## THE SOURCE FOR NORTHWEST GOLF NEWS

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## **NW native and former PGA Tour** player Troy Kelly sets up school

Pacific Northwest native and former PGA Tour player Troy Kelly is turning to the instructional part of golf. He has taken the roles as Director of Instruction at Gig Harbor Golf Club and will also be putting together his own golf school. For more on Kelly and Gig Harbor Golf Club please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



## **WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF**

### **Professional golf events** still on the NW schedule

If you want to check out professional golf in the Pacific Northwest, there are plenty of opportunities to do just that.

- The WinCo Foods Portland Open will have the top players from the Korn Ferry Tour playing at Pumpkin Ridge's Witch Hollow Golf Club Aug. 6-9. The top 25 from the money list after this event qualify for the PGA Tour for 2021. (Event is pictured below).
- The Cambia Portland LPGA Classic will feature the top players from the LPGA Tour at Columbia Edgewater Country Club with newly rescheduled dates of Sept. 17-20



Fans enjoy the WinCo Foods Portland Open.

## **NBA** star and **NW** native **Zach LaVine tees it up**

Zach LaVine, who played his high school basketball at Bothell High School and has be-

come an NBA star, teed it up with Inside Golf Newspaper and said he is serious about his golf game.



drafted by the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2014. His NBA season is done for 2019-20 after the Bulls failed to qualify for the post season.

But now LaVine is off to the golf course, hoping to hit shots like he does from three-point range. For more, see inside.

### **Rules Quiz**

A player hits their approach shot into a greenside bunker and the ball is embedded in the dirt face at the edge of the bunker. Does he get relief without penalty and where does he take relief? Please see the answer on Page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.

## **Boeing Classic is** postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19

The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced the tournament organizers of the Boeing Classic to postpone this year's event and wait until 2021.

The tournament was set to be held Aug. 21-23 at the Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club, located just east of Seattle. The tournament has been played in the Puget Sound area since 2005 and is one of the most popular events on the PGA Tour Champions.



### **Sheep Ranch: Bandon Dunes' latest golf jewel**



As if Bandon Dunes needed another reason to cement its position as one of the top resorts in the world, along comes the new Sheep Ranch, designed by the team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore.

## **Bandon Dunes set** to play host to the 2020 U.S. Amateur **Golf Championship**

Bandon Dunes Resort on the Oregon Coast has been a long-time supporter of the United States Golf Association and this summer that support takes another step when the resort hosts the United States Men's Amateur Championship.

The championship will be held Aug. 10-16 at both Bandon Dunes and Bandon Trails. Bandon Trails will be a co-host for the stroke-play part of the tournament while the match play will take place at Bandon Dunes.

A field of 312 players is expected to take part in the tournament for two days of stroke play qualifying with the top 64 players advancing to match play.

Hosting USGA championships is nothing new for Bandon Dunes Resort as the resort has played host to the 2006 Curtis Cup, 2007 U.S. Mid-Amateur, 2011 U.S. Women's Public Links, 2015 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball and the 2019 U.S. Amateur Men's Four-Ball.

Bandon Dunes opened for play in 1999 and was designed by David McLay Kidd. It will play to 7,218 yards for the championship while Bandon Trails, designed by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore, will play to 6,883 for the tournament.

The 2021 U.S. Amateur is scheduled for Oakmont in Pennsylvania.

## **Home Course takes** on a new look with a golf shop opening

The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. has long been considered one of the top courses in the Pacific Northwest since opening. The Pacific Northwest Golf Association holds many of its championships at the course as well. And now, golfers will see an added amenity when they show up for their tee time with the opening of the new golf shop. Gone is the old trailer which housed the pro shop and a couple of offices. Now comes the new golf shop at the course. For more on what the Home Course has to offer, see inside.



## Northwest native and NBA star LaVine finds out that golf is tough - and addictive

There isn't much on the basketball court that Zach LaVine can't do. Need a rim-rattling dunk, he's got you covered. After all, he did win the NBA Slam Dunk Championship twice. Need a deep three? No problem. In fact, in a game against Charlotte back in November, LaVine scored a career-high 49 points, hitting 13 three-pointers along the way, including the game winner.

