



Destination Southwest Washington: Plenty of golf to find in the area

Inside Golf Newspaper takes a look at golfing the Southwest Washington area from Olympia down to Vancouver. There are plenty of choices, including Hawk's Prairie (pictured right) in Lacey, Wash. and it's pair of golf courses. There is much more to choose from in the area. Please see our special section inside this month's issue of Inside Golf Newspaper for more.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

Tickets on sale for LPGA major event at Sahalee

One of the five Major Championships on the LPGA Tour is returning to the Pacific Northwest as Sahalee Country Club will host the 2024 K P M G

Women's PGA Championship on June 20-23. This marks the second time the Championship will be held at Sahalee Country Club (pictured right), having previously



hosted the Championship in 2016 where a then-18-year old Brooke Henderson beat Lydia Ko in a playoff for her first Major victory in winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

There are a variety of ways to attend the 2024 KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Daily ground tickets for Thursday, June 20th through Sunday, June 23rd start as low as \$40, with flex tickets good for any one (1) day of the Championship priced at \$50. Qualifying military and juniors (15 and under) receive complimentary access to the Championship.

For more information on the tournament, and to purchase tickets, visit www.kpmgwomenspga.com.

Rules question of the month

Question: The player's tee shot lands very near a cart path (abnormal course condition / immovable obstruction). The path interferes with her stance so she opts to take relief under Rule 16.1b. In the process



she sees a scuff mark on her ball and so decides to replace the ball before dropping. She drops a ball and plays on. Her approach shot then comes to rest in deep rough. In searching for her ball she accidentally kicks and moves the ball. She knows she must replace the ball but rather than clean it she grabs another ball and places it where she estimated the original ball was before it was moved. She recounts her exploits to you at scoring. You are the official what do you think? See the answer on page 2.

Northwest golf profile: Paige Mackenzie gets Golf Channel airtime

Paige Mackenzie has done just everything there is in golf. She was one of the top high school players in the state of Washington while growing up in Yakima. Was an All-American at the University of Washington and played for years on the LPGA Tour. And now, she is working as a host on The Golf Channel both in studio and at PGA and LPGA tournaments. For more on Paige Mackenzie, please see the story inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



White Horse: A Pacific Northwest golf treat



White Horse Golf Club in Poulsbo, Wash., was named as one of the top new public courses when it opened in 2007. And now the awards keep on coming as White Horse was named among the top golf course designs in the country by Golf Pass. The course is owned and operated by the Suquamish Indian Tribe, which also has the Clearwater Casino. For more on White Horse, see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



USGA spotlight shines on the NW again with USGA Senior Women's AM

The United States Golf Association's view of the Pacific Northwest continues to grow with another major championship set for the 2024 season with the USGA Senior Women's Amateur at Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle. The event will be held Sept. 21-26. Entries for the championship open April 2.

This marks the third time the event has been held in the Pacific Northwest. In 1994, Tacoma Country and Golf Club played host and in 1996 Broadmoor was the host site for the championship.

A total of 132 players will compete in the USGA Senior Women's Amateur, an event for players 50 years old and over with a handicap not to exceed 14.4. Qualifying will take place before the event ends with a match play portion of the championship.

Qualifying for the championship will take place at sites around the country in August and September.

The USGA has enjoyed placing the Senior Women's Amateur event in the Northwest so much that the Portland Golf Club will host the championship in 2026.

Broadmoor has hosted plenty of championships through the years including the 1952 Women's Weathervane where Betsy Rawls beat Babe Zaharias and the 1974 U.S. Women's National Amateur Championship, a field which included Nancy Lopez and Amy Alcott.

Central Oregon Shootout lives on at Aspen Lakes

The Central Oregon Shootout has become one of the top partner tournaments in the Pacific Northwest - and is back on the schedule for April 26-27 at Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters, Ore. The two-day event will feature two-player teams with a pair of different formats. The opening round will feature a 2-person better-ball while the second and final round will be a 2-person scramble.

There will be divisions in the tournament for both men and women.

