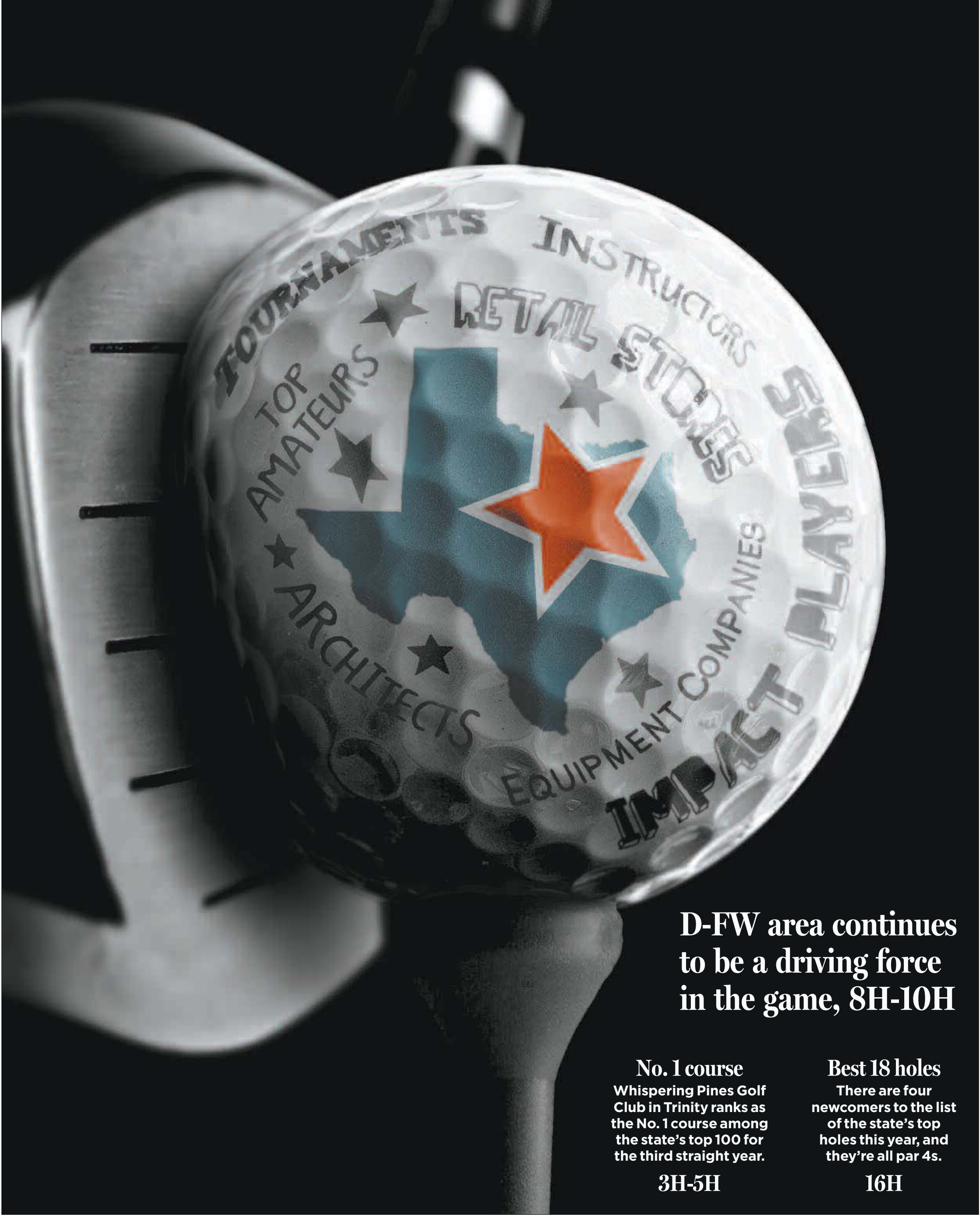


Golftown



D-FW area continues
to be a driving force
in the game, 8H-10H

No. 1 course
Whispering Pines Golf
Club in Trinity ranks as
the No. 1 course among
the state's top 100 for
the third straight year.

3H-5H

Best 18 holes
There are four
newcomers to the list
of the state's top
holes this year, and
they're all par 4s.

MICHAEL HOGUE/Staff Artist

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1990 *Poker champion Amarillo Slim's four-hole par-3 layout in his back yard is selected as the Unique Course.*

A story about outfitting a beginning golfer figures it would cost from \$583.34 for the least-expensive equipment to \$2,543 for high-tech gear.



A great score: 20 years of Texas Golf

By MARK KAZLOWSKI
Staff Writer
mkazlowski@dallasnews.com

From the seed of an idea in 1989, Texas Golf sprouted into what it has become today.

The original thought was to determine the best courses in the state. That quickly evolved into a ranking of the 50 best courses in the state, the 25 best public courses in the state and the 10 best resort courses. Oh, and while we're at it, let's identify the 18 best holes, 18 most beautiful holes and 18 toughest holes.

In the next 19 years, there has been much growth, along with some pruning, but the basic elements that you see today, in the 20th edition of Texas Golf, appeared in that first edition.

For the inaugural Texas Golf section, a panel of 17 experts, including former PGA Tour players Byron Nelson, Don January and Charles Coody, nominated 97 courses. Each panelist then ranked the courses on the ballot from one to 50. In those days,

THE ORIGINAL 17

The first Texas Golf panel was made up of 17 men. LPGA Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth was on the original panel but did not participate because she hadn't seen enough of the courses nominated. The panel members with their roles in 1989 or a notable part of their résumés:

Joe Black: Former president of PGA of America
Duke Butler: Exec. director, Houston Golf Association
Charles Coody: Won three times on the PGA Tour, including the 1971 Masters
Sherwin Cox: Head pro, Ross Rogers G.C., Amarillo
Ben Crenshaw: Won 19 times on the PGA Tour, including two Masters

Don January: Won 10 times on the PGA Tour, including the 1967 PGA Championship
Buddy Kalencki: Head pro, Harlingen Country Club
Bill Kay: Executive director, Dallas Publinox Association
James McAfee: Executive director, Northern Texas PGA
Byron Nelson: World Golf Hall of Fame member
Bill Penn: Executive director, Texas Golf Association

Bob Putt: Master professional at the Club at Sonterra
Mike Ray: Executive director, Southern Texas PGA
Randy Smith: Head pro, Royal Oaks Country Club
Earl Stewart: Retired SMU golf coach; won PGA Tour event as a club pro
Harless Wade: SportsDay golf writer
Dave Williams: Retired Houston golf coach

Fifty." It remained in that spot for six more years. Colonial returned to No. 1 in 2003-04 and holds the record of nine years atop the rankings, followed by Crown Colony Country Club in Lufkin and Whispering Pines in Trinity. Crown Colony, which debuted at No. 3, has been

No. 1 four times. Whispering Pines is No. 1 for the third year in a row. Champions Golf Club's Cypress Course in Houston was No. 1 twice. Barton Creek's Fazio Foothills and Vaquero Club in Westlake were each No. 1 for one year.

Among the features that have remained staples of the section over the years are the 18 best holes, the 18 most beautiful holes and the 25 best nine-hole courses.

Some staples have evolved. For the first time, the rankings have expanded to a top 100. The top 50 courses you can play is new this year. A few years back, four new lists of public courses were created. In the beginning, lists of public courses were divided by categories such as municipal, daily fee and resort. Now, public courses are ranked by price points so that courses that charge similar fees compete against each other.

Texas Golf is a perennial, something that grows and blossoms every spring.



A WORK OF ART

Here is how staff artist **MICHAEL HOGUE** created the image on Pages 8-9H to show the theme of the D-FW area being Golftown, Texas: "To compile all of the diverse information into a single image was a challenge. I worked with editors to compile images of local golf personalities, and decided to collage the photos with ink line drawings into a single image that appeared to be a golfer and an entire industry within the same image."



GOLF COVERAGE AT DALLASNEWS.COM/SPORTS

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U.S. SENIOR AMATEUR AT SHADY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

Date: Sept. 20-25 **Qualifications:** Entrants must be at least age 55 and have a USGA handicap of 7.4 or lower. **Format:** 36 holes of stroke play; top 64 advance to match play

Event visits Hogan home

Course that legend helped design to host U.S. Senior Amateur

By RANDY JENNINGS
Staff Writer
rjennings@dallasnews.com

FORT WORTH — Shady Oaks Country Club's trump card for landing the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship was Ben Hogan.

For 39 years, until his death in July 1997, Hogan was a dues-paying member at Shady Oaks.

Colonial Country Club, Shady Oaks' more famous neighbor six miles to the southeast, gained the nickname "Hogan's Alley."

Shady Oaks was more like Hogan's living room.

Hogan was involved in the design of the course. He practiced and played at Shady Oaks and was a fixture in the grillroom.

What was good enough for Hogan should be good enough for the U.S. Senior Amateur, the U.S. Golf Association decided.

"The tournament is another way to promote the Hogan legacy," said tournament general chairman Denny Alexander, a Shady Oaks member. "People remain fascinated with the Hogan story. We want to preserve his part in our history."

It's fitting that players age 55 and over were deemed appropriate for an event at Shady Oaks.

"Being an older, traditional course, we're well-suited for this tournament," Alexander said. "The Hogan connection with Shady Oaks will mean more to the older guys."

SHADY OAKS CC

Location: Fort Worth
Opened: 1958
Cost to build: \$4 million
Architect: Robert Trent Jones
Founding owner: Marvin Leonard (sold club to members in 1969)
Par, yardage: Par 71, 6,804 yards
Current membership: 440
Did you know? Among the countless Hogan artifacts in the clubhouse is a framed scorecard from a round in 1977 when Hogan shot his age, 64. He birdied five of his last six holes to shoot 30 on the second nine. ... The club submitted its bid to host a USGA championship four years ago and was told it would have to wait until 2009. However, problems arose at The Beverly CC in Chicago, the USGA's first choice for the Senior Amateur this year.

It's a departure for the club to host the event, but the time is right, director of golf Mike Wright said.

"We have a membership that wants to give back to the game because we're proud of our facility," Wright said. "Because of the club's connection to Mr. Hogan, the course is in the international spotlight."

Wright anticipates a building of camaraderie among club members while putting on the tournament. Alexander said as many as 200 of the 440 members could be directly involved.

Shrines to Hogan abound. Outside the clubhouse is a statue of a hawk (Hogan's nickname). His locker, encased in glass, is preserved and on display in the clubhouse. The walls are rich with Hogan memorabilia.



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/Staff Photographer

Ben Hogan's locker, kept intact since he died, is on display in the Shady Oaks clubhouse.

Twist an arm and you might get a Hogan story.

When Wright, at 23, interviewed for his job, Hogan loaned him his sport coat, edited his letter of application and prepped him for interviewers' questions.

"I tell the story not to brag on myself," Wright said, "but to show the other side of Mr. Hogan. That's a side of him that isn't publicized too much."

A lot has changed about Shady Oaks since Hogan's death.

There's a new clubhouse, built after fire damaged the old one.

Subtle changes are made to the course year by year to maintain pace with improvements in equipment while keeping it playable for the members.

"Our course is different from the modern ones," Wright said. "But it is challenging. When you mix in Southern hospitality, we think we have something special."

"We want to have a tournament that would make Mr. Hogan proud."

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TEXAS

The U.S. Senior Amateur will be the 24th U.S. Golf Association national championship for individuals held in Texas. The rundown:

Year	Event	Course	City
1941	Open	Colonial CC	Fort Worth
1952	Open	Northwood Club	Dallas
1954	Amateur Public Links	Cedar Crest GC	Dallas
1968	Amateur Public Links	Tenison Park GC	Dallas
1969	Open	Champions GC	Houston
1969	Girls Junior	Brookhaven CC	Dallas
1969	Women's Amateur	Las Colinas CC	Irving
1969	Senior Women's Amateur	Ridglea CC	Fort Worth
1972	Junior Amateur	Brookhaven CC	Dallas
1981	Amateur Public Links	Bear Creek GW	Houston
1987	Mid-Amateur	Brook Hollow GC	Dallas
1989	Women's Mid-Amateur	The Hills CC	Austin
1989	Senior Amateur	Lochinvar GC	Houston
1989	Senior Women's Amateur	TPC Course	The Woodlands
1991	Women's Open	Colonial CC	Fort Worth
1993	Amateur	Champions GC	Houston
1997	Mid-Amateur	Dallas Athletic Club	Dallas
1998	Women's Mid-Amateur	Champions GC	Houston
2001	Amateur Public Links	Pecan Valley GC	San Antonio
2001	Junior Amateur	Oak Hills CC	San Antonio
2003	Senior Women's Amateur	Barton Creek	Austin
2004	Girls Junior	Mira Vista GC	Fort Worth
2005	Women's Mid-Amateur	Shadow Hawk GC	Richmond
2008	Senior Amateur	Shady Oaks CC	Fort Worth

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20 TWENTY YEARS OF TEXAS GOLF

1992 The cover features a photograph of Texas legends Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson in a rare reunion to commemorate both turning 80.

1993 The cover features a photograph of Justin Leonard, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion, and Tom Kite, the reigning U.S. Open champ.



NO. 1 COURSE: WHISPERING PINES, TRINITY

TRIPLE CROWN

By RICHARD DURRETT
Staff Writer
rdurrett@dallasnews.com

Whispering Pines Golf Club founder Corby Robertson Jr. has a theory as to why the course is on top of *The News'* state golf rankings for the third consecutive year.

"We keep looking at ways to make it a better place," Robertson said. "I notice they are continually improving Augusta National and Pine Valley, and those are two of the best courses in the world. So you have to keep working to stay current."

Texas Golf Top 100, 4H-5H

Robertson's layout, cut into a parcel of land in Trinity that includes Lake Livingston and hundreds of tall, vibrant pines, remains exclusive. It's closed nearly half the year, which helps keep the course in great shape and allows members to play it when the weather is at its best. The club makes minor alterations each time the course closes, whether that's a new tee box on No. 1 that gives players a chance to hit driver without blasting it through the fairway, or more flowers planted throughout the property.

"There are some great courses in this state, but Whispering Pines is different," head golf professional Chris Rowe said. "It's a unique



WHISPERING PINES

Opened: March 2000
Designer: Chet Williams (Nicklaus Designs)
Length: 7,480 yards from the tips (also tees of 6,695 and 6,020)
Notable: Five holes are among the 18 voted best in Texas, and four were voted most beautiful. ... The final six holes run along Caney Creek and Lake Livingston.

piece of land. Nothing is manufactured. It's just nature."

Rowe and Robertson know staying No. 1 with the voting panel isn't easy. Dallas National was once again the No. 2 course in the state, .133 of a point behind Whispering Pines in the voting. Colonial Country Club's classic venue was fourth

and Vaquero Golf Club finished fifth. The top 13 courses were separated by less than one point.

The top 20 saw a considerable shakeup as three courses graced the rankings for the first time. That group included the No. 3 course in the state, Boot Ranch, a golf village started by PGA Tour veteran Hal Sutton. The course, near Fredericksburg, vaulted high on the list less than two years after the first tee shot was hit on the property. Sutton said the course's ability to challenge good golfers and at the same time be fair to those learning the game is a big reason for its success.

"I wanted to pat the golfer on the back, not black his eye," said Sutton, whose course opened in May 2006 and was among the best new courses in Texas Golf 2007. "I wanted to teach him about golf."

Sutton said he achieved that goal by paying attention to every detail, which included climbing aboard the equipment and moving some of the dirt while the course was built. Sutton wanted most of the holes to work subtly downhill.

"The worst evil in the game is a reverse pivot, and that happens because golfers going uphill think they have to help the loft of the ball," Sutton said. "Hitting downhill makes it more comfortable for the golfer."

Sutton staggered fairway bunkers so the landing areas were tiny from the tee, but he put small



No. 7 at Whispering Pines Golf Club is an example of the natural setting.

Stephen J. Pyle III

"There are some great courses in this state, but Whispering Pines is different. ... It's just nature."

Chris Rowe, head professional, Whispering Pines Golf Club

greens with subtle breaks to make accurate approach shots a key to scoring well. Sutton also limited the greenside bunkers, giving golfers bigger chipping areas.

"Good players want to be in bunkers and average players don't," Sutton said. "Chipping isn't intimidating to the eye but challenges all golfers."

Boot Ranch wasn't the only challenging course to make the rankings for the first time in 2008. Escondido, *The News'* top new

course in 2007, was ranked No. 8 by the panel this year. The Tom Fazio-designed course (joining Dallas National and Vaquero Club as his third course in the top eight) accentuates the beauty of the Texas Hill Country. Fazio uses the oaks, streams and wild grasses to provide a nice, natural setting for golfers.

"The overall condition is phenomenal and the layout is great for all levels of play," said Shawn Strohmman, head golf professional at the course. "The customer service is

great and people are blown away when they get here."

Miramont Country Club in Bryan made its rankings debut at No. 11. The course was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and is part of a 1,000-acre property that includes luxury homes and a 95,000-square-foot clubhouse that looks like a castle. The course is highlighted by undulating greens and several risk-reward holes (two driveable par-4s surrounded by water hazards).

"I think our club and many of the more recent ones popping up in the state have great courses and facilities, but also an attention to customer service," said Brad Lardon, Miramont's director of golf. "That's an important part of making the experience a good one for everyone."


