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Season Opener 2024, Vol. 28 No. 1

THE RISE OF QUITNO GOLF DESIGNS

PGA MERCH SHOW VISIT

INTERVIEW:
MADE FOR THE RANGE

DENNIS JOHNSEN

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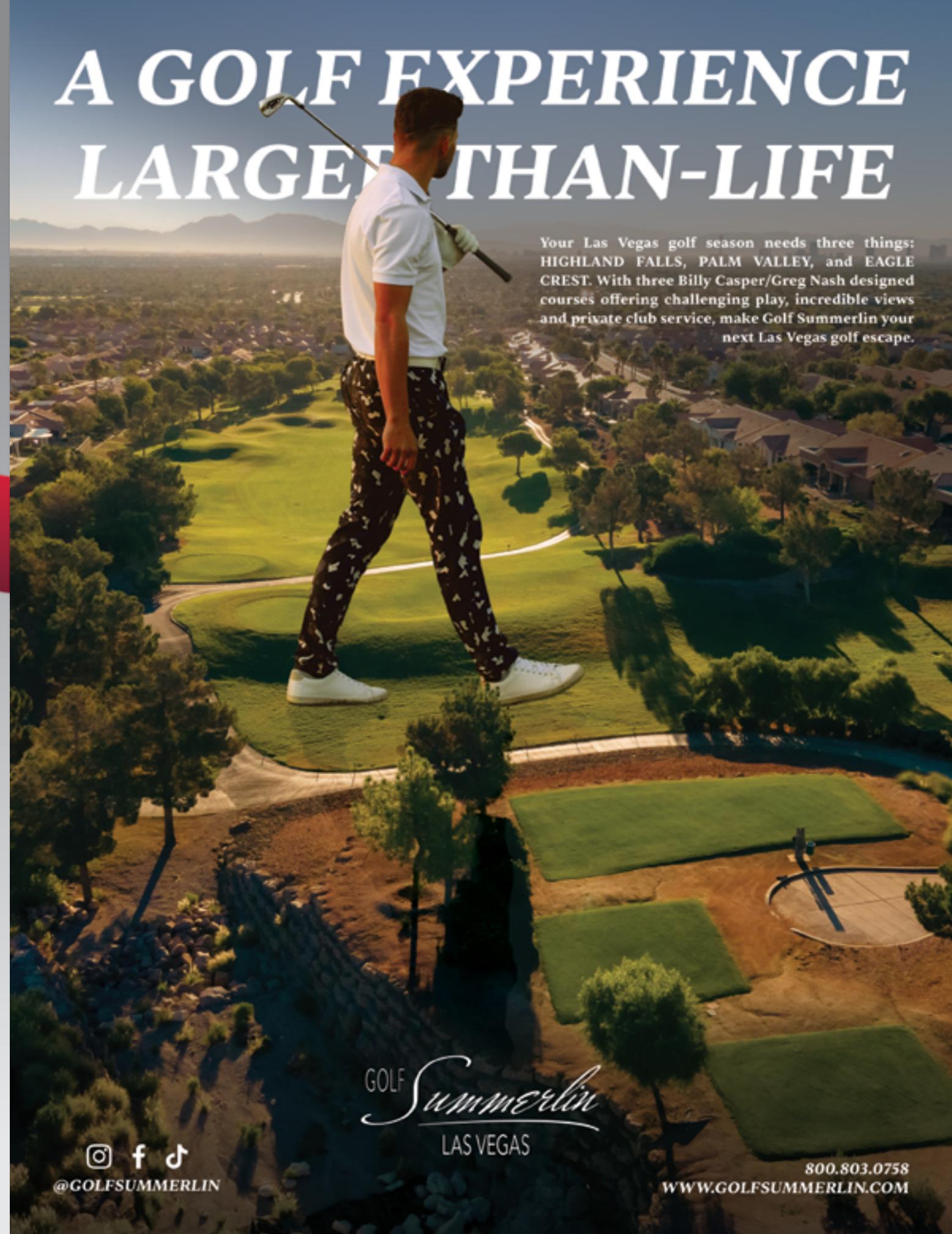
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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

Upon our return from the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando following a string of seriously cold January weeks here in Chicago, the thermometer eclipsed 50 degrees! The first thought, of course, was wow, we could play golf today (had courses been open). Another sure sign that the most magical time of the year is upon us: the Tinley Park Golf Show was held February 2 through 4 at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

For many, it was your first chance to experience the incredible new technology that manufacturers including Callaway, TaylorMade, Cobra, and several others will have in our hands this coming golf season.

Working as an instructor and club fitter at GOLFTEC, I can't recall a year when new equipment has been noticeably superior to that from just a year or two ago. Callaway's line of AI Smoke drivers and irons are the real deal, as is Cobra's new line of Dark Speed, and TaylorMade's Q10 equipment. Just about every manufacturer including Ping, Mizuno, and Titleist have new drivers, fairways woods, hybrids, irons, wedges, and putters designed to make the game a bit easier.

Whatever you do, please don't buy your new equipment off the rack without getting properly fit. Not only is equipment technology on our side, but so is technology that area fitters use to get you into the right set of clubs for your authentic swing.

A professional fitting doesn't necessarily mean that you must shell out extra dollars. What it does mean is that you will be fit in clubs that will give you the best launch, spin, decent angle, distance, and forgiveness that you need to make the game more fun than ever, and drive your scores even lower this season.

Speaking of the PGA Merchandise Show, my favorite part of attending includes learning about the newest products on the market, especially the ones slightly off the beaten path, developed by entrepreneurs seeking an entry into the \$100-billion-plus golf market.

Our PGA Show new product roundup can be found in the pages of this month's magazine, while my fellow GOLFTEC instructor Patrick Malloy introduces us to Sycamore's Jake Morrow whose company, madeforthetrange.com, is a content platform and website dedicated to educating golfers about clubs, balls, fittings, and everything in between.

When it comes to shaving strokes this season, we suggest your focus turns heavily to the flat stick. There are three things you need to be good at to be a great putter: green reading, controlling the speed of your ball, and starting your putt on its intended path. This month's instruction article is courtesy of our friend Mike Carbray, director of instruction at Butterfield Country Club and the 2018 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year. Mike provides insight on how you can learn to square the face of your putter more frequently with a series of great drills.

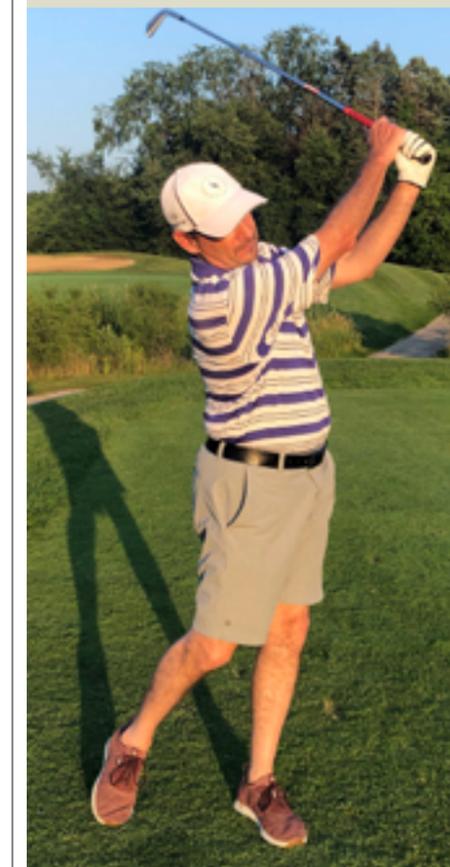
If you haven't yet heard of local golf course designer Todd Quitno, that is going to change this year. Writer Neal Kotlarek shares how Quitno has meticulous plans in place to occupy himself and his architecture firm through 2024 and beyond. We believe the new year promises to make Quitno Golf Designs a household name around these parts with the unveiling of the newly renovated and refashioned Canal Shores Golf Course in Evanston, along with the launch of renovation and construction work at Wheaton's Cantigny Golf complex.

Finally, in addition to the new products we found at The PGA Show, our Good Stuff Department adds even more ideas for your golf collection this season.

So cheers to our season opening issue of GOLFChicago and more importantly, to the upcoming golf season. We think it's going to be a great one.

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THE GOOD STUFF



Let's Get Customized

Edel Golf has always tried to optimize club fitting, and the new Array putter line is proof. With four new models Edel delivers a truly unique and custom-fit flat stick. With a blade and two mallet siblings, the Array F-3 has a modern shape carved from 1025 carbon steel. The best part? You pick the hosel setup, alignment plate, weighting, and grip.

\$399.99 www.edelgolf.com

Best of Both Worlds

If your stand bag can't haul your essentials for the course, we highly recommend checking out the new C-130S from Sun Mountain. They've taken their best-selling cart bag and added some sturdy legs and a leg-lock system to make the ultimate club carrier. With individual club dividers and nine pockets, the C-130S is available in five colors and is perfect for push or riding carts.

\$289.99

www.sunmountain.com



Honma Hits New Market

Honma Golf is known for producing finely crafted golf clubs, but now the Japanese OEM will carry two golf ball models. Available this spring, the Honma TW-X and TW-S will serve the mid to low handicap categories. Featuring a unique 326 dimple construction and a sophisticated alignment design, your trajectory will never look better.

\$36 per dozen www.honmagolf.com



Hello, Newton

Newton Golf Shafts might be the best shafts you've never heard of. These driver shafts have individual tailored flex profiles to increase distance and tighten dispersion, no matter your swing speed. Use the Newton website to determine your shaft symbol (1-6 dots), weight, and torque so once it arrives on your doorstep it's just plug and play with your existing driver head.

\$250 www.newtonshafts.com

Lights Out Distance

Cobra Golf brings darkness to its 2024 lineup with Cobra DARKSPEED drivers. With three models

available, the DARKSPEED MAX provides the most distance and forgiveness in the family.

This draw-bias model has adjustable weights and promotes a higher ball flight. Available in right or left-handed and in lofts of 9, 10.5, and 12 degrees.

\$549
www.cobragolf.com



One Small Step

Waggle's latest design will have you defying gravity. Moon Shot features an astronaut in his best finishing pose, presumably ripping a drive out of this galaxy. This snapback has perforated back panels for great breathability to go along with a design that will have the rest of your foursome jealous.

\$35 www.getyourwaggleon.com

Pop the Hood, Will Ya?

Now that hoodies are more socially acceptable on golf courses, we need to hunt down the best of the best. Pins and Aces produces a lightweight, breathable hoodie that easily goes from the course to your daily doings. This design, Daisy Daze, features a subtle floral pattern inside of the hood while the Pins and Aces logo pops on the left chest.