A reception on Thursday night at the Aspen Lakes Lodge at 5:00 p.m. on April 25 will kick off the event. As part of the \$500 entry fee, breakfast and lunch is also included as well as green fees, carts and range balls.

For more call 541.549.4653.

Marysville's Cedarcrest nearing 100 years old and is still offers plenty of challenges

Through all these years of writing about golf, I have been fortunate enough to play many of the courses in the state of Washington - and the Pacific Northwest for that matter. I try and remember a little about every course I tee it up at, from its clubhouse to its layout to any kind of beer specials they might have.

It had been years since I played Cedarcrest Golf Course in Marysville, Wash. In fact on a recent trip to Cedarcrest I had to get the GPS just to make sure I was getting off the right exit off Interstate-5. A couple of turns here and there and I found myself in the parking lot and suddenly remembering.

I remembered this was a course that I had truly enjoyed the first time I played it long those many years ago. I remember the uphill. The downhill. And I remember that the course might be long on the scorecard, it still played long with the towering trees and rugged greens. As I pulled the club out of the trunk and headed for the pro shop I saw the first and 10th tees.

And I remembered.

This was a place I wish I would have been back to time and again. Cedarcrest is a place that might not be long, but it is challenging and presents some of the best conditions.

As I stood on the first tee that day, I remembered this course. I remember hitting tee shots in the woods and having to scramble. I remembered having some long putts across rolling greens. I remember the cool-looking pond with the fountain on the front side.

And I remembered when you headed to the back nine, it was another treat like you were playing in a valley away from the front nine.

If you have played Cedarcrest you know what I am talking about. Premier Golf runs the facility and has done a great job with improvements through the years and keeping the course in top shape.

This is a course with its history going all the way back to 1927 - meaning it is nearly 100 years old. John Steidel redesigned the course back in 1996



and the city of Marysville shut down the course for 16 months to give it a new look. The redesign added drainage improvements, a new irrigation system, a remodel of several holes, 16 new greens

and a stretching of the course to 6,000 yards. More recently, the addition of 52 sand bunkers made the course bare its teeth even more. Like I said, the course might measure 6,000 yards, not long by today's standard, but with all of the trouble around, it plays longer. Just ask my buddy who was in the trees all day and thought he was a straight shooter.

My favorite hole is the par-4 on the front side with a narrow tee shot and a pond fronting the green. And your tee shot must carry some water too. Think I wrote down a 6 and moved on.

I will be back. There was too much to like to not jump in the car and make the drive north up I-5. Besides, I need some water redemption.

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



Cedarcrest Golf Course in Marysville is almost 100 years old and keeps on being an 18-hole challenge for golfers.



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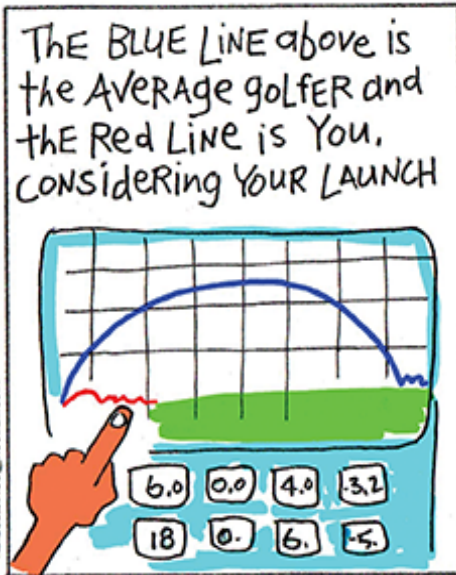
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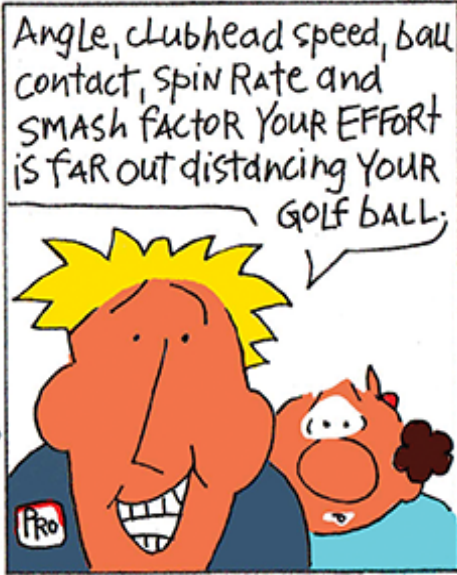
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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

