

NWO GOLF LINKS

January 2015

JEFF MANORE

*Making Golf Fun
All Year Round*

Golf Mindset

*S-T-R-E-T-C-H
The Body and Mind*

Well-Being!

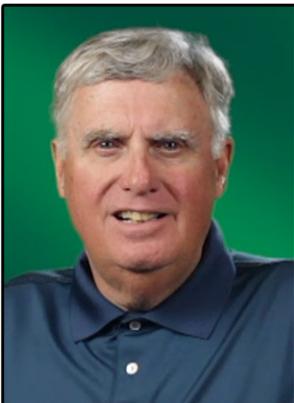
*Connecting to Yourself Yields
Better Outcomes on the Course!*

Plus:

- * **Golf Video Training Tip of the Month**
- * **Toledo Has A Rich Golf History**
- * **Toledo's Top Golf Stories of 2014**
- * **Toledo Women's District Golf Association Schedule**
- * **Area Golf News**

View From the Back 9

Welcome to the **new and improved** version of NWO Golf Links, that up until 2009 was distributed in print form. We've embraced the current trend of digital information consumption and are anxious to hear what you think of our new multi-media digital publication, still called NWO Golf Links. Each month we'll bring you golf news, information and features about area golf courses, events and personalities from around northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Articles and ads will have **links that go directly to videos, websites, social media and special offers** just for you. Take advantage of the links!



Jeff Manore is featured on the cover of this first issue. He is a life-long resident of Toledo, a University of Toledo graduate and his **Pro Golf Fairways** offers expert training, club fitting and repair. His indoor golf simulators next to Nick & Jimmy's on Monroe Street allow area golfers to play all year long.

Over the years I have seen golfers with perfect golf swings play poorly because they didn't have the correct attitude on the course. You've seen that too, haven't you? Or maybe it was you! Guest columnist

Tommy Richardson provides an article to help golfers assume the correct mindset when they get to the course. **Sandy Earl** shares well-being tips that will enhance your enjoyment of the game, as well, through being more intentional.

Whitehouse native and master illustrator, **Dean Harris** will be featured each month with his "Niblick's" cartoon for readers' enjoyment.

Are you aware of Toledo's rich history in golf? We'll include a feature article each month that celebrates important dates and events.

Pages will also be devoted to area golf happenings on the Toledo Women's District Golf Association, Toledo District Golf Association, Toledo Metro Golf Association and the Toledo Junior Golf Association pages, when applicable.

NWO Golf Links is committed to covering a wide range of topics targeted to Toledo area golfers. We hope you enjoy reading about the happenings in the Toledo golf scene and will contact us with any news and information that we can share with our readers.

Contact me through   

Although there is currently no known cure for "Golfaholics" frequent visits to the golf course are advised to keep the afflicted sane and manageable.

You are a "Golfaholic" if: You read every article about new golf club technology and understand MOI, Spin Rate, Club Head Speed, shaft flex, kick point, and coefficient of inertia.

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Fred Altvater
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Jeff Manore Makes Golf FUN All Year Round

Teacher, Trainer, Innovator and Businessman with Toledo Roots!

Jeff Manore is a proud native of Toledo. He graduated from Whitmer High School and attended the University of Toledo.

It was at UT that he found his love for **kinesiology and biomechanics** that would later shape his ability to adapt a golf swing to each individual's body type.

Jeff's father, who was a professional baseball player, got him involved with golf as a youngster, but golf was always secondary in his sports hierarchy. He excelled at the sport, but enjoyed other athletic endeavors more.

He played a variety of sports in school, but excelled in track and cross country and was good enough to earn a scholarship to UT. **He suffered a severe ankle injury** during practice while running indoors in his junior year, which brought his track career to an abrupt end.

Most people have a difficult time spelling kinesiology let alone understanding the meaning of the word:

Kinesiology: the scientific study of human movement.

In the early 1980's this area of study was in its developmental stages even at the college level. Today, a whole industry of rehabilitation and physical training facilities, **based on human kinetics and biomechanics**, have sprung up to meet the needs of an aging population.

Manore, with the help of the UT faculty, was able to tailor a study program that allowed him to pursue the line of education that would become the basis for his teaching skill set. He even wrote a paper that examined proper training methods to develop flexibility and strength, plus reduce injuries, contrary to the popular training methods of the time.

