

# GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

August 2018, Vol. 22 No. 5

## BEAUTY IN THE HIGH DESERT

### TAHOE AND VICINITY: HIGHLY FUN

Instruction by  
Chris Oehlerking and Todd Sones

[GOLFChicagoMagazine.com](http://GOLFChicagoMagazine.com)

# EXOTICS CBX HYBRID STAFF PLAYER TOM LEHMAN WINS THE 2018 PRINCIPAL CHARITY CLASSIC



Congratulations to Exotics CBX hybrid staff player Tom Lehman for winning the 2018 Principal Charity Classic with two Exotics CBX hybrids! The victory is the second win on the PGA Tour Champions for a player with Exotics CBX metalwoods in the bag this year.

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2018 TOUR STATISTICS				
CLUBS IN PLAY	WINS	TOP-5	TOP-10	TOP-25
159	3	18	32	57

\*All stats from 2018 PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions and Web.com Tour

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**EXOTICS**  
BY TOUR EDGE

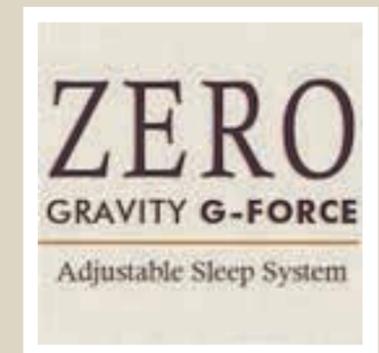
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OPENING SHOT

DAVE  
AND  
TIM

It's hard to get nostalgic about August. After all, it's hot, school is still out at the start, many start the month on vacation, and not a leaf has fallen.

Yet, this is about it as far as summer goes. Oh, astronomers and astrologers will insist that it runs until September 21, and even The Old Farmer's Almanac confirms that, but really, summer comes to a crashing halt when the sun goes down on Labor Day.

Then comes the nostalgia, the deep pang for what just was and what was so many years back, when the Rambler might have been the auto of choice for the trip to the vacation haunt, with either the Beatles or Percy Faith on the radio – depending on who was riding shotgun.

August, if you don't mind mopping your brow, is a very good time to play a little golf. Or a lot of golf. Courses are still in fine condition, a dry spell or two



allows fairways to run – the least rainy portion of summer in Chicago traditionally is the first half of August – and the steamy days keep a few people away. More room for us!

The "rooms" we play in are all around the world, and this month, we focus in part on a distant spot with golf and nature in harmony, the Red Ledges project near Park City, Utah.

It's big and bold and comfortable, all at the same time.

We also look in the Lake Tahoe area thanks to Dave Lockhart, who knows every nook and cranny of that neighborhood.

Closer to home, there's instruction from Todd Sones and Chris Oehlerking, a review of the best-selling takedown of Tiger Woods by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian, Stephen Hawk's wine review – please don't read and drive – and a close-up look at Kevin Streelman's return home to Cantigny for a day to lead off Sweet Home Chicago.

Enjoy!

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# THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Todd Mrowice  
and Dave Lockhart

## Old School but High Tech

If you live in the present but relish the past, you'll love the Myers striped "prep-performance" pique polo, the latest product of Johnnie-O. This classic four-



button shirt is a fooler, combining

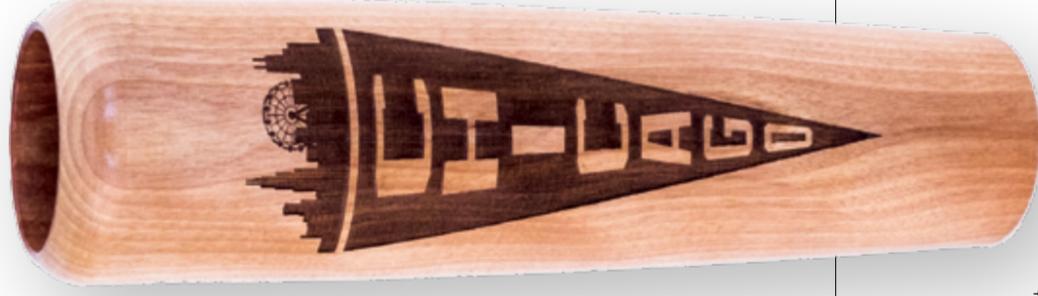
a classic look with modern performance to create a keeper. Features include

moisture-wicking fabric — that's the prep-performance the apparel-maker boasts of — SPF50 sun protection, along with cooling side vents. Available in all sizes.

[www.johnnie-o.com](http://www.johnnie-o.com)  
\$85.00

## Roll Out The Barrel, Er, Mug

Baseball and beer. As synonymous as, well, golf and beer. So it was a natural fit when the people at Lumberlend Co. decided to start cutting the barrels off baseball bats and making them into beer mugs. These hardwood beauties hold 12 ounces of your favorite brew, or can even accommodate hot beverages. Each mug is crafted by hand and is extremely durable. An array of finishes are available from four stock finishes to their Pennant Series so you can rep your city. Or, own a mug with your favorite player's signature (several North siders available).  
\$44.99 and up  
[www.lumberlend.com](http://www.lumberlend.com)



## Bixtar Breaks Into The Ball Market

You know that old saying, "When you can, buy local"? Well, now that applies to golf balls. Bixtar is a local company whose founders didn't like that "affordable golf balls lacked quality and the quality balls cost too much." The Bixtar SL has a 432-dimple aerodynamic surface and two-piece design for extra distance. The company boasts it is much softer than most two-piece balls and produces optimal spin rates (low/medium off driver, medium/high off irons). Bixtar's newly engineered ionomer cover also provides an exceptionally soft feel.  
\$19.95 [www.bixtar.com](http://www.bixtar.com)



## You Still Have To Swing The Club

GolfLogix is behind some of the most advanced golf technology and successful apps in the industry. Their latest breakthrough is Putt Breaks, which is an added feature to the existing GolfLogix GPS app. You guessed it. It reads your putts. With 3D mapping technology, Putt Breaks analyzes greens to give you the exact break along with distance in feet. Simply draw a line from your ball to the cup and it does the rest. Local courses using Putt Breaks include Prairie Landing, Pine Meadow, Harborside, Thunderhawk, and Medinah No. 3. Available in the App Store and Google.

Free 30-day trial with GolfLogix download  
[www.golflogix.com](http://www.golflogix.com)



## Back In The Saddle Again

If you're a golfer who always likes to match, or only have room for one pair of golf shoes, Jack Grace shoes are your answer. What makes these saddle shoes different from everyone else is that the saddle is completely interchangeable. With their Innovator 1.0 shoe available in several colors and nearly 100 different saddle designs, your choices are nearly endless. The shoe has a premium waterproof upper with micro-perforated leather lining. They are lightweight and provide superior comfort. The saddles connect with patent pending Hidden Channel Technology so they will always stay in place.

Shoes w/saddle \$160 and up, Saddles \$30 and up [www.jackgraceusa.com](http://www.jackgraceusa.com)



## Black Is The New Chrome

TaylorMade's immensely popular P790 irons have officially gone to the dark side. The high-gloss black PVD finish of the P790 Black irons make them look great, but they also perform. The forged feel irons are surprisingly forgiving and produce a lot of action on approach shots. SpeedFoam Technology gives the irons a smooth feel at contact, produces a high moment of inertia (club on ball), and delivers big distance. Dynamic Golf stock shafts are available in regular, stiff, and extra stiff.

\$1,599.99 [www.taylormadegolf.com](http://www.taylormadegolf.com)





# Begin With The Real Fundamentals, Part 2

Last month, Todd Sones told us what not to do. This month, in another extract from *The Scoring Zone*, Todd explains what to do: a proper setup, and why it is so important to good golf.

## 1. Stand To The Handle With A Neutral Spine

“Stand to the handle” seems like simple advice – after all, the club is right there in front of you, isn’t it? It is. You can actually use the club to guide you into an ideal setup position – one that gets the club in the right position to make good contact with the ball and the ground while also keeping your spine in a neutral position.

To stand to the handle, start by finding what I call your natural grip. With the club soled flat on the ground, set your left (or lead) hand grip while your arm is hanging straight down naturally, hand beside your hip – not by extending your arms out in front of you like most players do. The club should be in your fingers – not across your palm – and you should be able to hinge the club upward at the wrist joint with virtually no effort.

Once you have your left hand set, bring your right (or trail) across and put that

into place so that the lifeline on your right palm is running down the top of your left thumb. With your grip centered in front of you, you should be able to look down and see the V’s created by your thumbs and index fingers pointing at your right shoulder.

