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# GOLF CHICAGO!

The Keeper Issue

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Golf Source & Authority

April 2000

Vol. 4, No. 2

U.S. Women's Open  
Chicago Golf Show Review  
Singles Only...

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APRIL 2000

Vol. 4 No. 2

At *Golf Chicago!* we take dead aim to inform, educate and inspire golfers of all levels. We want to help every golfer to achieve their personal goals and to appreciate the life-long game of golf.

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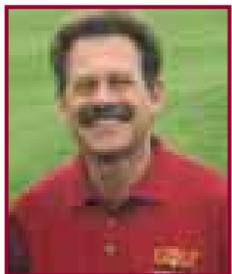
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**GOLF CHICAGO!**  
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Bill Daniels

## NOTES FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's with great pride that we roll out the Volume 4, No. 2 issue of *Golf Chicago!* As in past years, it contains the most complete listing of area public courses of any area golf publication. Without trying to start a fight, I would challenge any of the other area golf publications to come even close to what we do in providing this kind of information, and it's all free! So keep this issue for the entire season for a quick guide to all the courses in the region.

I'm also proud of this issue in particular because it's our biggest ever. We've added 16 pages to our normal count in order to give you all our regular departments and features in addition to the annual course listing.

Of course all this couldn't have happened without our loyal advertisers for whom I am naturally grateful. But it all really goes back to you, our readership. Since we don't solicit subscriptions, *Golf Chicago!* Magazine is supported 100 percent by our advertisers, and they have to find a reason to advertise. I've tried to do that in two ways.

First, we are always working to create a regional publication with a distinctive local voice providing information to golfers that they can't receive anywhere else. So, for example, we don't rehash old golf news that you get on nightly TV or in the daily newspapers. In our opinion, old news, golf or otherwise, is no news. In addition

our departments and features come from what you want to read, not what someone else thinks you should read. And we are continuing to seek your opinion as to what you want to see between our covers. At the recent Chicago Show, for example, we surveyed over 600 of you as to your likes and dislikes in a golf publication and will use those results to further refine our editorial offerings. And our new website, [www.eGolfChicago.com](http://www.eGolfChicago.com), is another venue for obtaining your views. More on the website later.

Second, we have tried to put *Golf Chicago!* in a package that says quality from cover to cover. Sure we could use cheap newsprint and not go four-color throughout, but that's not how

we want to treat Chicago golfers. Chicago is the No.1 golf market in the country and should be treated that way. Period.

Of course not all of this is done out of complete civic pride or altruism. When readers put their trust in a magazine like ours, those who support it financially (*read advertisers*) find out and then it becomes easier for us to continue giving you the service we do. And this formula that we have been following for four years is proving itself well. Not too long ago some of our advertisers conducted their own survey and found that *Golf Chicago!* readers responded to advertisers 4 1/2 times more than our nearest competitor, so thanks to all you for telling us that we're doing the right thing.

But there is no resting in a competitive world, and we certainly are not ready to rest on our past accomplishments. We are continuing to add to the benefits offered by *Golf Chicago!* First, we are increasing the number of issues per year for the fourth straight year. For 2000 and beyond, *Golf Chicago!* will be published six times a year and monthly through the core golf months for Chicago. So beginning with this April issue, *Golf Chicago!* will be published every month through August, in addition to our annual Chicago Golf Show issue distributed in February at the Show. Our February issue also debuted our newest columnist, Jeff Rude, who shouldn't be much of a stranger to many of you. Jeff is a senior writer for *GolfWeek* and came from the *Chicago Sun-Times* before that. He's also a local guy, growing up in Waukegan and becoming an Evans Scholar from Glen Flora C.C. His golf writings have received many awards and we couldn't be more pleased to offer his cogent thoughts on the PGA Tour. You'll find him on page 60 in this issue.

We have also re-worked and re-named our website to give you more information and worthwhile services. Re-named [www.eGolfChicago.com](http://www.eGolfChicago.com),

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our new site, though still a work in progress, is still the deepest local golf website, providing information on local golf courses, practice facilities, golf schools and archived issues. But the newest feature is something that our readers can use anytime their computer is turned on and it's free. All our readers who use eGolfChicago.com can become mem-



*Kelli Kuehne will be playing at The Merit Club in the U.S. Women's Open this July. Look for her to contend*

bers of Quotestream. Simply put, Quotestream is a free desktop personalized portal that gives users instant and real-time access to local and national news, financial markets, free e-mail and e-mail notification, instant messaging and customized links to major e-commerce sites. To become a subscriber just click on the link on our home page and you're on your

way. I'm also proud to point out that *Golf Chicago!* was the only regional golf publication to be selected to offer this to area golfers.

If I've been a little too enthusiastic in describing our goals and efforts, please forgive. I'm sure that sometimes I act and sound like a proud father or uncle of some little league

star. But as our mission statement goes, it's all in the quest to have you enjoy and appreciate the wonderful game of golf. I always welcome your comments, criticisms and thoughts. Call, write or e-mail me anytime.

*Bill Daniels*

Bill Daniels, Publisher  
e-mail: billd1541@aol.com

**Departmental Corrections**

In our February issue the Spring Break story misspelled the name of architect Rees Jones. Also, in the story about Michael Jordan at the Chicago Open the team name of DePaul University is the Blue Demons. Finally, in the story written by Greg Miles the total number of time-line events listed was 81, not 95, and four major impact events were listed instead of five. We apologize to Jones, Miles and the Blue Demons.

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# FROM OUT OF THE ROUGH

By Trent Modglin  
Associate Editor

Like so many other Chicagoland golfers, my friend Rich is anxious to get out on the course this spring. But unlike so many other Chicagoland golfers, he's going to be doing it for the first time — at 24 years of age.

Rich has stepped on a real golf course only twice — one for just two holes and the other a par-3 variety. The vast majority of his experience in swinging the sticks has come with a net or yardage signs in front of him. The reason? Rich admittedly lacks the confidence to step out onto the course. You see Rich works with people who played golf in the Big Ten or have up to 30 years of links experience on him. And that's not easy to overcome.

"I don't want to waste their time," he said. "I don't know anyone at the level I'm at, and I'd hate to have somebody say, 'Hey, just pick up your ball and let's go.'"

So why even go through the struggles of learning a new sport when everyone else has such a headstart? Because golf can be that sport that brings people together. His fiancée's family has grown up around golf, and nearly everyone at the bank he works

at plays in numerous corporate tournaments or together on the weekends.

"I can't get away by saying 'I don't play golf,'" Rich said. "If I don't learn how, I wouldn't be part of the group. Either I learn how to do it or I get left behind."

I've vowed to help Rich through what could be a rocky start and to help him from getting left behind. But at least he's starting out at 24 and not 44. And his swing is surprisingly stable and smooth for the lack of practice. But I warned him about getting frustrated. I've played nearly since I could walk, and there are still plenty of days when I'd like to feed my clubs to the fish.

"I've never been good enough to be mad (at my game) because I've never really had a goal," he said. "I'm used to just being happy when I make good contact."

As we all know, golf is a great game. A relaxing game. A competitive game. An addictive game. And it won't be long before it gets a hold of Rich. There will be a time when good contact isn't good enough.



Open, The Merit Club, July 20-23. Here is a summary of ticket prices for practice and competitive rounds, but note that each tournament does have group rates as well.

#### Ameritech Senior Open:

Tickets bought before May 1/After May 1:

Season \$45/\$50

Day \$17/\$20

Parking \$5

Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-800-Senior1 or at any TICKETMASTER location, or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

#### Advil Western Open:

Clubhouse Badge (covers the entire week) \$100

Clubhouse Daily \$35

Daily Admission \$30

Practice rounds — Monday-Wednesday \$15

Note: All tickets include daily parking.

Tickets can be ordered through the Western Golf Association at 847-724-4600 or e-mail at [WesternOpen@aol.com](mailto:WesternOpen@aol.com). And daily tickets also available through TICKETMASTER at 312-559-1212.

#### U.S. Women's Open:

Season tickets for Grounds and Pavilion \$125

Daily-Grounds only \$30

Daily-Grounds and Pavilion \$35

Practice rounds — Monday-Wednesday \$20

Note: Children 17 and under are free when accompanied by paying adult.

Tickets can be ordered by calling the tournament office at 847-549-8727 or at [www.USwomensOpen2000.com](http://www.USwomensOpen2000.com).



## Glad You Asked...

*Golf Chicago!* will be answering some frequently asked questions about the game of golf in the Chicagoland area this season. If you have a golf question that needs to be answered, call or write us.

**Q: I've heard a lot about these new clubs called iron-woods. How do I know if they would be good for my game?**

A: Let us ask you: Do you have trouble hitting long irons all the way up to say, a 4-iron? If the answer is yes, then this new category of hybrids might be for you. Looking like an iron with a thyroid condition or a fairway wood that shrunk, iron-woods can provide the playability of an iron with the forgiveness and perimeter weighting of a wood. Using lighter but stronger metals than steel, manufacturers like Taylor Made, PRGR and Tour Edge can produce a club that swings like an iron but with a short, rounded sole that can also cut through rough easier than an iron. Inside the hollow body are strategically placed heavier metals to create a lower center of gravity to help get the ball in the air with a minimum of fuss. These clubs may be able to replace your 2, 3 and 4-irons and maybe a 3-wood as well, with little appreciable loss in distance and a gain in consistency. Remember, Lee Trevino once said that even God can't hit a 1-iron.

**Q: How do I get tickets for the three professional tournaments being held in Chicago this summer?**

A: I'm glad you asked because we wouldn't want you to miss The Ameritech Senior Open at Kemper Lakes, June 9-11; the Advil Western Open, Cog Hill, July 6-9; or the U.S. Women's



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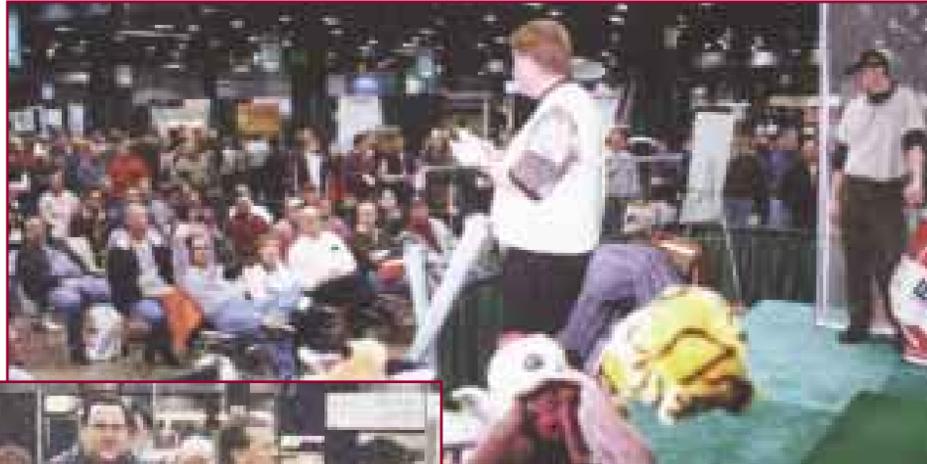
Test results based on comparison of leading pro-line irons. © 2000 Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

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## Show Stoppers at the 2000 Chicago Golf Show

By all accounts the 2000 Chicago Golf Show was the best in many years and it seemed that everyone came away happy after the three-day run at the Rosemont Convention Center, Feb. 11-13.

