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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for this spring.

With stunning views of the Hawaiian Islands and California coast, to the mildly entertaining Tuesday night TGL telecasts, professional golf has done a good job of keeping our attention this winter. They do their job of getting us fired up for the short golf season here in the Midwest.

I preach daily to my high school students (and adult students, too) that better course management is one the easiest ways to save strokes during a round. In this issue, writer Joe Aguilar introduces us to Mastermind Golf, a Naperville-based center that helps to train your brain to keep you more focused on the course.

Whether it's golf, a myriad of other sports, or simply a way to help seniors keep their brain functioning at a higher level, Mastermind provides a unique and important twist on assisting with the mental part of the game.

Travel-wise, we have three unique destinations that you probably haven't heard about but which you need to mark down on your 'to do' list.

First, senior writer Neal Kotlarek introduces us to Fripp Island, South Carolina. Known for its laid-back attitude, incredible seaside golf, and where some of the most memorable scenes from Forrest Gump were filmed, Fripp Island is a slice of lowlands heaven that should make its way on your golf bucket list.

We'll also take you to Charlotte Harbor, Florida, and the spectacular Aileron Golf Club, a private facility that is also available to guests staying at the nearby Sunseeker Resort on the Peace River and Gulf of Mexico. My wife and I played here on our 31st wedding anniversary in early February and found it the perfect way to spend a special day.

Finally, Hammock Beach Resort is a true gem on Florida's east coast. A selection of world class courses share space with waves crashing along a brilliant coastline. Nestled amid the natural beauty of Florida's Atlantic Coast, Hammock Dunes Club is so much more than a private, oceanfront country club. Its superior member experiences have earned it the prestigious Distinguished Emerald Club of the World recognition.

We hear from 2018 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Mike Carbray on the keys to achieving a consistent backswing and how crucial it can be for any golfer aiming to improve their game. Mike offers several drills that can provide a consistent backswing to ensure that you are set up correctly for the downswing and impact, leading to more accurate and powerful shots.

Our Good Stuff department highlights new equipment that you need to try to keep up with your buddies and the advances in equipment technology that keeps improving year after year.

We've hit everything we write about this month and were impressed with the results.

Sweet Home Chicago keeps you up to date on local news you can use, including an introduction to Pine Meadow Golf Club's new head professional and Mundelein native Tyler Wollberg, dates for this summer's Drive, Chip, and Putt qualifying sites, and much more.

So please join me by not seeing our shadow and welcoming an early start to this spring golf season. Fingers crossed.

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THE GOOD STUFF



From the L.A.B. to the Green

L.A.B. putters are growing in popularity on the PGA Tour, and after putting one in our hands we can see why. L.A.B. (Lie Angle Balance) technology minimizes torque and helps deliver a square putter face with your current stroke. The feeling is butter and the results are even smoother. The DF3 model has earned a place in the bag as it is so easy to roll. Best of all, they are built and assembled right here in the good ole USA.
$449 www.labgolf.com



If it Ain't Broke, Make it Better

The Bridgestone e6 golf ball is the elder statesman of the Bridgestone lineup. 18 years to be exact. Yet, every few years Bridgestone tweaks it just enough to make it better without ruining a golf consumer staple. The new e6 Soft keeps its soft touch and adds a higher launch profile while also minimizing driver spin. All of that and still less than $25 per dozen? Might be the best deal in golf.
$23.99 www.bridgestonegolf.com



In the Mix

The perfect post-round cocktail is different for everyone. A constant, however, should be this delicious lineup from Badger Bevs. Feel free to add your favorite spirit to these all-natural flavors including Sparkling Blood Orange, Sparkling Grapefruit, Ginger Ale, Ginger Beer, Tonic Water, or Club Soda. Equally as refreshing on their own for a non-alcoholic refresher, as well
$8 (4-pack) www.badgerbevs.com

Tread Lightly

The Adizero franchise returns to the game of golf in 2025 as adidas introduces the ultra-light Adizero ZG. The spikeless design has an innovative outsole that does all of the heavy lifting with traction and stability. Inspiration from adidas running shoes adds to the comfort of the sock liner and molded cushioning. The Adizero ZG is available in both laced and BOA models for both men and women.
$180 www.adidas.com



REVO Line by Annika

REVO sunglasses, celebrating their 40th anniversary, just launched their latest line, the Annika 3, a collaboration with the HOF LPGA golfer Annika Sorenstam. Blending performance and elegance, these glasses provide protection on and off the course. Filtering out UV, HEV, and Blue Light rays these NASA-based-technology lenses provide color definition and enhanced contrast. Less rays and more holed putts; we're in.
$229 www.revo.com





Favorite Subject: Recess

Sunday Golf produces some of the most distinct golf bag designs, and now youth golfers can follow suit. The Recess Kids Golf Bag series is all of Sunday Golf's quality with added flare to appeal to youngsters 5 to 12. Lightweight for carrying, but also an easy push with a cart, these bags come in four color options and in two sizes.
$149.99 www.sundaygolf.com.



Prime Distances

Bushnell had every excuse to make the new A-1 Slope a more expensive laser rangefinder, but instead packed it full of improved technology and kept it budget-friendly. Bravo. This model has all of the great Bushnell features such as PinSeeker with JOLT Technology and BITE Magnetic Skin, but is packaged in a more compact and sleek body that is durable and ready for the elements.
$299.99 www.bushnellgolf.com

INSTRUCTION



Mike Carbray

Five Backswing Drills for More Consistency

The one thing I hear from my students on a regular basis is that they would like to be more consistent when they play golf. Well, what does that mean? It is different for every golfer, but it usually boils down to hitting more good shots, and when they do hit one bad, it's not that far offline. When I help them develop more consistency, my goal as a coach is to find what part of the swing is making them inconsistent. One of the first places I look is the backswing. Achieving a consistent backswing is crucial for any golfer aiming to improve their game. A consistent backswing ensures that you are set up correctly for the downswing and impact, leading to more accurate and powerful shots. Below are five effective drills that can help you develop a more consistent backswing. The only thing you will need is a club and a wall.

Drill 1: Take Away: Arms Disconnected from Body

Correct: Using a wall one club length directly behind you, set up as if you are about to make a swing. Slowly take the club back and watch your club when the shaft is parallel to the ground. Ensure that your club head is in line with your hands, and the shaft is pointed on the line of your toes or your intended target.

Incorrect: There are two ways to do this incorrectly. [1] Your lead arm is separated from your body and the club head is not in line with your hands. [2] You have rolled your hands in the takeaway and the club head has moved behind your hands.

Drill 2: Flat Shoulder Pivot / Coming Out of Posture

Correct: Take a normal setup with your head slightly away from a wall in front of you. Place a golf club on your shoulders and if your pivot is too flat, the club will hit the wall. If you turn and tilt correctly, the club will stay away from the wall.

Incorrect: When making a backswing, your shoulders turn too flat to the ground which makes the clubhead work behind your body and off plane.

Drill 3: Sway off the Ball

Correct: Place a ball between your lead hip and the wall. Don't let the ball fall out as you rotate into your backswing. You will learn to stay centered, and your pelvis will not move lateral, and your spine won't tilt towards the target.

Incorrect: Your lower body sways away from the target limiting pelvis rotation which causes your upper half to tilt towards the target (reverse pivot).

Drill 4: Club Across the Line

Correct: Stand with the wall behind you. Make backswings and feel the back of the club head touch the wall at the top of your backswing. This will help you feel where the club should be at the top of your swing.

Incorrect: Standing with the wall behind you, you never make contact with the wall and the club is pointed outside your hands at the top.

Drill 5: Overswing

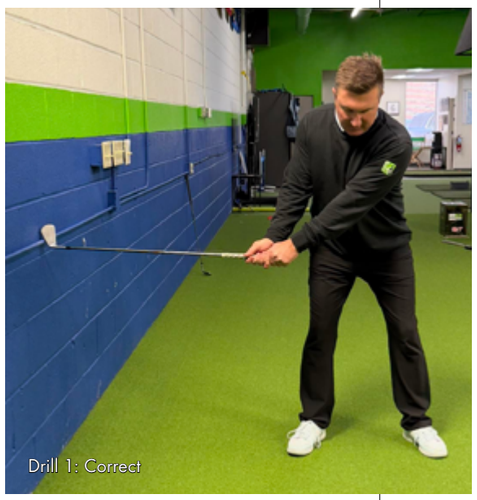
Correct: Stand with the wall to your lead side and swing the club to the top where it just barely touches the wall. To help this feel, make your backswing more with your chest, keeping your wrist angles constant.

Incorrect: Too long of an arm swing at the top. This results in arms breaking down and losing control of the club face.

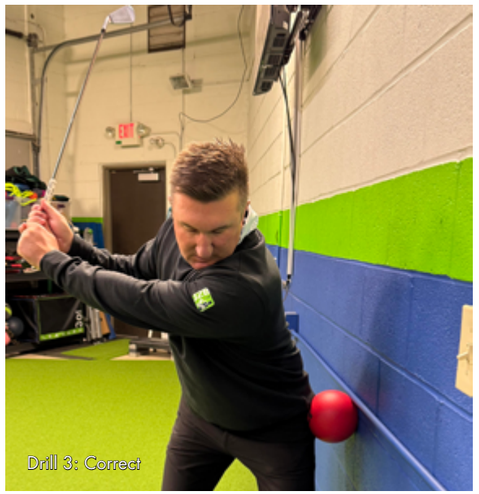
Conclusion: Consistency

Remember that consistency comes from repetition and attention to detail, so be patient and diligent in your practice. Incorporating these drills into your practice routine can significantly improve the consistency of your backswing. With time and effort, you'll see improvements in your swing and overall performance on the course. I hope these drills help to make the 2025 golfing season enjoyable.

