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2010: Magic Year for Tom Gillis

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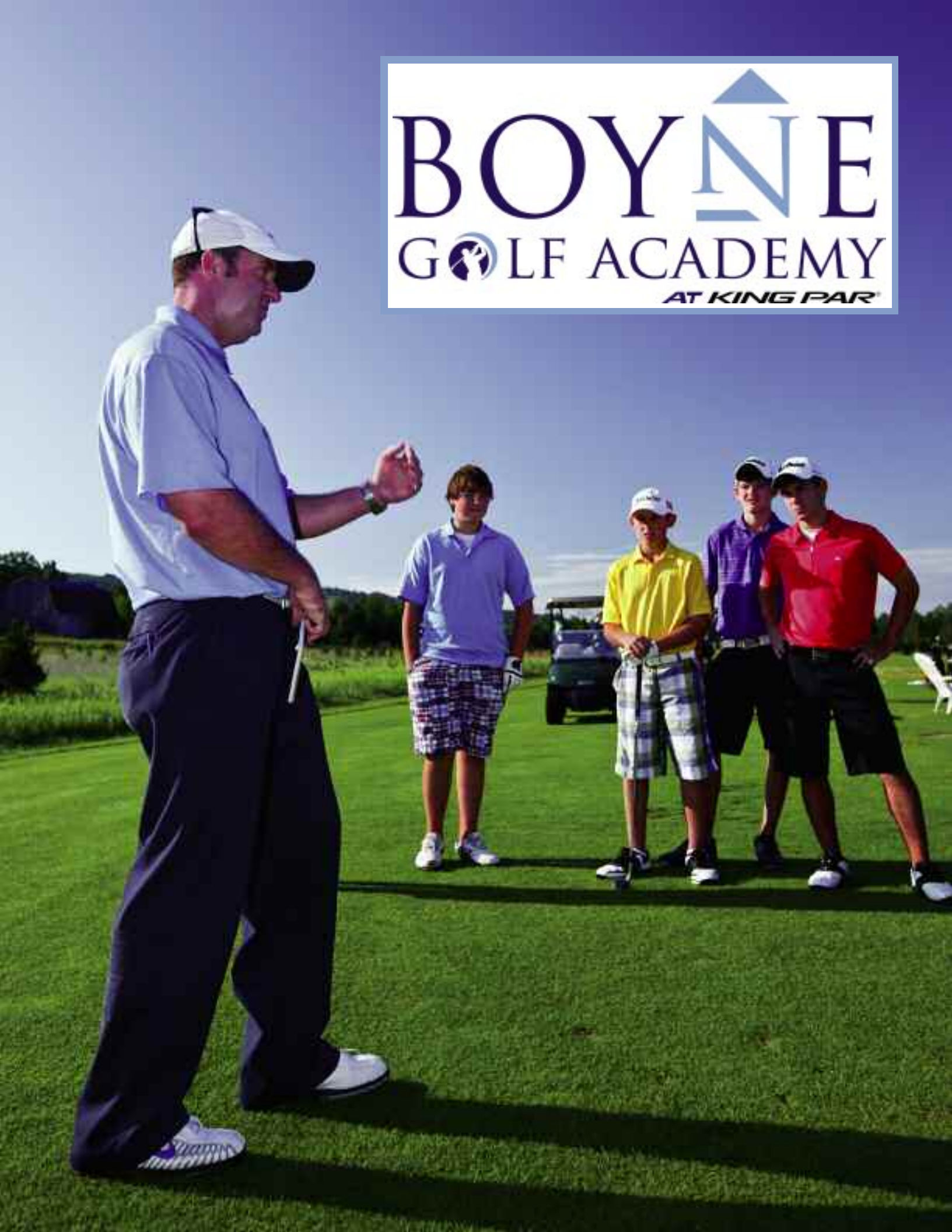
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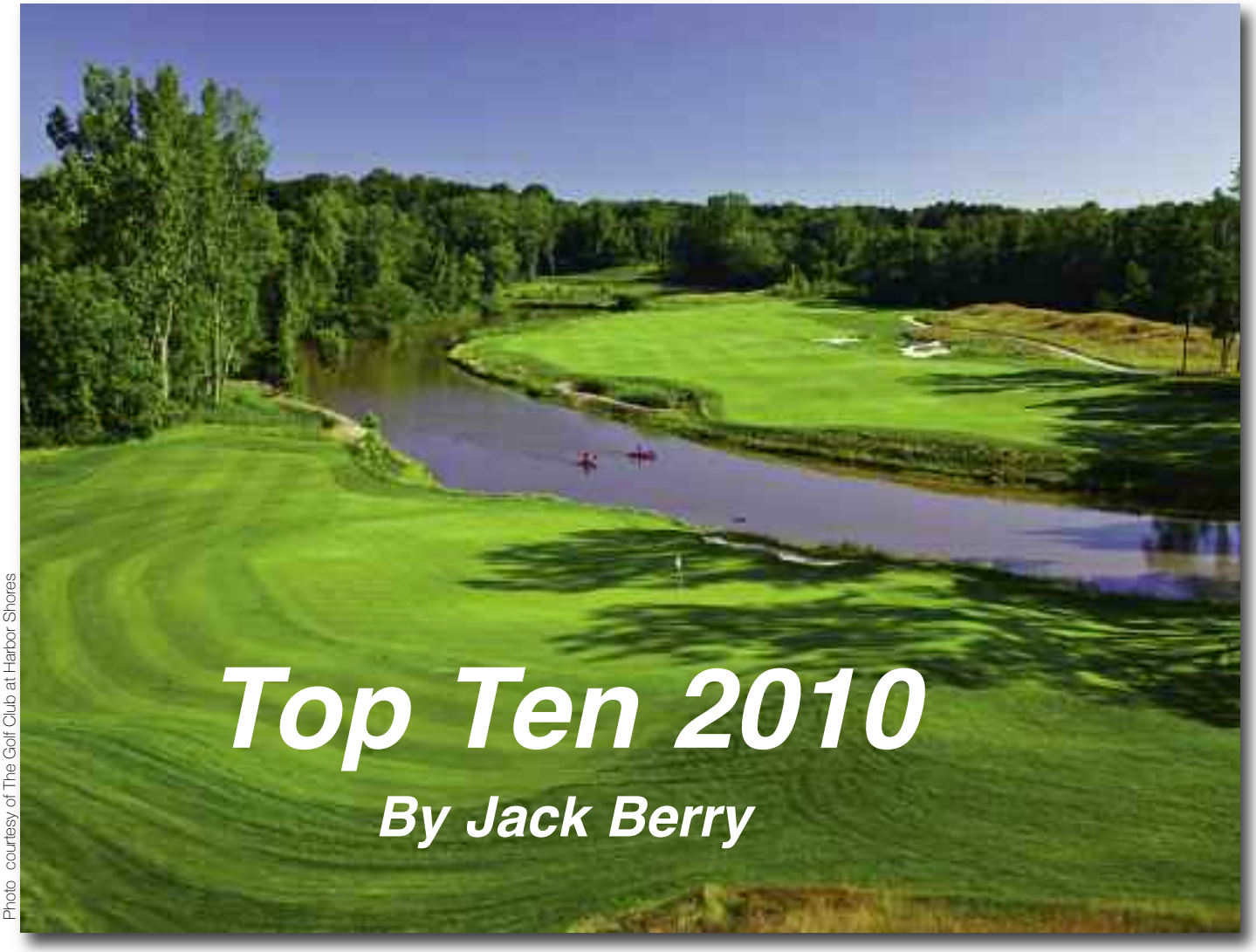

Photo courtesy of The Golf Club at Harbor Shores

Top Ten 2010

By Jack Berry

The Golf Club at Harbor Shores

The ballot (mine) is in and here is my Golf Top Ten in Michigan for 2010:

1. Pure Michigan funding bogey
2. GM returns to golf
3. Big Four christens Harbor Shores
4. Two Senior majors for Harbor Shores
5. Ertl, Traub & Zylstra enter Hall of Fame
6. Magic for 42-year-old Tom Gillis
7. And then there's 15-year-old Henry Do
8. The Bear is 25 and well
9. Juniors are sensational at Egypt Valley
10. Championship year for Ryan & Natalie Brehm

Jack Berry

A year ago it was All Tiger All The Time. And the economy wasn't any better.

