

July 2008

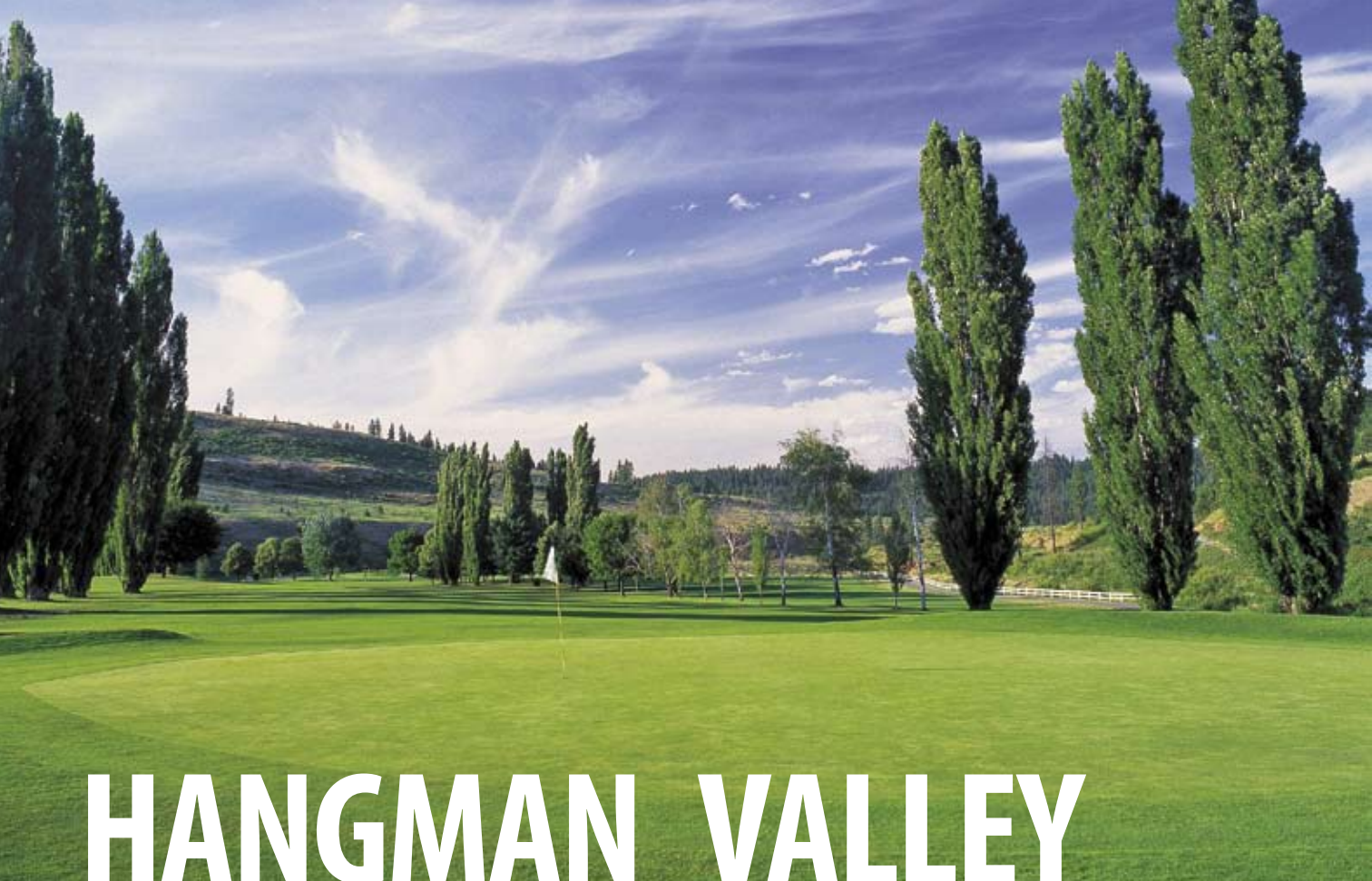
Golf

WASHINGTON

PEACE IN THE VALLEY

A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY BRINGS YOU TO
EVERYTHING YOU WANT AT **HANGMAN VALLEY**





PHOTOS BY ROB PERRY

HANGMAN VALLEY

by David Wood

SINCE OPENING in 1969, Hangman Valley Golf Course has survived ash fallout from the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, four floods, and a wildfire that tore through the hilly woodlands where the layout peacefully resides 20 minutes due south from downtown Spokane.