Cutting edge trainers are using these very principles today to improve athletic performance, while reducing the likelihood of injury for professional and collegiate athletes across the nation.

“My understanding of biomechanics and kinesiology allows me to help my students develop a golf swing that fits them perfectly.”
~Jeff Manore

Biomechanics and kinesiology have even caught the interest of Tiger Woods, who has had a history of injury. Woods recently



hired Chris Como as his new swing consultant. Como is currently working on a Master's Degree in biomechanics from Texas Women's University.

The Golf Teacher Emerges

Manore is first and foremost a teacher. Given his educational background, he does not believe in a **“One-Swing-Fits-All”** philosophy and works with each individual to build the correct swing.

He took a shot at playing golf professionally and entered mini-tour events around Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, but his true calling lay in teaching the game to others.

He gave his first lesson at the age of 16 and earned two hot dogs for payment. He continued to help his friends and acquaintances to improve their games until he realized that he could make a career out of helping people more fully enjoy the game of golf.

His father had introduced a young Manore to **Inverness Golf Club Head Professional Herman Lang**. Lang looked at Manore's swing and advised his father to let the boy play and not become too technical with his swing.

Lang continued to be a sounding board throughout Jeff's career. When Claire Batista moved over to teach at the Legacy Golf Club and Lang decide to retire. He asked Manore to come to Wedgewood Golf Club to assume the professional position.

Mike Hill, who won three PGA Tour events and 18 more titles on the Champions Tour, advised Jeff to “chase his dream” of becoming a top-flight golf instructor. Hill became a mentor for the young Manore and helped to shape his teaching philosophy.

His clientele continued to grow, when he became involved with teaching golf and training at Synergy Sports and Fitness on Central Avenue.

Manore expands into club development

While at Wedgewood and through his cutting-edge work with **golf shaft technology**, he got to know several **LPGA Tour players** when they would come to Toledo each year for the old Jamie Farr Toledo Classic, now the Marathon Classic. His teaching methods resonated with the women professionals and they continued to seek his training, advice and club-making skills throughout the year.

With his knowledge of biomechanics and proper body movement, he became involved with **making and designing custom golf clubs** that would fit the individual. Fitting the proper club to the individual swing is necessary to reach every golfer's full potential.



Once again it was his education that allowed him to understand what was needed to improve individual performance by fitting and designing the correct equipment.

In 2005, after three engineers, two of which were from leading shaft manufacturer, True Temper, failed to correctly integrate Scandium shafts into club heads, Manore developed a process to adapt the revolutionary new shafts. As a result, he was hired by e21 to build the clubs.

Tour Players Seek Him Out

His reputation grew among tour professionals and he spent time traveling around the country designing clubs and helping the professionals improve their games.

Over the years he has worked with **Laura Davies, Nancy Lopez, Kristi Albers** and more recently **Mallory Blackwelder** of "Big Break" fame, who just earned her 2015 LPGA Tour card.

Since 2012, Manore has been **Director of PGA-LPGA Tour Operations R&D for Scratch Golf**. Scratch Golf manufactures precisely forged and designed wedges that can be fitted to any golfer's requirements.

During the summer months, he can be found at **Maple Grove Golf Club** teaching, fitting and repairing golf clubs, but he continued to search for the right location to open a golf shop that would allow him to provide **year-round service** to area golfers.



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His Dream Materializes

He created the perfect place to service golfers year round with the opening of **Pro Golf Fairways** at 4956 Monroe Street on Thanksgiving, 2013. Step inside and you'll find three indoor simulators and a fully-stocked golf shop.

It was an immediate hit among Toledo golf lovers and not just for the golf. Man does not live by Golf alone.

It sits adjacent to Nick & Jimmy's and their serving staff will bring Nick & Jimmy's signature dishes and a complete line of cold beverages right to the golfers as they play Pebble Beach, St. Andrews or one of the other iconic golf courses from around the world. Who needs a cart girl, when you have Nick & Jimmy's at your service?



Pro Golf Fairways also offers custom club fitting, golf lessons and club design for the individual golfer.



The indoor facility at **Pro Golf Fairways** allows Manore to teach and design clubs all year long. For a full-service Golfaholic like Jeff Manore, Toledo, indoor simulators and Nick & Jimmy's makes the perfect combination to please any golfer.