The world and golf survived the Tiger wreck and it turned into one of the best, most entertaining seasons we've had with comparatively new faces dominating the major events, Northern Irishman Graham McDowell winning the U.S. Open, South African Louis Oosthuizen the British Open and German Martin Kaymer the PGA Championship.

Koreans and Japanese dominated women's golf and with golf in the lineup for the 2016 Olympic Games in Argentina, golf truly is the world game that hasn't been marred by floppers, hooligans and fixers as that other world game has.

There still is that economy, though, and it figured as the No. 1 story in Michigan and the entire state tourism industry that provides jobs, jobs, jobs in every county of the state. Convincing the state legislature of that importance, and the best attention-grabber the state ever has had to promote it, was a different matter even though the campaign has been proven to bring money into the state.

The national award-winning Pure Michigan television-radio-print-internet campaign showed the beautiful Michigan we who live here know. Four of the world's great inland seas surround us and there are more than 11,000 lakes inside the two peninsulas. Golf courses that make most states jealous, designed by the best architects in the game. Everything recreationists and families desire is here.

When the Pure Michigan campaign got going, it had $39 million in funding. It was slashed this year with nothing for the fall and only $5 million targeted for 2011. Now, $10 million has been taken from the 21st Century Jobs Fund to promote Winter and Spring and leave the rest of next year to the new governor and legislature.

On the positive front, General Motors announced it is returning to golf sponsorship. Cadillac is the name plate on the Doral tournament, one of the four World Golf Championship events. The rumor mill had Cadillac also sponsoring a tournament in Detroit but it hasn't materialized.

Third and fourth on the Top Ten go to west Michigan, Benton Harbor-based Whirlpool and its KitchenAid division. Whirlpool brought Jack Nicklaus to town, gave him some land by Lake Michigan and he designed the Golf Club at Harbor Shores.

The course, surrounded by a new community, will host the 2014 and 2016 Senior PGA Championship. KitchenAid is starting as title sponsor of the PGA Senior in 2011.

Nicklaus talked old rivals Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Johnny Miller into helping him open Harbor Shores in a highly successful benefit one day benefit tournament and clinic in August.

Holding fifth place on our Top Ten list was the induction of Sue Ertl, John Traub and Bill Zylstra into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, raising the Hall total to 90.

Photo by Jennie McCafferty

Ryan Brehm and his sister Natalie took 10th spot by winning state championships.

Photo courtesy of The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame

Sue Ertl entered the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame.

Ertl was a top athlete at Ionia High School and golf won out when she went to Michigan State and from there to the LPGA Tour. In 1979 she was named MSU's first Sportswoman of the Year and is in the Women's Collegiate Hall of Fame and the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Traub, a big hitter and longtime club professional at Great Oaks and Detroit Golf Club, made a big name for himself by rallying from seven shots behind to shoot 69 in a 30-mile-an hour wind to take the PGA Club Professional Championship.

Zylstra made his name, and keeps making it, in senior amateur golf. He twice has been named Golfweek Titleist National Senior Player of the Year and has dominated senior golf in Michigan. Zylstra recently won the prestigious Society of Seniors Ralph Bogart Memorial in Florida for the third time in four years.

Number six is Tom Gillis,

another veteran who struck it rich at the age of 42. The 1990 Michigan Amateur runnerup has played all over the world but never was able to stick on the PGA Tour until this year and he stuck like glue. Gillis won $1,166,146 and led the Tour in birdie average (4.06 per round) and par breakers with 394 birdies and nine eagles. He was 20th in scoring average at 70.12. A friend said "Tom stopped beating himself up. He just went out and played."

And then, from senior ranks and the mellow 40s, there's Number seven on the list – 15-year-old Henry Do (pronounced doe although he's a doer). The 5-foot-6, 120-pound Ann Arbor Green Hills sophomore stunned the Tournament of Champions field at Boyne Mountain when he shot 10-under-par 62 on the Alpine course for the first round lead. Do had two shots over past champions Alison Fouch, an LPGA player, and three over Canadian Tour player Andy Matthews. At that, Do started on the 10th hole and bogied the 11th before making nine birdies and an eagle, playing from the same tees as all the male professionals.

Michigan PGA past president Dave Kendall, who has been teaching Do since he was seven, said "My friends and peers always think I'm exaggerating about Henry. This changed some minds."

Do had a four shot lead with five holes to play in the third and final round of the tournament but then youth and inexperience and Matthews birdies beat him.

"I learned it's hard to win," Do said.

In eighth place, Grand Traverse Resort celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Nicklaus-designed Bear on a Pure Michigan blue sky day and it brought back the memory of developer Paul Nine telling Nicklaus he had a nice course. He wanted a championship course that would pull the big game hunters to the course. Nicklaus gave it to him. Golf Digest ranks the Bear the 18th toughest course in America.

Ninth place is the first United States Golf Association tournament played in West Michigan, the USGA Junior Championship. Egypt Valley Country Club, which ran so many outstanding Champions Tour stops, gave the juniors the same first class treatment. The juniors rewarded the spectators with awesome drives and superb shots. Jimmy Liu, only 14, broke Tiger Woods' record of youngest winner. Liu defeated Justin Thomas, 4-2, in the final.

Ryan Brehm and his sister Natalie took 10th spot by winning state championships. Ryan successfully defended his Michigan Open title at Orchard Lake Country Club and Natalie defeated Spartan teammate Christine Meier at St. Clair River CC for the Michigan Women's Amateur crown. On the male amateur side, Joey Garber, 18, of Petoskey won the 99th Michigan Amateur over Eric Lilleboe at Oakhurst G&CC. Garber was the third youngest to win in near-century history of the Amateur.

The weather didn't get a Top Ten spot but it definitely was better than 2009's cold, rainy summer spell. This year was filled with many Pure Michigan days, right through a beautiful fall.

- MG -

Photo courtesy of Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa is 25.

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A Season to Remember: Calvin College Knights Capture 2010 MIAA Championship

By Chris Lewis

Photo courtesy of Calvin College

Members of the Calvin College men's golf team captured their first MIAA Championship.

For more than 50 years, the Calvin College Knights have participated in hundreds of MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) tournaments throughout the Great Lakes State.

During that time period, dozens of Calvin's men's golf teams have tirelessly competed with a common goal in mind – to eventually capture the coveted MIAA Championship.

Through the years, the Knights have overcome numerous close calls and heartbreaks within the MIAA conference. Although the Knights consistently performed well in the conference and attained many second place finishes, no team was ever able to achieve ultimate glory – that is until this past October.

This season, the college's golf program was finally rewarded for the perseverance that it has displayed, as the 2010-2011 Knights obtained the very first MIAA championship title in team history.

Led by Coach Brian Bolt, a 1990 graduate of Calvin, the Knights finished the season with a stroke average of 301.4, which was just low enough to defeat Trine University, located in Angola, Indiana, by a mere two strokes. Undoubtedly, the 2010 MIAA sea-

son was quite a nail biter for all teams involved, especially for Calvin and Trine.