\$79.95
www.pinsandaces.com



PGA Merchandise Show Products that We Love

Spending a couple of days at the 2024 PGA Merchandise Show is a lot like a kid spending the day in Disney World (full disclosure, I did spend the evenings at Disney World with my family, but you get the idea).

The show is the largest gathering under one roof of PGA professionals and vendors working the golf industry. Sure, the big boys like Titleist, Callaway, Under Armour, Johnny-O, Ralph Lauren Polo, Ecco, and every other manufacture you could think of was there.

But what I am always excited about is visiting with entrepreneurs and vendors who simply have cool and unique products. Many will not last the test of time, while others will flourish. I recall being handed an Orange Whip by Founder Jim Hackenberg at the 2008 PGA Show, his first year in business. I saw Jim again this year and was pleased to see an entire full line of Orange Whip products.

The list here is the proverbial tip of the iceberg but spread across two days. These are lesser-known products or services I was immediately drawn to by seeing their wares on display through the more than two miles of winding booth spaces.

Faribault Mill Spreading Warmth to More Than Just Us Golfers

As Minnesota's oldest manufacturer, Faribault Mill has been around since 1865, primarily a wool blanket company for the first 157 years, with 100% of its products made in USA (Minnesota and Maine). Making blankets for the U.S. Military since World War II, the company was purchased by Maine-based Brahms Mount Cotton in 2022, and now provides both wool and cotton blankets.

What stood out at the PGA Show for me was not only how wooly soft the blankets felt, but how cool they looked with images of a golf course layout (think aerial view of Augusta National or your favorite course) or classic ski mountain maps (picture Vail, Telluride, Jackson Hole, etc) and much, much more. Until 2022, they even had a retail store on the Mag Mile and will likely be opening another one on the near north side in the

future. Best of all, for every bed blanket sold, Faribault Mill donates a high-quality blanket to nonprofits serving youth experiencing homelessness across the country. With an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in America, these blankets bring thousands of youth warmth, security, and comfort.

www.faribaultmill.com

A GEM of a Training Aid

Designed by longtime Scottish teaching professional and seasoned European golfer Fraser Mann, the GEM is a teaching aid that helps with swing motion and clubface consistency. It has a weight attached to the club shaft that helps you feel the clubhead close. The GEM help you learn how to get the clubface square at impact and build momentum through the downswing. You will learn how to release the club head faster through the hitting area, increasing power and distance. You'll feel the club head moving into the 'toe-up' position at waist height in the backswing. Best of all, you will build confidence with every club.

www.gemgolf.com

Accessories for the New Era of Women's Golf

Tailored for the modern woman golfer, Birdie Girl has an array of necklaces, wristlets, ponytail holders, and more that are made from magnetic ball mark holders. Both functional and stylish, the brand was founded in 2022 by a former Division 1 golfer. Birdie Girl Golf is a trail-blazer in stylish, functional, on-course golf accessories exclusively designed for women. From wearable ball markers and jewelry to towels, bags, and unique golf gifts, the company likes to say its sassy, classy, and a tad badassery.

www.birdiegirlgolf.com

Their Goal: Make You Suck Less

Existing solely to make golf less hard, we absolutely love all of the Why Golf training aids. Among our favorites are the full swing bundle which includes pressure plate, alignment disk, and padded

alignment rods. For short game work, the chipping plate puts weight right where you need it, while the 'putting thing' is one of the best new putting gate units we've tested. For those that like to use or are thinking about trying out AimPoint when on the putting green, Why Golf's new slope plate helps you feel the difference between putt with one degree of slope all the way to four degrees.

www.whygolf.com

Reeling in Little Ones with Squishteas

Penguins, tigers, unicorns, oh my! Finally, someone came up with a great way to engage toddlers to the game. Granted, we're not trying to raise little Tigers and Rose Zhangs, but these squishy little tee holders are not only eye-catching but fun to hold as well. They also come in the form of cupcakes, pigs, frogs, gophers, polar bears and more.

www.squishteas.com

The Softest Shirt We've Ever Worn

tasc is the perfect balance of functional, comfortable, and eco-conscious essential clothing that looks good, feels good, and does good. The foundation of tasc is built on incredibly unique and comfortable bamboo fabrics which create a wearing experience like none other. Coaches at GOLFTec wear these shirts every day and appreciate the uber-soft texture of tasc shirts.

www.tascperformance.com

Golf VX Brings Tech to Northbrook

Golf VX is one of the up-and-coming companies in the golf simulator space, and they now call Northbrook home. The Korean-based company opened its first showroom in the U.S. at 1945 Techny Rd. Suite 8. After a wildly successful showing at the PGA Show, Golf VX will have plenty of new and intrigued Chicagoland customers.

Golf VX offers simulator packages for both commercial and residential buyers. Its T2 simulator includes over 250 virtual golf courses in addition to an auto tee, moving swing plate, and real-time track

motion for precise swing data. The prototype SIM setup that Golf VX debuted in Orlando was a showstopper. Featuring a golf mat that adjusts to your lie and additional data projected onto the hitting surface, this setup will be available for curious golf nerds looking to head to Northbrook.

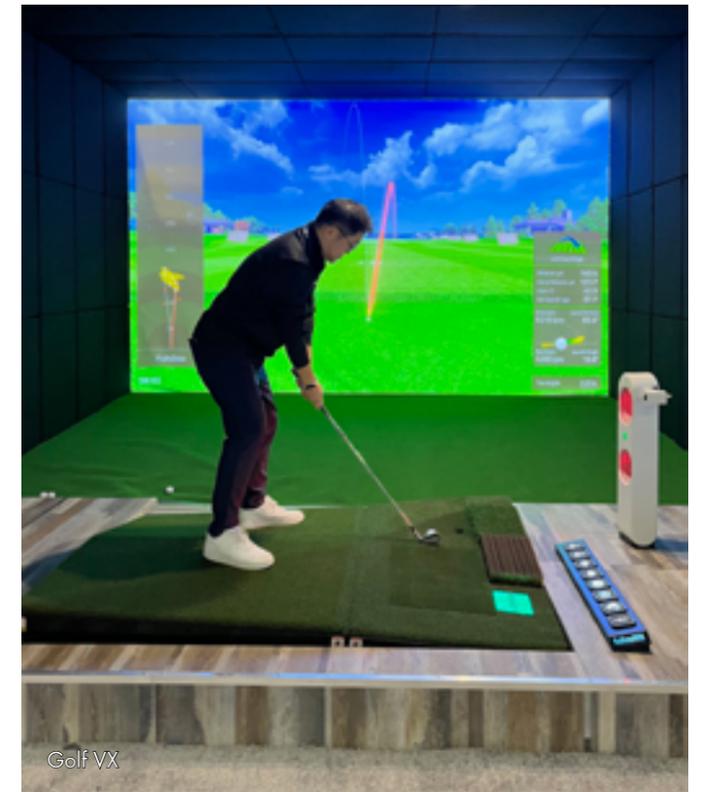
www.golfvx.com



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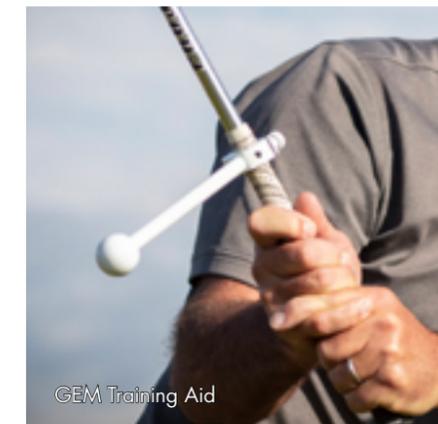
Birdie Girl



Golf VX



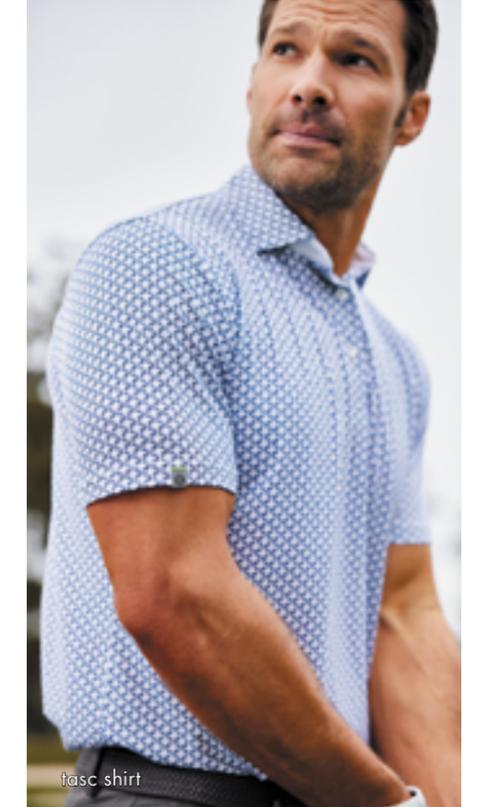
Faribault Mill



GEM Training Aid



Why Golf Training Aid



tasc shirt

DDSports: Enhancing Life Experiences One Product at a Time

At DDSports, we believe in creating products that not only provide value but also enhance your life experiences. With our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, we are proud to present our latest innovations: the Wedge Master golf training game and the StoolPak backpack cooler seat. Join us as we take a closer look at each of these remarkable products and discover how they can transform your recreational activities.

Wedge Master: Elevate Your Golf Game to New Heights

Perfect for golf enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels, our Wedge Master golf training game is designed to bring the excitement of the fairway into your own home, office, or even the beach. The Wedge Master set includes a high-quality mat, a target,



indoor golf balls, a dry erase scoreboard, and a comprehensive set of rules. With its versatility and portability, you can play the game anywhere, anytime with the foldable targets and carrying cases.

What sets Wedge Master apart is its focus on motor mechanics and improving golf skills. Whether you're a seasoned golfer looking to sharpen your technique or a beginner eager to learn the game, Wedge Master is the perfect tool. Playing this game is like having the Top Tier Golf experience in the comfort of your living room. Plus, it's a fantastic way for kids and seniors to stay active and engage their motor skills.

StoolPak: Stay Refreshed and Relaxed on the Go

Our newly designed StoolPak backpack cooler seat offers the ultimate solution for outdoor enthusiasts. With its innovative design, the StoolPak keeps your drinks refreshingly cold, your sunglasses protected, and your phone dry, all while providing you with a comfortable place to sit. It's the ideal companion for camping trips, picnics, tailgating, hiking, sports tournaments or any other outdoor adventure.

Crafted with durability in mind, the StoolPak is made from premium materials that can withstand



the rigors of outdoor activities. It features a spacious cooler compartment that can accommodate multiple beverages, ensuring you stay hydrated throughout your journey. The protective sunglass case and waterproof pocket securely store your valuables, while the foldable seat provides a relaxing spot whenever you need it.

