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FEATURES:

Golf in Maui

Pennsylvania's Nemacolin

Myrtle Beach in the Fall

Scotland Trip

Western North Carolina Golf

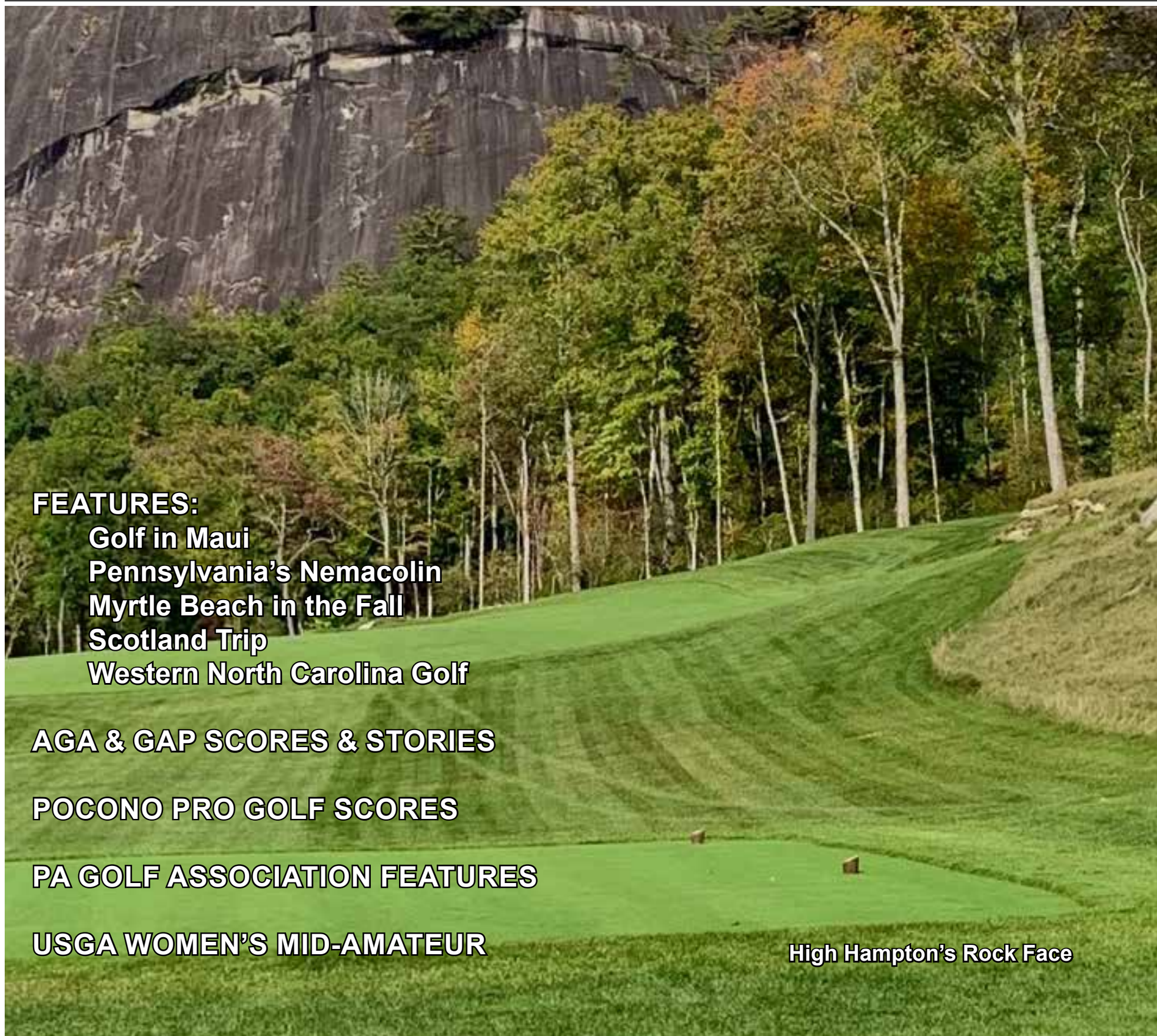
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MYRTLE BEACH IN THE FALL

By MIKE KERN

Myrtle Beach. It's become almost like my second home. And we went back again this year. Only this time instead of going in the summer we visited on Labor Day week. And it was even better. The weather was great, there was less people, and we found a place right on the ocean, a first for us. So what's not to appreciate?

Yes, the drive is long. We could fly. But I like the fact that I can pack up the car with whatever and once we arrive we're pretty much ready to go. We stayed at a first-floor two-bedroom condo at Kingston Resort, which was rented out by the people at nearby Barefoot Landing, where we often rent. And we still love it there too. But it was kind of nice to look out from your room and see the beach right in front of you.

First, the golf, which of course is always a reason to go. There's something for every taste and budget. Trust me by now I should know. I have a friend who works at the Legends Resort off of Highway 501 near Coastal Carolina. It has three courses and is always busy, for a good reason. I played there twice, and it was as usual very entertaining. Did I mention that our weather was nothing short of spectacular? I have played all three layouts, and to be honest it doesn't matter which one they send us out on. It's all good. And challenging. The clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant facilities are also quite user-friendly. Which means you really can't go wrong there.



Barefoot Clubhouse

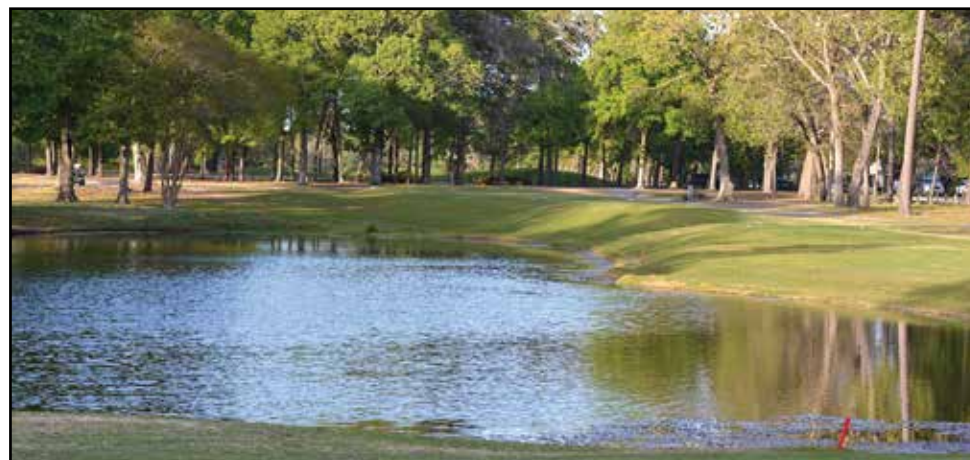
I played one morning at Barefoot, which has four courses, three of which are consistently ranked among the best not only in that area but the entire state of South Carolina. Again, for ample reasons. A year ago I played three of them, the ones designed by Davis Love, Tom Fazio and Pete Dye, three pretty stout names. I have to thank Dave Genevro, a Steelers fan from Pittsburgh and the man in charge, who treats this Philly fan like he's from the other side of the Commonwealth. I try to take care of him with Tasty Kakes. Anyway, you could stay there and just play his courses and you'd be more than fine. I've done it. Kind of like Legends. The Love and Fazio

are my two faves, but the Dye is right there with them. And lunch on their veranda is not to be missed. Just ask my wife. This time I played the Greg Norman design, which can certainly hold its own as well. It's just that it tends to get overshadowed by the sister trio. But it's really fun too. Very playable. I teed off at 7 in the morning by myself and was done by 9:30. Perfect. The greens were in wonderful shape, and the routing keeps you interested all the way around. My advice if you can is to play all four. Maybe not all in one week, but over time. You won't be disappointed.



Long Bay Golf Course

I then tried Long Bay, out on Route 9 in Longs. I played with a friend from down there. I hadn't been there in way too long. It's a Jack Nicklaus design, from the late 1980s. And that part of it is evident. But it has held up well, and recently underwent a renovation. It shows. The greens were coming along wonderfully, and I have little doubt that this is a place I will want to go back to. There's a bunch of sand, so it's not easy. But it wasn't meant to be. Still, we did have our share of birdie opps, which is never a bad thing. This one is well worth the effort to get there.



Arcadian Shores Hole #16

Finally I returned to Arcadian Shores, which just happened to be about five minutes from our condo. Also not a bad thing. I have

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happened to be about five minutes from our condo. Also not a bad thing. I have played there before, and it has only grown on me each time I go back. This is a Rees Jones track. In fact it was his first solo design. It kind of reminds you of some of the courses we see a lot up our way, but that's OK. It offers a little bit of everything, from doglegs to forced carries to potential three-putts. Hey, it happens. The signature hole is probably No. 13, a par 4 with a second shot over a pretty good-sized lake. With, by the way, a gator guarding it. That happens too. I've lost balls there before. But this time, on a dollar bet, I somehow hit a 3-wood some 165 yards (I wanted to make sure I got over, since a man has to know his limitations) to about 10 feet past the pin. Of course I missed the putt, but it was memorable nonetheless. Hey, I'd done the same thing at Long Bay, where I hit a driver (yes) on a 175-yard slightly uphill par 3 even closer but couldn't convert that either. Fortunately my friend lined a 7 iron onto the green just inside of me. And he knocked it in. So there. Go team.

Now for the food, which if you know me is just as important of a consideration. If not even maybe more so. So here's many of the restaurants we frequent, time after time. Once we find something we like we stick with it, although we're always on the lookout for some new experiences. Nothing better than finding a new go-to.



Inside Chianti South

Chianti South, in Little River, serves Italian food that would go over well in South Philly. I don't lie about stuff like that. I get the stuffed banana peppers. Every time. Trust me. But know that their bread is ridiculous, as is the blue cheese salad dressing. And I'm not usually a fan. I'm a French guy. But this is worth the conversion. And if potato soup is on the menu, get it.

The Brentwood is also in Little River. My wife and daughter did a wine tasting there that was well done. They enjoyed it thoroughly. But we go for the onion soup at happy hour, and the chocolate soufflé. Can't begin to describe how delectable both are. Especially the soufflé, which we split three ways because it's so sinful. Did I mention that it comes with two sauces to pour over it. The raspberry one is particularly notable, but the vanilla version doesn't get left behind.



Crab Catchers North Myrtle Beach

Crab Catchers, again in Little River (sense a theme here), has great scallops. So, like at Chianti and Brentwood, I don't really need to look at a menu. The girls shared three pounds of snow crabs legs (I helped), which we got for \$40. Can't make that up. It was awesome. And the key lime pie for dessert was the perfect ending. Don't miss it.

The Shack, in Cherry Grove, is like a southern diner. You can't go wrong here. And you won't pay a lot. In fact, you can get an entrée with two or three sides at lunch, with a drink, for a little over \$10. That of course is insane. Kind of like a Cracker Barrel on steroids. And the people there are so nice. It's mostly locals eating there, which is a good sign. I've had the grilled fish, meatloaf, fried chicken. You name it. And the sides are just as good. Don't forget the hush puppies. A must, with the honey butter. Yo.

