Few can claim contributions as expansive as John Frankino and still fewer are remembered with such deep imprints for the lives touched. Frankino had a long, well-lived life of 83 years. Much of his life was dedicated to family, education, and sports. He was not only a player, but a coach, and eventually, athletic administrator.

A Butte native, Frankino participated in some fashion in nearly all team and individual sports. An accomplished baseball player, he went on to success as a coach, winning a state title at Butte Central at the age of 23! Later on, Frankino would take the reigns as coach of Carroll College's basketball team and won three Frontier Conference Titles.

After retiring as a math professor at Carroll College, Frankino turned to a favorite pastime of golf, and got to work leading the Montana State Senior Golf Association for 20 years as executive director. Frankino was known for setting up the incredibly popular state senior tournaments. Always committed to the tireless effort of working with courses, local directors, hanging entry blanks, and recruiting players, the State Seniors grew to unforeseen heights under Frankino's leadership as it became the largest event in the state. By the time Frankino stepped down after the 55th playing of the tournament in 2010, the tournament had grown to 330 players. Not only were the tournaments known for attracting great competitors, but the socials after rounds and comradery was the hallmark of the summer event.

Frankino extended his leadership to the MSGA, serving as a board member out of Helena. “John was a great board member who shared a love of golf that went beyond just playing. He was a leader in course rating and in making our handicap service the best. His leadership with the Seniors made their tournament a huge success. All of us with the MSGA miss him,” MSGA executive director Jim Opitz said.

Despite all of his athletic achievements, Frankino's greatest legacy is that of a dedicated husband of 61 years, a father to five, and a grandfather of five.

Montana’s Official Golf Season: April 1 to October 31
Off-season scores played in Montana should not be posted. Scores played where it is in-season are valid and should be posted, via the online handicap system, smartphone app, or membership linking.

Congratulations to our NOVEMBER WINNERS!

TRIP for an Alaskan Cruise - Jeff Cochrane, Billings
$200 cash - Ryan Troxel, Sidney

TICKETS ARE HALF PRICE for this month’s drawing!
www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser

**DECEMBER’S PRIZE is a Colorado Rockies Game**
**College Golf Fall Update**

*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

**NCAA**

**Montana State University**

The Montana State women’s golf team finished up their fall slate with a third place showing at the Santa Clara University Colby Invitational, following a third-round 312 for a 935-stroke total at Silver Creek Valley Country Club. The Bobcats’ three rounds of 310, 313, and 312 placed them 10 shots ahead of fourth-place Weber State (945), which trailed MSU by a stroke entering Tuesday. Host Santa Clara won the seven-team Invitational with a 916 (309-297-310). MSU junior Jaylee Tait led the Bobcats and finished fourth place overall with scores of 73-78-75, 226 (+10). Tait, whose performance would earn her Big Sky Conference Player of the Week (73-78-75) was in contention all week and finished just shy of eventual medalist, Cake Phuchanbanchob of CSU Northridge (226, +7). Senior Janelle Reali finished just outside the top-10 in 11th at 232 (+16), followed by freshman Kelly Hooper who tied for 15th at 236 (+20). Rounding out the tournament for the Bobcats, freshman Delaney Elliot finished 23rd with a score of 241 and sophomore Natassja Meredith was 28th with a total of 248.

The Bobcats have a nice blend of newcomers to go along with veterans like Tait, who is expected to help lead MSU in the spring. The native of Littleton, CO, Tait boasts the Bobcats best scoring average (75.08) through the first four meets of the 2016-17 season. She finished tied for third at last season’s Big Sky Conference Championship – the best finish by a Bobcat in the previous four seasons – to earn herself all-tournament honors. Earlier in the fall, the Bobcats finished 9th out of 12 teams in the Wyoming Cowgirl Desert Intercollegiate (Palm Desert, CA), 5th out of 10 teams at the Washington State Cougar Cup (Pullman, WA), and 7th out of 14 teams at the Utah State Hobble Creek Classic (Springville, UT). Hooper was the Bobcats top finisher in Utah (18th) as well as in Washington (10th) and Tait was the top finisher in Palm Desert (6th) to go along with her fourth place finish in Northern California. The Bobcats return to action in the spring when MSU travels to Sedona, AZ, for the Red Rocks Invitational on March 3.

