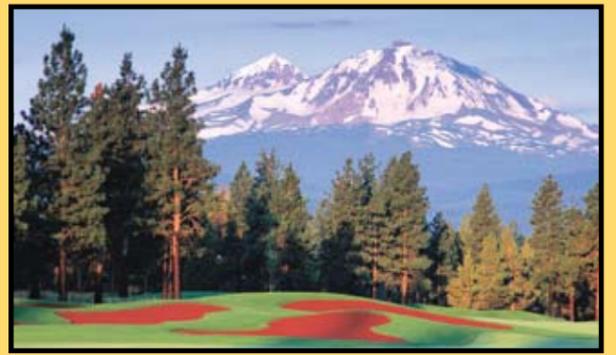


INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

GolfWorld Pacific Amateur is set for Central Oregon

The GolfWorld Pacific Amateur will be held Aug. 26-31, 2012 at some of Central Oregon's best courses like Aspen Lakes (right) and the time is right to sign up for the event. The three-day, stroke-play tournament is open to all players. Over 600 players are expected to play. See inside for more.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

GolfTEC is on the move, opens up a new golf teaching studio in Lynnwood

GolfTEC, the indoor golf teaching leader with facilities around the Puget Sound, opened a new Improvement Center in Lynnwood, Wash. Saturday, April 21.

GolfTEC has more than 150 Improvement Centers in North America, with four now in the Seattle area with the addition of the Lynnwood facility. At the Lynnwood site, GolfTEC certified coaches Lyndon Bystrom and David McMillon will use the company's Proven Path system to help golfers improve their games.

With the new opening, GolfTEC is offering specials through the end of May which include \$99 for a swing evaluation and 10 percent off lesson programs and packages," said GolfTEC Seattle Franchise Owner Brett Allen.

The new Lynnwood facility will have events going in conjunction with its opening, including a swing diagnosis, center tour, competitions and prizes for various contests.

For more information on the facility, call 425.412.3999.

Kyle Stanley will join Umpqua Bank field

The Umpqua Bank Challenge, set for Aug. 26-28 at the Reserve near Portland, has added Northwest PGA star Kyle Stanley to the field. Stanley, a native of Gig Harbor, Wash., earned his first victory earlier this year at the 2012 Waste Management Phoenix Open. Stanley's victory followed a playoff loss to Brandt Snedeker at the previous week's tournament.

Stanley joins host Peter Jacobsen as well as FedEx Cup champion Bill Haas in the tournament. Haas will team up with his father Jay in the two-man format.

Rules Quiz

Three of four players in a group assigned by the Committee to the 9:00 starting time arrive at the starting tee ready to play (ball and club in hand). Player #3 arrives in time to play in his proper order but arrived 2 minutes late (9:02:00). What is the ruling? See answer on Page 2.

Take a tour of Northwest Washington



The Northwest Washington area is a vast region stretching from the Olympic Peninsula to the greater Bellingham area. This month, *Inside Golf Newspaper* takes you on a tour of these locations. You can tee it up at great places like Shuksan (top photo) in Bellingham and Port Ludlow (left) on the Olympic Peninsula. Some of the states most outstanding golf courses can be found in these two regions. Check out our special section inside this month's issue of *Inside Golf Newspaper*.

Professional tours heading up to the Pacific Northwest for pair of events

The Pacific Northwest will welcome the LPGA and Champions Tours this summer with a pair of tournaments in the Seattle and Portland areas.

First on the tee will be LPGA Safeway Classic, set for Aug. 17-19 at Pumpkin Ridge's Ghost Creek Course. It marks the fourth straight year the event has been held at Pumpkin Ridge after moving from



Photo: Scott Bisch
Fred Couples

longtime home Columbia Edgewater.

Suzann Pettersen won last year's event in a playoff. The tournament features a purse of \$1.5 million and last year the Safeway Classic drew 88,000 fans for the week.

Pacific Northwest players such as Wendy Ward, Paige Mackenzie and Jimin Kang will be part of the field.

See www.safewayclassic.com for more information on the tournament.

Next up will be the Champions Tour's Boeing Classic, set for the TPC Snoqualmie ridge Aug. 24-26. Mark Calcavecchia won last year's tournament, which features a purse of \$2 million.

The event will draw the top players from the Champions Tour, including hometown favorite Fred Couples. Other Pacific Northwest Champions tour players Bob Gilder from Corvallis and Peter Jacobsen from Portland are expected to compete.

The tournament was voted as the Champions Tour's Player Award winner for 2011. For more information check out www.boeingclassic.com.

Destination: Puerto Rico

In the market for an exotic golf vacation? Then look no further than Puerto Rico. The island has a lot of terrific golf resorts like Rio Mar (pictured right) and some of the best weather you will find anywhere. For more on Puerto Rico and what you can find there, please see inside this section of *Inside Golf Newspaper*.



Chi Chi Rodriguez: There will never be anyone like him on or off the golf course

When you think of golf in Puerto Rico, there is only one thing that comes to mind. Where is Chi Chi Rodriguez hanging out and how can I meet him.

