NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

THE SOURCE FOR NORTHWEST GOLF NEWS

The oldest golf publication in the Northwest – Since 1988

INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

LPGA Tour sets schedule for 2027 with Portland again in September

The LPGA Tour has set its 2027 schedule with The Standard Portland Classic returning with its usual September dates. The best of the LPGA including former champ Brooke Henderson (right) will take on Columbia Edgewater Sept. 16-19 for the four rounds of the tournament. See inside for more.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

Inactive posting season set to begin this month in the NW

Inactive score posting season begins in the Pacific Northwest this month and runs until Feb. 27, 2027. The NW is one of 41 golf associations in the U.S. that has an inactive posting season during the winter months. This is because of the general change in course conditions in our region that would adversely affect course ratings.

If you play golf during our Inactive Score Posting Season in an area where scores are still being accepted for handicap purposes, you must post those scores as soon as practicable. Your handicap will continue to be revised daily when you post an eligible score, even during the off-season.

Each course is rated under the Course Rating System part of the World Handicap System. The single largest factor that impacts a course rating is distance. How far a ball will travel in the air and how much roll it gets on the ground are heavily impacted by weather.

To create a standard course rating, each course is rated as if it is July 4th (or, high summer), and the difference in course conditions in our region between summer and winter are too great and would negatively affect the majority of golfers and their handicap. There are many courses in our region that drain well and stay in good condition for the winter months, but we cannot evaluate this on a course-by-course basis.

Rules Question of the month

A player's second shot ends up in a bush adjacent to the fairway and a fairway bunker. The player decides to take unplayable ball relief. They opt for lateral relief (Rule 19.2c) within two club lengths of where the ball is in the bush. The player measures with their driver to measure their relief area which now includes a part of the bunker. Part of the area where the ball must come to rest when dropped is in the bunker and part is in the fairway. After the ball was dropped it hit the fairway and bounced into the bunker. Not his day.



Aloha: Hawaii offers a great NW getaway

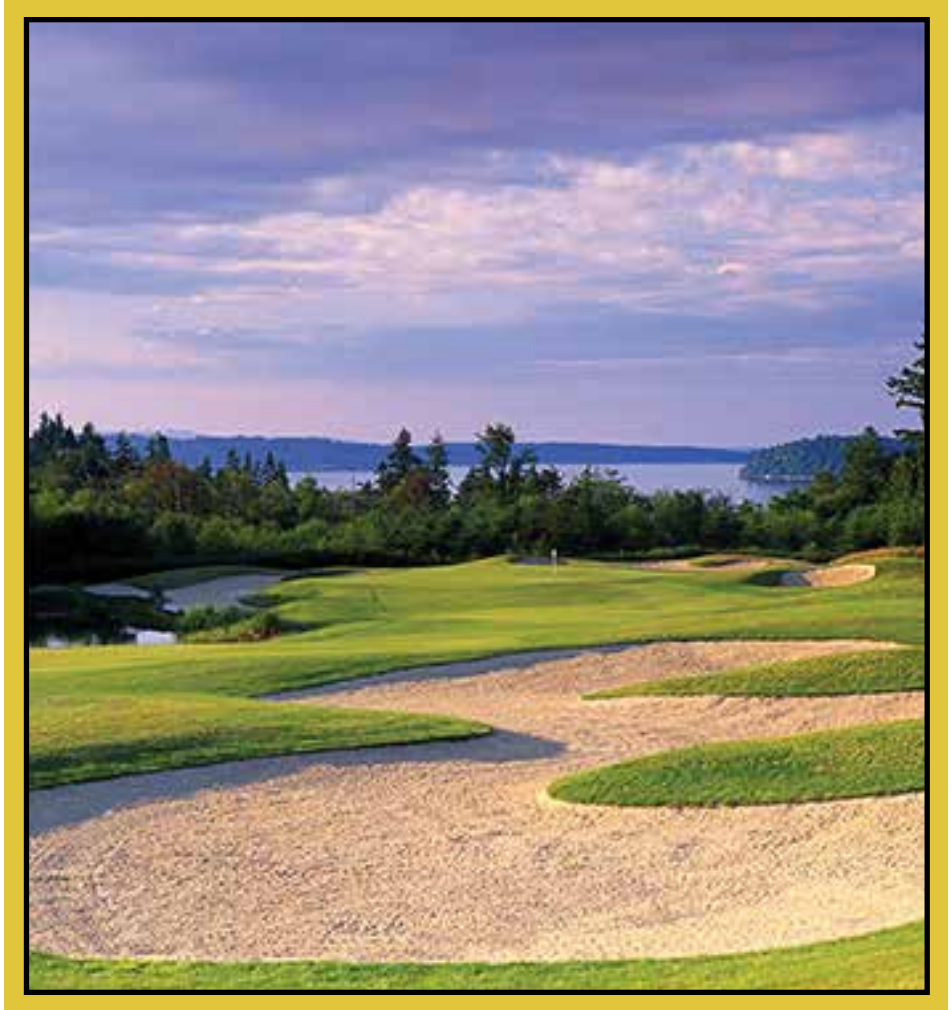
There never seems to be a bad time to travel to the Hawaiian islands to tee it up, but when Mother Nature starts to deal cold and wet weather in the Pacific Northwest, it might time to head to the sun in the islands and play some golf.