He grew up in Bothell, went to Bothell High School and then played at UCLA for one year before being drafted by the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2014. His NBA career has taken off ever since.

Now, the golf course is a little different matter for LaVine. As good as he is on the basketball court, he is finding golf is not as easy. But after two rounds this summer, LaVine is hooked. His longtime friend Tony Willis is working with his swing and fellow professional basketball player Sekou Wiggs is becoming a regular golfing partner.

LaVine decided that golf was a great avenue when the NBA season shutdown due to the Coronavirus situation. The NBA season will re-start with 22 teams in Orlando. LaVine, who now plays for the Chicago Bulls, will not be part of the re-start as the Bulls finished 24th.

That just gives LaVine more time to fine-tune his game. LaVine shoots the basketball right- handed but plays golf left-handed, which makes sense since he was a lefty on the baseball field growing up. He was such a good baseball player at a young age. that his dad Paul thought he was destined for a career in the big leagues. But basketball became his love, practicing in the family backyard with his long jump shots and dunks. As a senior at Bothell, LaVine averaged nearly 30 points per game and was the state's Player of the Year.

He played with the Timberwolves for three seasons before being traded to the Bulls in 2017. In 2018, LaVine signed a new deal with the Bulls for four years and \$80 million. His career averaged a solid - 17.7 points per game, nearly four assists per game and averaging over 30 minutes.

As much as LaVine likes his time on the basket-

Double Bogey



ball court, he is finding that time on the golf course can be fun, but also maddening at times.

At Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way, LaVine teed it up for just the third time. He had borrowed clubs, a right-handed putter (probably not a good thing for a left-handed player) and a driver with a whippy shaft that didn't help his fast swing.

All of that didn't matter. The smile on LaVine's face when he stood over his first tee shot at Twin Lakes said it all. That shot turned out to be a grounder down the fairway. His second shot, something similar. But then he proceeded to hit a 7-iron 170 yards over the par-4 green. "Was that good?," LaVine asked Willis, who proceeded to look at me like 'how did someone new to the game just rip a 7-iron that far?'

LaVine has always been a high caliber athlete. Might have got it from his dad Paul, who played in both the NFL and the USFL. His mother CJ was a softball player. Athletic genes run in the LaVine

On the third hole, Willis told him to hit pitching wedge - on the 115-yard par-3. He proceeded to hit that club 155 yards. But as the shot sailed long, LaVine saw just how maddening golf can be with some grounders and missed putts - although he was using a righthanded putter so we will cut him some slack on those missed putts. "This is frustrating but I like the fact it's all on me - and a real individual game," LaVine said. "I just never realized how hard

On the par-4 6th hole at Twin Lakes, LaVine hit a drive that looked like a pop up. This pop up went 280 yards. On the ninth hole he nearly drove the par-4 green with what looked like another pop up. "It's time I start getting serious about this game,"

As good as LaVine is on the basketball floor, he just might have some golf game in him too. Just give him some time.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.



Zach Lavine works on his golf game at Twin Lakes.

#### Harold Bluestein PGA







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#### **Rules Answer**

• Answer: .A lip, wall or face at the edge of a prepared area and consisting of soil, grass, stacked turf or artificial materials under the revised Rules of Golf are no longer defined as part of a bunker. Now that area is part of the "general area" of the course. The player is entitled to relief without penalty but relief must be in the general area. That may mean the player will have to move some distance to get to a spot in the general area where she can drop a ball without being closer to the hole.

Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for



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## Northwest native and former PGA Tour player Troy Kelly starts up own school

Northwest native and former PGA Tour player Troy Kelly will be hosting his own golf school at Gig Harbor Golf Club as the director of instruction at the club.

Kelly is well acquainted with the Pacific Northwest having grown up in the area and playing for the University of Washington before turning pro. He was a first-team All-Pac-10 golfer and placed second in the NCAA Championships before playing on the PGA Tour for over 10 years.

