**September Tournaments**

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**Impressive Victory For Mance at 30th Mid-Amateur**

*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

Mark Mance ran away with the 30th Montana State Mid-Amateur Championship at Polson Bay Golf Course. He finished his brilliant play with a final-round 66 (-6), to finish at 204 (-12), eight shots ahead of his closest competitor.

Mance, of Whitefish, finished the 54-hole tournament with 40 holes of bogey-free golf. His final-round, the best round of the tournament, included three birdies on each side (33-33) on holes 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 18.

Five players finished under par for the tournament. Whitefish resident Shawn Tucker’s final round 73 (+1) gave him sole possession of second at 212 (-4).

Defending champion Spencer Williams, of Helena, closed with 74 (+2), and Parker Heller, also of Helena, finished with 72 (E). Both players tallied 214 for the tournament (-2) and tied for third.

Williams and Heller hoisted the Gene Cook Cup for the third consecutive year. The Cook Cup is calculated by the two best rounds each day for a home course. Williams and Heller represented Bill Roberts Golf Course and the pair shot one better than Whitefish’s Tucker and Brad Grattan.

Grattan finished with a 72 and 217 (+1), was tied for sixth, and won the Joe Tomes Trophy for the low finisher over age 50. Bennett MacIntyre fired the only other sub-70 round of the day, 69 (-3), with sides of 33-36, and seven birdies, including four in a row on holes 5 through 8.

Five players matched Grattan at 217 (+1) in a tie for...

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MID AM ... from previous page

sixth, to round out the top 10: Paull Veroullis of Eureka, Kyle Cianflone of Hamilton, Jim Bob Coleman of Billings, and Drew Vanyo of Big Sky.

About 100 players competed from around the state in this final state tournament of the year. The event is open to players age 25 and above.

Thanks to Polson Bay Golf Course as this year’s host! Next year’s Mid-Amateur will be played at Green Meadow Country Club in Helena. Full leaderboard results can be viewed on the MSGA Website and at: [http://tms.golfnet.com/registration/?eventid=10283#d_leaderboard](http://tms.golfnet.com/registration/?eventid=10283#d_leaderboard).

Montana Boys Dominate in Montana/Alberta Cup

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

The annual Montana/Alberta Cup is a junior competition between Montana and our provincial neighbors to the North.

Juniors compete in a format similar to the Ryder Cup. Whitefish Lake Golf Club played host to the matches. Despite an abbreviated tournament due to rain on the final day, Montana’s efforts were not dampened, as the boys claimed a 16-2 victory over Alberta. In girls’ action, Alberta picked up a 15-3 win.

Ages 15-17 were represented at the event. Montana sent 15-year-olds Jack Johnston (Missoula) and Paul O’Neil (Laurel); 16-year-olds Ryggs Johnston (Libby) and Joey Moore (Billings); and 17-year-olds Caleb Trost (Billings) and Joseph Potkonjak (Bigfork).

The girls team included:
15-year-old’s Emily Garden (Missoula) and Tricia Joyce (Butte); 16-year-olds Kylie Esh (Missoula) and Kameron Basye (Bozeman); and 17-year-olds Hannah Rosanova (Bozeman) and Casey Babinecz (Great Falls).

On day one for the boys, the 15s and 16s picked up sweeps as the teams of Johnston-Moore and Johnston-O’Neil each earned three points. Trost-Potkonjak halved their match, earning 1.5 points.

Day two was a near sweep of all the matches with Johnston-O’Neil winning again and three points were earned by Trost-Potkonjak. Johnston-Moore won 2.5 points to give Montana an 8.5 to 0.5 day and a 16-2 win overall.

For the girls, on day one, the team of Garden-Joyce picked up a point for Montana in four ball competition. On day two, the team of Babinecz-Rosanova picked up a point in chapman play; Garden-Joyce and Basye-Esh each won a half point.