A Comeback for the Ages

Annually, the MIAA conference competes in eight separate jamborees that are each hosted by the conference's collegiate members. Although the Knights had captured two of the first seven jamborees prior to competing in the season's final jamboree at Pine River Country Club, Alma College's home course, the team still trailed Trine University by a staggering nineteen strokes.

Yet, the Knights did not quit. In fact, the team was even more motivated to defeat their conference rivals and claim their place within Calvin's athletic history.

With a team score of 296, the Knights won the final jamboree of the season and ended a MIAA championship winless streak that had begun shortly after the conclusion of World War II.

"I still remember the entire jamboree as if it only happened yesterday," Bolt said. "It was a windy day and Pine River Country Club was playing especially difficult. However, although the team had a slow start, everyone stayed focused on the task at hand."

Throughout the tournament, various members of the team fully utilized their talents in order to create magical moments on the golf course.

During the jamboree, David Veen ('14) claimed medalist honors with a superb round of 71 amidst harsh weather conditions. At the same time, Eric Doezema ('11), a mainstay for the Knights in the last four years, holed out on the thirteenth hole for the first ace of his golfing career. This high-odds shot further improved the team's confidence level for the rest of the match.

The momentum truly began to build. Jess Hendriksma ('11) started his round five-over-par after only five holes, but he was able to manage a very respectable final score of five-over-par 77, while sophomores Dave Sarkipato and Ben Kuiper finished with scores of 75 and 81, respectively.

At the end of the day, the Knights had claimed one of the greatest comebacks in the history of MIAA golf.

Individual High Performers Form a Triumphant Team Unit

As Coach Bolt reflects on the historical season, he cannot help but to remember each of the individuals who strived to accomplish their dreams this past year through a fiery passion for the game of golf, as well as a relentless level of competitiveness and a desire to leave an indelible imprint on the college's athletic history.

"Prior to the beginning of the season, the team set a goal – to win three MIAA jamborees. By establishing a core team unit, we were able to do just that," Bolt said.

Even though Coach Bolt's senior team members, Jess Hendriksma and Eric Doezema, will be preparing for their future careers within the workforce next season, they will proudly remember the ways in which they contributed to their college's golfing success each and every year that they attended Calvin.

Photo courtesy of Calvin College

Jess Hendriksma

Photo courtesy of Calvin College

Eric Doezema

"This year, Jess was the second best golfer in the MIAA with a scoring average of 74.5, which ranks as the second best average in the history of Calvin's golfing program," Bolt said. "As he played in every single match from his freshman year to his senior year, he is most responsible for leading the program from 'the middle of the pack' to the top of the league. I am very proud of his work ethic, growth, and leadership."

In the meantime, Doezema played outstanding golf throughout his collegiate career as well.

"Eric was actually more consistent than Jess when they both began playing for Calvin four years ago, but he struggled to play consistently well during his sophomore and junior years," Bolt said. "Eric came back this year ready for success though and I am most pleased with his improved play throughout the course of the season. When the pressure was the greatest and the team needed him the most, he responded with scores of 74, 71, and 73 during the final three rounds of his Calvin career."

Doezema's consistency certainly paid dividends this fall as his seasonal scoring average was 75.9 – the third best seasonal average in Calvin history. In addition, he earned Second Team All-MIAA honors, while Hendriksma was awarded First Team All-MIAA honors.

Coach Brian Bolt Prepares for Continued Success

Although Coach Bolt will lose two of his most talented and consistent golfers next season, he is still anticipating a strong 2011-2012 campaign from the upcoming members of his team.

"Three of the team's strongest performers will be prepared to successfully defend the MIAA championship next year. Calvin also has an impressive list of other freshmen and sophomores who may join the team next year," Bolt said. "Of course, I am always searching for quality student athletes to join the team, so there may be some freshmen who challenge the veterans next year."

Also, Bolt is preparing his current squad for next May's NCAA Division III Nationals tournament, which will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"The squad is currently working hard in preparation for that experience – an event that is bound to be a memorable event for everyone involved," said Bolt. "Also, it is important to remember that four different golfers earned medalist honors in four separate league tournaments this year. This fact alone shows the depth and potential that the team has as it approaches the Nationals tournament."

This past season, the Calvin Knights attained the very first MIAA championship in team history.

But, what will the squad do for an encore? Only time will tell.

For more information about Calvin College, as well as its wide selection of athletic programs, please visit http://www.calvin.edu/.

Photo courtesy of Calvin College

Top row: Don Dykehouse, Bill Kooistra, Coach John Vanden Berg. Bottom row: Rog Nykamp, Dave Tjapkes, Jay Casemier. Not pictured: Bill Eskes

During the coming months, the "Collegiate Spotlights" series will profile each one of Michigan's four-year colleges or universities that provide golf programs to male students. In the Spring 2011 issue of Michigan Golfer Magazine, you will learn about the histories and exciting futures of Davenport University and University of Detroit Mercy's men's golf programs. Stay tuned.

- MG -

High School Golf Roundup

By Kelly Hill

Photo courtesy of Saline Hornets

Saline Girls Golf Team, 2010 Division I Champions

The east, central and west sides of the state were well represented this fall by the winners of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's girls golf championships played Oct. 15-16 at four courses around the state.

Saline won the Division 1 championship played at Eastern Michigan University's Eagle Crest in Ypsilanti, Muskegon Mona Shores won the Division 2 title at MSU's Forest Akers West, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern won the Division 3 crown at Forest Akers East and Lansing Catholic Central won the Division 4 championship at The Meadows at Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

Led by the senior trio of Shannon Fraser, Kristen Areddy and Morgan Horan, as well as junior Karla gross and freshman Emily White, Saline edged Rochester Hills Stoney Creek by just three strokes, 657-660, in the 36-hole event. Saline was the Division 11 runner-up in 2009.

"We knew that this was our year to do it," Saline coach Betsy French said. "We wanted to finish higher than last year and there was only one place to go. We have a lot of depth on our team, there is not just one or two girls who carry the team." Four differ-

ent Hornets earned medalist honors in tournaments this season.

Muskegon Mona Shores has now won two straight Division 2 state championships but the Sailors may be only halfway through what would be an unprecedented run. A year ago the Sailors won the state title with four freshmen. This year they won the crown with four sophomores and no seniors. They rolled to a 26-stroke victory over runner-up traverse City Central.

Those four freshmen are Haley Hrynewich, Britni Gielow, Kelsey McKinley and Morgan Smith. Rachel Swartz also contributed to the Sailors' score at the state finals. "We are hoping for a couple more," Mona Shores coach John Brainard said. "We had the bullseye on our back for the repeat, so now it's already on our back for the three-peat. These girls thrive on the pressure though."

