



Steve Dallas: His Northwest roots dig deep even in the Arizona desert

Steve Dallas grew up in the Pacific Northwest and even helped a youngster by the name of Fred Couples learn how to swing a golf club. He has lived and owned golf courses in Arizona (like Apache Creek right) and has become an award winner on and off the course. For more see the story on Page 2.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

Aspen Lakes will host the annual Central Oregon Shootout

The Central Oregon Shootout is set for April 24-25 at Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Central Oregon. The annual event will feature different formats for both days.

An event reception is set for April 23 at 5:00 p.m. at Aspen Lakes to get the event rolling.

The two-day tournament will feature one day of best-ball and the second day of scramble formats.

For more information on the event call Aspen Lakes at 541.549.4653.

When you tee it up make sure to play from the right set of tees

Have you ever wondered what the right set of tees are for you to play? Here is an idea about what the right tees are to play next time you tee it up.

Avg. drive - Recommended Tees

- 300 yards - 7,150-7,400 yards
- 275 yards - 6,700-6,900 yards
- 250 yards - 6,200-6,400 yards
- 225 yards - 5,800-6,000 yards
- 200 yards - 5,200-5,400 yards
- 175 yards - 4,400-4,600 yards
- 150 yards - 3,500-3,700 yards
- 125 yards - 2,800-3,000 yards
- 100 yards - 2,100-2,300 yards

Rules Question of the month

When a player begins searching for her ball in deep rough, she accidentally kicks her ball. After consulting with the other players in her group she learns she must replace the ball with no penalty, it was accidental during search. While she is replacing, she wants to take advantage of having the ball in hand so she takes a new ball from her bag and places it where the original ball was. At scoring her procedure came up. What do you think? Answer on page 2.



NW short courses among the best in the U.S.



Links Magazine came up with its list of the top 15 short courses in the country and the Pacific Northwest was well represented with Gamble Sands' Quicksands (top photo) and the two courses at Bandon Dunes Resort with The Preserve (bottom photo) and Shorty's (not pictured). The Cradle at Pinehurst Resort was named the top course.

Washington Open Invitational set to celebrate 100 years in the Pacific NW

The 2026 golf season marks a landmark year for the Washington Open Invitational in the Pacific Northwest. This marks the 100th year the tournament has been played and this year Tacoma Country and Golf Club is set to serve as the host course.

The tournament will be played May 4-6 at Tacoma Country and Golf Club and will feature the top professionals and amateurs from around the Pacific Northwest over three days.

The tournament will be a 54-hole event but there will be a cut after 36 holes.

This landmark tournament in the Pacific Northwest kicks off the tournament season for the professionals.

The Oregon Open Invitational will be played June 16-18 at Black Butte Ranch's Glaze Meadow Course in Central Oregon, the Rosauers Open is set for July 17-19 at Indian Canyon in Spokane while the Northwest Open wraps up the major championships in the Northwest at Sunriver's Woodlands Course Aug. 17-19.

For the Senior professionals and amateurs the PGA Senior Players Championship kicks off the senior season April 14-15 at Wine Valley in Walla, Walla, Wash. The Senior Oregon Open will return to Wildhorse Resort in Pendleton, Ore. July 28-30 while the Senior PGA Professional Championship is set for Sept. 2-3 at Hayden Lake Country Club in Idaho.



Tacoma Country and Golf Club.

SW Washington: No shortage of golf to be found

If you are planning a trip up and down the Interstate-5 corridor, you will have no trouble finding golf to play. From places like the Home Course in DuPont, Wash. (pictured right) to the Vancouver area, there is no shortage of places to play. For more on SW Washington please check out our special section inside this issue of Inside Golf Newspaper. Plus you will find on where to play and park your RV.



Northwest native Steve Dallas is leaving his mark on the Arizona golf scene with his many contributions

When I checked into the pro shop one day 15 years ago at Las Colinas Golf Course in Queen Creek, Ariz., I noticed the name on the door of the owner. It said Steve Dallas. That name rang a bell. I have been involved in the golf business in the Pacific Northwest for over 35 years and there was something about that name that rang familiar.

