

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

July 2018, Vol. 22 No. 4

A MAMMOTH ACHIEVEMENT

ELGIN'S NON-IDENTICAL TWINS

Instruction by
Todd Sones and Chad Johansen

GOLFChicagoMagazine.com

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



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

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Features

18 Bowes and the Highlands
Elgin's Creative One-Two Punch Unique In Chicago-Area Golf

22 Sand Valley's Latest
Mammoth Dunes Adds An Amazing Option To The Central Wisconsin Resort



Mammoth Dunes 18 Photo: Jeff Bertch

Cover: Sand Valley Golf Resort

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Departments

- 5 **Opening Shot**
- 6 **The Good Stuff**
Compiled By Todd Mrowice
- 8 **Instruction**
Excerpts From Todd Sones' "The Scoring Zone"
- 10 **Instruction**
Chad Johansen Wants You To Keep It In Play
- 12 **On The Shelf**
"Caddyshack," The Book, Reviewed
- 14 **Sweet Home Chicago**
Our Roundup Of What's Notable, New, And Old
- 26 **Return to Tam O'Shanter**
Refurbished Nine Elicits Memories Of Tournament Tumult
- 28 **Rules of the Game**
Neal Kotlarek On Keeping Things Honest
- 29 **GOLFChicago Map and Directory**
- 37 **On The Corkscrews**
Stephen Hawk's Ongoing Quest For A Beautiful Bouquet
- 38 **Final Putt**
Bryson Dechambeau On Winning The John Deere Classic

OPENING SHOT

DAVE
AND
TIM

The sweat rolls off the brow these days, and the cart looks more inviting than a walk on the days when the heat shimmers off the fairway and distorts the view.

These are the days we curse when they're here and yearn for in the dead of winter.

It's best not to complain. Rather, rejoice. A cold one tempers the furnace. A birdie melts the trouble away.

Unless you're playing for millions, and all of us are on the wrong side of the ropes for that chance, it's the small pleasures that are big. The distinctive sound of a good shot, while sounding different from the persimmon vs. balata era, is still a welcome sound, and even more welcome when the ball ends up close to the hole.

In this issue, we celebrate the glory that is Sand Valley, the latest concoction from the fertile mind of Chicagoan Mike Keiser, who nearly two decades ago took a chance on building one course on the Oregon coast, saw Bandon Dunes become an overnight success, and has led the way in bringing linksland golf to the American public in a big way.



*"I don't care how much you love your new clubs!
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We also cheer the return of the nine-hole Tam O'Shanter course in Niles, situated on part of the footprint of the famed 18-hole original, where owner George S. May created modern big-time tour golf more than a half-century ago. It's been revitalized by Lohmann Design and recently reopened.

We also look at what we're calling the Elgin Twins. They're not identical, but both Bowes Creek, the parkland layout, and the Highlands of Elgin, a links-like 18, provide challenge and fun – and the food's good.

We also feature intelligent instruction that goes beyond the usual offerings in the national golf publications, a look at the coolest new equipment and gadgetry, and more.

Find a shady spot, open a cold one, and settle in with us. Cheers!

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THE GOOD STUFF



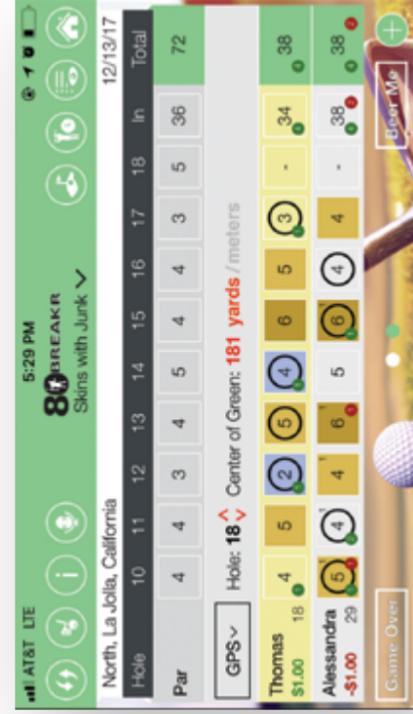
The Old Soft Shoe

Time to toss away those old saddle golf shoes and step into something a little more modern. Why not choose the most comfortable brand on the market? Skechers GO GOLF Elite V.3- Approach RF offers the latest spikeless design that provides superior comfort. With a leather and woven fabric upper, the Approach RF has Skechers H2GO Shield waterproof protection, perfect for our unpredictable weather. You'll be hard pressed to find a more stable golf shoe that weighs in at only 10.25 oz. Available in charcoal, black/white, and navy. **\$100** skechers.com



Time for a Mulligan

Seriously, you need one, and it won't affect your score. What Johnnie-O calls its "preformance" shorts are good to go on and off the course, especially when it's hot and humid, also known as July and August. Available in the trendy colors of Cloudbreak, Pacific and Stone, they're made of 98 percent polyester and 2 percent Spandex. They feature plenty of pockets, moisture wicking and stretch four ways. **\$85** www.johnnie-O.com



An All-everything App

Golf apps. There's a ton of them, right? Some are flop shots, and some are fun and useful like 80BREAKR. This app can be used in a multitude of ways before you even get to the course. You can store personal reminders for yourself and create a hole-by-hole strategy to follow. On course you have GPS and a lightning fast score entry on the most advanced scorecard. Track your match play, stroke play, skins, Nassau, and more. Handicaps are calculated. Keep tabs on your wagers and track your stats for post round analysis. 30,000 world-wide courses available, and the price is right. **FREE!** 80breakr.com



Itsy Bitsy Spiders

The hottest putter over the past year plus has been the Spider from TaylorMade. To this point, the Spider has been available in silver, black, and red with varying weights. TaylorMade has officially gone color crazy with the new MySpider program which allows you to choose from thousands of different combinations to truly make a one-of-a-kind Spider. Aside from the head and wing colors, you also choose your hosel setup, sightline, face insert color, shaft color, and grip. **\$360** taylormadegolf.com



Music As You Play

We've all seen Bluetooth speakers that fit in your golf cart cup holder. Nice, but they take up valuable beverage space. Sound Caddy frees up space and is impossible to forget, because it's shaped like a golf club and goes right into your bag. With premium sound from two high fidelity speakers and a subwoofer, Sound Caddy delivers a stinger of sound and bass. The head is detachable and can fit into your golf cart's tee holder. Feel free to get your jam on; dancing only allowed after birdies. **\$129** soundcaddygolf.com

Safe Skin Science

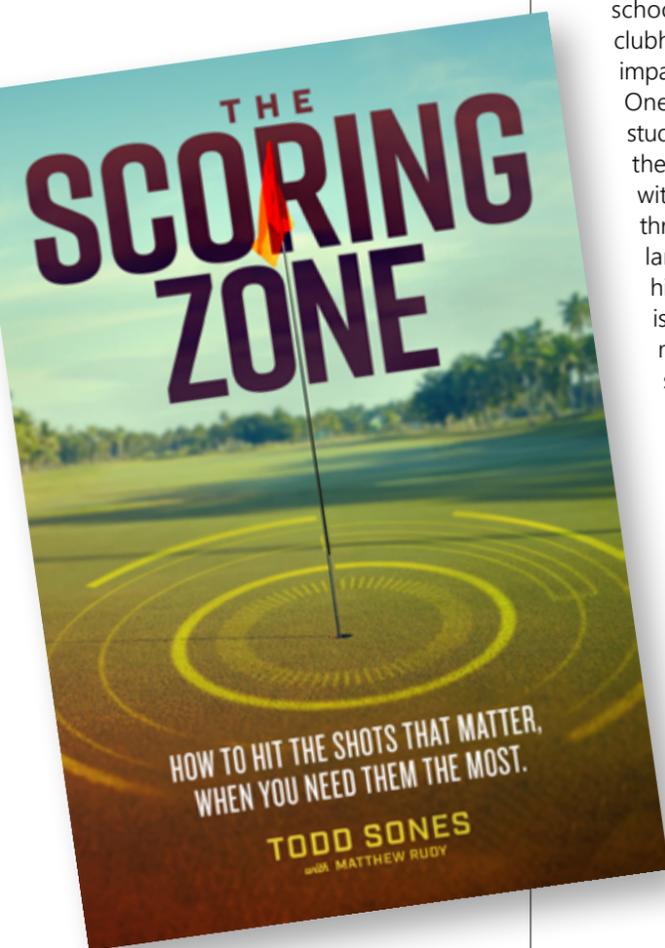
Even though sun and warmth often don't combine to produce golf weather in Chicago until now, it's important to remember to take care of your skin while on the links all the time. No baby oil allowed! Skin Sunscreen is specifically engineered to be worn by golfers. The SPF 30+ Critical Wavelength 371 formula is non-greasy and will not run into your eyes. The superior UVA/UVB protection blocks out all of the bad stuff, even after two hours of getting your sweat on. Dermatologist recommended, made in the good old USA, and water resistant for 80 minutes, in case you decide to jump in after your "lucky" golf ball. **\$14.25 (3.4 oz. bottle)** skinsunscreen.com



Begin With The Real Fundamentals

You've probably read and watched a lot of short game lessons in magazines and on video, and you've probably seen tons of different descriptions about how to hit a variety of shots. Watch enough of that stuff and you'll come away with the thought that there can't really be "fundamentals" in the short game because there are so many different ways people describe how to hit these shots!

