of our family," said Kevin Fetzer, whose wife also plays. "To be able to coach [Eloise] and watch her play ... has been the joy of my life."

His daughter has as much personality as game on the golf course. She knows her drive ["first bounce"] carries exactly 114 yards. She's wicked with a wedge. "I'm always confident," she said of her wedge play. "I say, 'Oh, I can chip it and one-putt' — get an up-and-down."

Her favorite player? "I have three," Fetzer said. "My dad, Justin Thomas, and Lexi Thompson. I like Justin Thomas because he has my pre-shot routine, and I like Lexi Thompson because after I won [at Medinah to qualify for Nationals] she sent me a video."

Thompson, who won a major (the 2014 Kraft Nabisco Championship) as a 19-year-old and counts 11 LPGA wins, sent a video text message to the Fetzers.

"She said, 'Congratulations,'" said Fetzer, who's also a competitive swimmer. "And she said she can't wait to see my name on the leaderboard."

Look out, Augusta National.

"I'm expecting to have a lot of fun," Fetzer said, "and I'm expecting to see the professionals that I love to watch on TV."

While Felipe, Kuwahara, and Fetzer will be competing at DCP Nationals for the first time, Copeland also made it in 2017.

The 12-year-old Jorski, a sixth grader at Clarendon Hills Middle School, walked on Augusta National's Bermuda grass for the first time in 2018. He placed sixth out of 10 competitors in the 7-9 age group. Then a grizzled 8, he says he was inexperienced and too focused on winning.

"It's like you don't actually see the beauty of the course and see how much fun it really is to be there, and how far you've come to get there in the first place," Jorski said.

He expects to be more comfortable this time. "Less nerves," said Jorski, who, like Copeland, considers Cog Hill in Lemont his home course. "I know I've done it before, and I failed before. You just go out there, do the best you can do and have fun."

He and his fellow young Illinois golfers are hoping to write history.



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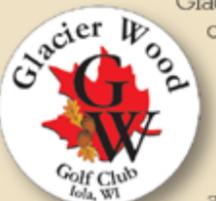
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glacierwoodiola.com

Mike Carbray

Use Your Putter to Improve Your Ball Striking

We all know the importance putting has on shooting low scores, but did you ever think to use your putter to improve your ball striking? Try this drill to help train your hands and wrists into a new position for 2022. It's the same position the best golfers in the world have in their swings and a big part to what makes them such great ball strikers.

Your hands are the only thing connecting you to the golf club. The direction and distance your golf ball flies are directly related to how the clubface contacts it. Most recreational golfers have poorly trained hands and wrists during their swing. Those hands and wrists lead to inconsistency in hitting the center of the clubface, having the face open to the target at impact and too much loft on the club at impact. All these things not only strip you of distance and direction but will have you thinking you need to fix other parts of your swing.

Here is the Drill: Train your hands and wrists to properly feel your putter. If you grip your putter like you would your 7 iron, you will have your thumbs on the flat part of the grip.

Make a backswing and stop at the top. You will probably feel or see the flat part of the grip is pointing to the ground. Your Thumbs will be underneath the grip. If this is the case, Your clubface is open. This is the start of your trouble. To hit a good shot from this position requires either

perfect timing or luck, both of which are hard to come by.

Now from that position, twist your hands so the flat part of the grip points to the back of your head. (You will feel like you are trying to twist it to the sky.) Take a look at your wrists and you will see and feel more bow or flex in your lead wrist. Your trail palm will start to point to the sky. Your wrists will now look very similar to guys named Rahm, Morikawa, Hovland, Johnson, and Schauffele. All listed in the Top 10 golfers in the world.

From the top of your backswing, take 10 repetitions trying to get the flat part of the grip from your comfortable position to point at the back of your head. You can even do this while sitting on your couch! It might feel like turning a screwdriver for some.

Next try to keep your wrists in that position and take the club down to impact. When you get down to the golf ball you will see your wrists in an unfamiliar spot. You will also see the putter face delofted and more closed than your old impact position. The flat part of the grip will now be pointed to 11:00 on a watch for a frame of reference. This is the position all good ball strikers are in at impact.

You are on your way to training your hands and wrists to feel how they should feel in your swing. Devote 10 minutes a day to this drill so your brain and body can work together to process what you are doing and adapt to this new position.

You want to eventually make this swing without thinking about it.

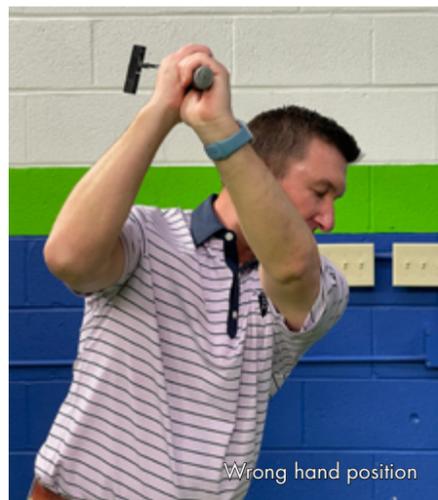
At the end of each 10-minute practice session with your putter, pick up your 7 iron and see if you can recreate the position and feel with a conventional round grip.

Extra Credit: Go see your Illinois PGA Professional and have him put a putter grip on an old 7 or 8 iron and try this drill while hitting balls.

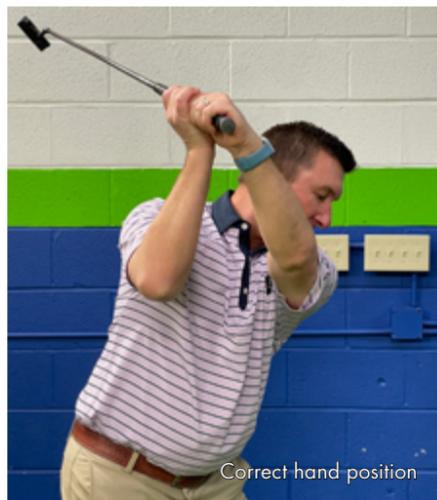
When you have done this drill enough and your wrists are in a better position at the top of your backswing and into impact, you will start to feel what the center of the club face feels like on a regular basis. Your golf ball will fly farther and straighter than before.

When your hands and wrists are in a better position, your body will start to work better as well. Many of the faults or issues you had like "coming over the top" or "reverse pivot" with your body positions were caused by it reacting to or trying to fix your hands during the swing. When your hands and wrists are good, your body will start to be too. That's for free!

Mike Carbray is director of instruction for Butterfield Country Club and owner of Journey 2 Better Golf Training. He is a 2018 Illinois PGA Teacher of The Year, a 2021 Golf Digest Best In State Instructor and has been named a Top 50 Growth of The Game Instructor. Follow him on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook @MikeCarbrayGolf for more information and help with your golf game.



Wrong hand position



Correct hand position



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E722

C722

Tour Edge
EXOTICS



Her Favorite Bag

The PING Hooper has had years of different models and designs, and this new Hooper Lite model for 2022 is its most advanced version to date. The color combination of navy, light gray, and lavender is a design all ladies will love. The bag weighs only five pounds and has padded straps, spacious club wells, and plenty of pocket space for anything she brings to the golf course. [\\$245 ping.com](https://www.ping.com).



Let Her Roll

Bridgestone Golf has always produced golf ball models aimed at helping ladies with particular aspects of their games. The new Lady Precept is available in white or pink and it has a softer core than previous models so it has a much softer feel around the greens. The 330-seamless dimple design produces high launch and its gradual compression provides the distance gains mom is looking for. [\\$21.99 bridgestonegolf.com](https://www.bridgestonegolf.com).



Sleek in Pink

The finishing touches of every golf outfit should not go unnoticed. This Go-In Sleek Pink belt from Nexbelt adds a blast of color to mom's golf course attire. Nexbelt perfected the ratchet-style belt which forgoes traditional hole closure, so a precise fit is guaranteed every round. The strap is made from a high-end leather and the buckle reveals a hidden rhinestone ball marker. [\\$45.99 nexbelt.com](https://www.nexbelt.com).



Get Mom Ready for Summer

A sleeveless golf polo should be a part of any women's golf essentials, and this US Zinger Sleeveless Polo from Under Armour is a perfect fit for any lady. The white/beta tint floral design has just enough flare to be the headliner of a golf outfit. The four-way stretch material is also anti-pill fabric so it's extremely breathable and light, perfect for those warmer days on the course. The Zinger is UPF 30 so it protects from the sun's harmful rays. [\\$60 underarmour.com](https://www.underarmour.com).

She's the Black Widow

The Spider putter from TaylorMade has been, by far, the most popular putter among amateur and professional golfers over the past few years. This Spider GT model is specifically designed for ladies in both color and performance. Its lighter overall headweight and 33" length is designed to fit a wide range of women. Visit any official TaylorMade retailer (your local golf course, GOLFTEC, etc.) who should be able to order a custom fit Spider to ensure the correct length and lie for you. The light blue and white color scheme also has a matching headcover. [\\$349.99 taylormadegolf.com](https://www.taylormadegolf.com).



Shoes Mom Needs

Skip the same old, same old for Mother's Day and buy her Italian-made golf shoes she won't want to take off. The Caldes Golf Shoe from Duca Del Cosma has a beautiful beige flower design that works with any outfit. She probably doesn't own golf shoes made from soft Italian Nappa leather or ARNEFLEX insole memory foam, so don't make her wait any longer. In addition to looking great, these shoes also have a waterproof Sock System so they stay dry even if she gets caught in the rain. [\\$229 ducadelcosma.us](https://www.ducadelcosma.us).