Trustworthy and Customer-centric

At DDSports, we take pride in the quality of our products and the level of customer service we offer. All of our products come with a one-year warranty, ensuring your satisfaction and peace of mind. Our dedication to excellence has earned us the trust of hundreds of customers, and we are proud to have been featured on Fox59 News.

Ready to Experience the Difference?

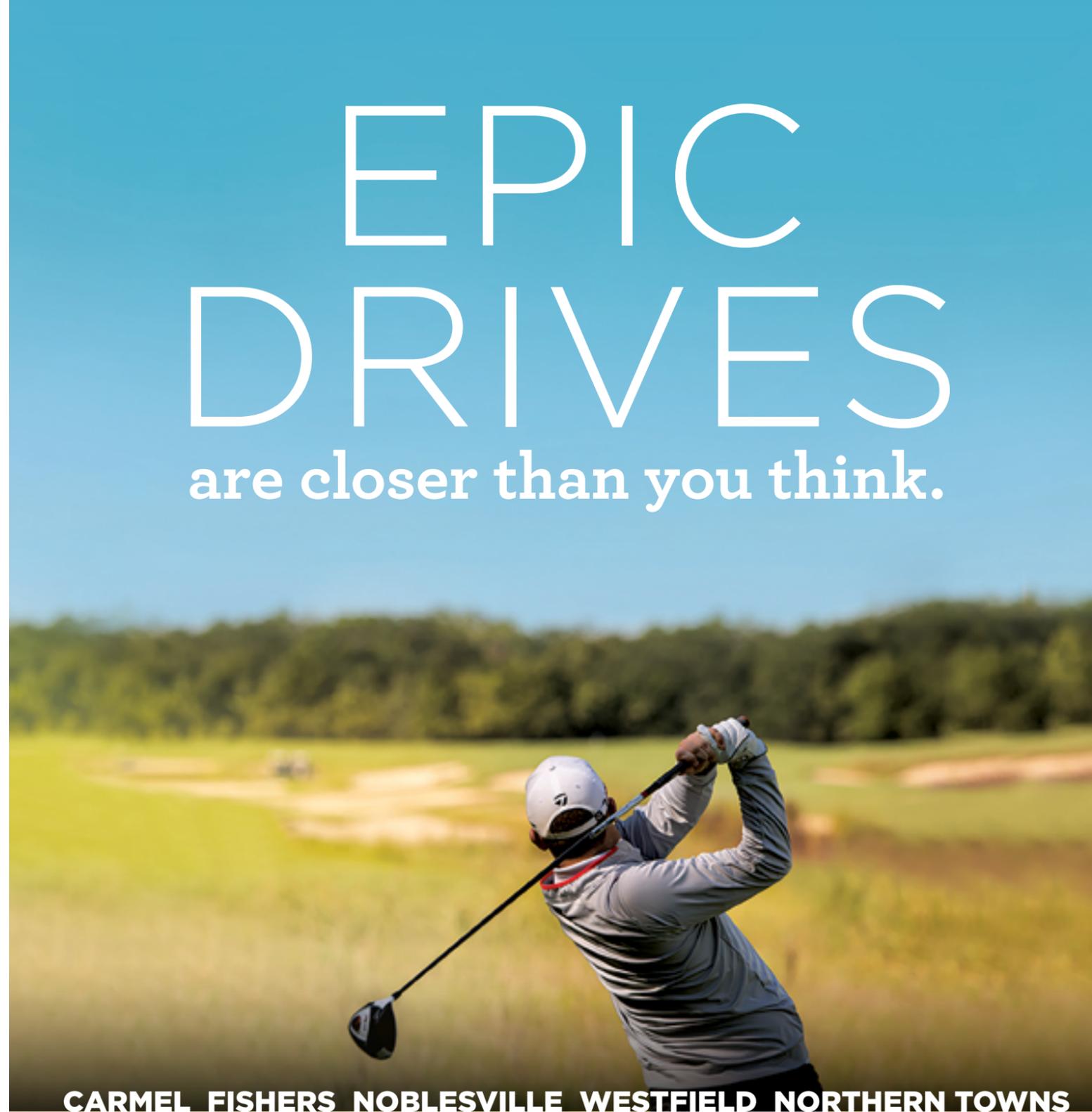
Whether you're looking to improve your golf game or enjoy the great outdoors, DDSports has the perfect products for you. With our Wedge Master golf training game and StoolPak backpack cooler seat, we are committed to enhancing your life experiences, one product at a time.

Visit ddsports.us or contact our friendly customer support team to learn more about our offerings and place your order today.



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Face The Facts: Make More Putts in 2024

Last Summer, I had many of my students participate in what I simply refer to as 'the 10-putt challenge'. All the putts were three to four feet in length, each with varying amounts of break and level of slope. None of the putts were overly difficult, but matched what they would see in a normal round of golf.

Here are the facts: Professional Golfer: 99% made; Scratch Golfer: 95%; 5-10 Handicap: 88%; 12-18 Handicap: 65%; 20-36 Handicap: 40%.

So what does it all mean? If you would like to lower your scores or handicap, it could be as easy as making a few more short putts per round!

Here are the results. What I found was the higher handicap players missed more putts for two main reasons:

1. They did not line the putter face correctly to their intended read or starting spot.
2. They did not return the putter face at impact to what they had at address.

The lower the handicap, the better they were at these two important skills needed for short putting.

You will probably never be able to hit a 350-yard drive like Rory or hit 15 greens in a round like a Tour player, *but* you do have the ability to make as many three to four foot putts as they do if you practice and improve these two skills. You need to *face the facts!*

These drills can be practiced indoors or out on a putting green.

Practice Drill 1

Aim the face. It sounds simple but the worse you are at putting, the harder it is. I like my students to use training aids like putting mirrors or yard sticks to work on this skill. Place the ball on the starting dot or hole in the yard stick and get your putter face square or parallel to the line on the board or the end of the ruler. One thing you can check is your posture and make sure you are bending from your hips to get the putter on the ground. If you do this correctly your eyes will be directly over the top of the ball or slightly inside the ball. We never want to see eyes positioned outside the golf ball at address. This setup will help you see the square face. Once you get into a square putter face setup, study the putter face and without lifting your body, turn your head and let your eyes look at the hole for a few seconds and then return them back to the golf ball. Step away and repeat this process five to ten times. The more often you do it the quicker you will train your eyes.

Practice Drill 2

Once you have a better understanding of correctly aiming the face, you need to practice returning the face back to

that same spot at impact. Take two irons from your bag or alignment sticks out and place them on the green or floor just outside the width of your putter head. Place a ball in the middle of the sticks and make strokes with just your trail hand first. For a three or four foot putt, the putter head will move in a relatively straight back and forth path. After ten strokes with just the trail hand, use both hands and do the same ten strokes keeping the putter head inside the rails. After 20 practice strokes, place a ball marker or coin two feet (roughly the length of your putter without the grip) away from the ball. You can now hit putts seeing if you can roll your ball over the coin. If you can execute this every time, you will have your putter aimed and returning to square every time.

Practice Drill 3

Lock Your Legs. On short putts, it is critical to keep your body still. There is a strong correlation between body movement and putter face movement. Practice putts with a focus on stable legs. For some it might be a good feeling to place a ball in between your thighs and squeeze it during the stroke. I like my students to feel like their feet and legs are cemented into the ground before they

make a short putt. This feeling will also help when putting in windy conditions.

Practice Drill 4

Now that you have perfected the skill of aiming the face and keeping the face square at impact, it's time to take it on the course. You don't want to have a lot of thoughts going through your head when playing, so *trust your practice*. Get your aim and put your focus on one dimple. One of the ways people move their putter face is when they look at the hole to see the result. It is hard on short putts because the hole is in your peripheral view and it's easy to cheat. When your eyes move to the hole early the putter face or path changes and you see the ball missing the hole. I like to color one dimple of my ball and all my focus is on that dimple at address and keep my eyes on that spot until I hear the ball falling into the cup.

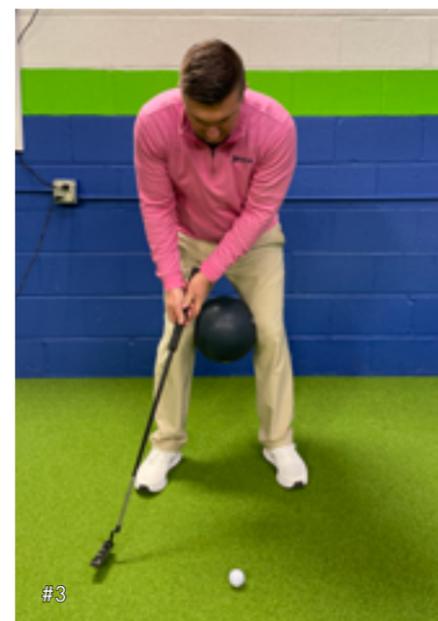
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Golf Digest Best in State Instructor
Instagram @mikecarbraygolf



#1



#2



#3



#4

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.

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. With 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 an award-winning course, The Bluffs also features a large all-grass practice range, putting green, separate chipping green and bunker, and a newly renovated clubhouse.

The clubhouse is open 7 days a week and features a full dining room and bar as well as indoor golf simulators for year round fun!



Maple Meadows Plans for Improvements

With a masterful renovation of The Preserve at Oak Meadows only a few years in the rearview mirror, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is gearing up to bring improvements to its sister course, Maple Meadows. A board of commissioners approved a master plan on December 5th. While the plan is still in the developmental phase, it appears that DuPage Golf will have another gem when the dust settles.



Early reports have construction taking place during the 2025 and 2026 golf seasons with the main thoughts revolving around using and enhancing the surrounding natural habitats. This is similar to the accomplished mission that was laid out for the former Oak Meadows Golf Course. In addition, the course will be routed to improve the pace of play and leave additional space between the course grounds and the surrounding residential areas.

Frankfort Golf Dome Collapses

On Friday, January 12th, the golf dome at SPG Green Garden Country Club and Driving Range in Frankfort collapsed due to the heavy weight of rain and snow. Although the dome is pressurized to maintain structural integrity, as it collapsed a light pole inside of the dome punctured the lining, leading to failure. Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

Illinois PGA Special Award Winners

On January 19th, the Illinois PGA announced its Special Award Winners for 2023. Hans Larson of Westmoreland Country Club was awarded Illinois PGA Professional of the Year.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 winners:

- Michael Camastro, PGA (Silver Lake Country Club) Teacher of the Year
- Matthew Rion, PGA (Briarwood Country Club) Assistant Professional of the Year
- Chad Johansen, PGA (Blackberry Oaks Golf Club) Youth Player Development Award
- David Maslen, PGA (Chicago School of Golf) Player Development Award
- Kyle Bauer, PGA (Glen View Club) Bill Strausbaugh Award
- T.J. Sullivan, PGA (GOLFTEC – Oak Brook) PGA Professional Development Award
- Charles Kletcke, PGA (Edgewood Valley Golf Club) Bill Heald Career Achievement Award
- Victoria McGowan, PGA (Rich Harvest Farms) Merchandiser of the Year – Private
- Randy Heinrich, PGA (Cog Hill Golf & Country Club) Merchandiser of the Year - Public
- Frank Chieppa, PGA (PGA of America) Distinguished Service Award
- Gary Binder, PGA (KemperSports Management) Deacon Palmer Award
- Dennis Johnsen (Pine Meadow Golf Club) Patriot Award
- Vince Juarez, PGA (KemperSports Management) PGA Executive of the Year



Tour Edge Wins at ING Industry Honors Awards

The 30th annual ING Industry Honors Awards were held at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando in January. Batavia OEM Tour Edge took home the award for Product Ingenuity: Golf Equipment for its 723 Driver series.