Open stance. Closed stance. Ball up. Ball back. Body turn. Body quiet.



My goal in my new book, *The Scoring Zone*, is to show there really are fundamentals that apply to virtually every short game shot, and when you understand those fundamentals you have a base from which you can deal with any scenario.

When you see the logic behind the fundamentals, you can make adjustments to your setup and your swing that support what you're trying to do.

Let me show you how.

The very first fundamental I teach at the beginning of any Scoring Zone school or initial lesson is that the clubhead always descends through impact on a good short game shot. One analogy I like to use with my students is a plane moving through the air. When you make a swing with a descending clubhead path through impact, you're essentially landing the plane. When you're hitting up on the shot, the plane is leaving the runway. When you make an ascending swing on any shot besides one when the ball is on a tee, you're running the risk of skulling or chunking it.

To me, making the club descend through impact – making it land, so to speak – is the foundation of a good short game, so we'll start there. When players struggle with this fundamental, it's usually because they're making a setup mistake or because they're making the incorrect swing motion.

Let's use a basic chip shot as an example. Many, many players have heard that you should play the ball

back in your stance for this shot, turn your feet toward the target in an open stance, push the handle forward (which tilts the upper body too far back) and then try to hit down on the ball.

But when you push the handle forward past the center point of your body – the center of your sternum – you're forced

into a position where your trailing shoulder is too low and your lead shoulder is too high. Your spine is tilted back, away from the target, which makes it very hard to create that descending swing. You've basically preset yourself to swing up.

The other big mistake that creates an upward blow comes in how the swing itself is sequenced. When you hit a shot, you're using three major moving parts. Your lower body, upper body and arms all obviously move, as does the club. The sequencing you need depends on the kind of shot you're hitting. When you make a full swing with, say, a fairway wood, you use a ground-up sequence. Your lower body initiates the downswing, followed by the upper body, and then the arms, and lastly the club. As the lower body slows down through impact, the energy generated there transfers to the upper body, and so on. That sequence is designed to produce maximum clubhead speed—to hit the ball the full distance for the club you're using.

But on this little chip shot we're describing, you don't need maximum clubhead speed. When you use that same kind of sequencing – starting with the lower body – on what I call a "finesse" shot, you have way too much energy or speed for the shot you need. Your mind knows this, and puts on the brakes hard down by the ball. Your upper body pulls back to decelerate the clubhead, and that move pulls the clubhead upward. Result: skull or chunk!

To consistently get the clubhead descending through your short game shots, you need to follow four basic principles to get that plane landing, not taking off. These four principles – which we're going to go through beginning next month – are ones you can use for virtually any short game shot, from the shortest, lowest chip to the highest flop. Get good at these four things and you'll have the blueprint for a strong short game.

Todd Sones owns and operates Todd Sones' Impact Golf School, at White Deer Run in Vernon Hills, and is the author of the recently-released The Scoring Zone, from which this instruction is taken.



Bad Stand to the Handle



Flip Impact



Sequence Bad Legs



Descend



Blade



Chunk

It can certainly be confusing, and it isn't surprising that a lot of players get out to the course and either fall back to the technique they've always used or make a swing that's a messy combination of a lot of different half-digested tips.



A Pre-Shot Routine Is An Asset

Everyone who plays the great game of golf wants to shoot low scores. It makes perfect sense. However, there are hurdles one must overcome to shoot lower scores, and golf is a hard game to master, but we often make it harder than it has to be.

One of those hurdles to shooting lower scores is avoiding penalties for lost balls. Those stroke and distance penalties can really add up, so let's address keeping the ball in play – especially when hitting from the tee – as one way to begin bringing down those scores.

I believe the No. 1 problem that results in bad golf shots is tension. Have you ever wondered why you stripe it on the

range only to tee it up for real and hit OB after OB out on the course? The answer, I believe, is tension. Then, have you ever wondered why your second ball is a great shot? I am willing to believe it's because you no longer feel any pressure. There's no tension with the second shot.

So, the solution golfers seek is how they can release the tension felt during their first tee shot and keep that first ball in play. Here are a few ways to help you release that tension, hit a great first tee shot and, eventually, shoot lower scores.

• **Pre-shot Routine** Establish and work up a repeatable pre-shot routine. Follow this same routine before every tee shot.

Pick out a blade of grass in front of your ball that's along the desired line, aim the clubface first and then set your body.

By setting up a simple routine it helps you achieve a couple of things. One, a pre-shot routine helps you clear your mind of unnecessary thoughts that could break your concentration. Second, the routine, when repeated time after time, will enable you to better find, select and aim your shot time after time, and keep more tee shots in play.

• **Pre-shot Routine Timing** The next time you are practicing take a few minutes to time yourself during your routine to learn how long it takes you to hit the ball. I tell all my students the optimal pre-

shot routine timing is between eight to 12 seconds. Anything shorter and you are probably rushing. Anything longer and you are probably over-thinking things. Both of those can result in unnecessary tension.

The greatest players in the world repeat their timing on every golf shot no matter the circumstance. How do you play when the pressure is on? Chances are you start to rush and a bad shot quickly snowballs into another and then another. Following your pre-shot routine timing will help remind you to stay within your game, take a breath and return to the pace of your game that you follow when things are going well out on the course.

• **Proper Tee Placement** Believe it or not, where you set your ball on the tee ground can make a difference. If you tend to curve the ball left to right then tee up on the right-hand side of the tee box, and if you tend to curve the ball right to left then tee up on the left side of the tee box.

Last, I want to encourage you to play this simple game next time you are out on the course. Keep track of how many times can you get your ball within 100 yards of the hole in regulation. That is one shot on par 3s, two shots on par 4s, and three shots on par 5s. Don't worry about greens in regulation, just track how many holes you get the ball inside 100 yards in

regulation. It sounds easy, but if you can do it 18 out of 18 times that means you never lost a golf ball and you are now mastering the first part of lowering your score – keeping the ball in play.

The recipe for lower scores is ... keep the ball in play and have a great short game. Master the first part by establishing and mastering a pre-shot routine and when you keep more balls in play your scores will start to come down.

Chad Johansen, founder of the "4 Step Process to Lower Scores," is the PGA professional at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol, Ill. (www.chadjohansen.com)



Caddyshack: an Off-screen Tragicomedy

As far as is known, the Greeks invented the art of theater. It took Hollywood moguls to put it on film. Author Chris Nashawaty has brought one film with the makings of Greek tragedy – plenty of laughs tempered by off-camera tears – back on paper in *Caddyshack: The Making of a Hollywood Cinderella Story*.

The film critic at Entertainment Weekly has written more than a breezy history of the funniest film about country club life – golf is almost tangential to the story – in creation. He's written a tragicomic tale about those behind off and on the screen, tracing the arc of their careers more than a decade before the story of the Murray brothers' exploits while looping at Indian Hill Club and other picture postcard clubs on the north shore was committed to film. The tragic figure in the book is Doug Kenney, a comic genius who remade the Harvard Lampoon, helped create National Lampoon, and co-wrote the screenplays to both *Animal House* and *Caddyshack*, all too often under the influence of drugs. It was cocaine as much as a jump or fall off a cliff in Kauai, Hawaii that caused his death at age 33 in 1980, not long after *Caddyshack* opened to mixed reviews.

Those reviews are the forgotten part of the *Caddyshack* story, understandable given the ubiquitous nature of the film on cable TV, the easy recall of the many memorable one-liners and the indelible characters – or are they caricatures? – spread across the screen. There are a hundred throwaway lines in the movie, but collectively, they form a lexicon that can be used in almost any situation. Which is nice.

Many of those lines were not Kenney's. In conjunction with Harold Ramis and Brian Doyle-Murray, he wrote a movie about the relationship between caddie Danny and waitress Maggie, played by Michael O'Keefe and Sarah Holcomb, with the rest of the cast, including stars Bill Murray, Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield and Ted Knight, revolving around the duo's orbit.

