GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Summer 2023, Vol. 27 No. 4



HOMETOWN HERO: BETTINARDI GOLF

THE REBIRTH OF FLOSSMOOR GC

BOB MALPEDE

THE SHACK INDOOR GOLF CLUB

GOLFChicagoMagazine.com

ZERO FRICTION™

STRIDE™

YOUR PERSONAL CADDIE

Gyroscope for Increased Stability

Fits on a Motor Cart

72 Holes Battery Rechargeable

Water Repellent

Remote with Follow Me Technology

Maximum 5 MPH with Speed Control

35 Degree Slopes



COMING SOON!

In action!

Interview!

For more information, priority list and offers, register at info@zerofriction.com

www.zerofriction.com

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP



THE BEST PLAY HERE.

Aug. 15 - 20, 2023
Olympia Fields Country Club

Tickets On Sale Now
BMWChampionship.com

CONTENTS

Summer 2023 Vol. 27 No. 4

14 Teaching Pro: Bob Malpede

16 Bettinardi

26 Course Spotlight: Flossmoor Golf Club

34 Great Golf in Mississippi



Cover: Sam [L] and Bob [R] Bettinardi. Above: Rendering of the new Bettinardi OakBrook showroom.

5 Opening Shot

6 The Good Stuff
Golf's Niceties

8 Instruction
De-mystifying
Wedge Play

10 Sweet Home Chicago
News from
Around Town

22 Travel
Michigan's Island
Resort & Casino

30 Profiles
The Shack
Indoor Golf Club

38 On the Corkscrews

39 GOLFChicago
Map and Directory

46 Final Putt

SWANNIES GOLF

Swannies Golf Apparel

Official Apparel Providers of GOLFChicago Magazine

www.swannies.co

GOLFChicago
Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Founder: Bill Daniels

Publisher: Dave Weretka

Editor: Dave Silbar

Art Director: Stephen Hawk
hawk@hawkdesign.net

Senior Writer: Neal Kotlarek

Editorial Contributors: Joe Aguilar, Dave Lockhart, Dr. Kevin McGarry, Todd Mrowice, Dr. Ryan Pokrywka, and T.J. Sullivan

© Copyright 2023. All rights reserved.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Editorial Inquiries
Dave Silbar
dsilbar@silbarpr.com
847-845-7548

Advertising and Marketing Inquiries
Andy Rees
Director of Business Development
arees@golfchicagomagazine.com
312-451-1355

No part of this publication may be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. No part may be transmitted in any form by any means, including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher. Publisher accepts no liability for solicited or unsolicited materials that are lost or damaged. Opinions expressed by editorial contributors do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.

OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

Imagine that all it would take to make things right again on the PGA Tour was a Rickie Fowler victory. While just about every golf fan was rooting for Fowler during his near-historic run at the U.S. Open., a big smile came to my face when my daughter saw a text on her phone and exclaimed "Rickie Fowler just won the Rocket Mortgage Classic!"

There have been some wonderful stories on the PGA Tour in recent weeks, first with Canadian Nick Taylor winning his country's open and then Fowler returning to the winner's circle after a too-long four-year hiatus. I must imagine his friends Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth were just as happy.

Speaking of great stories, let me officially welcome you to this edition of GOLFChicago magazine, which includes our story on Flossmoor Golf Club. As a teaching professional and the editor of this publication, I often am asked what my favorite Chicago area golf course is. While I have a long list of great layouts, Flossmoor has always been at the top. Having 'Country Club' recently eliminated from its name, Flossmoor Golf Club will host the 74th Illinois Open Championship July 31 to August 2.

As writer Neal Kotlarek writes in his opening paragraph, playing this course is truly like taking a walk back in time. The course layout, craggy-edged bunkers, and true test of golf makes you feel like you are really walking in the footsteps of great golfers you've only read about and seen in black and white.

Our cover story features writer Joe Aguilar diving into the history of one of the best putter designers in the world, Chicago's very own Bob Bettinardi. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Bettinardi Golf will open Studio B later this summer, a brand-new, state of the art fitting center in Oak Brook. You'll learn how Bettinardi and famed putter designer Scotty Cameron first started working together and why the two now have their names on some of the world's sharpest looking and deadliest putt-making flat sticks on the globe.

A brand-new department launching this month features an area teaching professional that we believe you should know about. We kick it off by introducing McHenry native Bob Malpede, who retired in 2021 after 50 years working in the golf industry. A Carmel Catholic High School graduate, Malpede played a starring role in opening Stonewall Orchard Golf Club in 1999 and spent his last 14 years as head professional and general manager of White Deer Run Golf Club in Vernon Hills. His hard work would culminate with the prestigious achievement of being named an Illinois PGA Senior Master, an award he was honored with in the summer of 2022.

As always, our Good Stuff department has the latest and greatest golf gear, gadgets, apparel, and more that you may not have heard of, but may want to put into your arsenal this season. Whether it's the latest Air Jordan golf shoes, a unique new design from SuperStroke putter grips, or the latest Boardwalker shorts from Linksoul, we've got you covered.

Finally, we'll introduce you to Chicago native Roger Steele, a golf influencer-turned-ambassador of the game for Chicago-area youth. Steele was recently named official community advisor overseeing the #MakeGolfCool initiative. In this new role, Steele will co-create content with KemperSports aimed at telling impactful stories and growing the game by increasing access and building community through the sport.

We have plenty more golf to play and golf to watch this season so kick back, enjoy the latest edition of GOLFChicago, and start thinking about who you want to win the year's next major: The Open Championship, being held July 20-23 at the English seaside Royal Liverpool Golf Club Hoylake.

We're Everywhere!
We're Everywhere!

Visit our GOLFChicago Magazine Fan Pages.

facebook

instagram

twitter



THE GOOD STUFF



Linksoul Shorts Perfect for Both On and Off the Course

Linksoul's Boardwalker Shorts are a must-have for golfers who value comfort, style, and performance on the course. Better yet, golfers now have two options. Solid Boardwalker Shorts provide a seamless transition from outdoor activities to golfing. These lightweight shorts are made from quick-drying, four-way stretch recycled poly fabric, providing optimal performance and unrestricted movement. They offer the perfect combination of comfort and functionality for golfers on the course. Boardwalker AC Shorts build upon the success of its Boardwalker line, but take things to the next level. Linksoul has enhanced the fabric with subtle perforations, adding texture and promoting natural breathability. This evolutionary design provides game-changing temperature control, keeping golfers comfortable during their rounds, even on the hottest days.



Put it on my Tab

We don't know if you'll find a better putter grip this year than this limited run from SuperStroke called "The Turn." No matter what your halfway house order may be, SuperStroke isn't leaving you out with this design. Hotdogs, candy bars, bags of chips, and ice-cold brews dance along this handle making it a must-have item. The grip is the popular Pistol 1.0 model, but with the added entertainment that is becoming part of the company's consumer-anticipated lineup of special-edition designs.
$34.99 www.superstrokeusa.com

Wine on the Go

The VinXplorer wine and beverage backpack by FlyWithWine is a must-have for the sophisticated wine lover on the go! It gives you the freedom to enjoy your favorite wine or spirits anywhere you want to take them. The VinXplorer features a removable two-bottle hard-shell case insert and a disposable 1.5-liter bladder with nozzle for storing and dispensing beverages from inside a waterproof compartment. Separate compartments store laptop(s), devices, and other personal effects. The padded adjustable ergonomic shoulder straps can be tucked away inside so that the side backpack handle can allow the user to carry on board airlines (without liquids) like regular luggage.
$199.95 www.flywithwine.com





Srixon's Gamer

Want to be a big game hunter like Brooks Koepka? Then you should look at Srixon's ZX5 LS Mk II driver. Srixon's Rebound Frame is the key technology, as it has two flex zones, while most other drivers have just one. This helps elevate the COR for increased ball speed leading to more distance. The clean and traditional clubhead is driven by several great factory shafts that you can choose from.
$499.99 us.dunlopsports.com/Srixon



Friendly Wedges

Callaway already has an incredibly popular lineup of Jaws wedges, but for those that desire something a bit more forgiving, they present the new CB line of wedges. With a slightly larger clubhead for added confidence, the Callaway CB will still deliver the feel and spin you'd expect from a Callaway wedge. We're also introduced to Urethane Microspheres which sit behind the face to produce an incredibly smooth feel. Available in lofts of 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, and 60 degrees.
$159.99 www.callawaygolf.com



Swannies Andy Polo

Celebrate Independence Day all month long with the Andy Polo from Swannies. Swannies polos are lightweight, breathable, and the minimalist designs make them the perfect fit for any occasion: date night, office, 19th hole? Swannies has you covered. The polos are made out of performance fabrics that combine comfort and durability so they'll find a long-term home in your closet in no time.
$65 www.swannies.co

INSTRUCTION



Chris Oehlerking

Are Your Beliefs Holding You Back?

Are you confident your wedging technique is current? Coming up on 20 years of coaching and over 15,000 lessons taught; I find that players who struggle with wedge play have faulty beliefs. Their understanding about the intended design of the club and how to go about making a stroke that takes advantage of that design is lost on them. If you believe your chipping could be better, perhaps there's something you're missing.

At some point in the '90s, instructional content, specifically wedge play, was leading us interested golfers down a hazardous path. While I'm certain it wasn't intentional, the information being shared lead a generation of players into a dark place.

My short game mentor, Stan Utley, Top 50 instructor on *Golf Digest*'s teachers list, exposed to me many years ago that most of us were doing it wrong. His mentors, and the ones before them, had direct lineage to some of the all-time greats. How did this simple way of hitting shots become so challenging? Well, that's an article for another time.

Our academy recently brought Utley in to do short game schools for our students and he shared some pearls of wisdom that the most successful players on the planet adhere to. You might think, "There's no way I could approach short shots the way the professionals do!" But part of their brilliance is Tour players like to find the easiest ways of doing things and let their athleticism and touch make that skill world class. So if these fundamental concepts are so repeatable why aren't we all using them? Perhaps you just haven't been exposed to them yet — *or*, your beliefs system is holding you back from changing.

Set-Up: Figure 1

1) Stance is narrow, square and lead foot is slightly flared to assist with a fluid pivot.
2) Shaft position is fairly neutral, with the slightest forward tilt. This keeps the "bounce" exposed and allows us to use the club the way it was designed.
3) Tilt is something that 95% of golfers don't have right. Get your nose or sternum in line or in front of the ball. This levels your shoulders, helping with an accurate landing at impact. Soften your lead arm; this makes moving into the finish easier.

Stroke: Figure 2

Let your wrist hinge the club (15 to 45 degrees) on plane, and be sure your right elbow stays soft. Starting the downswing, unhinge your wrists down the plane aggressively while feeling yourself working into a tall finish. There is no need to swing your arms toward the target. The arms do more dropping than swinging towards the target. Notice how close the butt of the club is to my body in the finish. I can only achieve that with soft elbows.

Finish: Figure 3

Closely mowed grass makes players nervous. So they force it. If you're falling back or pulling the club through instead of swinging it, you'll tend to hit thin shots. Your reaction will be to move the ball back in your stance, which forces you to hit down steeply, leaving a tiny window for a good shot to happen.