Places like Waikoloa Beach Resort on the Big Island (right) offer some great challenges and better views. With its 27 holes, Waikoloa Beach Resort is an island treat.

For more, see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie: Double the golf



If you are looking for an all-day golfing adventure the Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie in Lacey, Wash. just might be what you are looking for. Hawk's Prairie offers two courses Links and Woodlands. For more, please see inside Inside Golf.

Professionals take care of business against the amateurs, capture the annual Hudson Cup

It was a clean sweep for the Pacific Northwest professionals in the 78th annual edition of the Hudson Cup at Inglewood Golf Club in Kenmore, Wash.



Jeff Gove

The Hudson Cup is an annual event which pits the top professionals against the best amateurs from the Northwest. There is also a senior edition of the Hudson Cup. And the professionals won both sides.

The matches ended with the professionals narrowly winning 10 1//2 to 9 1/2 in the 78th Hudson Cup Matches. In the 35th edition of the Senior Hudson Cup, the professionals also won the matches beating the amateur team 13-7.

The Charles Congdon Award went to Harrison Moir (voted on by the professional team) and the Larry Lamberger Award was presented to Austin Hurt (voted on by the amateur team). In the Senior Matches, The Bill Eggers Award was presented to Ron Hop (voted on by the senior professional team) while Jeff Gove was bestowed the Bob McKendrick Award (voted on by the senior amateur team).

Northwest golfers shine at USGA Senior Women's

The Pacific Northwest was well represented at the USGA Senior Women's Am at the Portland Golf Club as several players took part. But Lara Tennant of Portland (near right) and Tina Papatolis of Issaquah (far right) had the most success. Tennant, who had won this event several times, made it to the semifinals while Papatolis was eliminated in the round of 32. See Page 9 for more.





Another year of high school golf coach provides another year of some fun stories on the course



And that's a wrap on another fall high school girls golf season at Thomas Jefferson High School in Federal Way. Notice I said the word fall in there, that means there will be a spring season for the ladies from Thomas Jefferson in 2027.

When athletic director Courtney McCurry hired me a few years ago as the girl's golf coach I knew it would be a fun proposition dealing with girls who are new to golf and some who had been playing for a couple of years. That has certainly been the case! We had a girl make it to state, we had teams qualify from fall to spring and we started to have girls go to college to play golf which has led to other girls interested in that road.

This year we had a team of six. And it was a fun mix. One senior, two juniors, one sophomore and two freshmen. The regular season through the North Puget Sound League was the usual roller coaster with plenty of ups and downs.

We won some matches we were supposed to, got handled by teams that were at the top of the league and through it all I saw girls on our team get better and better after we had that first practice back in August.

It was certainly a diverse cast of characters on this team.

There was the senior with the half swing who always seemed down on her game but found a way to improve as the season went on and was a terrific surprise at our district tournament in October.

There was the junior with the John Daly-like swing way past her head who I tried to teach to swing shorter but to no avail. When she hit it good - it was good. But when it went sideways- it went sideways.

There was the sophomore who just didn't like much help from the coach. At district I tried to get her to hit a different club from a tough lie in the rough but she was determined to do it her way. It didn't work out good for her. Hey, it's OK to listen to the coach once in a while.

There was the freshman who is the younger sister of the junior who decided to play golf rather than volleyball and is a feisty and competitive player. She played well throughout the season but when things went wrong it really took a lot of hard work during the round to get a smile back on her face.

There was another freshman who had the opposite issue. Always smiling. It was awesome. She was a beginner and struggled at times but always smiled and always wanted to learn how to get better.

Four of the six played at the district tournament. These four qualified for the spring tournament, beating two teams along the way that had beaten them in the regular season. Nice going Thomas Jefferson ladies. See you in the spring for more fun and excitement on the golf course.

So here's to you - you Thomas Jefferson High School spring qualifiers. I would be remiss without naming you so here goes: Audrey, Ema, Naomi and Milla,. But let's not forget Laila and Tanya who were there for the regular season. Thanks again ladies.

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These four girls from Thomas Jefferson High School qualified for the spring high school district tournament.