Be Sure to Toast Mom on Her Day

Sosie Wines Rosé of Syrah 2021 is bone dry and has a lovely salmon color. The nose serves up a mouthwatering basket of berries and melon. On the palate, those berries become specifically strawberries, with some green apple and honey-suckle in the mix. There is excellent structure, especially for a rosé, and just the right amount of acidity. To keep the fruit flavors pristine, there was no malolactic fermentation. ABV is 13.8%. [\\$32 sosiewines.com](https://www.sosiewines.com)



Swing and Spring

Lohla Sport is a Los Angeles company that's fresh to the golf scene, and particularly women's fashion. The Spring Jacket is a versatile piece that's fashionable and functional. A lightly quilted and padded front body is complimented by a jersey stretch back and sleeves. The full-zip closure makes this jacket an easy on and off at the golf course plus easy to store inside of a golf bag if it gets too warm. [\\$230 lohlasport.com](https://www.lohlasport.com).

Mom's Should Hit Bombs

Finding the right driver can be a struggle for ladies. Between finding the right shaft weight, forgiveness, and distance, chances are the female golfer closest to you isn't getting the most out of her driver. Thankfully, Callaway has the Big Bertha REVA which is designed to maximize every aspect of what ladies need on the course. With a draw bias and A.I. Designed Flash Face SS21, the Big Bertha REVA is going to be the driver she keeps in the bag for years to come. [\\$499.99 callawaygolf.com](https://www.callawaygolf.com).



Mother's Day Gift Guide

Common Golf Injuries and How to Prevent Them

We've all been there: rolling up to the course after a long night, hoping to buy a small bucket and warm up like a tour pro, but instead you're late and end up racing up to the first tee and letting it rip. No worries, your buddies will give you a free breakfast ball. But whoa, did that hurt your *insert injured body part here!*

In our clinic, we see a lot of golf-related injuries that start out like that. We also see a lot of overuse/misuse injuries that nag golfers for weeks and months, and can severely compromise not only the enjoyment of playing golf, but also the quality of golf you can play! While nobody can prevent these injuries all of the time, there are steps you can take in the off-season, as well as in between rounds to reduce your

risk of injury and keep you playing great golf for years to come.

Lumbar Muscle Strain

Lumbar muscle strains are a very common golf injury where the muscles surrounding the spine begin to spasm and become irritable with movement due to the loads and positions they've been put in. Lumbar strains can be incredibly debilitating, and will absolutely take you off the course if they flare up enough. They tend to be injuries that stem from "Going too hard for too long, after doing too little for too long"—essentially a deconditioning injury.

Try This

The half kneeling windmill exercise is a great drill to work on controlling rotation

through the mid and lower back, while challenging the lower back to stabilize the pelvis and ribcage throughout the movement. These types of muscle strains also typically respond well to manual therapy, dry needling, and chiropractic adjustments.

Medial/Lateral Epicondylitis (Golfer's Elbow/Tennis Elbow)

Epicondylitis refers to the inflammatory or degenerative process that occurs at the either side of the elbow and is usually a result of overuse/misuse and can be an indicator of missing range of motion in the wrist or shoulder, or an indicator that you overdid it recently.

Try This

Grab a lacrosse/tennis/golf ball, and pin the forearm extensors as shown below.

From here, move the wrist through a full range of motion. We typically use these releases, combined with forearm and upper arm strengthening to reduce pain at the elbow from epicondylitis.

Disc Pathology (Bulges, Herniations, Degenerative Disease)

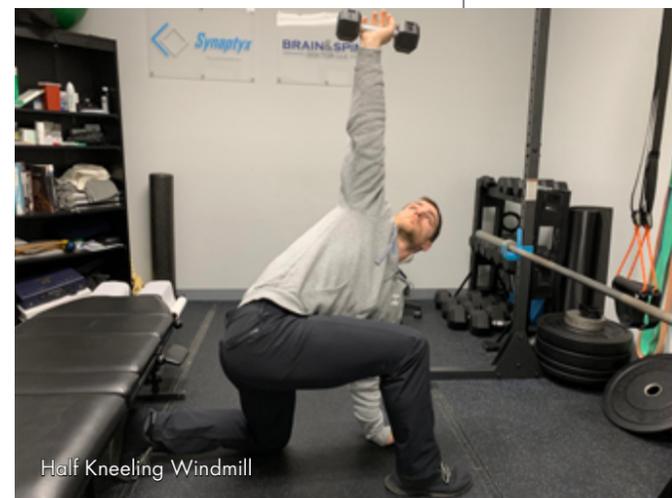
Disc pathology is incredibly common in the general population, but when you add hundreds of fast rotations and a lack of general tissue preparation, there is a pretty high occurrence of disc pathology in golfers. Sometimes this presents with numbness, tingling, and loss of strength into one or both legs, or can be mild and resemble a muscle strain. If you think you've had a disc injury, it's best to consult a doctor on the best course of action. The good news is that close to 80% of these injuries resolve on their own within a few months, and many resolve even quicker with the proper therapies.

Try This

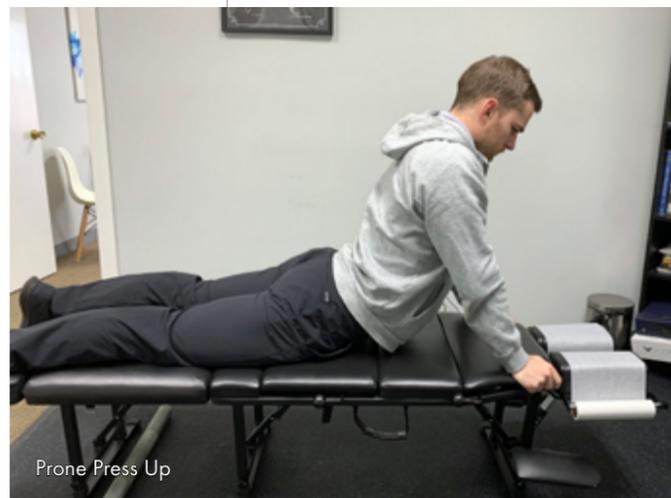
The prone press up exercise is the most commonly alleviating position for those with disc issues. Perform these by pressing the torso up so that the low back is extended without using the glutes or low back. Do this exercise for 12 to 15 reps, a few times per day and use symptoms as your guide moving forward.

The Dead Bug exercise is a great core stability drill that challenges extension and rotation (motions achieved in the golf swing) and teaches proper core stability sequencing.

Dr. Ryan Pokrywka and Dr. Kevin McGarry are the founders of Synaptix Health and Performance Systems and Synaptix Physical Medicine in Hinsdale, IL. Ryan is an NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and Kevin is a Level 1 Titleist Performance Institute Certified professional. They provide in-person and remote custom training programs as well as sports medicine rehab and recovery services. For more information visit www.synaptixperformance.com.



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Quarantine Crafter Turned Entrepreneur

By Dave Lockhart

With a background in marketing, advertising, and consulting, Naperville's Emily Taylor was eager to embrace a new hobby to help her cope with the COVID-19 pandemic back in early 2020. An avid golfer and mother of three children, the volunteer PTA mom decided to bedazzle headcovers. But what started as an arts and crafts project during the world pandemic has now blossomed into a flourishing career and poof, Emily is now one of the western suburb's most promising entrepreneurs. Our Dave Lockhart caught up with her recently to learn more.

You can find Emily and her products via Instagram @Emilypbj and @LFGcustoms, and via www.lfgcustoms.com.

fascinating market, especially when you look at the higher-end retail and resale shops, where prices can go from \$200 to more than \$2,000 for rare or special headcovers. As a single mom, I couldn't afford those kinds of headcovers, so I decided to make my own unique, "special headcover." I used a basic, stock headcover - the kind that comes free when you purchase a putter - and I glued over 400 Swarovski crystals on it. I was proud of the way it turned out and shared a couple pictures and videos of it on social media. The cover went "viral" and people started asking me to do their headcovers too.

At first, I only made covers for my friends. It started in March

2020 as my little "quarantine craft," and I would exchange my customizing services for headcovers I liked but couldn't otherwise obtain or afford. As the crystal covers started making appearances on my friends' golf bags, buzz grew on social media, and more people started contacting me to make unique covers for them. When the demand hit, I knew I had discovered a new, niche market for luxury golf customization.

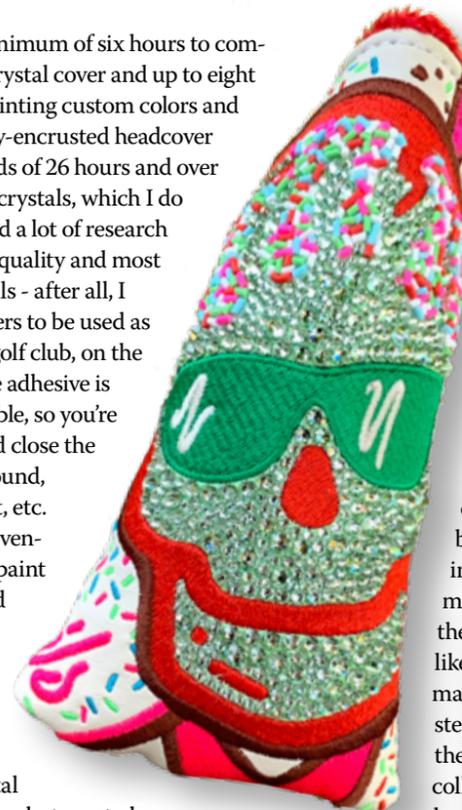
Now, people send me their headcovers, some of which are already really expensive and rare, and I customize them to their liking.

Headcovers are a big business and collectors equate them to "adult trading cards." My customers are avid collectors, and want something that is unique and personal to them; something amazing and one-of-a-kind, which is what they get when they work with me. No two covers are the same. Once I customize a cover, I will never replicate that cover in color or design.

It takes a minimum of six hours to complete a simple crystal cover and up to eight hours if I am painting custom colors and graphics. A fully-encrusted headcover can take upwards of 26 hours and over 4,000 hand-set crystals, which I do one-by-one. I did a lot of research to find the best quality and most durable materials - after all, I wanted the covers to be used as intended: on a golf club, on the golf course. The adhesive is strong, yet flexible, so you're able to open and close the cover, toss it around, smash it, drop it, etc.