Don't make it so difficult. The sole of a good wedge will interact with tight turf just fine. Finish tall, with shoulders feeling horizontal to the ground, chest over your lead foot, *both* elbows relaxed and soft.

Summary:

Role of Hands: hinge club up and down and maintain a firm grip
Role of Body: Pivot and finish tall
Role of Arms: Follow the direction of the body while letting elbows retract in backswing and through swing.
BEWARE: Tension in the shoulder or elbow joints kills your chances for solid contact and proper distance control.

Bad wedge players

- Have too much forward shaft lean at address
- Never release their lever/hinge
- Stay down too long though the shot

Skilled wedge players

- Start with none to minimal shaft lean
- Release their level early in their downswing
- Stand up through impact and into their finish.

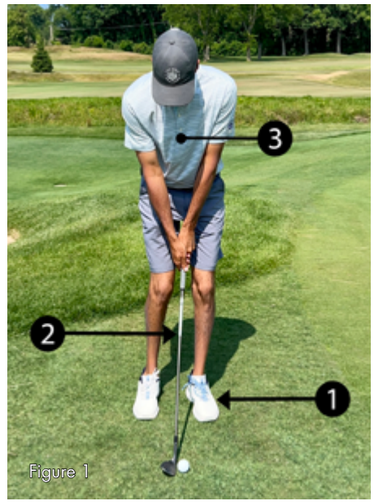


Figure 1


Figure 2


Figure 3

BIG CEDAR GOLF
BIG CEDAR® LODGE
AMERICA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT

Located deep within the rocky, forested terrain of the Missouri Ozark Mountains, Big Cedar Lodge is a remote haven of natural beauty that brings conservation to life.

Explore nature-inspired accommodations and breathtaking views along five award-winning, Audubon-certified, nature golf courses. Connect with family and friends by connecting to the great outdoors.

Welcome to Nature Golf at Big Cedar Lodge.

BIG CEDAR LODGE
BIGCEDAR.COM

RIDGEDALE, MO
(844) 587-5383



Beauty vs. The Beast Match Raises $42,000 for Charity After Being Thrown Last Minute Curve Ball


Photo: Paul Siefert

The celebrity charity golf match dubbed "Beauty vs. The Beast" hosted at Destination Geneva National on Monday, June 5, 2023, was supposed to feature social media golf superstar Paige Spiranac and Major Champion John Daly. However, the resort was thrown a huge curve ball when the night before the event Daly backed out due to a lingering knee injury. Luckily, Geneva National had a worthy substitute, albeit much less 'beast' than Daly. Wisconsin native, local fan favorite, and longtime PGA and Champions Tour winner Jerry Kelly stepped in. And he would steal the show. Kelly and Spiranac would take turns firing at pins on the picturesque Gary Player Course, combining to record 17 birdies and two eagles. Kelly shot an unofficial 59 and Spiranac finished with a 66. After the round the influencer tweeted: "It was the greatest round I've ever witnessed" while referring to Kelly's unbelievable trip around the Player Course. In total, the pair raised $42,000 for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and Heart of a Lion charities.



Game of Irons Names Brian Tulk as Head Professional



Game of Irons recently introduced PGA golf professional Brian Tulk as its new director of instruction. Tulk became a PGA pro in 2010 and has conducted a variety of mens and ladies amateurs and junior golf tournaments, camps, and clinics. He has taught hundreds of golfers throughout his career. With over 20 years of teaching experience, he continues to be a student of the game, always seeking for new and effective ways to teach. According to Game of Irons, Tulk uses a simplified teaching method paired with technology from the best golf simulators available to help his students become better golfers.

Mistwood Hosts 28th Illinois Women's Open July 24-25

Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville will host the 28th annual Phil Kosin Illinois Women's Open Monday and Tuesday, July 24-25. Entries are open to all female professionals and female amateur players with a current USGA handicap index of 15 or less. Contestants must be 14 years old (as of July 24) while those who fail to meet the eligibility requirements may submit a written appeal to the events tournament committee for special exemption. The entry deadline is July 17. Entry fees are $300 for both non-PGA and Illinois PGA professionals and $250 for amateurs. For more information call 815-254-3333 or visit ww.mistwoodgc.com. The defending champion is Jaravee Boonchant, who teed it up in the U.S. Women's Open played at Pebble Beach earlier this July.

Mike Small Defends XXIO Illinois Senior Open

University of Illinois Men's Head Golf Coach Mike Small won the 2023 XXIO Illinois Senior Open Championship on June 27 at the Preserve at Oak Meadows. Small came back from a one-stroke deficit after round one to defeat Frankfort's Mark Small in a playoff enroute to his second consecutive Illinois Senior Open Championship. Small carded rounds of 69 and 70 for a tournament total of 5-under-par 139.

"It always feels good to win and defend your title," said Mike. "However, I think Mark deserved to win. He played more solidly than any of us today. The tide turned at the end for me and I snuck it out."



In the end, it was the battle of the Smalls, but it proved to be anything but. Mike knew he had to make some birdies if he wanted to defend his XXIO Illinois Senior Open title. His aggressiveness paid off early as he hit two of the first four greens under regulation. After pars on the 18th hole, Mike and Mark returned to the 18th tee for a sudden-death playoff. Both players hit good tee shots. Mark played first from the center of the fairway and missed the green to the left, short siding himself. Mike played second from the left rough and hit his approach shot to the center of the green. Mike hit his birdie putt to tap in range, putting the pressure on Mark to get up and down. Mark's chip shot just trickled onto the green and he was unable to make his par putt. Mike then tapped in for his par to secure his second career XXIO Illinois Senior Open Championship.

NewClub Marks Six Years



Earlier this year the NewClub Golf Society, one of the first real-estate-free golf clubs in America, marked its sixth year. Since its founding, NewClub has grown from a Chicago-based club to an internationally recognized institution, accredited by the USGA and PGA of America. NewClub focuses on reducing the sport's barriers to entry through affordable memberships, community outreach, and increased accessibility. The concept for NewClub emerged from a 2015 pilgrimage to the home of golf in St. Andrews, Scotland. It was there, on The Old Course, that founder and CEO Matt Considine realized golf clubs in America were more concerned with exclusivity than enjoyment. After much research and risk-taking, NewClub was officially founded in 2017.

Ever since, the club has made it its mission to enrich lives by connecting passionate golfers with their most compelling golf. Through their proprietary mobile app, NewClub offers members tee times at a variety of local courses, one-of-a-kind golf experiences, and an entire community of like-minded golf enthusiasts. To learn more about NewClub, its core values, and the services they offer, visit www.newclub.golf.

DuPage County Amateur July 22-23

The 2023 DuPage County Amateur Tournament will be held at Addison's Maple Meadows and The Preserve at Oak Meadows on Saturday and Sunday, July 22-23. The championship will be played at 36 holes of stroke play with no cut. Championship flight will compete at scratch while additional flighted divisions will have gross and net competitions. The tournament committee will assign players and flights while determining handicap criteria for each flight. The tournament is limited to only 100 players. Register to participate at www.dupagegolf.com and select DuPage County Amateur in the online store. The entry fees is $250 and include 36 holes of golf with cart, prizes, tee, gift, and lunch on both days. The top finishers in each flight will receive prizes. For more information or to register, call 630-451-3471.

Tee It Up For the Kids August 11

The 31st annual One for the Kids charity golf outing will be held on Friday, August 11, at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen. Proceeds benefit the Advocate Children's Hospital of Christ and Special Olympics Illinois. Tournament organizers also identify families in need and provide assistance to them with proceeds from the tournament. You can learn more about participating in this special outing, as well as this terrific organization, by visiting ww.oneforthekids.org.



One for the Kids was established in 1993 by a group of concerned individuals who wanted to make a difference. Since that time they've raised more than $2 million for partner charities, Advocate Children's, Heart Institute, and Special Olympics.





The Golfweek AmateurTour is the oldest and largest amateur golf tour in the country! Play is open to all ages and skill levels.

The flighted competition is structured so you're only playing against equally skilled players. You can choose to play any amount of tournaments across the country.

The **Senior Amateur Tour of Chicago** offers the largest payouts and free giveaways throughout the season. You will compete at the best courses at the best prices!

For more information contact David Bush
Chicago@amateurgolftour.net
312-483-7932

Join Now for $75!

GOLFWEEK AMATEURTOUR
www.AmateurGolfTour.net
Where Amateurs play like Pros!

SENIOR AMATEUR TOUR
Where Amateurs play like Pros!

Golfweek AmateurTour

Cantigny Golf
April 15, 2023
Season Opener
Cantigny - W/L
1 p.m.
72 players
Split Tee Start

Thunderhawk
April 29-30, 2023
Shepard's Crook
Thunderhawk
Noon
72 players

Harborside International Chicago
May 13, 2023
Harborside
1 p.m.
72 players
Split Tee Start

Whistling Straits
May 27-28, 2023
Regional Major
Whistling Straits
7:30 a.m.
Split Tee Start

The Glen Club
June 12, 2023
Golfweek Open
"Bring a Guest"
10:00 a.m.

Trevino/Palmer Legends
June 24-25, 2023
Mid Season Major
Trevino/Palmer
9 a.m.
60 players

Bloomingdale Golf Club
July 1, 2023
Bloomingdale
8:30 a.m.
72 players

Arrowhead Golf Club
July 15, 2023
Arrowhead
1 p.m.
72 players

Heritage Oaks Golf Club
July 29, 2023
Heritage Oaks
11:30 a.m.
72 players

Prairie Landing Golf Club
August 12, 2023
Prairie Landing
12:30 p.m.
72 players

Whitetail Ridge
August 26, 2023
Whitetail Ridge
11 a.m.
72 players

Ravisloe CC
September 9, 2023
Ravisloe
9 a.m.
72 players

Harbor Shores Resort
September 30th &
October 1st, 2023
Chicago Championship
Lake Michigan Hills GC &
Harbor Shores Club and
Resort

SENIOR AMATEUR TOUR
Where Amateurs play like Pros!

Senior Amateur Tour of Chicago

The Preserve at Oak Meadows
April 22, 2023
Season Opener
The Preserve at
Oak Meadows
11:00 a.m.

Bowes Creek Country Club
May 6-7, 2023
Spring Major
Bowes Creek &
Highlands of Elgin
Noon

Ravisloe CC
May 20, 2023
Ravisloe Country
Club
10:00 a.m.

Stonewall Orchard Golf Club
June 3, 2023
Stonewall Orchard
Golf Club
12:30 p.m.

Kemper Lakes
June 12, 2023
Kemper Lakes
Golf Club
9:00 a.m.

Prairie Landing Golf Club
June 17, 2023
Prairie Landing
Golf Club
11:00 a.m.

TPC Deere Run
July 10-11, 2023
Midwest Regional
TPC Deere Run
8:00 a.m.

Chalet Hills Golf Club
July 22, 2023
Chalet Hills
Golf Club
8:00 a.m.

Orchard Valley Golf Course
August 5, 2023
Orchard Valley
Golf Course
11:00 a.m.

