Why Post ALL Of Your Scores?
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

Have you ever seen some people post JUST tournament scores? Or everything BUT tournament scores? Why should you post all of your scores?

The main method of cheating is not lying about your score, it’s selective omission of scores. And, not posting all of your scores goes against the basic premise of the USGA Handicap System, that a golfer will post all acceptable scores to determine a player’s potential scoring ability. If the record is not complete, the handicap is not accurate.

For example, there is a USGA formula that compares tournament scores with non-tournament scores, to adjust when these are not in harmony. If you post only T scores, or none of them, it leaves your record incomplete, and the system cannot do its job. Or, when you have an uncharacteristic bad shot, adjusting with Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) balances it out. The system is designed to allow for those off days, so don’t be afraid to record them. (See ESC chart.)

There are, of course, some exceptions that make your score unacceptable: If you played alone, if fewer than 7 holes (9-hole round) or 13 holes (18-hole round) are played, if the score is played during the association’s inactive season, if scores are played on a course with no USGA Course Rating, if non-conforming clubs or balls are used, and if you ignore one or more Rules of Golf.

So, why do it right? It hurts you if you don’t post the higher scores, and it hurts others when you don’t post the lower ones. Let the USGA Handicap System do its job. And, in the end, an accurate handicap makes golf fair and fun for everyone.

For more information about accurate scoring, go to [http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/Handicapping/handicap-manual.html#!rule-14379](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/Handicapping/handicap-manual.html#!rule-14379). For score and handicap questions, you can contact Emily at support@msgagolf.org.
Stetzner Wins 100th State Amateur Championship
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

With Montana celebrating its centennial playing of the State Amateur Championship, it was fitting that the champion hailed from a town that had not had a champion etched on the trophy in nearly 90 years. Caleb Stetzner changed that, and now has the Smelter City of Anaconda back on the trophy.

Stetzner joins Carl Loeb Jr. (1929) and A.J. Rolfe (1926) as Anaconda natives to win the Montana State Amateur. Stetzner, however, accomplished the feat away from his hometown, something the other gentlemen cannot claim.

With Missoula Country Club playing host, good theater was had by spectators as a contingent of young stars from around the Treasure State jockeyed for position. Stetzner, a sophomore-to-be at MSU-Billings, came out on top with a three-round total of 206 (-7), and two shots clear of second place finishers Sean Benson of Billings and Payton Taylor of Hamilton who sat at 208 as the championship concluded. First round leaders Joey Moore of Billings and Jordy Donoven of Kremlin finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Stetzner, who slept on an overnight lead heading into the final day, shot an even par 71 with four birdies and four bogeys on his card. The 2017 tournament was one of the more hotly contested final rounds in recent years and did not disappoint the legion of spectators that followed the groups on the back nine. Stetzner led by one stroke heading into hole 16, but was unable to extend his lead after Moore bogeyed. Stetzner lipped out twice on hole 16 from close range making bogey as well. He was not rattled as he got up and down on the par 3 17th hole and again getting up and down on the par 5 18th hole, this time for birdie and sealing his victory.

Benson and Taylor both shot one-under rounds of 70 on a day that saw only four competitors in the 130-player field break par. Benson made a charge on the back nine holing out for eagle from 108 yards on hole 11 and birdied hole 14 to put pressure on Stetzner. Trailing by one, his tee shot on 18 found the left tree line and was forced to punch out into a greenside bunker. Stetzner calmly found the fairway and nearly reached the green in two. He then chipped to within tap-in range to close out his victory. Moore, who was on Stetzner’s heels all day, but a bogey on 16 and a double on 17, after finding the water hazard, ruined the high school phenom’s chances.

Spencer Williams and Bennett MacIntyre of Helena’s Bill Roberts took home the Barnett Cup, awarded to the low two players from a club after rounds 1-2. Three past champions competed: Bill Dunn (2009), Gordon Webb (2003), and Rick Kloepfer (1980). Next year’s tournament will be at Butte Country Club.

Full Leaderboard results can be found at: http://tms.golfnet.com/registration/?eventid=11310#d_leaderboard.
Avery Wins 100th Montana State Women’s Amateur
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Teigan Avery is no stranger to winning trophies, but one she had long wanted will be extra special as the U of M Golfer and Kalispell native won the 100th Montana State Women’s Amateur Championship at Laurel Golf Club.