By setting your grip this way, you’re preserving the natural up-and-down lever in your wrists, so they work the way they should on the various short game shots we’re going to talk about. If you set your grip with your arms extended and the club out in front of you, it’s more likely you’ll establish a grip that blocks off your wrist hinge, or sets your hands and club at an unnatural angle that will force you to make an adjustment to your body when you get in your stance.

With this natural grip, the butt of the club should be pointing up right between your arms into the middle of your chest – just barely forward of the buttons on your shirt – when the club is soled on the ground. From a neutral, center ball position, the club will then be the guide you need to set the face aimed at your target, your feet set in relation to the clubhead, your shoulders level and your chest and spine neutral and in line with what you’ve established with the club. The beauty of this process is that when you need to make adjustments to play a different kind of shot, the handle will still be your guide.

A “neutral spine” means you’re in a comfortable, balanced setup with your spine perpendicular to the ground. If you try to play short game shots (or any shots, really) with your spine tilted dramatically forward or backward, you’re forcing yourself to make compensations with your hands and arms to account for the bad body position. As we talked about earlier, pushing the shaft forward to hit a chip shot creates a scenario where the spine is tilted back, away from the ball. That setup promotes a swing that bottoms out too early. When you play short game shots, you want the handle centered with your center – so if you pulled the grip toward you, it would hit your belt buckle.

## 2. Initiate The Downswing With The Clubhead

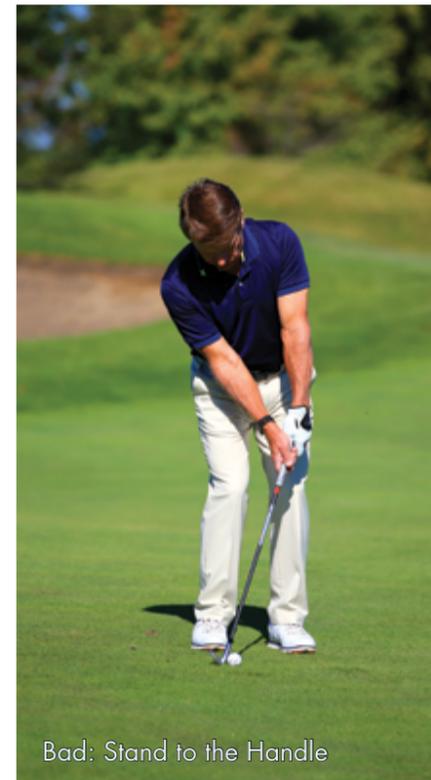
Short game shots are about precision and finesse, not speed. Instead of multiplying your swing speed with a lower-body-initiated downswing in the power sequence we described earlier, you want to start things off with your clubhead on these short shots. Instead of producing a swing where the clubhead lags behind, you’re making one where you throw the clubhead right away, so it doesn’t lag. In fact, lag is one of the two L’s I call short game destroyers. The other is lateral, which we’ll be talking about later.

If you picture your swing from face-on, imagine your clubhead, hands, and chest all making their own circles during the swing. The clubhead makes the largest circle, followed by the hands and the center of the body – which is making the smallest circle of the three. The goal is to get the clubhead, hands, and body center to reach the impact point of their circles all at the same time.

For this to happen, the clubhead has farther to go, which means it needs to start earlier and move faster. That means you’re going to feel a different sensation from the top of the backswing than you’re probably used to with your full swing. Instead of starting your downswing with a lower body drive while your hands swing down toward the ball, your first move in the downswing will be releasing the clubhead and making it start its trip toward the ball. I like to use the analogy of a horse race going around a circular track. The horse in the outside lane is the clubhead, and it needs to go the fastest to get around the track first.

A great way to feel this new sensation is to get in your golf posture and address a ball on the ground normally, but hold a ball in your right hand instead of a club. Go to the top of your backswing and throw that ball down at the ball on the ground. If you’re producing “lag,” you won’t be able to hit that target ball.

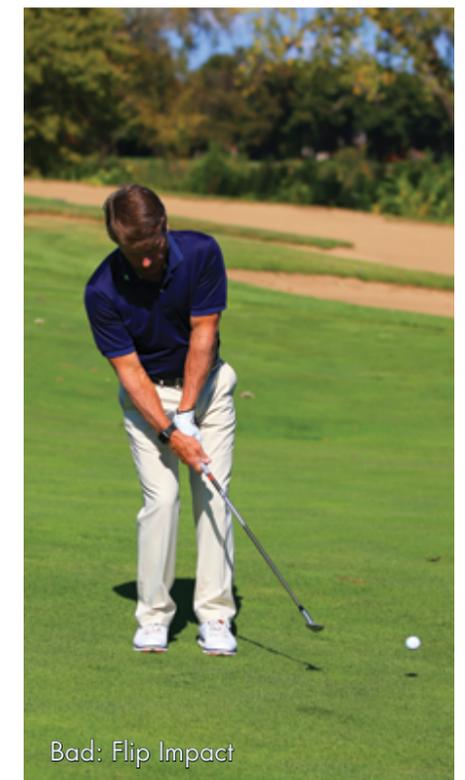
*Todd Sones owns and operates Todd Sones’ Impact Golf School, at White Deer Run in Vernon Hills.*  
[www.toddsones.com](http://www.toddsones.com)



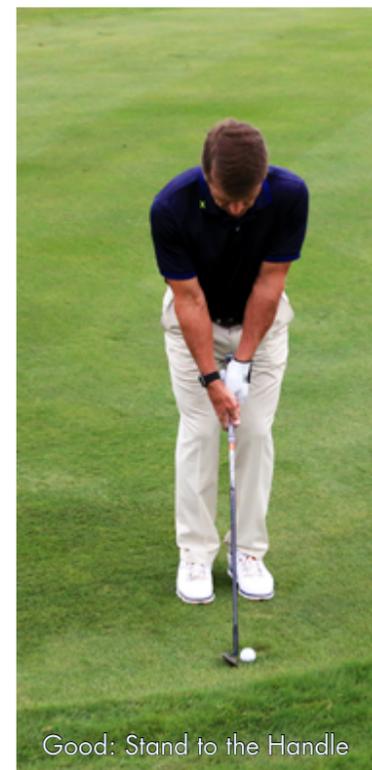
Bad: Stand to the Handle



Bad: Legs Initiate Swing



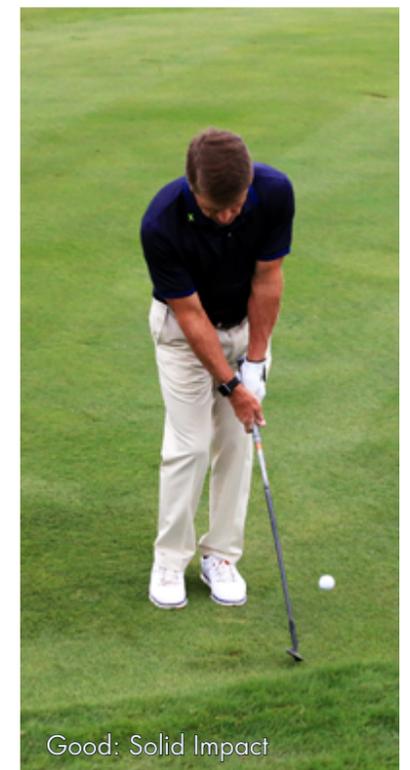
Bad: Flip Impact



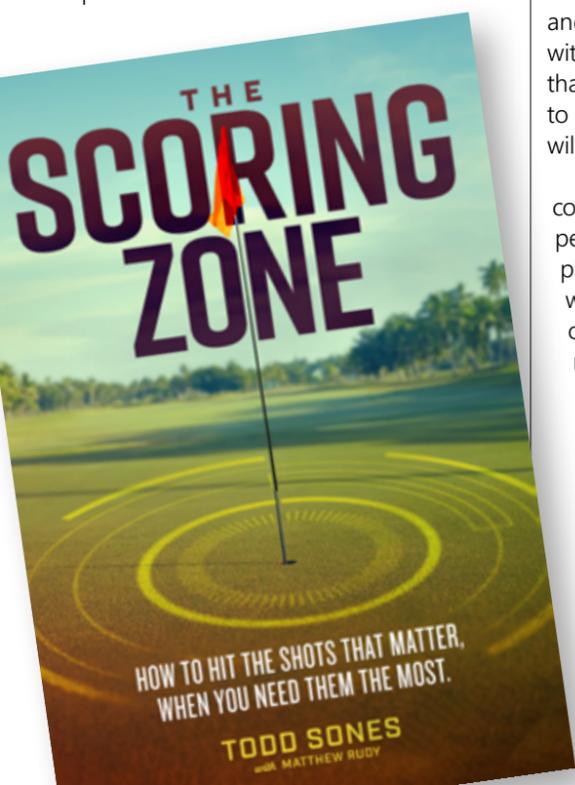
Good: Stand to the Handle



Good: Clubhead Initiates Swing



Good: Solid Impact





## Tracking Stats for Lower Scores

Is there a sport with more of an industry built around learning than the sport of golf? Is there a game that attracts a more obsessive audience burning for game improvement? We have video analysis apps on our smart phones, \$25,000 radar shot tracking and swing analysis systems for the home, synthetic turf installations for short game practice in the back yard, new training aids and instructional materials coming online every day, and the equipment manufacturers currently roll out new golf club designs twice a year.

