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Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

May 2017, Vol. 21 No. 3

**HERE COMES
THE NCAA**

**OPEN SEASON
AT ERIN HILLS**

**THE MAGIC OF
SAND VALLEY**

**EXPLORING
CENTRAL WISCONSIN**



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Features

12 **Open Season At Erin Hills**
By Neal Kotlarek

18 **Exploring Central Wisconsin**
By Neal Kotlarek

24 **Here Comes The NCAA**
by Tim Cronin

34 **Dad's Day Gift Guide**
Give The Gift Of Golf To The Man Who Finally Has Time To Play



Cover: NCAA at Rich Harvest | Above: Wild Rock GC

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Departments

- 5** **Opening Shot**
- 6** **The Good Stuff**
Greg Jourdan Reviews
New Products
- 8** **Instruction**
by Sarah Pesavento
- 10** **Destinations**
Neal Kotlarek Visits Sand
Valley
- 30** **Sweet Home Chicago**
News from the
City and 'Burbs
- 36** **Tech Talk**
Todd Mrowice Rocks Out
- 38** **The Fitness Edge**
by Jake Thurm
- 39** **GOLFChicago Map and
Directory**
- 44** **Off The Shelf**
Golf Between The Covers
- 45** **On The Corkscrews**
Stephen Hawk on
Wine's World
- 46** **Final Putt**
Ruminations on
Golf and Life

OPENING SHOT

DAVE
AND
TIM

Now for the old college try.

And a good deal more. This month starts the most intense concentration of big-time tournament golf the Chicago area has seen in about 20 years, a boon to those who like to trod fairways with the stars and those in the making when they don't have a club in their hand themselves.

It starts at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, where the lasses and lads of the best college golf teams in the country will battle for their respective NCAA Championships at the end of the month. For us, it's a rare treat. The women's championship has never visited, and the men last played around here in 1997.

This feast of golf continues in June when the PGA Tour's stepping-stone circuit lands at Ivanhoe for the Rust-Oleum Championship a week before the golf world storms into Erin, Wis., for the 116th U.S. Open. If you're planning to go, given the two-lane roads in the neighborhood, you might want to leave now. Unless you count Oakmont, which

is a long drive even before you're on the first tee, it's the only U.S. Open in the foreseeable future you won't have to fly to.

The issue in hand previews both the NCAAAs at Rich Harvest (the manifestation of one man's dream to have a championship course in his backyard) and the first National Open held in Wisconsin.

To help celebrate that, we tasked Neal Kotlarek, whose knowledge of the



"Do me a favor, next time you want to go golfing in the city, count me out."

land north of the border is unparalleled, to delve into the current status of golf in Wisconsin, with an in-depth look at Sand Valley, which is the latest must-play destination from Chicagoan Mike Keiser, as well as central Wisconsin overall, from Lawsonia to beautiful downtown Baraboo.

Thanks to the topography left by ancient glaciers and modern imagination, Wisconsin's become a golf destination on par with Michigan over the last 25 years, and Sand Valley only adds to a mix that began with Blackwolf Run and the rediscovery of Lawsonia.

Want more, something in the line of a golf bag stuffer? Check out our Father's Day Gift Guide (suitable for leaving hints around the house), The Good Stuff, and Tech Talk. There's something there for everybody.

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Above the Dew

Whether it is tossing a towel on the morning dew or pegging a tee into the wet turf, golfers have a variety of strategies to keep their grips dry. Usually, it becomes a hassle when you are trying to focus on your next shot. Grip-Dry is a clever, pocket-sized solution that keeps your grips dry. Simply snap the disc onto the shaft of your club, and then set it on the fringe. Retrieval is also a snap – just hook a club under the disc and lift. Necessity breeds invention, and this one is affordable and simple! **\$12.95** www.gripdry.com



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Fourteen Golf is known among golf insiders as genuine innovators. The Japanese company's story began in 1981. Scott Simpson used Fourteen Golf irons to win the 1987 U.S. Open, and one of the first utility irons was unveiled.

Fast forward to 2017—Fourteen Golf is in the bag of numerous PGA Tour stars. Any major OEM cannot match the handmade artisanship of the company. The latest offering is the HI-877 Utility Club. It is hard to miss with its yellow body; golf shots share the same hard-to-miss fate. The HI-877 has the forgiveness of a hybrid club, yet offers the playability of a long iron. The set-up and swing mirror a mid-iron, so confidence drives each shot, whether from a tight lie or thick rough. **\$350** www.fourteengolf.com



Game in Hand

Leupold's new GX-i13 and GX-2i3 golf rangefinders feature an improved ergonomic design that makes them fit like a glove in the palm of a hand. Moreover, the company has Digitally eNhanced Accuracy engine and infrared laser delivers faster measurements with increased accuracy. While most GPS measuring devices are handy, they pale in accuracy compared to Leupold's Pin Hunter 3 Laser Technology to lock onto flagsticks with precision and promptness. The GX-i13 is tournament legal with line-of-sight distance measurements. For more bells and whistles, the GX-2i3 (shown) features the True Golf Range that suggests a "plays like" distance that factors in altitude and playing conditions. The device also includes Leupold's programmable Club Selector. Both features can be disabled to meet tournament restrictions. **GX-113 \$374.99 GX-2i3 \$419.99** www.leupold.com



Jailbreak from the Tee Box

Callaway's Epic driver takes Big Bertha over the wall and into your hands for longer drives. Epic drivers feature Jailbreak, a new ball speed technology that changes the clubhead's behavior at impact. Jailbreak incorporates two bars within the clubhead to provide stability at impact. Positioned between the club's sole and crown, this design combination produces a vibrant response between the face, crown, and sole. In addition to an over-the-wall internal design, Epic's adjustable weighting affords golfers the convenience of easy adjustments to influence ball flight. The sliding weight track system has been improved to deliver 22 percent more shot-shape correction than last year's Epic driver. Big Bertha is on the lam, so check out Jailbreak technology if you need a little distance between you and the posse. **\$499** www.callawaygolf.com





How To Hit Your Irons More Solidly

Hitting successful iron shots requires that you hit down on the golf ball and compress it. Golfers who are swinging too much on the way up will tend to hit thin or fat shots and won't be able to hit the ball in the middle of the clubface. Coming into impact with the shaft leaning forward and your hands slightly ahead of the ball will allow you to hit consistent iron shots in the sweet spot of the clubface.

In the setup position, I recommend leaning your club shaft slightly towards the target. If you drop your hands straight down at address, they should fall towards the inside of your left or front leg. Setting up this way will make it more natural and easier to come into impact with the club leaning and your hands ahead of the ball.

Hinging your wrists correctly in the backswing will help your downswing. In the downswing, we want to create more lag and hold the angle between the club shaft and the right forearm. I like to see the wrist hinge happen somewhere in the first two-thirds of the backswing. At the top of the backswing, you should have about a 90 degree angle between your right forearm and the club shaft.

Once you've created a good angle at the top, then you want to hold this angle for as long as possible on the downswing. The club will naturally release through impact if you have the right amount of grip pressure and you are swinging your arms past your body and turning in the follow through.

Try not to flip your wrists in the downswing or feel like you are using your hands to hit the ball because this will cause you to lose the lag or angle between the club and your right arm. Holding the lag correctly is a big key to compressing the ball and hitting your iron shots consistently.

Not having too much up and down movement on the backswing and downswing will also help you have a more consistent swing path and lead to better iron shots. I like the idea of trying to stay level during the swing until

the second half of the follow through. Maintaining your posture and angles will help simplify the swing so it will be easier to be consistent.

Sarah Pesavento is an LPGA Teaching Professional at The Links and Tees Driving Range in Addison. To schedule a lesson, call 630-781-5622 or email Golfgrl83@gmail.com.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

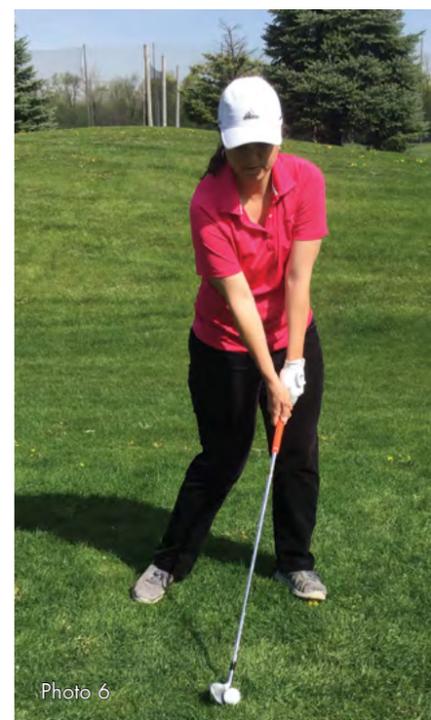


Photo 6

1: Setup, 2: Wrist hinge in backswing, 3: Top of backswing, 4: Wrist flip in middle of downswing, 5: Wrist flip close to impact, 6: Impact

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Sand Valley in One Word: Breathtaking

The road leading into central Wisconsin's newest golf course confounds the mind. The trees towering above the 1,700-acre property immediately lead one to suspect the course should have been named Forest Valley. Or, if your car's GPS system fails you right around the city of Nekoosa, as mine did, perhaps even Lost Valley. Once inside the compound, however, the vast dunes sweeping across the horizon puts the name into proper perspective. You have truly and unmistakably arrived at Sand Valley Golf Resort.

The unlikely saga of how Wisconsin has emerged as one of the country's premier golf destinations continues with the unveiling of the first of what promises to be at least two if not three or five courses ultimately planned for the resort complex. Why the ambiguity? Chicago greeting card maker turned golf entrepreneur Mike Keiser has stated his intentions to continue building holes on this vast landscape "until

the demand or (his) bank account" runs dry. If the appeal of the first course is any indication, interest in Sand Valley will only magnify for coming years, if not decades.

Credit for the property's landscape goes to a massive glacier which covered this part of Wisconsin until about 11,000 years ago. As the story goes, the Laurentide Ice Sheet receded and eventually became Lake Michigan. Its flowing meltwaters altered everything in its path to create lakes, valleys, and wetlands while leaving behind debris that included huge pockets of sand and fertile soil. These deposits helped create various industries in the Wisconsin Rapids area, including jobs in the mining, paper and logging industries. No surprise then that the delightful Pines Course at Lake Arrowhead in the adjacent city of Nekoosa was built across a sand dune in 1982.

Like golf's version of Daniel Burnham, Keiser made no little plans upon purchasing nearly 2.4 square miles of land from Plum

Creek Timber Company in late 2013. His goal, he declared at the time, was to develop the bottom of what once was a prehistoric lake into a top golfing destination.

"It [will] make Wisconsin the best summertime place for golf in the world," Keiser said. By the time the resort is fully realized, hundreds of jobs will be created in a rural community victimized by the slowly revitalizing economy.

Almost everything about Sand Valley ranks high on the coolness meter. The landscape is a wildly flowing lunar-like surface dotted by red pines, native grasses, prickly cacti and, of course, sand dunes rising over 80 feet. The design, by the dynamic duo of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, is amazingly varied and dramatic. The fairways were built to play hard and fast; thus, tee shots spring forward by 10, 20 and even 30 yards if the ball catches the back end of a hill. Even the starter's area is ultra-hip, with a patio towering above

the course incorporating a hut serving food and cold drinks. It also is home to a handful of classic Adirondack chairs perched on a ledge for a picture-perfect view of the 18th green.

Both the character and challenge of Sand Valley are revealed immediately as the 358-yard first hole overwhelms the eye with a virtual sea of sand interspersed with native grasses winding up the left side of the fairway. Even a perfect drive up the right side doesn't assure an easy par if the flagstick is placed on the backside of a huge, tiered green.

My favorite hole on the front nine is the delightful 136-yard No. 8, which calls for a short iron directed over a yawning sand bunker to a large contoured putting surface rising high above the fairway. Use at least one extra club on this par 3 to compensate for the elevation change.

While many surprises are in store on the longer and more rigorous back

nine, the fascinating design of the 17th hole deserves special attention. At 236 yards from the tips, the uphill par-3 intimidates due to both its length and its blind view from off the tee. Where to hit? A passageway slopes left and right to direct balls onto a punchbowl green that generously accepts a shot that makes it over a crest.

The par-5 No. 18 is a great counterpoint to its predecessor, as the target on every hole is easily visible. Not impossibly long – 523 yards from the back tees – sand bunkers and waste areas left and right inhibit free swings. Two decent shots lead to a short-iron approach which, if properly executed, may just lead to applause from guests sitting above the green on the aforementioned patio chairs.

Sand Valley is a walking-only course, but is not exhausting due to Coore-Crenshaw's thoughtful design placing the greens and ensuing tees close together.