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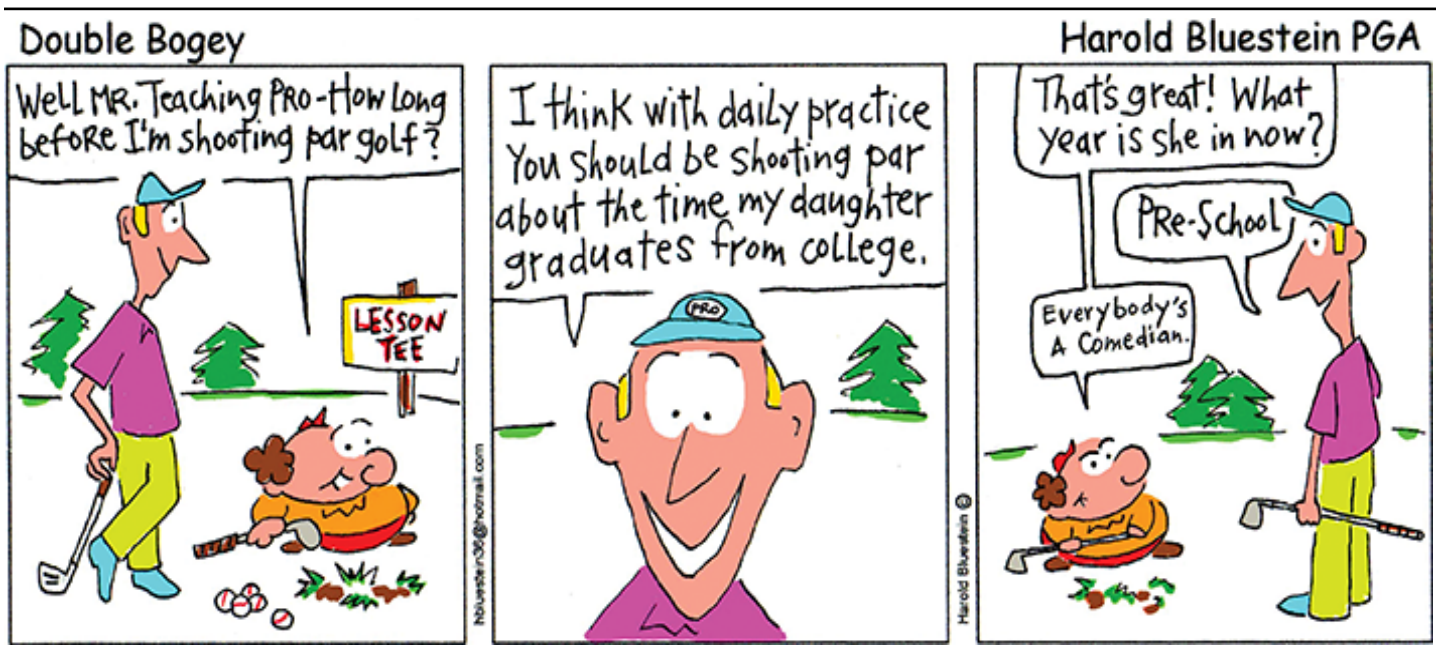
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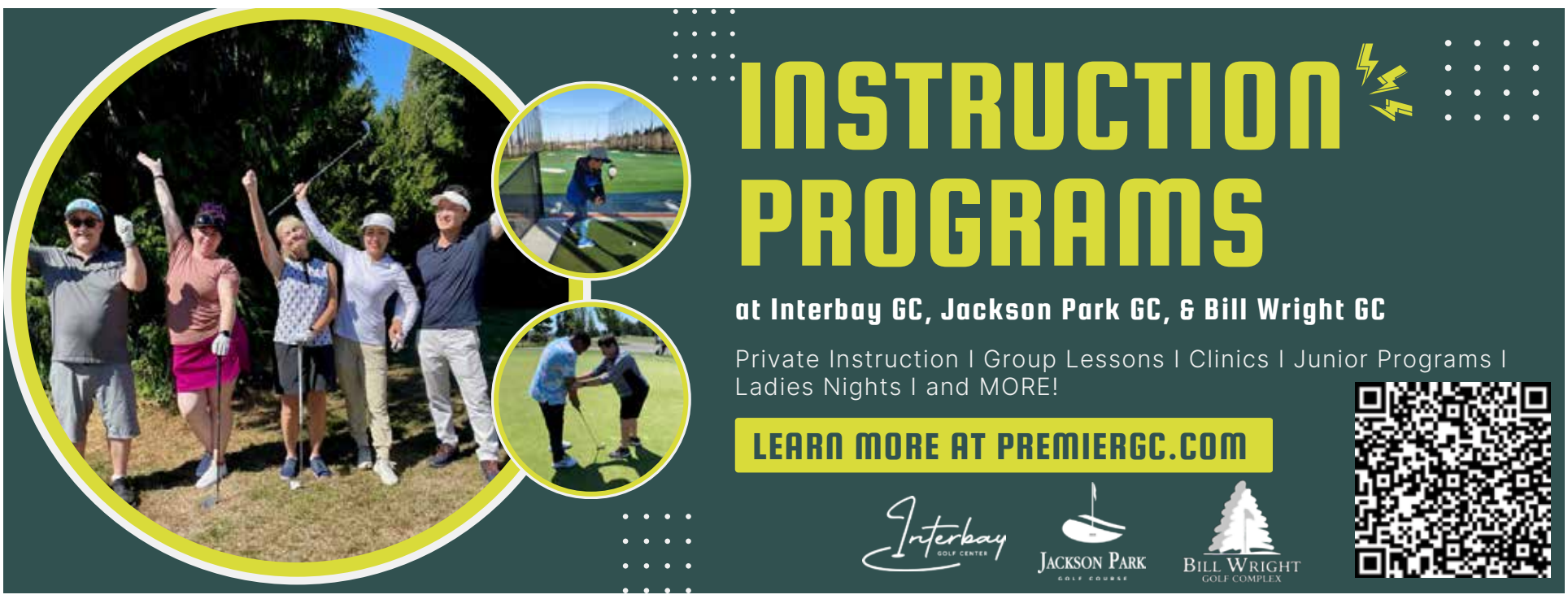
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Rules Answer

Answer: Actually, it was his day! Rule 19.2c tell us that his relief area can be in any area of the course, but if more than one area of the course is located within two club lengths of the reference point, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped in the relief area. In this case he will redrop again in the relief area in the fairway. If the ball again rolls into the bunker, he will place the ball where it hit the ground on the second drop.

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



LPGA announces 2027 schedule with Portland event set Sept. 16-19

The LPGA will return to Portland in 2027 with The Standard Portland Classic Sept. 16-19 the LPGA announced as its released its 2027 schedule.

