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Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Golf Show 2022, Vol. 26 No. 1

X GOLF

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CHICAGO
GOLF TOUR

INTERVIEW WITH
DOC SUTTIE

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Golf industry growth not slowing one bit

OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

As we embark on the 26th year of GOLFCChicago I want to officially welcome you to our Tinley Park Golf Show issue and to what looks to be a record-breaking 2022 for the entire golf industry.

The LPGA Tour has been one of the most underappreciated professional sporting associations for as long as I can remember. Thankfully, the Tour has been making a strong comeback with a newfound rivalry between South Korea's Jin Young Ko and American Nelly Korda, along with the addition of ProMedica as sponsor of this year's U.S. Open and a \$10 million purse (\$2.5 million shy of the men's U.S. Open).

Although most people gravitate toward the PGA tour due to its widely available TV broadcast and the 300+ yard drives these guys hit, the average golfer's game has always been much, much closer to what they see on the ladies' side.

For a long time, it's been proven that Chicago has not been able to support more than the PGA Tour from a standpoint of attendance, but might it be time for the LPGA to make a visit to our area?

Speaking of underappreciated, that's one thing that is no longer the case for golf simulators. Our season-opening Golf Show issue focuses on that growing sector of the golf industry with a look at X-Golf which will grow from 44 centers to nearly 100 by the end of 2022. And there is a roundup of other golf simulator locations throughout Chicagoland which have proven to be popular, especially during the winter months.

The game of golf continues to experience record numbers both in the warmer parts of the country as well as right here in the Midwest. Not only are there more golfers playing the game than ever before, but there are more golfers playing in a non-traditional setting than ever before, too. The game is no longer relegated to a 9- or 18-hole course. Instead, facilities such as TopGolf, the aforementioned X-Golf and its simulator counterparts, as well as teaching centers such as GOLFTEC, are experiencing the largest numbers of golfers than ever before.

Speaking of GOLFTEC, our instruction department will include a visit from PGA Master Professional and one of *Golf Digest's* Best Teachers in Illinois, T.J. Sullivan, on the most common problems golfers are facing these days (and how to fix them). T.J. manages the GOLFTEC Center in Oak Brook.

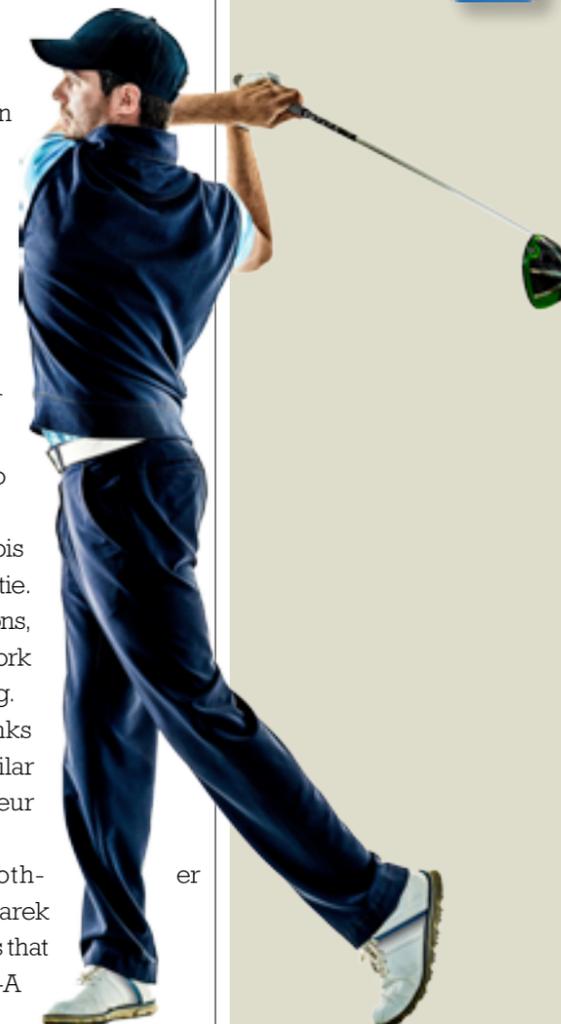
We will also stop in sunny Naples, Florida, and chat with Illinois PGA Hall of Fame and *Golf Digest* Top 25 instructor Dr. Jim Suttie. Widely recognized as the first coach to use video as part of his lessons, Doc Suttie will explain what keeps him motivated and eager to work with golfers of all skill levels after nearly five decades of teaching.

Dave Lockhart takes us to Heritage Bluffs, another of his Links Gems, located in southwest suburban Channahon, while Joe Aguilar introduces us to the Chi Golf Tour, and incredibly popular amateur circuit which also looks to double in size in 2022.

As always, our Good Stuff column will focus on another 'can't miss' selection of new golf gear and gadgets, while Neal Kotlarek dips his toes in the sand while enjoying those frozen concoctions that help us hang on at the Margaritaville Resort (the former Tan-Tar-A Resort) in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

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Welcome to the Tinley Park Golf Show

Welcome back to the Tinley Park Golf Show! After a year hiatus, we're back and excited to welcome golfers to a show packed with the latest in equipment and golf goodies as well as golfing destinations and deals from across the Midwest.

More people are playing than ever before and not just on courses but inside domes and virtual golf facilities across Chicagoland. We feel that the Tinley Park Golf Show couldn't have landed at a better time.

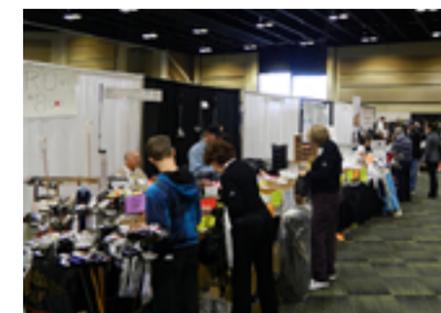
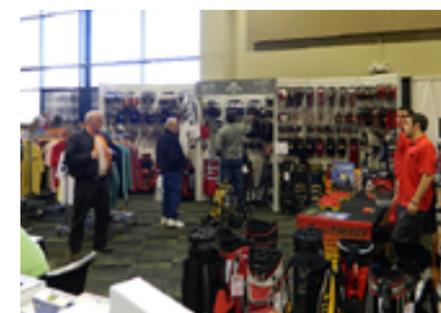
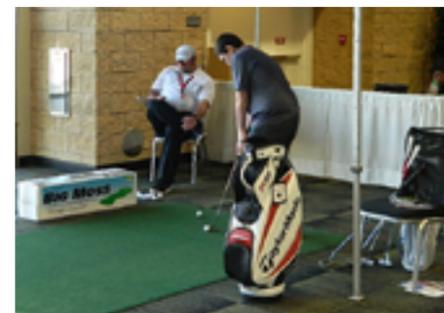
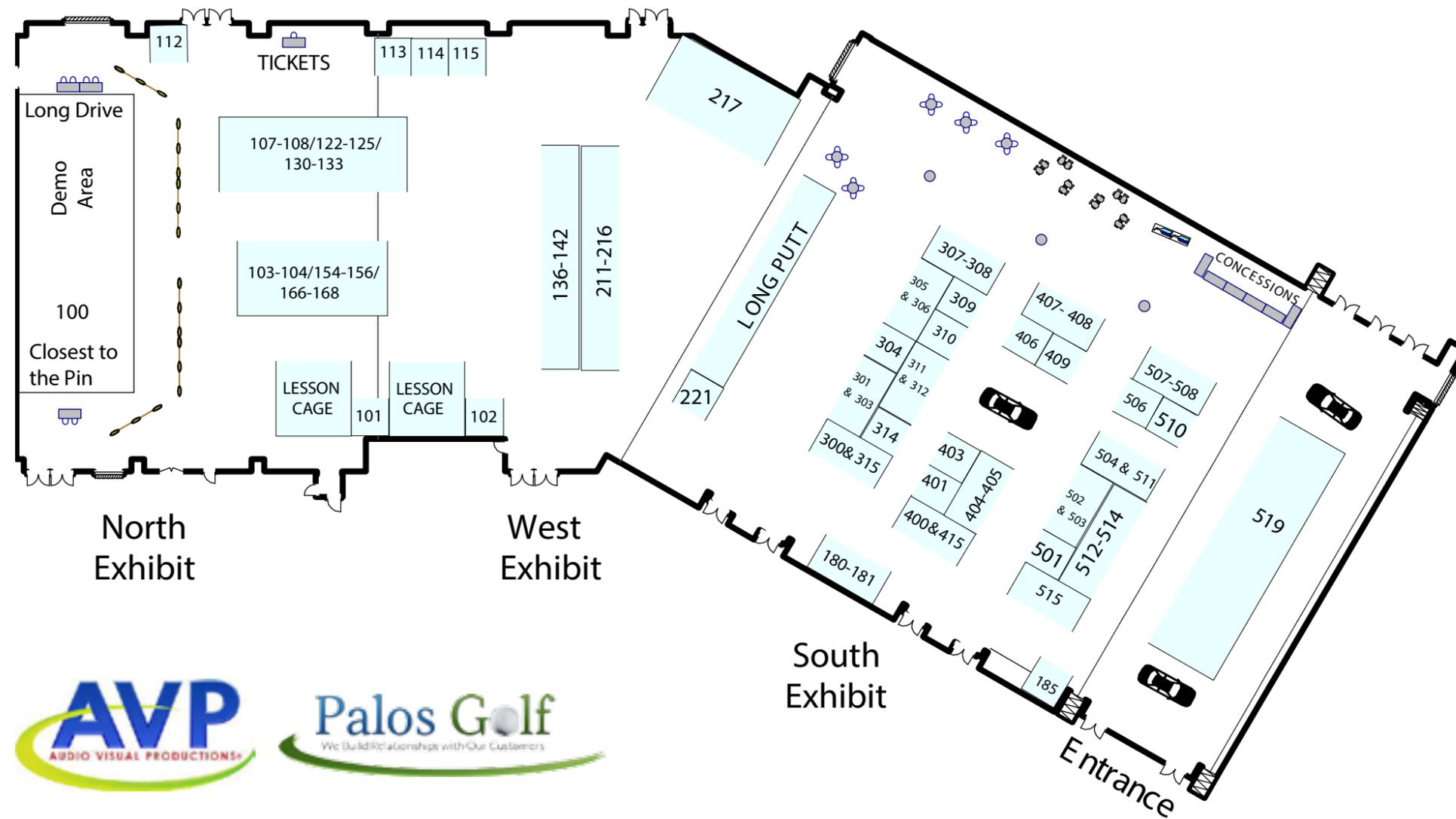
Golf Show Hours February 4-6:
Friday 12-7 \$5
Saturday 10-5 \$10
Sunday 11-4 \$10

The show will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located just off I-80 and Harlem Ave. As always, parking will be FREE. Visit www.tinleyparkconventioncenter.net for tickets and more information.

We can't wait to have you stroll through our vendor aisles to see the latest equipment and destinations for your next golf getaway. The show will once again offer a driving range to hit the latest offerings from leading manufacturers such as Callaway, Cobra, Cleveland, TaylorMade, Tour Edge and Wilson.

While you are here, test your skills at our longest drive and longest putt competitions.

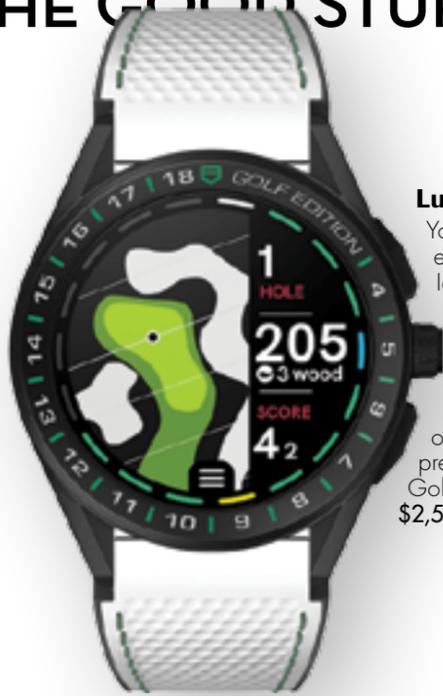
"We've been exhibiting since the first year of the show, and there's no better place to be to beat the winter doldrums than the Tinley Park Golf Show," said Jim Darin from Pre-Driven Golf Balls.