Mike Carbray is the Director of Instruction at Butterfield Country Club, the owner of Journey 2 Better Golf in Westmont, and the 2018 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year.
www.mikecarbraygolf.com
For more tips, follow Mike on Instagram @ mikecarbraygolf


Drill 1: Correct


Drill 2: Correct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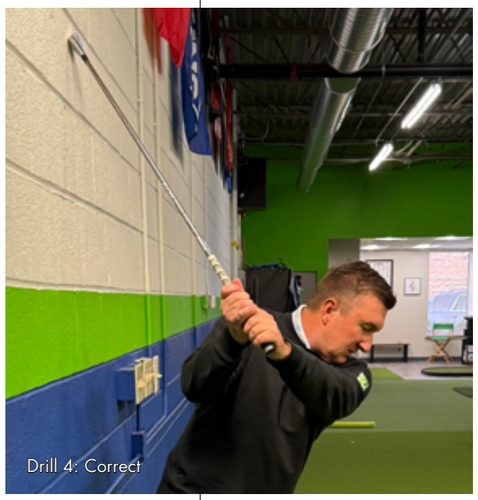
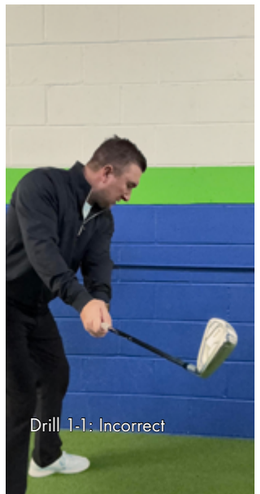
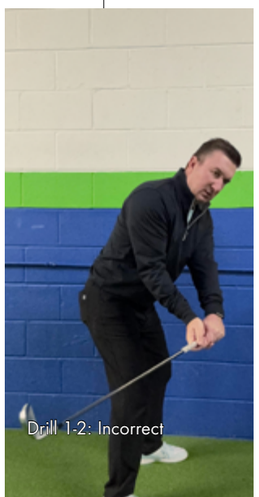
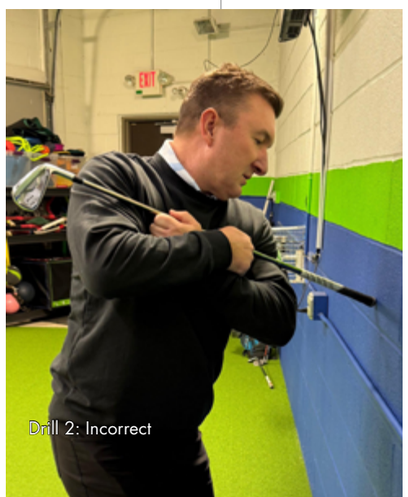
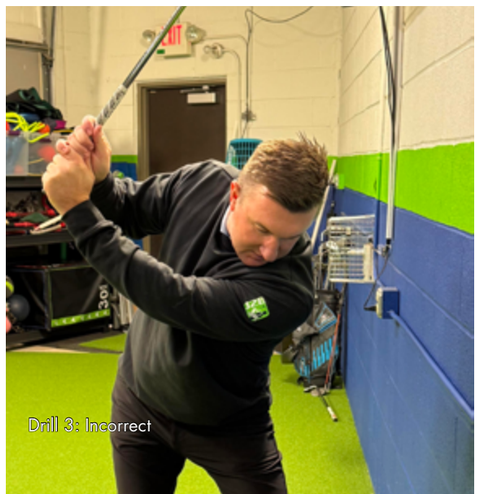

Drill 4: Correct


Drill 5: Correct


Drill 1-1: Incorrect


Drill 1-2: Incorrect


Drill 2: Incorrect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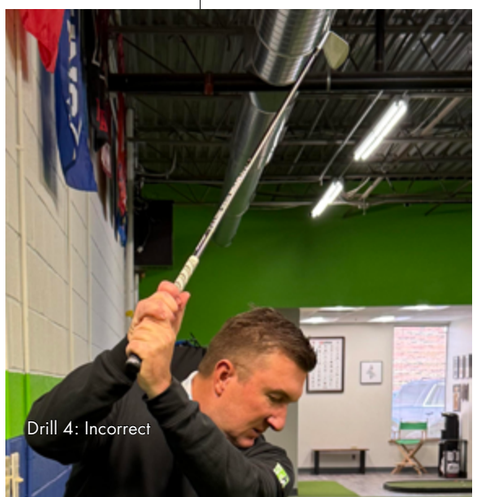
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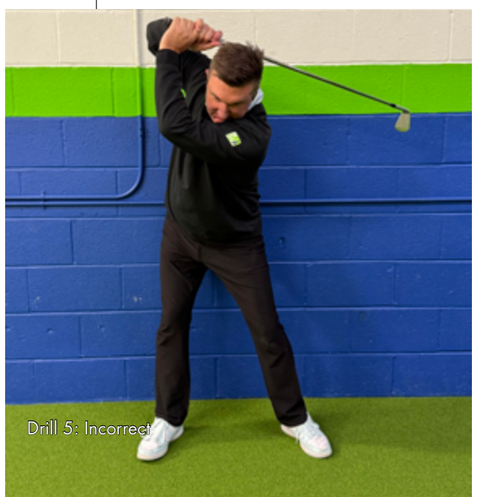

Drill 5: Incorrect

TRAVEL

A Pair of Gems on the Florida Atlantic Coast

Danny and Alice Scott

On the Palm Coast of Florida, the expansive Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa is a special retreat with two distinct, top-rated courses, superb amenities and unparalleled cuisine set along the sparkling Atlantic Ocean. From arrival to departure at the palatial resort, guests are treated warmly by a staff who become familiar throughout the stay.

Accommodations in the villas or towers are spacious with balcony views to survey the grounds and ocean beyond. Begin the day here with coffee or tea and proceed to a leisurely breakfast at the Atlantic Grille by the sea or grab a quick bite at the lobby and proceed to a tee time.

Shuttles are efficient for delivery to The Conservatory golf course. Tom Watson's Signature design has the highest slope rating and is the longest course in Florida for a true challenge. It is a swell course. Literally, some of the fairway swells seem like ski moguls. Watson originally placed 187 bunkers to maneuver but for improved play 40 were removed, and seven tee combinations are set to please any golfer's distance. The Conservatory meanders through Floridian wilderness over some crushed cocinas cart paths. A wooden bridge carries carts clickety clacking through everglade terrain. Soothing waterfalls pop up and a magnificent stone bridge is spotted from the 7th tee with water flowing beneath to number 8s green on the other side, one of the prettiest par 3s anywhere. Go long on this one as the green will accommodate, but the water in front will not. Rounds are serenaded by the melody of birds singing and wind whistling through pines and moss-laced oaks.

The Ocean Course, a Jack Nicklaus signature design, is front and center to the resort. Perfectly complementing The Conservatory, it is a bit easier to tackle, starting with a short walk to the clubhouse for a cart which is driven up and over a bridge to the peaceful seaside practice area. Jack weaves his magic through salt marshes and dunes with a crescendo of Atlantic waves on each nine. Every hole offers a new visual masterpiece. In procession to number 15, the cart display announces, "You are now entering The Bear Claw." The final four holes engage the elements of wind, tight fairways, and undulating greens for an intense finish. The Ocean Course was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and closed for a year. It was redesigned with the aid of Army Corp of Engineers. Hurricane Milton in 2024 again flooded the 18th fairway, but this time it drained in 12 hours thanks to the paspalum, a warm-season perennial grass that is highly salt tolerant, tolerant to wet soils, and prolonged cloudy conditions. It is best adapted in coastal areas and is most often used as a grass for golf courses in areas impacted by salt.

That final hole is entertaining not only for golfers but diners at the Atlantic Grille and resort guests gazing from their balconies. Adirondack chairs sweetly placed above the fairway offer another vantage point to watch dolphins, boats, or golfers gauging the wind and picking their swing for the uphill battle to the green by the clubhouse and beach boardwalk.

Members and guests enjoy the rare stretch of pristine sand on the beach where turtles hatch and starfish sparkle between kokimo rocks. Take long walks inhaling the fresh sea air or lounge the day away watching the waves, passersby, and perhaps a few surfers maneuvering to catch their perfect breaker. Horseback riding on the beach is arranged by the concierge as well as a new activity: "go carting" on the water at the nearby harbor.

In lieu of golf, the beach is an excellent option as well as the pool complex, complete with a water slide for inner or actual children. Inner tubes are fun for lazing along the river or twirling in the sun, while sore joints may be relieved in the giant jacuzzi facing the ocean. Catch up on reading or simply chill poolside or beachside.

Further resort amenities include tennis, fitness center and classes, a spa, and a kids camp with babysitting available. Every day is stellar with all the activities or relaxation choices. The golf is managed by Troon Privé and led by Brad Hauer who says, "I pinch myself every day and never take it for granted." He came because the owners





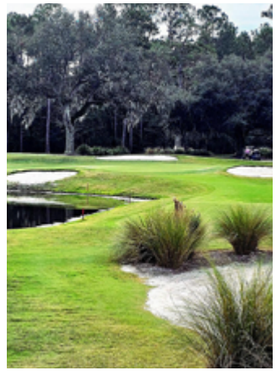












wanted to make this the best and it is, but he is not ready to retire, wanting to pass his knowledge on to the young people.

Two more Troon golf courses are just thirty minutes away in St Augustine at World Golf Village. The King & Bear was designed by none other than Arnie and Jack with a gallery of their photos and sayings in the clubhouse hallways. The course was restored in 2024 to the tune of $2.5 million with a focus on improving the course's playability while preserving its original character. The resurfaced greens run pure on the course in the natural setting among lakes, loblolly pines, and oaks.

The second, Slammer & Squire course is a collaboration between Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen. Reagan Davis takes pride in managing the World Golf Village complex and since he hung out with "the biggies in golf from the 50s and 60s," he has lots of stories to share.

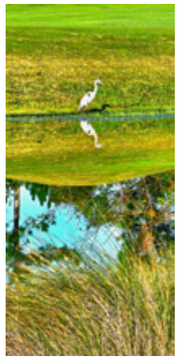
Downtown St. Augustine is a blast to explore. Founded in 1565, many original sites have been preserved like the oldest jail, oldest store, oldest schoolhouse and the 1700s seaside fort, Castillo de San Marcos. Hop on and off the Old Town Trolley at any interesting spot, with entertaining narration along the way and take the Scenic Cruise aboard Victory III for a waterside view of the town with dolphins leaping, perhaps on cue. Climb the second highest lighthouse in Florida for a bird's eye view or view the pink flock of roseate spoonbills cohabitating with the giant lizards at the Alligator Farm.

