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38 DESTINATIONS DR'S Casa De Campo by Alice & Danny Scott





26 TEE 2 TABLE Golf Lounge 18 by Myles Murray

### FROM THE EDITOR

### Golf Anytime, Any Weather, Day or Night

he vision of Indoor golf at its beginnings had a focus of instruction, teaching and fitting. It would have been hard to imagine that it would evolve to what it has become today. Golf is much more enjoyable and playable in moderate temperatures under the light of day. It is also a stark reality that over 85% of North American golf facilities experiences unplayable golf weather for nearly half of the calendar year. With over 75% of all golfers living in seasonal golf regions, something had to eventually change, and it did. It is now possible to play golf anytime, in any weather, day or night, in almost every region in the country. The diversity of new indoor golf model has been reimagined. From in home systems and indoor golf centers, to golf instruction, training and fitting facilities the growth has been immense. But it has been the golf entertainment industry, who has become the biggest player in Indoor Golf, that has grown the demographics and economic impact of the industry the most.

It is no secret in the U.S. and abroad that there simply is not enough golf courses and available tee times to accommodate the immense growth of the game today. Not only has indoor golf filled a void for playing golf, but it has now opened the game to millions of new players, who are now passionate about learning and playing. Right now, latent demand for the sport of golf has reached over 30 million in North America alone in people who want to experience the game. This month marks the



"... play golf anytime, in any weather, day or night, in almost every region in the country."



15th year for our Indoor Golf Annual Feature. It is a comprehensive look at the industry from in home simulators, to golf entertainment centers, as well as, fitting, fitness, and training facilities.

In this issue we also begin our comprehensive coverage of golf travel opportunities around the globe. Our Golf Travel features now include a new official partnership with Golf Inspired, who is the very best in concierge golf travel experiences in luxury golf travel in the U.S. and around the world. We welcome the professional team at Golf Inspired to our family of brands.

"Play Golf Everywhere in Life"

Timothy R. Branco

*Timothy R. Branco, Editor Northeast Golf* 

Submit Your News & More at: www.Northeast.Golf/Submit

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# THIS IS NOT YOUR

### WITH A.I. ASSISTANCE AND REAL-TIME DATA IN EVERY CLUB FITTING, CLUB CHAMPION IS BRINGING TOUR-LEVEL IMPROVEMENT TO THE EVERYDAY GOLFER

Club Champion is not your father's club fitter. Back in the day, a professional club fitter would apply tape to your clubhead and have you hit off a lie angle board. They'd eyeball your swing and suggest a change in the stiffness of your shaft, or maybe a different grip. They may have even had a swing speed meter, but that was the extent of technology's role in the fittings of the past. Today, custom fitter Club Champion taps into the 21st century from every conceivable angle to deliver a truly professional, truly modern custom golf club fitting.

If you walk into any of the 140+ Club Champion fitting studios worldwide, you'll see the touches of modern technology everywhere. The fitting bays and putting greens are outfitted with radar-based Trackman launch monitors, computers and ultrasound putting systems. The demo walls are lined with clubheads and shafts that can be combined using a proprietary coupling system, allowing golfers to test combinations from over 65 golf brands in real time. There's a proprietary A.I. Fitting Co-Pilot in every studio. Even the pre-fitting interview is aided by a tablet. Make no mistake that you're in a modern golf mecca.

"We're the best at what we do because we exhaust every tool available in the club fitting world," says Club Champion founder and master club fitter, Nick Sherburne. "You can't get our proven results without being a bit of a golf geek, and our fitting technology takes us to that next level."

Pardon the pun, but it's fitting that a company like Club Champion would utilize every advancement available. Their business model is built in part on offering the latest and greatest in golf club technology, and club manufacturers are living in their own futuristic world. Titanium and other space-age materials are making their way into club construction. Robots, wind tunnels and artificial intelligence are used to design and test clubs before they ever see the light of a trade show floor or retailer shelf. To truly take advantage of these developments, fitters and



# DAD'S CLUB FITTING



builders must be able to analyze and understand every element of a golfer's swing and be able to match the player to the club component.

Trackman swing analysis, the gold standard of launch monitors, can be found in every Club Champion fitting bay. It is the same system the PGA Tour uses to show a pro's ball flight on TV and to track hitting statistics. Club Champion uses it to take precise club and ball measurements in a controlled environment. One radar system tracks everything the club does before, during, and after impact, measuring parameters like club path, face angle and even swing direction and spin loft. The secondary radar system tracks the ball flight from launch to landing. Measurements there include launch angle, spin rate and curvature. Dual Radar Technology is a significant milestone in the evolution of custom fitting.

The flat stick gets its own system, called SAM (Science and

Motion) PuttLab. This ultrasound-based system analyzes the 28 most important parameters of a putting stroke then displays the results in graphic reports. Within seconds, the system delivers individualized feedback and reports on even the smallest details of a putting stroke like putter path, face aim, rotation, tempo, impact spot, face angle and more. The ultrasound sensory analysis makes SAM much more precise than any other system on the market. The principle is based on measuring the travel time signals of three sensors, whose calculation of the exact positions in space makes it possible to derive movement data. Each relevant putter parameter is diagnosed in an interactive step-by-step process. The software provides automatic data analysis, allowing master fitters to determine the best recommendations for putter head shape, grip, length, loft, lie, balance and weight.

The geekiness doesn't stop with the swing and stroke analysis; the clubs are then custom-built to exacting, unrivaled toleranc-



**10** WINTER 2024 | NORTHEAST.GOLF



es, thanks in part to perfectly calibrated digital loft, lie and swing weight machines in every studio that match up precisely with those in the build shop. This conformity ensures that the club you hit in the fitting bay is the same club you purchase.

Lastly, Club Champion strives for perfection all the way down to the correction of manufacturing flaws. To varying degrees, golf shafts are not perfectly straight or perfectly round. Irregularities can cause problems when the shaft twists and bends during a swing. A process called SST PUREing addresses this; the system uses proprietary software to locate the "neutral" plane of each shaft. By assembling the club with the shaft in this PUREd position, off-line twisting and bending during the swing and at impact are greatly minimized. The system also generates a printout for each shaft, showing its structural and performance analysis. Club Champion PUREs more shafts than anyone else in the world - there are only 53 PUREing systems worldwide, and Club Champion owns 18 of them.

If there's one thing that every golfer can agree upon, it's that no one's game is perfect. There's always room for improvement. Club Champion agrees - they're always adding and updating



new technology to best fit golfers into clubs that gain distance, speed, accuracy and more. Why settle for the club fittings of yesterday when you could have a future of better golf?

Club Champion has more than 140 locations worldwide, including 20+ in the northeastern United States. To find your nearest fitting studio call (888) 340-7820 or visit clubchampion.com.

# SAVE THE DATES MARCH 14-16, 2025



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## THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF EDINBURGH GOLFERS

# 2024 INDOOR GOLF A New Age of Intertainment, Fitting, Training & More

### **BY TIMOTHY BRANCO**

In the last 250+ years not much has changed in the way we play the game of golf. From the first golf club formed in Edinburgh in 1744, golf has maintained a set of rules and standards that has been closely followed worldwide by all that play the game. The forefathers of this great game could have never imagined the game ever being played anywhere other than on a golf course outdoors. Centuries later sparked by innovation, technology, and imagination, golf has now transcended farther than anyone could ever predicted.

### INDOOR GOLF



#### A NEW ERA IN THE GAME

In 2023 nearly 27 million golfers played golf on courses in the United States. Incredibly over 18 million golfers participated in off-course facilities, which include golf entertainment venues like Top Golf, Indoor golf centers, in home indoor golf simulators and golf training centers. The reality of 45 million people playing golf in one year is amazing, but the fact that over 35% of these participants did not play on a traditional outdoor golf course is truly incredible. Tiger Woods was a shot in the arm to the growth of golf, but his impact pales in comparison to what Indoor golf has done to introduce the game to millions, who no doubt will become part of on-course activity someday.



aboutGOLF Curve Luxury Home Simulator

### INDOOR GOLF

#### **EARLY INDOOR GOLF**

The first golf simulator was developed in the late 1970s by Dave Pelz. Pelz was a golf coach and wanted a way to teach his students how to improve their swings in a controlled environment. He developed a simulator that used cameras to capture the golf swing and analyze it in real-time. In the early 2000s, Golf Simulators were introduced at the PGA Show in Orland Florida. It was the beginning of a new era in golf as advanced technology, computing power, and new age software opened a completely new world for players, trainers, and golf fitting specialist. The indoor golf concept, has changed the game as we know it today

#### **TODAY'S INDOOR GOLF**

Today's golf simulators use high-speed cameras, radar and sensors to track the ball and clubhead, accurately simulating the flight of the ball and its spin. This provides players with accurate feedback on their swing. Additionally, virtual reality technology is used to create immersive experiences, allowing players to feel as if they are on a golf course. New developments in golf simulator technology include highspeed cameras for tracking the ball and clubhead, 3D modeling technology for creating realistic virtual environments, and real-time feedback on swings. Many modern simulators also offer multiplayer capabilities, highly realistic graphics, and increased

accessibility with a wide range of options taking game improvement and custom club fitting to new levels of performance.