The Portland LPGA event is the longest-running LPGA event. This year's event will offer a prize fund of $2.1 million and the tournament typically features one of the strongest fields of the season the LPGA has to offer during the season.

The LPGA announced that the 2027 season will feature a total of 33 events spanning across 11 countries and 13 states. A record $147 million in prize money will be available this year.

Northwest Pro-Am Championship

PGA Professional Brad Myers and amateur Collin Hodgkinson of The Reserve Vineyards (Hillsboro, OR) won the Pacific Golf & Turf Pro-Amateur Championship today at Palouse Ridge GC in a playoff against PGA Professional Jeff Gustafson and amateur Matt Newcombe of Club Green Meadows (Vancouver, WA). Collin eagled the first hole of the playoff.

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The Pacific Northwest Pro-Am is a two-man team competition with one professional and one amateur playing a four-ball format.

Both teams finished in a tie at 122 for the two days of the tournament. The team of Anton Underwood and Mark WIlkins of Manito Golf and Country Club finished third at 124, Mark and Lucas Knowles of McCormick Woods Golf Course tied for fourth with Tyler Martinez and Jared Mraz of Lewiston Golf and Country Club at 125.

A pair of teams tied for sixth at 126 as David Nuhn and Kevin Tucker of the University of Idaho tied with Christian Wolff and Emerson Storer of Heron Lakes while the teams of Christian Wolff and Emerson Storer of Heron Lake, Beau Walker and Sofa Nozaka of Columbia Point and Black Rock, Derek Berg and John Darnello of the PNW Golf Academy and Bear Creek, Preston Bebich and Benjamin Borgida of Canterwood and Everett and Jeff Gove and Todd Sturgid of the Idaho Club wound up at 127.

Did you know....

• The annual PNGA Player of the Year awards were first given out in 1997. There are six categories: men, women, men's mid-amateur, women's mid-amateur, senior men, senior women, junior boys', and junior girls'. The first recipient of the Junior Boys' award was Jason Allred, who would go on to a career on the PGA Tour; and the first recipient of the Junior Girls' award was Kelli Kamimura, who would become the longest tenured women's head golf coach at Washington State University. Visit thepnga.org to see the 2026 honorees.

• Scores from rounds played in Washington Golf territory between November 15, 2026, and February 28, 2027, should not be posted for handicap purposes. However, if you play a round during the WA Golf Inactive Score Posting Season in an area (California, Arizona, Hawaii, etc.) that is still accepting scores, you must post that score as soon as practicable. During the Inactive Score Posting Season, Handicap Indexes will continue to be updated daily, provided an acceptable score is posted the day prior.

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 3rd on the list with $14,661,436
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 66th on the list with $2,484,063
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 74th on the list with $2,009,454
- A.J. Ewart • B.C. Canada • 112th on the list with $1,145,661
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 125th on the list with $845,860
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 149th on the list with $516,150
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 161st on the list with $337,520
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 163rd on the list with $335,303
- Adam Svensson • British Columbia • 178th on the list with $238,274
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • 189th on the list with $154,756

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 6th on the list with $542,861
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 77th on the list with $121,749
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • 122nd on the list with $57,610

Champions Tour

- Ben Crane • Portland • 9th on the list with $1,365,069
- Fred Couples • Seattle •75th on the list with $201,599
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 76th on the list with $201,214

LPGA Tour

- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 56th on the list with $506,845
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 171st on the list with $21,718
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No events

LPGA Epson Tour

- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 151st on the list with $2,647
- Kathleen Scavo • Eugene • 172nd on the list with $672
- Sarah Rhee • Ex-UW • No events



NW pro Austin Hurt takes part in PGA Cup; Pacific Coast Amateur heading to RainDance

Congratulations to Austin Hurt of Wing Point Golf & Country Club on earning a spot on the 2026 United States PGA Cup Team.

Hurt was one of just 10 PGA of America Golf Professionals selected to represent the U.S. against Great Britain & Ireland at the 32nd PGA Cup in October at The K Club in County Kildare, Ireland. One of the highest honors in professional golf, Austin earned his spot through a two-year points race that included the PGA Professional Championship and PGA Championship.

The American didn't fare well however as the Great Britain and Ireland team took care of the Americans 16 1/2-9 1/2 to win the PGA Cup on European soil.

For Hurt, making the American team was a huge goal.

He has won the Washington Amateur, two Washington Assistant Championships, and the PNW PGA Professional Championship twice. But earning a spot on the PGA Cup team carries a different significance.

"Making the PGA Cup is extremely humbling."

Hurt's first championship, the Washington Amateur, came in 2009. Looking back, he would tell his younger self to appreciate the journey a little more after winning that event..

Pacific Coast Amateur to RainDance

The Pacific Coast Golf Association (PCGA) is proud to announce RainDance National Golf Course and the Colorado Golf Association (CGA) will host the 60th Pacific Coast Amateur Championship, from July 20-23, 2027.

The 2027 championship will be the first to be held in Colorado since 1988 and fourth overall. Having opened in 2022, RainDance National is thus an entirely new venue for the Pacific Coast Amateur.

RainDance National holds the distinction of being the longest golf course in North America, measuring 8,450 yards from its longest tees. It is set in the Colorado's High Plains about an hour's drive north of Denver at about 4,800 feet above sea level. Its walking layout has 250 feet of elevation changes.