Avery trailed the 2014 champion, Kyla Clancy of Billings, after a first round 76, but more than made up the one stroke deficit on day two, posting a 73 and taking a five shot lead into the final round. Avery shot 77 on day three for a total of 226 (+10), but it was plenty good enough. She won by a five shot margin for her victory over Rocky’s Anna DeMars of Townsend who came in with 231 (+15).

DeMars birdied holes eight and nine to close Avery’s lead to two shots heading into the final nine holes. On hole sixteen Avery gained two shots back with a par to DeMars’ double bogey and was able to calmly close out the championship. Shealyn Hafer, an MSU-Billings standout and Butte native, finished third at 232 (+16). Kameryn Basye a high school player from Bozeman was fourth with 235 (+19) and Ashley Griffith of Rocky and originally of Miles City was fifth at 236 (+20).

Avery, a two-time AA high school champion and three time Montana State Junior Champion, added the State Amateur to her trophy case after finishing second last year. Avery will head into her sophomore season this fall at U of M. Next year’s tournament is held at Missoula Country Club.


Champions Teigan Avery and Sue Matson

Matson Wins Record Fourth Women’s Senior Amateur

Steeley determination and some home course confidence brought Sue Matson her fourth Montana State Women’s Senior Amateur Championship, a new record. The Laurel golfer last won in 2011 and won back-to-back titles in 2007 and 2008. It was a familiar venue for Matson, as the last time the event was played at her home course (2008) she was also victorious.

Condon’s Helene Michael led after two rounds, but Matson took the lead after hole 7, as Michael made double bogey. After a front nine of 39, Matson gave up her lead on hole 10 and again the two were tied, but it was short lived as Michael made double on hole 11 and this time Matson would not relinquish her lead. Matson posted rounds of 79, 89, and 80, for a 248 total. Michael finished second at 252. Susan Court of Helena shot 253 to place third, followed by Bobbie Lacklen of Libby in fourth at 254, and Hamilton’s Julie Embleton’s 261 was good for fifth.

Laurel Golf Club hosted the 28th playing of the Women’s State Seniors, and next year, Missoula Country Club will host.

Full Leaderboard results can be found at: [http://tms.golfnet.com/registration/?eventid=11313#d_leaderboard](http://tms.golfnet.com/registration/?eventid=11313#d_leaderboard).
More Amazing Hole-in-One Stories!
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

Last month we called for more hole-in-ones, and you didn't disappoint!

On July 8th, Jim Rutherford and his son Tyler were both playing in the Club Championship at Pine Meadows Golf Course in Lewistown. The green on hole #6 is notoriously difficult, said to be one of the toughest in Montana. It slopes at about 45 degrees, with a full grown tree in front. “The tree is just right in your way..., so you just play everything left of the tree and hope it rolls down to the pin,” said Jim. “It hit that bank, went about 15 feet in the air, and we couldn’t see where the ball went. I mean, we saw it on the green, and, of course, you don't see where it goes because the pin was behind the tree.” After searching for the ball, he looked in the hole, and there it was.

Two holes back, his son Tyler had no idea what his dad had just done. “I had just hit a really bad shot on hole #5 and I was getting really mad at myself,” he said. “I told myself, ‘Something has to happen here.’” On hole #6, he launched the ball toward the tree that blocks the green. “I thought it hit the tree, but it went through... hopped right in the hole.” Like his dad, he didn’t actually see the ball drop in to the hole, but the group behind did. “Actually, I was the last one to hit and I just started walking up the stairs. Those guys behind us just started screaming. They asked, ‘Who hit that?’ I’m like, ‘I did.’ They’re like, ‘It went in the hole!’”

“We were looking later on Google and it was like 17-million-to-one odds that that would happen with your son, on the same day, on the same hole,” said Jim. “And we actually ended up shooting the same score (84), which is even crazier.”

Just the day before, on July 7th, we gained our youngest Ace Club Member, 13-year-old Liam Higgins of Livingston. He was playing at the Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, practicing for the Wheat Montana Junior Tournament to be held on the same course the following Monday. It was a big moment for young Liam, as he scored his first hole-in-one on Hole #6.

Other stories include Mike Spint of Whitefish who hit 2 hole-in-ones within two months of each other. And Dennis LaBonty of Polson, who had never gotten a hole-in-one in his life but got two within 9 days of each other! Good job, Montana! We’ll always make room for your amazing stories!

