June Tournaments

June 1
PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Larchmont GC (Missoula)

June 1
RMSPGA (YC) Pro Am
Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

June 3
State Junior Divisional District 5
Sidney CC (Sidney)

June 4
Griz Scramble
Bill Roberts GC (Helena)

June 4
PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Assistant
Canyon River GC (Missoula)

June 4-5
Guys & Dolls
Old Works GC (Anaconda)

June 6
Chrome Bar
Stillwater GC (Columbus)

June 6
“Fore” the Greens
Marian Hills GC (Malta)

June 6
Women Fighting Cancer
Prairie Farms GC (Havre)

June 6-7
Cabinet View Memorial
Cabinet View GC (Libby)

June 6-7
Charity Classic
Green Meadow CC (Helena)

June 6-7
Steamboat 2-Man Best Ball
Signal Point GC (Fort Benton)

June 7
ECCS Scramble
Madison Meadows (Ennis)

June 7
Ryder Cup Men
Airport GC (Wolf Point)

Do You Have An Out-of-State Membership?
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

As many out-of-state golfers know, a good number of associations use the GHIN system to compute golf handicaps. In fact, it might seem unusual if an association isn’t with GHIN. However, this doesn’t put Montana golfers at a disadvantage, by any means!

Along with many associations, including Golf Canada, the MSGA has chosen another handicap provider, Golfnet, for a number of reasons. First, it saves MSGA members money! Switching to GHIN would mean an unnecessary increase in membership fees. Second, Golfnet gives the MSGA access to other tools, like the vTour and Tournament Software, at no extra cost...with more software development in the works. And, third, Golfnet gives its associations superior technical support and customer service.

So, then, what is the biggest concern about not being with GHIN? Those coming from out of state are often worried about linking with their score record. Should this be a concern? No! The MSGA is a member of the International Golf Network (IGN). Most associations are members also. (For a list of participating associations, go to www.ign.net.) If your association is not a member, contact them and request that they join! It’s a very minimal fee, but a great service they can provide to their members. The IGN links us all together!

LINK YOUR MEMBERSHIPS! Let your Montana club know you have an out-of-state membership also and they can link them together through the IGN. Or you can contact the MSGA directly at golf@montana.net.

We need your GHIN# (or ID#) and association name. Once the link is in place, scores posted in Montana will automatically be routed to your other record, and vice versa. Multiple in-state memberships can also be linked. This saves you time and ensures an accurate record.

GET ONLINE! Take advantage of the online handicap system and smartphone app, so you can post your scores, monitor your record, and track your game stats no matter where you are! Online members also receive bi-monthly e-mail revisions and a free subscription to Digital Golf World. If you need help, we’d be glad to assist you!

You can contact Emily at golf@montana.net.
The USGA has announced that the second annual PLAY9 Day is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 29**.

Golfers will find extensive engagement opportunities at courses, online, and via social media. Facilities and golfers will be encouraged to share their photos and success stories from PLAY9 Day, and the USGA will feature these across its many platforms. Within social media circles, all participants will be encouraged to promote the day via the use of #Play9Golf.

We at the MSGA hope that you can share your #Play9Golf with us too! On Twitter (@406golf), on Facebook (msgagolf) and on Instagram (@406golf).

“Of paramount importance to the USGA is researching solutions and promoting initiatives to encourage participation, while sustaining the health of golf for future generations,” said Mike Davis, Executive Director of the USGA. “PLAY9 Day addresses the time barrier to the game that some face. By expanding our efforts through outreach with USGA Member Clubs and state and regional golf associations, we anticipate a steady uptick from last year’s program, affirming the merits of playing golf when time does not permit an 18-hole round. We encourage everyone to play golf on July 29, and to bring friends and family along to enjoy the experience.”

With nine-hole facilities making up more than 30 percent of public courses in the U.S. and 90 percent of courses offering a nine-hole rate, July 29 provides an optimal opportunity to play golf and encourage additional participation.

Among the many benefits of the nine-hole round:

- It involves *less of a time commitment* than playing 18 holes.
- It can be *less intimidating* to newcomers as they learn the Rules, etiquette, and fundamentals of the game.
- It is *friendlier on the wallet*.
- Nine-hole scores are *eligible for handicap purposes*. The handicap system automatically adds two 9-hole rounds together to become an 18-hole score.