Caddie service is available and highly recommended.

Elegant lodging is available around various parts of the property. Guest rooms at the clubhouse feature views of the 1st and 18th holes of Mammoth Dunes, the resort's second course, which will open to limited play in the fall, and designed by David Kidd, who also designed the acclaimed first course at Bandon Dunes in Oregon. Other options include fairway lodges and the elegant Lake Leopold Cottages located on the highest ridge of the property overlooking a series of exposed sand dunes and the lake.

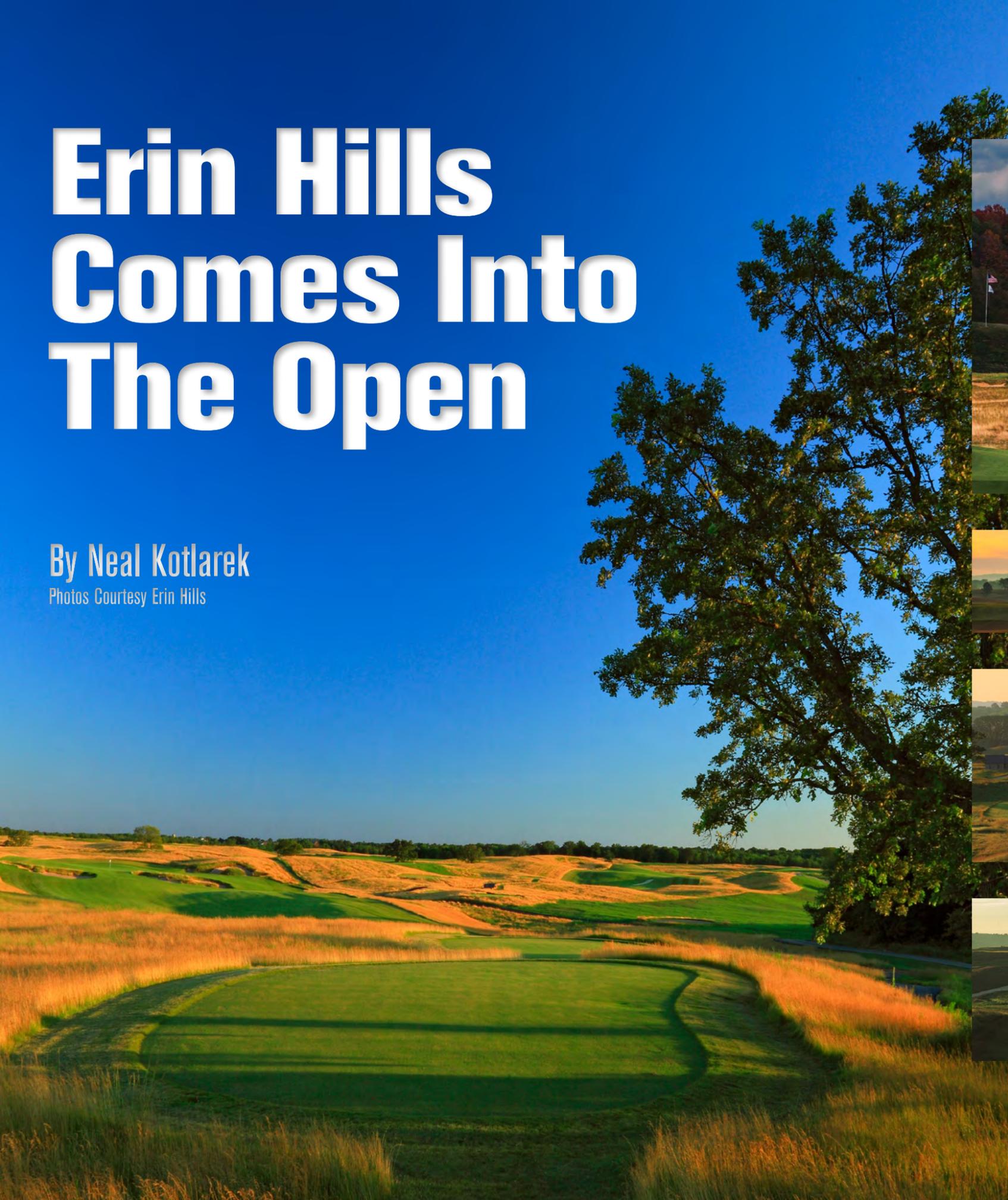
Sand Valley Golf Resort is another spectacular addition in a state that also features the likes of Erin Hills, Whistling Straits, Blackwolf Run, the Bull at Pinehurst Farms and SentryWorld. The first course's epic design and breathtaking landscape make for a world-class experience in the heart of Wisconsin.



Erin Hills Comes Into The Open

By Neal Kotlarek

Photos Courtesy Erin Hills



The short history of Wisconsin's Erin Hills makes Cinderella's story seem unremarkable.

Ponder, for a moment, a simple fact: only 13 years ago, this golf course about to host the 2017 U.S. Open was merely a theory. Laid out over 650 glorious acres of farmland 35 miles northwest of Milwaukee, Erin Hills didn't open until 2006. Only three years later, it was bought by financier Andy Ziegler, who immediately ordered a significant renovation of the layout. One year after that, Erin Hills was selected by the United States Golf Association to host the national championship.

How all this happened so quickly involved a confluence of great timing, exquisite architecture, nifty salesmanship, and, of course, a fantastic piece of land. When the committee reviewed all eight of the candidate courses under consideration, including the likes of Long Island's Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Erin Hills was selected largely due to its quality, its challenge, its commitment to low-impact irrigation techniques, its capacity to host daily galleries of up to 60,000, and, not insignificantly, its designation as a public golf course.

Spectators, TV viewers and the world's finest players will get to experience a course that combines a little bit of Scotland (fescue fairways and knee-high fescue in the second cut of rough) with a whole bunch of Pinehurst (natural design, vast bunkers, limited irrigation) to create a wonderland in the Dairyland. While the course can be set up to play as long as 8,000 yards, it's a fair bet that USGA executive director and CEO Mike Davis will adjust distances daily to take into account prevailing winds and conditions. The end result will be a fair if rigorous test that promises to make for an intriguing event.

In many ways, today's version of Erin Hills is a tribute to the power of determination and vision. When the course opened, no one disputed the beauty of the landscape nor the care architects Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry, and Ron Whitten used in letting the property's natural contours determine the character of each hole.

"We had been looking at that piece of land since 2000," Hurdzan said in an April interview from his Columbus, Ohio, office. "We had put together 12 to 15 routings and had a single goal: not to change the natural grade of the land by more than a foot." That self-imposed restriction was put in place for

financial reasons as well as philosophical ones. Original owner Bob Lang wanted to build a natural course that didn't require excessive irrigation. Those guidelines would keep costs to a minimum, and could translate to competitive green fees.

Those restrictions inevitably resulted in some interesting design challenges. The original version of the course included an imposing par-5 opening hole that called for a second shot woven between an ominous sand bunker to the right of the fairway landing area and an overhanging, ball-munching oak tree protecting the left side of this elevated fairway. That tree now departed, the hole remains very difficult but far more playable than its former self. Likewise, the short par-4 second hole involved a blind approach shot from the left side of the fairway to a small, fast green perched upon a knoll like a bent grass version of a billiard table. Invariably, few approach shots made it to the green and many of those that did trundled over, resulting in a difficult chip shot back to the flagstick. The character and spirit of this hole remains intact, yet the design crew re-graded much of the landing area to provide better sight lines to the green and expanded the putting surface to make it more receptive to holding approach shots.

In the end, Erin Hills 3.0 (a first renovation occurred prior to the 2011 U.S. Amateur) saw the elimination of hundreds of trees, needed adjustments on the size and contours of many greens, reduction of the number of blind shots faced, and the addition of more than 125 acres of fescue grasses across the property that transition in color from pale green to glorious gold in early summer. Credit must be given to Ziegler for sticking with the original architects to calculate and manage these adjustments to the satisfaction of the USGA and most every player tackling the course, which is now walking-only.

Hurdzan states that one of the truly consistent characteristics of the course are the three sand bunker types used



across the 18 holes. "There are three types of bunkers," he said. "Erosion bunkers that are 6 to 8 feet wide and tail out at the end of other bunkers; blow-out bunkers that appear as if wind has pushed the sand out of them over time, and a combination of erosion/blow-out bunkers." The stunning result is a course that looks decades older than its age—a true modern classic.

If there is one renovation of the course that I miss, it's the elimination of the delightful par-3 No. 6. Formerly a blind hole built in tribute to the Dell Hole at Ireland's Lahinch Golf Club, the lack of any sightline (save for a movable white rock) to the green only a wedge shot away from the tee box slowed play down significantly, as calculations for the location of errant tee shots needed to be made by every foursome. Making matters more cumbersome, a bell needed to be rung by groups leaving the green to signal successors of the hole's availability.

The romantic in me feels that such a pot luck shot in the middle of a round is good for the spirit. The pragmatic in me, on the other hand, grasps the fact that slow play has been the bane of golf since its inception. Thus, almost any adjustment that enhances speed of play needs to be embraced.

While Erin Hills was always a long course (and made longer by the sometimes imposing treks from greens to ensuing tees), it was from its inception built to play firm and fast. Thus, tee shots tend to spring forward and approach shots to the holes with ground-level greens can be attacked both through the air and through pitch-and-run. That aspect serves to make even a long par 4 like No. 3, 431 yards from the blue tees, play a club or two shorter.

Every hole on the course is a feast to the eyes; thus, it is difficult to pinpoint just one as a signature hole. That said, No. 14 is a truly spectacular par 5 that encompasses virtually every aspect that makes the course special. Wetlands and fescue grasses swirl around the right side of the



hole. A foursome of sand bunkers pinch the tee shot's landing area. Short hitters are at a disadvantage on the second shot as the fairway narrows in their landing area. Long hitters, on the other hand, have a large target to hit toward around the green but over fescue grasses. The large putting surface is virtually unprotected, save for a couple of sand bunkers to the far left and far right. Finish the hole and enjoy the view of it going backwards from the 15th tee.

Erin Hills should be in top condition going into the tournament with virtually no play allowed prior to the event. Contours on many of the greens were reduced to allow for speeds with a Stimpmeter reading as high as 13 for the tournament. "The USGA likes speedy greens for the U.S. Open," says Hurdzan, adding, "I am really looking forward to how the players and golf fans respond to the course."

Chicagoans attending the 117th U.S. Open from June 15-18 are in for a rare treat, as the tiny community of Erin and its surroundings are virtually unfettered by everything except nature. Try to plan your trip with an additional hour to spare to enjoy the state's iconic Holy Hill which towers over Erin Hills in the distance. A neo-Romanesque church built in 1926 over 435 acres, the breathtaking building features a 178-step climb to an observation tower. Holy Hill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features a half-mile outdoor Way of the Cross with 14 groups of life-size sculptures.

Tickets for the U.S. Open can be purchased online at www.usga.org/tickets

Accommodations near Erin Hills are at a premium due to the aforementioned open spaces near and around the property. Nearby cities with hotels include Hartford, Oconomowoc, Delafield, Waukesha, Brookfield and Milwaukee. Spectator parking will be at two outlets, with free shuttle busses running all day.