Addison's Links & Tees Golf Dome Now Offers Top Tracer in 40 Bays

This indoor facility also includes chipping and putting areas to hone your game in the off-season. Visit www.addisonparks.org for more information on rates and times.

Under Armour Junior Tour Registration Open for Ages 6 to 18

Registration is now open for the Under Armour Junior Tour in three geographic locations throughout Chicagoland, South Chicago, North Chicago, and Great Lakes/Northeast

regions. The tour is open to boys and girls in several divisions, ages 6 to 18, and includes six 9-hole matches, a player's gift bag, and points earned at each event. In addition, the top six players with qualifying scoring averages will advance to the national championships at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Sandestin, Florida.

For information reach out to tournament Director Steve Embree at sembree@uajuniortour.com.

Alsip Professional Firefighters Inaugural Golf Outing February 25

Alsip Firefighters Local 3074 are proud to host their inaugural Golf Outing on Feb. 25th at Indoor Golf Links of America, 16356 104th Ave., in Orland Park. Registration is due by Feb. 14th. A portion of proceeds benefits the MDA and Project Fire Buddies! Cost is \$100 per person which includes four hours of golf, all you can drink domestic beer, and dinner. For information or to register, contact Alec Kowalczyk at (708) 969-2532.

Winnetka Golf Club Eyes August Opening

A major construction project to the North Shore's classic Winnetka Golf Club that forced the facility to close the entire season last year is wrapping up with an anticipated opening eyed for this August. The renovation to both the 18- and 9-hole courses was designed by Libertyville-based golf course architect Rick Jacobson, and included re-leveling and re-servicing of greens, tees, and fairways; remodeling fairways and select greenside bunkers; and improved drainage at both courses to better handle heavy storm events.



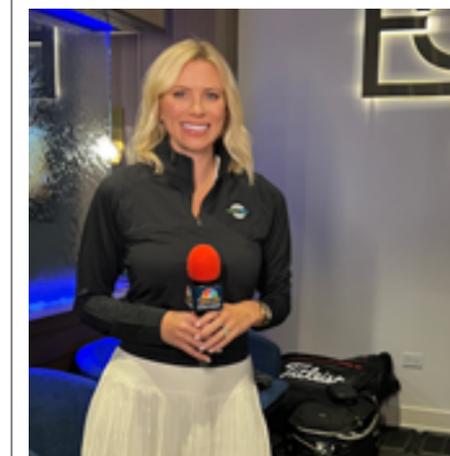
Antioch's Drivetime Golf Summer Junior Camps / High School Primer

Elevate your junior's game this season by signing up for Antioch-based Drivetime Golf's Summer Junior Golf Camps, scheduled for June 5-29 and July 10-27. Camps will be held at Midlane Country Club in Wadsworth. Special this year will be a high school golf season preparation camp being held July 17-20. A low student ratio guarantees that your child will receive expert guidance and instruction to ensure a focused and immersive learning environment. Utilizing state-of-the-art swing analysis and launch monitor capabilities, students will receive instruction on how they can refine their authentic swing to achieve more consistent contact and to improve their overall performance. Limited spots are available. Call (224) 788-9113 to reserve your child's spot or visit www.drivetimegolf.com.



Women On Course to Host Sip & Swing March 27

Work on your golf swing while enjoying the chance to meet and socialize with other women golfers in a fun and non-intimidating environment. Price includes two hours of golf simulator time and a drink ticket. The event will be held Wednesday, March 27 at Game of Irons, Oak Brook. For more information, visit www.womenoncourse.com or call (703) 268-5078.



Be sure to tune into the award-winning Golf360 TV show on NBC Sports Chicago for all things golf in The Windy City and beyond.

Former Ms. Missouri Katie Kearney is your host with interviews provided by Chicago Bear longsnapping legend Patrick Mannelly. Additional information as well as airtimes can be found at www.linksvideo.net/golf360tv

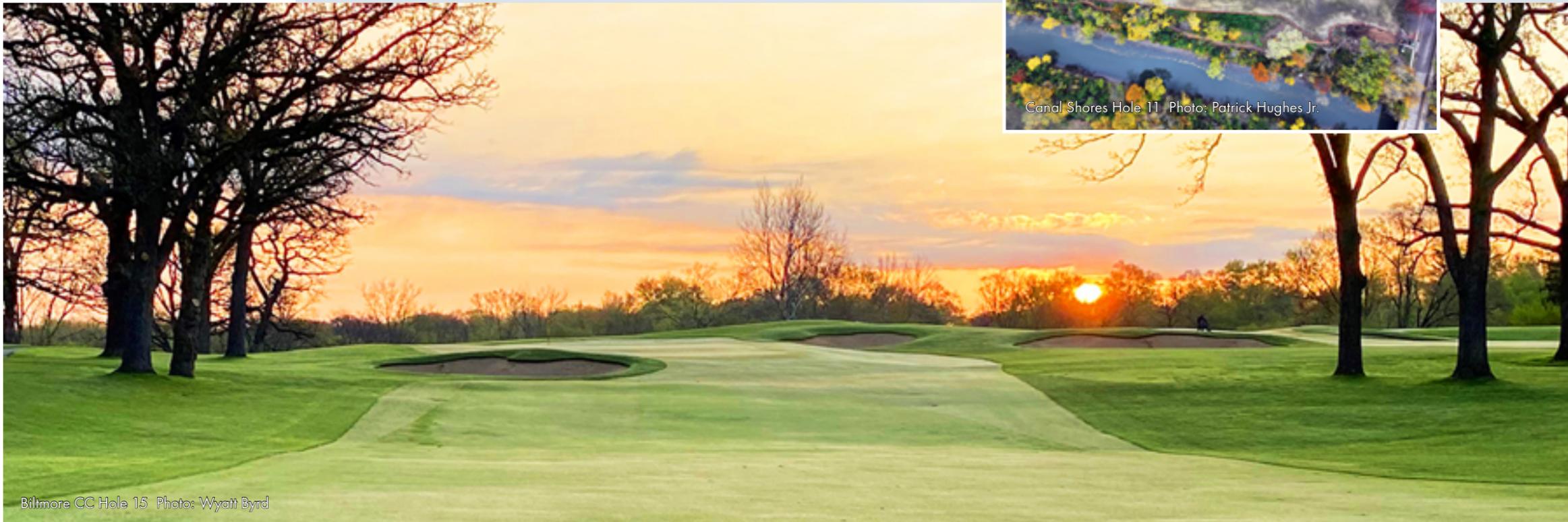




White Eagle Hole 18 Photo: White Eagle GC



Canal Shores Hole 11 Photo: Patrick Hughes Jr.



Biltmore CC Hole 15 Photo: Wyatt Byrd

Even as most of us struggle to maintain our new year's resolutions past February, local golf course designer Todd Quitno has meticulous plans in place to occupy himself and his architecture firm through 2024 and beyond. In fact, the new year promises to make Quitno Golf Designs a household name across Chicagoland with the unveiling of the newly renovated and refashioned Canal Shores Golf Course complex in Evanston, along with the launch of renovation and construction work at the acclaimed Cantigny Golf property in Wheaton.

"It will be a thrilling year for me, personally, and Quitno Golf Designs," Quitno said in a January interview. "The Canal Shores project has been evolving for many years. So it will be amazing to watch how things come together before the expected re-opening this summer. And while that date gets closer, our firm begins an extensive and intensive renovation of Cantigny Golf—one of the area's premier golf properties."

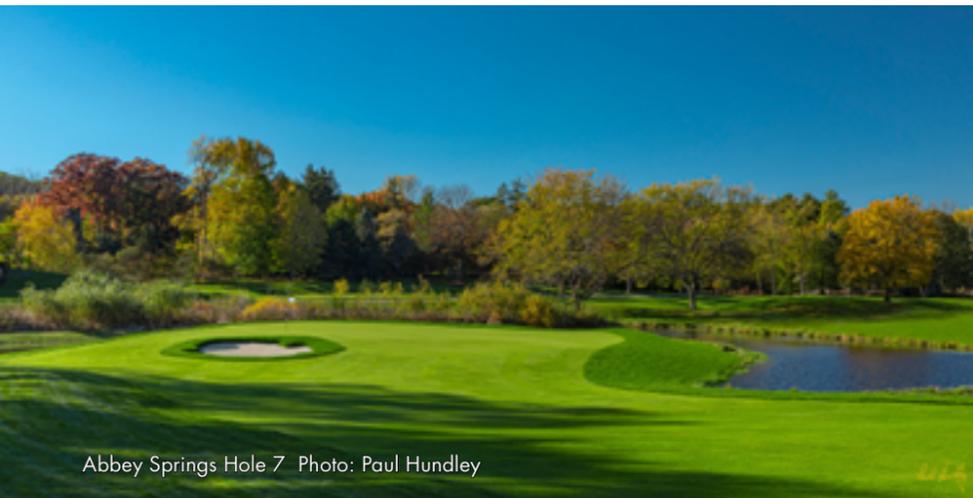
The story behind the re-imagining of Canal Shores comes off like an extended Netflix drama series. Over the years, the layout—hailed as the childhood course of famed comic actor Bill Murray—has gone from a beautification project on the Chicago River, to a charming local course named after Evanston civic leader Peter N. Jans, to a tired and worn layout, to a privately-financed community gem supported by the Western Golf Association, KemperSports, The First Tee, and Wadsworth Construction.

"I agree that this has been a remarkable adventure," said Chris Charnas, an area golf course broker who serves as Vice-President/Golf at Canal Shores. "Over its 105-year history, Canal Shores had become economically distressed due to the course's non-existent drainage system which made it susceptible to flooding during 100-year rains that seemingly occur every year or two. The property desperately needed not just a plan to fix the course, but a plan to finance the fixing without reliance on taxpayer funding."