In 2014, the USGA recorded a 13 percent increase from 2013 in nine-hole rounds posted in the two months after the program’s launch. Golfers can visit www.usga.org/play9 to find more information on posting a nine-hole score. Whether for new players or experienced players, PLAY9 Day is designed to encourage everyone to find the time to play more of the game we all love.
Thoughts On Match Play

Mary Bryson, MSWGA Board Member

At my home course, Green Meadow Country Club in Helena, the end of May has a unique tournament format going on. Not unique in the history of golf, but one that you do not see often in your everyday local tournaments.

With this in mind, I thought it might be fun to discuss the principle behind the basic differences between Match Play and Stroke Play. Maybe you can switch things up during your weekly round? In the book, “The Principles Behind The Rules of Golf” (Richard Tufts, USGA, 1961; William Williams, Jr., USGA, Second Edition - 2012) the authors clarify this. They indicate that “all golf is divided into two parts” – match play and stroke play. Historically, match play was the only form of play for golf. Over the years, competitions have changed and stroke play is much more prevalent today. In fact, very few of us compete in Match Play tournaments, but we may play a friendly match each time we go out to play. A recent example for the ladies is the annual Gre-Bill competition, which is a match between Helena clubs: the Green Meadow Ladies and the Bill Roberts Ladies. That competition applies the Match Play rules.

So, what is this basic principle? According to Tufts, “in match play, only you and your opponent are involved, but in stroke play every competitor in the field has an interest in the results of your play.” So, how does this work? When you are involved in a match, like those we watched this last weekend, only the two or four players on the hole were involved in any decision regarding your play of the ball. They can protect their interests. That’s why we see players concede putts and take turns playing their ball in a specific order. Any advantage you may have is readily apparent to your opponent.

In stroke play, however, except for the group you are playing with, you rarely see any other competitors. They aren’t present to make determinations about your ability to sink a putt, or watch the break on your putt (if you are outside your opponent). They cannot protect their own interests or ensure fair play. The Rules serve as a safeguard in stroke play to protect the interests of the other competitors in the field. The Rules then, recognize this basic difference in perception of the competition.

Match play is an exciting format... think of the Ryder Cup, the U.S. Amateur Championships, and several other high profile events that help determine champions with golf’s beginning format. Have fun and see if incorporating a friendly match is something new to bring to the course with your friends.
2015 State Match Play Championship Results
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

After four days of golf in Helena at Green Meadow Country Club, the 2015 Match Play Championship was down to the final match of 31. Fittingly, 18 holes were not enough to determine a champion.

Ryan Porch (Kalispell), standout at the University of Idaho, successfully defended his 2014 title. It did not come easily, as the championship match went 20 holes with Marcus Drange of Billings, giving Porch a spirited match.

The championship, which has resurfaced in the past three years, offers many of the top amateur competitors in the state a chance to test their games in heads-up competition. It began on Friday, May 29, with stroke play to determine the 32-player field. Drange and Porch were neck and neck from the first day as the two tied for medalist honors with rounds of 65 (-6) on Friday.

Unlike many match play tournaments, the seeds held to form, as the top three seeds advanced to the final four, eventually with the top two seeds battling it out for the championship.

In the consolation match played Monday, Colorado State golfer, Logan Iverson (Kalispell), defeated Rich Franco (Helena) 4&2.

Keep connected with the MSGA for Tournament Updates as the summer tournament season heats up. Find us on Twitter (@406golf) and Instagram (@406golf) as well as on Facebook (msgagolf).

**Championship Match & Consolation Match (6/1)**
Ryan Porch defeated Marcus Drange (20 holes)
Logan Iverson defeated Richard Franco 4&2

**Final Four Matches – (5/31)**
March Drange defeated Richard Franco 1 up
Ryan Porch defeated Logan Iverson 4&2

**Elite Eight Matches – (5/31)**
Marcus Drange defeated Justin Ahlers 2&1
Richard Franco defeated Bennett MacIntyre 1 up
Ryan Porch defeated Drew Vanyo 3&2
Logan Iverson defeated Brady Kirkeby 5&3

**Sweet 16 Matches – (5/30)**
Marcus Drange defeated Jim Coleman 1 up (22 holes)
Justin Ahlers defeated Derek Colberg 3 & 2
Bennett MacIntyre defeated Zach Johannsen 6 & 5
Rich Franco defeated Cody Babinecz 1 up
Ryan Porch defeated Mike Williams 1 up (19 holes)
Drew Vanyo defeated Pat O'Malley 5 & 4
Logan Iverson defeated Joe Cielak 4 & 3
Brady Kirkeby defeated Spencer Williams 3 & 2