St. Augustine is great if you can drag yourself away from the fantastic golf, beach and amenities at Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa. The culinary experiences at Hammock Beach are as extraordinary as the golf, incorporating fresh ingredients, creativity, and ambience in unique settings. Family, friends, or corporate outings have several beach spots to choose from for unforgettable occasions or celebrations. Imagine a surf and turf feast with the waves in the background where Tomahawk steaks sear on the open flame and seafood spreads satisfy the most indulgent palate from oysters to netted crawfish in a seafood boil, and even lobster.

At Stix Authentic Sushi, delicacies are creatively concocted and served on a wooden boat with sake or Japanese whisky. Delfinos Italian chophouse forms chicken parmesan on a pizza pan for two that is big enough to share with the whole table. Loggerheads Sports Bar is great for casual meet ups and to cheer on your favorite team. These and more restaurants are reserved exclusively for members and guests of Hammock Beach except Atlantic Grille which is open to the public and popular for all three meals as well as the view.

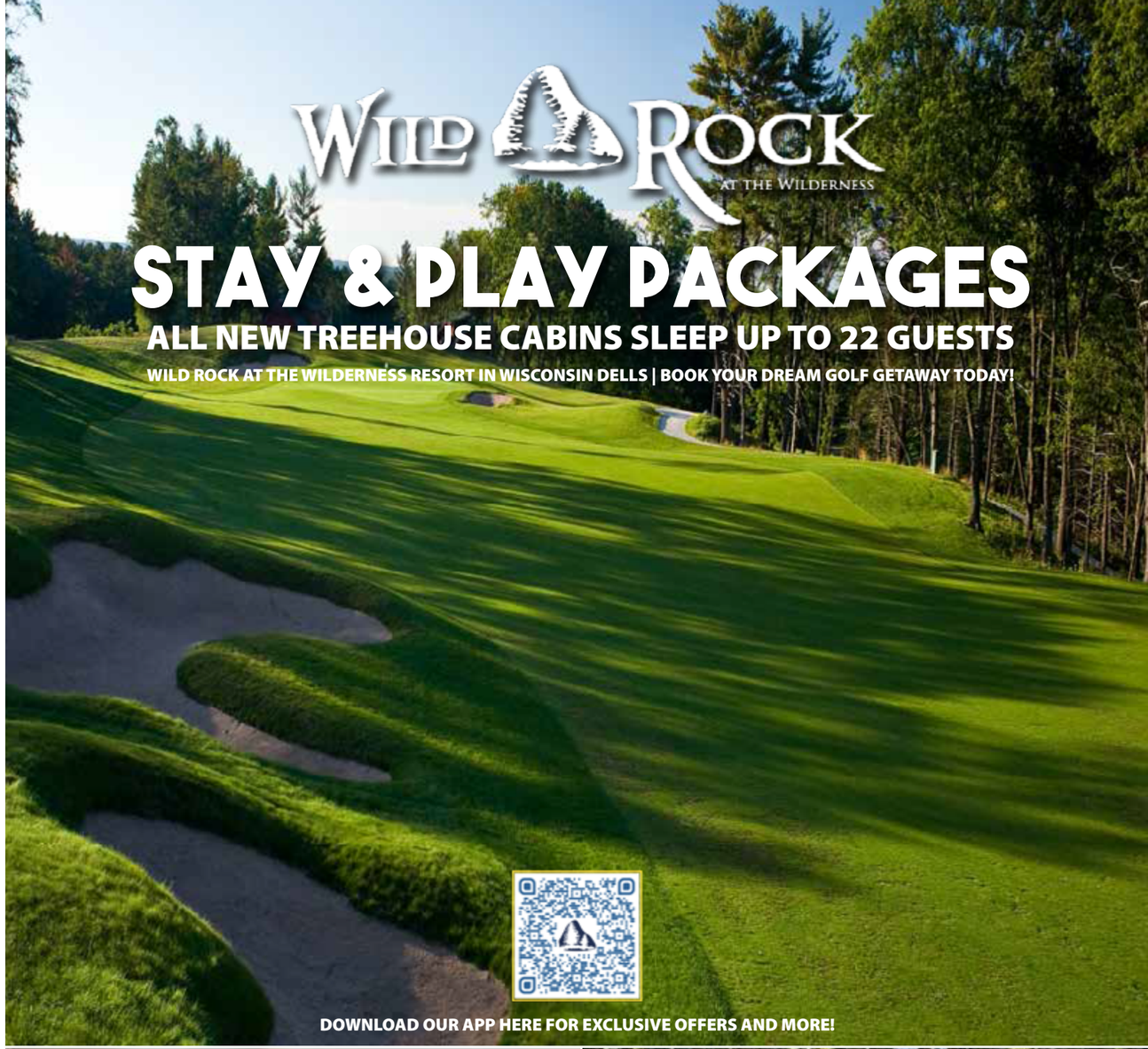
Hammock Beach warrants repeat visits with all the elements of a luxury oceanside vacation for golf buddies, gals, couples and families, year-round. Escape the snow or beat the heat on the beach at www.hammockbeach.com.













TRAVEL

Dave Silbar

Ready for Takeoff: Aileron Golf Club

Ladies and gentlemen, please fasten your seatbelts, we're ready for takeoff. Today, we are headed towards a wonderful experience of playing 18 holes at Aileron Golf Club.

Aileron is a private club located in Southwest Florida, sandwiched between Fort Myers and Sarasota, near the coastal community of Port Charlotte. The exclusive new club is available to up to 75 members and guests staying at Sunseeker Charlotte Harbor Resort.

Sunseeker occupies over 22 waterfront acres with 785 guestrooms, including 189 Signature Sunsuites. Set upon the Peace River and Florida Gulf Coast, Sunseeker offers a variety of original food and beverage concepts offering over 400+ menu items onsite; including six stand-alone restaurants, bars and lounges, poolside offerings and 25,000-square-foot Harbor Yards food hall experience with 10 signature concepts.

Additional hotel amenities include a waterfront promenade, two unique rooftop and waterfront pool experiences, 60,000-square-feet of combined convention space, full-service spa and salon, a 7,100-square-foot state-of-the-art fitness center with four group exercise studios with specialty instructor lead classes, three retail and market shops, and an 18-hole championship level golf club exclusive to hotel guests only.

Open since December 2023, Aileron and Sunseeker Resort are wholly owned subsidiaries of Allegiant Travel Company, the airline that shuttles travelers to destinations across the U.S and whose name sits on the stadium where the Las Vegas Raiders play.

Nods to the airline are a consistent theme inside the club, with aeronautical artwork adorning the walls and an actual plane wing on the wall in its restaurant and lounge.

The golf course is located about five miles inland from the resort. Driving into any gated golf community is always met with anticipation of what lies beyond the security hut. Here, that anticipation grows stronger as you drive through perfectly manicured fairways and greens and alligator-filled ponds which Florida golf is synonymous with.

Greeted by friendly staffers at the bag drop once parked, hospitality is a common theme here, as is a golf staff filled with PGA professionals working in the golf shop, sprawling range, short game areas, and elsewhere.

The course is beautiful, fair, and challenging. Fairways are wide but most holes have enough water running on either side to tighten you up a bit on the tee box.

And yes, as mentioned, this course is home to a rich variety of Florida wildlife, from native birds to snakes and other unique species. Wildlife can sometimes be present near golfers, and alligators can occasionally be spotted basking in the sun, but they, like the rest of the wildlife, keep to themselves.

The course is highlighted by several par fives that wind around lakes and several par threes that feature island-like greens. The putting surfaces are smooth as glass and roll as true as they come. Speeds were fitting of a private club and nary a ball mark could be seen throughout the round.

Allegiant bought the property in 2019. "At the time, the course was public and in less than great shape," according to Head PGA Professional Matthew Gagnon. "Think of Bushwood Country Club in *Caddyshack*," he laughs before continuing.

"When the pandemic hit and development paused, leadership took the opportunity to reimagine the course and as you can see, the level of detail we were able to put forward shows. We have a very limited number of members and host a lot of corporate outings based on events that are being held at the Sunseeker Resort. Guests of the resort also have playing privileges here which is a great benefit."

Complimentary shuttles are provided between the course and resort if guests do not have their own vehicles.

This winter Aileron introduced four premium membership packages: Insider, Explorer, Traveler, and Young Executive. Designed to offer flexibility, luxury, and an unparalleled golfing experience, Aileron's membership options cater to golfers of all skill levels and lifestyles.

The Traveler membership, perfect for national guests, includes priority tee times, 40% off guest rates, waived greens fees (cart fee only), complimentary golf club rentals, and exclusive resort perks, all for a one-time fee of $10,500. The local (Insider), regional (Explorer), and Young Executive (under 40) memberships offer similar benefits, with varying initiation fees, ensuring options for every golfer's lifestyle.

A slew of additional benefits are provided for all tiers of membership, including dedicated concierge services, access to priority dining, spa and golf reservations, preferred member rate to play at Aileron Golf Club, complimentary access for members to Sunseeker Resort's Reflections Pool, 20% off access to Level Blue rooftop pool for members, membership access to the exclusive Sunseeker's Sunsuites guest lounge and the resort's 7,100 sq. ft. state-of-the-art fitness center, special membership-only classes throughout the year (cooking, fitness, off-site excursions, and more.

Designed by renowned golf architect and former collegiate golfer Kipp Schulties, Aileron offers Sunseeker guests a premier golf experience. The course features five tee options per hole, ranging from 5,000 to over 7,000 yards, including a 650-yard par 5, one of Florida's longest. The 10,500-square-foot clubhouse includes the Aviators Club restaurant, a pro shop with exclusive Aileron merchandise, and a fleet of cutting-edge EZ GO lithium-ion carts.

For golfers, the best perk of staying at Sunseeker is having access to Aileron. It's a rare opportunity to access a private country club with an outstanding golf course, practice facilities, dining and more. Several well-known instructors host week-long clinics here, allowing guests to stay at Sunseeker Resort and receive complimentary transportation to/from Aileron. The resort is easily accessible from both the Fort Myers and Sarasota airports and is about a two hour drive from Tampa.