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THE TOP 50

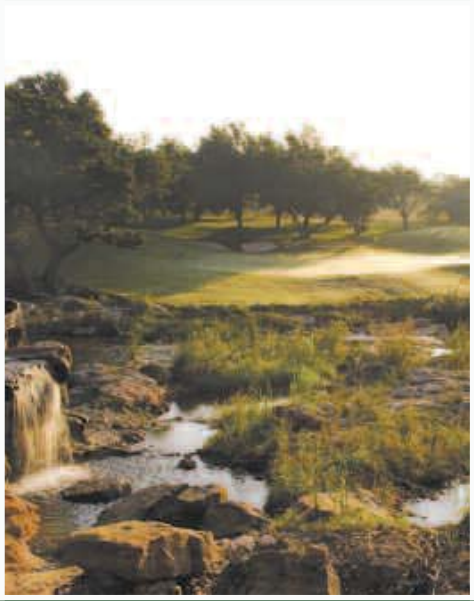
2. DALLAS NATIONAL

The Southwest Dallas course designed by Tom Fazio features dramatic elevation changes.

FILE 2005/Studiographix

The rankings are determined by the average scores of ratings by members of *The Dallas Morning News*' Texas Golf panel. (See page 7H for a list of panel members.) Panel members rated courses on a 1-10 scale. To be eligible for the Top 100, a course needed to be rated by 25 percent of the panel members who participated. For this year's rankings, 87 panel members participated, so a course needed 22 votes to be eligible. (x-original design; y-redesign; NR-not ranked)

Rk. Course	Location	Type	Designer	Year open	Par	Yardage	2007 rank
1. Whispering Pines Golf Club	Trinity	Private	Chet Williams/Nicklaus Design Group	1999	72	7,330	1
2. Dallas National Golf Club	Dallas	Private	Tom Fazio	2002	72	7,372	2
3. Boot Ranch	Fredericksburg	Private	Hal Sutton	2006	71	7,135	NR
4. Colonial Country Club	Fort Worth	Private	Perry Maxwell, Ralph Plummer, John Bredemus	1936	70	7,054	3
5. Vaquero Club	Westlake	Private	Tom Fazio	2001	71	7,064	5
6. Brook Hollow Golf Club	Dallas	Private	A.W. Tillinghast	1920	71	6,703	4
7. Preston Trail Golf Club	Dallas	Private	Byron Nelson, Ralph Plummer	1965	72	7,021	6
8. Escondido	Horseshoe Bay	Private	Tom Fazio	2006	71	7,165	NR
9. Champions Golf Club, Cypress Course	Houston	Private	Ralph Plummer	1957	71	7,301	8
10. Carlton Woods, Nicklaus Course	The Woodlands	Private	Jack Nicklaus	2001	72	7,402	7
11. Miramont Country Club	Bryan	Private	Robert Trent Jones Jr.	2004	72	7,170	NR
12. Carlton Woods, Fazio Course	The Woodlands	Private	Tom Fazio	2005	72	7,358	9
13. TPC Craig Ranch	McKinney	Private	Tom Weiskopf	2004	71	7,438	13
14. Walden Golf Club	Montgomery	Private	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1976	72	6,756	18
15. Shadow Hawk Golf Club	Richmond	Private	Rees Jones	1999	72	7,207	10
16. Lochinvar Golf Club	Houston	Private	Jack Nicklaus	1980	72	7,008	15
17. Northwood Club	Dallas	Private	x-William H. Diddel; y-Tom Weiskopf, Jay Morrish	1946	71	6,861	20
18. Spanish Oaks	Bee Cave	Private	Bobby Weed	2001	71	6,954	16
19. River Oaks Country Club	Houston	Private	x-Donald Ross; y-Rees Jones	1923	72	6,865	19
20. Crown Colony Country Club	Lufkin	Public	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1978	72	6,692	11
21. Austin Golf Club	Spicewood	Private	Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw	2001	70	6,950	14
22. Champions Golf Club, Jackrabbit Course	Houston	Private	x-George Fazio; y-Tom Fazio	1957	71	7,021	20s
23. Shady Oaks Country Club	Fort Worth	Private	Robert Trent Jones Jr.	1958	71	6,804	20s
24. Pine Dunes Resort	Frankston	Resort	Jay Morrish	2001	72	7,117	17
25. Barton Creek Resort, Fazio Foothills	Austin	Resort	Tom Fazio	1986	72	7,215	12
26. Houston Country Club	Houston	Private	x-Robert Trent Jones Sr.; y-Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw	1955	72	6,996	20s
27. Austin Country Club	Austin	Private	Pete Dye	1984	72	6,906	20s
28. Traditions Golf Course and Country Club	Bryan	Private	Jack Nicklaus	2004	72	7,146	NR
29. Royal Oaks Country Club	Dallas	Private	x-Billy Martindale, Don January; y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1969	71	7,068	20s
30. Briggs Ranch Golf Club	San Antonio	Private	Tom Fazio	2002	72	7,247	20s
31. Barton Creek Resort, Fazio Canyons	Austin	Resort	Tom Fazio	2000	72	7,153	20s
32. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Ram Rock Course	Horseshoe Bay	Resort	Robert Trent Jones St.	1981	71	6,926	30s
33. Oak Hills Country Club	San Antonio	Private	A.W. Tillinghast	1922	71	6,765	30s
34. Stonebridge Ranch Country Club, Dye Course	McKinney	Resort	Pete Dye	1988	72	7,346	30s
35. Deerwood Country Club	Kingwood	Private	Joe Finger, Ken Dye	1982	72	7,108	20s
36. Gentle Creek Golf Club	Prosper	Private	D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	2002	72	7,317	20s
37. Dallas Athletic Club, Blue Course	Dallas	Private	x-Ralph Plummer; y-Jack Nicklaus	1954	72	6,906	NR
38. Mira Vista Country Club	Fort Worth	Private	Tom Weiskopf, Jay Morrish	1987	71	6,892	30s
39. Redstone Golf Club, Tournament Course	Houston	Public	Rees Jones, David Toms	2005	72	7,422	30s
40. Comanche Trace	Kerrville	Private	Tom Kite, Roy Bechtol, Randy Russell	2000	72	7,103	30s
41. The Hills Country Club, The Hills Course	Austin	Private	Jack Nicklaus	1981	72	7,035	20s
42. The Cascades	Tyler	Private	Mark Hayes	1956	71	6,944	NR
43. Midland Country Club	Midland	Private	Ralph Plummer	1927	72	7,354	NR
44. Cimarron Hills Golf & Country Club	Georgetown	Private	Jack Nicklaus	2002	72	7,302	40s
45. Lakewood Country Club	Dallas	Private	x-Tom Bendelow; y-Ralph Plummer (1947) y-Ben Crenshaw, Bill Coore (1994)	1912	71	6,713	NR
46. The Woodlands Country Club, East Course	The Woodlands	Private	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1985	72	7,018	50s
47. University of Texas Golf Club	Austin	Private	Roy Bechtol, Randy Russell	2003	71	7,250	40s
48. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Applerock Course	Horseshoe Bay	Resort	Robert Trent Jones Sr.	1985	72	6,999	30s
49. The Houstonian Golf & Country Club	Richmond	Private	Rees Jones	1999	72	7,110	40s
50. Lakeside Country Club	Houston	Private	x-Ralph Plummer; y-Ron Pritchard	1951	72	7,007	30s



Joann Dost

3. BOOT RANCH

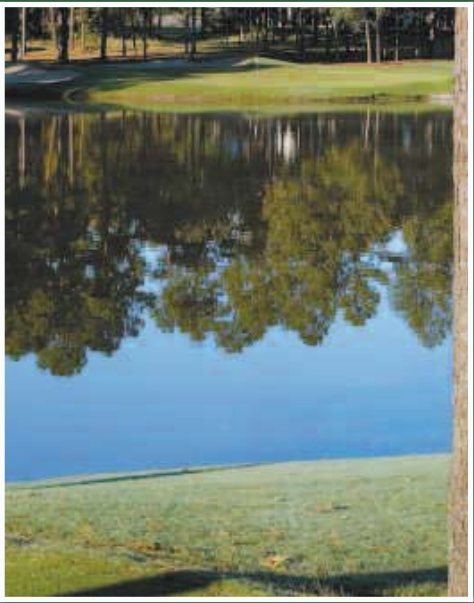
Hal Sutton's course near Fredericksburg makes its debut in Texas Golf rankings. The Hill Country course opened in 2006.



FILE 2007/Escondido

8. ESCONDIDO

Last year's Best New Course debuts at No. 8 and gives Tom Fazio three courses in the top 10.



FILE 2002/Staff photo

20. CROWN COLONY COUNTRY CLUB

The venerable course in Lufkin is the top-ranked course open to the public.



TWENTY YEARS OF TEXAS GOLF

1994
 The cover story celebrates Texas’ rich history of outstanding golfers from Jackie Burke to Babe Zaharias. ... Colonial reigns atop the Top 50 courses for the sixth straight year, with Crown Colony at No. 2.

51. REDSTONE GOLF CLUB, MEMBER COURSE

The course designed by Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy hosted the Shell Houston Open from 2003 to 2005, when it moved to Redstone’s Tournament Course.



Redstone Golf Club

Rk. Course	Location	Type	Designer	Year open	Par	Yardage	2007 rank
51. Redstone Golf Club, Member Course	Humble	Private	Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy	2003	72	7,508	40s
52. Dallas Country Club	Dallas	Private	x-Tom Bendelow; y-Jay Morrish	1912	70	6,266	NR
53. The Rawls Course	Lubbock	Public	Tom Doak	2003	72	7,207	NR
54. Bent Tree Country Club	Dallas	Private	x-Desmond Muirhead, y-Keith Foster	1973	71	7,091	30s
55. Stonebriar Country Club, Country Club Course	Frisco	Private	Ken Dye, Joe Finger	1988	72	7,064	40s
56. Dallas Athletic Club, Gold Course	Dallas	Private	x-Ralph Plummer, y-Jack Nicklaus	1961	72	7,181	NR
57. Cowboys Golf Club	Grapevine	Public	Jeffrey D. Brauer	2001	72	7,017	40s
58. Riverhill Country Club	Kerrville	Private	Joe Finger, Byron Nelson	1974	72	6,855	NR
59. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Slick Rock Course	Horseshoe Bay	Resort	Robert Trent Jones Sr.	1974	72	6,834	40s
60. The Tribute	The Colony	Public	Tripp Davis	2000	72	7,002	40s
61. Bentwater Country Club, Miller Course	Lake Conroe	Private	Scott Miller	1992	72	6,809	NR
62. Cypresswood Golf Club, Tradition Course	Spring	Public	Keith Foster	1997	72	7,220	NR
63. Royal Oaks Country Club	Houston	Private	Fred Couples, Brian Curley	2000	72	7,007	30s
64. Resort Course at La Cantera	San Antonio	Resort	Tom Weiskopf, Jay Morrish	1995	72	7,021	NR
65. Pecan Valley Golf Course	San Antonio	Public	J. Press Maxwell	1963	71	7,110	NR
66. Columbian Country Club	Carrollton	Private	x-Ralph Plummer; y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1952	72	7018	NR
67. Waterwood National Resort & Golf Course	Huntsville	Resort	Pete Dye	1974	72	7,038	40s
68. The Woodlands CC, The Player Golf Course	The Woodlands	Private	Gary Player	2002	72	7162	NR
69. The Clubs of Kingwood, Island Course	Humble	Private	Joe Finger	1974	72	7,253	NR
70. Stonebridge Ranch, Hills Course	McKinney	Private	Arthur Hills	1988	72	7,087	NR
71. Palmer Course at La Cantera	San Antonio	Resort	Arnold Palmer	2001	71	6,926	NR
72. Barton Creek, Palmer Lakeside	Spicewood	Resort	Arnold Palmer	1986	71	6,645	NR
73. The Golf Club of Texas at Briggs Ranch	San Antonio	Public	Lee Trevino, Ray Bechtol, Randy Russell	2000	72	7,022	NR
74. BlackHorse Golf Club, North Course	Cypress	Public	Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy	2000	72	7,301	NR
75. Las Colinas Country Club	Irving	Private	Joe Finger	1963	71	6,809	NR
76. Texas Star Golf Course	Euless	Public	Keith Foster	1997	71	6,936	NR
77. The Club at Sonterra, North Course	San Antonio	Private	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1985	72	7,070	NR
78. The Hills Country Club, Flintrock Falls	Austin	Private	Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus Jr.	2002	72	7,051	NR
79. Stonebriar Resort, Fazio Course	Frisco	Resort	Tom Fazio	2000	72	7,257	NR
80. Westwood Country Club	Houston	Private	Keith Foster	2004	72	6,989	NR
81. Memorial Park Golf Course	Houston	Public	x-John Bredemus; y-Dave Marr, Jay Riviere (1994)	1936	72	7305	NR
82. The Quarry	San Antonio	Public	Keith Foster	1993	72	6,740	NR
83. Gleneagles Country Club, Queens Course	Plano	Private	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1985	71	6,901	NR
84. Pine Forest Country Club	Houston	Private	Jay Riviere	1975	72	6,813	NR
85. Golf Club of Dallas (formerly Oak Cliff CC)	Dallas	Private	x-J. Press and Perry Maxwell y-Charles Coody (2001)	1953	70	6,719	NR
86. Hyatt Hill Country Resort	San Antonio	Resort	Arthur Hills	1993	72	6,913	NR
87. Ridglea Country Club, North Course	Fort Worth	Private	x-John Bredemus; y-Jay Morrish	1928	71	6,467	NR
88. The Cliffs Resort, Possum Kingdom	Graford	Resort	Robert von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1988	71	6,808	NR
89. Sherrill Park Golf Course No. 1	Richardson	Public	x-Leon Howard, Buster Creagh; y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1973	72	6,905	NR
90. Lantana Golf Club	Lantana	Public	Jay Morrish, Carter Morrish	2002	72	7,147	NR
91. BlackHorse, South Course	Cypress	Public	Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy	2000	72	7,171	NR
92. Canyon Springs Golf Club	San Antonio	Public	Thomas Walker	1998	72	7,077	NR
93. Canongate at the Woodlands, Panther Trail	The Woodlands	Public	x-Robert von Hagge, Joe Lee; y-Roy Case (2002)	1978	72	7,044	NR
94. Lubbock Country Club	Lubbock	Private	x-Warren Cantrell, Gene Mitchell Sr. y-George Williams (1995)	1921	72	7,067	NR
95. Garden Valley Golf Club	Lindale	Public	John Sanford	1992	72	6,754	NR
96. The Clubs of Kingwood, Forest Course	Humble	Private	Ken Dye	1992	72	7,092	NR
97. Ridglea Country Club, South Course	Fort Worth	Private	x-Ralph Plummer; y-Jay Morrish	1955	72	7,125	NR
98. Dominion Country Club	San Antonio	Private	Bill Johnston	1984	72	6,827	NR
99. Amarillo Country Club	Amarillo	Private	x-William McConnell; y-Warren Cantrell, y-Jay Morrish	1919	71	6,501	NR
100. Tierra Verde Golf Club	Arlington	Public	Gary Stephenson, Graham Panks Intl.	1998	72	6,975	NR

x-original design; y-renovation

THE TOP 50 COURSES YOU CAN PLAY

The top 50 courses open to the public. To be eligible for the list, course must have been voted on by at least 10 panel members:

1. Crown Colony Country Club, Lufkin

2. Pine Dunes Resort, Frankston

3. Barton Creek Resort, Fazio Foothills, Austin

4. Wolfdancer Golf Club, Lost Pines

5. Barton Creek Resort, Canyons Course, Austin

6. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Ram Rock Course

7. Redstone GC, Tournament Course, Houston

8. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Applerock Course

9. The Rawls Course, Lubbock

10. River Ridge Golf Course, Sealy

11. Cowboys Golf Club, Grapevine

12. Horseshoe Bay Resort, Slick Rock Course

13. The Tribute Golf Club, The Colony

14. Cypresswood Golf Club, Tradition, Spring

15. Resort Course at La Cantera, San Antonio

16. Pecan Valley Golf Club, San Antonio

17. Waterwood National Resort, Huntsville
18. Links at Lands End, Yantis

19. Palmer Course at La Cantera, San Antonio

20. Barton Creek, Palmer Lakeside, Spicewood

21. BlackHorse, North Course, Cypress

22. Texas Star Golf Course, Euless

23. Stonebriar Resort, Fazio Course, Frisco

24. Memorial Park Golf Course, Houston

25. Blaketree National, Montgomery

26. The Quarry, San Antonio

27. Meadowbrook Farms, Katy

28. Texarkana Golf Ranch, Texarkana

29. High Meadow Ranch, Magnolia

30. Hyatt Hill Country Resort, San Antonio

31. The Cliffs Resort, Possum Kingdom, Graford

32. Sherrill Park Golf Course, No. 1, Richardson

33. Lantana Golf Club, Lantana

34. Canyon Springs, San Antonio
35. BlackHorse, South Course, Cypress

36. Canongate at the Woodlands, Panther Trail

37. Garden Valley Golf Club, Lindale

38. Gleannloch Farms, Spring

39. Houston National Golf Club

40. Tierra Verde Golf Club, Arlington

41. The Republic, San Antonio

42. Tenison Highlands, Dallas

43. Cedar Creek, San Antonio

44. Teravista Golf Club, Round Rock

45. The Golf Club at Star Ranch, Hutto

46. Squaw Valley, Comanche Lakes, Glen Rose

47. Hawks Creek Golf Club, Fort Worth

48. SilverHorn, San Antonio

49. Woodforest Golf Club at Fish Creek, Montgomery

50. Barton Creek Resort, Crenshaw Cliffside, Austin

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1995 *The Kuehnes are featured. Kelli had won the U.S. Girls Junior and Trip was runner-up to Tiger Woods in the '94 U.S. Amateur.*

1996 *Tradition-rich Champions in Houston leaps past Colonial and Crown Colony to take over the top spot among the 50 best courses.*



WHAT'S NEW

Northward expansion

Long drivers can look forward to two challenging new courses

By MARK KAZLOWSKI
Staff Writer
mkazlowski@dallasnews.com

While the pace of new course construction in North Texas has slowed markedly, it is notable that two new courses scheduled to open this year are about 14 miles apart in Grayson County. Both are centerpieces of master-planned communities.