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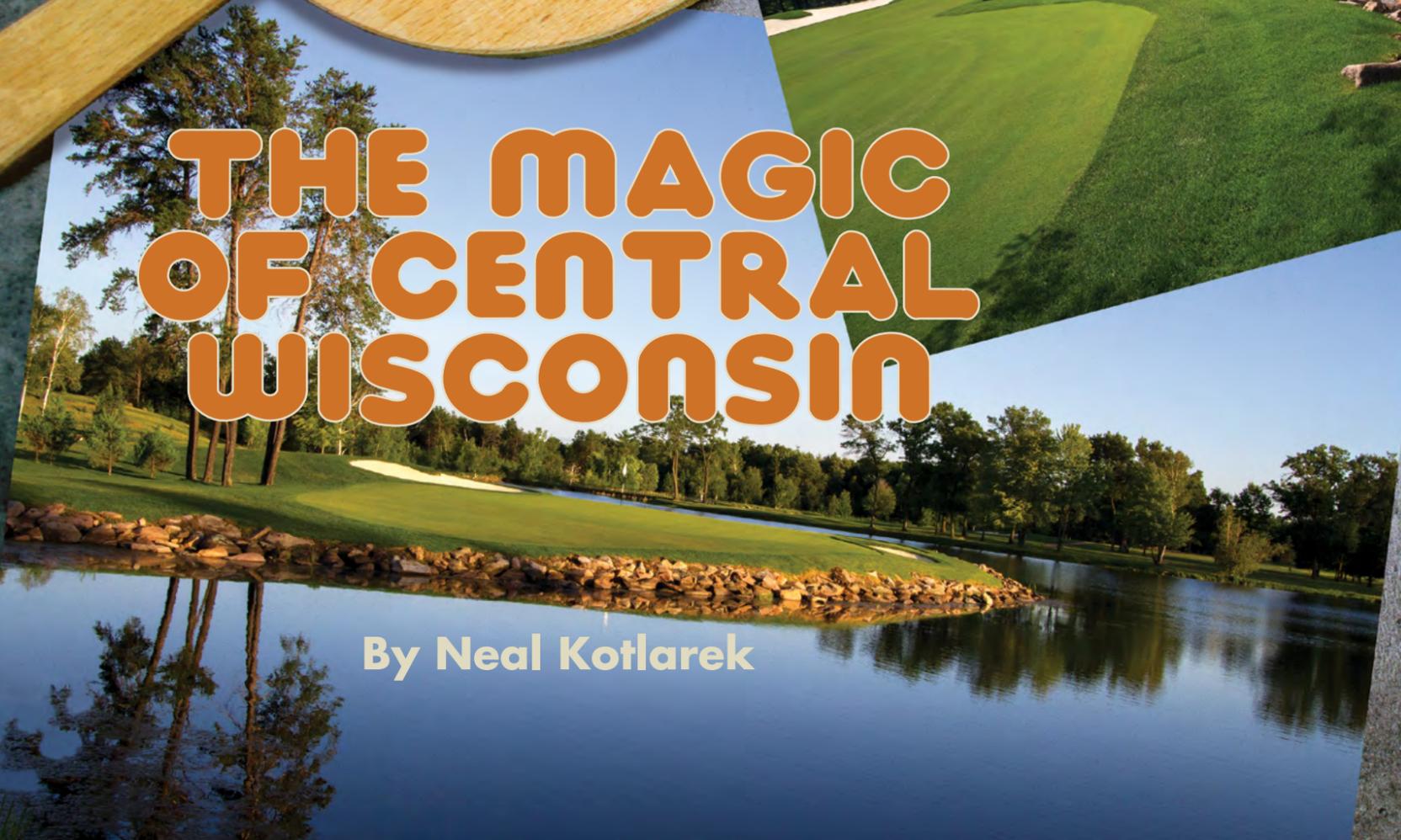
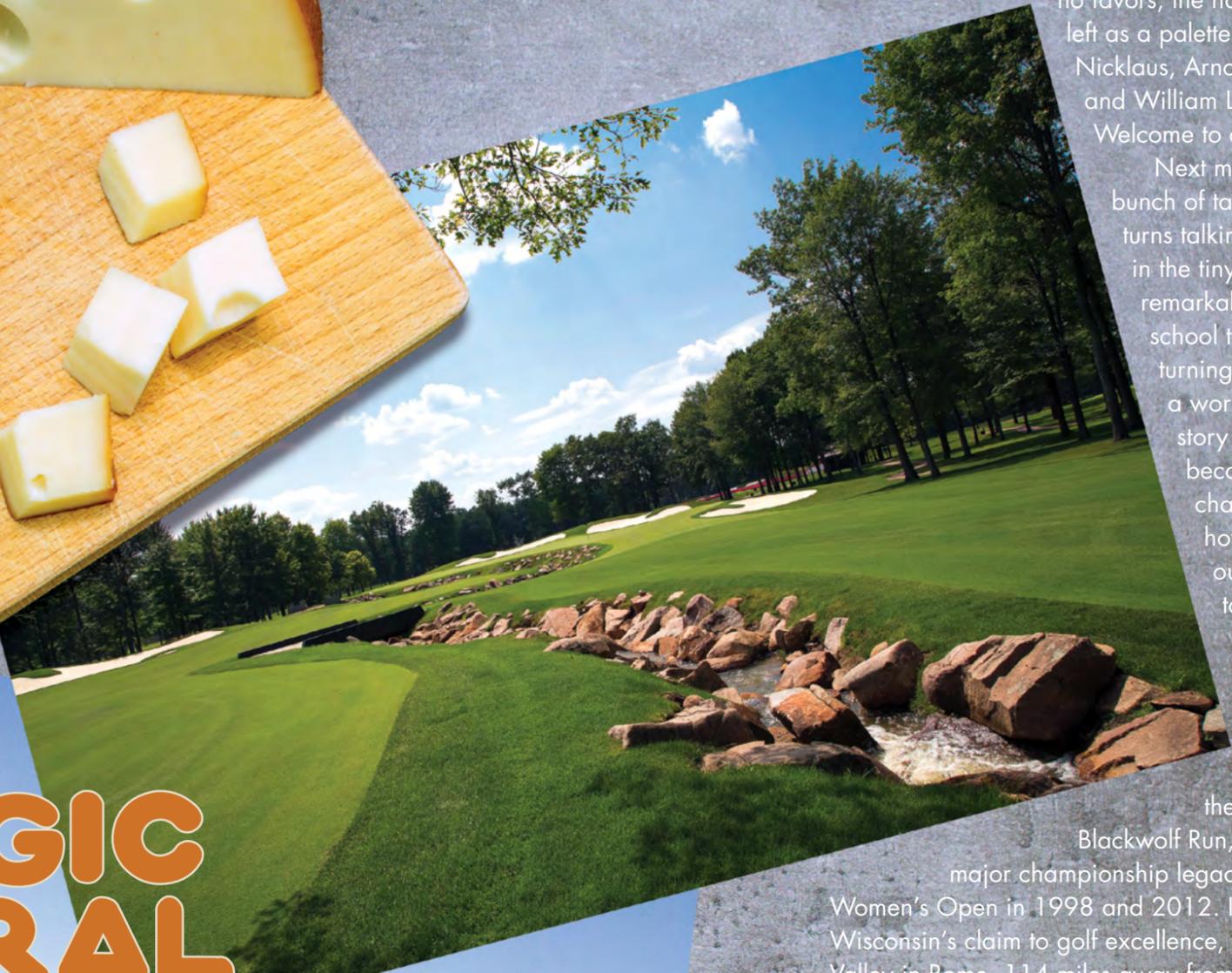
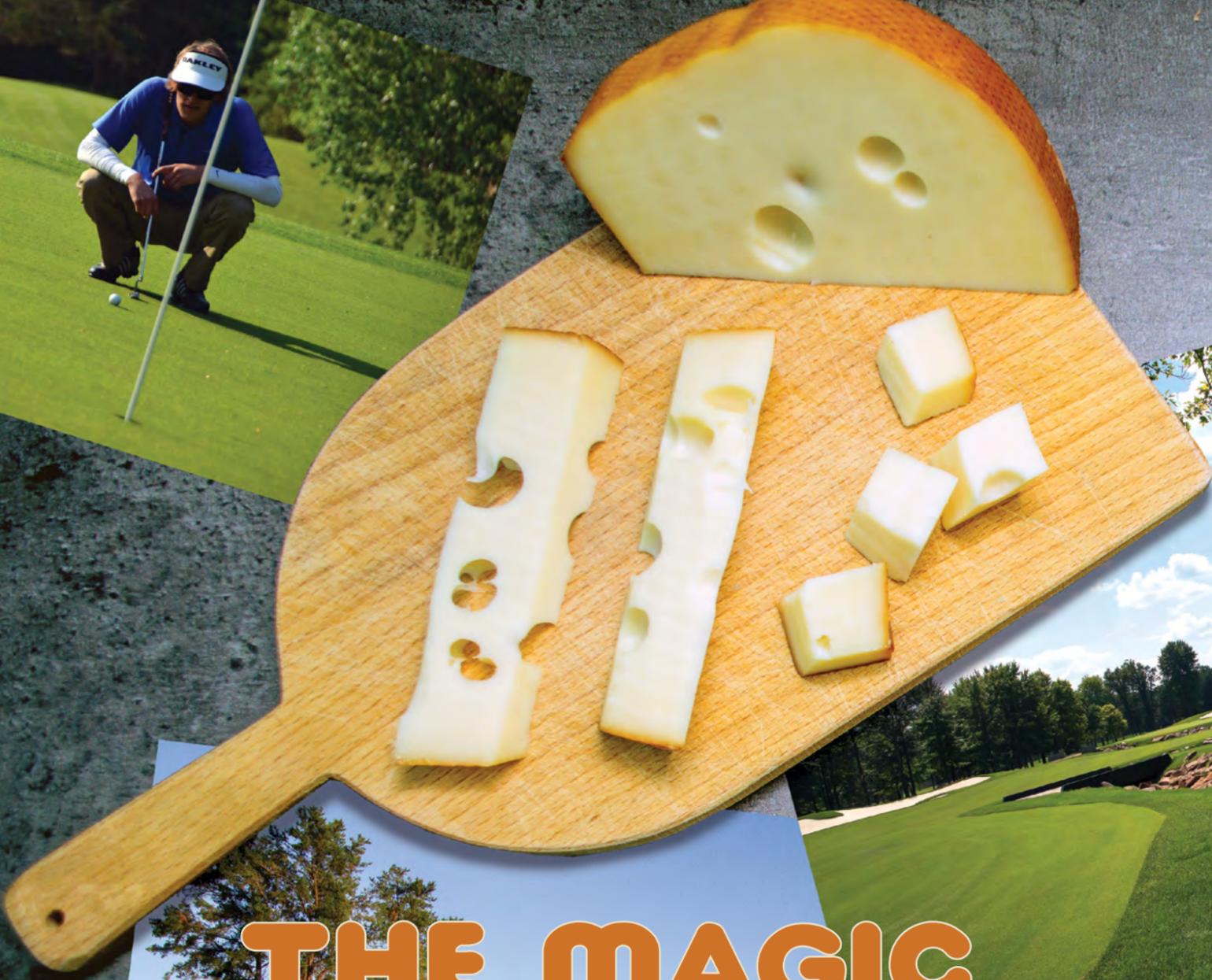
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long time ago in a place not that far away, a massive glacier retreated and left behind all kinds of ridges, sand deposits, hills, lakes, glens and moraines. While the remnants of the glacier did automobile transmissions no favors, the happier effect is the amazing landscape left as a palette over which great golf architects like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Robert Trent Jones II, Pete Dye, and William Langford could create their masterpieces. Welcome to central Wisconsin!

Next month during U.S. Open week, a whole bunch of talking heads on the Golf Channel will take turns talking about the amazing legacy of Erin Hills in the tiny community of Erin. And it is, indeed, a remarkable account of how a hotelier and former school teacher named Bob Lang had a vision of turning the hilly piece of farmland he owned into a world championship golf course. While that story took twists and turns before eventually becoming the venue for our nation's golf championship, the real tale behind the tale is how America's Dairyland somehow churned out great golf course after great golf course to become one of the epicenters of the country's golf scene.

This is not the Badger State's first major championship rodeo, of course. Just two years ago, the Pete Dye-designed Whistling Straits hosted the PGA Championship for a second time.

Blackwolf Run, located in nearby Kohler, has its own major championship legacy, as that great course hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 1998 and 2012. If tournament golf isn't enough proof of Wisconsin's claim to golf excellence, consider the grand opening of Sand Valley in Rome, 114 miles away from Kohler and Lake Michigan. Reviewed in other pages of this issue, the spectacular Sand Valley Golf Resort is owned by Chicagoan Mike Keiser and is slated to grow to two courses by 2018 and perhaps to four courses in coming years afterwards.

While it is tempting to trace the genesis of central Wisconsin's golf boom to Herb Kohler, president of Kohler Resorts which owns and operates Blackwolf Run and Whistling Straits, a more reasoned and reflective path to those successful properties goes through Green Lake and Stevens Point, respectively.

Renowned as the oldest resort town west of Niagara Falls, N.Y., Green Lake was a great fishing and hiking destination until 1887 when Chicago newspaper baron Victor Lawson, publisher of the *Chicago Daily News*, purchased 1,100 acres of scenic rolling land a short distance north of the lake. The property served as an elegant resort until 1929, four years after Lawson's death, when the property was purchased by H.O. Stone & Company. Acclaimed golf architect William Langford was hired and paid a then-extraordinary sum

THE MAGIC OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN

By Neal Kotlarek



of \$250,000 to build a world-class golf course. Today, Lawsonia Links remains one of America's top 100 classic golf courses. It was joined 60 years later by the delightful Woodlands Course to create a memorable 36-hole complex.