Have you gotten a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org/hold-in-one-certificates for information, and for a full list of MSGA Ace Club Members. Have an incredible story? Send a picture and details to support@msgagolf.org.

Raffle Tickets on Sale!
ALL proceeds go to support Junior golf programs in Montana! Go to www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser for more information.

Twelve great trips include Scotland, Hawaii, and a Mexican Riviera Cruise!

Don’t want to go it alone? Have a mini-raffle with your friends, and buy a ticket together. It goes toward a great cause... our kids, the future golfers of Montana.

Get your ticket today! Thanks for your support!

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!
Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

Jim Rutherford, 7/8/17, Pine Meadows GC, Hole #6, 149 yds, 7 Iron
Tyler Rutherford, 7/8/17, Pine Meadows GC, Hole #6, 149 yds, Pitching Wedge
Liam C. Higgins, 7/7/17, Valley View GC, Hole #6, 110 yds, Pitching Wedge
Robert Harrison, 7/6/17, Beaverhead GC, Hole #17, 160 yds, 8 Iron
Ben Walborn, 7/4/17, Fairmont Hot Spgs GC, Hole #3, 167 yds, 6 Iron
Mike Spint, 7/4/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #3 S, 146 yds, 9 Iron
Leona Petrick, 7/3/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #3 S, 117 yds, 7 Iron
Brent Alan Holzer, 7/2/17, Bridger Creek GC, Hole #16, 297 yds, Driver
Michael Laird, 6/27/17, Eagle Falls GC, Hole #14, 175 yds, 5 Iron
Dennis LaBonty, 5/24/17, University GC, Hole #5, 144 yds, 6 Iron
Dennis LaBonty, 5/15/17, Silver Fox GC, Hole #7, 124 yds, 8 Iron
Tim Carter, 8/25/16, Polson Bay GC, Hole #17, 157 yds, 8 Iron
Bennyhoff Wins 59th MT State Seniors Championship

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Brett Bennyhoff of Great Falls overcame a four shot deficit to begin his final round at the Montana State Senior Championship in Great Falls, winning by a shot. A longtime standard on state tournament leaderboards, he was able to post his best round of the championship when it mattered most on the final day.

The State Seniors, which has the largest field of any state championship in Montana, was hosted by Great Falls’ Eagle Falls Golf Club for one day and Meadow Lark Country Club for two.

Bennyhoff used his home course knowledge, along with some timely putts, to post a one-over 73 for his final round, after beginning the championship with rounds of 76 and 74. His 223 total was eight over and one shot clear of Monty Kuka and Bob Sainsbury (224). Jeff Allen, of Billings, led after two rounds with 146, but struggled to an 80 for his final round.

Bennyhoff’s final round was not without challenges as he struggled on holes 12-14, going four over for that stretch. Meanwhile, Sainsbury also of Great Falls eagled hole 13 and birdied hole 15. Heading into the final hole, Sainsbury tossed an approach shot close and Bennyhoff needed a birdie to best his competitor. It took a 30 footer to do it and Bennyhoff was able to match Sainsbury’s birdie on 18 and take care of low man in his group. That was good enough to claim the title as the final group did not come in with a better number.

Allen finished third at 226, Steve DiGiovanna of Sheridan and Joe Hill of Missoula tied for fourth at 227, and Robert Cummins of Missoula and Lee Levine of Bozeman rounded out the top five at 228. Next year, the 60th State Seniors will be played in Billings.


18 Montana Junior Golfers Advance in Drive, Chip, and Putt Competition

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Canyon River Golf Club in Missoula hosted the local qualifier for Drive, Chip, and Putt. Junior golfers ages 7-15 years old competed in the initial qualifier, and exhibited their skills from woods to wedges to putters. Up to three boys and girls in each age division were eligible to advance. Montanans who advanced are as follows:

Girls 7-9  Evie Clark (Missoula)
Girls 10-11 Mia Nicholas (Seeley Lake), Camille Poncin (Pray)
Girls 12-13 Ashley Braun (Missoula)
Girls 14-15 TJ Nordahl (Big Sky), Berkley Ellis (Ronan), Marcella Mercer (Billings)
Boys 7-9 Matthew Ramshaw (Billings), Maxwell Milton (Polson), Matt Gilbert (Helena)
Boys 10-11 Kade Mcdonough (Lolo), Aubrey Kelley (Emigrant), Jackson Stiles (Billings)
Boys 12-13 Alex Hausmann (Kalispell), Torrin Ellis (Ronan)
Boys 14-15 Ezra Epperly (Kalispell), Andrew Hauser (Missoula), Joseph Opitz (Missoula)