Blackberry Oaks
August 19, 2023
Blackberry Oaks
Golf Course
10:00 a.m.

Prairie Isle
September 2, 2023
Prairie Isle
Golf Course
10:00 a.m.

Bowes Creek Country Club
September 16, 2023
Bowes Creek
Country Club
11:00 a.m.

Schaumburg Golf Club & Academy
September 23 - 24, 2023
Chicago Senior Am Championship
Schaumburg Golf Club

ILLINOIS PGA PROFILE

Bob Malpede Honored Following a Storied Career in Golf Biz

By Dave Silbar

I first met Bob Malpede in the fall of 1998. At the time, I was in the early stages of my career in public relations and Bob was looking for a PR rep for a golf course he was building in northwest suburban Grayslake: Stonewall Orchard Golf Club. I'll never forget Bob and me standing on the 8th tee, (my favorite hole on the course, by the way), a par 5 with wetlands spreading in all directions and a tee box impossibly surrounded by towering pine trees.



As we looked out across what would arguably be one of the best public golf courses in the state, you could see the grass just starting to grow and that this layout was going to be a special one.

At the time, I had no idea that I was standing alongside a true legend in the game of golf. Twenty-five years later, I am proud to call Bob a friend and to sit alongside him on the committee for the annual Carmel Catholic High School Golf Classic, the school where I also serve as head varsity boys golf coach.

Much More than Stonewall Orchard Founder and White Deer Run GM

If anyone was ever destined for a career in golf, it is Bob Malpede. Growing up on his father's 9-hole golf course in McHenry, a young Robert Malpede would find his true passion for playing the game while attending Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein.

Fast Forward 50+ years and his hard work would culminate with the prestigious achievement of being named an Illinois PGA Senior Master, an award he was honored with in the summer of 2022.

Local golfers are familiar with Malpede's partnering with legendary course architect Arthur Hills to create the beautiful and challenging Stonewall Orchard in Grayslake, which opened in 1999. Stonewall would enjoy more than a decade of serving alongside Medinah and Olympia Fields Country Club as host of the Illinois PGA Section Championship.

Malpede would spend his remaining 16 years in business as General Manager at White Deer Run Golf Club.. He retired in 2021 and was named Head Professional Emeritus at the Vernon Hills club. Although these were the final 16 years of an amazing career, Bob would cherish his time on the White Deer range, working with players of all ages, providing instruction just as his father had taught him

A 1970 graduate, Malpede was among the first (if not the first) Carmel Catholic athletes to earn a trip to the high school state finals. At the time, he was a sophomore and shot a 72 at Brae Loch Golf Club in Grayslake to secure his ticket to state. Growing up in far northwest suburban Pistakee, he would ride the bus for an hour, each way, to and from Carmel.

"The education and discipline provided at Carmel are two of the many reasons I consider myself fortunate to be a graduate from such a tremendous school. I'm thrilled to continue my relationship by being able to serve on the committee for the Carmel Golf Classic (August 14 at Royal Melbourne C.C)," said Malpede.

Following high school, Malpede went on to study at North Texas State University. Although he didn't play golf there, he knew that the industry was one he was destined for. "I didn't play golf there, but having a father that owns a golf course, I knew I wanted to work in golf in some capacity," he recalls.

Following graduation from North Texas State, he would move to Stuttgart, Germany to work for the U.S. government. While traveling to see his brother, a military officer, Malpede landed his first job in the golf industry at the Stuttgart Golf & Ski Club.

It's here where he met his first big name in golf, a man by the name of Willie Hoffman, more commonly known as being coach to the great Bernhard Langer.

In the mid-1970s, Malpede returned to the U.S. and worked at Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan before moving just down the road to the Knollwood Club in Lake Forest. In the winter months he would head west, landing jobs at famed private Los Angeles area country clubs Bel Air and Riviera.

To say he learned a lot during his time on the west coast is an understatement. At Bel Air, Bob had the pleasure of playing with Hollywood's biggest superstars, including the likes of NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath and country music star Glen Campbell.

"One of my fondest memories to this day is being serenaded on the 18th fairway by Campbell when he was the biggest name in music," laughs Malpede.

The year of 1983 was a big one for Bob. Not only did he gain his Class A PGA membership, but also assisted in hosting the PGA Championship. He recalls getting a taste of championship golf at Riviera and having a front row seat to a classic battle between Jack Nicklaus and Hal Sutton, who went toe to toe in the final round.

That experience would lead to his first head PGA professional position at Columbine Country club in Colorado. During his time here where he met his wife, Tyra. A short time later, after proposing, the couple moved back to the Chicago area.

It didn't take long for Bob to land his first head professional assignment in Illinois as upon moving back here he was called upon by the PGA Of America to assist with the opening of Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora. With Malpede's guidance, Stonebridge leaped into the Chicago golf scene as it would play host to the Ameritech Senior Open from 1992 to 1995.

"One of the most notable experiences from the Ameritech was the pairing of Michael Jordan and Arnold Palmer in the 1993 Pro Am," recalled Bob. "You're talking about two of the most recognizable and popular athletes in the world at that time. The atmosphere was just crazy."

Locally, most are familiar with Malpede's leading role in partnering with legendary course architect Arthur Hills to create the beautiful and challenging Stonewall Orchard, which officially opened in 1999. A few short years later, Stonewall would enjoy more than a decade of serving alongside Medinah and Olympia Fields as host of the Illinois PGA section championship.

Starting as a young boy, watching his father operate that nine-hole golf course in McHenry; to being among the first state golfers at Carmel Catholic High School; to Europe and then Hollywood; to golf course owner; and now recipient of the IPGA Senior Masters Award, Bob Malpede's life has certainly come full circle.

Following his acceptance of the Senior Master's honor, Malpede would admit he was a bit in shock.

"It's an incredible honor because you never realize that your peers are watching you throughout your career. It's a great feeling to know that all the hard work and long hours I put in over the years, that there were people out there watching. I couldn't be more excited about receiving this award."





THE WIZARDRY OF BETTINARDI

By Joe Aguilar

Just a birdie putt from Bob Bettinardi's office in Tinley Park, at the bottom of a staircase leading to a bonanza of putters waiting to be fitted by-appointment only, and in earshot distance from a factory floor where almost-half-a-million-dollar machines carve blocks of metal into elegant putters, hangs a poster professionally framed.

While hardly as popular as the Farrah Fawcett/red swimsuit poster back in the day, this one changed his life.

Changed to the point where his last name has reached household level with high-end golfers who are fascinated with high-end putters.

Changed to the point where he has relationships with some of the biggest names in the golf industry.

Changed to the point where, come August 15, Bettinardi Golf, which celebrates 25 years in 2023, will unveil Studio B at 1225 West 22nd Street in Oak Brook.

"I think it's a great big step for us to show off our brand," said clean-cut Sam Bettinardi, 33, company president and Bob's only son. Bob and his wife, Ann also have two younger daughters. "I think Oak Brook is going to open people's eyes to what Bettinardi really is. It's going to be state of the art. It's going to be unbelievable."

Several PGA Tour players, including major champions Jim Furyk, Vijay Singh, and Matt Fitzpatrick, have put a "Betti" in their bag. Michael Jordan has one, complete with his "jumpman" logo and "elephant prints" painted and engraved on it. Bob Bettinardi made a putter for sweet-swinging (bat and golf club both) Ken Griffey Jr. Bettinardi did the same for Donald Trump. They played a round of golf together in 2018 when Trump occupied the Oval Office.

"He beat me by 1," Bettinardi said of the 45th U.S. president. "He shot 82. I shot 83."

A bigger name beat both of them. That would be nine-time-major winner Gary Player.

He shot 72," Bettinardi said. "He was 82 (years old)."

Today, Bettinardi is 62, as spry as Player, and still inspired by the poster he stumbled upon as a young business owner. It was more than 30 years ago when he walked into a golf pro shop in another suburb south of Chicago, Palos Heights, and had an epiphany.

Just three years earlier, in 1988, after having worked six years with his father, Don, in the machining industry, Bettinardi founded X-Cel Technologies. He still owns it along with his golf company. Don Bettinardi had encouraged his son to go out on his own, so Bob started his own machining business. He had one CNC (computer numerical control) milling machine when he started and used it to cater to the medical, hydraulics, and communications industries.

Don Bettinardi's facility didn't have CNC machinery. They carved metal using manual machines, or what Bob called "caveman-style machining."

The framed, matted poster outside of Bettinardi's office includes an engraved name plate noting the date, December 14, 1991, when he walked into that golf shop and saw an advertisement for Callaway Golf's "The Billet Series." The bullet points on the poster note how the putter is made entirely on a milling machine and how the "unique putter head," combined with Callaway's hickory stick shaft, makes "a most remarkable putter."

Remarkable, indeed.

Said Bettinardi: "I was like, 'Wait a minute. Someone's making putters on machines that I already have in my shop? This is amazing.' "

So Bettinardi called the toll-free number on the golf poster and got the ball rolling, so to speak.

"They wouldn't give me anybody," said Bettinardi, whose strengths, as noted by his son, include work ethic and drive. "They're not going to put me through to anybody. They don't know who I am. But one of the ladies who answered the phone said, 'Yeah, we got a guy that does some of our designing for milled putters.'"

So Bettinardi called the man in charge in California.

"He goes, 'Yeah, we're having trouble right now with one of our suppliers of these putters. He can't deliver,' " Bettinardi said. "He said, 'What are you doing next weekend?' "











Bettinardi hopped on a plane and flew to San Diego, where the gentleman said he would show him how to make a milled putter. Bettinardi spent the whole day there, writing down every detail he could on a yellow pad.

"It took me six months to make one putter," Bettianrdi said. "I must have gone through 45 variations. Every time I would make a putter it would not turn out the way this person, this designer, wanted me to make a putter.

"I finally made a good putter and he gave me an order for 100 pieces."







Thirty years ago, putters were made out of two pieces, or they were cast. Bettinardi revolutionized all of that.

But getting a putter to where it's ready to deftly steer a dimpled ball into a 4 1/4-inch hole requires more than just carving it out of a steel. Once a putter is milled, it needs to be polished. That man in California who was teaching Bettinardi? He was sending his putters to another company to get them polished.

An up-and-comer named Scotty Cameron was sending his putters to the same place to get them polished. One day, Cameron walked into the San Diego shop and saw a box with the name X-Cel Technologies on it.

Cameron, who had been doing work for Mizuno but was now off on his own, called Bettinardi.

At that time, all milled putters were being welded. The hosel—the socket or hollow part of the putter head into which the shaft is fitted—was welded to the body.

Bettinardi called Cameron.

"Why don't we just make the putter out of one piece? I don't want to weld anymore," Bettinardi said.

The problem was, it was going to be expensive because a big block of steel would be required. But Bettinardi made history happen.

"He was the first person in golf to make a putter out of one solid block of steel," Sam Bettinardi said of his father. "That was a game-changer."

"It was precise, because there was no welding," Bob Bettinardi said of his putter. "When you weld, you're adding heat to the metal, which distorts it."

Golfers, Bob Bettinardi explained, want something pure. They want the confidence of knowing they have the best product in their hands.

"That's what you get with a milled putter," he said.