For more information about **Jeff Manore** and **Pro Golf Fairways** visit his website:

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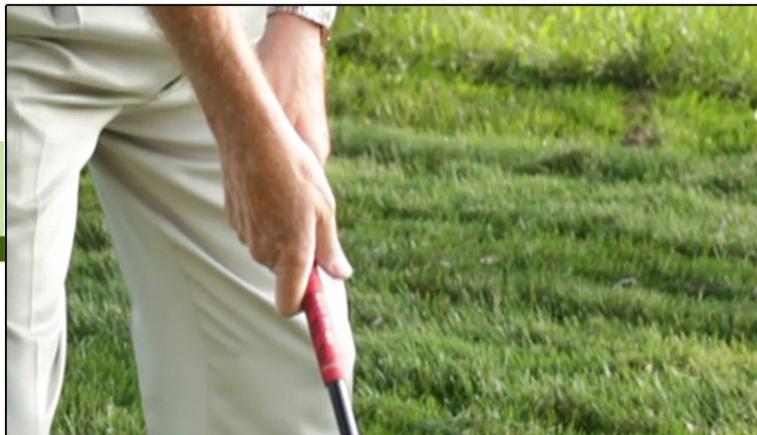
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STEP 1:
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Fred Altvater
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The only contact you have with the golf club is with your hands, thus how you grip the club is one of the most important and fundamental aspects of the golf swing.

For a right-handed golfer, the left hand should be placed on the club with the thumb at 10 o'clock and the first finger at 2 o'clock on the grip. The vee created by the thumb and forefinger should be pointed to the player's right ear (opposite for left-handed golfers).

The right hand is then placed on the club with the left-hand forefinger and right-hand little

finger either overlapped, interlocked, or side by side (baseball grip).

When the club head is dropped to the ground the vee created by the thumb and forefinger of the right hand should point to the right shoulder.

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Niblicks

By Dean Harris



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Toledo's Top Golf Stories Of 2014

By Fred Altvater

The 2014 golf season added more chapters to the long list of the area's golfing accomplishments.



The Marathon Classic

The 2nd edition of the Marathon Classic was held at Highland Meadows Golf Club. It boasted a top-notch field led by world No. 2 **Stacy Lewis**, U.S. Women's Open Champion **Michelle Wie** and No. 3 ranked **Lydia Ko**. Even **Mo Martin**



was in the field in Toledo after winning the Ricoh Women's British Open the week prior, though most people advised her to take the week off. The winner of the first women's major championship of the year, the Kraft Nabisco Championship, **Lexi Thompson** also played in Toledo and finished T-15.

Ko was a 17-year-old rookie in 2014, but she won her second LPGA Tour title as a professional at the Marathon Classic in July. She fired a final round six-under-par 65 to secure the one-shot win over

former U.S. Women's Open and 2012 Marathon Classic Champion So Yeon Ryu.

Ko was also named **LPGA Tour Rookie of the Year**, won the \$500,000 first-place check at the CME Tour Championship and collected the \$1 million bonus for winning the Race to the CME Globe.

Although she grew up in Texas and went to college in Arkansas, **Stacy Lewis was born in Toledo** and returns every year to support the Marathon Classic.

Lewis had another successful year in 2014. She was the leading money on the LPGA Tour, collected the Vare Trophy for the lowest average score on tour and was named Player of the Year for the second time in three years.

She led the \$1 million Race to the CME Globe for much of the year, but was edged out by Ko in the last tournament. Lewis began the year ranked No. 1 in the Rolex Ranking and in spite of three wins and 18 top-10 finishes slipped to No. 2 behind Inbee Park.



Toledo Amateurs

Local resident, **Alan Fadel** had a year that he will not soon forget. He won the **Ohio Mid-Amateur Championship** for the third time and claimed medalist honors at the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship after the first two rounds of stroke play.

