

GOLF

Fall golf: One last round

BY MIKE TERRELL

Special to the Record-Eagle

Autumn creates a stunning backdrop for what many area golfers call their "favorite golfing season." "Fall is my favorite time of the year to play golf, especially in northern Michigan," said Hoosier golfer Tom Link after a recent round at A-Ga-Ming Golf Club. "This is an annual trip for myself and friends to come north and play golf each fall. The courses aren't crowded, the rates are lower and it's some of the best conditions of the year."

This year, fall was more than just a typical shoulder season for area golf courses and resorts; it's been a chance to regroup from a brutally cold, wet spring and cooler than usual summer.

"It hasn't been the best year for golf weather-wise," said Dave Taberski, owner of the Crown Golf Course in Traverse City. "We've taken an aggressive posture towards marketing golf for

the fall, and it's paying off."

The Crown was offering an 18-hole round of golf with cart for \$24 through the remainder of the season. A-Ga-Ming had a \$35 rate for an 18-hole round with cart.

Across the Chain-of-Lakes, both the Chief and Hawk's Eye are ending the season with some great twilight rates, according to head golf pro Dave Hill.

"You can play the Chief for \$44 with cart and Hawk's Eye for \$55 after 2 p.m. every day through the end of the season," said the longtime area pro. "We'll also have daily specials going on through the rest of the season."

Across the road at Shanty Creek, the rate was \$75 weekend or \$70 midweek to play either Cedar River or Legend, said head pro Roger Bliss. Schuss Mountain, popular with the locals, was available for \$55 on weekends and \$50 midweek, with the Summit going for as little as \$30 midweek.

The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa was offering

same-day second round play for \$25 on any course. The rate included an 18-hole round of golf with a cart.

Just east of the Resort, High Pointe was asking \$30 for 18 holes with cart for the rest of the season.

Overlooking both bays on the south side of Traverse City, Elmbrook was offering 18-hole rounds with a cart for \$25 through the end of the season, according to GM Roger Putman, who said it's been a so-so year so far.

"It's been all weather related," he lamented. "When the weather's been good, which wasn't often in the early part of the season, we've had good crowds. When it hasn't, we haven't been that busy. It's been great since Labor Day, and fortunately we don't depend on tourists to fill the course."

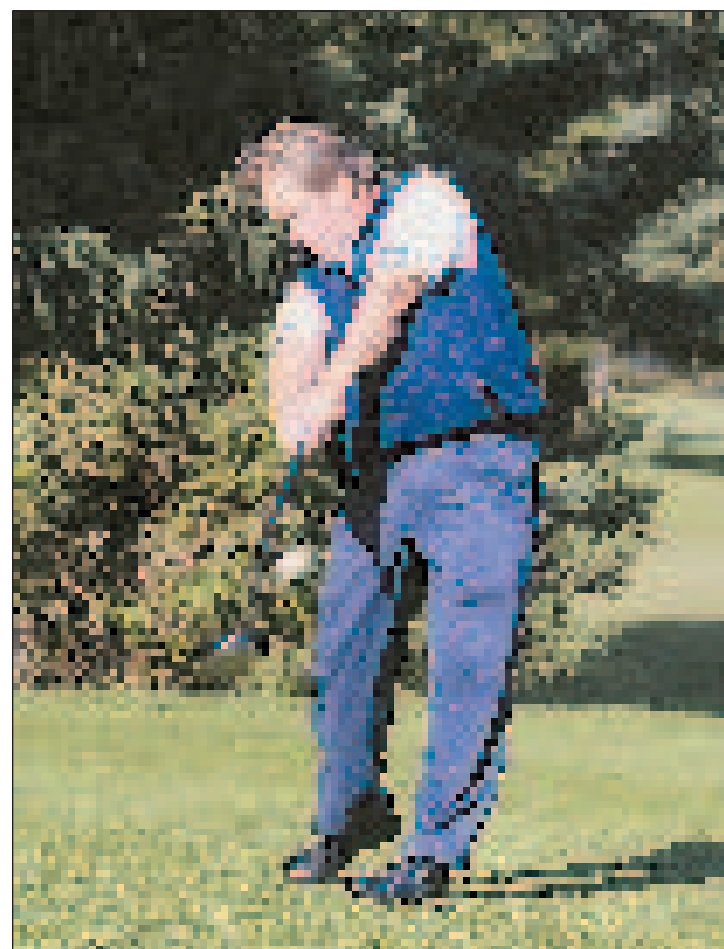
At Interlochen Golf Course, it's \$25 with cart for 18 holes through the end of the season, said owner Tony Kochevar. Seniors 60 and over are \$20 through the end of the season.

Mistwood, according to Kathy Barrstad, will be at \$38 with a cart for 18 holes until the end of the season.

Both of Chuck Olson's Leelanau golf operations — King's Challenge and the Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms — were also offering attractive fall rates. King's Challenge had its Steak and Play package at \$39 midweek and \$49 weekends.

At the Leelanau Club, 18 holes with a cart was \$39 on weekends and \$35 midweek, and color viewing doesn't get much better. The golf course sits on some of the highest hills in the county.

The same goes for Lee Stone's Champion Hill Golf Course in the uplands above Honor in Benzie County.



Record-Eagle/Doug Tesner

David Toski tees off on a warm autumn day at Interlochen Golf Course.

Monday through Friday, foursomes can play for as little as \$112, including 18 holes and two carts.

Benzie County's Crystal Mountain was offering something they call Fill-a-Foursome, according to spokesperson Joan O'Neill.

"Four golfers, with cart, for just \$99 per foursome on the Betsie Valley course (Monday through Friday), and \$10 more per person gets them on the Mountain Ridge course," she said.

For golfers who want to get away for a night or two, Boyne USA was offering overnight packages, according to spokesperson Julie Ard.

"Our twilight rates start as low as \$25, and you can play 18 holes at Bay Harbor Golf Club for as little as \$75 as a Boyne houseguest," she

said. "Rates range from \$25 to \$65 for all Boyne Mountain, Boyne Highlands and Crooked Tree Golf Club courses."

Garland is offering a \$99 getaway for an overnight stay that includes 36 holes. If you stay two nights, it includes unlimited golf for two days on all four of their courses. They also have what they call a "last minute special," according to head pro Todd Campbell.

"If you call no more than 48 hours ahead for a tee time, it's \$40 for an 18-hole round with cart on any of our courses through the rest of the season, depending of availability. It's geared towards getting that last-minute round in while the fall weather is still nice," he added.

PHYSICIAN'S
Weight Management Center

**You haven't
tried everything...**

PHYSICIAN'S WEIGHT MANAGEMENT CENTER

3537 W. Front Street, Suite H • Traverse City
(231) 935-8878

pwmc@charterinternet.com

CALL TODAY FOR FREE CONSULTATION AND BODY ANALYSIS

M. Eleanor Beal, M.D.

Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Graduate University of Minnesota 1981