Sherman Hills Golf Club was designed by California-based architect Cal Olson. It is scheduled to open April 1.

John Stovall, the director of golf at Sherman Hills, said the course, which is visible from U.S. Highway 75 on the eastern edge of the property, has been ready to play since 2006. It features bentgrass greens. A cart barn was under construction in late January, and a temporary clubhouse will follow, Stovall said.

The Bridges at Preston Crossings in Gunter is Bluegreen Communities' fourth Fred Couples signature course for the company. It was designed by Jeffrey D. Brauer of Arlington's Golfscapes and is scheduled to open the first week of July.

Both courses will be open to the public and will challenge the longest hitters. Sherman Hills measures 7,428 yards from the tips and 6,833 from the gold tees. The Bridges will be nearly 7,500 yards. Many of those compact tee boxes are a short hike from the gold tees, which will play at 6,921 yards.

This is the first Texas foray for Olson. Brauer has more than a dozen new courses and renovations in North Texas on his résumé, including Cowboys Golf Club in Grapevine.

Some of Preston Crossings' devilishly undulating greens will be familiar to those who have played other Brauer creations. He has included some traditional elements such as rectangular tee boxes.

"Most of these tees are just kind of set there, which is an old-fashioned kind of look," Brauer said. "It's very

practical. As I get older, the idea of not climbing up to a tee really starts to appeal to me."

The design also gives players plenty of options in closely mowed areas around the miniverde Bermuda greens.

One of the most unusual holes is No. 6, which plays at 325 yards from the tips and 296 from the gold tees. The green is a reverse of the Road Hole at St. Andrews in Scotland. The pot bunker is on right instead of left, and there is a long bunker on left side of a small green, which features severe undulations.

Bluegreen Communities is developing the 1,597 acres of the former Martin Ranch just east of Gunter. It will have about 2,000 home sites when it is complete. Construction on the first home was to begin early this month. The clubhouse, which will sit above a par-5 18th hole that requires two shots over water, is expected to be completed in the fall.

"We bet the proverbial ranch on the growth continuing," Tom Powers, president of Bluegreen Golf, said of the corridor north of U.S. Highway 380 between McKinney and Denton.



DAMEON RUNNELS/Staff Artist

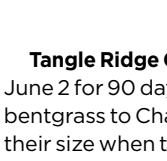
New Course coming in 2009

If all goes well, the **New Course at The Tribute** will open in June 2009, nine years after its sister course, The Tribute, opened and 10 years after designer Tripp Davis completed the routing plan for both courses.

The Tribute is Davis' homage to Scottish golf. The New Course will be his tribute to esteemed U.S. courses in the Northeast such as Shinnecock Hills.

"The first golf course, the original design was to give American golfers a look at the old-style architecture, and at the time I thought it would be interesting to do one that was early American architecture," said Davis, who will work on the New Course with PGA Tour veteran Justin Leonard. Eight holes will be on the water.

"We're going to make it look like it's been here for 100 years," Davis said.



Tripp Davis

Tangle Ridge Golf Club in Grand Prairie will close June 2 for 90 days. The greens will be converted from bentgrass to Champions Bermuda and restored to their size when the course opened in 1994.

Columbian Country Club in Carrollton is now **Honors Golf Club Dallas**. The new name isn't the only change. A new clubhouse will be built, and Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates has been brought in for some renovations to the course that will include additional length and refurbishing of tees, bunkers and greens.

The Golf Club at Frisco Lakes opened in December 2007. The Gary Stephenson design is part of the Del Webb Active Adult Community. The temporary clubhouse is at the intersection of Stonebrook Parkway and Rose Lane.

Cleburne Golf Links, designed by Arlington-based Colligan Golf Design, is scheduled to open in June 2009 but could open in October. It replaces the former Cleburne municipal course. Construction on a new clubhouse overlooking Lake Cleburne is under way.

Squaw Valley's Links Course in Glen Rose will be closed until September for a \$2.2 million renovation by Colligan Golf Design. Miniverde Bermuda will replace bentgrass on the greens.

Nine holes of the **Villages of Lone Oak Golf Course** are expected to be open by the spring. The residential development southeast of Greenville on the northeast shores of Lake Tawakoni will eventually have 18 holes designed by **Jeffrey D. Brauer** of Arlington's Golfscapes.



Historic Brackenridge Park in San Antonio closed in January for a project intended to restore the course to its original A.W. Tillinghast layout and bunker designs. Colligan Golf Design is handling the project. The course is scheduled to reopen in October. The Texas Golf Hall of Fame will be relocated to the clubhouse.

Newport Dunes Golf Course on Mustang Island near Corpus Christi is set to open this summer. The par-71 links-style course is an Arnold Palmer design. Palmer said it will be his first true seaside course in the United States.

Waterford Texas Golf Club, which was scheduled to open last summer, is on schedule to open this summer. Managing partner Jimmy Terry said more than 70 inches of rain for the year pushed back the opening of the Bechtol-Russell design near Marble Falls.

Summit Rock, a Jack Nicklaus signature course at Horseshoe Bay Resort, is set to open in the fall. This members-only course will be the fourth course at the resort. The other three, all Robert Trent Jones Sr. designs, will undergo renovations by Robert Trent Jones II over the next two years.

Weeks Park Golf Course in Wichita Falls is scheduled to reopen June 22 after a renovation by Jeffrey D. Brauer's Golfscapes. A range was added and several holes were rerouted.

D.A. Weibring's Golf Resources Group will be renovating **Wichita Falls Country Club**. Designer Steve Wolford said work will be done on the greens, tees and bunkers. Some fairways will be adjusted and lakes will be rebuilt. The course should reopen in the late fall.

The Golf Club at Circle C in Austin is now **Grey Rock Golf Club**. ... The Woodlands Country Club East Course, which hosted PGA Tour events and was known as the TPC Course, has changed its name to **The Woodlands Country Club Championship Course**. The Panther Trail and Oaks Course are now **Canongate at the Woodlands**, Panther Trail and Oaks Course.

TPC San Antonio, a 36-hole development, is scheduled to open in early 2010. The courses will be known as the AT&T Oaks Course (designed by Greg Norman, with player consultant Sergio Garcia) and the AT&T Canyons Course (designed by Pete Dye, with player consultant Bruce Lietzke).

Mark Kazlowski

BEST NEW COURSE: THE CLUBS OF CORDILLERA RANCH



Cordillera Ranch

No. 12, a 612-yard par-5 from the tips, is a sample of the Hill Country terrain at Cordillera Ranch.

Natural selection

Jack Nicklaus signature layout lets Hill Country beauty be the star

By BILL NICHOLS
Staff Writer
brnichols@dallasnews.com

Texas has long been ignored for major tournaments, in part because the courses aren't perched on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, or in the shadows of the Rocky Mountains, or on the East Coast.

But everything about Texas' best new course, Cordillera Ranch, is major: dramatic elevation changes, stunning Hill Country views and fairways rolling on the rugged terrain of the Guadalupe River Valley.

On top of Cordillera Ranch, an 8,700-acre gated development 10 miles east of Boerne (19 miles north of San Antonio), you have a 25-mile view of the Hill Country. You also can see why this became the fifth Jack Nicklaus signature course in Texas.

To Nicklaus, the flowing terrain fit so well that it seemed like a course was already there. He just had to uncover it.

With the soil as his guide, Nicklaus drew 18 holes into the valley's natural contours. He hit shots on the dirt to ensure shot values among the native

CORDILLERA RANCH

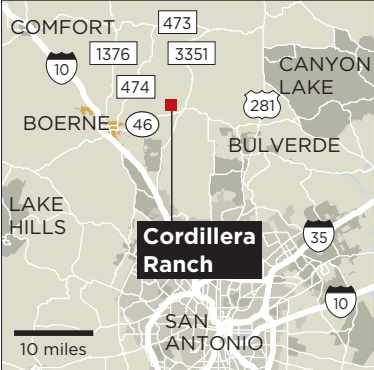
Where: 19 miles north of San Antonio
Type: Private
When it opened: May 7
Designer: Jack Nicklaus
Notable: The Golf Club is one of seven resort-style clubs within the gated community. The others: The Social Club, The Tennis and Swim Club, The Equestrian Club, The Rod and Gun Club, The Spa and Athletic Club and The River Club.
Web site: cordilleraranch.com

grasses, streams and 100-year-old live oaks.

"It's debatable whether people think that Cordillera Ranch is the best new course in Texas," said Mike Sheridan, vice president of Cordillera Ranch Development Company. "But I think most people would say that it's not debatable that this is the best site in Texas."

The finished product is a minimalist's masterpiece. Most of the bells and whistles were provided by nature.

The wide zoysia fairways are bordered with Bermuda rough, creating



TOM SETZER/Staff Artist

contrasting shades of green. Native grasses flow in the breeze.

Strategy is important because about half the hazards cut across fairways. The

bentgrass greens are relatively small, which places a premium on accuracy.

No. 5 has a split fairway with trees in the middle, giving players a choice of attacking the green from either side. The wow factor comes into play on No. 16, a picturesque par-3 with cascading waterfalls framing the green.

From the back tees, Cordillera Ranch is a beast measuring almost 7,500 yards. But multiple tees provide a variety of challenges.

"It's a great combination of holes," head pro Marc DeWall said. "It's pretty penal if you get off the fairways into the native grasses. I think the holes get better as you go along."

The Cordillera Ranch development was in place about seven years before the course. By the time of its May 7 grand opening, the club had 375 members. The original initiation fee was \$35,000. That price has jumped to \$60,000, and only about 55 openings remain, as membership will be capped at 450.

Homes near the course are hardly visible, set back about 75 yards with natural areas.

Residents have wild turkeys and whitetail deer as neighbors. But they also have plenty to do with an equestrian club, river club, rod and gun club, tennis and swim club, spa and athletic club, and social club.



TWENTY YEARS OF TEXAS GOLF

1997 After ranking No. 2 in four of the first nine years, Crown Colony Country Club in Lufkin finally ascends to the No. 1 spot in the Top 50. ... The new trend in golf equipment? Soft spikes replace metal spikes on shoes.

HOW THE RANKINGS ARE DETERMINED

This is the 20th year *The Dallas Morning News* has published Texas Golf, and we continue to make changes based on feedback from club pros, players, course officials and other readers.

For Texas Golf 2008, 87 panel members voted. Fifty-two are from what is considered the Northern Texas PGA section, and 35 are from the area represented by the Southern Texas PGA. These panel members are professionals, competitive amateurs, superintendents, architects, journalists and others in the golf industry. We are conscious of trying to maintain a geographic balance of voters and including women in the process. The vast ma-

jority of panel members are low handicappers.

This year, 11 women voted. Two of them, Carolyn Creekmore and Toni Wiesner, have won major national events.

We have doubled the number of courses we rank to 100. For those who noted that our list of best courses is dominated by private courses, we have a list of the 50 best courses you can play and four other rankings of 100 courses open to the public based on price.

We contacted all the public courses on our ballot in January and asked the cost of a greens fee and cart on a Saturday morning during prime time. Some call that rate the

“rack rate.” As with a hotel, you don’t always pay the “rack rate,” but getting that rate puts all the courses on a common ground.

From a list of 280 18-hole courses, voters ranked courses they have played on a 10-point scale. There were no restrictions on the number of 10s they could give.

To qualify for the 100 Best Courses list, a course had to have received votes from 25 percent (22) of the panel members. The rankings are determined by the course’s average score after “winsorization.” Winsorization is a mathematical process that adjusts scores outside of the range of the majority of the scores.

Mark Kazlowski

THE VOTERS

Rob Addington	Executive director, Texas Golf Association
David Altemus	Head professional, Royal Oaks CC, Houston
James Barker	Director of golf, Quarry Golf Club, San Antonio
Brent Blackburn	Head professional, Lakeside CC, Houston
Jeffrey D. Brauer	Arlington-based golf course architect
Mandel Brockinton	Superintendent, Dallas Country Club
Bruce Burger	Superintendent, The Quarry Golf Club
Ben Burns	Director of golf, Crown Colony CC, Lufkin
Beth Cleckler	Manager, Morris Williams pro shop, Austin amateur
John Colligan	Arlington-based golf course architect
Kyle Coody	Plano amateur
Jacque Cooper	Heath amateur
Sherwin Cox	Head professional, Ross Rogers Golf Complex, Amarillo
Darrell Crall	Executive director, NTPGA
Carolyn Creekmore	Dallas amateur
Jackie Cupit	Life member PGA, representing Links at Lands End
Bruce Davidson	Director of golf, River Oaks CC, Houston
Cameron Doan	Head professional, Preston Trail Golf Club, Dallas
Richard Durrett	SportsDay writer, Wylie amateur
Bob Elliott	Head professional, Northwood Club
Bill Euler	Head professional, Wildflower CC, Temple
Dave Findlay	Instructor, Redstone Golf Club, Humble
Dale Folmar	Senior vice president of golf operations, Eagle Golf
Gilbert Freeman	Head professional, Lakewood CC, Dallas
Don Gafner	Dallas Golf owner, Sunnyvale amateur
Edward Gatlin	GM/director of golf, Van Zandt CC
Drew Gillen	Tyler amateur
Ronny Glanton	Head professional, Sherrill Park GC, Richardson
Kevin Gomillion	Division manager of golf and tennis for city of Austin
Leslie Green	The Woodlands amateur
Brent Halvorson	Head professional, Gleneagles CC, Plano
Mark Harrison	Director of operations, NTPGA
Alan Hess	Director of course management, Augusta Pines, Spring
Malcolm Holland	Dallas amateur
John Horne	Head professional, Plainview CC, Plainview
Ken Huff	Head professional, Cascades Golf Club, Tyler
Allen Hundley	Murphy amateur
Danny Jones	Head professional, Walden on Lake Conroe
Mark Kazlowski	Texas Golf editor, Cedar Hill amateur
Bob Kearney	Houston amateur
Nancy Kromar	Austin amateur
Phyllis Kwedar	Fort Worth amateur
Brad Lardon	Director of golf, Miramont CC, Bryan
Glenn Lee	Director of golf, Horseshoe Bay Resort
Tim Loiodice	General manager, Wildcat Golf Club, Houston
Paul Marchand	GM and head pro, Shadow Hawk GC, Richmond
Cathy Marino	Frisco pro, instructor D.A.'s Spring Creek Golf
James McAfee	Executive director, Dallas District Golf Association
Rives McBee	PGA and Champions Tour life member
Lindy Miller	Director of golf, Mira Vista CC, Fort Worth
John Neese	President of Neese Materials Inc., Garland
Kevin Newberry	Houston amateur, publisher Houston Links
Bill Nichols	SportsDay golf writer, Dallas amateur
Andrew Peterson	Head professional, Canyon Springs, San Antonio
Mike Peterson	Nationwide Tour rules official, McKinney amateur
George Priolo	Head professional, Comanche Trail GC, Amarillo
Craig Pullen	Director of golf, Stonebriar CC, Frisco
James Rolls	Head professional/Slick Rock at Horseshoe Bay Resort
Chris Rowe	Head professional, Whispering Pines, Trinity
Linda Sackett	Boerne amateur
Carey Schulten	Dallas amateur
Mike Sheridan	Boerne amateur, VP, Cordillera Ranch Development Co.
Marty Slade-Perlman	Farmers Branch amateur
Bruce Smith	Head professional, Pebble Creek CC, College Station
Jerry Smith	Head professional, Brook Hollow Golf Club
Jim Spagnolo	Communications manager, Texas Golf Assoc., Irving
Becky Spears	San Antonio amateur
Mac Spikes	Head professional, Rivercrest CC, Fort Worth
Mark Steinbauer	Director of golf, Club at Carlton Woods, The Woodlands
Gary Stephenson	Celina-based golf course architect
Shawn Strohman	Head professional, Escondido, Horseshoe Bay
Tom Strueber	Head professional, Columbian CC, Carrollton
Sam Swanson	President, D.A. Weibring Golf Resources Group
Steve Termeer	GM/director of golf, University of Texas Golf Club, Austin
Jimmy Terry	Managing partner, The Club at Waterford, Waterford
Robert Thompson	Instructor, Whispering Pines, Trinity
Brad Townsend	SportsDay writer, Flower Mound amateur
Mark Viskozki	Director of golf, Tangle Ridge Golf Club, Grand Prairie
Bert Walker	Head professional, Tangle Ridge Golf Club, Grand Prairie
Tad Weeks	Head professional, Champions Golf Club, Houston
Michael Wharton-Palmer	Texarkana, Ark., amateur
Toni Wiesner	Fort Worth amateur
Melvin Williams	Golf course director, The Hills CC, Austin
Chris Winn	PGA professional, Mizuno representative
Deil Wood	Head professional, Amarillo CC
Alan Wooley	Head professional, The Club at Waterford, Waterford
Kent Yarbrough	Denton amateur

CRITERIA

The criteria used in voting for the 100 Best Courses:

Versatility: Does the course create a good mix for the high and low handicappers? Are better players challenged, while the high handicappers are able to enjoy play through the use of shorter teeing areas, alternate routes, location of hazards and accessible pins?