#### A NEW INDUSTRY IN GOLF EXPLODES

At every level Indoor Golf has become one of the fastest business growth sectors in the golf Industry globally. It all began with hitting nets, indoor range bays, and indoor fitness and training centers for advanced players and professional golfers. It was not long before the top teachers of the game began to add video, measurement tools and radar to track stats and performance. For the purist in the game, accepting that technology could be applied to golf was a bit of a reach, but that all has changed, as



Skytrak Analytics Screen for Player Data & Stats







today every player who wants to improve at any level, needs technology, fitness and professional guidance to elevate their game. The rest they say is now history in the making.

The Indoor Golf wave has swept across the game with such a force that is it elevated the games market size economics and potential growth, immensely. The estimated market size of on course golf and country clubs in 2023 was 27 billion. Indoor golf and entertainment according to (CMI) is expected to climb to over 8 billion dollars by 2030, from a new industry sector that has only been tracked for 10 years! Companies like Uneekor, GREENIOY, Foresight Sports, TrackMan, Optishot, AboutGolf, Bogolf, High Definition Golf, SkyTrak, GOLFZON, X-GOLF, Full Swing, Vgolf, TruGolf are the top companies operating in the golf simulators market. They built their businesses on in home sim systems sales, private clubs, and the booming indoor golf businesses market which has grown tremendously, nationwide.

### INDOOR GOLF ARRIVES ON THE PGA TOUR SCENE

TGL Golf League was conceived and founded by Tiger Woods and Rory Mcllory. TGL presented by SoFi is a new golf league, combining advanced technology with teams of top players from the PGA TOUR for two-hour weekly competitions in prime time, on ESPN in 2025. Six TGL teams of 24 PGA Tour players, representing six different cities will go head-to-head in a season-long competition at SoFi Center, a first-of-its-kind venue built specifically for TGL on the

### INDOOR GOLF

campus of Palm Beach State College.

Matches will air on ESPN and ESPN+ in the U.S. with every shot live and all the players wearing live mics, bringing unprecedented access to the competition for golf fans. TGL players boast 216 PGA TOUR wins, 30 Majors wins and 834 weeks at number one. They are Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Collin Morikawa, Matt Fitzpatrick, Justin Rose, Xander Schauffele, Max Homa, Adam Scott, Billy Horschel,



Tommy Fleetwood, Shane Lowry, Tom Kim, Keegan Bradley, Sahith Theegala, Cameron Young, Patrick Cantlay, Wyndham Clark, Min Woo Lee, Kevin Kisner, and Lucas Glover.

The Six TGL teams are: Los Angeles Golf Club, owned by Alexis Ohanian, Serena Williams and Venus Williams; Atlanta Drive Golf Club, owned by Arthur M. Blank; Boston Common Golf Club, owned by Fenway Sports Group; New York Golf Club, owned by Steven Cohen; San Francisco, Bay Golf Club, owned by Marc Lasry's Avenue Sports Fund and Stephen Curry; and Jupiter Links Golf Club, owned by TGR Ventures and David Blitzer. The live schedule will run January 7th - March 25th, 2025, on Mondays and Tuesdays live on ESPN. Fans interested in attending the matches in the 1,500-seat Sofi Center, can register for a ticket presale on Monday, Oct. 28. Single tickets begin at \$160.00.





### THE BIG PLAYERS IN GOLF ENTERTAINMENT

The behemoth growth of massive golf entertainment venues across the U. S. and globally are the major economic drivers in the Indoor golf industry. A full size greengrass public or private 18-hole golf course needs 100-200 acres of land and can garnish 2-5 million a year in revenue. A Top Golf facilty only requires about 10-15 acres of land for a 65,000 S.F. golf entertainment facility, with over 100 hitting bays, garnishes about 17 million in gross revenue yearly, without all the green-grass course maintenance cost, golf entertainment overall economics are staggering.

Top Golf, the market leader, has over 100 full size facilities, and over 50 Swing Suites located in hotels, resorts, airports, and clubs. Top Golf climate-controlled facilities have hitting bays, music, and food all make for a great night of competitive fun. Topgolf is a 65,000 square foot facility features 102 separate hitting bays over three floors, an outfield with targets, a rooftop terrace, a fun bar, and a full dining menu. It is simply a fun and events superstore.

Big Shots owned by Invited, formerly (Club Corp) has entered the indoor golf arena. Since Invited's acquisition in 2018 of Big Shots Golf, they have grown from one location to 12 within the US and UK through an aggressive market strategy, consisting of both corporate owned and partnered venues, David Pillsbury, invited CEO, Said, "With four new markets announced and many more on the horizon, our team has prioritized locations where our expertise in hospitality, food, beverage, family entertainment, will showcase a new era for indoor golf flourish."

Drive Shack Introduced its first location in 2018 in Raleigh, NC. Since then, they have opened locations in Richmond, VA, Orlando, FL, and west Palm Beach, FL. In 2021, Rory Mcllory made a 10-milliondollar strategic investment in the company to boost its new golfing experience called Puttery. a tech-infused, modern spin on miniature golf, pairing putting skills with cocktails, upscale menu options and a DJ. In March of 2024, Puttery NYC opened the brand's first New York location, joining the recently opened Miami FL, Washington D.C., Dallas, and Chicago. Puttery is a modern 21 and older spin on putting, re-defining the game within an immersive experience as guests move from one course to the next.

Golfzon founded in South Korea in 2000, now has become a world leader in golf simulator technology. With advancements in hardware and software, Golfzon continues to push boundaries and shatter preconceived notions about what simulator golf is truly capable of becoming.

### INDOOR GOLF

The release of TwoVision has thrusted Golfzon into the limelight, while simultaneously allowing you to Experience Unreal. In 2016, Golfzon America was born and quickly climbed the ranks to become the most innovative and immersive simulator in North America. Their growth has been staggering, with 5.5 million registered members with access to over 47,574 simulators at 9,449 locations in 41 countries across the world. In January 2024 Golfzon acquired Leadbetter Golf Academies with over 40 locations worldwide.

XGolf America, is the largest indoor golf simulator entertainment brand, with over 115 locations in the U.S. This comes on the heels of their No. 1 in golf category placement in Entrepreneur Magazine's Franchise 500. X-Golf America recently announced plans for their two corporate locations in Denville, NJ and at Washington Nationals Stadium, as well as recent partnership with Good Boy Vodka and John Daly. Daly will join Max Homa and Paige Spiranac as ambassadors for the X-Golf America. In 2024 X Golf opened a new Washington DC location on the Capital Riverfront in a partnership with the MLB Washington Capitals.

Five Iron Golf Started in 2017 with the establishment of their first location on Fifth Avenue in NYC. Five Iron Golf has rapidly expanded its footprint, with over 20 locations across ten major U.S. cities. Notably, they've gone global with franchise locations in Singapore and India. For the serious golfer, Five Iron goes above and beyond. Offering high-tech Trackman simulators, access to skilled teaching professionals, dedicated practice time, leagues, club storage, showers, and complimentary use of top-of-the-line clubs during bookings. Additionally, they provide in-house club fitting services, catering to the diverse needs of golfers at all skill levels.





## INDOOR GOLF



#### **INDOOR GOLF MEGAPLEXES**

GOLFZON recently unveiled an innovative indoor golf model—City Golf—at the Maigang Convention Center in Tianjin, China. This hybrid platform merges cutting-edge simulator golf technology with real green complexes, offering a fresh urban golfing experience. Though debuting in China, GOLFZON plans to expand City Golf to other major cities around the world. City Golf combines an 18-hole setup across 106,000 square feet, featuring one simulator screen and one synthetic green per hole.

This design allows players to hit tee and approach shots in the screen bay, which then retracts to let them finish the hole on a real putting green. This blend of virtual and physical elements provides a full 18-hole golf experience in a compact, indoor space. Additionally, the facility includes fitness and dining options, making it a multifaceted urban entertainment hub. Backed by GOLFZON China, which operates over 230 screen golf locations in the country, City Golf is designed to bring a premium golf experience right into the heart of the city. GOLFZON Chairman Kim Young-Chan describes it as "the most ideal urban golf course," blending the brand's world-class simulator technology and expertise in course management. GOLFZON, a global leader in the golf simulator industry, operates over 11,000 commercial locations across 63

countries, recording more than 90 million rounds annually.