Of course, Puerto Rico is known for its vast beaches, warm temperatures, terrific golf resorts but it is also the home of one Juan "Chi Chi" Rodriguez, who put Puerto Rico on the golfing map with his play on the course and his schtick off the course.

On a recent trip to the Caribbean island, which roughly measures the size of Connecticut, our group was on Chi Chi watch from the beginning. In the airport, there was a Chi Chi sign promoting golf. In a golf magazine, there was Chi Chi again promoting the Puerto Rico Open which was going on the same week our group was in town.

But where was Chi Chi? Amazingly, turns out Chi Chi was waiting for our group when we made our first golfing stop at Dorado Beach Resort, a lavish three-course setup which runs along the ocean. As we stepped out of the van carrying our group, a short guy in a white hat and a sharp golf outfit walked toward the door. He stuck his hand out and said "I'm Chi Chi, it's great to have you guys here."

When you meet the 76-year-old Chi Chi, one of the first things you realize is that this man is a golfing icon in Puerto Rico and across the world of golf for that matter. Don't believe it, just take a look at what the Puerto Rico Open did for him.

They asked him to play a ceremonial nine holes before all of the other players in the final round so he could play in front of his hometown fans.

"Puerto Rico is very fortunate to have a guy like Chi Chi to call their own," said



Steve Turcotte

Puerto Rico Open Tournament Director Sidney Wolf. "This is a great way for the fans to see him in person and up close and give him a great reception."

Chi Chi does it all for golf in Puerto Rico. He is the spokesman of the island nation's golf television commercials. He is an ambassador for the Dorado Beach Resort and he seems to find time for anyone who crosses his path.

Chi Chi doesn't seem to forget a face or name. In fact when we were chatting him up at the Dorado Beach Resort and found out that I was from the Pacific Northwest, he asked how Tacoma-native and former PGA Tour player Ken Still was. "I loved playing golf with Ken," said Chi Chi. "He was always one of my favorites to play a round with."

When you look at his background, it's amazing to think that Chi Chi was an eight-time winner on the PGA Tour and then a 22-time winner on the Champions Tour. He stands just 5-foot-7 and tips the scales at 150 pounds. Yet, he won 30 times on pro tours - all this despite being born into a poor family in Puerto Rico, where his father earned as little as \$18 a week as a laborer and cattle handler.

Yet Chi Chi managed to get turned



Chi Chi Rodriguez

onto golf early becoming a caddy. To practice at an early age, Chi Chi would take a branch from a guava tree, turn it into a golf club and then a metal can and use it as a golf ball. By the time he was 12 years old he shot 67.

Chi Chi Rodriguez is Puerto Rico golf. He is like the pied piper. As he walked around the grounds of the Puerto Rico Open, kids and adults followed him, wanting autographs or just to talk golf. And he had time for everyone who wanted his signature or who wanted to talk golf.

There is indeed no one like him. There never will be again.

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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

Answer: The 2012 revised rules now provide for a two stroke penalty be applied to the score of the first hole for the #3 player. The #3 player had until 9:05:00 to arrive ready to play before he would be disqualified. The note to Rule 6-3a which provided for 5 minutes of tardiness without a disqualification has been moved into the Rule. Committees no longer need to put the note in effect.

• Inside Golf would like to thank rules official Paul Lucien for the rules questions.

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It pays to be social.   

Boeing Classic tickets on sale for August event; WSGA give you a way to acquire your handicap

It is a sports experience like no other in the Northwest and an affordable option that the entire family can enjoy. The Boeing Classic will be held August 24-26 at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge. With Tickets starting as low as \$20 per day and kids 14 and under receive free admission with a paid adult, it is affordable family fun.

Fans can also take advantage of tremendous hospitality tents with some of the best views on the course. The Canyon Club is located on the 448-yard par four 14th signature hole, where spectators watch in suspense as their favorite Champions Tour pro take the risk of driving their tee shot over Bear's Canyon or lay it up safely on the fairway.

The Champions Club is located on the 18th green and offers lounge areas, a sun deck, all-inclusive food-and beverage, and a front row seat. The Boeing Classic offers fantastic options to see the event.

Visit BoeingClassic.com for more info.

WSGA offers golfers new way to get own handicap

The Washington State Golf Association is offering a way for golfers to get a USGA handicap and other benefits they can use for \$34.95.

The offers also includes regular discounts, special golf offers, WSGA and PNGA membership benefits and a copy of Pacific Northwest Golfer Magazine.

For those who have never held a handicap or do not belong to an individual club, this just might be the right way to get a handicap for the first time. It's easy do to and can be done right online.

See www.thewsga.org/special offer to apply for the membership.

Central Oregon Golf Trail offering discount club cards

The Central Oregon Golf Trail is offering a COGT Players Card for the 2012 season which will feature 50 percent off golf rounds used at the group's 16 golf courses. The card costs \$119 and the card entitles the holder to play with a 50 percent discount at that course.

A couple of things to remember, the card is good after noon seven days a week and expires Dec. 31, 2012. Sales are limited and less than 100 COGT Players Cards remain for purchase. See www.centraloregongolftrail.com for more information.