I knocked on the door and the man was at his desk. I didn't want to sound like a total idiot but I asked casually, "I know the Steve Dallas name, are you a Northwest guy?" He looked at me, cracked a smile and said "I am a Northwest guy."

We got to chatting and it turns out that he is a total Northwest guy. Steve has a Northwest background as a amateur and professional, was the head professional at Sahalee Country Club and where I probably remember him most from is that he helped get a guy by the name of Fred Couples involved in the sport of golf many years ago.

I have gotten to know Steve through the years since that day of walking into the Las Colinas golf shop. I learned that after his history of golf in the Northwest, he moved and became a golf course owner and has become an influential person in the golf industry in Arizona. He was named to the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame in 2014 and most recently received the Ed Updegraff Award for contributions to golf in the state in 2023.

The 78-year-old Steve is as humble as you will find. He certainly earned these accolades. He has appreciated the awards but said he did not do any of that for himself. Merely for the junior golfers and his love of the game.

"A lot of people took care of me when I was growing up in golf," Steve said. "I always want to give back. That's just the way I am."

Steve grew up in the Seattle area and went to Cleveland High School but was more of a baseball player than golfer. He played baseball



at Seattle University and decided to try out for golf as a sophomore to see where that might take him. He made the team that year and that's where it all started. Hello golf, goodbye baseball.

It was about that time when he became friends with Tom Couples, Fred's brother. It was that connection that led Steve to his working with Fred Couples as a youngster. Steve was with Fred when he first started swinging a golf club and watched him grow up at Jefferson Park Golf Course in Seattle - and yes, even saw the young Fred Couples play barefoot. When Steve won the Ed Updegraff Award, Fred did a video chat with his relationship with Steve while growing up. Steve remembers watching Fred hit drives over the 300-yard net at the Jefferson Park driving range and could tell right away that there were big things in store for him.

Steve found out he was a pretty good player himself when he won the Payless Class in 1973 and qualified for the USGA Public Links Championship in 1973 as well as making the Hudson Cup team.

After working at Lake Padden Golf Course in Bellingham with his father and being the head professional at Sahalee, Steve decided to pack up the family and move to Arizona in 1983. He got involved in the other side of



Steve Dallas has roots from living and working in the golf business in the Northwest but now lives in Arizona.

the golf business. Since then he has owned golf courses like Las Colinas, Mountainbrook, Apache Creek and Western Skies. He only owns Apache Creek now but has turned that into a must play with a challenging layout and good conditions.

"People thought I was crazy for making the move, but it all worked out," said Steve. "We had the wife and the two kids and packed it all up. But it worked out and here we are."

And through the years and through all of his ownership, Steve has gone out of his way to help juniors.

"They are the future," he said. "The game needs them."

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



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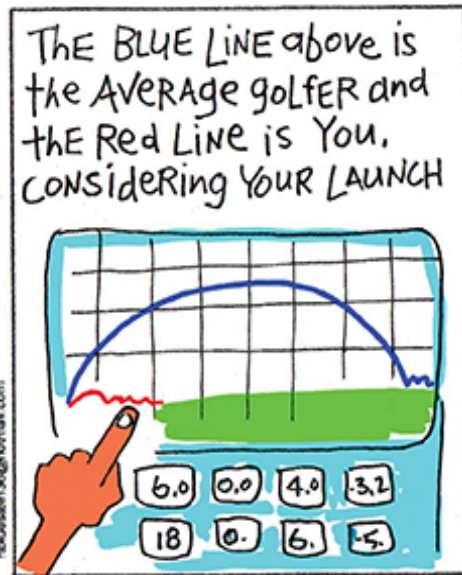
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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

Answer: Rule 9.4a states a ball moved by a player must be replaced. Since she was required by Rule to replace the ball, she must use the original ball and is not permitted to substitute a ball for the original. Once she places the substituted ball where the original was it became the ball in play under penalty of one stroke. If she had become aware of the mistake and replaced the original ball before making a stroke Rule 14.5 would eliminate the penalty for an improper substitution.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his for the rules questions and answers.