RainDance National's design is credited to Fred Funk, a 9-time PGA Tour winner and 8-time PGA Tour Champions winner. It has an entirely fescue grass playing surface and features views of mountain peaks and valleys that are synonymous with Colorado terrain. Fairways play firm and fast, and most holes have fescue areas surrounding them, adding to the fair yet demanding test of championship-caliber golf.

Since opening, RainDance National has hosted an assortment of high-level CGA championships, including the Colorado State Amateur (2023), Colorado High School Boys' Class 3A State Championship (2023), CGA Senior Match Play (2024), CGA Women's Mashie (2025) and CGA Four Ball (2026). The Pacific Coast Amateur adds to what is a brief yet storied history at the golf course.

Northwest golfer makes USGA final

Nate Smith of Tetonia, Idaho, advanced to but lost the final match of the 45th U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship to Andrew Bailey of Cleveland, Ohio, by a margin of 5 & 4 in the scheduled 36-hole match. The championship was held at The Lido and Sand Valley courses at Sand Valley Golf Resort in Nekoosa, Wisconsin.

Smith, who won the Idaho Men's Amateur in 2024 and 2026, entered the match-play portion of the week as the No. 45 seed, having produced a 1-over par over 36 holes of stroke play. The 43-year-old and 2025 PNGA Men's Mid-Amateur Player of the Year is a homebuilder in his Eastern Idaho community and was reinstated as an amateur in 2022. On his way to the final match, he defeated some of the finer names in amateur golf, like Stewart Hagestad, the three-time U.S. Mid-Amateur champ who Smith soundly bested 5 & 4 in the Round of 32 during the tournament.

Smith entered the week ranked 264th in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR). It was that ranking that earned him an exemption into this national championship, as he was a top 40 age-eligible point leader in WAGR as of July 15. Smith's counting wins toward that also include the PNGA Men's Master-40 Amateur and The Snedeker Memorial, both in 2025.

Youth on Course winners

Youth on Course – the nonprofit organization providing youth with access to life-changing opportunities through golf – recently announced its scholarship recipients, awarding $365,000 in scholarships to 19 exceptional students as they begin their higher education journeys.

Among the 19 recipients are three from the Pacific Northwest – Nerissa Griffith of Portland, Ore.; Jordyn Lorence of Sherwood, Ore., and Kameron Marshock of Nampa, Idaho.

Selected from 558 applicants nationwide, this year's scholars distinguished themselves through academic excellence, leadership, community involvement, and perseverance. In all, they represent 11 states across the country, and seven recipients will be first-generation college students, demonstrating the life-changing impact that access and opportunity can have on a young person's future.

The Youth on Course program allows golfers aged 6-18 to play rounds of golf for just $5 at thousands of participating golf courses and facilities across the U.S. and Canada.

The Youth on Course College Scholarship Committee reviews each online application, and a select group of candidates is contacted to participate in an interview. The committee then does a final review and notifies the chosen recipients each April for the following fall.

If you plan to play tournament golf it is a good idea to get GHIN handicap

If you are looking to get a golf handicap for the 2027 season it is nice and easy with any of your local golf organizations..

1) Sign up for a Handicap ID.

Your unique Handicap ID number gives you the ability to post scores from which your Handicap Index is calculated. Get your Handicap ID number when you join a WA Golf member club such as the men's or women's club at a local golf course, or one at your workplace or community. Or join the Oregon Golf Association (OGA).

Join a WA Golf Associate Club or OGA club. Associate members receive all the benefits of a WA Golf membership with no strings attached or obligations to their host club.

2) Start posting your scores.

With your Handicap ID number you can post your scores: Through the USGA GHIN app on your mobile device. The app lets you post your scores, calculate course handicap, view score history and more. The app features touch-point GPS for thousands of golf courses worldwide. Download the free app from the App Store or Google Play.

Here are a couple of ways to get it going: Through ghin.com or Online at wagolf.org/post. Scores should be posted as soon as possible after your round on the day it was played.

3) Post three 18-hole rounds.

A minimum of three 18-hole or six 9-hole scores posted are all that's needed to calculate and establish your Handicap Index! The more often you post your score, the more accurate your handicap.

For more see the local web sites.



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Rules of the Game: You might see the letters 'DZ' when you play a round but what do those letters actually mean

Patti Daskalos





There are special relief procedures when it comes to knowing what to do when it comes to the "DZ,"

A DZ is a Dropping Zone - which is a special relief procedure adopted by the Rules Committee when there may be practical problems with players using normal relief options under a Rule.

For example, for a penalty area located next to a bunker, the committee may have a DZ option if your ball enters the penalty area where the penalty area and bunker coincide. In this situation, you are already taking a penalty stroke for playing outside the penalty area, and it could be excessively punitive to also have you play from the bunker. The Dropping Zone could give you an additional option for relief.

You have probably seen signs for Dropping Zones on the course on a forward Tee or a circle painted on the ground. Some courses provide Dropping Zones for everyday play. Other times DZs are provided for tournament play. Usually, you will find notifications about DZs on a course scorecard for casual play. For tournament play you will find it on the Notice to Players. Read the text regarding the use of the Dropping Zone carefully, as a DZ can be used as an extra option, or the only relief option.

How do you use a Dropping Zone correctly? Here are a few things you need to know.