Over time, I ventured into new paint applications and effects. I've always had a creative and entrepreneurial mind. I loved the crystal effect I was doing, but wanted to find a new application that didn't take as long and wasn't as expensive, but produced a similar, desired effect. I turned to automotive paint and body shops, some of which were using really interesting reactive pigment paints. The pigments are UV- and thermal-reactive, which means they react to elements such as heat, cold and sun. I thought, "what better environment for heat, cold, and sun (or no sun) than a golf course?" Being from Chicago, we can experience all seasons in a single round of golf, so it made sense to apply reactive paint to golf headcovers. Once again, nobody was doing this in the golf industry.

I did the math and figured how to scale down the number of components typically used for an entire automotive paint job, and I purchased small, sample sizes of reactive pigment direct from the manufacturer. Pigment is a powder, so I made my own suspension liquid by mixing commercial-grade acrylic leather paint. I started painting headcovers and the



results were mind-blowing. Imagine having a normal-looking OEM headcover, then when you introduce it to elements such as heat, cold, or sunlight, it changes colors.

GC: Give us an overview of your business.

ET: People send me their headcover. I consult with them on design and colors. Since these kinds of applications have never really been done before in the golf industry, many clients give me creative, artistic control of their cover. They may say, "I like green; surprise me," or they may want to be involved every step of the way. I like to show them the possibilities and we collaborate from there. Now I do an equal amount of custom crystallization and reactive paint jobs, and most recently I started applying to golf gloves and other leather/metal goods.

My sales have been direct and through social media groups, as well as word of mouth referrals. At times, demand has been more than I can supply. Thankfully, performing this kind of niche service has allowed me the flexibility to take on as many or as few orders as I can handle. I'm a believer in quality over quantity. I love being able to share my passion and craft with the golf industry.

GC: Where do you come up with these design ideas?

ET: When I'm working on bespoke pieces, I look to my clients for inspiration. The cover is an extension and expression of them, so I'll find a way to enhance the cover's pre-existing, manufactured design or colors by incorporating the customer's favorite colors, profession, sports teams, hobbies or preferred fads/trends and pop culture references.

Everything starts with a sketch, and I build from there. There's really no

benchmark or image databank for crystal or reactive headcovers, so I'll look for color and design trends in the high-end auto industry, home and interior design, and fashion magazines.

GC: Where do you see it going in the future?

ET: Right now, I provide a third party, brand agnostic service. I would love to partner with a major brand and form a luxury, fully-customizable service/experience for their customers. I am the only one doing these kinds of crystal and reactive applications, and continue to see market demand and growth. What I'm really excited about is the possibilities of reactive paints. It's scalable and has many exciting and practical applications in the golf accessory industry, such as for gloves, grips,



headcovers and bags. My ultimate dream would be to start my own headcover and accessory company.

For now, I want to continue making a name for myself, especially as a female entrepreneur in the golf industry, and help create a creative accord to shape the future of golf accessories and brands.



GOLFChicago: Is it all kinds of headcovers and bags you create?

Emily Taylor: I customize all kinds of headcovers (blade, mallets, woods; all brands), and recently expanded to gloves and accessories.

GC: How did you get started doing this?

ET: I love golf and always had an affinity towards really cool headcovers and accessories. I found headcovers to be a



Wheels Keep Turning for Zero Friction

By Joe Aguilar

Photos: Yaam Media

The man whose wheels are always spinning — and whose new three-in-one golf bag puts a literal spin on an age-old product — stops in mid-sentence. He cannot suppress a proud smile.

“We’ll get emails: ‘I’ve used my golf glove for 100 rounds,’ and they’ll send us a picture of it,” said John Iacono, CEO/President of Oak Brook-based Zero Friction, and inventor of the one-size-fits-all golf glove. “[The glove] certainly has been run through the mill at that point,” he said, chuckling. “But they’re like, ‘I just love my glove so much.’”

He pauses, again beaming like a kid on Christmas morning.

This time, though, it’s the 63-year-old Iacono who is grateful. And if his current and future customers embrace his new products, several others of which are targeted to be available this year, his smile will only grow.

It was only about 20 years ago that this Melrose Park native and Holy Cross High School graduate was busy building what he called the ‘the largest dowel pin company in America.’ Then one day while setting up a factory in China to produce dowels, he had a light-bulb moment. It wouldn’t be the last time. The wood golf tee derives from a wood dowel, Iacono notes, and before long he started wholesaling tees.

Along the way, he set up Excel Dowel company.

There wasn’t much profit in making just golf tees, however and Iacono knew his product needed a performance factor. So, the then teenage high-handicap golfer Iacono thought like a teenage kid. “We all like a pooched-up, flier lie out of the rough so I chose to recreate the psychological sensation and physical performance of a pooched-up, flier lie.”

So in 2005, one of the first plastic, three-pronged golf tees was born. In fact, Iacono

patented it. He traveled to PGA Tour events, stuffed his pockets with his tees and dropped handfuls in small piles at hitting stations on the driving range, hoping a pro might pick up one, tee up a ball, and watch it fly.

By carving out 66% of the tee’s surface coverage, thus creating more ball-to-face contact and less spin, his three-pronged tee proved to get five more yards of distance. Furthermore, he claims, shots don’t leak off target as much.

“I remember being with Kenny Perry at Riviera Country Club,” Iacono said of the 2009 Masters and 1996 PGA Championship runner-up. “We were walking down the fairway. We had an endorsement deal with him. He said, ‘John, I will always play Zero Friction tees. I don’t know what it is. I am always inside the first cut.’”

According to Iacono, Zero Friction was the official tee of the Open Championship at Turnberry in 2009 and that about 100 golfers using his tees have won Tour events. While he says the three-pronged tee propelled his business, he would eventually stumble upon the one-size-fits-all glove.

A caddie at Oak Park Country Club, he remembers the pro shop being stocked with gloves in all different colors that matched the stretchable Sansabelt pants that every golfing man wore. Logistics changed all that.

Iacono explains that one men’s glove comes in 11 sizes, from small through XXL, including cadet. It would take up too much space on the pegboards in pro shops and sporting goods stores to have, say, a FootJoy glove not only in 11 different sizes

but in several different colors. While shopping for a black glove one day and frustrated with the lack of options, a light-bulb in his head flickered again.

In a sea of white [gloves], all was not right. What if he could come up with a compression, taut-fitting glove? “I actually canceled my golf game that day,” came back to the office, and spent the next year developing the glove.”

He elicited the help of his UPS sales rep, Randy, whom Iacono described as “6’ 5” and 270 pounds.” Iacono traced Randy’s hand on a piece of paper, then traced his own medium-cadet-sized hand inside of it. He shipped his sketch to a factory, which ultimately delivered a one-size-fits-all glove that Iacono patented. Guaranteed by Zero Friction to fit or receive your money back, it features a three-dimensional fit system, expanding and contrasting in height, width, and length.

Today, the glove is sold nationwide and in about 20 countries.

Among the users of the glove is former Chicago Bears long snapper Patrick Mannelly, who hosts the NBC Sports Chicago show ‘Golf 360’ and plays to a 4 handicap. At 6’ 5” Mannelly wears a size XXL in a traditional glove.

“I think they’re fantastic gloves,” Mannelly said of Zero Friction’s one-size-fits-all. “I was pretty skeptical [at first]. I’m like, ‘How the heck can one glove fit my giant mitts and then somebody else’s smaller mitts?’ I saw [the glove] and thought there’s no way this glove is going to fit on me. But with the technology he’s come up with, it slides on perfectly, and it fits better to me than some of the other gloves that are out there just because it’s so tight and forms to your hand. I couldn’t believe it. I’ve fallen in love with them.”

New in 2022 for Zero Friction is the TheraTech glove, which Iacono developed in conjunction with neurologist Dr. Conor O’Brien from Dublin, Ireland.

O’Brien was seeking to design a glove to help golfers who suffer from hand or wrist pain. The repetitive hitting of a golf ball can cause such damage. Golfers with carpal tunnel or a bone injury could benefit from the glove as well.

Zero Friction’s TheraTech glove features a padded area in the palm and uses copper-infused technology to reduce inflammation. Zero Friction revealed it at the 2022 PGA Show in January in Orlando, where the company also unveiled its one-of-a-kind Wheel Pro pushcart bag.

Iacono says the idea for his three-in-one bag/push cart had been percolating in his mind for about six years. The bag works as a traditional carry

bag, with two retractable legs and two wheels that are each 11 inches in diameter. The wheels attach to a cart trolley and patented base featuring axles that allow for the wheels to pop on or off in seconds. With clubs, the bag weighs about 15 pounds, or about half the weight of a traditional bag.

It retails for \$349 and comes in navy, black, and gray.

“The response we got at the PGA Show was overwhelming,” Iacono said.

In just two years, Zero Friction has gone from manufacturing zero golf bags to producing a series of five. Also new is the aptly named Pencil bag that holds about 12 clubs, despite weighing less than five pounds. Zero Friction’s traditional stand bag comes with a 40-inch Tour towel and glove (\$199 retail).

Zero Friction also has a new golf tee, which doubles as a divot repair tool. The TurfTee features a “fork” at the bottom to properly repair a divot mark on a putting green.

Zero Friction makes golf balls, too, and this summer plans to launch its B52, two-piece ball that retails for \$19.99 for a box of 15 balls. Each sleeve contains a three-pronged Zero Friction tee.

“I’m not here to compete with Titleist or other of the golf industry giants,” explained Iacono, who thrives on innovation and pushes boundaries in the golf industry with cutting-edge products and ideas. “They are very good at what they do, and they make great quality products. But we are going to make products that are different and strive to build our own customer base and go in our own direction.”