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Northwest's Alistair Docherty finds way to Korn Ferry winners circle

By Tim Martinez, Vancouver Columbian

Alistair Docherty of Vancouver picked a good spot for his first Korn Ferry Tour victory.

The 2012 Union High School graduate made a short birdie on the final hole Sunday to win the Korn Ferry Tour Argentine Open in Buenos Aires, earning a spot in the British Open this summer at Royal Birkdale.

Docherty hit wedge to 3 feet for birdie on the final hole for a 5-under 65, giving him a one-shot victory over S.Y. Noh and Chris Forte.

"It's been a very crazy last few years," an emotional Docherty told the Korn Ferry Tour. "(I've been) working really hard mentally. I think I executed everything this week mentally more than physically. And I'm so happy to be standing on top."

Docherty was the leader or co-leader after every round, carding 22-under total for the first time as a pro.

Now in his 10th year as a pro after graduating from Chico State in 2016, Docherty, 31, has had a grinding career as a pro, taking breaks to work as a caddy to help pay the bills. Things appeared to take a turn for

the good in 2024 when he put himself in position to earn a PGA Tour card.

But at the Korn Ferry Championship, that season's final event, he fell one shot short of earning that tour card with a top-30 tour season finish.

Picking up another chance a few months later at the PGA Q-School tournament, Docherty again fell one shot short of his tour PGA card.

The 2025 season was highlighted by qualifying for the U.S. Open for the first time. That came just a few days after being involved in a serious auto accident that sent him to the hospital.

With lingering effects from the crash, Docherty tumbled in the Korn Ferry standings, finishing 50th for the season.

So far this season, Docherty tied for second at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic in the tour's second event of the season back in January. But Docherty had missed the cuts in the other three events he played in prior to this weekend.

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 52nd on the list with \$861,792
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 59th on the list with \$763,658
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 66th on the list with \$612,174
- A.J. Ewart • B.C. Canada • 73rd on the list with \$533,676
- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 81st on the list with \$445,892
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 121st on the list with \$186,013
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 123rd on the list with \$175,136
- Adam Svensson • British Columbia • 159th on the list with \$59,159
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • 170th on the list with \$38,496
- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No events

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 2nd on the list with \$267,725
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 109th on the list with \$13,363
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • 149th on the list with \$4,233
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • No events

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 29th on the list with \$85,690
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 48th on the list with \$47,649
- Ben Crane • Portland • 66th on the list with \$20,460

LPGA Tour

- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 86th on the list with \$25,540
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • No events
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No events

LPGA Epson Tour

- Kathleen Scavo • Eugene • No events
- Sarah Rhee • Ex-UW • No events

Did you know....

• The 2026 PPGA Lamey Cup is being held at Victoria (B.C.) Golf Club on April 27-29. The event is a Ryder Cup-style competition, with teams coming from the six member associations of the PPGA – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia. The competition is named after Dr. Jack Lamey, founder of the event, who served as PPGA president in 2010-2012 and in 2024 was inducted into the PPGA Hall of Fame.



• WA Golf will be conducting several Casual Golf Days this year, giving members a chance to play non-competitive events held at some of the region's premier clubs that they normally would not have a chance to play. These one-day events have become so popular that at times a lottery is required to select who makes it into the field. Visit wagolf.org for a schedule of this year's events.



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NW players invited to Augusta Women's Amateur; Portland's Crane takes shot at PGA Tour Champions

The USGA, Masters Tournament and PGA of America have announced that registration for 2026-2027 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying is now open at DriveChipandPutt.com.

This year will mark Drive, Chip and Putt's 13th season of qualifying events for boys and girls ages 7-15. The free program, which can be accessed in all 50 states, aims to provide a welcoming environment for youth to participate in golf and focus on the game's three fundamental skills.

In April, a pace of play bonus will be implemented during the 2026 Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club. Under the new policy, National Finalists will earn up to three additional points if they complete each shot during the competition in 40 seconds or less. This initiative aims to reinforce pace of play as an essential skill in golf. Further details about the National Finals policy are available within the National Finals scoring section on the rules and regulations page of the website.