Congratulations to our juniors for a great effort!
Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda will celebrate its 20th anniversary on September 28th with a golf tournament and post-round reception, featuring golf legend and Old Works course designer Jack Nicklaus. The tournament and reception will celebrate how the small town of Anaconda, with the help of the Golden Bear's design and, later, the management of Troon, has taken a Superfund remediation project and turned it into one of Golf Digest’s Top-100 daily fee golf courses in the United States.

The day’s festivities will include a pre-tournament golf clinic with famed instructor Tim Mahoney; a 4-person scramble golf tournament, complete with Jack Nicklaus-signed prizes; and an evening reception, highlighted by a Q&A session with Nicklaus. Those interested in playing in the golf tournament and attending the reception should contact the Old Works pro shop at 406-563-5989. The cost to play in the tournament and attend the festivities is $125 per golfer.

“Old Works is such an amazing success story,” said Mark Savoy, general manager of Old Works. “We invite folks from all over to help us celebrate two amazing decades on September 28th.”

Reborn on what was the site of Anaconda’s century-old copper-smelting plant, Old Works is the first course ever designed and built on a Federal EPA Superfund site. Jack Nicklaus, who was lauded by the EPA for his innovative efforts, incorporated historic relics into his design of Old Works. Granite slabs from the old mill line the banks of trout-filled Warm Springs Creek, protecting the 10th green. Massive stone furnaces border the third fairway, while the 150-foot flue provides a dramatic backdrop to the fourth green. All bunkers are filled with black slag sand, the by-product of the copper-smelting process, giving the course its unique and signature look.

“The decision to build a golf course there was a terrific, money-saving use of the property, and it was a special opportunity to create a source of pride, employment, and potential revenue to a town that was struggling due to unemployment from the loss of Anaconda mining,” Nicklaus said. “Old Works brought tourism to the town; it brought jobs to the town; and in some way, it brought new life. It was a very worthwhile project all around. And, we were able to construct the project for about half the cost that it would have taken to clean up the site, due to regulations.”

Old Works is currently rated the No. 2 golf course in Montana by Golfweek Magazine and is also featured in Golf Digest’s “America’s 100 Greatest Public Courses” list, making the course a must-play for golfers traveling near or through Montana. Moreover, Old Works is an affordable opportunity to play a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course—only the third municipal golf course in Nicklaus Design’s U.S. portfolio of more than 200 courses.

Managed by Troon and owned by Anaconda Deer Lodge County, Old Works is an 18-hole, par-72, public course spread across 220 acres. The club’s unique three-hole “Little Bear” course has two par 4s and a par 3, and is popular with families and golfers short on time. Little Bear greens fees are just $5 per three-hole round. The Old Works practice facility includes a driving range with multiple target greens, chipping, and putting greens, and two practice bunkers.
2016 Golf Season Winding Down
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

We still have, hopefully, two good months of golf left in Montana, but many believe that Labor Day Weekend puts a bow on the tournament season in the Big Sky State. As the season winds down, we reminisce a bit, and sum up news and events happening this year.

MSGA Board Member and veteran sportswriter George Geise looks back at some of the highlights from this past season:

• This was the year when Ryan Porch of Kalispell confirmed his status as the state’s premier male player, winning his first State Amateur championship after finishing runner-up in 2015. It may have helped that college stars Tom Swanson of Missoula and Brandon McIver of Billings – the last two state champions – were not in the field in Laurel. But that doesn’t mean that Porch, who won the Big Sky Conference medal last spring for Idaho, wouldn’t have won anyway.

• This was the year when Maggie Crippen of Missoula, who competes for the North Dakota State University program, collected her second Women’s State Amateur title at Green Meadow Country Club. Ironically, both championships were won in Helena.

• This was the year when Ron Garland of Bozeman solidified his claim as the best senior player Montana has seen in many years. Garland likely set a new 54-hole record when he shot 6 under par for three rounds at Bozeman-area courses. His 65 in the opening round marked the first time the 69-year-old Garland – winner of four State Seniors titles – had ever shot lower than his age.