Providing remarkable community support from individuals, golf-related companies, and associations from across the area, a \$5.9 million renovation project was put into place that would not just fix the drainage problems but promises to transition Canal Shores into a dynamic golf center. Among its new offerings, Canal Shores will serve as host to The First Tee-Greater Chicago Youth Center, a caddie training program, a nature sanctuary, and, of course, a fine golf course that won't waterlog every time a dark cloud passes over the property.

Quitno Golf Designs Embarks On an Epic 2024 Season

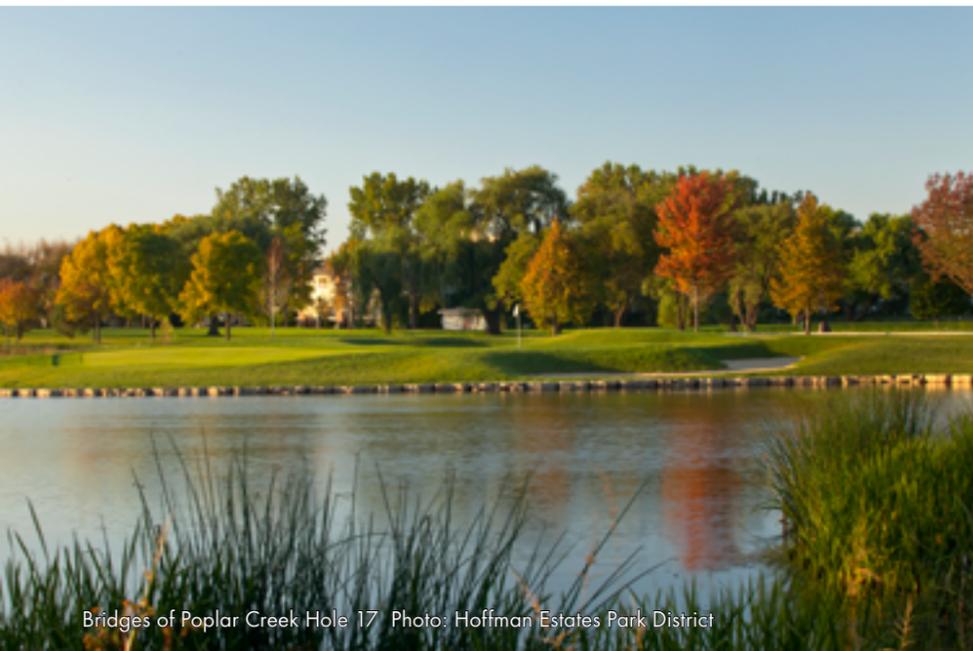
By Neal Kotlarek



Abbey Springs Hole 7 Photo: Paul Hundley



Schaumburg GC Hole 25 Photo: Schaumburg Park District



Bridges of Poplar Creek Hole 17 Photo: Hoffman Estates Park District

The task to resurrect Canal Shores was placed in the able hands of Park Ridge-based Quitno Golf Designs and its principal architect and founder. “The mission of Canal Shores expanded from a basic infrastructure renovation project into a multi-purpose venue that has the chance to positively impact a lot of lives,” said Quitno. “My affiliation with the project began years ago when I attended a class on native grasses and talked to an Evanston-based volunteer about the challenges they faced at Canal Shores. I simply offered to help in any way I could.”

Those conversations eventually led to an extensive yearlong master plan study that considered the construction of a junior golf area, the addition of a 30,000-sq. ft. practice green in front of the clubhouse, the expansion of greens, the addition of a functioning drainage system and the rerouting of the first and second holes.

What started as the construction of a course irrigation system, said Charnas, turned into a complete re-imagining of the 82-acre facility. “After 100 years, courses are historically at the end of their life cycles,” said Charnas. “We hired Quitno Golf Designs with confidence that Todd had the skills and passion to make Canal Shores an amazing property that will make the community proud.”

Quitno honed those skills over the course of 29 years working as lead architect (and eventually partner) at Marengo-based Lohmann Golf Designs before forming Quitno Golf Designs in 2022. During those nearly three decades, Quitno and Bob Lohmann oversaw hundreds of projects large and small. Among those projects familiar to Chicagoans were the original design of Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo; extensive renovation work at Abbey Springs in Fontana, Wisc.; at the Bridges of Poplar Creek and at Traditions at Chevy Chase in Wheeling; and a renewal project of the 27-hole Schaumburg Golf Club.

“I met Todd when he worked with Bob on Bridges of Poplar Creek,” said Tony LaFrener, Executive Director of the Schaumburg Park District. “Besides his obvious ability to improve the conditioning and playability of a golf course, Todd has great communication skills. He listens to the priorities and aspirations of his clients and creates a plan that not only accommodates those objectives but does so within the framework of a budget.” At Schaumburg G.C., Quitno and Lohmann were given the task of



Photos above: Brian Haven Media

improving the course’s water retention; designing forward tees to make the course accessible to juniors, seniors, and beginners; rebuilding all of the greens; and adjusting bunker placement to add more visual interest and improved strategies that challenge low handicappers while not penalizing less-skilled players. The results were reflected immediately after the project’s completion. “Our three nines hosted 70,000 rounds in 2023,” boasted LaFrener. “And the greens are country-club quality and speed while at the same time we don’t experience long delays after storms due to the previous water retention issues.”

Quitno stated that his firm looks to encounter both “the art and the engineering” needed for any given project. “Our primary work has involved renovations,” he said. “We look to address the playability and aesthetics of the course and solve the property’s infrastructure needs at the same time.”

At Canal Shores, Quitno was provided the project’s needs and goals using inputs from stakeholders like Charnas, and design input from Josh Lesnik, executive vice-president of KemperSports which is managing the complex’s rebuild. “As we talked through the purposing of Canal Shores,” said Quitno, “the subject of youth golf became a priority. ‘Let’s build a robust junior learning center,’ became a central focus of our discussions.” Provided inputs from The First Tee – Greater Chicago and the WGA, the vision of positioning the property as a haven for juniors quickly took shape. The WGA oversees the Evans Scholars Foundation that provides full college tuition and housing to deserving caddies. Canal Shores will serve as site to a “caddie academy” created as a training ground for future Evans Scholars. To support that vision, the WGA became the lead donor of the course restoration project.

Long known as a “quirky” golf course due to its unusual length of 3,600 yards playing to a par of 60, Canal Shores is destined to become renowned for its No. 7 putting hole. The 65-yard putting-only par 3 provides players with the opportunity to sink a gargantuan putt at a flagstick positioned on axis with the breathtaking Baha’i Temple towering in the distance. “I don’t know how many holes-in-one that hole will yield,” said Quitno with a laugh. “But I’m pretty certain no one will forget the experience of playing a hole that features both a majestic temple and long view of Lake Michigan right behind it.”

Still another quirk of the course is a 19th hole that will be used when junior clinics tie up the 1st tee in front of the clubhouse. In those instances, players will start away from the clubhouse and incorporate a bonus hole to complete the 18. Even that phrase is slightly misleading, as players with limited time frames are offered the option to play the course in smaller segments if preferred. “Which is nice,” in the words of Murray’s Carl Spackler character in the legendary “Caddyshack” movie.

Just prior to the grand re-opening of Canal Shores, Quitno Golf Designs turns its focus to Cantigny’s Hillside 9 where the property will begin its first significant upgrades since 2003. The overall scope of the project will incorporate rebuilding and regrassing all greens, tees, and fairways; redesign and renovation of bunkers; irrigation system replacement; and the creation of a large putting lawn that will double as a fun zone and practice area for players of all ages and skill levels. Cantigny Golf will remain open as an 18-hole course and a 9-hole junior course throughout the three years of the renovation project.

“Our work at Cantigny will be similar in scale to our work at Schaumburg G.C.,” said Quitno. “The end-result will be better performing greens and beautiful bunkers that will be more efficient to maintain,” he added. “The goal is to simplify the entire course in a way that cleans up some visual clutter, but still celebrates the grandeur and elegance of the property while adding a little fun and improving overall playability.”

Reflecting on the scale of the Cantigny renovations ahead of him, Quitno said that the scale of the project perfectly suits the attribute that he considers to be the signature of Quito Golf Designs. “My style is about diversity and adaptability,” he said. “Our renovations incorporate the client’s needs foremost; we want the aesthetics of the course to be engaging and memorable, and the function of the course to be resilient to handle the rigors of daily use or exceptional events like drought or heavy rains.”

Even as Quitno embarks on a busy 2024, he takes pride in the hundreds of projects he has been involved with over the years. Whether renovating a William Langford design or designing the unique 13-hole Pioneer Pointe golf course in Verona, Wisc., Quitno said that his greatest joy comes from visiting a property long after his work is done and watching happy players dotted across a property. For Todd Quitno, proof is not just in the pudding—it’s also in the teeing off, in the chipping, and in the putting.



Dumbarrie 4th Hole



Marine and Lawn Rooftop Bar 18 - Rooftop Putting Green

The Timeless Home of Golf and Scotland's Rich Golfing Heritage

By Dave Weretka
with Dave
Lockhart

In the realm of golf, there exists no destination more sacred, historic, and enchanting than the seaside town of St. Andrews in Scotland. This is where golf was born, and where it still thrives as a way of life, firmly embedded in the culture and history of the nation. At the heart of this golfing Mecca stands the legendary Old Course, but St. Andrews is not alone in its claim to golfing fame. Along the rugged Scottish coastline, you'll find a tapestry of golf courses, each with its unique character and challenge. Many of these designs are links courses, in fact Scotland has 92 of them, the most of any country. There is nothing like playing links golf here, playing the proper shot on the firm and fast conditions and the elements of the wind and somewhat unpredictable weather. It's truly a magical feeling that any seasoned golfer must experience! From the picturesque coastal North Berwick to the newest course that shouldn't be missed, Dumbarrie Links, Scotland's golfing treasures are bound to leave you in awe.

St. Andrews is more than just a place; it's a pilgrimage site for golfers worldwide. This charming coastal town, nestled on the eastern coast of Scotland, is steeped in golfing history, and its allure is undeniable. The Old Course at St. Andrews, founded in the 15th century, is often regarded as the "Home of Golf." This sacred ground, a testament to the sport's origins, has witnessed countless legendary moments and continues to challenge and inspire golfers from every corner of the globe. There's a reason as to why this destination is on the top of every

serious golfer and historian alike. Scotland, the Home of Golf, is a place where the game is etched into the very fabric of the land. It's not just about the courses; it's about the people, the history, and the soul of the sport. From St. Andrews, where it all began, to the links gems of North Berwick, Gullane, Dumbarrie Links, the historical Musselburgh Links and the luxurious Fairmont Torrance Course, Scotland's golf courses paint a vivid picture of the sport's rich and enduring legacy.

Golf in Scotland has been played for over 600 years and there are 400 courses within an hour drive of a city airport. Each of the courses mentioned above brings a unique perspective to this incredible story.

