

SHORT STROKES



FRANK WHITEHEAD AND HIS WIFE OF 67 YEARS, BERNICE.

Frank Whitehead: 91 and Still Going Low

One of the biggest thrills a golfer can have is the day he shoots his age, unless you are **Frank Whitehead** of Sun City West, Ariz., that is. "I'm disappointed if I shoot close to 90," said the 91-year-old Iowa native, who retired to Arizona in 1993. "I know I can do better. I just like to play a good game."

Spoken like a true golfer, who regularly shoots in the mid-80's and plays to an 11.5 handicap index as of Feb. 1. Last December, Whitehead clearly was turning heads on the Grandview Golf Course when he posted an 81, a mere 10 strokes below his age.

A musician by trade, Whitehead started playing golf at the age of 28, when a nightclub manager suggested the game to him. With late nights and free days, the sport offered the perfect balance to fill his time, providing him with an arsenal of stories as he traveled the country stroking the bass guitar at night and swinging his persimmons during the day.

While in Chicago, he took advantage of watching the likes of Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Tommy Bolt and Harry Cooper, who made their yearly visits to the Western Open in the mid 30s and 40's. Not a bad way to pick up the game, considering his first and only lesson ended after the golf professional spent more time with a female student than this aspiring young golfer. Clearly a waste of a good \$3 back in those days.

To date, he has notched three holes-in-one and is still looking for his fourth. His

best round came when he was a young 40-something at Ray Mondo Memorial Park in Columbus, Ohio, shooting a blistering 65 (32-33) that elicited this response from the golf shop, "We don't even have pros out here that can do that!" So impressive was his performance that the local paper sent a scribe to commemorate the event.

Up until a few months ago, he was a pretty solid single-digit handicapper, even playing to a 7.5 as recently as 2001. Two minor strokes last spring and arthritis in his thumbs have slowed down this spry nonagenarian, but it hasn't dampened his desire for the game that still beckons him three or four times a week. In fact, on a good day he can still drive the ball some 225 or 230 yards.

"When you have aches and pains you give way to that," he said. "It's always on your mind. I don't like to play bad."

The definition of bad is in the eye of the beholder. Oh, to be 91 again.

Douglas and Dickinson Continue to Lead

Barbara Douglas (right), a member of the AGA Executive Committee, has recently been elected to a one-year term as second vice chair of the USGA Women's Committee 2005. **Christi Dickinson**, a past president of the AGA, has been re-elected to a one-year term on the committee.



Douglas has been a member of the Women's Committee since 1993. Prior to joining the Women's Committee, she served on the Women's Amateur Public Links Committee. She has served on the Sectional Qualifying Committee and been chairman of the Women's Regional Affairs and the Women's Amateur Public Links Championship Committees. She presently chairs the Women's Open Format Committee and serves as a member of the Women's Strategic Planning Committee.

Douglas has been involved with the National Minority Golf Foundation for many years, and served as its president from 1999 to 2005. She currently serves as a consultant to the Foundation. Prior to joining the NMGF, Douglas, a product of the corporate world, forged a career at the IBM Corporation, where she held numerous general management and executive positions.

Golf Summit of Arizona

Golf is big business in Arizona, but rounds of golf and the revenue generated has decreased at individual golf courses. Future demographic trends show that the Baby Boomers may not be interested in golf club membership and, as a group,

All Hail the Coach

Pre-WWII natives of Arizona are hard to find these days—but our Spring, 2005 “Character of Arizona Golf” is just that. **Bill Mann**, known simply as “Coach” to his friends, was born in Prescott on July 21, 1924, and has been tied to the state ever since. Although Bill always considered himself to be only a recreational golfer, he has spent much of his life around the game. He became familiar with golf through his father, the golf professional at the old Hassayampa course in Prescott and later at Phoenix Country Club.

Then, as “Coach” at Arizona State University, he led the men’s golf team from 1961-1975 and then again in 1987. During his tenure, the Sun Devils finished in the top ten seven times. Notable students included Howard Twitty, Charlie Gibson, Tom Purtzer, George Boutell, Joe Porter and Bob Gilder. In 1988 he was inducted into the National Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame and in 2000 the ASU Sports Hall of Fame.

It is often said that once golf gets in your blood, it stays there—once the passion cries out to you, it becomes you. This is the essence of “Coach.” Now retired and unable to play golf because of a broken neck suffered in an auto accident several years ago, Coach Mann has found a way to feed his passion and desire to be close to the game.