However, as shooting under the direction of neophyte Ramis commenced in haphazard fashion, the set became an improv factory. Chase would do a bit on

the set, Dangerfield would do the same, Murray, after finally arriving from Saturday Night Live, would be in his own world, and Knight, following an ever-changing script religiously, would grow infuriated by it all. He and Judge Smalls were finally one and the same.

The result, after a great deal of editing, and finally figuring out how to stitch it all together – cue the animated gopher, a late addition – was comedy gold. Off-screen, the story keeps coming back to Kenney, whose self-destruction is witnessed by many, aided by some, and delayed by only a few. Consider him the James Dean of screenwriters, brilliant while here and gone ridiculously soon. What Kenney might have accomplished in the next 38 years is the great tragedy.

Nashawaty somehow accomplished the feat of mixing humor and darkness on every page with untold tales, including the midnight romp of Murray and Cindy Morgan to a nude beach (sex!), how Murray and Chase were lured to their single scene together in the film (reconciliation!), and how executive producer Jon Peters lured the board of the Florida country club where the movie was filmed to an off-course dinner while the climactic scene was filmed (deceit!).

It's better than a porkpie hat. It's a peach. Bowl of soup not included.

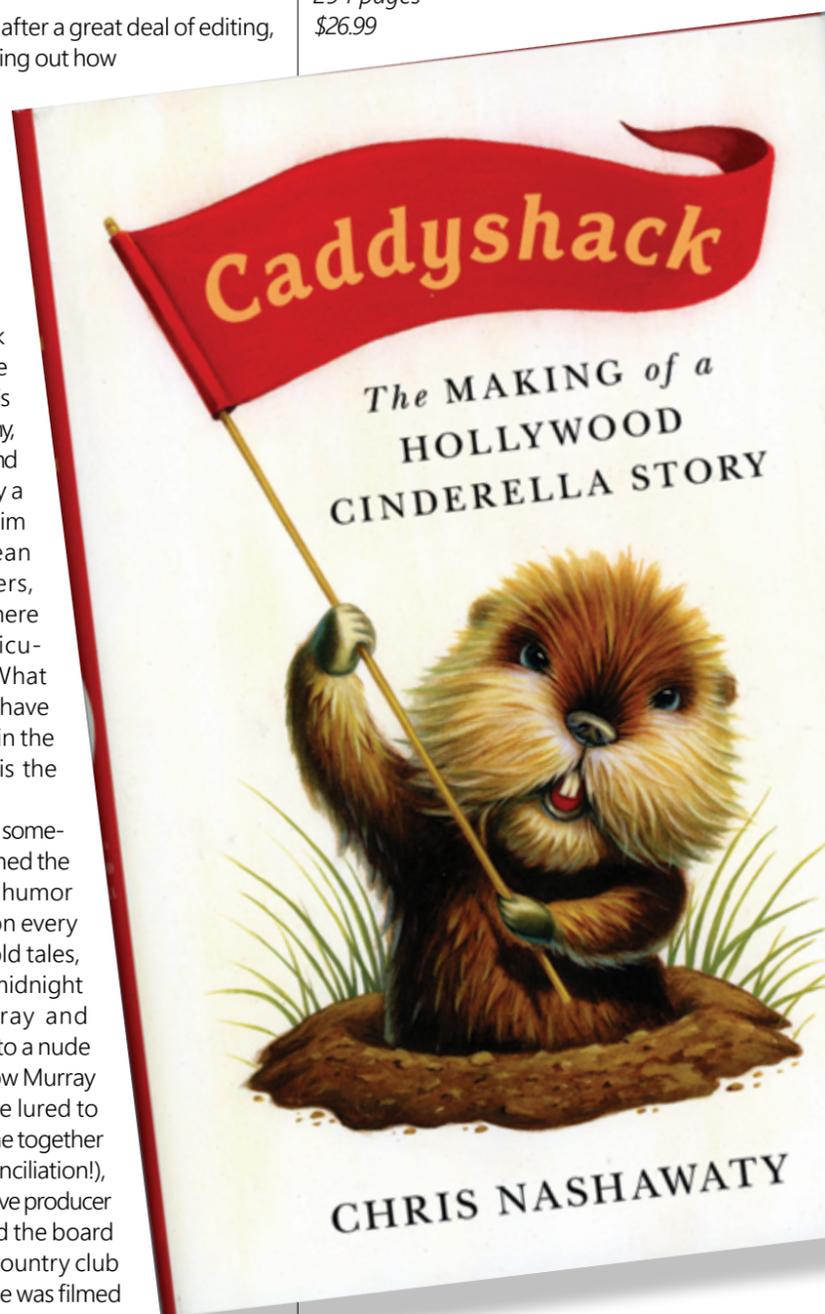
Caddyshack: The Making of a Hollywood Cinderella Story

By Chris Nashawaty

Flatiron Books

294 pages

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Sweet Home Chicago

Ladies' Day at Chicago Golf

Nobody alive was on hand the last time a professional golf tournament was played at Chicago Golf Club. What, you don't remember when Johnny McDermott won the 1911 U.S. Open and took home \$300?

That alone makes July's gathering of female pros and amateurs in Wheaton a noteworthy occasion. That the gathering is for the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open ups the noteworthiness considerably.

Two among the 61 exempt players entered for the July 12-15 gathering are of special note: Jane Blalock and Pat Bradley.

Blalock created the Legends Tour, the senior women's circuit that has struggled to gain traction and finally did so last year with the establishment of the LPGA Senior Championship. Now comes the United States Golf Association with the commencement of its own senior women's major, which instantly becomes the one everyone wants to win.

Including Bradley, whose U.S. Women's Open victory in 1981 came not far east, at La Grange Country Club.

"I've had the Senior Women's Open on my calendar for 17 years, so to say I was excited to apply to play in this championship is an understatement," Bradley said. "It'll bring back some great memories to go back to the Chicago area and compete for an Open title."

There were 462 players entered before qualifying whittled the field down to 128 starters.

Only just before the tournament will it be known if all 61 who are exempt will tee it up. Among those eligible are 1993 U.S. Women's Open winner Lauri Merten, who all but disappeared from public view after her brother-in-law was convicted of murder in 1994. She left the LPGA Tour for good in 1997, claiming she was burned out.

Mann Did It All

Carol Mann, who died at 77 on May 20 at her home in The Woodlands, Texas, was born in Buffalo and spent most of her first 13 years in Baltimore, but when she arrived in the Chicago area, she began to take golf seriously. It was at Olympia Fields Country Club that she not only became a good player, but a nationally-recognized one.

Capturing the Western Junior in 1958 was the spark that lit a competitive flame that burned for two decades. After turning professional in 1960, she soon became a perennial co-favorite with Mickey Wright and Kathy Whitworth. Mann, at 6-foot-3 the tallest player on the LPGA circuit, stood out as a champion from the moment she won the 1964 Women's Western Open, the original major in women's pro golf, and received national publicity when she won the 1965 U.S. Women's Open, for which NBC provided an hour of television time and covered the final three holes.



Mann would win 38 times, but was as influential off the course as she was dominant on it. When she was elected LPGA president in 1973, it barely had a staff. Players made the big decisions. She convinced her peers to hire the group's first commissioner, and the tour began to grow. She left the office after 1976, and when she stopped playing regularly was the first female to routinely broadcast golf, first for NBC and later ABC and ESPN.

Twice named an honorary member of the club, Mann returned to Olympia Fields for the last time last year for the Women's PGA Championship, announcing the starters on the first tee on the weekend.

Mann was long ago named a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, but amazingly, she's not a member of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.

Down Memory Lane

Forgotten Man Joe Lloyd

Joe who?

Joe Lloyd, for cryin' out loud. The winner of the first U.S. Open played at Chicago Golf Club, back in 1897.

The Joe Lloyd who authored the first great shot in U.S. Open history.

While much at Chicago Golf has changed since 1897, the home hole the women will play in the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open remains much as Charles Blair Macdonald laid it out in 1895. Lloyd had to negotiate a 466-yard distance with hickory clubs. Today a long par 4, then it was described as a bogey 5, par not yet having been invented.

Lloyd, a 33-year-old Englishman, and Willie Anderson, a 17-year-old Scotsman, had been close for all of the afternoon round in the one-day, 36-hole test. Lloyd was playing ahead of Anderson, and hammered an uncommonly-long 270-yard drive, leaving himself only 196 yards to the flag. He pulled his brassie from the bag, swung hard, and his approach shot found the green and closed in on the cup, stopping 10 feet away. On in two on a bogey 5! The crowd of 500 applauded long and loud.