What's it all for? We want to get better, that's what! No matter whether you are a world-class tournament competitor or a weekend double-bogey golfer, to quote the late great Arnold Palmer, "We all share it ... the desire to improve."

How does that improvement get measured? We add up the strokes and count the score, that's how. When we sit down with players at our Academy for our initial consultation, the first thing that we generally hear is their desire to reach a new scoring plateau, anything that will bring that scoring average down a few points.

Trouble is, most golfers have a very poor analysis of their game, and really don't know where and how to effectively concentrate their efforts to improve their scores. As a result, too many of us get frustrated with the idea of practice, and discouraged that try as we might we are really never going to get any better. So, what can we do?

On the professional tours, the ShotLink analysis system provides insights into how players perform on multiple layers of skill sets – over 300 to be exact. Statistical record

keeping allows players to point to tangible reasons for a weakness and lends clarity to each piece of the game. Stats can help any player cut through the noise and glean true insights. Stats can help you.

If 300 statistical areas on your game seems like a bit much, let's develop some starter stats. Peter Sanders created shot-by-shot.com and has a robust database of more than 300,000 rounds by amateur players entered and analyzed. He found that the frequency and severity of errors does more to establish any player's scoring level than all of the good shots. Bad shots hurt more than good ones help. Sanders

thus concluded the ability to identify and limit these errors is the most efficient way to improve your scoring.

Where are your major errors? According to Sanders, the most frequent and costly errors with amateur golfers are:

1. Driving errors that either incur a penalty shot(s) or don't allow the player to advance the ball (e.g., forcing a punch-out). Golf is too hard to be lying more than one after just one shot. Stroke and distance count for two shots.

2. Wedging errors, especially chips, pitches, or sand shots from within 50 yards of the hole missing the green. My mentor Hank Haney commonly refers to these as "two chips," these can be two chips, two pitches, or two bunker shots.

3. Three-putts, which is taking three or more strokes on the green. The best players aren't exempt from this important stat. From 2005 to 2007, Tiger Woods won 45 percent of the tournaments he entered. Steve Williams, Tiger's caddy at the time, kept copious statistics on Tiger and discovered that he would have won 85 percent of his tournaments during this period if he finished tournaments without any three-putts.

Another prominent example is Sergio Garcia. In 2006, Sergio was ranked 170th on the PGA Tour in three-putts. Faced with this metric, Sergio began dedicating more time and attention to improving his lag putting. It paid off. The very next year, Sergio moved all the way to first on Tour in three-putt avoidance. This one stat helped take his scoring average from 71.45 to 70.45, more than double his winnings from the previous year's \$1.5 million to \$3.7 million.

In your next few rounds, track these No No's. This will provide you with data on the total number of shots in each category, as well as the relative number of errors. Subtract this number and you will come up with your scoring potential: your "could have, should have, might have, if I only would have" potential score!

Compare your stats for three to five rounds and your major weakness should become clear. Work to reduce those errors and you will achieve meaningful improvement. Then, repeat the process until you have zero No No's. Notice the usefulness of the data, and allow it to help you identify areas of improvement in your game and strategy.

PGA professional Chris Oehlerking is co-owner and senior coach of The Golf Practice, [www.thegolfpractice.com](http://www.thegolfpractice.com).



# Sweet Home Chicago

## Streelman On Life And Golf, In That Order

Kevin Streelman has experienced his share of ups and downs during his 17-year career as a professional golfer. Early on, he admits to living in his car and sleeping on the couches of friends and compassionate supporters. He burned out three cars by racking up 350,000 – 400,000 miles driving from one event to the next during his six years on the mini-tour. But rather than being bitter about those struggles, the 39-year-old relishes his past. In a free junior teaching clinic he arranged at Cantigny Golf



in Wheaton prior to the John Deere Classic in mid-July, Streelman was reflective about his youth.

"The darkest, hardest times in my career," he said, "turned out to be a great learning experience."

Ranked 126th in the world late in July, the Winfield native has two top 10 finishes this year – a tie for eighth at the Valero Texas Open and a tie for seventh at the aforementioned John Deere Classic – yet maintains a remarkable sense of humility and introspection about his life.

"My Dad had a life motto," Streelman told his audience of over 150 young golfers and parents, "Every night when you go to bed, ask yourself: 'Did you give it your best effort?'" Streelman said that his commitment to self-improvement led to his own personal aphorism. "I want to beat yesterday," he declared.

That, happily, is becoming no small feat through the years as Streelman has amassed over \$17 million in winnings over his career and earned two PGA Tour titles. His victories in the 2013 Tampa Bay Championship and in the 2014 Travelers Championship not only earned the Duke University graduate extended status on the tour, they also provided solid evidence that he could compete week in and week out on the circuit.

Those victory trophies, though, finish behind the one he earned in winning the Par 3 tournament at The Masters in 2015. Streelman defeated Camilo Villegas on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff to win the unofficial event. What made it special to Streelman was his caddie, a youngster named Ethan Couch, then 13, who attended The Masters via the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "Ethan's wish was to go

to Augusta National to see the tournament," Streelman said. "We thought carrying my bag and helping me read putts would make for an even better story for Ethan to tell his friends."

Charity involvement has remained an important focus of Streelman's off-tour life. He co-hosts the Tenth Avenue North Classic, a tournament held annually in Raleigh, N.C., to benefit Christ-centered ministries. He also supports the Fellowship of Christian Athletes among other worthy causes.

At the Cantigny youth event – sponsored by Wilson Golf, local golf equipment marketer and Streelman's tour sponsor, he tried to help his youthful audience understand the rigors of tour life.

"Two weeks ago," he said, "I shot 62 on the first day of the tournament and 66 on the second day. The third day, I shot a 75. I screwed up! I could have gotten down on myself for the bad round," he added, "but instead I put it in perspective. I love the pressure of tournament golf, and I love the moment." He looked out at his audience and gave them a piece of advice. "I used to work at Cantigny



## Down Memory Lane

### When Little Rockton Hosted The Ladies

The population of Rockton, located near Rockford, was 7,685 in the 2010 census. That's hardly large enough to host a professional golf tournament.

Imagine what such a task would have been like in 1958, when the town was barely 1,900 and Rockford itself was about 125,000.

It happened. Sixty years ago the LPGA Tour, which was more than anything a vagabond motor tour in that era, played through Rockton, and for one of the smaller purses of the year. Mary Lena Faulk won either \$1,040 (according to the newspaper stories of the day) or \$988 (according to recent LPGA record) for scoring par 216 over 54 holes to beat Joyce Ziske of Milwaukee and Marlene Bauer Hagge. There were 19 pros and 37 amateurs, most of them from the Rockford, Chicago and Milwaukee golf communities, in the field of the \$6,000 tournament.

The course was the Macktown Forest Preserve links that stand there today, a 5,756-yard par 71 test from the back Arrow tees. That's probably the distance where the ladies teed it up.

Faulk won the tournament and Ziske lost it, having led Hagge by five strokes and Faulk by seven with nine holes to play. But Faulk's par-72 round, added to an opening 70 and second-round 74, made the difference when Hagge finished with a 75 and Ziske, playing her last eight holes in 7-over, stumbled to a 77.

The biggest difference was Faulk's birdie at the 18th, set up by a 75-yard pitch to 15 inches, and Ziske's miss of a par putt from three feet.