Shotmaking: Does it test accuracy, finesse, length and putting without overemphasizing any of these skills?

Design: Is there a good balance?

Afterthoughts: How much do you remember about the course? Do one or two holes stand out as great or bad?

Beauty: Do the scenic values add to the pleasure of a round? Trees, shrubs, hills, mounds, flowers, etc.?

Maintenance: How would you rate the course conditions, factoring in all aspects — tees, greens, fairways, bunkers? Spring, summer, fall or winter when viewed?

Enjoyment: How do you feel about being at the course? What about the amenities? From arrival to departure, was it a good, bad or indifferent golf experience?



Dick Durrance

The 95,000-square foot clubhouse is the backdrop on No. 18 at Miramont Country Club in Bryan. The course ranked No. 11.

THE TOP 100: THROUGH THE YEARS

The courses that have been ranked among the Best Courses in the 20 years SportsDay has conducted the rankings. This is the first year we have ranked 100 courses. In the previous 19 years, we ranked the top 50. Beginning in 1996, courses ranked below No. 20 were grouped alphabetically by third 10, fourth 10 and fifth 10. In 2003, there was a two-way tie for 50th, so there were 51 courses in the rankings. The rankings (20s: 21-30; 30s: 31-40; 40s: 41-50):

2008 course, location	'07	'06	'05	'04	'03	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	'95	'94	'93	'92	'91	'90	'89	
1. Whispering Pines Golf Club, Trinity	1	1	6	4	12	30s														
2. Dallas National Golf Club	2	3	4	2																
3. Boot Ranch, Fredericksburg																				
4. Colonial CC, Fort Worth	3	5	2	1	1	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5. Vaquero Club, Westlake	5	4	1	3																
6. Brook Hollow Golf Club, Dallas	4	6	5	7	4	4	8	5	5	7	6	9	16	7	7	7	6	5	4	
7. Preston Trail Golf Club, Dallas	6	8	7	6	6	5	7	8	6	5	7	7	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	
8. Escondido, Horseshoe Bay																				
9. Champions/Cypress, Houston	8	7	8	5	2	1	2	3	8	11	5	1	3	4	5	5	5	6	7	
10. Club at Carlton Woods-Nicklaus, The Woodlands	7	2	3	8	20															
11. Miramont CC, Bryan																				
12. Club at Carlton Woods-Fazio, The Woodlands	9																			
13. TPC Craig Ranch, McKinney	13	16																		
14. Walden Golf Club, Montgomery	18	9	11	12	10	16	3	6	7	6	10	10	8	9	10	9	11	15	14	
15. Shadow Hawk Golf Club, Richmond	10	10	13	20s	20s	30s														
16. Lochinvar Golf Club, Houston	15	12	10	13	7	12	17	17	11	9	11	11	10	11	9	11	10	9	9	
17. Northwood Golf Club, Dallas	20	17	16	20	16	20s	18	20s	20s	30s	30s	30s	30	27	29	25	24	24	17	
18. Spanish Oaks Golf Club, Bee Cave	16	20s	20s	30s	30s															
19. River Oaks CC, Houston	19	14	17	14	11	11	12	16	16	16	20s	20s	21	14	13	12	13	13	22	
20. Crown Colony CC, Lufkin	11	20	9	10	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
21. Austin Golf Club, Spicewood	14	18	30s	30s																
22. Champions/Jackrabbit, Houston	20s	19	18	20s	20s	20	20s	20s	30s	20s	20s	20s	19	19	23	24	22	20	13	
23. Shady Oaks CC Fort Worth	20s	20s	20s	20s	14	19	20s	20s	30s	40s	30s	30s	33	29	31	31	34		39	
24. Pine Dunes Resort, Frankston	17	13	15	18	17															
25. Barton Creek/Fazio Foothills, Austin	12	11	12	9	5	7	6	1	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	6	
26. Houston Country Club	20s	20s	18	20s	20s	17	19	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	24	17	16	16	17	14	20	
27. Austin Country Club	20s	20s	20s	30s	9	10	11	10	13	10	8	8	9	13	14	14	15	11	29	
28. Traditions Golf Club, Bryan																				
29. Royal Oaks CC, Dallas	20s	20s	20s	20s	18	14	10	11	10	13	20s	20s	17	16	15	15	14	10	11	
30. Briggs Ranch Golf Club, San Antonio	20s	20s	20s	11																
31. Barton Creek/Canyons, Austin	20s	20s	20	17	15															
32. Horseshoe Bay/Ram Rock	30s	20s	20s	30s	8	6	9	9	12	8	9	14	7	10	11	10	9	17	37	
33. Oak Hills CC, San Antonio	30s	30s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	20s	32	26	27	26	30	32	31	
34. Stonebridge Ranch/Dye, McKinney	30s	30s	20s	20s	20s	16	13	20	17	18	18	25	18	18	22	19	29	34		
35. Deerwood CC, Kingwood	20s	40s	30s	30s	20s	13	14	12	9	20s	20s	20s	22	33	33	29	27	31	42	
36. Gentle Creek Golf Club, Prosper	20s	15	14	16																
37. Dallas Athletic Club/Blue Course		30s	40s	40s	30s	18	20	19	17	19	12	13	14	12	12	13	12	16		
38. Mira Vista Golf Club, Fort Worth	30s	30s	30s	30s	19	9	13	15	15	15	20s	20s	23	25	25	34	35	44	32	
39. Redstone Tournament Course, Houston	30s																			
40. Comanche Trace, Kerrville	30s	20s	20s	19	30s															
41. The Hills CC/Hills Course, Austin	20s	20s	30s	20s	13	8	5	7	3	4	4	6	5	5	4	3	2	2	2	
42. Cascades, Tyler																				
43. Midland CC					40s	40s	20s	30s	30s	40s	40s	40s		45	43	46	48	46	47	
44. Cimarron Hills Golf & CC, Georgetown	40s	40s		15																
45. Lakewood CC, Dallas		40s	30s		30s	40s		40s	40s	40s				43	44	44	47	42	40	
46. The Woodlands CC East Course	40s	30s	20s	20s	20s	15	15	14	14	18	20	20	12	8	8	8	7	5		
47. University of Texas Golf Club, Austin	40s	30s	30s																	
48. Horseshoe Bay/Aplerock	30s	30s	40s		20s	20s	20s	30s	20s	12	13	12	13	21	19	21	16	22	24	
49. The Houstonian Golf Club, Richmond	40s	40s																		
50. Lakeside CC, Houston	30s		30s	30s	40s		40s				40s	40s						50		
51. Redstone GC, Member Course, Houston	40s	30s	40s	40s																
52. Dallas CC																				
53. The Rawls Course, Lubbock																				
54. Bent Tree CC, Dallas		30s		30s	40s	40s	30s	20s	20s	20s	20s	30s	30s	28	31	30	30	32	27	30
55. Stonebriar CC, Frisco	40s		40s			30s	30s	30s	30s	40s	40s	40s	41	34	34	32	33	30	23	
56. Dallas Athletic Club/Gold Course														43	46	48	49			
57. Cowboys Golf Club, Grapevine	40s		40s	40s																
58. Riverhill CC, Kerrville						30s	30s	30s		40s	30s	30s	35	50	47	47	49	43	45	
59. Horseshoe Bay/Slick Rock	40s	40s				40s	30s	20s	30s	20s	14	14	6	11	15	17	23	21	15	
60. The Tribute, The Colony	40s	40s		30s		40s														
61. Bentwater/Miller			40s			30s	30s	30s	20s	20s	30s									
62. Cypresswood/Tradition, Spring						30s	40s	30s												
63. Royal Oaks CC, Houston	30s	30s	30s	30s																
64. Resort Course at La Cantera, San Antonio						20s	20s	20	20s	20s	40s			48	37	38	45	46		
65. Pecan Valley, San Antonio						40s	30s	30s												
66. Columbian CC, Carrollton		40s	30s	30s	30s						40s	40s	48	37	38	45	46			
67. Waterwood National, Huntsville	40s	30s		40s	20s	20s	30s	30s	20s	20s	15	15	15	22	24	17	26	25	21	
68. The Woodlands CC/Player Course		40s	40s	20s																
69. Kingwood/Island Course, Humble						40s		40s	40s	30s	40s	40s	40s	37	38	41	36	38	43	
70. Stonebridge Ranch/Hills, McKinney														48	49			48		
71. La Cantera, Palmer Course, San Antonio																				
72. Barton Creek/Palmer at Lakeside, Austin	40s	40s				30s	40s	40s	40s	30s	30s	36	35	35	35	39	36	41		
73. Golf Club of Texas at Briggs Ranch, San Antonio																				
74. BlackHorse/North Course, Cypress																				
75. Las Colinas CC, Irving						40s	40s	40s	30s	30s	40s	40s	40s	26	28	32	33	31	33	35
76. Texas Star Golf Course, Euless						40s														
77. The Club at Sonterra/North Course, San Antonio						40s	40s	40s	30s	30s	30s	29	24	21	18	18	18	18		
78. The Hills CC/Flintrck Falls	40s																			
79. Stonebriar Resort, Fazio Course, Frisco																				
80. Memorial Park, Houston						40s					40s									
81. Westwood CC, Houston																				
82. The Quarry, San Antonio						30s	20s	20s	18	19	20	16	17	39						
83. Geneagles CC/Queens, Plano						40s						40s	44	36	39	42	40	35	28	
84. Pine Forest CC, Houston																				
85. Golf Club of Dallas (formerly Oak Cliff CC)																				
86. Hyatt Hill Country Resort, San Antonio						40s	40s	30s	30s	40s	30s	30s	42							
87. Ridglea CC, North Course, Fort Worth																				
88. The Cliffs Resort at Possum Kingdom Lake, Graford						40s	30s	20s	20s	30s	40s	40s		39	36	39	36	41	44	
89. Sherrill Park GC No. 1, Richardson																				
90. Lantana Golf Club, Lantana				40s																
91. BlackHorse, South Course, Cypress																				
92. Canyon Springs, San Antonio																				
93. Canongate at the Woodlands, Panther Trail																				
94. Lubbock CC																				
95. Garden Valley Golf Club, Lindale						30s	30s	30s	40s	40s	40s									
96. Kingwood, Forest Course, Humble						40s														
97. Ridglea CC, South Course, Fort Worth														47	46	48	45	40	33	
98. Dominion CC, San Antonio						40s		40s							50	40	41	34	36	
99. Amarillo CC, Amarillo																				
100. Tierra Verde GC, Arlington																				

Bill Nichols takes you on a tour of Golftown's hot spots



Impact players

You can find area pros on the money lists of every pro tour.

Dallas natives Justin Leonard and Scott Verplank rank among the top 15 in career PGA Tour earnings with more than \$46 million combined. Last year, Verplank won the EDS Byron Nelson Championship, and **Southlake's Rory Sabbatini (left)** captured the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. Plano's Hunter Mahan, who broke through for his first win last season, and Dallas' Anthony Kim are among the top young players. Other D-FW residents finishing

in the top 50 in Tour earnings last year were Chad Campbell, John Rollins and John Senden.

Clockwise from left: Sabbatini, Senden, Kim, Campbell, Leonard, Verplank, Mahan and Rollins (center)



Instructors

*After picking up his clubs in Cowtown, Tiger Woods can drive about 20 minutes to the Vaquero Club in Westlake for a session with his coach, **Hank Haney (left)**.*

Haney has built an instructional empire with local facilities. And you don't have to go far to find a nationally ranked teacher, either. Among the many are Randy Smith (Royal Oaks CC), Cameron Doan (Preston Trail), Shawn Humphries (Cowboys GC), Mickey Piersall (Keeton Park), Pat O'Brien

(Lakewood CC), Steve Johnson (Haney's Golf Ranch, Lewisville), Tim Cusick (TPC Four Seasons), Dan Strimble (Irving Golf Range) and Marius Filmalter (D.A.'s Spring Creek Golf in Plano). Clockwise from left: Haney, O'Brien, Cusick, Strimble, Smith and Humphries



Golf course architects

Members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects who live in North Texas:

Dave Bennett, Plano
Jeffrey D. Brauer, Arlington (left of Colligan)
John Colligan, Arlington (left)
Jay Morrish, Flower Mound (right of Colligan)
Eric Nelson, Arlington
Gary D. Stephenson, Celina
Source: asgca.org



Retail stores

PGA Tour Superstore opened locations in Plano and Frisco last year, joining the large contingent of area shops specializing in golf equipment.

Major chains Golfsmith, Edwin Watts and Golf Galaxy have multiple D-FW locations, and locally owned Dallas Golf is firmly entrenched.



Equipment companies

*Inside the spacious offices at the **Nike research and development facility (left)** in west Fort Worth, renowned club designer Tom Stites and his team create the tools used by world No. 1 Tiger Woods and legions of pros on all tours.*

Plano-based Adams Golf, founded as a custom club company, has risen dramatically in the golf world. The self-proclaimed Little Old Club

Company from Texas is becoming a major player with its lines of game-improvement clubs. The top-selling line of graphite replacement shafts in

the world is made by Fort Worth-based United Sports Technologies, which manufactures all kinds of high-performance shafts.



Miscellaneous

Hambric Sports in Dallas and Links Sports in Plano have PGA Tour players as clients. **Trainer Bob MacDonald (left)** has about 10 pros using his golf-specific fitness programs.

And Flower Mound's Lanny Bassham (above MacDonald), an Olympic gold medalist rifle shooter, taught his mental management program to a dozen Tour players.



Top amateurs

*Former SMU player Colt Knost and **Irving's Trip Kuehne (left)** continued the area's strong amateur tradition by winning three USGA majors in 2007.*

Knost captured U.S. Amateur and U.S. Public Links Championship crowns. Kuehne won the U.S. Mid Amateur, teamed with Terrence Miskell for Texas' second straight victory in the USGA's State Team Championship, and played with Knost on the United States' victorious Walker Cup team.

Rockwall's Anna Schultz won the U.S. Senior Women's title. And in an all-Texas final, Dallas' Anthony Paolucci of Dallas finished second to Houston's Cory Whitsett in the U.S. Junior Amateur. Clockwise from left: Kuehne, Knost and Schultz



The Swing set

An abundance of tradition, talent and industry ties has the D-FW golf scene at top of game

By **BILL NICHOLS**
Staff Writer
bnichols@dallasnews.com

Tournaments

Dallas and Fort Worth have been longtime staples on the PGA Tour, staging events since the early 1940s.

The EDS Byron Nelson Championship (trophy, at left) has raised more money for charity than any other tournament, donating more than \$100 million to the Salesmanship Club's Youth & Family Centers. The Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial is the longest running PGA Tour event played on the same course. Storied Colonial Country Club has also hosted a U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and Players Championship. The area has also been home to LPGA and Champions Tour events and will host the season-ending Nationwide Tour Championship at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney.

Barney Adams used to sell his custom clubs out of Hank Haney's Golf Ranch in McKinney. About a decade later, Plano-based Adams Golf has 16 staff pros, the leading hybrid club on three tours combined, and sixth-best market share in iron sales. Haney's empire includes the industry's biggest giant, Tiger Woods.

Adams and Haney are two examples of the Dallas area's impact on golf. Imprints the size of Big Tex's Footjoys can be found all over Dallas and Fort Worth.

D-FW is steeped in history and overflows with quality courses, Tour players, teachers, agents, trainers, course designers and turf experts. Retailers continue to multiply, satisfying our high-tech needs regardless of the economy.

Talented juniors hone their swings with instructors from the nation's largest pool of PGA professionals. Well-run junior tournaments flourish on three tours.

Almost every week, it seems a local pro or amateur is contending for a trophy somewhere.

Dallas' Colt Knost won three U.S. Golf Association championships last year. So did Irving's Trip Kuehne. Rockwall's Anna Schultz won the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur, and 14-year-old Anthony Paolucci of Dallas came within one match of replacing Woods as the youngest U.S. Junior Amateur champion.

Connect the dots

Nowhere else do neighboring cities rival the golf-rich tradition of Dallas and Fort Worth.

Dallas has hosted a PGA Tour stop since 1944, raising a record \$100 million in charity. Fort Worth's Colonial, which began in 1946, is the longest-running event played on the same course.

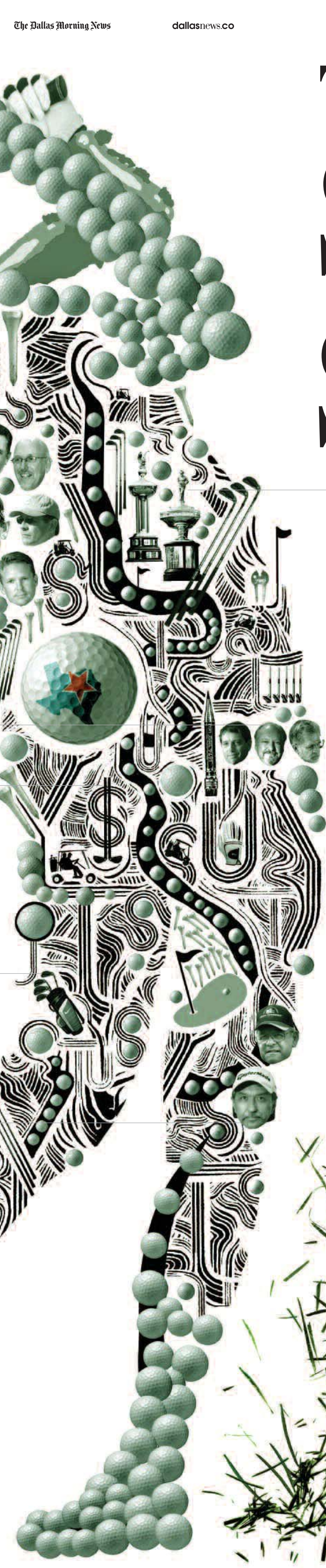
To understand the impact our area has on golf, you need only connect the dots.