1. You do not have to stand in the Dropping Zone when dropping a ball or hitting the ball you dropped.

2. Even if the Dropping Zone is located in a Teeing Area, the ball is to be dropped. A player must not use a Tee or place the ball in the DZ. If you play a ball from the DZ that has been placed, or from which you hit from a Tee, the General Penalty applies. (Remember it is called a Dropping Zone)

3. The ball must be dropped in the relief area defined as the DZ. It must come to rest in the DZ. A ball that rolls out of the Dropping Zone and comes to rest outside the Dropping Zone must be re-dropped. If your dropped ball does not first strike the ground inside the DZ— it also must be re-dropped regardless of where it comes to rest to avoid penalty.

4. Keep in mind that if the Dropping Zone is defined by a line on the ground, the line is inside (or part of) the dropping zone. If you drop your ball in the DZ and it comes to rest on the line, that ball is correctly dropped and is in play.

A DZ is a Dropping Zone - which is a special relief procedure adopted by the Rules Committee when there may be practical problems with players using normal relief options under a Rule.

QUESTION: Ladies are playing for the club championship and one of them hits a beautiful shot to 5 feet. After approaching the green with dry conditions that day she marked her ball but left the ball on the putting green. She waited her turn to putt but still did not lift the ball but instead bent down and rotated her mark on the ball to aim. She backed way a few feet to read the putt and natural forces (gravity or wind) moved her ball 10 feet farther from the hole. Sometimes golf doesn't seem fair. What does she do?

ANSWER: Rule 9.3 tells us a ball moved by natural forces is played from its new spot without penalty. Exception 1 says a ball on the putting green must be replaced if it moves after having been lifted and replaced. But in this case she did not lift the ball. So, the question is does rotating the ball without lifting it give her the right to replace her ball on its original spot? Rule 14.1 tells her that in fact lifting can be done in "any way" which includes lifting, rotating it or otherwise deliberately causing it to move from its spot. She can replace the ball on the original spot 5 feet from the hole which if not known is estimated.

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When the Northwest winter hits, Hawaii golf awaits

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

You know that you are flying into something special just by looking out the window of the airplane as you land at the Kona International Airport on Hawaii, the Big Island. From those brief seconds upon landing, you see golf courses, lava fields, mountains, ocean waves and long endless miles of roads.

Welcome to the Island of Hawaii, also called the Big Island, a paradise that has just about everything you would want in a golf vacation. Terrific resort golf courses? Check. Some great public courses? Check. Plenty of beaches to enjoy the Pacific Ocean and its surfing and snorkeling? Check and check. The chance to tee off in the shadow of one of the tallest mountains - Mauna Kea? Check.

Here's a look at the golf on the Big Island:

• Many of the resorts sit along the ocean and offer terrific views. Waikoloa Beach Resort has 27 holes to offer. The Kings' Nine is embraced by natural lava formations so keeping the ball in the fairway is key. The Waikoloa Beach Resort is more than just golf as well. There are two shopping villages and two resorts - a Marriott and a Hilton. The Hilton is so set on 62 acres and is so spacious that you can opt to take a tram or boat to get from one side of the resort to the other. The Marriott features a spectacular setting along the beach. There is plenty to like along these 27 holes with views of the ocean and during the right time of the year you can spot whales swimming close by.

• It all started in 1964 when Mauna Kea was designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and opened for play. In fact, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player came over for an exhibition. Rumor has it during the round on the par-3 third hole, the three stood at the 272-yard tee box with the Pacific Ocean in front of them that Player told the other two he couldn't carry his ball that far. There is a plaque on the tee box commemorating the exhibition that day. Right next door sits Hapuna Golf Course which features a dramatic course with plenty of holes up the hill and more down the hill toward the Pacific Ocean.





Golf on the Big Island of Hawaii offers shots with lava in the background (left); Waikoloa Beach Resort is a 27-hole golf treat with plenty of challenges along the way.

• A course that used to be called the Big Island Country Club has now changed its name to Makani. This is a course which sits on the hillside above Kona and features a terrific layout and some spectacular views. With wide fairways and water on half of the holes a terrific island green par-3 17th hole and a dramatic finishing 18th, this is a course that is worth the extra trip up the hill.

• Mauna Lani Resort is nestled between Waikoloa Beach Resort and Mauna Kea Resort and has two courses on site. Its signature 15th hole on the South Course is one of the most photographed holes in the world. In the winter, you might see humpback whales.

• Hualālai Resort's Jack Nicklaus designed course is also the home of the Champions Tour in January and features a Four Seasons Resort. The resort has two courses, with the Nicklaus course being used for the PGA Champions event every January. The 17th hole is dramatic, a par-3 which sits on the edge of the Pacific Ocean and has a tee shot which carries lava. A private course sits next door.

• Kona Country Club is another gem, has undergone some changes, including an irrigation project that closed the course for two years. And the results have been amazing with perfect tees, fairways and greens. There are some long par-3 holes that get your attention and if the wind is blowing, you better have your A Game with you. There are a few holes along the Pacific Ocean that provide terrific scenery during your round. There is plenty to like with Kona Country Club with the challenging layout and great conditions.

• Inland, golf is still a treat. Makalei Golf Club, up the hill from the Kona Airport, just might be one of the hilliest golf courses around. In fact, the cart drive from the clubhouse to the driving range takes you up 750 feet.