Exhibitors were nearly unanimous in that the turnout of Chicago-area golfers was the best in recent memory. Even before the 2 p.m. opening on Friday, there were literally hundreds of faithful Show fans standing in line outside the entrance waiting for the opening of the doors. From the Friday afternoon opening to late Sunday afternoon, there was always a strong stream of golfers surging through the doors. And on Saturday and Sunday afternoon the Show aisles were often clogged to capacity with avid golfers. Whether they were looking for a new golf Mecca beyond the confines of the Chicago area or that new high-tech club that would elevate their game to the next level, it was all at the Show. And the folks were doing more than just window shopping — they were buying too. One vendor confided in us that they nearly doubled the sales they had done from the previous year at the Show! It looks like the last 2-3 years of doldrums in golf club sales and related hard goods may be over. For manufacturers and local retailers



The Photo Partners



PGA member Marty "Long Ball" Joyce puts on a great show every year at the Chicago Golf Show.

... while for others it was just a Sunday stroll.

that means singing "Happy Days Are Here Again."

But if you missed the Show you could be singing the blues because there was so much good stuff to be taken in and taken home. For example, at the *Golf Chicago!* booth we made 650 golfers very happy by giving them a free set of Traxion Plus plastic golf spikes. Next year we're thinking about golf hats!

The Show was a grand mix of equipment companies, golf paraphernalia of all sorts, collectibles, local retailers and regional and national golf destination exhibitors. But for now let *Golf Chicago!* give you a mini tour of some of the highlights, just so long as you promise not to miss next year's extravaganza, because you'll want to be at our booth early for just some of the goodies.

Putting was on our minds a lot it seemed at the Chicago Golf Show and some of the items could lead to a lot more one-putts and many fewer three-putt greens. First off, a couple of local guys have developed an indoor practice putting green that really gives you the proper feel for practicing all kinds of putts. Called the PuttGolf, this portable putting green is the most realistic



The PuttGolf

practice device because it can simulate any slope or contour that you might encounter on a real golf course. The green is a 4x10-foot platform with 12 quick-setting adjustment controls that alter the contour of the green to any putting condition you can imagine. The developers of PuttGolf went to great lengths to get the green contours right by going to golf architect Dick Nugent, whose design team programmed all the green contours. And it's quick and easy to use. At one moment I faced a 10-foot downhill putt with a nasty break to the right and 60 seconds later the green had changed before my eyes, leaving me an uphiller with a mound between the ball and the cup. With a built-in stimpmeter speed of 9-10, the PuttGolf is the real deal. For more information on the product you can call 847-803-4900 or log on to [www.puttgolf.com](http://www.puttgolf.com).



Musty Putter

Next on the putting tee coming to the Chicago Golf Show all the way from Signal Hill, Calif., is David Musty and his Musty Putters. I have to admit the name of these wooden putters didn't move me very much. But once I laid eyes on these beauties I was entranced. These are not merely putters made of wood, but true things of beauty. And the kicker is that the beauty is on the outside and the technology is on the inside. After working for many years, Musty developed a process whereby the heel and toe of the putter are hollowed out to precise specifications and then filled with a tungsten-tin-lead alloy. This gives the wooden club the weight and heft of a metal putter but goes one step further by placing the metal weighting in the middle of the head, thus creating a raised center of gravity which promotes a positive roll and less backspin. And all of this comes with a wonderful solid feel because the outer portion of the putter head is made only from wood. Musty also claims a larger sweet spot since all the heavy metal is on the outside edges of the putter. If you call the company offices and the head guy answers the phone, get ready to talk to a guy who really loves to talk about putters! 800-815-4454 or [www.musty-putters.com](http://www.musty-putters.com).

One often neglected piece of equipment, or at least the one given less thought, is the shaft in your irons. With golfers' obsessions with distance off the tee, the shafts for the metal woods get great attention, but even Tiger Woods has an iron shot remaining after his longest drives and that's what ultimately makes the scoring difference. Two exhibitors at the Golf Show take this concept seriously and offer some interesting options for your game. PinTracker Golf has installed the True Temper Shaft Lab, which uses high-tech computers (what else!?) to analyze different swings in order to put golfers in the correct shaft.

And Rapport Composites has introduced a new line of shafts for irons.



Dealing only with irons, Rapport Composites, which has made some great shafts for woods, now has a comparable

product for golfers who want to re-shaft their irons with new space-age materials. Rapport first came to prominence with its fairway wood shaft that was used with some of the hottest clubs in the market place, including Orlimar and Adams Golf. They now have introduced a line of composite shafts for irons called Tour Ni, utilizing what is called Diamet technology, which stands for Diamond Woven Metallic Fibers. In this case the metal is nickel and Rapport claims this solves the consistency problem that some claim exists with graphite shafts for irons. Rapport's new Diamet technology in the Tour Ni shafts offers the feel of steel while providing the shock absorption and dynamic action that is afforded by graphite. In company tests, the Rapport Tour Ni Shaft outperformed a number of the leading club and shaft combinations. Call Rapport for

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Greg Miles

# SWEET HOME CHICAGO NORTHSIDE

## Catching up with Shepard's Crook and Chapel Hill

For those northsiders who play golf religiously, get ready to sing praise, shout "Hallelujah" and read on.

Far to the north, very close to the Wisconsin border, Shepherd's Crook in Zion, Ill., embarks upon its first full year of operation. For openers, the name "Shepherd's Crook" is doubly apropos, offering Biblical connotations linked to the town's founding and also conveying the hint that the course's architecture is an Irish or Scottish links design.

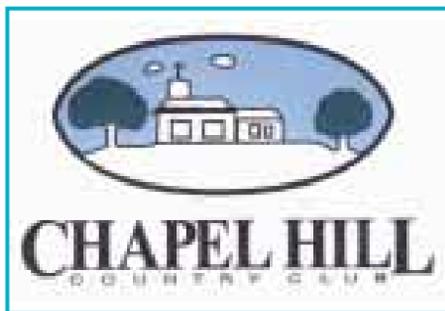
Zion was founded in 1902 by the Protestant Evangelical minister Dr. John Alexander Dowie as a town in which the residents worked hard and prayed hard. Dating back to its founding, the names of many of the streets and parks in Zion carried Biblical references, and now, nearly a full century later, it's no surprise that the Zion Park District selected the pastoral walking stick as its name and its logo. A quick glance at the names of a few of the holes at Shepherd's Crook (Cathedral, Shepherd's Haven, Shepherd's Hollow, Devil's Ditch, etc.) could lead one to believe

that the monikers were divinely inspired. A parcel of slightly greater than 150 acres of gently rolling land was deeded by Browning Ferris Inc. (BFI) to the Zion Park District. While appearing quite common and sounding quite mundane, this parcel was precisely what the ZPD wanted for its golf course endeavor.

"We went to our residents for input as to what kind of course they wanted, and across the entire spectrum from low-handicappers to high-handicappers, the desire was for a course that was ready to play immediately," Zion Park District director Al Hill said.

Brian Foster, Hill's choice for an architect for the project, and Foster's theme for the design (midland Irish/Scottish) precisely completed the ZPD's plans.

The layout at Shepherd's Crook is that of a par-71, links-style course. Quite noticeably, there is a large grove of trees located near the mid-portion of the parcel and spaced throughout the course are a moderate number of sandtraps and a few wetland hazards. Even before providing a descrip-



tion of the holes, high praise is due for Foster's thoughtful tee placements to achieve total distance, while at the same time providing playability for that wide spectrum of golfer's abilities that the ZPD had polled. There are four sets of tees at Shepherd's Crook: silver (6,769 yards), black (6,272 yards), gold (6,002 yards) and green (4,901 yards). Now officially rated by the CDGA, Shepherd's Crook challenges the men at silver (71.9) down to gold (67.9) and tests the women at gold (73.2) down to green (67.4).

Foster's design philosophy at Shepherd's Crook might be summarized best as "easy early, harder finish" as pars or birdies are attainable on the first four holes of each half of the routing, but both nines finish with demanding par 5s. In like fashion, the front nine plays to the easier par of 35, while the inward nine ups the ante to a par 36. For starters, the outward nine's first three holes are all short par 4s, with accuracy deemed most helpful. Length will be needed on the par-5 ninth hole "Snake Bite," which measures from 450-576 yards. The four opening holes of the inward nine contain three moderate-length par 4s with a moderate-length par 3 inserted as hole No. 11. This par 3 is deceiving. Unshielded from the wind, any southerly breeze will act as a crosswind to this hole's narrow green, and should the breeze be from the west, it will create a sure balloon effect on all attempts to reach the green from the subliminally elevated tee box.

A very lengthy par 5 tests golfers in the middle of the back nine. It's named "Brute" and measures from 461-620 yards. It can even be stretched to 654 yards with the use of an auxiliary back tee. Add a creek that crosses and then parallels the fairway, feature an out-of-bounds hazard down the entire left side and play the hole into a pre-

(continued on page 24)



The Zion Park District welcomes golfers to the new Shepard's Crook.



Dan Rusnack

# SWEET HOME CHICAGO SOUTHSIDE

## 394 Corridor Lined With Great Golf

The 394 corridor. What was once going to be the entrance to a new and growing far south suburban boom has become just another road.

But spend some time looking at a map of the area and you will see some of the finest public golf courses in the south suburban and northwest Indiana areas - all within two miles of 394.

If anyone is unfamiliar with 394, it starts at the interchange between Interstate 94 and Interstate 80, a few miles west of the Indiana border. It heads south for 15 miles where it ends at Illinois Route 1.

When the road was first envisioned, it was to be an extension that would connect to a second belt highway around the Chicagoland area. The vision was, and still is, to send I-355 south to I-80 and continue west from there to connect with 394 and eventually all the way to I-65 in Indiana. That may become a reality some day, but for the moment it is still a government dream. Route 394's first exit going south is at Glenwood-Lansing Road, which leads you westward toward one of the finest public golf facilities in the Chicagoland area - Glenwoodie in Glenwood.

Glenwoodie is a mature course that features two distinctively different nine holes. The front nine is relatively flat with water coming into play on two holes, while the back nine has a ravine with a creek winding through it. The ravine is prevalent on four holes, including the 16th, which has been mentioned many times as being the toughest hole in all of Illinois.

Glenwoodie was built in 1923 as a private course. It was purchased in the '50s by the Archdiocese of Chicago who then rented the facility to the Jemsek family, which owns Cog Hill in Lemont. The Village of Glenwood purchased the land from the Archdiocese in '96 and have since totally renovated the club-

house and done extension work on the course and practice facility.