Just west of Chicago a new era of entertainment has been unveiled in the village of Oswego. The world's first and largest nine-hole indoor golf course that replicates real golf is set to open in two years. Named Megalodome, it is expected to draw 290,000 visitors annually, the developers showed that within 20 miles of Oswego there are 1.8 million people, adding another 10 miles brings that total to 4.9 million. Four 300 by 900-foot domes totaling 270,000 square feet (110 feet high at the apex and one football wide by three football fields long for each dome or six acres per dome will be constructed with a two- three-story clubhouse-banquet facility. Play is expected to begin in all three golf course domes sometime in 2026. The fourth dome is a practice facility expected to be built by Fall of 2025.

#### CROSS SPORTS GROWTH OF INDOOR GOLF & PICKLEBALL

Pin Point Launched the largest indoor pickleball and golf facility in the U.S., now open in Raleigh, NC. The new complex features 16 indoor pickleball courts, eight indoor golf simulators, an indoor chipping and putting area, a full-service bar, and a golf and pickleball pro shop. Co-owner Dylan Bryan said, "the facility features 16 indoor pickleball courts, eight golf simulators, and a turf chipping area. We have the largest indoor pickleball and golf facility in the nation, I started playing pickleball early last year, and everywhere we went, there was a 20, 30, or 40-minute wait just to get a game. Everyone kept saying we need more courts in Raleigh." Combining pickleball and indoor golf was a natural progression as both are leading edge in today's market. Combining the two fastest growing sports sectors in one facility is a new unique prospective in sports and entertainment.







PINPOINTE Raleigh, NC Indoor Golf & Pick ball Facility now Open



## G-TRAK Retractable Sports Screen: A Game Changer For Any Garage

### Lightweight, remote control screen creates indoor training solution for tight spaces

If you're an avid golfer who doesn't have a home golf simulator, it's getting a little too easy to start feel like you're the last guy on the block without one. With hardware and technology costs coming down for a number of sim manufacturers, there are more and more options that make the dream of having your own indoor golf space a reality. That's if you have the space to safely swing and hit shots.

A number of consumers are finding that even if the right-sized space isn't found within the floorplan of their home, looking into some unused garage space might be the key to make the dream work.

The practical, space-saving and storable design of the G-TRAK Retractable Impact Screen and the G-TRAK Retractable Net makes the dream of owning an in-home golf simulator, multi-sport training screen, or even a home theatre screen within reach of many more consumers. Traditional issues like lack of space or the cost of high-end simulator builds are solved with G-TRAK's new products.

Once installed, G-TRAK provides a functional modular space that can be used all year long and can be broken down easily so you can use your garage for the 1,001 other reasons you need to accommodate with push-button ease. The difference from just swinging in the house to no particular target to then practicing and playing into a full-color simulator screen is total game changer. Which launch monitor and projector you use is entirely up to you.

G-TRAK is lightweight and engineered with industrial strength, commercial grade steel and aluminum that is easy to assemble and can be used for multiple sports. Multi-sport functionality makes G-TRAK a winner for the whole family and in any season. G-TRAK's patented brackets mount into place around garage door tracks without impeding the door's functionality. Then by the simple push of a remote control the G-TRAK screen extends to the ground for immediate use. When done, push the button again and the screen retracts out of the way. The whole process takes only a few minutes.





8 to 18-feet wide, but can also be mounted on a wall for use in a home, office or business. While it was originally designed to solve one golfer's passion for the game, the screen can also be used for other sports including baseball, softball, soccer and hockey. It is compatible with all accompanying launch monitors, simulators, and projectors.

G-TRAK is available as a retractable screen in multiple sizes from 8' x 7' and up to 16' x 14'. Pricing ranges from \$1,999.99 to \$2,999.99 depending on the size. The G-TRAK retractable net can be purchased for \$1,849.99 and is currently available in one size at 16' x 10'. Accessories like sport-specific targets can be easily added to the screen and net and a wall mount kit is also available for purchase.

The G-TRAK is designed for single and double car garages from

www.g-trak.com

### HOW MUCH DID YOUR CUSTOM SIMULATOR COST?

The custom simulator industry is going through a revolution. There used to be two decent choices, but today you have countless components from which to assemble the perfect sim. Local dealers can now serve customers at a much higher level than the big sim brands. Clarity produces a better end product using components you choose after our free consulting, planning, and design services. Our team and network of local dealer/installers are able to bring customer service to great heights, and save many customers well into five figures.

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# Home Simulators: Trackman & Foresight

In the realm of home entertainment, the rise of advanced golf simulators has transformed the way enthusiasts and professionals alike can indulge in their passion for the sport. Among the leading technologies, TrackMan and Foresight Sports stand out as the pinnacle of innovation, offering unparalleled accuracy, versatility, and realism that can seamlessly integrate into any home environment.

TrackMan, a name synonymous with precision in professional golf, has extended its reach into the home market with its golf simulator technology. Utilizing Doppler radar, TrackMan simulators measure a staggering 26 data points on every shot, from ball speed and launch angle to spin rate and curvature. This level of detail not only provides an incredibly realistic golfing experience but also serves as an invaluable tool for skill development. Golfers can analyze every aspect of their swing, making adjustments in real-time, and tracking progress over time. The simulator's ability to integrate with a variety of courses, from local favorites to world-renowned layouts, ensures that users never tire of the experience, all while enjoying the comfort and convenience of their own space.

Foresight Sports, another leader in the industry, offers the GC-Quad and GC2 simulators, which use high-speed cameras to capture ball flight data with exceptional accuracy. The GCQuad, in particular, stands out for its ability to track not only the ball but also the club, providing a comprehensive analysis of the swing mechanics. This dual-tracking system allows users to understand the relationship between club and ball, enhancing the educational value of the simulator. Foresight's software is user-friendly and highly customizable, with a vast library of courses and game modes that cater to players of all skill levels. Whether you're a beginner looking to learn the basics or a seasoned golfer aiming to refine your game, Foresight simulators



offer a tailored experience that can elevate your golfing journey.

Both TrackMan and Foresight simulators are designed with the modern home in mind, boasting compact setups that can fit into a spare room or dedicated space. The sleek, minimalist design of these simulators ensures that they blend seamlessly into any home decor, making them a stylish addition to your living space. Moreover, the convenience of being able to play anytime, regardless of weather conditions, is a significant advantage, especially for those living in regions with challenging climates.

In conclusion, the TrackMan and Foresight golf simulators represent the best in home golfing technology, offering a blend of precision, versatility, and user-friendly design that can transform any golfer's experience. Whether you're looking to improve your game, enjoy a round with friends, or simply experience the thrill of playing world-class courses, these simulators provide the perfect solution for bringing the golf course into your home.

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# **Premier Play at The Lounge**

# TEE 2 TABLE

#### **BY MYLES MURRAY**

#### **FROM TEE**

Golf Lounge 18 in Braintree, MA is a premier indoor golfing destination that offers a unique blend of entertainment, food, and drink. Located at the South Shore Plaza, this state-of-the-art facility is perfect for golfers of all skill levels. It provides a golfing experience that is both enjoyable and challenging, and it can be experienced year-round.

The Lounge is a two-floor entertainment center that includes 13 hitting bays, two

large bars, video games, a pro-shop, and plenty of big screen TV's. It is part of the plaza, but it has a separate entrance from the parking lot, so it stays open even after the plaza closes.

One of the standout features of Golf Lounge 18 is its use of Trackman IO Technology, where the IO stands for Indoor Optimized. Trackman is the best of the best when it comes to tracking and simulation for golf. This cutting-edge technology allows players to access over 300 courses, including the iconic Pebble Beach and Old Course at St. Andrews, or Massachusetts courses like Miacomet or Dedham Country and Polo Club.

The graphics are unreal and offer incredible accuracy. As you play your round, the course conditions will change to simulate weather patterns. Think of it - you pick the time of day you want to play and the sun level, shade, and wind adjusts throughout the round so you can constantly challenge your level of accuracy.

The simulators are easy to use and can be utilized for having fun, casual practice, or even professional training. With precise and immediate data on your swing, ball, and shot you can get an accurate understanding of what you need to improve. And there is no way to mess with these numbers - they don't have gimmies!

When you rent a bay at Golf Lounge 18 you have several ways to play and enjoy it. The Trackman IO lets you easily choose between Practice, Courses, Games, and Tournaments on its home screen. Each bay has a computer with a mouse that is easy to use and conveniently located. One of the





### INDOOR GOLF & FITNESS TEE 2 TABLE

options lets you pick the yardage you want to from towards the green and it gives you a rating of how close to the hole you get and how this will lower your score. This will help all golfers improve their performance from specific yardages that they struggle with normally.

Golf Lounge 18 offers the GL18 Academy, where golfers can take lessons from PGA Certified Golf Instructors. These lessons are suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players looking to refine their techniques.

They have leagues to join throughout the year that typically last nine weeks. In addition to their regular leagues, Golf Lounge 18 hosts various social events and tournaments, making it the perfect spot for people who want to celebrate special occasions.