Iacono studied marketing and management at Northern Illinois University, was accepted to law school at John Marshall and worked briefly in the corporate world for Toyota. His personal office in west suburban Oak Brook is big enough to set up putting and chipping areas. It features rich, dark wood walls, a big window with a fifth-floor view, a fireplace, and enough vibrant-colored golf balls, tees, and gear to brighten a cave. His man cave is one he doesn’t take for granted.

“He’s definitely a go-getter,” Mannelly said. “He’s always thinking and the gears in his head are always turning — how he can improve his product, get new products out there and the like.”

“I always strive to constantly think a bit outside the box from a product standpoint, performance standpoint, and technology standpoint,” Iacono said. “Things don’t need to be complicated. The world’s complicated enough.”

And with that he grins. Another idea surely is spinning in his head.



WJ Golf Making Moves

By Joe Aguilar

As the son of a diplomat, Won Cho grew up seeing the world.

Born in Spain, he attended kindergarten in Ghana, elementary school in Seattle, middle school in Ecuador, high school in Chile, undergraduate college in Indiana, and graduate school in Evanston.

"I've lived on every continent except Antarctica," said the well-traveled Cho, 40, who graduated from Indiana State University with a degree in information technology and earned a masters in management/information systems from Northwestern University.

His journey has placed him here: The Arboretum Club's William H. Brimm Clubhouse in Buffalo Grove, of all places, on the southern edge of Lake County, Illinois.

Construction dust blankets the floors. Stacks of unused dry-wall stand adjacent to scaffolding, ladders, unboxed tiles, and orange pylons. Men wearing hard hats hustle from one workstation to another in an area that covers about 12,000 square feet. Never mind the mess or the piercing sounds of circular saws. This may as well be paradise for Cho and his business partner, Jason Jung, because it represents the entrepreneurial dream—their dream.



Just two years ago, the two Korean Americans left high-paying jobs in the tech world and risked all their savings to pursue a shared passion. Together, the two men founded WJ Golf (WJ stands for Won and Jason) and have a 3-to-5-year goal, Cho says, of opening 25 indoor golf simulator locations in the Midwest (Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana).

They have now taken over The Arboretum Club clubhouse, which used to shut down during the winter, and plan to have all construction done by April. (The golf course opened for play in March). The indoor facility will feature eight hitting bays, a private bay for lessons with *Golf Digest* Top 100 instructor Todd Sones, six slot machines, a members storage room, and a full-service restaurant.

The Arboretum Club will be WJ Golf's third venue. Cho and Jung opened their original facility, tucked away at 1380 Busch Parkway in The Corporate Grove in Buffalo Grove, in June 2020. Last October, they debuted a second venue inside MVP Sports Academy in Lake Zurich.

"The indoor golf simulator industry is going to be a \$1.5 to \$3 billion industry in the next five years," Cho said. "Since we opened, we've seen four additional indoor golf facilities pop up around us."

Jung, 38, and Cho, who met at a Korean American church in Schaumburg, always have been avid golfers. During winters, the two techies would tee up balls at other golf simulator facilities.

"We were like, 'This is actually something that may be our desire as well,'" Cho said.

So they went for the green, so to speak, quitting their jobs in an ultimate risk/reward move. Cho was the head of IT for an engineering firm in Chicago. The Korean-born Jung was working for LG Electronics. Jung's background also includes being a first lieutenant in the Republic of Korea

Air Force Officer Training School.

Once the two bright minds committed to making WJ Golf happen, they hatched together a business plan that started with finding a manufacturer that had the software and hardware they desired for their golf simulators. They eventually reached an agreement with a South Korean company called OK Simulators. "We talked to every single [company] until our brand, our dream, and our goal aligned," Cho said. "[OK Simulators] gave us exclusivity [for the technology] to the United States."

A WJ Golf hitting station features a 16-foot-wide-by-10-foot-high screen. What separates it from a typical hitting station is a rotating strip of artificial turf, about a yard in length, that changes according to where the golfer hit his ball. The "lie converter" simulates fairway grass, rough or sand in a bunker.

A floor-level control board allows the golfer to adjust the tee height and, when playing a course virtually, even take a muligan with a simple tap of a square button with the club. The screen features a "view" button that gives an aerial view of the course and tracks ball flight. There's instant replay that shows both front and side views of the golfer's just-completed swing.

The instant feedback is one reason why Cho says a teaching professional such as Todd Sones loves it. Cho says with the software and hardware combined as a single unit, latency is eliminated, meaning there is no one-second delay in seeing the flight of the ball once it's hit.

The first time Dave Nall used the hitting station, while taking a lesson with Sones at The Buffalo Grove location, he was impressed.

"I never thought once that I was hitting off a mat," he said. Nall, WJ Golf's chief financial officer, met Cho and Jung through Sones and is now a partner in the company.

He has an education in finance and accounting and an established background in building and growing a brand. Cho calls him a "mentor" to him and Jung.

In June 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic in its infancy, WJ Golf opened its Busch Parkway facility. It features three hitting bays, but only two could be used initially since the state was allowing only 30% capacity.

"We were scared at the beginning, just because it's hard to find us," Cho said. "What we found out is that golf is truly a destination place. Because once [customers] got to know us, we spent literally zero dollars in marketing. By winter, we were full from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week."

Nall loves the vision of Cho and Jung, especially with the whole entertainment experience WJ Golf will be providing at The Arboretum Club, which doesn't have an outdoor driving range.

"The reason the indoor golf industry is going to grow and blossom is because I know that if my son could have been standing in a simulated video game, he would have been there forever," Nall said. "When I took him to the driving age when he was younger he didn't get immediate satisfaction or immediate results, and hence, the club did not stay in his hands very long and he got bored very quickly."

Nall's vision aligns perfectly with that of his two younger business partners. All three have been successful in their previous careers and now want to have fun in the golf industry while providing a world-class experience for customers.

"I always say our mission is to broaden and bolster the game of golf," Nall said.

"There are more roads to travel, more journeys to plan, more risks to consider. More dreams to be realized."



KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship to Harbor Shores

Southwest Michigan's Harbor Shores Resort is an appropriate locale to host the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship this coming May. In a world that is finally emerging after two years of a raging pandemic, this Benton Harbor complex serves as an inspirational reminder of survival, growth, and attainment despite unlikely odds.

When the world's best senior professionals take on the resort's acclaimed Jack Nicklaus Signature design May 25–29, they will be walking on property that a mere 22 years ago was strewn with dilapidated buildings and had an equalized value of \$0. Today, this 530-acre site is a stunning golf community featuring a marina, and maintains a taxable value north of \$25 million. The centerpiece of the property is a championship course that Nicklaus has repeatedly referenced as one of the proudest achievements of his illustrious career as a golfer, and as an architect.

The KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship is one of the premier tournaments on the Champions Tour calendar. Expected participants include former US Open champions Jim Furyk, Retief Goosen, Ernie Els, and Lee Janzen. They will compete against other former PGA Tour luminaries for a purse of \$3.25 million. Tickets start at \$30 but can be upgraded to incorporate an all-inclusive hospitality experience. For tickets, parking, and more event information, visit www.sprgachampionship.com

Some 60 years ago, Benton Harbor was a thriving industrial city of 20,000 replete with a fighter plane components manufacturer, a steel mill, a car battery recycling plant, and an automotive brakes producer. Starting in the late 1960s, those businesses lost ground and jobs to international competition. Flash forward to the mid-1980s when the city had transformed into a virtual ghost town. Along with virtually every factory closing, so too did the downtown shops and businesses which had few people left to buy their goods and services.

Tumbleweed could be seen rolling across the city's streets after residents



fled the community, by then plagued by violent crime and the drug trade.

Throughout all of this tumult, local appliance manufacturer Whirlpool Corporation steadfastly maintained its national headquarters in the city. Indeed, even as Benton Harbor's struggles made national headlines, the company, whose brand names would eventually include Maytag and KitchenAid, outlined plans to revitalize its home city. In May of 2008, an elaborate financing deal anchored by Whirlpool along with a consortium of nonprofit development companies was finalized. The deal involved state and federal funds to clean up a site abutting Lake Michigan that became Harbor Shores.

The aggressive construction plan called for the course to open in just two years and be ready for tournament play only two years later. In total, over \$900 million was spent to evolve the property and its surroundings into a stunning and versatile resort. The massive clean-up effort included the demolition of three million square feet of dilapidated buildings. Portions of the Paw Paw River that border holes on the back nine were cleaned up with 140,000 tons of waste material removed from its banks and bed.

Today, the Harbor Shores golf course serves up a fascinating palette of environments. Holes 1 through 6 traverse over inland terrain. They then give way to dunes terrain which features breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. Holes 10 to 13 climb through woodlands while the dramatic finishing holes encounter the Paw Paw River, Ox Creek, and wetlands.

Harbor Shores general manager Joshua Doxtator called the job "an opportunity of a lifetime" after he took his position in February of 2019. "Harbor Shores is not just a golf course or a resort or a marina," he said. "It is the foundation of a community which went through a very difficult time and has emerged as a place people want to visit and live in and even open a business at."

The par-4 7th hole is as beautiful as it is challenging. Starting from a tee perched among wetlands, the dogleg right stretches

continued on page 36



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ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk

TTrue Ports hail from the Douro valley in Northern Portugal, and have done so for over three hundred years. The region's predominant soil is schist, composed of various medium-grained to coarse-grained metamorphic rocks with laminated, often flaky parallel layers of micaceous minerals. The low annual rainfall makes this probably one of the driest regions of the world where grapes are grown without irrigation. This terroir results in very low-yielding vineyards, with vines bearing only a very few small bunches of full-flavored grapes whose thick skins protect them from dehydration.