Exhibitors

- J & M Golf Inc 519
- Cam Golf..... 211-216
- Chicago Bills Golf.... 107/08-133
- Palos Golf 103/154/168**
- Balmoral Woods 300-315
- Bettenhausen of Tinley Park Sponsor**
- Callaway..... Demo
- Tour Edge Golf..... Demo
- Wilson Sporting Goods... Demo
- Cobra Demo
- Mizuno Demo
- Cleveland..... Demo
- Chicago Golf Tour..... 404-405
- Big Moss Long Putt
- Silver Lake CC 400-415**
- Audio Visual Productions..... Sponsor**
- Cardinal Creek Golf Course . . .300
- Odyssey Golf Foundation . 407-408
- Ayurvedic Therapy Resources . 501
- Chiro One Wellness.....506
- Amateur Golf Tour 305-306**
- Leaf Filter 502-503
- Universal Windows504-511
- NWI Windows314
- Edward Jones Financial Advisors.....304
- Renewal by Andersen406
- Polar Beverage.....310
- Waterfall Resort/Steamboat Bay Fishing Club..... 180-181
- Saints Golf Tinley Park . . 136-142
- Pre-Driven Golf Balls . . .500-515
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- GOLFChicago Magazine . . . 185**
- Lincoln Oaks Golf Course . . .409
- Nothing Bundt Cakes . . .301-303
- Green Garden Country Club . . .510
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- Tullymore Golf Resort . . . 507-508
- L.A. Fitness 305-306
- Southwest Golf Academy . . .-102
- Steffey Law P.C.....101
- X-Golf Orland Park..... 311-312
- Geneva National Resort..... Sponsor**
- POPUS 2.....217
- Oak Terrace Resort Sponsor**

THE GOOD STUFF



Luxurious GPS

You've worn GPS watches before, but have you ever felt like a million bucks while wearing them? Iconic watchmaker, TAG Heuer brings to market the Connected Golf Smartwatch which is designed for the "most cultured golf enthusiasts," according to their site. The watch has an ultra-lightweight titanium case with a matte finish and ceramic bezel with a modern Golf Edition crown. It also has a black rubber strap or a golf-style white with green stitching for your taste preference. The watch connects with the new TAG Heuer Golf app which provides shot tracking and 3D maps. **\$2,550 tagheuer.com**



Eco-Friendly and Element Ready

Close your eyes and think about spring golf. Now, do you have the right jacket? The Moscrip Jacket from Radmor is lightweight, so it's easy to swing in. It's also weather-resistant so it will stand up to rain and wind without issue. Hard to believe that it is also made from a blend of recycled nylon and elastane, so you're doing your game a favor as well as the environment. It also has a hidden hood which has a zipper enclosure, elasticized cuffs, and a hidden golf ball pocket. **\$225 radmorgolf.com**



Pre-Round Hydration

Skip the coffee, ditch the cola, and pitch the energy drink. DriveForce DF-18 is a new and innovative pre-round, single-serve packet that gets your day started right and keeps you going. With over 20 sugar-free, healthy ingredients, DriveForce DF-18 aims to keep you hydrated, focused, and energized so your body isn't the reason your game suffers. While it won't fix your slice, it will help you get to (and find) your ball faster and easier. **\$39.99 (10 stick pack) driveforce.golf**

Personality Fit to a Tee

Never thought we'd be so excited over a golf tee, but the best ones we've found are made by Western Birch Golf, manufacturers of hardwood golf tees.

On the company website you'll see dozens of different color combinations and they'll even make custom designs for you. We've tested out (and love) many of the color schemes. A box of 50 2.75-inch tees sells for \$7.99. We also love their Holiday Black Box (\$40) which includes 250 premium hardwood tees and allows mixing and matching five different color schemes. **www.westernbirch.com**



Goodbye Mavrik, Hello (again) Rogue

Replacing their Mavrik line of irons, Callaway continues to develop groundbreaking innovations that benefit golfers of all abilities in 2022 with new Rogue ST Irons. The company has broken new ground through a high strength 450 A.I. Face Cup while continuing to push innovation through its patented Urethane Microspheres that appear to massively increase their precision tungsten weighting. Rogue ST MAX Irons have refined game-improvement shaping, the strongest lofts in the Rogue ST family, and fit a wide range of golfers who want speed, forgiveness, and all-around iron performance.

Features & Benefits include more ball speed from the all-new high-strength 450 A.I. designed flash face cup, new A.I. face optimization for speed, launch and spin, precision tungsten weighting for optimal launch, and patented urethane microspheres for pure feel.

Callaway's Rogue ST Pro irons are designed for low-to-mid single digit handicap golfers and feature all the best technologies of Rogue ST in a hollow body construction and a compact players shape. Interestingly, these irons look a lot like the company's Apex Pro irons.



Power Packed Irons

Titleist has a knack for producing irons for all levels of players, and the new T200 model should be on your list if you prefer a tour shape without blade-level correction.

Max Impact technology and dense tungsten weighting give these irons a distance-type feel while also being incorporated into a compact head. Despite the shape and thin topline, the T200 cuts through the rough as easily as it does the fairway.

\$1,299 (4-PW steel) titleist.com.



Arnie + Seamus = Awesome

If you're a headcover collector or just someone who likes their bag to have a little pop, this is your cover. The unmistakable Arnold Palmer umbrella is printed all over a camouflage headcover made from high-quality material from Seamus Golf.

The top of this barrel cover even has Mr. Palmer's signature stitched into it. If you consider yourself part of "Arnie's Army," this is a must-have.

\$95 seamusgolf.com



GOLFTEC Making Golfers Better One Half Hour at a Time

At GOLFTEC in Oak Brook, the coaching staff teaches more than 900 golf lessons every month, but when it comes to the most common issues they tend to see on a daily basis, it's hitting the ground first, slicing the ball, and lack of distance. Oftentimes, all three of these problem areas come from the same person where they tend to swing too far left, hitting the ground first with the face open, usually slicing the ball which is going to negatively affect how far they hit the shot.

Distance will increase simultaneously as their coaches solve either of those problems.

The goal is to identify each part of the problematic area, in separate pieces, and determine what does the player not want to do more than anything, hit the ground first or slice the ball? From there his or her coach can address drills for the problem to be solved.

You may then ask, "why don't you just fix everything during the same lesson?" The simple answer is that coaches don't want to overwhelm students with multiple swing thoughts, knowing that small improvements in various parts of the swing can make a huge difference.

Hitting the Ground First

GOLFTEC has conducted a big data study which measured the swings of thousands of amateurs, compiling millions of data points, and has found that there is a direct correlation with certain aspects of the swing. As handicap levels go down its coaches know what movement patterns correlate. There is a definitive correlation between where the hips and shoulders move during the backswing and skill level, which can help control and influence low point (a fancy word for divot).

In addition, GOLFTEC coaches also notice that the amount that the hips and shoulders move towards the target in the follow-through also influences low point.

Hip and shoulder sway is one of the key motion measurements used via GOLFTEC's exclusive Opti-Motion camera system when defining low point. The first and only motion capture and measurement system of its kind in golf, Opti-Motion sets a new standard for how golf swings

are measured and provides coaches with an incredibly powerful tool. The motion is captured by custom-built, high-speed, HD cameras that measure the golf swing in 3-D and leverages a proprietary artificial intelligence model to collect more than 4,000 data points in every swing.

The number one influence of hitting a heavy shot is when people don't move their bodies laterally towards the target enough through the backswing and the downswing, causing them to hit the ground before they hit the golf ball.

After first making students aware of their problem, a coach will provide information and let them understand the feel. That progresses to having the student execute simple drills like moving their body as much toward the target as they can in the backswing. A "door frame drill" or simply placing a pool noodle next to their head helps them get moving in the right direction (i.e. towards the target).

Students can also start with putting the bulk of their weight on the lead foot (left foot for right-handed golfers) to get the sensation of moving towards the target (not moving off that foot when they make their backswing). From there they can also be challenged to execute a walk-through drill during their follow-through where they physically walk towards the target after they finish their swing. This process may take several lessons or even weeks of practice to execute.

GOLFTEC challenges every student to not only hit one very solid shot but three or four in a row, hitting the ball first before the ground. They will hit the driver and then alternate between a full iron, hybrid, and a wedge to make sure that they can do this correctly.

The final stage is taking it outside to the golf course and executing it there. GOLFTEC coaches work with students both in its Oak Brook center as well as outdoors at a variety of local golf courses, where hour-long short game instruction as well as 9-hole playing lessons take place.

Slicing

The number one reason someone slices the ball is because they have the club face too

open at impact or their club path swings too far to the left (again for a right-handed golfer). Therefore, the first thing to check for is grip.

They would most likely need to take their top hand (left hand for right-handed players), and rotate it away from the target to where the lead thumb is more on the back of the club and the back of the hand is more on top. This would traditionally be called a "strong grip" or "three-knuckle grip". Standard terminology is a "closed face grip."

If someone does have a grip that looks good, then their fade or slice has more to do with the direction that the clubhead moves, thus their swing path is moving too far in the direction left of the target (in which case we would then have to try to move the club directionally more to the right).

Here are a few adjustments that can be made to solve the problem of swinging too many degrees to the left. One of those ways is to make sure that someone is turning enough with their hips and shoulders in the backswing. One drill is to drop the back foot back a little bit so they can turn as much as possible in the backswing. Then, if that still isn't getting the preferred results, coaches can add a club head cover on the ground to help the club head more to the right side of the target line.

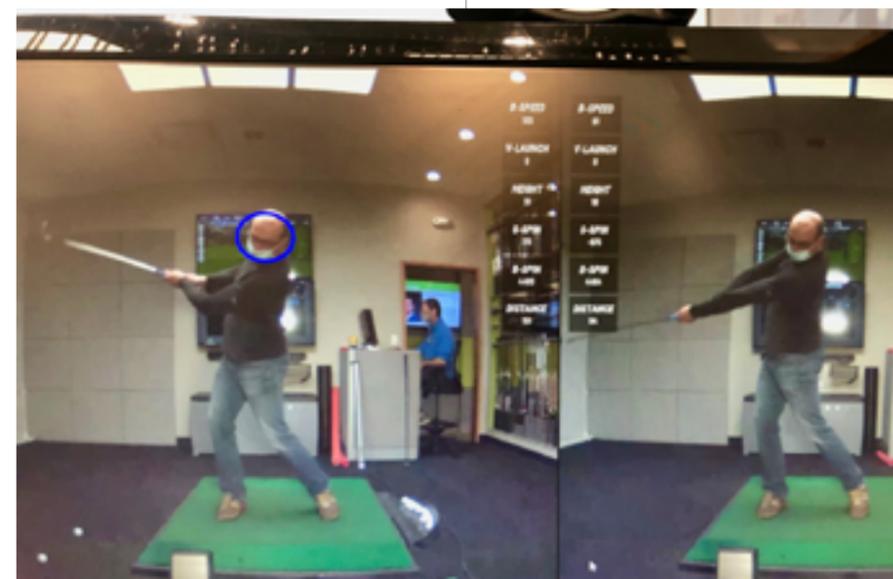
Again, this process may take several lessons or even weeks of practice to execute.

What will happen is that a stronger grip will close the club face relative to the direction of the swing and the ball will fly straighter, or maybe even curve slightly to the left.

Lack of Distance

Assuming that the student is making solid contact and not slicing the ball, the biggest thing our coaches tend to see is people not extending enough and not raising the handle of the club high enough in the backswing.

Think of Jon Rahm versus Dustin Johnson. When we're not hitting the ball as far as we'd like, we don't make a big enough hip and shoulder turn, therefore affecting the length of the backswing. We limit how high we can raise the club handle at the top of the backswing which then affects how fast we can make the downswing.



Another common swing flaw we see every day is the lack of extension of the arms at impact and follow-through, a sure distance zapper. Students are taught how to get their chest and belly button pointing up to the sky into the follow-through, straightening the arms and extending their legs and arching their back backwards. This, believe it or not, is the data point that has the highest correlation with skill. Meaning, better players do this the most, and higher handicaps do it the least amount. Unfortunately these are not causal, but it could certainly help you with your distance problem.

In addition, if someone is hitting the ball fairly straight with a slight draw, trying to get them to extend more in the backswing and in the follow-through with all other things constant would also increase the yardage.

GOLFTEC bases its teaching on motion measurements that correlate with skill. These motion measurements include: hip and shoulder turns, side bending, flexion and extension. Coaches also look for lateral movement in the swing. We know what the tour averages are during each part of the swing for these key measurements, and we also know where high and mid-to-high handicappers tend to be. With Opti-Motion, GOLFTEC students are work on drills that accentuate these turns, tilt, bends and sways to make improvements in their game.