#### **TO TABLE**

The facility is designed to be more than just a place to play golf. It boasts a full-service bar and restaurant, offering a variety of food and drink options to enjoy between rounds. The menu includes all-day breakfast items, tacos, handhelds, and grilled cheese sandwiches, ensuring there's something for everyone. The bar serves a range of beverages, from local craft beers to mixed drinks like Transfusion, making it a great spot to unwind after a game.

The fan favorites are the wings, flatbread specials, breakfast burrito, and chicken bacon ranch wrap. My group devoured the crispy buffalo wings and drenched them in the creamy blue cheese dressing. I had the chicken bacon ranch wrap which is loaded with ingredients then they crisp up some cheese on top to give it a

### GOLF LOUNGE 18 LOCATIONS

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South Windsor Canton Orange Danbury Fairfield Stamford (Coming Soon)

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nice crunch. My wife had the short rib tacos which were phenomenal. They braise the short ribs in-house, load up flour tortillas, then top them with pickled red onions, cilantro, queso fresca, and chipotle aioli.

The food is so good that it is worth going to the Golf Lounge 18 for dinner and drinks, even if you don't golf. Think of how perfect it would be to play a round while your family shops at the Plaza! The atmosphere is like a modern sports bar that includes golf and arcade games for adults. There are flat screen tv's on almost every wall usually showing sporting events. They have the G.O.A.T. of golf games Golden Tee, basketball pop-a-shot, a pool table, and air hockey.

Overall, Golf Lounge 18 in Braintree is a top-notch indoor golfing venue that combines advanced technology, excellent amenities, and a friendly atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a newcomer to the sport, this facility offers something for everyone. It's the perfect place to enjoy a round of golf, improve your skills, or simply relax with friends and family. Highly recommended for anyone in the Braintree area looking for fun, great food, and an engaging golfing experience.









# THE SECRET TO A MORE POWERFUL, PAIN-FREE SWING

### WHY THE PROS FOCUS ON MORE THAN JUST THE SWING



If there is one thing we can take away from the pros, It's not just about perfecting your swing—it's about optimizing how your body moves.

At Tour Physio and Performance, we believe that great golf starts with being flexible, strong, and consistent. This also creates happier, better feeling, more energetic golfers off the course.

### The Foundation of a Great Swing: Flexibility and Strength

When it comes to golf, key rotational centers (your hips, thoracic spine, and shoulders) play a vital role. If these areas lack flexibility, your swing can feel restricted, leading to inconsistent shots and increased strain on other parts of your body. Over time, this can lead to compensations and contribute to pain, reduced distance, or even injury. But flexibility alone isn't enough. Building functional strength to stabilize and power your swing is critical. Strength in the right places ensures you can maintain your posture, generate more speed, and play with greater consistency; all while reducing your risk of injury.

### How to Work With Professionals To Improve Your Game

Working with a professional can make all the difference. Here's how professionals can help you add flexibility, consistency and distance:

 Detailed Assessment: A thorough movement assessment, such as the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) Screen, helps identify restrictions in flexibility, strength, or coordination that may be affecting your swing. This process pinpoints limitations in golf specific areas: rotation, strength, coordination and speed.
Target Key Areas: A personalized plan is created to improve mobility in your hips, thoracic spine, and shoulders—unlocking smoother, more efficient rotation.

**3. Build Golf-Specific Strength:** As movement improves, the focus shifts to building strength in the areas that matter most for your swing. Strong, stable muscles don't just improve your power—they also help protect your body from the repetitive stresses of the game.

**4. Prevent Injury:** Professionals can help you address physical limitations, improve your recovery strategies, and ensure that your body keeps up with the demands of the game.

### Why Golfers Over 50 Should Care

As we age, maintaining flexibility and strength becomes even more critical. Tightness and muscle imbalances develop over time, making it harder to achieve the dynamic rotation golf demands. By addressing these issues, you can not only avoid injury but also keep playing the game you love at a high level and feel better doing so!

Last year, 10 of our clients over 50 improved their clubhead speed by over 9 mph in just four months by focusing on this approach. That's the equivalent of gaining an extra 20-30 yards off the tee!

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This year, take the first step toward better golf. For a limited time, we're offering an off-season special: Our Complete Golf Performance Assessment for \$99 (\$200 Off)

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# LUXURY GOLF TRAVEL / PGA TOUR DESTINATION





Los Cabos has firmly established itself as one of the premier destinations for golf enthusiasts, offering an unmatched combination of world-class courses, stunning landscapes, and luxury amenities. In Golf Digest's 2024-2025 edition, Los Cabos boasts two courses ranked among the world's best and dominates the magazine's list of the "Best Golf Courses in Mexico." With seven top-ranked courses and an astounding 12 of the 20 total spots on the list, the destination continues to shine as a global leader in luxury golf.

Among these elite venues is the Diamante Dunes Course, designed by Davis Love III, celebrated for its dramatic dunes and breathtaking ocean vistas. The course provides a challenging yet rewarding experience that perfectly captures the natural beauty of Los Cabos.

The destination's golf offerings are expanding with the addition of three highly anticipated courses currently under construction. These include the second course at Quivira by Jack Nicklaus, The Legacy Club at Diamante by Tiger Woods, and the Oleada Cabo San Lucas course by Ernie Els. Once completed, these new courses will further diversify Los Cabos' impressive array of options, catering to golfers of all skill levels, from public and resort-accessible courses to exclusive private clubs.

Designed by some of the most renowned architects in golf— Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Tom Fazio, Fred Couples, and Robert Trent Jones Jr.—Los Cabos' courses set a global standard for excellence, ensuring a memorable experience for every player.

#### Host to the PGA Tour

Los Cabos also stands out as one of the few international destinations to host the PGA Tour. Each November, it welcomes









the Worldwide Technology Championship, which has quickly become a favorite on the Tour calendar. In 2024, the championship delivered a thrilling finish at El Cardonal, the Tiger Woods-designed course at Diamante, with Austin Eckroat claiming victory after an impressive final round. The event also featured enhanced fan experiences, including VIP Hospitality Suites, a food and art festival, additional Pro-Ams, live music, wellness events, and children's activities, further elevating the tournament's appeal.

#### Beyond Golf: Award-Winning Culinary Delights

Los Cabos is not just a paradise for golfers—it's also a haven for food enthusiasts. Recognized by The MICHELIN Guidein 2024 as one of Mexico's top culinary destinations, the region is home to 18 celebrated restaurants offering diverse dining experiences, from fine dining to sustainable and affordable options.

The culinary scene thrives on fresh seafood and locally grown ingredients, reflecting the destination's commitment to regenerative farming and sustainable fishing practices. "Los Cabos' diverse landscapes and ecosystems have positioned it as Mexico's largest producer of organic produce," said Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "This ensures that local chefs can transform gastronomy into a creative art and exceptional experience."

#### A Destination that Redefines Luxury and Adventure

Stretching across the scenic 20-mile route that connects vibrant Cabo San Lucas with the cultural town of San José del Cabo, Los Cabos seamlessly blends luxury, adventure, and natural beauty. Located at the southernmost tip of the Baja California Peninsula, it is home to a dramatic mountain-desert-ocean environment, unmatched in the western hemisphere.

The region offers a dynamic mix of experiences, from championship golf and rejuvenating spas to world-renowned sport fishing and outdoor adventures. Complementing these activities are new luxury developments, including Amanvari, St. Regis Los Cabos, Park Hyatt, and Soho House, which continue to attract discerning travelers.

Los Cabos is more than just a destination—it's an unforgettable experience that redefines luxury travel and adventure for golf enthusiasts and visitors alike.

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## UNRIVALED LUXURY AWAITS

At the tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the Sea of Cortés meets the Pacific Ocean, you'll find Los Cabos. Here, the desert, mountains, and sea converge under year-round sunshine to create an unforgettable getaway. Whether you crave heart-pounding adventure or want to unwind with a wellness retreat in paradise, a visit to Los Cabos can be tailored to every taste. A bonus? The list of fivestar accommodations is always growing, with properties ranging from private villas to expansive beachfront resorts that will elevate your trip to the next level.

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## Island Golf in Dominican Republic

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#### The Destination

Dominican Republic (DR) has just what the Dr. ordered – a tropical island vacation. DR is part of the Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean Sea where sporadic showers bring many flowers and lush vegetation. La Romana, Punta Cana and Cap Cana are the three major areas to visit, all with a welcoming culture.

#### **The Venues**

Most famous in La Romana is Casa de Campo (CdC), the all-encompassing gated golf resort where you receive your own golf cart at check in for your magic carpet ride through 7000 acres of Pete Dye's kingdom of golf design along with an Italian replica village, equestrian center, beach, marina and more. Alternatively in La Romana, Bahia Principe is a more affordable, adult only, all-inclusive resort, still offering luxe accommodations, its own beach and two pools.