While the 16th is the signature hole at Glenwoodie, there are many other great holes at this 6,715-yard course such as the par-3 third hole and the par-4 12th. No. 3 is a 184-yard par 3 from the back tees. It requires a long iron shot over a lake. There is some safe land to the left of the green, but carry it too far and you're out of bounds. This is a very picturesque hole. No. 12 is a 401-yard dog-leg left. Mature trees line the left side of the fairway and a large bunker protects the right-side landing area. It is around a 200-yard shot to the top of the ravine. A well-placed tee shot should land at the top of the hill and roll down into the fairway area just in front of a meander-

ing creek that runs across the fairway about 250 yards from the tee. Hit your tee shot left or right and you're going to be punching out to the fairway. Pull out the driver and hit it long and perfect and you're in the creek! The green is elevated on the other side of the creek at the top of the other side of the ravine. The green slopes severely back toward the fairway, so beware.

At 460 yards from the back tee, No. 16 is an incredibly difficult hole. Mature out-of-bounds trees line the entire right side of the fairway while several trees dot the left side as well. You can spray one left, but you will probably be forced to play over or under a tree. This hole is similar to No. 12 in that it plays down

(continued on page 34)

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# ORLANDO GOLF SHOW

## has something for everyone

By Trent Modglin and Dave Weretka

The PGA Merchandise Show, held every January in Orlando, Fla., is the golf industry's time to strut all its new gear for the new season and begin the buzz, whatever that might be. It's a trade show where over 50,000 golf professionals and buyers swarm over one million square feet of exhibition area, looking for the next new thing. For any avid golfer it's like a kid in the proverbial candy store. So here are just a few of the treats that our writers and editors thought would be worthy of your attention.

— Bob Held, Equipment Editor



Over 40,000 golf professionals and buyers roamed over 1 million square feet of exhibit space at the 2000 PGA Merchandise show.



### The Grip Clip

According to Ben Hogan, good golf begins with a good grip. So if that's the case, a new little device from SeaCoast Golf called the Grip Clip may be a wise investment for anyone in need of improvement (and that's all of us). The Grip Clip is a training aide that slides over the grip of any club and makes it easy for golfers to become comfortable and familiar with the correct grip. Being able to grip the club properly on a consistent basis can square the face of the club, create consistency and allow the golfer to concentrate on the other facets of his

or her game.  
Grip Clip 706-543-2097  
www.GripClip.com



### Wilson Smart Core Golf Balls

Last fall Wilson introduced its Smart Core line of golf balls with a unique core that reacts to the way the golf ball is struck. In other words the Smart Core reacts firmer when struck off the tee for distance and softer around the green for feel. Now the folks at Wilson have gone one step further by introducing the Smart Core Balata Distance. With the combination of the softest bala-

ta cover and the Smart Core technology for distance, this may put a smile on the faces of golfers who otherwise thought they had to give up distance with a balata cover. In addition to the Balata Distance, the ball group includes the Straight Distance, Spin Distance, Professional Distance and the Women's Distance.



### The Ultimate Driver and Irons

Who can forget the Alien Wedge — one of the wonder stories of golf infomercials? Now Alien Golf has made additions to the company's popular "Ultimate Series" and come out with a new line of clubs. The Ultimate Driver boasts a power corrugation system which features corrugated ribs at the crown and sole that strengthen the walls and generate a greater transference of energy to the ball at impact. The driver also offers a compound radius face to reduce the possibility of a slice and a strategically-positioned center of gravity for a lower arc and increased roll. The Ultimate Irons feature I-Beam technology that is designed to lower the center of gravity, strengthen and stabilize the club face and equally distribute weight, making the clubs more manageable and the resulting shots higher and more accurate.



### The White Hot Putter

Engineers at Odyssey Golf, a division of Calloway Golf Company, were searching for an innovative insert material that could combine a certain soft feel with improved roll and increased resilience. They found it with the cover material of their own Calloway golf ball. Each of the five new White Hot putters feature a blend of the cover material from the new ball pressed into the face of the putter along with extra

weight placed low and away from the face to allow for a smoother roll and more forgiveness for puts that aren't perfectly struck. The hype on the new balls by Calloway is no hype at all. Calloway's ads refrain from focusing on distance, spin, etc., and say the two new offerings will give golfers in Calloway's words, "Complete Performance." The name "Rule 35," however, is a spin playing off the fact that there are only 34 official rules of golf, i.e. Rule 35 is "Enjoy the game."



### The Wedgewood Line



Wedgewood Golf, Inc., has designed clubs that may look like something out of the future, but they're intentions were to help golfers of the present. While other club developers have worked on marrying woods and irons for the long game, Wedgewood has taken the opposite track and merged the two types of clubs for the approach to the green. Four clubs — varying from a 22-degree loft to a 44-degree loft — offer a new approach to approach shots from 90-190 yards out. The Wedgewoods look like a

wood but hit like short and medium irons, providing a higher trajectory and soft landing on the green. These clubs also seem particularly suited for bad lies since the rounded soles will slide through the heavy grass in the rough as opposed to lofted irons that so often catch too much grass around the hosel. Wedgewood 612-546-1800  
www.Wedgewood.com

### The Swing Magic

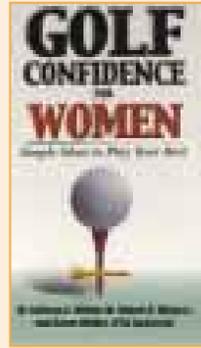
Kallassy Sports introduces the Swing Magic, a training club designed to train your muscles for the proper swing. The 5-iron has a split-handle grip that glides up the shaft during the swing. This innovative feature guides the arms and body through each of the fundamental positions of an ideal swing, i.e. a smooth take away, complete shoulder turn, square clubface and proper extension and follow through. While *Golf Chicago!* was visiting the booth, we met a number of former Chicago-area teaching professionals who were very impressed with the Swing Magic. Kallassy Sports 800-718-1890  
www.SwingMagic.com



...more on page 18



## Better golf for women from head to toes.



The Orlando Show also had a lot of goodies that guys wouldn't normally be interested in, unless they like to see their partners in some really spiffy golf shoes and have the right attitude for great golf. Starting from the top is a 90-minute cassette tape entitled, "Golf Confidence for Women: Simple Ideas to Play Your Best." Written by two sports psychologists and an LPGA teaching professional, the easy-listening tape takes players through all the mental mine fields that prevent women from playing their very best. Funny thing is, most guys could also benefit from taking a listen. Call 877-945-3375; [www.drkcwilder.com](http://www.drkcwilder.com)

Once the head games are conquered it's time for the feet to feel good as well. Country Club Sports markets the Aerogeen line of golf shoes that are Italian made and just as soft and elegant as you would expect. Hand-crafted leather Italian Vitello leather uppers attach to a micropore sole, making the shoes extremely light, and a Puratex membrane makes them water resistant.

Aerogeen Golf Shoes 888-889-1175  
[www.countryclubsports.com](http://www.countryclubsports.com)

Wilson Golf president Luke Reese has much to smile about. The sales of the newly introduced Wilson Smart Core Golf Ball reached new levels. And the Wilson Fat Shaft Irons were one of the leading clubs in 1999. Reese is also smiling because he is standing in front of a panel displaying the names of every golf club professional that is a Wilson Staff Member. There are over 2000 of them in the U.S.

Imagine a place where you can slow down, spend time with family and friends, enjoy some good conversation, a lively round of golf and a quiet elegant meal amid beautiful surroundings. That is just what you will find at Whittaker Woods. In addition to the area's newest and most challenging golf course, Whittaker Woods has so much to offer ...

# Whittaker Woods

Whittaker Woods Golf Community  
12578 Wilson Road  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
616-469-3400  
[www.whittakerwoods.net](http://www.whittakerwoods.net)

Do you have an interesting vanity plate? Send us an in-focus artfully shot, color print and we'll publish it and give you a photo credit. If you don't see your plate here, it will run in a later issue.



thanks to Dave Weretka,  
Golf Chicago! Magazine



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\* Each way based on round-trip travel. One way fares may be slightly higher. Prices subject to change without notice. Restrictions apply. Prices do not include \$2.50 per segment FET. 21-day advance purchase required. Fares are non-refundable. Blackout dates apply. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Prices are subject to change and do not include PFC's of up to \$12 round trip. More circuitous routings will require additional per segment charges.



Dave Berner

# GOLF CHICAGO! BEST BUYS

Great courses that *don't* cost a fortune.

## The winter is over and quality golf awaits

It's been like counting the days 'til Christmas. And when the time finally nears, you can hardly contain yourself. Well, you don't have to wait any longer.

It's time to tee it up!

The winter always feels long in Chicago, especially if you haven't been able to get away to play some golf in some warmer, friendlier climate. But when the weather finally breaks, there is no better feeling than to call the pro shop and make a tee time. And Golf Chicago's Best Buys department is here to help you with your choices.

We are continuing our long tradition of highlighting the Chicago area's best conditioned, playable and affordable courses. Your next round is waiting for you right here.

In this issue we focus on two wonderful venues. The first is an old favorite that has recently been revitalized by a magnificent renovation. The other is a new course designed by the artistic eye of Dick Nugent in Crown Point, Ind. We're sure you will love both as much as we do.

We rate the courses based on conditioning, staff courtesy, playability and course services (pro shop, food,

practice facilities, etc.). Each is rated on a scale of 0-25 for a maximum of 100 points.

**ARROWHEAD GOLF CLUB**  
East, West and South courses  
26w 151 Butterfield Road/East of Rt. 59  
Wheaton, IL  
(630) 653-5800  
Par 71/72  
East - 3,337 yards  
West - 3,116 yards (Opens in 2001)  
South - 3,430 yards  
Rating/Slope - East/South (Whites) 70.4/127

As a park district golf course, Arrowhead has been a staple of the west suburban golfer's diet for decades. Problem was, it was like a piece of white bread — basic food that kills the golfer's hunger pangs but does little to provide nourishment.

Some were less gentle about their feelings, calling Arrowhead a "pasture."

But it had enough redeeming qualities that architect Ken Killian saw great potential. The land was wonderful, filled with rolling hills, mature trees and ponds. Plus there were no homes on the course. The layout was nestled in a forest and looked like fertile ground for a fine renovation. So that's just what the Wheaton Park District decided to do. And what it got out of the project is now one of the finest layouts around Chicago.

Arrowhead is divided into three nine-hole courses: the East, West and South. The West course isn't scheduled to open until 2001, but the East and South are open for play. The fairways are generous with trees lining many of them, giving the place a beautiful framing. And the Killian design gives you everything. There are short and strategic as well as long and challenging par 4s, tricky par 5s and superb par 3s. The greens are relatively flat but some have severe pitches that present the golfer with a lot to think about on his or her approach shots.

It's hard to pick favorite holes, but No. 1 on the East Course and No. 3 on the South are certainly at the top of the list.



Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton, Illinois

The opening hole on the East nine is a 538-yard par 5 that starts out narrow and bottlenecks to the green. The tee shot must be placed between a creek on the right and woods on the left and your second or third shot has to negotiate a big tree on the left and bunkers right. The locals say it's best to keep the driver in the bag on this hole and instead hit three 5-irons, try to get your par and move on.

The par-4 third hole on the South course is a great design. It's a short hole — just 350 from the tips — but every shot must be accurate. The hole doglegs softly to the left as the fairway gradually moves downhill. The green sits beside a pond, forcing you to hit your short-iron approach with precision. This is pure strategy so leave the big clubs in the bag.

Arrowhead has a good practice facility. There are a couple of putting greens and a very nice range. The pro shop is not one of the best-stocked pro shops around, but the essentials are there. Arrowhead also serves good, traditional bar food in its restaurant. Be sure to try the soup!

And the price? Tremendous. The cost is \$29 on the weekdays, \$34 on the weekends and there are also resident discounts. Carts are available but you can walk anytime you want.

Make sure one of your millennium rounds this summer includes Arrowhead Golf Club.

Conditioning: 23  
Staff Courtesy: 20  
Playability: 24  
Course Services: 23  
Total: 90

**WHITE HAWK COUNTRY CLUB**  
1001 White Hawk Drive  
Crown Point, IN  
(219) 661-2323  
Par 72  
6,470 yards (Whites)  
Rating/Slope: 71.1/130

Do the names Dick and Tim Nugent mean anything to you?

The reputation of these two golf course architects should tell you something right away about White Hawk Country Club: It is a first-class design.

The course sits on some beautiful Indiana land. Most of it is flat but not Iowa flat. You'll find some natural dips and curves to it that not only give character to the layout but provide plenty of challenges too.

Water adds to that challenge. There are 11 holes in which water comes into play, but you won't find any forced carries. The water is a subtle challenge, not a round killer.

There are some fine holes to look forward to with No. 2 being one of them. It's a long par 5 that bends gently to the

left with a creek in front of the green, protecting it from the long hitters trying to make it in two. We also like No. 7, appropriately named "Pleasure Isle." The "pleasure" comes from the look of this par 3, not necessarily from your score here. The hole has essentially an island green with a big trap sitting in front of it and water three-fourths of the way around it. A nice looking hole but you better be accurate.

Our favorite hole is No. 17. It's a rather short par 4 that doglegs left and uphill. If you hit your tee shot too big, you'll likely end up in a pond. Try to cut the dogleg too much, you'll likely end up in the marsh or the big fairway trap that guards the left side. The challenge is not over after a successful tee shot, however. The green sits elevated above a creek with traps on either side of it. Par is a good score here.

White Hawk Country Club is part of a development of homes, but don't let that turn you off because most of the homes are not on the golf course. In fact, you never see a single building on a lot of holes. And that's the kind of golf course development we like.

White Hawk has everything you need. There is a super clubhouse with a restaurant and bar, banquet facilities and a very nice pro shop. You'll find White Hawk to be a good place to practice and warm up with its range and putting green. And equally as important, the staff is helpful and friendly. Memberships are available for residents and non-residents, and for the daily-fee golfer, White Hawk is quite a bargain.



White Hawk Country Club, Crown Point, Indiana

Greens fees range from \$34 to \$55, with weekends being the more expensive. These prices include a cart.

Indiana has had some wonderful new golf courses spring up over the last few years, and White Hawk is definitely one of them.

Conditioning: 23  
Staff Courtesy: 22  
Playability: 23  
Course Services: 23  
Total: 91



# Singles only

By Frank Raczon

*Chicagoland Golf Club provides opportunities for singles to hit the links together on a weekly basis*

The number "one" is usually very positive in golf. There's the vaunted ace. Or maybe a scorecard full of one-putt greens. And be honest, who among you wouldn't sell your own mother-in-law to finish a mere one-under or one-over par at the end of a round?

Trouble is, "one" can also be the loneliest number. That's especially true if you've ever spent an entire weekend morning at a course as a single, waiting in vain for a threesome to join and found that everyone seems to have a set foursome. Now imagine being completely new to the Chicago golf Mecca and not knowing another club-swinging soul. Susan Ouchterloney, an executive with Amtrak in Chicago and an avid golfer, found herself in just such a



*CGC members gather for a picture after a round at Gull Lake in Michigan.*

predicament.

"My career called on me to move four times in five years prior to coming to Chicago," Ouchterloney said. "It can be hard to meet people in a new environment."

Then one day while practicing at the White Pines Golf Dome in Bensenville, Ouchterloney saw an advertising banner that would change both her golfing life and her social calendar. The ad introduced her to Chicagoland Golf Club Inc. (CGC), a club exclusively for Chicago-area singles who share a passion for golf.

Co-founded in 1992 by Carol Cleary, a Chicago-based flight attendant for American Airlines, the CGC started with a small classified ad in the *Chicago Sun-Times* about single golfers seeking other single golfers for organized golf outings with the added bonus of

getting to know new people and socializing.

"That initial ad had a tremendous response," Cleary explained. "There were so many people interested in getting pre-arranged tee times and meeting other golfers. People were just coming out of the woodwork."

Chicagoland Golf Club drew 210 single men and women golfers that first year. This year CGC has 158 members, purposely split evenly between men and women. Cleary, serving as CGC president, and vice president Donna Snyder run the club like a well-oiled machine, hosting at least one and sometimes two outings a week at upper-echelon Chicago-area courses such as Orchard Valley, Eagle Ridge and Chalet Hills. For a yearly fee (\$150 in '99), members get Friday and/or weekend golf outings arranged for them every week from early May until the third weekend in September and are placed in a mixed foursome for the events they wish to attend. The four-

somes rotate at random so that everyone gets the opportunity to play with everyone during a given season.

Two key elements have helped make CGC successful: the emphasis on golf and the friendly, professional atmosphere maintained by Cleary and Snyder.

"The first time you play golf with people you don't know it can be intimidating," Ouchterloney said. "But the first time I played in a CGC event, everyone made me feel very warm and welcome. It's a nice group, and Carol and Susan make it easy to meet people and talk to them."

CGC even provides name badges at the beginning of the season. There's also at least one casual dinner in the offseason, an outing to a golf dome and a breezy, homespun newsletter Cleary composes for members every other month.

"One reason our members like us is that we cater to the dedicated and avid golfer," Cleary said. "(The members) want to play with other people who share their interest in golf. We don't take beginners; we like everybody to have at least five years of experience on a golf course."

That's not to say that a CGC outing is a nervous affair full of knee-knocking eagle putts and pin-whacking approach shots.

"We do have established handicaps,

but they run from two to 28. And there's not a competition every week," Cleary said. "Our members are at many different skill levels, and they just like to go out and play."

Once a month the CGC will pick a course and have long-drive or closest-to-the-pin contests during an event. The very first event every season is a scramble, offered as a way to break the ice and provide a laid-back way to ease into the year.

So far, the club has attracted a mix of golf-loving professionals including attorneys, doctors, salespeople and computer programmers.

"We don't really cater to 20-year-olds," Cleary said. "We have a wide range of ages, with men and women averaging anywhere from 32 to 55. If someone calls up with a certain parameter and says 'I'm 36, and I'll only play with 32-year-olds,' we tell them that they're wasting their time. The main focus is golf. Everybody plays with everybody else, and if someone has another agenda, they're not going to blend in and CGC isn't going to work



*CGC members strike a pose at Eagle Ridge's "The General."*

well for them."

Ouchterloney, now in her fourth season with CGC, agrees.

"One of the best things about CGC is that it's not like a dance or some singles club with golf just thrown in," Ouchterloney said. "It's for singles who like to play golf."

In eight seasons, membership has remained consistent.

"It goes anywhere from 150 to 200, but it varies from year to year because single people's lives change on a day-to-day basis," Cleary said.

There's roughly a 50-percent turnover each year, which seems like the perfect amount of new club members, but Cleary is proud of the fact there are 14 golfers who have been playing with CGC since the beginning.

"For me, it has been a wonderful opportunity to meet people, find fellow golfers and establish good friendships in this area that I'll carry through my life," Ouchterloney said.

For information on CGC, call Cleary at (630) 852-9431 or e-mail to CGCgolf@aol.com.



*Carol Cleary (left) and Donna Snyder founded Chicagoland Golf Club in 1992.*



*Just a bunch of happy (single) golfers.*



## SWEET HOME CHICAGO

### NORTHSIDE

(continued from page 14)

vailing south wind and you've got a par 5 of Biblical proportions.

Be sure to save some of your best long shots for the course's final hole, "Devil's Ditch," as it plays from 458-570 yards, and the green is protected by "the ditch" and four less-than-heavenly sandtraps.

Shepherd's Crook is a course that will certainly test all the clubs in your bag. Owing to Foster's designed measures for par 3s and par 4s that are short to moderate and his stretching of the three par 5s, Shepherd's Crook will require the use of all of your fairway clubs. Fairway bunkers, while few in number, are strategically positioned. Most greens require approach shots to carry some mounds, contours or sand-bunkers. The implication is that your sand wedge will be necessary at least once per round. The greens at Shepherd's Crook are large, quick and moderately undulated. Pin placements, therefore, can be quite varied from generous center locations to tucked away in downright nasty corners.

Presently, Shepherd's Crook is still operating from the temporary clubhouse. Ground was broken for the permanent clubhouse just prior to Thanksgiving 1999, and the anticipated opening date of the building is July 1 of this year. Ten-minute intervals for tee times are used, and the pace of play is monitored for 4½ hours by the course staff to prevent patrons from feeling squeezed.

Greens fees for '99 were set at \$35 (walking; carts optional at additional fee) throughout the week, and ZPD resident, school district resident and twilight discounts are also available.

In Shepherd's Crook, the Zion Park District has put forth a superb product with deep, traditional golfing attitude. Written reviews and, more importantly, word-of-mouth will attract northside golfers to this course like bees to honey or magnets to refrigerators. But playing their first round here will get them positively attached. For more info call (847) 872-2080.

The chapel is back at Chapel Hill Country Club in McHenry, Ill.

If you didn't play Chapel Hill during '99, then a return visit to CHCC in 2000 may surprise you. First, due to damage from the tornado-like winds of the previous two years, the club's namesake, the small chapel to the left of the 15th fairway, has been refurbished. Its new paint job has

inspired a new logo for CHCC. A brief historical recap can reveal the logo story.

In 1843 Fredrich Schmitt built a 12' x 17' log chapel on what is now the grounds of CHCC in order to fulfill a vow made during his perilous ocean voyage to the United States. A decade later, in 1853, the log

after WWII, and in '65, more land was purchased and plans were organized to expand the course to a full 18 holes, which opened in '68. That year also brought about the expansion of the dining room and banquet hall.