The Macktown Women's Open was not a one-and-done championship, the Rockford Cosmopolitan Club Charities deciding to reprise it as the renamed Cosmopolitan Open in 1959. Kathy Cornelius won that edition – and \$997.50 – but that was it. Apparently the group couldn't afford a third go-around, much less the \$2.50 needed to make Cornelius' prize an even grand.

– Tim Cronin



Golf when I was a little older than most of you," he said. "If I can make it on tour, you can too!"

### Davis Scores ZTO Title

Mitchell Davis of Valparaiso, Ind., rallied from two strokes down with two holes to play to take the Zigfield Troy Open, played June 30-July 1 at the Zigfield Troy Par 3 Golf Course in Woodridge.

While most of the field had trouble holding the 140-yard 17th hole Sunday under gusting winds, Davis, a freshman recruit of the Indiana

Hoosiers, had an excellent tee shot to the open side of the green, leaving himself a 25-foot putt for birdie. Meanwhile, three-time champion Andy Roderique of Frankfort had his shot bound over the green, from where he chipped up, and faced a six-footer for par. Davis then drained his putt while Roderique missed his, and they were all square.

At the 18th, Davis played a solid, low 80-yard tee shot through gusting crosswinds, stopping 30 feet away, just on the back fringe. Roderique then had trouble, hitting



into the bunker short and left of the hole, pitching out to six feet past the green, and then chipping to two feet for bogey. Davis was able to calmly two-putt to become the ZTO's 37th champion and win his first Zigfield Troy straw hat.

Davis' 1-under-par total of 107 was well off the 36-hole tournament record of 101, but was well played under windy and steamy conditions over the July 1st weekend. Players go around the nine-hole layout twice each day.

Davis also led a Hoosier sweep of the tournament's three divisions this year. Schererville's Aldo Buffone, 72, had a huge eight-stroke win in the Super Senior division, while former ZTO champion Rick Grassel of Chesterton had a four-stroke win in the Senior division.

Will Troy of Naperville had the only hole-in-one during this year's play, aching the 115-yard 11th hole on Saturday.

For more on why nine-hole golf is great, see Final Putt on page 30.

### Something To Chew On

The dog days are traditionally in August – named for Sirius, the dog star, prominent in the night sky during the month – but Mistwood

Golf Club brought one day of dogs to life on July 4. The elite Romeoville public club partnered with Chicago's Vienna Beef to set a Guinness Book of World Records for the longest continuous line of cooked hot dogs. You might not have known such a record existed, but it does, and now it belongs to Mistwood.

The Mistwood mark of 1,162 feet clipped the old record of 1,157 feet, held by Nakakyushu Kubota of Japan, and used 2,496 hot dogs. The world record specified that the hot dogs must be cooked and consumable. Over 250 staff, volunteers, and spectators showed up to help set the world record by lining up and then eating the hot dogs from tee to the green on the 3rd hole, a spectacular par 5 measuring over 550 yards. Mistwood will now submit video and photographic evidence of their attempt to Guinness for official verification of the record.

"When we learned that there was an official world record for lining up hot dogs, our first thought was, wow, that's awesome, of course there should be a record for that human achievement," said Jimmy Koklas, Mistwood's food and beverage director. "There are few things more American than the hot dog,

and we decided it is time to bring this record home."

There was no word on whether ketchup was available.

Vienna Beef, celebrating its 125th anniversary, used the stunt to kick off National Hot Dog Month in July.

### Crossing All Tees

Jordan Hahn of Spring Grove, up at the border with Wisconsin, won the Illinois Amateur at Bloomington Country Club with a par-saving six-footer at the last hole to beat hometown hopeful Rob Wuethrich by

a stroke, totaling 3-under-par 277. ... Pina Gentile, who grew up in Orland Park and played her high school golf at Providence Catholic, has joined Illinois' women's program as assistant to Renee Slone. Gentile previously was head coach at Eastern Michigan after stints at Iowa State and Illinois State, her alma mater. ... Whisperers say Illinois grad Dylan Meyer's equipment deal with Callaway is a six-figure annual pact. It's already paid off with a T-20 finish in the U.S. Open.

—Neal Kotlarek and Tim Cronin

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This 18-hole championship course is home to some of the area's best golf outings and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open.

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

**The Preserve at Oak Meadows**  
Addison, 630-595-0071  
Golf Digest Green Star Award Winner  
Golfweek Best Courses You Can Play  
After two years of extensive renovations, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is reborn as a new, award-winning 18-hole course and practice facility. For more information on the 2018 grand opening season, visit DuPageGolf.com.

 Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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



**A**t daybreak of the first day at Red Ledges, I was lazing in the king bed of my cabin, one eye open, watching fingers of daylight reach into the trees outside the bedroom window when they walked by. Three deer – an eight-point buck, a doe and a fawn.

As they moved out of frame, dapples of sunlight highlighted the red in their fur. Then they were gone, even before the thought could form, “So, this is what living at Red Ledges is like.”

Red Ledges, an upscale community south of Park City, Utah, is named for the red-hued rocks that form palisades, ridges, and ledges throughout its 2,000 acres. Its centerpiece is the 18-hole Red Ledges Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, which I was there to play, as well as a par 36 12-hole “golf park,” a concept the Golden Bear believes may hold the future of the game.

Having lived in the West since leaving Chicago in 1981, I’ve become used to dramatically beautiful places, but the Heber Valley, less than an hour from the Salt Lake City Airport, is smack-dab in the middle of some of the most spectacular high-desert terrain I’d seen in a long time.

**The Golf**

Nicklaus’ 7,653-yard championship course is a visual treat that rises and falls over nearly 700 feet of elevation changes. As it traverses 100 turfed acres, the green of the fairways contrasts with the red rocks while in the distance, the gray crags of the Wasatch Range frame a brilliant blue sky that is the norm rather than the exception here in the West.

In 2009, *Golf* magazine named Red Ledges the best new private course to open in the U.S. that year. In 2012, *Golfweek* named it to its list of the Top 100 U.S. Residential Courses. Every year since 2010 it’s been named the Beehive State’s best golf course in Utah’s “Best of State” rankings.

The course is seeded with bentgrass – not just the greens but all turfed areas. The bentgrass gives the course a superbly manicured look in the closely mown areas and presents a hosel-grabbing challenge in the rough.

On each tee, my forecaddie, Matt, who grew up in nearby Orem, laid out the strategy for playing the hole. After hearing the same advice a few times, I piped up, “Let me guess. We’re playing this one left to right,” which is power-fader Nicklaus’ favored orientation. “You guessed right,” Matt responded.

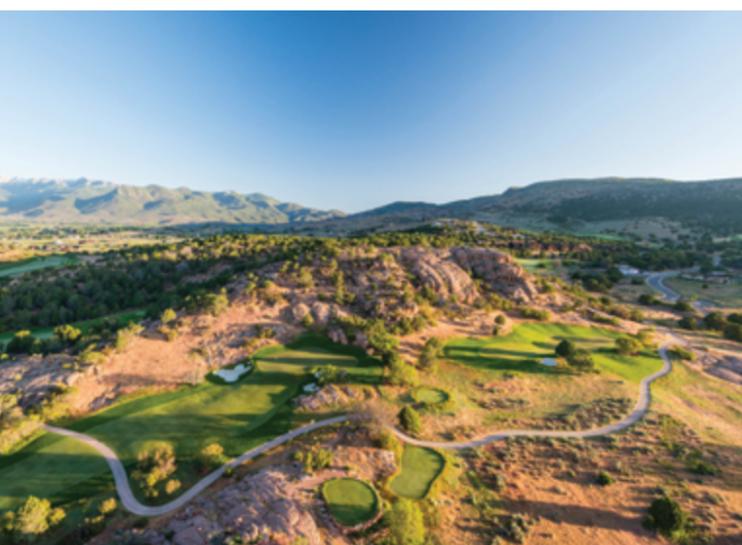
Sometimes, mountain courses can be overly tricked up – 90-degree doglegs, for example, or par 3s that make you think you’re looking through the bombsight of a B-52. Not at Red Ledges, where Nicklaus was given license by the club’s founders to string together 18 visually stunning holes with as much as 300 yards between one green and the next tee. The result is you rarely see another green or fairway other than the one you’re on.

Red Ledges is a difficult course for a bogey golfer, shown by the blue Nicklaus tees: rating 72.3/slope 141. There are five sets of tees. The steepness of the terrain on many holes adds a third dimension to your shot strategy. At one point during my first round I

# Beauty in the High Desert

By Dan Vukelich

Photos by Patrick O’Brien. Courtesy of Red Ledges



came to think of my drives as one-cushion bank shots where the ball can roll 60 yards downhill or carom off a canted fairway 20 or 30 yards right or left.