About the Authors

TJ Sullivan is a Master PGA Professional in Teaching and Coaching and was recognized as a Golf Digest Best Teachers in the State of Illinois 2019-'20, 2022-'23, and also recognized as a Golf Digest Best Young Teachers 2020-'21.

Dave Silbar is Editor of GOLFChicago Magazine, a certified personal coach working at GOLFTEC Vernon Hills, and Boys Varsity Golf Coach at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein. A veteran public relations executive, Dave has been playing the game for 40+ years and has been working in the golf industry for nearly the same length of time.

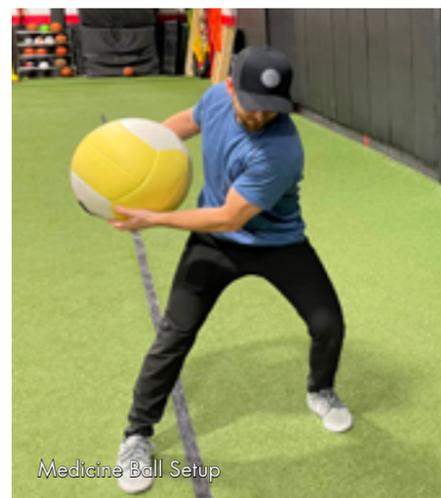
Three Workouts for Greater Driver Distance

Our main focus as athletic performance and healthcare professionals is helping others excel at their chosen activity with proper training and/or rehab programs. We have worked with golfers at all levels—from professionals, to high-level amateurs, to beginners—and today we are sharing our favorite exercises to help golfers gain distance on their shots! The common theme in these exercises is rotational power development.

More power in the swing + correct club head alignment = farther drives and lower scores.

Explosive Lateral Medicine Ball Throw

Cues: use a medicine ball that isn't overwhelmingly heavy (we use 6 to 12 lbs



typically) and align yourself a few feet from a solid wall. Turn and preload away from the wall, engage the core and hips, and launch the ball into the wall. The key with this exercise is to control the preload and turn the shoulders and hips to simulate the back swing, then accelerate back around and use the hips to drive the ball forward.

"Brace, Preload, Explode."

Primary muscles worked: glutes, internal/external obliques, quadratus lumborum, thoracic paraspinals, transverse abdominis.

Translation to the course: this drill requires that you apply maximal speed and torque to the ball in the transverse (rotational) plane, which helps with power production in the swing. Our hips are by far the strongest muscle group in our body so any golfer who wants to bomb their drives needs to work on force production via the hips.

Landmine Rotational Press

Cues: standing with your chest parallel to the bar, hold the bar with your trail arm and allow the bar to fall slowly as the hips hinge. Drive the bar back up by extending your hips and punching up with the trail hand. Be sure to turn your chest and hips as you drive back up. The hips and core should be the prime movers here, with the trail arm adding force as you finish the movement.

"Dip, Catch, GO!"



Primary muscles worked: glutes, hamstrings, internal/external obliques, thoracic paraspinals, latissimus, anterior deltoid, pectoralis.

Translation to the course: this exercise is another great way to develop rotational power, with some additional load. This movement should never be performed so heavy that we lose power, but with enough load to improve strength. "Tempo" and "Force Transfer" also play a huge role in proper execution of this exercise, as they do with a smooth golf swing.

Push/Pull Cable Rotation

Cues: begin the exercise with the cables (or bands) set at the level of your shoulders. Your feet and hips should begin pointing perpendicular to the direction of the cables. Hold one cable in your lead hand with your arm extended out and one cable in your trail hand with your arm cocked back as if you would throw a punch. Begin the movement by simultaneously pulling the lead arm cable back and punching the trail arm cable forward, finishing in the position shown in the photo. Throughout the course of the movement, the hips and the chest should be rotating so that your finishing position should be similar to the finishing position in your foreswing. Control the weights back as you return to your starting position. Start light and add weight as you become more proficient with the exercise!



"Pull + Punch → Slow Reload"

Primary muscles worked: pectoralis, rhomboids, deltoids, internal/external obliques, thoracic paraspinals.

Translation to the course: this exercise emphasizes building more strength in the upper body components of the golf swing. Shoulder, upper back, and neck injuries plague many golfers, and developing strength and stability in the upper body is just as important as being able to generate force with the hips. Since we are holding the club with our hands (duh), adequate strength and stability through the arms and shoulders allows us to transfer all that force from the hips to the ball so we can really launch it!

Add these exercises to your routine this winter and you'll be very likely to see an improvement in your game this spring! We understand that not everybody is a highly-trained professional athlete, which is why it's important to start slow when learning a new exercise. These exercises can be very effective when done properly,

but avoiding injury is crucial. Working on proper tempo and movement will lay a fantastic foundation to begin generating more force! As always, we recommend working with a professional to maximize the effectiveness of your training and recovery so that you can stay healthy and continue to improve your game.

Dr. Ryan Pokrywka and Dr. Kevin McGarry are the founders of Synptyx Health and Performance Systems and Synptyx 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.synptyxperformance.com.

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The GOLFCChicago Interview

Fifteen minutes into a lesson earlier this winter, Dr. Jim Suttie watches one of his students hit a near perfect 5-iron and chuckles “Merry Christmas, I just made you better.”

An instructor for the past four decades, Doc Suttie is as comfortable as ever in his wintertime training center at the back of the driving range at Twin Eagles Golf & Country Club in Naples, Fla. The forever young Suttie is rated by *Golf Digest* as one of the Top 25 teachers in the U.S. and was inducted into the Illinois PGA Hall of the Fame in 2021.

Among the first to introduce video recordings during a golf lesson, something as common today as carrying a 3 and 4-hybrid, his knowledge of the golf swing is unmatched, as is his easy going and witty personality.

Through his study of kinesiology and physical education, Doc Suttie developed not only a knowledge of the athletic function and capability of the human body but also the ability to effectively share, teach, and nurture his techniques in golfers at every stage.

In addition to working with players on the PGA, LPGA, and Champions Tour, he holds academic credentials including a doctorate in biomechanics from Middle Tennessee State University, where his dissertation examined “A Biomechanical Comparison between a Conventional Golf Swing Learning Technique and a Unique Kinesthetic Feedback Technique.”

Illinois PGA Hall of Fame Inductee Dr. Jim Suttie

by Dave Silbar



A former college golfer at Northern Illinois University, he's coached collegiately at Northwestern University, Eastern Kentucky University, Brevard Community College (where he mentored Paul Azinger), and Florida Gulf Coast University.

On May 1, Suttie will return to Chicago, where he teaches at St. Andrews GC in West Chicago, and is available for lessons via (800) 765-3838 or jim@jimsuttie.com.

Like a kid in a candy store, I went to meet Doc. Suttie at his Naples getaway with a sheet-full of questions and sat in appreciative awe while we chatted.

GOLFCChicago: *You could be easily retired at this stage of the game, but here we are at the back of the range at Twin Eagle Country Club. What motivates you to continue to teach?*
Dr. Jim Suttie:

There are a lot of things that continue to motivate me, the biggest being that I like to see the game taught simplistically. As instructors, we often make it too complicated. I stay in the game because I want my students to experience a very simple lesson. Sure, I use technology, but try not to get too complicated with it. Secondly, I still love seeing people improve. I just see the smile on their faces when they walk out the door, and

they're different golfers than when they came in.
GC: *Is there another game that's more difficult to play than golf?*
Doc: Well, I certainly don't know of one. I just try to make it fun for my students and that's why you need to keep it simple and fun. If it's not fun, then you won't see them again. You also need good communication skills. Today, too many teachers get too involved in mechanics when what they need is to

communicate better. Don't talk too fast and say too many things. For example, if you are teaching a beginner, you better keep it simple. And you better be happy because if you are not happy then they are not happy and they are going to leave that way.

GC: Speaking of beginners, there are certainly more than ever before thanks in part to COVID. What are your thoughts on teaching them?

Doc: Some instructors get this ego issue where they think they are too good to teach beginners. I shake my head when I hear that. The reason we do this is to make people better golfers. It's our job to not only grow the game but to make people happy and excited when they get better.

GC: Is there a prototype swing or certain mechanics that you tend to teach?

Doc: Far from it. I customize a golf swing to fit the person but can use a style-based method. You really have to

be doing it for a long time because it's not easy. I can identify their body type and fit the swing around that. If they're big in the shoulders, can't move very well, or don't have any flexibility, I must decide what I am going to do. I find a swing that fits and works for him or her so that they can have fun with the game.

GC: So you have a certain go-to for certain body types?

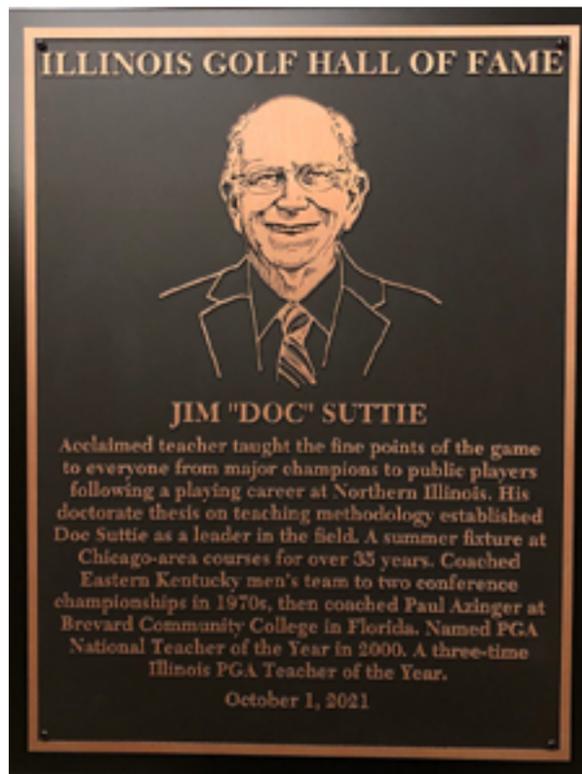
Doc: In many instances yes. A tall guy that's thin and flexible with long limbs is going to have a high swing that I call an arc swing. I'm also going to look at their post. There are three posts in a golf swing—center, front, and left. If he's not very flexible, he's probably going to be a left post player and turn around his left side. We have taught for years just to turn around your center posts and that's where most people fall, but not everyone. Then you get guys that are flexible and very left-eye dominant; they can be what I call a right post player. Then

you must see where their power sources are and try to optimize it. As an example, people say not to be too handsy but if the strongest part of someone's body is their hands, then I encourage them to go ahead and use them. Hockey players

have very strong hands and I have always wanted to do a biomechanical comparison between the hockey swing and the golf swing. I think they're very much alike. [Former Chicago Blackhawks legend] Stan Makita was a good friend of mine and had strong hands and was a great golfer, same goes for Dale Tallon.

GC: For nearly your entire career you have a history of teaching juniors and have coached at Division I, II and III universities. What is it about working with junior golfers that you love so much?

Doc: They learn through visualization better and can do nearly everything I tell them to do nearly immediately. They are quick to make the correct adjustments. It may not be where the money is, but



you show a junior his or her swing and say what to do to improve and they do it, that's why they're so much fun to work with.

GC: Golfers tend to have too many thoughts in their head to begin with. How many elements do you work on in any given hour lesson?

Doc: A maximum of two, maybe three. Golfers often do not get better because instructors don't make it simple and give them too much to work on. Yesterday I had a lesson and we focused solely on the way the student pivoted, turning his right and left hips. I might draw a couple lines on their hips and say, well don't sway, just try to turn and stay inside a box I'll draw on the screen. Speaking of video and those high-tech stick figures that a lot of people are using these days, I think it's gone a bit too far. People are far more

in tune with 2D rather than 3D. Students tend to get confused when looking at a three-dimensional image of themselves.

GC: If you could have all players just do one thing to get better and make better contact, what would it be?

Doc: I would have them do waist to waist swings, quarter-sized swing drills until they are hitting solid shot after solid shot. Also, don't be so quick to make full swings and when you do make them in slow motion, but only after you go from a small swing to a medium sized swing and so forth. The one thing you'll see if you take a student directly to a full swing at full speed is they probably won't get it. Research has proven that you learn quicker if you take a shorter, slower swing. You just can't learn it as quickly in full motion as you can in slower motion.

