Addicks Earns Experience In Pursuit of LPGA Tour

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Big Sky native Dorsey Addicks attempted to earn an LPGA Tour Card this fall. While unsuccessful in her goal for 2017, Addicks advanced and collected some success and valuable experience along the way.

It has been over a decade since a Montanan was a member of the LPGA Tour. Billings standout and LPGA veteran Leslie Spalding (now coach of San Diego State’s Women’s Team) last played on tour in 2005.

Addicks, a Georgia native, played college golf at Seattle University, but the 22 year-old spent many summer days on the Big Sky Resort Course and learned the game in the Treasure State. She has been a Montana resident for several years. The 2015 MSWGA Women’s Amateur Champion completed her time at Seattle University last year and set her sights on continuing to play competitively on a grander stage.

This fall, Addicks decided to go after the ultimate golf goal of reaching the LPGA Tour. To qualify for an LPGA Tour Card, one must undergo a rigorous, hyper-competitive, three stage qualifying cycle. In stage one, Addicks traveled to Southern California and competed at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club. She posted rounds of 70-72-69-79 for a total of 290 (+2), tied for 70th, and advanced to stage two.

She then headed east to Venice, Florida, and Plantation Golf and Country Club for stage two qualifying. After a mere two shots over par in stage one, stage two was not as solid for Addicks, as she tallied scores of 80-83-76-74, 313 (+25) to finish 182nd, which was not low enough to advance to the final stage of qualifying. Addicks still maintains amateur status, unlike many of the competitors who have prior tour experience or have forfeited amateur eligibility by turning professional.

Great Falls Native Anderson Impressive in U.S. Mid-Amateur Run

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Scott Anderson, originally of Great Falls, now resides in Columbus, Ohio. A standout at Great Falls High, he moved to Columbus thanks to a scholarship with a pretty lofty namesake – Jack Nicklaus – and became a Buckeye. Anderson, the 2004 MSGA Amateur Champion, won the Ohio Mid-Amateur in 2016, and his stellar tournament play continued this fall as Anderson qualified for the USGA Mid-Amateur at Capital City Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

During stroke play, Anderson was battling for medalist honors thanks to rounds of 70-67. His four-under performance tied him for second and he earned the number three seed heading into match play. In the round of 64, Anderson dispatched the 62nd seed Sherrill Britt 4&2. He followed up that victory with a 1 Up win over Brenton Flynn (35th seed) and continued rolling into the quarterfinals after a 3&1 victory over David Easley (46th seed). Anderson’s bid to advance to the semifinals came up just short as Josh Nichols (22nd seed) won 2 Up.
Having been a competitive skier, Fred Anderson was well versed on the physical toll the sport could inflict on a body. “Our family was 12 knee surgeries deep and he had not had any yet,” said Anderson of the skiing-related procedures that he, his wife Kim, also a former ski racer, and daughter Kylie had combined to undergo, and son Scott had avoided.

The elder Anderson attended the University of Utah on a scholarship. He competed as a skier at the collegiate and national level with the glimmer of making the USA Olympic Team, “but I realized that I had better keep going to school.” The Andersons lived in Great Falls, Montana, with the thought that the children might also grow into competitive skiers, “but I saw [Scott’s] golf swing when he was 6 or 7 and lower mechanics in golf and ski racing are real similar,” the elder Anderson said. “At age 15, because I had been personally beat up so bad from ski racing, I made him quit and concentrate on golf.”

Scott Anderson, who now resides in Columbus, Ohio, said the choice was his, but has no qualms with who takes the credit or the path the decision led him on. “You can ski competitively to about age 30,” said the 35-year-old, admitting that skiing remains his first love, “but golf you can play for as long as you are capable.”

Anderson showed off his competitive golf chops at the 37th U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, October 7-13, seeking to improve upon his only other USGA championship appearance, a missed cut in the 2001 U.S. Amateur at nearby East Lake Golf Club. Anderson says his golf journey has come full circle since that time. Around 1998, longtime Ohio State University coach Jim Brown was attending a national coaching clinic in Whitefish, Montana. He knew of Anderson and played on the same course Anderson had won high school tournaments on. Washington and Minnesota were also recruiting Anderson, but he wanted to go somewhere south. “So [Brown’s] story was ‘Look guys, I have a guy who is valedictorian, so he’s smart; thinks Ohio will be south; and I’ve played the course where I know he’s scored on. Let’s call him,’” said Fred Anderson.