**Round of 32 Matches – (5/30)**
Marcus Drange defeated Andy Petroski 7 up
Jim Coleman defeated Barron Culver 4 up
Justin Ahlers defeated Kris Henningens 4 up
Derek Colberg defeated Connor Miele 3 up
Bennett MacIntyre defeated Mike Skinner 6 up
Zach Johannsen defeated Lee Levine 1 up
Rich Franco defeated Kelly Casey 3 up
Cody Babinecz defeated Ron Alles 5 up
Ryan Porch defeated Marc Parriman 5 up
Mike Williams defeated Tate Tatum 1 up
Drew Vanyo defeated Chris Goldan 6 up
Pat O'Malley defeated Austin Zopfi 2 up
Logan Iverson defeated Steve Fawcett 7 up
Joe Cielak defeated Schafer Paladichuk 5 up
Spencer Williams defeated Aiden Clark 4 up
Brady Kirkeby defeated Shane Martin 4 up

**A reminder to any Juniors** wanting to register for the U.S. Junior Amateur or U.S. Girls Junior Amateur qualifying tournaments. While Montana doesn't have any sites this year, there are some located in neighboring states.

The deadline for entry is June 3rd, at 3pm MST. You can find more information and register at https://champs.usga.org.
Do you want something in the newsletter? Contact Nick Dietzen at: ndietzen@gmail.com (406) 459-3459

May News and Notes
George Geise, MSGA Board Member

There weren’t any Montana golfers competing at the NCAA Women’s Championship in Florida, but one of the top coaches at the event was a Treasure State legend.

Judi Pavon has coached the University of Tennessee women’s program for the past 16 years and this week made her eighth appearance at the national collegiate tournament. Her Lady Vols finished sixth in the medal-play portion of the tournament, qualifying for the eight-team match-play event. UT lost its first match against Baylor.

Pavon, the former Judi Schneider, won Class AA state championships at Helena High in 1984 and 1985, then captured State Amateur titles in 1986 and 1989. She had a successful college career at the University of Alabama before turning pro in 1990. Judi played in several LPGA major tournaments before becoming a fulltime coach in 2000. She and her husband and their two daughters reside in Knoxville, TN.

BRANDON McIVER will be returning to the NCAA Championships, but he won’t be back at the U.S. Open. McIver, the former Billings West star who has won the last two Montana State Amateur championships, was a key member of the University of Oregon squad that qualified last week for the NCAA Championships. McIver shot a final-round 70 at the Noblesville (Ind.) Regionals to help the Ducks finish fifth, just good enough to qualify for the national tourney to be played May 29-June 3 in Bradenton, Fla.

McIver recently was named to the all-Pac 12 second team, and his team is currently ranked No. 8 in the nation. He is averaging 71.62 strokes per round this season, including a school-record 62 last fall in...Continued on the next page
Hawaii. The Ducks will compete next week at an NCAA Regional in Noblesville, Ind. McIver, who played at his first U.S. Open last June at Pinehurst, N.C., will be watching on TV this year. He shot a 77 last Monday at the regional qualifier in Oregon. It’s expected that he will defend his State Am title in July at Meadow Lark Country Club.

BEACH’S VICTORY in Missoula at the Barnett put him into a first-place tie with Parker Heller of Helena with 150 points in the Montana State Golf Association’s two-year points cycle. Hurlbert and Spencer Williams of East Helena are tied for third with 95 points. Most of those players are expected to compete in the next event on the circuit, the Montana State Match Play to be contested at Green Meadow Country Club.

POLSON SENIOR OPEN... They might be getting older, but many of the golfers at Polson Senior Open aren’t showing their age. Tournament champion John Kelley of Polson dazzled the field with rounds of 70-69, shooting five under par for 36 holes. He finished nine strokes in front of Gregg Morstein of Dillon in the Ben Hogan championship flight. Both men are former professionals who recently turned 50. Perhaps the star of the show, however, was Polson veteran Jerry Fisher, who fired 73-70 to win the Super Seniors division for guys over 70. He shot his age (again) on Sunday. The sixth-annual tourney attracted a record field of 92 golfers (men and women) to the scenic Polson Bay layout. The event, sponsored by Farmers Insurance, raised $3,000 for the Safe Harbor of Lake County.