To make Port, a neutral grape alcohol is added to the wine partway through fermentation. This stops the fermentation before the yeast has eaten all of the sugars, leaving a natural residual sugar of 9 to 10 percent, and boosting the alcohol content to 18 to 20 percent. This was originally done in the early days of Port production to stabilize the wines for the long sea voyage to England, at one time the biggest market for Port. There are four basic categories: vintage, tawny, ruby, and white. Vintage Ports are of the best quality, and the most expensive, of course. They are made from grapes of a single vintage and bottled within two years. In order to maintain the highest quality standards, vintage Ports are only made in the best years, which are "declared." These wines can age extremely well; there is an old English tradition where a vintage Port is purchased on a child's birth year, and consumed to celebrate when he or she turns 21.

Tawny Ports are a blend of fruit from many different years, and can be wood-aged for as many as 40 years. A high-quality tawny Port will always list the barrel age on the label. The characteristic amber color is the result of this wood aging.

Ruby Ports are made from wines not deemed worthy of vintage classification, and are aged in wood for about two years. These youthful, fruity Ports are often the least expensive.

White Ports are made like other Ports, just using white grapes. These wines run the gamut from sweet to dry, and are usually consumed as an aperitif.

A Course to Steer, a Port to Seek

William & John Graham founded their eponymous company in Porto in 1820. The Symington family has owned Graham's since 1970, although their association with the firm goes back as far as 1882.

In addition to Graham's, Symington owns several brands of Port, Madeira, and Douro DOC wines, including some of the oldest and most well-known Port and Madeira brands. With their extensive vineyard holdings and many Port brands, the Symingtons are often described as ruling over a "Port empire."

The estates or 'quintas' of the Douro with the lowest altitude produce some of the finest Ports of the region. Graham's sources from five of these.

Graham's headquarters in the Douro is at the Quinta dos Malvedos, originally purchased by the firm in 1890. Along with fruit from Graham's neighboring Quinta do Tua, the entire production of Quinta dos Malvedos is made into Port under the supervision of master blender Charles Symington.

Graham's also makes wine from three other quintas, Quinta das Lages in the Rio Torto valley, Quinta da Vila Velha just downriver from Malvedos on the south bank, and Quinta do Vale de Malhadas in the Douro Superior.

Graham's 20 Year Old Tawny Port \$55 If you look closely at the bottle, this wine is labeled as "Porto," as true ports tend to be these days. This wine was matured for 20 years in seasoned oak casks, and was made to balance lingering fruitiness and vitality with the structure and longevity that comes with aging. This lovely amber, crystal-clear tippie opens with a nose of raisin, brown sugar, and a hint of floral



smhawk@winervana.com

notes. These continue on the palate, complemented with tawny Port's characteristic nuttiness, baking spice, a rich mouthfeel, and good acidity, which is nicely balanced by the just-right sweetness. It all wraps up in a long finish. A really delicious tawny Port. 20% ABV.

Pair with creamy or fruity desserts such as tiramisu or crème brûlée, as well as soft cheeses and nuts. Even vanilla ice cream. Serve lightly chilled in a reasonably-sized Port glass or wine glass. (I use Riedel's Zinfandel glass; it has a similar bowl but a somewhat longer stem.) It will stay fresh for four to six weeks once opened, but I doubt you will wait that long to finish it.

Read more about this and hundreds of other wines at Winervana.com.



America's Summer Golf Mecca: Gaylord, Michigan

If you are reading this article in a clubhouse right now, you are well aware that golf has become a red-hot sport. Look left, then right, then straight ahead. You probably see gaggles of players of all ages and handicaps surrounding you. Just this past Sunday morning, I walked past the first tee following my round and was delighted to find a foursome of teenagers sizing up the hole while teasing each other over whose equipment was more out of date. A mere couple of years ago, that 1 p.m. slot would surely have been empty. And the only teenagers on the property would have been standing on the parking lot curb checking in bags. Amazing how times have changed.

The National Golf Foundation, which tracks rounds played nationally, continues to show robust interest in our game despite the fact that movie theaters, basketball arenas, and restaurants have mostly opened following the pandemic.

Combine the escalating price of gas with the renewed interest in golf and you would be correct to conclude that the primary beneficiaries of this golf boom this summer will be regional golf destinations which offer multiple golf courses in concentrated areas. According to Paul Beachnau, director of Northern Michigan's acclaimed Gaylord Golf Mecca, the 17 member courses of the association were kept busy throughout late winter booking groups for spring and summer play even though ski hills were still bustling across the area.

"Rounds were up 10.5% last season," said Beachnau. "What really took our attention last year was the greater diversity we saw in the groups who made the trip from Chicago, Detroit, and parts of Canada. Young golfers, new golfers, women golfers, and senior golfers booked trips to the Mecca in numbers that we hadn't seen since the Gaylord area started marketing golf in the 1980s."

Over the years, the Gaylord Golf Mecca has expanded from anchor resort properties including Treetops, Michaywe, Beaver Creek, and Otsego. It now includes Gaylord Golf Club, Lake of the Hills North Golf Course, Indian River Golf Club, and Black Lake Resort.

"While many groups book rooms at the larger resorts and then play other



Treetops

area courses, a number of new hotels have opened up in Gaylord and offer stay-and-play packages to incorporate our entire spectrum of properties," said Beachnau. "In all, we now offer 21 lodging partners to accommodate guests with different preferences and budgets."

Once marketed as "America's Summer Golf Capital," the Gaylord Golf Mecca originated in spectacular fashion in 1987 as golf course construction exploded across the community. **Treetops Resort** opened its signature Masterpiece course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. that same year. The resort then rapidly expanded with courses designed by Tom Fazio, two courses designed by then-Director of Golf Rick Smith and the delightful par-3 course known as "Threetops," also designed by Smith. All five Treetops courses continue to thrive.

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.

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 "High Five" and then he proceeded to send half of his winnings to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Even as Treetops was evolving into a megagolf 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 courses within the Gaylord Golf Mecca cooperative are as diverse as their individual stories. Built in 2000 by



Treetops



Treetops



Black Lake



Gaylord Golf Club



Lakes of the North



Ostego Resort



Indian River



Michaywe Pines

acclaimed architect and “U.S. Open doctor” Rees Jones, **Black Lake Golf Club** in Onaway winds 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, **Ostego Resort** is located a few blocks from downtown Gaylord and features two

golf courses, a conference facility, rooms, suites, 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 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 that 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 offers 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 that 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.

Gaylord Golf Club and **Indian River Golf Club** 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 proximity of greens to the ensuing tees.

Michigan’s Jerry Matthews, a member of Michigan’s famed Matthews family of golf architects, designed **The Natural at Beaver Creek**. Located three miles south of Gaylord, the course is characterized by large greens and fairways improbably located between spectacular natural wetlands.

The logo of **Lakes of the North Golf Course** in nearby Mancelona features

a deer leaping in front of lakes, forests, and a golf hole. While a deer sighting isn’t guaranteed, golfers will witness and perhaps directly experience the bodies of water and towering trees. The front nine was designed by Jerry Matthews and features rolling fairways lined by forests and wetlands. The back nine was designed by Bill Newcomb and was built on more level, wide-open land. That said, the entire 7,004-yard course serves up perfectly manicured greens that locals contend are among the finest in all of Michigan.

The history of the Gaylord Golf Mecca can be traced back to the **Pines Course at Michaywe**. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022, this classic championship

course designed by Don Childs can play as short as 5,200 yards from the front tees or as long as 7,000 yards from the back tees. After tackling the graceful, tree-lined course, make room for dinner at the property’s popular Inn the Woods restaurant

Details on all of the Gaylord Golf Mecca courses along with details of Stay & Play packages 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 that includes full-color photos of each of the courses along with details on packages and accommodation options.



Old Oak: A Home Run in Homer Glen

You may have heard of this public-access links gem known as Old Oak Country Club in the southwest suburb of Homer Glen. Opened nearly a century ago, in 1926, there's certainly a bit of old school design elements that leads to pure fun on this peaceful, natural design. You just can't replicate courses like this. With baseball season upon us one can only think this is truly a home run in Homer Glen!

This place is what most players look for, a classic layout spread across unnumbered greenery and at a friendly price that won't beat you up. At 6,460 yards from the back tees, Old Oak is certainly not long by today's standards, but believe me it's all the golf you need (as evident by the 71.5 rating and a 133 slope).

There are some dandy doglegs here so if you can shape your shots a bit, you'll have better luck than your golf buddies. Holes 8, 11, and 18 are doglegs right, while 9 and 13 head to the left. The 11th hole is certainly a strong test; a 432-yard dogleg par 4 with a green encircled by water and a bunker. This beast stands as the number 2 handicap only because it's on the back 9 but make no mistake, it's the toughest hole on the course.

It will be a long day for any golfer whose driver is not cooperating. Your tee shots are the key to success on these holes and will lead you to a delightful dogleg kind of a day!

Also unique about Old Oak is the rolling, undulating terrain not commonly seen around here. Long-time Director of Golf Dan Shields had this to say about some of the more interesting holes out here:

Hole #8 A 400-yard dogleg right par 4 that plays uphill, featuring water and a well-placed fairway and green-side bunker. A cluster of tall, mature oak trees protects the right side of the green, making for a difficult approach to this slightly crowned putting surface.

Hole #12 Par 3 offering varying lengths from the four different tees, 111 yards to 170 yards. There are water



hazards in front of tee boxes, along the left side, and wrapping around the back of the green putting a premium on the tee shot to a well-bunkered green. This hole is also home to our Daily \$10,000 Hole in One Challenge hole, so try your luck to make an Ace!

"Old Oak is a fitting name for this nearly 100-year-old gem," said avid weekend warrior and One for the Kids Foundation board member Bob Lanigan. Seeing 144 golfers each year, Old Oak has hosted his charity's annual golf event dating back to 1993. "The course has a challenging layout with hundreds of mature trees framing the holes and a number of well-placed water hazards.

The shade of all those trees come in handy on those hot, humid Chicago summer days. Great food and atmosphere in the bar, plus the pot roast nachos and pizza make Old Oak a special place for a meal as well.