The latest improvements to the course



*Plenty of hazards can stand in the way at the links-style Shepherd's Crook.*

chapel was encased in the existing brick structure. Through these years the land was known as the Schmitt farm. The earliest reference to golf being played at this locale was in 1899, when a three- or four-hole course was laid out on Howell's Villa — slightly closer to the Fox River than to Schmitt's Chapel. Sometime between 1899 and 1919, some land was obtained from the Schmitt family and a nine-hole course was etched out. The inaugural club was private and had 30 members, one of whom was cartoonist Sidney Smith. The original clubhouse was built in 1920, and Smith became the president of CHCC. He established an annual "Gump Party," a tournament and dinner held every August, named after Smith's cartoon character "Andy Gump." Under Smith's leadership the club grew to 60 members, and in 1927, additional land was purchased from the Schmitt family and further improvements were made to the nine-hole course.

It is indeed worthy to mention that throughout these early years of the club, Chapel Hill was a favorite course of Chicago's famed amateur, Chick Evans, who played in many of the Gump Party tournaments, hosted his own exhibitions and enjoyed many private rounds there.

The course was opened to the public

were started in '99 and include everything from the reshaping of a tee box to the sculpting of a berm to the creation of a new back tee for the 17th hole, making the already lengthy par 5 (605 yards) play to 640-650 yards.

Chapel Hill's greens can be regarded among the smoothest and fastest public sector greens in the entire area. And while being flat, most greens are dramatically pitched — so try to stay below the hole all times. Large, stately oak trees and 10- to 15-foot mounds are two of Chapel Hill's other characteristic defenses.

And now for the announcement that will have golfers shouting "Hallelujah!" - FREE GOLF at Chapel Hill CC during April. Here's the deal - with advanced reservation and cart rental at \$12 per person, the following days and times are set aside for free golf:

Mondays - Ladies (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Tuesdays - Seniors (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Thursdays - Anyone over 18 years of age (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Saturdays - Juniors can play free when accompanied by a paying adult (after 2 p.m.)

Call (815) 385-3337 for complete details. Chapel Hill CC is located on Chapel Hill Road, approximately one mile north of Route 120.



# The Golf Chicago Project

## Progress Report: February-March

By Adele Snyder  
Member, LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Division  
adeleLPGA@cs.com

*Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a series directed at the benefits of golf lessons. In a February issue we posed this question: How does a really busy person (and after all, who isn't these days?) find the time to improve their golf game with lessons and practice without sacrificing work or family? We put this challenge to Adele Snyder, an LPGA professional and to Ellen Carnahan, a 40-ish married golfer who is a partner in a Chicago venture capital firm. Her typical workweeks average somewhere between 50-60 hours and she travels in excess of 60,000 miles a year. Adele and Ellen agreed to work together and hopefully prove that even the busiest people can work golf improvement into their schedules. The first installment of this series can be viewed at our new website: [www.eGolfChicago.com](http://www.eGolfChicago.com).*

Since early February Ellen Carnahan and I have met for six lessons, and I am amazed at her progress. Her quick improvement to this stage can be attributed to the following factors. One, Ellen has mentally committed herself to improvement. She is not fearful of change, in fact she welcomes it. Second, she takes notes during the lessons and reads them over in her spare time. Third, she visualizes the changes she is making in her mind, digests the information and transforms it into simple terms that she can remember easily. This exercise of visualization is like practicing in your mind. The better you understand the change, the better you apply the change when you actually practice.

Technically, Ellen has been working on the following elements. In the first lesson, I changed Ellen's left hand

grip allowing her to hinge her left hand properly, eliminating the shots she was hitting to the right. Also, we corrected the excess clockwise rotation in her arms which made her club face open too much on the backswing. Basically, the less you open the club on the backswing, the less you must compensate to close it on the way through. In subsequent lessons, we have worked on a proper coil so that Ellen moves her weight into her right hip producing an improved swing path on the downswing. One error that is common to women is they overturn their shoulders and hips on the backswing, often swaying over her right leg in the process. This makes it very difficult to return the club to the ball with any consistent acceleration. But once Ellen understood that a big shoulder and hip was unnecessary, solid contact was quickly attained. By her third lesson, Ellen was flying her seven iron almost 100 yards in the air, and by her fourth and fifth lesson she was hitting her 3-wood in the air consistently.

Given this extremely quick improvement, Ellen may be surpassing her modest goal of a 105 scoring average with ease. Like many professional women she is a pleasure to work with because she takes a very pragmatic approach to lesson and improvement. The concentration and attention she brings to the lessons is quite impressive, but the satisfaction that both of us feel as her ball striking continues to improve makes it exciting for both of us.

### Ellen Carnahan comments:

This is fantastic! Adele is a no-nonsense teacher who suits me well, but the best thing is how well I've begun to hit the ball. After my third of fourth lesson my husband commented on how consistent my ball flight was, I said to him, "Hell, I've got a ball flight now!" Before taking lessons I would as often top a shot as hit it into the air. Those days are gone now, topping seems to be something way in the past.

One thing Adele and I are working on now is extending my left arm across my chest rather than twisting it behind my body on the backswing. The old practice

caused a bad reverse pivot, which was the biggest cause of my topped shots. Also, I'm trying to keep my right arm relaxed so that it also doesn't get too far behind my on the back swing. But the best part is that I can play the game as never before. Like Adele I'm looking forward to this summer and continued improvement. We haven't even gotten to short game yet.

A couple of weeks ago my husband and I took a quick weekend to Scottsdale to visit relatives, but we did squeeze in some early morning golf. On our only 18-hole round we played an executive length course and he gave me the usual two shots on par-3s. Bottom line- I beat him 2-up! The fun is only beginning.

Adele Snyder will be teaching at Family Golf/Chicago (312-616-1234) beginning in late May or June. She can be reached at [adeleLPGA@cs.com](mailto:adeleLPGA@cs.com).



## Don't pay big bucks on golf balls

Stop wasting money on golf balls.  
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# How to Put On A Golf Outing *and Live to* Tell About It

By Lionel William

Golf outings are all the rage these days, whether you want to entertain clients or treat the corporate troops to a day on the links. But if you are the hapless person assigned to plan the event, there can be plenty of sand traps in your way if you don't have all the information. If properly prepared, however, you should be able to get through the day unscathed.

Kathleen Brady, director of special events for athletics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, wasn't even born when Don Johnson, a sales representative for a Chicago publishing company, planned his first golf outing for the Western Advertising Golfers Association. Yet both knew the first task of the golf outing chairperson: Get a golf course reserved for your event and get it soon.

For Johnson, that often means reserving the course for the next year as soon as he steps off the 18th green after the outing this year. While Brady didn't have that luxury in the first year of her job at UIC, as soon as she knew that one of her responsibilities was planning a benefit golf outing, she contacted Nick Mokolke, manager of Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in southwest Lemont. Working with Mokolke and his staff, a convenient date for both parties was found, which meant that the real work for Brady was about to begin.

There are three distinct planning phases for the golf chairperson. The early planning stages include picking a date and finding a course that is appropriate for your event. Phase two is the most time-consuming for the chairperson and when most of the decisions must be made, from how much food and beer for the players to how many skydivers will descend on the first tee. Don't laugh — it has been done. The final phase starts one week from the event when you pray for no rain and generally hope the number of last-minute cancellations will match the number of the boss' cousins who decide to

play at the drop of a hat. If you've planned well, neither should stump you.

If you are a rookie golf chairperson, Brady and Johnson both recommend relying heavily on the management staff of the golf facility you choose. Mokolke says, "Our job is to make the golf chairman look good, especially if he or she doesn't have any experience at golf outings." Johnson also recommends that you don't do all the work yourself. In other words, get a committee and delegate functions.

*Planning and putting on a golf outing can be a daunting task... but it shouldn't be career-threatening.*

If delegating functions isn't your cup of tea or you don't have the adequate time to see it through, special events companies can be a huge asset to a chairperson who doesn't have all the time necessary to plan the event. Tim Schulte, president and founder of Mid-America Sports and Events Group, tells his customers to have an assessment of what and who they want at the outing and then let his company do the work.

There are serious golf outings and those that are ... well ... in the words of meeting planner Liz Freyn of the Sherwood Group, an association management company, "hit and giggle events." Freyn says that deciding which kind of event you plan on having will at least in part determine the kind of golf course best for your event. If you know that your boss is a serious golfer, then most likely your event should be played at a top-rated course. On the other hand, if the golf is primarily going to be social in nature, it would be best to find an easier course for the day. Freyn points out that it's little fun to play a course in which it may take some players up to 10 shots just to get to the green, so find a user-friendly golf facility.

One internet company can make finding that user-friendly facility a little easier. Logging on to eGolfevents.com can provide information about courses nationwide, detailing over 100 categories of

important data that can bring event planners and the right course together as one.

Many private courses in the Chicago area are open to hosting outings, usually on Monday when the club is closed to members. If the club is corporate-owned, it's appropriate to call directly for information and reservations. But for clubs that are owned and run by the membership, an outing must have the sponsorship of a member before it can be booked. So pay attention to protocol and save

yourself and your company any potential embarrassment.

Phase two of golf outing planning is the most important. Here you must sit down with your committee and the course management staff to make all the nitty-gritty decisions. The decisions you make will ultimately shape and define your event. Naturally, it's the budget that really is your final guide, but some of the questions that must be answered are: (1) Will this be an all-day event with dinner in the evening or lunch and golf? (2) Will the outing be a tournament or strictly a fun event? That's not to say the two concepts are mutually exclusive because they shouldn't be. But don't plan a "hit and giggle" event and then book the hardest course in the state. (3) Will your event have a special theme? — a popular item these days.

Dennis Johnsen, who has been working with golf outings for 15 years at the Pheasant Run Resort, professes to having seen it all. Once, he says, a plumbing supply industry association had an outing at his course and put a new spin on the closest-to-the-pin contest. On the designated par-3 hole, golfers were awarded prizes for the shot closest to a toilet placed on the green!

More on point, Johnsen asks golf chairpersons if they want a golf clinic or exhibition, if a celebrity golf professional is

desirable (or affordable), if there are special requirements needed, including those for handicapped golfers, what prizes and contests they anticipate having and certainly how many players will be participating.

Next to reserving a course, your biggest decisions will likely revolve around food, which is as important as site selection since it may cost more than your golf expenses. Johnson advises a smart chairperson to shop around before making any decisions — always a good policy. Johnson's equation for his successful outings — in which his participants are fairly serious golfers — is "a decent golf course and good food at a good price."

Understand that if you plan an all-day affair, you could be talking breakfast before golf, boxed lunches and other refreshments on the course, cocktails and munchies after the round and then a sit-down or buffet dinner. Freyn warns her clients not to skimp on food since that may be long remembered after the round of golf. To save money, Freyn limits her cocktail time to one hour rather than two. Cog Hill's Mokolke notes that more events are planned for lunch and golf with no planned dinner. That way people feel they can put in a few hours at the office, play golf and still be home at a reasonable time.