His brother Ryan and father Bob run Hackers Bar and Grill at Madrona Golf Course in Gig Harbor. They also have recently joined Gig Harbor Golf Club.

Gig Harbor Golf Club is a nine-hole club with a membership that is looking forward to Kelly opening his school, said General Manager Ryan Willie.

The club has expanded the driving range and made new practice areas for the school.





Former PGA Tour player Troy Kelly will start his own golf school at Gig Harbor Golf Club as the club re-did its practice area to get the school rolling.

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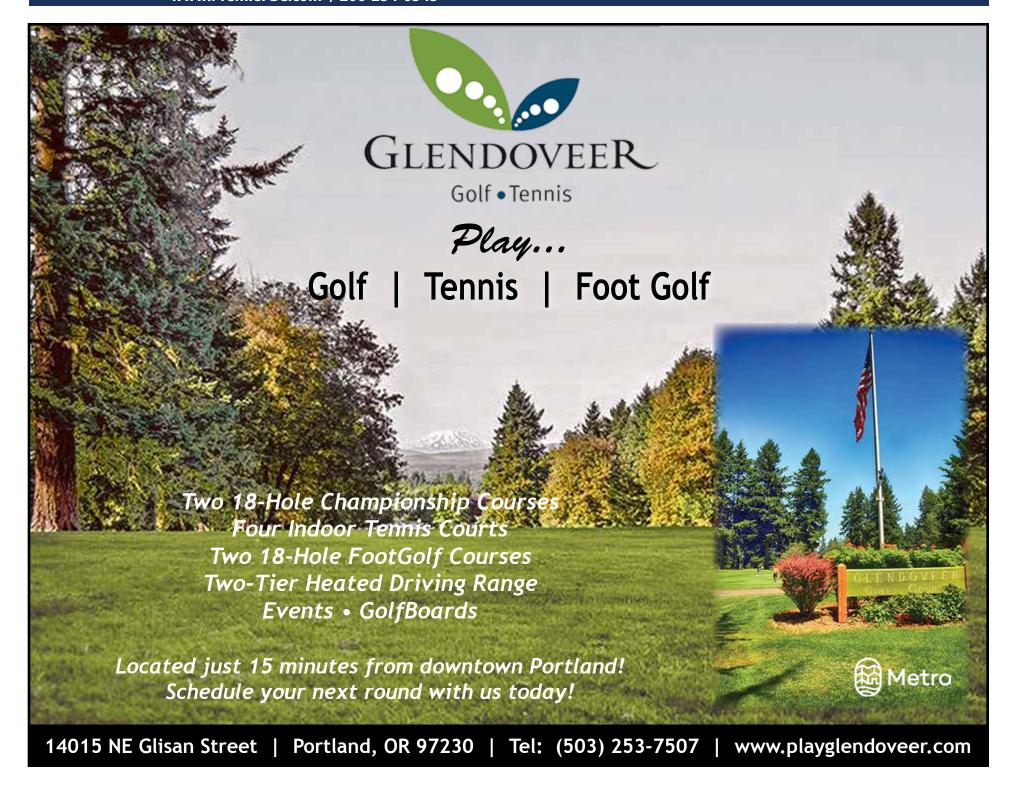
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## PNGA and other NW associations still planning on 2020 championships; Spike Beeber passes away at age of 91

The Pacific Northwest Golf Association, WA Golf and the Oregon Golf Association have kept some of their championships on the 2020 schedule and cancelled others.

The PNGA has cancelled a few events but have kept others on the schedule including the marquee event of the summer the PNGA Men's Amateur, set for July 6-11 at The Idaho Club in Sandpoint, Idaho. The PNGA Women's Amateur is still on the schedule set for July 13-17 at the Home Course in DuPont, Wash. The PNGA Junior Boys and Girls Championships are set for Aug. 17-21 at Palouse Ridge in Pullman, Wash.

Other events on the PNGA schedule include the Men's Mid-Amateur Sept. 16-18 at Big Sky in Pemberton, B.C. and the Women's Mid-Amateur set for the Home Course July 13-17.