**University of Montana**

The University of Montana women’s golf team finished up their fall schedule in Hot Springs Village, AK, at the Little Rock Golf Classic at the Diamante Country Club. In what has been a challenging fall for the Grizzlies, the team finished 15th out of 16 teams. It was the last of five fall tournaments for the Griz, who won’t compete again until the Battle at the Rock in Riverside, CA, in mid-February. Junior Kari Opatz (79-75-76, 230) was Montana's top finisher coming in 31st place. Rounding out the scoring in Arkansas, sophomore Baylee Barckley (234) tied for 48th, junior Hailey Hoagland (239) tied for 68th, freshman Teigan Avery (86-79-77, 242) was next in 78th place, and redshirt freshman Abby Pfeifer (262) finished 85th. Central Arkansas (298-295-298, 891), the only team to card three sub-300 scores, won the tournament by six strokes over UTEP (295-298-304, 897). Montana wraps up its fall season with a team scoring average of 312.8. The Grizzlies also competed at The Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational finishing 15th of 15 teams (Tacoma, WA), 11th out of 12 at The Wyoming Cowgirl Desert Intercollegiate (Palm Desert, CA), 14th out of 15 at The Rose City Collegiate (Aurora, OR) and 7th out of 10 in The Washington State Cougar Cup (Pullman, WA) earlier this fall. Opatz was the top finisher for the Grizzlies in their final three tournaments (T-24) in Tacoma, (19th) in Palm Desert. Hailey Hoagland was the top finisher in Oregon (31st) and freshman Caitlyn Villatora was 25th to kick the season off in Washington.

**MSU-Billings**

The Montana State University-Billings Yellowjackets men’s team concluded a successful fall schedule that included a victory at the Rocky Mountain College Invitational. MSU-B posted a three-round team score of 839 at Billings’ Peter Yegen Golf Club. Connor Miele led the way at 206 (-7) to finish second individually. Not far behind was freshman Caleb Stetzner who finished fourth at 209 (-4). Senior Michael Porter also finished under par at 212 (-1) and tied for fifth place. Rounding out the MSU-B scoring was freshman Garrett Woodin, who tied for 11th at 216 (+3) and sophomore Austin Walter who tied for 13th at 218 (+5). Earlier in the fall, Saint Martin’s University (Olympia, WA) hosted their tournament with the Yellowjackets finishing 13th of 18 teams with Michael Porter the top finisher (T-36). The Yellowjackets continued onto Western Washington’s Invitational (Bellingham, WA) and finished 12th out of 17 teams led by Caleb Stetzner’s 17th place...*Continued on the next page*
COLLEGE... from previous page

finish. Wrapping up the fall schedule, MSU-B competed at the Concordia Invitational (Portland, OR) and Porter claimed a top-10 finishing sixth overall. The spring season will begin February 27th in Livermore, CA, at the East/West Bay Area Invitational.

On the women’s side, the Yellowjackets also competed in four tournaments. At the Western New Mexico Invitational (Goodyear, AZ), MSU-B finished 14th of 20 teams led by junior Bailee Dexter who tied for 19th. Crosstown competition at the Rocky Mountain College Invitational in Billings saw the Yellowjackets claim second and Dexter was the top finisher also in second. At Saint Martin’s the Yellowjackets finished 6th out of 12 teams in a rain-shortened event. Sophomore Shealyn Hafer finished in a tie for 9th as top individual finisher. To finish the season, at the Western Washington Invitational the Yellowjackets finished 5th out of 14 teams with junior Sammy Walter posting her best collegiate finish (74-72, 146) in a tie for first with the University of British Columbia’s Kat Kennedy at even par 146. The spring season will begin at the Beaver-Jacket Invite at Aliante Golf Club in Las Vegas, NV. Interim head coach, Kevin Woodin, announced the signing of Renae Heisler of Great Falls High. Heisler, a three-year letter winner in golf placed sixth at the AA State Championships, earning All-State Honors. It was the second consecutive top-10 finish for Heisler at state. As a junior, she placed sixth in helping lead the Bison to the state team title.