Hangman Valley endured those catastrophes handsomely and joins other local gems like the marvelous Indian Canyon, The Creek at Qualchan, and Downriver in the bounty of excellent Spokane golf. With green fees hovering around \$25 (or lower!), is there another area in the country with as much first-rate public golf for as miniscule a price? Not that I've seen.

To get to Hangman Valley, you turn off Highway 195 and drive four miles through tranquil rural land now sprouting more mega-houses on secluded spacious lots than crops. I've long had a theory that a winding back road to an out-of-the-way golf course leads to a pleasant golf experience. After recently playing at Hangman Valley, my theory remains well intact.

The course sits on 176 acres in the lowland of the long valley with groves of Russian olive, willow, poplar, walnut, and apple trees framing the holes. For a warm-up, don't miss the unusual range where you hit your practice shots into a large pond that doubles as an irrigation source. It's fun to hit into the drink without suffering a one stroke penalty.

Please note that the floatable range balls are restricted-flight by design, as the back of the liquid range is only about 220 yards away. You haven't suffered a severe decline in bone density overnight or the need to take steroids or B-12 shots before your round.

However, at 6,906 yards from the tips, strength and length are required out on the course. Hangman is driver-friendly as the wide landing areas allow you to take a rip

at it without too much bother for the errant ball. After an opening of four straight-ahead par-4's ranging from 329 to 415 yards, things get serious after a potential heart-attack inducing hike up a steep slope to the 5th tee box on the course's highest ground.

After a moment (or twenty) to catch your breath, it's time for the 625-yard downhill par-5, the number one handicap hole, which veers slightly left and requires three stout blows swung from your heels to reach in regulation. Thankfully there is plenty of room on the broad expanse for your shots to meander as you inch closer to the oval green. It's an excellent five-shotter.

Another solid par-5 is the 16th, a tough hombre of 606 yards that is also on the high ground. The fairway plays downhill, similar to the 5th, thus gravity is golfer-friendly in your attempts to get nearer the promised land of the slanted putting surface.

My favorite hole was next, the 17th, a par-3 of 194 yards which plays longer as your tee shot must cross a small ravine encroaching from the right to a green that loves to repel shots not hit flush. Take one more club than you think.

Like the Spokane golfing scene as a whole, Hangman Valley is well worth a visit. Peaceful, challenging, and pocketbook friendly, what more could a Pacific Northwest golfer want?

At A Glance

HANGMAN VALLEY GOLF COURSE

*2210 E. Hangman Valley Road
Spokane, WA 99223
509-448-1212*

BLUE TEES	6,906 yards 72.4 rating / 126 slope
WHITE TEES	6,423 yards 69.9/125
RED TEES	5,699 yards 71.5/118 Women
GREEN FEES	\$22 seven days a week

A MESSAGE FROM THE WSGA

THANK YOU, SAHALEE,
FOR MAKING A MAJOR
DIFFERENCE

BY TROY ANDREW

WSGA ASSISTANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NORTHWEST HAS become a popular venue for USGA Championships in the last decade. Just last year, the USGA held three championships in Washington and Oregon, which included the U.S. Girls' Junior at Tacoma Country and Golf Club, the U.S.

Senior Women's Amateur at Sunriver Resort, and the U.S. Mid-Amateur at Bandon Dunes on the Oregon Coast. This August the U.S. Women's Amateur is being played at Eugene Country Club in Eugene, Ore.

The USGA does not appear to be losing its Northwest focus, especially in Washington State, as they have recently awarded the 2010 U.S. Amateur to Chambers Bay, the U.S. Senior Open to Sahalee Country Club, the 2011 U.S. Junior Amateur to Gold Mountain Golf Club, and the 2015 U.S. Open to Chambers Bay.