Schulte, however, believes the good time spent on the golf course should always be the main focus of a corporate or charity event, not the food.

"Business people can't wait to get out there and play," Schulte says. "From what I've noticed, the quick and easy lunches are the best because all people want to do is get it, eat it, and then rock and roll and get back out there and keep playing. The food is just something that adds to the experience. The actual golf is the experience and the reason why people are here. If all they do is remember the food then they're at the wrong golf course."

All those involved stressed the need to understand how alcohol should be han-



Former Chicago Bear and current sports media personality Dan Jiggets (middle) is the chairman of the American Kidney Fund Outing. He plans well.

dled at an outing as well. Obviously everyone wants to have a good time — on and off the golf course — but just not too good when it comes to drinking. There are various ways our experts see to it that no one becomes "overserved." Instructing the employees who drive the beverage carts on the golf course to avoid or bypass groups that insist on getting more than two beers per nine holes is one way, as well as staying in close communication with those servers. Freyn also makes it clear that no coolers should be brought on the course by any of the participants. Vigilance is the key here. Johnson likes to think the reason his organization has always been invited back to the clubs they play at is because as soon as someone starts getting out of line, he takes care of the problem right away. You should too.

Phase three is "crunch time" — the week before your event. It may be a cliché, but "Be prepared" still works. A truly conscientious chairperson will go out to the course and do a complete run-through with the management staff of every facet of the outing's operation. That means checking where the players' golf

bags will be dropped as they arrive at the facility, knowing where the golf carts will be parked prior to play, checking final pairings and preparing for cancellations, confirming that there will be enough "go-fors" to deal with little glitches that will invariably occur and so on.

Here are a few more things to consider:

(1) Always have plenty of nice gifts (hats, shirts, etc.) with the company logo to go around;

(2) Make sure that adequate facilities exist for women participants;

(3) Establish what procedures exist in case a medical emergency occurs on the course;

(4) In the same vein you should have already purchased event liability insurance, covering the outing sponsor and have an understanding of what cost adjustments, if any, can be made if it rains on your parade.

Planning and putting on a golf outing can be a daunting task. But if done with a little foresight and reliance on the help of others, it shouldn't be career-threatening.





# Merit Club hosts 2000 U.S. Women's Open

By MIKE FERGUSON

**G**URNEE — A tip for those who have ever done a favor for Ed Oldfield: You're going to get paid back and then some.

Nine years ago, Merit Club owner and founder Bert Getz hired the veteran teaching pro to help turn his family's 318 acres of farmland in Gurnee into one of the country's top 100 golf courses.



Despite being just nine years old, the Merit Club will host the U.S. Women's Open this summer. This is the 18th hole.



Look for Swedes Lislotte Neuman (L) and Annika Sorenstam (R) to do well at The Merit Club.

In mid-July, Oldfield, now the president of the Merit Club, will complete his payback when the U.S. Women's Open visits the Chicago area for the third time in 25 years.

"Mr. Getz gave me the opportunity to help build a world-class golf course," said Oldfield, who counts Betsy King and numerous other LPGA pros among his client list. "By doing everything I could do to get the course a U.S. Women's Open, well, that is my way of saying 'Thank you' to Mr. Getz for letting me do the job."

Getz says the thanks should go to Oldfield.

"The payback we got from Ed was a golf course that is considered by all sources to be one of the top 100 courses in the country," Getz said. "All I did was write the check. Ed is the one responsible for us having a golf course nice enough to host a U.S. Women's Open."

The result of Getz and Oldfield's teamwork is expected to produce record crowds — some say as many as 30,000 per day — as well as another big piece of Chicago golf history. In 1974 and '81, Sandra Haynie and Pat Bradley won Open titles at LaGrange Country Club. Ten other

USGA women's events have been held in Chicago, the most recent being Vicki Goetze's U.S. Amateur win at Kemper Lakes in '92.

"The course can hold about as many people as we want to have out here," Oldfield said. "With the space we have, it's a perfect venue for major tournament."

Space is a good thing, but club officials got some more good news this winter when the USGA extended special exemptions to Hall-of-Famers Nancy Lopez and Pat Bradley to play in the tournament. Also important for the Merit Club is the fact the USGA has increased the Women's Open purse by \$1 million, bringing the total for the tournament to \$2.75 million. That figure stands nearly \$1 million higher than the next highest purse total on the women's professional circuit.

Oldfield claims that his primary goal when the club opened in July of '92 was not to host the most prestigious women's tournament in the world just eight years later. But after attending every Women's Open since '72, it became obvious to Oldfield that the Merit Club had what it took to successfully host such an event.

"It is a wonderful course for the United States Women's Open," said USGA President David Faye, who along with former president, Judy Bell, first discussed with Oldfield the possibility of the Merit Club hosting a future Open championship. "Ed Oldfield and Mr. Getz were wonderful to work with, and the result was an easy decision on the part of the USGA. We think it will be a wonderful championship."

The contracts were originally signed in early '94 for the Merit Club to host the '99 Open. But after Medinah was awarded the '99 PGA

Championship, Oldfield, Getz and Sara Lee CEO George Bryan, who got the 2000 Open to Old Waverly in West Point, Miss., agreed to switch years. The result leaves the Merit Club among a group of such high-profile courses as Augusta National, St. Andrews and Pebble Beach as major golf championship hosts for the magical year of 2000.

"There was a problem with the result of the PGA being awarded to Medinah, and that did cause some concern for the USGA," Faye said. "But we think it all worked out very well. Waverly had a great Open championship in '99, and the Merit Club will have a great championship in 2000."

Getz, whose family has been in business in Chicago for three generations, agrees with Faye.

"I love golf and I love Chicago, but hosting two major golf tournaments like that so close together maybe would have been too much," Getz said. "We are happy with the way things worked out for us and for Chicago."

"We feel like we have a course very deserving to host such a great tournament. The only difference between our course and some of the greatest courses in this country is history and tradition. An that will start with the U.S. Women's Open."

Merit Club officials feel their course was in good enough shape to host the Open from day one. The USGA tournament committee surprisingly asked for no changes to be made to the course in preparation for the tournament — no request for the movement of one bunker, the addition of one tee box or the tightening of one fairway.

"That was amazing to me, and the credit goes completely to our superintendent, Oscar Miles," Oldfield

said. "But this is the result of us being allowed to hire the best people to do the job. Mr. Getz let me hire Oscar, and the result is one of the best-conditioned courses in the world."

"I would put the day-to-day condition of the Merit Club against the Augustas and Pine Valleys of the world any day, and again, that is because of Oscar. People ask me what we are doing to get the course ready for the U.S. Women's Open, and the answer is 'Not too much.' The course is that good all the time."

Veteran golf tournament guru Peter DeYoung was hired early on to help run the event for the Merit Club. Responsible for everything from handling ticket sales to corporate tents to port-o-lets to how to transport 120,000 golf fans to the course, DeYoung is up to the challenge. His self-started event management company ran the Western Open from 1977-92, as well as the Ameritech Senior Open from 1989-92. But it's DeYoung's first USGA championship, and he is the first to admit the responsibilities can be a bit overwhelming.

"There is so much that goes into hosting a tournament of this size," DeYoung said. "With every day there



Golfweek Magazine has placed architect Bob Lohmann's design of the Merit Club in the top 100 modern courses. This is the par-3 16th.





have been new problems and new challenges. Whether it's helping sell enough tickets or finding a place for everyone to park and getting them to the club, there are a lot of issues we have to deal with."

The parking problem was solved last summer when Lakehurst Mall agreed to make 4,500 paved spots available to tournament visitors. From the mall, a short 10-minute bus ride will leave fans at the newly-constructed main entrance, just 500 yards from the course.

The tournament dates have been another concern. With the British Open at St. Andrews also scheduled

for July 17-23, USGA and Merit Club officials discussed several other playing dates in July and August for the women's event. But Oldfield and the USGA thought hosting the championship on the same day as the British Open created some advantages, considering the British Open generally ends its third and fourth rounds at noon Chicago time.

"In the end, we were in favor of playing the championship during the same week as the British Open," Oldfield said. "We feel like it will make for a great day of golf for fans at the tournament and the fans watching on television."

Ticket sales have been brisk, and most believe as July approaches, sales will speed up dramatically. Week-long passes are \$125. Daily entrance is available for \$20 during practice rounds and \$30 during the July 20-23 tournament rounds. And as Betsy Hamilton, the USGA director for the Women's Open, is quick to point out, children under 17 are admitted free and allowed to sit in the front row of the bleachers during the event.

"We want children to come out and see what women's golf is all about. That's why we are strong supporters of our 'Kids Come First' program," said Hamilton from her home in Pinehurst, N.C., site of the '99 Men's U.S. Open championship. "There is no doubt that women's golf is on the rise, and the best way to continue that rise is to get the children involved.

"But one of the reasons for the rise in women's golf is people like Ed Oldfield," added Hamilton. "Very few professionals know more about women's golf than Ed, and the way I understand it, he is the reason for the tournament coming to the Merit Club."



hill, which is also steeper than that of No. 12.

While featuring one of the finest courses in the Chicagoland area, Glenwoodie also boasts one of the finest practice facilities in the region.

The next course on the way south on 394 is Longwood Golf Course in Steger. Longwood is located off of Steger Road, east of 394 near the border of Illinois and Indiana.

Longwood started in 1928. It is a 6,404-yard, par-70 course that features rolling terrain and heavily wooded areas. In this era of golf management companies, Longwood has managed to stay family-owned since '57. Long-

wood's facility also has a driving range, pro shop and restaurant/bar area.

From Longwood, it's just a short trip to Lincoln Oaks Golf Course in Crete, located west of 394 on Richton Road. Lincoln Oaks (originally the East Course) was originally part of the private facility, Lincolnshire Country Club, which still owns and operates Lincoln Oaks and has been in business since 1927.

Lincoln Oaks meanders through the Lincolnshire community, which features some of the most beautiful homes in the south suburbs. Lincolnshire Country Club was a three-course facility at one time, and later a fourth course was con-

structed but never opened. All the courses were designed by Tom Bendelow, who also designed the South course at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields and all three courses at Medinah.

The 6,087-yard, par-71 layout is rather unique in that it features five par 5s and six par 3s. There are four par 5s on the front nine.

Tuckaway, which John Elles built on farmland back in 1963, is the next course down this stretch of road. Nestled on the east side of 394 between the highway and the Indiana border, this par-71, 18-hole facility also features plenty of rolling terrain and mature trees.

A new clubhouse facility opened in '96 and numerous other changes have taken place at this course. The new clubhouse features a full-line pro shop, separate bar and large dining areas and locker rooms.

A new putting green was also added in '96 along with continuous cart paths. The course measures 6,245 yards from the blue tees.

Balmoral Woods Golf Course in Crete is the last course located off of 394. It's just east of the highway about a half-mile from where it meets up with Illinois 1. Balmoral Woods is one of the finest golf facilities in the Chicagoland area. It features very mature trees, hilly terrain and another one of the finest golf holes in the Chicagoland area - No. 7.