In Fort Worth, on the other side of Golftown from Adams Golf, renowned club designer Tom Stites and his team create Woods' clubs at the Nike Research and Development facility.

The \$10 million center sits a football field away from Leonard Golf Links, a driving range owned by Marty Leonard. Her father, Marvin Leonard, founded Colonial Country Club. The storied course along the Trinity River has staged two majors in addition to its annual event.

See **D-FW**, Page 10H

MICHAEL HOGUE/Staff Artist





1998 *The section examines 18 hidden gems, showing that leaving the beaten path can be worthwhile. ... Crown Colony again is No. 1.*

1999 *The section features Texas Golf Dream Trails, focusing on eight themes for getaway trips. No. 1 Crown Colony is among the stops.*



Presence of legend felt in changes at TPC

Weibring's decisions all made with the late Byron Nelson in mind

By **BILL NICHOLS**
Staff Writer
brnichols@dallasnews.com

IRVING — To lead the TPC Four Seasons at Las Colinas into the future, D.A. Weibring looked at the past.

All the changes made by his Plano-based Golf Resources Group were tied to one theme — producing a layout he felt would have made the late Byron Nelson proud.

When the pros arrive for the April 24-27 EDS Byron Nelson Championship, they will find a dramatically different course. Every hole has been rebuilt for a clean,



Mark Humphries

The closely mown areas around the par-3 No. 2 give players more chances to be creative if they miss the green.

traditional look with an emphasis on shot value and creativity around the greens.

The defining characteristics are the square tee complexes, white sand bunkers and closely mown areas around the greens.

Mounds were softened for a more natural look and better sight lines. About

165 trees were moved. Nos. 11, 17 and 18 will attract the most attention. The 11th, a short

par-4, will invite drama, tempting players to drive over the water onto the green.

Areas around the signature hole, No. 17, were expanded for viewing on both sides of the par 3. Luxury boxes will create a stadium feel, similar to the 16th at the TPC Scottsdale. On 18, the pond on the left side was transformed into a series of cascading falls.

Weibring was guided by his experience of playing in more than 20 Nelsons. He sent surveys to players on every tour. And local Tour members Harrison Frazar and J.J. Henry provided suggestions from a player's view.

"The one common denominator was Byron," Weibring said. "I said if we do something first-class out of respect for Byron, then everything will work out."

D-FW golf is in full boom

Continued from Page 9H

"Hogan's Alley" takes its nickname from Fort Worth legend Ben Hogan, a five-time Colonial champion. Marvin Leonard sponsored Hogan early in his career. Stites learned the craft of club-making under Hogan.

Another Leonard, Justin, is not related, although you might think so as he's never missed a Colonial cut in his 11-win career.

A talented shotmaker like Hogan, Leonard played Hogan clubs until the Ben Hogan Company was sold. Leonard can now be found launching shots on test monitors outside Stites' office.

Rory Sabbatini, a South African who lives in Southlake, was using Nike clubs when he won last year's Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. But he will wear an Adams Golf cap when he defends his title in May.

D.A. Weibring, another member of Adams' tour staff, led his Plano-based Golf Resources Group in its remodeling of the TPC Four Seasons at Las Colinas.

That's where Dallas native Scott Verplank won last year's EDS Byron Nelson Championship. It was an emotional victory for Verplank, who finally won his hero's tournament.

Nelson, who developed his game working as a caddie with Hogan, befriended the teenaged Verplank, taking him to play at Northwood Club, site of the 1951 U.S. Open.

Verplank won the U.S. Amateur in 1984. Leonard won the national championship in 1992.

The Four Seasons is also Trip Kuehne's home course. Kuehne never turned pro after losing to Woods in the U.S. Amateur final two years after Leonard's victory.

But last year, Kuehne won the U.S. Mid Amateur, the U.S. State team title with Terrence Miskell, and played on the winning U.S. Walker Cup team.

Kuehne's brother, Hank, won the 1998 U.S. Amateur, and sister Kelli captured U.S. Women's Amateur titles in 1995 and '96.

As youngsters, the Kuehnes were taught by Haney at Stonebridge Ranch in McKinney.

Major champions

Legends Nelson, Hogan and Ralph Guldahl won majors in the 1940s and '50s, followed by Don January and Lee Trevino, and then Leonard at the 1997 British Open.

Each generation has passed the torch, helping grow the game by encouraging young players.

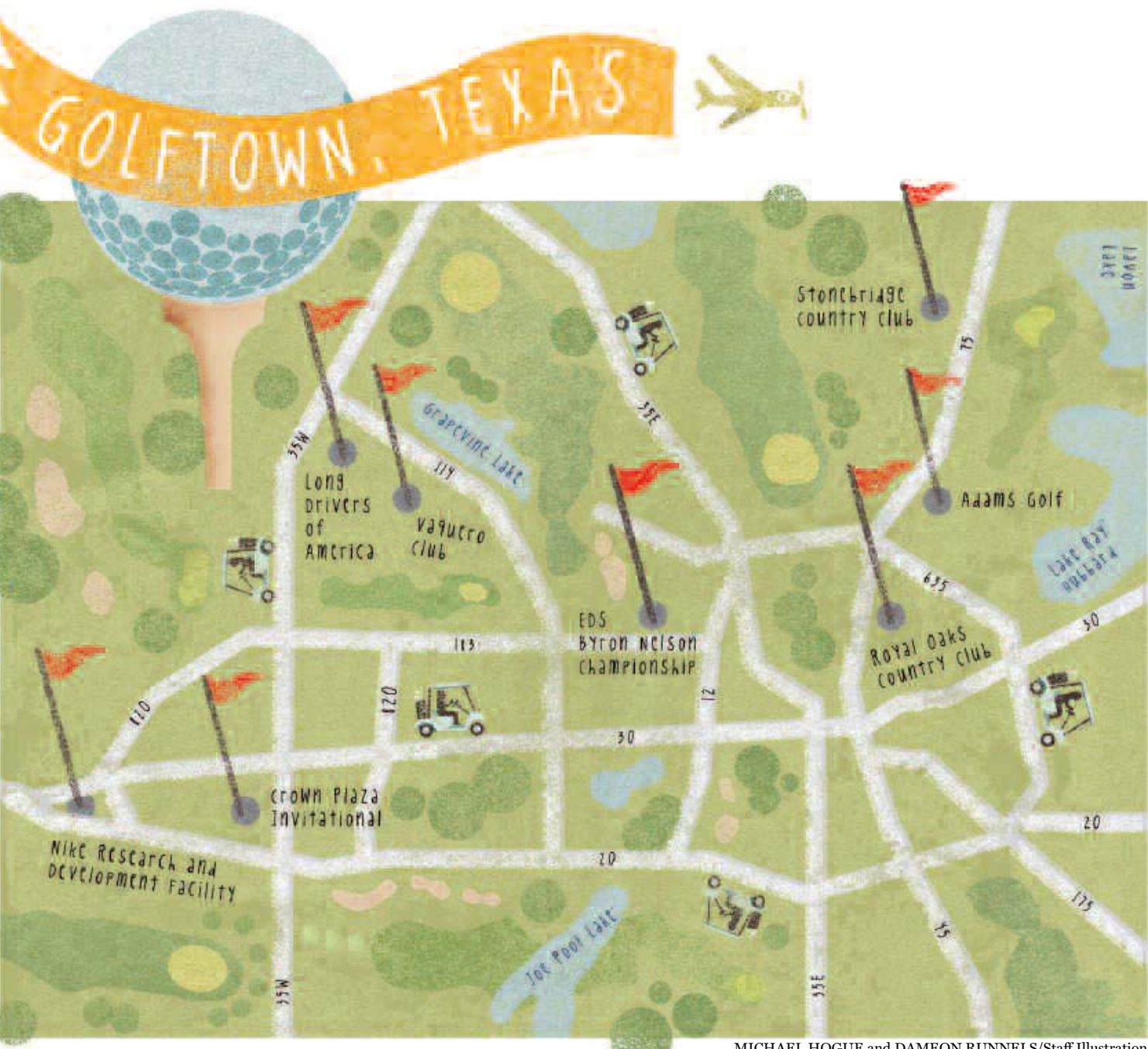
Nelson remained an ambassador until his death in 2006. January still donates to the Junior Foundation of the Northern Texas PGA. And Leonard has been an NTPGA spokesman for 12 years.

Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth, the LPGA's career leader in wins, has been a major supporter of amateur golf.

The NTPGA boasts the largest regional office under the PGA of America umbrella. The organization includes 750 club pros, 2,750 juniors and 250 senior associates.

The NTPGA runs 250 junior tournaments a year, and has infiltrated 150 schools.

The Northern Texas PGA, Texas



MICHAEL HOGUE and DAMEON RUNNELS/Staff Illustration

DALLAS ON DISPLAY

The Dallas area was among the top-10 golf business markets with 33 companies and more than 40 PGA professionals at the Jan. 17-19 PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Fla. The Dallas-area exhibitors:

Adams Golf
Callaway Golf Timepieces
Canterbury Belts
CDM Sport
Clubhouse Architects & Interiors
Dallas Golf Company
Daltex Custom Gloves
Enmon Accessories
Golf Connoisseur Magazine

Golf Etc. of America, Inc.
Gray Enterprises
Hollman, Inc.
Infinitics
ISISPORT
Jason Industries, Inc.
Kallassy Sports
Legacy Lockers
Long Drivers of America

MedStar
National Hole-In-One Assoc.
NYX Golf, Inc.
Powerline Golf
P.U.P. Golf
Pure Motion Inc.
Lorente Industries
Safeplay Golf, Inc.

Sports Seats Int'l
Team Golf
Tee 2 Green Marketing
Tempest Tea
True Touch Golf
United Sports Technologies, Inc.
Vira Club



FILE 2007/Staff Photo

Dallas' Colt Knost (left), the 2007 U.S. Amateur champion, works with one of the area's top instructors, Randy Smith.

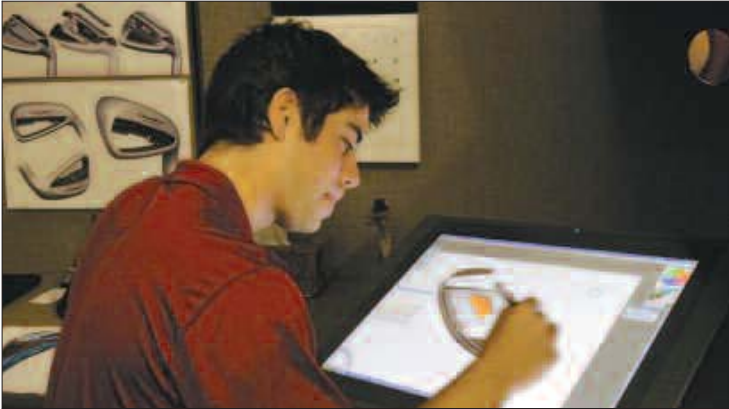
Golf Association and Legends Junior Tour provide competitive and developmental programs for amateurs of all ages.

"The PGA Tour players have been extremely helpful with their time and effort," said Darrell Crall, executive director of the NTPGA. "All the guys who live in the area support us in some way. Being validated by a star means a lot to a young player."

'A giant'

Dallas-Fort Worth was fourth in a recent ranking of Best Golf Cities in America by *Golf* magazine and the National Golf Foundation, ahead of Orlando and Atlanta. Austin took the top honor.

The magazine listed D-FW's median green fee at \$38, noting that "Dallas is a giant for rich golf history and value play."



NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

Michael Prichard works on new designs for Plano-based Adams Golf, one of the area's thriving equipment firms.

There are about 135 courses and 37 driving ranges in and around Dallas and Fort Worth.

At the PGA Merchandise Show on Jan. 17-19 in Orlando, the Dallas area ranked among the top 10 in number of exhibitors (33) and PGA professionals (40).

Everything from high-performance shafts at United Sports Technologies in Fort Worth to Daltex custom gloves are produced here.

Long Drivers of America is based in Roanoke.

Need sand for bunkers or gravel for construction or maintenance? Try Neese Materials in Garland. Need a cutting edge bunker drainage system? Try SportsCrete Texas in Farmers Branch. Or how about a synthetic green for your back yard from a Southwest Greens franchise in Fort Worth and Dallas/Collin County; or hole-in-one insurance

from Dallas-based National Hole-in-One Association?

Major retailers Golfsmith, Edwin Watts and Golf Galaxy have multiple locations. And two PGA Tour Superstores opened last year in Plano and Frisco.

A place for the pros

In terms of Tour players, D-FW probably has the second most of any metropolitan area, behind only Orlando.

Pros have settled here because of the central location, international airport, relatively calm weather and lack of state taxes.

The Vaquero Club in Westlake has pros Todd Hamilton, Ben Crane, Brandt Jobe and Brian Watts, as well as Haney, among its members. Leonard recently left Westlake and returned to Dallas.

No telling who might be on the range at Royal Oaks in Dallas. Leonard, Harrison Frazar and Anthony Kim are among the PGA Tour players there.

Corey Pavin, B.J. Statens and Kris Cox are based in Dallas. Chad Campbell and John Rollins are stationed in Colleyville, Sabbatini in Southlake, Hunter Mahan in Plano, J.J. Henry in Fort Worth and Ryan Palmer in Hurst.

Australians Rod Pampling and John Senden are neighbors in Flower Mound, Aussie Nathan Green lives in Plano, and Aussie Greg Chalmers lives by the TPC at Las Colinas near Tommy Armour III.

Top teachers

If you want to find a top-100 national teacher, you don't have to travel far.

Haney has three facilities with a strong stable of instructors. Randy Smith of Royal Oaks, who recently reunited with Leonard, works with Frazar and Colt Knost.

Smith, Northwood's Bob Elliott and Bent Tree's David Price have made huge contributions locally and nationally.

Price has been one of the PGA's top rules officials since 1987. He has made important rulings in Masters, PGA Championships and Ryder Cups.

Smith and Elliott began raising money for junior golf more than 25 years ago. Smith's 24-hour marathons and other programs have raised about \$1 million for the NTPGA Junior Golf Scholarship Fund.

More in store?

Back when Adams was selling out of Haney's Golf Ranch, the company hit \$1 million in sales in 1995 and \$3.5 million in 1996.

An infomercial for his Tight Lies fairway metals pushed sales to \$36.7 million in 1997, and then overall sales reached \$84.6 million the next year.

"It took me 11 years to become an overnight success," Adams said in 1999.

Woods has won five of the last 16 majors, leading many to believe he could win the Grand Slam this season. Considering Haney lives in Westlake and Woods' clubs are made in Fort Worth, that could be another big story for Golftown.



2002 *Tom Fazio makes Dallas National Golf Club his seventh Texas design. His goal: to have the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 courses in the state.*

TWENTY YEARS OF TEXAS GOLF

After a seven-year absence, Colonial is No. 1 again. ... Annika Sorenstam prepares to play the Bank of America Colonial.

2003



TOP 25 MOST EXPENSIVE COURSES (\$76 AND ABOVE)

Fee is the cost of a greens fee and cart to play the course on a Saturday in high season. Actual rates vary, and resorts may require an overnight stay. To be included, a course must have been voted on by at least 10 panel members.