That's right. A U.S. Open is coming to Washington State. As Ron

Read, USGA Director of Western Regional Affairs said, "I don't think anyone really knows how big of a deal this is yet."

If you were like me when you heard the news about the 2015 U.S. Open, you felt proud to be a golfer from Washington (even though we are still waiting for some decent weather). Then, I reflected back to the last major that was held in Washington, the 1998 PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club.

We live in a state that is rich in golf history, with golf clubs dating back to the late 1800s. But, the 1998 PGA Championship seemed to have changed the perception of golf in our state. It became a place to host one of the four major championships in golf.

It was a vision that one of Northwest's greatest golf icons, Carl Jonson, had as one of the founding members of Sahalee.

That vision also became a reality for all of golf in Washington, paving the way for other majors and great championships to come.

After hosting the PGA Championship, Sahalee hosted the 2002 NEC Invitational, a World Golf Championship, making Sahalee a household name to any golfer in the world.

Sahalee continues to play a major role in amateur golf as well. The annual Sahalee Players Championship has become one of the nation's top amateur events in the nation. The championship consistently fields the top-ranked amateurs from around the country, including a few international players. It is closely watched by the USGA when selecting their Walker Cup team.

I feel we always need to be respectful and appreciative for the path that others have set for us, and I think Sahalee Country Club deserves a big "Thank You" for setting the standard and opening the door for great things to come for golf in Washington State.



A gallery shot of Sahalee's 18th hole during the 1998 PGA Championship.

PHOTO BY MARK URSINO

GROUP EFFORT AT CAMALOCH

by Tony Dear

TIGER WOODS does his bit, of course, but it could be argued the success of the American golf industry ultimately depends on people like Gary Schopf. The head pro and general manager at Camaloch Golf Course on Camano Island, Schopf is the kind of do-it-all guy for whom no job is too big.

"Gary wears a number of hats," says Dave Carpentier, secretary of the Camaloch Homeowners Association (CHA), which owns the course. "I'm sure he has some sort of regular schedule but it probably gets interrupted a hundred times a day."

A native of La Conner and the Stanwood High School golf coach from 1983 to 1985, Schopf arrived at Camaloch in 1995 after nine and a half years at Kayak Point GC and was soon involved in upgrading the course which Washington architect Bill Overdorf had extended from nine to 18 holes in 1991.

Despite lying in the Olympics' rain shadow and receiving less than half of nearby Arlington's 47 inches of rain a year, Camaloch suffered significant drainage issues which Schopf knew needed addressing if the course was ever to realize its potential.

"We sit on approximately 13 feet of clay," Schopf says. "So in 2000 we began a sanding program with the goal of creating a six-inch deep layer of sand on the fairways. We estimated that if we spent \$40,000 a year on sand we might be finished in about eight years."

Carpentier admits the money hasn't always been there, however. "There are always other projects around the neighborhood (the Ca-



Camaloch's 14th hole after the renovation

maloch development, built in 1967, has 466 lots, very few of which encroach on the golf course) that need financing too, so we haven't been able to spend as much on the course as we would have liked," he says.

As well as ensuring a better maintained layout (despite a few soggy patches in the fairways on the day of our recent visit, the greens were firm, smooth and actually some of the finest surfaces we saw during May), Schopf has also been making improvements to the overall design of the course with the full backing of the Board of Trustees whose input he regards as crucial.

"I really couldn't have done anything without their support," Schopf says. "It really has been a team effort since the day I arrived."

The most notable change so far occurred at the downhill, par-5 14th hole, whose green complex underwent a complete transformation last year. The before-and-after pictures suggest a big-name designer and first-class construction company were involved but, in order to keep costs to a minimum, the work was carried out entirely by Schopf and his crew, paid and unpaid.

"We rely heavily on our volunteers," he says. "I have a group of regulars but can get as many as 35 out here for special projects. We had roughly that many laying sod on the new 14th green last September."