A CANADIAN AND players from Wyoming and Idaho were the low scorers Tuesday at a U.S. Open sectional qualifier at Missoula Country Club. Mitchell Fox of Calgary fired a 4-under-par 67 in cool, breezy conditions to take first place. Daniel Brunson of Wilson, Wyo., and Travis Hofland of Idaho Falls each shot 68 to tie for second place. All three professionals advance to the regional qualifying stage, to be held in Oregon. The lowest-scoring Montana golfers were Missoula amateur Brian Beach and Billings Daniel Thompsett, who each fired 71. Young Ryggs Johnston of Libby, one of the top juniors in the Northwest, had the low nine of the day (33), but faltered on the back nine and finished with 72.

**Pair of Battlin’ Bears Compete at NAIA National Tournament**

_Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director_

Rocky Mountain College men’s golfer Daniel Thompsett finished T-51st at the 64th Annual NAIA National Golf Championships that were played at LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Fla., May 19-22. Thompsett, this season’s Frontier Conference tournament champion, finished the national tournament with three-day total of 297 (+9). He opened the tournament with a two-under-par 70, followed by a 75 on both Wednesday and Thursday, and then concluded the tournament with a 77.

Thompsett, who hails from Aboyne, Scotland, graduated from Rocky this May. He qualified for nationals by winning the Frontier Conference championship by two strokes over Lewis-Clark State’s Cole Lorenzo. The NAIA individual championship was won by Dalton State’s Sean Elliott, who finished at 272 (-16).

Fellow Battlin’ Bear golf standout golfer, Kyla Clancy, finished 30th out of the 144-player women’s field at the 21st Annual NAIA National Golf Tournament that was played for the first time at Savannah Quarters Country Club (Pooler, Ga.), May 12-15. Clancy, this year’s Frontier Conference Tournament Champion, finished with a four-day total of 312 (+24). She is a junior from Park City, Mont., and played prep golf at Billings Central Catholic High School. She qualified for the National Tournament by virtue of winning the Frontier Conference tournament title.

Clancy is the reigning Montana State Women’s Amateur Champion. Additionally, Clancy was named to the NAIA Women’s Golf All-America Second Team. Clancy, one of thirty golfers in the nation to be honored in the NAIA ranks.

Congratulations to both Daniel and Kyla on great seasons and representing not only Rocky Mountain College, but also Montana on a national stage!
Barnett Memorial Tournament Results
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

A Montana Golf tradition, the Barnett Memorial Tournament was again held over Memorial weekend at Missoula Country Club.

Missoula native and member of Montana’s Men’s State Team (USGA Competition), Brian Beach, captured his second Barnett trophy. Beach finished the three-day tournament with a sterling total of 203 (-9), besting Ryan Porch and Devon Montoya.

“It’s awesome to win in my hometown! It feels really good,” said Beach. “I was kind of struggling a few years ago and last season and up until now. I kind of figured that out.”

Beach drained birdie putts on holes eight and nine to make the turn with a comfortable lead on day three, then added birdies at 11 and 15 to give himself further distance in what would end up being a five-shot victory (Porch 208, Montoya 209).

“Putts dropped for me and I made a few up and downs,” Beach said. “The competition was really, really fun.”

Beach was joined by another Montana native in claiming the Barnett title, as Hailey Hoagland was victorious. Hoagland, a Butte native and member of the University of Montana team, secured the women’s title after a three-day total of 232, to top recently graduated Carroll College golfer, Jackie Mee of Libby by three shots.

Hoagland was playing in her first Barnett, finished with a final round 81 (+10). “As the days progressed the pins got tougher and tougher,” Hoagland said.

“All day [Monday] you could definitely tell. For the girls, the scores were higher than they were the other two days. It was a good challenge and a really good weekend.”

Prugh, Weingart win Lake City Open Titles
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Ty Weingart of Polson fired a final round two-under-par 70 at Polson Bay Golf Course to win the amateur division of the 25th Lake City Open with a 36-hole total of 136.

Weingart finished three strokes in front of former champion Craig Hurlbert of Hamilton. Logan Lindholm of Kalispell was third at 140, followed by Ryggs Johnson of Libby at 141, and Spencer Williams of East Helena at 142.

In the professional division, Corey Prugh of Spokane shot rounds of 69 Saturday and 67 Sunday for a 136 total, three better than Mike Grob of Billings and Ryan Malby of Kalispell. Prugh won the top award of $3,000 from a prize pool of $9,500.

Former PGA Tour pro Lon Hinkle was fifth at 140, and Polson Bay pro Roger Wallace won Senior Pro honors at 142. Kelly Gilligan of Great Falls had a 3-under-par 69 on day two to tie Hurlbert for low amateur round.