While the Links Course, as it is known today, has received tweaks and renovations through the years, its Scottish-links character has remained basically unchanged since its origins. Most every golfer's favorite hole on the course is No. 7, a 160-yard gem known as the "Box Car Hole" due to the train railcar upon which its green was built. Inevitably then, this putting surface is perched high above the rest of the hole to present a do-or-die tee shot. Hit your 7-iron or 6-iron high and soft and putt for birdie. Hit it slightly off target and be challenged by an imposing flop wedge shot to the flagstick. <https://lawsonia.com>

Lawsonia Links stood out as Wisconsin's top public golf course for over 50 years until Robert Trent Jones Jr. was enlisted by the president of Sentry Insurance Company in Stevens Point to create a masterpiece on 200 acres adjacent to the firm. The resulting SentryWorld golf course virtually captured America's imagination in 1982 when it opened to wide acclaim, specifically due to its stunning, oft-photographed 16th, the "flower hole." Called golf's most beautiful hole by Chicago golf writer Len Ziehm, the short par-3 features some 33,000 colorful begonias, petunias, zinnias, celosias and laurentias which basically encircle the green alongside four clover-shaped sand bunkers.

SentryWorld remained among Wisconsin's top 10 golf courses, but received a much-needed facelift by Trent Jones Jr. in 2013. The course was named America's Best New and Newly Remodeled Course the following year. Characterized by massive greens, mature trees and deviously large sand bunkers, SentryWorld is once again heralded as among the state's premier layouts. www.sentryworld.com

The combination of Lawsonia Links, SentryWorld and southern Wisconsin's Playboy Club (today known as Grand Geneva Resort & Spa) cemented the state's reputation as a great golf destination. That foundation was widely expanded with the grand opening in 1988 of the first of Kohler's four premier courses, all designed by Dye. Extensively chronicled in this magazine through the years, the two courses at Blackwolf Run – the River and the Meadow Valley – were joined years later by Whistling Straits – the Straits and the Irish Course – to create two of the finest golf complexes in the world. In 2020, the Straits Course will host golf's premier event, the Ryder Cup, as a follow-up to its successful hosting of the 2015 PGA Championship. www.americanclubresort.com

Located a short drive from Kohler in Sheboygan Falls, The Bull at Pinehurst Farms is Wisconsin's only Jack Nicklaus Signature course and was ranked among the country's top 70 public courses by Golf Digest in 2016. Built atop a 400-acre former dairy farm, the course features rolling hills, deep ravines, large ponds, impressive elevation changes, woodlands and massive sand bunkers. Congenial owner David Bachmann Jr. keeps the course in picture-postcard-perfect shape and tournament-ready. The property's Champions Restaurant & Bar features



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casual dining, and is a perfect spot to grab a cold beverage following one's round. www.golfthebull.com

The unlikely-named The Bog in Saukville was built in 1995 by Arnold Palmer, and was immediately acclaimed as one of the King's best designs. As presumed, the Cedarburg Bog plays a leading role across the property as holes flow over and around wetlands on both nines. Those challenges are complemented by 118 sand bunkers, rolling hills, and mature woods to provide a memorable round of golf. The course was purchased for \$1.99 million by the Hammes Co. in 2015, which immediately hired Northbrook's KemperSports to manage the course and develop it into a premier golf experience. www.golfthebog.com

The amazing duo of Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry built the impeccably manicured and fun 7,414-yard Wild Rock course in Wisconsin Dells. Rated among the top five courses in the state by Gary D'Amato of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, the course features boulder-strewn streams, sand, and gravel mounds along with amazing vistas. www.wildrock.com

A half-hour's drive south of the Dells in Merrimac, Devil's Head Resort & Convention Center is a four-season resort featuring two amazingly diverse championship courses. The Prairie Glen course transitions from gently rolling land to dramatic hills across a sweeping landscape. The front nine features two delightful par 3s. The 134-yard No. 3 calls for a 9-iron or 8-iron woven between trees left, right and behind a fairly large green. In stunning contrast, the 146-yard No. 7 features a 120-foot drop that reduces club selection by one or two clubs. Enjoy the view of the forest from off the tee before heading to the green. The Glacier course is far more rugged than its sister layout as holes heave up and down the expansive property. While the 165-yard No. 7 is a truly beautiful par 3, the succeeding par 5 is probably the most scenic and fun hole on the entire property. A drive hit left of center should kick further left to leave a 3-wood or 5-wood to an unprotected green. Before you get too eager to line-up your eagle putt, enjoy the vista afforded from the top of the entire resort property. www.devilsheadresort.com

Not bad for the work of one glacier.

College Cool Comes to Rich Harvest



By Tim Cronin

Photos Courtesy of NCAA

Eyebrows were raised less than a decade ago when the NCAA switched the format of its golf championships from stroke play, that tried and true indicator of excellence over several days, to match play, a more mercurial form of determining a winner.

Detractors, including some coaches, said excellence would not necessarily be rewarded. Boosters touted the potential for drama at every hole.

It turns out there has been both excellence and drama, and few want to return to the old way. As an example, consider last year's women's championship. Washington knocked off defending champion Stanford 3-2 in a tumultuous title match that concluded with triumph on one side and tears on the other, all of it seen not just by coaches and family, which had been the case for decades, but a national audience on Golf Channel.

Truth be told, the lure of television is the reason why the men (in 2009) and the women (in 2015) swung away from stroke play, which had been used since the 1960s, to match play. Five players tee it up for a team in college play, but only the best four scores are on the team total. Try explaining that on television as the fourth and fifth players change identities.



University of Washington Women's Golf Team – 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Champions



University of Oregon Men's Golf Team – 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Champions



Aaron Wise, University of Oregon – 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Individual Champion



Virginia Elena Carta, Duke University – 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Individual Champion

Better to have them all count, and better yet, go head-to-head with one foe rather than the entire field. Thus, the NCAA went hybrid, with the old stroke-play format determining the individual champion over 72 holes, and also setting which eight teams advanced to match play. Golf Channel covers the final stroke-play round with the individual title and team berths at stake, and all the matches.

This year, the men and women will play on the same course for the third time, giving TV a two-for-one setup. And the course is Rich Harvest Farms, Jerry Rich's backyard layout on the west edge of Sugar Grove that started as a handful of practice holes and, since the 2009 Solheim Cup, has been internationally recognized.

"I designed this course for match play," Rich said when the women's regional lineups were announced. "If you lose one hole, or are two or three down at the turn, you're not out of it."

Northern Illinois University is the host, and as good as this is for the Huskies, it's even better for Illinois' men's program and Northwestern's women's program. If both play well in the NCAA regionals, they'll make the field and have a home area, if not home course, advantage. For Illinois men's coach Mike Small, whose squad boasts Western

Amateur champion Dylan Meyer and Illinois Amateur champion Nick Hardy, that would be a twist.

"In 2013, we lost the national championship match to Alabama in Atlanta, and the number of people who came out for that last match from Tuscaloosa was incredible," Small recalled. "The intensity and the focus they brought just wore on us. They could feel the passion of the crowd. And last year, we lost the semifinal match to Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. I've never seen anything like that before in college golf."

Defeats aside, Small sees it as a boon for the sport, which for decades was hidden in plain sight.

"It's kind of neat," Small said. "You see it in basketball, you see it in football, other sports, when the crowd gets on your side. At Oregon, there had to be a thousand people there. It was intense. There weren't a lot of gallery ropes or a lot of control of the people. They infused themselves right into the match. The fraternities got word of it, and about 2 p.m., they came onto the golf course, and it was an exciting time."

Meyer knocked off NCAA individual champion Aaron Wise in the semifinal, but the Ducks took a 3-2 decision – Illinois was a 40-foot birdie lip-out by Charlie Danielson from vanquishing the hosts – and went on to beat

Facts Box

Women's Championship, May 19 - 24

May 19 - 22, individual championship, stroke play qualifying (four 18-hole rounds)

May 23, match play quarterfinals, semifinals

May 24, match play final

Men's Championship, May 26 - 31

May 26 - 29, individual championship, stroke play qualifying (four 18-hole rounds)

May 30, match play quarterfinals, semifinals

May 31, match play final

If You Go

Grounds ticket prices range from \$10 for one day to \$50 for both tournaments. There are also two levels of hospitality with daily tickets ranging from \$55 to \$250 and weekly passes from \$275 to \$1,250.

The Skinny

Predictions are futile in match play, but – presuming they all make it to Rich Harvest – here are the teams and players worth following:

Men: 3 Teams to Watch

1. Southern California. Sean Crocker is a semifinalist for the Ben Hogan Award.
2. Illinois. Meyer and Hardy may be best 1-2 punch in college golf.
3. Oklahoma State. Cowboys host next year's NCAA championships.

Men: 3 Players to Watch

1. Maverick McNealy, Stanford. World No. 1 amateur wants team title.
2. Nick Hardy, Illinois. Seasoned by back-to-back U.S. Open appearances.
3. Doug Ghim, Texas. Arlington Heights native is a Longhorn standout.

Women: 3 Teams to Watch

1. Alabama. Crimson Tide rallied for second in SEC Championship.
2. Arizona State. Monica Vaughn was on last year's Curtis Cup team.
3. Florida State. Fourth in pre-tournament rankings.

Women: 3 Players to Watch

1. Leona Maguire, Duke. Current world No. 1 has flirted with going pro early.
2. Andrea Lee, Stanford. Freshman made U.S. Women's Open cut at 15.
3. Jillian Hollis, Georgia. Reigning Women's Western Amateur champion.

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Texas by a similar margin in the final match.

If the Fighting Illini are in the mix for the men's title, their fans could come out of the woodwork. The same could be true for Northwestern if their ladies' team, which lost the Big Ten title to Michigan State by two strokes, advanced from its regional. Pat Goss, the Wildcats' director of golf, remembered 1997, when Northwestern hosted the men's final at Conway Farms. "We played in the final pairing on the final day, and to have that in Chicago, to have that crowd, to have Northwestern people wearing purple, was an incredible experience," Goss recalled. "We know what a great golf city Chicago is."

Early indications were that ticket sales, at least by corporations, have been brisk. Whether that translates to large galleries for the tournament is unknown. The final round of stroke play and all match play will be from Monday through Wednesday to allow live TV coverage. The men's tournament running through Memorial Day weekend could help boost the gate, or it could mean people hang out in their backyards.

No matter which teams raise the trophies, Northern Illinois could be the big winner. The Huskies have never hosted an NCAA championship.

"We think this is going to be the emergence of our golf program," men's coach Tom Porten said. "If you like going to the BMW or the John Deere Classic, you need to come to Rich Harvest."

If you do, you'll be watching the PGA and LPGA tours in action a few years in advance.



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Sweet Home Chicago

Day, Phelps to Make Charity Splash

Two of the sporting world's biggest names are teaming together in May to host a Chicago-area golf event in support of worthy causes. Olympic champion swimmer Michael Phelps and PGA Tour superstar Jason Day will headline the two-day affair centered in St. Charles, 40 miles west of the city. Entitled "Golf.Give.Gala," the May 21-22 extravaganza will be headlined by a music concert at the Arcada Theater on the 21st followed by a star-studded golf outing at St. Charles Country Club on the 22nd.



Jason Day, wife Ellie, son Dash, and daughter Lucy

The concert, headlined by a yet-to-be named country act, will be preceded by a gala and auction at the Hotel Baker hosted by radio personality Eric Ferguson. All the net proceeds will benefit Jason Day's Brighter Days Foundation and the Michael Phelps Foundation. The event is sponsored by ALE Solutions, the nation's largest provider of temporary housing to families displaced by natural disaster.

Winner of the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin, Day finished 2016 as the world's No. 1 ranked player and is currently ranked 3rd behind Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy.

His record last year included wins at the Players Championship, the WGC Dell Match Play event and the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Overseen by both Day and wife Ellie, The Brighter Days Foundation provides funding and resources to projects, organizations, and families in need. "Jason and Ellie are humbled to have an opportunity to partner with Michael and ALE Solutions at the inaugural Golf.Give.Gala," said Bonnie Upright, executive director of the foundation. For more information, visit www.brighterdays-foundation.org

Phelps currently holds the record for winning the most medals, 28, in Olympic history. He was the first American male swimmer to earn a spot on five Olympic teams. He won five gold medals and one silver at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Founded in 2008, the Michael Phelps Foundation is



Michael Phelps

focused on growing the sport of swimming and promotes healthy and active lives. The group has partnered with the Special Olympics and Boys & Girls Clubs of America to help over 16,000 people across the world. For more information, visit www.michaelphelpsfoundation.org

While the Golf.Give.Gala event is closed to the general public, a limited number of golf outing spots and concert tickets are available. Call (855) 802-9842 for more information or e-mail christa.landgraf@alesolutions.com. For news about celebrity attendees and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.golfgivegala.com. — Neal Kottlarek

The Wright Way

John Wright of Aurora captured his second victory in the Will County Amateur, the traditional tee-off to the amateur season, at Balmoral Woods on April 22 - 23. Wright scored a 4-under 140, highlighted by an opening 69, to beat Grant Goltz by two strokes and send him primed into his defense of last year's victory at the I-80 Amateur at the Sanctuary. A less-fortunate former champion was Tony Romo. The just-retired Dallas Cowboys quarterback and future CBS commentator, the WCA titleholder in 2009, missed the cut in his first appearance in several years, but dad Ramiro Romo made it on the number and tied for 44th after a smooth 77 in the second round.