Rk.	Course	Location	Phone	Par	USGA rating	Slope	Designer	Year open	Fee	2007 rank
1	Crown Colony Country Club	Lufkin	936-637-8800	M: 72 L: 72	73.2 68.4	145 125	Robert Von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1979	\$135	1
2	Pine Dunes Resort	Frankston	903-876-4336	M: 72 L: 72	71.3 72.0	126 127	Jay Morrish	2001	\$84	3
3	Barton Creek Resort, Fazio Foothills	Austin	512-329-4653	M: 72 L: 72	74.2 69.4	135 115	Tom Fazio	1981	\$271	2
4	Wolfdancer Golf Club	Lost Pines	512-308-9653	M: 72 L: 72	76.1 68.7	137 120	Arthur Hills	2006	\$165	NR
5	Barton Creek Resort, Fazio Canyons	Austin	512-329-4000	M: 72 L: 72	75.4 70.6	138 121	Tom Fazio	2000	\$271	4
6	Horseshoe Bay Resort, Ram Rock	Horseshoe Bay	830-598-6561	M: 71 L: 71	74.5 72.5	140 129	Robert Trent Jones Sr.	1981	\$161	5
7	Redstone Golf Club Tournament Course	Humble	281-454-6590	M: 72 L: 72	75.8 71.4	138 125	Rees Jones, David Toms	2002	\$143	6
8	Horseshoe Bay Resort, Applerock	Horseshoe Bay	830-598-6561	M: 72 L: 72	74.0 73.0	139 128	Robert Trent Jones Sr.	1985	\$161	7
9	River Ridge Golf Club	Sealy	979-885-3333	M: 72* L: 72*	73.6 71.3	133 122	Jay Riviere	1998	\$85	13
10	Cowboys Golf Club	Grapevine	817-481-7277	M: 72 L: 72	74.2 68.9	140 114	Jeffrey D. Brauer	2001	\$170	9
11	Horseshoe Bay Resort, Slick Rock	Horseshoe Bay	830-598-2561	M: 72 L: 72	72.8 72.7	131 126	Robert Trent Jones Sr.	1972	\$161	10
12	The Tribute Golf Club	The Colony	972-370-5465	M: 72 L: 72	73.2 71.5	128 117	Tripp Davis	2000	\$135	8
13	Resort Course at La Cantera	San Antonio	210-558-4653	M: 72 L: 72	72.5 67.1	134 108	Jay Morrish, Tom Weiskopf	1995	\$151	14
14	Palmer Course at La Cantera	San Antonio	210-558-4653	M: 71 L: 71	74.2 65.3	142 116	Arnold Palmer	2001	\$151	25
15	Barton Creek Resort, Palmer Lakeside	Spicewood	830-693-7581	M: 71 L: 71	72.3 70.0	135 124	Arnold Palmer	1987	\$168	11
16	BlackHorse North Course	Cypress	281-304-1747	M: 72 L: 72	71.8 72.3	123 123	Jim Hardy and Peter Jacobsen Design	2000	\$95	NR
17	Texas Star Golf Course	Euless	817-685-7888	M: 71 L: 71	73.6 69.7	135 124	Keith Foster	1997	\$78	12
18	Stonebriar Resort, Fazio Course	Frisco	972-668-8748	M: 72 L: 72	73.8 75.2	133 131	Tom Fazio	2000	\$125	20
19	The Quarry	San Antonio	210-824-4500	M: 71 L: 71	72.4 67.4	128 115	Keith Foster	1993	\$109	16
20	Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club	Katy	281-693-4653	M: 72 L: 72	74.2 64.1	137 108	Greg Norman	1990	\$90	23
21	High Meadow Ranch Golf Club	Magnolia	281-356-7700	M: 72 L: 72	75.7 69.7	133 121	Tim Nugent, David Ogrin	1999	\$77	15
22	Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort	San Antonio	210-520-4040	M: 72 L: 72	73.7 67.8	136 118	Arthur Hills	1993	\$146	NR
23	The Cliffs Resort	Graford	1-888-843-2543	M: 71 L: 71	73.9 74.0	143 139	Robert Von Hagge, Bruce Devlin	1988	\$85	19
24	Lantana Golf Club	Lantana	940-728-4653	M: 72 L: 72	74.2 70.1	131 121	Jay Morrish, Carter Morrish	2002	\$95	21
25	Canyon Springs Golf Club	San Antonio	210-497-1770	M: 72 L: 72	72.8 72.9	130 123	Thomas Walker	1998	\$100	NR

No longer ranked: 17, Canongate at The Woodlands, Panther Trail; 18, Barton Creek, Crenshaw Cliffside; 23, TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas (closed for renovation); 24, Blackhorse, South Course. NR=Not ranked. * River Ridge and Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort have 27 holes. River Ridge par and ratings are for Parkland-Ridge combination; Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort par and ratings are for Oaks-Lakes combination.

TOP 25 HIGH-PRICED COURSES (\$55-\$75)

Fee is the cost of a greens fee and cart to play the course on a Saturday in high season. Actual rates may vary. To be included, a course must have been voted on by at least 10 panel members.

Rank	Course	Location	Phone	Par	USGA rating	Slope	Designer	Year open	Fee	2007 rank
1	The Rawls Course	Lubbock	806-742-4653	M: 72 L: 72	73.2 64.9	126 112	Tom Doak	2003	\$60	1
2	Cypresswood Tradition	Spring	281-821-6300	M: 72 L: 72	74.7 71.7	136 125	Keith Foster	1997	\$70	4
3	Pecan Valley Golf Club	San Antonio	210-333-9018	M: 71 L: 71	74.4 73.0	132 126	J. Press Maxwell	1963	\$75	NR
4	Waterwood National Resort	Huntsville	936-891-5050	M: 71 L: 73	72.8 68.0	135 117	Pete Dye	1974	\$69	2
5	Links at Lands End	Yantis	903-383-3290	M: 71 W: 71	72.6 68.7	130 114	George Williams	2001	\$56	NR
6	Garden Valley Golf Club	Lindale	903-882-6107	M: 72 L: 72	72.4 72.5	132 130	John Sanford	1992	\$74	8
7	Houston National Golf Club	Houston	281-304-1400	M: 72* L: 72	75.8 73.2	133 126	Robert von Hagge, Smelek and Baril	2002	\$63	NR
8	Tierra Verde Golf Club	Arlington	817-478-8500	M: 72 L: 72	70.9 70.5	122 119	Gary Stephenson, Graham Panks Intl.	1998	\$60	3
9	The Republic Golf Club	San Antonio	210-359-0000	M: 71 L: 71	73.5 71.9	131 120	Art Schaufepeter	2002	\$64	NR
10	The Golf Club Star Ranch	Hutto	512-252-4653	M: 71 L: 71	73.5 68.5	130 111	Bechtol Russell Golf Design	2001	\$63	14
11	Hawks Creek Golf Club	Fort Worth	817-738-8402	M: 72 L: 72	73.5 72.5	136 128	x-Charles Akey y-John Colligan	1950 2002	\$60	7
12	Woodforest Golf Club	Montgomery	936-588-8800	M: 72* L: 72	72.1 68.2	129 116	Steve Elkington	2001	\$70	6
13	The Bandit	New Braunfels	830-609-4665	M: 71 L: 71	72.7 66.3	130 115	Keith Foster	1997	\$56	22
14	The Falls Golf and CC	New Ulm	979-992-3123	M: 72 L: 73	72.5 70.0	136 123	Jay Riviere	1984	\$70	11
15	Avery Ranch	Austin	512-248-2442	M: 72 L: 72	74.3 69.6	133 125	Andy Raugust	2002	\$75	9
16	Columbia Lakes	West Columbia	979-345-5151	M: 72 L: 72	74.0 72.3	136 132	Tom Fazio	1973	\$60	23
17	Colovista	Bastrop	512-303-4045	M: 72 L: 72	73.4 71.8	126 118	Les Appelt	1997	\$69	10
18	Buffalo Creek Golf Club	Rockwall	972-771-4003	M: 71 L: 71	73.9 70.0	136 113	Jay Morrish, Tom Weiskopf	1992	\$64	18
19	South Padre Island Golf Club	Laguna Vista	956-943-5678	M: 72 L: 72	73.0 71.0	130 115	Chris Cole, Stephen Caplinger	1997	\$71	12
20	Legacy Hills Golf Club	Georgetown	512-864-1222	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 70.5	131 115	Bill Casper	1996	\$72	24
21	Sienna Plantation	Missouri City	281-778-4653	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 71.7	129 124	Arthur Hills, Mike Dasher	2000	\$68	NR
22	Links at Waterchase	Fort Worth	817-861-4653	M: 72 L: 72	74.5 77.8	137 150	Steven D. Plumer	2000	\$75	NR
23	Tangle Ridge Golf Club	Grand Prairie	972-299-6837	M: 72 L: 72	72.2 70.2	129 117	Jeffrey D. Brauer	1995	\$65	16
24	Wildcat Golf Club, Lakes Course	Houston	713-413-3400	M: 72 L: 72	73.2 68.7	135 111	Roy Case	2002	\$75	NR
25	Wildcat Golf Club, Highlands Course	Houston	713-413-3400	M: 72 L: 72	73.6 64.7	138 106	Roy Case	2001	\$75	NR

x- original design; y-redesign; NR-not ranked; No longer in rankings: 5, Blaketree National, Montgomery; 13, Falconhead GC, Austin; 15, Magnolia Creek Golf Links, League City; 16, Ridgeview Ranch, Plano; 19, Gleanloch Farms, Spring; 20, Golf Club of Texas, San Antonio; 21, Trails of Frisco Golf Club; 25, Twin Lakes Golf Course, Canton. * Houston National and Woodforest have 27 holes. Houston National ratings are for West-North combination; Woodforest ratings are for Front Nine-Back Nine combination

Craig Ranch to host Nationwide finale

By **BILL NICHOLS**
Staff Writer
brnichols@dallasnews.com

The Dallas area has not had a major in almost 50 years, but it remains a major player in tournament golf, having staged virtually every kind of event.

Another chapter will be added to the area's vast tournament history with the Nationwide Tour Championship. The season-ending event is Nov. 6-9 at the TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney.

The Nationwide Tour's final tournament comes equipped with drama as 60 players make one last push for promotion to the PGA Tour. The top 25 on the final money list earn PGA Tour cards for 2009.

A record \$1 million purse will be on the table, with the winner pocketing \$180,000. The Golf Channel will broadcast all four rounds.

So the Dallas-Fort Worth area will have three PGA Tour-sanctioned events. The EDS Byron Nelson Championship runs April 24-27, followed by the May 22-25 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

The Salesmanship Club of Dal-

Nationwide Tour Championship,
Nov. 6-9, TPC Craig Ranch, McKinney (The Golf Channel)

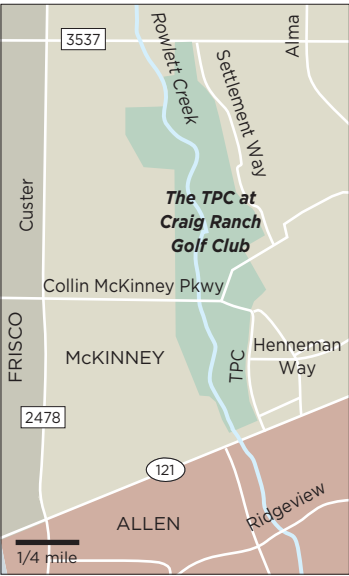
las, which operates the Nelson with its army of volunteers, will handle the Nationwide Tour Championship.

Although most Nationwide Tour events are played in medium markets, the Tour was looking to add some large-market venues for exposure and sponsorship opportunities.

Plans call for a rotation among Dallas, Houston and San Diego. Houston will host the 2009 Nationwide Tour Championship, followed by San Diego and then Dallas again in 2011.

The Salesmanship Club's Youth and Family Centers will benefit from the Tour Championship. And Salesmanship Club officials plan to create a big-time feel for the tournament, hoping to build relationships with future PGA Tour stars.

The TPC Craig Ranch was built to stage tournaments with its challenging course and Tour-quality practice range. Major junior



events and PGA Tour Qualifying stages have been held at Craig Ranch, which will be the first Tournament Players Club to host a Nationwide Tour event.

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2004 *The section features Texas' abundance of golf instructors and some of their favorite tips. ... Colonial ranks No. 1 for the ninth time.*

2005 *The cover story profiles superintendents and their roles behind the scenes. ... Vaquero Club in Westlake makes its debut at No. 1.*



TOP 25 MID-PRICED COURSES (\$41-\$54)

Fee is the cost of a greens fee and cart to play the course on a Saturday in high season. Actual rates may vary. To be included, a course must have been voted on by at least 10 panel members.

Rank	Course	Location Phone	Par	USGA rating	Slope	Designer	Year open	Fee	2007 rank
1	Memorial Park Golf Course	Houston 713-862-4033	M: 72 L: 72	73.0 70.7	122 114	x-John Bredemus y-Marr and Riviere	1936 1994	\$48	2
2	Blaketree National	Montgomery 936-449-4907	M: 71 L: 72	75.2 68.5	138 114	Thomas Blake	2000	\$50	NR
3	Texarkana Golf Ranch	Texarkana 903-334-7401	M: 72 L: 72	76.7 65.5	149 119	Jim Fazio Jr.	2002	\$50	6
4	Sherrill Park No. 1 Golf Course	Richardson 972-234-1416	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 70.7	134 126	x- Leon Howard, Buster Creagh. y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1973	\$44	8
5	Gleannloch Farms	Spring 281-225-1200	M: 72* L: 72	74.7 71.3	131 117	Jay Riviere	1999	\$53	NR
6	Tenison Highlands	Dallas 214-670-1402	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 68.3	129 114	x-Ralph Plummer y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1960	\$54	5
7	Cedar Creek Golf Course	San Antonio 210-695-5050	M: 72 L: 72	73.4 70.8	132 113	Joe Finger Ken Dye	1989	\$41	14
8	Squaw Valley, Comanche Lakes	Glen Rose 1-800-831-8259	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 70.3	132 119	John Colligan	2001	\$54	3
9	Cypresswood, Cypress Course	Spring 281-821-6300	M: 72 L: 72	73.0 67.6	134 111	Rick Forester	1986	\$53	10
10	Cypresswood, Creek Course	Spring 281-821-6300	M: 72 L: 72	73.1 67.6	127 111	Rick Forester	1987	\$53	13
11	Squaw Valley, Apache Links	Glen Rose 1-800-831-8259	M: 72 L: 72	73.6 70.0	130 117	Jeffrey D. Brauer	1992	\$54	4
12	Diamondback Golf Club	Abilene 1-888-545-6262	M: 71 L: 71	73.7 71.8	134 124	Charles Coody	1998	\$54	9
13	Quicksand Golf Course	San Angelo 325-482-8337	M: 72 L: 72	75.0 69.5	140 121	Michael Hurdzan	1996	\$43	11
14	Ross Rogers, Wildhorse Course	Amarillo 806-378-3086	M: 72 L: 72	71.8 68.8	123 106	GRI Design Inc.	1940	\$45	NR
15	Painted Dunes Desert Golf Course	El Paso 915-821-2122	M: 72* L: 72	72.7 67.6	134 122	Ken Dye	1991	\$47	25
16	Grapevine Golf Course	Grapevine 817-410-3377	M: 72 L: 72	73.9 71.9	136 117	x-Joe Finger, Byron Nelson. y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1979	\$50	NR
17	Forest Creek Golf Club	Round Rock 512-388-2874	M: 72 L: 72	73.8 71.9	136 124	Dick Phelps	1990	\$53	NR
18	Split Rail Links and Golf Club	Aledo 817-441-4653	M: 72 L: 72	76.2 72.4	138 129	Phil Lumsden	2002	\$52	18
19	Robson Ranch Wildhorse Golf Club	Denton 940-246-1001	M: 72 L: 72	72.9 70.5	137 123	Gary Stephenson	2001	\$53	24
20	Southern Oaks Golf Club	Burleson 817-426-2400	M: 71 L: 71	76.0 72.6	135 127	Mark Brooks	1999	\$49	23
21	SugarTree on the Brazos	Dennis 817-596-0020	M: 71 L: 71	73.3 72.1	142 131	Phil Lumsden	1987	\$52	20
22	Roy Kizer Golf Course	Austin 512-444-0999	M: 71 L: 71	71.6 67.4	125 109	Bechtol Russell Golf Design	1994	\$44	21
23	Olympia Hills	Universal City 210-945-4653	M: 72 L: 72	73.4 72.3	132 128	Finger, Dye, Spann Design Group	2000	\$48	NR
24	Delaware Springs Golf Course	Burnet 512-756-8471	M: 72 L: 72	72.0 65.5	121 107	Bunker Hill	1992	\$42	17
25	Tierra Santa Golf Club	Weslaco 956-973-1811	M: 72 L: 72	73.6 71.3	124 121	Jeffrey D. Brauer, Steve Elkington	1997	\$53	16

x-original design; y-redesign; NR-Not ranked; No longer ranked: 1. Pecan Valley, San Antonio; 7. Links at Lands End, Yantis; 12. Harbor Lakes, Granbury; 15. Woodbridge Golf Club, Wylie; 19. Whitestone Golf Club, Benbrook; 21. Eagle Point Golf Club, Mont Belvieu. *Gleannloch Farms and Painted Dunes have 27 holes. Gleannloch Farms par and ratings are for Loch-Paddock combination; Painted Dunes par and ratings are for the East-West combination.

TOP 25 ECONOMY COURSES (\$40 AND BELOW)

Fee is the cost of a greens fee and cart to play the course on a Saturday in high season. Actual rates may vary. To be included, a course must have been voted on by at least 10 panel members.