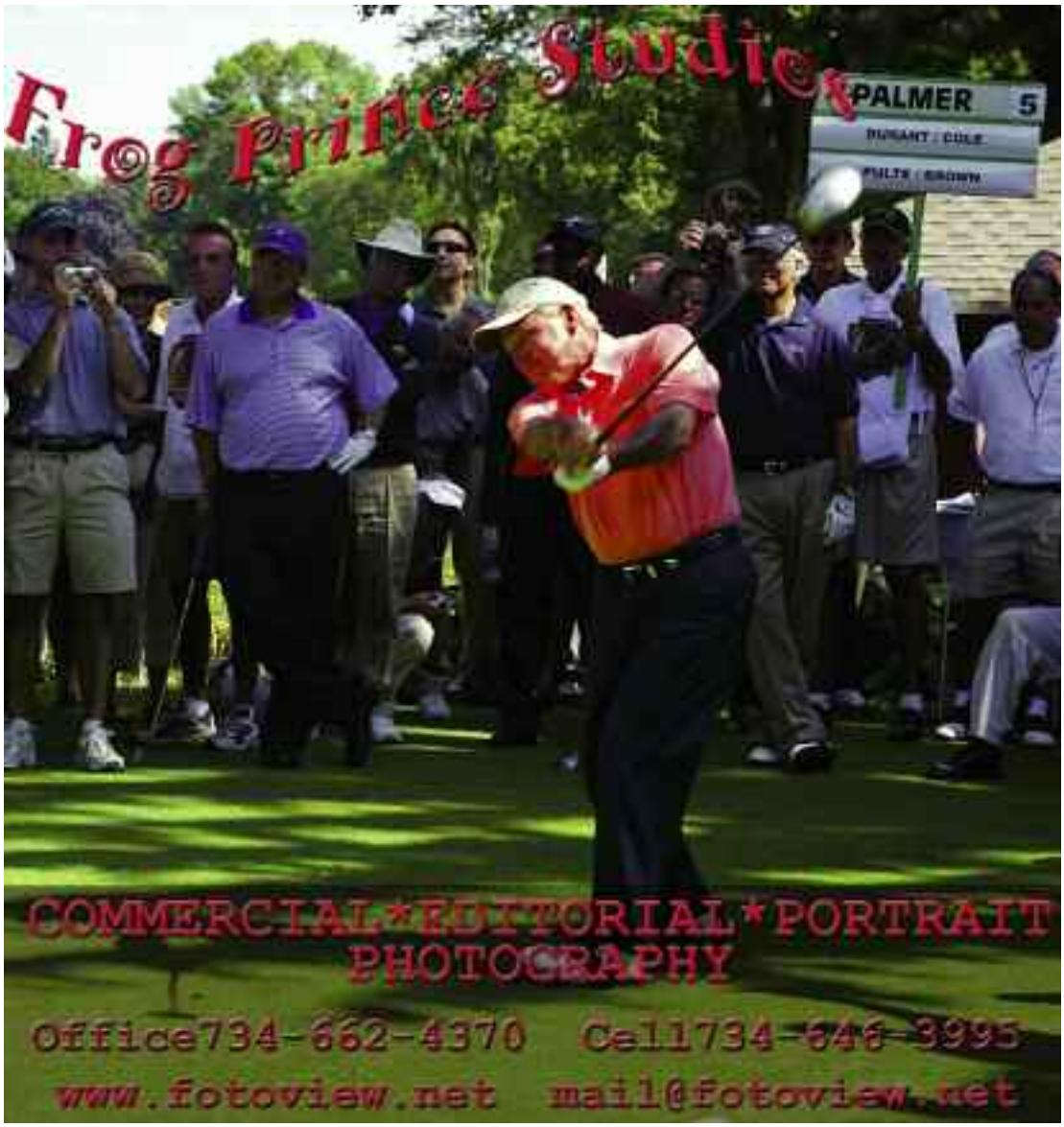
The Division 3 state championships turned into somewhat of a conference match as three teams from the gold Divisions of the Ottawa-Kent Conference finished among the top four in the state. Forest Hills Eastern won the state title, Hastings was second and Grand Rapids South Christian was fourth.

Seniors Soleil Singh, Jennifer Elsholz and Riley Peters as well as Jordan Duvall and Anne Parlmer led the Forest Hills Eastern Hawks to the state championships. "We had no idea how good we were because we play in such a good conference," FHE coach Brian Telzerow said. "These girls seemed to excel in the 18-hole tournaments, though."

Only top senior, Mackenzie Johnson, scored for Lansing Catholic Central at this year's state tournament. She was joined by junior Alyssa Albright, sophomores Danni Crilley and Janie Fineis and freshman Jacqueline Setas. The Cougars won the state title by 38 strokes over runner-up Grosse Ile.

"Most of these girls play a lot of golf but most of them also are two- or three-sport athletes," LCC coach Mary Schafer said. "We are hoping to be in the top three or four again next year, but Grosse Ile, Flint Powers and (Jackson) Lumen Christi are always good too."

- MG -



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Olympic Golf: Two Points of View

Rio de Janeiro will host the 2016 Olympic Games

Golf Is the Olympic Ideal

Brad Shelton

By: Brad Shelton

After more than a century's absence, golf has been approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and will return as an Olympic sport at the 2016 summer games in Rio de Janeiro. What exactly the competition will comprise is yet unknown. However, the International Golf Federation (IGF) has proposed a format of 72-hole, individual stroke play for both men and women with a field of 60 players for each competition using the Official World Golf Rankings as a method of determining eligibility. Beyond the top 15, players would be eligible based on the world rankings, with a maximum of two eligible players from each

Golf in the Olympics — Too much of a good thing!

Bill Shelton

By: Bill Shelton

Golf will become an Olympic competition in the 2016 games due primarily to the advocacy of several golf "celebrities" and numerous golf organizations. There has been a plethora of arguments both pro and con about the appropriateness of the sport as an Olympic competition. The bottom line however is that competitive golf will be on the agenda at the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro. Golf should NOT be an Olympic sport and perhaps including it is the best way to prove its inappropriateness.

Golf in the Olympics is not an entirely new idea.

Brad - Olympic Ideal continues:

country that does not already have two or more players among the top 15.

Photo courtesy of Glen Echo CC

Golf, a sport that embodies the true spirit of Olympic competition and olympism (a term coined by Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin in 1894, uses sport to promote the balanced development of people as an essential step in building a peaceful society that places a high value on human dignity), will again take its rightful position in the oldest and most prestigious international, multi-sport event in the world.

What better sport than golf to demonstrate olympism? Golf is a worldwide sport that lends itself to the highest level of competition – there are more than 31,000 courses with more than 50 million golfers across the globe. With no intent to discount the contributions of women in the sport, golf is known as the "gentleman's sport", which by definition implies peace, fairness, honesty, and human dignity – all qualities needed for a peaceful society.

There are still questions about who will be allowed to participate – should it be limited to amateurs or should the IOC take the same course as basketball, hockey, and other sports permitting professionals compete? My personal opinion is that it should be limited to amateurs and be a team event. But, regardless of who competes, golf truly embodies the Olympic Ideal and should be a part of the games every four years.

Detractors will argue that golf is already an international sport and does not need a place in the Olympics to establish another Solheim, Ryder, Walker, or Presidents Cup. Of course, the detractors are correct that golf is already a recognized world sport with many well-known, popular competitions that pair international competitors. But so does gymnastics, ice-skating,

Bill - Too Much continues:

In the 1900 Paris games and the 1904 games in St. Louis, there were golf matches and golf medals were awarded. However, the matches were viewed as more of a "sideshow" or exhibition than international competition. In fact, the only participants in the 1904 Olympics were from the United States and Canada. It was not successful then and it will not be successful a century later.

A few decades ago, the argument to include golf in the games may have limited justification due to the scarcity of international competition as part of the regular tour schedules. A quick review of the PGA, Senior PGA, LPGA, and Nationwide tour events for 2011 clearly indicates that shortcoming has been addressed. Admittedly most of the events are individual competitions but a stage is provided for the best players in the world to compete. The existing team competitions such as the Ryder, Solheim, President's, and Walker Cup already provide ample opportunities for experiencing the thrill of representing one's country as part of a team.

The failure of golf to be successful in the Olympics will be attributed to several factors. First,

Photo courtesy of Glen Echo CC

Brad - Olympic Ideal continues:

swimming, and cycling - and all of these sports are Olympic sports.