Cardinal Creek Reopens

Closed after the 2014 season and at the time expected to remain so, Cardinal Creek Golf Course in Beecher has reopened under new ownership following a bank takeover. Unique among the 27-hole public facility's pricing is a two-year membership. Pay \$425 and you can play every day with only a \$16 cart fee on top of the initial layout. A similar deal, weekdays-only, is \$225.

The Shag Bag

Chicago State's men's and women's teams will play in the PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla., this month. ... The end-of-April downpours forced the cancellation of the Illinois State Scramble at Village Greens of Woodridge. There's no makeup. ... Tony Frandria, who got his start in golf behind the counter at then-new Palos Hills Municipal, is the new superintendent at Canal Shores (a.k.a. Peter Jans) in Evanston and Wilmette. ... Of the \$30 million to be raised for the Jackson Park/South Shore re-do, \$10 million will go into the South Shore property, \$15 million into Jackson Park, and \$5 million as an endowment for operations and upkeep. ... Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield has been added as the second course for this year's Illinois Open (Aug. 7-9), joining The Glen Club.

Down Memory Lane

1943 NCAA Was Wally's World

Did you know Wally Ulrich is an NCAA golf champion?

Have you ever heard of Wally Ulrich?

Probably not, and that's fine. But thanks to the quick thinking of Northwestern golf coach Ted Payseur, Ulrich and the rest of the field in the 1943 NCAA Championship could tee it up.

With World War II raging and restrictions on train travel generally limited to troops, the NCAA had done everything but cancel the golf championship. Payseur, who would later be NU's athletics director, twisted a few arms and arranged for Olympia Fields Country Club to host a truncated championship.

It would be three days in duration rather than six, and only 78 players from 22 schools would be on hand, but the NCAA Championship – the fifth held by the group after taking over from the National Intercollegiate Golf Association – would be played.

And Ulrich, from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., a small school that wouldn't be in Division I these days, won the individual title. All schools were considered equal then, so Ulrich was in the same field with everyone else, including defending champion Louisiana State, as well as Texas, Big Ten champion Michigan, and Yale, which would win the team championship in stroke play.

He was also the only Carleton Knight in the field, on hand only because Olympia Fields was en route from school to his next assignment: basic training for the Marines in Oberlin, Ohio. The lone small-school player in the lineup, Ulrich knocked off Princeton's Walter Kearns in 20 holes in the first round, Notre Dame's Jim Besenfelder in the quarterfinals, Yale captain Bob Kuntz in the semifinals, and Texas' Bill Roden by a 4 and 2 margin in the title match. Ulrich lost the first two holes but stormed back to lead 1 up at the turn and finished the match via a bogey at the par-4 16th on Olympia's No. 1 course when Roden shanked his approach.



Wally Ulrich, Carleton College, NCAA champion, 1943

It was a championship conducted without a great deal of fanfare, but the finalists had a lasting impact. Like Ulrich, Roden was off to military training in Georgetown, Tex., after the war. After the war, Ulrich finished at Carlton and turned pro, winning the 1954 Kansas City Open. Roden, who never lost a match in Southwest Conference play, went into the oil business and served on the University of Texas Board of Regents, while serving as a regional USGA official for a decade. — Tim Cronin



From Trading Floor To Range Tee

Golf headlines, in many ways, are consistent with the headlines of every other sport. Controversy gets clicks, right? Folks were up in arms when Lexi Thompson was penalized a few weeks back. For the masses that Googled that train wreck, I wonder how many have ever checked out anything else from the LPGA? I think we all know the answer. Slim to none.

It's important for the positives to get a spotlight though, especially in golf, a game that has always carried certain stigmas. I love hearing about what charities and communities are benefitting from PGA Tour events and which players have their own foundations. It's great to see smaller golf companies chugging along and delivering products in a crowded industry. Call me a sucker, but I just enjoy that stuff.

So let's highlight Mike Roelle, an Elmhurst resident. Mike holds a regular job at the CBOT/CME, and he's also the inventor of a revolutionary swing trainer called The SwingDuke. If I had to label Roelle, I would do so as a proud and devoted father. When his oldest daughter, Francesca, joined the golf team at Fenwick High School, she relayed to Mike her desire to feel the mechanics of a proper golf swing.

Here is where most people would say, "Let's get you some more lessons." This is where Mike, instead, got inventing. I guess a man's weakest spot really is his daughter, isn't it?

GOLFChicago: Explain the SwingDuke and how it works.

Mike Roelle: The SwingDuke is a recently patented golf swing and exercise machine. It is the only self-actuated golf swing machine that defines the swing plane for any club, while still allowing freedom for the club to rotate, hinge and extend throughout the entire golf stroke. This allows golfers to feel the proper swing for themselves, from address to finish. It can be adjusted for any club, user-height and swing plane, accommodating flatter to steeper swings.

In addition, the SwingDuke is an exercise machine for golf, as its optional, and adjustable, weight resistance features allow golfers to strengthen all their golf swing muscles at the same time as it reinforces proper swing technique. The SwingDuke is the intersection between golf instruction and golf fitness.

GC: Tell us how your family is involved in the SwingDuke operation.

MR: My entire family is involved in one way or another. First off, my kids are part of my proof of concept. They all have become very good ball strikers. My youngest daughter will go with me on most of my showings. She's a huge help



capturing the showing with video and pictures. Her, my middle daughter, and my son will then help me put something together to post on social media. Making a 60-second video to post could take a couple of days. We have had some good ones with over 100,000 total views, and that's how sales are generated. My wife is an attorney, so she makes sure we, and our company, are protected. I myself do all the above plus a lot more so it's nice to get help from my family.

GC: Tell us about yourself as a golfer.

MR: I think it's the best game in the world, but I have not played much golf in my life. The first time I played I was in college. I work at the CBOT /CME. In the glory days when there were trading floors, the filling brokers would take us floor brokers golfing. I might have played four times a summer, but those four times were at the very least at a private club. We once took a helicopter down 290 to play Prairie Landing and then back to Chicago for dinner. I was taken to PGA West, Marco Island, and Geneva National to name



a few. I was always the one that won the golf bag for the highest score in the group. I lost a dozen balls and because I swung the club 126 times per round I wore two gloves because of all the blisters. I stunk but I loved being outside and playing the game. I have only played nine holes twice in the last two years since completing the SwingDuke. I shot a 44 the last time out. That was the first time I broke 50.

GC: Tell us about your experience at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando.

MR: We exhibited in the Inventor's Spotlight section of the PGA Merchandise Show. The SwingDuke was tested and reviewed by PGA professionals and instructors, college coaches, students in the PGA Golf Management Program, representatives of golf clubs, equipment manufacturers, and fitness companies. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the SwingDuke's benefits for golf instruction and golf conditioning which confirmed our thinking that the SwingDuke has a successful future in the golf industry.

Roelle says the SwingDuke is a "must see to believe product," which is a hurdle right now

in going to market. However, if you navigate to the SwingDuke website (www.swingduke.com) to watch videos of it in action and read testimonials, it's conceivable that there could be a SwingDuke at many teaching facilities in the near future. While outsiders may look at the swing trainer as a revolutionary piece of equipment, I think Mike Roelle looks at it and sees his daughter. – Todd Mrowice

12 Finalists for Illinois Golf Hall of Fame

The slate of candidates for induction as the 17th class in the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame is down to 12 finalists after the selection committee's recent first-stage deliberations. The committee began the process with a list of 28 eligible nominees before its initial meeting, which included open discussion about the candidates and ended with a vote for the top ten. Four nominees tied for the ninth slot, resulting in twelve finalists being eligible for further consideration this year.

The nominees:

- Doug Bauman: winner of five state majors, three time Illinois PGA Match Play champion.
- Emil Esposito: winner of three state majors, longtime professional at Kemper Lakes.
- Gary Groh: winner of the PGA Tour Hawaiian Open, winner of five state majors and longtime professional at Bob O' Link.
- Gary Hallberg: three-time PGA Tour champion following a stellar amateur career including 1979 NCAA title.
- Phil Kosin: writer/founder of *Chicagoland Golf*, radio show host, golf charity founder.
- Greg Kunkel: decorated caddie master at Sunset Ridge C.C., deeply involved in raising funds for youth scholarships.
- William Langford: golf architect (Lawsonia, Butterfield, Wakonda), ASGCA co-founder.
- Carol Mann: winner of 38 LPGA Tour tournaments and inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1977.
- Francis Peabody: philanthropist from Hinsdale G.C. whose prodding led to formation of CDGA.
- Gary Pinns: only player to win the Illinois Open five times, Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year in 2014.
- Horton Smith: 28-time tour winner including first and third Masters, PGA of America president 1952 - 54.
- Len Ziehm: sports journalist covered golf at *Sun-Times*, now at *Daily Herald*, expert on local scene.

"The dozen finalists have displayed excellence in all areas of golf," said Hall of Fame selection committee chair Tim Cronin. "They range from successful Tour players to teaching pros who won on the state level, as well as the man behind the founding of the CDGA, a renowned architect, a caddie master whose behind-the-scenes work has been exemplary, and a pair of longtime journalists. The only difficulty for the committee members on selection night is deciding who not to put on their ballots."

The 2017 Illinois Golf Hall of Fame class will join the 82 previous inductees after Selection Night, Tuesday, May 23, when the 21 members of the selection committee will

hear presentations about the 12 finalists. The nominators of each finalist are invited to deliver in-person presentations on behalf of their nominee. The committee will be able to ask questions of the presenters before casting their final ballot for up to five candidates for induction.

The selection committee consists of representatives from the Chicago District Golf Association, Illinois Junior Golf Association, Illinois PGA, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Western Golf Association, a selection of Hall of Fame members, local media, and at-large appointments.

Birdie Ball Bags \$45,000 For Evans Scholars

Money doesn't raise itself, no matter how good the cause.

That's as true in golf charity work as any other, so it's heartening to see how deeply the Evans Scholar alumni care for the program that financed their college educations.

One of the ways they give back is through the Birdie Ball, organized by the Evans Leadership Council. This year's bash, held at Lincoln Hall in Chicago on April 29, raised over \$45,000 for the Evans Scholars Foundation, and brought the four-year total to more than \$145,000, officials said.

"Five years ago, we didn't have the Leadership Council, Evans director of development Matt Starr said. "Now, we look to this group as our next generation of leaders. Thanks to the Leadership Council, we have a robust program that is helping our Evans Scholars find internships and jobs. This is taking our mission to the next level – caddies to college to careers."

The Council, comprised of young professionals who serve as ambassadors for the program through fundraising and mentoring of recent graduates, was formed in 2013. The Birdie Ball was their first big fundraising initiative, and it worked.

This year's evening included a silent auction, music by the Bluewater Kings Band and a video featuring Purdue scholar Zack Sielck's journey to getting the scholarship, a four-year grant covering tuition and housing.

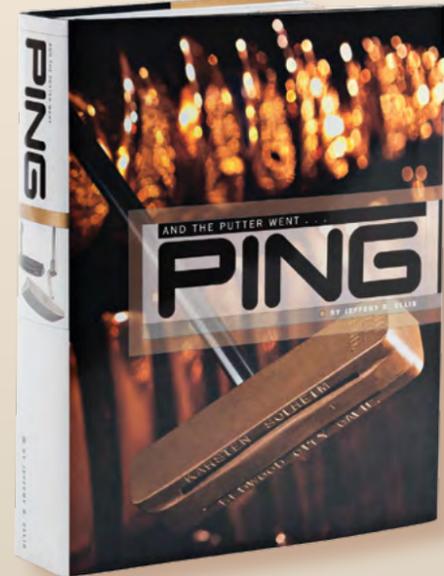


Additionally, Starr, an alum, spoke of the program's growth, noting the mentorship program, in which 200 current scholars are enrolled for the academic year.

"It's been amazing to see the Birdie Ball grow each year," event chair Mike Rice said. "The support we've received has allowed us to raise even more money for the Evans Scholars Foundation, and we look forward to doing more in the future."