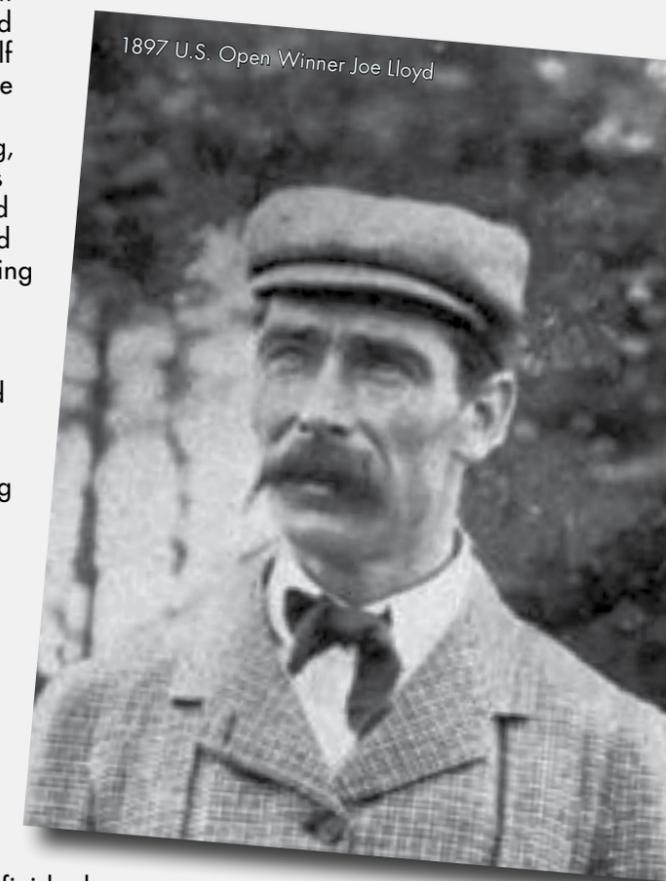
Lloyd still had work to do. Recalling how he sank his 15-footer for a 4 in the morning round, he eyed the putt carefully, and finally gave it a rap. It was perfect, disappearing for a 3. Today, we'd call it an eagle. Then, there wasn't even a nickname for it, but, after Anderson finished with a bogey 5 for a total of 163, Lloyd's total of 162 gave him the third U.S. Open by a stroke over Anderson, who would eventually win four Opens.

"It was a brilliant finish to a magnificent exhibition of scientific golf," cooed the Daily Inter Ocean's golf writer, who added "the spectators nearly fainted" when Lloyd holed what he estimated was a 20-footer for the 3. The *Chicago Tribune* and *The New York Times* had it as a 10-footer.

The key, of course, was the thunderous second shot on top of the big drive. Decades before anyone thought of the phrase, Joe Lloyd had invented power golf.

That's who.

— Tim Cronin

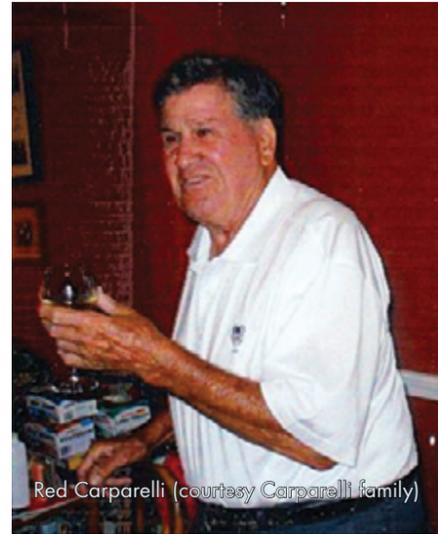


Chicago Golf Club Clubhouse (Tim Cronin)

Carparelli Saw It a=All

When 100-year-old Red Carparelli died on May 30, an era ended at Beverly Country Club.

Carparelli had been there as a professional, either as assistant to co-head pro or pro emeritus, since 1946.



Red Carparelli (courtesy Carparelli family)

He had caddied for Al Jolson in New York before joining the South Side club, and gave lessons to Bill Murray and Jack Nicholson while there.

Everybody knew him. But few knew his given name was Angelo

Nicholas Carparelli. Hired as an assistant to Charley Penna in 1946, Penna told Carparelli to sign his name "R. Carparelli" on his job application. The R stood for Red, as in Carparelli's hair. Penna knew the WASPy club membership might not go for someone named Angelo. But they went for R., figuring it meant Richard, and soon Dick Carparelli was working in the shop and giving lessons on the range.

It was a perfect fit. He spent 73 years at Beverly. (Old Tom Morris only hung around St. Andrews for 44 years.) He fell in love with and married Charley's niece, Christine. He had a pro-am named in his honor, and played in it. He loved life and was loved back in return.

Said longtime member Bob Moysey in 2007, "He makes friends with everybody. Over the years, when a faction would get control of the club, and some were not in favor of him, people would come to his rescue."

Countless were the number of lessons Carparelli gave Moysey over the decades.

Red even survived the killer Oak Lawn tornado of April 1967, which buzzed over Beverly, destroying the

pro shop. He and his partners on the course made it into the tunnel under 87th Street seconds before it hit.

A member of the PGA of America since 1946, Red would have turned 101 on August 11, during the third round of the PGA Championship.

Last Rounds for Lake Bluff?

The golf business has been tough in recent years, and one of the tougher places has been Lake Bluff Golf Club, the municipal course in that leafy suburb immediately north of Lake Forest.

The golf course has lost money of late, the park district envisions needing to spend \$5.4 million on operations and upgrades over the next 12 years, and doesn't see where it will come from. The threat of the 51-year-old course closing spurred the park district to announce it needed \$265,000 raised in private funds for the course to operate in 2019. Half must be on hand and the other half pledged by Oct. 31, with the money due on Jan. 2.

"If all of this comes together, then the board can start to look at how they want to approach the future," said park district executive director Ron Salski.

The district won't be leading the fund drive. That will fall to the Lake Bluff Community Golf Association, created earlier in the year.

The course is operated by Billy Casper Golf under a contract that ends in January. The park district hopes to lease it in the future. The park district board hasn't said the course would be shuttered if the money isn't raised, but has noted the rising operating costs, plus the competition from 21 public courses within 10 miles of Lake Bluff.

The First Tee Plays The Dunes

If you're ever wanted to play the Dunes Club, best-kept secret of Midwest golf, and have the money to do so, get in touch with The First Tee of Greater Chicago, for it's hosting a fund-raising charity outing there on Mon., July 23.

For \$550 – or \$2,200 for a foursome if you have similarly well-heeled pals – you can tee it up at the nine-hole course off the beaten path in New Buffalo, Mich., two times around the nine-hole layout with enough varying tee locations to create an 18-hole experience.

It starts at 7 a.m. Eastern time with breakfast and runs through the mid-afternoon. For more information, call the charity's Andy Mears at (847) 729-9833, ext. 102, or e-mail at amears@TheFirstTeeGreaterChicago.org pronto.

Women's Western

Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville is the annual site of the Phil Kossin Illinois Women's Open, but that always-interesting competition will have company this year. The Women's Western Golf Association is bringing its amateur championship to the layout on the last week of June. The 36-hole final is set for Saturday, June 30.

The Women's Western Amateur is the oldest continuously-played championship in golf, having never missed a year since its 1901 inception. That makes this one No. 118, which is remarkable, and no less remarkable is the list of champions who have gone on to winning professional majors, including two-time major winner Ariya Jutanugarn, the recent U.S. Women's Open champion. Add in Stacy Lewis, Beth Daniel and Nancy Lopez, then go back into the 1940s and before, and Louise Suggs, Betty Jameson and Patty Berg pop up.

In other words, the winner of this carnival stands tall in golf. The tournament is generally considered the second-most important women's amateur in the country, with only the U.S. Women's Amateur ahead of it. And unlike the USGA, which leans on a paid staff to stage its shows, the all-volunteer staff of the WWGA, those gals in blue jackets scurrying about the premises, have done it all since 1903, when they took over the operation from the Western Golf Association.

Next year, that will change, as the WGA returns to assist in tournament operations in a five-year contract. It'll be the same championship – same trophies, same grandeur – but with more hands on deck.

Ghim Goes Pro, So Does Caddie

Doug Ghim knew he was going to have to tell his father Jeff sooner or later.

Pop wasn't going to be his caddie in professional golf.

He did a great job with Doug's amateur career, from the Western Amateur to the U.S. Amateur to the Masters and U.S. Open, but the pros

are different, even for someone from Arlington Heights.

The game is fun, but there's money on the line, too. A veteran caddie can save you a stroke and put more money in your – and his – pocket.

This is nothing Jeff didn't know, but the conversation still had to take place.

"I just wanted to try having a professional caddie," Ghim said. "Being out at the Masters and the U.S. Open, I got to see kind of what the caddie aspect was like. It's kind of like a well-oiled machine, and I just figured that having that experience, not having status and never seeing the golf courses before, it was something that I at least needed to try."