Cameron loved Bettinardi's one-piece putter enough that he gave it to Bernhard Langer, who in 1993 was seeking his second Masters title after earning his first Green Jacket eight years earlier. Using a prototype Cameron Classic that Bettinardi made—but without his name on it—Langer beat runner-up Chip Beck by four strokes at Augusta National.

Langer's victory proved pivotal for both Cameron and Bettinardi.

"That's when everything exploded," Sam Bettinardi said. "In '93, there were seven players on the PGA Tour using one-piece milled putters. By the end of '98, there were more than 100 players using them. Every player loved the feel. They loved the look. They loved the quality. They loved the consistency."

"That was the beginning of [the] relationship with Scotty [Cameron] and Bettinardi," Bob Bettinardi said.

Bettinardi was the supplier for Cameron, doing almost all of the milling for him. Cameron then got bought out by Titleist in 1995.

In 1997, a 21-year-old named Tiger Woods won the Masters by 12 shots—still a record for the major—swinging a Cameron Newport Tel3 putter, which Bettinardi made in his shop.

A year later, Cameron and Bettinardi separated.

"I wanted to go off on my own and put my name on the putter," Bettinardi said.

> He was the first person in golf to make a putter out of one solid block of steel. That was a game-changer.

In late 1998, Bettinardi started doing just that.

In April 1999, Jesper Parnevik won the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic. He sank his final putt using a Bettinardi BB10. Parnevik hit only 99 putts with it over four rounds en route to a record score of 23-under par.

Said Bettinardi Golf's CEO and founder: "That was the start of Bettinardi Golf getting into the golf scene, hearing the name. Who's Bettinardi? What is that? Is that an Italian shirtmaker?"

Raised in Evergreen Park, Bob Bettinardi, who graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, was even more determined to make his golf business a success and do it right here in the good old U.S.A.

"We design it here, we make it here, we assemble it here," Bettinardi said. "That's the most beautiful thing you can ever have. We know that there's not another golf company that does that."





Just five days before the start of the 2003 U.S. Open at Olympia Fields, which is a 15-minute car ride from Tinley Park, Jim Furyk learned that the back-weighted putter he was using was ruled "nonconforming" by the USGA. So that week, three days before he teed it up for Round 1, he switched to a new Ben Hogan putter, Baby Ben, that Bettinardi made.

Furyk needed only 25 putts that first day and he kept draining putts through the weekend, winning his first major championship—and Bettinardi's first major—three strokes ahead of runner-up Stephen Leaney.

"I'd never putted with a Bettinardi putter until this week," Furyk said in a *Golf Digest* story. "I liked it for alignment purposes, it has a big line on the top. I was really comfortable with it. I gave it a try and was in there working with Bob's rep all week, just making little adjustments, getting the line and loft. And I felt like I was really comfortable with it, and I putted very well with it this week. I made some key putts and some great putts. It's kind of an interesting story."

More wins followed for Bettinardi Golf. In 2004, Vijay Singh won the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. In 2018, Francesco Molinari captured the British Open at Carnoustie, becoming the first Italian to win a major.

Molinari and Bettinardi. No, not Italian shirtmakers.

In 2022, Matt Fitzpatrick won the U.S. Open at The Country Club in suburban Boston.

The previous year, Bettinardi chalked its first major championship on the ladies' side, as Patty Tavatanakit

won the ANA Inspiration in California.

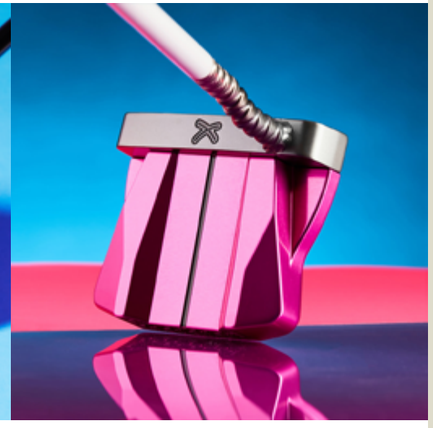
Fred Couples carded Bettinardi's 100th win last December at the SAS Championship, a Champions Tour event.

The Bettinardi team also includes Matt Kuchar, Jason Kokrak, Jodi Ewart Shadoff, who won her first LPGA tourney last year, Georgia Hall, and Celine Boutier.

Not all father-and-son teams are successful in business. Nepotism can ruin a business faster than the shanks can send a golfer in a downward spiral.







Sam Bettinardi started swinging a golf club when he was about the size of a putter. In summers, growing up, he would operate machines at his dad's shop, build putters, paint them.

Sam grew up in Lemont, went to Chicago Christian High in Palos Heights, played two years of competitive golf at Marquette University and earned his degree in business management from DePaul University.

After he graduated college, Sam said his dad wanted him to go somewhere to work for two to four years, gain some outside experience and then come back.

But plans change. Sam went to work for his dad. It was his mom's idea, he said.

"It was kind of a turning point for us," Sam said of his dad and him. "He said, 'I need you to start selling and marketing now. I need you. I need someone I can trust.' "

So Sam started immediately and "we've been growing double digits every year since then," he said.

A scratch golfer who qualified for a USGA event two years ago, Sam also knows the business side of the game. He essentially introduced his father to the benefits of social media to enhance the Bettinardi brand.

Sam assumed the role of company president about five years ago, convincing his dad that if he wanted to grow, he needed to invest in marketing. Sam worked on branding, getting displays and banners in retail stores, calling attention to the product. He used videos to tell Bettinardi's story and show customers what's behind the curtain, as he put it.

He focused on articulating Bettinardi's mission statement and its values.

"My dad's always been really good at manufacturing and design, but needed somebody to be the mouthpiece to really tell the story," Sam said.

"When I started here out of college, I sat at this desk for a year and a half. He said, 'You got your education in college, but you're going to get your MBA from me now.' I sat here just listening to him, dealing with people, putting out fires, making decisions."

Father and son agree that during the company's first couple of decades, Bettinardi had almost a cult following. They want to change that perception and expose their brand to every golfer.

"We get along like peanut butter and jelly," Bob said. "He's been able to successfully grow the brand at least 10, if not 15 to 16 times. For sure, it was a great business. But it was nowhere near what it is now and where it's going."

Where Bettinardi is going is a 35-minute drive northwest from its Tinley Park headquarters.

Studio B in Oak Brook will have a retail aspect to it, where people can come in, test out Bettinardi's putters and wedges, and buy products on site. Bettinardi's Tinley Park headquarters has a room where customers can get fitted for their putter while also shopping for accessories, but it's limited.

Fittings feature a four-camera system. The Oak Brook facility will include a custom room where people can sit down and design their own custom putter, custom wedges and custom accessories.

"It's getting more steam," Bettinardi certified putter fitter Marcus DeKeyser said of the fitted-putter market. "Most people understand, 'Hey, I need to get fit for irons, I need to get fit for a driver.' Your putter is 40 to 50% of your strokes, so why would you not get fit for your putter?"

Not all father-and-son teams are successful in business. Nepotism can ruin a business faster than the shanks can send a golfer in a downward spiral.



While DeKeyer and Kelly fit customers on the second floor in a colorful room filled with fancy putters, fancier putter covers, gear, and other accessories, the factory below is a blue-collar space.

Bob Bettinardi counts 42 milling machines, which cost about $400,000 each, he said.

"They can do anything and everything, from making an axle for a John Deere or a putter," Bettinardi said. " One of our biggest claims to fame is that Why Bettinardi?

"They're made a little more artisanally," said Will Kelly, a Bettinardi certified putter fitter and a former professional caddy. "Every putter made here goes through several steps of quality control. Bigger companies that don't own every single piece of their manufacturing, they just produce a million putters and 500 of them could be off. But every single putter that goes through that (Tinley Park) shop is checked for quality. It's just a really cool process to see first-hand."

everything is made in America. That's what we expound on and what we're so proud of. We have engineers, technicians and graphic designers here in our facility. We don't have to get on a plane and fly 6,000 miles away to the Far East to go see our product being made."

When travel is involved to sell and market the Bettinardi brand, Sam tackles most of it. His business itineraries include visits to Japan, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Canada.

"I got the right last name," Sam said, smiling.

Back home, his dad has everything under control. He still does what he knows best.

"He's very, very efficient," Sam said. "He's so good he can walk into his shop, smell the air and know what needs to be done. That's Bob. I'm not there yet. I'm smelling it. I can look around and see, 'Hey, this machine's off.' He can hear it."

Father and son see Bettinardi Golf continuing to grow. They hear Oak Brook. It's calling.

TRAVEL

Island Resort & Casino Cashes In On Post-COVID Golf Boom

Joe Aguilar



All photos: Brian Walters

Considering his confidence to wisely gamble on a $33-million renovation when a pandemic was digging in more than a golfer trying to blast out of a bunker while standing in ankle sock-deep sand, Tony Mancilla has a hot hand.

Anyone who has walked into his Island Resort & Casino in Michigan's Upper Peninsula surely can appreciate the swagger.

So this year, Mancilla, general manager of the 12-floor resort, which is located just west of Escanaba, plans to go to the tribal counsel and play his hand. He says he's going to request to build.

Again.

The Island Resort & Casino is wholly owned and operated by the Hannahville Indian Community, which is a federally recognized Potawatomi Indian Tribe. The Island Resort & Casino is part of the Gambling & Gaming industry.

"There are two ways to manage demand," Mancilla said. "You either increase the price and lower the demand or you increase the supply."

Mancilla envisions more golf holes. That's the demand of those who visit this destination, which is one of the Midwest's largest for golf. The Island Resort & Casino boasts two of Michigan's best golf courses in Sweetgrass, which is celebrating its 15th year in 2023, and nearby Sage Run, which opened in 2018. Both 18-hole courses were designed by acclaimed golf course architect Paul Albanese.

"I don't know if they're going to do it or not," Mancilla said of the Island Resort & Casino counsel. "But that's our direction. We grow with the demand. As we grow, people seem to fill in the rooms and take the tee times."

A casino-operation only in 1985, the Island Resort & Casino moved three miles down the road to its current location in 1991. (You can't miss the water tower, which extends like Victor Wembanyama on a playground court.)

"They just had cards at that time, blackjack in a bar," Mancilla said of the original casino, which now serves as Hannahville's community center. "It was so popular that we needed more space for parking and whatnot."



Thirty-two years ago, the Island Resort & Casino opened as a 28-room motel. It expanded to 113 rooms six years later and to 326 rooms in 2007. As of January 2022, the resort boasts 454 rooms with enough entertainment and eating options that patrons, whether young or old, never have to step foot off the property to enjoy a worthwhile stay. The property includes the two golf courses—Sage Run is a 10-minute drive away—three restaurants on its main floor, and a high-end restaurant on the 12th floor with a view of Sweetgrass, a spa, a small water park, and theater-style showroom.

"Here's a little tidbit for you," said Mancilla, who's been at the casino for nine years after serving as a lawyer for the Hannahville Community for 17 years. "Our year-round occupancy with 454 (rooms) is higher than it was when we had 113 rooms. It's because of the golf courses and our amenities as we've added on."