WA Golf will host its Washington Men's Amateur event Aug. 11-13 at Chambers Bay. Other events on the WA Golf calendar include the Parent-Child on July 20 at the Home Course, the Mixed Chapman Aug. 24 at Lake Spanaway, the Men's Mid Amateur Aug 27-28 at McCormick Woods, the Senior Men's and Super Senior Men's Amateur Sept. 22-24 at Walla Walla Country Club.

#### **Central Oregon Fall Shootout set**

The second annual Central Oregon Fall Shootout is set for Oct. 3-4 at both Black Butte Ranch and Eagle Crest Resort. The two-day tournament is open to any player with a USGA handicap.

There will be flights for both men and women with the tournament using three divisions for play. Cost is \$900 for a four-player team and includes golf, carts, practice balls, tee gift, continental breakfast, lunch and more. For more information call 541.595.1292.

#### **Washington Golf Pass deals**

The Washington Golf Pass features exclusive specials and deals from golf courses and facilities

throughout Washington Golf territory, and will also feature exclusive offers on retail products, tickets to sporting events, and travel destinations.

The Pass is free to all active WA Golf members. It will not be available to the public or to inactive WA Golf members. Members need only visit WAGolfPass. com to activate their pass by using their GHIN number. The Pass is strictly an online product - there is no printed book or coupons. N on-WA Golf members can get the pass simply by either signing up at their local course or by joining online at WAgolf.org/join. Along with the Golf Pass, new members will also receive all other great WA Golf benefits.

The Washington Golf Pass is also a great benefit for golf facilities, who have faced challenges from costly tee time services and other discount passes.

It costs golf facilities absolutely nothing to be listed in the Washington Golf Pass – no tee times surrendered, no fees of any kind, no costs for advertising or promotion; and the facilities keep all the revenue from their offers, they get to dictate their offer, and with the Golf Pass being a digital-only product, they can change their offer at any time throughout the year.

For questions, email info@wagolfpass.com or call the WA Golf office at 253-214-2919.

#### Washington Youth on Course program

The Washington Golf Youth on Course program provides junior golfers the opportunity to play golf at an affordable rate in partnership with participating facilities. Although the junior pays only \$5, WA Golf then subsidizes an additional amount to each course.

The program gives golfers age 6-18 access to play \$5 rounds of golf at more than 55 participating courses in Washington and Northern Idaho, and more than 1,500 courses throughout the U.S. For a sign-up fee of just \$20 through Washington Golf, youth can start playing some of the best (and easily accessible) courses in the state and beyond for just \$5.

Visit WAgolf.org/yoc for details on the program or to sign-up for a membership. For more information, contact Torrin Westwood at 253-214-2919 or twestwood@wagolf.org.

#### Spike Beeber passes away

A true gentleman and legendary tournament golfer in the Northwest for decades, who had spent many years dedicated to the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, Raymond "Spike" Beeber passed away in June. He was 91.

Born in Seattle on December 21, 1928, Spike's family moved to Spokane in 1938 where they lived until 1946. It was in Spokane that Spike was introduced to the game, caddying for his father at Wandermere Golf Course. As a junior player at Spokane's North Central High School, Spike made it to the final match of the 1946 National Jaycee Junior Golf Championship, bowing to eventual PNGA Hall of Famer Al Mengert in the 36-hole final match, held that year at Indian Canyon Golf Course.

Spike Beeber served as PNGA President in 1994-1995. Spike Beeber served as PNGA President in 1994-1995.

#### Myrtle Beach World Am signups

Registration is now open for the Myrtle Beach World Amateur, which will be played Aug. 31-Sept. 4 at some of Myrtle Beach's top golf courses.

More than 3,000 golfers from around the world are expected to play in this year's event - including golfers from all 50 states.

There will be \$25,000 in prizes to be won and there will be nearly 70 flights for men, women and seniors.

In addition, the tee gift bag will feature \$300 in value and the winners of each of the flights in the tournament qualify for a fifth round, which is the championship round for flight winners. For info see www.myrtlebeachworldam.com.