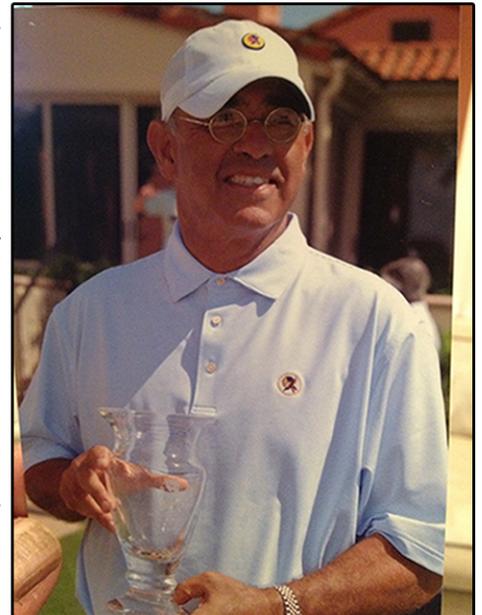
He was inducted into the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame in August and witnessed the culmination of his dream, the **Concession Cup**. The tournament brought the USGA and The R&A together for a Walker Cup-like competition for Mid-Amateurs, as well as, seniors.

The inaugural Concession Cup was held at the Concession Golf Club near Tampa, Florida and featured a team of amateur golfers from Great Britain & Ireland versus a U.S. Team.

Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin, for whom the Concession Cup was named, served as honorary captains.

Fadel was also named **co-Amateur Golfer of the Year by Global Golf Post** in December. He shared the honor with 20-year-old Stanford Women's Golf Team member, Mariah Stackhouse.

Stackhouse is also familiar to Toledo golf fans. She received a sponsor's exemption into the field for the Marathon Classic in July. She was the first African-American woman to earn a spot on the Curtis Cup Team and was the only woman of African-American descent to earn a spot in the 2013 U.S. Women's Open.



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 College Golf

University of Toledo Men's Golf Coach **Jamie Broce** made national golf news, when was the leader through three rounds of the PGA Professional National Championship. He stumbled in the final round, but finished runner-up and earned a spot in the PGA Championship in August.



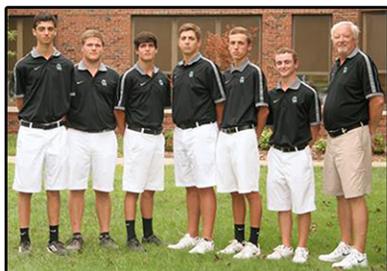
He posted scores of 74-72 on the difficult Valhalla Golf Club golf course in the PGA Championship and missed the 36-hole cut, but demonstrated to his student athletes what it takes to compete with the big boys on the PGA Tour.

 High School Golf

Area high school golfers gave local golf fans something to cheer about as local individuals and teams performed well in the state tournament.

Jack Mancioti, a senior at St. John's Jesuit High School, finished runner-up in Division I of the Ohio High School State Golf Tournament in 2013, and came back strong by posting scores of 71-74 on the Ohio State Scarlet Course to **win the state title** this year.

Coach Jim McGowan led his Ottawa Hills High School Boys golf team to a Division III runner-up finish in the Ohio High School State Golf Tournament. It was the sixth time the school has finished runner-up in the state tournament.



Ottawa Hills boasted two of the top-four individual finishers in Division III, Michael Denner claimed the runner-up spot and Matt Abendroth finished fourth.

Area women's high school teams were also successful in the state tourney.

St. Ursula Academy Girl's golf team finished fourth in Division I and the ladies from Sylvania Northview finished 12th.

With the success of area golfers at every level of competition from professional to high school, it appears that Toledo golf fans can expect to see the top local golfers make headlines for many years to come.

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S-T-R-E-T-C-H the Body and the Mind



Tommy Richardson
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To decide how strong a golfer you want to be – or what exactly you want to achieve, you have to start with a goal. Goal setting is critical to stay motivated, to track your progress and to stay on point. But to be manageable and successful, your goal has to be S-M-A-R-T.

And, by **S-M-A-R-T** I mean:

S – Specific, not general. To get better or improve your game is not sufficient. Exactly how will you do that?

M – Measurable, for feedback. How will you know you are making progress? What does progress look like and feel?

A – Attainable, not so big you cannot achieve it or get so frustrated that you quit.

R – Reviewable, so you can continually refocus on what you want to achieve.

Golf might not include a lot of running, jumping and heavy lifting, but your body has to be ready to perform. And, to be a top performer on the greens and fairways of your favorite course, your mind has to be ready to perform, too.

The fact is that in my over 40 years of coaching athletes and many, many top performers, I have learned that every great performance and achievement actually begins in the head of the athlete. Let's talk about what it will take to **S-T-R-E-T-C-H** your mind so you, too, can be the best golfer you can be.

Think of it as starting the "Inner Game." And you don't have to be on the golf course to do it!



T – Time Bound, what are your benchmarks and final deadline?