Abuelo's is a chain, but don't hold that against them. We think it has some top-notch Mexican fare. And drink specials. The chips and salsa alone could be a meal. I always get the Chile relenos, which are cheese or beef stuffed Poblano peppers. But everything is good. We've never had a bad meal there. And you can't live by catfish alone, even in Myrtle.



Paula Deen's Broadway at the Beach

Paula Deen's is my daughter's favorite place. Well it's tied with Abuelo's. But you get the idea. It's all country, as you'd expect. And

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you could get lost in the gift shop. But the food is what brings you. They serve family style, so you can get two or three entrees and four sides for like \$25 per person. Which isn't a bad deal, since you can eat as much as you can handle. You just can't take doggie bags, except for the dessert, which is either cobbler, gooey butter cake or banana pudding. Do I have to say more? The fried chicken is a must. Ditto the pot roast. After that you're on your own. But don't skip the peach iced tea or the cheese biscuits. You will not go hungry here.



Big Mike's Soul Food

Big Mike's Soul Food is one of those hidden gems. For \$10 you get an entrée and two sides. And it's awesome. The fried chicken is super. So is the pork chop. They have daily specials. This time it was the meat loaf, so I couldn't resist. And it was one of the best I've ever had. The Mac and Cheese and collard greens are unbeatable. I try to go twice if I can, but I sometimes run out of days. Such is life. I do the best I can.

Crave offers up some terrific pizza. And if you go at lunch or during happy hour, it's an even better deal. We got a lunch pizza (six slices) with one topping for \$11. And it came with a choice of salad. Try to beat that. Their meatballs are amazing, and I'm tough on meatballs. The caprese salad is simply great, and shareable. And please, please, please top it all off with the cream puffs, which are both large and heavenly. Right up there with the souffle at Brentwood. Three of us shared the two they give you in a serving, and it was more than enough.

Clark's in little river. A real deal for lunch. And comes with relaxing view of marina. The pot roast is fantastic. As is the blackened flounder. Which goes for \$12 and comes with a side. In my case the creamed spinach. One of best i've ever tasted. Lots of cheese on top

Flynn's Irish Pub, in Cherry Grove, is as comforting as you can get. It's everything you'd expect the name to suggest. The corned beef is incredible. Sliced lean and thin, the way it should be, covered with melted Swiss. Can't be beat. But the potato soup could be even better. Very hearty. The shepherd's pie and Guinness beef stew are two more gotta haves. Again, done the way you'd expect. Top it off with a pint of Smithwick's Irish Ale. And I'm not even a big drinker.

Maybe even a shot of Bushmills. Isn't that what Irish pubs are for?

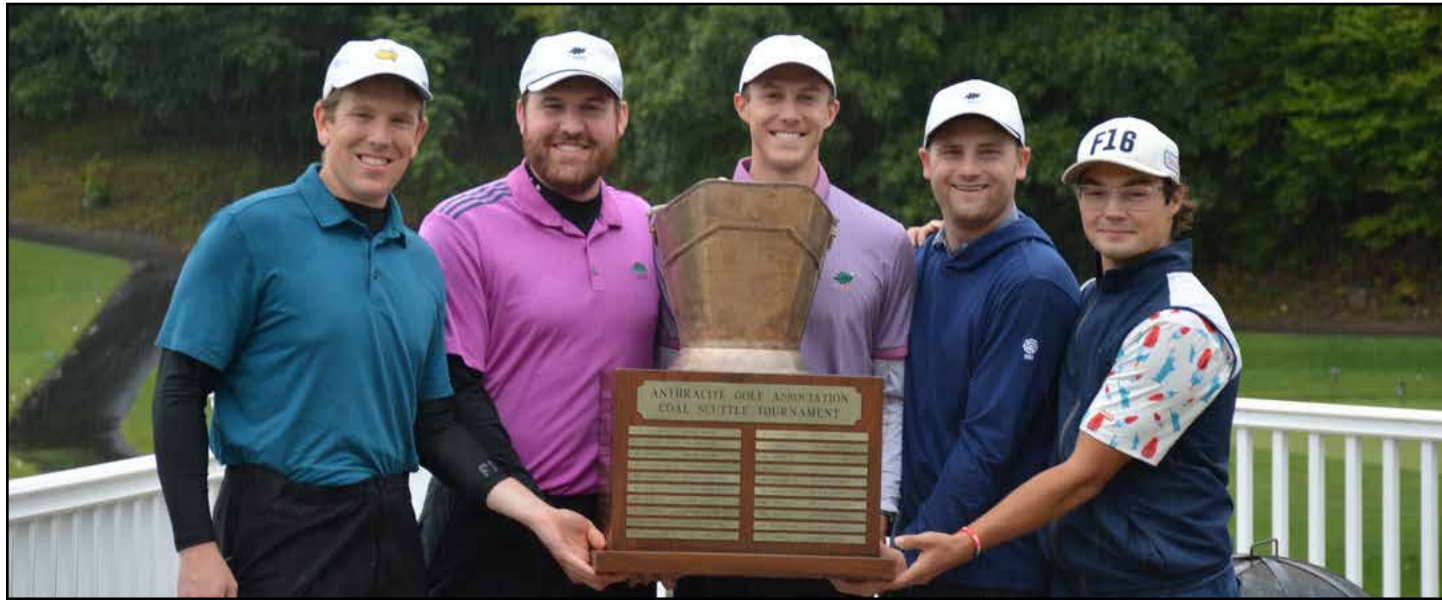


In Barefoot you will find Umberto's, a Pittsburgh-themed steak and pasta establishment that also serves family style. I don't even know where to begin. The porked chops are two, about eight ounces each, and you will be taking one with you. I get the veal Marsala, and it's great. The veal was pounded thin, the way I like it, and the sauce was sweet and packed with flavor. Among the best I've ever had. Trust me the savory bread was used to sop up every last drop, I can't resist. We got a meatball and sausage with peppers appetizer, and it could have been our main course. So we were piggies. Sue us. And everyone gets to sample some thin spaghetti with marinara, a tomato cucumber and onion salad and beans and greens, which is kind of like a pasta fagiole. All excellent. But you can only eat so much, right? Somehow we found room for a cannoli and tarimisu, which we split. And we had plenty of leftovers for the next day, which didn't go to waste.



So there you have it. A few of my thoughts about Myrtle Beach, where I would probably think about moving to if I didn't have two young grandchildren. Hope you can get there to, and maybe some of these suggestions helps you navigate your way around. Or, even better, take the time to uncover a few of your own faves. Either way, it doesn't get much better. And that's why I can never wait to head back.

GLEN OAK WEATHERS STORM, RETAINS SCUTTLE TITLE



WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — A tropical storm altered format, but it couldn't altogether change Glen Oak Country Club's trajectory Sunday in the 73rd GAP/AGA Men's Coal Scuttle Championship.

The Clarks Summit, Pa. venue successfully defended its title in a weather-shortened event at Wyoming Valley Country Club (par 35, 2,982 yards). Glen Oak filed a 10-over-par 438 to defeat Berwick Golf Club by 12 strokes.

The effects of Tropical Storm Ophelia forced GAP officials to shorten the event to 27 holes. Heavy rainfall made the back nine at Wyoming Valley unplayable Sunday.

The Men's Coal Scuttle Championship is a 36-hole tournament. The low four of five scores count toward the team total.

David Mecca (105), Kyle Williams (110), Luke Fayocavitz (111), James Egan (113) and Eric Montella (114) represented Glen Oak. Mecca, the reigning GAP Middle-Amateur Champion, earned individual medalist honors.

"It puts a cap on my year. I had a really good year, and this solidifies it," Mecca, 30, of Clarks Summit, Pa., said. "I want to play good golf for my team. I don't want to say they expect it, but they kind of do. They know what I'm capable of. I want to perform for them."

"Winning it for the first time last year was super special. To defend is validation for having a strong playing membership," Williams, 31, of Clarks Summit, Pa., said. "There are a lot of good players in the area, and to win twice in a row means a lot. I think it means a lot to the people back at Glen Oak as well."

The Glen Oak folk witnessed their troops firsthand in Round One Saturday. Albeit amid persistent rain and wind, remnants of Tropical

Storm Ophelia. Glen Oak best weathered the conditions, seizing an eight-stroke lead over Berwick after Round One.

"You knew the weather was going to be bad. It takes a lot of mental strength. Par is a good score on every hole," Williams said. "Yesterday was tough in that it felt so cold. The ball was traveling a lot shorter, so you had to, if you had 160 yards, then you're thinking 170. Everything was playing long, and on top of that, the greens were very soft. On pretty much every hole at Glen Oak, the green slopes back to front. The cold and the wet made second shots a lot harder."

The field needed to blitz Glen Oak to create drama Sunday. Furthermore, it needed to do so in identical conditions. That never transpired. Mecca made sure of it.

He opened with a two-putt birdie on No. 1 (par 5, 475 yards) and followed with a five-foot birdie on No. 3 (par 4, 365 yards). After sneaking a drive under a tree, Mecca hit a gap wedge from 112 yards. He bogeyed the demanding par 3, 193-yard No. 5 after finding the left greenside bunker with a 5-iron.

Mecca's medalist moment came on No. 8 (par 4, 362 yards). He holed out for eagle with a 9-iron from 142 yards.