• And Waikoloa Golf Village sits at elevation and offers a Robert Trent Jones Jr. course with some scenic views of the ocean. There are plenty of challenging holes and the slopes of the fairways and greens makes you think about using just about every club in your bag. Two of the best holes are par-3 holes, the sixth which features the Kohala Coast and the Pacific Ocean and the 12th, a downhill par-3.



Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie

Double your golfing fun at Hawk's Prairie with two spectacular courses: the Links and Woodlands



Finding two championship-quality 18-hole courses at the same facility is a rarity. At Hawks Prairie in Lacey, Wash., golfers can choose between two very different tests of their game: The Woodlands and The Links courses.

The two courses offer contrasting experiences, each with its own personality. The Woodlands is a demanding test that rewards accuracy. Golfers must navigate tight, tree-lined fairways while avoiding numerous bunkers and water hazards. The challenge continues on the large, undulating, amoeba-shaped greens, which will test even skilled players' putting and chipping abillity.

As its name suggests, The Links offers a Scottish-inspired style of golf, with five sets of tees and water hazards on half the holes. Its open fairways, undulating greens and scenic views of Mount Rainier and Puget Sound make for a different experience from The Woodlands. But the lack of shelter from trees can leave golfers at the mercy of the wind, adding another layer of difficulty.

It's important to note that The Woodlands course typically closes for the winter and is scheduled to reopen in March of next year. However, it may open during the winter when scheduled events on The Links require additional playing capacity. Golfers hoping to play The Woodlands during the off-season should call ahead to confirm availability.

According to Hawks Prairie General Manager Mark Wascher, the greens on The Links are running at a Stimpmeter reading of 10 feet. How good is that for a winter golf course? The PGA tour regularly plays on 10.2 to 12.

For golfers who play regularly, an Oki card offers good value. The weekday card starts at $239 and includes three prepaid rounds with cart at nine Oki courses, with an upcharge at the Newcastle courses. The original card starts at $149 and includes one prepaid round, along with access to eight Oki courses. Visit Oki.com for details, including eligibility requirements and restrictions.



Pacific Northwest players make strong showing at USGA Senior Women's Am

Not only was the Pacific Northwest well represented when it came to hosting the 2026 USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship, but several of the players involved came from the NW as well.

The Portland Golf Club served as a terrific host for the tournament - and played hard through the two days of stroke play and the days of match play.

China's Xiaolong (Sherry) Zhong won the tournament over Amadine Vincent in the championship match, but along the way the Northwest showed that it had some solid senior amateur women players as well.

Portland's Lara Tennant has become a fixture in this tournament having won it multiple times and nearly did again this year at the Portland Golf Club.

Tennant breezed through the two qualifying rounds with a two-round total of 10 over par finished tied for 12th. She did have a struggle in the round of 64 match play having to survive a 23-match in the opening round to move on. In the round of 32 Tennant won 1-up and then was victorious 3&2 in the round of 16. In the quarterfinals Tennant won 2&1 to move onto the semifinals. In the semifinals she ran into the top seed Zhong and lost a close 1-up match. Tennant has a match play record of 31-7 in this event and earned an exemption into next year's championship.

Tina Papatolis of Issaquah finished eighth in the stroke play and made it to match play. She won her first round match play 6&4 but fell in the round of 32 in 20 holes to fall out of the tournament.

There were several other players from the Pacific Northwest who took part in the tournament. In fact Tennant's sister Cappy Mack played but did not survive the cut. Others to play but not make the cut into match play included Leslie Folsom of Seattle, Kim Shek of Bellevue, Loree McKay of Portland, Gretchen Klein of Hoquiam and Ginny Burkey of Eugene.



Lara Tennant (Scott Bisch photo).



Tina Papatolis (Scott Bisch photo).

Lake Limerick Golf Club

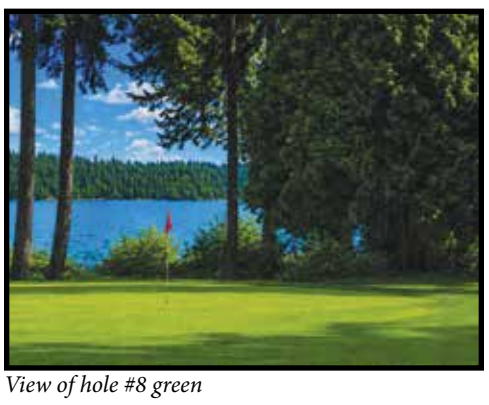
The Lake Limerick Golf Course in Shelton, WA, is a charming and scenic nine-hole course that plays to18 holes using dual tees, offering a full par-72 experience. It is open to the public.

Lake Limerick was ranked among the nation's best short courses, earning the #19 spot on the GolfPass Golfers' Choice list of top U.S. public short courses in 2024.

The Limerick Café is open to everyone–not just club members–serving hearty breakfasts and satisfying lunches. With seasonal hours, it's easy to find the perfect time to stop in.
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View of hole #8 green

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Cards purchased on or before October 15, 2026, are valid for unlimited play beginning October 16, 2026, through February 28, 2027. Cards purchased after October 15, 2026, are valid beginning November 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027. All Unlimited Winter Golf Card Holders will receive 5 guest passes at 50% Off the public rates, valid Monday through Friday. Additional Terms and Conditions apply. See okigolf.com for full terms and conditions.