The Island's showroom features 1,315 seats and has hosted some of the biggest names in entertainment. It was nominated as one of the five finalists for the 46th Academy of Country Music Awards in the Industry Award category of Casino of the Year in 2011. The remainder of the 2023 entertainment includes rocker Ted Nugent (Sept. 22-23), psychic medium Matt Fraser (Oct. 6-7), pop-rock trio Hanson (Nov. 3-4) and, just in time for Christmas, the Oak Ridge Boys (Dec. 8-9).

Just three years ago, however, entertainment world-wide came to a screeching halt. COVID-19 was rampant. The Island Resort & Casino had a decision to make regarding a planned $33 million renovation.

It was March 2020.

"We were deciding whether we were going to break ground and get it done," Mancilla said. "We said, this (pandemic) isn't going to last forever. We had pre-purchased all of our materials, stored them and brought in all of the labor. People were looking to work, so there wasn't an increase in labor at that time."

So the Island Resort & Casino played its hand.

It was a winning hand.

"If we would have waited a year, the price would have gone up 40%," Mancilla said. "We lucked out. We got it done."

The expansion was completed in 2022—coming in $1.5 million under budget, Mancilla said—and included the upscale Horizons Steakhouse, Splash Island and 128 new guest rooms and suites. Last year saw the additions of The Reef and Reef Pizza and the dedicated sportsbook area open on the gaming floor. A new top-of-the-line outdoor sign was installed.

When the sportsbook opened in September 2022, it became the first sports betting venue open in Upper Michigan and Wisconsin.

Mancilla says his facility is the second-oldest Indian casino in the country.

"There were bingo halls before that in Oklahoma and California, but bingo is different from a casino," said Mancilla, whose father is Mexican and whose mother is from the Hannahville tribe. A native of Idaho, he took the bar exam in his home state and attended the University of New Mexico for law school.

Casinos are classified as Class III games (roulette, craps, blackjack, slot machines), "everything you can do in Las Vegas and Atlantic City," as Mancilla put it.

Mancilla shared a history lesson, explaining how in the U.P. a chairman from one of the tribes put a casino in his garage. The federal courts closed him down but said while an individual couldn't have a casino, a tribe could.

"All of a sudden, a light went on," Mancilla said.

Bay Mills, a waterfront resort in Brimley, Michigan, and just a couple of hours away from the Island Resort & Casino, put up the first casino with cards. The Island Resort & Casino followed shortly afterward.

"So, really, the Indian casino concept began in the U.P. in Michigan," Mancilla said.

The Native American theme is consistent at the Island Resort & Casino. Sweetgrass, which sits adjacent to the



Sage Run Hole 8

resort, was named the 2021 National Golf Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association and is home to the EPSON Tour's Island Resort Championship. Sweetgrass refers to an aromatic herb and sacred plant used in Native American peace and healing rituals. The grass is planted throughout the course.

The prairie links-style course meanders to a wide-open vista where many greens and flags can be seen in the distance. The course also features historic wood and iron bridges repurposed from other parts of the state.

Throughout the course, golfers encounter the rich history of the Hannahville Community, with holes named after traditional Potawatomi clans, villages, allies, medicine, and symbols.

"It's my own philosophy and the Native American philosophy that we always try to make the design fit the land, and truly allow it to reflect the principles of Native Americans' respect for the land," said Albanese, a Harvard University transplant who lives in Plymouth, Michigan.

"This also inspired stories to share throughout the course. We put some wooden posts in the side of a hill along the fairway that represent the remains of a fort from the 1650s. And the green complex itself worked out very nicely to be a redan-style green. Redan is the French word for fortress."


Sweetgrass Hole 17

On June 10, 2018, Sage Run opened 10 years to the day after Sweetgrass debuted. With clear skies, visibility is 20 miles from elevated views of the course. The relative newbie is rustic in style and bunker heavy.

If the Island Resort & Casino gets the greenlight from its counsel to build more golf holes, Mancilla said it probably would be done at Sage Run.

"We have a lot of property," Mancilla said. "We're thinking of starting with nine holes and designing them after the Golden Age of the '20s. As the land fits, we'll find holes that fit that."

The goal remains to give visitors, golfers in this case, what they want.

"Everyone wants those 7:30 to 10 (a.m.) tee times," Mancilla said. "If you added nine (holes), you could send people off the front of Sage Run and they could play the back, and you could send people off the back of Sage Run and they could play the new nine. So instead of having two sets of prime tee times like we do now at Sweetgrass and Sage Run, we'd have three sets. You're adding another 36 golfers being able to go off in the early morning, because that's what (customers) want to do here. They want to go have their round of golf and they either go re-play it if they're avid golfers or they come inside."

If the chips fall the way Mancilla hopes, construction could start next summer.

"It's exciting," Mancilla said. "But nothing is definitive."


Sweetgrass


Sweetgrass Hole 12





Re-Birth of a Giant: Flossmoor Golf Club to Host 74th Illinois Open Championship

By Neal Kotlarek

Stand on the first tee of Flossmoor Golf Club on Chicago's south side and you immediately find yourself going back into the origins of the game. In front and around you rest 187 rolling acres of perfectly manicured fairways featuring landing areas tightened by sprawling, irregularly-edged bunkers. If you feel as though you are playing golf in the early 1900s, it is because you are walking in the same footprints as Bobby Jones, Chick Evans, and Frances Ouimet.

All of them took on this Herbert J. Tweetie-designed course not many years after the course opened in 1899. Then, and throughout its 124-year history, Flossmoor has stood the test of time as one of the Midwest's showcase parkland golf courses.

Home to the 1920 PGA Championship and the 1923 U.S. Amateur Championship, Flossmoor G.C. will host the 74th Illinois Open Championship July 31 – August 2. The state's premier players, including defending champion David Perkins, will be tested by Flossmoor's lurking hazards and trademark U.S. Open-fast putting surfaces.

"The course has always been known for its greens," said Flossmoor Director of Golf George Goich. "While the course offers plenty of challenges from the tees to the fairways, the real test occurs when calculating where to hit the ball on these greens and then how to read the putts when you get on the green."

The distinctive character of each hole is recognized by its nickname. The 488-yard No. 1 is called "Road" due to its similarities to the famous "Road Hole" No. 17 on the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland. The 422-yard No. 6 is called "Neuk" which is Scottish for an angular piece of land. The rolling No. 11 is called "Spion Kop" and references a steep hill in South Africa. The 420-yard No. 3 is called "Home" as it was the 18th hole on the course's original configuration.

In 2009, Flossmoor received a major renovation performed by acclaimed Michigan architect Ray Hearn. The massive project included restoring and modernizing the then-110-year old property. Greens and bunkers that had grown smaller over the years were expanded. Trees that had tightened holes were taken out to allow for strategies to be implemented as original designer Tweetie had intended. The end-result was nationally heralded as "Course Renovation of the Year" by *Golf* magazine.

"I consider our work at Flossmoor to be one of my proudest achievements," said Hearn in an interview. "The course was designed during golf's 'golden age' so we wanted to recapture the essence of what Tweetie wanted it to be. While trees are a precious commodity at any course, some had grown to the point that they not only made an open course tight and unmanageable—they disturbed views to the greens and created really difficult angles on some holes."

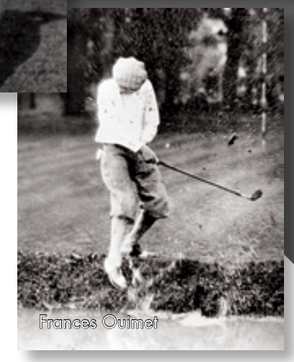

Hole #1

While the property's impressive course has withstood the test of time over its 124-year history, the private club also found itself needing to be reimagined in recent years. By the mid-2010s, membership had dropped precipitously due to a wide variety of factors including the changing demographics of the Homewood area, lifestyle changes, and the economy still reeling from the 2008 recession. By June, 2019, Flossmoor was in dire straits as membership had dropped to under 100—a virtually unsustainable number to finance a member-owned club. That was just about the time that the 1899 Golf Group—a small group of investors which included Goich and his brothers along with a close friend—took an interest in buying Flossmoor and bringing it back to its former glory. The deal closed in March, 2020—just as the pandemic was shutting down Chicago and the rest of the world.

"It was obviously not a great time to launch a new business," said Goich with a laugh. "We obviously had to enact a plan that would keep the club going during that uncertain period where everything was shutting down." Their plan was basically to re-position Flossmoor around its primary asset—the premier golf course. While food and bar services would remain available, club events and dining were de-emphasized. One of the first moves the investors made was to transition the club's name. "The phrase 'golf club' has a vastly different connotation than 'country club'," said Goich. "We wanted members, guests, and prospective mem-


Chick Evans


Herbert Tweetie


Frances Ouimet


Hole #6

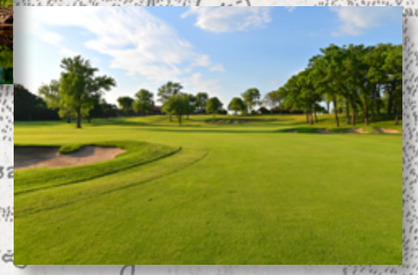

Hole #3















bers to think of Flossmoor as a fun place to golf and relax. A country club implies formalities and stuffiness. A golf club is exactly what we aspired for Flossmoor to become."

As it turned out, restrictions on golf were lifted a short while after the pandemic raged. And the re-positioning of Flossmoor as a golf club quickly paid dividends. With baseball fields, theaters, and other entertainment options shut down, golf courses were suddenly the primary option for people who wanted to go outdoors while offices remained shuttered. Like every other golf venue in the country, Flossmoor's tee sheet filled up.

The 1899 Golf Group invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve the golf experience at the club. "We wanted the course to look just like it did in the 1930s," said Goich. That meant removing more than 500 trees to open up fairways and growing out fescue areas to improve course aesthetics. As word spread on the new Flossmoor experience, the membership demographic evolved away from just those who lived in the area. In just three years, membership has grown by more than 300% to 270. The club has attracted younger golfers in the 25 to 40 demographic. And many of the new members live in the city's west suburbs.

"We feel we have created something really special for our members and their guests," said Goich. "Our members and their guests come to have fun playing on an outstanding golf course and enjoy our amenities which include a great caddie program and an outstanding clubhouse with a relaxed atmosphere.

Club amenities are about to increase as the club is in process of opening an expansive short game area a short distance away from the clubhouse. "This plan has been in place for a while," said Goich. "It's exciting to see everything take shape so that players can refine their games at a facility we think is going to be the best at any club in all of the metro area."

Beyond all of the club's amenities, plans are in place to build a huge "Himalayas-style" putting course a few steps away from the clubhouse.

Goich believes that these additions will not only cater to existing members but attract even more new members to the club. By focusing on golf and away from social events like brunches and gala dinners, the club keeps costs down to make membership fees and dues affordable—particularly in contrast to some of the Chicago area's legacy country clubs which can cost a virtual arm and a leg to join.