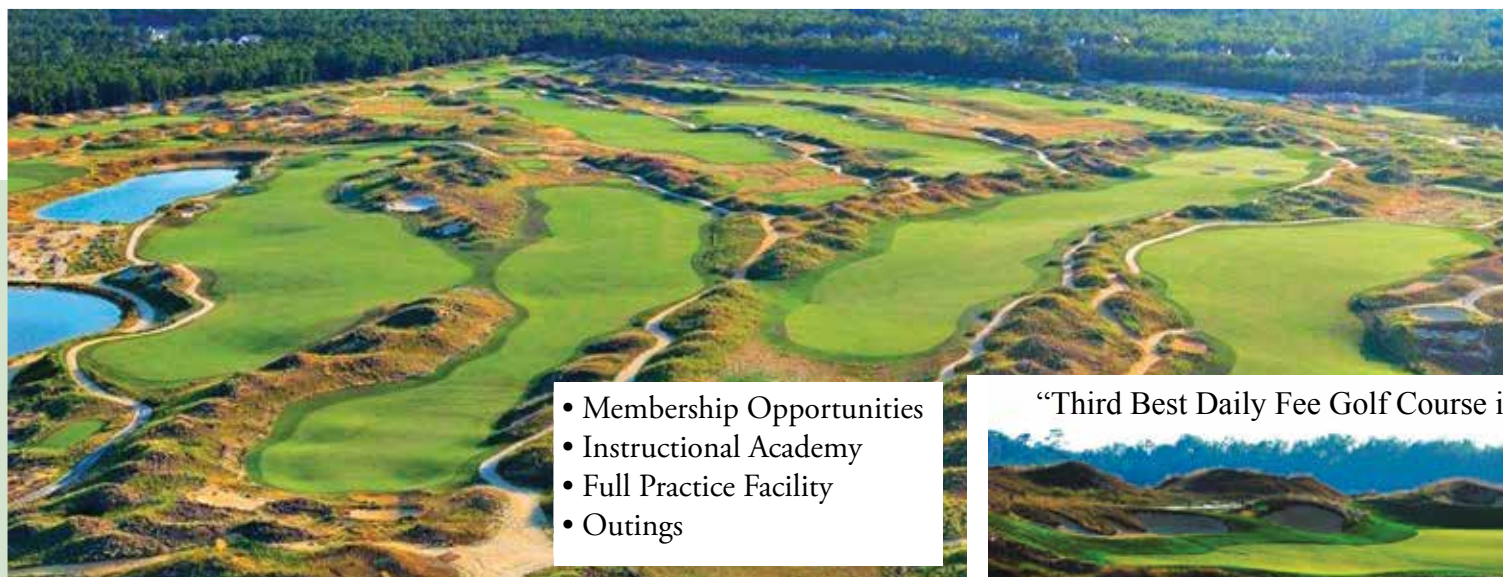
"I thought I needed it to go. Nick Werner's dad was watching, and he was up on the green and yelled back that it went in," Mecca said. "I didn't believe him. I went back in the cart and saw that [Country Club of Scranton's] Frank (Kacvinsky) holed out for eagle on No. 9. He leapfrogged me, then I leapfrogged him. That's kind of a crazy finish."

Not so crazy is Glen Oak's status in the Scuttle landscape. Youth is working in its favor. The team projects five competitors under the age of 40. But behind that youth is dedication and fortitude.

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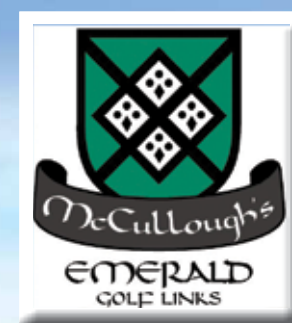


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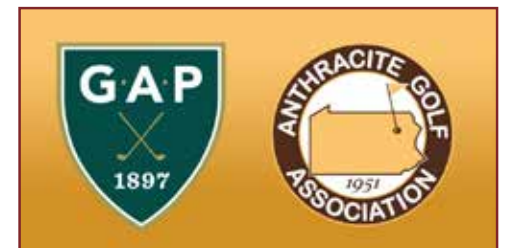
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Nemacolin's Mountains Provide Idyllic Fall Golf, Vacation Setting

By TONY LEODORA

Fall golf in Pennsylvania is a panoramic treat for the senses. The golf across the state, which is outstanding throughout the season, rises to a crescendo with the drier weather and the eye-popping colors of autumn.

No place is that more evident than at Nemacolin – the magnificent resort nestled in the Laurel Highlands of the Allegheny Mountains in far southwest Pennsylvania.

This more than 2,200-acre golf and vacation paradise is home to two highly regarded Pete Dye golf courses ... but that is not where the story ends. It just begins there.



The Chateau, modeled after famous Parisian hotel.

Nemacolin was the brainchild and personal project of Joseph A. Hardy III, a businessman and entrepreneur who possessed a creative mind and sense of adventure. In addition to being the president of 84 Lumber, the largest privately owned building materials supplier, he founded Nemacolin, using the same dedicated work ethic.

Those attributes, plus the boundless energy he exhibited well into his 90s, were the driving force behind creating this playground for both adults and children. Joe Hardy died on the day of his 100th birthday in January of 2023. Nemacolin is now operated by his daughter, Maggie Hardy, who took over as owner and CEO in the early 2000s.

The story of Nemacolin is one of constant growth and improvement. First, the golf courses. They came via a circuitous route.

The property was bought at auction by Joe Hardy in 1987. It consisted of an old hotel and a nine-hole golf course. Hardy immediately set out on his plan to transform the property into one of national acclaim. He hired heralded golf course architect Pete Dye to design Mystic Rock. It opened to immediate recognition in 1995.

In 2003 it was chosen to host the PGA Tour's 84 Lumber Classic and continued for four years, until 2006. For most of its existence it has been ranked as the No. 1 course that the public can play in Pennsylvania.

In 2017 the Shepherd's Rock course, co-designed by Pete Dye and Tim Liddy, was added on property adjacent to Mystic Rock. Again, the acclaim was immediate, with a ranking as the No. 5 course the public can play in Pennsylvania. Currently, both courses claim to be private, with a membership of 140, but anyone can play them if they stay in one of the three hotels, the rentable estate homes

and town homes on the property.



Waterfall on Mystic Rock No. 5

The hotels are among the most lavish in the region. They include The Chateau, The Grand Lodge and the new boutique hotel, Falling Rock, which opened in 2007 and received AAA Five Diamond status.

The restaurants are of equal quality. Lautrec, the fine dining restaurant, received the five star rating from the Forbes Travel Guide. Aqueous (seafood), Rockwell's (steakhouse) and Barattolo (Italian) also boast a high culinary level of quality and service.

"The culinary experience is meant to be memorable, whether the guests are dining in our five star restaurant, or stopping by the pastry shop," explains Donna Herto, the communications manager at Nemacolin. "Our goal has always been to provide the finest – even if it is just a sandwich overlooking our year-round resort style pool area."



The 4th green at Shepherd's Rock

With that bit of history in hand, the brief but remarkable stay at Nemacolin began. It was nothing short of a jaw-dropping experience.

Cole Friberg, the resort's golf operations supervisor, was the tour guide for the Shepherd's Rock course. He proved to be extremely knowledgeable about the course and provided needed warnings about some of the severe greens that were encountered.

No warning was more appreciated than on the 619-yard par 5 fourth hole – an endless succession of thrills and spills. It even displays an imposing wall of Dye's iconic vertical railroad ties on the side of the green.

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"I find Shepherd's Rock a lot of fun to play," said Friberg. "The fairways are wide and the greens are large. But the undulations on the greens are the defense of the course."

Although perched on the top of a mountain at 3,000 feet, Shepherd's Rock is not a trek for mountain goats. It is an enjoyable journey. The fairways are ribboned through the rolling terrain ... but



Looking across from 10 fairway to 11 on Mystic.

the stunning views of the mountain landscape surround it.

Day Two put Director of Golf Chris Anderson in the driver's seat. Regarded as slightly more difficult than the newer course, it quickly became evident why it was used to test the pros on the PGA Tour. The course stretches to 7,590 yards with a rating of 78.5 and a slope of 152. Luckily there are a number of tee options short of that distance.

Unlike most golf directors, Anderson's background is as a golf course superintendent. That goes a long way to explaining the superlative conditions on both courses at Nemaquin. He has held the post since 2018 and rolls up his sleeves to become involved in all aspects of course operation.

We had a good time traversing the hills of Mystic Rock ... and he had no problem with me stopping often to take photos of the many eye-popping vistas.

A favorite was the par 5 fifth hole, which features a waterfall that comes down out of the hillside and spills into a pond next to the green.

Another spectacular view was from the 10th fairway, looking across a rock-encircled pond at the 11th fairway. Thousands of large rocks decorate the entire course – all taken during the clearing and excavation of the property.

"We pride ourselves on pristine conditions, as an integral part of the overall golf experience," explains Anderson. "When guests come here to play, we want them to be wowed ... from the first tee to the 18th green."

If at all possible, the choices of accommodations at Nemaquin might even surpass the golf courses. The Grand Lodge, at the cost of \$30 million, has totally been "reimagined" into a 59-room luxury suite hotel, with balconies and extended living space. The Chateau, modeled after a grand Parisian hotel, will close for a multi-million dollar renovation and will reopen in 2024.

Falling Rock, overlooking the two golf courses, is not just a hotel. It is an experience. Luxurious rooms are just the start. Every

amenity awaits the guests, including personal 24-hour butler service. The butler even will draw your nightly bath, if requested.

For the family, the property is outfitted with a number of activities – everything from zip lining (re-opening summer of 2024), to skiing, to clay-shooting, to biking, hiking, axe throwing, paddle-boarding ... and much more.



Chief Nemaquin, one of many statues around the property.

Due to Joe Hardy's penchant as a collector, and now other family members, there is plenty to see. Art is exhibited in each hotel. More than 100 statues decorate the golf courses. There is an antique plane museum and another building housing collectible cars.



One of three tigers on the property at Nemaquin

And there is even a nature zoo, where lions, tigers, bears, buffalo and many more wild animals roam in spacious confines.

To call Nemaquin just a golf resort would be the understatement of all time. It is a world-class destination ... that just happens to be nestled in the mountains of Pennsylvania.

Tony Leodora is an award-winning golf writer and host of the Traveling Golfer television show – www.travelinggolfer.tv.





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MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ARE A GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT'S DREAM

By TONY LEODORA

Picture a blank canvas ... one that is clean, pure, well-lighted and propped up perfectly to accept the work of an artist. That scenario is similar to the setting in the mountains of western North Carolina ... awaiting a golf course architect.

One can only imagine the delight that the architect feels as he approaches the tree-covered raw topography and begins the work of transforming it into a golf course.

Throughout the region – dotted with towns like Asheville, Hendersonville, Highlands and Cashiers – architects have worked their magic over the years. All to the wonderment of the golfers who have gleefully followed in their steps.

"I remember when I first came to the area," recalls Tom Fazio, the world's most accomplished golf course architect. "I was totally stunned. Designing golf courses in this area of the country is every architect's dream."

The dream became a reality, when Fazio added a second office for his design firm in Hendersonville, North Carolina ... and moved his family there from West Palm Beach, Florida.

"Not only is it a great place to design golf courses," said Fazio. "It is an idyllic area to raise a family. The pace of life and the values of the people in this area are just wonderful."

Fazio first came to the area in the mid-1980s, when he was commissioned to design the ultra-private Wade Hampton Golf Club in Cashiers, North Carolina. That club opened in 1987 and skyrocketed into the top tier of all course rankings lists in the U.S. Despite the huge wave of upscale golf courses that have been created since that date, Wade Hampton still sits at No. 32 on the Golf Digest list.

The mountain views throughout the golf course are breathtaking. The conditions are pristine. The holes are challenging and exhilarating. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of golfers have enjoyed the experience because it is one of the most private courses in all of America.

Membership is by invitation only. And, if you get the invite, the initiation fee is upwards of \$140,000.

"Wade Hampton was created to be a very special experience," explains Fazio. "We went to great lengths to use the existing slopes and river valleys. It is an incredibly natural golf course, yet it can pose quite a challenge."

The course stretches to 7,347 yards. The rating from the tips is a staggering 75.7 and the slope is 146.

Considering the exclusivity and cost of Wade Hampton, and adding the challenge, it would be an unfair tease to highlight this course without presenting an option that is more accessible to a wide range of golfers. That option exists right next door – at High Hampton GC.