Answer: When a player takes relief under a Rule, in this case Rule 16.1b they are permitted to replace the ball without regard as to why they want to replace it. However, if a player is required to replace the ball as is required under Rule 9.4a (when the Rules use the term "the" ball it means the ball in play. "A" ball means any ball.) they must replace the original ball and are not permitted to substitute a ball for the ball in play. If a ball is incorrectly substituted when not permitted and the player makes a stroke at it the player incurs one penalty stroke under Rule 6.3b (3). When she kicked her ball while searching in the deep rough there is no penalty but the ball must be replaced and if the spot is not known it is to be estimated Rule 9.4b, Exception 2. See also Rule 7.4.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.

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NW professionals will tee it up at nationals; 2024 NW schedule is set

WA Golf has set the dates for its 2024 championships. Registration for all of the events are now open. Here is a look at what WA Golf has to offer for the 2024 golf season:

- Champion of Champions April 25-26 at The Home Course in DuPont, Wash.
- Women's Four-Ball set for Skagit Golf and Country Club May 6-7.
- Men's Four-Ball and Senior men's Four-Ball at Loomis Trail Golf Club in Bellingham May 23-24.
- Senior and Super Senior Men's Amateur at Yakima Country Club June 4-6.
- Women's Mid-Am and Women's Am at Whidbey Golf Club June 18-20.
- Men's Amateur at The Links at Moses Pointe June 25-27.
- Men's Mid-Amateur at Desert Canyon Golf Resort on July 23-25.
- Parent-Child at Alderbrook Golf and Yacht Club in Union, Wash. on July 29.
- Mixed Chapman at Port Ludlow Golf Course on Aug. 2.
- Senior Women and Super Senior Amateur at The Cedars at Dungeness Aug. 20-21.

NW players at national event

There will be plenty of Pacific Northwest flavor when the club professionals from around the country tee it up at the PGA Professional Championship.

The PGA Professional Championship takes place Apr. 28 - May 1 at Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco, Frisco, Texas and will include professionals from around the country who qualified for the event and the top players will advance to the PGA Championship at Valahalla.

Last fall, Austin Hurt of Wing Point G&CC secured his spot by winning the Section Championship. Also qualifying are: Derek Berg, Corey Prugh, Scott Erdmann, Liam Kendregan, Jeff Coston, Colin Inglis, Russell Grove and Chip Sullivan.

The Pacific Northwest Section PGA has set its schedule for the 2024 golf season. The Washington Open Invitational will kick off the major season at Meridian Valley Country Club in Kent May 20-22. The Pelzer Oregon Open is next on the schedule and set for June 11-13 at Brasada Canyons in Central Oregon. The Rosauers Invitational will take place July 1-21 at Indian Canyon in Spokane while the Northwest Open will wrap up the schedule Aug. 19-21 at The Home Course in DuPont, Wash.

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No Events
- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 2nd on the list with \$7,896,591
- Ben Crane • Portland • No Events
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 74th on the list with \$684,659
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • 81st on the list with 652,584
- Scott Harrington • Portland • No Events
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 121st on the list with \$230,955
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 101st on the list with \$386,851
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 82nd on the list with \$633,064
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 51st on the list with \$1,091,054
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 13th on the list with \$2,609,110
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • No Events
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 93rd on the list with \$455,193
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 72nd on the list with \$691,692
- Adam Svensson • BC • 75th on the list with \$682,759

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 134th on the list with \$5,567
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • No Events
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 101st on the list with \$10,619
- Andrew Yun • Tacoma • No Events

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 58th on the list with \$41,050
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 60th on the list with \$38,590

LPGA Tour

- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No Events
- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 136th on the list with \$4,188

LPGA Epson Tour

- Kathleen Scavo • Ex-Oregon • No Events
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 147th on the list with \$2,566

Did you know....