GC: How do you make good players great?

Doc: You have to look at their ball flight first, because they're more interested

in this than in their body position. They are also more interested in their setup than how they move. So, impact is probably the most important thing. I taught Loren Roberts for years and he couldn't get his hips open like I wanted him to, so we just taught him more of a lateral motion.

As long as he got his hands forward, I didn't care how it looked. I didn't try to change him all that much and that's probably why we got along so well. And then there's the great Gary Hallberg (from Barrington), who probably has the best swing I've ever seen. I told Gary never changed his swing and he probably would have won 25 tournaments if he would have taken my advice. But he went around searching, which we all do. We want to get better, but I wish he would have stayed with me and not tried to change his swing so often.

GC: What are some questions you ask your students when you're first getting to know them during the lesson?

Doc: How long have they played? What are their

goals? What kind of ball flight do they want? What is their handicap? What is their overall flexibility? Where do their worst shots go? The goal is really to eliminate their worst shot patterns and their two way misses so that they can have fun. If we can get their misses to just go one way that's going to make them a better player.

GC: How do you coach practice?

Doc: I give them a practice plan, what they should work on, and how many balls to hit because I don't want them to overdo it. If you don't give them a plan, then you can't depend on them to practice. When I give a lesson, both the student and I expect them to get better. If they don't practice what they are learning here with me, then what's the point, they're not going to improve. For example, I'll say to go out and do the waist-to-waist drill for two hours and your practice is over. Then maybe next time, start with an hour for the waist-to-waist drill and go to a half swing drill for the other hour. And then the next

time I might say take swings in slow motion and only hit it 75 yards, keeping in mind what you're trying to do. And then I'll give them some drills that work for them. Certain drills and training aids are okay, too.

GC: If you had a billboard, what would it say?

Doc: Take lessons here.

Keep it simple.

GC: Where do you get your information from and how do you continue to learn?

Doc: I used to go out on tour and videotape all the pros from two angles. That's part of where I got my information and making comparisons. I don't see the value in comparing a pro to the average player so those videos are only for my information. I will utilize a platform to see how the average player transfers his weight while Trackman gives me all the information I need on ball flight. Sam Putt Lab is a wonderful tool for teaching the putting stroke and next year I'm going to put a simulator in here.

GC: So are you still learning?

Doc: Oh sure, you never quit learning, and that is something I learned a long time ago from people a lot smarter than me. You learn about different ways to teach, different ways to measure a body and how that affects the golf swing.

GC: How important is the grip and the setup at address?



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LINKS GEMS

Dave Lockhart



Heritage Bluffs a Chicago-area Gem

Heritage Bluffs, a terrific and affordable treasure located in far southwest suburban Channahon, has many local golfers now simply referring to it as The Bluffs. But no matter what you call it, this course is one of Chicagoland's best, a true Links Gem.

This masterfully designed layout has a bit of everything, from prairie -all blends seamlessly over an unspoiled Will County backdrop, making it enjoyable with just the proper amount of challenge for all that play here. The par-72 layout measures between 5,035 and 7,171 yards, is located right off I-55 and I-80 just west of Joliet, and eases its way over a pastoral, undulating landscape.

Part of why we love this game so much is because we play it out in the open air on beautifully landscaped terrain and nature. The Bluffs is designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, meaning that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in several areas. There are no highways, noticeable airplanes, or homes visible. It's golf in a peaceful serene playground.

When opened in 1993, Heritage Bluffs was part of the Chicago golf boom, constructed under the guidance and keen eye of renowned Illinois golf course architect Dick Nugent, who can be included among the top course designers of our time. Locally, Nugent designs in the Chicago area include classics like Kemper Lakes, The Dunes Club, Harborside International, and several others.

"They didn't force the course onto the property, they let the property dictate what the course would be, so it fits in very naturally," said former Channahon Executive Park Director Chuck Szoke. "Everyone likes to debate about signature holes, but there are a multitude of choices, with 6, 7, 15, and 18 all being worthy contenders."

With a tip of the golf cap to The Beatles, you could refer to those holes as the Heritage Bluffs Fab 4. The round begins with Nugent easing golfers into their round with five fairly open prairie-style holes before hitting you with No. 6. Standing on the tee, golfers feel like they've been transported to rural North Carolina. This is a beautiful tree-lined, straight-on par 4, with a few



fairway bunkers that can catch your ball on the right side if you mishit your driver. The green is well-protected with more bunkers and a touch of wedge-grabbing fescue.

The 7th hole, a dogleg right par 4 and number one handicap on the scorecard, calls for another accurate drive. You need

to place your tee shot just short of the fairway bunker on the left side or bend it down the right to cut off some yardage, giving you a good look at the elevated green. There are two additional bunkers greenside, but your biggest obstacle is the well-placed pond on the left.



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On the back, No. 15 is another slight dogleg right with a speed slot that really helps you shave off big yards as the fairway goes downhill. There are fairway bunkers on the left and trees on the right, forcing you to channel your inner Fred Couples on your tee shot. The green is surrounded by deep sand traps as well as a daunting pond on your right.

Your day concludes on one of the toughest finishing holes in all of Chicago. Playing 402 yards from the back tees, you need to be straight with your drive as towering trees really pinch in by the landing area. The second shot plays at least a club more uphill to a green with more well-placed bunkers. Par is a great score on this hole, while many feel that bogey is an acceptable way to end their round.

Last season The Bluffs embarked on a completely new cart path project that made it smoother for everyone to get about. In 2022, plans call for golf carts to feature the dynamic Club Car Connect GPS, a technologically advanced system that features exact daily pin placement yardages, giving you the option to leave your rangefinder in your bag. Golfers will also be able to watch live sports events during their round and play music from their phone through the golf cart entertainment system.

This year will also feature a completely renovated clubhouse, promising to make Heritage Bluffs truly shine among the Windy City's top public courses. Debuting this spring and right around the beginning of the golf season, the clubhouse will have expanded from 5,200 to 6,250 square feet and continue to provide plenty of adult libations including local craft beers and tasty menu options.

"The Bluffs offers fun and challenge to golfers of all skill levels on one of the best public courses in all of Chicagoland," added Michael Huber, Director of Golf Operations. "You will enjoy your time here from the moment you arrive. In addition, our newly renovated and expanded clubhouse will allow you to share memories with your buddies over your favorite 19th-hole beverage."

In season, peak green fees will be right around \$89 on the weekend, with weekday twilight rates coming in around \$40 with cart. For more information, visit www.heritagebluffs.com/.

Additionally, check out a wonderful segment on Heritage Bluffs courtesy of Golf360 TV, airing monthly on NBC Sports Chicago. You can search for the segment on YouTube.

CRAFT BUNKER

Dave Weretka

With so many wonderful craft breweries popping up across Chicagoland, this year we've decided to feature these local establishments when they are within striking distance of our featured Links Gem golf course.

Not only does nearly every community seem to have that local stop, but we encourage you to show them your support as most, if not all, are typically active members within their local community.

After finishing your round at Heritage Bluffs, take the scenic backroads to Will County Brewing Company (WCBC) in nearby Shorewood to reflect on what could have been (on your scorecard).

Under the direction and leadership of co-owner Jamie Albert, WCBC has received several prestigious awards in its four short years of being open.

"We earned a gold medal at the Great American Beer Festival for our Bamm-Bamm, a Fruity Pebbles-inspired wheat ale," said Albert, who likened the competition to the Oscars of the craft beer making industry. "In addition, we took home a silver medal at the Festival of Barrel Aged Beers held here in Chicago for our Jamaican rum barrel aged Carmel Apple Tripel."

WCBC doesn't focus on any style as they like to appeal to a wide array of palettes and tastes. They stand by their motto of the 3 C's: Craft, Community, Charity.

"The public has several options when it comes to where they spend their leisure time, Albert added. "Ultimately, we're in the hospitality industry and are pressed to make quality craft beer which I think we do a good job of. Everyone we have working here is hired based on personality and their ability to talk to people."

At WCBC, they educate their customers on the ins and outs of every beer they brew. The bartenders' smiles

Perfect Pairing: Heritage Bluffs and Will County Brewing

are outdone only by the quality of the beer they are serving.

"Our bartenders do a good job of having repeat guests come see them. That goes for our employees behind the scenes that are brewing the product as well."

But they do more than just put that motto on their apparel and cans—they put this into action every day. WCBC has served as sponsor at a community 5K run that had over 1,000 in attendance. Additionally the brewery had the opportunity to be a part of the Will County Habitat for Humanity and are a part of an initiative called- The House that Beer Built. It will be a house built for a military veteran, which is close to WCBC hearts.

Let's face it—you have several options when it comes to where you spend your leisure time. We found WCBC as a perfect, warm, inviting space to unwind after a round at Heritage Bluffs. Enjoy live music there on weekends as well as some of the best pizza next store at Savarino's.

WCBC's seasonal offerings are some of the best that we've tasted and include Octoberfest and Oatmeal Raisin. You can even find some of their brews at your local Binny's.

Be sure to stop in after your round to raise a pint, talk some golf, and stay awhile. Think of this place as a bunker you don't mind being in. A craft bunker, if you will, in Will County.

Visit www.willcountybrew.com.





Sweet Home Chicago

Locals to Cheer for in 2022

In her second season as Illinois' sole LPGA Tour player, Elizabeth Szokol (Winnetka/New Trier), enjoyed a third-place finish, earning her \$198,617 in the Cognizant Founders Cup and topped the \$500,000 mark for the season.

Nick Hardy (Northbrook-Glenbrook North) earned his PGA Tour card thanks to his solid play over the last two years on the Korn Ferry circuit, and he immediately proved he can compete on the premier circuit when he made the cut in three of his first four tournaments as a PGA member.

Patrick Flavin (Highland Park) had a huge week in the PGA's Butterfield Bermuda Championship, winning \$99,125 and T17 after making it into the tournament via Monday qualifying.

Batavia-based Tour Edge added Bernhard Langer to its roster of PGA Tour Champions staffers. Langer captured the Charles Schwab Cup, and Tour Edge got a late-season boost when John Daly, with 13 Tour Edge clubs in his bag, teamed up with his son to win the PNC Championship.

Club Champion Acquires TXG

In a blockbuster move, Willowbrook-based Club Champion acquired top Canadian fitter and builder Tour Experience Golf (TXG). This new alignment brings the two most prominent custom club fitters on the continent together to better service golfers in North America and beyond. The integration marks the first time that Club Champion will bring their club fitting services beyond USA borders. Simultaneously, this represents a massive opportunity for the TXG brand; the intent behind this merger is to further expand custom club fitting services across the Canadian golf market and to bring some crossover to the fitting content available for all golfers from both brands.

NIU Hosts 2022 Men's Golf MAC Championships Tournament Featuring Free Admission

The Mid-American Conference Championships for Men's Golf is coming to the Chicagoland area this year, and it is being held over at White Eagle Golf Club in Naperville. As the recent host of the 2020 Illinois Open, White Eagle is an excellent choice and I'm sure they'll put on a great show. Here's hoping for a Huskie win! Northern Illinois

University will be competing against the likes of Ball State, Bowling Green State, Eastern Michigan, Kent State (#30), Miami of Ohio, Ohio, and Toledo (#84).

The tournament is open to the public, running Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, with FREE admission. Tee times begin on the front and back nines at 11 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m. on Sunday. Free parking will be available for fans in the clubhouse lot. For more information or volunteer opportunities, call NIU Associate Head Coach Andrew Frame at (815) 263-3452.

WGA Announces Record Contribution to Evans Scholars

A record \$5.6 million of charitable contributions were raised in August by the 2021 BMW Championship played at Caves Valley Golf Club in Maryland. The funds were designated for distribution to the Western Golf Association's Evans Scholars Foundation. The foundation awards full tuition and housing college scholarships to high-achieving caddies with limited financial means.

The BMW Championship has now contributed more than \$40 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation, the event's sole charity, since 2007.

New Tournament Dates for John Deere Classic

For the first time in its 50-year history, the 2022 John Deere Classic will be played two weeks prior to The Open Championship. The transition to the June 27 – July 3 dates was part of a larger strategic alliance between the PGA Tour and the European Tour.

"The new date will give us the opportunity to attract players who otherwise might not have considered the John Deere Classic because they felt the need to travel to the United Kingdom the week before The Open," said tournament director Clair Peterson. "Now we have a chance to attract those players."