CASINO

## **Golfweek Amateur** Tour offers events in Seattle, Portland

The well-established Golfweek Amateur Tour is ready to host tournaments in the greater Portland and Seattle/Tacoma areas during the upcoming 2020 golf season. The Tour provides amateurs the experience of competitive stroke-play golf.

#### June 20, 2020

#### Rock Creek Country Club

Golfweek Oregon welcomed another steady field for the second event of the year. Player's held steady throughout the flight despite a downpour late in the round. The next event is July 12th at Stone Creek Golf Course, a Peter Jacobsen Design. The remaining 2020 Schedule gets fast and furious moving into August and September with 8 events. FREE Membership to the Portland Tour for player's participating in a 2020 Event!

#### **Champ Flight**

Geoff Rodgers had a strong finish with a strong round of 77 at a very difficult putting course. Champ flight will likely go back and forth this year with the top two contenders

#### A Flight

Chris Terry wins a 1 hole playoff! Rock Creek CC and Golfweek member takes home the trophy with a strong 80 and playoff win. The win takes him from last place in the flight to 1st

#### **B** Flight

New Tour Member Bobby Lee finishes strong with an 88 and makes a splash to the tour winning his first ever Golfweek event!

#### C Flight

Tony Bautista's birdie and super skin on the toughest hole on the course propelled him well past his opponents shooting a steady 88,4 shots ahead of fellow competitors.

#### D Flight

Jim Ferguson does it again! Back to Back wins with a flight best 97. This could get repetitive this year.



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# Trailer is now gone as a new shop opens for Home Course

The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. is taking on a new look as its new pro shop has opened. Gone is the old trailer which housed the pro shop and a couple of offices. In is the new shop.

When the course opened in 2007 it was an award winner. And since then the course designed by Mike Asmundson and owned and operated by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and WA Golf, has consistently been near or at the top of most "best of" lists.

In fact, in 2010 the Home Course served as a co-host for qualifying for the U.S. Amateur, was the solo host of the 2014 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links and has hosted many of the PNGA and WA Golf championships through the years.

The new pro shop is a welcome sight for the course. The shop had been operating out of a trailer for years but now with the new digs, things look new and different at The Home Course.

The Home Course in DuPont is considered one of the best public golf courses in Washington. Throughout the walkable layout, golfers will enjoy scenic views of the Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rainier. It's a long course at 7,424 yards from the back tees. The challenging greens play fast and are complemented by wide fairways with generous landing areas.

There are several challenging holes where you'll face strategically placed bunkers and subtle, but tricky elevation changes. The golf course begins with a few open, parkland holes and then it gets more challenging. The seventh hole is one of the toughest, starting from an elevated tee to a green that is neatly tucked behind a lake.

Opened in early summer of 2007, The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. was immediately lauded by *Golfweek* magazine as the No. 2-ranked "Best Public Course in Washington." It is a walkable layout with panoramic views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rainier present throughout the golf course.

#### **The Home Course**

Here are some facts and figures about The Home Course.

- Where: DuPont, Wash.
- Owners: Pacific Northwest Golf Association (PNGA) and WA Golf.
  - General Manager: Justin Gravatt
  - Designer: Mike Asmundson
- **Course facts:** The Home Course plays 7,424 from the back tees called Dynamite. There are six sets of tees. A new pro shop has opened to go with the Golf House Grill. Course played co-host for the U.S. Amateur in 2010.





The Home Course, owned and operated by the PNGA, has opened up a new golf shop (above) and saw its old trailer pro shop wheeled away (top).