Frontier Conference
Carroll College
Carroll College competed in three tournaments this fall. A second place team finish on the men’s side at the Oredigger Invitational at Butte Country Club included three top-10 finishers including freshman Ben Gardner, who finished third. Junior Austin Egan tied for fifth and sophomore Bryce Samwel tied for ninth. On the women’s side, the Fighting Saints finished third with freshman Cailin Spencer and junior Rachel Miles each finishing inside the top-10. In Great Falls at the Argo Invitational at Meadowlark Country Club, the women’s team took fourth out of six teams and the men finished fifth out of seven teams. Freshman Joseph Potkanjak was top finisher with a tie for fourth for the Saints, but he was not participating on the varsity squad – top varsity finisher was Austin Eagan in 11th place. Senior Katie Goins and Cailin Spencer tied for ninth. Closing out the fall schedule, both teams finished fourth at the Rocky Mountain Battlin’ Bear Invite in Billings. Egan again led the Fighting Saints with a T-13th followed by Ben Gardner who finished 17th. Rachel Miles was the top women’s finisher in 18th and Cailin Spencer claimed 19th. An abbreviated spring schedule resumes with the MSU-Billings Invitational on March 27th, followed by the Frontier Conference Championship a month later in Tempe, AZ.

MSU-Northern
The Lights featured a bevy of young golfers on both teams as they kicked off the fall in Butte with the men finishing seventh out of eight teams, led by sophomore Devin Bray who tied for 23rd. On the women’s side the Lights took sixth of six teams led by sophomore Diana Ball who tied for 22nd, freshman Summer Kennerly finished T-26. At the Argo Invitational, the Lights finished in seventh of seven teams with Bray again the top finisher in 33rd, freshman Jarod Boles was next in 41st. The women finished sixth of six teams this time led by Kennerly who finished 22nd with Ball next at 31st. Rounding out the fall schedule, the Lights were eighth of eight teams with Boles the top finisher at 41st and freshman Jeff Miller coming 47th. The women finished seventh of eight teams led by sophomore Whitney Bahns who tied for 29th, Kennerly finished T-32nd. The Lights resume their spring season as well in Billings and Arizona.

Montana Tech
The Orediggers steady climb in the Frontier Conference continued this fall thanks to some strong play from underclassmen. At their home invite, sophomore Sean Benson was the individual medalist after winning a playoff against defending Frontier Conference Golfer of the Year Chris Lien of Lewis-Clark State College. Benson was...Continued on the next page
even par for the tournament and helped the Orediggers to a third place team finish. Freshman Trey Hoagland finished T-15th in his Oredigger debut. On the women’s side, Tech finished fifth with freshman Lynzee Dexter leading the way with a T-14th showing. At the Argo Invitational, Benson followed up his strong home performance with another top-five finish. Benson tied for fourth and sophomore Jimmy Amundson finished 12th, Ryan Keenan, a freshman, finished 13th in helping Montana Tech to a third place team finish. Junior Taryn Campbell paced the women with an eighth overall finish as the women took fifth overall. In the final tournament of the fall at the Rocky Mountain College Invitational in Billings, the Tech men fired their lowest round of the season in the worst weather of 2016 as the team posted a 291 (+9) to finish sixth place. Benson again, was top finisher notching a T-5th after a one-under performance. Troy Wolff tied for 22nd. Campbell had a career best round of 76 in the tournament’s first round and the team finished in a tie for 5th place.

University of Great Falls
Paced by the exceptional play of junior Gina Kowalchuk, the Argos women’s team has seen improvement and put up some of the programs best finishes in 2016. The Lady Argos finished fourth in Butte and, not surprisingly, Kowalchuk won medalist honors coming from behind to win with a score of 159 (+17). Junior Katie Buschhorn finished T-10 for the Argos. Later, Gina Kowalchuk went wire to wire at the Argo Invitational winning by seven shots and finishing at even par (144). The Argo’s finished third, the highest team finish in program history at a frontier event. After winning the first two tournaments of the conference season, Kowalchuk finished fourth place in Billings, but collected Frontier Player of the Year and helped the Argos to a third place finish in the Battlin’ Bears Invitational.