For more information, visit www.sunseekerresorts.com.









TRAVEL

South Carolina's Fripp Island: Low Country Golf at Its Best

Neal Kotlarek

For a golfer, there are few greater joys in life than discovering a hidden gem that checks all of the boxes for architecture, beauty, conditioning, and experience. Somehow, someway, South Carolina's Fripp Island offers not just one but two diamonds in the rough with the added assets of coastal views and ocean breezes on both layouts.

The most seaward of all the South Carolina Sea Islands that protect the mainland from storms and hurricanes, Fripp Island is named after Captain Johannes Fripp—a pirate who (legend has it) was deeded the property by King Charles of England for protecting the crown in the 17th century. Today, the island is home to both 1,000 year-round residents and a broad spectrum of intriguing wildlife, including white-tail deer, loggerhead turtles, 175 species of birds, and a few hundred alligators. The centerpiece of this 3,000-acre paradise is the elegant and laid-back Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort. Resting on 3.5 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline, the resort incorporates an array of stylish vacation rental homes, a beach club, a marina, outdoor swimming pools and multiple restaurants. The property's centerpiece attractions are two diverse championship golf courses—each featuring an impressive number of spectacular oceanside and marshland holes.

Ocean Creek G.C. was opened in 1995 and was designed by PGA Tour star Davis Love II and Paul Cowley. Along with breathtaking views of saltwater marshes, the course is distinguished by four sand dune ridges that provide some surprising elevation changes. Wetlands and deep greenside sand bunkers provide the course with challenge while jungle vegetation and occasional encounters with deer, seagulls, and a few lazy alligators. The 18 holes also play fast as wide landing areas and massive putting surfaces make it a joy to play. Five sets of tees accommodate all handicap levels, from 6,586 yards from the backs all the way down to 4,787 yards from the "wee links" front tees.

"Island residents love the course for its sheer beauty and its impeccable greens," said John Scappatura, chief operating officer. "Every hole is fun and distinctive. But the best aspect is how the course moves from open areas to holes bordered by towering palmetto trees on one side and marshland on the other side.

Following the first five holes that introduce you to the layout and the impeccable greens, you arrive at a stunning stretch of holes along a marsh once called by legendary oceanographer Jacques Cousteau "one of the most pristine saltwater habitats in the world." This portion of the course is so spectacular and exotic that they were used as backdrop in the movies *Forrest Gump* and *Prince of Tides*. Gaze past a sparse tree line and enjoy a vast horizon of marsh alit by egrets, ospreys and herons.

The marsh borders the entire right side of both the 185-yd. par 3 No. 6 over wetlands, and of the tricky 409-yd. par 4 featuring an approach shot to a large green protected by thick rough, a bunker and wetlands in front and to the right.

My favorite hole on the back nine is No. 17 for personal and aesthetic reasons. The women's tee box on this hole rests adjacent to my rental home during my stay. Not only was I able to enjoy watching players tackle this hole from my screened-in porch, I was visited here throughout my stay by herds of deer and a pair of impressive alligators who liked to sun by a pond a safe distance away. Following the tee shot, players make their way to a huge kidney-shaped green perched on the edge of a more vast saltwater marsh.

Before taking on the resort's Ocean Point course located a 15-minute cart ride away from Ocean Creek, enjoy a tour of the island or schedule cocktails and dinner at one of the resort's two full-service restaurants. A tour of the island and strolls along the beach are an essential part of the Fripp Island experience. The island was once a hideaway for pirates who, some believe, buried their ill-gotten gains around the property. But leave your metal detector behind and instead hike along the paths of the Nature Center to enjoy the exotic Low Country vegetation and towering palmettos. Stop at the marina to rent a boat, enjoy a spectacular sunset, or partake in locally-sourced shrimp and oyster concoctions. The Beach Club restaurant is a short drive away and is a wedge shot away from the oceanside Sand Bar outdoor bar.

Now fully relaxed and refreshed for another day of golf, head to the Ocean Point course for one of the most memorable rounds of your life. This George Cobb design was originally opened in 1964 just after the resort was established. A fabulous $2.5 million renovation by Dye Designs served up a complete re-imagination of the course. New features include 5.5 acres of waste areas, 14 new bunkers, crushed limestone cart paths, the addition of over 13,000 native plants, additional tee boxes and reshaping of 53 bunkers. But the best features maintained from the original design are five holes with unfettered views of the Atlantic.

Even though No. 9 might not be the best or most challenging hole on the front nine, its location alongside the ocean and ending steps away from the crashing waves makes it a special experience.

No coincidence that Cobb and the mother-son team of Matt and Cynthia Dye-McCarey (Pete Dye's niece) saved what may be the best parcel of land on the island for last. The par-5 No. 18 begins modestly but quickly builds drama as bunkers and a pond pinch the second shot's landing area. From there, the ocean crashes to your left as you direct a short iron shot to a green just steps away from the deep blue sea. Enjoy the views, take pictures and start planning a second round on this course.

When the resort was purchased in early 2023 by Seascape Hospitality Group, one of the group's first priorities was to burnish the Ocean Point course above and beyond its original design. "We wanted the course to be as glorious as its seaside surroundings," said resort general manager Tom Frost. "Very few golf courses in America serve up five holes that run alongside the Atlantic Ocean. With some investment and a great design partner, we think Ocean Point has emerged as a course every golfer will want to play."

The hospitality group has earmarked $5 million for additional resort amenities, including on-course beverage services, restaurant upgrades and a putting course designed by Augustin Piza scheduled to break ground this spring. "Our goal is to introduce both Fripp Island and Fripp Island golf to the general public," said Frost. "Historically, the island is very busy in the summer and not as busy in the spring and fall. The combination of terrific rental homes, outstanding golf, a private island, and highly affordable golf packages makes Fripp Island a perfect destination for couples, families and golf groups.",

For rates, reservations and more information, visit the resort's website: www.fripislandresort.com.











Illinois PGA Legend Ed Oldfield Passes at Age 91

Dwight E. "Ed" Oldfield Sr., a distinguished Illinois PGA professional and revered golf instructor, passed away on Saturday, January 25, at the age of 91. He resided in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the time of his passing. Born in 1933, Ed's passion for golf led him to a remarkable career that left an indelible mark on the sport.

Elected as a PGA Member in 1957, Ed served as the Head Golf Professional at the Glen View Club from 1961 to 1989. He was later appointed as the first President of the Merit Club, where he played a pivotal role in bringing the 2000 U.S. Women's Open to the venue. His contributions to golf were recognized with his induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame in 1997.

Throughout his career, Ed was celebrated as one of the great golf instructors of his time. His roster of students included LPGA champions Betsy King and Jan Stephenson, as well as numerous amateur champions and USGA titleholders. He generously shared his expertise as a featured speaker at national teaching and coaching seminars worldwide, and co-authored the PGA Teaching Manual, instrumental in training future golf professionals.

In 1986, Ed was honored as the Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year, reflecting his exceptional service and dedication to golf instruction.

Ed Oldfield Sr.'s profound impact on the game of golf will be remembered by his peers, students, and the countless individuals he inspired throughout his life.

2025 Drive, Chip and Putt Local Qualifying Sites

The USGA, Masters Tournament and PGA of America announced today that registration for 2025 - 2026 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying is now open on DriveChipandPutt.com. This marks Drive, Chip and Putt's 12th season of qualifying events for boys and girls ages 7 to 15. The free program aims to provide a welcoming environment for youth to participate in golf and focus on the game's three fundamental skills. Local qualifying begins May 2 at 357 sites nationwide, including nine Chicago area locations and will continue throughout the summer.

Participants are grouped in separate girls' and boys' divisions in four age categories, with scoring centered around skill performance in driving, chipping, and putting.

From these qualifiers, 80 finalists – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to compete in the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 5, the eve of the 2026 Masters Tournament. Qualifiers are facilitated by all 41 Sections of the PGA of America across the country.

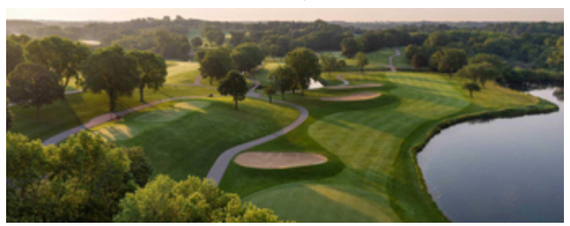


Here are the qualifying sites and dates for Illinois:

June 4	Boone Creek GC (Elburn)
June 11	The Hawk CC (St. Charles)
June 18	Bartlett Hills GC (Bartlett)
June 25	Pine Meadow GC (Mundelein)
July 2	Countryside GC (Mundelein)
July 8	Aldeen GC (Rockford)
July 9	Atkins GC (Champaign)
July 24	Harborside International GC (Chicago)
July 29	St. Andrews Golf and CC (West Chicago)

New Staff, Golf Packages on Tap at Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

Resort Director of Golf Ryan Brown has announced an expansion to the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa golf management team line-up. Head professional Drew Ringelstetter joins new Director of Player Development Robert Krasemann for the 2025 season. Ringelstetter has had previous stints at Sand Valley and Geneva National. Krasemann hails from Illinois and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina.



With the 2025 season just weeks away, the resort has announced a continuation of its successful Stay & Play Summer Packages. The offer (from May 23 – September 30th, with some blackout date exceptions) includes two free rounds of golf on the resort's two championships per each night's stay, based upon double occupancy. No restrictions on when you can play. Packages include cart fees, complete use of the practice facility with range balls (on day of tee time), club storage, locker room access, and GPS yardage system.

"I think it's the best golf deal in the state," said Brown. "Our Highlands and Brute courses are challenging, perfectly maintained courses that are available to guests of a fantastic full-serve hotel."

For reservations, call 877-741-9598 or access via the web: www.grandgeneva.com.