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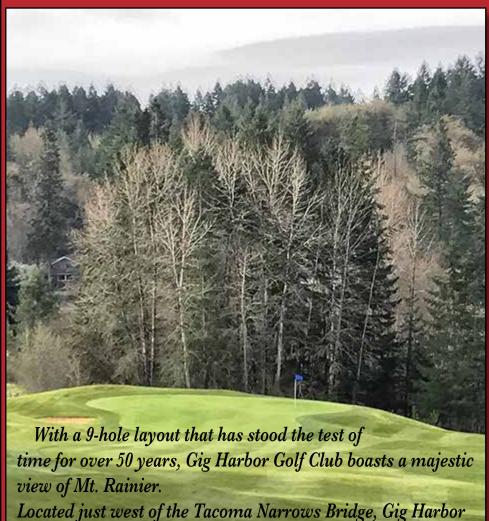


## Soon to be the home of the Troy Kelly Golf School

Troy Kelly grew up in the Northwest and had tremendous success as an amateur golfer. He carried that success into his collegiate career at the University of Washington where he earned First Team All Pac-10 Honors, placed 2nd in the NCAA National Championship and was a two-time All-American. After college, Troy earned his card and competed for over 10 years on the PGA Tour.

Gig Harbor Golf Club is a private member owned club. When you are a member of GHGC, you are part of our family. We have outstanding golf and social events and encourage family participation.

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16 corridors.

## PGA Tour will create a new pipeline to get to the pros for college golfers

The PGA Tour announced that it is creating a pipeline from college golf to its professional tours at every level. It has put into place for 2021 the PGA Tour University Ranking List, which will reward four-year NCAA Division I golfers at the conclusion of each year's NCAA Championship in May.

Here are the logistics from the PGA Tour: The top 15 finishers from the final Official PGA Tour University Ranking List at the conclusion of each NCAA collegiate spring season (defined by the conclusion of the NCAA Men's Division I Golf Championship) will be awarded exempt status to the Korn Ferry Tour, PGA Tour Latinoamérica, Mackenzie Tour -- PGA Tour Canada and PGA Tour Series -- China, based on their respective finish.

The top five finishers from the final Official PGA Tour University Ranking List will receive Korn Ferry Tour membership and will be exempt into all open, full-field events beginning the week following the conclusion of the NCAA Division I Men's National Championship through the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour regular season. The top five finishers will also be exempt into the Final Stage of that year's Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament.

This is a great step by the PGA Tour and possibly

a self-serving one as well. When big names leave college, they are left with few options for playing professionally. Some of the biggest names will get sponsor exemptions into events but then they have to play elite golf immediately to qualify for any tour the following season. This alleviates some of that by giving the best college golfers a reasonable pathway to -- at the very least -- Korn Ferry Tour status from May thru September.

It also begins to align the PGA Tour globally in a meaningful way. As the top tour anywhere in the world, it has done a good job of bringing a variety of smaller tours under its brand. This is a version of that as college golf now cohesively feeds into several of those tours. It made me wonder something I've thought of often during this coronavirus pandemic: whether the PGA Tour could make a play on the European Tour in the future and assume full control of every significant tour in the world. That idea has been floated for decades, but the pandemic may be speeding up its viability.

Regardless, getting big-name college golfers into your feeder tours is wise and beneficial for everyone involved. It may even keep some golfers in school for an extra year with the idea that they could play their way into better status based on what they do.

#### Did you know....

• Washington Golf continues to collaborate

with the Golf Alliance of Washington and their lobbyist in Olympia, spending numerous hours on phone calls and meetings to keep golf at top-of-mind with Governor Inslee's office,



advocating for the game's safety and necessity. WA Golf is instrumental in advocating for golfers during the COVID pandemic.

• First held in 1899, the PNGA Men's and Women's Amateur Championships are among the oldest in North America. Tiger Woods won the 1994 PNGA Men's Amateur, and World Golf Hall of Famer JoAnne Carner won the 1956 and 1958 Women's Amateur. In 2020, the Men's Amateur will be held July

6-11 at The Idaho Club, and the Women's Amateur will be held July 13-17 at The Home Course.

