

# THUNDERBOLDS

Boundary Oak Golf Course Newsletter

Summer 2007

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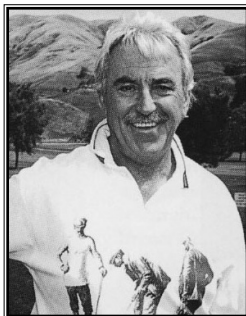
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## Messages from Bob

*Bob Boldt*  
*Director of Golf*

### ***PGA Tour 1968-2007***

I have had the good fortune to play professional golf for 4 decades and I would like to share some of my views on how things have evolved in that time.

**1968 PGA Tour Qualifying** (144 holes - JFK Golf Course, Ft. Lauderdale) - First 72 holes -- top 90 advanced; second 72 holes - top 30 and ties. So of the 380 players that started 30 qualified to participate in the Monday qualifying before each tournament. I qualified 14th place. The top 50 money winners from the year before were exempt from qualifying. Leading money winner that year was Arnold Palmer (\$67,540).

**2007 PGA Tour** - 3,000+ qualifiers -- 35 spots available. The top 125 money winners from the year before are exempt. Leading money winner in 2006 was Tiger Woods (\$9,941,563).

**1968 Equipment** - Persimmon woods, steel shafts, balata-covered golf balls (which go out of round usually after being hit a dozen times), composite fiberglass shafts (precursor of graphite shafts - which would unravel when hit on the toe of the club, leaving the professional with a grip and a shaft that looked like shredded wheat). Ball compression would

vary (from 80-100) and was extremely inaccurate. 80 compression balls would be used in temperatures from 36o to 50o - 100 compression balls in 90o to 100o. Irons -- no sweet spot unless hit in the middle of clubface - ball would drop when hit off-center. Persimmon woods -- 200cc club heads, would split, wear out on the toe, wooden heads would absorb moisture (couldn't keep swing weight correct, had to have a hair dryer to dry out club heads) -- usually needed 6 drivers and 2 sets of fairway woods. One year I went through 9 drivers and 2 sets of fairway woods. Putters -- the ball had to be hit in the exact middle of the putter or it would have side spin - no way to hit the putts straight.

**2007 Equipment** - Drivers are space-age titanium metal, size: 460cc heads, plus entire club has a sweet spot - 180 different graphite and steel shafts, Irons -- toe-heel balance, can hit on toe or heel with no drop in ball flight. Putters - just like the irons, can be hit on toe or heel.

**Instruction** - 1968 - Non-existent - players would guard their swing techniques and share their game with no one. Modern day instruction is not only computerized with every conceivable swing angle, but also combines film with weight training, diet and mental gurus.

**Travel** - By car or trailer (seldom airline travel). Today private jets are the norm. 100% is air travel with few exceptions.

**Vision** - 1968 -- very difficult (no lasers to fix eyes, or to mark yardages on a course) - glasses were seldom used due to improper vision through glasses. If you had bad eyesight - you played bad golf and were off the tour. Today there is laser surgery and there are sunglasses that take glare out and promote peripheral vision, especially for reading greens.

If I were to compare golf as it was in the Arnold Palmer - Jack Nicklaus era to golf as we know it today, I would say that today golf is almost a non-sport in comparison to what it was in the olden days. It's like the difference between a hobbyist piloting a propeller airplane with little or no instrumentation and salaried pilots flying computerized jets. Golf has become a non-shot making sport with emphasis on distance -- mainly due to faulty USGA guidelines on equipment and golf balls -- shot-making is a thing of the past.

### ***LPGA Tour***

Michelle Wie has become the Paris Hilton of the golf world. Sixteen over par for a round with two to play on an invitation to play on the Men's PGA Tour (she's never made a cut). With two holes left, if she had finished with two pars she would have been suspended from playing the tour for one year. She claimed a wrist injury and then proceeded to hit golf balls one day later and then play in a tournament the following day.