Take some time to think about specific goals you can set to improve your game. Write them down and keep it handy!

What can you do differently that will make a real impact on the outcome of your performance? **Start there!**

Tom Richardson, known as Coach Tom, has more than 45 years of experience as a teacher, athletic and business coach, international speaker, corporate executive, manager and trainer. He has refined years of sports psychology study into a successful program based on mental performance strategies that can be applied on the field as well as in business. Tommy can be reached at TommyBRichardson@gmail.com or at coachtom.net



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Sandestin on the Florida panhandle has four 18-hole championship golf courses. Baytowne, The Raven, Burnt Pine and the Links offer various tee options to create an enjoyable experience for every golfer.

In addition to world-class golf, Sandestin’s sugar-white beaches on the Emerald Coast offer a distraction from the rigors of the golf course. Spa facilities, a variety of retail shops and a plethora of fabulous restaurants complete the total vacation experience at Sandestin.

The **Orlando area** not only has Disney World for kids of all ages, it also offers a wide variety of golfing opportunities. Disney World Resort alone has four golf courses with the Magnolia, Palm, Osprey Ridge and Lake Buena Vista. Celebration Golf Club and Orange County are only two of the daily fee public courses that can provide northerners a respite from shoveling snow and cold weather.

If your game is a little rusty and needs some fine tuning, the **Annika Sorenstam Golf Academy** is located in Orlando at the Reunion Resort. It offers a variety of golf packages and the resort has every amenity to fill any golfer’s dreams.

Fort Myers, Naples and Marco Island in southwestern Florida have great beaches, the best sunsets in Florida and provide great golfing opportunities. The upscale Ritz Carlton has two hotels in the area. One is located on Vanderbilt Beach and the other at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort just a few miles inland. Both offer world class service, warm breezes off the Gulf of Mexico and palm trees swaying.

Man does not live by golf alone, fabulous shopping, invigorating night life and fine dining abound in downtown Naples on Fifth Avenue and complete the total vacation experience.

Just east across the state in Port St. Lucie is the **PGA Golf Club at the PGA Village**. It offers 54 holes of championship golf designed by award-winning architects, Tom Fazio and Pete Dye.

Golfers can begin their visit to the PGA Golf Club with a visit to the **PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance Center** to knock the rust off those golf clubs. 18 holes on one of three courses can be followed by a visit to the PGA Museum of Golf.

The PGA museum is one of the world’s top golf exhibits, tracing the history of the game with a showcase of rare artifacts from icons of the game like Bobby Jones and Donald Ross.

Temperatures in southern Florida average in the 70’s in January and February making the area perfect for winter getaways.

These are just a few of wonderful golf destinations available in sunny Florida. Get your mind off the snow and cold. It just takes a short airplane ride or cross-country drive to find some of the best beaches in the world and great golfing.



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Toledo Has A Rich Golf History

By Fred Altwater

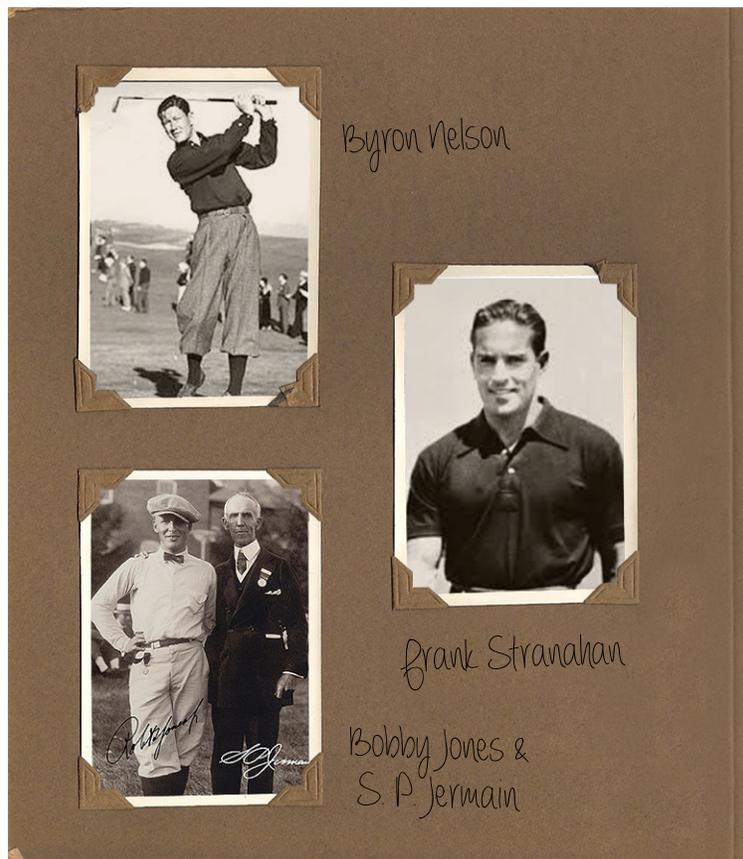
Toledo has a rich and storied golf history. The “**Father of Public Golf,**” **S.P. Jermain** opened the first nine-hole golf course in Toledo at Ottawa Park in 1898. It was the first public golf course west of New York City.