Since 2004 the tournament has been scheduled the week before The Open Championship, except for 2016



when it was played concurrently with the Rio Olympics in August. From 1999 to 2002, it was played the week after The Open. It is not known whether the date change will be permanent or relatively consistent moving forward.

Deere's title sponsorship agreement with the PGA Tour runs through 2023. In 2021, the tournament helped raise \$12.56 million for local charities via its "Birdies for



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Charity" program. The funds were designated for 470 participating local charities.

Fox Run Debuts New Clubhouse

Fox Run Golf Links in Elk Grove Village opened its new clubhouse just before the end of 2021 and looks to welcome golfers in the spring. For now, the new building is hosting guests in its bar and kitchen, which has a revamped menu. Golf simulators are also available if you're looking to knock some of that winter/early spring rust off of your game. For more information visit foxrun-golflinks.com.

Making the Most of Your Offseason

miha bodytec, headquartered in Addison, Ill., is a whole-body, electro muscle stimulation (EMS) workout that is both time efficient and highly effective for golfers looking to improve their game or stay in shape this winter. EMS increases muscle, toning, and strength, and reduces body fat, ultimately improving endurance and overall physical performance. For golfers, EMS creates a greater mind-body connection that carries over to golf swing mechanics, and teaches players how to engage and stabilize their body while improving balance, coordination, strength, and power.



miha bodytec trainers can be found locally at BodyTime in Lincoln Park, Joyce Family Chiropractic and Wellness on Chicago's south side, and at Catalyst Golf Performance locations throughout the Chicagoland area. To find what works best for you, visit EMS-training.us or miha-bodytec.us/

Major Changes Coming to Medinah

Medinah Country Club showed just how serious it is about bringing back major championship golf to its property by approving a full renovation of the famed No. 3 Course. The approval, which came in December, was unanimously voted in favor by Medinah's membership and will bring significant change to the venue which has hosted three U.S. Open Championships, two PGA Championships, and the 2012 Ryder Cup. It is anticipated that the bulldozers will begin work at the end of 2022 with work concluding in 2024, two years ahead of No. 3 hosting the 2026 Presidents Cup.

The renovation bid was secured by Ogilvy, Cocking, and Mead and is reported to have a budget of about \$23 million. The Ogilvy in the name should sound familiar,

in that it belongs to 2006 U.S. Open Champion, Geoff Ogilvy. The firm has done large-scale renovations in Asia and Australia, but now lands its "big fish" here in the U.S. with Medinah.

Included in the approved plan is a complete re-route of the final six holes with four of those holes playing along the water. The work also eliminates the par-3 holes all playing across Lake Kadajah, which was looked at as being too repetitive.

Medinah was a topic of conversation after hosting the 2019 BMW Championship when the field (particularly Justin Thomas) feasted on the layout which seemingly blackballed it from being considered for another major. Medinah has responded in a big way with the announcement and the work that is to come.



First Tee Roast

Connect Roasters has teamed up with Morale Supply Co. to bring coffee lovers the Morale Blend. This medium-dark roast is smooth and bold and a great way to get your day started. Best of all, each sale benefits First Tee of Greater Chicago. Each 12 oz. bag costs \$15. For more information visit connectroasters.com.

Palatine's Inverness Golf Club to Open New Family Center

Located in the northwest suburbs, Inverness Golf Club held a groundbreaking ceremony last August for a new family activity center. This new resort-like facility will add paddle and pickleball courts, indoor golf simulators, a sports bar, an ultra-casual dining room, and business lounge. A complete overhaul of the existing clubhouse and dining rooms will be included in the overall transformation of the club. Club President Kerry Lavelle stated that the private club's new facility will add additional amenities to accommodate members. "It was an unbelievable year. But our Board and members have remained committed to this project. We are excited for the future of Inverness Golf Club and what this new facility will add." The centerpiece of Inverness G.C. is a 6,767-yard golf course designed in the late 1920s and renovated by the team of Brent Wadsworth and Art Hills.



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X-Golf Takes Full Advantage of Simulator Craze and Golf's Tumultuous Growth

By Dave Silbar

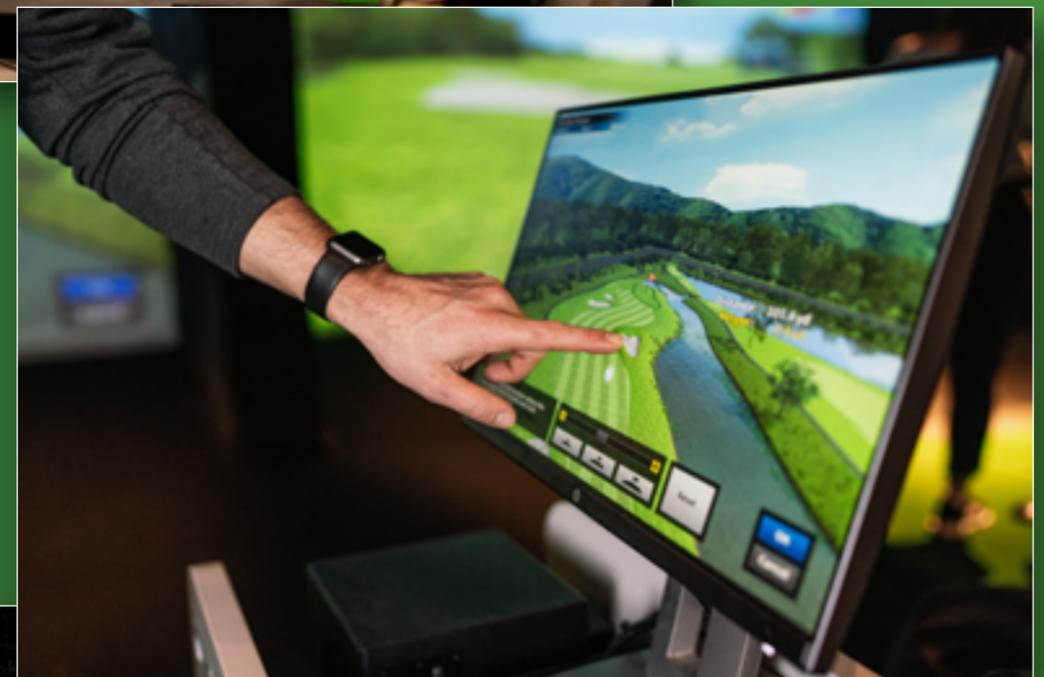
If you haven't heard of X-Golf yet, odds are good that you will soon. The Los Angeles-based chain of virtual golf/restaurant-bar entertainment centers is hoping to increase the number of Chicago area locations from 3 to 13 in the next year. Those numbers are in line with parent company, X-Golf America, which is planning to increase the number of centers on a national scale from 44 currently to 80 in operation by the end of 2022.

It's been a wild ride not only for the company, but for Illinois native and DePaul University graduate Ryan D'Arcy, X-Golf CEO, who started as an account executive with the company a decade ago. In that time, X-Golf has grown into one of the largest chains of golf simulator centers,

and is widely known for having the best technology in the booming virtual golf industry. That technology is especially noteworthy in the short game and putting areas, normally the thorn in the side of any golf simulator experience.

Putting accuracy on the Korean-designed X-Golf system is enhanced by an infrared laser that hovers just a foot away from the golf ball gathering all pertinent stroke data (roll speed, direction off the face, etc.) immediately upon impact. Like most, if not all simulators, green undulation is clearly displayed on the screen, making gauging slope and reading breaks a breeze.

"The struggle a lot of our competitors face is short game playability so chipping and putting has traditionally been a sore subject for indoor golf," adds D'Arcy. "When we were launching our first few centers, a lot of our new customers asked if they could turn chipping and putting off. Our answer was always 'no' and they'd tell us our competitors



would allow an auto putt feature, most likely because the experience was so poor. Because chipping, pitching, and putting is a big part of the game, we needed to ensure that our technology is on par with the rest of the experience. Our guest response has been very positive when it comes to that.”

With franchised centers currently operating in Libertyville, Glenview, Downers Grove, and Schaumburg, X-Golf’s team tournament and league



offerings have been a big driver of repeat business. Expansion plans include a loyalty program and an app for players to keep track of their results, fairways hit, greens in regulation and other pertinent golf stats. D’Arcy also notes

the company will be launching a national championship where teams can compete to win upwards of \$50,000 in prize money and once in a lifetime experiences such as dream golf vacations, rounds of golf with celebrities, and much more.

Tournaments promise to give X-Golf customers the ability to see how they stack up nationally and be on a very level playing field with the controlled conditions of being indoors, something that is impossible when playing different golf courses or even at TopGolf facilities

across different U.S. markets.

“There are a lot of reasons why X-Golf has become so popular, but the fact that we’re able to introduce the game in a controlled environment that is fun can’t be overlooked,” added D’Arcy. “We are having events for newcomers to the game as well as children’s programming that includes kid friendly screens with animations and other colorful elements that they really like.”

X-Golf began developing simulators in Korea in 2005. Since then, the company has branched out globally into the U.S., Japan, Australia, China, and the Middle East. X-Golf America is headquartered in Los Angeles, and since they began franchising in the U.S. in 2016, has successfully opened and maintained more than 44 franchises across the country, with 100 percent growth planned for 2022.

As the outdoor golf market struggles to attract a younger audience, virtual golf stands to continue introducing and inviting a new generation to the sport. Offering more than greens and fairways, X-Golf provides the ability to play in a high tech, fun environment without losing balls, getting rained out, snowed in, or simply to play in air conditioning on a hot day.

“We’re in a strong position at the forefront of a new era of golf with the ultimate goal of changing the way people view the indoor sport,” said D’Arcy. “Players can find themselves playing renowned courses from St. Andrews to Pebble Beach in two hours, minimizing time away from family, friends and jobs. We have many exciting innovations in the works that will revolutionize the way golf is consumed at our venues.”

In addition to courses you would expect to see like Doral, Harbour Town, Spanish Bay, and Bethpage Black, X-Golf

also has a large selection of Japanese and Korean courses.

We found a surprisingly brisk amount of business during a Tuesday afternoon visit to X-Golf Libertyville last December. In addition to both guys and gals at play, head professional Jay FioRito was at a corner bay teaching a lesson. FioRito, who came to X-Golf by way of Golf Galaxy in nearby Vernon Hills, is also in the mix as franchisee of a new center opening in Schaumburg. He said business is good and expects to see even more of an uptick as winter continues to roll on.

Just like the model that worked so well for TopGolf, not only has X-Golf found its niche in the family-friendly entertainment business, but they’re in line to help grow the game for the next generation of teenagers.

“Kids absolutely love it and the feedback from a family standpoint has been nothing but positive,” said FioRito. “My experience working in the golf industry has taught me that nothing can top a high level of customer service, and it’s something we stress to all of our employees.

Although the Libertyville location doesn’t offer individual memberships, the X-Golf in Glenview does and even has permanent tee times for some of its customers. Both locations report a healthy business when it comes to hosting various leagues throughout the week.

For Mike Caldwell, an 8-handicap from McHenry who has played for nearly two decades, X-Golf has been a Godsend during the winter months. Caldwell shared, “It takes a little time to get used to putting and chipping indoors but the technology in those areas is way better



here than at other simulator centers that I have visited. X-Golf is way more advanced in its technology, setup, and even the auto ball retrieval and teeing. As far as the launch monitor, it’s usually crazy accurate and spot on.”



“Like everything else, the technology has reached the point where the shots it reads are pretty darn accurate,” FioRito said while also noting that customers come in to play 18 holes during their lunch hour. “If you’re by yourself and cruising you could play 18 holes in 20-25 minutes.”

For more information and an updated list of Chicago area centers, visit www.playxgolf.com.

Your Guide to Virtual Golf Throughout Chicagoland

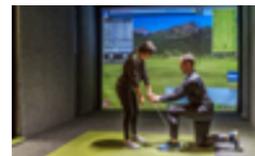
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Elevation Golf

Located in Burr Ridge, Elevation Golf offers golf simulators, instruction and a ton of technology. The simulators are available for rental and golf instruction and TPI golf fitness training are also available. Technology used includes Boditrak, which focuses on the interaction between an athlete and the ground. This technology provides real-time data and a Boditrak Mat to measure the interaction between the golfer and the ground. Foresight's GCQuad delivers four high speed, high resolution cameras for unprecedented image clarity with each and every shot. Swinguru Pro is a revolutionary solution for coaches and players who want to elevate the game to the elite level. Simply take a swing and Swinguru Pro automatically and instantaneously provides you with an in-depth swing analysis in both 2D and 3D. For putting, Blast Golf sensor captures your swing and stroke metrics, helps you analyze your data, and provides drills to improve your game. By knowing your metrics, you will make more putts and strike the ball more consistently.