Local qualifying for the 13th season begins May 2 at 353 sites nationwide and will continue throughout the summer. Participants are grouped in separate girls' and boys' divisions in four age categories, with scoring centered around skill performance in driving, chipping and putting.

Top performers at the local level will advance through subregional and regional qualifiers in July/August and September/October, respectively. This season's 10 regional hosts feature several USGA and PGA Championship sites, including TPC Sawgrass, Whistling Straits, Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, Castle Pines Golf Club, Southern Hills Country Club, Crooked Stick Golf Club, Pebble Beach Golf Links, The Los Angeles Country Club, Laurel Valley Golf Club and Quaker Ridge Golf Club.

From these qualifiers, 80 finalists – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to compete in the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf

Club on Sunday, April 4, the eve of the 2027 Masters Tournament. Qualifiers are facilitated by all 41 Sections of the PGA of America across the country.

Online registration makes it easy for parents to sign up their junior golfer and find a local qualifier near them.

NW players invited to Augusta

Kyra Ly of Portland, Ore. and Lauren Kim of Surrey, B.C. have both received invitations to compete in the 2026 Augusta National Women's Amateur (ANWA), to be held from April 1-4 at Champions Retreat Golf Club and Augusta National Golf Club. The championship was established in 2019 and, for 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic), has been held every year since.

The 54-hole stroke play event was established to promote a higher level of participation and interest around women's golf and presented on a high-profile stage, with the championship held on the days leading up to the Masters Tournament. The first two rounds will be held Wednesday and Thursday at the Island and Bluff nines at nearby Champions Retreat. On Friday, an official practice round will be held at Augusta National for all 72 players. The field will then be cut to the top 30 players and ties from the first two rounds, who will then play Saturday's final round at Augusta.

In recent years, both Kyra and Lauren have certainly done plenty to earn their cordial invitations described in their green invitation letters this year. Kyra, 21, a senior at Oregon State University, won the 2025 Oregon Women's Amateur, a championship she also won in 2023. She's taken three additional individual collegiate titles while clad in the Beavers' black and orange, results that contribute to her being ranked No. 92 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR).

Lauren Kim will be marking her third consecutive start in the championship. Currently ranked No. 18 in the world, she's been one of the game's best for quite

some time now. In 2025, she was named the 2025 PNGA Women's Player of the Year, earning the honor for a third consecutive year, and has previously been named PNGA Junior Girls' Player of the Year. Her season also included a third place finish in the Big 12 Championship, a fifth in the Canadian Women's Amateur, and a Round of 16 berth in the U.S. Women's Amateur.

NW's Crane joins Champions Tour

It really seems that time is flying by when someone like Ben Crane from Portland has turned 50 years old and it now part of the PGA Tour Champions.

But that is what is happening to Crane as he takes off on his Champions Tour career. He finished tied for 31st in his first tournament at the James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational in Florida, winning \$15,000.

Crane is a Portland native and went to the University of Oregon for his college golf career before turning pro and enjoying a career on the PGA Tour.

Crane joins a couple of fellow Pacific Northwest natives on the PGA Tour Champions in Fred Couples and Kirk Triplett.

Five inducted into NW Halls of Fame

For the eighth time in Northwest golf history, the Pacific Northwest Golf Association (PNGA) and the Pacific Northwest Section PGA (PNWPGA) will conduct a joint Hall of Fame ceremony to honor inductees from each organization. This combined Pacific Northwest Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at Inglewood Golf Club in Kenmore, Wash. on April 18, 2026.

Being inducted this year for the PNGA are Craig Doell of Victoria, B.C., and Erik Hanson of Kirkland, Wash. The PNWPGA will be inducting Jeff Ellison of Olympia, Wash.; Sean Fredrickson of Lake Oswego, Ore.; and Bill Porter of Moses Lake, Wash.