Even though its present configuration has existed for getting on 17 years, Camaloch is still very much a work in progress. But as long as Gary Schopf is doing the work, its future looks bright.



Camaloch's volunteers took a hands-on approach

CAMALOCH GOLF COURSE

800-628-0469
www.camalochgolf.com

GREEN FEES: \$23-\$35
(*\$5 walk-on for Juniors age 10-17*)

COURSE: 5,251 – 6,262 yards, Par 72

Cascadia Taking Shape

GROUND HAS broken on the John Harbottle design at Cascadia in Bonney Lake, Wash., located between Tacoma and Seattle. The core course will be a cornerstone of the 4,000-acre Cascadia residential and resort community. Nestled onto a gently rolling plateau of second growth forest with views of Mt. Rainier, the layout will stretch from 5,000 to over 7,300 yards.

For Harbottle, a native of Tacoma, this is another Northwest design. He designed Gold Mountain's Olympic course in Bremerton, and the soon-to-open Palouse Ridge Golf Club in Pullman, Wash.



An aerial view of the outline for the new Cascadia course.

People in the News



WHITNEY NEW GM AT TPC

« Long-time member of the region's golf industry Ryan Whitney has begun his duties as the new general manager at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Wash.

A native of Olympia, Whitney has spent the past 15 years in the golf business. He comes to TPC after spending a little over a year as Director of Operations for Oki Golf. Prior to that, Whitney served as the general manager at Washington National Golf Club in Auburn when it was owned by Heritage Golf Group.

"With his strong local ties, we feel Ryan will ensure that TPC Snoqualmie Ridge continues to be one of Seattle's most well-managed private clubs and best maintained facilities," said Bill Keogh, founder of Bright-Star Golf Group, the California-based company that recently purchased the facility.



DESANTIS MOVES TO PORT LUDLOW

« The Resort at Port Ludlow recently brought on PGA Professional Vito DeSantis as the property's new director of golf.

DeSantis will be responsible for the overall operations of the resort's 27 holes.

A native of the Kitsap Peninsula, DeSantis left his position as head professional at Trophy Lake Golf and Casting in Port Orchard, Wash. to join the staff at Port Ludlow.

He is PGA certified in professional general management and golf operations, is an active participant in Pacific Northwest PGA events and is ranked in the top 30 Player-of-the-Year standings for the PGA Western Washington Chapter.



DUCHARME ON BOARD AT TWIN LAKES

« Jeff Ducharme has started his duties as the new general manager of Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club in Federal Way, Wash. He brings an extensive back-

ground in private club management to Twin Lakes, having served as the GM at the private TPC Snoqualmie Ridge for nine years.

"Jeff will serve Twin Lakes well as it goes through a restructuring in order to meet membership demands," wrote Duane Malo, President of Twin Lakes.

Twin Lakes recently hosted the annual Thriftway Washington Women's Open, which was won by former LPGA Tour player Nancy Harvey of Swift Current, Sask.

Ducharme resides in Federal Way with his wife of 34 years.

OLYMPIA JUNIOR CONTRIBUTES \$1,000

BECAUSE OF CAMERON Peck's participation in the ninth annual Thunderbird International Junior (an AJGA event) in Scottsdale, Ariz., May 25-28, The Thunderbirds – tournament title sponsor and Phoenix-area civic organization – contributed \$1,000 to the South Sound YMCA. Peck, of Olympia, Wash. had chosen the YMCA as his charity.

Once again, the Thunderbird International Junior tournament committee asked participants to name their favorite charity. Over the past five years, more than \$200,000 has been distributed worldwide.

"With this initiative, we hope to cultivate junior golfers' awareness of their community and social obligations, an awareness that we anticipate will carry forward through their professional careers," said Michael Kennedy, tournament chairman for the Thunderbird International Junior.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AJGA

DE LA TORRE AND LEE WIN NW JUNIOR PGA

GASTON DE LA Torre of Brush Prairie, Wash. and Erynne Lee of Silverdale, Wash. won the 2008 Pacific Northwest Junior PGA Championship held at Tumwater Valley GC in Tumwater, Wash. With their respective wins, De La Torre and Lee qualified for the 33rd Junior PGA Championship, August 13-16, 2008, at TPC River's Bend in Cincinnati, Ohio.