Tyler Wollberg Named GM, Head Golf Professional at Pine Meadow GC

Mundelein native Tyler Wollberg couldn't be happier to have been named the new General Manager and Head Golf Professional at Pine Meadow Golf Club. Wollberg grew up playing the course and attended Mundelein High School, where he was a member of the golf team. Wollberg was officially hired earlier this winter, filling the shoes left by the retiring Dennis Johnsen, who had spent more than four decades in the golf industry.

A graduate of Carthage College, Wollberg served as women's golf coach there from 2011 to 2019. He was most recently the men and women's head coach at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, a position he held from 2022 to 2024. But with a young family, Tyler jumped at the opportunity to return home and to a bit more normal schedule.



"I'm thrilled to be working at not only such a prestigious course as Pine Meadow but one that I grew up playing and helped shape who I am today."

Wollberg had also served as the head men's golf coach at University of Wisconsin-Parkside as well as first assistant professional at Kenosha Country Club.

Willow Hill Recently Renovated

Don't willow away, and be sure to visit the "new" Willow Hill Golf Course this year. This Northbrook mecca has recently renovated its 9-hole Scottish links course,which is one of the best 9s in all of Chicagoland. The par-35 course has improved the greens and have added the Billy Bunker System, the PGA Tour's preference for bunkering. The enjoyable design sits up high on a plateau featuring stunning views of the area, including the skyscrapers of downtown Chicago. It's also a great place to get lessons and practice on their all-grass driving range which will be brand new for the 2025 season.

Plus, the Landmark Inn (a downtown Northbrook staple), will be opening another restaurant location right here on property that will be sure to be an ideal 19th hole! Willow Hill is a year-round hub of activity that includes one of the largest indoor golf domes in the Midwest. The dome is also used for soccer, flag football, and a number of other sports for all ages.

1350 Willow Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60062
www.willowhillgolfcourse.com

The Golf Practice

Over the last decade, The Golf Practice indoor training facility in Highland Park has grown by leaps and bounds. Longtime PGA Tour Pro instructor Hank Haney, who had a six-year stint with Tiger Woods started teaching there last year. These days, Haney teaches anyone and everyone that wants to improve their game. Now, this all-encompassing facility has just opened a new operation in west suburban Lisle. Known for the impressive youth programs, this 15,000 square foot indoor playground has all of the technology one needs to improve their game.

Chris Oehlerking, PGA, The Golf Practice's owner and Dean of Instruction recently stated, "The opening of our second location in the western suburbs is more than just expansion—it's a testament to our passion and dedication to coaching and player development. It means more opportunities to grow the game, impact more players, and create a home for those who share our love for golf." The Golf Practice also has a full-size putting green complete with a real sand bunker and eight Trackman hitting bays. Their philosophy and teachings of the swing, mind, and body are true to the core of proper learning.

4995 Varsity Drive, Lisle, IL 60532
(630) 703-0877 www.thegolfpractice.com



SAND VALLEY

Five great walks, one unspoiled destination.

Welcome to Sand Valley. Settled on 12,000 acres of rugged dunes in the prehistoric Central Sands of Wisconsin, Sand Valley is home to five world-class golf courses featuring firm, links-style conditions, along with tennis, water activities, and farm-to-table dining. Here, welcoming hospitality and family-oriented community connects with golf, summer and winter recreation and the raw beauty and serenity of the vast Wisconsin wilderness.

SAND VALLEY · MAMMOTH DUNES · 17 SANDBOX · LIDO · SEDGE VALLEY

Exercise Your Brain

By Joe Aguilar



A bird perched on a branch next to the tee box sings, while a cell phone in your golf cart buzzes, while a gust of wind flaps the flag on the adjacent green, while a 30-handicapper yells, "get in the hole!" after hitting from 200 yards out.

A piece of grass lands on your Footjoys just as you begin your backswing.

You swing your driver, despite the many distractions, trivial as they may be.

Splash. You want to scream.

Funny, not funny, now everything and everyone is silent.

Brett Packee, director of golf instruction at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park, doesn't have a doctorate in psychology. He does have 35 years of teaching golf full-time, however, so he jokes that he should have a doctorate in psychology.

"I've seen and heard it all," Packee said. "A leaf falling, a twig breaking, a bird in the background should have zero effect on your process. If you're focused on your routine and your eyes are clear and they can see that dimple on the golf ball, the Titleist writing and the number on your ball, if you're really in the zone and really focused, you won't even hear that."

It's funny how golfers are. Most golfers are mid-to-higher handicappers but seem to require internal silence before they swing the club, the ability to block out all noises, no matter how big or small, all excuses, no matter how silly.

Mastermind, a company that offers a cognitive training program with a facility in Naperville, can help.

"It's essentially brain training," Mastermind CEO and founder Dominic Fedele said as his company prepared for its hard launch in early February. "It's making your brain process more efficiently."

Walk into Mastermind's facility at 1320 North Route 59, just south of Interstate 88, and what greets you is a combination of a spacious game room and gym. Prepare for a workout, both mentally and physically, and maybe bring a towel.

Big-screen monitors are mounted on walls. Circular mats cover parts of the floor. A rectangular carpet that resembles a hopscotch board grabs your attention too. One mounted monitor looks inconspicuous enough, but it serves as a virtual reality screen. Strapping on VR goggles, while standing on a circular carpet, welcomes you to a world of simulation with a variety of games and exercises to work your brain, reflexes ,and senses.

Sitting on a table to the left of the VR monitor is an eye-testing unit with cameras that fixate on your eyes.

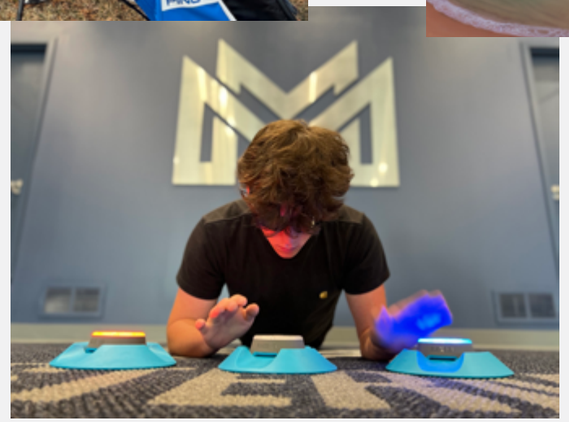
"When your eye is going around in a circle, just following something, it feels like it's just going in a perfect circle," Fedele said. "But it really has some movement going on. With some people, it's all over. [The unit] measures a lot of that, but it gets into reading and reading comprehension. One of the things we did that nobody else has done is we built eye exercises into the program. We're strengthening the eyes, the eye movement, the control, because it's so important with how it works with the brain."

Mastermind welcomes all athletes (mainly between the ages of 10 and 18) and non-athletes, even seniors. Besides golfers, Fedele said customers have included race car drivers, football, baseball, softball, hockey, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse players, and wrestlers. Fedele said even a fireman used the program in hopes of helping him on his lieutenant test.









Growing up, Fedele, a St. Charles resident and a married father of two, was part of the first wave of video gamers, the Atari generation during the 1970s. He graduated with an accounting degree from Elmhurst University, worked in the corporate world for McDonald's and then in education. His career path eventually led him to a company called Brain Balance.

Mastermind spun off Brain Balance. "[Mastermind] started progressing, so we separated the companies," Fedele said. "[Brain Balance] worked with kids with ADHD, autism, and different developmental issues. I came in there as CEO and it was a complete turnaround situation. One of the things I looked at first was taking in technology and modernizing the program. We met with neuroscientists, tech developers, all of these people who are dedicated to driving technology therapeutics."

Mastermind was soon hatched. "Everybody here has a sports background," Fedele said. "We were like, 'This really applies to sports.' And then we looked at a company called S2 Cognition, [which uses cognitive science to evaluate and improve athletes' performance in various sports]."

Fedele said S2 Cognition tests athletes before the NHL and NFL combines. MLB uses the company as well, he said.

"They're testing these kids to see if they have good cognitive function, which can be focus, reaction time, object tracking," Fedele said. "The thing that hit us was, 'Why would you test at the highest level, at the top of the pyramid, rather than be training and improving those skills all the way through?' So that's where MasterMind started, with sports, and driving that cognitive training all the way from youth on up.

"But we knew as we were developing it that it goes beyond sports and into education, working with seniors and memory, business, all of these areas."

Mastermind's program is available in VR and also can be accessed through an iPad and cell phone. Sessions last about an hour, and a minimum of two days per week is recommended.

"When you're done training for a day, your brain is taxed, just like your body would be if you were working out," Fedele said. "That's what we want."

Results also are desired. That, ultimately, is what Mastermind seeks.

"We get a lot of sports-specific feedback from kids doing better with their travel programs, the teams that they're performing on," said Mike Kloss, director of facility operations and a former college baseball player. "We get a lot of academic feedback from the kids as well. The parents love that side of things too."

Kids, even big kids, love their video games. Working at Brain Balance and with children struggling academically, Fedele saw the effects of playing video games for hours and hours. Mastermind seeks to exercise the brain, making it enjoyable but also exhausting.

"One of the big issues is screen time," Fedele said. "It's creating dopamine in the brain, which is making you want to play for 10 hours, 12 hours, 15 hours, because it's a stimulant. That said, we thought to ourselves, 'How can we deliver cognitive training in a way that kids and adults are going to have fun with it and want to keep doing it?' So we developed everything in a gamified format. Everything looks and feels like you're playing a video game. But it's not."

Golf is addicting too, and Mastermind takes the mental game of the sport to another level. One exercise has a golfer standing on a board that teeter-totters on a rubber ball. The golfer then tries swinging the club. If he can master that, he can strap on a pair of strobe glasses and try focusing as blinking lights try to distract him more than that chirping bird and buzzing cell phone on the golf course.

"A lot of balance is based on your visual stabilization," Fedele

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The Game Never Stops at These Golf Simulator Locations

Todd Mrowice

The hard ground and brisk temps are harsh reminders that if you want to keep your golf game heading in the right direction, you'll need to bring your practice indoors for a few months. Thankfully, there's no shortage of fully equipped golf simulator facilities in the Chicago area. These sim spots are just a small Chicago slice of one of the fastest-growing business segments in all of sports. According to Custom Market Insights, the golf simulator market is valued at just over $2.1 billion in 2025, and is expected to reach $4.7 billion by 2035.

