



Hawk's Eye, sister course to The Chief, is set to open its second nine holes.

Course construction continues

The Torch, Hawk's Eye and Hawk Ridge nearing completion

BY MIKE TERRELL

Special to the Record-Eagle

Although the new golf course development boom of the last couple of decades has slowed in Michigan, a few new courses are under construction and a couple will open this summer.

Quality is now the byword rather than quantity. While the state may have relinquished its title as the national leader in new course development—a title it held for well over a decade—limited construction continues in northwest Michigan where the boom started in the mid-1980s.

The new courses under construction were designed by a couple of the sport's top golf course archi-

tects, Michigan's Jerry Mathews and Canadian John Robinson. Both are considered among the top 50 golf course architects in North America.

A-Ga-Ming Golf Course, overlooking beautiful Torch Lake, has started construction on The Torch, a new 18-hole tract designed by Mathews. It's slated to open in 2004, according to GM and part owner Mike Brown.

"Play had reached a point on the Ming during our peak summer periods where we needed another course, and the land for this new course is beautiful," he enthused. "It's rolling orchard land with wooded pockets and limited views of Torch Lake."

Mathews called it some of the

best natural land for building a golf course that he's had to work with. Considerable praise coming from one of the most prolific golf course architects in the state. He's seen a lot of property.

A new 7,500-square-foot clubhouse, which will offer more restaurant seating and a bigger pro shop, is also scheduled about the same time as the new course.

A-Ga-Ming will once again be offering the Traverse City Triple Play golf package, which includes two night's midweek lodging and 18 holes with cart at the Ming, High Pointe and The Chief starting from

Please see Page 9

Improving your golf swing

PGA professional breaks down the mechanics

Looking to improve your golf game?

King's Challenge PGA professional Chuck Olson describes the mechanics of an effective golf swing.

Set-up

Hover the clubhead off the ground to promote a smooth takeaway. Keep the ball forward in the stance with the arms extended comfortably and naturally. The insides of your feet should be shoulder width, flared out to promote balance.

Keep the knees flexed and spread, creating a quiet lower body during the backswing. If you are right-handed, your weight should be distributed with about 75 percent on the right leg, with the right side lower than the left.

Takeaway

About 36 inches into the swing, the width of the takeaway is created with an extension of the right arm. Reach with the left shoulder over to the inside of the right knee. The lower body supports the upper body as the knees remain flexed and spread, thus restricting the hip turn and creating torque between the upper and lower body.

Top of Swing

The left shoulder turn levels, loading the upper body on the right leg. Keep your shoulders 90degrees to the target with the knees spread, promoting restriction of the hips, as the differential between the shoulders and hips will help to start the downswing. The backswing is a turning shift.

Transition

This is a classic sit-down position. The lower left side initiates transition, thus pulling the right shoulder down and allowing the club to lay back into a plane.

The hands remain locked and lagging with the left knee spread apart from the right. This ensures getting to the left side and allowing you to release the right side at impact.

Impact

Release all built-up leverage of 1) your left arm to the golf shaft angle and 2) the right arm angle. Hit into, and then through from the right side.

Your hands deliver the clubhead squarely to impact. Take a baseball-type sequence back to impact from top of swing.

Finish

Extend through post impact. Your belt buckle and sternum have released well left of the target and the weight distribution has dynamically been transformed over to the left side while shoulder balance is achieved. The downswing is a shifting lower-body turn.

Olson is a manager at King's Challenge and Sleeping Bear Golf Club. Both of which are located off M-22 between Leland and Glen Arbor.

He continues his efforts in making Leelanau County a quality golf destination.

"After seeing the success of golf in Leelanau County over the recent seasons, I believe that Leelanau County is an exceptional golf destination," he said. "To that end, we are working diligently to expose as many golfers to this pristine golf destination, which now includes three very differing golf experiences. There is truly something for every golf ability, all surrounded by the shores of Lake Michigan."



WANT TO HEAR A SECRET?



"Indian River Golf Club Is The Best Kept Secret in the North!"

— The Detroit Free Press

- 18 holes of Championship Golf
- Golf and Social Memberships Available
- Serving Lunches, Dinners & Sunday Brunch
- Spacious Banquet Room for Special Events
- Driving Range w/ PGA Instruction Available

800.305.4742

For Tee Time & Dinner Reservations
3301 Chippewa Beach Road, Indian River

Discover the Undiscovered!





- Seasonal rates available
- Shop the Bear Trap Pro Shop
- 6 play punch cards
- Head Golf Pro Mark Youngdahl
- Golf lessons available
- Twilight rates available starting at 4 p.m. 7 days a week
- Snack Bar

4/26.697339.gf

US 31 South • Bear Lake, MI • 231-864-3817 • www.golfbearlake.com