Way back in 1899, Chicago was in the midst of a renaissance. Its downtown was still being rebuilt following the Great Chicago Fire. The city was growing at an amazing pace from 30,000 only forty years earlier to nearly 2 million. Horses and cable cars were replaced by a rail system that allowed businesspeople in the Loop to take a short ride to the city's south suburbs where they could play a thrilling new game that was all the rage in Scotland and Ireland. The grand success of the Flossmoor C.C. course would eventually lead to the construction of other nearby clubs including Olympia Fields, Idlewild, and Ravisloe.

While much has changed over the past 124 years, the game of golf continues to thrive at Flossmoor Golf Club. The only real difference is that you don't need a train ticket to enjoy the experience.

For membership information, visit www.flossmoor-golfclub.com.

The Shack Indoor Golf Club

By Todd Mrowice

Perhaps no other golf technology has become as effortlessly common as the golf simulator. Aside from retailers using them to fit us for new sticks, you'll find simulator setups at your local courses, at some workplaces, and even at a few local car dealerships. Some of you reading this might have your own setup in your garage. It's no wonder that the golf simulator industry, according to Straits Research, was valued at $1.3 billion in 2021 and is projected to climb well over $3 billion by 2030.

Along with the increased demand for golf simulators came establishments that incorporate food, drinks, and virtual golf. And while we have a few options in the Chicago area, there's a spot in the North Shore that stands out to me for numerous reasons. The Shack Indoor Golf Club in Glenview hit me in all the right ways from the moment I walked in. And after some incredible food, beverages, and some not-so-incredible golf shots, I left holding this establishment as my gold standard for what a golf sim bar should be.

I also had the pleasure of meeting the man behind the shack, Nick Larkin. His professional background and love for the game shine through in every aspect of this business. Let's get into why you need to get yourself over to The Shack Indoor Golf Club and pay Larkin and his team a visit.

The Sims

First and foremost, as a golf publication, we have to imagine a big part of you seeking out a spot like The Shack Indoor Golf Club is to use the simulators. I've visited a few other locations that have simulators, but what grabbed my attention right away was that The Shack's sim setups are equipped with Trackman, which is a rarity. Most establishments won't spend the money needed to have such high-end simulator technology, but you'll find it in all four bays at The Shack.

"I wanted to make sure we spent the time and money to get the simulators exactly right for this place and Trackman was the top option," said Larkin. "It separates us from everyone else by providing the most realistic indoor golf experience that there is."

One of the hardest decisions you'll have to make while visiting is which course you'd like to play. With over 200 tracks available you can test your skills on famed local courses such as Medinah and Conway Farms, or, you can hit bucket list courses like Pebble Beach and St. Andrews. So whether you're a single or you've got a few bucks on the line with friends, you'll have plenty of courses to choose from.

Larkin noted that public reservations can be made for a four-hour block of time and that 45 to 60 minutes per player is what you'll need to get through all 18 holes.

Leagues

While you're free to make reservations and visit The Shack as you please, the chances of you getting hooked and wanting to join one of their leagues is pretty high. After all, it is a club.

Indoor golf leagues are run in two waves, from September to December and then from December to April. League nights are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and from what I hear the competition can be as stiff or as casual as you'd like.

Leagues are handicapped with nine holes of stroke play with playoffs, prizes, and more. They fill up quickly, so be sure to visit The Shack's website for more details and to get signed up.



Photos: Mike Whealan

Instruction

I mentioned lessons above and it is yet another great offering from The Shack Indoor Golf Club. PGA Professional Kevin McCann offers his services to individuals and groups for single lessons or you can choose a six-pack to, perhaps, spread throughout the winter.

Membership

For those that would like to take full advantage of The Shack Indoor Golf Club's facilities, they have membership options which include monthly, six-month, and full-year options. A membership will get you a ton of great perks such as free off-peak sim rental, discounted peak







time simulator rental, food and beverage discounts, discounted lessons, and much more.





Feed Me

In my experience, similar establishments that I've visited tend to miss on their menu offerings. Either they offer a big menu and do all of it average at best, or they offer a couple of appetizers and move on with life. I was quite impressed with The Shack's menu, and that was before I even tasted the food.

With a handful of starters including a jumbo pretzel flanked by cinnamon butter, beer cheese, and spicy mustard, you can simply snack if you choose. Skipping one of their delicious flatbreads, however, would be a colossal mistake. Three cheese, margherita, and pepperoni for the staples. Italian beef, BBQ pulled pork, and a meat lovers called "The Piezan" for those that want something special.

There are also a few sandwiches that fit perfectly into your virtual round, including the Spicy Molinari, an Italian "sangwich" that will have you hitting power draws in no time (maybe).

The well-thought-out menu is a product of Larkin who, before owning The Shack Indoor Golf Club, spent 20 years in the hospitality and restaurant business. His professional stops have included John Barleycorn, Moe's Cantina, Heaven on Seven, and Public House to name a few. While his passion for the game of golf is strong, his background helps take his location above and beyond.

"No Buffalo wings because they're too messy. You don't want sauce on your grips," joked Larkin. "I wanted to make the best halfway house menu ever and I'm really happy with what we have."

Beer Me

Let's not shy away from the fact that a solid bar menu can be just as important as a food menu. Some would say it's even more important than the golf. Some.

If beer is your adult beverage of choice, you'll have nearly 30 options to choose from between drafts and bottles, including Three Floyds, Bell's, Goose Island, and much more. There are also plenty of wines, canned cocktails, whiskeys, scotches, and other libations to take the edge off of your swing woes.

If you wander over to the specialty cocktail menu, I'm recommending the Spicy Margarita or, my personal favorite, the Manhattan with Woodford Reserve bourbon.

Ambiance

I've mentioned many aspects of The Shack Indoor Golf Club thus far that makes it a great place to experience. There is one aspect, however, that makes it truly exceptional in my eyes and that's the overall ambiance.

"My goal was to have a place that balances traditional and modern," said Larkin. "I feel like our club is relaxed and is a place where golfers of all abilities can hang out."

I think anyone can find comfort in this establishment, whether you're serious about working on your game or you're looking to have a night out with friends, I feel confident in saying there's a place for you. Larkin and his staff are warm and welcoming. They accomplish everything from showing you the ins and outs of the simulator to mixing you a world-class drink. There are plenty of TVs so you can belly up to the bar and watch golf or whatever game is on. I can't ignore my personal favorite touch which is a sizable portrait of Arnold Palmer emblazoned on the bar (Larkin credits his architect for the idea). I'd like to think if The King were still with us, he'd appreciate his presence at an establishment that's playing a part in making golf a bit more fun in 2023.

When You Go

The Shack Indoor Golf Club
1717 Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025
(847) 904-2905
theshackgolfclub.com

BACK TO THE FUTURE

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

SHEPHERD'S CROOK
shepherdscrook.org



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



TRAVEL

Book It: Mississippi Doesn't Disappoint

Dave Weretka and Neal Kotlarek

The great state of Mississippi may very well be the hidden secret of America's greatest golf destinations. While neighboring gulf states Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida garner lots of deserved attention for their golf offerings, Mississippi has for the longest time been more renowned for its food, its southern hospitality, and its history as the birthplace of the blues than it has for its over 140 publicly accessible golf courses. That reputation as one of golf's hidden gems has changed dramatically in just the past few years.

From the beaches of Biloxi to the rolling hills of West Point, Mississippi is truly a golfers' paradise. With its year-round golf season, sprawling forests and stunning wetlands, the Magnolia State serves up some of the most beautiful courses in the country with highly affordable green fees.

One of the most notable courses in the state is located in Saucier, a city named after the "first family" of Mississippi. The Sauciers were French Canadians who were among the state's first settlers. **Fallen Oak Golf Club** is located just north of Biloxi and was designed by renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio. The course is nestled within the beautiful DeSoto National Forest and offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The course is challenging for golfers of all levels, with plenty of water hazards and bunkers to navigate around. The greens are undulating and have multiple tiers, so club wisely on your approach. Fallen Oak also boasts a luxurious clubhouse, complete with a full-service bar and restaurant.

The **Beau Rivage Resort & Casino** is an MGM Resorts International property that features 1,740 guest rooms offering a Southern Coastal feel. Only guests of the Beau enjoy access to Fallen Oak. Be sure to visit Jia, the Pan-Asian restaurant offering a noodle bar as well as teppanyaki tables where the food is prepared tableside. You could also venture across the street to Field's Steak & Oyster Bar for some fresh seafood entrees. Enjoy a cocktail on the outdoor wrap-around patio and enjoy a gorgeous coastal sunset.

Another popular golf course in Mississippi is **Shell Landing Golf Club**. Located in Gautier, just east of Biloxi, Shell Landing offers an exceptional golfing experience. Designed by legendary golfer Davis Love III, the course winds through the beautiful marshlands and oak forests of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The course is known for its large greens, numerous hazards, and beautiful views of the Gulf of Mexico. After a round of golf, players can relax in the clubhouse and enjoy a drink or a meal overlooking the course.

Grand Bear Golf Club, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, sits in the middle of the sprawling Desoto National Forest. The course winds through tall pines and traverses wetlands throughout your round. Only 30 minutes from the coast, the gently rolling tract naturally lends itself to exclusive holes that are free of any residential property. Pure nature at its best. Grand Bear hosted the PGA Tour Champions event in 2022. It's a true test of golf regardless of the tees you select.

Stop in the log cabin clubhouse after your round and enjoy a well deserved adult beverage for tackling Grand Bear Golf Club.

Dancing Rabbit Golf Club is located in Choctaw, Mississippi. The property is named after a nearby historic creek where a treaty was signed between the federal government and the Choctaw tribe which awarded the tribe land previously seized. Dancing Rabbit features two separate 18-hole courses, both designed by golf legend Tom Fazio in collaboration with Jerry Pate. The courses wind through beautiful oak forests and meander around the banks of the Big and Little Dancing Rabbit Creeks. The courses are challenging for golfers of all levels, with plenty of hazards and undulating greens keeping players on their toes. Dancing Rabbit also offers a beautiful clubhouse, complete with a restaurant and pro shop.

Settle in at the **Pearl River Resort and Casino** while you're in town playing the Dancing Rabbit courses. The resort properties


Fallen Oak GC

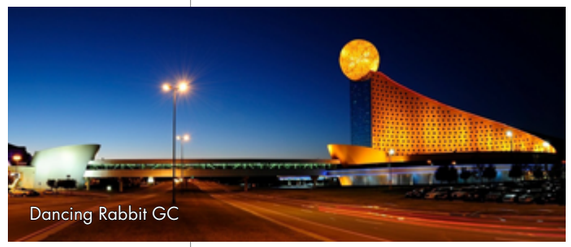

Fallen Oak GC


Fallen Oak GC


Shell Landing GC


Old Waverly GC


Dancing Rabbit GC


Dancing Rabbit GC


Mossy Oak GC


Grand Bear GC



include the Golden Moon Hotel & Casino and Silver Star Hotel & Casino. Each offer over 500 well-appointed guest rooms. A third lodging option for large golf groups is the newly refurbished Dancing Rabbit Inn. On site dining options include Phillip M's fine dining. Steak and fresh seafood await on this menu that includes an extensive wine list.