Let's take the advice and direction of the recognized leaders in golf such as Greg Norman, Tiger Woods, Padraig Harrington, and Ernie Els, and add golf as a permanent event in the summer games. Including golf under the Olympic Rings can only enhance the game we all love, and will continue the growth of the game for years to come that these professionals and many others in golf have worked so hard to establish. I am sure each of these players display their Claret Jug, Wannamaker Trophy, or Masters Trophy prominently in their trophy case, and it would be hard to imagine an Olympic gold medal would not be on par with each of their lifetime golf accomplishments. ***- MG -***

Bill - Too Much continues:

logistically it will be a staging nightmare. Golf courses require a substantial land area for new construction but even using an existing course will be a major undertaking in course preparation, staffing, crowd control (although there may not be much of crowd) and media coverage. As opposed to an event such as swimming or track where ticketholders attend discrete competitive events of one to two hours, team golf can extend up to five or six hours per match. Most persons attending the Olympics want to experience a range of competitions during the visit. From a television perspective, golf does not lend itself to the Olympic format of quickly moving from one venue to another. At best, it will be a choppy presentation.

Second, the major golf manufacturers have little need to commit substantial resources to the competition. Between the individual tours and the existing international team competitions, the additional exposure from the Olympics hardly justifies the expenditures. Television viewers who enjoy golf (and would supposedly watch the games) already are familiar with the names Titleist, Taylormade, Callaway, and other brands on bags, shirts, hats, and balls. In today's world, if someone can watch the Olympics games on television, in all probability they can watch professional golf coverage. This is not about Speedos and snowboards.

Olympic Championship Trophy

Photo courtesy of Glen Echo CC

Photo courtesy of Glen Echo CC

George Lyon won the Gold Medal in the 1904 Olympics

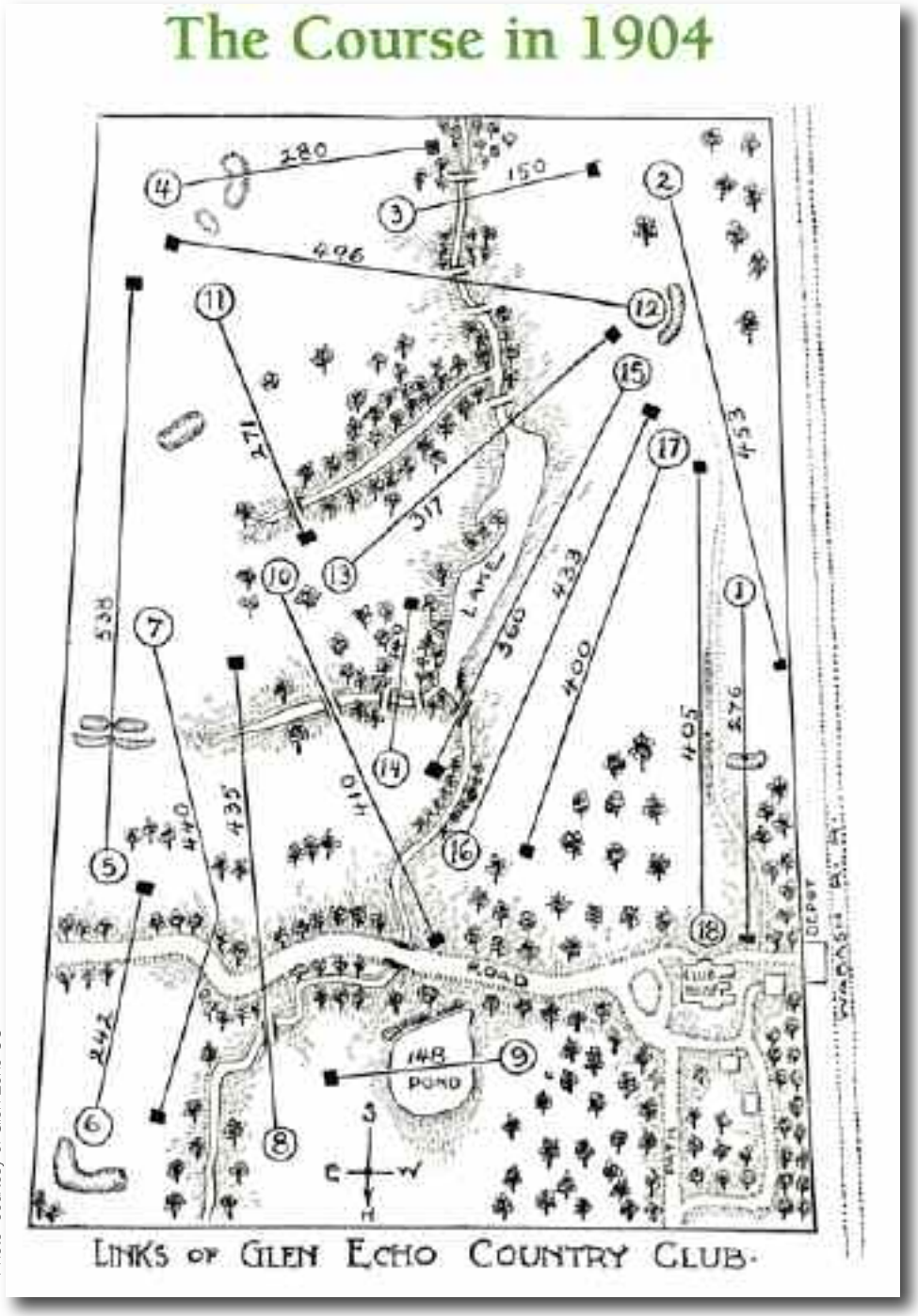


Photo courtesy of Glen Echo CC

Bill - Too Much continues:

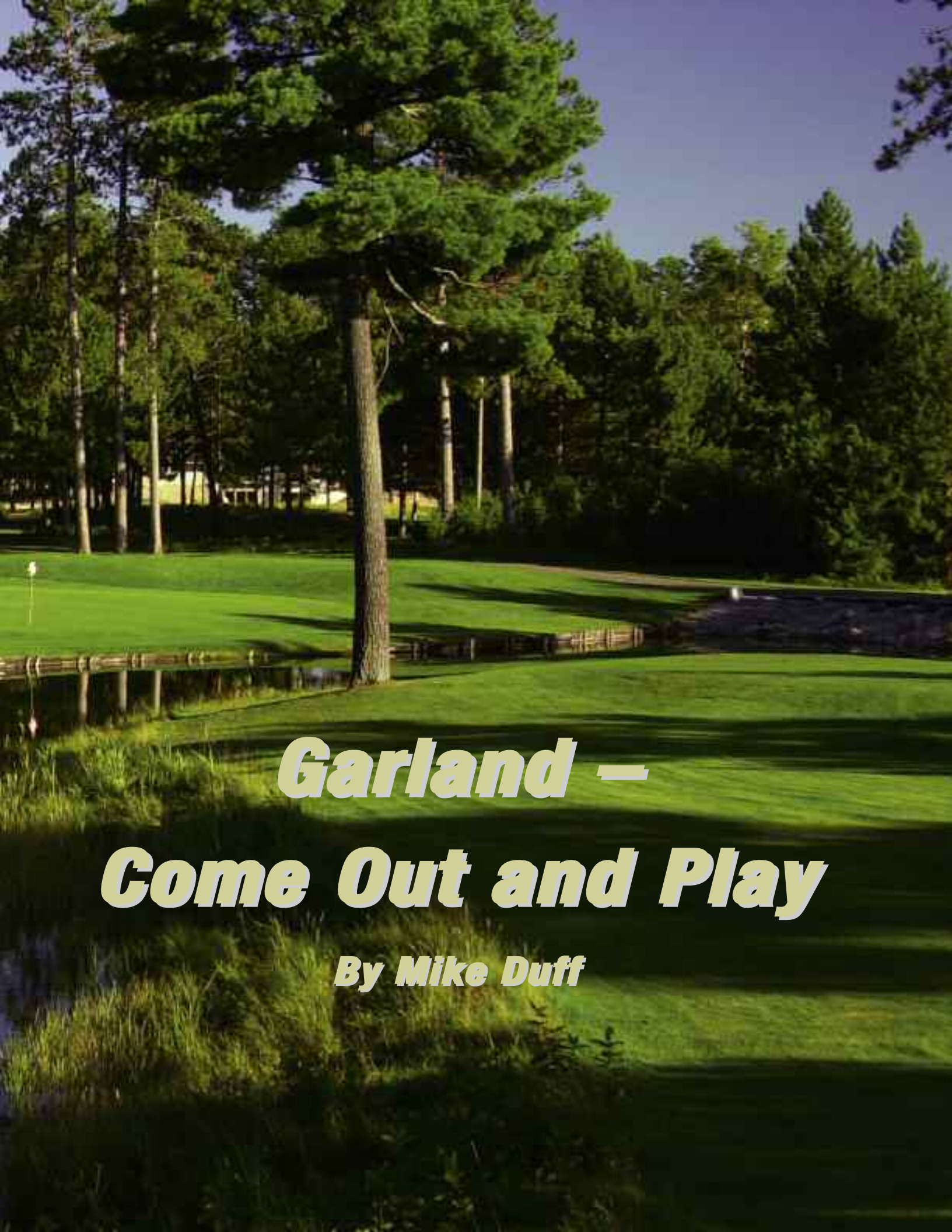
Third, the existing international team competition is more than sufficient to satisfy the fans' appetite. Equally important, the competitions are firmly established and will totally overshadow the significance of the Olympic matches. There are no track competitions, swimming and diving events, or gymnastic meets that come close to the level of competition found in the Olympic Games. In golf that will not be the case. Will the Olympics matches be viewed as more important than the Ryder, Solheim, or Walker Cups? Absolutely not!