Old Oak Country Club provides a rustic and traditional atmosphere, making it the perfect complement to this mature golf course. It is sculpted out of rolling terrain and features small scale challenging greens, water hazards, and sand bunkers. There is also a scenic tree-lined driving range, two short game practice areas with bunkered greens, and three putting greens that provide plenty of options to work on your game.

"Old Oak has everything a golfer or charity could ask for," added Lanigan. "It has been a wonderful place to hold our annual golf outing. The owners and staff are great to work with and that's why we have kept our One For The Kids outing at Old Oak for 30 years."

Golf Digest also thinks highly of the course as well, giving it an impressive 4-star rating. It's a local favorite that welcomes any type of player from near and far. We recommend you trot out here to the southwest side of Homer Glen and hit a "Homer" at Old Oak Country Club. Touch 'em all!

For more information, visit www.oldsakcc.com/



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KemperSports Selected to Manage Evanston's Canal Shores Golf Course

The Evanston Wilmette Golf Course Association (EWGCA), a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, has charged Chicago-based KemperSports to manage 100-year-old Canal Shores Golf Course in Evanston. Dubbed "the gem in your backyard" by locals, the Tom Bendelow-designed 3,600-yard, par-60 layout winds through urban and suburban neighborhoods along the North Shore branch of the Chicago River and offers a unique golf experience for both new and experienced players.

As part of its efforts to enhance operations and the overall golf experience at Canal Shores, KemperSports plans to improve course conditions, create a more comfortable social experience for both pre- and post-rounds, and assist in implementing an Ecological Master Plan. In addition, KemperSports and the EWGCA are committed to a shared vision that brings opportunities to local youth through golf and will work together to create new and dynamic pathways for local kids to experience and benefit from the game of golf.



"If you love unique golf experiences and are visiting Chicago, Canal Shores is a must-play, especially as we improve the golf experience while preserving its undeniable charm," said KemperSports President Josh Lesnik. "We could not be more excited to help ensure that this memorable and purpose-driven golf course thrives for the next 100 years."

Under Armour Junior Tour Hits the Windy City

The Junior Tour powered by Under Armour is a National Youth Golf League for boys and girls ages 6-18 of all skill levels, with athletes competing in a fun, friendly, and competitive environment while developing the skills and self-confidence to improve their golf game. Leagues operate during the spring (March-May) with a special summer national championship in June, while a September-December season con) with a Winter National Championship in February (Presidents Day Weekend).



The spring Chicago 2022 Chicago League registration is now open with events scheduled for April 9 at Flagg Creek, April 16 at Downers Grove GC, April 23 at Zigfield Troy, May 14 at Silver Lakes CC, May 15 at Carriage Greens, and May 21 at Green Garden.

The North Chicago League will have events beginning April 10 at Mill Creek, April 16 at Phillips Park, April 24 at Pine Meadow, May 1 at Hughes Creek, May 7 at Tanna Farms, and May 15 back at Mill Creek.

League registration fee is \$395. Individual stroke play with points are awarded for the top 15 finishers at each event, age divisions include 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 15-18. All players will receive an Under Armour polo, while the top eight from each division will advance to the National Championships June 23-26 at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

In addition, Under Armour will award \$5,000 in annual scholarship funds, including four \$1,250 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Applications are available through your regional league director in late April and must be submitted no later than May 30th for consideration for the Summer Nationals.

For more information, visit <https://www.uagolftour.com/>.

Sub 70 Unveils Sycamore Fitting Lab

Sycamore-based Sub 70 hosted a pre-opening celebration March 11 at its new fitting facility aptly named 'The Seventy.' Sub 70 offers a full line of equipment from putters through drivers and has recently launched an extensive apparel lineup as well. In 2015, the team behind Sub 70 decided to produce high-quality equipment that would

compete with anything else on the market ... but use a direct-to-consumer sales model to eliminate unnecessary expenses such as major media marketing, player tour endorsements, high level CEO salaries, large scale sales networks, etc.



By working directly with every customer and eliminating retail/wholesale expenses, Sub 70 typically offers their products at half the cost of comparable options. Sub 70 also offers a no questions asked, 60-day guarantee, a demo program and free fittings. Every club is custom built in Sycamore by their club building team and shipped directly to the customer.

The Seventy location offers two hitting bays with Foresight launch monitors, a putting green, bar, lounge area and a retail display space for apparel, accessories and more. It is an appointment-only facility to ensure that each customer receives full attention from their long time PGA member and fitting/instruction director, Kevin Healy. The facility is an impressive space for individual fittings, group fittings, and golf facility event space.

For more information or to book a custom club fitting, call (877) 267-7093 or email customer.support@golfsub70.com.

DuPage Golf Plus Program

We love the new DuPage Golf Plus pre-paid golf membership program which offers savings and benefits at three great courses – Maple Meadows, Green Meadows, and The Preserve at Oak Meadows.

You'll need to complete a simple application and make a pre-payment of at least \$1,000 to join. Think of it as a virtual gift card with extra perks and privileges. Best of all, there are no membership dues or fees, and the entire pre-payment is credited to your account. The DuPage Golf Plus Membership promotional values expire when the balance runs out, or at the end of the calendar year. Your \$1,000 pre-payment unlocks a number of huge membership benefits.

Plus Member rates apply anytime Monday through Friday and weekends/holidays after 1:00 p.m.

Greens Fee Guarantee: No more hunting for coupons or surfing for online discounts. Any DuPage Golf discounts or promotions available at the time of play that are better than the DuPage Golf Plus Member rates will automatically be extended to Plus members.

Early Access to Tee-Times: Extended 10-day booking window for early access to book your ideal tee time before the general public.

Range and Pro Shop Discounts: Get 15% off range tokens and in stock non-sale pro shop merchandise when you pay with your Plus balance.

Easy Check-In: You can use your member number to pay in the pro shops. Golf fees or merchandise will simply be deducted from your Plus balance.

Guest Privileges: If you choose to use your account balance to pay, the same preferred rates and discounts apply to your guests (up to two foursomes per day).

Chicago Area Caddies Receive Full Rides Thanks to the Evans Scholarship

Fifty-eight students from the Chicago area have been awarded the Evans Scholarship, a prestigious full housing and tuition college grant offered to golf caddies, following selection interviews held Feb. 22-24. They will begin college this fall as Evans Scholars at universities across the nation. The Evans Scholarship is valued at more than \$120,000 over four years.

"These young men and women are part of an exceptional incoming class of New Scholars from around the nation," said WGA Chairman Joe Desch. "They represent what the Evans Scholars Program has been about since 1930."

When the 2021-22 selection meeting process is complete, an estimated 315 caddies from across the country are expected to be awarded the Evans Scholarship.

The Glenview-based Western Golf Association has supported the Chick Evans Scholarship Program through the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930 and remains the nation's largest scholarship program for caddies. Currently, a record 1,070 caddies are enrolled at 21 universities across the nation as Evans Scholars, and more than 11,500 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since the program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr.

To learn more about the WGA and ESF, visit www.wgaesf.org.

2022 CHICAGO GOLF TOUR



WHY JOIN THE CHICAGO GOLF TOUR?

The Chicago Golf Tour (CGT) is a great way to network & meet other like minded golfers from all over the Chicagoland area. The CGT plays the very best public & semi-private courses in IL. CGT members receive discounted greens fee rates at each event. The CGT offers the South Side Tour, North Side Tour & West Side Tour. If you like to compete against players of your caliber, have fun, and play new courses, then the CGT is the league for you!

SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY

Life is busy. Players are given 2 weeks to play the said scheduled event. You must play with another CGT member to attest to your score, and for your round to be official. Players are allowed practice rounds.

EVENT SCHEDULE PER TOUR

6

REGULAR EVENTS

4

MAJORS

1

PLAYOFF



CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW IN 2022

Cross Tour Attesting

- Play with CGT members from our other tours and it'll count towards official scoring for said member or vice versa. Play new courses & meet up with family & friends

E Flight

- 18+ handicaps will now have a stand alone flight receiving their full handicap
- E flight members compete against each other for points & payouts

Scratch Series

- (4) - 1 day events - Dates are TBD
- Compete vs the best Ams in the state
- No handicap
- Open invite

Hit N' Giggles Social League

- Play your own set of relaxed rules
- Play from whatever tees you'd like
- All while still having access to the CGT website, our course partner discounts & the CGT network of community golfers

SLACK - Communication Platform

- Instantly communicate with other CGT members to pair up with
- Target specific events, dates & courses via channels

CGT Ecommerce Full Pro Shop

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Discounted green fees at each event

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2022 CHICAGO GOLF TOUR VENUES



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Harbor Shores

continued from page 23

toward large bunkers on the right side of the landing area, ready to catch tee shots aimed for a shorter approach to the green. The tiny putting surface, 436 yards distant from the back tee, is located on the top of a sand dune towering 25 feet above the fairway. Hit short and watch your approach go tumbling back down the fairway. Hit long and you may find yourself playing beach blanket bingo on the shores of Lake Michigan. Somehow, even a bogey on this hole seems like an acceptable result.

The 493-yard No. 10 may be the most memorable hole on the course only because of a single moment caught on tape during the grand opening in 2010. Playing in a foursome with Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson, and Johnny Miller, designer Nicklaus proudly extolled the intricacies of the hole's 10,500 square-foot green. To show off the green's massive undulations, twists, and turns, Nicklaus practice putted from the front side of the green toward the hole on the other side after Miller complained that the putt was an impossible stroke. "Show me how to do it," the former U.S. Open champion challenged the Golden Bear. The thousands of spectators who surrounded the green for a glimpse of the superstar foursome were stunned as the putt somehow found the back of the cup from about 100 feet.