Columbus it was. “You have to go where you’re the most comfortable and I’ve never seen a closer golf team than we had at Ohio State,” said Scott Anderson, who helped the Buckeyes win the 2004 Big Ten title, earned first team all-Big Ten honors the following season, and also served as captain. From there he moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, and turned professional, competing predominantly on the Gateway Tour. But he could never advance past the second stage of the PGA Tour Qualifying School.

By 29, life’s priorities were shifting. He was married and ready to start a family. A decision, not unlike the one he made to focus on golf nearly 15 years earlier, needed to be made. “I was ready to make it,” he said. “I knew in the back of my mind that I would give myself five shots [at Q-School] and if I didn’t get past that then I was ready to [say] it may not be your time. Golf is not the only thing going on in our life.”

His new career was in the medical device industry. He eventually applied and received his amateur reinstatement. A few years ago, wanting “to get a foot back in the door,” he joined a fledgling golf-club fitting company, where he manages the company’s fitters throughout the Midwest. “We have been pretty busy getting the company off the ground, but now the golf game can take over a little bit,” said Anderson, who began to dabble in competitive golf again. Twelve years after winning the Montana State Amateur, Anderson won the 2016 Ohio Mid-Amateur. Anderson credits his role as a master club fitter as having “reinvigorated” his game.

“It opened my eyes,” he said. “You’re watching them and seeing them hit shots, and you’re trying to get them to hit perfect shots. You realize a lot of people don’t do that on a daily basis. So just go play golf; you’re going to hit some bad ones out there, but you’re also going to have some good shots that happen. So how do you balance all of that? It’s really brought me full circle.”

Like many in the 264-player field, Anderson’s primary goal was to qualify for match play. “Guys out here have jobs and families, and they have a lot of distractions that they have to play through on a daily basis,” he said. “It’s kind of fun to have to deal with all that and make sure you come out playing good golf on the back end.”
What happens if your ball comes to rest inside a broken beer bottle?

In the second round of the 1949 Open Championship at Royal St George’s Golf Club in England, competitor Harry Bradshaw found himself in this exact situation. Unaware that the Rules of Golf provided free relief for interference by artificial objects on the golf course, Bradshaw attempted to hit the ball by shattering the bottle.

Under the Rules of Golf, Rule 24 provides free relief from both movable and immovable obstructions, which includes nearly all artificial objects found on a golf course. Free relief is provided because these objects are not meant to be part of the strategic challenge of a round of golf. Instead of playing the ball as it lay, Bradshaw could have removed the ball from inside the bottle, lifted and removed the bottle, and then dropped the ball as near as possible to the spot directly under where the ball originally lay. This is covered in the current of the Rules of Golf under Rule 24-1.

At the end of 72 holes of stroke play, Bradshaw, who made a six on the hole, ended up tied with Bobby Locke, setting the stage for a 36-hole playoff. Locke went on to win the playoff by 12 strokes. It pays to know your rights under the Rules of Golf.

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Collegiate Golfers Wrap Up Fall Schedule for 2017

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

NCAA Division I

The University of Montana Grizzlies concluded the fall portion of their 2017-18 season in Lakewood, Washington, at the Pat Lesser-Harbottle Seattle University Invitational at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club. U of M finished ninth after rounds of 313-312-316, 941. Hailey Hoagland was tied for third after her 36-hole performance of 70-77 and finished with 79, for a total of 226, finishing tied for seventh to lead the way for the Griz. Teigan Avery tied for 34th with rounds of 87-72-78, 237, followed by Kari Opatz who posted 81-82-78, 241, finishing in 49th. Baylee Barckley shot 80-81-81, 242, to tie for 53rd, and Faith D’Ortenzio’s 82-86-84, 252, tied for 69th to round out play for the Griz.

The Grizzlies will enter competitive hibernation for the better part of four months with their next event taking place February 12-13th in Riverside, California, at the Battle at the Rock Tournament.

NCAA Division II

The Yellowjackets of MSU-Billings finished their fall season with a flurry of activity, competing in two October invitationals and annual dual meets with Rocky Mountain College.

In women’s action, the Yellowjackets traveled to Olympia, Washington, to compete at the Saint Martin’s Invitational at Olympia Country Club. MSU-B finished in sixth with Shealyn Hafer leading the team both days with rounds of 85-84, 169 which placed her T12. Bailee Dexter (91-86, 177) and Sarah Schroefel (86-91, 177) tied for 29th and Ranae Heisler’s 86-98, 184 placed T37. Rounding out the scoring was Sydney Rochford with 99-103, 202 to finish T44. ...Cont. next page
Next, the Yellowjackets traveled north to Bellingham, Washington, at Bellingham Golf and Country Club, to compete in the Western Washington Invitational. MSU-B finished 10th in a highly competitive tournament with Hafer again pacing the team with 81-81, 162, good enough for T32. Sammy Walter shot 85-83, 168, for a T43 finish, followed by Dexters 86-83, 169, and T45 finish. Heisler shot 82-89, 171, for T52 and Schroefels 88-94, 182, was 65th overall.