• Bing Crosby learned the game in 1916 while working as a caddie at Downriver Golf Course in Spokane. The legendary singer and actor would later be voted the "Most Admired Man Alive" in 1948. Playing to a two handicap, he competed in the 1955 Washington State Amateur, held that year at Spokane Country Club, but didn't qualify for match play.



• The Pacific Northwest Golf Association and Pacific Northwest Section PGA each administer their own respective Halls of Fame. In 2011, the two organizations held the first joint Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which they have continued to do since then on a biennial basis. This year's ceremony will be held April 27, 2024, at Seattle Golf Club. Visit thepnga.org and pnwpga.com for more information.



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Home Course pair claim title at NW Pro-Assistants event; Meadow Park takes over control of Tacoma Golf Association

PGA Professional Mitch Runge (Head Professional) and Shane Prante (Assistant Professional) at The Home Course (DuPont, WA) won the PNW Pro-Assistant Championship by one stroke at Tacoma C&GC. They fired a 17-under par Four-Ball score for the two day competition.

In second place was the team from Oswego Lake CC (Lake Oswego, OR) led by Director of Instruction Scott Erdmann and Assistant Professional Brady Sharp.

TGA hands off to Meadow Park

After 93 years of independent operation the Tacoma Golf Association (TGA) has passed its activities and functions on to Meadow Park Golf Course. The changing of the guard was finalized in late January after more than a year of discussions.

Founded in 1931, the TGA has a rich history of promoting and supporting amateur golf, including the development of competitive golfers of all ages and fostering a love for the game in Tacoma and surrounding communities.

Meadow Park, which opened in 1915, is dedicated to preserving that history, in part through a commitment to host and enhance the longstanding Tacoma City Golf Championships. This series of four legacy events includes the Tacoma City Amateur Championship, Tacoma City Senior Amateur Championship, Tacoma City Junior Championship and Tacoma City Best-Ball Championship.

Chris Goodman, who manages Meadow Park, said the long-term goal for the series is reviving its reputation as premier-level events that attract players from across Washington.

Securing that vision means a reimagining of its future and renewed dedication to engaging with younger and more diverse golfers to ensure its continued success. Under Meadow Park's stewardship the TGA will partner

with other regional golf associations, local golf courses and local schools to introduce new golfers into these events and cultivate the next generation of golfers.

Upcoming Tournaments in 2024 : TGA Senior Amateur – July 13-14; Tacoma City Amateur – July 26-28; Tacoma Junior City Amateur – July 29-30; Tacoma Best-Ball – Sept. 14

KPMG Women's PGA looks for volunteers

One of the LPGA's major championships is coming to the Pacific Northwest and the event is looking for volunteers to help out when the event hits Sahalee Country Club June 20-23. Registration is now open for volunteers for the tournament, which returns to Sahalee after having been held at the Samammish, Wash course back in 2016. Sahalee has also hosted other championships including the 1998 PGA Championship, 2002 WGC-NEC Invitational and the 2010 U.S. Senior Open.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of assignments at the KPMG Women's PGA. Adult volunteers (ages 23 and up) are required to volunteer for at least three or four shifts (totallying 16-20 hours) and act as a PGA Ambassador, offering assistance to guests during any unscheduled time.

Volunteers will pay a \$150 fee and the package includes a volunteer uniform (golf shirt, jacket and baseball cap), meal vouchers, official PGA volunteer drawstring bag and complementary parking. Student volunteers (ages 14-22) are also needed to work the event There is no fee for student volunteers.

For info email hannah@pgahq.com.