Old Waverly Golf Club is another beautiful course located in West Point, Mississippi. The course was designed by Bob Cupp and opened in 1988. Old Waverly is built around a beautiful lake and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The course is known for its challenging layout, with plenty of water hazards and tight fairways. Old Waverly has hosted numerous high-profile golf tournaments over the years, including the US Women's Open in 1999.

Mossy Oak Golf Club is located just a short drive from Old Waverly Golf Club. The course was designed by Gil Hanse, one of the most accomplished golf course architects in the world. It is considered one of the most challenging tests in the area. Mossy Oak features numerous water hazards and bunkers, making it a true test of a golfer's skill. Mossy Oak offers a hard and fast links-style course. Hole #10 is a risk/reward hole that doglegs to the right. The green is fronted by a large mature oak. Our group walked off that hole a collective 3 under by taking bold approach lines off the tee box. The Mossy Oak cottages are located along the 10th fairway and offer four luxurious bedrooms in each unit. Nice and convenient after playing two of the Top 100 courses just a stone's throw awayfrom each other.

All golf trip schedules to Mississippi should allocate time for recreation and fun beyond just golf. Mississippi's rich history is also on display throughout the state. Visitors can explore the Mississippi Delta and experience the birthplace of the blues. There's also the **Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum** in Tupelo, which is a must-see for any music fan.

Overall, the state is a wonderful destination for golfers and non-golfers alike. With its beautiful golf courses, rich history, and vibrant nightlife, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're playing a round of golf at Fallen Oak or exploring the other top tier courses, Mississippi offers an unforgettable vacation experience. Learn more at www.VisitMississippi.org.



GOLF360°



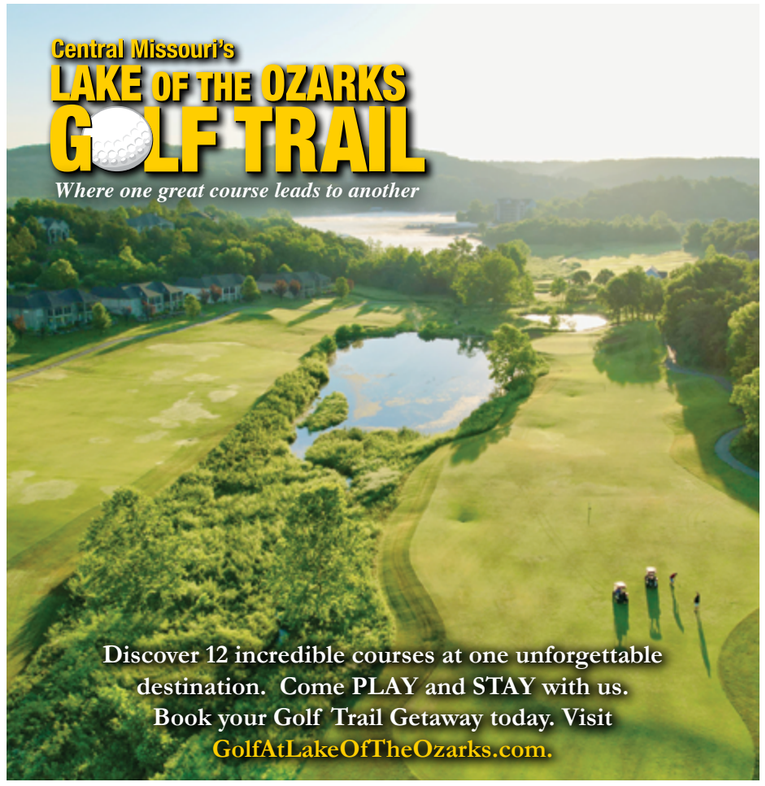
Be sure to tune into the award-winning Golf360 TV show on NBC Sports Chicago for all things golf in The Windy City and beyond.

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



Sports CHICAGO





ON THE CORKSCREWS



Stephen Hawk

How Sweet It Is

Orin Swift Cellars was a relative newcomer on the California wine scene, having been established in 1998, but not by "Orin Swift," as I had long assumed. Rather, it was by the now iconic, and iconoclastic, winemaker David Phinney. Orin is Phinney's father's middle name and Swift is his mother's maiden name.

Phinney was born in Gilroy, California, (the "Garlic Capitol of the World"), the son of a botanist and a college professor. However, within a week he was in Los Angeles, where he spent his childhood, and finally an adolescence in Squaw Valley. He enrolled in the Political Science program at the University of Arizona, with an eye towards a law degree, but before long became disillusioned with both. At this juncture, a friend invited him on a trip to Italy, and while in Florence he was introduced to the joys of wine, and soon became obsessed.

Back in the States, he began his career by working the night-shift harvest at Robert Mondavi in 1997. Encouraged by Mondavi, remarkably he started his own Napa Valley brand the very next year with the purchase two tons of some Zinfandel, though he wasn't sure what he was going to do with it. Predictably, there were some false starts. Orin Swift's first vintage was okay but not noteworthy, with Phinney confessing that he made an error in sourcing average fruit from the 'wrong part' of a great vineyard. Eventually he figured it out though, creating a rich, seductive, runaway best-selling wine called The Prisoner (an unusual blend of Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petite Sirah, and Charbono).

Since making his first wine in 1998, Phinney has been guided by two criteria: "find the best fruit from the best vineyards and don't screw it up" and if you do screw it up "experience is what you get when you don't get what you want."

In a controversial move in 2016, Phinney sold Orin Swift to E&J Gallo (yes, that Gallo) for nearly 300 million dollars, but he shrewdly negotiated to remain in charge of production and winemaking for them. (Orin Swift Cellars has since been renamed The Prisoner Wine Company.) "I have access to their amazing vineyards; after the harvest in 2016 – the first year – I threw a barbeque for all the rest of the [Gallo] winemakers, some who I knew, some I didn't, to apologize for stealing their grapes because I knew we were getting access to stuff we probably shouldn't have!"

While some observers saw it as a canny and natural business move, there were also whispers of criticism about Phinney 'selling out.' He is sensitive to the complaint, but stands by his decision. "It was a very natural, organic coming together, I've known and worked with the Gallos since 2005 and it was just kind of a conversation that was spurred because our growth curve was like a hockey stick, and that's when you become attractive to bigger wineries," he says.

Many of the wines Phinney makes are blends. This is by design and not circumstance, so having access to a huge number of vineyards and parcels in sought-after areas of Napa Valley and beyond makes his job more interesting, and his quest for producing great wines arguably easier, as he is always striving for balance in his products. "For me the easiest way to achieve complexity is through geographic diversification, and that can be county-wise, valley-wise, country-wise," he says. "I was told many years ago, and I believe it, that if you put a lot of good red wine together you often make a great red wine, so having that – and I hate this phrase – 'spice rack' of different things to play with can really work. You still have to be a custodian of each wine so that when you add them together the finished wine is better than the sum of its parts, that's where I think blending really works." And although he admits it's a cliché, he believes that 90% of a wine is made in the field, so vineyard selection is the key to success.

Phinney also creates all the of the wine labels, and he is always looking for inspiration, much of which comes from his extensive travels around the world. "They all start and end with me, whether I like it or not. I grew up in LA in the 1980s very much in the punk/skateboarding/surfing scene, so there's definitely a street art aspect to it. The flipside of that is that my parents were both professors, so we basically travelled the world and wherever we went we always had to go to a fine art museum. So there's always been this relationship with art either by proxy or by design."



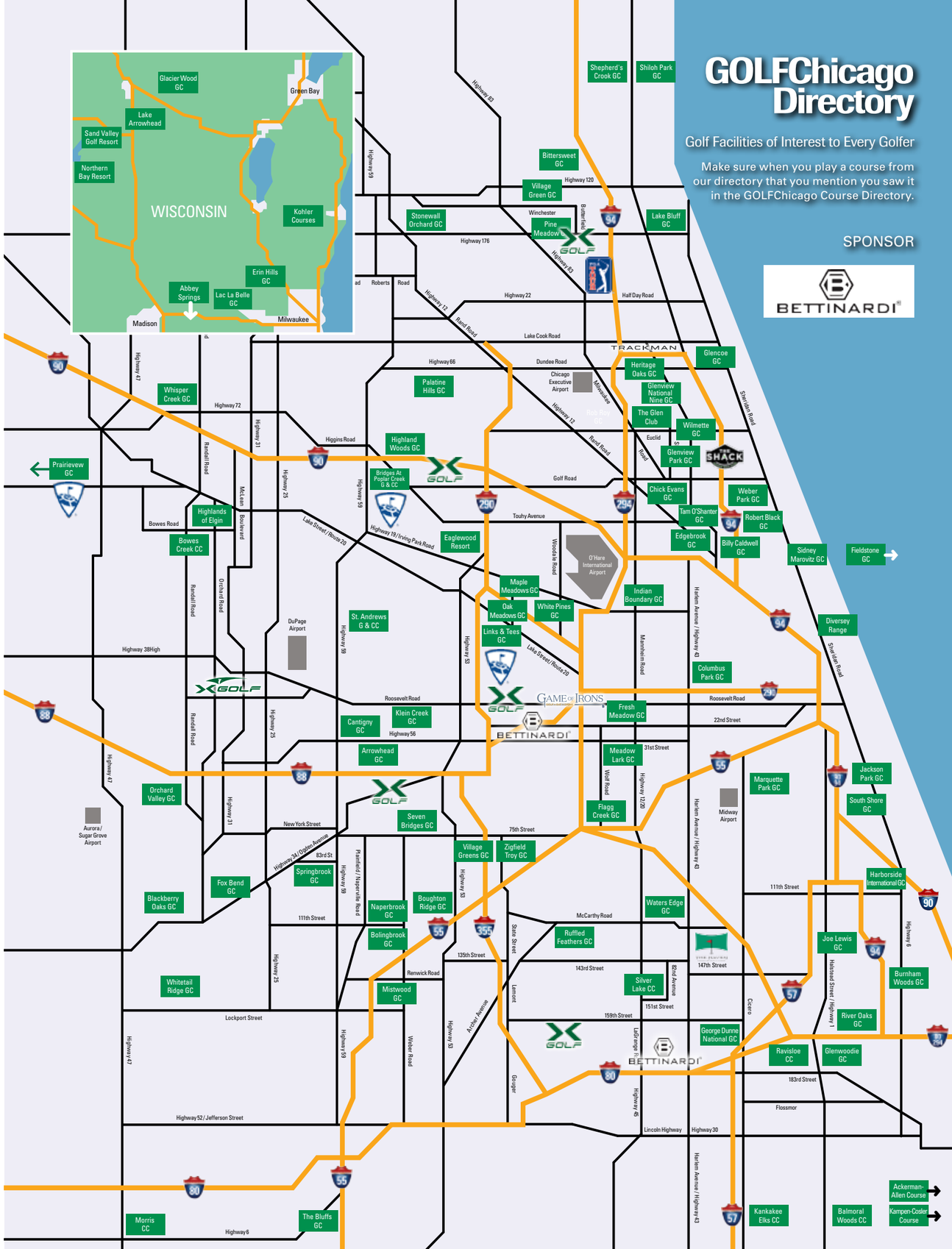
smhawk@winervana.com

The Prisoner 2019

This hugely popular wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Syrah, and Charbono (no Zinfandel in the 2019, apparently). It is a dark but quite transparent ruby in the glass. The nose offers aromas of rich dark fruit, including cherry and roasted fig. There is an excellent mouth-feel on the palate, and it is very fruit forward, with plenty of sweet bing cherry, cocoa, and vanilla. Yes, it is a fruit bomb. It wraps up with a medium finish. The ABV is a robust 15.5%.