Balmoral Woods opened in 1975 and is another family-owned facility. The Mortell family has owned the course since its development back in the '70s. Balmoral was actually built in response to the expectations of traffic through the 394 corridor. While those expectations dissipated, the Mortell family stuck with its dream and has been able to make it though many tough times to still operate one of the finest and friendliest places to play in Chicagoland.

No. 7 is a 526-yard par 5 that doglegs left down to a well-protected green. The dogleg starts around 200 yards off the tee, so you have to plan your tee shot perfectly to avoid falling short and having to chip around large trees off the left side of the fairway or go out of bounds down the right side toward the curve of the dogleg.

Once you've woven your way off the tee, a well-placed second shot can put you in a great position to stick one close. Your second shot has to land just short of the meandering creek that protects the front of the green.

While the seventh hole gets most of the recognition as the signature hole at Balmoral, No. 13 is just as respectable. This 208-yard par 3 features a long tee shot over a long and deep ravine. The green is well-protected on both sides by mature trees, and if you happen to find yourself short of the green, chances are you'll have a tough chip up from the ravine.

Balmoral also features one of the finest clubhouse facilities in the area. A fully-stocked pro shop is complemented by a great restaurant and bar.

While 394 does not have the nostalgia of a Route 66, it does hold the potential for a great day of golf, as any one of these fine facilities can accommodate your game. From the high handicappers to the low-handicappers, I guarantee an enjoyable day on the links.



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## SWEET HOME CHICAGO SOUTHSIDE

(continued from page 15)

and up through the ravine, but the creek that runs through the ravine makes a dastardly curve through the middle of the fairway. Most tee shots remain on the top of the hill, leaving players with 200 yards or more to the green. Big hitters have to lay up at the top of the hill for fear of rolling into the creek at the bottom, which starts out right at the bottom of the left side of the fairway before turning left up the middle of the fairway. This green is elevated and slopes severely toward the front



# Fore.Com

By Trent Modglin

Depending on when you try for one, a tee time that suits all members of the group can often be tough to come by. It's difficult to pick a day and time a week or more in advance because people's schedules may change. On the other hand, if you wait too long you may get stuck hitting balls around someone's back yard on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Common sense would indicate that the rising growth of the internet would lead to an easy and popular approach to setting up a tee time, and many Web sites have started up to provide just that luxury. But the idea of tee time reservations via the internet hasn't exactly taken off as of yet for various reasons. In this issue's **Fore.Com** department, we'll explore a few sites designed to locate courses and secure tee times as well as a few other comprehensive sites that provide plenty of good golf info and purchasing power.

### **www.thegolfer.com**

Membership has its privileges for so many Web sites out there today, and this one is no different. Golf courses that choose to become members of this site have their information (amenities, dress code, scorecard, directions, etc.) displayed prominently, and the company also works with member courses to help facilitate corporate or charity events. Vacation packages are also available through [expedia.com](http://expedia.com) and [travelscape.com](http://travelscape.com). One problem with the site is that it does not allow you to simply pick the course you wish to play and sign up for a tee time, but instead forces you to do a search based on location, price and date.

### **www.liquidgolf.com**

If you're searching for an all-inclusive site dedicated to the sport, [liquidgolf.com](http://liquidgolf.com) is it. This company has

informative articles on topics ranging from helping women find the best tutor to how nutrition can enhance your game. A course locator gives directions to any course via [mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com) and can set up tee times. Users can browse through the latest golf scores from the tour, catch up on updated news from the world of golf, play trivia, arrange golf getaways, purchase clubs at below-retail prices and even play the site's own video game. The goal of those at [liquidgolf.com](http://liquidgolf.com) is to blend content, commerce and community in serving as the world's first premier online country club. And they do a pretty good job of it.

### **www.fringegolf.com**

Another quality Web site, but this one takes on a slightly different approach. A psychedelic background on the screen immediately shows off the alternative style aimed at the younger side of golf. At times it seems Fringegolf has too much going on. Travel and weather updates and a classifieds section that does not allow for commercial or venter postings are selling points. A big part of the site is designated for F-Word the magazine, which makes a visit to the address more than worthwhile. In "F-Word" you can find articles in which college golf coaches give their insight to the playing public, interviews with various personalities in the industry and entertaining journey pieces such as "Golfing and gallivanting through the backroads of India." This site may not be for everyone, as it does make a strong push for the younger audience, but it is certainly one to check out for its entertainment value.

### **www.golfport.com**

This new site has big plans for the future, but it's not quite there yet. Golfport boasts up-to-date news and

features and plenty of PGA Tour statistics, but its primary goal is linking the courses to the golfers by posting individual courses' personalized content and services such as event calendars, merchandise and club newsletters to keep customers up to speed on their favorite places to play. With Jack Nicklaus and Microsoft teaming up as strategic partners for this one, Golfport could become an internet monster sooner rather than later.

### **www.teetimes.com**

Curtis Strange serves as the company spokesman for this site, but it's still got some work cut out for it. Teetimes.com does offer the golf vacation packages and tee time options like the others and has plenty of possibilities as far as equipment and accessories are concerned, but most of the courses available are on the east coast and few in number.

### **www.netcaddy.com**

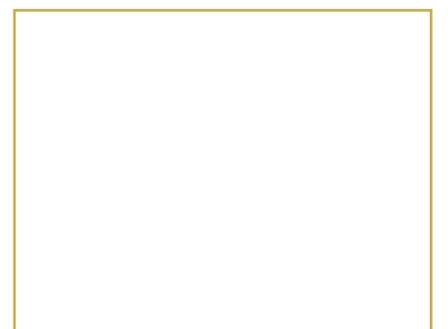
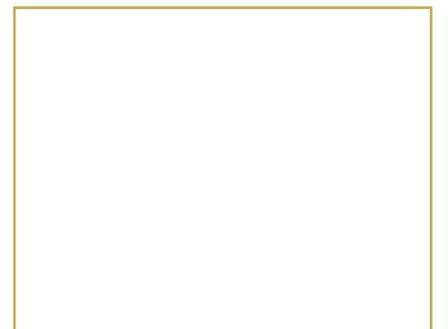
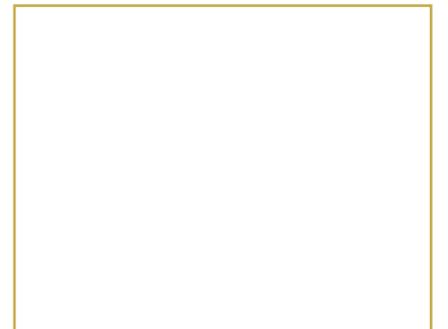
This is another "total package" site that has enough material to keep a Web surfer occupied for a significant length of time. Some of [netcaddy.com](http://netcaddy.com)'s best features are a tee time reservation system and course listing by area, a section on golf news from around the world and a statistical database that allows golfers to enter and track their personal statistics. However, this site's primary goal is to make life easier for the club professionals out there by increasing online communication between themselves and their members. Courses can display newsletters, calendars and even give on-line tours of the pro shop, restaurant and 360-degree panoramic shots of the signature holes on the course.



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# COURSE CONDITIONING

*Keeping the Body in the Swing of Things*

By Paul Calloway, PT

## The “Missing Ingredient” to Peak Golf Performance

One of the tremendous attractions of golf to the millions who play it on a regular basis and for those just entering the game is that it can be played for a lifetime. Unless you call bridge a sport, there are few recreational activities like golf. In fact, golf is one of the few sports that can typically be played more frequently and hopefully with better scores as we grow older. After all, is there a golfer who breathes who wouldn't want to score just a little better or drive the ball just another five or 10 yards?

And what are two of the biggest complaints from golfers? Go to any first tee or 19th hole and you'll either hear about the aches and pains of your golf buddies or how they used to be able to hit the ball “this far” and now have to lay up in front of hazards that were easily cleared in better days.

If golf is to remain enjoyable for a lifetime and to keep people from quitting in frustration over injuries or lack of improvement, then something has to be done and now! If golf is going to continue its popularity run, information must be provided to golfers of all ages and ability levels about what will allow them to play this game well and how to keep their bodies physically fit to play great golf for a lifetime. If your body can't perform for any number or reasons, golf is going to be drag, perhaps enough to make you consider taking up bridge. It would be shame for you and any other golfer to quit if, with a little knowledge about their body, they wouldn't have to. Sadly, there is a great lack of information, and worse, misinformation about what makes good golfers better and healthier.

The purpose of this department and future installments of it in *Golf Chicago!*

is to take a beginning step toward providing useful information about the “missing ingredient” to optimal and safe performance — your body!

This installment will identify the five essential ingredients to maximum performance and will specifically elaborate on the physical requirements to perform great golf while reducing the risk of injury. Later we will suggest a method for every golfer to identify his/her individual physical performance needs. Our goal is to give a clear understanding and elevated motivation to pursue your own golf-specific physical evaluation. Once your fitness needs are clearly defined, a customized physical training program should then be in order to help you effectively and safely reach your own performance goals.

*“There are only five basic ingredients for golf success”*

### Five Essential Ingredients

To begin with, let's identify and define the five essential ingredients to optimal and safe golf performance. As in every sport, maximum performance in golf can only be achieved through the effective integration of:

1. A customized and sport-specific physical training program.
2. Professional instruction and practicing of the sport-specific mechanics and techniques.

3. The development of proper mental skills.

4. The use of properly fit, technologically advanced equipment.

5. Sport-specific talent. (Don't worry about this item. We all have more talent than we think — it's other things that are really holding us back.)

All five ingredients are important and must be blended together in order to become the very best golfer possible. When this process is learned and practiced it is called “integrated performance enhancement,” or simply “putting it all together.”

Nevertheless, far too many golfers and professional instructors of the game have not yet accepted this philosophy. They instead continue to believe that taking more golf lessons, playing more frequently and/or simply purchasing new equipment is all that will be necessary to improve and play great golf. Moreover, too much of the golf world considers the players on the PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour as the ideal physical “standard” or model from which to compare all golfers.

It is well accepted that taking golf lessons from a professional instructor can and will help to improve your golf skills. Likewise, practicing and playing more golf is a critical element toward mastering the skills learned from the lesson environment. Most of us have also spent a significant amount of money on the latest technological breakthroughs in golf equipment, hoping to experience the added distance, accuracy and consistency promised in the national ad campaigns. Furthermore, it is very true that the majority of successful professional golfers, past and present, have never done anything to physically condition their bodies

other than pound buckets of balls and play more golf. But that is changing.

If we continue to compare ourselves to the majority of the unfit tour players, we may never change our beliefs about the importance of physical fitness for golf. After all, for other than a few players like Gary Player and Bruce Crampton, it wasn't until the last 10 years that players on any of the professional tours began seriously looking at fitness training programs. And for many of the players who did start exercise programs, they were initiated to rehabilitate and prevent an injury, not because they had made a conscious effort to play better golf.