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Five Iron Golf



Five Iron Golf, the nation's leading indoor golf and entertainment experience is now open at Block 37 in The Loop. Joining the popular River North location, each Five Iron features the good

vibes of golf, neon lights, and colorful graffiti centered around TrackMan simulators, word-class instruction, custom club fitting, and a full bar and restaurant — making it a one-of-a-kind experience for golfers and non-golfers alike.

Opened in 2019, Five Iron River North features 12 custom-built simulators with both Full Swing and TrackMan technologies. For the avid golfer, Five Iron provides a non-contractual membership option including complimentary off-peak hitting, bag storage, and steep discounts on peak rentals, lessons, leagues, club fitting, food, and at the bar. From hackers to more accomplished players, Five Iron guests benefit from actionable data and real-time camera feedback whether in a lesson, on the range, or off the first tee at Pebble Beach. To supplement Five Iron's offerings, The Fitting Lab provides custom club-fitting, equipment, and repairs.

New to the city, Five Iron The Loop opened December 2021 at Block 37 with 11 TrackMan simulators, PuttView technology, and an expansive bar welcoming tourists, commuters, and all types of events from corporate gatherings to bachelor parties. Both locations host league nights on Mondays and Tuesdays where teams of four play and enjoy drink specials for a seven-week season competing against teams across the country for the national title and grand prize of a golf trip to Reynolds Resort.

www.fiveirongolf.com
609 North Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 872-4988

Game of Irons



Located in Oak Brook, Game of Irons is one of the area's largest indoor virtual golf facilities, with 16 hitting bays and more than 18,000 sq. ft. of space. Utilizing technology powered by GOLFZON, it's owners believe there is "absolutely nothing like hitting on a Game of Irons simulator in the market today." Three distinct playing surfaces (fairway, rough, and bunker) provide for an unparalleled realistic feel. Utilizing four high-tech camera sensors, every single shot is captured seamlessly with 99% accuracy for ball flight and trajectory. One of the coolest features: for a true 4D experience, the patented hydraulic floor swing plate automatically moves to match the contours and lies of over 200 world famous courses. Saving your back for a more important job (swinging the club), an auto-tee automatically tees up a golf ball for you every time. Players can track ball flight and other key data points stored directly on the cloud and accessible through the Game of Irons app. Game of Irons is open to the public with no membership required.

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

The Golf Practice



The Golf Practice is a massive, 13,000 sq. ft. golf academy/indoor training and practice facility that opened in 2011. It currently features four Trackman bays, with an

additional four bays planned for 2022. The Golf Practice has a full lineup of coaches both for the mechanical and mental conditioning part of the game. It features two full green complexes, realistic playing surfaces featuring drop-and-stop action, smooth transitions of multi-level greens, rolling mounds, deep flashed bunker faces, and multi-shot locations and playability.

Programs include both junior and adults training and a wide array of high school prep and summer programming.

www.thegolfpractice.com
1546 Old Deerfield Rd
Highland Park IL 60035
847.850.0956

The Haven Indoor Golf



The Haven Indoor Golf in Palos Heights features true-to-life golf simulators with professional-grade launch monitors in four separate golfing bays. Choose your golf destination from over 50 world-class courses including The Old Course, Pebble Beach, and many more.

www.thehavenindoorgolf.com
12317 South Harlem Avenue
Palos Heights, IL
(708) 671-8052

Indoor Golf Links of America

In business for nearly three decades 27 years, the Links considers itself the original home of indoor golf in Chicagoland. Indoor Golf Links of America is one of the largest facilities in the area, boasting 15 golf simulators with 100 golf course offerings. General Manager Melinde Golden reports their 18 hole league is growing every year and this year holds the record

with over 500 members. "People call us the Cheers of indoor golf. We know your name and will always have a nice cold drink ready for you when you walk through our door," noted Golden.

indoorgolflinks.org/
16356 104th Avenue
Orland Park IL 60467
(708) 403-4040

Louis Sauer Golf



Currently available only to its students, Louis Sauer Golf in Northbrook features state-of-the-art golf technology within a 3,000 sq. ft. indoor facility that includes two Trackman ball-flight analysis bays, three Foresight simulator bays, and SAM PuttLab. Private and group instruction are available as well as practice memberships.

As one of the country's top instructors, Sauer has provided instruction to some of the area's most notable golfers, including High Park High School grad and two-time Miami University Athlete of the year Patrick Flavin, who played the last two years on the Korn Ferry Tour and finished T-17 at the PGA Tour's Bermuda Championship. In 2021, Sauer and his team of teaching professionals taught several high schoolers who played for state champions Glenbrook North and St. Ignatius High Schools.

www.louissauergolf.com
600 Waukegan Rd #120
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 431-2609

Play 18 Chicago

Centrally located in the heart of the Loop, Play18 Chicago provides the latest in golf technology advancements—including PGA Tour Simulators and personal driving bays—paired with

luxury amenities like a spacious lockerroom, full bar, and lounge. The product of over two decades of research and development, the PGA Tour Simulator is fully loaded with Immersive Play Technology, allowing you to play over 50 of the world's greatest courses without ever leaving the Loop.

www.play18chicago.com
17 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 251-0540

Schaumburg Golf Club



The Club's Golf Learning Center features three state-of-the-art about Golf simulator bays. Located in the Club's lower level, simulators are available for rounds of golf, practice, lessons, and club fittings. Food and beverage service is available from Chandler's Chophouse. The simulators are powered by 3Trak®, about Golf's three-dimensional, high-speed camera and tracking system. The system quickly analyzes ball and club data to replicate the shot in the simulator. Schaumburg's simulators give golfers an opportunity to play more than 40 world-class courses, including Pebble Beach and TPC Sawgrass. Each simulator accommodates up to four golfers at a time.

For those taking lessons, swing analysis tools, including multi-angle video recording and a weight measurement system, are a great amenity. For further swing refinement, simulators also may be used for practice. Each simulator has 18 driving range options.

www.schaumburggolf.com
401 N Roselle Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60194
847-885-9000

The Shack Indoor Golf Club

The Shack is an interactive golf club designed for year-round, all-weather, day-or-night golf play and sports action. The Shack Indoor Golf Club offers full swing simulation bays featuring Trackman technology and offering over 100 championship courses. Featuring domestic and imported beers, premium spirits, and food. The Shack Indoor Golf Club offers half hour and hourly simulator time and monthly memberships.

www.theshackgolfclub.com
1717 Chestnut Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025
(847) 904-2905

SMART Golf and Fitness



SMART's mission is to help players of all abilities unlock their true potential. Staffed with industry leaders in golf and fitness instruction, combined with the latest technology such as Trackman, SAM Putt Lab, K-Vest, and Boditrak, SMART gives the everyday golfer the opportunity to train like a Tour professional. Once an initial performance assessment is complete, members will then begin their journey to playing their best golf. SMART membership entails weekly one-on-one golf and fitness sessions. Membership privileges also allow members to supplement their weekly golf and fitness sessions with hitting bay and short game area usage, gym access, club fitting services, as well as member-staff golf trips throughout the United States.

www.smartgolffitness.com
Lincoln Park: (773) 697-3785
Lombard: (630) 519-3242

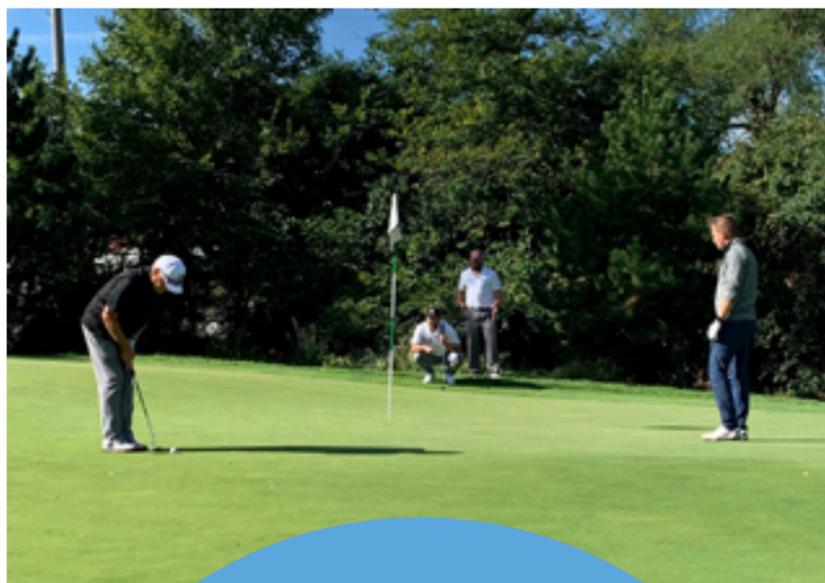
WJ Golf

WJ Golf is an indoor golf facility located in northwest suburban Buffalo Grove that has a great back story. The facility offers state of the art simulators for swing analysis and true golf play with changing turfs to simulate bunker shots and rough shots. In-house instructors include Jen Kim as well as instruction by *Golf Digest* Top 50 coach Todd Sones, who operates in season at nearby White Deer Run GC in Vernon Hills.

This spring, WJ Golf will partner with The Arboretum Golf Club to provide eight new world class simulators and a fresh new food and beverage concept. The program will operate year-round and is an entire family experience.

Two young entrepreneurs who love the game of golf traveled the world to find the best technology and accuracy for their indoor golf simulator business. One of the owners who has over 12 years in technology and the other with seven years in sales and customer service found the right technology for their business. With over 15 years of research and development, WJ Golf simulators are the result of impressive engineering designed to re-create ball flight to within 99% accuracy and deliver insights on your game. The simulator's camera system, impact sensors, and advanced software provide world-class accuracy and a fun experience for guests. All of this is delivered in a fully-automated experience that will change the turf to reflect your lie and tee the ball up for each shot to ensure that all your energy can be put into improving your game.

www.wjsports.net
1380 Busch Parkway
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
224-676-0692



Guilty. A lawyer knew it. No jury or judge would be needed to confirm it. “I worked a ton,” Chris Sweeney said. “I worked way too much in my last job.”

So Sweeney, a former ‘mediocre golf pro’ turned ‘mediocre lawyer’ as he jokingly described himself, pushed aside his law books. The stress of sinking a downhill three-foot putt in a competitive match would be more welcomed than the stress of winning a client’s case.

He found what he needed in his life, even if only a small part of it, thanks to a career change and an up-and-comer, the Chicago Golf Tour.

“It’s been great for someone like me,” said Sweeney, 35, who lives in Chicago’s West Loop. A graduate of UIC John Marshall Law School, he left a law firm to work for an insurance company.

The “Chi Golf Tour” has been great for someone like Rob Singraber, too.

“It’s exactly what I was looking for,” said Singraber, 38, a senior graphic designer who lives in Woodridge with

his family, including two young kids.

“I played a little high school golf [four years at De La Salle on Chicago’s South Side], and it’s always fun competing with friends, but being older now, it was nice to find something that brought back that competitiveness.”

Sweeney and Singraber, along with more than a thousand other amateur golfers who live in Chicago and surrounding suburbs, from lawyers to brokers to realtors to chefs to all other kinds of other career-minded people who love golf, can thank Tom Tassone.

A graduate of Brother Rice on Chicago’s South Side, Tassone grew up playing baseball and basketball. He says he discovered golf “late,” when he was about 22, and “instantly fell in love with it.” Then one day, an idea hit him - or more precisely, “a concept,” he says. There was a void in amateur golf. One- or two-day amateur tournaments for scratch golfers and club championships serve a role. But what about other golfers, regardless of handicap, who want something more than a weekend skins match with buddies?

GROWING IN POPULARITY, CHIGOLFTOUR EXPECTED TO DOUBLE IN SIZE IN 2022
By Joe Aguilar

Tassone’s research told him there are about 800,000 golfers in Illinois. In late 2018, the South Side Tour was born. Guessing he would get maybe 40 golfers to sign up, Tassone tallied 107.

“We didn’t really think it was doable until we did it,” Tassone said.