Cascade Golfer Cup kicks off season series of events

The Puget Sound region has some of the most incredible golf in the world so why don't we have a website totally dedicated to the amazing links in our neck of the woods?

Now, we do—the all-new CascadeGolfer.com. In addition to news and features from *Cascade Golfer* magazine, the website includes daily specials to local courses from GolfNow.com, weekly product deals from Puetz Golf, video tips from Northwest teaching professionals and regular updates of golf news and videos of interest to Northwest golfers.

In addition, visitors to the site can take advantage of exclusive Cascade Golfer offers like:

- The Cascade Golfer Players Card: Five rounds of golf (one each) to White Horse, Druids Glen, Cedars at Dungeness, Mount Si and Highlander for \$129.
- The 2012 Muckleshoot Casino Match Play Madness: The state's top 32 courses have been seeded into a bracket, from which you will help

pick the No. 1 course in Washington state.

- The 2012 Cascade Golfer Cup: Over \$100,000 in prizes awarded to teams in seven team-scoring events at the top courses throughout the region -- win golf clubs, trips to dream locales like Pebble Beach Golf Resorts, Bandon Dunes and Las Vegas.

- The 2012 Central Washington Shootout: Fifty-four holes over three days in June at Prospector, Desert Canyon and Rope Rider. See cascadegolfer.com for more.

Umpqua Bank Challenge donates \$100,000 for charity

The Umpqua Bank Challenge announced that, in its inaugural year, the tournament raised \$100,000 for non-profit partners "I Have a Dream" Foundation – Oregon and Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel.

On-hand to award the monies raised were Tournament Host Peter Jacobsen and Umpqua Bank President and CEO Ray Davis. The two presented the funds at Alder Elementary, "I Have a Dream" Foundation – Oregon's "Dreamer School," in Portland's Reynolds School District.

Funds raised by the inaugural Umpqua Bank Challenge helped "I Have a Dream" Foundation – Oregon implement key efforts at their Dreamer School, such as providing 60 academic tutors in reading and writing for their Kindergarten through Second graders. Funds contributed to Randall Children's Hospital will be used to support a Family Conference & Resource Room on the 3rd floor of their new state-of-the-art facility, set to open February 2012.

The Umpqua Bank Challenge has a new host venue, The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in

Aloha and will be played Aug. 27-28.

Ballinger Lake: Hardy's in charge, tournament planned

Tyrone and Carol Hardy have their eye on the big things at Ballinger Lake Golf Course this year, a course just north of Seattle they have operated since 2005.

Rumors sometimes fly around in the golf world, but the Hardy's are in charge at Ballinger Lake Golf and the course has no plans on closing. With reasonable rates, the course has become a popular stop.

Hardy LLC will be hosting the sixth annual Sue Gifford Melanoma Memorial Golf Tournament May 19 at Ballinger Lake. The event has a \$60 entry fee and includes golf, breakfast and lunch. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Call 425.697.4653 for information about the event.

Keating comes from behind to win Senior Players Championship

Mark Keating of Astoria G&CC won the Senior Players' Championship at Indian Summer G&CC in Olympia. He came from two strokes behind to shoot a second round 70 - and a 142 total to win by one stroke over first round co-leader Tom Staskus of Tom's Golf Center in Olympia.

Jeff Coston of Semiahmoo G&CC and Jeff Fought of Black Butte Ranch GC tied for third place at 145.

Winning the Four-Ball competition was Fought and his amateur Randy Fisher of Shadow Hills CC. They fired 65-134 to win by four strokes.

There are golf tournaments. And then there is the Golf World Pacific Amateur Golf Classic - the largest amateur tournament in the west with divisions for men and women of all ages. This three-round 54-hole event showcases the best golf in Central Oregon. Kick up your spikes each night with spectacular 19th Hole festivities. Even if you don't win, you'll have a great time trying!

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Olympia's Gonzales goes the distance, wins on Nationwide

Olympia's Andres Gonzales completed a wire-to-wire victory in the Soboda Golf Classic, beating Andrew Svoboda by two strokes for his first Nationwide Tour title.

Gonzales closed with an even-par 71 to finish at 8-under 276 on The Country Club at Soboda Springs. The 28-year-old former UNLV player earned \$135,000.

Last September at Soboda Springs, Gonzales lost to Ted Potter Jr. in a playoff.

Svoboda also shot a 71. Alistair Presnell and Michael Letzig tied for third at 5 under. Presnell had a 68, and Letzig finished with a 70.

Svoboda eagled the par-5 sixth hole to take the lead, but bogeyed Nos. 10, 11 and 13, leaving Gonzales with a four-shot advantage midway through the back nine.

Gonzales, second in the season-opening Colombia Championship, leads the money list with \$195,810. The top 25 at the end of the season will earn 2013 PGA Tour cards.

"I was nervous today because I knew if I won this one I'd have a pretty good chance of getting back on the PGA Tour," said Gonzales, 192nd on the PGA Tour money list last year.



Andres Gonzales of Olympia.

broke the course record of 67 he established earlier in the championship.

At the Stanford U.S. Intercollegiate, Williams finished in a tie for 12th after he fired a pair of rounds in the 60s and posted a 3-over par 213 (68-77-68).