Black Butte Ranch, Eagle Crest team up for three-day tourney

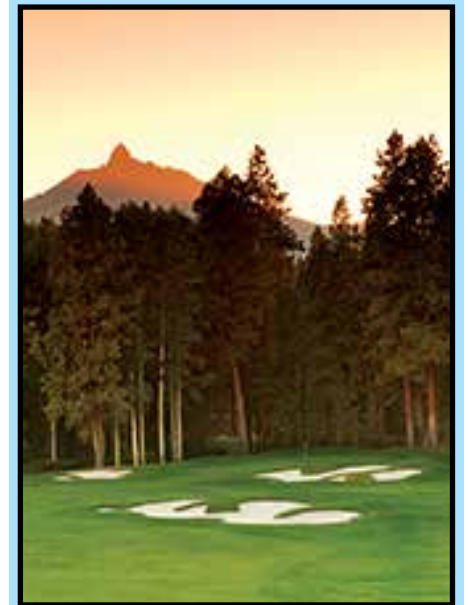
Black Butte Ranch and Eagle Crest Resort in Central Oregon are teaming up for the annual Battle at the Resorts (B.A.R.) set for May 1-3.

The event is open to men and women of all handicaps with the opportunity to play the championship courses at both Black Butte Ranch and Eagle Crest Resort over three days.

The formats for the tournament will be different each day with the opening round featuring a two-person scramble, the second round a two-person best ball and the final round a two-person chapman.

There is also a new senior option this year for players age 60 or over.

Over \$21,000 in prize payments are expected to be paid out to the nearly 300 teams expected to sign up. E-mail dmcleery@bbranch.org for more.



Black Butte will be a host for the Battle at the Resorts.



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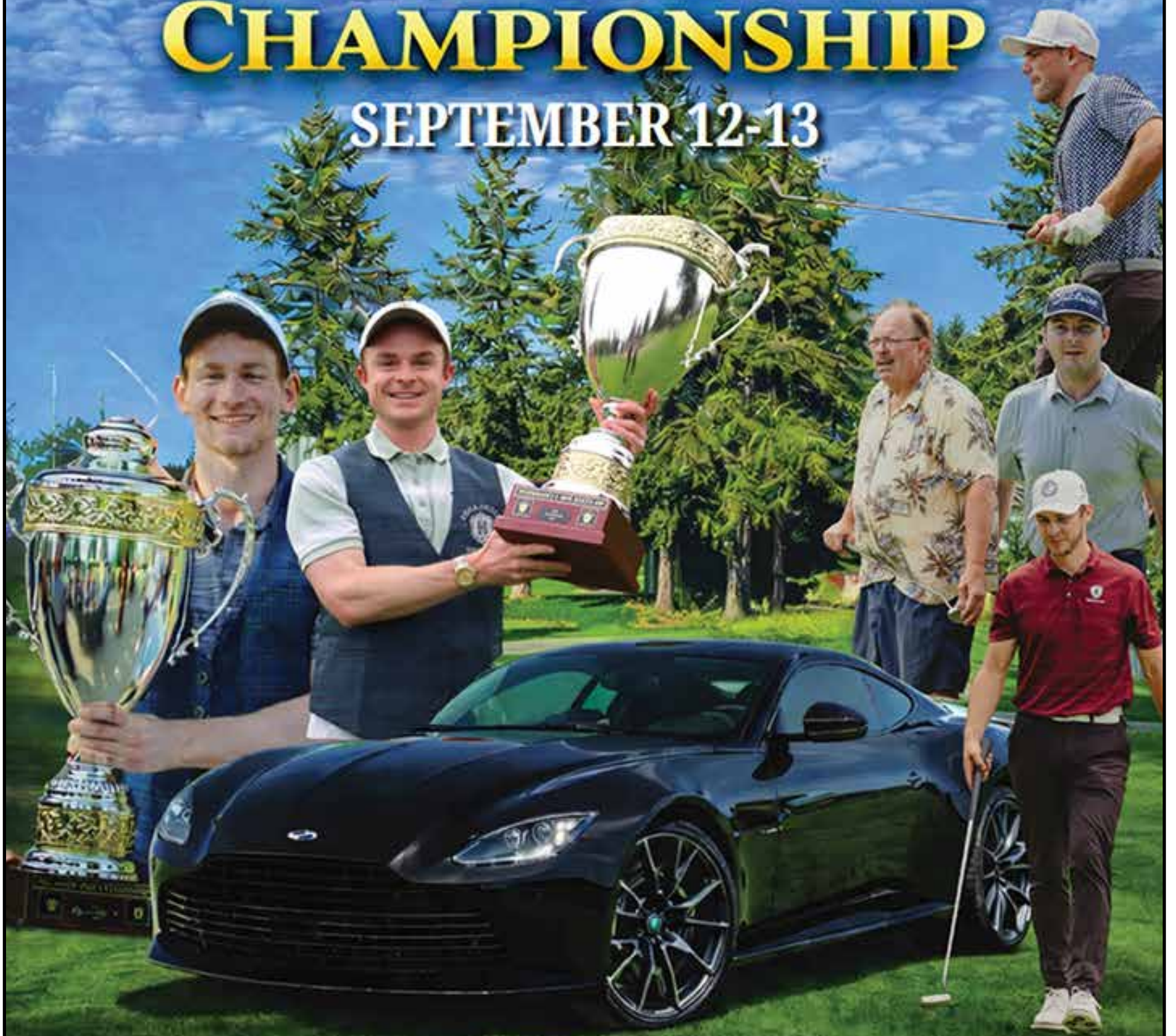
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Rules of the Game: If the course become unplayable due to Mother Nature, you need to know the suspensions rules

