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You've heard of lightning bolts, you've heard of thunder claps, you've heard of Bob Boldt--now hee-re's....

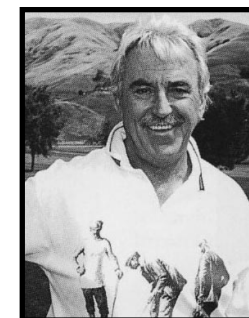
THUNDERBOLDS

Boundary Oak Golf Course Newsletter

July 2002

in this issue

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Messages from **Bob**

Bob Boldt
Director of Golf

U.S. OPEN

Tiger - Sergio are qualifiers

I have played Beth Page Black - obviously not under U.S. Open conditions, but I can assure you that when you play in the U.S. Open (I have played in 4), that it is not like any 18 holes that you play anywhere. A qualifier shoots 67, 68 to qualify, not mentioning names, and posts 88, 92 in the Open. The world's best players shoot in the 80's and miss the cut - Duval, Els, etc. Then you have Sergio squeezing his club a minimum of 18 to 40 times before pulling the trigger. How does he know when to start his swing? The more pressure, the more he squeezes. How does he practice? I would go broke if my students practiced at the driving range like this -- 2 hours to hit a bucket of balls! You have to love his smile and personality, but playing against Tiger it is "no contest."

Is Tiger an alien or a real human? Time will tell! Tiger reminds me of a world-class chess player that also competes in the WWF. Two three-putts to start the round and he says ha-ha, thought you guys needed a little help. No one has ever played the game swinging with the force that he appears to generate from an off-balance finish. Golf has so many variables (topography, wind, physical changes, starting times, bad bounces, lip-outs, and more) but it just doesn't seem to matter for Tiger. He overcomes all of these variables.

Let me cite an example of a semi-normal Tour player: Bob Boldt at the 1990 Senior PGA Tour Mony Classic. On the tee of hole No. 13 playing partner Paul Moran says, "Bob, do you realize you're 10 under par and you have two par 5's coming up that you can reach in two?" First of all, I knew I was

under par, but I was in such a zone that I had no idea I was 10 under. "My God", I thought, "I'm going to be famous. I could shoot 59!" My score went like this: Hole No. 13 - tee shot in water - bogey; No. 14 - par 5, 10' eagle putt, 3 putt - par; No. 15 and 16 - par; No. 17 - birdie 10 under; No. 18 - par 5, tee shot unplayable, chip out - par. Final score: 62.

What would Tiger have shot? Who knows, but he certainly wouldn't have programmed his thinking with what might happen. Moral: play one shot at a time - easy to say, hard to do! I still can't figure it out.

Sam Snead
God Bless You

I had the good fortune to play 9 holes with Sam in the Oklahoma City Open during a practice round.

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Messages from Bob

continued from front page...

After 9 holes, Dave Eichleberger, Randy Petri and yours truly were finishing nine holes when Sam came up in a golf cart - bags unpacked and asked if he could join us. We looked at each other in semi-disbelief and said "Sure, Sam. Our pleasure." The conversation started, "Boy, windy out here. Just got off the plane. You boys want to have a friendly wager? Let's say \$50 two down press." We stared at each other and said, "How about \$25?" Bet's on. We have already hit. Sam says, "No problem." The wind is blowing 40 miles an hour. There is OB left and water right. We watch Sam. He aims right into the middle of the lake with the wind going across the fairway. He would have to hit a 30-yard hook into a 40 mile per hour wind to reach the fairway, and he hasn't hit a practice ball. He hits a perfect drive - a 30-yard hook into the fairway. End of story - end of our money. After we played Sam said, "Boys, never trust a man who said he just got off a plane and hasn't hit any practice shots."

GOLF EQUIPMENT

A new ruling basically puts all drivers into a closeout situation. The USGA and the Royal and

Ancient have come to a decision on the spring effect of trampoline faces on drivers. A standard in 2003 will allow the trampoline faces to be legal. This will result in an 8 to 12 yard increase over drivers now being built -- another mousetrap for the golfing public, and one of the reasons the golf industry is in a state of flux. How many different types and styles will the public buy? Drivers become obsolete every six months. Bertha, Big Bertha, Biggest Bertha and six more drivers that tell the customer, "sorry, you just bought a driver that is now obsolete." What should the public do? Never buy golf equipment on the Internet or from discount houses without first being fitted and using equipment on the course. High-priced equipment is a result of what the companies must pay for advertising and tour player sponsorships. Golf balls are especially fascinating to me. With the demise of the wound ball (which Titleist had the expertise of making the best?), all balls are solid with the exception of Titleist two-piece. The quality among solid balls is about equal. To pay a ridiculous price for a ball that the Tour professionals use (they don't use the balls that you



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buy in most instances anyway) is ridiculous. All solid-center balls are made close to the same specifications with the exception of the cover.