To make the championship course play faster, Nicklaus built the fifth set of tees, the Golden Bear tees, well down the fairway. That makes the average hole about 206 yards long and reduces the course's length to just over 3,700 yards, which encourages kids to try the course and eases the difficulty for players with slower swing speeds.

During my second round, I asked Matt to move up one tee box (blue/silver combo, 70.4/140). To my surprise, I had difficulty recognizing some of the holes I'd played only the day before – the views from the various tee boxes are so dramatically different. "I could play here every day and never be bored," I said out loud.



#### The Area

Just outside of Heber City, population 15,000, Red Ledges refers to itself as a "four-season community," meaning it isn't just a seasonal second-home enclave but a place where multiple generations of families gather year-round.

On the drive in along U.S. Hwy. 189, just nine

miles short of Red Ledges, I had passed the Deer Creek Reservoir, a six-mile-long, 2,965-acre lake popular for its fishing, boating, kite-surfing and diving. Ten miles to the north lies the even larger Jordanelle Reservoir. Within 20 miles of Red Ledges you'll find the deep-powder ski havens of Deer Valley and Solitude, and the town of Sundance – venue for Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival. Alta and Snowbird, two other ski resorts renowned for champagne powder, are a little more than an hour away.

Within the Red Ledges community itself lie miles of walking and biking trails. But that's just the start. Red Ledges and the rest of the Heber Valley are surrounded by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, an 880,000-acre hiking, mountain-biking and camping paradise.

#### The Golf Park

Jack Nicklaus is on record as saying that 18 holes of golf is no longer the be-all and end-all of the sport. At a time when players are hard-pressed to find time, he felt another approach was needed.

At first, Red Ledges wanted a nine-hole course to complement the championship course, but during an early visit, the Nicklaus team suggested 12 par-3 holes to give players a shorter, quicker, more casual option. It's called the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Park.

"And while it sounds simple," Nicklaus said at the grand opening, "the course being 12 holes gives them the option of playing something a little longer than nine holes and shorter than 18 holes. Players can also break up the layout in various ways to customize their experience – from playing as few as six holes to as many as 18."



Residents often grab less than a full bag of clubs – sometimes just two or three clubs – and walk the course with their families or dogs. John Johnson, Red Ledges' GM, said members view the golf park "a little bit like we see at St. Andrews on a Sunday in Scotland."

"It's the town park," he said, where on some days more people are flying kites or kicking a soccer ball than playing golf. Disc golf targets are off to the side of each of the 12 greens, which have standard 4¼-inch-wide cups as well as 8-inch cups popular with putting-challenged kids.

Notably, the golf park's holes, which vary in distance from 107 to 183 yards, are situated in concave bowls so that shots hitting off the green more likely than not will bounce or roll onto the putting surface.

#### The Real Estate

Assembled in 30 separate real estate transactions over 40 years by founder Tony Burns, who built the community with his friend, Nolan Archibald, Red Ledges encompasses 2,000 acres. Two-hundred of a planned 1,200 luxury homes, villas, and cabins have been built. Eighty-three more homes are under construction and 20 are in the design stage.

Lots for sale in early July on the Red Ledges website started at \$195,000. Larger homes started at \$1.255 million, while a 2,565-square-foot 3-bedroom, 4-bath villa was listed at \$645,000. Lot owners who haven't started building are entitled to club membership and access to all facilities.

#### The Takeaway

The 18-hole golf course is stunning. The golf park is fun and innovative. The club celebrates the outdoors through tennis, swimming, horseback riding, walking, and biking. The community is plunked in the middle of spectacular national forest land, near water recreation areas, close to some of the world's best skiing, yet convenient to a major city and airport.

There's a Jim McLean Golf School, the Cliff Drysdale tennis school, and a spa that offers practically any kind of massage you can dream up. Take all that, throw in a casual, family-oriented culture, personalized service, and a clubhouse restaurant with gorgeous views, and you have to ask, "What's not to like?"

#### How You Can Play Red Ledges

Play at Red Ledges is restricted to members and guests but the community, which continues to develop home sites, offers familiarization tours for people considering building or buying there. Its "Discovery Tour" visit, coordinated by the Red Ledges concierge, includes two nights in one of the club's luxury multi-bedroom cabins and the freedom to explore golf, tennis, spa treatments, yoga, horseback riding, biking, hiking, swimming – or whatever else the club offers that tickles your fancy. To inquire about a Red Ledges Discovery Tour visit, call (877) 733-5334, email

info@redledges.com, or visit the website [www.redledges.com](http://www.redledges.com).

*Dan Vukelich, a former Chicago journalist, is a freelance golf writer living in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He edits [www.newmexicogolfnews.com](http://www.newmexicogolfnews.com).*



# Tahoe: Highly Fun

DAVE LOCKHART AND DAVE WERETKA

There is only one Lake Tahoe with its crystal clear cool water that looks like it is good enough to drink. Your golf thirst will certainly be quenched if you come out to explore the spectacular golf region encompassing Lake Tahoe, Reno and Carson City, Nev., and Truckee, Calif.

The proper place to start this tour of the area is Edgewood Tahoe Golf Club, seen each year when celebrities take their golf seriously. So can you.

While it is highly unlikely you can get a round in at Edgewood Tahoe during tournament week, the rest of the summer is wide open for traveling golfers. The 7,555-yard, George Fazio-designed course – he also designed Butler National – showcases the Sierra Nevadas, Lake Tahoe, and the magic of South Tahoe. With sneaky doglegs and elevated greens, Edgewood Tahoe is manageable for all golfers, yet a strategic journey for players looking to best old man par. The lake is featured on 14 holes, so bring a camera because this course could fill a 12-month calendar

with awe-inspiring images that do not require Photoshop.

The tournament that helped make the course famous is held each July, the one place where Hollywood, NFL, NBA, MLB, and NHL stars gather to play golf. The American Century Championship is the best celebrity golf tournament on the planet. What makes it so special is that these stars interact with the 30,000-plus spectators. If you have watched coverage on NBCSN, you understand that this event is as engaging as and as fun as any golf tournament anywhere. If you go, be sure to bring a camera, a few Sharpie markers, and an appetite for golf, for the red carpet is replaced with lush turf and a panoramic backdrop that will turn your head faster than Charles Barkley attacking a free buffet table. Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and now CBS NFL analyst Tony Romo emerged as the victor this year.

To make things even more enticing, the adjacent Lodge at Edgewood was just designated the No. 1 resort hotel in the U.S. in *Travel + Leisure's* 2018 World's

Best Awards. Opened a year ago on the shores of Lake Tahoe, the Lodge offers an exceptional level of luxury. It's home to 154 luxury rooms and suites, each boasting its own gas fireplace and private deck or terrace. Impeccable attention to detail and a seasoned eye for aesthetics make for spaces you won't want to leave ... as you realize all the beauty and tremendous golf that surrounds you. In its 50th year of operation, it's plain to see that Edgewood Tahoe continues to get better and better.

Incline Village features two golf courses that will have golfers itching for more. The Mountain Course is one of them, and this Robert Trent Jones Jr. design will appeal to even the most demanding of golfers.

The Mountain Course, designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, offers a unique design that brings the most out of its immensely scenic qualities. Jones used the natural landscape to create a course that is one with nature, but more than challenging for low-handicappers. Don't let the par-58 fool you into thinking

it's a walk in the park. This course has always been high on the list for Tahoe locals, and the price is nice.

When you're done with your round at Incline Village you'll want to hit up Wild Bills BBQ at the Mountain Course. Wild Bill's offers authentic slow-smoked barbecue specialties such as pulled pork and tri-tip sandwiches and St. Louis-style spare ribs, with house-made sides and barbecue sauces to go with each item. Tasty food and tasty vistas combine at this gorgeous mountain setting overlooking the 10th tee at the Mountain Course.

It is not very often a golf writer could scribble as many words about a clubhouse as he can about the associated golf course. At Nakoma Golf Resort & Spa, the golf plays second fiddle to the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed clubhouse and prairie-style architecture that graces its community. This is Wright's only clubhouse design and it sat in his archives until fifteen years ago.