Central Oregon Shootout at Aspen Lakes

The 2024 Central Oregon Shootout is set for April 26-27 at Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters, Ore. The two-day event will feature two-player teams competing over two days in different formats. The first round will feature a better ball with a scramble set for the second round. Entry is \$500 per team and includes a welcome

reception. Both rounds will feature 10:00 a.m. shotgun starts at Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters, Ore.

Battle at the Resorts set for May 2-4

Eagle Crest Resort and Black Butte Resort will be the hosts for the Battle at the Resort - a two-person team championship event. The three formats for the tournament will be a two-person scramble, Best Ball and Chapman. Eagle Crest's Ridge and Resort courses will hosts tournament rounds as will Black Butte's Glaze Meadow course. For info, email dmccleery@bbranch.org.

First Tee Chambers Bay Solstice

On June 23, 2024, First Tee of Greater Seattle will conduct its 5th Annual Chambers Bay Solstice, a fundraiser for the First Tee chapter. Play up to 72 holes from dawn to dusk at Chambers Bay. For more information about this fundraising event see www.chambersbaysolstice.com or visit the first tee for more information.

Youth on Course a boon for juniors

Ever since it started, the Youth on Course program has been a boon for kids looking to get into the game of golf. With the price of golf sometimes fairly high, the Youth on Course program has been a way for kids to play a round of golf for \$5 - at a variety of golf courses around the country. The program is quite popular in the Pacific Northwest as many courses offer the \$5 program for youths looking to play a round of golf. Youth on Course has taken away the barriers of cost for kids to play. Over 100,000 kids, age 6-18, have signed up for the program and have access to over 1,400 golf courses around the country for \$5 or less. The program has subsidized over 1,000,000 rounds of golf for kids and has saved families \$8 million in greens fees. Also, Youth on Course is offering scholarships. For more the www.youthoncourse.org or WAgolf.org/YOC.

Tacoma's Highlands gets an award for being one of the top short courses

Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma has been ranked among the top short courses in the country by GolfPass. Each of these facilities needed at least 10 reviews in 2023 to qualify for our Golfers' Choice 2024 rankings of the best short courses in America. Many of them aren't found at destination resorts like the famous "short courses" you've read about, but they're rock stars in their local communities.

Highlands checked in at five on the list while Lake Limerick in Shelton was ranked 19th on the list. The rankings by GolfPass took into account both executive-length courses like Highlands and short nine-holers like Lake Limerick.





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NW native Paige Mackenzie finds life on screen after LPGA

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

Being involved with Pacific Northwest golf for more than 30 years I have been lucky enough to get to know some of our bigger names in golf in the NW. The one name who has always been friendly, always had time for conversation and always had time for charity has been Paige Mackenzie.

You should know Paige. She was one of the top high school golfers in the state from Yakima and went on to become an All-American golfer at the University of Washington. From there she had a career on the LPGA Tour for more than 10 years.

Once she decided that the golf career was over, thanks to some back injuries, Paige decided on a new career path. And the new path almost came by accident. The Golf Channel asked her if she would like to be a studio host for the 2012 LPGA Tour Championship and she agreed. She enjoyed the time in front of the camera and was surprised when the producer called and asked for her social security number. "They said we have to pay you," she said. "I thought I was doing it for free just being a guest."

Then came six months later when she failed to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open and The Golf Channel called again with a job. This time working The Morning Drive Show. "That was a comfortable experience," she said. "It opened me eyes to maybe doing something different down the road."

In 2014, Paige had back surgery, missing the entire LPGA season and came back in 2015 playing in just four events. But she knew it was time to walk away from the game and head down the TV road.

"I enjoyed playing and it felt odd walking away when I felt I had more left," Paige said. "But I knew it was time. But I was walking away toward something that made it comfortable for me. I was ready to be done. It was a smart decision for me to make."

Her best finishing was a tie for eighth at an event in 2009 and then a tie for ninth in 2011. Her best year

was 2011 when she earned \$184,384.

Her Golf Channel career took off right away. She started working basically full time in 2016, typically on The Morning Drive Show and she worked her first tournament at the 2016 KPMG Women's PGA. Since then, if you are fan of the Golf Channel you have seen Paige in the mornings, the afternoons and at tournaments.