Punta Cana in the north has many beachfront options. At the top of the scale is The Westin Punta Cana along a wide stretch of turquoise water and white sandy beach. Sanctuary Cap Cana is another adult only resort with many sweet sea view seats to find your personal sanctuary, including people sized cage swings, double lounges, and swivel rockers on a deck to watch sea turtles play hide and seek in the seaweed.

#### The Golf

At Casa de Campo, Teeth of the Dog is the most popular with "Pebblesque" seaside holes that remarkably will be even better after renovations and reopening the end of 2025. Meanwhile, The Links 18 next to it and the three nines at Dye Fore serve golfers very well. Dye Fore Chavon dramatically skirts the cliffs over the river while the Marina has wider fairways flowing down to sea vistas with magnificent homes along the way. Lago, meaning lake, is the third nine at Dye Fore. Then, just twenty minutes away, next to the Bahia Principe, PGA Ocean's 4 is so named for its four beautiful holes on the ocean, but it will soon be Ocean's 4 plus one as designer Robert Trent Jones II will return to extend the 14th hole down to the Caribbean's edge.

**BY ALICE & DANNY SCOTT** 

In Punta Cana, Corales is famous for the Corales Punta Cana Championship which Billy Horschel won this year and said, "This was my first time in Dominican Republic, and I am blown away." That is usually the sentiment after playing Corales. Ocean holes begin on 7-9 and conclude with the Devil's Elbow from 16-18 where waves





crash against the jutting cliff and the ocean mist sprays high in the air.

La Cana has three nines designed by PB Dye, with an inside track on Hacienda, while Arrecife and Tortuga fringe the sea. PB lives along Tortuga's number 6 and is often seen walking his dog. Arrecife culminates with numbers 8 and 9 along the peacock blues of the Caribbean. Stunning water hazards are aplenty to upgrade the challenge factor. In any order of play, lunch at La Cana must also be in order, for the food is as spectacular as the beach view.

Punta Espada in Cap Cana was our favorite, where Jack Nicklaus drew up 18 joyous hoyas (holes). If Heaven were a Dominican Republic golf course, let it be this one. Inner holes lined by nature's rugged rock outcroppings make a diverse landscape that is as beautiful as it is deadly, especially when the trade winds blow off the ocean. The seaside tranquility and challenge make it righteous enough to play through eternity.

#### And More

Life's a beach in DR. It's an island after all, so swim, snorkel or sail away on a catamaran, all included at Casa de Campo. At Playa Blanca, guests may be picked up on the shore by a scuba team and Cap Cana is home to the largest Marlin competition in the world.

Bird watchers as well as golfers flock to DR for many species including the acrobatic, artistic Weaver birds who sew circular nests with green reeds in the catalpa trees. Small flocks of parrots fly by, squealing with delight like little kids in the azure water. Dining is exceptional with breakfast buffets at most resorts. Restaurants serve sea to table delicacies, thanks to local fishermen.

#### **Our Takeaway**

We loved every round, every meal, and every accommodation in DR. This was our fourth time visiting DR, and we would not hesitate to return. Lots of developments are in progress with more spots to explore. The people are very friendly, and the Caribbean Sea is mesmerizing.

#### **The Journey**

The new Punta Cana International Airport is impressive with larger-than-life Dominican doll statues welcoming visitors en route to quick luggage retrieval and security checks as simple and efficient as anywhere in the world, with nonstop flights from Boston in four hours. Or from December at La Romana airport, five minutes from CdC, catch daily flights on American from Miami. www.godominicanrepublic.com







#### **THE 2025 GOLF TRAVEL SEASON is**

upon us and it's planning time for golf trips to warmer destinations and longer daylight. Most overlook the fact that sunset in South Florida is 90 minutes later than in the Northeast in January because of the Earth's axis tilt, giving us not only warmer temperatures but also extended playing time on the course and the opportunity to squeeze in a morning and afternoon round of golf. The escape from snow, cold, and winter conditions to Florida's prime golf season has never been easier, and there is so much to choose from at every price point. Florida Golf Alliance is a great resource Florida4Golf.com

#### **Florida The Golf State**

Golf-rich Florida is packed with great

courses from Amelia Island and

Jacksonville down to Miami then over to Orlando, the West Coast and the Florida Panhandle. The great thing about Florida is there are very different and diverse regions that offer unique design elements. Florida has some of the most famous designers and best-known resorts because of its year-round playability. There are ocean courses, parkland courses, links layouts, hillside designs, and even courses built on old quarry and mining sites.

#### **Northeast Florida**

Known as Florida's First Coast, Northeast Florida is home to some of the world's finest golf courses. Take your pick from over 100 miles of coastal golf courses in scenic destinations such as Amelia Island, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra, Clay County, Palm Coast and the Flagler beaches. The iconic Pete Dye, TPC Sawgrass, home of the Players Championship, tops the list in this region. Just south is World Golf Village, Hammock Beach Resort offers two championship venues. In all, there are over 80 golf courses to choose from in northeast Florida with a vast array of accommodations to choose from.

#### **Central Florida**

The epicenter of Florida Golf is no doubt central Florida as over 250 golf courses are in the region. With over 40 golf resorts the area offers something for everyone looking for a golf vacation. The Evermore Resort (formerly Grand Cypress Resort) has recently opened on 1000 acres in Orlando. Some of Florida's

#### DESTINATIONS FLORIDA

finest golf resorts are in greater Orlando, The Ritz Carlton, the Four Seasons, Champions Gate, Reunion Resort, Shingle Creek, Waldorf Astoria, Arnold Palmer Bay Hill, JW Marriott Grand Lakes, Marriott Grand Lakes, and Lakeshore Reserve. Just a short drive from Orlando, there is the Historic Mission Inn Resort and Streamsong Resort which has set a new standard with 5 amazing course designs by the teams of Coore/ Crenshaw, Doak, and Hanse/Wagner. Streamsong is on every list to play.

#### **The Southeast Coast**

From Palm Beach County south to Miami Dade County, you will find some of the best golf in the state. PGA Golf Club in Port St Lucie. Championship golf courses include the Wanamaker Course, Ryder Course, and Dye Course. In Palm Beach, PGA National has 99 holes of championship golf on 6 courses, and The Breakers is exquisite with two great courses. Just south, the historic Biltmore Resort in Coral Gables. Turnberry Isle Resort & Spa is nestled into one of Miami's most affluent neighborhoods, the 300-acre resort features 2 championship 18-hole courses, originally designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. Trump National Doral is by all measures one of the country's most heralded resorts with the famous Blue Monster Course. Doral's three other courses and is home to the famed Rick Smith Golf Academy.

#### **The Gulf Coast**

Many travelers prefer the West Coast of Florida along the Gulf of Mexico. White sand beaches and laid-back coastal communities that enjoy perfect golf weather. From Tampa Bay south to Naples there are many choices for great golf resorts. In St Petersburg, The Vinoy Resort, In Tampa Bay, Innisbrook Resort offers an extensive selection of courses to choose from, including The Copperhead Course. The Resort at Longboat Key offers unapparelled luxury as part of the Opal Collection. In Naples, The Ritz Carlton Tiburon is a spectacular resort. The JW Marriott Marco Island Resort has long been a favorite of golf travelers with 2 championship 18-hole golf courses, Hammock Bay Club designed by Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy and the Rookery at Marco re-designed by Jacobsen as well. A tremendous facility with topranked golf.







PGA National





#### By The Golf Trip Guys

As the weather turns cold and the days get short, time away from the golf course is inevitable. Thankfully, southern golf is an affordable and easy escape that can liven up the retreat to simulator leagues.

With its distinctive mix of lowcountry golf and fairways that stretch out to the Atlantic Ocean, Hilton Head, SC is a must-visit venue for golfers of all levels. Consistently ranked as a premier destination, Hilton Head offers a wide range of courses, outdoor activities, and ocean front lodging that satisfy any wish list. Under an hour from the Savannah airport, Hilton Head offers stress free options to squeeze in travel day rounds or enjoy that last drink beach-side. It's home to bucket list courses Harbor Town Golf Links (home of the RBC Heritage) and Pete Dye's Heron Point, along with hidden gems like Old South Golf Links. To get the full Hilton Head experience, the resort style Palmetto Dunes is the way to go - let's dig into what it offers as a highlight of the Southern Swing Series.

#### **Destination Highlights**

Early spring brings mild temperatures to Hilton Head, typically ranging from the mid-60s/70s without the heat and humidity of the summer months. There is generally lower rainfall providing plenty of dry, sunny days perfect for golfing or enjoying the various activities on the island. Courses are in excellent condition this time of year, with lush green fairways and full bloom azaleas enhancing the overall experience. If you are looking for more than golf, there are plenty of great options ranging from dolphin watching and sunset dinner cruises to pickleball and distillery tours. With all it has to offer, Hilton Head is a perfect destination for your annual golf trip or long weekend away with your partner.