So what's all the simulator fuss about? If you visit any of these locations, you'll know the answer. In fact, you could find yourself as a regular even during our summer months. If you think I jest, you should see some of the food and cocktail offers.

E9 Club
www.e9clubs.com
Mundelein
You've experienced simulator golf, you're serious about your game, and you want something tailored to your lifestyle. Well then, the only answer is E9 Club in Mundelein. This facility doesn't take walk-ons. Well, it does if you're a member. This private indoor club is certainly high-end, but you'll have 24/7/365 access to the facility which includes a locker room, a lounge with five sizable TVs, two fireplaces, and a pool table.

If this all seems like a bit much, that's because it is. And it's fantastic. The sim golf equivalent of being invited to your buddy's private club for the day. It goes without saying that E9 Club is for individuals with a high level of commitment to the game, but it's also a place for members to have fun. Membership is limited, and you'll find yearly and seasonal (six month) membership options.

Five Iron Golf
wwww.fiveirongolf.com
Four Chicago locations
If you're a city dweller you're going to find a great option in Five Iron Golf. Spread throughout Chicago, these sim spots are perfect for working on your game but offer so much more. Socializing at their robust bars might keep you from working on that baby fade, just a heads up.

Five Iron Golf has four locations, which are all unique. The Loop, Lincoln Park, and even the 67th floor of The Metropolitan is where you'll find them. My personal favorite, however, is the River North location because if you're not feeling your golf game you can play some air hockey or even duckpin bowling.

No matter which location you pick, all Five Iron simulators are equipped with Trackman technology. You can also book lessons, join leagues, play in tournaments, or even get fit with new gear by doing a certified Callaway club fitting.

Game of Irons
www.gameofirons.com
Oak Brook
Simply put, Game of Irons is just a good time. It's in a great location in Oak Brook and serves up a fun evening if you'd like to head out with some friends. It's also a perfect spot if you're looking to host an event, as the overall atmosphere truly caters to socializing. Bonus, they have a throne made of golf clubs that you can't help but take a picture of while sitting in it.

Game of Irons has hourly rates that are consistent with other sim golf locations in addition to a membership option, which seems like a no-brainer if you work in the Oak Brook area. They even offer a discounted student membership for students 18 and under.

The 7 Iron Bar probably puts out the best food and drink selection you'll find at a golf sim location. So much so that skipping golf and just dining isn't a crazy thought. With ahi tuna bites and burgers covered in sweet and spicy pickles, their food keeps up with the neighborhood.

Game of Irons utilizes Golfzon for simulator technology, which I enjoy a lot because of the realism and crisp optics that it produces. If you're not hitting it particularly well, it has some side games such as Dart Golf that can be more fun than a round of stroke play.

The Golf Factory
www.golffactory.golf
Mount Prospect
The Golf Factory is one of the best local golf spots to open in our area in quite some time. It has a very unassuming storefront exterior as it's among the Randhurst Village shopping center. When you go inside, it's a beautiful space with a modern flare, not to mention some arcade games to make you feel at home.

In addition to leagues and lessons, The Golf Factory also offers memberships that include bag storage, discounts, member-only events, and more. Something you'll highly consider after trying some of the menu offerings, particularly the homemade empanadas. Because what simulator golf experience isn't made better with empanadas?!

The best part? It's a family-owned business. Brian and Michelle Hilko own The Golf Factory and let it be known the three things you won't find at their place are "slow play, strict dress codes, and warm beer."

Golf VX
www.golfvx.com
Arlington Heights
Golf VX might be the newer kid on the block, but they sure know how to start with a bang. The Golf VX facility in Arlington Heights has an immersive sim golf experience that will take over your senses, including your taste buds.

The unquestionable standout is their technology. Your bay has a touchscreen kiosk that seamlessly gets you from shot to shot and allows for solo or muti-player tournament action. The visual optics are impressive, whether you choose to play St. Andrews, Pebble Beach, or any of the other 300+ courses available. The "mat" is far from ordinary because it has a Swing Plate that adjusts to replicate the slope of each shot. Your ball tees up automatically, who doesn't like that? The high-end cameras produce an AI analysis of your swing, so you can improve as you play. There's even a short game feature that allows you to customize course conditions, green speed, lies, and so much more.

If that wasn't enough, Golf VX will keep you hanging around with their delicious menu which includes flatbreads and Korean Nachos. In addition to a full bar, they also have a pair of robotic arms that will make you a Transfusion or several other cocktails. That's worth the price of admission alone.

Heritage Bluffs
www.heritagebluffs.com
Channahon
The Bluffs offers two golf sims. They are open year round but perfect for these cold wintry days. The facility offers over 1,000 courses to choose from, including their very own: The Bluffs. Enjoy a drink at your sim booth or hang around for lunch or dinner.

X-Golf Orland Park
www.playxgolf.com
Orland Park
Likely the most household name when it comes to playing simulator golf, X-Golf made landfall in the U.S. in 2010 and has seen explosive growth in that time. X-Golf is highly visible, particularly when you have Paige Spiranac and Max Homa repping your brand.

I like how the X-Golf experience can be whatever you make of it. An online booking system allows you to book a tee time and you'll be able to select some of the top golf courses across the globe. X-Golf touts itself on its website as "The most innovative and accurate golf simulator experience in the world."

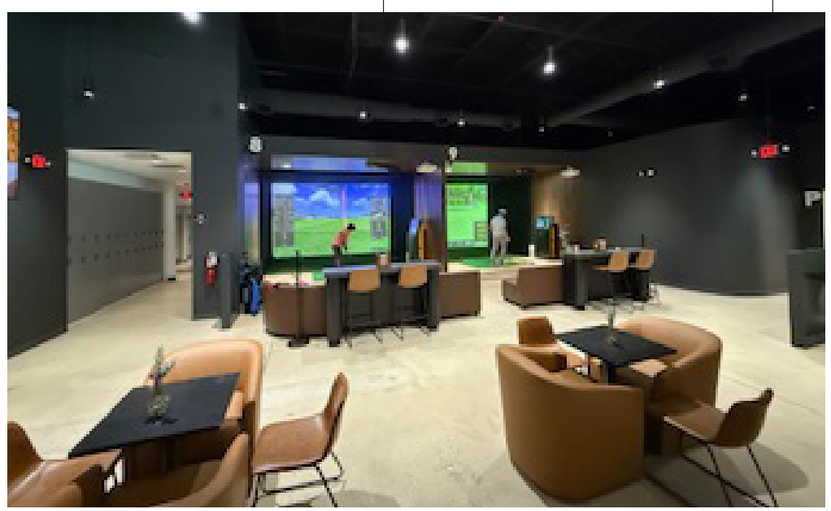
If you're hungry, X-Golf locations all have a great menu ranging from small bites to pizza and wings. There's also a full bar with signature cocktails and craft brews. The total package if you're looking to host a party or take some clients out.

Game improvement, however, doesn't get lost on X-Golf. All locations have lessons available with PGA pros which can get you in shape to play in the array of leagues and tournaments they offer.

Overall, X-Golf is one of the "can't go wrong" options when it comes to simulator golf.

In addition to those sim golf locations, feel free to check out some of these additional spots near you!

Fairview Indoor Golf
www.fairviewgolfgeneva.com
Geneva
Gem Sims
www.gemsims.com
Elmhurst
Halfway House Indoor Golf
www.halfwayhousegolf.com
Elmhurst
Legends Indoor Golf
www.legendsindoorgolf.com
Downers Grove
Pro-Am Golf
www.proamgolfchicago.com
Niles
River Grove Golf Lounge
www.rivergrovegolflounge.com
River Grove
Score 18 Indoor Golf
www.score18indoorgolf.com
Bolingbrook
The Shack Indoor Golf Club & Sports Bar
www.theshackgolfclub.com
Glenview
W Golf
www.wj.golf
Buffalo Grove
Winners Golf
www.winnersgolf.net
Arlington Heights





The Global Golf Industry Gathered in January at the PGA Show in Orlando. The show marks the annual start of the new business year for the $102 billion golf industry. How much of that are *you* contributing to? The show embraces the latest golf innovations from retailers, and is attended by golf leaders and PGA golf professionals from across the world. These are a few of the products that caught our eye as we traversed the 1.1 million square feet of floor space. Welcome 2025!



MIZUNO FOR JUNIORS

File this under "things we love!" For the first time, Mizuno is now offering a five-piece junior set for ages 6-9 (JM01 120) and a seven-piece set for ages 10 to 12 (JM01 140). The sets include a sharp looking blue Mizuno premium stand bag with travel cover, driver, fairway wood, hybrid, headcovers, irons, wedge and putter. The clubs even come with Mizuno's fantastic Exsar graphite shafts. The sets are designed for young golfers ready to take their first steps towards greatness and no doubt they'll quickly understand what 'nothing feels like a Mizuno'. $500 for the seven-piece set and $400 for the five-piece. www.mizunousa.com.



LUX2 MAVEN SPIKED SHOE

TRUE linkswear debuts its new LUX2 Maven, blending best-in-class materials and innovation with an iconic TRUE fit and feel. An absolute standout, the LUX2 Maven features an all-new carbon fiber ground force reaction plate, TRUE FlexBolt Spiked Outsole, and Heel Lock System. A brand built for those who wander off the beaten path and embrace golf as one of life's great escapes. $325 www.truelinkswear.com



GOLFFOREVER

One of the nation's leading golf fitness training platforms and the preferred golf workout method of World No. 1 Golfer Scottie Scheffler, GolfForever offers personalized training through its groundbreaking mobile app paired with innovative GolfForever Swing Trainer. For workouts that increase mobility, balance, power, and flexibility where your golf swing needs them most, golfers can now save $50 on the GolfForever Swing Trainer Plus bundle. The Swing Trainer, all of its fitness accessories for workouts (at home, or on the road) and a one-year subscription to the GolfForever app's more than 1,000 exercise videos is now available for $348.99 at www.GolfForever.com.