De La Torre posted a final-round 68 for a two-day total of 133. Lee had a final-round 69 for a two-day total of 137.

The Junior PGA Championship is open to one boy and one girl champion from each of the 41 PGA Sections, winners of select national junior tournaments conducted throughout the year and special invitees who have yet not reached their 19th birthdays and who have not started college.

Past Junior PGA Championship competitors who have gone on to successful professional careers include Billy Andrade, Brandie Burton, Stewart Cink, Jim Furyk, Cristie Kerr, Justin Leonard, Michelle McGann, Phil Mickelson, Grace Park, Dottie Pepper, Scott Verplank, David Toms and Tiger Woods.



PHOTO BY ERIC YAILLEN/OGA

NINE HOLES WITH...BILL PORTER

by Tony Dear



AFTER 25-PLUS years of competitive golf, including a season on the PGA Tour, it's no surprise Bill Porter, Director of Golf at the Links at Moses Pointe, has a few good stories to tell.

Like this one: "I was leading the 1995 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills after eight holes. As I was preparing to hit my approach to the ninth, I became aware of TV crews, several reporters and many more spectators rushing to follow our group. I didn't quite need medical attention but I was completely out of my comfort zone and promptly bogeyed the hole. Suddenly everyone was gone. Anyway, I was watching TV later that night and wondered if I'd made the highlights show. I had, but the commentary wasn't exactly positive. After I took the lead at two under, Dick Enberg said something like, 'And leading the U.S. Open is 35-year-old rookie Bill Porter from Quincy, Washington,' to which Johnny Miller replied, '35? That's an old rookie.'"

Then there's the one about how, after a fairly miserable start to the '95 season in which he'd missed six cuts in his first eight tourna-

ments, Porter was on the range the day before the start of the BellSouth Classic in Georgia desperately searching for the swing that had taken him to the PGA Tour in the first place. "It was late in the evening and only Tom Kite and I were still out practicing. I was getting so distressed about my swing I actually called over a caddie, a guy named Harry Caruso, to have a look. I'd only earned about \$5,000 up to that point in the season so was willing to try anything. After a few minutes, Harry said, 'Bill, just fire the arrow, fire the arrow.' That was all he said but the image triggered something in my head and soon I was striping it. Harry looked at me and said 'When they interview you tomorrow as the first round leader, tell them Harry C told you to fire the arrow.' Sure enough, I shot 65 the next day and was leading the tournament with Jim Gallagher."

Instead of playing the final round with Scott Verplank with whom he had been paired on Saturday, Porter

found himself alongside John Daly. "No disrespect to John, but I was hoping to play with Scott again because we're similar players and we would have had a nice quiet round with no gallery to worry about. John was great to

BILL PORTER'S TOURNAMENT VICTORIES

1994	Louisiana Open (Nike Tour)
1997	Oregon Open, Northwest Open
1998	Oregon Open, Northwest Open
1999	Rosauers Open
2000	Oregon Open, Northwest Open
2001	Pacific Northwest Club Professional Championship
2002	Washington Open

play with, but the place was chaotic. The people in our gallery were like NASCAR fans and were making a lot of noise. At the 13th, a short par-4 with a 350-yard carry over a creek, John and his caddie were debating whether or not he should go for it. Of course John wanted to, but his caddie wouldn't let him. They were virtually having a tug-of-war with his driver. In the end, he did hit it and his ball landed right in the middle of the creek. But it hit a rock or something and bounced up onto the green just a few feet from the hole. The crowd went totally berserk."

The smile never leaves Porter's face as he recounts his tales from the Tour. Far from expressing regret at never quite being able to establish himself on the game's main stage, and qualifying for a Tour card only once in his career, soft-spoken Porter is clearly content with life on the banks of Moses Lake.

"I had some reservations before taking this job," he says, "because I wasn't sure I could do it after playing competitively for so long. But I have really enjoyed it."