#### **Course Highlight - Palmetto Dunes**

Nestled along the coast and boasting three world-class courses designed by legends of the game—Robert Trent Jones, George Fazio, and Arthur Hills—Palmetto Dunes offers a variety of challenges, stunning scenery, and exceptional course conditions. Multiple ocean front resorts within ten minutes of the Dunes provide a wide range of lodging, dining, and amenities that will meet the needs of any group.



#### **Robert Trent Jones Course**

Arguably the most iconic of the three at Palmetto Dunes, RTJ is known for its picturesque oceanfront views and strategic design elements. Among the first of the famous architects to begin laying their mark on Hilton Head, the course opened in 1967 and was later renovated in 2002. True to his design philosophy, strategy is rewarded and calculated risks offer ample rewards. Strategic bunkering, water hazards, wide fairways, and large greens are all showcased - creating forgiveness and challenges that will put all skills to the test.

Course Layout: Par-72 at 7,000+ yards from the tips, 6,500+ / 6,100+ respectfully from the Blue/White tees. Signature Hole: The par-5 10th. An elevated green creates both a visual treat and a challenging approach shot.

#### George Fazio Course

Best known for its challenging layout, the Fazio course is regarded as the most difficult of the three courses at Palmetto Dunes. The course features a classic low-country design with tree-lined fairways, large bunkers, and strategically placed water hazards. It's also the only par-70 course in Hilton Head and one of the youngest to be featured on Golf Digest's 100 best in America. For those with the occasional slice, you'll find it forgiving with most of the trouble to the left off the tee.

Course Layout: Par 70 at 6,800+ yards from the tips, 6,500+ / 6,200+ respectively from the Blue/White tees. Signature Hole: The Par-4, 16th. Accuracy is a must off the tee and with a bunker left and water right, there's no bail out into a long, narrow green.

#### Arthur Hills Course

The Arthur Hills Course is known for its rolling terrain and incorporation of Hilton Head's natural beauty. When it opened in the mid-80s the course had no rough and was protected by natural mounding and contours of the land. Designs have changed since then but the mounds remain quite distinctive and the balance of challenge and playability make it a favorite among golfers. *Course Layout: Par-72 at 6,600+ yards from the tips, 6,300+ / 6,100+ respectively from the Blue/White tees. Signature Hole: The Par-4 17th. A visually stunning hole that requires both accuracy and strategy to avoid trouble.* 

Winter is coming, Hilton Head awaits...

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# New England Performers

#### **BY SEAN MELIA**

As the golf season comes to an end, it's natural to reflect on the great performances that happened throughout the region. The talent is staggering and it seems that every year new players pop up on the radar while stalwarts return to the tops of leaderboards, too.

Here's a list of 20 players who stood out for their excellent performances in 2024.

#### **KEEGAN BRADLEY**

While 2024 was a strong year for the major champion, 2025 will be even bigger. The kid from Woodstock, Vt. was named Ryder Cup Captain. As a St. John's graduate, the course is close to his heart, as he's played it many times. Bradley was the last player to qualify for the BMW Championship, and then he won that event in Colorado. He finished 21st in the FedEx Cup championship and earned \$6,879,455.

#### **ISABEL BROZENA**

Brozena just wrapped up her fall season at Xavier and made a lot of waves in 2024 before she headed to Ohio for college. Brozena won two big events this summer. She lapped the field in the Ouimet Memorial with rounds of 66-71-71 (-7) and beat Morgan Smith by eight shots. Then, she took home the Mass Girls' Championship. Last spring, Brozena won her second high school championship after shooting a 66 to win by six shots. This summer, Brozena competed in the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship. She reached the Round of 64 after shooting 68-74 in stroke play.

#### **JASON CARON**

Caron might be one of the most shocking stories in professional golf this year. The head pro at Mill River CC (Oyster Bay, NY) earned full status on the PGA Tour Champions. The Senior PGA Championship was his coming out party with a fourthplace finish. He rode that wave and played great through the summer, earning \$643,243 in 10 events since May. His four top-five finishes were a big reason he reached the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

#### **CARYS FENNESSY**

The Dover High School senior won her fourth straight New Hampshire High School championship and then capped off her high school career with a win at Mohegan Sun in the New England Interscholastic High

#### AROUND THE GAME TOP 20 ROUND UP

School championship. Fennessy didn't just beat her peers, she is a two-time New Hampshire Women's Amateur champion. After winning by 15 shots in 2023, she bettered her dominance with an 18-shot victory in 2024. With all that, the highlight of the year might have been qualifying for the FM Global Championship at TPC Boston after making it through prequalifying at Worcester CC and then winning the Monday Qualifier. Next year, Fennessy will play for the College of Charleston.

#### **JOSIAH HAKALA**

Hakala plays a ton of competitive golf, and he puts himself in the mix quite frequently. He won the Mass. Junior Amateur championship over defending champion Carson Erick, and he also shot 64 at GreatHorse to catch C.J. Winchenbaugh in the New England Junior Amateur. He lost on the third playoff hole to Winchenbaugh. While competing for Mascenic Regional, Hakala won his fourth New Hampshire Division 4 championship title. This time by a jaw-dropping 23 shots over 36 holes with rounds of 64-73. The crown jewel in Hakala's season was an incredible win in the PGA High School Golf National Invitational in Frisco, Texas. He fired rounds of 68-69-65 (-14) to win by a shot.

#### **JOEY LENANE**

Joey Lenane is the poster child for slow and steady progress. The Dedham native seems to check another box in his upward trajectory. In 2023 he broke through and won the New England Amateur. He started 2024 with a win in the Norfolk County Classic and then overpowered Ledges Golf Course in the Mass. Public Links Championship, shooting 64-67 to win by 11 shots. He made the cut in the Mass Open for a second straight year and qualified for the U.S. Amateur at Hazeltine. In his junior fall at NC State, he recorded two top-ten finishes in three events.

#### **YVETTE O'BRIEN**

The Greenwich, Conn. attends Grandview Prep in Florida, where she has been hard at work on her game. She won the Conn. Girls Junior Championship. An opening round 65 helped her separate herself from the field. She beat Juyeon Park by a shot, but third place was fifteen shots behind O'Brien. The win marked O'Brien's second Conn. Girls' Iunior title, she won the inaugural event in 2022. In March, O'Brien defended her title in the Jim McLean Championship with an eight shot win. She also qualified for her first USGA event. She teed it up in the U.S. Women's Four-Ball last spring. In the fall of 2025, O'Brien will compete for Texas Christian University.

#### **CODY PALADINO**

The Russell C. Palmer Cup and Conn. Mid-Amateur champion is always in the mix. With two more trophies in his case, he also finished 5th in the Connecticut Open and reached the quarterfinals in the Conn. Amateur. In the U.S. Mid-Amateur, he shot 70-72 and survived a 14-for-12 playoff. He lost 5&3 to eventual champion Even Beck in the Round of 64. Additionally, Paladino made the cut in the Northeast Amateur at Wannamoisett CC and finished 25th in one of the most competitive amateur events in the world. Paladino won his fifth Connecticut Player of the Year award.

#### MATT PARZIALE

A future MassGolf Hall of Famer, Parziale won his ninth MassGolf Player of the Year award for another season marked by incredible consistency. The former U.S. Mid-Amateur champion was a semi-finalist in the Massachusetts Amateur, losing to Matthew Naumec at Framingham CC. Over the course of the season, Parziale was a top-ten machine. A runner-up finish in the Mass. Fourball, along with a T5 in the 2024 Invitational, a T6 in the Ouimet Memorial, and a T3 in the Mass Mid-Amateur are highlights. He also made the cut in the Mass Open and qualified for both the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Mid-Amateur.



#### AROUND THE GAME TOP 20 ROUND UP

#### **ELI SPAULDING**

The Maine amateur crown was up for grabs after Caleb Manual and Cole Anderson turned pro. Spaulding stepped right in and grabbed the throne. He finished as the low junior in the Hornblower, and he had a great chance at winning the tournament outright. Then he went on to win the Maine Amateur title at Purpoodock CC, holding off another Maine stalwart John Hayes. That title made Spaulding exempt for the U.S. Amateur. Before heading to Loyola Maryland, he recorded a fifth place in the New England Amateur and fourth in the New England Junior Amateur. His college career is off to a nice start, too. He finished second in the Howard/USF Invitational.

#### **MOLLY SMITH**

Smith played well enough in her first year at the University of Central Florida to earn a spot on the ANNIKA Watch List, which highlights the best women's players in college golf. This fall, Smith has two top-ten finishes, including a third-place finish in the Fighting Illini Invitational. Over the summer, Smith took to the national stage and competed in a number of Women's Elite Amateur Series events and finished second in the Elite Amateur Series Cup standings. A big reason for that success was due to ninth place finishes in the Sea Island Women's Amateur and the North and South Women's Amateur. She also had a great run into the semi-final of the Mass. Women's Amateur before losing to her sister, Morgan Smith in 19 holes. Finally, Smith qualified for the Mass. Amateur Championship for the second straight year. She was the first female to ever qualify for that event in 2023.