Last month the topic was Immediate Suspension of play, such as when there is imminent danger. This month's article addresses a Normal Suspension. Normal Suspensions are implemented for situations such as darkness, or when a course becomes unplayable due to things like rain, heavy fog, or high wind. Normal Suspension of play is typically signaled by three consecutive short horn blasts.

Remember for an Immediate Suspension, a player must not make another stroke. Players may have more flexibility in deciding how they want to proceed in a Normal Suspension, depending on where each group is on the play of a hole.

For example: Cheri, Jill and Sue have just finished putting out on #4 Green and are headed to Hole #5 when they hear three short horn blasts. Because they have completed the play of Hole #4 and are between two holes, they must stop play and must not make another stroke to begin another hole until play resumes. This is true in both Stroke Play and Match Play formats.

Jim, John and Brad have a different scenario because they are in the fairway of Hole #6 when they hear the three short horn blasts. Because a player in the group has started the hole, the players get to choose if they want to stop play or play out the hole. (Having this choice is true even if they are on the Tee and only one player has teed off!) If the players choose to keep playing the hole, they can either finish the hole, or they may stop playing before completing the hole. If they choose to complete the hole, then they must not make another stroke after the hole is completed until the Committee resumes play.



Remember for an Immediate Suspension, a player must not make another stroke.

But what if not everyone wants to keep playing--Now what? The answer depends on the form of play. If it is Match Play and one of the players wants to stop, then both players must not play again until play is resumed by the Committee. Stroke Play is different. Let's go back to Jim, John and Brad. Brad and John want to stop play; Jim wants to continue. Brad is Jim's Marker. Jim may play on ONLY if Brad stays to keep Jim's score. Brad does not have to play, just keep Jim's score. Jim does not have to finish the hole; he can decide to stop when he wants. Or if he does finish the hole, he must not make another stroke until play resumes.

When players stop play during a hole, the same procedure applies from an Immediate Suspension on what to do with the ball; the player can leave the ball, mark the ball's location and lift the ball, or mark and leave the ball.



If the fog envelops the golf course it's important to know all about the rules regarding Normal Suspensions.

See how you fare with this rules challenge

QUESTION: In your club's match play championship you meet your opponent on the tee. When you get to the 13th hole you both realize you hate that hole. You both look at each other and say "Good, good?" You both move to the 14th hole and finish the round. Okay, not okay?

ANSWER: Not okay. When a hole is completed in the same number of strokes by both players it is considered halved. If you and your opponent want to treat the hole as halved (tied) it can only be done after at least one player has made a stroke to begin the hole.

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The Lesson Tee: If you are looking for better results, change you practice plan

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 2026.

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 I'd 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.



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



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3

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