PING G440 DRIVERS

Ping also has made strides with its very forgiving G440 Max, which has a bit hotter face than last year's G430. While the G430 was one of the straightest hitting drivers in 2024, it certainly wasn't the longest. In our testing, thus far the G440 in fact does generate slightly more speed and distance, while delivering a lighter overall system weight with faster clubhead speed, higher launch, and longer carries.

But with the standard shaft length now extending to 46 inches, we recommend getting custom-fit, as most golfers need a shorter length driver. Doing so has tremendous value and benefits, among them making it easier to find the center of the face more often. And that's going to lead to greater ball speeds and overall distance.

According to Ping, The Free Hosel and Carbonfly Wrap crown on the G440 saves weight to create the manufacturers lowest CG ever and increase forgiveness while contributing to a more muted, pleasing sound. The G430 made huge strides in the latter compared to the G425. The G440 sound is fantastic and powerful. $599.

PGA OF AMERICA 1916 | SHOW



CALLAWAY ELYTE DRIVERS

We thought it would be close to impossible for Callaway to improve upon last year's Ai Smoke line of drivers. After all, they were among the top sellers when it came to distance and control in 2024.

Well, they did it.

Callaway says that it found a way, aerodynamically speaking, to get more club head speed with the new Elyte line of drivers. In our independent testing the Elyte driver has slightly greater head speed and can deliver a bit more distance than the Ai Smoke.

The refined clean head shaping promotes increased speed, while a new Ai 10x face is engineered to optimize spin and speed. And a revolutionary Thermoforged Carbon Crown is built to redefine mass properties in a driver.

The Elyte driver is available in four models: Elyte, Elyte X (more draw biased), Elite Max Fast (lighter) and Triple Diamond (low spin). The clubs have a black matte finish, except for the triple Diamond, which has a black shiny look that's preferred by tour professionals. $599 - $699.



CALLAWAY OPUS WEDGES

A little bonus time for Callaway here, the Opus wedges were released last fall and have incredible feel and balance. They complement the Jaws line nicely and are offered in various finishes. The blue Platinum model is especially beautiful albeit pricier than the regular Opus. $180 ($230 for the platinum)



RAPSODO MLM2PRO™

The award-winning Rapsodo MLM2PRO™ is a launch monitor and golf simulator designed for complete visibility into your game. Stacked with two advanced cameras plus Doppler Radar to provide video feedback on their swing and impact point, plus precise measurements on 13 different golf metrics. The device also includes access to over 30K+ simulated golf courses and multiple virtual ranges so golfers can play and practice anywhere, anytime. Pair the Rapsodo MLM2PRO with any Android, Apple phone, or tablet to record multiple angles of your swing and watch your golf game grow. $699.99 www.rapsodo.com/products/mlm2pro-mobile-launch-monitor-golf-simulator



SHOT SCOPE PRO X

The new Scope PRO X rangefinder features adaptive slope technology, rapid-fire detection, and target-lock vibration. New for 2025, Shot Scope has launched a customization program that allows golfers, corporations, or golf courses to utilize a custom design plate for course logos, company brands, or custom personalization. PRO X is available at www.shotscope.com. $199.99.

X-Golf Orland Park Serves Up the Premier Simulator and Entertainment Experience In Chicagoland

By Neal Kotlarek

On a frigid vening in mid-January, X-Golf Orland Park is a beehive of activity. The group at Simulator 2 are lining up tee shots on the stunning 7th hole at Pebble Beach. A short distance away, Simulator 4 is hosting a gaggle of young business people who are attacking the Old Course at St. Andrews in between rounds of cold beverages and slices of pizza. Across the way in Simulator 8, a golf-themed birthday party is being held by a few parents and kids wearing ear-to-ear smiles. And the simulators in between the aforementioned are abuzz with players taking turns either playing a round of golf or honing their games by studying swing data served up by laser, light, impact and camera sensors.

Simulator golf leagues and events held around the golf simulator experience have enjoyed amazing popularity at X-Golf Orland Park. Bachelor and bachelorette parties are hosted on a regular basis across all week parts. Corporate outings allow colleagues to get together in a comfortable atmosphere with competitions creating friendly rivalries. Simulator golf is highly affordable as bays are rented by the hour, allowing fees to be split across each participant.

Even as golf has boomed across America in the post-pandemic era, indoor golf has exploded in cities and suburbs across the world. Spurred on by both the joy of the game and the exhilaration of getting together for a few hours of fun between friends, families, and work colleagues, indoor golf has quickly transitioned away from a cold weather excursion to a bonafide entertainment experience. And mirroring the trends at local golf courses, indoor golf complexes are thriving across multiple demographics—women, men, couples, leagues, young adults, and kids.

According to statistics compiled by the National Golf Foundation, some 15.5 million participated in off-course golf in 2023. While some of that volume came from outdoor driving ranges, the majority was attributed to indoor play at entertainment venues and golf simulator facilities. Leading the way on the development of simulator technology was X-Golf which developed proprietary systems over the course of 20 years to create amazing graphics on hundreds of legendary courses in the U.S. and abroad. That golf course experience is enhanced by monitors measuring club path, launch angle, ball distance and carry, clubhead speed, ball speed, and spin rates. The end-result is a true golf experience bereft of golf carts, long walks and wait times in between shots. Better yet, accessibility to good and cold drinks are steps away from your hitting bay.

Located on the southwest edge of the city off of La Grange Rd. and 159th St., X-Golf Orland Park features eight 16-foot wide bays across 8,000 sq. ft. of entertainment space. Those wide berths give groups ample space to enjoy themselves in relative isolation from the next bay. The overall design of the facility offers functionality and aesthetics.

The entryway to each bay incorporates tables and chairs for guests to relax and observe in between turns or just to hang out with participants. Wide aisles lead to the other bays, to a practice putting green, and to a spacious 20-seat bar area that serves a wide array of cocktails, popular microbrews, and soft drinks. Food options include classic sandwich offerings and made-to order Aurelio's pizzas.

Stand on the tee of one of the simulator bays and you are transported into an amazing and lifelike golf experience. The 16' x 10' screens in each bay serve up remarkably-detailed simulated golf courses. Hit a drive on the screws and after your ball hits the screen watch it soar over wetlands or desert or canyons before settling in the fairway or rough. While Pebble Beach remains the most popular course offering at X-Golf Orland Park due to the breathtaking views of the Monterey Peninsula, the facility's United States course











menu choices include Bethpage Black, Hazeltine National, Innisbrook, Spyglass Hill, The Links at Spanish Bay, Kapalua, and Oakmont Country Club. Looking to play internationally without the airfare costs? Course options in Australia include Kingston Heath G.C. and Metropolitan Golf Club. Popular Asian offerings include Asiana Country Club and both Anegasaki East and West courses.

Hit your ball into the screen and watch as it soars over water, desert or canyons, depending on the venue. The sensors then take over to accurately measure the length, height, direction and spin of your shot to bring you to your next shot. Once on the green, the system transitions you to a pitching, chipping and putting experience that sets X-Golf apart from other simulated golf facilities.



The January matches of TGL Tour shown in prime time on ESPN TV and streaming services have helped elevate simulated golf to the masses. While some styles of golf simulators have been around since the 1970s, technological advances on both the imaging of the courses and the measurement of shots have legitimized the game. If it's good enough for Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, and Justin Thomas, it's good enough for the rest of us. Not only do the TGL matches show the quality of the golf experience, they reflect the competition, comradery ,and fun players will encounter for far less than the cost of a tee time at a local golf course.

While walk-ins are welcome at X-Golf Orland Park, advanced reservations ensure that a simulator is available to your outing or league. Rental clubs are available for your group, party, or reception. The system software can be adjusted so that kids' birthday parties are treated to short par-3 courses or "closest to the pin" competitions or unique themes. The laid-back atmosphere across the facility is family-friendly.

X-Golf was launched in Los Angeles in 2005. The brand's popularity and growth across the country in 20 short years reflects how the placement of cutting-edge technology inside a fun environment is a recipe for success.

One other attribute of simulated golf is, of course, that it's weather-proof. No matter if the outside world serves up cold temperatures, hot temperatures, snow, rain, sleet or whatever else Chicago weather decides to throw at us, it's always comfortable inside the friendly confines of X-Golf Orland Park. The owners of the facility encourage local high school golf teams to use X-Golf Orland Park to schedule practice rounds and perform game improvement drills using the simulators.

X-Golf Orland Park is located at 15876 LaGrange Rd. in LaGrange. Winter hours of operation are 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on Sunday. Phone number is 708-966-0486. For reservations, directions and more information, visit: www.xgolforlandpark.com.



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GOLFMESQUITENEVADA.COM

Golf Mesquite Nevada

Mastermind

continued from page 23

said. "You want to build core balance. So that takes away some of the visual stabilization, and now you must feel stabilization. More than anything with golfers, we hear about how their focus and attention, their ability to tune things out, [improves]."

Packee's son Nick, a high school sophomore, plays golf, basketball, and baseball at Vernon Hills High School. Nick recently started using Mastermind in hopes of helping his focus, hand-eye coordination and reflexes when he's in the batter's box.

"Certainly, golf is the ultimate test of mental consistency," Brett Packee said. "We don't need reaction time in golf because the ball's not moving [toward you]. But you go through the whole checklist of what mind and eye focus can do, and every sport is going to have some benefits over others.

"Hand-eye coordination and eye-focus consistency are huge assets to golf."

Packee recently was giving a lesson to an eight handicapper. One chip was perfect, "great form, great sequence, great rhythm," Packee said. The student's next shot was "like an octopus falling out of a tree," Packee said.

The instructor was stumped by the student's inconsistency.

"He would get so much better if we could just train his eyes to stay more quiet and more consistent," Packee said. "I think this Mastermind is a practical way to train you to be better, versus just telling yourself to be better."

Fedele said there are other companies that employ cognitive training using technology, but Mastermind has taken it to another level, creating 39 distinct cognitive training games that work the brain. A full complement of eye exercises, including near-far quickness and tracking, is something competitors don't have, he said.