The Old Course at St. Andrews represents the very heart and soul of golf. It's a place where you can feel the weight of history with every swing of the club. The course's iconic landmarks, including the Swilcan Bridge and Hell Bunker, serve as constant reminders of the countless legends who have walked these hallowed fairways. Playing the Old Course is not merely a game of golf; it's an immersion in the traditions and folklore of the sport itself.

With its double greens, sprawling pot bunkers, it's a course of incomparable character and charm. Walking in the footsteps of golfing legends, teeing off at the first hole is a humbling experience that will leave a lasting impression on any golfer.

The St. Andrews Links consist of seven golf courses on which over 230,000 rounds are played annually. The New Course

opened for play in 1895 and is probably the oldest new course in the world. The course has remained mostly untouched since its opening with only a few bunkers and tees added to the original design. The first three holes parallel the same land that the Old Course sits on. It is a classic links gem that shouldn't miss "the cut" while playing in St. Andrews. If time allows have a crack at the Himalayas Putting course. It's a wild ride and family friendly. Make sure to stop in and visit the R&A World Golf Museum to gain a better understanding of the history of the game and how it evolved.

Situated in the charming coastal town of North Berwick, the North Berwick Golf Club offers a golfing experience like no other. Founded in 1832, this historic links course has a unique charm that has drawn golfers for over a century. The course is set amidst dramatic coastal landscapes, with the Firth of Forth providing a breathtaking backdrop. With its devilish bunkers, rolling fairways, and deceptive greens, North Berwick presents an exciting challenge even for the most skilled players. Leave your handicap mentality at home and play the member tees as the coastal winds are usually howling for an added test to your nerves. North Berwick should be at the top of your



Old Tom Grave



Claret Jug



Marine North Berwick View with Backyard Putting Green



list and it must be played so you can personally see what true shot values are and shake your head and give a tip of the cap to those that played and came before us. The course includes a Redan and a Biarritz green for additional enjoyment. Hole 14 plays back down to the coast with a bluff blocking the view of the putting green surface. If you fly the green be prepared to play your next shot from the beach, which is in play. This is a course that you want to play again and again because there are so many unique features. North Berwick, with its dramatic coastal setting and whimsical bunkering, offers a stark contrast to the venerable Old Course. The challenge is both fun and unique, and the stunning views of the Firth of Forth only add to the experience. North Berwick was recently voted #1 fun course to in the UK. We can attest to that... Can't wait for our next crack at this gem. Golfers are presented with cleverly designed holes, including the "Pit," "Perfection," and "Redan," which are well-known among aficionados. North Berwick's reputation as a true links gem is richly deserved. This is one that you want to play again and again. North Berwick, a charming coastal town, is the perfect place to unwind after a round of golf. You can explore its picturesque harbor, take a leisurely walk along the sandy beaches, and savor delicious seafood at local restaurants. The town's friendly and welcoming atmosphere ensures you'll feel right at home.

Gullane, with its trio of courses, presents an opportunity to explore a diverse range of golfing experiences. Links golf is the truest and purest experience you will find. The Gullane courses offer well-defined fairways, tall fescue and firm, smooth running fairways. Gullane No 1 was ultimately created by nature " states Gullane Director of Golf, Alasdair Good. Gullane No. 1, a championship course, has a distinctive layout with challenging fairways and greens that demand precision. In 2015 it hosted the Scottish Open, won by Ricky Fowler. Gullane No. 2



Gullane Hole #1

is more forgiving, offering an enjoyable round for golfers of all levels. Gullane, situated not far from Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, offers the best of both worlds. You can indulge in the history and culture of the city and then escape to the serene coastal town of Gullane for a tranquil golfing experience. Gullane's eateries and local pubs make it an ideal place to relax and recharge.

Located on the picturesque Firth of Forth, Dumbarrie Links is one of the newest additions to Scotland's golfing landscape. Designed by the renowned architect Clive Clark, Dumbarrie opened in 2020, quickly earning a reputation as a modern masterpiece. The course provides a unique contrast to the traditional links courses of Scotland, offering an exciting challenge with dramatic elevation changes and incredible views of the coastline. Dumbarrie Links has quickly gained acclaim for its modern design and breathtaking views of the Firth of Forth. The course challenges golfers with elevated tees, large greens, and undulating fairways, all while providing a taste of the traditional Scottish links experience. It's a remarkable addition to the Scottish golf landscape and a testament to the enduring appeal of the sport. "It's a traditional links course with a modern twist" says course owner and architect, Clive Clark. The course offers 2-3 holes with split fairways that offer risk/reward opportunities. The tee shots here are wide and generous. Clark states that "the vision here is to welcome visitors and we want them to feel like they are a member of a high-end club for a day. The culture is welcoming from the first your step on the property." They even offer every golfer a wee dram on the first tee to set them at ease.



Musselburgh, located in East Lothian, is a place where golf history runs deep. Musselburgh Links, The Old Golf Course, is often regarded as the world's oldest golf course, dating back to the 16th century. While the course is relatively short by modern standards, it's a fascinating experience to play on the same fairways where golf has

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been enjoyed for centuries. David Hillis, club manager, states, "Most who come here think they are going to find a short pitch and putt type of course. It's not, it's proper golf how it was played 100 years ago." Musselburgh includes two par 3's that clock in at 240 yards while gorse, dips, hollows and two tiered greens await those that peg it on this historic track. Speaking of track, Musselburgh Links is laid out inside a horse race track that is still operational. Yes there is a local rule for your ball landing in a hoof- print. Musselburgh Links, The Old Golf Course, offers a window into golf's history. This short yet historic course is a humble reminder of where it all began. As you play, you can't help but reflect on the generations of golfers who have come before you. It's a step back in time that every golfer should experience.

Nestled within the five-star Fairmont St. Andrews resort, the Torrance Course offers a luxury golfing experience amidst the stunning landscapes of the East Neuk of Fife. Designed by former Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance, this championship course provides a challenging yet enjoyable round of golf. The course's sweeping fairways, strategic bunkering, and breathtaking sea views make it a must-visit destination for golfers.

Marine & Lawn Hotels allow golfers to grab your clubs from your room and walk to the first tee of many of the most coveted golf courses in the UK. Rusacks in St. Andrews and North Berwick are a couple of those legendary hotels. Rusack's has undertaken a number of renovations and upgrades to firmly make it the best place to stay in St. Andrews. Plus there's a new rooftop bar complete with putting green overlooking the iconic Old Course and the North Sea. The service you experience from your first step on property will make you feel like a VIP. Special little touches abound by all staffers that will leave you planning your return visit. The North Berwick Marine & Lawn Hotel is a true classic in East Lothian, which is affectionately known as Scotland's Golf Coast. With epic views of the North Berwick links layout and Bass Rock this elegant hotel has it all including a full spa and indoor pool. A couple of their newest additions to their collection include Dornoch Station which is just steps away from Royal Dornoch Golf Club and Slieve Donald. These refurbished and rebranded gems offer old-world charm and new-era luxury for your stay. Find out more about these properties at marineandlawn.com.

In conclusion, Scotland's golfing legacy is unlike any other in the world. From the iconic Old Course in St. Andrews, the spiritu-

al home of golf, to the links gems of North Berwick, the variety and quality of golf courses in Scotland are unrivaled. The rich history from golf's very beginning thanks in part to Old Tom Morris, the stunning landscapes, and the warmth of the Scottish people make a golfing trip to this ancient land an unforgettable experience. It's a journey that connects you with the roots of the game, leaves you with cherished memories, and, above all, ignites a lifelong passion for the sport of golf. As you journey through these Scottish golfing destinations, you'll be captivated not only by the challenges each course presents but also by the undeniable charm of their surroundings. The coastal landscapes, rugged dunes, and the ever-changing weather make every round a unique adventure. Yet, it's not just the courses that make Scotland's golf scene special; it's the towns and communities that welcome golfers with open arms. So, whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, Scotland's golfing treasures await your visit, promising an adventure you'll carry with you forever. To assist with booking your trip in the near future go to visitscotland.com.



Dumbarrie 16th Hole



Dumbarrie 13th Hole



North Berwick Wall



St. Andrews Old Course

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The GOLFCChicago Interview

How much do you know about your equipment? Would you believe that you could drop four strokes without changing anything in your swing?

I recently sat down with Sycamore's Jake Morrow whose company, madefortherange.com, is a content platform and website dedicated to educating golfers about clubs, balls, fittings, and everything in between.

GOLFCChicago (GC): *If I had to describe Made for the Range to someone and how it would benefit them, what would you say?*

Jake Morrow (JM): Made for the Range is a content platform, and the idea of the platform is to create a single-stop space that anybody at any level of golf equipment knowledge can learn from, to the end of arming themselves with enough knowledge to make a confident club purchase.

I worked at a large fitting chain for two years, and I saw that there was a ton of information available; but only to those that had the means to pay for it. I think in today's age, information should be 100% accessible to anybody. So, there are reasons for why Made for the Range looks and is presented the way it is, and a lot of it has to do with just accessibility and decluttering the information.

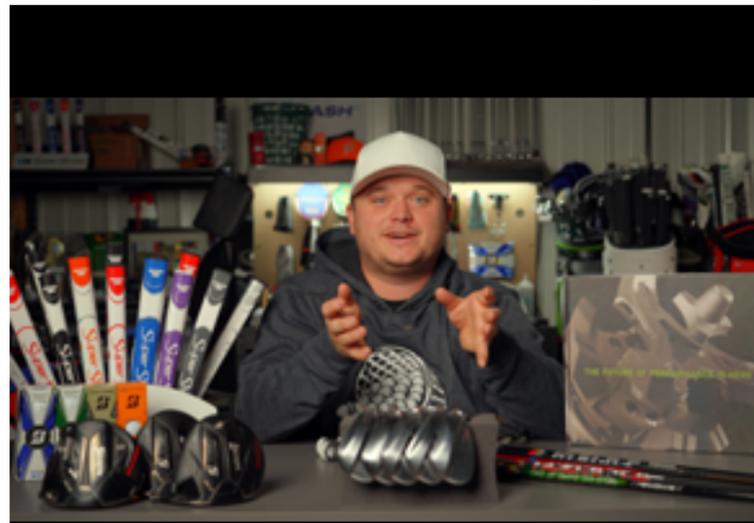
One thing you'll notice if you go to Made for the Range is there's no banner ads, no display ads, no pop-up ads, nothing. There's no advertisement of any kind. Made for the Range is financed by the equipment itself, essentially.

There will never be a paid-for exclusive section. There will never be a pro-level membership. There will be things like signing up for the newsletter, but it'll be free.

GC: *What is the one adjustment that you think everyone could benefit from right now?*

JM: You're probably playing the wrong golf ball" is a statement that I have made very publicly and I stand behind. For 90% of golfers, your golf ball is probably hurting more than it's helping.