Rank	Course	Location Phone	Par	USGA rating	Slope	Designer	Year open	Fee	2007 rank
1	Comanche Trail, Arrowhead Course	Amarillo 806-378-4281	M: 72 L: 72	71.9 67.4	121 112	Charles Howard	1990	\$39	NR
2	Cedar Crest Golf Course	Dallas 214-670-7615	M: 71 L: 71	69.0 72.0	120 116	x-A.W. Tillinghast y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1919 2003	\$38	5
3	Texas A&M Golf Club	College Station 979-845-1723	M: 71 L: 71	70.5 68.1	114 108	Ralph Plummer	1950	\$35	15
4	Sherrill Park No. 2 Golf Course	Richardson 972-234-1416	M: 70 L: 70	71.2 64.0	132 108	x- Leon Howard, Buster Creagh. y-D.A. Weibring, Steve Wolfard	1976	\$38	12
5	Twin Rivers Golf Club	Waco 254-848-7800	M: 72 L: 72	76.1 71.2	131 123	Jim Hardy and Peter Jacobsen Design	2001	\$35	NR
6	Texas National Golf Club	Willis 936-856-4233	M: 72 L: 72	67.0 70.3	112 121	Jack Miller	1978	\$37	4
7	Gaines County Golf Club	Seminole 432-758-3808	M: 72 L: 72	70.7 69.0	110 107	Jim Terry	1954	\$29	NR
8	Prairie Lakes Golf Course	Grand Prairie 972-263-0661	M: 72* L: 72*	71.9 63.6	122 102	x-Bob Gary y-John Colligan	1965 2005	\$36	3
9	Jimmy Clay Golf Course	Austin 512-444-0999	M: 72 L: 72	73.8 69.3	124 114	Joe Finger	1974	\$34	NR
10	Battleground Golf Course	Deer Park 281-478-4653	M: 72 L: 72	73.6 66.7	130 116	Tom Knickerbocker	1996	\$37	11
11	Kingwood Cove Golf Club	Kingwood 281-358-1155	M: 71 L: 71	71.9 73.2	118 114	Unknown	1968	\$31	16
12	Cottonwood Creek Golf Course	Waco 254-745-6009	M: 72 L: 72	74.2 73.4	125 123	Joe Finger	1985	\$40	19
13	Comanche Trail, Tomahawk Course	Amarillo 806-378-4281	M: 72 L: 72	72.9 68.7	117 108	CUPP Design	1999	\$39	NR
14	Tenison Glen Golf Course	Dallas 214-670-1402	M: 72 L: 72	71.2 70.8	122 115	John Bredemus	1924	\$33	17
15	Squaw Creek Golf Course	Willow Park 817-441-8185	M: 71 L: 71	72.1 72.7	132 125	Ralph Plummer	1971	\$38	7
16	Morris Williams Golf Course	Austin 512-926-1298	M: 72 L: 72	72.9 76.1	122 128	Leon Howard	1964	\$32	18
17	Riverside Golf Club	Grand Prairie 817-640-7800	M: 72 L: 72	74.4 69.5	132 113	Roger Packard	1984	\$32	NR
18	Turtle Hill Golf Course	Muenster 940-759-4896	M: 72 L: 72	72.2 N/A	123 N/A	Dick Murphy	1993	\$30	NR
19	Hogan Park Roadrunner	Midland 432-685-7360	M: 72 L: 72	72.0 71.3	113 112	Jeffrey D. Brauer (front) Dennis Griffin (back)	1979 1999	\$30	22
20	Lions Municipal Golf Course	Austin 512-477-6963	M: 71 L: 71	69.2 67.7	114 113	Unknown	1928	\$32	25
21	Pine Forest Golf Club	Bastrop 512-321-1181	M: 72 L: 72	71.8 67.9	132 116	Billy Martindale, Don January	1979	\$39	8
22	Olmos Basin Golf Course	San Antonio 210-826-4041	M: 71 L: 71	71.0 71.0	123 120	George Hoffman	1963	\$35	13
23	Pecan Valley/ River Course	Fort Worth 817-249-1845	M: 70 L: 70	71.8 72.1	126 121	x-Ralph Plummer y- Steven D. Plumer	1963	\$38	10
24	Hidden Creek Golf Course	Burleson 817-447-4444	M: 71 L: 71	73.8 66.7	139 110	Steven D. Plumer	1997	\$38	23
25	Brackenridge Park Golf Course	San Antonio 210-226-5612	M: 72 L: 72	70.0 69.2	122 112	A.W. Tillinghast	1916	\$34	20

x-original design; y- redesign; NR-Not ranked; No longer ranked: 1. Ross Rogers Wildhorse Course, Amarillo; 2. Webb Hill, Wolfe City; 6. Grapevine Golf Course; 9. Willow Springs Golf Course, San Antonio; 14. Wedgewood Golf Course, Austin; 21. Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course, Fredericksburg; 24. Landa Park Golf Course, New Braunfels; * Prairie Lakes has 27 holes. Par and ratings are for the Red-Blue combination.

PRACTICE FACILITIES

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By **BILL NICHOLS**
Staff Writer
brnichols@dallasnews.com

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seven years developing the technology. When the company set up shop in the United States, Dallas was a natural location because of the high population of avid golfers. All the suites are outside but are covered for protection from the elements. Heaters and misters help keep players comfortable. Lights allow the facility to stay open late. Instructor Mark Walker gives lessons to players of all levels in the high-tech teaching center. His monitors gauge important data such as clubhead speed and trajectory. The pro shop carries top lines of equipment and apparel. And good clubs are available to rent for free.

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Wood Hollow Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 5121 N. McCann Road, 75015, 903-663-4653
LORENZO
Lorenzo Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. Route 1, PO Box 230, 79343, 806-634-5787
LOST PINES
Waldancer Golf Club — 18 holes, resort. 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Road, 78612, 512-308-9653
LUBBOCK
Elm Grove Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 3202 Milwaukee, 79407, 806-799-7801
Meadowbrook Country Club — 36 holes, daily fee. 601 Municipal Dr., 79403, 806-765-6679
Reese Golf Center — 18 holes, semi-private. 1406 Quitsna, 79116, 806-885-1247
Shadow Hills Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 6002 Third St., 79418, 806-937-9700
Stone Gate Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 11010 Indiana Ave., 79423, 806-748-1448
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MCKINNEY
Oak Hollow Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 3005 N. McDonald, 75071, 972-542-4523
Westridge Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 9055 Cotton Ridge Road North, 75070, 972-264-2212
M
MABANK
The Pinnacle Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 200 Pinnacle Club Drive, 75156, 903-451-4653
MAGNOLIA
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 37300 Golf Club Trail, 77355, 281-356-7700
Lake Windcrest Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 10941 Clubhouse Circle, 77354, 281-259-2279
MANOR
Shadow Glen Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 12801 Lexington St., 78653, 512-278-1304
MANSFIELD
Mansfield National Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 3750 National Pkwy., 76063, 817-477-3366
MARBLE FALLS
Meadowlakes Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 220 Meadowlakes Drive, 78654, 830-693-3300
MARFA
Marfa Municipal Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. PO Box 308, 78943, 432-729-4043
MARSHALL
Cypress Valley Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. PO Box 307, 75671, 903-938-4941
Marshall Lakeside Country Club — 9 holes, private. Highway 43 North, 75670, 903-938-4211
Oak Lawn Municipal Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. 4307 Victory Drive, 75670, 903-935-7555
MART
Battle Lake Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee, 4443 Battle Lake Road, 76664, 254-876-2837
MASON
Comanche Creek Golf Club — 9 holes, municipal. PO Box 397, 76856, 325-347-5798
MERCEDES
Llano Grande Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 379 Golf Valley Rd., 78570, 956-565-3531
Palms at Mid Valley — 18 holes, daily fee. PO Box 236, 78570, 956-565-3211
MERIDIAN
Bosque Valley Golf Club — 9 holes, semi-private. Old Clifton Highway, FM 1991, 76665, 254-635-2692

MERKEL
Merkel Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 200 Country Club Road, 79536, 325-928-3193
MESQUITE
Mesquite Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 825 North Highway 67, 75150, 972-270-7457
North Mesquite Golf Center — 9 holes, daily fee. 2920 Gus Thomasson, 75150
MEXIA
Mexia Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 88, 76667, 254-562-2391
MIDLAND
Hogan Park Golf Course — 36 holes, municipal. 3600 N. Fairground Road, 79705, 432-685-7360
Ranchland Hills Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1600 East Wadley, 79705, 432-683-2041
MIDLOTHIAN
Pecan Trails Golf Course — 21 holes, daily fee. 2651 Shiloh Road, 76065, 972-723-1376
MINEOLA
Mineola Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. 225 Country Club Drive, 75733, 903-569-2472
MINERAL WELLS
Holiday Hills Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. PO Box 68, 76068, 940-525-8403
MISSION
Martin Valley Ranch Golf Course — 27 holes, daily fee. 7400 W. Expressway 83, 78572, 956-585-6330
Seven Oaks Resort — 18 holes, semi-private. 1300 Circle Drive, 78572, 956-581-6262
Shary Municipal Golf Course — 27 holes, municipal. 2201 Mayberry St., 78572, 956-580-8770
MISSOURI CITY
Sienna Plantation Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. One Waters Lake Blvd., 77459, 281-778-4653
MONAHANS
Ward County Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. PO Box 285, 79756, 432-943-5044
MONT BELVIEU
Eagle Pointe Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 12440 Eagle Pointe Drive, 77535, 281-385-6666
MONTGOMERY
Blaetree National Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 4430 S. FM 1486, 77316, 936-449-4907
Del Lago Resort — 18 holes, resort. 600 Del Lago Blvd., 77356, 936-582-7570, www.delago.com
Woodforest Golf Club — 27 holes, daily fee. 6201 Mulligan Drive, 77356, 936-588-8800
MOODY
Greenbrier Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 7810 S. Lone Star Parkway, 76557, 254-653-2927
MORTON
Morton Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. Route 2, Box 53, 79346, 806-266-5941
MOUNT PLEASANT
Mount Pleasant Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1000 Country Club Drive, 75455, 903-572-1804
Shadow Lakes Golf Course and Practice Range — 9 holes, par 3, daily fee. Rt. 3 Box 135, 75455, 903-572-1288
MUENSTER
Turtle Hill Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. Route 373 North, 76252, 940-759-4896
MULESHOE
Muleshoe Golf and Country Club — 9 holes, daily fee. 900 Country Club Road, 79347, 806-272-4250
MUNDAY
Lake Creek Golf Course — 9 holes, private; semi-private. 340 West Main St., 76713, 940-422-8088
MURKIN
Echo Creek Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 6790 Ann Drive, 75758, 903-852-7094

N
NACOGDOCHES
Woodland Hills Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 359 County Road 5021, 75964, 936-564-2762
NAVASOTA
Bluebonnet Country Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 4505 Old Bridge Road, 77668, 936-894-2207
Navasota Municipal Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. 105 W. Washington, 77668, 936-825-7284
NEW BOSTON
Oak Grove Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. One Oak Grove Drive, 75570, 903-223-8402
NEW BRAUNFELS
Landa Park Municipal Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 800 Golf Course Drive, 78132, 830-608-2174

Sundance Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 2294 Common St., 78130, 830-629-3817
The Bandit Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 6019 FM 725, 78130, 830-609-4665
NEW ULM
The Falls Golf & Country Club — 18 holes, resort. 1750 North Falls Drive, 78950, 979-992-3123
NOCONA
Nocona Hills Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 179 Country Club Drive, 76255, 940-825-3444
Indian Oaks Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. West Highway 82, 76255, 940-825-4213
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS
Iron Horse Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 6200 Skylark Circle, 76180, 817-485-6666
O
ODESSA
Ratiff Ranch Golf Links — 18 holes, daily fee. 7500 North Grandview, 79768, 432-550-8181
Sunset Country Club — 18 holes, 9 holes par-3, semi-private. 9301 Andrews Highway, 79760, 432-366-1061
OLTON
Olton Country Club — 9 holes, municipal. Highway 166, 79064, 806-285-2595
OVERTON
Overton Municipal Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. South Lakeshore Drive, 75684, 903-834-6414
P
PALACIOS
Palacios Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. Highway 35, 77465, 361-972-5947
PALESTINE
Meadowbrook Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 224, 75802, 903-723-7530
PAMPA
Hidden Hills Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. North Highway 70, 79064, 806-669-5066
PANHANDLE
Panhandle Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 177, 79068, 806-537-3300
PARIS
Elk Hollow Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 2200 NE 36th, 75462, 903-785-6585
Pine Ridge Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. PO Box 1309, 75461, 903-785-8076
PASADENA
Pasadena Municipal Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 1000 Duffer Lane, 77034, 281-481-0834
San Jacinto College Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. 8800 Sepco Highway, 77505, 281-476-1860
PEARLAND
Southwyck Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 2901 Clubhouse Drive, 77584-4841, 713-436-9999
PECOS
Chaparral Village Golf and Country Club — 9 holes, daily fee. Highway 80, 79772, 432-445-6890
Reeves County Golf Course — 10 holes, municipal. 88 Starley Drive, 79772, 432-447-2858
PEELTOWN
Indian Oaks Golf Club — 30 holes, daily fee. 7574 Lee Lane, 75143, 903-498-3564
PERRYTON
Perryton Municipal Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 402 Southeast 24th, 79070, 806-435-5381
PFUGERVILLE
Blackhawk Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 2714 Kelly Lane, 78660, 512-251-9000
PHARR
Tierra Del Sol Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 700 E. Hall Acres Rd., 78577, 956-702-2320
PITTSBURG
Princedale Golf Course — 9 holes, semi-private. Daingerfield Hwy., 75686, 903-856-3737
PLAINVIEW
Plainview Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 2900 West Fourth St., 79072, 806-296-6148
PLANO
Chase Oaks Golf Course — 27 holes, daily fee. 7201 Chase Oaks Blvd., 75025, 972-517-7777
Los Rios Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1700 Country Club Drive, 75074, 972-424-8913
Pecan Hollow Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 5501 East 14th St., 75074, 972-441-7600
Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 2701 Ridgeview Drive, 75025, 972-390-1039

PLEASANTON
Pleasanton Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1801 McGuffin Drive, 78064, 830-281-3486
POINT VENTURE
Point Venture Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 422 Venture Blvd. South, 78845, 512-267-2768
PORT ARTHUR
Babe Zaharias Memorial Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 3500 Jimmy Johnson Blvd., 77642, 409-722-8286
PORT ISABEL
Jim Paul Golf Course — 18 holes, public. 950 S. Garcia St., 78758, 956-943-7520
Long Island Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 950 S. Garcia St., 78758, 956-943-4474
PORTLAND
North Shore Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 870 E. Broadway St., 78374, 361-643-2798
PORT LAVACA
Hatch Bend Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 141, 77979, 361-552-2037
PORTER
Bentwood Country Club — 18 hole, semi-private. 19980 Bentwood Oaks Drive, 77365, 281-354-4653
POTTSBORO
Tanglewood Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. Highway 120, 75076, 903-786-2968
Q
QUINLAN
Tavaloni Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 2104 East Highway 276, 75474-7010, 903-447-2981
R
RANCHO VIEJO
Rancho Viejo Resort and Country Club (El Angel and El Diablo) — 36 holes, resort. 1 Rancho Viejo Dr., 78575-9740, 956-550-4359
RED OAK
Royal Ravenna Scenic Links Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 2727 FM 1753 West, 903-640-2216
RAYMONDVILLE
Raymondville Municipal Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. Hwy. 77, 78580, 956-689-9094
RED OAK
Red Oak Valley Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 800 S. I-35 service road, 75154, 972-617-3249
REFUGIO
Refugio Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. Woodboro Hwy., PO 689, 78377, 361-526-5554
RICHARDSON
Sherrill Park Golf Course (No. 1 and No. 2) — 36 holes, municipal. 2001 E. Lookout Road, 75082, 972-234-1411
RICHMOND
River Pointe Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 11207 FM 2759, 77349, 281-343-9995
RISING STAR
Rolling Oaks Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. County Rd. 266 South, 76471, 254-643-4563
ROBERT LEE
Mountain Creek Golf Club — 9 holes, municipal. PO Box 700, 76945, 325-453-2317
ROCKDALE
Rockdale Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 166, 76567, 512-446-4013
ROCKWALL
Buffalo Creek Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 624 Country Club Drive, 75032, 972-771-4033
SHARON
Sharon Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 2600 Champion Drive, 75087, 972-771-0301
ROSHARON
The Bend at Brazoria Golf Club — 9 holes, daily fee. 2315 C.R. 57, 75883, 281-431-2954
ROTAN
Rotan Golf Club — 9 holes, daily fee. 201 West Snyder, 79546, 325-737-2342
ROUND ROCK
Forest Creek Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 99 Twin Ridge Pkwy., 78664, 512-388-2874
TERAVISTA Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 4333 Teravista Club Highway, 512-651-9850
ROWLETT
Waterview Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 9509 Waterview Pkwy., 75089, 972-463-8900
ROYSE CITY
Stone River Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 846 FM 2453, 75189, 972-636-2254
RUSK
Birmingham Forest Golf Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 1063, 78785, 903-683-9518

S
SALADO
Mill Creek Country Club — 27 holes, semi-private. 1401 S. Ridge Road, 76571-0067, 254-947-5698
SAN RAYBURN
Rayburn Country Resort & Country Club — 27 holes, resort. 1000 Wingate Blvd., 75951, 1-800-882-1442, 409-698-2271
SAN ANGELO
Quicksand Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 2305 Pulliam, 76905, 325-482-8337
Riverside Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 2600 Martin Luther King, 76903, 325-653-6130
Santa Fe Park Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. 111 River Drive, 76902, 325-657-4485
SAN ANTONIO
Alamo Country Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 9700 Rockhelle, 78240, 210-696-4000
Bradenridge Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 2315 Avenue B, 78215, 210-226-5612
Canyon Springs Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 24400 Canyon Golf Road, 78258, 210-497-1770
Cedar Creek Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 8250 Vista Colina, 78255, 210-495-5990
The Golf Club of Texas at Briggs Ranch — 18 holes, daily fee. 13600 Briggs Ranch, 78245, 210-677-0027
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort — 27 holes, resort. 9800 Hyatt Resort Drive, 78251, 210-526-4040
Mission Del Lago Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 1250 Mission Grande, 78214, 210-627-2522
Northern Hills Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 13202 Scarsdale, 78217, 210-655-8026
Olmos Basin Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 7022 North McCullough, 78216, 210-826-4041
Palmer Course at La Cantera — 18 holes, daily fee. 16641 La Cantera Parkway, 78256, 210-558-4653
Pecan Valley Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 4700 Pecan Valley Dr., 78223, 210-333-9018
The Quarry Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 444 E. Basse Road, 78209, 210-824-4500, 800-347-7759
Riverside Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 203 McDonald, 78210, 210-533-8371
SilverHorn Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1100 W. Bitters Road, 78216, 210-545-5500
The Republic — 18 holes, daily fee. 4226 SE Military, San Antonio, 78222, 210-359-0000
Resort Course at La Cantera — 18 holes, daily fee. 16641 La Cantera Parkway, 78256, 210-558-4653
Willow Springs Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 535 Center Parkway, 78219, 210-226-6721
Woodlake Golf & Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 6500 Woodlake Parkway, 78244, 210-661-6124
SAN FELIPE
Stephen F. Austin Golf Course — 18 holes, semi-private. PO Box 227, 77473, 979-885-4633
SAN MARCOS
Quail Creek Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 2701 Airport Hwy 21, 78666, 512-353-1664
Texas State Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 1351 Post Road, 78666, 512-245-7593
SAN SABA
San Saba Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. PO Box 817, 76877, 325-372-3212
SCROGGINS
Cypress Springs Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. 8102 FM 115, 75480, 903-860-2155
SEABURY
Pecan Ridge Golf Club — 18 holes, public. 8930 FM 1390, 75158, 972-486-4653
SEALY
River Ridge Golf Course — 27 holes, daily fee. 3133 Brazos Oak Lane, 77474, 979-885-3333