Enjoy a cold libation in the spacious and elegant clubhouse after the round. Another option is a visit to The Livery Brew Pub located just off the golf course grounds on the front nine. (Your cart ride to the next hole takes you right by, so feel free to stop in.) Along with tasty micro-brews, a beer garden, and live music, the converted stable also serves up gourmet appetizers, pizza, and pub food.

While Chicagoans can play Harbor Shores as a single-day road trip, accommodations are available at a 92-room luxury hotel that towers above the St. Joseph River. The Inn also features 14 suites, two top-floor condominiums, and a rooftop meeting space. "While Harbor Shores might be considered the end of the next chapter of Benton Harbor by some," said Doxtator, "we think of it as only the start of a new book of the city. Take a stroll around the marina village and the Riverwalk or take a ride into town and visit the various shops and restaurants that opened up there in

recent years. With continued growth and development, Benton Harbor is on track to become one of Michigan's greatest renovation projects."

Harbor Shores Resort is located 90 minutes from Chicago just off I-94. For more information, view the resort's website: www.harborshoresresort.com



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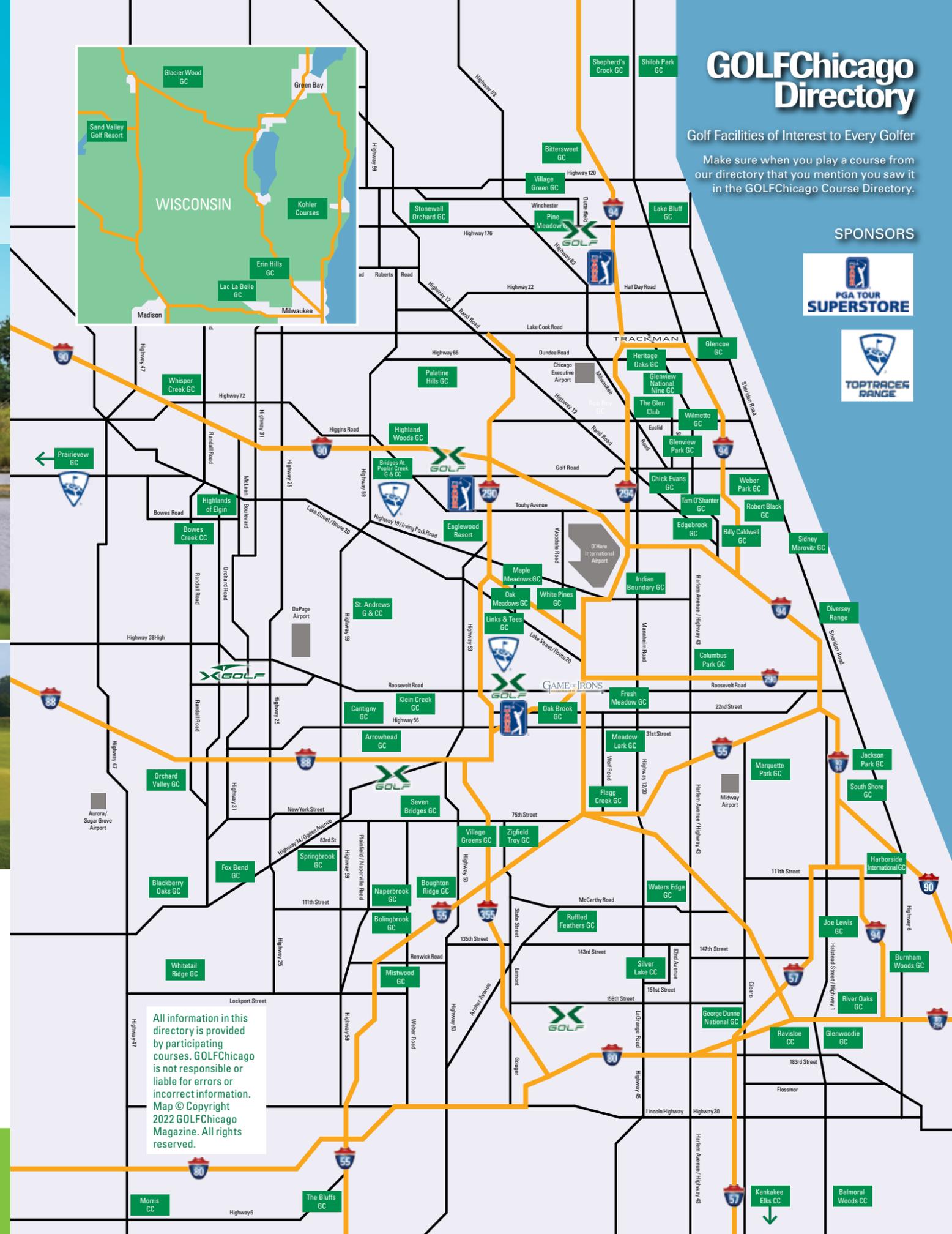
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Arrowhead Golf Club

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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
balmoralwoods.com

Balmoral Woods offers a demanding, superbly conditioned, magnificent round of golf.

Laid out over 280 acres of wooded, rolling hills, the course will test the skill of golfers with its 6700-yard, 72.6 rated, 133-slope layout. It is a public 18-hole golf course, has hosted many local and state events and tournaments, and is the annual home of the Will County Amateur Championship. Check out our website for new rates, reservations, and more information. Follow us on Instagram for the latest updates and events.



Bittersweet Golf Club

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

Easily accessible from I-294, Bittersweet tests the shot-making savvy of avid golfers and provides a fair but fun challenge for casual players. The stunning landscape features mature oaks, vibrant wetlands, wildflower meadows, and abundant wildlife. Private-club conditions, including some of the smoothest greens around, make this public course a north suburban must-play. Amenities include a grass-tee driving range, a short-game practice facility, and a fabulous 19th hole. Golf instruction is available onsite. Book tee times online or call us to speak with our friendly, knowledgeable staff.



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
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dupagegolf.com

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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.

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630-616-8424
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Wood Dale, IL 60191
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Addison, IL 60101
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- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, IL 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, and five-time host of the Illinois State Amateur, Cantigny features 27 challenging holes on beautiful, rolling terrain covering 300 acres. Cantigny Golf Academy offers junior clinics, private lessons, club fitting, grass practice tees, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for ages 8 to 15.

2021 awards:

- Best in State: *Golf Digest*
- GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation
- NGOAA Player Development Award



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.

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

- Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
- Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
- Jackson Park: 18 Holes
- Columbus Park: 9 Holes
- Marquette Park: 9 Holes
- South Shore: 9 Holes
- Diversey Range: The only double-deck range in Chicago



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

866-264-4455
12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
coghilgolf.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



Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course, boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,890-yard, par-72 course tests skills of all levels with 34 well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, the 2010 & 2011 USGA Qualifiers, and the 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Pearce's Pub & Grill before or after your round of golf to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with gorgeous views and American fare done right!



Game of Irons

630-303-9454
3041 Butterfield Rd.
Suite 104
Oak Brook, IL 60523
gameofirons.com

Game of Irons is Chicagoland's most exciting virtual golf experience! Be transported to over 200 world-famous courses in the comfort of a premium indoor facility with 16 hitting bays in over 18,000 sq.ft. - perfect for corporate events, parties, and club meetings. We offer a full bar with craft cocktails and amazing food. We invite you to come in and try our unparalleled 4D golf experience.



Glacier Wood Golf Club

715-445-3831
604 Water St.
Iola, WI 54945
glacierwoodiola.com

Glacier Wood Golf Club is an 18-hole public facility centrally located in the state, two hours north of Madison. Ranked as the #2 golf course in the state of Wisconsin through Golfpass.com, as well as #17 in the nation for value, Glacier Wood Golf Club is worth the drive. With four sets of tees, the golf course is fair for players of all skill levels, and offers a driving range equipped with four target greens and a 19,000 sq. ft. natural grass hitting area, as well as two practice greens used for putting and chipping. With tree-lined fairways, undulating green complexes, and a wide array of natural wildlife, Glacier Wood Golf Club is a must play.



Glencoe Golf Club

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

The Glencoe Golf Club features an 18-hole, par -72 course located 30 minutes from Chicago on the beautiful North Shore. The course is an Audubon Certified, tree-lined classic that offers a great escape from the city. The GGC boasts finely manicured greens, a new cart fleet with GPS, an all-grass tee practice range, and beverage cart service.

- Best greens on the North Shore
- Full-service restaurant with craft beers, specialty cocktails and outdoor seating
- Senior Discount Program, Monday - Thursday, NO residency restrictions, 60 and up.





Glenwoodie Golf Club

708-758-1212
19301 S State St.
Glenwood, IL 60425
glenwoodiegolf.com

Glenwoodie, just 25 minutes from Chicago, has been a favorite championship course for serious and recreational golfers in Chicago and Northwest Indiana for over 90 years. Consistently ranked in the top 35 public courses, the 18-hole, par-72, 6902-yard course features bent-grass fairways and large rolling greens surrounded by groves of majestic oaks.

- 14,000 sq. ft. Clubhouse and Community Center with fully-stocked Golf Shop
- Full Service Bar and Grille, and Outdoor Patio
- Electric Cart Fleet
- Lighted Practice Range
- PGA Professional Staff



Harborside International Golf Club

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628
harborsidegolf.com

Harborside International Golf Center, home to the Port & Starboard Courses, is Chicago's home for golf. Located minutes from Chicago's Loop, Harborside offers a premier golf experience in the Chicagoland area. Harborside is the only facility with two of *Golfweek's* "Best Courses You Can Play in Illinois" and is home to an expansive practice facility. Harborside is owned by the Illinois International Port District and managed by KemperSports.



Heritage Oaks Golf Club

847-291-2351
3535 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60623
heritageoaksgc.com

Conveniently located between the Edens Expressway and Interstate 294, 30 minutes north of Chicago. Featuring 27 holes of tree-lined golf, a practice range equipped with TrackMan® technology, our golf academy, and indoor golf simulators, Heritage Oaks offers something for everyone. With the elevated Acorn Grill + Terrace overlooking courses certified by the National Audubon Society, Heritage Oaks Golf Club welcomes you for golf, for a meal, or for a timeless experience.