Anyone who plays in AGA Championships, SWSPGA Championships, college tournaments or PGA Tour events has had the opportunity to experience the work of this fine gentleman of the game. He now channels his energies into producing works of art called SCOREBOARDS. Like an artist, he can be seen with his multi-colored array of oversized marking pens filled with liquid ink—a portion of which invariably shows up on his hands and, sometimes even on his clothes. Often at the golf course from early morning until the last player’s score is posted, Coach can even be seen putting the final



touches to his boards after the awards and trophies have long since been presented.

Coach is an icon in the state—we are happy to have him as part of our family!

have less time for a 4-plus hour round of golf. Introducing the game to young people (especially minority youth) and to women will be critical. The Golf Summit of Arizona, hosted by the Cactus and Pine GCSA and the USGA, invites national and local golf industry leaders to provide insight into these issues and offer ideas for those who work in Arizona’s golf industry or for avid golfers who want to see the game grow. The full day seminar and lunch is March

16, 2005, at the Arizona Biltmore.

Speaking about National Trends and Opportunities for golf will be Ruffin Beckwith, Executive Director of Golf 20/20; Sue Wegrzyn, Executive Director of the National Club Foundation; Paul Metzler, PGA of America; Steve Mona, Chief Executive Officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Sara Hume, Executive Director of Executive Women’s Golf Association; Mike Tinkey, Deputy Executive Director of the National

Golf Course Owners Association; and Anthony Zirpoli, Director of Regional Affairs for the USGA. Of special interest will be the presentation by Rudy Duran, who was instrumental in the development of Tiger Woods and went on to build a nationally-recognized junior program at the Links Course at Paso Robles.

Any individual involved or interested in golf and sports turf industry can register by calling 480-609-6778 or going online at cactusandpine.com.

Arizona Women's Golf Recognizes Its Award Winners

At the recent Annual Meeting and Awards dinner of the Arizona Women's Golf Association, **Tui Selvaratnam** was presented with Player of the Year honors for the fourth straight year. Tui posted an amazing record in 2004, which included winning the AWGA Stroke Play Championship and reaching the semi-finals of the USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. Tui also won the Southern Arizona Stroke Play Championship at Pueblo del Sol shooting a course record 65 in the process.



TUI SELVARATNAM (LEFT) WITH BARBARA BYRNES

Senior Player of the Year Honors went to **Barbara Byrnes** of Red Mountain. Barbara won the Phoenix City Championship and the AWGA Senior Stroke Play Championship and was runner-up in the AWGA State Match Play Championship.

Anne Pittman was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award, an award which is given sparingly and with great consideration. It is only presented when someone has provided decades of achievement, support, leadership and volunteerism in the world of golf.

Other award winners included **Tina Huiskamp**, Special Achievement Award; **Shirley Staelens**, AWGA Representative of the Year; **Judi Lorenzen**, Volunteer of the Year; and Tubac Golf Resort, Host Club of the Year.

IN MEMORIAM



Arthur Jack Snyder (1917-2005)

The AGA mourns the passing of **Arthur Jack Snyder**, a longtime contributor to the game of golf on many different levels.

Arthur Jack Snyder began caddying at the age of ten and worked on the golf course during summer vacations at the age of twelve. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture. He even taught a course in golf course design at Penn State while a member of the senior class.

He was golf course superintendent at Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh, where he re-built the No. 8 green. When he moved to Arizona, he became superintendent at the White Mountain Country Club in Pinetop. Prior to entering the field of golf course design, he was responsible for grounds maintenance for Amfac at the Kaanapali Resort Project on the Island of Maui, Hawaii.

Jack Snyder was among the very few practicing golf course architects who held membership in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the GCSAA and was also a registered landscape architect. Mr. Snyder was a Past President of the ASGCA and served as a board member of the National Golf Foundation. He was inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame in November 2002.

Jack was involved in the design or remodeling of more than 40 Arizona courses. His most significant contribution, however, may have been his unselfish approach to his work, choosing to design public golf courses as opposed to more high profile and profitable projects. Some of his accomplishments included Arizona Golf Resort, Beaver Creek, Arizona City, the original Phoenician golf course, the Indian Bend Course at Camelback, Mountain Shadows, Ken McDonald, Cave Creek GC, Silverbell in Tucson and Haven GC in Green Valley.

His work has crossed all boundaries—both local and international—from small towns to large municipalities; and from par-3 courses for kids to destination multi-course resorts in Hawaii. He was still active in course design work with Forrest Richardson & Peter Oosterhuis.