So Doug told Jeff before the U.S. Open that he could go back to his day job – while he remains Doug's swing coach – while Lance Bennett, the caddie for Matt Kuchar and Bill Haas in the past, would lug his bag beginning at his pro debut, the Travelers' Championship.

"It was a difficult conversation last week, but my dad wants the best for me," Ghim said.

continued on page 34



Lake Bluff GC (Tim Cronin)



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Elgin's Dynamic Duo A Study In Contrasts

By Neal Kotlarek



The distance from Chicago to Ireland is approximately 3,710 miles by plane. Over the past eight years, golfers from across the city have figured out a way to reduce that journey to a 45-minute drive.

In 2010, the city of Elgin unveiled the second of two dramatic and expansive courses that imme-

diately made the community a golf destination. The Scottish links-inspired Highlands of Elgin Golf Club was embraced with national accolades only a year after the traditional parkland-style Bowes Creek Country Club on the city's western edge was opened to similar acclaim. Today, the courses serve as models for high-end championship public golf at affordable green fees.





Built when other municipalities struggled to keep their courses operating, the Highlands of Elgin and Bowes Creek have continued to thrive due to the city's expansive vision. The two properties aren't merely golf courses; rather, they are community centers featuring high quality dining as well as instruction programs for players of all ability levels.

Bowes Creek Country Club is two miles west of Randall Road, built as the centerpiece of a housing development. Libertyville golf architect Rick Jacobson crafted a remarkable layout characterized by prairies, wetlands and towering trees. Smooth, contoured greens and expert conditioning provide the course with a country club look and feel.

The Highlands of Elgin contrasts dramatically from its sister course as land that once served as a stone quarry was sculpted into a sweeping course featuring breathtaking landscapes. Four holes tower above a 12-acre quarry lake while others wind across rolling terrain edged by native brush and grasses. Designed by Art Schaupeter and Keith Foster, the tract is partially located on the former site of

the Spartan Golf Course which had been a community mainstay for 30 years. Listed among *Golfweek* magazine's "Best Courses You Can Play," the layout ranks among the top 10 tracks in all of Illinois.

Perhaps the only way to appreciate the scope and diversity of Elgin's top golf offerings is to experience both courses on the same day. My foursome booked an



continued on page 36

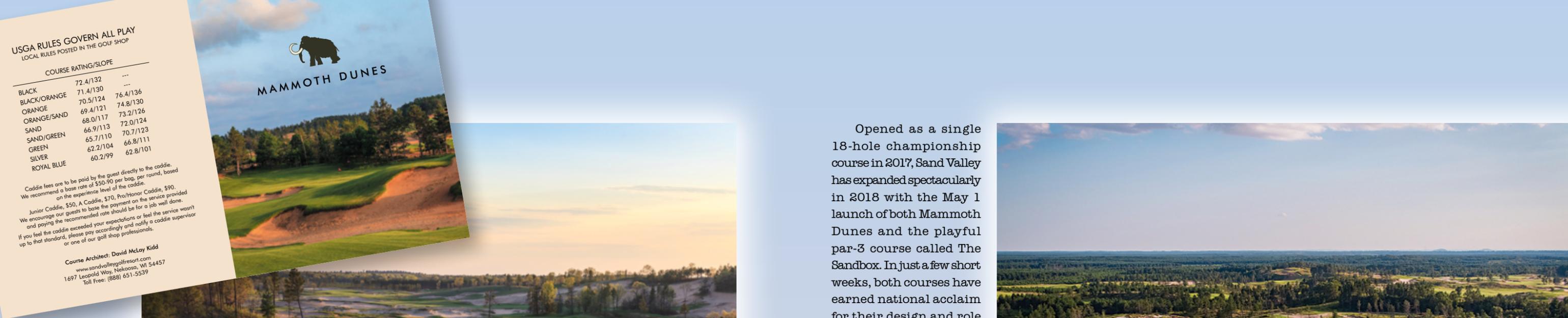
Links is a term that specifically references those splendid golf courses where the land is linked directly to the sea. Famous links include the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland, Pacific Dunes in Bandon, Ore., and Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club in Wales. The definition used by the British Golf Museum lists the necessary attributes of a golf links: location near a coast; undulating terrain often associated with dunes; infertile sandy soil and indigenous grasses such as marram, sea lyme, fescues and bents. Using that strict interpretation, there are less than 250 true links courses in the world and only four in the United States.

The three golf courses now open at Sand Valley Golf Resort in Nekoosa, Wis., may very well be deserving of a designation specific to the unique characteristics of the land upon which they rest. Improbably and remarkably, massive sand dunes stretch across and tower above all 53 holes and are remnants of a large lake formed in central Wisconsin by glacial draining some 20,000 years ago. Perhaps these layouts should be called dinks – land linked together with dunes? Or maybe lunes – dunes linked together with land? I personally prefer the latter definition as the word also conjures up the semi-lunar landscape of the property that was revealed once this former tree farm was cleared and landscaped.

A Wild and woolly Course

By Neal Kotlarek





USGA RULES GOVERN ALL PLAY
LOCAL RULES POSTED IN THE GOLF SHOP

COURSE RATING/SLOPE	
BLACK	72.4/132
BLACK/ORANGE	71.4/130
ORANGE	70.5/124
ORANGE/SAND	69.4/121
SAND	68.0/117
SAND/GREEN	66.9/113
GREEN	65.7/110
SILVER	62.2/99
ROYAL BLUE	60.2/99

Caddie fees are to be paid by the guest directly to the caddie. We recommend a base rate of \$50-90 per bag, per round, based on the experience level of the caddie.
Junior Caddie, \$50, A Caddie, \$70, Pro/Honor Caddie, \$90.
We encourage our guests to base the payment on the service provided and paying the recommended rate should be for a job well done.
If you feel the caddie exceeded your expectations or feel the service wasn't up to that standard, please pay accordingly and notify a caddie supervisor or one of our golf shop professionals.

Course Architect: David McLay Kidd
www.sandvalleygolfresort.com
1697 Leopold Way, Nekeosha, WI 54457
Toll Free: (888) 651-5539



Opened as a single 18-hole championship course in 2017, Sand Valley has expanded spectacularly in 2018 with the May 1 launch of both Mammoth Dunes and the playful par-3 course called The Sandbox. In just a few short weeks, both courses have earned national acclaim for their design and role in the resort becoming a world-renowned golf destination.

Designer David Kidd was confronted with a tough act to follow after Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw unveiled the original Sand Valley course to wide acclaim. While that course – which earned national honors as 2017's best new course by some national golf publications – had been

a work in progress since 2014, Mammoth Dunes was inspired by Kidd's earlier work at Bandon Dunes in Oregon. It was on that stretch of coastal landscape that golf entrepreneur Mike Keiser selected Kidd to design the first of what would become a five-course complex. The stated philosophy of Kidd's design firm is to create courses "as natural as possible, as seamless as possible, and as sustainable as possible."

Given 500 acres of pristine land at Sand Valley, the architect produced a feast for the eyes, complete with remarkable panoramas, extravagantly wide fairways, contoured greens and even a pair of drivable par 4s. The end result was a course that *Golf World's* Stephen Hennessey says "might be Kidd's team's best

continued on page 35



Tam O'Shanter Features Memories and Fun Golf

Since its origins in 1925, Tam O'Shanter on Chicago's northwest side played a huge role in the history of professional golf. Legendary promoter George S. May took over the club in 1937 and hosted the CDGA's Chicago Open in 1940. Interest in that tournament spurred May to schedule his own tournament, the All-American Open, beginning in 1941, and that success spurred never-modest May's creation of the World Championship in 1946.

Four of the first five All-Americans were won by none other than Byron Nelson, including his 1945 title, the tenth victory during his unprecedented and yet-to-be-duplicated 11-straight titles. May's carnival fortnight, which featured the biggest purses in golf, ended in 1957 after a dispute with the PGA, but there were two more championships held at Tam after his death: the Western Opens

of 1964 and 1965 were won, respectively, by Chi Chi Rodriguez and Billy Casper.

The roster of pros who have teed it up at Tam O'Shanter over the years reads like a Superstars Murderer's Row, including Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Patty Berg, Babe Zaharias, Bobby Locke, Lloyd Mangrum, Gene Littler and Cary Middlecoff. The course's illustrious history, highlighted by Lew Worsham's famous holed-out wedge to win the 1953 World Championship on national TV, can be reviewed at the Tam O'Shanter Golf History Museum located at the main level of the property's learning center. The museum houses hundreds of one-of-a-kind pieces of memorabilia and photos from the George S. May era of the '40s and '50s.