En route to his first collegiate win, senior Andrew Vizarro capped an impressive two-day run to win his first collegiate tourney in the Oregon Duck Invitational at the Eugene Country Club. The Bend, Ore., native shot a three-under final round to win the event by one stroke with his six-under three-round tally (71-70-69-210) over senior teammate Eugene Wong (second, 69-69-73-211).

Another Duck senior, Daniel Miernicki, followed another stroke back (third, 71-69-72-212) to cement a 1-2-3 sweep for the No. 14 Ducks.

Team-wise on the par 72, 7,007-yard course, UO held off Long Beach State to win by two strokes with its 17-under team score (284-279-284-847) over the 49ers (second, 280-284-285-849).

Oregon State finished fourth.

In Northwest college golf news

Washington junior golfer Chris Williams has been named the Pac-12 Men's Golfer of the Month for March.

Williams, from Moscow, Idaho, finished first at the Bandon Dunes Championship with a 9-under par 204 (71-67-66) to lead Washington to a tie for first in the team race. He finished six shots better than runner up Kevin Lim of Long Beach State in recording his fifth victory of his UW career, and moved him past former All-Americans Brock Mackenzie and Nick Taylor in the Husky record book. His 66 on the final round

Tour Players With NW Ties

THROUGH EVENTS PLAYED APRIL 22, 2012

PGA Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 136th on the list with \$172,940
- Ben Crane • Portland • 19th on the list with \$1,268,431
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • 29th on the list with \$1,042,238
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 59th on the list with \$597,965
- Troy Kelly • Bremerton • 193rd on the list with \$54,718
- Richard H. Lee • Bellevue • 157th on the list with \$115,420
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 7th on the list with \$2,008,919

Nationwide Tour

- Jason Allred • Ashland • 63rd on the list with \$18,612
- Andres Gonzales • Olympia • 1st on the list with \$195,810
- Jeff Gove • Seattle • 100th on the list with \$8,501
- Alex Prugh • Spokane • 76th on the list with \$15,791
- Michael Putnam • Tacoma • 61st on the list with \$18,806
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 40th on the list with \$26,400

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 7th on the list with \$391,125
- Bob Gilder • Corvallis • T44th on the list with \$70,539
- Peter Jacobsen • Portland • 62nd on the list with \$45,555
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 64th on the list with \$42,240

LPGA Tour

- Jimin Kang • Seattle • 37th on the list with \$79,869
- Paige Mackenzie • Yakima • 87th on the list with \$14,231
- Wendy Ward • Edwall, Wash. • 76th on the list with \$21,053

Did you know....

In the Casual Golf Days events organized and administered by the WSGA, 100 percent of the event's proceeds go to the host course, as a way of helping to bring people, revenue and rounds of golf to area courses. Some of the casual golf days will be held at private club, giving you a chance to play courses you might not normally get onto play.



Recently, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly recognized Terri Frohnmayer for her achievements on and off the course. She was the 2011 USGA Senior Women's Amateur Champion, 2011 PPGA's Senior Women's Player of the Year and the 2011 Golfer of the Year for the OGA.



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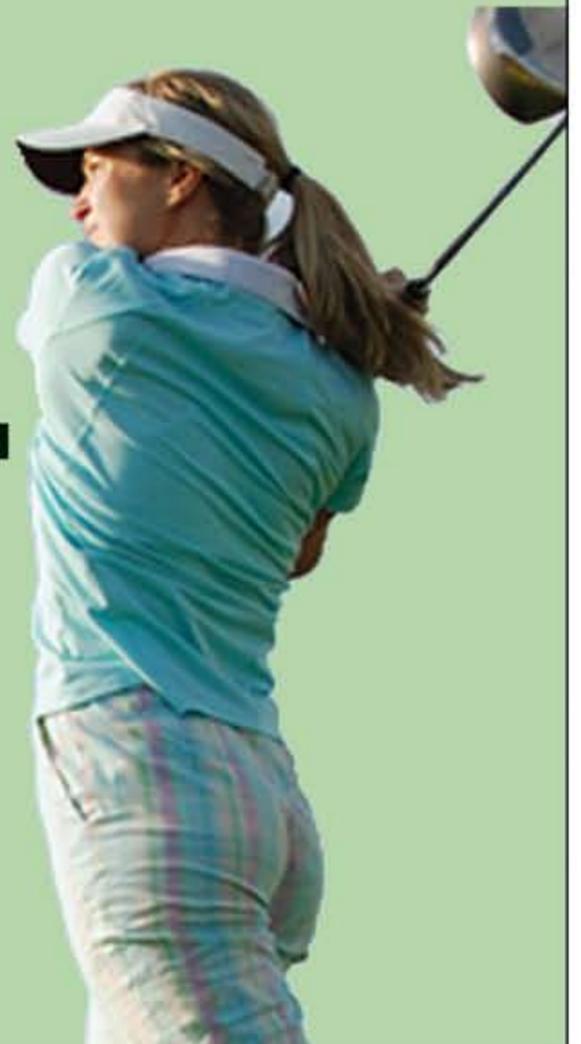
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- Prize Giveaway 2:00-3:00
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- The Beginners 4 Day Camps - Ages 10-13
- Intermediate Junior 4 Day Camps - Ages 9-17
- Advanced Junior 4 Day Camps - Ages 9-17
- Jackson: 206-363-4747



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Golf profile: Bart Turchin takes on a new challenge off the course

Bart Turchin spent 20 years working at Glen Acres Country Club in Seattle, 15 of them as the head professional. He enjoyed his gig. He loved working with golfers and helping them with their games. He liked the interaction with the club members.