Softer covers with harder core produce feel and distance. Here are my suggestions on the best ball for your game.

Precept Lady - Laddie
Noodle Dunlop
Nike

The Titleist Pro V is definitely over-priced. It's a two-piece ball that, in my opinion, is not as accurate as the solid balls with the soft covers. I cannot find any added distance with the Pro V's. Why do the Professionals use Pro V's? Money -- and the balls the professionals use are not necessarily what you buy. Check the prices.

Upcoming Events

Contra Costa Amateur *Sponsored by Diritto Bros.*

It is the largest amateur tournament in Contra Costa County. This is our 23rd Annual event and

we wouldn't be where we are without the support of Don & Ron - raising scholarships and Junior Programs for our Junior Golf Foundation through the Fountain for Youth and Junior Golf Program. We thank you.

STEAD OPEN

Mike Stead, sponsor of the Stead Open and Gold Sponsor for the Fountain of Youth Golf Tourney, is a real philanthropist for all local charities. I asked Mike how we could help him, through advertising or whatever. "Just make sure the charities are taken care of, that's all the publicity I want." Thank you for your support, Mike. The Stead Open is scheduled for August, with an added co-sponsor pending, and we are hoping to have a purse and field of local and national prominence.

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Kudo's to Golf Advisory Committee/Kern Hildebrand - City of Walnut Creek Golf Chairman to Advisory Committee for their volunteer work to upgrade our cham-

pionship facilities.

My office door is always open. Please feel free to give our Advisory Committee members or me any comments on how we can upgrade our facilities.

Our Pros

Bob Boldt:

When I won the Long Drive Championship on the Senior Tour, my specification was 46" long driver - Graffaloy, E-0 Swing weight and my key was a loose grip. Stop on my backswing, slight pause and grip pressure only in the hitting area.

Rob Boldt:

Lob shots - sand shots - no lower body movement. Shot is all hands and wrist with a vertical takeaway.

Steve Gazzaneo:

Years ago, during a practice round for the PGA Tour qualifying, I was playing with Fred Couples on an extremely windy day. I noticed how low Fred's iron shots were and his distances were very accurate. He told me, "in a strong wind, take 2 clubs more and choke down to the metal and take your normal swing". I was amazed at how easy this was for me and will be for you also. This helped me get to the finals of the Tour, qualifying 4 out of 5 times.

Dan Arroyo:

All-American, Cal Berkeley and new PGA Touring Pro. Watch for Dan at Qualifying School. Best tip I ever had: the slower the backswing, the more coil the body has to spring forward into the hitting area.

Mark Blakemore:

Mark is our long drive expert. His longest drive in competition was 378 yards. That qualified Mark for the World Long Drive Championship. Mark was also on the Yonex Long Drive Championship Team demonstrating long drive techniques. See Mark's website, www.PGAProfessional.com for tips.

Dave Delong:

Congratulations to Tom Kellund, a De la Salle graduate and now a Cal Berkeley scholarship recipient. Tom won the 2002 North Coast Tournament and I have been teaching Tom since he was 8 years old. Tom learned early on to create torque with his swing by increasing the distance between his shoulder and hip turn.

Wayne Cavazza:

Teacher of over 50 Junior Tournament winners ... Bryan Lee being one of his most famous Juniors - beating Tiger Woods at the World Junior Championship at Torrey Pines - 1991.

Mike Jordan:

Our left-handed teaching professional, Mike has a Phil Mickelson style swing and has given more than 1,000 lessons a year with left and right-handed students.

Stephanie Hayes:

Our newest teaching professional, Stephanie is a graduate of Santa Clara University and a player on the Ladies Players West Mini Tour. Stephanie not only has Professional Tour knowledge for anyone wishing to advance their scores to a professional level, but Stephanie also has an excellent reputation with beginning students.