Finally, after a few (perhaps one) competitions, the superstars of golf will not participate in the matches. For players such as Tiger, Ernie, Phil, Lee and a host of others, their schedules are as full as they allow. So, at best, the competition will be composed of second and third tier players. Without the name recognition factor, the event will quickly become meaningless. And, yes, money is a factor for the professionals. Many international tournaments pay huge appearance fees in addition to the purse. Is the answer then to limit competition to amateurs? It can't happen as was proven many Olympic games ago.

Golf is a great sport and continues to expand into the international arena. Greg Norman has long been a leader in trying to extend the tours worldwide. He was right and should be justifiably proud of the result. But, the Olympic Games will experience a double bogey for this experiment.

- MG -

Photo courtesy of Garland Resort



Garland – Come Out and Play

By Mike Duff

The catch slogan for Garland Lodge and Resort in Lewiston Michigan is "Come Out and Play". I just spent three days at Garland enjoying a couple rounds of fall golf and had the opportunity to take advantage of some of the beautiful surroundings associated with this magnificent property. First of all, the slogan is indicative of what is available at Garland. From cross country skiing excursions or snowmobiling during the winter to golf, spring, summer and fall. Garland has something for everyone. If golf is your desire, then you have a choice of four championship golf courses that offer the best you can find in northern Michigan – lakes, streams, mature hardwoods, elevation changes and the nature and wildlife you would expect from such a destination. If something more romantic or unique is what you are looking for then maybe you would want to come out and enjoy the Gourmet Glide, a cross country ski adventure through the woods stopping to enjoy five gourmet buffet stations along the way or the Zhivago Night, which takes you on a horse-drawn sleigh to the Bridge Inn for a five-course gourmet dinner accompanied by specially selected wines.

When we arrived we told that three out of the four courses were closed for the season. However, we were able to play a couple of rounds on the Monarch. It is noted in their marketing pamphlets as "one of Michigan's toughest courses" playing to 7,100 yards from the tips. Fourteen of the eighteen holes have significant water hazards. Women may fine this course very appealing because the yardage drops down to 4,904 yards which allows the golfer to take full advantage of the course without getting punished by its difficulty. I was, as were my playing buddies, impressed with number 8 on the front side and especially numbers 11, 12, 14 and 17 on the back nine. These were fun holes to play and experience. We stayed in one of the cabins or villas and it was great. Private, quiet, comfortable and accessible to all activities. We had two complaints, no cell service and you could not park your vehicle near the cabin. Our cabin was in the back so we had to lug our luggage quite a ways, in the rain too. But that was minor compared to all the other things that were handled with care and consideration.

The other three courses; Swampfire (6,854), Fountains (6,800), and Reflections (6,407) all offer spectacular golf. All the golf courses close on Friday October 29th and will again open next spring. So plan ahead for next season and remember that golf packages give you a choice of the lodge, cabins or cottages.

Garland is under new ownership after generations being owned by the Otto family. The new owners, called New Frontiers Capital have put over a million dollars in to renovating the lodge from head-to-toe and some upgrades to the golf courses. These changes have helped to enhance the full range of services Garland offers, including the resort spa, massage, body wraps, facials, and many more, not to mention, seeing the largest log building east of the Mississippi. Garland is located in Lewiston, Michigan approximately 175 miles from Oakland County. Information: 877-4427526 - info@garlandusa.com

- MG -

Photo courtesy of Garland Resort

Garland offers four championship courses.

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Golf Rules… For A Good Reason

By: Brad Shelton

In the last few weeks of the 2010 regular golf season, penalties against Dustin Johnson and Juli Inkster became the catalyst for debates and questions about the Rules of Golf.

On the last hole of the 92nd PGA Championship, Johnson grounded his club in a bunker and was assessed a two-stroke penalty eliminating him from a three-hole playoff for the Wanamaker Trophy. Inkster, making a charge toward the lead during the LPGA Safeway Classic, used a training device (a weighted club doughnut) while waiting to tee off and was disqualified from the event.

Juli Inkster

As a result of these highly publicized events, fans and golf analysts are posing the question "Do we really need such black-and-white, cut-and-dried Rules of Golf?" The unequivocal answer is YES!

Usually a chapter and verse guy – can you fault me? I am the grandson and nephew of ministers - I will forego my typical verbatim quote and simply state that the rules applied in the Johnson and Inkster situations specifically forbid these actions. And for those violations, both received the appropriate consequences as prescribed by the Rules of Golf.

Gray areas have no place in our game. The Rules of Golf must be precise and strictly enforced whether in a weekend match for a Coke or a major championship. To allow chaos, or the rule of popular opinion, denigrates the game.

Rules Rule the Roost!

By: Bill Shelton

Tiger's woes may be the biggest story in the 2010 season of professional golf but rules—more specifically rules infractions—may have the greatest consequences. Perhaps the two-stroke penalty to Dustin Johnson for grounding his club in a "sand bunker" that cost him a possible PGA Championship received the greatest attention but it was not an isolated event. At the same event, Jim Furyk realized a few holes into the round that a magnet from his putter cover was attached to his putter. Although finally determined by rules official not to be a violation, Furyk admitted the uncertainty impacted his performance.

Furyk was again the focus of a rules infraction by being disqualified for being five minutes late to the tee at the Barclay's Pro-Am. One of the top ten PGA players was denied the opportunity to play in the multi-million dollar tournament and lowered in the Fed-Ex standings for being late for a pro-am event that isn't a requirement for all players. Furyk is an upstanding and respected player who was penalized for a legitimate mistake. At about the same time, Julie Inkster, perhaps the most respected player in the LPGA, was another "victim" of an ambiguous rule, which resulted in her disqualification. She was in second place at the time. While waiting during a huge back-up on a course set up by rules official that had three par 5's in a row, she attached a swing weight to an iron (violation of Rule 14.3) to make some practice swings to loosen up her 50-year old body.