But last year, through life's circumstances, Turchin decided to create a new career for himself. He enjoyed the golf business, but he wanted more. And now, he has found what he was looking for.

Turchin wanted to find work in the health business and help people at the same time. He found that with the Yoli Better Body System, a program he discovered from former Glen Acres member Jim Walker and a program he knew would be a great way to help people with their health,

Turchin started his new work with the

Yoli Better Body System last February and hasn't looked back. He has gotten several of his friends involved in the system, including many from the world of golf.

"It's more than just a weight loss program, it gets people feeling healthier and better," said Turchin. "It depends on people's needs. The program helps with the weight loss, gout, acid reflux and in a lot of cases, less pain."

One of Turchin's products is called Alkalete, a food supplement which is also approved by the FDA. He claims the pill is designed to balance the pH in your blood, and offers up himself as a case that the product working. He suffered a shoulder injury in 2010, keeping him off the golf course. He started taking the Alkalete and soon started using his shoulder more. He is now back on the golf course, taking swings the way he used

to and says the shoulder problems are a thing of the past.

Turchin used to be one of the top players in the NW during his days at Glen Acres. He won the Giusti Invitational and was a two-time Hudson Cup team member. He also qualified for the Greater Vancouver Open in 2001 after winning a Monday qualifier.

But now, he's trying something different. Something he hopes will help his friends and any one else who wants to improve their life. Along with the Alkalete, the Yoli Better Body System combines protein shakes, an energy drink and a Pro Biotic called Pure.

"It's a great system - I'm sold on it or I wouldn't be doing it," said Turchin.

If you'd like to contact Turchin, he can be reached at 206.856.6668 or via email at btur7@aol.com.



Bart Turchin

GolfWorld Pacific Amateur taking entries for August event

The 16th annual GolfWorld Pacific Amateur is set for Aug. 26-31 at some of Central Oregon's best golf courses.

The event is expected to attract over 600 players from around the country. Players will be divided into flights for a three-day, stroke-play event with handicaps being used. There will be a gross division for players without handicaps.

The event is put on by the Central Oregon Visitors Association and is one of the top amateur tournaments in the country.

The top players from each of the flights will get together on the final day of the tournament to play for the tournament cham-

ampionship. Anybody with a GHIN handicap is eligible to play. For more information call 888.425.3976 or check out the web site www.pacamgolf.com.

Tumwater junior selected for 2012 Ryder Cup Junior Academy

Kayla Monroe of Tumwater, representing the Pacific Northwest PGA Section, will participate in the 2012 Ryder Cup Junior Golf Academy, originally developed in response to recommendations from past United States Ryder Cup Team Captains, and part of the 2010 Ryder Cup Outreach program.

After a successful debut, the Academy

returns July 1-8, at the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance in Port St. Lucie, Fla. A total of 84 juniors have been selected to participate. The Ryder Cup Junior Academy is a week-long program that emphasizes a variety of skills.

Northwest juniors receive Evans Scholarships for 2012

The Evans Scholars Foundation has awarded 230 full housing and tuition college scholarships to deserving caddies across the United States beginning this fall.

Evans Scholars are golf caddies who are selected based on four criteria: a strong cad-

die record, excellent academics, financial need and outstanding character.

Most scholarship recipients are attending one of the 14 universities where the Foundation owns and operates a Scholarship House. The Evans Scholarship is valued at more than \$70,000 over four years.

Recipients include: Hannah Gibson of Bandon; Tony Huynh of Portland; James Kirkpatrick of North Bend; Jean Le of Portland; Alex Shields of Boring; Spenser Sutherland of Lake Oswego; William Tooze of Milwaukie; Timothy Dills of Sedro Woolley; Vivian Iwuoha of Seattle and Cameron Marin of Walla Walla.

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Destination: Puerto Rico

Island home to some quality golf courses and resorts – and the PGA Tour as well

It's easy to gush about a place like Puerto Rico, especially if you are the guy who runs the island's tourism division. But once Mario Gonzales-LaFuente starts talking about Puerto Rico, there's no stopping him.

Any why not? The place is literally an island paradise. With hundreds of miles of beaches, warm tropical temperatures, world-class golf resorts, a tropical rain forest with a mile-long 857-foot high zip line and food and historical culture that can't be beat, Puerto Rico is an easy place to speak of in high plitudes.

"Puerto Rico is a place that has something for everyone said Gonzales-LaFuente. "And once you've come to Puerto Rico, you're already thinking about coming back."

For those looking for a golf vacation Puerto Rico has it all. For those who need something away from the golf course, Puerto Rico has that too. For those who just want to lounge on a beach with a cocktail in their hand for days, that is not a problem.