Despite the club's amazing history and pedigree, Tam O'Shanter was

closed at the end of 1965, when May's family sold the property to a developer who turned part of it into an industrial park. What remained of the course was sold to the Niles Park District. Some of the original holes were revised while some new ones were added to create the 9-hole layout known for years as Tam Golf Course, and a few years ago reclaimed the original name.

Over the past year, dramatic improvements were made by Lohmann Golf to enhance the Tam O'Shanter experience. The renovations include drainage improvements, new tee boxes, improved conditioning and some bunker modifications.

"The course renovation had a two-fold objective," said course manager Peter Dubs. "We wanted to increase challenge for the seasoned players while

at the same time avoid penalizing new and lesser skilled players. In the weeks since the changes were unveiled, we've received positive results from both groups of golfers."

Stretching to 2,457 yards, the course has a classic look and feel to it with bent-grass tees, greens and fairways kept in impeccable condition. Mature trees line each fairway to both tighten holes and provide isolation for players.

"Two holes are almost exactly the same as they were set-up during Tam's origins," Dubs said. "The first hole is basically the same as the original starting hole. It's the course's longest hole at 404 yards and takes two good shots to get to the green."

Following the opening 404-yard par 4, the layout evolves into a series of playful short par 4s no longer than 300

yards apiece. Hole No. 5 is a 158-yard par 3 to a large round green protected by a right-side bunker. Hole No. 6 is not only the longest of the three par 3s on the course, it also is the trickiest as players must cross over a branch of the Chicago River to a narrow green further protected on the right side by a bunker now split in two by the recent renovation.

"Hole No. 6 is the former No. 16 and is a long par 3 that plays anywhere from 210 yards to 215 yards," Dubs said. "Stand on that tee and you will have the same experience that Babe Zaharias and Byron Nelson had."

Listen closely on each hole, and you can hear the voices of the legends and celebrities who walked these scenic grounds over the past 93 years. If you can't play like Zaharias, Nelson or Ben Hogan, at least you can at the very least

brag to your pals that you walked in their footsteps.

For those who don't have the time to play nine holes, Tam offers a Quick-6 rate in the early evening for the final tee times of the day. It's a chance to play the first six holes for \$9.

Before or after your round, you might want to make a stop at the Tam Golf Learning Center which provides affordable instructions for juniors and adults. Both group and individual lessons are available.

If You Go

Tam O'Shanter

6700 Howard St., Niles, IL 60714

www.golftam.com

(847) 965-2344

Nine-hole rates range from \$19 to \$21 for non-residents; junior and senior rates lower.



RULES OF THE GAME

NEAL KOTLAREK



The True Spirit Of The Rules

One of the greatest lines in the classic movie *The Big Lebowski* occurs during a bowling match. A competitor mows down eight pins on his first turn when Walter Subchak – memorably played by John Goodman – calls him for a line violation. “Smokey,” Walter barks out to the player. “This isn’t ‘Nam. This is bowling. There are rules!”

While I am not about to make a parallel between golf and the Vietnam conflict, recent events on the professional circuit lead me to wonder how our wonderful game has somehow become the epicenter of sports controversy. The latest example occurred at the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills in June, when during the third round Phil Mickelson decided he’d seen enough of the 13th green.

He proceeded to intentionally violate the rules by striking a moving ball. After the round, the tour superstar went one step further in an interview with Curtis Strange of Fox, admitting he ran after his first putt fully aware that the ball was destined to curl off the green and behind a sand bunker where he’d presumably encounter a difficult wedge shot back to the hole.

According to Page 1 of the Rules of Golf, “The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive

they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.”

This “Spirit of the Game” provision is where Mickelson waded into controversy. By admitting that he intentionally flouted the rules to save himself strokes, he went steps beyond merely manipulating them; rather, he acknowledged that he did so to gain an advantage over the field. Such a violation should obviously be deemed as a serious breach of the rules. The penalty for such an egregious action: disqualification, according to former USGA executive director David Fay.

While I agree with Fay on that interpretation, my interest in this controversy deals neither with Mickelson nor Mike Davis, the USGA’s current executive director, who declared that Mickelson’s actions weren’t “an outright, egregious situation.” Instead, I admit to being fascinated to the point of obsession about the way the rules of the game are being interpreted and enforced. To wit: In last spring’s ANA Inspiration, the first major championship of the season, LPGA player Lexi Thompson was penalized twice for the same violation: 1) for mis-marking her ball in a round the previous day (a two-stroke penalty), and 2) for signing an incorrect scorecard (a second two-stroke penalty) due to the mis-marked ball penalty. Huh?

Last year at the NCAA Women’s Championship held at Rich Harvest Farms, Sarah Cho of Northwestern and Kelly Nielsen of Kent State each received two-stroke penalties because they took a golf cart ride to the bathroom during their rounds. Seriously?

While I am a fervent supporter of the Rules of Golf, I find both of these aforementioned rulings to be preposterously strict to the point where the interpretations – here it comes – VIOLATE

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME. In the case of Thompson’s four-stroke penalty, the player’s mis-mark was indeed worthy of a penalty. But the fact that the penalty was not detected until after the round should – in a fair and just world – have negated the incorrect scorecard rule. Likewise, in the cases of Cho and Nielsen, the assistance of a golf cart to expedite the players’ bathroom urges provides no benefit to the field and only helped to expedite play. Neither player was aware of the rule which awkwardly states that players “must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorized.” In my mind, any such authorization was at the behest of the golf car driver who should have been made aware of this rule when handed the vehicle keys.

In religious terms, we can define the ruling that saved Mickelson from disqualification in the U.S. Open as a New Testament determination which celebrates empathy and salvation. Tragically for Thompson, Cho and Nielsen, their violations were interpreted the Old Testament way – through fire, brimstone and a handful of penalty strokes.

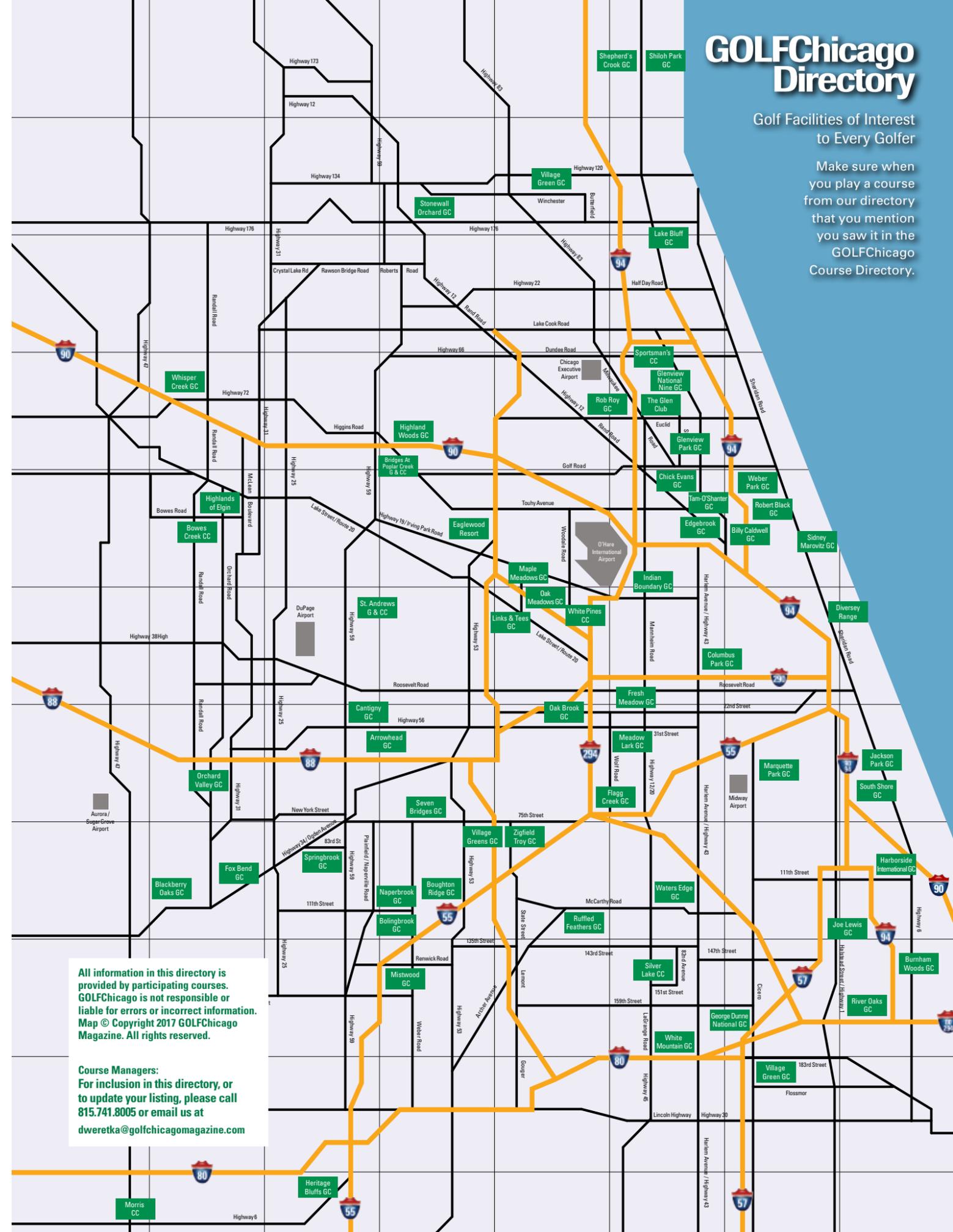
As an equal opportunity supporter of the rules, I do not favor either a New Testament or Old Testament methodology for future rules interpretations. Instead, I think that all rules officials should be guided by that first page of the Rules which references the Spirit of the Game. Under that divine guidance, Mickelson would have been DQ’d, while Thompson would have only been slapped with a two-stroke penalty and the two collegians could have relieved themselves without being penalized.