When Nakoma gave life to the wigwam/alpine peak clubhouse design, an

awe-inspiring community and golf course followed. The Dragon, Nakoma's scenic yet ever so challenging golf course, is dramatic and penal. Slaying the dragon requires practiced patience, steely nerves, and possibly a sword. Nakoma is a Lake Tahoe experience where design meets nature. However, be sure to include a round on a mystic golf course where a fire-breathing nemesis lurks around every dogleg.

In the outskirts of the historic town of Carson City lies Genoa Lakes Golf Club. It's a bit out in the country, but that's what makes these two 18-hole courses such a treasure. The Genoa Lakes Course, co-designed by Peter Jacobsen and John Harbottle III, is a links-style course where rolling fairways meet head-on with the eastern slopes of the breathtaking Sierra Nevadas. Lush wetlands and the winding Carson River bring water into 14 holes of play, making long, straight drives the order of the day.

Built for power and distance, the Ranch Course at Genoa Lakes cuts into the rugged Sierra Nevada foothills, just

two miles from the Lakes Course. Johnny Miller and Harbottle were the duo behind this course, which offers open spaces and spectacular high desert views. Over 300 feet of elevation changes, more than 100 bunkers, unpredictable mountain terrain, afternoon breezes, and a waterfall challenge players to a crash course in championship golf.

Clear Creek Tahoe is a bonanza of an experience on the private, yet laid-back Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw design carved right out of the mountains. In fact, exteriors for the famous TV show "Bonanza" were filmed right on this glorious property many gallops ago. Nearly every hole is a picture postcard framed by majestic pine trees with the rugged mountains as a jaw-dropping backdrop.

While private, Clear Creek Tahoe is eager for guests to sample the golf and explore the available home sites. Of the course, Clear Creek's Steve Schroeder says, "The contours and elevation make it very challenging. The green complexes are challenging, typical of

continued on page 28



Incline Village



Somerset



Nakoma



Genoa Resort



Coyote Moon



Clear Creek



Edgewood



# Grabbing Tiger Woods by the Tale

When *Tiger Woods* was released earlier this year, his agent Mark Steinberg and chief mouthpiece Glenn Greenspan – clearly speed-readers – took only one day to cite “a long string of errors,” (which finally came to exactly nine) that authors Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian made in the over-400 page tome, the most thorough biography yet released of golf’s most compelling figure.

Nine. In the course of writing a biography where the subject refuses to cooperate, which relies on over 250 interviews, which is richly reported and goes in-depth into both his personal and professional life, that’s the equivalent of a mis-hit shot on the range before the final round of a major in which the player scores 57.

The barking about the book served to give it the free publicity publishers and authors

drool over though. Thus this review is based on a third printing, which appears to be error-free, Benedict and Keteyian promising to correct those few mistakes when the book went back to the printer.

Steinberg, whose job has included covering up Woods’ scandals in the past, could tell you Woods’ life has been anything but error-free. Never friendly toward outsiders, whether they were fans on the course or reporters asking cream-puff questions on the order of “Can you explain the birdie on No. 7?” Woods is shown to be nearly as cold and heartless in private as he is in public. After you know what he’s like, he’s someone you really don’t want to know.

At moments in this telling, which goes back to before parents Earl and Kultida met, you can almost feel for Woods, whose golfing chops were obvious at an early age and are correctly lauded in the book. After all, we find that he was all but brainwashed into the game by a golf-nut father who would hit balls into a net in his garage while little Eldrick was watching from his high chair, night after night. We find he would hide that he was playing soccer and other sports from Earl, who wanted it to be golf all the time.

Finding sympathy for someone of Woods’ ilk is difficult, if not impossible. One example: Having finally been drawn out of a personal shell by his first girlfriend, Woods would turn on her in the middle of a college tournament after Earl and Kultida told him she was telling others she was his girlfriend. She had done no such thing. So imagine her surprise when she found her luggage not in her room but in the hotel lobby, accompanied by a note from him saying “I feel used and manipulated by you and your family.”

The real reason: The parents thought love might get in the way of their child’s – and their cash cow’s – career. He bought their story and dumped his first love.

Benedict and Keteyian, both investigative reporters, the latter for a long tenure with *Sports Illustrated*, detail this and Woods’ year-later follow-up note at length, as they do Woods’ difficulty with his father, his mother’s curiously domineering way, the eventual breakup of their marriage, the curious path Earl took in raising money for his son’s amateur career while barely staying within the bounds of the USGA’s rules on amateurism, and far more.

Given that anyone can look up Woods’ on-course record, the anecdotes make the book. When Woods turned professional a few hours after winning the U.S. Amateur for a third straight year, he called his coach at Stanford, Wally Goodwin. Standard procedure, but his teammates are still waiting to hear from him. Steve Scott, whom he rallied against to beat in that 1996 U.S. Amateur final, didn’t get a thank you for 20 years for telling Woods to move his ball mark back on the green in the late going, and that was in a documentary, not in person. Had Woods putted from the wrong place on that hole, he could have lost.

Those who thought Woods’ personal life, first revealed to be on a downward spiral only when he ran over the fire hydrant on Thanksgiving Night 2009, are in for an eye-ful. In a way, his only peace came on the golf course, where he could control what he did and, for over a decade, intimidated most of those competing against him.

In fact, as Benedict and Keteyian detail page after page, he’s been a mope, to use a technical term, since he realized he could get away with being one. The serial infidelity on his wife. Not apologizing for ruining the house he stayed in – and Mark O’Meara rented – during the Masters. Failing to tip locker room attendants after tournaments. Giving teacher Butch Harmon the cold shoulder on the range.

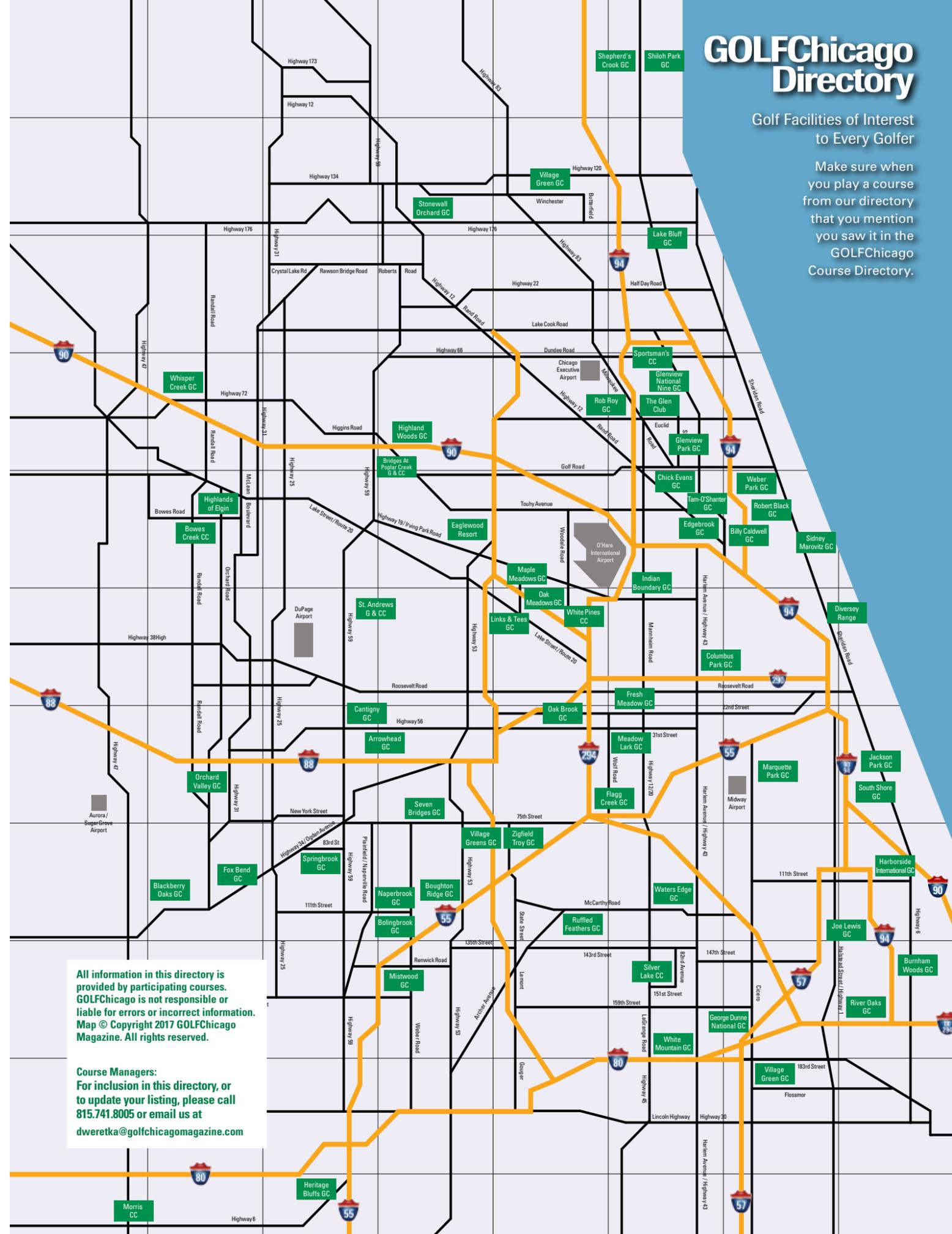
We could go on and on. Alas, Woods still does.