Golfers will enjoy the variety of the courses. From the beach resort of Dorado to the majestic cliffs of Royal Isabela, there is a course to fit everyone's golf demands.

Puerto Rico has 23 golf courses throughout the island, in fact Trump International, just outside of San Juan, is home to a PGA Tour event. And it's an easy trip to get to San Juan International, taking just 3 1/2 hours from New York and 4 1/2 hours from Dallas Fort Worth. OK, a

little longer from the Pacific Northwest. Nonstop flights to and from Europe are also available.

Gonzales-LaFuente and his Puerto Rican tourism company are not shy when it comes to getting the word out about Puerto Rico and what it has to offer. One of their big things is to sponsor the Puerto Rico Open, which brings in thousands of room nights and big tourist dollars. In fact, Puerto Rico has 14,300 hotel rooms with that number growing to over 15,000 with the addition of A Ritz Carlton at Bahia Beach Resort.

The charm of San Juan and old San Juan brings in visitors by the hundreds every year, but the golf is starting to be a major attraction.

Dorado Beach Resort is a place with four golf courses and the East course is the attraction, having just undergone a major remodel. The resort is also the home of Chi Chi Rodriguez, who lives on the course and might even greet you when you arrive. The resort sits on three miles of Caribbean Coastline and is the home for a 130-room Ritz-Carlton Reserve. And the resort is expanding with more rooms and villas along the Caribbean beachfront.

El Conquistador is a place that sits near a mountain and runs into a valley with some spectacular oceanside settings. There's a water park for kids and an island called Palomino that serves as a private setting for resort guests. The course has elevation changes of over 200 feet and has plenty of memorable views.

St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort has a terrific



El Conquistador (top) is a hilly challenge; the Puerto Rico beaches are always a treat.



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Destination: Puerto Rico

golf course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. with saltwater lagoons on 15 of its 18 holes.

Rio Mar is a place with two courses, the Ocean Course and River Course. Both are well worth it. The resort itself is a treat with over 600 rooms and 72 suites, restaurants shops and more. The golf courses, designed by Greg Norman and Tom and George Fazio, are as different as courses can be. The Fazio's Ocean Course has a par-3 that is just a couple of feet away from the beach and the Caribbean Ocean. Norman's River Course has more water in play.

One of the newest gems in Puerto Rico is Royal Isabela, a course designed and owned by brothers Stanley and Charlie Pasarell. Both were world-class tennis players. This is one of those places that must be seen to be believed. The course is located on the Northwest side of the island, meaning it is a little bit longer drive from San Juan than the rest, but it is well worth the extra miles.

On the back nine, as you stand on the 17th tee, you see a huge ravine, the Caribbean in the background and a green surrounded by nothing but trouble. The view is so good you don't even want to hit. The course opened in 2008 and is destined for some of the best courses in the world lists. Royal Isabela will soon open villas which will have views of the ocean and the golf course.

Of course, there are other places to choose from to stay. Places like the Gran Melia, near Trump International, offer beachfront accommodations, including 131 rooms with restaurants, bars, shops and more to choose from

Golf is not the only thing Puerto Rico is known for.

The El Yunque Rain Forest is the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System.



The Bacardi Factory tour is always worth the time and the samples at the end of the trip make it worthwhile. Oldtown San Juan has 500-year-old buildings and offers some interesting history about Puerto Rico. The food in Puerto Rico is the most diverse of any Caribbean island.

One of the nice things about traveling to Puerto Rico is that it belongs to the United States, meaning you don't need a passport and don't have to worry about going through customs coming and going on your trip.

Even the PGA Tour players who come for the Puerto Rico Open love the place.

"I came here once a long time ago and fell in love with Puerto Rico," said two-time Puerto Rico Open champ Michael Bradley. "And when we added this place to the schedule, I knew I was going to play. It's a great place to be and a great place to play golf."

For information on Puerto Rico, check out www.seepuertorico.com.



Royal Isabela (top) and Dorado are two scenic Puerto Rico courses to challenge your game.

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The Lesson Tee: Here are some tips on how to get that good feeling shot

I had an interesting opportunity last month. The Intuit company called and asked me to do a nationwide commercial for them featuring the Jeff Coston Golf Academy. About a dozen folks came up to film at Semiahmoo. Then the next day they shut down a street in downtown Seattle and built a driving range. I taught passers by most of the day on the range they built on 2nd and University. (Photo 1) Check out the commercial online in May.

A solid struck golf shot sounds good, feels good and even smells good. People come to me and they want to "be more consistent." I show students the proper path, plane and sequence of all involved. Through the years I found an effective way to improve solid contact and even impact. You can call it a compression board if you will. (photo 2, hands ahead) This is a sample piece of cut out plywood. This "compression board" forces and gives golfers feedback to where their club enters the turf. I usually paint a line, put a ball on a tee and want my students to strike in front of, not behind, the line missing the board. (photo 2). One must LEAD with the grip/hands and right elbow to and beyond the ball to create this compressed strike.

If the player strikes the board first and or hits the ball fat; the club is releasing early and the hands and grip are slowing down toward the ball. This exercise is very effective in solid striking.