The University of Great Falls Argos men’s team picked up a pair of fifth place finishes and a third place finish in their home tournament this fall. At the Oredigger Invitational in Butte, junior Paul Brannon was the top finisher for the Argos finishing T-18th, followed by sophomores Taylor Kuntz T-21 and Cody Babinecz T-23. As host at the UGF Invitational, the men finished fourth and Babinecz put together three rounds in the 70’s to finish in the top ten at T-8th. The Argos wrapped up the fall campaign with a fifth place finish in Billings at the Battlin’ Bear Invitational. Freshman Jonny Cielak had his best collegiate outing finishing T-8th and Taylor Kuntz finished T-13th.

Rocky Mountain College
At the Oredigger Invitational, the men placed fourth, Colton Murphy led the way in seventh individually and Hunter Anderson was next at T-12th for the Battlin’ Bears. The men’s team won the Argo Invitational with a team score of 895 (+31) over three days. Colton Murphy tied for first at even par and was defeated in a playoff by Chris Lien of Lewis-Clark State. Hunter Anderson tied for fourth. Cory Preshinger finished seventh and Nathan Cachia also found the top-10 finishing tenth.

On the men’s side in Billings at their home invitational, Murphy snagged third place and HoTae Kim was T-5th for the Battlin’ Bears as they finished third. On the women’s side in Butte, the Bears finished second with four individuals finding the top-10: Hayden Flohr was second, Eryn Ellis T-5th, NellieAnn Enderby was seventh, and Morgan O’Neil T-10th. To finish out the conference fall schedule, the women claimed their home invitational by seven shots over crosstown MSU-Billings. Hayden Flohr earned medalist honors with a 147 (+5), followed closely by teammates Eryn Ellis (3rd), NellieAnn Enderby (T-5th), and Morgan O’Neil (T-10th). The Battlin’ Bears women’s team captured the Argo Invitational with a team score of 629 (+53) by 19 shots. Eryn Ellis came in second and Hayden Flohr was third. Also making the top five was Morgan O’Neil.

Rocky added one non-conference tournament to finish out the year as they traveled to Portland for the Concordia Invitational. The men finished sixth with Colton Murphy the top finisher at T-21. The women also finished sixth and teammates Hayden Flohr and Eryn Ellis tied each other for 22nd place.
University of Montana’s Matt Higgins kicked off his first signing class with the Grizzlies as prep golfers Faith D’Ortenzio of Phoenix, Arizona, and Ashlyn Guggisberg of Glenwood, Minnesota, signed national letters of intent during the NCAA’s early signing period.

D’Ortenzio was a state champion in Arizona as a freshman while attending Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory. During her sophomore-senior seasons while competing for Shadow Mountain High School, D’Ortenzio had three top-20 finishes (17th, 5th, 13th) at Arizona’s Division II state tournament.

Guggisberg, who competed at Minnewaska Area High School was twice voted all-state. Guggisberg finished tied for 12th individually at the Class AA meet as a junior, tied for eighth as a sophomore, tied for 22nd as a freshman, and tied for 25th as an eighth grader. As a result, she was named to the All-West Central Conference team five times. A Minnesota Junior PGA Series champion, Guggisberg competed for her state in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Junior PGA Cup.

Diana Murphy has been nominated to serve a second one-year term as the 64th president of the United States Golf Association by the USGA Nominating Committee, as the organization prepares for its 123rd year of service to the game of golf.

The committee also nominated Mark Newell, a four-year Executive Committee member, as president-elect. The new officer position replaces the role of vice president eliminated in 2016, and supports succession planning for future association leadership. Newell, who served as USGA general counsel in 2011-12, currently chairs the USGA Rules of Golf Committee. He has focused significant efforts on a multi-year Rules modernization project led by the USGA and The R&A, and he continues to provide support and leadership toward the development of a world handicap system.