Qualifiers will compete in a subregional competition at Meriwether National Golf Club in Hillsboro, Oregon, on August 14th. If players advance through subregional, they will advance to The Olympic Club in San Francisco on September 9th, with hopes of making the National Finals at the 2018 Masters Tournament. For more information visit: http://www.drivechipandputt.com/.
Montana Juniors Represent State at Junior America’s Cup

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

GIRLS

Kylie Esh of Missoula, Hannah Rosanova and Laurel Ward of Bozeman, and Tricia Joyce of Butte represented Montana at the Girls Junior Americas Cup at Reflection Bay in Henderson, Nevada, August 1-3.

Seventeen teams of four girls competed in a field with state, province, and country teams represented. Montana finished 16th as a team with a total score over three days of 720. Southern California won the cup with a total of 613.

Esh turned in a solid performance to pace the Montana squad with a 218 (+2) total that was good enough for T11. Esh fired a two-under-par round of 69 on day two. Rosanova was T62 at 253, followed by Joyce at 65th (257), and Ward was 66th (265). Rose Zhang of Southern California put together an exceptional three days with 195 (-21) to earn medalist honors.

For final Leaderboard, go to: https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/1087251. Montana will host the tournament in 2021.

BOYS


With 18 teams of four boys representing a state, province, or country, the Treasure State competitors counted the top three scores each day. Montana finished 15th at 686. British Columbia took home the trophy with 645.

Moore led the way finishing T7th individually with rounds of 72, 70, and 75 for a 217 total (+1). Hudson was next T43rd with rounds of 83, 72, and 73 for a 228 total (+12). Trost was 67th with 80, 81, and 80 for 241 (+25) and Periman rounded things out with 89, 90, and 84 for 263 (+47). Anaconda’s Sparky McLean was Montana’s Captain. The Sally Pini Memorial Medal was awarded to Nolan Thorogood of B.C., who shot 208 (-8) as individual low medalist.

For final Leaderboard, go to: http://www.ghintpp.com/wjga/TPPOnlineScoring/ResultsStroke.aspx?id=165&fid=0. Montana will host next year’s 2018 tournament.

Montana Tournament Notes

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Montana Cup

Butte Country Club played host to the 2017 Montana Cup. Professionals and top amateurs from Montana squared off for two days of Ryder Cup style matches.

With the amateurs having had a firm grip on the cup for the better part of the last decade, the professionals were able to change the narrative, squeaking out a 37-35 point victory. Congratulations to the pros for getting their collective hands on the Montana Cup!

U.S. Amateur Qualifier

Reid Hatley of Spokane, Washington, earned a spot in the 2017 U.S. Amateur field by virtue of his play at The Ranch Club in Missoula. Hatley shot rounds of 73, 68 for medalist honors at 141. Brendan MacDougall and Evan Holmes of Canada were alternates at 143. **Continued on the next page**
HAZELTINE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB TO HOST 2020 U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The USGA announced Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota, as the host site for the 73rd U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. The dates of the championship, which will be the ninth USGA event hosted by the club, are July 20-25, 2020.

The USGA will also change the format of the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship in 2020. The field will be expanded from 156 players to a final size that will be announced at a later date and two courses will be used for the stroke-play portion of the championship. Chaska Town Course will serve as the stroke-play co-host course for the 2020 Junior Amateur, as it did for the 2006 U.S. Amateur Championship.

“Hazeltine National Golf Club has been supportive of USGA championships from the inception of the club to the present and we are appreciative of this committed and enduring relationship,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “By expanding the U.S. Junior Amateur field in 2020 we are providing additional opportunities for the world’s best junior players to compete in the championship.”

The U.S. Junior Amateur was first played in 1948. The championship is open to amateurs who have not reached their 19th birthday by the conclusion of the championship and who have a Handicap Index not exceeding 4.4. Tiger Woods (three times), Jordan Spieth (twice), Johnny Miller, David Duval, and Hunter Mahan are among the notable U.S. Junior Amateur champions.