Note: The hands should be well ahead of the clubhead and ball at impact.

Jeff Coston is a former PGA Tour Player and 18-time Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. He can be reached at Semiahmoo Resort by calling 360.201.4590.



Jeff Coston hitting in downtown Seattle.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Ryan Moore Golf sees early growth with new company

The one thing that Ryan Moore Golf wanted to do when it rolled out with its membership plans in January was to make golf affordable at quality golf courses.

Moore, the Pacific Northwest native and PGA Tour star, talked with his father Mike about such a concept last year. And what they came up with has become one of the most popular tools in getting people to the golf course.

"It's a new concept what we are doing," said Mike Moore, Ryan's father and the owner of the Classic Golf Club in Spanaway. "It's a membership that is affordable and open to the public."

Ryan Moore Golf operates The Classic, McCormick Woods in Port Orchard and Oakbrook in Tacoma. All three are public courses and all are part of the Ryan Moore Golf family.

Memberships range from \$49 per month for a Twilight Membership, which includes year-round unlimited golf at any one of the courses during the twilight hours. Then there's the Premier Membership for \$99 at the Classic or McCormick Woods or \$119 at Oakbrook which goes for unlimited golf at any one of those courses. The top deal is the All Access Membership for \$179 which gives members unlimited golf year round at any of the three courses.

The Moore family is all involved as Mike owns the Classic and Ryan's brother Jason is in charge of marketing and promotions. The goal is to take the Ryan Moore Golf concept nationwide, said Mike Moore.

For more information, check out the web site www.rmgclub.com

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How many people play golf with ill-fitted equipment? Who really knows, but I'll be up-front with you: Way too many men and women, seniors and juniors, invest and play golf with equipment that impedes their progress - and their scoring goals!!

With the current onslaught of adjustable drivers, moveable club head weights, and even adjustable height tees, customizing your equipment to fit your game has never been easier. Yet, 80-90% of the new clients I see on a daily basis are playing ill-fitting equipment which is drastically affecting their swings, and their scores! When properly-fit equipment is put into their hands, the average golfer can gain between 10-20 yards with their irons and 30+ yards with their driver - with the same swing.

Here are some criteria you should use when determining where to get fit for your next set of clubs:



Brett Wilkinson

Be leery of "static" fittings, where clubs are fit based solely on measurements of your body. The process needs to include static and dynamic measurements, along with technology that integrates the two! Seeing your swing on video alongside key measurements is far more reliable than the "trust my eyes" methodology employed by some well-intentioned fitters.

Insist on using a launch monitor during your fitting to guarantee reliable, repeatable results. A launch monitor will capture key metrics including club head and ball speeds, launch angle, backspin/sidespin rates, and shot dispersion - vital information to ensure a proper fit. Also, make sure your club fitter knows the golf swing well and lets you hit a ton of golf balls with several club models. Make sure your club fitter is willing to spend 1-2 hours with you - because you are the one willing to make at a substantial investment in your golf equipment!

Double-check that the results you receive account for the variations in "standard" specs among manufacturers. For example: a "standard" Mizuno MP-59 6-iron is 37.25" long, has 30 degrees of loft and a lie angle of 61 degrees; however, a "standard" Taylor Made RocketBallz 6-iron is 37.625" long, and has

26.5 degrees of loft and a lie angle of 62.5 degrees. Please, keep in mind, both of these club options might be ideal, if fit properly! Also, remember the shaft is the key to any fitting, but remember to ask about different grip options - both in diameter size, weight, and texture.

Finally, ensure that specific make and model recommendations are fact-based. Do not allow results to be intentionally narrowed to accommodate a club maker or retailer's sales goals!

Equipment "off the rack" fits less than 15% of golfers - taking a few extra steps to find the right club fitter will guarantee your next set of clubs will perfectly complement your game and will be tuned to your swing, just like the professionals.

Brett Wilkinson is the PGA Director of Instruction with GolfTEC in Bellevue. He can be reached at 425.454.7956.

Women's golf: Identify where you are losing strokes

Dear Kathy:

Every year I say the same thing that this is the year I'm going to "fix" my swing. I have a 23 handicap, I know I could get to an 18 handicap, but I keep saying and doing the same thing each year. I've been playing golf over 10 years, but haven't really made any changes in my swing or game since I started. Any ideas on how to meet my goal?

Susie



Kathy DeNeui

many putts are you taking for 18 holes? If it's more than 36 take a putting lesson and commit to an hour a week putting practice. When you chip, are you getting the ball close

enough to one putt at least 50% of the time? If not schedule a chipping lesson and an hour a week - all year to practice your chipping.

I don't recommend a player "rebuild" their swing after they've been playing for 10 years, but you can usually pick one swing change to make over the season and two swing changes only if necessary. If you want more distance you need more club speed, get with a good instructor and identify one swing change that will make your swing more efficient. Get a drill to change your swing behavior and work on that one change all season.

In short, plan on taking at least two lessons, one on your full swing and one on your short game. Commit at least two hours a week to practice, and you should be able to

I know it's early in the season, but the first thing you want to do is identify where you're losing strokes. Are you getting on greens in regulation? Do you need more help with distance or in keeping the ball in play? How many putts are you taking for 18 holes?

meet your handicap goal by the end of the season.