On the Shelf

Between the covers of this volume are the stories behind the putters of the past from Ping. If dad is over 40, then he will have a few stories of the Ping flat sticks he has used over the years. *And The Putter Went...PING* chronicles Ping's humble beginnings in a garage to their revolutionary designs that changed the face of golf. The 530-page book captures Karsten Solheim's spirit with memories from Ping staffers, loyal customers, and numerous golf and industry professionals.



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Jackson Pollock Reincarnated

Each year, Hall's former winemaker and current president, Mike Reynolds, returns to his first love and blends a signature Cabernet Sauvignon known as "Jack's Masterpiece." The wine is named for the label artwork created by Mike's then 18-month-old son Jack as a Father's Day gift.

This well-structured Cabernet is a blend from various vineyards across the valley. It features savory black cherry, cassis, cranberry, and spices, plus roasted herbs, cocoa, and mocha. There is toasted oak on the lengthy finish. The firm but supple tannins are built for long-term aging; it could cellar for up to 14 years. Those who love big, tannic Napa reds will enjoy this wine.

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\$135 hallwines.com



Get a Grip

Golf Pride's Tour SNSR putter grips will ease the yips and remind him that the generosity of children can actually help his game. Here is an affordable tool that will give him a handle on things he can control. No need to stop with a putter grip, go all out and retool all of his sticks!

\$24.99

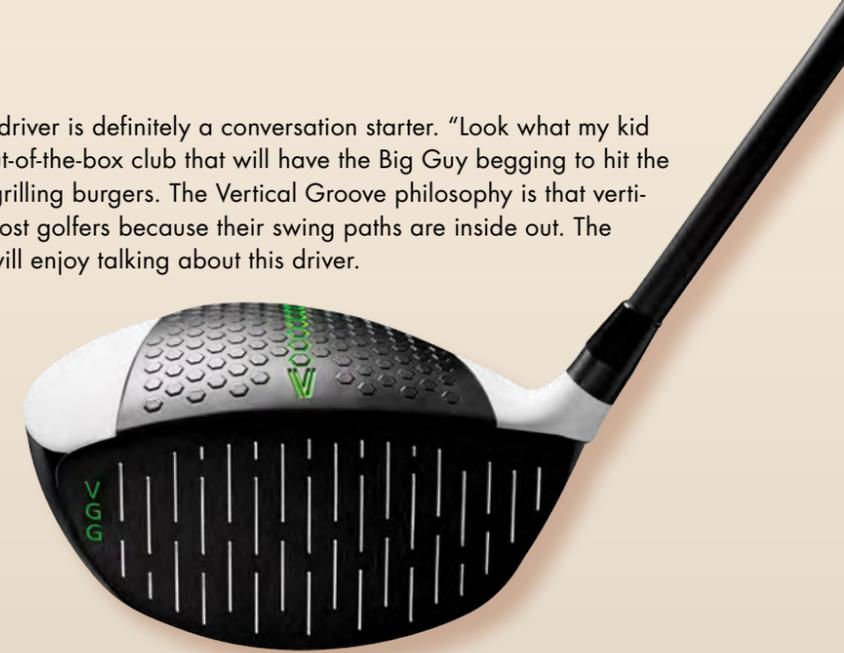
www.golfpride.com



It's Groovy

The new Vertical Groove driver is definitely a conversation starter. "Look what my kid gave me..." Here is an out-of-the-box club that will have the Big Guy begging to hit the driving range instead of grilling burgers. The Vertical Groove philosophy is that vertical grooves will benefit most golfers because their swing paths are inside out. The jury is still out, but pops will enjoy talking about this driver.

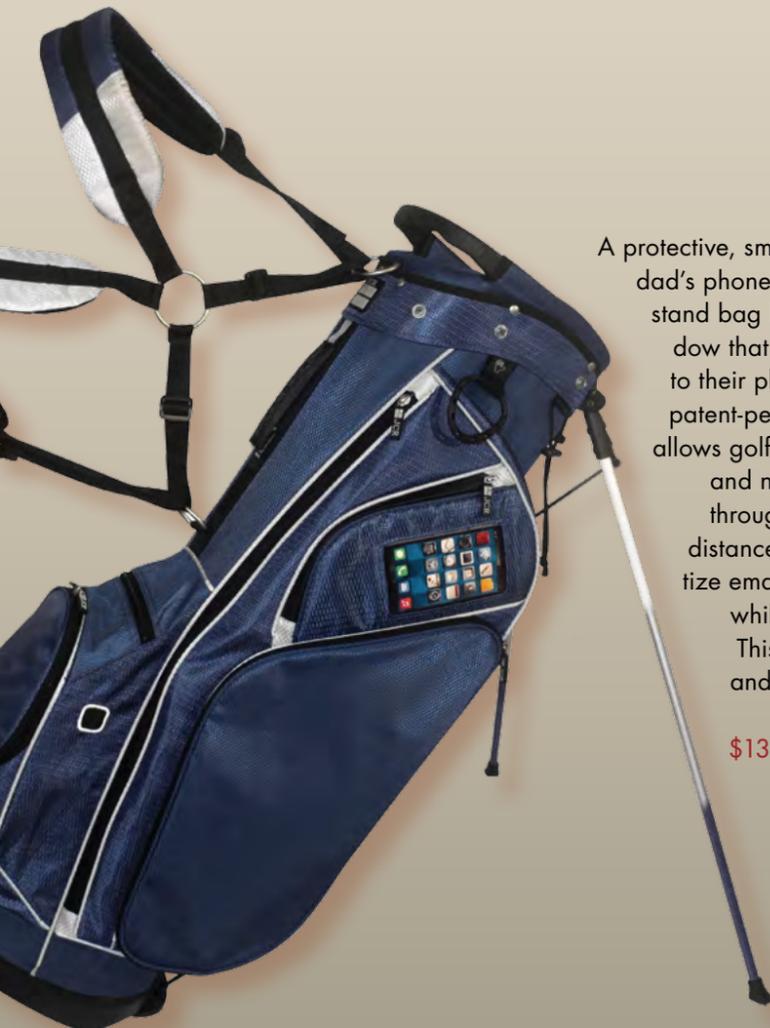
\$399 www.vertgolf.com



Smart Pocket

A protective, smart pocket could save dad's phone. The new JCR CL450 stand bag has an ingenious window that allows golfers access to their phones. The protective, patent-pending window pocket allows golfers to see their phone and not waste time fiddling through pockets to get GPS distances. He can also prioritize emails and text messages while walking the course. This bag has all the bells and whistles, and tips the scales at 5 pounds.

\$130 www.jcrsales.com



Give the gift of golf to the man who finally has time to play.

Forged Glory

Exotic's CBX irons are for players. If Pops has his game in tune with his sensibilities, then this performance iron will have him whispering, "but-tah," with each swing. CBX irons are triple forged from softer materials to ensure a pleasurable auditory and tactile response. While a set of CBX irons may not make up for the expensive indiscretions of your youth, these sticks may get you back in Dad's good graces.

\$125 per club

www.touredge.com



Let it Rain

Yardwork completed: Check. Honey to do list satisfied.

Check: Rain showers at the turn on a Saturday afternoon...damn!

Rain gear is on Dad's want list, but that list is usually put on hold in lieu of dance costumes for Anna and a new little league bat for Bennie.

Treat Dad to Sun Mountain's highly breathable Elite Rain Jacket. It has a two-year waterproof guarantee, so he'll be swinging in the rain and out of Mom's hair.

\$300 www.sunmountain.com



Dad's Day Gift Guide

Compiled by Greg Jourdan

Golfwith Lays Down A Marker

Do you ever find yourself saying, "That's a great idea...why didn't I think of that?" I've had that come up numerous times in my life. I still can't get over that Flex Seal spray that you see on TV. Can you really use that fishing boat after you saw it in half? Sorry, I digress.

Recently, I was doing some golf shopping and came across a handy little device called the Golfwith Smart Marker. At first glance it looks like one of those poker chip-style ball markers that have become so popular. I'm awfully happy that I picked it up and investigated further, because this little disk does so much more than you'd expect. And for a \$35 investment, I'm having a hard time coming up with a better value in the golf accessory arena.

When it comes to golf GPS gadgets, it's difficult to differ from the competition. Many that try something extreme end up on the clearance rack, never to be seen again. Instead of trying to get you into a new handheld, range finder, or watch, the Golfwith Smart Marker utilizes what most of us use every day (a little too much). Your phone. If you've ever tried using a GPS app it can be frustrating. Between the connection and draining your battery, I can completely understand why having a secondary device is necessary. The Smart Marker is different in a great way.

Once you've un-boxed your Smart Marker you download the free Golfwith app and pair the two. Congratulations, that was the most difficult part. The free app is available on both IOS and Android platforms. One of the features I enjoyed the most on the app is that within my profile I can list what's in my bag in addition to my average yardage per club. That's also useful for the post-round shot log.

When you arrive at the course, all you need to do is open the app and it will recognize your location to give options of which course you'll be playing. After selecting your course, you're off to the first tee. The actual marker is so easy to use it's embarrassing. One button. With a single click of the marker your phone will chirp to you (in a very polite Siri-esque voice) your distance to the hole. If you hold the button for one second you will activate the tracking feature, which will measure just how far your shots travel, as your phone will read exactly where

the marker is starting and stopping. For best results, keep the marker in your pocket at all times.

The course map is incredibly detailed and easy to read. After your round you can review your shots within the app to get a better statistical understanding of your distances. The information also allows you to go in to your clubs and frequently update where your distances currently are.

As previously mentioned, connecting a golf GPS via your smart phone can be a pain. Mainly, it depletes your entire battery. The Golfwith Smart Marker,

however, will only take up about 30 percent of your juice over the span of an 18-hole round. More than enough to call your boss to let them know that your meeting ran long and you probably won't make it back in today.

The Smart Marker is also water resistant and weighs only five grams. You won't even notice that it's in your pocket. It runs on a lithium battery and is capable of connecting to thousands of courses worldwide.

I don't like labeling things as a 'must have,' but the Golfwith Smart Marker is pretty tempting. Especially at the \$35 price. Maybe I'll take a page from Oprah's book and put it on the list of Todd's favorite things.

\$34.95 www.golfwith.golfzon.com



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A Good Swing Begins With Good Fitness

When you hear the phrase golf fitness, what are you really hearing?

Some hear P90X, an workout program described by its creators as intense. My goal, whether working with a tour professional or a member of Ruffled Feathers, is to improve performance on the course. I am not trying to create a body builder or someone who wants to look good at the beach.

No two bodies are the same, and that means that every swing will be different. It is essential for me as a golf coach to know what a golfer's body is capable of doing in terms of functional movement that can be applied to their golf swing. That information needs to be gathered and analyzed before we pick up a golf club.

The first thing I have my students do is meet Jeremy Smith, a doctor of physical therapy. He tests them for their fitness and flexibility levels as they relate to the golf swing. Everybody is different, and moreover, each golfer's personal goals are different, but every golfer needs to be functionally fit. We are not reinventing the wheel, just

implementing at the amateur level what professional golfers do to increase and maintain their functional strength.

Playing good golf does not have to hurt. Bad golf hurts. Usually that comes from improper movement. Once I have the results of Smith's tests, we know how much each golfer can and can't rotate, where they are strong, and where they are weak. We know what we can do, what we need to do within that parameter, and what the golfer is willing to do to improve.

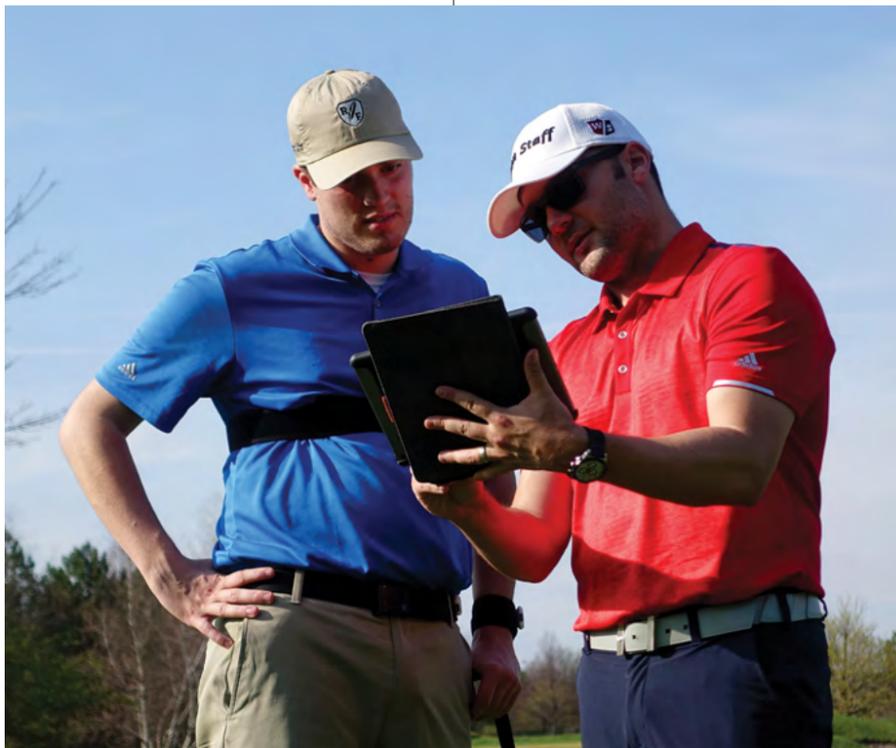
Look at the swings on tour. They all look different. But each swing is the right swing for that golfer, for the way he or she moves and for what their body can do. For my students, by using the best technology and having the best information, I can figure out what is right for them. It's about their motion and using the technology so I can be less technical with golfers.