## **Tour Players With Northwest ties**

- Kevin Chappell Kirkland 190th on the list with \$142.690
- Ben Crane Portland 209th on the list with \$71,831
- Joel Dahmen, Clarkston 32nd on the list with \$1,550,228
- Robert Garrigus Gresham 223rd on the list with \$21,885
- Scott Harrington
   Portland
   62nd on the list with \$862,841 • Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 78th on the list with \$723,350
- Cheng Tsung Pan Ex-UW 159th on the list with \$238,971
- Andrew Putnam
   Tacoma
   117th on the list with \$445,566
- Kyle Stanley Gig Harbor 139th on the list with \$328,680
- Nick Taylor Ex-UW 25th on the list with \$1,802,626
- Aaron Wise Ex-Oregon 159th on the list with \$22,728

#### **Korn Ferry Tour**

- Robert Garrigus Gresham 81st on the list with \$20,162
- Andres Gonzales Olympia 119th on the list with \$9,288
- Alex Prugh Spokane •116th on the list with \$10,453
- Dylan Wu Medford 6th on the list with \$115,318

#### **Champions Tour**

- Fred Couples
   Seattle
   6th on the list with \$423,467
- Bob Gilder Corvallis No Events
- Brian Henninger Eugene No Events
- Peter Jacobsen Portland 108th on the list with \$1,056
- Kirk Triplett Pullman 38th on the list with \$70,255

#### Mackenzie Tour (Canada) - 2020 Tour Cancelled

- Derek Barron Puyallup No Events
- Alistar Docherty
   Vancouver, Wash.
   No Events
- Chris Killmer Bellingham No Events
- Cory Pereira Ex-UW No Events
- Chris Williams Ex-UW No Events
- Eugene Wong Ex-Oregon No Events

#### **LPGA Tour**

- Erynne Lee Silverdale No Events
- Carolyn Inglis Eugene No Events
- Jing Yan Ex-UW 78th on the list with \$13,661

#### **LPGA Symetra Tour**

- Jamie Huo
   Kent
   61st on the list with \$404
- Jimin Kang Seattle No Events • Mallory Kent • Seattle • No Events
- Sadena Parks
   Tacoma
   No Events
- Kim Welch Ex-WSU No Events







## The Lesson Tee: The 'Swing Station' just might be the thing to cure that over the top swing move

Throughout this Covid19 situation I have given dozens upon dozens of online golf lessons and mentoring sessions. (See jeffcoston.com).

I have also been able to show clients how not only to improve on the driving range, but at home when nothing was open.

This "Swing Station" would help at least 95% of club golfers.

I have two driver shafts jammed together with one of my grandkids swimming noodles on top. This is even with my right shoulder and six inches to the right of my shoulder. (Photo 1). As you turn back, you would keep your arms and shaft below these Anti-Lift Poles.

"The Cone," is even with my toe line and equal with the hosel of my club as I turn back. (Photo 1).

Here's the key and procedure; as I TURN back the club head is slightly on the outside of The Cone. (Photo 1).

Procedure 2: As I continue to turn my hips and shoulders, I keep my shaft and arms under the Anti-Lift Poles. (Photo 2).

Procedure 3: On my downswing, as I swing my hands, arms and shaft to the ball, I swing on the inside of The Cone. (Photo 3).

This "Swing Station," can be used on the driving range hitting shots or at home not hitting shots. You are creating a habit or swing path from an "inside approach" rather than a steep/above the proper swing plane or "Over the Top" approach.

Develop striking the ground where you want and squaring the club face. Perhaps that will be next month.

Jeff Coston is ranked #1 Teacher in Washington by Golf Digest and in the Pacific Northwest PGA Hall of Fame. Jeff is a 23-time Player of the Year and can be reached by calling Semiahmoo at 360.201.4590. See jeffcoston.com)



This "Swing Station," can be used on the driving range hitting shots or at home not hitting shots. You are creating a habit or swing path from an "inside approach" rather than a steep/above the proper swing plane or "Over the Top" approach.