High Hampton was once a small resort, with an old 11-hole golf course. It opened in 1922 and enjoyed a sleepy existence until it was purchased and expanded greatly in 2017.

The historic inn and cottages were renovated. A number of amenities were added. To say that the golf course also was renovated would be a great understatement.

"We completely blew up the old course and built a new one," says Fazio, who delighted in the opportunity to add another design adjacent to one of his most famous layouts at Wade Hampton. "With similar topography, we were able to recreate the same type of feel and atmosphere as Wade Hampton. But we added a softer, gentler touch to the course, realizing that it is a resort property."

While High Hampton GC does have a membership of about 230

members, it is accessible to all. Anyone who stays at the High Hampton Inn can play the course.

Understand that accessible does not mean inexpensive. Initiation fee for a membership in 2021 was \$100,000 and annual dues were \$14,500. Like all post-pandemic golf costs, those numbers probably have escalated.

Also, booking a room for the privilege of playing a round of golf is quite pricey. Rooms in the inn start at about \$1,085 per night. The cottages are higher. And the green fee to play is \$315 in high season.

But the golf experience rivals what can be found anywhere in America.

Shorter than Wade Hampton, the new course at High Hampton extends to 6,903 yards, par 71 and has a rating from the tips of 73.4 and a slope of 140. Fortunately, there are five sets of tees that should allow most golfers to find a playable distance.

The views of the two notable mountains in the area – Rock Face and Chimney Top – dominate the golf course. Like two giant behemoths, they seem to be watching your every shot.

Ever since re-opening in May of 2021, High Hampton has been getting rave reviews from those who visit the property. The overall resort is amazing but the golf course has quickly become a treasure.

While Wade Hampton has the national reputation and attracts skilled competitors, High Hampton is the course most golfers would like to play – every day for the rest of their lives.

"We hear that a lot," says Tony Snoey, the general manager who came on the scene at the time of the re-opening. "The views are so amazing throughout the course that people fall in love with it immediately."

That is not an assessment to be taken lightly. Snoey came to High Hampton from the mountains of Idaho, an area that also boasts some impressive scenery.

While playing with Snoey, a former collegiate golf star, it quickly became apparent that he knew his way around the golf course. He made 8 birdies, en route to a round of 66. And all of that came with the distraction of playing the part of the ultimate tour guide.

As he provided analysis of each hole, the coinciding task was to note the most memorable and outstanding holes on the course. That task quickly became superfluous, as Fazio's design rolled out with never-ending excellence.

"Tom's goal was to wow the golfers on the first tee, and never let up until they reached the 18th green," explains Snoey. "At the same time, he has afforded them a playable and enjoyable day of golf. I see a lot of smiles from the people playing golf at High Hampton."

What's not to smile about? That seems to be the theme for golf in the mountains of western North Carolina. And at the top of that smile list are Wade Hampton GC and High Hampton GC – two of the best Fazio designs in his memorable collection of golf masterpieces.



The walk up to the 18th green at Wade Hampton is accompanied by the babbling of the brook alongside the fairway

SCOTLAND CHECKS OFF #1 ON THE BUCKET LIST IN A HUGE WAY



R & A Clubhouse

By Pete Kowalski

Bucket lists are definitely a thing for golfers of my vintage, and I am glad I established one a few years ago.

Driven by item #1 on the list, and with ample opportunity to do so, golf in Scotland became a reality in late August and early September.

In my 20-plus-year career at the United States Golf Association, I had heard numerous times: “You’ve got to get to Royal Dornoch,” as in Royal Dornoch Golf Club, originally designed by Old Tom Morris, tucked away near the Moray Firth in the Highlands of Scotland, an hour’s drive from Inverness.

Thanks to Royal Dornoch international members Joe Luigs, Ziggy and Robbie Zalzneck, Danny Sink, Hank Thompson, and John Van der Borcht, among others, for the encouragement and advice.

Using a trip to Royal Dornoch GC (“You’ve got to play there twice,” – FYI – we did) as the key to our itinerary, we started plotting a course in the fall of 2022.

Our noble intention was to bring the wives along, but it quickly evolved into a buddy trip with the addition of attending the Walker Cup Match at the Old Course at St Andrews as another must-do.

By early 2023, we had our golf, lodging and flights booked with transportation in Scotland dangling like a putt on the lip. Travel tip -- the end of COVID has made booking UK golf a ‘do-it-early’ exercise. Some of the places we wanted to play were already booked when we looked in early 2023.

Thankfully, transportation sorted itself out and we found a great local transportation outfit called Elite Golf Transport, through our B&B host, who happens to be a long-time friend. A world-renowned golf photographer, Matthew Harris, has covered a slew of majors, including the U.S. Open, where I met him more than 25 years

ago. He and his wife Kay operate Albatross B&B in Dornoch and were gracious hosts and provided critical Chamber of Commerce information for restaurants, pubs, and distilleries. He also served as our private driver as we visited three courses in the Highlands – Royal Dornoch Golf Club, Brora Golf Club and Golspie Golf Club.

Our group of four included residents of Los Angeles, Baton Rouge and Watkinsville, Ga., and me from the Lehigh Valley. Over the course of eight calendar days, we traveled through Scotland on railroad, bus and private drivers and logged more than 66 miles of walking on four courses played and one ‘just visited.’

We all landed in Edinburgh around the same time, but the only missing piece was a set of clubs owned by our California guy. He flew through London and his clubs finally made it back to Los Angeles in the third week of September. Needless to say, he’s working on a settlement.

Undeterred, we boarded our train to Inverness at Edinburgh Airport, but our first-class Scotrail tickets devolved into standing room, cattle-car conditions for the first 90 minutes of our three-hour ride to Inverness. Sleeping, conversation and trying to sneak peeks of the countryside made the trip seem a little more tolerable.

Finding an ATM that accepted everyone’s card to get some pounds turned into an obstacle for a bit but some of us were successful, so we had hard cash to manage the first legs of our journey.

Our private driver found the Albatross B&B easily and we dropped off our gear and headed into town for a proper Scottish dinner. Guinness all around, haggis blended into a chicken dish for me and a choice of mushy or garden peas for all. It must be mentioned that all of our dining in the Highlands was first-rate.

Our first round was at Brora Golf Club and aside from a rambunctious ram on the 18th tee (we have the video), we thoroughly enjoyed this links layout designed by multiple Open champion James Braid and



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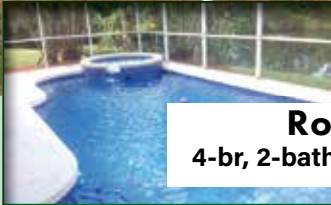
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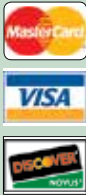
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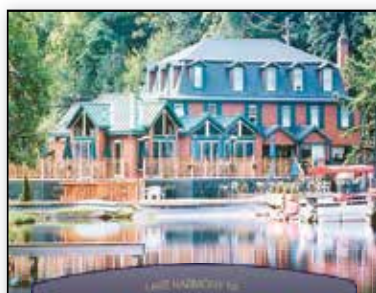
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Cont. from page 16

that opened in 1891. Two nice putting greens and a seaside short course offered a great way to warm up.



Sheep at Brora

All of the greens at Brora are protected by electrical fences to keep the free-roaming sheep away. The leg lift on every green was a nice addition to our walking workout. My brother's senior golf group friend from Georgia joined us for the post-round libations to finish off a great start to our trip.

As a dyed-in-the-wool Donald Ross fan, I was excited about visiting where Ross grew up in the game at Royal Dornoch the next day but that did not keep me awake, it was jet lag.

Our only day with caddies, one for each player, was the next morning at Royal Dornoch, rated by some as the No. 1 golf course in the world. After playing the hardest short par-4 in the world, Dornoch's par-3 second hole, we walked through some high-growing gorse, and came upon the vista that is the third tee. We had been alerted that we'd be 'wowed' with seaside views and heaving sand dunes the rest of the way. Luckily, Mr. Harris, who also happens to caddy at Royal Dornoch and serve as its official photographer, captured our tee shots with his drone camera.

The par-4s at Royal Dornoch are long and strong and memorable and tested us and our caddies. The view from the tee on No. 7 was a postcard moment.

I loved many holes, particularly the par-13th, which reminded me of an Australian Sandbelt-design. The course lived up to its billing and we finished the 18th hole with a rainbow produced by a short rain squall.

Our next stop was Golspie Golf Club that opened in 1889 and was cited for the best greens in the Highlands by our innkeeper (He was correct). This layout, influenced by James Braid, includes holes that are links, holes that are parkland and holes that are heathland. What a treat! We endured some rain showers but were enthralled by the unique blend of architecture.

We found the best fish and chips place in Golspie for a takeaway lunch that we ate in the parking lot of the Clynelish Distillery as we awaited our appointment for a tasting, which was informative and

eye-opening. The vodka drinkers, meaning me, had our nostrils and palate awakened. And we bought Matthew a specially poured bottle of whiskey as a thank you.

Royal Dornoch awaited the next day and brought sun but a wee more wind than previously. We enjoyed a quick lunch – I recommend the seafood chowder – before the round.

Total transparency, one of my clients – The Country Club of North Carolina – is the only course in the U.S. with a reciprocal relationship with Royal Dornoch, and the annual match between clubs for the Roly Club Putter was played September 25-29 at CCNC in Pinehurst, N.C.

Each of our scores improved from the first time and we were joined by all-star general manager Neil Hampton for a pint or two after the round. More memories were made. My California friend, who wore my Penn State jacket since his was in the golf bag that never arrived, got a 'We Are....' as we walked to the 18th tee. He didn't respond since he went to Michigan State, but I did and learned the greeter was a member of Merion Golf Club in Philly.

Then it was off to the Glenmorangie Distillery for a production tour followed by a tasting. A nice finish to our time in the Highlands.

An early start the next morning got us an early bus from Inverness to Edinburgh where we spent the day walking in the areas around its famous castle. We tried a guru walk, for some finer points about the city and its history that took us to places that influenced the author of the Harry Potter series of books, J.K. Rowling. Who knew the national animal of Scotland is the unicorn? Look it up. But sure wish we had more time for this historic city.

The Walker Cup Match at the Old Course beckoned, and our driver brought us to the entry gate the next morning as a bagpiper fulfilled his traditional role before the morning foursomes matches began.



Elie Clubhouse

Before we arrived, he asked if we'd like to join him at St Andrews Golf Club for lunch before we departed for our afternoon tee time at The Golf Club House, Elie. We sarcastically asked if he had any other bad suggestions. Believe it or not, we sat at a table overlooking the Valley of Sin and then got a tour of the upper floors for some magnificent

Cont. on page 21



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Cont. from page 19
suggestions. Believe it or not, we sat at a table overlooking the Valley of Sin and then got a tour of the upper floors for some magnificent views of the Old Course and the clubhouse of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (The R&A).