It’s also worth noting that Billings native Mike Grob has enjoyed a solid first year on the Champions Tour. Grob hasn’t won a lot of money, but he’s been in the top 20 a few times, and he’s hit the ball well enough to be in contention. With improved putting – which likely will come from familiarity to courses on the circuit – Grob should have a better second season in 2017.

We should also recognize that the Montana State Golf Association allocated more than $10,000 this year to junior-developmental programs, and that money has been used to help kids in many small communities around the state. The state golf association – as well as the women’s and seniors’ groups – have been generous in their contributions to junior golf, which is the future of our sport. Golfers across Montana should remember to share in that generous spirit.

In other news, the cup must have looked as big as a washtub for Steve Lucas and his wife, Vicki, on Monday as they competed at the Western Montana PGA chapter Pro-Am at Double Arrow Golf Course. On the par-3 14th hole, Vicki Lucas sank her tee shot for a hole-in-one, using a 6-iron on the 142-yard hole. Then on the par-3 18th hole, husband Steve drilled his second shot into the cup for a double-eagle deuce. He used a 5-wood for the 220-yard shot. Remarkably, the Lucas family feats didn’t help their Polson Bay team get into the money. The team event was won by pro Connor Sproull and his Missoula Country Club team, helped along by the low amateur score of 69 posted by Bob Hasquet. Helena Green Meadow pro Nathan Miller also notched a double eagle Monday, sinking a 207-yard 7-iron approach for a deuce on the fourth hole. Those were the first two double eagles scored this year on the Western Montana PGA circuit.

Next year will mark a milestone for the Treasure State’s two largest golf associations. Both the Montana State Golf Association and the Montana State Women’s Golf Association will conduct their 100th state tournaments. The men will play at Missoula Country Club, and the women at Laurel Golf Club. Special ceremonies are being planned for both events, which will be played, as usual, in late July.

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Support Junior Golf!
Swanson Represents Montana at U.S. Amateur

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Tom Swanson, a current University of Michigan standout, qualified for the U.S. Amateur, and went in with confidence to Oakland Hills, where he has played before. But rounds of 76-74 (+10) were not good enough to advance from stroke play to match play.

Swanson, the 2015 Montana State Amateur Champion, made five birdies during his two rounds, but was unable to find any rhythm during his play. However, U of M Wolverine teammate, Nick Carlson, advanced to the round of 16 and Swanson followed to cheer him on.

Not used to being a spectator, Swanson said that while competing presents its inherent challenges, watching is not without anxiety. “It was stressful,” said Swanson, who followed both of Carlson’s matches Thursday, after he missed the cut in stroke play earlier in the week. Carlson was especially stressed on the par-3 17th, when, after Limbhasut, 1-up, hit his tee shot long and left, Carlson followed by short-siding himself in the bunker to the right of the green. “I missed the cut by eight shots this week,” Swanson said, laughing. “So it’s easy to sit there and say, Why would you hit it there?”

Both players made bogey, to send the match to the 18th hole. For the record, Swanson said Wednesday’s round and Thursday’s morning round were the best he’s ever seen Carlson play. Carlson shot 4-under 31 on the front nine Thursday morning, and actually got it to 5 under at one point. “It’s the best I’ve seen him play, by far,” Swanson said. “I’ve seen him play six-hole stretches that are good, but nothing like 36 straight holes that are pretty flawless.”

Carlson advanced to the semifinals, ending in an incredible showdown with Curtis Luck.

USGA State Team Set for Montana

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Mark Mance, of Whitefish, Jim Bob Coleman, of Billings, and Craig Hurlbert, of Hamilton, will represent Montana at the USGA Team Championships this month in Birmingham, Alabama.

Coleman is a late addition to the team after Spencer Williams of Helena was unable to compete due to timing constraints. The team selections were announced recently by Jim Opitz, executive director of the Montana State Golf Association. The MSGA sponsors the state competition, and those men qualified to represent Montana following a two-year cycle that involved nearly 25 tournaments around the Treasure State.