# Messages from Bob

*continued from front...*

LPGA Commissioner, Carolyn Binoos and Annika Sorenstam suggested a suspension on the grounds that she could not come back from a serious wrist injury that fast. Best suspect as to who told her to quit: her agent - Daddy. Who got Paris bailed out from jail? Her agent - Mommy Hilton - but the legal system caught up to her. Both images will be tarnished, especially Michelle's, in that she will be in the spotlight to see if she can play golf at a professional level on the Ladies Tour. The Men's Tour for her was a joke to start with and I doubt if any sponsor would give her an exemption again.

## ***Boundary Oak News***

Our course has a 38-year birthday this year and we have a great old track -- a classic old-style golf course with no housing development to be seen. It is in need of a long range plan to keep the course competitive with new, state-of-the-art golf complexes. Recently, the city of Pleasanton spent \$40 million on Calippe Golf Course. We are in need of renovations for our greens, tees and traps at Boundary Oak. Hopefully, the city will be able to explore revenues to bring our old classic course into the 20th century.

Most recently, we added an extension to the 12th green - all funded within our budget. The reason for the expansion was faulty drainage in the front right of the green. If we have a hot summer, our 40-year old greens, which were constructed by the city with no base or drainage, will be stressed to the point of burning out. The front of No.12 will be a transition area.

Our computerized reservation system has been shut down and our professionals are now answering the phones for reservations seven days a week. We have had

nothing but positive responses to our human voice system. We hope to be able to handle your reservations in a timely manner. Please give us your input on how we can better serve you. My telephone is always open (925-934-4775).

## ***LPGA-USGA Girl's Golf of Walnut Creek***

LPGA-USGA Girls Golf is the only national initiative of its kind just for girls. Nationwide, there are over 5,700 members, with 61 in the Walnut Creek chapter. A developmental junior golf program for girls ages 7-17, LPGA-USGA Girls Golf was formed to create a network for girls to learn to play golf, build friendships and sample competition in a positive and supportive learning environment. The mission of this great organization is to provide young girls with the opportunity to achieve success, progress in golf and establish a life-long interest in the game.

Thanks to Bill Schmeh, the original site director who initiated the Walnut Creek chapter, the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Walnut Creek is now in its third year. The program offers one course play day per month at either Grayson Woods or Pine Meadows, and one skills clinic per month at Boundary Oak which is taught by pros Dave DeLong and Stephanie Hayes.

The cost of joining LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Walnut Creek is \$90.00, which pays for the whole year's worth of activities. New members also receive a nice welcome kit, which includes a pink logoed Girl's Golf cap, among other items. For more information, contact Site Director Natalie Inouye at 925-256-4121 or visit the Girl's Golf link on the website.

Congratulations to our LPGA team cap-

tain Nicole Castrale for her win at the Ginn Tribute hosted by Annika in a sudden-death playoff over Lorena Ochoa, the tour's leading money winner. Nice check, \$390,000 - the season's sixth Rolex winner.

## ***Trivia / Rules***

**Trivia:** (\$50 gift certificate to the 1st person to answer correctly)

Who is the shortest professional to win a PGA Tour event? - HINT - Native of Redding, California - my roommate on the PGA Tour. Who is the tallest? Give me names, height and tournament won.

**Rules:** Three golfers were playing a par three which had a semi-blind area to the left of the green. As the golfers were approaching the green, two balls were visible - one on the green, the other in the trap. As the golfers approached, a squirrel was seen running off with a golf ball in his mouth. Not knowing whose ball the squirrel was absconding with, the golfers chased the squirrel, eventually ending up at a tree with the squirrel and golf ball out on a limb. Two of the golfers shook the tree and the ball dropped out of the squirrel's mouth and was identified as the third golfer's ball. Since no one saw where the squirrel picked up the ball where is the ball to be placed? Is it a penalty? What is the ruling?

\$25 gift certificate for the first correct answer

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