I ran into her at the WM Phoenix Open and she had one of the best seats in the house, in a booth on the 16th hole. She saw all of the craziness first hand. She heard the yelling from the fans toward the Golf Channel booth with her and her co-hosts. She saw the wild outfits. "I didn't understand about the wizard outfits, though," she said with a laugh. The tournament dealt with plenty of issues this year from the bad weather, to the drinking, to the mass people trying to get in but Paige said she enjoyed the entire week. "It's a one-week deal, we were able to enjoy it," she said. "We were right in the middle of the action and it was unique and fun."

When the Golf Channel called, she moved to Florida to be close to the studio in Orlando. She enjoyed Florida but when the Golf Channel uprooted and moved to Connecticut, Paige didn't want to move north. She wanted to move west.

She landed in Scottsdale, Ariz. with husband Jonathan and their two kids ages 4 and 6. And what has made the move so good is that there is plenty of family around including her mom and dad who relocated from Yakima and even brother Broc, a former pro golfer from the University of Washington, is close by working in real estate.

As Paige looks back on her career, she wouldn't change a thing. And years ago I helped her with a charity tournament which took place at Meridian Valley Country Club in Kent - and event she invited several of her LPGA friends to raise money for charity. I could see it then that she was serious about everything she did - making sure the event was a success.



Paige Mackenzie looks at home on the set of the Golf Channel's show from the WM Phoenix Open (top photo); Paige takes a swing at the LPGA Portland Classic (lower left) and takes a putt at another event (lower right).



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White Horse Golf Club gets honor for being one of top course designs

By Mike De Felice
Reprinted from the North Kitsap Herald

Verdant fairways and a variety of challenging holes contributed to White Horse Golf Club being named one of the top courses in the United States for design.

The Kingston course was named the 25th top public golf course for its layout by Golf Pass, a golf service of NBC. White Horse, owned by Suquamish Clearwater Casino and Resort, was the only Northwest course to make the list.

“It’s tree-lined, has elevation changes, and a little bit of water here and there,” longtime general manager and head PGA professional Bruce Christy said. “It’s a course a lot of people love to play, even though it’s tough and has some teeth to it. Even if it kicked their rear-end, players can’t wait to come back again and give it try.”

In announcing the top course layouts Golf Pass staff stated, “These golf courses captured the imaginations of countless visitors in 2023 with their fascinating designs. For many golfers, the layout is the number one priority for their golf experience.”

The playability of the course is second to none in the area, Christy said. “For a public golf course, it is maintained almost like a private course... It’s a course people enjoy playing because they know it’s kept in premiere shape year-round.”

The signature hole is the 18th, a 386-yard par four that begins from an elevated tee box. “It’s a slight dogleg left around a twenty-acre pond with the clubhouse sitting as the backdrop behind the green. You have some bunkers down the right side... It’s a great finishing hole because anything can happen, and it’s hard one to make a par on,” the golf pro said.

The ninth hole is another highlight, Christy said. Listed as the No. 1 handicap hole, or most difficult, the 427-yard par four features a tree-lined fairway. There is a swale in front of the putting surface. The green is well-bunkered on the sides. A large mound to

the right of the putting surface gives skilled players the opportunity to hit the hill and allow the ball to roll toward the green.

The year after the course debuted it was named by Golf Digest one of the Best New Public Courses of 2007. The trek earned national accolades, but it was a tough course for the average player. Modifications were made to make the course more appealing to the average duffer. “We softened the course by removing 68 (of 156) bunkers, softened some of the approaches and widened some fairway landing areas just so it would be more playable,” Christy said.

White Horse is set over 456 acres. The course – designed by Cynthia Dye-McGarey, niece of the world renown golf course architect Pete Dye – opened in 2007. In 2010, the course was purchased by the Suquamish Tribe.



White Horse Golf Course is owned and operated by the Suquamish Indian Tribe and was ranked among the top golf course designs in the country by GolfPass.