Scott Lipsky, USGA -- Trailing by three strokes with 18 holes remaining, Malia Stovall carded four birdies during the final round of the 2016 Tennessee Girls' Junior Championship, propelling the 16-year-old to the title in July at The Course at Sewanee.

Stovall, of Winchester, TN, could point to her play on the inward nine as a key to claiming a two-stroke victory, having played holes 10 through 18 in 1 under par after playing holes 1 through 9 in 6 over. On the surface, an extreme in nine-hole split scores isn't unusual in top-flight competition, but in this case, Stovall was seeing the holes for a second time, as Sewanee is a nine-hole layout.

Nine-hole courses are a significant part of the game's landscape in the U.S. According to the National Golf Foundation, they account for 27 percent of all golf facilities in the country. Nine-hole courses are often considered havens for recreational play where novices can learn the game, but they have always been more than that, and the fact that the Tennessee Golf...Continued on the next page
Association (TGA) conducted one of its important championships on one might help to shift perceptions. The TGA has enthusiastically embraced the USGA’s PLAY9 initiative, and executive director Matt Vanderpool was eager to see how a nine-hole layout would fare in competition. Despite initial uncertainty from competitors and parents, the 54-hole Girls’ Junior Championship at Sewanee was a success.

“There was a lot of skepticism both from players and parents saying, ‘What’s going on here?’, because people hadn’t heard of it before. And that was one of the reasons behind doing it, to kind of break down that barrier,” said Vanderpool, who noted that there are several nine-hole facilities in the state that are challenging enough to host championships. “We told [competitors], you’re the first ones in Tennessee to compete for a state championship on a nine-hole golf course, and there might be future ones, but you all were part of the first.”

The 67-player field went off in morning and afternoon waves, with morning starters beginning their second nine before the afternoon tee times began. While competitors were faced with the same hole locations the second time around, they were presented different challenges from tee to green, as the teeing grounds for the inward and outward nines were different. In most cases, the yardages were similar, but Sewanee’s closing hole played as a 452-yard par 5 as hole No. 9 and as a 355-yard par 4 as No. 18. The seventh hole was a 372-yard par 4 the first time around and played nearly 100 yards shorter as No. 16.

“It didn’t really feel much different, honestly. They did have the tees set up differently, you definitely had to play the holes differently each time you played them,” said Stovall, who plans to play for the University of Tennessee beginning in 2018. “I thought there were going to be delays at the turn with so many girls playing the same nine twice, but everything ran smoothly and there weren’t any delays.”

Creativity in course setup and starting-time assignments can certainly make a nine-hole facility viable for championship play. The inaugural Hudson County Amateur showed that a nine-hole competition can provide the basis for determining a champion. Forty players teed it up in July at Skyway Golf Course, a municipal facility in Jersey City, NJ, with the goal of being crowned the first amateur golf champion in the county’s history.

A pair of players shot 2-over 38 to share the title, and it sparked an interest that general manager Steve Mills is confident will continue to grow.

“Everybody who played was very happy; they really wanted to play their round and get off the golf course; they didn’t want to spend five hours grinding over a trophy,” said Mills. “They wanted to come out, prove they were the best, and they wanted to leave.” Edmund Burke did just that, winning the senior flight, for competitors 62 and older. A retired marketing executive, Burke has played golf since he was 14, and the fact that the competition was only nine holes didn’t diminish his experience, or his satisfaction in winning.

 “[A nine-hole competition] feels very, very different, especially when you’re playing stroke play. You get an 8 or a 9 on an opening hole, you’re history,” said Burke, who was the fourth employee hired at Skyway and helps out wherever he is needed. “You can feel the pressure any time you play in an organized event, when there are no mulligans.”

With the number of nine-hole facilities on the rise, and competitors and organizers claiming positive experiences, conducting competitions on nine-hole courses is likely to become increasingly popular with the golf community. “We learned that we don’t have to discount nine-hole facilities in conducting championships,” said Vanderpool, who used the opportunity to conduct a public PLAY9 Day at Sewanee the day after the Tennessee Girls’ Junior Championship. “They are just as suitable as an 18-hole facility.”