But in the last 10 years, a fitness revolution has started. It began as a direct result of the PGA Tour, Senior PGA Tour and LPGA Tour mobile fitness centers staffed by trained health and fitness experts. Their purpose was to not only help treat injuries, but promote performance enhancement among the best players in the world. The response has been that more and more top players have added physical conditioning into their complete performance enhancement programs.

Greg Norman, Tom Kite, Jack Nicklaus, Ray Floyd, Hale Irwin, Jim Colbert, Nancy Lopez and Patty Sheehan are just a few of the successful players who have been strong supporters of fitness training for golf.

Their success has led to a growing number of other professionals on both the men's and women's tours to take advantage of the tremendous performance-enhancing and injury-reducing benefits of integrating physical training with equipment changes and practice routines.

And now, with the arrival of the new breed of golfer like Tiger Woods and David Duval, who are known to have their own fitness specialists and spend a minimum of 1-2 hours a day on golf-specific physical training programs, the rest of the golf world — amateurs and professionals alike — is beginning to take notice of how valuable conditioning your body for golf can be.

The principles and modern training

techniques that are contained within the “integrated performance enhancement” philosophy, when precisely defined, understood, effectively promoted by the majority of professional golf instructors and then practiced by the majority of golfers around the world, will contribute to the next major breakthrough in golf. The combined effects will be lower scores, reduced number of injuries and improved enjoyment for millions of golfers for a lifetime.

What a difference this will be from the current performance scene. In the 10 years in which statistics have been kept, the PGA Tour scoring averages, average driving distances and percentages of fairways and greens in regulation have not changed despite improvements in instruction, equipment and course conditions. Likewise, national scoring for amateurs has not improved in the past 20 years. Only 0.1 percent of male golfers and only .06 percent of female golfers shoot par golf! Perhaps, in the not too distant future, we will be watching professional golfers scoring

consistently in the 50s and many more avid amateur golfers will be consistently shooting par.

## Three Key Concepts

### Three Key Concepts

Now that the elements of “integrated performance enhancement” have been defined, we can now explore three key concepts specific to the development of a physical fitness training program for optimal and safe golf performance:

1. Structure governs function.
2. Physical training influences structure.
3. Exercise and/or treatment programs must be customized and sport-specific.

In next month's issue of *Golf Chicago!* we'll go into detail about each of these key concepts as the program of putting you in the best condition to play great golf for the coming season and beyond.



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# Escape to Michigan

*The best course for 2000 is Michigan's Arcadia Bluffs*

Nestled 225 feet above the eastern shores of Lake Michigan sits the best new course to start off the next millennium – Arcadia Bluffs.

What a spectacular piece of property architects Rick Smith and Warren Henderson had to work with, and what an amazing job they did. This seaside, Irish links-style design will have golfers all over the British Isles booking flights to the U.S. to play. It wouldn't at all surprise me if the Royal & Ancient decided to hold the British Open here someday.

Arcadia Bluffs is routed over a breathtakingly rugged 260-windswept-acre site atop a magnificent bluff on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Arguably one of the most spectacular sites for a golf course in the United States, Arcadia Bluffs, in scenic northwest Michigan, will soon be a premiere travel destination, providing a daily-fee golfing experience as enjoyable as the finest private club.

The course is made up of huge mounds covered by tall, native grasses and wildflowers. In addition, there are rolling fairways, severely undulating greens, a 500-foot ravine, the ever-present lake breezes and 45 strategically-placed sod bunkers. The chipping areas around the greens are a great design feature and will give you several choices of shots, including the bump and run, flop shot or my favorite around these greens, the "Texas wedge." It would be best to read Ray Floyd's book ("60 Yards In") and bring your A-short game, or this course will eat you alive.

There are two keys to scoring well at this amazing course. First, avoid the sod bunkers at all costs. Some of these



*The links-style design at Arcadia Bluffs can frustrate the most consistent golfers.*

bunkers have 10-foot high walls. If you land in one of these, whether off the tee or on an approach to the green, your only play will be sideways or backward. The good news is that these bunkers contain the best sand I've ever hit from anywhere. The second key to scoring is proper shot placement. Where you place most drives and all of your approach shots to the greens is critical. These greens are very large, roll great, have multiple levels and lots of severe undulations. Did I also mention they run about 11 on the stimpmeter? Think Augusta! You must be on the proper level and below the hole to have any chance at a one-putt. Also keep in mind that below the hole here may mean hitting to the front, back or sides of a particular green. Oh, and one last piece of advice – putts break far less than you think.

Arcadia Bluffs has only one water hazard to worry about, but it's a big one ... Lake Michigan! If you hit a hook off the par-4 16th, just tee up another ball. That drop is over 200 feet and almost straight down.

The tall, native grasses on the front nine are thin and wispy, very similar to those in Scotland or Ireland. You'll find them relatively easy to hit out of. The back nine is a much different story. The grasses are much taller and thicker. Any errant shots here and you're in deep trouble. If by some chance you do find your ball, I would advise against trying to hit it out. The risk of injury is just too great.

One of the most beautiful and dangerous is the ninth hole, a unique par 3. Your 243-yard tee shot must carry over a 500-foot ravine that opens up to Lake Michigan. The par-5 15th winds down

633 yards to the shores of the lake. Accuracy is critical. An off-line tee shot from way up here could either carry over two fairways or come back and hit you if the winds are up. The par-4 14th is another unique hole. A blind tee shot requires you to aim at the Lattinch Rock – a boulder used as a guide and positioned each day atop one of the mounds you must hit over to reach the fairway.

Arcadia Bluffs plays over 7,200 yards from the tips and appears far more menacing than it really is. The course offers three really diverse sets of tees to choose from so that golfers of all skill levels can have an enjoyable round. Every hole at Arcadia Bluffs would be a signature hole on any other golf course. Here you'll be treated to breathtaking views of Lake Michigan from every fairway on the course.

The brand new 21,000-square-foot clubhouse features a full-service pro shop, bar and elegant dining room with spectacular views of the lake. All golf carts are equipped with a GPS yardage system, windscreens and portable heaters. Barring snow, you'll be comfortable playing here in any type of weather.

Arcadia Bluffs is a daily-fee golf club located approximately four hours northeast of Chicago and open every day from mid-April to mid-November. This is a must-play course for every golfer.

For more information, log on to [www.wheretoplaygolf.com](http://www.wheretoplaygolf.com).



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# FOUL WEATHER GOLF

By Denny Spencer

*Getting the most out of your game when the weather is at its worst.*

Whoever wrote the line, “March is the cruelest month of all” probably played golf in the Midwest and especially Chicago. And for that matter, early May can be pretty nasty at times as well. Cold and rainy conditions can make even our usually friendly home course seem like a green chamber of horrors, dampening the spirits of even the most enthusiastic golfers eager to hit the links after the winter layoff. But there are a few simple things you can do, both mentally and physically, that can turn an otherwise sour day into a rewarding round of golf whatever the conditions might be.

## Be Prepared — Equipment Wise

With rare exception, most golfers simply do not have the proper equipment with them to fight the elements, no matter how many times they’ve been caught in bad weather. Some of the items on this list will seem obvious, but you are a rare breed if you can say you have all of them ready for use. Waterproof shoes are an absolute must and have gotten so reliable, comfortable and stylish that it’s foolish to consider any other kind of shoe. Aside from your favorite clubs, a high-quality rain jacket, pants and hat should be your next most-expensive purchases, sometimes reaching \$200 or more. This is no place to cut corners. Quality rain gear will last longer and keep you drier and warmer when you’ll need it most. While playing in bad weather is often not fun, you’ll have a real edge if you are comfortable.

Take your umbrella, even on sunny



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*Don't let bad weather keep you on the veranda, be prepared for foul weather golf and enjoy the challenge.*

days. Even though weathermen are rarely wrong (yeah, right), it’s good insurance. Additional items that should be in your bag include an extra towel, an extra glove or two and a cover for your clubs. There are few things more destructive to your shot-making than wet grips. Another item I have at all times in my bag is air-activated hand warmers. Conveniently wrapped in plastic pouches, these inexpensive little fellows are wonderful when the cold wants to rob you of your touch. You can find them in golf retailers and sporting goods stores just about anywhere.

## Be Prepared — Physically

Long before Lee Janzen won his first of two U.S. Opens, he would don his rain gear and endure long practice sessions in driving rain storms. Many of his peers thought he was crazy, but Janzen calmly explained that he knew

someday he would have to face such conditions when it mattered most and he wanted to be ready. This is not to suggest that you dash out into the next monsoon (especially if any lightning is present), but it really is a good idea to hit golf balls in your full rain gear if for no other reason than to be familiar with what you can expect from your swing under those conditions. It’s also an excellent idea to practice your short game and putting once in a while in very windy conditions. This will save you when the wind puts a big dent in your greens-in-regulation stats. You can improve all your short shots by widening your stance for better balance,

## Be Prepared — Mentally

Probably the biggest casualty when playing in cold, rainy, windy conditions is concentration. Most shots in these circumstances are poorly

planned, usually rushed and rarely executed well. The weather simply takes us out of our comfort zone. But having the proper equipment and being familiar with it will help you accept conditions as they are, not as you would like them to be. Accepting it is an important first step.

Experience tells us that about four out of five players will “lay down” in bad conditions. Poorly prepared and usually complaining as if no one told them that golf was played outdoors, they’ll use the weather as a convenient excuse for poor play and scoring. Don’t fall into that trap. A great attitude can be your most powerful weapon. Here’s what to do:

- 1.) Lower your expectations. Play more cautiously by aiming away from hazards, especially water and out-of-bounds stakes. Play only high-percentage shots to avoid making a big number. Trust your short game and remember that par changes dramatically with the weather.
- 2.) Swing within yourself. Always take more club and play three-quarter shots. Concentrate solely on making solid contact and accept what the conditions give you. Play one shot at a time. Always great advice, but it is especially true in bad weather. Try to slow down yourself and your swing on every shot and give not an ounce of thought to your score. Concentrate on the one thing you can control the most, and that is the only shot in golf — the one in front of you. Make each one a little contest with yourself.
- 3.) Accept the challenge. If your attitude is such that you welcome the opportunity to test your ability to invent shots, you can even begin to actually have some fun amidst the adversity. When the yardage book goes out the window — as it does in foul weather — is when you are called upon to

truly “golf your ball” much like the Scots did so long ago and still do today.

Admittedly, bad weather is a test of your will, your spirit and your patience, but it is also when you need to be your most prepared and your most creative. So when you find yourself tested by the weather this spring, embrace it. As you succeed more with each test, I think you’ll begin to feel more and more like a complete golfer. After all, they make lemonade out of lemons, don’t they?

*Denny Spencer is a former Senior PGA Tour Player, Member of the European Senior Tour and the 1996 Ohio Senior Open Champion. He is now a golf course architect with the firm of Jerry Matthews Natural Course Design in Lansing, Mich.*



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