Philadelphia-area raised Meghan Stasi, the next USA Curtis Cup captain and a long-time pal, laughingly rushed us off our table but it was great to see her supporting the American squad.

After the morning foursomes matches and lunch, we left for Elie, known for its firm and fast links conditions and many blind shots. In fact, the starter’s shack has a periscope to assure that those on the first tee, with an uphill blind shot, don’t hit into those on the first fairway. Elie gave us our best version of the running links shots that pitch and roll and bounce like the Open Championship conditions of old. Hitting a tee shot into the fairway that looked good off the club but kept rolling until it found a bunker was another links likeable. Clubbing was a difficult but fun task. Reaching a par-five in two in those conditions was as much fun as two-putting for birdie!

The day’s walk was 38,000 steps and I was too tired to finish dinner but rest for the next day at the Walker Cup was imperative.

Of course, our Old Course experience was heightened by the Walker Cup and vice versa. Such good golf in such a good place. Mind you, none of us had been to St Andrews before.

As we wandered somewhat purposely over the two days of competition, my playing mates conducted an ‘over-and-under’ game for how many golf friends I would see. Under didn’t cut it. It was overwhelming to see so many staffers from the USGA, The R&A and current and retired staffers and members of USGA championship clubs, college coaches, agent friends, and media friends who were there for the history too.

We found a strategic spot to watch the Sunday morning matches and retired to Jigger Inn for lunch. After that we parked at the second green and watched the 10 singles matches come through before walking back out to find where stuff was happening – it was on the app (inside joke).

For the last two hours, we stood behind the green of the famous Road Hole and saw matches won and several players drive the 18th green as well as an American celebration as the clinching points occurred.



Road Hole at R&A

We then made our way to the trophy ceremony to see the come-from-behind kids of the USA gather around the huge trophy that is the Walker Cup.

A disappointing pizza that was fuel in its most average form was our dinner before we left for our Edinburgh airport hotel.

The next morning as I boarded my flight, I had one enduring thought – ‘What’s next on my list?’”

GREG PIECZYNSKI WINS

MAPGA Section
Championship



| Pos. | Player | Total To Par Gross | R1 | R2 | R3 | Total Gross | Purse |
|------|--|--------------------|----|----|----|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Greg Pieczynski <i>George Mason Univ</i> | -5 | 70 | 68 | 67 | 205 | \$11,000.00 |
| 2 | Geoff Montross <i>Farmington Country Club</i> | -4 | 67 | 72 | 67 | 206 | \$7,000.00 |
| T3 | Larkin Gross <i>Springfield Golf & Country Club</i> | -2 | 72 | 67 | 69 | 208 | \$4,500.00 |
| T3 | Bill Fedder <i>Glenmore Country Club</i> | -2 | 69 | 69 | 70 | 208 | \$4,500.00 |
| 5 | Elliott Wilson <i>Independence Golf Club</i> | -1 | 71 | 68 | 70 | 209 | \$3,000.00 |
| 6 | Rick Schuller <i>Meadowbrook Country Club</i> | +2 | 66 | 75 | 71 | 212 | \$2,600.00 |
| T7 | Ashley Grier <i>Yinglings Golf Center</i> | +4 | 71 | 73 | 70 | 214 | \$2,175.00 |
| T7 | John O'Leary <i>Trump National Golf Club</i> | +4 | 70 | 72 | 72 | 214 | \$2,175.00 |
| T9 | Steven Delmar <i>Columbia Country Club</i> | +5 | 74 | 69 | 72 | 215 | \$1,816.67 |
| T9 | Josh Apple <i>Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club</i> | +5 | 74 | 68 | 73 | 215 | \$1,816.67 |



In a ranking by The Sun News, golf experts voted two holes, #2 and #13, as part of the "Dream 18," a compilation of the best 18 holes on the beach



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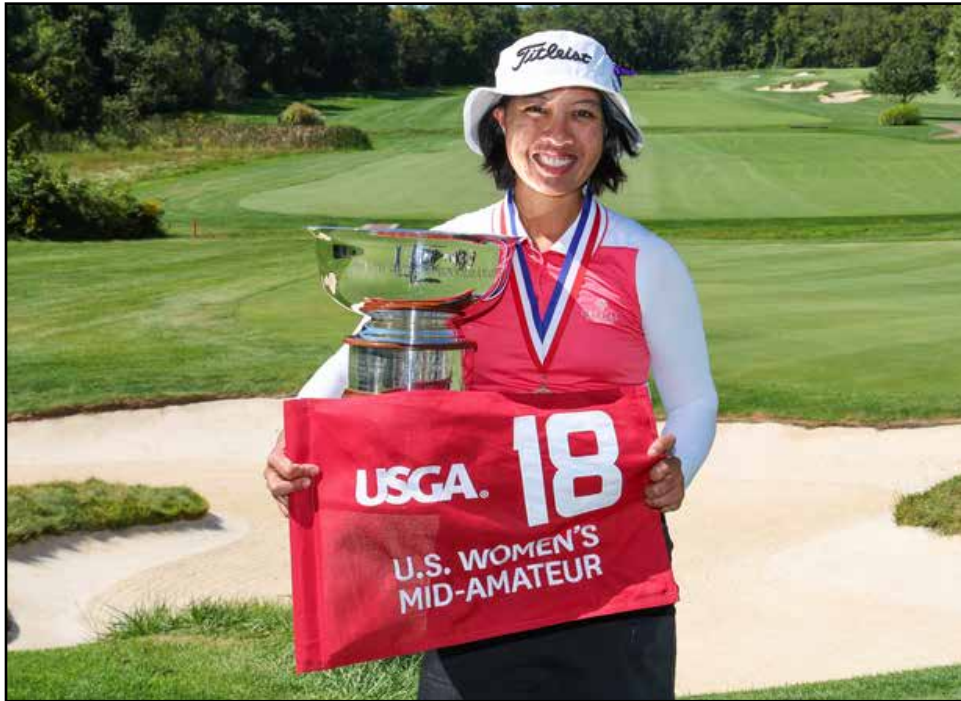
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LATE COME-FROM-BEHIND RALLY PROPELS DINH TO WOMEN'S MID VICTORY

By Julia Pine
USGA



Kimberly Dinh, of Midland, Mich., captured the 36th U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur at Stonewall.

It was a tale of two nines at Stonewall for the championship match of the 36th U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, as Kimberly Dinh, of Midland, Mich., overcame a 3-down deficit to stun 2017 champion Kelsey Chugg and earn her first USGA title.

"In college, I never really played in any USGA events, mostly because by the time the summer came around, I was burned out and I didn't want to travel. So having an opportunity to compete in a USGA championship after grad school, after college, has been awesome, and to win it, just incredible."

The victory also earns Dinh a place in the 2024 U.S. Women's Open at Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club.

Chugg, who was playing in her third U.S. Women's Mid-Am championship match in the last six iterations, looked like she would become the first since 2016 to earn multiple titles, jumping out to a 3-up advantage through the first seven holes.

Everything was looking relatively easy for the 32-year-old from Salt Lake City, hitting fairways and positioning herself well on Stonewall North Course's tricky greens. She would win four holes on the front side, two with birdies, and lose only one, when Dinh hit her approach shot on the 319-yard, par-4 fourth hole to just three feet. The result? A 3-up lead for the former champion through seven holes, and after tying the next four holes with her opponent, a 3-up lead through 11,

with just seven holes to play.

But that's when things would take a turn. The two competitors would not tie a hole the rest of the way, with Dinh remarkably winning six of the last seven (Chugg would momentarily stop the bleeding by taking the 15th hole), ultimately resulting in a Dinh 2-up victory. It was the first time a competitor came back from a deficit as large as 3 in the championship match since 2003.

"I'm disappointed," said Chugg. "It was a good battle. I think I lost it -- like the ball striking just left me the last two matches, so I didn't have my best stuff. Yesterday I got it in the hole a little bit better than I did the back nine today, but I'm proud of myself for making it this far."

For Chugg, the tale of two nines were really a tale of putting. After playing steady for the first part of the match, her putter betrayed her starting on the 11th hole, and while she was able to tie the hole and keep her 3-up lead, she missed a six-footer for birdie that would have pushed the lead to 4. Dinh, on the other hand, drained a ten-footer for par that seemed to shift the momentum.

"To lose a couple holes pretty quickly was a little bit frustrating, but I just kind of dug deep and never really panicked," said Dinh. "Kelsey was playing great golf, but both of us were going to make mistakes at some point, so I just kind of had to weather that and keep playing. I said to myself, 'I'll keep putting one good swing on the ball after another and see where it takes me.'"

On the next two holes, Chugg would miss three to four footers for par on both, giving Dinh her first hole wins since the fourth. Dinh would make a 15-footer for birdie on the 14th hole to tie the match, and after Chugg regained the lead with a par on 15 (Dinh would have her own putting woes with a short miss), the 31-year-old University of Wisconsin grad would win the last three holes with a bogey, and two finishing birdies, to seal the win.

"I have learned something every time I've gotten to match play, just every time I've played it, I've gotten more comfortable with it. I've learned that even if you get down to not panic. At [the Michigan Amateur] this past year, I had a couple matches that went to extra holes and I had to make putts to get to extra holes, so I've been in high-pressure situations and have gotten used to it."

For Dinh, it's the icing on an incredible mid-amateur career that has included a win at the Michigan Women's Amateur (as the oldest player in the field), as well as two wins at the Michigan Women's Mid-Amateur. Earlier this year, Dinh played in her first ever LPGA event, the Dow Great Lakes Invitational, sponsored by her employer, Dow, where she works as a senior research specialist.

WHAT THE CHAMPION RECEIVES

A gold medal

Custody of the Mildred Gardiner Prunaret Trophy for one year

Exemptions into the next 10 U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur Championships

Exemptions into the 2024 U.S. Women’s Amateur at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., and the 2025 U.S. Women’s Amateur at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

Exemption into the 2024 U.S. Women’s Open at Lancaster Country Club

NOTABLE

Runner-up Kelsey Chugg receives a silver medal, an exemption into the 2024 U.S. Women’s Amateur and exemptions into the next three U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur Championships.

The 2024 U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur will be contested at Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton, Mass., from Sept. 7-12.

It was the first time all week that Dinh had to play the 17th and 18th holes in match play.