#### **MORGAN SMITH**

Smith won her second Mass Women's Amateur in three years when she defeated Julie Imai in the final at Taconic this August. Her path to the final also went through her older sister, Molly. They faced off in the semi-final in an instant classic that required 19 holes to settle the battle. Smith also finished runner-up in the Ouimet Memorial and won Big East Freshman of the Year honors while competing for Georgetown. Along with her two sisters, Molly and Maddie Smith, she entered the record books as the first trio of sisters to compete in the same USGA championship when they all played in the U.S. Women's Amateur. She transferred to Georgia and recorded a second place finish in the Fighting Illini Invitational and a fifth place in the Hoover Invitational this fall.

#### **RICKY STIMETS**

The 2023 MassGolf Player of the Year had a season of close calls. It started with a deep run to the finals of the Mass Amateur at Framingham CC. He lost to Matthew Naumec, a Framingham CC member. Then Jake Ratti edged him in the Mass Mid-Amateur after he holed out from 50 yards in a bunker shot on the 18th at Cranberry Valley. Stimets earned medalist honors in the Cape Cod Amateur with a round of 67, but he lost to Jeremey Peacock in 22 holes at Hyannisport Club. Finally, he was one revolution short of forcing a playoff in the Devil's Elbow Invitational. A final round 66 put him into contention, and the winner earns a spot in the PGA Tour's Corales Puntacana in April. With all that great golf, Stimets, incredibly, will finish runner-up in the MassGolf PoY race, too.

#### **MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN**

Thobjornsen finished his career at Stanford and earned a spot on the PGA Tour through PAG Tour University. The 2021 Mass. Amateur champion has been on many radars over the years. He was named to the Ping All-American First Team and won the 2024 Cabo Intercollegiate, which was pivotal in the chase for the top spot in PGA Tour U. He finished T2 in the John Deere Classic this summer and also notched a T8 in the Sanderson Farms this fall. He withdrew with a knee injury from the Black Desert Championship. He has full status on the PGA Tour in 2025.

#### **C.J. WINCHENBAUGH**

Winchenbaigh won the New England Amateur double this summer. First, he set the course record at Laconia CC in the final round of the NE Amateur to win the New England Amateur. His blistering 61 was highlighted by a 29 on the back nine including an albatross. In August, Winchenbaugh showed his versatility, winning on a very different type of course in the New England Junior. A 65 in the first round at GreatHorse gave Winchenbaugh a nice lead, but Josiah Hakala caught him and they needed a three hole playoff to settle the matter. Winchenbaugh came out on top. Winchenbaugh also helped Belmont Hill win the Kingman Cup and the ISL Regular season championship.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Megan Buck - MassGolf Women's PoY. Mass Mid-Am and Four-Ball Champion. Megan Khang - Undefeated in the Solheim Cup for Team USA. Played in her ninth straight LPGA Tour Championship. Bobby Leopold - Won his fifth Rhode Island Amateur championship. Austin Perkins - Youngest Connecticut Amateur champion in the state's history. AGJA at Chicopee winner Lucas Politano - At age 16, won 54-hole Vermont Amateur championship in a playoff. Three straight D-2 Vermont HS Championships.

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## **MOLORI UNPLUGGED**

**By John Molori** 



## **Pickleball Right at Home at Owl's Nest**

Owl's Nest Resort in Thornton, NH has long subscribed to the customer-first philosophy. Indeed, their website, owlsnestresort.com, tells prospective visitors to make their time at the venue their own.

This client-based credo extends to the athletic activities offered as well. Of course, Owl's Nest remains one of the most popular golf destinations in the Northeast, but these days, people are clamoring for pickleball, and not surprisingly, Owl's Nest has answered the call.

Tennis Resorts Online has rated Owl's Nest as the #2 Pickleball Resort in the world with top notch outdoor courts, lessons, clinics, and round robins. "We offer a multitude of pickleball clinics and events that cater to our very diverse demographic," says Cosmin Chiujdea, Director of Racquet Sports at Owl's Nest.

"People visiting the resort year-round, from weddings to the general public to our local community, can enjoy all our weekly clinics. Our pros also offer private and group lessons for those who are interested in a more intimate setting for learning the game."

Chiujdea discusses pickleball in general and why it has become so popular, "After 2019, it really boomed and has continued to grow across the country. It is a relatively easy sport to learn and can bridge many players from all different corners of society. To really learn and enjoy playing pickleball, you need to spend 60 to 90 minutes on the court with a coach.

"The accessibility to pickleball is also a driving factor for the growth of this sport. You can play pickleball in your backyard with a temporary net and chalked lines if you want. It is widely available to the public and much cheaper to play than tennis or any other racquet sport."

So, why did Owl's Nest add pickleball to its sports-related offerings? Chiujdea responds, "Pickleball is currently one of the hottest trends in the racquet industry and as a World Class resort, we want to make sure we always are in tune with the latest trends and can offer the best there is to all our resort

#### MOLORI UNPLUGGED PICKLEBALL AT THE OWL'S NEST

guests. To add pickleball was a no-brainer."

Chiujdea and company have taken the sport to new heights making Thornton, NH a true pickleball paradise. He relates, "We offer tournaments and camps year-round during the season. Our events are aimed at all different levels. If you are coming in to play in these tournaments and camps, we usually have a special custom lodging and F&B package that goes with it. Each package is custom designed for the specific tournament we are holding."

Similar to golf, the more you learn about pickleball, the more enjoyable the experience becomes. "We have curated a vast selection of pickleball clinics that we offer at the resort," explains Chiujdea.

"Some of the most popular ones are Pickleball 101, Pickleball 201, Advanced Dink and Drill Clinic, 3 and Me Custom Clinics where you bring three friends and can work with a pro to perfect your own custom needs and drills, as well as Open Plays and Round Robins available for all levels."

Owl's Nest only features outdoor pickleball courts at this time. Courts open in mid-May and usually run until mid-October, weather permitting. The venue currently has thirteen pickleball courts, eight red clay tennis courts, and four platform tennis courts.

Chiujdea talks about the unique offerings to patrons. "The newest thing we have added is an In-laws pickleball battle for our wedding resort guests. We all know that weddings can be stressful for the families involved. What better way to break the ice with your future in-laws than playing pickleball and having a great time before the actual wedding day?"

As the sport of pickleball continues to grow, pickleball facilities need to keep evolving. Owl's Nest embraces this

challenge, "We hope to host some high-level tournaments here as well as Elite Pickleball Camps," says Chiujdea. "We already have Engage Pickleball Camps, one of the famous nationwide brands of camps, doing two camps per year here at the resort, and we hope to add many more."

Being named the Number 2 pickleball resort in the world by Tennis Resorts Online is a feather in Owl's Nest's cap. Chiujdea is honored by the recognition and what it adds to the full plate of option's at the venue. "It is very nice to be acknowledged in this way. We are very proud of this achievement, and many players who visit realize quickly why we earned this accolade.

Owl's Nest is a stunning place and we encourage everyone to come and play pickleball, but also to experience the beauty that surrounds our pickleball courts - from our accommodations to restaurants and, of course, our award-winning golf course.

John Molori is an author and columnist for numerous publications. Like him on Facebook at John Molori, X @MoloriMedia. Email molorimedia@gmail.com.







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The Full Elbow Helix provides support to the elbow joint while allowing full range of motion. Use it for golfers elbow, tennis elbow, and swelling.

#### PICKLEBALL PROSHOP KILLA DINKS

Killa Dinks embodies the spirit of creativity, entrepreneurship, and the prioritization of mindfulness. As a family brand, they are built on the belief that a healthy and active lifestyle is an essential piece to reaching a fulfilling life. Killa Dinks uniqueness stems from our partnership with Umbrella Games, now known as Killaverse Productions, a leading mobile gaming and software development studio. Through this collaboration, they bring together the world of pickleball and the innovative realm of technology. Killa Dinks strives to inspire and empower individuals to unleash their full potential, both on and off the pickleball court.



#### 1 KILLA DINKS Rush Paddle Bundle | \$159 www.killadinks.com

Includes two Rush-01 paddles and a paddle eraser. Meticulously designed for players who demand the pinnacle of performance. The paddle is crafted with cutting-edge carbon fiber technology, offering unrivaled power, precision and finesse. Boasting a sleek and sophisticated design, the carbon fiber weave and striking aesthetics exude a sense of confidence and style, setting you apart from the competition. You'll not only feel like a pro but look like one too.

#### 2 KILLA DINKS Black Trucker Hat | \$30 www.killadinks.com

Our Killa Dinks Trucker Hat is the perfect combination of classic and stylish. With its snapback closure, it offers a comfortable fit for any situation! It's perfect for all - especially pickleball!