Chad Campbell was clearly on site at the second event of the second event of the Fed Ex Cup. He had been on the

Brad - Rules Reason continues:

To ensure fair competition, we must have explicit rules and penalties that omit individual or situational interpretation. In our Saturday morning 2-2-2, club championship, or weeknight league, most of us play golf without the benefit of an official. As a self-governing sport, our fellow competitors and the honor of the game rely on the integrity of each individual to abide by and enforce the Rules of Golf as written.

We both know that nothing is more annoying than a competitor violating a rule, particularly if that person thinks they have won the hole or round. How many times have we played the ball as it lies, added stroke and distance for out-of-bounds, and called a penalty on ourselves, only to have a competitor disregard the rules for their own advantage and "win" the event? In our case, it costs $2 for the drink and may not be worth the friendship to call them on it –although we should. On the professional tours however, the costs can be hundreds of thousands of dollars and historical fame.

We may not like the rules or even think certain rules seize the spirit of the original intent, but in golf "rules are rules." That is what makes our game great, and to keep golf the most respected game we must each adhere to and apply the rules as written.

Keep in mind that most rules actually work in our favor allowing for relief from trouble after we have hit a good shot. No one complained after Arjun Atwal played his approach shot purposely into the stands on the last hole of the 2010 Wyndham Championships to get free relief and a perfect lie – he won the event by the way. The rules we don't like are usually a result of our own error or misfortune.

A wise man once told me that leadership was not a popularity contest. The same applies to the Rules of Golf. Sometimes the rules work in our favor - sometimes not. But be assured that if we all play by the rules the game is fair.

- MG -

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Jim Furyk

Bill - Rules Roost continues:

practice range, in the locker-room, and even played in the first round. Then he was notified of his disqualification for failure to "register" when he arrived. He had forgotten to sign a book and it cost him an opportunity to win more than a million dollars! He wasn't late, he wasn't invisible, he did not gain an advantage—he just didn't sign a piece of paper.

Three specific aspects of the rules of golf needed to be reviewed and revised. First, there are too many! The USGA booklet on The Rules of Golf has grown to almost 200 pages. Golf is intended as a game of skill, integrity and etiquette where the participant monitors his or her behavior. It is played on the largest "playing field" of any sport and only the golfer should be relied to conduct the game fairly.

Second, the rules are far too complicated. In addition to the USGA rules booklet, every two years the USGA and R&A publish Decisions on the Rules of Golf, a 600-page tome that make rule interpretations more complex. How many times in every professional tournament is the entire course at a standstill waiting for a rules official to determine where the golfer may drop his or her golf ball? With the financial stakes so high, golfers are very reluctant to rely on their interpretations of the rules. Rules should be easily interpreted so the pace of play is not unduly delayed.

Third, violations of rules should be identified by only the golf participants or rules official, not spectators or television viewers. Unless non-participants can see every golfer and every shot during the tournament, it is inherently unfair for specific golfers to be subjected to more scrutiny because of television coverage or fan following. What other professional sports have rules infractions called by television viewers? This approach is antithetical to the spirit of golf.

The reduction and simplification of rules would create a fairer, faster, and purer game of golf. Golf is a game of honesty and integrity not because of rules but rather the ethics and values of the players. Rules officials need also to reconsider how the enforcement of rules best serves to improve the fairness and pace of the competition—not justify their existence.

- MG -

Michigan Golf's Top 10's and Rankings

By Art McCafferty

Top 10 Michigan Golfer TV Viewed Shows

John Daly Grip it and Rip it	33,538
Danny Lee Wins the Western Am	15,144
Michaywe Pines With Don Childs	5,525
Walter Hagen Returns to Traverse City CC	4,258
Walter Hagen Returns to Cadillac	3,486
The Concession with Tony Jacklin	3,093
2009 Buick Open Finale	2,810
Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Ryder Cup	2,519

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

John Daly

Photo by Art McCafferty

Native American Cup Notah Begay 2,496

Jeff Daniels Comedy Golf Jam 2,356

Vanessa Bell interviews Tony Jacklin about his course, The Concession

Top 100 Resort Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

51. Treetops Resort (Signature) Gaylord- Rick Smith 1993

87. Bay Harbor Golf Club (Links/Quarry) - Harbor Springs - Arthur Hills 1997

Resort of Distinction - The Resorts of Tullymore & St. Ives- Stanwood, - Jerry Matthews (St. Ives), 1995 - Jim Engh (Tullymore), 2001

Top 10
Shakers and Movers in Michigan Golf

Photo by Art McCafferty

Steve Kircher

Stan Aldridge
Mike Biber
David Graham
Kevin Helm
Steve Kircher
Vartan Kupelian
Carlos Monarrez
Kate Moore
Dave Richards
George Zimmerman

Top Viewership for Golf Courses on Michigan Golfer Television

Photo courtesy of Michaywe

Michaywe Pines

Michaywe Pines With Don Childs	5,525	The Tribute	1,240
Lahinch GC	2,029	The Natural GC	1,005
Adare Golf Club	1,723	The Loon	975
True North	1,608	Antrim Dells	835
Sandy Ridge	1,302	Donald Ross French Lick	761

Top 100 Resorts - Golf Digest - Michigan Ranking

Photo courtesy of Boyne

The Quarry, Bay Harbor

41. The Inn at Bay Harbor = The Links and Quarry nines
48. Grand Traverse Resort & Spa Acme
Read More http://www.golfdigest.com/golf-courses/golf-courses/2009-10/75topresorts?currentPage=4#ixzz13kd6VUd6

10 Best Courses You Can Play – Golf Magazine

1. Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia
2. Bay Harbor (Links/Quarry), Bay Harbor
3. Forest Dunes, Roscommon
4. Tullymore, Stanwood
5. Marquette (Greywalls), Marquette
6. Lakewood Shores (Gailes), Oscoda
7. Black Lake, Onaway
8. Shepherd's Hollow (2nd/3rd Nines), Clarkston
9. Harbor Shores, Benton Harbor
10. Eagle Eye, East Lansing

Photo by Art McCafferty

Greywalls

Top 100 Courses - Golf Digest - Michigan Ranking

Photo courtesy of Tullymore

Tullymore

16. CRYSTAL DOWNS C.C. - Frankfort / Alister Mackenzie & Perry Maxwell (1931)

23. OAKLAND HILLS C.C. (South)- Bloomfield Hills, / Donald Ross (1918) / Robert Trent Jones (1950)

49. ARCADIA BLUFFS G.C. Arcadia / Rick Smith & Warren Henderson (2000)

90. TULLYMORE G.C.- Stanwood/ Jim Engh (2001)

Read More http://www.golfdigest.com/golf-courses/golf-courses/2009-05/100_greatestgolfcourses?currentPage=2#ixzz13kedPjsT

Top 10 Michigan Golf Courses – GolfWeek

1. Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia (No. 37)
2. Greywalls, Marquette GC, Marquette (No. 79)
3. Forest Dunes, Roscommon (No. 90)
4. Tullymore, Stanwood
5. Lakewood Shores Resort (Gailes), Oscoda
6. Black Forest at Wilderness Valley, Gaylord
7. Black Lake, Onaway
8. Treetops (Rick Smith Signature), Gaylord
9. Belvedere GC, Charlevoix
10. Angel's Crossing, Vicksburg

Photo courtesy of Arcadia Bluffs

Arcadia Bluffs

Top 100 New Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

32. Golf Club at Harbor Shores– Benton Harbor, 2010, Jack Nicklaus

Photo by Jennie McCafferty

The Golf Club at Harbor Shores, Grand Opening

Top 100 Modern Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

Photo © Brian Walters

Forest Dunes

19. Kingsley Club Kingsley, 2001, Mike Devries
37. Arcadia Bluffs Arcadia, 1999, Rick Smith
63. Lost Dunes Golf Club Bridgman, 1999, Tom Doak
79. Greywalls at Marquette GC Marquette, Mich. 2005 Mike DeVries
90. Forest Dunes Golf Club Roscommon 2003 Tom Weiskopf

Top 100 Classic Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

Photo by Art McCafferty

Oakland Hills

7. Crystal Downs Frankfort 1931, Alister MacKenzie, Perry Maxwell
17. Oakland Hills CC (South) - Bloomfield Hills, Mich. - 1918, Donald Ross; Robert Trent Jones Sr. (1950)
66. Franklin Hills Country Club Franklin,- 1926 Donald Ross
77. Indianwood Country Club (Old) Lake Orion-1928 William Connellan, Wilfred Reid
96. Point O'Woods G&CC - Benton Harbor- 1958 Robert Trent Jones Sr.