Kathy DeNeui is an LPGA teaching professional at the Columbia Super Range in Everett. She can be reached at 425.338.2424.

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You may review the 2012 PSGA Golf schedule at nationalgolftours.com (PSGA link)

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Rules of the Game: There are now changes to identifying your ball

For this month's article we're going to examine Rule 12 (Searching for and Identifying Ball). Rule 12 underwent a major facelift in the 2012 revision to The Rules of Golf.

Prior to 2012, the Rules as to when you could and couldn't accidentally move the ball while searching for it were extremely convoluted. Although the following article might seem a bit convoluted in itself, suffice it to say that Rule 12 has been simplified.

The first thing that Rule 12 tells us is that you are not necessarily entitled to see your ball while making a stroke at it. For example, let's say your ball is in an area with several low-lying plants and vegetation. You search for your ball and you see it under the leaf of a plant that's growing and rooted in the ground, i.e., it's not a loose impediment and can't just be picked up and tossed aside. But when you go to address the ball from your normal stance position, the leaf completely hides your view of the ball. In this circumstance, you may not move or break that leaf in order to see your ball when at address.

One of the driving forces behind the changes to Rule 12 is the growing presence of links-style courses with an abundance of sand. I'm not necessarily talking about bunkers, but sand where traditionally there used to be rough. Chambers Bay is a perfect example. In a gesture of fairness and common sense, the USGA felt that it would be unfair to penalize someone who was probing with their club, hands, feet or otherwise in searching for a ball that he felt was buried in the sand. Therefore, if you are probing for your ball in sand anywhere on the course, including bunkers and water hazards, there is no penalty if you move your ball if you locate it. You merely need to recover all but a small part of the ball with sand prior to making your stroke at it.

Conversely, if your ball is covered with any-



Mike Peluso

thing else – leaves, twigs, or other loose impediments – and you move your ball while searching for it anywhere on the course, including bunkers and water hazards, you are penalized one stroke and the ball must be replaced. But there is a way out of this:

You can carefully remove those leaves and twigs if you think your ball is covered by them, but you still have to be careful not to move your ball, or else you're penalized. In a hazard, if you find your ball, you need to replace those leaves and twigs. But here's a twist: While you're penalized a stroke if you move your ball removing those leaves and twigs, you're not penalized if you move your ball when you replace those leaves and twigs as required by the Rule.

Although on the surface this may seem illogical, it actually makes perfect sense. There's nothing in the Rules that require you to move those leaves to find your ball, but, in a hazard, the Rules do require you to replace them if you find your ball hidden underneath. The Rules aren't going to penalize you for following a procedure that they require, as long as you're attempting to do it correctly.

In a water hazard, Rule 12 doesn't penalize you if you're probing for your ball in water and

move it. Again, it's just some logic here. The Rules will allow you to probe for your ball in water, and by the very nature of water, the ball will very likely move. But be careful here. This only applies if you are actually probing for the ball with your hand or a club. If you jump into the water and the splash and ripples cause the ball to move, you're penalized one stroke.

Finally, if you're looking for your ball in an Abnormal Ground Condition such as Ground Under Repair and you move your ball. There is no penalty and you can either replace it or proceed directly with taking free relief as allowed from Abnormal Ground Conditions. This also applies to obstructions of any sort.

The second part of Rule 12 outlines the procedure for correctly lifting your ball for identification if you can't identify it because the marks or brand or number are not visible as the ball lies. It's a simple four-part process:

1. Announce your intention to your fellow-competitor or marker in stroke play or your opponent in match play that you intend to lift a ball to identify it as yours;
2. Mark and lift the ball and give your opponent, fellow-competitor or marker the opportunity to observe the lifting and marking. They don't have to observe it, but they must be given the opportunity to observe it;
3. You may not clean the ball except to the extent necessary to identify it, i.e., if it's covered with mud, and;
4. Replace the ball at the spot from which you lifted it.

If you fail to comply with 1, 2 or 3 above, or any combination of the three, you incur a one-stroke penalty. If you fail to replace the ball on its original spot and play it, you incur a total penalty of two strokes, whether or not you comply with 1, 2 and/or 3 above.

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Riverbend would like to thank all of the vendors and participants who made the **11th Annual Spring Demo Day** a huge success.

Riverbend would also like to thank all of the Junior golfers who participated in the **17th Annual Junior Spring Classic.**



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Girls Night Out

June 14 \$40 per session, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Hosted by Golf Professionals Eric Hinrichs and Josh Immordino. Open to women over 21 years of age who are looking to improve their games in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Call (253) 859-4000 for details.



SUMMER JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

July 9 – 12, 2012

\$125 per student

Ages 6-10 • 9:00-12:00

Ages 11-15 • 1:00-4:00

No experience necessary

19TH ANNUAL **RIVERBEND AMATEUR**

August 11-12, 2012

Par 3 Golf Course: 253-854-4653 Driving Range: 253-859-4000

A City of Kent Facility | 253.TEE.TIME | riverbendgolfcomplex.com

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