Married to his wife, Liz, for 26 years, Porter has four sons and lives just a mile from the course at which he works. The three-time Oregon Open, three-time Northwest Open and 2002 Washington Open champion still possesses the swing and putting stroke of a touring professional (he was an easy two-under par for our nine holes) and, though he hasn't really given much thought to joining the Champions Tour in three years' time when he turns 50, it would be intriguing to see how his game stacks up against the best senior players in the game.

No, he might not be in Bernhard Langer, Jay Haas or Tom Watson's league, but there can't be too many seniors whose ball stays in the air longer than Porter's.

"I have no formal plans to play the Senior Tour," he says. "Yes, playing golf more seriously is always in the back of my mind, but it's very difficult to combine family and work with playing full-time professional golf."

He might never extinguish completely the temptation to try the touring life again, but one suspects Porter will do just fine without it. A man of great faith who serves as a chaplain at the Grant County Jail in Ephrata, he has his three great passions in life – family, faith and golf – pretty much where he wants them.

And it definitely shows.

Originally from England, Tony Dear has lived in Washington for four years. He has written travel stories for the New York Sun and Golf Magazine.

Alumni Return Each Year For Tournament



Ken Tucker hits the ceremonial first tee shot each year in the alumni tournament. At 95, he is the oldest living alumni.

EVERY SPRING, past players of the Everett High School golf teams come together for a round at the Legion Memorial Golf Course in Everett.

And hitting the ceremonial first shot is Ken Tucker, who graduated in 1930 and started the alumni tournament in 1971. Tucker, now 95 years old, had caddied as a student at Everett Golf & Country Club, and after graduation he went to work there as their caddie master, then became their head pro in 1936. And he stayed there for 42 years, becoming something

of a legend in the area, before retiring in 1978.

The walls of the clubhouse at Legion are lined with photos of the school's golf teams throughout the years, and they are a "who's who" of names that have gone on to do a lot in the community – Bill Meyer (graduated in '61), the Washington Junior Golf Association's long time president and recent inductee in Seattle University's athletic Hall of Fame; Chuck Nelson ('78), record-holding placekicker for the UW Huskies, former NFL kicker, and now the executive director of the Champions Tour's Boeing Classic; and George Holland ('44), past PPGA Men's Amateur champion and former president of the Washington State Golf Association.

Organizing the event these days is Darrel Olson, the golf coach for the past ten years at Everett High. He brings the current players out each year to help him run the tournament. Olson graduated from the school in '72.

Chuck Nelson (back row, second from right) played on Everett's golf team for three years before graduating in 1978. Nelson is the current radio play-by-play man for the UW football broadcasts.



MOYER EVENT AT TUMBLE CREEK

THE SECOND ANNUAL Moyer Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic is being held at Suncadia's Tumble Creek Golf Course on July 6 and 7. The event is the only non-member charity golf tournament held on the exclusive Tom Doak-designed course.

Hosted by Jamie Moyer, the popular former pitcher for the Seattle Mariners who now throws his pillow-soft fastballs for the Philadelphia Phillies, the event raised nearly \$450,000 last year.

Moyer began his foundation in 2000 with his wife, Karen, with the mission of assisting organizations in providing support to children and their families during times of severe stress due to illness or loss. The foundation has raised over \$14 million.

Visit www.moyerfoundation.org for more information.



Participating celebrities in last year's Moyer Foundation Golf Classic (in alphabetical order) included Brad Adam, Sam Adkins, Vince Coleman, Mike Eruzione, Jeff Fassero, Jeff Feagles, Bryce Fisher, Nesby Glasgow, Tom Glasgow, Walter Kelly, Dave Krieg, Aaron Levine, Will Lewis, Dane Looker, Sam McCullum, Randall Morris, Jamie Moyer, Jeff Nelson, Jack Patera, Digger Phelps, David Rose, Mark Rypien, Sonny Sixkiller, Eric Stokes, Bill Swift, Curt Warner, Brett Weise, and Mark Wright.