Teaching is about finding the way to results. I'm in the results business. If I can't improve a golfer's ball flight, I can't improve the golfer. It doesn't matter if they learn how to have a prettier swing if they have

the same ball flight. An optimal ball flight means better performance. The same ball flight will mean shooting the same scores and not knowing why. Usually, it's because they were taught something their body wouldn't allow them to do.

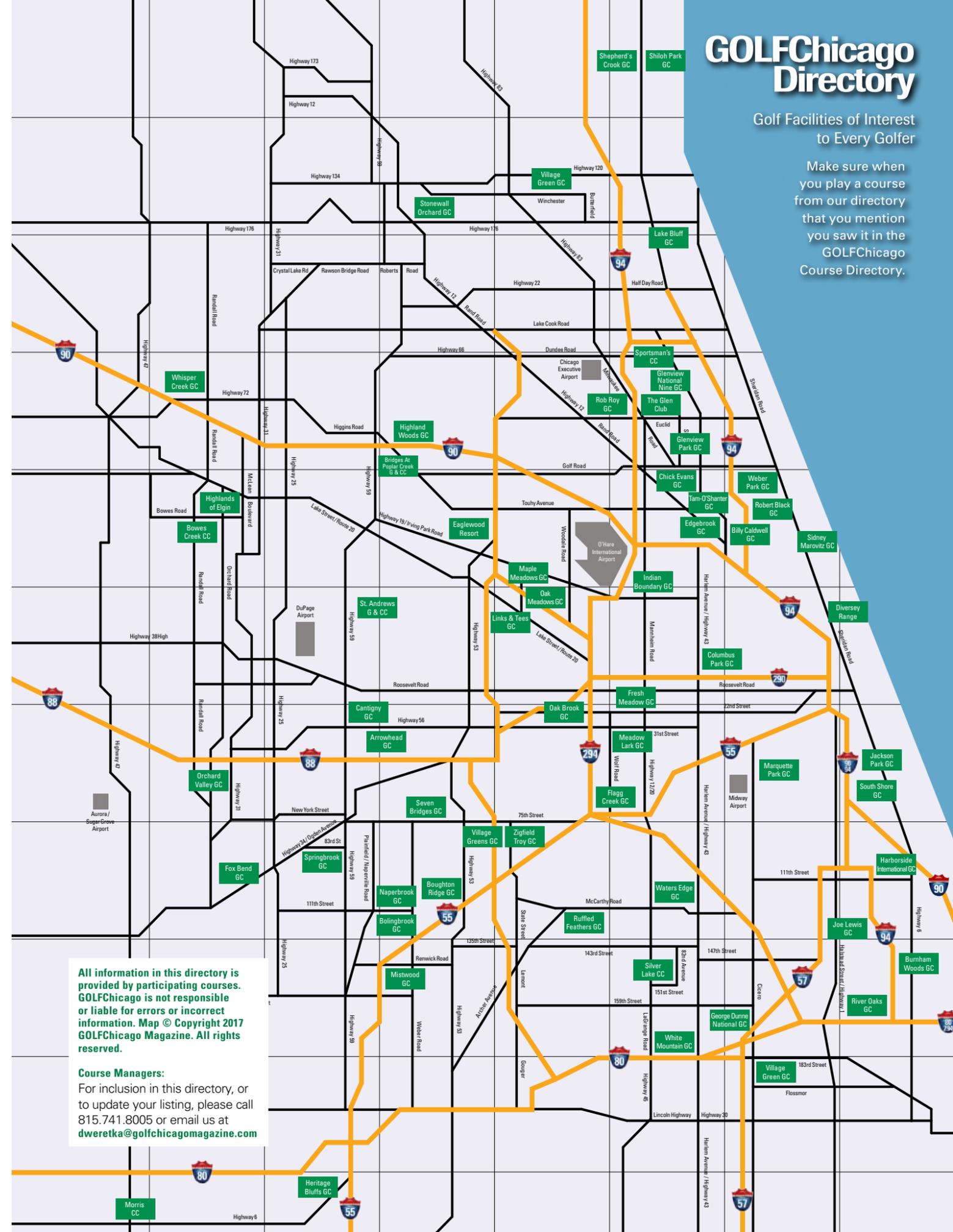
Two quick tips for all golfers: hamstring stretches and squats. They are a simple way to improve flexibility and strength, two elements essential to the movements in every golf swing. I encourage all my students to swing a golf club every day. Five minutes, just swinging ... that is usually about 50 swings. It's just rehearsing the movements.

Jake Thurm is the Director of Instruction at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, an Arcis Golf property in Lemont celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017. Recognized as one of the "Best Young Teachers in America," Thurm, 38, is a native of Downers Grove and a graduate of Millikin University in Decatur. His students include tour professionals James Hahn, Emiliano Grillo and Mark Wilson, as well as Winfield-product Kevin Strelman.



Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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Course Managers:
For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



Arrowhead

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

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.

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



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square-foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available.

Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country; named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list; and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*.



Bowes Creek Country Club

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

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart, and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

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

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic, Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits.

The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under.

The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join.

Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests.



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010
forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

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



Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts lush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



The Glen Club

847-724-7272
2901 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
theglenclub.com

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas.

Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250
Shermer Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home.

Golf Inc magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges, and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

- Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
- Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
- Jackson Park: 18 Holes
- Columbus Park: 9 Holes
- Marquette Park: 9 Holes
- South Shore: 9 Holes
- Diversey Range

The only double-deck range in Chicago.



Green Meadows Golf Club

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

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

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

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

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



Maple Meadows Golf Club

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

Maple 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 only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

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

COMING THIS SUMMER – After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows will reopen this summer as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.

This transformation, designed by Golf Course Architect Greg Martin, took 27 flood prone, 1920s' era golf holes, and produced a 288-acre environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."

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

For updates and previews visit DuPageGolf.com.



Glenview Prairie Club

847-657-1637
2800 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
golfglenview.com

- Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
- Affordable Rates.
- 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
- 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
- Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.

After your round stop in for a cold beverage in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available.

Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!



Golf Center Des Plaines

847-803-GOLF
GolfCenterDesPlaines.com
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210

Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight May-August. The 80-bay lighted & heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



Harborside International G.C.

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

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant.

Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



Heritage 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.





The Highlands of Elgin

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

The new Quarry nine and the Original nine holes flow over beautiful rolling terrain, creating a diverse collection of holes. The new nine holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and are routed to take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind. 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.



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
lakebluffgolfclub.com

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hel's Kitchen.

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. Built in 1974, the facility features a challenging 18 holes, 28-stall natural turf driving range, two practice putting greens, and a short-game practice green with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop and much more.



Stonewall Orchard

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

6700 West Howard Street
Niles, IL 60714
847-965-2344
niles-parks.org

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!

Instructional programming available year-round!



Water's Edge Golf Course

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- 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, native prairie grasses, 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

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

36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341-6818 yards
Located 30 miles west of Chicago in West Chicago. Since 1926, Chicago-area golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses and top-ranked Practice Center. With its vast rolling terrain, mature trees, and historic setting, St. Andrews offers quality facilities for discerning golfers, golf outings, and leagues, as well as permanent tee times. Guests will also enjoy premium range balls, motor carts with tablet GPS, and selections from J.J.'s Bar & Grill.



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

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

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
630-766-0304
whitemountaingolfpark.com

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf
- Practice Range with artificial and grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

PLUS...earn FREE stuff with the Playback Rewards program – join TODAY!



White Pines Golf Club & Banquets

500 W. Jefferson St.
Bensenville, IL 60106
630-766-0304
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 minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."

Open year round and 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.



Behind the Creation of Erin Hills

Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel* columnist Gary D'Amato has covered golf for decades, and was among the first to see the property that would become Erin Hills. In this conversation with Neal Kotlarek, he talks about the course and the coffee-table book he authored on the course, its evolution, and the upcoming U.S. Open.

NK: The USGA has had its eye on Erin Hills as an Open site ever since Mike Davis toured the property. Describe what makes the golf course special.

GD: The course was designed by Mother Nature when the glaciers advanced and retreated during the Ice Age and architects Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry and Ron Whitten knew to leave well enough alone. They moved very little dirt during construction. The site is special because it is 99.9 percent natural – a big, brawny course on rolling topography, with virtually no signs of civilization visible except for the clubhouse and cottages and Holy Hill in the distance. The USGA loves the site because the course offers so many options with tee boxes and hole locations, and because there is plenty of room for infrastructure on the huge (650-plus acres) property. A lot of people have asked about the remoteness of the course, which is accessible by a two-lane country road. But the USGA loves that, because they can control all traffic in and out of the course [unlike a site such as Merion or Oakmont, which are in the middle of residential areas]. Spectators will park in remote lots and be bused in.

NK: You have chronicled the golf course's evolution. Do you remember your first impression of Erin Hills when Bob Lang showed it to you?

GD: Yes, I distinctly remember my initial tour with Bob, before the first shovel was turned. I did a radio call-in show from the course and I told the host I was standing on what was going to be next great golf course in America. I got a chorus of laughter from the guys in the studio. I'm sure they thought I was exaggerating. I'll never forget the first impression the land left on me.

NK: How did the idea for the book come about?

GD: I had seen some stunning photos of the course taken by Paul Hundley, one of the best golf course photographers in America. Paul actually was part of a group that tried to buy the land before Bob Lang bought it. Tom Doak was a member of that group, too, and he even did a routing. Though Erin Hills has a short history, it is a fascinating one. I just thought it would be fun to tell the story and dress it up with Paul's spectacular photography in a nice coffee table book.

NK: Even though the course received national exposure from the U.S. Amateur, I assume most of the pros don't know much about it. Do you think the course favors certain specific players?

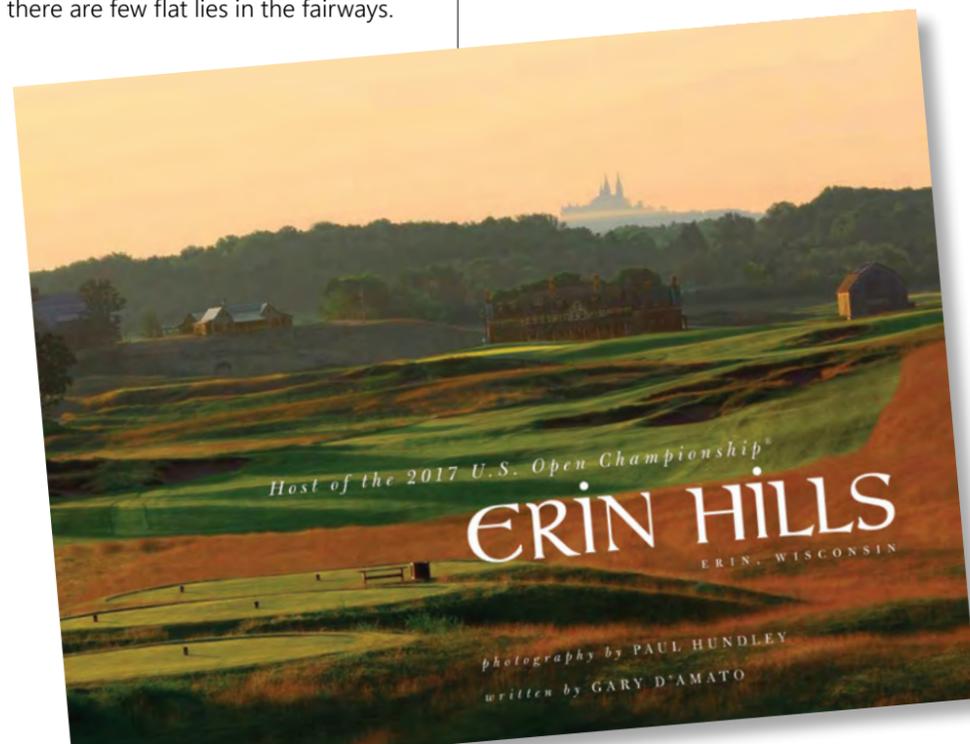
GD: Like almost any course, Erin Hills will favor the bomber to a certain extent. It will play anywhere from 7,700 to 7,800 yards for the U.S. Open. There are only five trees on the inside perimeter of the course, and water does not come in to play. The course's defense is an ever-present wind and a "sea of fescue" rough. So although the big hitter has an advantage, he'd better be able to control his ball in the wind or he'll be playing out of thigh-high fescue. The player who can hit his irons off a variety of lies also will have an advantage because there are few flat lies in the fairways.