## Tiger Woods

By Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian  
Simon & Schuster  
490 pages, including 86 pages of notes and footnotes; \$30.00 (list)

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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26W151 Butterfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[arrowheadgolfclub.org](http://arrowheadgolfclub.org)

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### Blackberry Oaks Golf Course

630-553-7170  
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Bristol, IL 60512  
[www.blackberryoaks.com](http://www.blackberryoaks.com)

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Home of the Blackberry Amateur, the premier Midwest amateur golf event. [www.blackberryamateur.com](http://www.blackberryamateur.com)



### Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880  
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.  
Elgin, Illinois 60124  
[bowescreekcc.com](http://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 allows the public golfer to experience the private club, without an annual membership.



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- River Oaks: 18 Holes



### Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939  
3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.foxbendgolfcourse.com](http://www.foxbendgolfcourse.com)

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



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847-724-7272  
2901 W. Lake Ave.  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[theglenclub.com](http://theglenclub.com)

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

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

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847-724-0250  
Shermer Rd.  
Glenview, IL 60025  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

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*Golf Inc* magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



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Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.

Find our best specials and promotions only on [www.DuPageGolf.com](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



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630-595-0071  
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.  
Addison, IL 60101  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is NOW OPEN as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.

- 2017 *Golf Digest* Award Winner
- 2018 US Amateur Qualifying Site

This transformation, designed by golf architect Greg Martin, produced an award winning environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."

The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.

For news and tee-times visit [DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)



### Glenview Prairie Club

847-657-1637  
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Glenview, IL 60026  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

- Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
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- 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
- 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
- Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.

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### Golf Center Des Plaines

847-803-GOLF  
353 N River Rd.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
[GolfCenterDesPlaines.com](http://GolfCenterDesPlaines.com)

9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 80 - 210

Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight May-August. The 80-bay lighted and heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



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312-782-7837  
11001 S. Doty Ave. East  
Chicago, IL 60628  
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Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

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### Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888  
24355 W. Bluff Rd.  
Channahon, IL 60410  
[heritagebluffs.com](http://heritagebluffs.com)

18 Holes: Par 72  
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171

Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.

Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.





### The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950  
875 Sports Way  
Elgin, IL 60123  
[highlandsofelgin.com](http://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.



### Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771  
355 W Washington Ave.  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
[lakebluffgolfclub.com](http://lakebluffgolfclub.com)

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hell's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



### Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333  
1700 W. Renwick Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
[mistwoodgc.com](http://mistwoodgc.com)

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area

Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



### Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200  
600 See Gwun Ave.  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
[golfmtprospect.com](http://golfmtprospect.com)

The newly restored Mt. Prospect GC will take you back to a style of architecture made famous by names like Raynor, MacDonald, and Ross, with low square tee boxes, strategic cross bunkers, and challenging plateau greens, all in our quiet parkland setting. The redesign features most of the original routing, plus five new holes and historic "template holes" with names like Redan, Eden, and Punchbowl.

Mt. Prospect is the closest thing to the conditions and feel of an old private club, with a daily fee rate. Come back to a new 90-year-old classic.



### Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060  
2220 W. 83rd St.  
Naperville, IL 60564  
[golfnaperville.org](http://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 recently renovated 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

847-740-4890  
25675 West Highway 60  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
[stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com)

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

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



### Tam-O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344  
6700 West Howard Street  
Niles, IL 60714  
[golftam.com](http://golftam.com)

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter! Renovation project now complete!



### Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032  
7205 West 115th St.  
Worth, IL 60482  
[watersedgegolf.com](http://watersedgegolf.com)

Rated Best Places To Play by *Golf Digest*.

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



### Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215  
22204 W. 111th St. / Hassert Blvd.  
Plainfield, IL 60585  
[golfnaperville.org](http://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.



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500  
2411 W. Illinois Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
[orchardvalleygolf.com](http://orchardvalleygolf.com)

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

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



### Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544  
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070  
[robroygc.com](http://robroygc.com)

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



### St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

630-231-3100  
2241 Route 59  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
[standrewsgc.com](http://standrewsgc.com)

36 Holes:  
Course #1: par 71, 5116 - 6920 yards  
Course #2: par 72, 5341 - 6818 yards  
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues, and permanent tee-times. Guests will also enjoy the award-winning 32-acre Practice Center with premium range balls and 10 heated, sheltered hitting bays. Other amenities: golf carts with GPS, J.J.'s Bar & Grill, exquisite lakeside ceremony site, and live entertainment.



### Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600  
[skokieparks.org](http://skokieparks.org)  
9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping, and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.



### Whisper Creek Golf Course

847-515-7680  
12840 Del Webb Blvd.  
Huntley, IL 60142  
[whispercreekgolf.com](http://whispercreekgolf.com)

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



### White Mountain Golf Park

708-478-4653  
9901 179th St.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
[whitemountaingolfpark.com](http://whitemountaingolfpark.com)

Learn. Practice. Play.

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

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



### White Pines Golf Club

630-766-0304  
500 W. Jefferson St.  
Bensenville, IL 60106  
[whitepinesgolf.com](http://whitepinesgolf.com)

East Course 18 Holes  
Par 70  
Yardage: 5,150 - 6,371  
West Course 18 Holes  
Par 72  
Yardage: 5,751 - 6,624  
Located within minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."

Situated on over 240 acres, the club has been a favorite among Chicago golfers since 1928. The Clubhouse offers a fully-stocked golf shop, an elegant banquet facility, and 37 Bar & Grill which offers patio dining. Call for senior and youth rates and specials.



## Destinations

continued from page 21

a Coore/Crenshaw property, the fairways are fairly generous and the landing areas are comfortable. You can run the ball on most of the greens, but if you hit the ball in the wrong spot around the greens you are going to face a real challenge to recover to make par or bogey. It's a very 'in front of you' golf course."

New for this year at Clear Creek is Summit Camp, a new family campus that will be the social heart and energy of the community. Here are pools for sunning and swimming, bocce, fire pits, and games for kids of every age. There's a water slide through the pines that is in a world of its own – crafted from massive 100-year-old timbers reclaimed from the adjoining Schneider Ranch.

Across the border in California, Truckee is gold for golfers and just 15 minutes from Lake Tahoe. This is where Chicago's golfers should set up their base camp. Truckee is a collection of boutiques, artisan galleries, culinary surprises, and good live music. It would be difficult to find a more charming alpine town. The downtown will remind guests of the old

west, except this planked boardwalk offers charming coffee shops, terrific bars, and fine dining.

At 6,300 feet above sea level, Coyote Moon Golf Course is a study in isolation. The property is free of home sites and manmade distraction. Coyote Moon surrounds your foursome with ponderosa pines, granite bluffs, and the peaks of mountain ridges. Set on 250 acres, each hole will leave you howling with delight as each challenge cascades over ridges and into valleys. If your golfing options are limited to one round near Truckee, tee it up at Coyote Moon for a full serving of High Sierra golf on an impressive track.

Nearby, the mountainous golf course at Tahoe Donner Resort is challenging and thrilling. The course received a complete bunker renovation project a few years ago. The results were a facelift that brought new life to the property. While the course is narrow, it is enchanting with unique green complexes that shine with gorgeous bunkering. Buena Vista, the finishing hole at Tahoe Donner, plays as a short par 5, where golfers must layup short of the creek, or a short, downhill par 4. When the tee is up, lace your shoes, and activate

your launch sequence for one of the most thrilling shots in the High Sierras!!