QUOTABLE

“I’m excited to be back out there and looking forward to it. Just need to start working on my game a little bit. I’ve never been [to Southern Hills], but I heard it’s awesome. Hot in the summer.” - Chugg on earning a spot in next year’s U.S. Women’s Amateur

I didn't expect to make it this far. I've been working [at my job] a ton. Like I said, I'm proud of myself and it's cool to make it to another final. It’s crazy to have another runner-up finish, but it's just an amazing experience and Stonewall was incredible.” -Chugg on what she can take out of the week

“I have a presentation I have to give tomorrow so I have to at least dial in for that, and then we’ll figure out what the rest of the day looks like.” - Dinh on how she’ll balance getting back to work and celebrating her win

“Yeah, that was huge for sure, just to stay in it. Going 4-down with seven to play is a lot different than 3-down with seven to play.” - Dinh on her ten-foot par putt to tie the 11th hole

| | | | | |
|----|---|---------|---|----|
| 33 |  Aideen Walsh  Republic of Ireland | 4 and 3 | Kimberly Dinh Midland, Mich.   | 16 |
| 25 |  Alyssa Roland  Short Hills, N.J. | 1 up | Alexandra Austin Burke, Va.   | 9 |
| 29 |  Isabella Dilisio  Hatfield, Pa. | 1 up | Judith Kyrinis Canada   | 13 |
| 5 |  Celine Manche  Belgium | 1 up | Gretchen Johnson Portland, Ore.   | 12 |
| 2 |  Jackie Rogowicz  Yardley, Pa. | 6 and 5 | Catherine McEvoy Riverside, Conn.   | 47 |
| 7 |  Blakesly Brock  Chattanooga, Tenn. | 4 and 2 | Lauren Greenlief Ashburn, Va.   | 10 |
| 62 |  Katrin Wolfe  Johnstown, Pa. | 1 up | Kelsey Chugg Salt Lake City, Utah   | 14 |
| 59 |  Lauren Gebauer  Orinda, Calif. | 2 and 1 | Taryn Walker Prospect, Ky.   | 11 |



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ZAC OAKLEY, PGA, CAPTURES 102ND PHILADELPHIA PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Matt Frey

Clarks Summit, Pa.. (September 13, 2023) — Zac Oakley of Bidermann Golf Club in Wilmington, Del., winner of the 102nd Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, presented by Club Car, Corebridge Financial, and Rolex, at the Country Club of Scranton and Elmhurst Country Club, will lead 11 Section PGA Professionals to compete in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, April 28 – May 1, at Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco in Texas.

Oakley, the 36-hole leader, was declared the champion after the final round was cancelled due to significant rainfall at the C.C. of Scranton. He finished his week at 10-under-par, with rounds 67-67-134, to better Braden Shattuck of Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, Pa., by one stroke.

“I am super excited and happy to have won this championship,” Oakley said of his victory. “I played great. This is our Section’s most important championship of the year; it’s our major.”

Oakley said that he loves to play in multi-day events, as there is more strategy involved in the competition. He also remarked how special it is to have won the Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship and the National Car Rental Philadelphia Assistant PGA Professional Championship in the same season.

“I put in a lot of work at the end of the summer, as I struggled at the beginning of the year. This validates putting in the practice and the time.

“I wasn’t putting well, and my speed was off. I switched to a more face-balanced putter, and I made everything inside six feet this week at the Country Club of Scranton and Elmhurst Country Club.”

He went on to thank God, as this was an emotional win considering

his close calls with victories in 2020 and 2021, everyone at Bidermann Golf Club, his wife, friends, family, the Section staff, and our host clubs and their staffs. He said that the PGA Professionals, superintendents, and grounds crews at both clubs did an excellent job prepping the facilities for the event. To watch him deliver his full comments, [click here](#).

In addition to having his name engraved on the William B. Packer Trophy, Oakley earned \$9,000 for his win, coming from the \$72,000 purse.

Oakley (1), Shattuck (2), will be joined at the 2024 PGA Professional Championship in Texas by 2023 Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Champion Rich Steinmetz of Spring Ford Country Club in Royersford, Pa.; Michael Meisenzahl of Little Mill Country Club in Marlton, N.J.; Billy Stewart of Union League Liberty Hill in Lafayette Hill, Pa.; Alex Knoll of Glen Brook Golf Club in Stroudsburg, Pa.; Robert Fenton of Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; Trevor Bensel of Sandy Run Country Club in Oreland, Pa.; Dave Pagett of Whitmarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, Pa.; Chris Krueger of Kings Creek Country Club in Rehoboth Beach, Del.; Michael Little of Clubhouse 54 in North Wales, Pa.; and Caleb Wittig of Elmhurst Country Club in Moscow, Pa.

As reigning PGA Professional Champion, Shattuck had already clinched his exemption into the 2024 championship. Brian Kelly of Bucknell Golf Club in Lewisburg, Pa., finished in ninth place, but is not eligible to advance due to his PGA Life Member classification.

Brian Bergstol of Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in Shawnee on Delaware, Pa., is the first alternate, followed by Mark Sheftic of Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; Terry Hertzog of Bent Creek Country Club in Lititz, Pa.; Rusty Harbold of Philadelphia Cricket Club in Flourtown, Pa.; and Joanna Coe of Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa.

Cont. from page 26

| ① | Pos. | Player | Total To Par Gross | R1 | R2 | Total Gross |
|---|------|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| ☆ | 1 | Zac Oakley <i>Bidermann Golf Club</i> | -10 | 67 <i>ECC</i> | 67 <i>CCS</i> | 134 |
| ☆ | 2 | Braden Shattuck <i>Rolling Green Golf Club</i> | -9 | 70 <i>CCS</i> | 65 <i>ECC</i> | 135 |
| ☆ | T3 | Rich Steinmetz 🏆 <i>Spring Ford Country Club</i> | -6 | 71 <i>ECC</i> | 67 <i>CCS</i> | 138 |
| ☆ | T3 | Michael Meisenzahl <i>Little Mill Country Club</i> | -6 | 69 <i>CCS</i> | 69 <i>ECC</i> | 138 |
| ☆ | 5 | Billy Stewart 🏆 <i>Union League Liberty Hill</i> | -5 | 69 <i>ECC</i> | 70 <i>CCS</i> | 139 |
| ☆ | T6 | Alex Knoll 🏆 <i>Glen Brook Golf Club</i> | -4 | 68 <i>ECC</i> | 72 <i>CCS</i> | 140 |
| ☆ | T6 | Robert Fenton <i>Sunnybrook Golf Club</i> | -4 | 70 <i>ECC</i> | 70 <i>CCS</i> | 140 |
| ☆ | T6 | Trevor Bensei <i>Sandy Run Country Club</i> | -4 | 70 <i>ECC</i> | 70 <i>CCS</i> | 140 |
| ☆ | 9 | Brian Kelly 🏆 <i>Bucknell</i> | -3 | 71 <i>CCS</i> | 70 <i>ECC</i> | 141 |
| ☆ | T10 | Dave Pagett <i>Whitemarsh Valley Country Club</i> | -2 | 71 <i>ECC</i> | 71 <i>CCS</i> | 142 |
| ☆ | T10 | Chris Krueger <i>Kings Creek Country Club</i> | -2 | 71 <i>CCS</i> | 71 <i>ECC</i> | 142 |
| ☆ | 12 | Michael Little <i>Clubhouse 54</i> | -1 | 71 <i>ECC</i> | 72 <i>CCS</i> | 143 |
| ☆ | T13 | Caleb Wittig <i>Elmhurst Country Club</i> | E | 74 <i>CCS</i> | 70 <i>ECC</i> | 144 |
| ☆ | T13 | Brian Bergstol 🏆 <i>Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort</i> | E | 72 <i>ECC</i> | 72 <i>CCS</i> | 144 |
| ☆ | T13 | Mark Sheftic <i>Sunnybrook Golf Club</i> | E | 75 <i>CCS</i> | 69 <i>ECC</i> | 144 |

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PGA MEMBER BRADEN SHATTUCK WINS 2023 GALV LEHIGH VALLEY OPEN



Kutztown, Pa. (October 3, 2023) — PGA Member Braden Shattuck of Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, Pa., followed up his impressive 6-under-par opening round with a 5-under-par final round to win the Golf Association of the Lehigh Valley's 2023 Lehigh Valley Open at Berkleigh Golf Club. Shattuck previously won this event in 2021 in a playoff.

Shattuck, the reigning PGA Professional Champion, entered the final day of play tied for the lead with fellow PGA Member Kyle Early, Waynesborough C.C., and fended off several charging PGA Professionals, including Trevor Bense, Sandy Run C.C., and Brian Bergstol, Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort, both of whom finished tied for second place at 7-under-par.

"I played fairly conservative," Shattuck said after his win. "I hit the driver when I needed to be aggressive, but kept it in play and capitalized on the par-5s."

While he had never seen Berkleigh prior to this week, he complimented the course, saying that the layout has really good bones, and features a lot of beautiful holes.

The 29-year-old Shattuck went on to thank the Rolling Green G.C. members, the club's staff and PGA Head Professional Scott Chisholm, Titleist, Nike, the Section staff, and the host facility, Berkleigh.

In addition to his win today, Shattuck also increased his lead in the Rolex / Haverford Trust Company Philadelphia PGA Player of the Year standings, thanks in part to his national PGA Professional Championship win in May, and his other first place finishes in the

Philadelphia Open Championship, and the Section's Tournament Players Division Championship.

Gulph Mills G.C.'s Louis Kelly finished in fourth place, four behind Shattuck, followed by Terry Hertzog, Bent Creek C.C., at 2-under-par.

James Boburka, Bethlehem, Pa., earned low amateur honors, going 75-75-150, topping Tom Soares, Emmaus, Pa., by five strokes. David Palumbo, Breinigsville Pa., finished in third place at 13-over-par, while Matt Crilley, Allentown Pa., and Jeff Wiedecke, Easton Pa., rounded out the top five at 14 and 15-over-par.

With his final score at 2-under-par, Terry Hertzog, took top honors in the Senior Division. Mike Molino, PGA, finished in second place, one stroke behind, followed by and Rich Steinmetz, Spring Ford C.C. PGA Life Member Brian Kelly and Royal Oaks G.C.'s Terry Hatch tied for fourth place.

Brian Kelly took the Super Senior Division by one stroke over Rob Shuey, Colonial Golf & Tennis Club, followed by third place finishers Jeb Boyle, PGA, and George Forster, PGA, four strokes behind. John Allen, Squires G.C., finished in fifth place at 8-over-par, tied with Bill Sautter, Philadelphia Cricket Club.

The Philadelphia PGA Section's Central Counties Chapter hosted an event concurrently with the Lehigh Valley Open, and Brian Bergstol ran away with the win, topping Mike Molino by six strokes. Parks Price, C.C. of York, finished in third place at even par, while Terry Hatch and Brian Kelly finished in a tie for fourth.