#### 3 KILLA DINKS Pickleball Bag | \$80 www.killadinks.com

The Killa Dinks Pickleball Bag is a highfashion, high-function bag designed to fit all your pickleball needs. Crafted with machine washable nylon, it features spacious compartments and adjustable straps to accommodate all your gear. With space for two paddles in the front pocket, make a statement on the court!

#### 4 KILLA DINKS Paddle Erasers | \$8 www.killadinks.com

Are you tired of compromising your pickleball paddle's pristine surface with stubborn marks and scuffs? Say goodbye to those unsightly blemishes and hello to the ultimate game-saving solution. Elevate your pickleball game and keep your paddle in peak condition with the Killa Dinks Pickleball Paddle Eraser.

#### PICKLEBALL PROSHOP ROKNE

ROKNE is a family-owned pickleball brand inspired by the unparalleled enthusiasm and love for the world's fastest growing sport. ROKNE is dedicated to providing the pickleball community with high quality products that combine cutting-edge technology with clean, sleek and vibrant designs. We pride ourselves on having the right paddle for every player.

#### ROKNE AERO BLADE | \$300 www.roknepickleball.com

The AERO BLADE 1.19 is the game's most technologically advanced paddle and the first to offer a patent pending toolless customized dampener face weighting across the paddle's balance point. This paddle features a foam injected carbon fiber mono-frame that is a precision molded single-piece power spine and handle. The Aero Blade has a tri-layered 3k carbon fiber face has a Progrit abrasive texture and a supracomfort rounded handle.





#### ROKNE TAKTICAL 13 | \$190 www.roknepickleball.com

The ROKNE Taktical Carbon 1.13 pickleball paddle is a 13MM medium weighted paddle constructed with 3K raw carbon fiber and a thermoformed foam lined edge for durability, balance and consistency. The thermoformed foam lined edge creates a stable and balanced sweet spot that provides a remarkably consistent feel. Play longer with the premium soft touch contoured cushion handle and breathable grip.



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#### ROKNE ROK STAR | \$50 www.roknepickleball.com

The ROKNE Curve Classic ROK-STAR is a lightweight paddle specifically designed for kids allowing even the smallest pickleball players the ability to control their swing and hone their technique. The advanced polypropylene honeycomb core technology features a large, responsive sweet spot that provides a consistent feel and absorbs vibrations. The handle is purposely narrow and wrapped with a premium soft touch breathable grip the handle is perfect for small hands that will never want to put their paddle down.

#### PICKLEBALL PROSHOP SQAIRZ | TYROL | KTCHN



#### SQAIRZ

XRZTM Pickleball Shoe | \$160 www.sqairz.com

Developed in collaboration with elite pickleball players and ProXR Pickleball, the SQAIRZ XRZTM pickleball shoe is designed to enhance players' performance, minimize injury risks, and withstand rigorous use, offering stability, precision, and unmatched durability. The result? A shoe that empowers athletes of all levels to play at their peak while minimizing injury risk. Available in two colorways.



#### KTCHN Court Caddy Pickleball Bag | \$300 www.ktchnpickleball.com

The Court Caddy is an ultra premium, highly functional daily bag where every inch was purposefully designed from the ground up for players of all skill levels. With room for 4 paddles, 8 balls, 2 large bottles, a laptop and so much more - it doesn't only hold your gear, it's keeps it secure and organized while being comfortable to carry and insanely good looking on and off the court. Add on a shoe caddy, front paddle sleeve and magnetic eyewear case.

#### TYROL Pickleball Shoes | \$100-\$150 www.tyrolpickleball.com

Lace up the most advanced Pickleball footwear platform designed by players for players. Tyrol has surveyed, tested, and worked with professionals to develop and market top quality pickleball specific footwear and bags. For men and women player's all skill levels can choose from multi-surface and indoor shoes in various colorways.



## FALL/WINTER AT THE OWL'S NEST RESORT NEW ENGLAND'S FOUR-SEASON RESORT

There are few places anywhere in the Northeast that offer the extensive four-season activities and amenities as the Owls Nest Resort in Thornton, New Hampshire. It has truly become one of New England's favorite resorts for travelers who want to literally have it all in one convenient location in the heart of the White Mountains National Forest.

#### Fall/Winter Season at The Owl's Nest

This is a special time of year at The Owls Nest as the winter season begins in the White Mountains. Get ready to embrace the magic of winter at Owl's Nest Resort! As the temperature drops and snow blankets our picturesque landscape, we're thrilled to offer a diverse array of exciting activities to make your winter escape unforgettable. From skiing, to snowshoeing, to skating on our 10-acre Lake, to snowmobiling, dogsledding and winter hiking. Our resort offers a wide array of accommodations for your friends and family, from home rentals to Lakeside Village Suites and guest rooms in our Lakeside Lafayette Lodge. After a full day of outdoor fun Owls Nest offers numerous choices of restaurants, sports bars and weekly entertainment. Bring your golf clubs and visit Slice Pizzeria & Sports Bar where there are two new aboutGOLF, indoor golf simulators for guest to play some of the top courses in the world, or just practice. The holidays are a special time at the Owls Nest with numerous winter events and special activities for all.

#### New Updates on Resort Expansion Plan

Owl's Nest Resort, New England's newest four-season resort and home to New Hampshire's only Nicklaus Design golf course and award-winning racquet sports facility, is proud to announce the opening of 3 new business establishments. Slice Pizzeria & Sports Bar, located next to the resort's award-winning Panorama Six82 Restaurant, is a 4,000 square foot Italian wood-fired pizzeria with a full menu for dine in or on-the-go patrons. It features 10 big screen TV's, 2 aboutGolf simulators, a huge center bar and expansive deck overlooking the 10th and 18th greens. Butch's Brooklyn Deli & Provisions will be the resort's one-stop shop for gourmet deli sandwiches, local coffee and various culinary offerings. It will also offer household and dining needs for visitors, resort guests and homeowners. The Sports Nest, currently the golf pro shop, is being expanded to hold the new Well-Nest Spa & Rejuvenation Center and a new racquet pro shop with a viewing deck overlooking the championship pickleball courts. The spa will provide space for relaxation and replenishment, with IV therapies, state of the art acoustic sound wave therapy and luxurious massages and facials.

In addition to our famous Arnold Palmer championship golf course, the newly branded Owl's Nest Vineyard Course (formerly White Mountain Country Club) is currently undergoing a course redesign under the supervision of Robert McNeil and Northeast Golf Company. The Vineyard Course will also have a 10-acre vineyard, a new restaurant, function facilities, and new townhomes are also planned at the property. Also underway is The Hoot, a new 9-hole championship course. There will be 45 holes for golf enthusiasts at the resort when completed, the most at any resort in New England.

"We are delighted to be adding the spa, new racquet headquarters and these new dining establishments to our resort, says Brad McCoil, the resorts General Manager. "They will play an integral part in our vision of creating a true New England playground. These two dining options are the perfect complement to our already robust food offerings and the spa will help define us as a four-star resort. Now both guests and homeowners can enjoy all our recreational offerings without ever having to leave the resort."

#### About Our Four-Season Resort

The Owl's Nest is truly a full four-season resort so there is never an offseason here at the Nest. The Owl's Nest is home to 25 racquet courts including 8 clay tennis courts, 13 pickleball courts, and 4 radiant heated platform tennis courts. The resort's Lake Harold is the largest man-made recreational lake in New Hampshire. Fishing, boating, swimming, paddleboarding, and other watersports are all offered at the facility. In addition, the resort has added a new Olympic-sized pool and Jacuzzi complex adjacent to the newly completed Boathouse. It currently features an outdoor swimming pool and jacuzzi, boat rentals, indoor and outdoor showers, radiated heat decks, locker room facilities, and beach access, with plans to open a poolside bar and seafood restaurant. The resort's main restaurant, Panorama Six82, is open daily for lunch and dinner, Slice Sports Bar & Pizzeria with games and golf simulators, and Butch's Deli & Provisions for snacks, supplies, and lighter fare. If you have gone electric with your ride, there are 10 Tesla superchargers at the resort for quick charging.

#### The Owl's Nest Living Community

The Owl's Nest master plan organizes the homes around communal outdoor spaces all connected by multi-use trails. At Waterscapes each home is nestled perfectly throughout the resort, giving you spectacular views of the White Mountains. The proximity of the Owl's Nest gives you full access to all the White Mountain's major attractions and tourist areas while living in a quiet private resort community. These new mountain homes offer open floor plans, light-filled homes, designed with luxury features, and modern conveniences for perfect four-season mountain living. **www.waterscapesnh.com** 

The Owl's Nest Resort is in New Hampshire's White Mountains, less than two hours north of Boston and one hour from Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. The Nest is situated on 600+ acres with spectacular panoramic mountain and forest views.

For more information on Owl's Nest Resort, please visit www.owlsnestresort.com or call 603.726.3076





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