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Destination Golf: Mesquite's Conestoga is a golfing treat

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

It had been years since I had made the journey from Las Vegas to Mesquite. There was a time we had a group that went twice a year, skipping the lights and sounds of Las Vegas and heading up the freeway a little more than an hour to Mesquite.

And for good reason. At that time, there was plenty of golf with some of the courses ranked among the best in the state.

I went back only to find that Mesquite was bigger and the golf course count had grown.

Count Conestoga Golf Club as one of those Mesquite courses that now dots the Mesquite landscape that was not around when we last visited.

And this is not just another golf course. This is a golf course that seemingly has it all. From the terrific views of the nearby mountains with holes that run through some rugged terrain and some par-3 holes that need to be seen to be believed.

Sometimes when you tee it up at a course it's hard not just hit the shots with the scenery is amazing. This is one of those places. The holes are carved out of sandstone and if you are looking for a signature hole, keep looking. This is a place with 18 of them.

But what gets your attention early is the par-3 second hole. With an elevated tee box, you stare down at a green that looks like an island. Miss the green and you score is in trouble. All of the par-3 holes at Conestoga are dramatic.

It's little wonder why this place is ranked as the fifth best course you can play in Nevada by *Golfweek*.

The front nine offers a couple of holes with split fairways and the sixth hole, just to keep things interesting, has two shots which require a carry.

On the back side, things keep getting interesting as the 15th and 18th holes have elevated tee boxes and feature more dramatic shots.

Course designed Gary Panks must have had fun when he sat down at his design table and figured out what to do with all 18 holes. This is a course which can be stretched to 7,232 yards or as short as 5,017. With five sets of tees Conestoga has a little of something



Conestoga Golf Club in Mesquite, Nevada never offers any kind of shortage for views and challenging shots. This hole offers a stunning view of the nearby mountains and sand dunes (top photo); the second hole is a dramatic par-3 with a drop to the green and trouble if your tee shot misses the green (bottom photo).



for every golfer who shows up to play. A couple of publications have some interesting complimentary words about the course. "Its like playing on the moon but with full gravity," said *Sports Illustrated*. "For solid value and spectacular scenery you will definitely want to ride this wagon," said *Travelin' Joe* Passov of *Golf Magazine*.

Conestoga is just part of what makes Mesquite such an attractive golf experience. There are other courses in the area and plenty of places to stay. When thinking of those golf travel plans, don't forget to take a look at Mesquite - and Conestoga Golf Club.

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Rules of the Game: If you are playing in a match play tournament make sure you know where the strokes fall

As our weather improves in the Pacific Northwest, we gear up for playing more golf and tracking our handicap index. For both stroke play and match play, there are some considerations about handicaps you need to know.

First, let's talk about match play. Match play is philosophically different from stroke play because opponents in match play compete only against each other on every hole. Match play is 18 one-hole competitions where players can protect their interests and can see each other play.

A player wins a hole in a match by completing the hole in fewer strokes than their opponent. Remember that handicap strokes may be given per hole and the lower net score is the hole winner. A player may also win a hole if their opponent receives a general penalty, or if the opponent concedes the hole.

A match is won when a player leads the opponent by more holes won than holes that remain to be played. When you are playing a match, you should tell your opponent your handicap before the match. Make sure you have your correct handicap for the match, as declaring a handicap that is too high may result in your disqualification if:

- You don't correct the mistake before your opponent makes their next stroke
- And the declared higher handicap affects the number of strokes received or given

If you declare a handicap that is too low, there is no penalty. However, you must use the lower handicap for this match to calculate strokes you may give or get. You and your opponent are responsible for knowing and applying strokes based on the stroke index allocation the Committee has set. Usually, you can find that on your scorecard.

Consider this match play scenario. Chace and Foster are playing a match. On the 4th hole Chace and Foster both had a gross score of 4 for par.