Top Michigan Collegiate Golf

Men

75 Lion Kim Michigan

Women

32 Caroline Powers Mich. St.

Teams

Men

33 Michigan

Women

17 Michigan State

58 Western Michigan

76 Michigan

Top 100 University Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

12. University of Michigan Golf Course - Michigan, Ann Arbor - 1931, Alister MacKenzie
16. Radrick Farms Golf Course - Michigan, Ann Arbor,- 1965, Pete Dye

Top 100 Residential Golf Courses - GolfWeek - Michigan Ranking

Photo © Brian Walters

Forest Dunes 8th Hole

30. Forest Dunes - Roscommon- Tom Weiskopf - 2003
68. The Resorts of Tullymore & St. Ives (Tullymore Golf Club)- Stanwood, - Jim Engh 2001
91. Angels Crossing- Vicksburg,- W. Bruce Matthews III - 2004

Slice of Life

By Terry Moore

With my clubs now stored in the basement, it's the time of year when I reflect on some of the highlights and personal favorites of the past golf year.

Best bounce back: You know about "bounce back." It's a stat used on the PGA Tour that tracks the success of a player coming back from a bogey or worse with a birdie on the next hole. Well, it will be hard to beat the bounce back of McKenzie Rupp, a senior from Essexville Garber H.S. at Oct.'s Michigan High School Girls Golf Finals at The Meadows at GVSU. Competing in some tough windy conditions, she incurred a horrendous 16-over par 21 on the par-five ninth hole (her second hole of the day.) But to her credit, MacKenzie composed herself and birdied the next hole, the par-four 10th hole—a unparallel bounce back of 18 shots!

Best Michigan tournament: My pick is the USGA Junior Amateur held at Egypt Valley in July. The caliber of play of these budding Tour stars was remarkable. I watched phenom Jordan Spieth, 16, shoot an effortless 5-under 67 in his first round over a stretched to the tips Egypt Valley CC, not an easy track. Later, Gavin Hall,15, set a new course and USGA Jr. record by firing a 10-under 62. Then Jimmy Liu, 14, erased Tiger Woods' name from the record books when he became the youngest USGA champion by besting Justin Thomas 4 & 2 in the finals. It was an amazing week of exceptional play and a historic week for West Michigan as it hosted its first ever USGA national championship. It was worth the wait.

Best drive: No, it's not Steve Stricker's 424-yard blast at Kapalua's Plantation course at the opening Tournament of Champions. Instead, the best drive of the year goes to '10 Michigan Senior Amateur champion Bill Zylstra. You see, Zylstra claimed his trophy at Barton Hills at around 6 P.M. one evening and then promptly drove alone and straight through to Charleston, SC in order to defend his title at another senior event beginning at noon the next day. He safely made the13-hour drive and carded a 71 in his first round, two shots off the lead.

Best retort to a player's complaint: Loved how USGA Executive Director David Fay handled Tiger Woods whining about

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Phil Mickelson didn't make any excuses for his poor putting over the greens at Pebble Beach.

Photo courtesy of the Golf Club of Harbor Shores

Golf Club at Harbor Shores is 2010's Best Use of Golf for Economic Development

the greens at Pebble Beach. "Someone is entitled to his opinions, but he's not entitled to his facts," said Fay echoing a favorite line of the late Senator Patrick Moynihan. Fay went on to explain that although the poa annua greens at Pebble may have appeared in poor condition, they in fact rolled fine and probably better than any tournament ever held there in June. In contrast, Phil Mickelson didn't make any excuses for his poor putting over those same greens.

Most gut-wrenching loss: Goes to Robert Garrigus who, mimicking Jan Van de Velde at Carnoustie at the Open Championship, blew a three shot lead at Memphis in June by triple bogeying the final hole, costing him his first PGA Tour title. Readily admitting the pressure got to him, Garrigus vowed afterwards to learn from his travails. The next day, Tony Kornheiser on ESPN's PTL show predicted Garrigus would never win a tournament.

Most gratifying win: Goes to Robert Garrigus who wins his first ever PGA victory by firing a final round 64 at the Children's Miracle Network Classic in Nov. at DisneyWorld. Afterwards in a TV interview, Garrigus dedicates the win to "Tony Kornheiser." Touché!

Most under-reported golf achievement: Goes to 59-year-old Paul Simson from Raleigh, N.C. who won the Senior "triple crown" this year, taking home titles in the British, Canadian and USGA Senior Amateur championships.

Best item for tournament viewing: A pocket-size pair of binoculars. I used Bushnell's lightweight PowerView model at Whistling Straits for the PGA and they worked beautifully. Handy too for watching college football action at The Big House in Ann Arbor. I used them to zero in on several missed field goals!

Best lines by an agronomist: Goes to Dr. Greg Lyman, Director of Environmental Programs for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for: "This summer's been great for corn—a hot weather grass—but not for Michigan golf courses." Lyman succinctly explained that bent grasses found on courses are 'cool weather' grasses and can't withstand long stretches of hot humid weather as we experienced this summer. Lyman ended by saying, "Remember, we're playing this game on top of a plant."

Best 19th hole outside Michigan: Goes to Palm Springs' Indian Wells Golf Resort whose

expansive clubhouse includes a second floor outdoor patio area overlooking the golf course and the scenic mountain ranges. With a gas fire pit as a conversational centerpiece, one couldn't find a better spot to marvel at the surroundings while rehashing the scorecard and sipping a cold one.

Best post-event Press conference: No press conference offered more compelling theatre than did the losing USA team at the Ryder Cup. The emotion displayed by dejected Hunter Mahan followed by the stellar support given him by his team mates spoke volumes about camaraderie and the Ryder Cup itself. Can't wait for Medinah in 2012!

Best Instructional DVD: Goes to Phil Mickelson's Secrets of the Short Game. Excellent production values, lively and smart advice, and a ready maxim for better chips, "hinge and hold."

Best golf flap resolution: Goes to PING's John Solheim who wisely stepped in over the controversial squared groove wedge flap brought unwisely to the forefront by Phil Mickelson's use of it earlier this year. It was an unnecessary distraction for golf already reeling from a stagnant economy and Tiger Woods' downfall. Kudos to Solheim for putting out the fire by allowing the PGA Tour to finally ban the club.

Best use of golf for economic development: Goes to the Golf Club at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor. The Jack Nicklaus-designed layout is the centerpiece of an ambitious and community-minded development project aimed at revitalizing the area through the combined efforts of three non-profits: Whirlpool Foundation, Cornerstone Alliance and the Consortium of Community Development. Three cheers! By the way, the exhibition in August by Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Johnny Miller was a first-class opener.

Best question by a sports journalist: Goes to ESPN's Tom Rinaldi when in his one-on-one interview with Tiger back in March asked: "Why did you get married?"

- MG -

Tom Rinaldi asked Tiger Woods: "Why did you get married?