After two years, the tour rebranded as the Chicago Golf Tour, and in 2020 it included for the first time the South Side, North Side and West Side tours. More than 490 golfers participated on the tour in 2021 and Tassone anticipates that number increasing to well over 1,000 players in 2022.

“We’ve barely scratched the amateur market,” he said.

With the average handicap at about 14, the Chi Golf Tour welcomes golfers of all ages and abilities. In 2021 the youngest player was 21 and the oldest 71. Tassone, who plays on the tour himself, sets up a 12-event schedule, including six regular events, four majors, playoffs, and even a tour championship. Each tour follows a singles, flighted net handicap, tournament rules, stroke-play format. Players are given two weeks

to play a selected course with another member of the tour to attest to each other’s score. The tour works like the PGA Tour’s FedEx Cup in terms of a points system.

In 2021, a player’s entry fee was \$230, which got him/her a CDGA membership and entry into one of the tours, plus a discounted rate at courses on the schedule.

In 2021, Jay Brazer won the North Side championship at Schaumburg Golf Club, Dan McEldowney took the West Side title at Mistwood, and Ben Cooney hoisted the South Side trophy at Harborside International’s Starboard course.

“For most of us, it’s getting harder and harder to get out there and play golf,” said Sweeney, a 4-handicap who qualified for the South Side championship the last two years. “I’m not a member at a club or anything. [Signing up for the tour] forced me to get out and play once every two weeks, at a different course, with different people.”

In 2021, Chi Golf Tour players teed it up at some of the best courses in the Chicago area, including Thunderhawk, Stonewall

Orchard, Maple Meadows, Pine Meadow, and Chalet Hills (North Side); Water’s Edge, Ravisloe, Balmoral Woods, Cog Hill No. 2 and Glenwoodie (South Side); and Cantigny, Orchard Valley, Bowes Creek, Seven Bridges and Bolingbrook (West Side).

Tassone sets up the schedule, negotiating fees with courses for his players.

“Some of these courses I never realized were around here,” said Singraber, who grew up in the city and has lived in the western suburbs for about 10 years. “It’s been an eye-opening experience to play at some really nice courses out this way.”

While Tassone calls his tour “essentially a small community,” he knows it’s growing rapidly. He has tapped into a market that attracts working adults who love the game, want to play competitively (maybe for the first time), network and have a good time with friends while meeting new ones.

“I’ve always missed it,” Singraber, who owns an 8.2 handicap, said of competitive golf. “There are golf outings you play in or golf tournaments, but now it’s different, especially with the

championships and playoffs, playing with random people. You get those nerves again on the first tee, which is really cool.”

For Sweeney, who played high school golf for Marist and spent four years as a golf professional, he’s enjoying the game he loves on a different level.

“I never won a golf tournament in my life,” he said. “I was always just OK. I think it’s been great seeing other people, whether your handicap is zero or 20, being exposed to tournament golf and having to actually pay attention and follow the rules.”

Tassone’s “concept” has struck a balance for golfers. While not a “beer league,” it’s serious enough.

“It’s for everybody,” Singraber said. “It’s about networking, it’s about going out and enjoying a beautiful course that you might not have ever played before or heard of, and now you get to experience it. “I can’t wait for next year,” Singraber said. “I’m ready to go.”

Registration for the 2022 season opens in February. Interested golfers can go to chigolftour.com for information.

Your New Winter Escape. Introducing Sand Valley Pursuits.



Sand Valley is a four-season resort destination set among the prehistoric sand dunes in central Wisconsin. Founded in 2016 by brothers Michael and Chris Keiser, the resort gives guests a flavor of the region through farm-to-table culinary experiences, year-round outdoor adventures, such as fat-tire biking, hiking and fishing, unrivaled grass court tennis and one of the very best golf experiences in the Midwest.

The resort is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the heathland golf course of London and showcases massive, 80-foot exposed sand dunes.

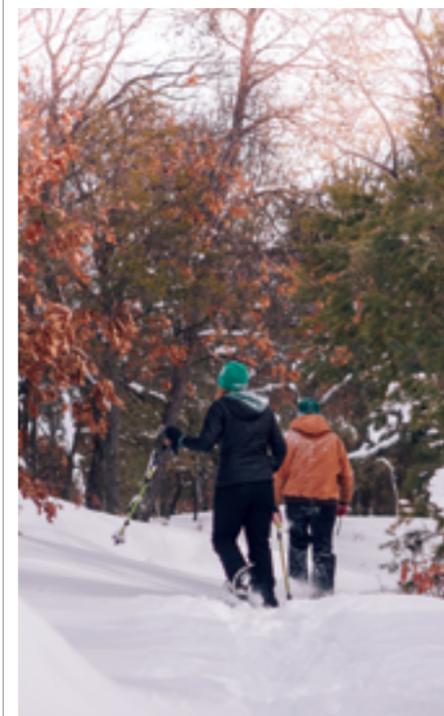
With 12,000 acres of wide-open space and endless views, Sand Valley helps guests reconnect with the beauty and serenity of the outdoors.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

When you are ready to retreat indoors, Sand Valley features modern and comfortable lodging options for all types of getaways. The lodge rooms provide the perfect balance between convenience and a quiet retreat for individuals or couples. Guests have quick access to remote workspaces, dining options, and outdoor activities such as fat-tire biking and snowshoeing.

Nestled among rugged sand barrens are four-bedroom, pet-friendly cottages.

These lake-front cottages feature an open-concept kitchen and expansive floor-to-ceiling windows for complete views of the lake. Families or larger groups can gather around their private, outdoor firepits and will enjoy the convenience



of pond hockey or ice skating just steps away from the back door.

FOOD FOR COMFORT

Comforting, convenient, and satisfying, Sand Valley provides several dining options open seven days a week to suit all tastes during your winter getaway. Mammoth Bar, a warm and rustic retreat, features Wisconsin craft beers, light fare and the resort's infamous cheese curds. Aldo's Farm & Table is a contemporary, semi-formal dining space that can accommodate a more intimate dining experience or larger groups looking for a family-style gathering.

If you are staying in one of the resort's expansive four-bedroom cottages, Sand Valley can stock the pantry at your request with some of your favorite breakfast items

or snacks. If you'd prefer the family-dinner experience without having to cook or leave the cottage, choose from one of the resort's crowd-pleasing-themed dinner selections (ideally suited for parties of 8 or more). You will be pleasantly surprised by this effortless, elevated dining experience as Sand Valley team members handle everything from set-up to tear-down.

ENDLESS ACRES TO EXPLORE

The resort's fall/winter offerings take you well beyond golf and transport you into your newest escape. You'll spend hours navigating your way through oak savannas, biking over the rugged sand dunes, and hiking or snowshoeing over 5 miles of groomed trails. The property features three lakes for ice fishing, pond hockey



and ice skating. The resort lends itself to the Wim Hof Method, the resort's most popular wellness experience, by offering the perfect setting for a cold dip in the lake.

We're incredibly excited to introduce guests to the raw beauty and unique landscape of central Wisconsin throughout all four seasons.

—Chris Keiser,
Co-owner of Sand Valley

Seek adventures to draw out your playful heart as well as those that foster deep calm and connection. With a host of available outdoor activities, cozy lodging options, stunning views, and a culinary experience to match, Sand Valley is your destination for a weekend getaway or extended stay.





Chippin' Away in Margaritaville: Great Golf at Lake of the Ozarks

Anyone who has attended a Jimmy Buffett concert can attest that there is something uniquely appealing about the singer-songwriter's approach to life. In a world challenged by political turmoil, supply chain shortages, and economic uncertainty, Buffett's lyrics describe a carefree existence filled with sunny days and sultry nights. Backed by bouncy steel-drum rhythms, his songs provide needed reminders that good times are sure to arrive.

Over the decades since Buffett's music became wildly successful, his Margaritaville brand has become part of our everyday lives. Grocery stores offer salsas, tortilla chips, marinade, coffee, and breaded shrimp, all under the Margaritaville brand name. Look around a department store and you will surely come across Margaritaville T-shirts, blenders, footwear, and even pool floats. As described in the song, Margaritaville is a modern day Eden—an idealized island where one can relax while the rest of the

world scurries about attempting to meet timelines while stuck in bumper-to-bumper city traffic.

That same brand name seems to work well for a destination resort.

While we acknowledge the existence of only one Eden, Margaritaville resorts are located across a wide swath of the US, including New York City, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Springs, and Key West. International destinations include Cancun, the Dominican Republic, and Belize. As can be assumed by their namesake, the hotels focus on luxury, great food, and fun.

Of course, all of the bars serve that frozen concoction that helps us hang on.

In many ways, it seemed inevitable that Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks region would one day become a Margaritaville Resort location. Once the Bagnell Dam was constructed in 1929 for the express purpose of providing electricity across Missouri, it took almost 30 years for the manmade dam to fill up and mature into

a wondrous destination for boaters and anglers. Along with hotels and restaurants to accommodate the streams of visitors, golf course construction across the area took off in the 1960s and never stopped.

Walk into the lobby of Margaritaville Lake Resort Lake of the Ozarks and you become captivated by the "island vibe" of the epic hotel formerly known as Tan-Tar-A. The massive redesigned atrium is decorated from floor to ceiling in wood paneling complemented by pastel walls. The staff is appropriately dressed in casual island apparel. And, of course, gentle Caribbean music creates an irresistible mood that makes you tap your feet even as you check in.

"We are all about fun," says the property's Director of Golf Paul Leahy. "Guests who have been coming here for years or even decades were concerned that the Margaritaville name meant that we were changing our emphasis on great lodging, family activities, fine food, and outstanding golf. In fact, we continue to offer all of that—only with significant investments made to upgrade the quality of the property while adding even more amenities."

The primary amenity for golfers, of course, is the resort's acclaimed Oaks Course. Designed in 1980 by the team of Bruce Devlin and Robert von Hagge, the course traverses across rugged terrain that befits its former use in the 1970s as a ski hill. The course lives up to its name as most holes are lined by towering oaks creating an isolated, majestic setting.

"I think what our guests like most about the course is its variety," says Leahy. A few holes are softly rolling. Others cross scenic terrain. And a few call for heroic shots over lakes, bunkers, or sometimes both!"

While the Oaks Course offers a number of memorable par 3s, the signature hole is the breath-taking par-5 No. 9. Following a tee shot to a large rolling fairway, the player has the choice of playing short of a pond fed by a small waterfall, or to go all-in with a fairway wood down into a valley to overcome the pond, the

waterfall and a large bunker protecting the right side of the putting surface. My recommendation: go for it!

No stay at the Margaritaville Resort is complete without enjoying some of the other amenities offered at the sprawling 410-acre property. The Driftwood Spa & Salon provides healing massages, soothing body treatments, organic wraps, facials, and body polishing. Kids and kids-at-heart can enjoy the 20,000 sq. ft. Jolly Mon Indoor waterpark that features water basketball, a lazy river, a 21-seat family whirlpool, and 600 feet of water slides. The Port of Indecision Marina serves up affordable boat rentals, wave runners, and pontoon boats to explore the lake built over 90 years ago.

Dining options include JB's Boathouse Grill, the Landshark Bar & Grill, and the Tiki Hut Pool Bar. Make sure to savor at least one frozen concoction, a margarita at the Chill Bar & Grill a short walk from the lobby entrance.

Margaritaville Resort is a great base to enjoy the amazing number of quality courses across the Lake of the Ozarks area. Central Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks Golf Council promotes 13 championship courses that reside a short drive from the lake. Steve Walker, executive director of the council, says the favorite part of his job is introducing new golf groups to the area. "Many folks think of Lake of the Ozarks as a water recreation area. After golfers experience these great courses designed by the likes of Arnold Palmer and Tom Weiskopf along with superb views of the lake, great food, and Missouri hospitality, they can't wait to return."

One of the greatest ambassadors in the game's long history, Palmer designed 18 of the 27 holes that make up Osage National Golf Resort. Each course has a distinctive character defined by its name. The River Course features a number of holes bordering the steep banks of the Osage River. The Links Course was designed near the center of the river valley to provide a traditional parkland experience. The Mountain Course plays up, along, and down the most dramatic

topography on the property to provide wondrous views as well as a few intriguing challenges. The par 5 fifth hole begins from the top of the ridge that gave the course its name. Enjoy the views on top of the ridge and the shot values of the shots going back down.