Jermain also had a hand in the very beginning of **Inverness Golf Club** and Hall of Fame member, **Byron Nelson**, was a club professional at Inverness in the 40’s. His student, Frank Stranahan, heir to the Champion Spark Plug fortune, became one of the best golfers in the world, amateur or professional.

Inverness Club has hosted four U.S. Opens and holds a revered spot in golf lore. It became the first private golf club to open its locker room to professionals during the 1920 U.S. Open and was given the famous clock that stands in the entry foyer of the Inverness Club today.

A young Bobby Jones made his first appearance in the 1920 U.S. Open here and made his final U.S. Open appearance at Inverness in 1931, after winning the “Grand Slam” in 1930.

You are a “Golfaholic” if: you enjoy hearing about the history of golf in Toledo!



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The advertisement features a large, detailed image of a Callaway Big Bertha Alpha golf club head, which is silver and blue with a red accent. The club is set against a dark red background with a silhouette of a golf course. The Callaway logo is in the top right, and the product name 'BIG BERTHA ALPHA' is prominently displayed at the bottom right. The text 'ENTER TO WIN' and 'CLICK TO ENTER' are in large, bold, white letters on the left side. The Maple Hill Golf logo is in the top left corner.

A pudgy, blonde-haired kid from Columbus, Ohio, **Jack Nicklaus** was in the field at Inverness for his first U.S. Open in 1957 and went on to win 73 PGA Tour tournaments, including 18 major championships.

I vividly remember watching a long-haired collegiate golfer from the University of Houston, **Fred Couples**, lacing shot after shot on the range at Inverness during the 1979 U.S. Open, won by Hale Irwin.

The LPGA Tour annually brings the best women golfers in the world to town, when they visit Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, for the Marathon Classic. The tournament has been held nearly every year since 1984 and has donated over \$8.7 million to area children's charities.



LPGA Tour player and world No. 2 ranked, **Stacy Lewis** was born in Toledo. **John Cook** who was a standout golfer at Ohio State spent most of his youth in California, but was also born in Toledo, when his father was a football coach here.

Local Toledo resident, Alan Fadel has long been a force in the national amateur golf scene. He was inducted into the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame in August and was named co-Amateur of the Year in America by Global Golf Post. You can read more about Alan in our Golf News section.

Toledo has even become a winter golf mecca with several locations that provide virtual golf simulators to satisfy the golf urge, when the weather turns cold and snowy.

Toledo has a rich golf history and local golfers are still making their presence felt in the golf world today.

Area golfers should be proud of its unique place in golf history.

NWO Golf Links believes area golfers should never forget how we got here. We will feature a segment of Toledo's golf history every month.

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Toledo Women's District Golf Association Has Full Schedule of Tournaments in 2015

By Fred Altvater

The Toledo Women's District Golf Association (TWDGA) will begin its 94th season in 2015 and has set a tentative schedule for 2015.



History of TWDGA



The first event of the year will be held at Fostoria on May 1. Highland Meadows, Fremont Country Club, Toledo Country Club and Stone Ridge Golf Club will host the first five Friday events.

Sylvania, Plum Brook, Chippewa, Monroe, Inverness, Findlay, Lenawee, West Shore, Hantz, Stone Oak, Grosse Ile, Belmont, Heatherdowns, Valleywood, Lost Creek and Brandywine will also host events during the summer.

The TWDGA has a proud tradition of promoting competition among members. **Weekly tournaments** are held every Friday from the beginning of May until the end of September at the different member clubs.