SEGUIN
The Golf Club of Seguin — 18 holes, semi-private. 300 Chaparral Drive, 78155, 830-303-0669
Starcke Park Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. PO Box 591, 78155, 830-401-2490
SEMIPOLE
Gaines County Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. PO Box 308, 79360, 432-758-3808
SEYMOUR
Salt Fork River Estates Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. PO Box 31, 76380, 940-889-2833
SHAIROCK
Shamrock Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. 900 South Wall, 79079, 806-256-5151
SHERMAN
Northern Challenge Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 520 Champions Lane, 75092, 903-891-6700
Sherman Hills Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1604 S. Sam Rayburn Fwy., 75090, 888-870-9336
SINTON
Sinton Municipal Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. PO Box 216, 78387, 361-364-9013
SLATON
Slaton Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. Route 2, Box 179, 79364, 806-828-3269
SNYDER
Scurry County Golf Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 498, 79550, 325-573-7101
Western Texas College Golf Club — 9 holes, daily fee. 6200 S. College Ave., 79549, 325-573-9291
SONORA
Sonora Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 1612 Golf Course Road, 76950, 325-387-3680
SOUR LAKE
Ishyhold Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 1110 Pine Shadows Drive, 77659, 409-753-2515
SPEARMAN
Hansford Golf Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 335, 79081, 806-659-2233
SPICEWOOD
Barton Creek/Palmer Lakeside Course — 18 holes, resort. 1900 Club House Hill Drive, 78669-1329, 830-693-7581, 800-888-2257
Perdones Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 807 Paisley, 78669, 512-264-1489
SPRING
Augusta Pines Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 18 Augusta Pines Drive, 77379, 281-295-9200
Cypresswood Golf Club (Creek, Tradition, Cypress) — 54 holes, daily fee. 21602 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, 77373, 281-821-6300
Gleamloch Farms Golf Club — 27 holes, daily fee. 19393 Champion Forest Drive, 77379, 281-295-9200
Windrose Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 6235 Pine Lakes, 77379, 281-370-8900
SPRING BRANCH
Rayner Ranch Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 10101 Rebecca Creek, 78070, 830-885-7495
SPUR
Spur Golf Club — 9 holes, daily fee. PO Box 1083, 79370, 806-271-4355
STANTON
Martin County Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 651, 79782, 432-756-2556

STEPHENVILLE
Legends Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 137 Ben Hogan Drive, 76401, 254-968-2200
Tejas Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. PO Box 326, 76401, 254-965-3904
STRATFORD
Stratford Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 709, 79084, 806-396-2259
SUGAR LAND
Greatwood Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 6767 Greatwood Pkwy., 77479, 281-343-9999
SULPHUR SPRINGS
Sulphur Springs Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. Route 1, Box 340, 75482, 903-885-4861
SUNDOWN
Sundown Municipal Golf Club — 9 holes, municipal. 600 West Richardson, 79372, 806-229-6186
SUNNYVALE
Town East Golf Center — 9 holes, daily fee. 3134 Belt Line Rd., 75182, 972-226-8749
SWEETWATER
Lake Sweetwater Municipal Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 2125 FM 1856, 79556, 325-235-8816
T
TAYLOR
Mustang Creek Golf Club — 9 holes, daily fee. PO Box 1385, 76754, 512-365-1332
TEAGUE
Big Cedar Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. Route 2 Box 224, 75860, 254-739-5600
TEMPLE
Sammons Park Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 2727 W. Adams Ave., 76504, 254-771-2030
The Old Nine at Temple College — 9 holes, municipal. S. First St., 76501, 254-773-0888
TERRELL
Oak Grove Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 2000 Colquitt Road, 75169, 512-563-8553
TEXARKANA
Texarkana Golf Ranch — 18 holes, daily fee. 7401 Scott Wright Rd., 75503, 903-334-7401
TEXAS CITY
Bayou Golf Club — 18 holes, municipal. 2800 Ted Dudley Drive, 77590, 409-643-5850
THE COLONY
Stewart Peninsula Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. 100 Cottonwood Springs Circle, 78056, 972-625-8700
The Tribute Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 10000 Lebanon Road, 75956, 972-370-5465
THE WOODLANDS
Canogate at The Woodlands, Panther Trail — 18 holes, semi-private. 2311 N. Millbend Drive, 77380, 281-882-3000
Canogate at The Woodlands, The Oaks Course — 18 holes, semi-private. 2301 N. Millbend Drive, 77380, 281-867-1100
TOMBALL
Treeline Golf Club — 18 holes, daily fee. 17505 N. Eldridge Pkwy., 77375, 281-376-1542
TRINIDAD
Shady Oaks Golf Course — 9 holes, daily fee. Hwy 274 at Spillway, 7653, 903-778-4480
TRINITY
Trinity Plantation Country Club — 9 holes,

semi-private. Box 1820, Hwy 19 South, 75862, 936-594-2583
Westwood Shores Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. Route 4, Box 3650, Hwy 356, 75862, 936-594-9171
TRICUP
Hilltop Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 455, 75789, 903-842-3516
TULIA
Tule Lake Golf Course — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 843, 79088, 806-995-3400
TYLER
Pine Springs Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 5630 Pine Springs Road, 75708, 903-526-4653
U
UNIVERSAL CITY
Olympia Hills Golf and Conference Center — 18 holes, municipal. 12900 Mount Olympus, 78148, 210-945-4653
UVALDE
Uvalde Memorial Park Golf Course — 18 holes, municipal. 329 E. Garden St., 78801, 830-278-6155
V
VAN HORN
Mountain View Golf Course — 9 holes, municipal. Golf Course Road, 78955, 915-283-2628
VEGA
Oldham County Country Club — 9 holes, semi-private. PO Box 465, 79092, 806-267-2595
VICTORIA
Colony Creek Country Club — 18 holes, semi-private. 301 Colony Creek Drive, 77904, 361-576-0018
Riverside Golf Course — 27 holes, municipal. 302 McCright, PO Box 2234, 77901, 361-573-4521
VIDOR
Riverwood Golf Course — 18 holes, daily fee. 657 Eagle St., 77162, 409-768-1710
VILLAGE HILLS
Wildwood Golf Club — 18 holes, semi-private. PO Box 903, 77663, 409-834-2940
W
WACO
Connally Golf Course — 1



2006 *Whispering Pines begins its run at No. 1. ... The Fantasy Golf theme included a dream layout made up of the 18 best holes.*

TWENTY YEARS OF TEXAS GOLF

Staff writer Bill Nichols takes a canoe trip down White Rock Creek, which links some of the best courses in the Dallas area.

2007



TEXAS' 18 BEST HOLES

BEST PAR-4s



Preston Trail Golf Club No. 16
PAR 4, 415 YARDS
A narrow fairway awaits golfers and the green is guarded by water. But a good tee shot is rewarded with an inviting look at the green.
Years on list: 7



Whispering Pines No. 18
PAR 4, 464 YARDS
The second shot is the big one on this hole. The green has three tiers, and finding the right one makes birdie a possibility.
Years on list: 5



Whispering Pines No. 14
PAR 4, 392 YARDS
It's a risk-reward hole because golfers can decide how much of the water to try to fly over from the tee. From there, the only bunker is behind the green.
Years on list: 2



Stonebridge Ranch (Dye) No. 18
PAR 4, 467 YARDS
Water runs down the entire length of the hole on the left. The wind usually blows in, and the fairway is heavily sloped toward the water. Bunkers guard the right side of the green.
Years on list: 3



Carlton Woods No. 15
PAR 4, 455 YARDS
Water plays a major factor in all shots on the hole. The tee shot, from the back tees, goes over water, and the green is guarded by a creek that runs right in front of it. There are no bunkers.
Years on list: 4

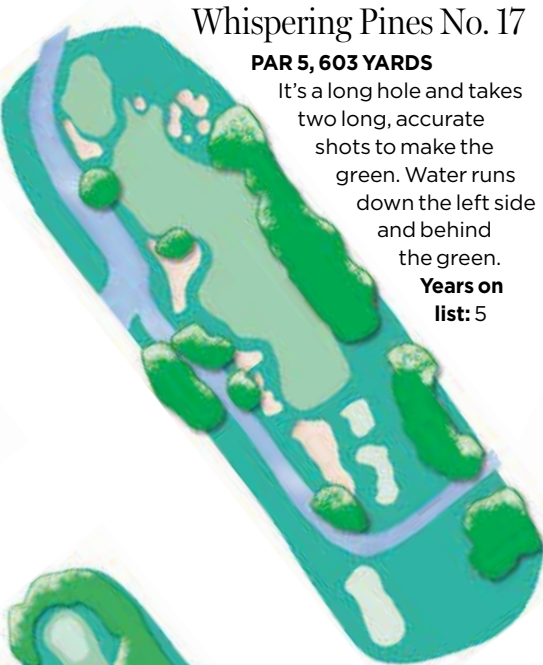
Fore!

There's a shakeup among state's top par-4s

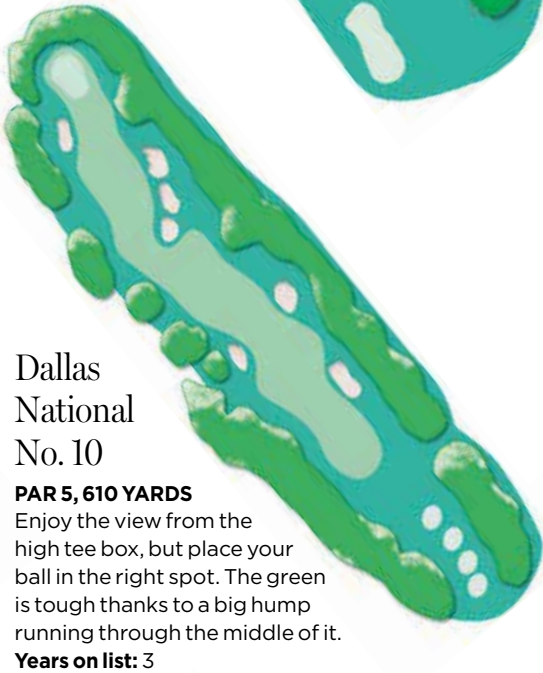
By **RICHARD DURRETT**
Staff Writer / rdurrett@dallasnews.com

Four of the best par-4s in the state are new to the list. That includes three from the Dallas area — No. 13 at Royal Oaks, No. 8 at Dallas National and No. 18 at Stonebridge Ranch (Dye Course).
Whispering Pines, the No. 1 course for the third consecutive year, has five hole on the list, one more than in 2007. That's because No. 16 was considered one of the four best par-3s in the state for the first time.
Three holes — a par-3, par-4 and par-5 — have made the list since 1989. That includes No. 5 at Colonial Country Club, a par-4 that is also one of the toughest in the state.

BEST PAR-5s



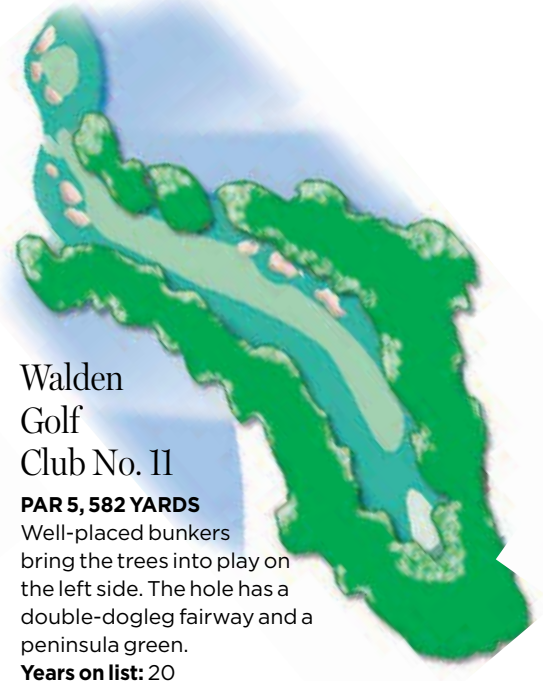
Whispering Pines No. 17
PAR 5, 603 YARDS
It's a long hole and takes two long, accurate shots to make the green. Water runs down the left side and behind the green.
Years on list: 5



Dallas National No. 10
PAR 5, 610 YARDS
Enjoy the view from the high tee box, but place your ball in the right spot. The green is tough thanks to a big hump running through the middle of it.
Years on list: 3



Barton Creek Fazio Foothills No. 18
PAR 5, 546 YARDS
Great drives are rewarded with a chance to go for an elevated green in two. There is danger — a pond lurks — for missed tee shots.
Years on list: 19



Walden Golf Club No. 11
PAR 5, 582 YARDS
Well-placed bunkers bring the trees into play on the left side. The hole has a double-dogleg fairway and a peninsula green.
Years on list: 20

BEST PAR-3s



The Hills CC, The Hills Course No. 7
PAR 3, 184 YARDS
Hurst Creek and bunkers around the green make this an intimidating tee shot. But at least it's a beautiful view.
Years on list: 20



Whispering Pines No. 15
PAR 3, 178 YARDS
The island green makes this hole a pretty one, but difficult. But the distance isn't too long.
Years on list: 4

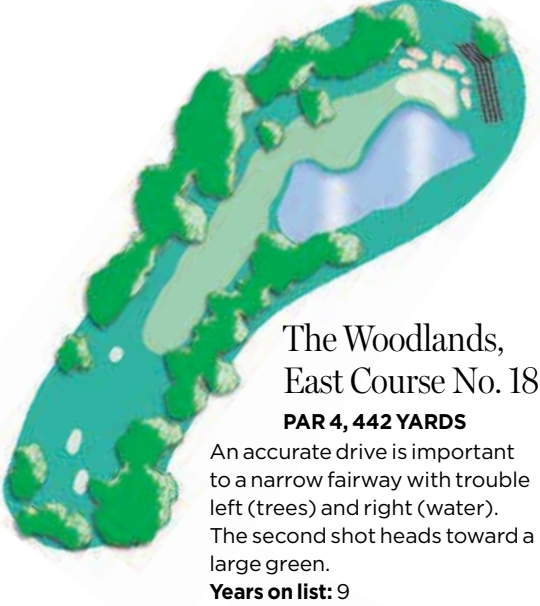


Waterwood National No. 14
PAR 3, 227 YARDS
The length makes this hole, the course's signature one, tough as golfers must carry the ball 225 yards across part of Lake Livingston.
Years on list: 12




Whispering Pines No. 16
PAR 3, 228 YARDS
The hole is all carry over water, but there is no bailout area for poor tee shots. The club selection must be correct, making par a good score.
Years on list: 1

BEST PAR-4s



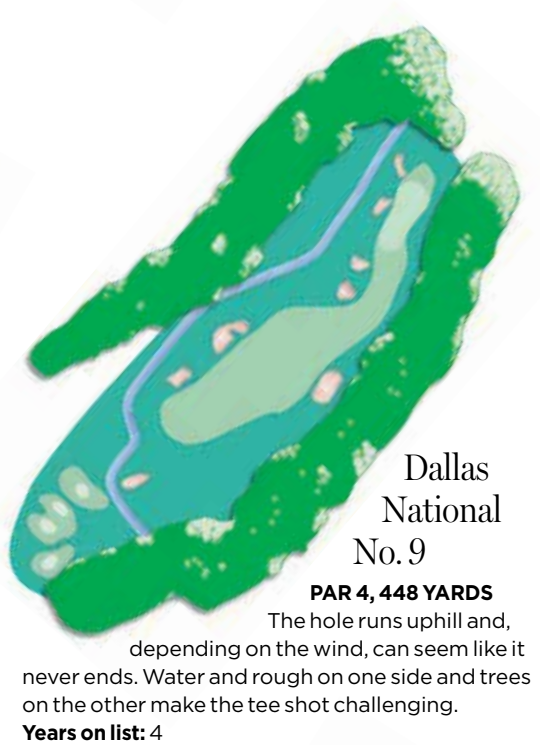
The Woodlands, East Course No. 18
PAR 4, 442 YARDS
An accurate drive is important to a narrow fairway with trouble left (trees) and right (water). The second shot heads toward a large green.
Years on list: 9



Royal Oaks No. 13
PAR 4, 475 YARDS
It's a long, dogleg to the right that requires a second shot over White Rock Creek to reach the green.
Years on list: 15



Colonial CC No. 5
PAR 4, 459 YARDS
Regulars at one of the classic courses in the country know that you take par every time. It's a narrow fairway that's well-guarded by trees and the Trinity River, and the green is small.
Years on list: 20



Dallas National No. 9
PAR 4, 448 YARDS
The hole runs uphill and, depending on the wind, can seem like it never ends. Water and rough on one side and trees on the other make the tee shot challenging.
Years on list: 4



Dallas National No. 8
PAR 4, 475 YARDS
The straightaway hole plays into the prevailing wind and has a rock quarry wall on the right side. No matter the drive, it's still a long iron into a green that is deceptively sloped from back right to front left.
Years on list: 1