For example, I have a partner at my golf club, he's an older gentleman, and he's a 20 handicap. He is not changing his



Made for the Range

by Patrick Malloy

swing, right? He's too old for that. His swing is what his swing is. But he was playing Pro V1s. Pro V1 is a low spin golf ball. He thought that playing a Pro V1 would be what he should do because that's what he was told to do.

As soon as I put him in a higher spin golf ball that launched higher, his irons started getting better and he dropped his handicap by four strokes in three weeks.

And that was simply because he understood the equipment that he was now using. That's all it was. And he just didn't understand that that could happen.

GC: *In my experience, people can often be nervous or overwhelmed going into a fitting. What advice do you have for someone to get the most out of the experience?*

JM: There's a common stigma with fittings that somebody's just trying to sell you something. I don't care where you go, I don't believe in that. Because even people that are 100% based off commission, you can't sell somebody something that the data doesn't support. If you don't like the data on the screen in front of you, that person can't sell you anything. No matter where you go, it's the most transparent process that exists.

And if somebody is not a nice person in a fitting bay, you can walk away and buy the stuff yourself. You know what your options were, you saw the data, you can walk away.

So, if you go into a fitting, there should be no nerves about somebody trying to sell you something that you don't want. And it should be your goal to have everything explained to you.

If you ask a question and the fitter doesn't want to or can't answer your question, then I would agree that that's a bad fit.

GC: *How does Made for the Range fit into this?*

JM: The idea of Made for the Range is, if you don't have the ability to get fit, you can arm yourself with enough information that you can purchase equipment without getting fit and be confident in what you buy. If you do have the chance to go get fit, arming yourself with all that information is great, but you still need to listen to your fitter and you still need to ask questions, not give directions.

GC: *Let's say Made for the Range is wildly successful for the next few years, what would be your most ambitious goal?*

JM: The eventual endgame for Made for the Range is it becomes a self-sustaining production house and content platform that's open to the public. Things like not having to worry about running out of space for a camera in a fitting bay, not having a fence next to a short game area so that you can't film from a certain angle. The whole place will be made to film. I'll be able to invite other creators to use the space, but it'll also be an open practice facility of the absolute highest quality. Full short game areas, full putting green, grass hitting heated bays for inclement weather, a teacher, a fitter, a clubhouse.

GC: *So fittings will then be conducted out of the facility?*

JM: Yes! There will be a fitter. It will

not be me. I am not a fitter. I think that's actually very important to say. I am somebody that has fitting knowledge. I have equipment knowledge, but I myself am not a fitter. And I don't want that to be my role either.

GC: *What can we expect out of Made for the Range in 2024? What should people look out for?*

JM: You won't believe how long my to-do list is. In 2024, we will have roughly 100 additional topics on Made for the Range by the end of Q1. We will also be starting a podcast which has a video component. We'll start in 2024 with a rather killer guest lineup. I can't say who yet, but if you're somebody that knows golf equipment at all, the very first guest will be very, very cool.

I am also hoping to add other personalities to the content in 2024. We are going to add a club building section and at some point in the future we are going to add a swing mechanics / teaching section. (which will also not be me). I would like to do a women's section of the website as well, which will be represented by a female.

GC: *You got your start in golf a little later than usual. What sparked your love of the game?*

JM: The challenge of the game is what drew me in. I didn't start taking the game seriously or know anything about golf clubs until I was 21. I must be a certain amount of good at something to continue to do it more than, like, literally once. And there's nothing harder to do that in than in golf.

For more information, visit www.madefortherange.com.



Laurels for This Hardy

Nestled within the picturesque McLaren Vale wine region in South Australia, Hardys Tintara winery stands as a testament to the rich history and enduring legacy of Australian winemaking. Established in 1861 by the visionary Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly, Tintara has weathered the test of time, producing wines that have not only earned global acclaim but have also become an integral part of Australia's winemaking narrative.

Dr. Alexander Kelly, a physician and winemaker, laid the foundation for Tintara in 1861, incorporating it the following year as the Tintara Vineyard Company. A man of diverse talents, Kelly authored seminal texts on Australian winemaking and viticulture, solidifying his place in the annals of wine history.

Born in Dunbar, Scotland, in 1811, Kelly emigrated to South Australia in 1840, driven by a passion for both medicine and

viticulture. His early years were dedicated to medical practice, but a fascination with grape growing led him to plant the first vines in McLaren Vale in 1845, establishing the "Trinity" vineyard. The allure of winemaking eventually took precedence over medicine, and in 1861, he founded Tintara winery.

In 1877, the property changed hands as Thomas Hardy, who had founded Hardys Wines in 1853, acquired Tintara along with 27,000 imperial gallons of wine from Kelly. This marked the beginning of a new era for Tintara under the stewardship of Hardy, who went on to become the largest winemaker in the colony by 1894.

Hardy's strategic acquisitions and leadership led to the establishment of Thomas Hardy & Sons by 1887, solidifying his legacy as the "father of the wine industry in South Australia."

The narrative of Tintara and the Hardy family continued through subsequent generations, with the fourth generation taking the helm in 1965. However, by 1992, the landscape of Hardys Wines underwent a significant transformation. Exploring new regions in Australia and abroad, the company went public and merged with Berri Renmano Ltd. in 1992 to form what then became Australia's second largest wine group, BRL Hardy Limited. In 2003, the brands of BRL Hardy and those of Constellation Brands were merged to create the world's largest international wine business. BRL Hardy Limited was renamed The Hardy Wine Company, which became Accolade Wines in 2011 through further sales, mergers, and acquisitions.

Hardys Tintara Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

This bottle has a screw cap. Nothing wrong with that, as is somewhat common in Australian wines; even more so those from New Zealand. It pours a medium, transparent purple, with aromas of cherries and other red fruit on the nose. On the palate, more defined flavors of red and black cherry emerge, rather than the blueberry and cassis more common in Cabernet Sauvignon, supported by moderate, dusty tannins and balanced acidity. With its somewhat recessive fruit, I would characterize this as an Old World style of wine even though it comes from the New. ABV is 14.0%.

For more about Tintara wines and many other wine and spirits reviews, be sure to visit www.winervana.com.



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Produced by Whiskey Hill Brewery
in Westmont, Illinois

Good from the 1st tee box all the way to the 19th hole!



Available at Green Street Grille in Bensenville,
and hopefully at a golf club near you.

www.whiskeyhillbrewing.com

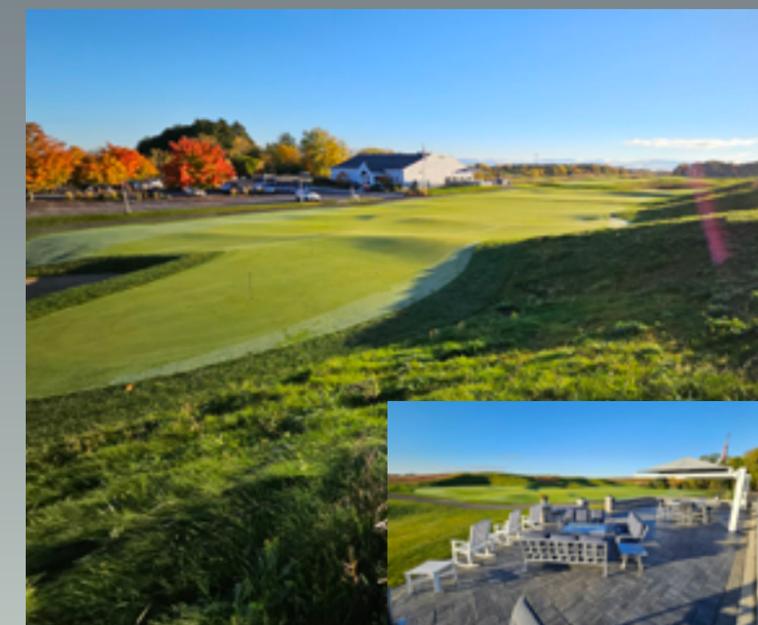
The Bellwether: Chicagoland's Premier Putting Course at Shepherd's Crook

Shepherd's Crook Golf Course is both challenging and exciting to play. It is a links-style course that returns golfers to the game's past by creating a feeling of playing Ireland's Ballybunion or Waterville courses. Shepherd's Crook's design reflects the golden era of golf course architecture of the 1920s and 30s, with bentgrass fairways, tees, and greens.



SHEPHERD'S CROOK

shepherdcrook.org



351 North Green Bay Rd. | Zion, IL 60099 | (847) 872-2080



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Belmont Golf Club

630-963-1306
2420 Haddow Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
belmontgolfclub.org

The historic Belmont Golf Club is a scenic 9-hole par-36 course featuring mature trees, natural areas, elevation, and water hazards. A driving range with 24 hitting stations, a practice putting green, sand trap, and chipping area includes a 10-station covered shelter.



Abbey Springs

262-275-6113
One Country Club Dr.
Fontana, WI 53125
abbeysprings.org

Abbey Springs has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest*. With spectacular views of Geneva Lake, Abbey Springs underwent a major green renovation in 2021, featuring state-of-the-art 007 bent grass on all greens. Make your reservation at the web site above.



Bettinardi Studio B Oak Brook

630-819-8592
1225 22nd St. Ste. 130
Oak Brook 60523
bettinardi.com/pages/studio-b

Studio B Oak Brook by Bettinardi is now open! Visit the immersive performance center and boutique store with unparalleled short-game fittings by appointment, or shop our vast apparel and accessory collections!



Arrowhead Golf Club

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.



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.



Balmoral Woods Golf Club

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

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

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



Bullseye Golf Club

715-423-2225
2800 Ridgewood Trail
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
bullseyegolfclub.com

Designed by Larry Packard featuring towering pines giving a feel of the Carolinas right in Central Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River provides a picturesque view for the finishing holes across our rolling terrain. Warm up before your round on our new 30,000 sq. ft. bent grass practice tee!



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27W270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com

Part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Cantigny Golf opened in 1989 and is managed by KemperSports. A renovation of Cantigny's highly rated 27 holes begins in June 2024 with the Hillside nine, followed by the Woodside and Lakeside nines. Eighteen holes will remain open for play throughout the three-year project. Cantigny Golf Academy offers TrackMan Range technology, installed in 2023, plus club fitting and repair services, junior clinics, private lessons and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for families.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

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

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

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award
- *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.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

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



Erin Hills

866-772-4769
7169 County Road O
Erin, WI 53027
erinhills.com/

Erin Hills is a course like none other — routed over the kettle moraine areas left by glaciers, surrounded by wetlands and a river, with ground that consists of glacial till of varied composition of sand and small rock. In an unconventional decision for a course in Wisconsin, the architects routed the fairways around contours of the property and provided a firm playing surface that plays shorter than its length on the scorecard.