The top three point-earners in the series were Ryan Porch of Kalispell (975), Ryggs Johnston of Libby (580), and Tom Swanson of Missoula (490), but Porch and Swanson aren’t eligible for the USGA tourney because they are still competing at NCAA programs. Johnston, a junior at Libby High School, could have competed but decided to stay home this year following a grueling summer schedule and the beginning of his sophomore year of high school.

Mance, the current Mid-Amateur champion, was fourth with 482.5 points, and two-time Mid-Amateur champion and recent MSGA Hall of Fame inductee Williams was fifth with 465 points. Hurlbert was seventh with 332.5 points.

Coleman is no stranger to the tournament as the Billings standout competed in 2014 along with Brian Beach of Missoula and Ross Bartell of Great Falls.

The men, who will each receive $1,200 in expense money from the MSGA, will compete September 28-30 at the Country Club of Birmingham against three-man teams from every other state. Many of the amateurs competing are former professionals or college standouts.
The USGA has selected the three players who will represent the USA in the 2016 World Amateur Team Championship, to be played September 21-24 at Mayakoba El Camaleon Golf Club and Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club in Riviera Maya, Mexico.

The players are Brad Dalke, 19, of Norman, Oklahoma; Maverick McNealy, 20, of Portola Valley, California; and Scottie Scheffler, 20, of Dallas, Texas.

“Brad, Maverick, and Scottie exemplify the competitive spirit and sportsmanship that are displayed at the World Amateur Team Championship,” said Diana Murphy, president of the United States Golf Association. “We are delighted to have them join such an illustrious group of players, including Rickie Fowler, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods, that have represented the United States at this renowned championship.”

The World Amateur Team Championship is conducted by the International Golf Federation (IGF), which ran the golf competition at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dalke is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, and was runner-up to Curtis Luck at the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship. Dalke is No. 124 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™ (WAGR). McNealy is a senior at Stanford University, and is No. 1 in the WAGR, receiving the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the world’s top male amateur in 2016. Scheffler is a junior at the University of Texas, and is No. 20 in the WAGR. Scheffler, who made the cut at the PGA Tour’s 2014 Byron Nelson Classic, was the Big 12’s top newcomer in 2015.

Paul D. Caruso Jr., of Helena, Montana, a former member of the USGA Executive Committee, will serve as captain of the USA World Amateur Team.

The USGA has selected the three players who will represent the USA in the 2016 Women’s World Amateur Team Championship, to be played September 14-17 at Mayakoba El Camaleon Golf Club and Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club in Riviera Maya, Mexico.

The players are Katelyn Dambaugh, 21, of Goose Creek, South Carolina; Mariel Galdiano, 18, of Pearl City, Hawaii; and Andrea Lee, 18, of Hermosa Beach, California.

“We are thrilled that Katelyn, Mariel, and Andrea will represent the United States during this exciting international competition,” said Diana Murphy, president of the United States Golf Association. “The Women’s World Amateur Team Championship carries such a rich competitive history, and these three young women will undoubtedly add to this great tradition.”

Dambaugh is a senior at the University of South Carolina, and is No. 12 in the WAGR. Dambaugh was runner-up in the 2010 U.S. Girls’ Junior Championship, as well as at the 2016 North & South Women’s Amateur and the SEC championships. Galdiano, an incoming freshman at UCLA, is No. 6 in the WAGR. Earlier this month, she earned medalist honors in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Amateur, setting a 36-hole stroke-play scoring record at 9-under 133. Lee, an incoming freshman at Stanford University, is No. 17 in the WAGR. She was runner-up in the 2016 U.S. Girls’ Junior and Canadian Women’s Amateur championships, and reached the quarterfinals of the 2016 U.S. Women’s Amateur.

Dot Paluck, immediate past chairman of the USGA Women’s Committee, will serve as captain of the USA Women’s World Amateur Team.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as captain to these outstanding competitors,” said Paluck. “I am greatly looking forward to our time in Mexico, and I know that the USA Team will well represent their country.”
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