Finally, in nearby Reno, Nev., you will find Somerset Golf & Country Club. This a robust championship design from 1992 U.S. Open champion Tom Kite along with the accomplished team of Roy Bechtol and Randy Russell. There are breathtaking mountain views with seven lakes and 62 bunkers with pure white sand. When it gets windy you will enjoy the 400-foot wide landing areas in the fairway so that you will have a fair shot to reach the green. Dramatic elevation changes and undulating greens that will challenge you are the key elements of this track that will certainly entice you to come back.

When you come out this way you need to experience an In and Out Burger. The chain is basically only out in the western U.S., and provides a no-frills tasty fast food experience. It's the ideal spot for a quick lunch between rounds for one of the best burgers you may ever have!

Reno, which has long called itself the Biggest Little City in the World, is pretty cool with its variety of hotels, featuring gaming of course, interesting restaurants, and watering holes. An absolute must is to make the leisurely two-block walk over from downtown to Greater Nevada Field and check out the Reno Aces, the Triple A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks. This place is exactly what a ballpark should be – close to the action seating and a couple of bars with local microbrews. There's even live music after the game in this retro looking, yet modern ballpark. No doubt about it, this highly fun region for golf, nature, exploring, and relaxation is a grand slam home run.

edgewoodtahoe.com  
yourtahoeplace.com/golf-incline  
nakomaresort.com/golf  
genoalakes.com  
clearcreektahoe.com  
coyotemoongolf.com  
tahoedonner.com  
somersetgolfandcountryclub.com

See these websites for places to stay:  
atlantiscasino.com  
carsonvalleyinn.com  
edgewoodtahoe.com  
hyattlaketahoe.com  
cedarhousesporthotel.com

For more information, see the website of the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: itva.org

## ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

As you enter Sonoma county from the south on California 121, one of the first wineries you encounter is Cline Cellars, and there could hardly be a better introduction to the Carneros AVA.

Even as a young teenager, Fred Cline learned to make wine from his grandfather, Valeriano Jacuzzi (yes, he of the hydrotherapy tub, as well as many other innovations). With a \$9000 inheritance from Valeriano, in 1981 Cline founded the eponymous Cline Cellars in Oakley, California.

The winery was relocated to its current location in 1991. The property is the original site of the Mission San Francisco de Solano, the 21st and final of the historic California missions. Although the mission was moved in 1823, the Cline tasting room is located in a rustic 1850s farmhouse that is original to the property, surrounded by spring-fed ponds and thousands of rose bushes. The vineyards also reflect this history, with vines ranging from 80 to 120 years old.

Cline is one of the first of the pioneering Rhone Rangers, a group dedicated to wines from the grapes of the Côtes du Rhône in France (ironic for a boy with an Italian grandfather, no?)

Cline also has been a pioneer in sustainable farming. It is the second-largest completely solar-powered winery in California. Natural cover crops are used to nourish the soils, sheep and goats roam freely as they graze on weeds, and compost teas are used as fertilizer. "We'd be considered 'organic' if we wanted to follow the rules of the government," said Cline. "We are actually *more* sustainable [than the law calls for] by not following their organic rules." He calls his methods "beyond organic."

**2017 Viognier \$20**  
Ah, Viognier [vee-oh-NYAY], such an elusive and underappreciated wine. The grapes are finicky to grow, and once vinified exhibit a wide range of floral qualities, some more delightful than others.

This expression is pale reddish-golden in the glass, with a BAM! nose of honey-suckle. This is followed on the palate by the expected flavor of peach, as well as mango and sour orange. This unoaked

## Yes, We Have No Cabernet

wine tastes dry, but has a surprising, slightly sweet finish. To enjoy its nuance, do not overchill.

Drink this tippie with braised tuna in white wine, oven-braised halibut steaks, or Provençal seafood with aioli.

**2015 Heritage Zinfandel \$43**  
The provenance of this Zin are the 100-year-old Big Break, Live Oak, and Bridgehead vines in Oakley, which are dry-farmed in deep, sandy soil. It is crystal ruby in the glass. Flavors of cola, blueberry, and coffee greet you on the tongue. There is just a hint of Zinfandel's characteristic pepper. The body has a nice satin quality, supported by nicely balanced medium tannins and acidity. An eminently drinkable wine.

Enjoy this red with braised pork with sweet and hot peppers, Niçoise chicken with tomatoes and black olives, or lamb with artichokes.



smhawk@ayainc.com

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## Why Nine Can Be Devine

Golf takes too long. Honestly, it does. Perhaps not a decade ago, but these days, yes. Alvin Toffler is being proven correct. In 1970, the author of *Future Shock* posited that the pace of humanity was picking up, to the detriment of the same.

Toffler was a futurist; his idea was that we'd all become more and more connected, with change occurring as if we were in a permanent revolving door.

In that world, where time is short and the phone in your pocket is always threatening to buzz, is there time to play 18 holes? To take four hours off for leisure, plus the time it takes to get to and from the course, plus warming up, plus a cool one with your pals after the round? That turns into a full day, and if you're a dad with younger ones, they're busy too, so a full day or golf is out and you turn into a chauffeur / cheerleader, and perhaps soccer coach, debating with fellow coach-dads the merits of a 4-4-2 alignment against a 5-4-1.

So much for thinking about how to make the sidehill six-footer for bogey while birds chirp in the background and the cart girl approaches.

That competition for the moment is golf's problem, and anyone from the owner of public layouts, to the park district budgeter looking at revenue falling, to club board members trying to figure out if there are new members on the horizon, will tell you it's not going away.

So, how to indulge in the game when there's less time to do so?

Nine holes. Simple as that. Or maybe a few more or less.

Playing nine has long had a bizarre stigma attached to it. It meant you weren't serious about your game, or were a kid, or in a ladies league, or played winter rules, or something equally inane.

Part of that was due to officials looking askance at nine-hole rounds for handicap purposes, but a few years ago, the USGA began to accept them. In fact, you only have to play seven holes to post a score. Just count the other two as pars.

Now, there's no excuse to play nine if you consider yourself a serious golfer. Nine holes of golf, can be twice the fun in half the time.

The Chicago area abounds with around 70 nine-hole courses of various sizes. We'll just point out a few.

For a lively par-3 experience, look no further than the Zigfield Troy Par 3 in Woodridge. This fixture on 75th Street is well-manicured, and annually the scene of the Zigfield Troy Open, commenced by professionals Dennis and Tim Troy to remember their late dad, a veteran pro who started with a range on Chicago's south side. He bought enough land for a range, batting

cages, miniature golf, and nine interesting holes, the last of which is a short Redan, modeled on the famed 15th at North Berwick just as the seventh at Chicago Golf Club is.

People smile at Troy's, the price is reasonable, and you can go around in little more than 90 minutes, if that long. Hit Troy's early in the morning and there's still time for soccer, or the family picnic, or whatever the better half has posted on the order of battle for a sunny Saturday.

Further proof that a nine-hole course as a companion to an 18 can be more than an afterthought can be seen at Village Links of Glen Ellyn, where the stand-alone nine was the original front nine of the full 18 when the course opened in 1966. David Gill designed it with care, and it's been a serious test of golf either connected to the Links' back nine or by itself.

The same is true a few miles west, at Cantigny, where the recently-departed Roger Packard created 27 holes in 1989 that provide both a challenge and a walk through a garden. Located on the southern edge of the Cantigny Museum – you can see a tank through the trees in a couple of spots – Packard's playground is a three-nine complex where two of the nines play together and one is separate, the identity of that one differing by the day. You can't go wrong no matter which it happens to be.

One nine-holer with pedigree is Tam O'Shanter in Niles, profiled in the last issue and recently refurbished, complete with a plaque recognizing the George S. May carnival of golf held in the 1940s and 1950s. A handful of holes of the nine, crafted by William James Spear in 1970, are the originals from 1925. Feel free to emulate May and wear a loud Hawaiian shirt while playing there.

A few miles away sits the nine of Winnetka Golf Club, as public a course as there is. The layout, the William Langford-designed 1960ish companion to a century-old 18, flits from forest to field, with one hole adjacent to one of New Trier's baseball fields. Left field offers either an interesting approach to the green, or the fielder chasing a fly ball can tumble into a bunker, or both.

Well south of there in unincorporated Will County, the Emerald Nine of Green Garden Country Club meanders between the two 18-hole courses, with its own starter's hut east of the main clubhouse. It's enough of a test to be a regular site of high school tournaments in the fall, and has a number of greens where two-putting is an adventure.

Go to any of those garden spots, or so many others where nine is fine, and you'll have a great time – and not take all day doing so.

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district budgeter

looking at revenue

falling to club board

members trying to

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