Cont. on page 30

Cont. from page 29

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The Philadelphia PGA Section’s Central Counties Chapter hosted an event concurrently with the Lehigh Valley Open, and Brian Bergstol ran away with the win, topping Mike Molino by six strokes. Parks

Price, C.C. of York, finished in third place at even par, while Terry Hatch and Brian Kelly finished in a tie for fourth. The 2023 GAV Lehigh Valley Open is supported by the Golf Association of the Lehigh Valley, Payntr Golf, Wilson, Jani-King, and the PGA Tour. The Philadelphia PGA Section and its PGA Professionals thank our partners, Berkleigh Golf Club, its membership, management, and staff, as the event would not have been possible without their support.

| i | Pos. | Player | Total To Par Gross | R1 | R2 | Total Gross |
|---|------|--|--------------------------|----|----|----------------|
| ☆ | 1 | Braden Shattuck <i>Rolling Green Golf Club</i> | -11 | 66 | 67 | 133 |
| ☆ | T2 | Trevor Bensele <i>Sandy Run Country Club</i> | -7 | 70 | 67 | 137 |
| ☆ | T2 | Brian Bergstol <i>Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort</i> | -7 | 70 | 67 | 137 |
| ☆ | 4 | Louis Kelly <i>Gulph Mills Golf Club</i> | -3 | 72 | 69 | 141 |
| ☆ | 5 | Terry Hertzog <i>Bent Creek Country Club</i> | -2 | 71 | 71 | 142 |
| ☆ | T6 | Zach Barbin <i>Chesapeake Bay Golf Club</i> | -1 | 73 | 70 | 143 |
| ☆ | T6 | Mike Molino <i>Philadelphia PGA</i> | -1 | 74 | 69 | 143 |
| ☆ | T8 | Michael Little <i>Clubhouse 54</i> | E | 72 | 72 | 144 |
| ☆ | T8 | Parks Price <i>Country Club of York</i> | E | 73 | 71 | 144 |
| ☆ | T8 | Rich Steinmetz <i>Spring Ford Country Club</i> | E | 75 | 69 | 144 |
| ☆ | T11 | Brian Kelly <i>Bucknell</i> | +1 | 71 | 74 | 145 |
| ☆ | T11 | Brett Gulati <i>Merion Golf Club</i> | +1 | 72 | 73 | 145 |
| ☆ | T11 | Terry Hatch <i>Royal Oaks Golf Course</i> | +1 | 73 | 72 | 145 |
| ☆ | T14 | Ross Brown <i>Fox Hill Country Club</i> | +2 | 71 | 75 | 146 |
| ☆ | T14 | Rob Shuey <i>Colonial Golf and Tennis</i> | +2 | 72 | 74 | 146 |
| ☆ | T14 | Alex Willey <i>Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club</i> | +2 | 72 | 74 | 146 |
| ☆ | T14 | Dave Quinn <i>Laurel Creek Country Club</i> | +2 | 74 | 72 | 146 |
| ☆ | T14 | Michael Meisenzahl <i>Little Mill Country Club</i> | +2 | 76 | 70 | 146 |
| ☆ | T19 | Kyle Early <i>Waynesborough Country Club</i> | +3 | 66 | 81 | 147 |
| ☆ | T19 | Andrew Turner <i>Berkshire Country Club</i> | +3 | 70 | 77 | 147 |
| ☆ | T21 | Andrew Cornish <i>Cedarbrook Country Club</i> | +4 | 74 | 74 | 148 |
| ☆ | T21 | John Cooper <i>Green Valley Country Club</i> | +4 | 74 | 74 | 148 |
| ☆ | T21 | Dave Pagett <i>Whitemarsh Valley Country Club</i> | +4 | 76 | 72 | 148 |
| ☆ | T24 | Steve Sanderson <i>Saucon Valley Country Club</i> | +5 | 73 | 76 | 149 |
| ☆ | T24 | Dustin McCormick <i>Glen Brook Golf Club</i> | +5 | 75 | 74 | 149 |
| ☆ | T26 | Jeb Boyle <i>Philadelphia PGA</i> | +6 | 72 | 78 | 150 |
| ☆ | T26 | Caleb Wittig <i>Elmhurst Country Club</i> | +6 | 73 | 77 | 150 |
| ☆ | T26 | Jeff Fick <i>Moselem Springs Golf Club</i> | +6 | 74 | 76 | 150 |

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WAILEA GOLF COURSE IN SOUTHWEST MAUI

By Mike Kern,



Wailea Gold Course

So I'm standing on the first tee of the Gold Course at Wailea Golf Club in southwest Maui, and it's a wonder how I can ever take my driver back to try and hit the ball. The view is that breathtaking. And I've been here before. Three times, actually. For my 25th, 30th and then 35th anniversary. And now I'm back for our 40th (I couldn't do it alone), even though the wildfires had destroyed Lahaina (about 45 minutes away up the coast) a little less than two months earlier. And yes, it's tragic (more on that later). And you can feel the impact everywhere, even in those areas that weren't directly impacted. But the island has a connection that's hard to explain unless you've been there and experienced it up close.

But first ... the opening hole on one of Maui's best layouts is a downhill dogleg left. That's not the problem. It's the distractions, which are all over the place in this setting. In the distance is the Pacific Ocean, where I'll be sitting on the beach or lounging at my hotel pool later in the day. And it's beautiful. And unlike anything we see at the Jersey Shore. And I've been going there all my life. Still, this is different. In a wonderful way. But somehow I manage to get my whatever together and hit my rental driver straight down the middle. Don't ask. And we're off. No, I didn't make par. I settled for a bogey, one of many. It happens. Did I mention that I've been paired with the owner of Umami Burger. I can't make that up. And the guy on my cart doesn't speak much English. But somehow we managed to communicate our way around. I guess the language of golf can be universal.

I would tell you it's a perfect day, but that's a given. It's why we go. I don't go to Hawaii to golf. But I manage to sneak some in. I'm familiar with Wailea. I've also played at Kapalua, where the PGA Tour's season-opening Tournament of Champions takes place each year the first week of January. And I've played at Kaanapali, where they once played a Champions Tour event. And Maui has

plenty of other courses to offer, but public and private. I just only have so much time. And even though we were staying 11 days this time, I only played once because Kapalua and Kaanapali were still pretty much off limits. You have to respect what everyone over there was going through. But if I was only going to play once, Wailea was certainly the way to go.



Wailea Emerald

They have three courses. There's also the Emerald and the Blue. The Gold is considered the best. But they do offer packages where you can play all of them for a pretty decent price. And I'm sure many folks head over looking to make mostly a golf vacation out of it. Nothing wrong with that. Did I mention that the young woman playing with Mr. Unami sometimes hit her ball past me. Well past, on several occasions. But that's OK. I was better around the greens and such. Hey, you take what you can.

I was playing with a rental set that might have been better than my own clubs, so I can't use that as an excuse. But I hadn't been playing much for various reasons. So my game was up and down. And that's more than OK. I went in with modest expectations. And needless to say I played from the forward tees. Another given. It plays to 6,100 yards from the white, which is a little much for me even with my clubs. We chewed off something more along the lines of like 5,500. And it was still challenging.



Wailea Clubhouse

Cont. from page 32

I had my moments, both ways. The par 3s were all fairly short, never a bad thing. And I parred each of them. I think I was even on three of them, although one of those was a shot that I left about 20 yards short that rolled onto the putting surface. Don't ask. The greens were in great shape. The layout had a nice flow to it, and if nothing else it was fair. Most everything was right there in front of you, always a good touch for a resort. In short, it was fun. But then again, it's Hawaii. How can it not be? Even your bad shots don't see as, well, disappointing. Seriously. There were a lot of bunkers, but not to the point where they overwhelmed you. You just had to be aware that they were there and do your best to avoid them. The fairways and greens were largely user-friendly. I only lost one ball, and that was totally my bad. We went around in less than four hours, which I thought was really good since we weren't exactly breaking the course record (although Mr. Unami could play a little). There's not too many forced carries. There is lava rock. You don't get that in the tri-state area. All in all, it's quite visually pleasing. Just as I remembered.

Which brings me to the 18th, a medium-length par 4 heading back to the clubhouse. I have a memory there. Five years earlier, I had 195 yards to the green, from the right rough. As I told the two guys I was with, there was no way I was getting there, because my normal fairway wood tends to go left to right. But I try. And I smacked a 3 wood that instead went straight, or even had a little draw. Who knew? And the ball hit short of the green and rolled up to three feet past the hole. No, I didn't miss. Now that's the way to finish. Not that I needed a reason to keep me coming back. This time, I had a little over 200 left, from the left side of the fairway. Again, I can't carry it that far. But I hit a low liner that caught the downslope and rolled onto the green. It was more like 20 feet away, but I wasn't complaining. When I saw the ball on the green I actually thought it was Mr. Unami's ball. So I was a little shocked, to be honest. My birdie putt just missed to the left, but it was all good. I'll always have that hole to fall back on when I'm having a tough round. For that I'm thankful.

This story, though, is about Maui. And the people, who are hurting right now. I don't know what's going to happen to Lahaina, or how long it's going to take. It may never be the same. And there's nothing anyone can do about it, except try to help in any way possible. We donated some money to the Maui Strong fund, which I hope in some small way can help make a difference. There's a fine line that they're walking at the moment to try and start the rebuild without infringing on their culture and heritage. It's not going to be easy. The residents think it's too soon to do too much, and they've made their feelings known. But the rest of the island needs tourism to survive. That's just a fact. They want visitors back. They need them.

I have to admit we weren't sure we were still going to go, when the news first broke. We didn't know much of anything, about what might be awaiting us. We found out a week before we left that we couldn't be staying for our final three nights at the Kaanapali hotel we had booked. Which meant we had to remain in Wailea for our entire stay. Which trust me was no hardship. But some things were difficult to take in. The woman working in the gift shop, when I asked how she was doing, explained that she had lost two people. I didn't know what to say, because nothing I could have would have made her feel any less heartbroken, but we talked for five minutes anyway. And so it went. Almost everyone knew somebody that had lost a house, or worse. They had stories to tell. And they told them. Some with tears in their eyes. The lady at the car rental return gave me a

hug and said it was her first day back at work.

We drove up one day to eat dinner at a favorite restaurant, Roys, which has the best meatloaf anywhere. I don't lie about food. We drove past Lahaina, and although you couldn't see most of the worse damage, you saw enough to make you realize just how horrible it was and is and will continue to be. The restaurant had five tables open, since almost all of its staff had yet to return. And we had a great meal, right down to the special dessert they prepared for us to celebrate our 40 years. But the thing that struck us most is, they thanked us. Over and over. For coming. And I tried to tell them that no, we should be the ones thanking them. Imagine that.

The images will never go away. Whenever I think I'm having a bad day I will think of them. And what they're going through. And how they're coping. And the price they've paid. And I hope that we get to go back, at least once more, maybe for our 45th or even before. Because I know I'm going to be in paradise, and I'm going to have an unbelievably great time. Yes, it's about the place. But as I've found out, even before this, is that it's the people who make that place everything it is. And if golf is a part of it, that's even better. But you can't put a price on the fabric of Maui. That never gets old. Those who call it home won't allow it.

I'll leave you with this story. We were sitting on the beach one brilliant afternoon, and started talking to the family next to us. A military husband, his wife, their children and an uncle who lived there. And he was weaving these hats from palm leaves. It was fascinating watching him work. I asked if he sold them, and he said no, he was retired and just did it for pleasure. Later, he came over to my wife and gave her a rose that he had made. And he made us recite an Hawaiian oath pledging our love to each other. Very cool. Then he handed my wife a bowl, and I thought she was going to cry. It was so sweet. And he said it was from a tree that his friend had in Lahaina that got burned down. So we will have a piece of that town forever. How many can say that? We were touched, more than he could ever know. The next day we ran into him walking through the lobby, and we talked some more. Precious. So what do you think the favorite recollection of our trip will remain?