Looking for ways to enjoy playing golf during the winter? Try some of these tips

If you are looking to keep playing in the Pacific Northwest winter months there are certain things you need to keep in mind. Here are some tips to remember when you decide to make that tee time during those winter months:

• Layer up with moisture-wicking base layers, insulating mid-layers, and waterproof outer layers. Don't forget warm gloves and a beanie or hat to keep your head warm. Using a dicky will keep your neck warm and stop rain from running down your back.

• Use softer golf balls that perform better in colder weather. Consider using a hybrid instead of a driver for better control on wet or soft ground.

Adjust Your Expectations

• Understand that the ball may not travel as far in cold weather. Be prepared to adjust your club selections accordingly.

• Keep Your Equipment Dry: Use waterproof bags and covers to protect your clubs and gear from rain and moisture. Bring extra towels to wipe down clubs and balls.

• Plan for Shorter Days: Tee off earlier in the day to make the most of the limited daylight. Check local sunset times and plan your rounds accordingly.

• Stay Hydrated: Even in colder temperatures, it's essential to stay hydrated. Bring water or warm drinks in a thermos to keep your energy up.

• Warm Up Properly: Spend extra time warming up to avoid injuries. Stretch your muscles and take some practice swings to get your body ready.

• Less Crowded Courses: Enjoy a more relaxed pace of play with fewer golfers on the course, which can enhance your overall experience.

• Improved Focus and Concentration: The quieter surroundings and cooler temperatures can help you concentrate better on your game, allowing for improved performance.

• Unique Scenic Beauty: Western Washington offers stunning winter landscapes, including snow-capped mountains and serene, misty mornings that can make your round memorable.

Opportunity for Practice

• Winter golf provides a chance to work on your game without the pressure of tournaments or competitive play, allowing for valuable skill improvement.

Health Benefits

• Staying active during the winter months can boost your mood and overall health.

• Affordable Rates: Most courses offer lower green fees during the off season, making it a cost-effective time to play.

The Lesson Tee: Winter time might be the best time to retool your golf swing

November through February, due to weather, are more difficult times to improve our golf. We can do much to improve indoors as well as hitting balls outside.

This "Swing Improvement Station" can be used to hit shots, make practice swings to improve technique and do specific drills.

Let's get after it during this winter season and improve that game!

Most golfers do not own a proper swing plane or path. Most are to steep entering the hitting zone or "over the top" of the proper swing plane. This "Swing Station" will fix that.

Place a 36-inch cone or shaft where the outside edge is even with your toe line and extend to the hosel of your club. See photo 1.

As you make a backswing, your club head moves slightly outside the cone or shaft. See photo 1.

On the downswing, the club moves on the inside of the cone. See photo 2. Most golfers need to feel like they are making an inside loop to achieve this. Imagine Matthew Wolf or Jim Furyk. It is necessary. Keep your shoulders closed to the target and feel like you are mostly using your hands and arms on the downswing. Most golfers overuse their body on the downswing.

Place a shaft behind an impact bag and master spinning the bag to the right of the shaft. See photo 3. This Station will improve your path. You can take away the impact bag in Photo 3 and make proper practice swings or even hit balls!

Do this at home, at the golf course, better yet do both.

Jeff Coston is a former PGA Tour Player, Hall of Fame member and Golf Digest #1 Teacher in Washington. Jeff can be reached for appointment by calling Semiahmoo at 360 201-4590. See jeffcoston.com.

Jeff Coston



Most golfers do not own a proper swing plane or path. Most are to steep entering the hitting zone or "over the top" of the proper swing plane. This "Swing Station" will fix that.



Photo 2



Photo 1

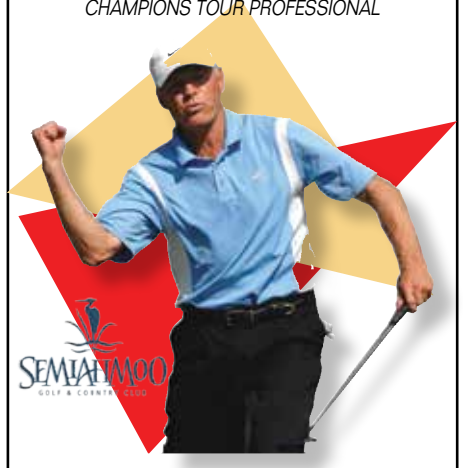


Photo 3

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Founders Group offers some great places to play when making the Myrtle Beach trip

If it's winter time in the Pacific Northwest, it might be time to make that annual winter golf trip. And there might not be a better place to take that trip than the place they call the Grand Strand - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Myrtle Beach is an area that is golf, golf and more golf. And for good reason. There are courses up and down for miles and this is truly golf at its finest. In fact the PGA Tour now calls Myrtle Beach home to one of its tour stops.

And there is one company that knows exactly what golfers want when they head to South Carolina for a golf trip. The Founders Group features a collection of 21 courses in and around Myrtle Beach and offers some terrific variety with no two courses alike.

For those who are looking at making a Myrtle Beach trip for some golf - Founders Group has a way of setting you up with the lodging and golf with its Myrtle Beach Golf Trips. There is no shortage of courses to play in the Founder's Group and the accommodations are first rate. For more on taking a trip to Myrtle Beach and where to stay and play - see the web site www.myrtlebeachgolftrips.com.

The Founders Group is a company that can take care of all of your golf needs with one visit to the web site or one phone call. With its variety of courses and choices of places to stay, Myrtle Beach is the kind of place you will want to visit time and again. Call 1.866.694.2448 for more information on the golf trips.

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