Chace was supposed to get a stroke, and both players forgot to apply the stroke. They agreed they tied the hole and tee off on the 5th hole. In this situation, the result of the hole as agreed upon stands. However, this scenario could end differently if Chace and Foster finished the hole, and agreed they tied the hole. But if Chace or Foster remember that a stroke was to be given BEFORE either of them makes a stroke to begin the next hole, or for the final hole before the result of the match is final, the result of the hole can be corrected.

Handicaps in stroke play have different considerations. Stroke play consists of a round or rounds of eighteen-hole (or less) competitions where players compete against all other players in the field. The winner is the player who completes all rounds with the fewest number of strokes. In stroke play, there is no requirement for your handicap to be shown on your scorecard, or for you to even add up your score—that is the responsibility of the committee.

The committee will calculate your handicap strokes and calculate your net score. But pay attention, sometimes the committee may implement a Local Rule that makes a player responsible for handicap on the scorecard.

Enjoy spring golf—and know your handicap.



Make sure you know where the strokes fall if you are playing a match against a competitor in a tournament.

Question: A player tees off on the third hole. The ball comes to rest under a large bush next to the fairway. The player decides to declare the ball unplayable and drops within 2 club lengths and then plays the ball toward the green. On the way to the green it becomes known he played from the blue tees when he should have played from the black tees. Realizing he must go back and correct his mistake he goes back and plays again, this time from the black tees. He again plays onto the green and with 3 putts and finishes the hole. What is the player's score for the third hole?

Answer: In stroke play his score was 7. He incurs the general penalty (2 strokes) under Rule 6.1b(2). The ball played from the wrong teeing area is not in play. That stroke and any more strokes before the mistake is corrected (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count. If the player does not correct their mistake and then plays from the 4th hole teeing area they are disqualified. 2nd Tee shot + approach shot + 3 putts + general penalty (2 strokes) = 7. Hope this helps clear up this rule. Thanks to Paul Lucien for this rules story.

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The Lesson Tee: It's time to change the practice plan if you are looking for some better results

April marks the beginning of the golf season for many golfers. We know it is important to begin a new season with a vision and goals to improve in 2024.

If we keep going about our game as in the past, more than likely we will get the same results and improve very little.

I would encourage a couple drills to improve the path of our downswing. These swing enhancing drills will get golfers on a better path/swing plane through the hitting zone.

Place two driver shafts together even with right shoulder. This is called an anti-lift pole. (Photo 1) The anti-lift pole produces so many great things! It enhances depth to the backswing; turn rather than lift and shallowing of the downswing.

Next, place an impact bag where the golf ball would be with a shaft behind it. (Photo 1) The drill is to spin the bag to the right of the pole. Most would swing to steep and spin the bag to the left. Spinning the bag left it would be over the top" of the plane.

To shallow the downswing on a proper plane, drive the butt of the club to the right keeping your shoulders closed and your back to the target. (Photo 2) Spin the bag to the right of the pole. Start the downswing with your arms and hands. And then finish strong with a good follow through (Photo 3)

You can do the drill at home or on the range.

Jeff Coston is the Pacific Northwest Section Teacher of the Year. He is a multi-time Player of the Year. Jeff can be reached for appointment by calling Semiahmoo Resort at 360 201 4590. See jeffcoston.com for more.



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Photo 2



Photo 1



Photo 3

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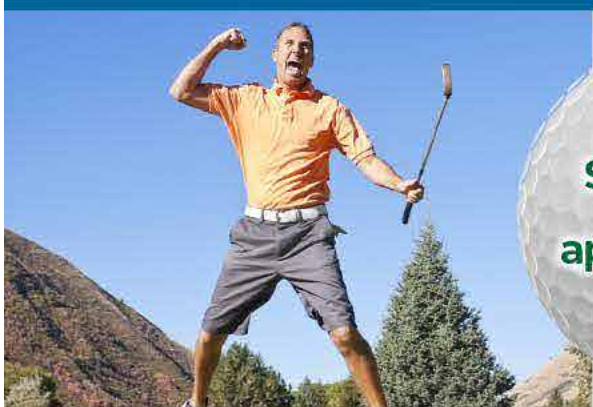
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