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.



Palatine Hills Golf Club

847-359-4020
512 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL 60067
palatinehills.org

Palatine Hills is a 6,800-yard, par-72 course with six sets of tees, providing an enjoyable yet challenging experience for all golfers. Our layout will require you to use all the clubs in your bag. We also host various CDGA events and state qualifiers.

"The Hills Short Game Practice Area" offers private use of a green complex to improve your short game shots up to 75 yards.

For tee times and information visit palatinehills.org



PGA TOUR Superstore

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

pgatoursuperstore.com

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.



Pine Meadow Golf Club

847-566-4653
1 Pine Meadow Ln.
Mundelein, IL 60060
pinemeadowgc.com

Pine Meadow Golf Club is known for our beautiful 220 acres of fairways, greens, pine trees, and meadow areas.

Golfers of all abilities and ages enjoy the serene setting and fun playable design of the "Pine."

The Pine, due to its challenging design, has been host to all types of competitive events ranging from PGA Jr. League, to Men's and Women's State Ams, to Illinois PGA Championships. This is truly a golf facility for everyone.



PrairieView Golf Club

815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
prairieviewgolf.com

Recognized by many suburban golfers as a hidden gem, PrairieView Golf Club boasts beautiful views of restored dolomite prairie that is well worth a short drive west out to Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elksgolf627.com

The Kankakee Elks Country Club is an 18-hole par-72 course. It is one of Illinois' premier Langford @ Moreau design courses, featuring some of the best green complexes in Illinois, 40 miles south of Chicago along the beautiful Kankakee River with very affordable rates.

Chose from one of our four tees to accommodate all levels of play.

Driving range, chipping area, and putting green with newly remodeled bar and snack shop.



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.



The Club at Lac La Belle

262-567-7833
6996 Pennsylvania St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
clubatlaclabelle.com

The newly renovated Club at Lac La Belle is now open for public play! If the club's original founders and its legendary Scottish golf professionals were alive today, our hope is that they would recognize our new course as fun "sporting" golf, which was a fundamental part of the game in 1896. We invite you to come see why Lac La Belle is the birthplace of the Wisconsin Golf Trail



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.



Sand Valley

888-398-8671
1697 Leopold Way
Nekoosa, WI 54457
sandvalley.com

Sand Valley is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the great heathland courses of London. Enjoy dramatic views, a magnitude of strategic playing options, modern lodging, and a culinary experience to match.



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.



Stonewall Orchard Golf Club

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.



Sub 70 Golf

877-267-7093
202 Lucas St.
Sycamore, IL 60178
sub70.com

Sub 70 is a golf equipment and apparel company based in Sycamore, Illinois. We produce high quality golf equipment and apparel, and use a direct-to-consumer distribution model to offer everything at an affordable price. Fittings are offered at the Sycamore location and there is a full 60 day guarantee on all purchases. Sub 70 Golf is the #1 rated golf equipment company in customer satisfaction.





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. 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!



White Pines Golf Club

630-554-3939
500 W. Jefferson
Bensenville, Ill. 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. The public course owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District is an excellent choice for players of all skill levels.

Whether it's an evening at the lighted driving range, a casual round with friends, an outing, or special event, White Pines Golf Club offers the perfect setting to get "away from it all." Enjoy food and drink at 37 Bar & Grill. Take advantage of Monday-Thursday tee time specials and book online.



Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

630-882-8988
7671 Clubhouse Dr.
Yorkville, IL 60560
whitetailridgegc.com

Experience a "tail" of two Nines at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club. Our Front Nine flows through a beautiful valley featuring a creek that splits through its relatively flat landscape. Our Back Nine begins on #10 with a climb up the slopes and follows the rolling hills into some towering trees. Finish your day in The Per-simmon Room. This newly renovated space features an indoor/outdoor dining area with shareable dishes, scratch-made entrees, an extensive list of bourbons and whiskey, and the most spectacular sun-sets around!



Wilmette Golf Club

847-256-9777
3900 Fairway Dr.
Wilmette, IL 60091
golfwilmette.com

Wilmette Golf Club is the closest 18-hole facility north of Chicago. This par-70 course is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2022, and it will test all skill levels with the purest greens on the North Shore. A 30-station driving range and large putting green are available for working on your game. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the patio overlooking the 18th green at The Lawn. Contact us directly to book your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials by booking online at golfwilmette.com.



X-Golf Glenview

224-432-0022
2847 Pfingsten Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
xgolfglenview.com

X-Golf's state of the art indoor golf simulators offer players unparalleled accuracy and realism through a combination of camera systems, infrared lasers, impact sensors, and advanced gaming software. Our dedicated kiosks offer visitors the ultimate golfing entertainment experience with virtual reality gaming, food and beverages, competitions, leagues, golf lessons, memberships, and more.

X-Golf's relaxed, welcoming atmosphere makes it perfect for players of all ages and all skill levels. X-Golf is ideal for work events, birthday parties, corporate functions, bucks nights, and ladies nights.



X-Golf Libertyville

224-504-2940
1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
xgolf-libertyville.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



X-Golf Orland Park

708-966-0486
15876 S. LaGrange Rd.
Orland Park, IL 60462
xgolforlandpark.com

We offer eight state-of-the-art simulators which are designed for golfers at all stages of their game. Whether you want to sharpen your game to gain that competitive edge or are just starting out and want to learn new skills without battling the outdoors, this is the place for you. The simulators can give you data about your swing and ball striking to improve your game and along with that, we can help you take your game to the next level by having a PGA qualified professional on our team.



X-Golf Schaumburg

847-380-1848
1100 American Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
xgolf-schaumburg.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



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Rich Harvest Farms to Host LIV Golf Event

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, PGA Tour superstar Greg Norman tried to launch a professional golf circuit competitive to the PGA Tour. Today, some 28 years after that failed enterprise, Norman's LIV Golf Invitational Series has placed a spotlight on a cast of characters worthy of the Star Wars movie saga. As the wise and measured leader of the incumbent PGA Tour, commissioner Jay Monahan comes off as a latter-day Obi-wan Kenobi, rallying his players to ignore the temptations of the new tour.

When Phil Michelson threw his support behind this Saudi-based tour, the media was quick to portray him as the vile gangster Jabba the Hutt. At the center of this universe of course, is Norman, who leads the Evil Empire by trying to use mind control and some legal leverage to seduce star players to the riches of the LIV Series. Finally, we have Dustin Johnston as Yoda, originally embracing the new tour until he thought better of it and then announcing his complete support for Monahan's tour.

LIV, incidentally, stands for 54—the number of holes to be played in each event and the target aspirational score one could shoot on a standard par-72 course.

Norman's new league is going to tee off this June regardless of Monahan's threats to expel participants from the PGA Tour. Backed by \$255 million in support, Norman is counting on a few talented Tour Siths and Mandalorians to defy Monahan and take the new tour out for a test flight. With guaranteed appearance fees, no cut, barrels of money to be earned individually, and a number of high-profile host courses, the LIV Series will most likely attract a number of American stars along with top pros from various international tours. However, as of this writing, not a single American Tour participant has stepped forward with a commitment.

Even though the tour's inaugural season is set to open in London in a few weeks, many questions beg to be answered besides who's attending the party. There is, for instance, no TV network to broadcast these tournaments, and with the major networks and Golf Channel committed to PGA Tour events, the greatest likelihood is that the LIV tour will be made available via a live streaming service. In a March press conference, Norman stated that with the tournament schedule now fixed, solicitations to various TV outlets will be made in coming days and weeks.

In March, the Chicago area became a player in all this drama. Sugar Grove's Rich Harvest Farms will host an LIV event September 16-18. Owner Jerry Rich has earmarked proceeds to go towards educational institutions, the Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois and Ukrainian

refugees. The course has previously hosted a Western Amateur, the 2009 Solheim Cup, the Arnold Palmer Cup and the 2017 Division 1 NCAA Championships.

A few parallels exist between the PGA Tour's determination to restrict the movements of professional golf's independent contractors and the NCAA's previous position that denied athletes from earning an income related to their sport even as the association reaped hundreds of millions of dollars annually in television revenues. That incongruity motivated the Supreme Court to rule unanimously in the athletes' favor. Don't be surprised if the Tour's iron-fisted approach restricting members' access to a competitive league will eventually make its way to that same Court. And be less surprised when the Court rules in favor of the players' ability to compete in non-Tour events without fear of exile.

America's finest players compete in events not sanctioned by the PGA Tour, and with that precedent already set, it doesn't seem right that players can't opt-in to events hosted by another tour.

I am a fan of the PGA Tour, its successful management of tour events, and the momentum it has created in making Tour events huge fundraisers for charities. No other professional sport prioritizes giving back and to helping those in need more than the Tour. I am also a huge proponent of players' rights to earn a living at their sport. Remember, pros who do not make the cut at any given Tour event go home with nothing. Add in travel costs and caddie fees, and you find that those who miss cuts regularly spend a whole bunch out of their pockets to entertain us.

Can you imagine a professional basketball or football player following suit?

Thus, it seems more than reasonable that touring pros would be attracted to play in a league where they're at least guaranteed to bring home a check.

In any marketplace, the quality of the product tends to determine its success. The PGA Tour puts out wonderful content week after week and year after year. My presumption is that this new tour will only motivate Monahan and the PGA Tour offices to push the envelope and only get better to stave off the competition.

In the Star Wars saga, Obi-Wan Kenobi warns his nemesis Vader, "If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine."

Here's hoping that Monahan and the PGA Tour take that same advice to heart by defending its league not by intimidation of its players, but through excellence and execution.

May the Force be with him.

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DREAM GOLF AWAITS

(844) 266-5124
sandvalley.com