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 at www.DuPageGolf.com



Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego Park District's fun and challenging public course, boasts lush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,925-yard par-72 course tests skills of all levels with well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, USGA Qualifiers, Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers, and is home to the annual Fox Bend Amateur. Visit foxbendgolfcourse.com for more information or to book your next tee time. Visit Christina's Pub & Grill before or after your round to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with great course views and American fare done right!



Maple Meadows Golf Club

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

Maple Meadow's 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 at www.DuPageGolf.com



Game of Irons

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

Game of Irons is Chicagoland's most exciting virtual golf experience! Be transported to over 200 world-famous courses in the comfort of a premium indoor facility with 16 hitting bays in over 18,000 sq. ft. - perfect for corporate events, parties, and club meetings. We offer a full bar with craft cocktails and amazing food. We invite you to try out our #1 rated simulators with moving floors that adjust to the course contours, auto ball tee and multiple turf types (fairway, rough and bunker).





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Heritage Oaks Golf Club
847-291-2351
3535 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60623
heritageoaksgc.com

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



GOLFTEC Orland Park
O: 708-304-4871
C: 708-698-1197
9559 151st St., Suite 5C
Orland Park, IL 60462
www.golftec.com

For golfers Southwest of Chicago near Orland Park, IL looking for golf lessons, golf instruction, or a custom club fitting, GOLFTEC Orland Park is the answer. At our state-of-the-art Training Center, you'll find all the tools you need to help you improve your golf game.



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.



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

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



Kankakee Elks Country Club
815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elks golf627.com

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

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

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



The Haven Indoor Golf
708-671-8052
12317 S. Harlem Ave.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
thehavenindoorgolf.com

The Haven Indoor Golf & Bar is the only indoor facility in the Southwest Suburbs using Foresight GC Hawks! Our simulators are true game improvement simulators making us the premier facility in the Southwest suburbs.

Foresight Sports launch monitors use exact photometric measurements and image processing taken with a clear, direct view of the critical ball launch condition and club head into impact. The result? Our launch monitors measure – not estimate – club head data based on the club's triangulated face plane, delivering vastly more accurate results.



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



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

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

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

The Pine, due to its challenging design, has been host to all types of competitive events ranging from PGA Jr. League, to Men's and Women's State Ams, to Illinois PGA Championships.

This is truly a golf facility for everyone.



Lake Arrowhead
715-325-2929
1195 Apache Lane
Nekoosa, WI 54457
lakearrowheadgolf.com

Located in the heart of Central Wisconsin, Lake Arrowhead boasts two of the Midwest's elite 18-hole golf courses. Here you have the rare opportunity to enjoy not just one, but two 4½ star championship golf courses in one incredible experience.



Prairie Landing Golf Club
630-208-7600
2325 Longest Dr.
West Chicago, IL 60185
prairielanding.com

Prairie Landing Golf Course is a prairie links style 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The course has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest* for "Best Places to Play." Prairie Landing Golf Club prides itself on offering the quintessential golf experience of the Chicagoland Area.



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 recently updated and expanded practice area featuring a one-acre turf range tee, large practice green, and practice bunker. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



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 Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Northern Bay Resort and Marina
608-339-2090 ext. 2
1844 20th Avenue
Arkdale, WI 54613
northernbayresort.com

Play where the pros play.

Experience our unique replica golf course inspired by the most celebrated holes in the game and situated on the shores of Castle Rock Lake.

Northern Bay offers all the amenities of a Wisconsin Dells resort without all the hustle and bustle. Bring your golf buddies to play our one-of-a-kind replica course, or relax around the lake with your family. However you choose to stay, we look forward to greeting you at Northern Bay. Get started and book your tee time.



Purdue's Ackerman-Allen Course
765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Ackerman-Allen Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, parkland-style, par-72 championship golf course featuring large bent-grass greens, fairways and tees. The layout presents a challenge for golfers of all abilities with rolling hills, tree-lined fairways, white sand bunkers, and minimal water hazards. Ackerman-Allen offers five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,500 yards and the forward tees playing at 5,300 yards.





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Shepherd's Crook Golf Course

847-872-2080
351 North Green Bay Rd.
Zion, IL 60099
www.shepherdscrook.org

Shepherd's Crook has earned rave reviews as a course that is both challenging and exciting to play. Keith Foster, who has designed some of the most interesting courses built in the last 10 years, created a links-style course that feels like playing Ireland's Ballybunion or Waterville courses. The design reflects the golden era of golf course architecture of the 1920s and 30s, with bentgrass fairways, tees, and greens. "Shepherd's Crook is routed with classic and strategic design principles that cut features naturally to the terrain. The vision of Shepherd's Crook returns golfers to the game's past." – Keith Foster, Architect



Purdue's Kampen-Cosler Course

765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Kampen-Cosler Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, links-style, par-72 championship course features large bent-grass greens, fairways, and tees. The layout is a challenge for golfers of all abilities with vast sand bunkers, native grasslands, ponds, and a natural celery bog. There are five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,400 yards and the forward tees at 5,300 yards.

Kampen-Cosler, one of the top collegiate courses in the nation, has been awarded 4.5 stars on *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play." It receives high marks as one of the most difficult golf courses in Indiana.



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.



The Shack Indoor Golf

847-904-2905
1717 Chestnut Ave.
Glenview IL, 60025
theshackgolfclub.com

The Shack Indoor Golf Club features TrackMan® simulator technology for an immersive golf experience. Enjoy delicious food and drinks from our full bar while practicing your swing. Perfect for socializing or improving your game, come and tee off at our state-of-the-art facility.



University Ridge Golf Course

608-845-7700
9002 County Rd. PD
Madison, WI 53593
universityridge.com

University Ridge is home to the University of Wisconsin Men's & Women's Golf Teams. Since 2016, University Ridge has been the host site of the PGA Tour Champions, American Family Insurance Championship, which is hosted by Ryder Cup Captain Steve Stricker.

Play where the Badgers and the Pros play! University Ridge!



White Pines Golf Club

630-766-0304
500 W. Jefferson
Bensenville, IL 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, have been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. The public course, owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District, is an excellent choice for players of all skill levels. Whether it's an evening at the lighted driving range, a casual round with friends, an outing or special event, White Pines Golf Club offers the perfect setting to get "away from it all." Enjoy food and drink at 37 Bar & Grill. Take advantage of Monday-Thursday tee time specials and book online.



Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

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

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



Wilmette Golf Club

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

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



Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd St.
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org

Springbrook GC commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. This 18-hole parkland-style championship course was renovated in 2022, and is expected to reopen in mid-year of 2023 with exciting updates including new tees and bunkers. Work on your swing at the one-acre turf practice tee, or fine tune your short game at the large practice putting green or two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard Golf Club

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

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

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



Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344
6700 W. Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

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

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



X-Golf Kildeer

847-847-1723
20771 N Rand Rd Suite I-4
Kildeer, IL 60047
xgolfkildeer.com

XGolf Kildeer offers an upscale indoor golf experience. State-of-the-art golf simulators, full bar, private and semi-private rooms, and wide open floor plan!



X-Golf Libertyville

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

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

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



X-Golf Orland Park

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

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



X-Golf Schaumburg

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

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

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



Dennis Johnsen Ends 50 Years of Service at Pine Meadow GC

While there have been a lot of changes at Pine Meadow Golf Club in the past quarter century, one constant has been the presence of Dennis Johnsen, Club Manager and Director of Golf. But after 50 years working as a PGA Professional and serving as Pine's head pro since December of 2005, Johnsen has announced that he will retire following the upcoming golf season.

It's been a wild ride for the St. Charles native who has never wandered too far from his Chicago roots. In fact, Johnsen has never worked outside of the Chicago area. A 1970 graduate of St. Charles High School, Dennis would earn a degree in political science from Illinois State University. His first job was as an assistant pro at his hometown Pottawatomie Golf Course.

Johnsen would serve as head golf professional at Pheasant Run Resort (again, in St. Charles) before making the move to Pine Meadow, named Best New Public Course in the U.S. when it opened



in 1986. There, he would work for the legendary Jemsek family and says he is blessed to have had that opportunity.

"Frank was just an extremely positive individual," recalls Johnsen. "And his daughter, Katherine, who's been my boss for the past 15 or 16 years, it's pretty much the same thing."

The golf business can be a grind, and one thing Dennis won't miss is the long hours. What he will miss, though, are the hundreds of Pine Meadow golfers he has built friendships with over all these years.

"The thing about playing Meadow is that yes, we are a public facility, but I'm most proud to say that we have successfully developed a real club atmosphere," he notes. "We're not there just for a greens fee and our regular customers know that. We've done a good job at maximizing the player's enjoyment and experience, whether they are here to play 18 holes or simply work on their game utilizing one of the nicest practice facilities in Illinois."

"None of it could be done without my staff, grounds crew, greens superintendent Scott Denil and ground maintenance superintendent Javier Garcia; it's just amazing at what they get done. In the last few years, Chris Evans has been a tremendous support person for me in the golf operations department."

Dennis has done it all over the years and has been recognized along the way for his commitment to junior golfers and our nation's veterans alike. He hosted the state's first PGA Junior League event hosted by Pine Meadow which had 24 kids. Today, there are more than 3,000 Chicago area participants in the PGA Junior League.

He is unmatched when it comes to his commitment to PGA Hope, the flagship program of PGA REACH, which introduces golf to veterans and active-duty military to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. Johnsen was honored with the PGA's Patriot Award this year while the year before the honor was bestowed upon Pine Meadow instructor Robert Powers.

Johnsen was honored by the PGA of America in 2010 as Merchandiser of the Year and six years later, shortly after launching the PGA Junior League

in 2016, was recipient of the PGA of America's Youth Player Development Award.

"It's been quite a ride and I have been so lucky with the people I've met along the way," he reminisced. "I've had dinner with Ben Hogan and have played some of the best golf courses in the country, many of those considered best in the world. Golf has allowed me to do a lot of things that I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. My dad was a truck driver and mom was a farm girl who worked as a waitress. Neither of them ever saw me play golf."

As a player, Dennis still has the chops to compete with his peers. He jokes his claim to fame was winning the Illinois Super Seniors Over 70 Division in 2023. Not a bad way to head out into the sunset.

"It's fun to see all the guys. For me, it's like a homecoming," says Johnsen. "We laugh and talk and most of them come in and say the same thing: When the hell are you going to retire?"

This year, he finally has an answer for them.

"It's been quite a ride and I have been so lucky with the people I've met along the way. I've had dinner with Ben Hogan and have played some of the best golf courses in the country, many of those considered best in the world."



Follow in the footsteps of golf's early legends, The Club at Lac La Belle is just a short drive — and perhaps a well-placed wedge — from Chicago.

www.clubatlaclabelle.com



YOUR DREAM GOLF DAY
find it at **SAND VALLEY**



BOOK ONLINE TODAY