Championship events are included throughout the summer. A main goal of the group is to maintain high standards of sportsmanship.

What began as four clubs; Toledo Country Club, Inverness, Sylvania and Toledo Golf Club, has grown to 27 clubs. The clubs are located in Northwestern Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. Membership today includes almost 150 women.

The purpose of the TWDGA is to promote competition among the members of the association

to conduct tournaments, championship events, and to establish and maintain high standards of sportsmanship.

The TWDGA provides area lady golfers a venue to meet and compete on some of the finest golf courses northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan have to offer.



WOMEN'S GOLF HISTORY

Mini golf might be a lot older than you thought. The oldest putt putt course in existence was built around **1867 by the Ladies' Putting Club of St. Andrews**. It was considered improper at the time for ladies to 'take the club back past their shoulders.' Because of this, they created a course that allowed them to play full games without doing that.

The first mini-golf courses were actually miniature versions of the larger ones. They had greens, fairways, sand traps etc. It wasn't until after the great depression, when these mini golf courses became too expensive, that people began to build courses with whatever obstacles they could find, such as tires, rain gutters, barrels and pipes.

The rest is history. The crazy obstacles became part of the game of putt putt that we know today.

Tentative Schedule for 2015

Date	Club	# of Players	Event
5/1	Fostoria	3	1/3 BB
5/8	Highland Meadows	3	Stroke Play
5/15	Fremont	4	15-24-33
5/22	Toledo CC	3	Lena Brundage
5/29	Stone Ridge	3	Odd/Even
6/5	Toledo GC	4	ABCD
6/11 & 6/12	Sylvania	3	Ringer
6/19	Plum Brook	4	13-24-35
6/26	Chippewa	4	Stroke Play
7/3	Monroe		Stroke Play
7/7 - 7/10	Inverness	3	Match Play
7/17	Findlay	4	Seniors
7/24	Lenawee	4	2/4 BB
7/31	West Shore	4	ABCD
8/7	Hantz	3	Stroke Play
8/12 - 8/14	Stone Oak		Medal Play
8/21	Grosse Ile	3	Stroke Play
8/28	Belmont	3	Stroke Play
9/4	Heather Downs	4	Scotch 2-Some
9/11	Valleywood	4	Stroke Play
9/18	Lost Creek	4	1/2 BB
9/25	Brandywine	4	Shambles



First Flight Winner: Nancy Negrini, Runner-up: Diane Rich at Highland Meadows GC on Aug 15, 2014

For more information about **The Toledo Women's District Golf Association** visit: <http://twdga.net/index.html>
You can also contact the organization via email: twdga@yahoo.com

Connecting To Yourself Yields Better Outcomes on the Course

By **Sandy Earl**,
Holistic Wellness Coach

are all somehow related to paying attention and being connected to my spirit.

I recently noticed the advertisement on a gift card to a national golf store that when you didn't feel ready or claimed: "If mind, body, and equipment are connected, you are untouchable". I agree that a good shot? Personally, I you have to have a connection have experienced that many to your clubs; feeling confident times and have heard fellow that you can hit them well and golfers say the same when that they are appropriate for they have also dubbed a shot. your size and swing speed is Maybe when you take the imperative.

time to connect to yourself

As a yoga practitioner and teacher, I've always heard about connecting mind, body and spirit. What does that really encompass?

fully before heading on the course it will allow you to build the foundation for a satisfying round of golf, rather than just **being focused on the final score.**

I'm wondering if the nudge I feel when playing to take a certain club, to reset my stance before I address the ball, to take another practice swing because it didn't feel right yet, intention to actively listen

to the subtle nuances during a round is the place to start.

Focusing intently on each shot and not contemplating your score or next shot will allow you to **stay present** in the moment and be **fully connected to yourself.**

"You must sense it through your body, through your feelings, right into the heart of it".

Quote from the movie, Golf in the Kingdom.



Sandy Earl has been golfing for over 25 years and has realized the value of incorporating yoga into her training program; for the physical and mental benefits. She is expanding her offerings by designing fitness programs to support golfers to enhance their power, strength, and flexibility through yoga and personal fitness programs. Sandy is a health educator and coach. Contact her at sandyearl_rower@hotmail.com or call her at 419-351-7409.

www.sandyearl.com

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Toledo District Golf Association Presents Burt Silverman Award to Alan Sprunk

By Fred Altvater

The Burt Silverman Award is given annually to someone who has substantially contributed to the golf community.