VETERANS COURSE CONTINUES UPGRADES

IN THE LAST ISSUE of this magazine, we had stated that the American Lake Veterans Golf Course in Lakewood, Wash. had received approval for a second nine to be built on the site. But according to Dave Best, the operations manager at the course, the approval is not yet final. "We've put that on the back burner for now," said Best. "Right now, we're focusing on upgrading our little building into a larger clubhouse."

With funding for the course cut by the government, funding for the upkeep and improvements has been spearheaded by the Friends of American Lake Veterans Golf Course, a non-profit all-volunteer organization. The course has no paid employees. Among the volunteers are numerous Bronze and Silver Star recipients. The course is dedicated to providing rehabilitation opportunities for wounded veterans.

Visit www.alvetsgolfcourse.com for more information.



2008 CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES



PNGA WOMEN'S AMATEUR & MID-AMATEUR

July 7-11
Meadow Springs Country Club
Richland, Washington



PNGA JUNIOR GIRLS' AMATEUR

August 4-7
Longview Country Club
Longview, Washington

For a schedule of all championships, visit www.thepnga.org

Eyes on the Prize

NICK TAYLOR, the University of Washington sophomore and Abbotsford, BC, native, tees off the 17th hole at Gold Mountain's Olympic course (Bremerton, Wash.) during last month's NCAA West Regional.

Taylor tied for second in the tournament, carrying the Huskies to the NCAA Championship tournament, where he proceeded to tie for second in the national tournament.

And two days later he was the medalist at the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier, held at Emerald Valley GC in Creswell, Ore., firing rounds of 70-68 which earned him a tee time in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

The man is on a mission.



BEAR HUG

SEATTLE LOSES ITS NO. 1 GOLF PHILANTHROPIST

IN 1996, before any of the First Tee programs had started in the Seattle area, Dr. John Lee, a retired radiology professor at the University of Washington, thought he might organize a program to allow kids to play golf. And he went into it in a big way – in the first three years of the Bogey Bear Golf program, he put over \$150,000 of his own

money into providing junior golfers with clubs and bags, sponsored clinics, hired assistants, paid for range balls and green fees, embroidered golf shirts himself, even wrote a golf comic book ("Bogey Bear Learns to Golf").

"When I croak, at least I'll know where my money went," joked Lee.

Well, last month Lee did 'croak', passing away too early, but he left a trail of changed lives in his path.

"Golf can really do things to impact young lives," Lee used to say. His Bogey Bear program was open to all urban kids, giving them something to do with their energy and enthusiasm.

Lee knew by name every junior golfer who attended the clinics, and he had a story about many of them.

"Let me tell you what keeps me doing this," he would say. "This one over there (pointing to one of the juniors on the fairway) used to be

a bully, always into trouble. I got him started in the program, and this summer when I asked him to help us out he said he couldn't because he's now taking summer classes at the UW Medical School."

Lee smiles when he tells the story. But he is usually smiling anyway, and at his recent funeral service, the tales of his humor started coming out.

"He had the 'John Lee leaf rule' – if you couldn't find your ball under the leaves at Jefferson Park, there was no penalty. And sometimes he would call out the 'leaf rule' for himself, but there wouldn't be any leaves, and Lee would say 'Wait awhile, the leaves will be back.'"

"He was the best club thrower in the Chinese community, and holds the record for the longest throw. Once, at the 15th hole at Mt. Si Golf Course, he launched a throw half way up a tree. He had to climb the tree to get his 5-iron."

Eventually, a coalition of five country clubs, including Broadmoor Golf Club, began sponsoring Lee's program, helping Lee with the costs of running his inner-city golf clinics.

Lee's humor and generosity spilled over into other areas. He formed the Kin On organization, serving as president of its board, and creating and maintaining a 100-bed nursing home, and last year alone took care of over 400 patients.

Now in its 12th year, the Bogey Bear program is still a mainstay for juniors at Seattle's municipal courses, and is headquartered at the Jefferson Park course.

The golf community, and the community at large, has lost its Papa Bear. For information on the Bogey Bear Golf program, contact Lisa Chinn at 206-239-8817.