Hey, as uncanny as my par on the 18th had been, it got trumped. Big time. Not even close. As it should be. And that's the Maui I'll carry with me. Until we find our way back. Because something deep inside me wouldn't have it any other way. And it's the best way we can give them something back, in return for all they extend to us.



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POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES

Pocono Professional Golf Series
PGA of America – Philadelphia Section

Country Club at Woodloch Springs
Pro-Am Results – July 12, 2023

Team

| Finish | Score | Team (Pro) |
|--------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 128 | Woodloch (John Pillar) |
| 2 | 132 | Olde Homestead (Kevin Edwards) |
| 3 | 137 | Green Pond (John Kulhamer) |
| T4 | 138 | Glen Brook (Dustin McCormick) |
| T4 | 138 | Woodloch (Dustin Wallis) |
| T4 | 138 | Saucon Valley (Joe Ambrose) |
| 7 | 141 | Buck Hill (Brian Freuhan) |
| 8 | 142 | Shawnee (Brian Bergstol) |

Individual

Professional – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|------------------|
| T1 | 70 | John Pillar |
| T1 | 70 | Kevin Edwards |
| 3 | 72 | Brian Bergstol |
| 4 | 73 | Dustin McCormick |
| 5 | 75 | Evan Grube |
| 6 | 77 | Justin Alunni |
| T7 | 78 | Mike Molino |
| T7 | 78 | Howard Ballbach |
| T7 | 78 | Mark Monahan |

Senior Professional – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|-----------------|
| T1 | 74 | Harvey Williams |
| T1 | 74 | John Kulhamer |

Amateur – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|------------------|
| T1 | 72 | Alex Pillar |
| T1 | 72 | Bert Ortwein |
| T3 | 73 | Aaron Janice |
| T3 | 73 | Jake Haberstumpf |

Senior Amateur – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|------------------|
| 1 | 76 | Dave Miller |
| T2 | 80 | Albert McCormick |
| T2 | 80 | Walt Freundt |

Pocono Professional Golf Series
PGA of America – Philadelphia Section

Pinecrest Golf and Country Club
Pro-Am Results – August 8, 2023

Team

| Finish | Score | Team (Pro) |
|--------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | n/a | Shawnee (Brian Bergstol) |
| 2 | n/a | Royal Oaks (Terry Hatch) |
| T3 | n/a | Buck Hill (Brian Freuhan) |
| T3 | n/a | Olde Homestead (Kevin Edwards) |
| T5 | n/a | Glen Brook (Dustin McCormick) |
| T5 | n/a | Woodloch (John Pillar) |
| 7 | n/a | Irem (Chris Matthews) |
| T8 | n/a | Pinecrest (Jeff Garner) |
| T8 | n/a | Scranton Canoe (Spencer Lunger) |

Individual

Professional – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | n/a | Terry Hatch |
| 2 | n/a | Mike Molino |
| 3 | n/a | Spencer Lunger |
| T4 | n/a | Chris Matthews |
| T4 | n/a | Brian Bergstol |
| T6 | n/a | Kevin Edwards |
| T6 | n/a | Justin Alunni |

Senior Professional – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|-------------|
| T1 | n/a | Jeff Garner |
| T1 | n/a | Ray Silnik |
| T1 | n/a | Joe Ambrose |
| T4 | n/a | Brian Boyle |

Amateur – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | n/a | Ben Ortwein |
| 2 | n/a | Jason Koch |
| 3 | n/a | Skrapits |
| 4 | n/a | Logan Rose |
| 5 | n/a | Ric Hanna |

Senior Amateur – Low Score

| Finish | Score | Golfer |
|--------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | n/a | Dave Miller |
| 2 | n/a | Freundt |
| 3 | n/a | Ed Streisel |

Heading To Florida This Fall? Don't Leave Home Without This!



The 2023 Central Florida Golf Card provides an exciting collection of 11 golf courses for players of all abilities. Whether you're a Florida native or planning a fall golf getaway to the Sunshine State, this year's card offers a diverse mix of award-winning historic and classic layouts, resort courses, and a few "off-the-radar" tracks that are well worth your time and your dime. All for just \$99! And our brand new accompanying web app makes locating and contacting the courses a breeze!

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HIDDEN LAKES - This New Smyrna Beach golf course will surprise and delight you. The par 69 golf course has six par threes, nine par fours, and three par fives. Owned and operated by self-proclaimed, "genuine golf nuts," Hidden Lakes strives for the best course conditions in the area. The course winds through large pines and stately oaks along the pristine Turnbull Bay estuary and around beautiful lakes and winding creeks. With a variety of long and short holes, Hidden Lakes offers a fair and fun challenge to golfers of all skill levels.



WWW.HIDDENLAKESGOLFCLUB.COM

quet facility. With many upgrades in progress, Mayfair is becoming one of Orlando's most popular, laid-back, and fun public courses for golfers to enjoy and hang out.

WWW.GOLFMAYFAIR.COM

KISSIMMEE BAY - Located only 15 minutes from Orlando International Airport and 25 minutes from downtown Orlando as well as all major tourist attractions in the area, Kissimmee Bay Country Club was designed by renowned local architect Lloyd Clifton and opened in 1990. Kissimmee Bay was cut out of a dense majestic oak forest. The 6,830-yard, par 71 southern style championship layout provides a challenging test of golf and is a true delight to play. It is graced by the presence of century-old oaks, lofty cypress trees, a dozen challenging water hazards, and an ever-present gallery of friendly Sandhill Cranes. With one visit to Kissimmee Bay Country Club, you will understand why it was nominated one of America's "Best New Courses" by Golf Digest.



WWW.GOLFKISSIMMEE.COM



MAYFAIR CC - Opened in 1927, the 18-hole course at the Mayfair Country Club in Sanford, Florida features 6,400 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The medium-length layout has 3 sets of tee boxes, and the course rating is 68.7 with a 117 slope rating. The overhanging trees and bunkers challenge golfers on every hole. Located north of Orlando, the Mayfair

Country Club features a driving range, practice range, snack bar, and ban-



THE LEGENDS AT ORANGE LAKE - Located in the East Village of Orange Lake Resort, The Legends is an 18-hole Arnold Palmer Signature Design. This challenging 7,072-yard championship course offers two distinct playing experiences from the front to back nine. Scottish-style golf using the natural terrain invites some creative shot-making on the front nine; while the towering pines, majestic oaks, winding fairways, and flowing water on the back nine are more reminiscent of the Carolinas. Get the most out of your day at our premier 54-hole golf facility.

WWW.ORANGELAKEGOLF.COM

THE RESERVE AT ORANGE LAKE - Located in the West Village of Orange Lake Resort, The Reserve consists of 18 holes and 6,505 yards of expansive greens that were specifically redesigned to be in harmony with our carefully preserved wetlands to give you the taste of natural Florida. While this course is the shorter of our two championship courses, it offers a challenging layout to test golfers of all skill levels.

The driving range is available during the day and is also lighted for those who want to practice after dark. For extra fun, check out the Legends Walk located in the North Village, the only lighted par 3 walking golf course in Central Florida. (Not included with card).

WWW.ORANGELAKEGOLF.COM

REMINGTON G.C. - Whether you're brand new to the game, or a seasoned veteran, Remington Golf Club has something to offer every golfer and most importantly – a fantastic, fun golf experience. The contemporary design of this strikingly



beautiful course, with its abundant water features, generous landing areas, and scenic landscaping, offers a fair but challenging golf experience. This graceful balance is a testament to the artistry of the course design team of the Clifton, Ezell & Clifton Golf Design Group. Remington was recognized by Golf Digest, as one of the Best New Courses in 1996.

WWW.GOLFREMINOTON.COM

TWIN RIVERS G.C. - Nestled between the Big and Little Econ rivers, Twin Rivers Golf Club offers a scenic 18-hole par 72 championship golf course. Designed by Oviedo native Joe Lee, Twin Rivers Golf Club was Lee's signature golf course for Central Florida and offers a unique challenge for players of all abilities. If you want a golf experience in a well-preserved natural environment, unimpeded by development then Twin Rivers Golf Club is just for you. Twin Rivers Golf Club has been recognized and awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Environmental Planning certificate by Audubon International.



WWW.TWINRIVERSGOLF.COM

VICTORIA HILLS GC - Located in Deland, this Ron Garl-designed championship course has been honored with numerous accolades and awards since its opening in 2002, including being ranked 41 in the Top 50 Public Courses you can play by Golf World (2010). Five sets of tee boxes create a challenging yet fair test no matter what your handicap. The course plays 7149 yards/ 142 slope from the tips with some formidable carries over sand waste areas, ravines, and water hazards. Greenside collection areas, swales and deep bunkers serve to protect the many large, sloping, and raised putting surfaces. A good short game is key to scoring well here.



WWW.VICTORIAHILLSGOLF.COM



The 18th hole at Victoria Hills Golf Club.



Image from Kissimmee Bay Country Club



WEKIVA G.C. - Crafted out of a wooded setting and opened in 1972, Wekiva Golf Club features many doglegs bordered by large stands of trees and no parallel fairways. With its Champion Bermudagrass greens and straight-forward layout, Wekiva is an enjoyable experience for the recreational golfer as well as a low-handicapper. A semi-private club

that welcomes outside play, this 18 hole, 6,850-yard, par 72 features beautiful oaks, mature pines and palms, rolling fairways, over 80 strategically placed bunkers and gentle mounding that highlights both the fairways and undulating greens.

WWW.WEKIVAGC.COM

ZELLWOOD STATION GC - Tucked away in the rolling hills just five miles Northwest of Apopka and 15 miles from downtown Orlando, Zellwood Station Country Club offers a special treat - hilly terrain, great greens, and very memorable golf holes. Zellwood Station boasts two par 4's that are driveable (264 & 266 yards) offering great hopes for marking an eagle on your scorecard. The ninth, nicknamed "Train Wreck," will definitely get your attention before making the turn. Holes 12 thru 16 dogleg around a cavernous dry lake dubbed "Crater Junction" - hit this hazard and it is all over! The stout par 3, 17th hole, measures 243 yards exceeding any on the PGA TOUR! Fun and wickedly challenging, once you've played Zellwood Station, you'll want to return and conquer it all over again!



WWW.ZELLWOODGOLF.COM

Central Florida Golf Card App Puts All The Information Right At Your Fingertips!

- Info on every golf course in the program.
- General location map of all 12 courses.
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The Central Florida Golf Card web app is your source for all the info you need on each participating golf course. Contact your course to schedule your round, then click on that course's map to get directions. No app store needed to get your FREE app (see below). You can even purchase your card directly from within the app.





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