Alan Sprunk is certainly a worthy recipient of the award for 2014.

He has been involved with golf since he began as a caddy at Highland Meadows Golf Club in 1968 while still in the seventh grade. He showed tremendous dedication to his craft as he lived in Blissfield, Michigan and had to hitch-hike every day to the golf course in Sylvania.

Sprunk was a top performer on the Blissfield Varsity Golf Team. He lettered all four years, was named Team Captain in both his Junior and Senior years. He won All-League honors for three years and earned a trip to the state championship in his Senior year.

In 1974, Sprunk was awarded an Evans Scholarship to attend Michigan State University and graduated with a degree in marketing in 1979.

Sprunk returned to Highland Meadows as a full member in 1985. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1998 and was named President of the

club in 2000-2001. He became the fifth member to receive the Evans Scholarship and returned to become President.

Sprunk has remained active in the Evans Scholarship program and was asked to serve as Director of the Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation in 2005. He served as President of the Michigan State University Evans Scholar Alumni Association and helped to restructure the group.

Sprunk joined the Board of Governors for the Evans Scholars Foundation, serving as Vice-President & President 2014-2018.

He has also found time to serve as Official Starter and Scorekeeper for Toledo District Golf Association events. He helped train new caddies in central and northwest Ohio, as well as, southeast Michigan.

He even started a Beginners Golf Class at Sylvania Franciscan Academy in 1999, which became a very popular elective for junior-high students.

Sprunk has been a tireless fund raiser for the Evans Scholars Foundation, the Toledo District Golf Association and the Toledo Golf Hall of Fame.



The Toledo District Golf Association (TDGA)

The TDGA is the authorized representative of the United States Golf Association in Northwest Ohio. In this role, the TDGA acts as the liaison between local golfers and the governing body of the game of golf in the United States. The TDGA conducts seminars on the Rules on Golf, the Handicap System, course ratings and holds qualifying tournaments for USGA championships.

The TDGA conducts an impressive array of golf tournaments for 24 Member Clubs. This schedule allows members of these clubs to play fun and competitive tournaments, professionally run, at other member clubs in the area. These tournaments offer several opportunities for players of all skill levels. Learn more at <http://www.tdgagolf.org/>

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Hickory Grove Golf Club Won't Open in 2015

By Fred Altvater

The golf economy today is a mixed bag, while some areas are very strong, other parts are suffering.

Part of the reason is that young people do not seem to be taking to the game as previous generations. With the variety of activities available to the X and Y Generations, other sports seem to be more attractive.

A slow walk around a golf course can't compete with mountain biking or zip-lines.

Check any public golf course green fee sheet from 15 years ago and the odds are that the cost for a 9-hole or 18-hole round was higher than it is today. At the same time the costs incurred for fuel, seed, fertilizer and labor have increased, not decreased.

On the other hand, the PGA of America is flush with cash from its Ryder Cup and other income producing activities.

The PGA Tour is flooded with Fortune 500 Companies lining up to pay in excess of \$6 million to sponsor a tour event. The total purses on the PGA Tour this season **will top \$285 million** for the regular season, plus another **\$65 million** will be divided up for the FedEx Cup bonus pool and the four playoff tournaments. The USGA will begin its new contract with Fox that doles out over \$1 billion over the next 12 years.

Meanwhile, Calloway Golf **has not made a profit** in five years and lost \$19 million last year. Local golf retailers and golf clubs are realizing a decline in league play as well as fewer walk up green fees.



Every industry experiences business cycles and local golf owners have not fully recovered from the economic recession of 2007-2009. Too many golf courses were built and now there's a declining population that want to play.

One of the golf courses I enjoyed playing as a young man has announced it will not open its doors in 2015, **after 51 years serving golfers in their small community.** A difficult decision for sure, but one based on the economics of the times.

I was playing that course on a warm July, Sunday morning in 1977, when the Assistant Pro came out to the 13th hole to convey the message that

my wife had summoned me home to take her to the hospital for the birth of our first child.

Although I will never be able to enjoy a round of golf at that course in the future, I will have the wonderful memories of searching for pars and playing with Tanker, Donny, Hawk, Patch and the rest of the hacks at Hickory Grove.

Support your local golf course and pro shop. **They need it!**



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