At the end of his soliloquy on the importance of rules, Walter Subchak asks a rhetorical question. “Has the world gone crazy?” he bellows across the bowling lanes. “Am I the only one around here who gives a (damn) about the rules?” he cries out. While I didn’t agree with Subchak’s use of a service revolver to support his convictions, I did truly appreciate his spirit.

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9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210

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Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com

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

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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.



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Lake Bluff, IL 60044
lakebluffgolfclub.com

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The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Mistwood Golf Club

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

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

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

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



Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200
600 See Gwun Ave.
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
golfmtprospect.com

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

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



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a recently renovated practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard

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

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

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



Tam-O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344
6700 West Howard Street
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

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

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



Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032
7205 West 115th St.
Worth, IL 60482
watersedgegolf.com

Rated Best Places To Play by *Golf Digest*.

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

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- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



Naperbrook Golf Course

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

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



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
orchardvalleygolf.com

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

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
robroygc.com

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



St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

630-231-3100
2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
standrewsgc.com

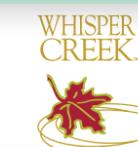
36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116 - 6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341 - 6818 yards
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues, and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



Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600
skokieparks.org
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 1,095

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



Whisper Creek Golf Course

847-515-7680
12840 Del Webb Blvd.
Huntley, IL 60142
whispercreekgolf.com

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708-478-4653
9901 179th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
whitemountaingolfpark.com

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- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

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White Pines Golf Club

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

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

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



Sweet Home Chicago

continued from page 34

Doty Collects Waterlogged Western Junior

The plan was to play 72 holes, but nature had other ideas.

Thus, when the rain kept falling on the parade that was the 101st Western Junior at Evanston Golf Club on June 21, flooding the course, officials finally had to give up the idea of even playing 54 holes.

That made 43 competitors who made the cut unhappy that they weren't able to

fire at another flag, and one guy reasonably happy.

The one guy was Jeff Doty of Carmel, Ind., who fired rounds of 69 and 64 on the first two days, his score of 7-under 133 on the par-70 layout good enough to beat Karl Vilips by a stroke.

Doty, to his credit, wanted to play. The field was on the course early in the third round when the rain, which had continued most of the night, became too much for the course to handle. A 7-hour-31-minute delay finally ended with a cancellation.

"I like hard conditions, and I thought the challenge will be good," said Doty,

entering his sophomore year at North Florida. "Canceling the day doesn't really cross your mind."

A win is a win is a win, and the Western Junior, oldest such championship in the game and as highly regarded today as ever, is a feather in Doty's cap.

"This is No. 1 for me," Doty said. "This is the top of the line."

His 6-under 64 second round on the 6,793-yard Donald Ross layout was an attack on par from start to finish, with a five-birdie outward nine and almost as much fun coming in.

"Putter was hot," Doty explained. "I hit the fat sides of greens and made probably a hundred feet of putts. After the turn, I took it one shot at a time."

He wasn't the hottest player in the second round. Will Thomson of Naples, Fla., who'll be a freshman at Texas in the fall, scorched the layout with a bogey-free 63, the seven birdies adding up to a competitive course record. He hit 12 of 14 fairways and 17 greens.



"It was the best I've hit the ball in a tournament round in a while," Thomson said. "I didn't sniff a bogey. I had a lot of birdie opportunities and I knocked a few in. I knew there was a good round out there for me. I just had to get a feel for the greens and keep hitting it well."

The big round moved Thomson to 5-under 135 and a third place finish once proceedings were cancelled.

Vilips, from Perth, Australia, which is about as far from Skokie as you can get and not be on the moon, scored 66-68 for 6-under 134 and finished runner-up for the second straight year, indicative of his No. 1 junior ranking. He'll start at Stanford in the fall.

Both Vilips and Doty earn an additional bauble: a berth in the upcoming Western Amateur at Sunset Ridge Country Club, which begins on July 30.

Luke Armbrust of Wheaton was the top finisher from Illinois, solo seventh via a 66-71-137 score. Hinsdale's Brendan O'Reilly tied for eighth at 2-under 138.

Sand Valley

continued from page 25

work yet." Heady words considering that the designer's previous work includes Gamble Sands in central Washington, Machrihanish Dunes in his home country of Scotland, and the aforementioned Bandon Dunes, considered by many as one of the top ten public courses in the country.

The course's logo is a woolly mammoth which serves as a reminder that the sand base of the property was a result of the end of the Ice Age. Far more relevant and awesome to golfers is the mammoth sizes of the sand dunes (towering as high as 80 feet), greens (one stretches over 75 yards from front to back) and landing areas (some as wide as a football field) across the property. Most noteworthy of the course's characteristics is the ingenious separation of holes which provides solitude for golfers and allows them to focus on each shot without distraction.

Fans of golf architecture will appreciate some of the flairs Kidd installed in his masterpiece. The horseshoe-shaped putting surface of the short par-4 6th hole was contoured to allow even putts from the front side of the green to curl

toward flagsticks positioned on the back side of the green. Kidd references a round of golf he played at Crystal Downs in Frankfort, Mich., as inspiration for the design. Prior to planting grass around the green's rim, the designer rolled basketballs alongside the ridge to ensure the desired final result.

The par-5 No. 7 provides even more entertainment as the bunker protecting the front side of the green was at one point the foundation for an old settlement home. The brick wall stretches across the width of the hazard. Note to self: Keep your approach shot to this putting surface far, far to the left or to the right or risk a huge X on your scorecard.

No review of Mammoth Dunes is complete without reference to a par-4 designed by the winner of Golf Digest's architecture contest. The short hole begins from the top of a dune and then sweeps downhill all the way to the green. A slight draw can possibly catch a speed slot that can direct the ball onto the green for an eagle putt. Rather than distract from the course's overall design, this hole is in many ways a tribute to Kidd's desire to create a delightful and memorable experience from the first to the 18th hole.

While it is tempting to compare Mammoth Dunes to its sister course, the fact is the layouts are on completely different landscapes. The original, Sand Valley, is wide open with trees only lining the outside of the property's perimeter. The new course uses trees as a prominent feature – not necessarily as obstacles but as much to frame the direction of holes and create isolation.

Along with spectacular golf, the Sand Valley complex offers a variety of lodging options that include cottages, residences and suites. Featured amenities at the cottages are outdoor decks and access to fire pits for evening get-togethers.

Dining options include the Mammoth Bar & Lounge featuring craft beers, specialty cocktails and food, and Craig's Porch – a small shed serving cold drinks, great food and stunning views of Sand Valley's first, 10th and 18th holes.

Sand Valley Golf Resort

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Best Buys

continued from page 21

early morning tee time at the wide-open Highlands of Elgin course with full intention to have our swings geared up for the tighter and thus more penal Bowes Creek course. Four tee areas on each hole allow for players of all skill sets to enjoy a fun round. The first hole, for instance, plays to a tough 414 yards from the black tees and to a friendly 277 yards from the whites. Three fairway bunkers to the right side of the landing area tighten the hole

significantly as do three bunkers around the putting surface.

Our group's favorite hole on the front nine was the visually stunning No. 4, a 155-yard par 3 which calls for a tee shot over water, scrub bushes and native grasses to an undulating green protected by bunkers and rough. The green's location in a punch bowl setting helps to funnel slightly errant tee shots toward the flagstick. This feature served as a benefit to all members of our foursome, each of whom somehow managed to eke out pars from various positions on and around the green.