Winner of the 1973 British Open, Tom Weiskopf followed up his PGA Tour successes with a remarkable career as a designer of championship courses in the UK, China, Hawaii, and around the US. Among his acclaimed courses in North America are La Cantera in San Antonio, Troon North in Scottsdale, and Castle Pines North just south of Denver. Weiskopf's Old Kinderhook at Lake of the Ozarks was built in a huge scenic valley and serves as the centerpiece of a terrific 700-acre resort property complete with boating, a spa and a lodge with 84 elegant rooms. The 6,726-yard course is perennially ranked among the top five public layouts in Missouri. Its primary characteristics include huge

topographical changes, mature trees, waterfalls, and water hazards.

One of the area highlights of the 2021 season was the newly renovated Lake Valleys Course in nearby Camdenton. Built as one of the original Lake of the Ozarks golf properties in 1967, the course is a local favorite and incorporates six par 4s, six par 3s and six par 5s. Complementary hills, dales, and large greens are accompanied by sparkling white sand bunkers.

"The success of golf in all of Lake of the Ozarks is based on a simple formula," says Margaritaville Resort's Golf Director Leahy. "You don't need to head to Florida, Arizona, or California to have a great experience. Our area offers quality, convenience, and affordability. The greatest compliment we receive is the return of golf groups to our properties year after year."

For reservations, golf packages, and more information on Lake of the Ozarks Golf, visit the Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail website at www.golfingmissouri.com



Lake Valley Hole 4



The Oaks Hole 5



Osage National River



Old Kinderhook Hole 6



Located right off of Interstate 55 in Channahon, IL, The Bluffs, also known as Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, offers both a challenge and composure across its rolling acres that offer scenic beauty unlike most Chicago-area courses. The Bluffs is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and has received a 4-Star rating from Golf Digest magazine.

In addition to our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, a large putting green, and a separate chipping green and bunker.

New this summer, join us after your round in our newly renovated clubhouse featuring an indoor and outdoor bar addition!



Central Missouri's
LAKE OF THE OZARKS
GOLF TRAIL
Where one great course leads to another

Discover 12 incredible courses at one unforgettable destination. Come PLAY and STAY with us. Book your Golf Trail Getaway today. Visit GolfAtLakeOfTheOzarks.com.

Doc Suttie

continued from page 17

Doc: The most crucial thing is the grip. Next is to focus on alignment and ensure shoulders are aimed properly. It's been proven time and time again that feet have little to do with the line. Sam Snead used to aim right, and Lee Trevino aimed left, but it's all about what the face is doing at contact that is most important, and that's controlled largely by the grip. It's also controlled by how you pivot, so if you don't move your pivot correctly, you're going to flip your hands.

If a guy is hitting pull hooks, I might weaken the grip. Truth be told, though, I don't weaken many grips because most people aren't able to make the ball move from right to left. The feet and hands are the only connections to the golf club, so you got to get them right first. Width of stance has a lot to do with it, too.

GC: Who are some of your most memorable students?

Doc: Loren Roberts, of course. He believed in negative motivation, meaning I had to tell him how bad he was to get better (laughs). Larry Mize played good golf for a long time. I started working with him right after he won the Masters and he went on to win several more after we started working together. I met Kevin Streelman as a junior golfer when he was about 10 years old at Cog Hill. I would have never guessed he'd be on the tour, but he just kept on hitting the ball and worked hard.

There's something you must have to play on Tour and it's not a great golf swing. Instead, you need to be mentally tough. There's only one winner each week and you need to be tough enough mentally to know that. If you came in second that week, you know that's just one tournament and there's going to be another one next week. If you played poorly you have to get up off the floor and make it happen. There are a lot of players who have great golf swings but are not mentally tough enough.



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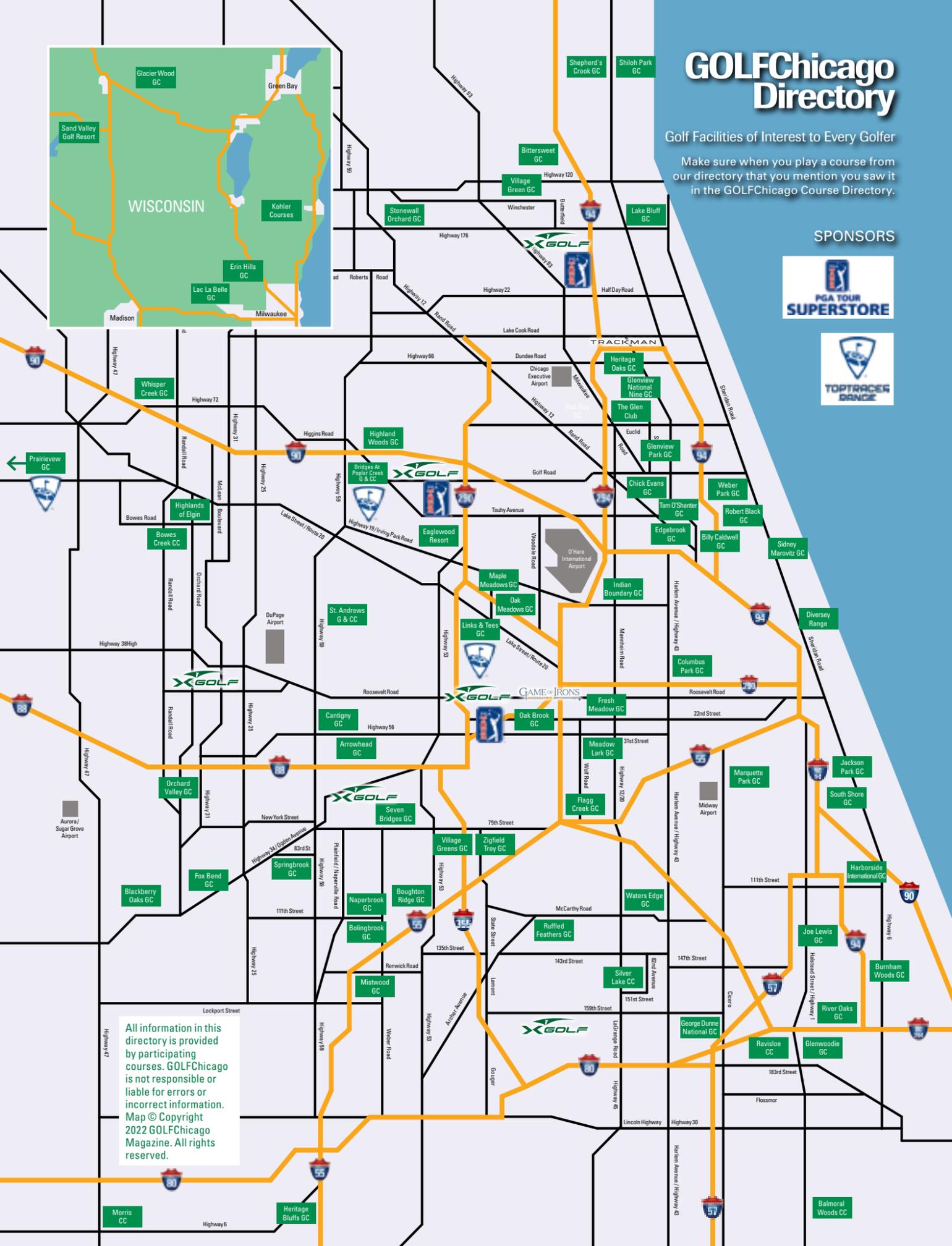


GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw it in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.

SPONSORS



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Arrowhead
630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
arrowheadgolfclub.org

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere. Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par-72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



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

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



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. A popular outing venue, Bittersweet also offers golf instruction 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
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing. Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.



Bowes Creek Country Club
847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, 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
www.coghillgolf.com

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

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





Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
DuPageGolf.com

Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting. Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!

Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card holders save on every round.

Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.

Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com

Maple Meadows' Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.

Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.

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

Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



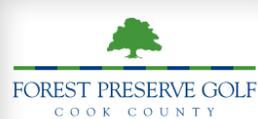
The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com

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

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award Winner
 - *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year
 - *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play
 - ASGCA Design Excellence Award
- The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294 and Route 83.

For news and tee times visit www.DuPageGolf.com.



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800-460-0010
forestpreservegolf.com

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- Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
- Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
- Chick Evans: 18 Holes
- Edgebrook: 18 Holes
- George Dunne National: 18 Holes
- Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



The Highlands of Elgin

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

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms, and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



Klein Creek Golf Club

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

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



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



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
mistwoodgc.com

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

Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style sod-wall bunkers, something not 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."



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 lush 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
www.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.



Heritage Oaks Golf Club

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



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St. / Hassert Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



PGA TOUR Superstore

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



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 land that is well worth a short drive west out to Byron, 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.



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

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
www.Sub70.com

Sub 70 is a golf equipment and apparel company based in Sycamore, Ill. We produce high quality golf equipment/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, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

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

Year-round instruction available!



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, buck's nights, and ladies nights.



X-Golf Libertyville

224-504-2940
1177 South 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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The Rosy State of Golf 2021 and Beyond

If anything positive came of the past two years of fear and uncertainty, it is that our favorite game experienced an amazing renaissance. It is a story as fascinating as it is unlikely. While so many of our normal activities have been closed or restricted since the pandemic began in March 2020, golf experienced a jolt in participation once the game was endorsed by every state as a safe, risk-free activity.

Of course, it helped that the game was also fun, challenging, stimulating, and most importantly, social.

I don't need to dwell on the positive aspects of golf as those were obvious long before the pandemic changed our way of life. What was inspiring throughout 2021 was how the expected dip in play from 2020 participation never occurred, even after America returned to some normalcy throughout the past year. Industry experts had predicted that once family life returned to normal, the rush to locate tee times would slow, if not revert to 2019 levels. They surmised that activities like kids' soccer and baseball games, and movie theater visits would all detract from golf courses, which had seen growth of over 15% in 2020 despite having been shut down in much of the country for a couple of months. As it turned out, nothing could have been further from the truth.

It was a certainty that the first two quarters of 2021 would surpass their 2020 counterparts as most courses around the country closed from March, April, and parts of May. Every avid golfer can attest that by mid-May it became apparent that golf participation was continuing to boom.

The National Golf Foundation predicts that golf's overall growth in 2021 will come in at 4% to 5% above 2020. That works out to an astounding 20 to 25 million additional rounds nationwide. "That's a lot of green fees and golf balls," stated National Golf Foundation President and CEO Joe Beditz. Official final tallies won't be available until later in 2022.

Those numbers don't surprise Josh Lesnik, president of Northbrook-based golf management firm KemperSports. "Our courses experienced amazing growth over the past two years," he said. "We saw positive activity in every single venue we manage, from private clubs to resorts to semi-private clubs to muni clubs. And we saw golfers not just playing

the game—they invested in it by taking lessons and buying new equipment.

A surprising revelation from a KemperSports July survey of 24,774 current, lapsed, and new golfers showed that nearly half of new players were less interested in keeping and improving their games. Rather, they were "looking for more comfortable social environments." The survey found that 27% of new golfers were between 18 and 34, and 33% were female.

"There are many reasons why golf has become more popular," added Lesnik. "They include exercise, getting out of the house, fun, and most importantly, social interaction. There's nothing better than hanging out with your friends on a beautiful golf course."

In Lake Geneva, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa's golf director Ryan Brown stated that the property's two courses experienced record tee times and lesson participation in 2021. "Our tee sheets were full

from morning until late afternoon throughout the summer," he said. "We are truly encouraged by this resurgence and have lots of plans to keep this momentum going in 2022."

Grand Geneva's successes mirror those of other premium Wisconsin golf properties.

Rich Tock, director of golf at Erin Hills, told

Gary D'Amato of *Wisconsin Golf* magazine that 2021 was a season for the record books. "Erin Hills, best year ever. Kohler, best year ever. Sand Valley, best year ever . . . [Erin Hills] is going to open up our tee sheet for 2023 in a month."

Lesnik echoed Tock's enthusiasm for 2022. "Things look extremely rosy for our highest profile resort properties," he said. "Streamsong (in Florida), Sand Valley, and Bandon Dunes will all have great years. Bandon Dunes has already opened up bookings for 2023 to accommodate demand."

The NGF's Beditz cautioned that the golf industry needs to stay focused on player retention in the coming year. "Looking ahead, let's strive to lock in the gains we've enjoyed over the past two years," he wrote in his newsletter, "and at the same time realize that long-term growth, as always, depends on golfers, not a virus or more rounds from current golfers, which is what has driven our recent growth."



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That works out to

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25 million additional

rounds nationwide.

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