Frankly, the popularity of this wine surprises me, especially at about $45 a bottle. Although it is a dry wine, its perceived sweetness is quite high, too much so for me. But maybe not so surprising in a nation that drinks so much soda pop. This is an excellent example of what people mean when they call a wine "jammy." I much preferred the 2018 Orin Swift Palermo. YMMV.

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



BETTINARDI®

LEGENDARY PUTTERS, AND SO MUCH MORE!



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.

Bettinardi Golf

708-802-7400
Studio B
7800 Graphics Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
bettinardi.com/pages/studio-b-putter-fitting

Studio B is Bettinardi Golf's high-tech putter-fitting facility located above the factory floor. During your one-hour fitting, our certified fitter will assess your stroke and determine what Bettinardi putter, length, loft, and lie would be best suited for your stroke.

The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com

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

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

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

Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60124
bowescreekcc.com

Ranked as *Golfweek*'s Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member for a day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek provides the public golfer a private-club experience, without an annual membership.

Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, and five-time host of the Illinois State Amateur, Cantigny features 27 challenging holes on beautiful, rolling terrain covering 300 acres. Rated Top 30 Best in State by *Golf Digest*. Cantigny Golf Academy offers junior clinics, private lessons, club fitting, grass practice tees, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for ages 8 to 15.

New for 2023
TrackMan Range at the Cantigny Golf Academy.

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

Green Meadows Golf Club

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

Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting.

Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!

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

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

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPage-Golf.com.

Maple Meadows Golf Club

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

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

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

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

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPage-Golf.com.

The Preserve at Oak Meadows

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

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

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award
- *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year
- *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play
- ASGCA Design Excellence Award

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

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

Erin Hills

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

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

Fieldstone GC

248-370-9354
1984 Taylor Rd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
fieldstonegolfclub.com

Amidst over 170 local golf courses, Fieldstone is consistently hailed as one of the top daily fee facilities in Southeast Michigan.
We present an exceptional variety of hole designs by the renowned architect Arthur Hills that mesh the diverse landscape and wetlands with gently rolling fairways through majestic hardwoods. Add our unparalleled maintenance and dedicated staff of professionals for an experience that many private clubs try, but often fail, to emulate.

Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course, boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,890-yard, par-72 course tests skills of all levels with 34 well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, the 2010 & 2011 USGA Qualifiers, and the 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2023 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Christina's Pub & Grill before or after your round of golf to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with gorgeous views and American fare done right!

BETTINARDI

LEGENDARY PUTTERS, AND SO MUCH MORE!



Game of Irons

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

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

Glacier Wood Golf Club

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

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

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.

The Haven Indoor Golf

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

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

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

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.

Klein Creek Golf Club

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

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

The Club at Lac La Belle

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

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

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.

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.

Wilmette Golf Club

630-208-7600
2325 Longest Dr.
West Chicago, IL 60185
prairielanding.com

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

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.

BETTINARDI

LEGENDARY PUTTERS, AND SO MUCH MORE!



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.

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.

Shepherd's Crook Golf Course

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

Shepherd's Crook has earned rave reviews as a course that is both challenging and exciting to play. Keith Foster, who has designed some of the most interesting courses built in the last 10 years, created a links-style course that a feels like playing Ireland's Ballybunion or Waterville courses. The design reflects the golden era of golf course architecture of the 1920s and 30s, with bentgrass fairways, tees, and greens.

"Shepherd's Crook is routed with classic and strategic design principles that cut features naturally to the terrain. The vision of Shepherd's Crook returns golfers to the game's past." – Keith Foster, Architect

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 fall.

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

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

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

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

Year-round instruction available!

White Pines Golf Club

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

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

Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

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

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

Wilmette Golf Club

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

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

X-Golf Kildeer

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

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

X-Golf Libertyville

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

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

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

X-Golf Orland Park

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

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

X-Golf Schaumburg

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

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

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

FINAL PUTT

Grow the Game, Change the Game, and #MakeGolfCool

Dave Silbar

Chicago native Roger Steele has taken a winding path to reach where he is today, but there is one constant that has remained through it all: golf.

Steele was first introduced to golf as a child by his father, a retired Chicago police officer. While a lack of resources and peer support initially stunted his golf game, he reconnected with the sport post-college and went on to win the 2013 Chicago Midwest Amateur.

He was suddenly surrounded by mentors that would eventually facilitate his transition into the content creation space. He also began to view the game of golf in a much different light; not only as a competitive sport, but as a professional development tool that could help youth gain exposure to new opportunities.

Since then, Steele has made it his mission to help drive the future of the golf industry forward.



He has dedicated his growing social media platforms to inspiring new players and making the sport more accessible.

On June 13th, KemperSports announced Steele as its official community advisor overseeing the #MakeGolfCool initiative, Steele's first partnership with a golf course management company. Steele and KemperSports share the vision of making golf more accessible for youth players to continue growing the game.

"For more than four decades, KemperSports has been an industry leader in growing the game of golf," said KemperSports CEO Steve Skinner. "Throughout that time, we have sought to partner with people who share our passion for golf. Roger Steele is as passionate about the game as anyone I have met. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious."

In his new role, Steele will co-create content with KemperSports aimed at telling impactful stories of members of the KemperSports family who are thoughtfully growing the game by increasing access and building community through the sport. He will also work with the talented golf professionals and general managers across KemperSports' family of facilities to continue evolving the ongoing strategy centered on attracting young players to the sport and inspiring a love and passion for the game that will create new opportunities to help them grow through the sport.

"Ever since I fell in love with the game of golf, it's been my mission to inspire that in other people, especially youth players, because that's what growing the game is all about," said Steele. "Golf changes lives and I'm so excited to be joining the KemperSports family to create programs, content, and initiatives aimed at bringing golf and all the opportunities it unlocks to young people across the country."

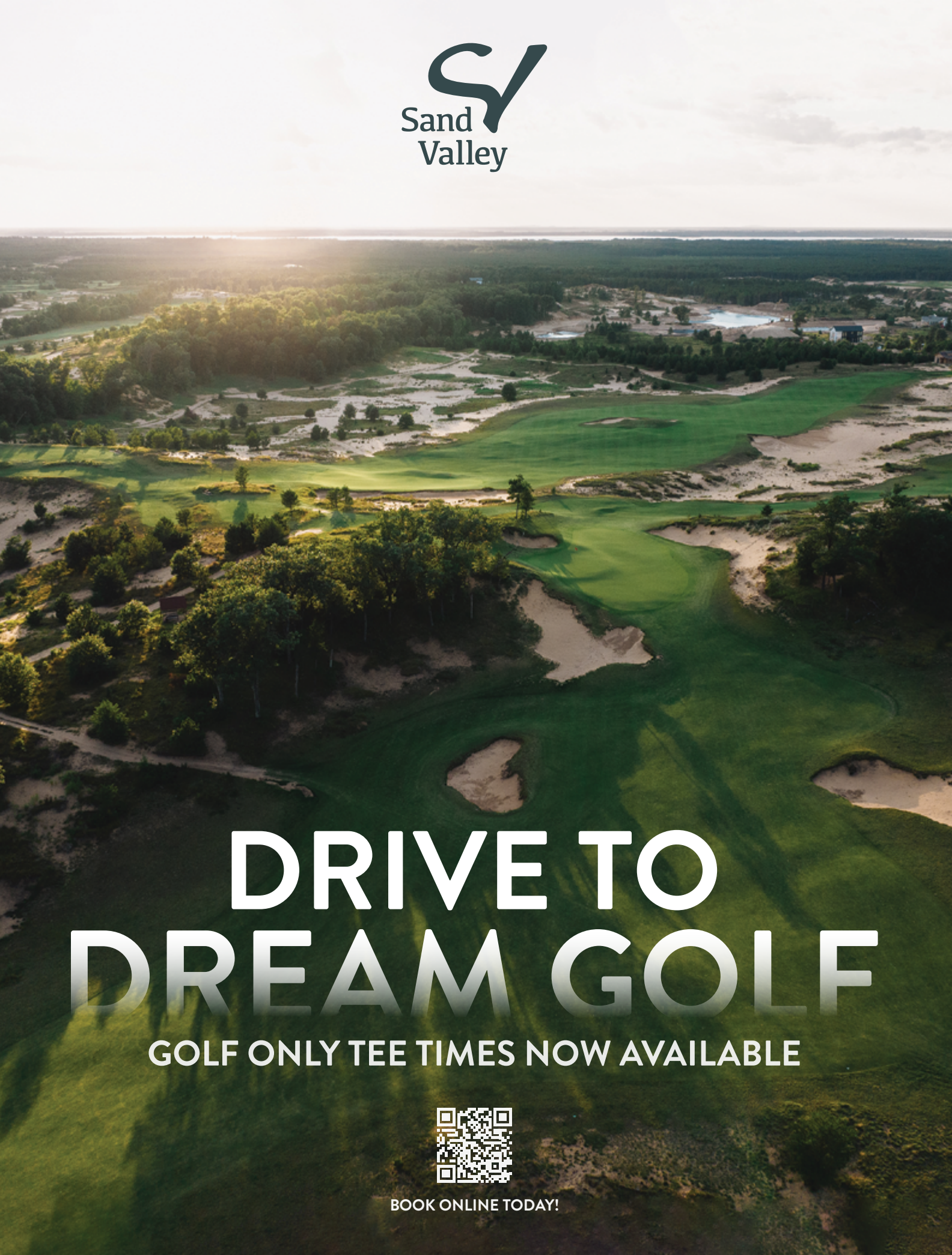
Golf became a deeper passion of Steele's as he noticed the lack of representation, resources, and access at every level of the game, especially for minorities. One of the many goals of Steele and KemperSports is to foster a larger community of youth golfers from all backgrounds.

Since pivoting into the entrepreneurial and content creation space, Steele has been able to make a career for himself through his creative and humorous content surrounding the game of golf on all forms of social media. In total, he has generated over 100,000 likes and 75,000 followers across Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter.

KemperSports teamed up with Steele in 2022 to announce KemperSports' sponsorship of male and female high school golf teams at two Chicago public schools on the southside. This was the first time a golf program had been brought to these schools in 20 years. KemperSports and Steele's work together continued when Steele hosted a KemperSports-sponsored panel on youth golf at the 2023 PGA Show. The panel brought together industry leaders from KemperSports, Youth on Course, and DiscoverGolf, all of which are paving the way for youth golfers.

Roger Steele is as passionate about the game as anyone I have met. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and he will help bring a fresh new perspective to the 'grow the game' efforts we have underway.




Sand Valley
DRIVE TO DREAM GOLF
GOLF ONLY TEE TIMES NOW AVAILABLE
BOOK ONLINE TODAY!