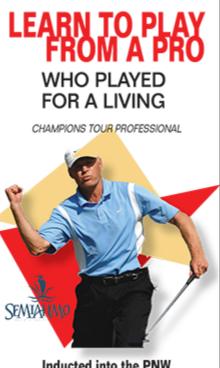
Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Inducted into the PNW PGA Hall of Fame

23-time PNW PGA Player of the Year All time Major Tournament Winner in NW golf history

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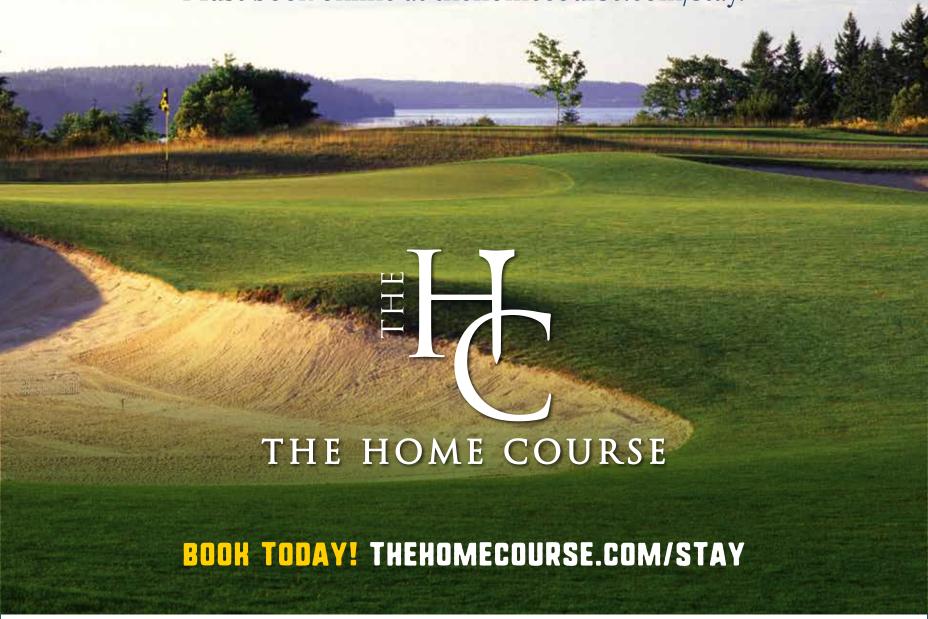
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# Rules of the Game: Why do the rules treat paper differently than pine straw?



You and your golfing partner each hit a great shot off the tee. When you find your balls lying side by side you discover that your ball is lying on pine straw and your friend's ball is lying on a piece of paper on pine straw similar to the situation in the photo.

Your friend picks up his/her ball, removes the paper, removes the pine straw and drops the ball within the one club length relief area (Rule 15.2a).

You have heard that when you drop a ball you can remove loose impediments prior to dropping it, so you assume you can remove loose impediments that are under your ball, after all it's pretty much the same as your partner's ball on the paper. You go to pick up your ball and your friend says, "Don't touch it! That's a penalty."

Shaking your head in dismay and confusion you step back and assess the shot. Somehow it doesn't seem fair that a piece of paper should be treated differently than pine straw, especially because you cleared pine straw away from the area in which you dropped a ball in taking free relief from a cart path on the last hole and your ex-friend did the same just now.

You are right, sometimes the rules seem arbitrary. The rules of golf operate under two broad



There are two different rules apply to these two golf balls in a similar place on the golf course.

principles which are "play the course as you find it and the ball as it lies". So.... The pine straw is an existing natural condition of the course and you need to accept it (or declare your ball unplayable for one penalty stroke and select one of your options). The piece of paper is man-made and, as such, is not an existing natural course condition so your friend gets to remove it.

You are likely asking why can you remove pine straw (or any other loose impediments) before dropping a ball but not if your ball lies on it?

While your ball is in your hand prior to being dropped the rules allow the removal of loose im-

pediments in the relief area because the ball does not yet have a spot on the course.

In the situation you currently face your ball has a spot on the course after coming to rest after a stroke and if that lie includes loose impediments they are now part of the existing condition. Just a reminder....if a loose impediment lies next to your ball and you move the loose impediment which causes your ball to move you incur the dreaded one stroke penalty, MUST replace the ball, BUT you do not have to replace the loose impediments.

The golf gods giveth and taketh away with the rules of golf.