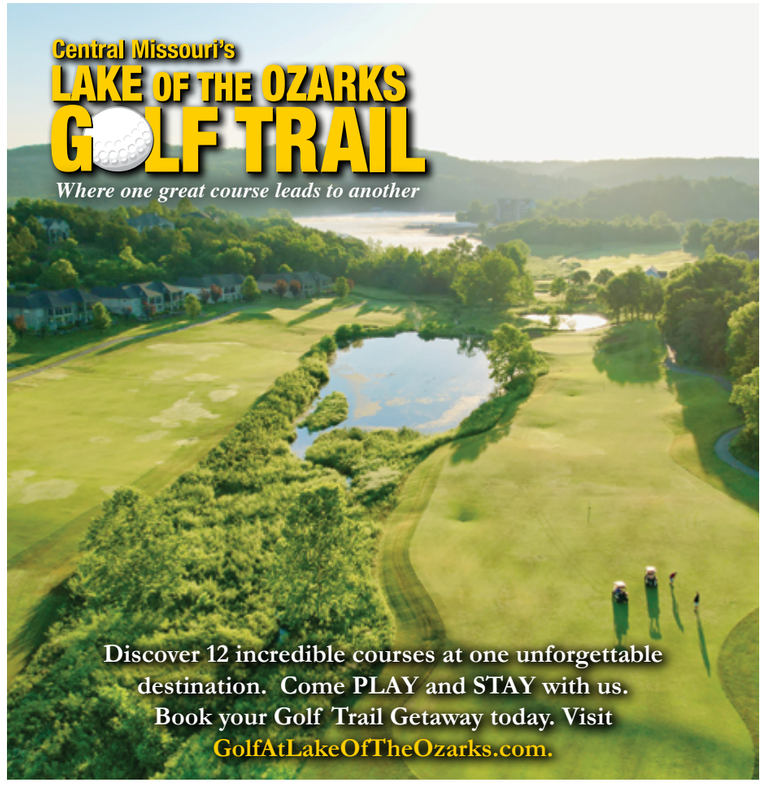
"Our evolution has gone from dedicated, cognitive sports training to brain performance and wellness," Fedele said.

Pop in at Mastermind and you might hear a metronome making noises and the TV volume pumped up, as athletes train. Mastermind might even dab an athlete with a scent of peppermint or lemon to trip them up.

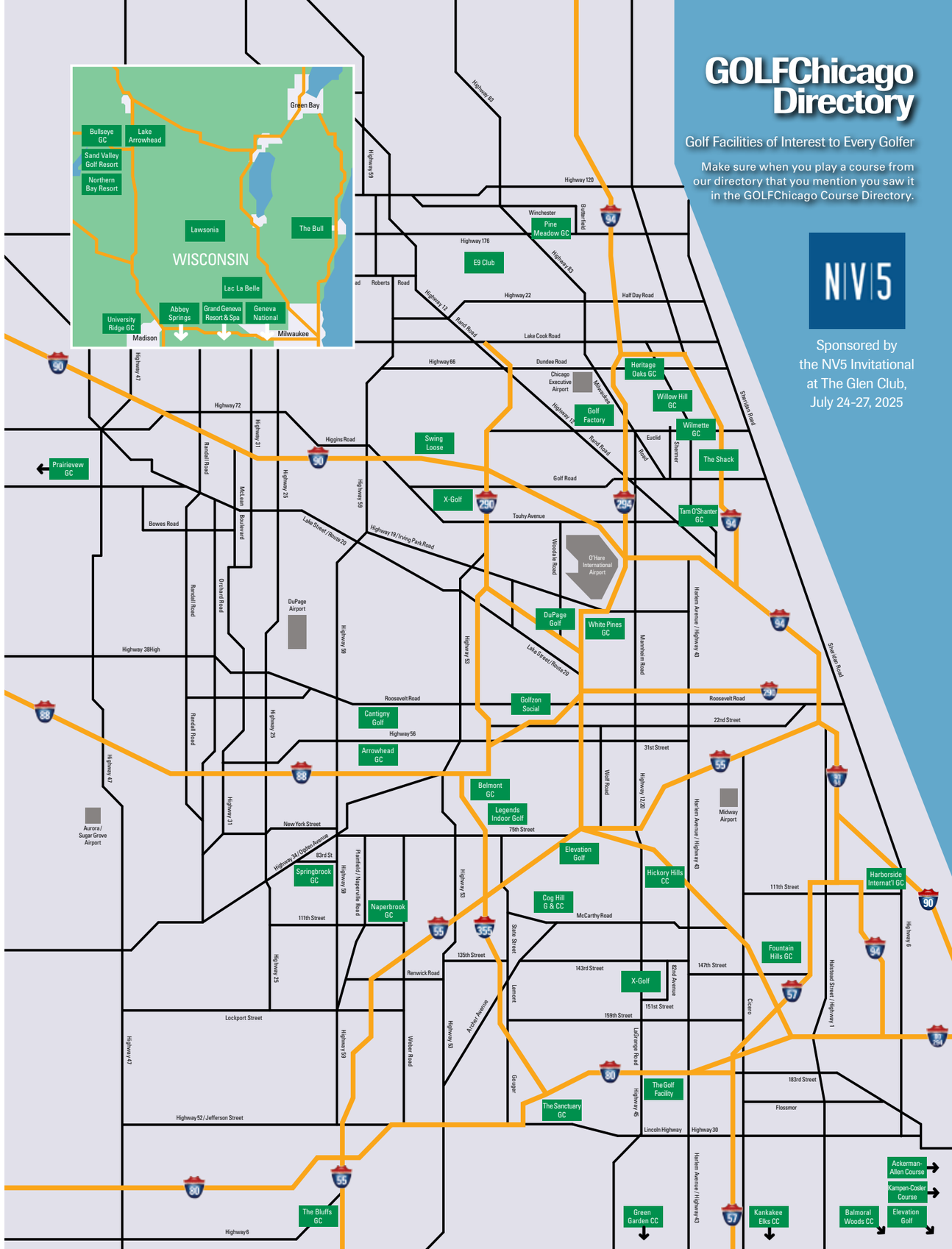
"What we're trying to do is overload the brain," Fedele said. "So now it's not just visual overload. It's everything."

Quiet on the tee. That's the goal.

Visit Mastermind at www.mastermindtraining.com.







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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 2025 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.

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

Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswegoland Park District's fun and challenging public course, boasts plush 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!

Fountain Hills Golf Club

708-388-4653
12601 S. Kedzie Ave.
Alsip, IL. 60803
alsipparks.org

Fountain Hills Golf Club is a par- 36 9-hole layout measuring 3,233 yards. It has a nice collection of golf holes, unique in character and strategy, making this course playable for the beginning golfer, with plenty of interest and challenge for the experienced player.

Additional amenities include a 30-station lighted driving range, practice putting green, sand trap, and chipping area, along with a 100-seat banquet hall. After your round unwind at our BackNine restaurant and bar.

RightSize Adjustable Kids Putter

717-745-8524
goforitgolf.com

The RightSize Adjustable Putter is the ultimate all-in-one club for kids and families. With its patented extendable shaft, it grows with your child, eliminating the need for multiple putters. Perfect for mini golf, the basement, or the course. It's fun, durable, and easy to use!

The Golf Facility

708-694-4014
19031 Old LaGrange Rd.
Suite 200
Mokena, IL. 60448
thegolffacility.com

Golf Facility is an indoor golf club located in Mokena, Illinois, that hosts eight golf simulator bays powered by Foresight Sport's GC Hawk and FSX Play sim courses, a 750 square foot putting green powered by Puttview, a golf instruction room powered by V1 Sports high speed cameras, and V1 Sports teaching software. Finally, we host a state-of-the-art putting fitting studio powered by Quintic who offers the #1 launch monitor for putting in the world. We have it all to grow your golf game of any level!

Golf Factory

224-248-8163
63 Randhurst Village Dr.
Mt Prospect, IL 60056
golffactory.golf

The Golf Factory is a 9000-square-foot indoor golf haven created by golfers for golfers. Our vibrant space boasts top-tier indoor golf technology, including 10 state-of-the-art Trackman golf simulators. With over 350 golf courses, games, video, and practice modes, our facility caters to everyone from beginners to seasoned players. Apart from personal enjoyment, Golf Factory is an ideal venue for parties and corporate events,.

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

262-248-8811
7036 Grand Geneva Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
grandgeneva.com

Tee off on two award-winning 18-hole courses that make Grand Geneva Resort & Spa one of the Midwest's favorite golf destinations. Enjoy individual tee times offering dynamic pricing, private instruction led by certified PGA staff and fully customized group outings.

Harborside International Golf Club

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

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

Heritage Oaks Golf Club

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

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

The Highlands of Elgin

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

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

Kankakee Elks Country Club

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

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

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

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

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.

The Golf Courses of Lawsonia

920-294-3320
W2615 S. Valley View Dr.
Green Lake, WI 54941
lawsonwia.com

The Golf Courses of Lawsonia offers two distinctly different 18-hole layouts of magnificent design, astounding panoramas, and unmatched beauty. Experience the award-winning Links Course and charming Woodlands Course for yourself. Stay & Play packages with on-site lodging are available.

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.

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.

Pine Meadow Golf Club

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

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

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

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

This is truly a golf facility for everyone.

PrairieView Golf Club

815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, Ill. 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.

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.

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.

The Sanctuary Golf Course

815-462-4653 (GOLF)
485 North Marley Rd.
New Lennox, IL 60451
golfsanctuary.com

Explore The Sanctuary Golf Course. Spanning 6,900 yards it offers a challenging experience. Also available is the Toptracer practice facility with 20 heated bays, along with a 30-station grass area and state-of-the-art short game and putting green. Unwind after your round at our Bunker Bar and Grill.

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.

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!

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!

Willow Hill Golf Course

847-480-7888
1350 Willow Road
Northbrook, IL 60062
willowhillgolfcourse.com

Willow Hill Golf Course is a Scottish links-style par 35 9-hole course with amazing views of Chicago's skyline and breathtaking sunsets. The course and clubhouse have recently undergone major renovations. New tee boxes and renovated bunkers have been added throughout. A brand new 35-station all grass driving range is scheduled to open in late spring of 2025. Expansive new patios surround the clubhouse and a new kitchen ensures that after your round, you can enjoy a drink and delicious food from our new restaurant, Landmark on the Hill!

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

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.

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