While listed as the 15 handicap hole on the scorecard, the No. 15 hole gave our foursome fits due to the variety of hazards located around the putting surface. One ball found the pot bunker located to the left of the green while a second ball bounded into a stone wall edging of the lake protecting the front edge of this massive green. The other two members of the group were able to scratch out pars by placing our tee shots on the proper side of the two-tiered putting surface.

No round should be played without a visit to the club's elegant clubhouse, which towers above the course. The menu for the Grumpy Goat Tavern features a variety of dishes with a Cajun/Creole flair. Beverage offerings include a generous array of craft beers including some fine local offerings.

The short drive to Bowes Creek ensured our swings were still in tip-top form as we teed off on the relatively open 385-yard first hole. The terrain changes dramatically by the 440-yard No. 2 as wetlands and fescue-lined bunkers call for precision shots off the tee and to the green. While the primary challenges on the front nine are water, sand and wetlands, the back nine is positioned in a forested parcel of land which provides both more tranquility and challenge. At 344 yards, No. 12 looks on the scorecard like a surefire birdie opportunity. In actuality, this dogleg right is a make-or-break par 4 as the tee shot must be threaded over wetlands and short of bunkers to setup a nifty short iron around a tree towering above the left side of the green. The dangers of this hole were underscored by our foursome's scorecard which read: 4, 4, 6, X.

The 435-yard final hole begins from an elevated tee and calls for a drive avoiding water on the right and bunkers on the left of the landing area. The huge green offers an inviting target, with the exception of a large bunker on the right side. All members of our foursome missed the green and needed deft wedge shots to the flagstick. Alas, only one of us was able to place his shot within a few feet of the hole. Happily, that member was yours truly.

Our dinner inside the elegant Bowes Creek clubhouse featured ice-cold micro-brews poured at the classy, English-style restaurant and bar known as Porter's Pub. As we hoisted our beers, we gazed through the dining room window at the course below and toasted to the dynamic duo of Elgin: Bowes Creek Country Club and the Highlands of Elgin.

ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

If you are looking for affordable, approachable, easy-drinking wines, I suggest you seek out those from Paso Robles. This large but lesser-known appellation was established in 1983 (a mere toddler in wine years), and is located around the town of Paso Robles in the northern part of California's San Luis Obispo County. Most of the growing area is classified as Region III, equivalent to France's Rhône region. At last count, there were over 18,000 acres under vine.

Rabble Wine Company encompasses four labels: Rabble, Stasis, Amor Fati, and Tooth & Nail. Rabble's estate winery and visitor center is regarded as one of the region's leading destinations, featuring a somewhat kitschy castle-like building that includes an expansive tasting room.

Rabble was founded by Rob and Nancy Murray in 2011. In addition to becoming a vintner, Rob has been a grower and vineyard owner for over 18 years. He continues to own and manage properties from Paso Robles to Santa Maria, with his own brands utilizing roughly five percent of the grapes he farms. He's obviously doing something right, as Rabble is one of Paso Robles' fastest-growing labels.

Speaking of labels, I'm almost always more interested in what's in a wine bottle than what's on it. However, the iconoclastic labels for Rabble and its sister brands have attracted a lot of attention in the wine press. The Rabble labels are rendition of historical woodblock prints from the Nuremberg Chronicle, dating to the late 1400s. They have been faithfully reproduced, including a full-embossing rarely seen in this context. The images depict nature's wrath, as a reminder to work in concert with her at all times.

2015 Rabble Red Blend \$18
This disorderly mob member hails from Mossfire Ranch, about three miles southwest of Paso Robles. A mix of 90% merlot and 10% syrah, it greets you with its bright red-purple color and aromas of red cherry and cocoa on the nose, with just a hint of anise. The rich cherry continues on the palate, adding red berries and delicate spice notes. The flavors, lively acidity and firm but sweet tannins are remarkably balanced. An excellent value. The label illustrates the

Rousing Rabble

Apocalyptic Comet falling upon Florence with the Unicorn and Phoenix.

Try this wine with cranberry-cheddar brats with bell peppers, New Mexican rubbed pork tenderloin, or grilled chicken with Fresno chile/plum sauce.

2016 Rabble Cabernet Sauvignon \$25
Another Mossfire offering, on first approach currant, cocoa, and a hint of tobacco drift from the glass. Again, the taste of cherries, but this time of the tart variety, supported by vanilla, dried sage, blueberry, and cassia. These are complemented by woody notes from the French oak, which also supplies lively and supple tannins and a nice long finish. The label? Mount Vesuvius Erupting over Pompeii.

Enjoy this wine with venison and black bean chili with toasted cumin crema, pan-roasted chicken with blackberry-ancho sauce, or red chile and honey-glazed salmon.



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BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU



How I Won the John Deere Classic

Being able to win on the PGA Tour is always a huge dream come true for anybody, and to be able to do it here with the story behind Payne Stewart and this being one of my first exemptions on Tour, all of those stars lining up makes it very, very special for sure, and coming down the road, just looking at the place – remembering shots from 9 fairway, the last round, hitting it to 15 feet and missing that putt, and then after that I really kickstarted my round, shot 30 on the back – just remembering things like that are pretty special to me.

And also looking out the back and seeing there's no corporate tents behind 18 and you can see 16 green. I never knew that was there. It's definitely a surreal time driving down the road.

What's funny is I don't remember most of that back nine. The only shots I remember are 17, hitting that second shot, and then 18, hitting the tee shot and the second shot, and I don't remember hitting the putt on 18. I just don't. I have no recollection of hitting that putt.

It went in! It went in, everybody. But yes, it was a very unique day, unique back nine. I mean, I'll never forget on No. 4 after making a three-putt bogey, walking off that green going, what am I doing? I'm throwing another tournament down the drain. And right after that, my caddie Tim Tucker said, "Bryson, you're still in it." I said, "What do you mean?" He's like, "You're seven back, but you can do it. I've seen you do it before. You've shot 29 on [a] golf course plenty of times. You can do it." I was like, all right, well, I'm going to have to play really well coming in.

So I get to 5, 6, 7, par those holes. Nothing happened. I'm just thinking, man, this is just not going to be my day. Get to 8, hit a good shot – great second shot in there to 12 feet below the hole. Actually thought I hit it closer than that, but maybe a 12-footer straight up the hill, and for whatever reason, that 12-footer gave me an incredible amount of confidence. And from then on out, it was fairway, green, I had a great chance for birdie, and I had 15 feet on 9, had a six-footer on 10, and then 12-footer on 11, and on 12 almost made birdie from like 18 feet. It was a tough putt on 12. On 13, I made a nine footer. On 14, I made a 12-footer. So it just was a perpetual effect, I think, from making that putt on 8, and I wound up shooting 30 on the back nine to win.

The unique part about this place is that 10 and 11 are birdie holes, and 12, if you hit a good shot it can be a birdie hole, then 13 and 14 are. No. 15 is really the only super difficult hole, and even then if you hit a good drive you've got an iron shot in there and you hit one close, you can make birdie. And 16 and 17 are birdieable, and 18 – I mean, I birdied it, but it's not birdieable. That to me is quite possibly one of the most powerful rounds of golf that I've ever played, and that round of golf will forever be etched in my memory banks because I know I can pull that out in any situation, in any golf tournament and say, look, I can do this, I know what I'm capable of. So that's why this tournament means so much to me, and quite possibly will forever be my most fond memory.

Anybody's journey is not going to be perfect. They're going to have their tough times, they're going to have their great times, but I can truly tell you that it's taken me a while to get comfortable on each level of golf, whether it be junior golf, amateur golf, collegiate golf, professional golf. On the Web Tour, professional golf, on the PGA Tour, it's taken me time.

I'm going to learn a lot. It's something that I try and do every single event is learn as much as possible so I'm prepared for the next event. If you're not learning, you're falling behind because everybody else is trying to get better. I mean, Ben Hogan said it best. Every day you're not practicing or learning is a day that somebody is getting better than you, which is the truth. It honestly is.

Now I've got to keep playing great golf. I've done a good job of that this year. I've had a lot of top-five finishes, top-10 finishes, and let the clubs do the talking. That's just what I've got to keep doing. I can't think too much about it. You have to execute everything to the best of your ability and let the dice roll as they may. You can't control every factor in the game of golf. All you can do, again, is do your best. So that's all I can do.

Bryson DeChambeau, who grew up a fan of Payne Stewart and played college golf at Southern Methodist, as did Stewart, is the defending champion of the John Deere Classic, and has since won the Memorial Tournament. This essay is derived from his extensive comments when visiting TPC Deere Run on May 21. This year's John Deere Classic is July 12-15.

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before. You've shot

29 on your golf

course plenty of

times. You can do it.



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