NK: You have been covering the Wisconsin golf scene for over 30 years. Did you ever imagine the state as one of the country's premier golf destinations, starting with Grand Geneva (former Playboy Club), golf courses leading to Kohler properties, then Erin Hills, and now Sand Valley?

GD: If you would have told me in 1990 what was going to happen in Wisconsin – three PGA Championships and a Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits, two U.S. Women's Opens at Blackwolf Run, the first-ever U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open in Wisconsin at Erin Hills, the Sand Valley development, etc. – I would have laughed at you. Never in a million years did I think our state would become one of the best summer golf destinations in America. It still boggles my mind. And really, we owe it all to Herbert V. Kohler Jr. If he hadn't built Blackwolf Run and Whistling Straits, I don't think any of this would have happened.

NK: How can *GOLFChicago* readers buy the book?

GD: The book will be available at Erin Hills and on www.erinhills.com. It is being published by Classics of Golf and will be available at www.classicsofgolf.com. It will be for sale in the merchandise tent at the U.S. Open.



Mad Max(ville)

The 1000-acre Maxville Lake Winery's Napa Valley estate is located in the Chiles Valley AVA, in the Vaca Mountains, running parallel to and northeast of the Silverado Trail. The property was first planted to grape vines in 1974; today Maxville has over 100 acres of vineyard located at elevations between 900 and 1,200 feet. The volcanic soils provide a prime growing condition for wines, and Maxville practices sustainable dry farming methods in order to preserve the integrity of the property.

With a cooler microclimate than the main Napa Valley floor, afternoons are still sunny and warm, but nighttime temperatures plunge. This encourages full phenolic maturity, giving the grapes the potential of tremendous complexity.

In 1996, a new tasting room and barrel ageing facility was built, and it was extensively remodeled in 2016.

Under the owners that acquired the property in 2014, Executive Winemaker Camille Benitah began an extensive redevelopment and restoration of both the vineyards and the riparian corridors. "The Chiles Valley is real and rural and absolutely awe-inspiring," says Benitah. "This is really an undiscovered part of the Napa Valley – it has so much history, but it's also still pristine."

2014 Sauvignon Blanc \$30
This pale-straw colored wine is made from 100% estate-grown Musqué clone grapes. The nose expresses aromas of lemon cream and guava. The lemon notes continue on the palate, supported by citrus and pear flavors. The acidity is well-integrated, and the finish is full-bodied and long.

Unusually, the wine was then aged three ways using a concrete egg, stainless steel, and barrels. The components were aged *sur lees* for eight-months before blending and bottling.

Although delicious now, this Sauvignon Blanc could last up to 10 years in the cellar, if you can wait that long. Not me.

Pair this selection with shellfish and potatoes à la Marinière, butter-poached lobster with tarragon and champagne, or grilled scallops with Rémoulade sauce.

●●●●● Double Bogey ●●●●● Bogey ●●●●● Par ●●●●● Birdie ●●●●● Eagle ●●●●● All prices are estimated.

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon \$65
This Cabernet presents with a deep garnet hue and aromas of cedar and dark fruit. The flavor is fruit-forward, dominated by blackberry, cassis, and currant, supported by hints of chocolate, spice, and toasted oak. It's all wrapped up with tightly wound tannins, zippy acidity and a long full finish. Decant (for at least two hours) now to make the aromatics more accessible, or let it rest for up to 15 years if you like a softer character.

This Cab underwent a seven-day cold-soak followed by a warm fermentation. The wine was left on skins for one week after primary fermentation finished. Malo-lactic fermentation was done in barrel; spending 18 months in 60% new French oak barrels.

This wine yearns for robust dishes like Bistecca alla Fiorentina; Provençal rack of lamb; or spit-roasted piri-piri chicken.

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The Best Way To Fix Golf

Those who bemoan the inequities of Darwinism or the cruelties of the Algerian justice system are obviously unacquainted with the Rules of Golf. The rules, such as they are currently written, are as cold and cruel as a Chicago pothole. They have, through the years, driven prohibitionists to drink; pushed drunkards to religion, and nudged preachers towards lives of sobriety.

You should have heard by now that the USGA and the R&A, the two governing bodies of golf, have partnered on an initiative to modernize the Rules and make them easier to understand and apply. In early March, they jointly unveiled a preview of proposed changes to be evaluated prior to finalization in 2018. If approved, they will take effect on January 1, 2019.

From my point of view, the most encouraging aspect of this process is the possible reduction of the number of Rules from 34 to 24. To me, that's 10 less opportunities for complete and unmitigated heartbreak.

A quick review of the suggested changes reveals that real effort has been taken to simplify the game and ramp up the pace of play. Others seem quirky if not downright odd.

One change would allow players to yank their ball out of a sand bunker at a cost of two strokes. Is there, I have to wonder, a single golfer alive who walks into a sand trap with a presumption that he/she can't execute some kind of excavation in one stroke, much less two?

Another would allow the flagstick to remain in place while a player is putting on the green. So, I can't help but ask, the game of baseball can waste 7 minutes of our lives between pitching changes and golfers shouldn't be afforded 20 seconds to extricate a flagstick from a hole?

While I am encouraged by many of the proposals tendered by the USGA and the R&A to simplify and speed up our great game, I believe they haven't gone far enough in their pursuit of excellence. Here are a few additional suggestions to further enhance the golf experience:

Lost Ball Penalty: The founders of golf obviously had no idea that one day a dozen balls would cost roughly the same as a community college tuition. Thus, the loss of a fresh golf ball is for most of us at least as painful as the loss of the stroke and distance.

Ruling: Penalize us the stroke for not keeping the ball in play. But at least allow us the dignity to keep the distance gained from the spot of the previous shot.

Cart Path Relief: Almost no round goes by where a ball hit by a foursome member doesn't come to rest on a pathway. In my 52 years of playing the game,

I've remained mystified as to why a golfer should agonize over how and where to find relief from off a path designed specifically so the course owner can earn additional revenue through cart fees.

Ruling: Find the most advantageous spot of relief a club-length away from the spot where the ball came to rest and hit away. It wasn't your fault that someone put asphalt in a place that God meant to be prairieland.

Designer's Error Exception: There tragically exist numerous instances when a player's tee shot is impeded by a tree or a sand bunker placed in the middle of the fairway by an obviously evil and demented course architect.

Ruling: Free bonus tee shot as an implied apology from the architect.

Out of Bounds Penalty Exception: A player should be allowed to hit his ball from an out-of-bounds position located on some hapless homeowner's backyard.

Ruling: No loss of stroke and distance penalty if all other members of the foursome agree that said shot around a trampoline or over a jungle gym would be endlessly entertaining.

Fourteen Club Rule Mandate: A player is allowed to carry a maximum of 14 clubs in his bag at one time.

Ruling: Rewrite Rule 4.4 and declare that ball retrievers count as a golf clubs. If another player in a foursome is going to waste our precious time leaning over a pond to fish out slime-ridden balls, his penalty should at the very least be a reduction of real clubs to 13.

I Dunno Mandate: A player must be able to identify his ball on the course.

Ruling: Any golfer who responds "I dunno" when asked what ball he's playing while his foursome haplessly searches for his ball in the rough or trees will be required to tee off on the ensuing hole with a pacifier in his mouth.

Call-in Viewer Exception: A tournament participant will sometimes receive a post-round penalty after an at-home viewer of a televised golf event contacts the tournament rules committee to alert them of a possible infraction by said player.

Ruling: Said viewer loses future golf tournament viewing privileges and phone service for a month for involving himself in someone else's business.

Tournament Rules Committee Exception: A tournament player will sometimes lose a title when the governing body of a televised event takes a call from an apparently friendless viewer and agrees to review tape of a possible infraction by said player.

Ruling: Each member of said committee to be penalized with a lifetime ban from this great game.

A quick review of the suggested changes reveals that real effort has been taken to simplify the game and ramp up the pace of play. Others seem quirky if not downright odd.



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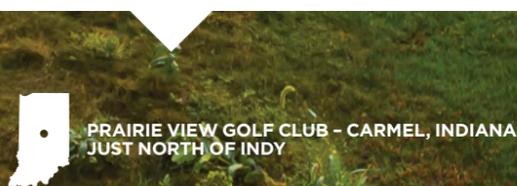


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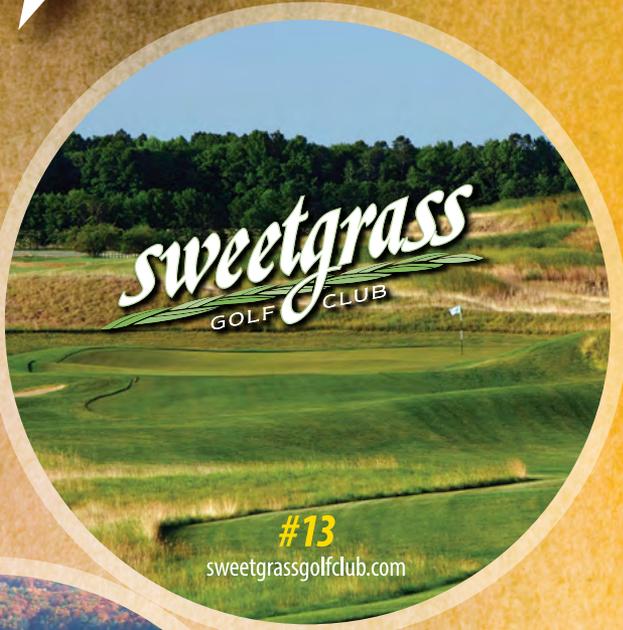
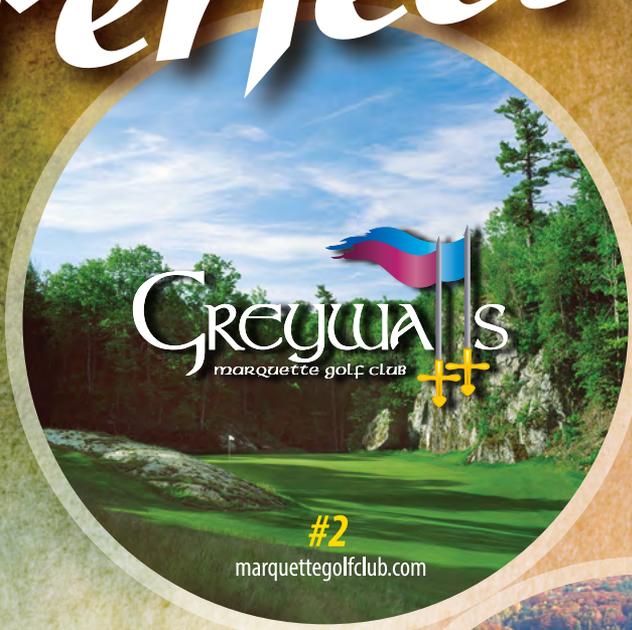
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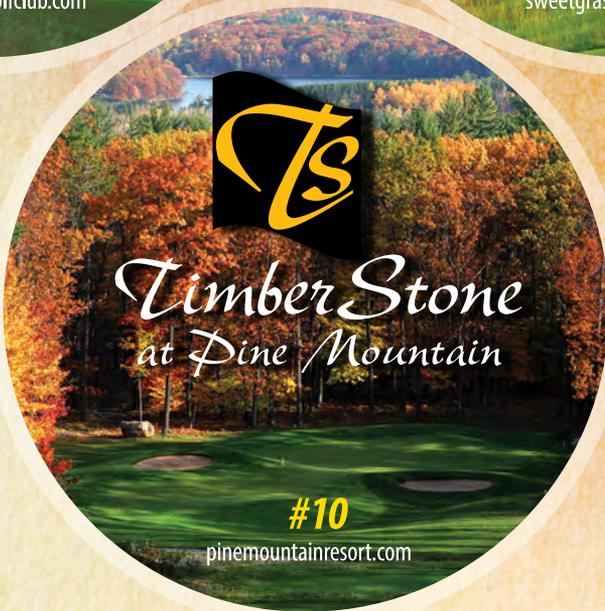


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