Celebrating former Billings sensation and LPGA Tour Player, Leslie Spalding, MSU-B and Rocky Mountain College squared off in the Magic City in the 2017 Leslie Spalding Cup. Matches were contested at Lake Hills Golf Course with alternate shot, four ball, at Peter Yegen Golf Club and singles matches were back at Lake Hills over three days of competition. MSU-B swept the alternate shot matches 3-0, then extended their lead to 5-1 after four ball matches, and following singles play MSU-B tallied a 7.5 to 4.5 win to claim the 2017 Spalding Cup. Full match results can be found here.

In mens action, the Yellowjackets traveled south to Goodyear, Arizona, for the Western New Mexico Fall Intercollegiate and placed 17th of 20 teams. 2017 MSGA Amateur Champion, Caleb Stetzner, posted rounds of 74-69-70, 213, to finish T14 and low man for the tournament. Caleb Trost shot 74-72-76, 222, to tie for 40th and Garrett Woodin's 74-74-77, 225, was tied for 60th. Jayd Dion's 78-78-83, 239, was T94 and Riley Kaercher shot 84-79-87, 250, and in 103rd place.

Next, it was off to the Pacific Northwest for the Concordia Invitational at Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon. MSU-B tied for 8th as a team. Again, it was the pair of Caleb's leading the way for the Yellowjackets. Stetzner shot 75-72-80, 227, to finish in 28th and Trost was a shot back with 71-77-80, 228, for T29. Dion went 79-76-78, 233, for T44, Woodin posted 73-78-83, 234, and was matched by teammate Scott Larson at 234 as Larson shot 78-76-80, 234, for T46.

In the same manner as the Spalding Cup, the men celebrated Billings great Mike Grob, another golfer with PGA Tour pedigree. This time, Rocky Mountain College got the best of MSU-Billings by a 7.5 to 4.5 score in the Grob Cup at Lake Hills. MSU-B jumped out to a 2-1 lead after alternate shot matches at Lake Hills, then Rocky swept four ball matches at Peter Yegen Golf Club and edged MSU-B by a 3.5 to 2.5 count back at Lake Hills to finish off the match victory. Full results can be found here.

NAIA

Frontier Conference play concluded for the fall season as teams traveled to Lewiston Country Club in Lewiston, Idaho, for the Warrior Invitational. The host Lewis-Clark Warriors picked up a team victory on the women's side with a two-day 619, six shots clear of Rocky Mountain College at 625. Blake Greenup of LCSC shot 77-74, 151, to earn medalist honors, two better than Amanda Conner of Rocky and Marissa Louder of LCSC at 153. Gina Kowolchuk of Providence was fourth at 154 and rounding out the top five Hayden Flohr of Rocky and Kayla Monroe of of LCSC tied for 5th at 155. Full results can be found here.

On the mens side, the host Warriors also picked up the team victory after shooting 866 over two days, ten shots better than second place Rocky Mountain College. Rocky's Michael Tait claimed medalist honors with round of 73-67-74, 214, to finish two-under-par for the tournament and edge Montana Tech's Sean Benson by two shots. Benson shot 70-76-70, 216, for second followed by four LCSC players clustered between third and sixth place. Full results can be found here.

The Frontier Conference will be back in action next spring and conference champions will be crowned at the team and individual levels.
Former MSGA Board Member Boyd Passes

Mordecai James “Morty” Boyd, Jr. of Great Falls passed away October 22, 2017, from natural causes at Peace Hospice in Great Falls.

Morty was born May 16, 1923, to Mordecai Boyd Sr. and Olga Kathyrn Boyd in the Milwaukee Road Train Depot in Winnett, Montana, where his father was the Station Master. He attended school in Winnett until the family transferred to Denton his senior year of high school. An avid athlete, Morty participated in football, basketball, and boxing in Winnett. He graduated from Denton High School in 1940. After working in the shipyards in Seattle, Morty enlisted in the Navy in 1943 where he served as a radio operator during World War II. After his discharge in 1946, Morty attended the University of Montana on the GI Bill and received a Bachelors of Science in Business. A Phi Delt, Morty, was on the UM golf team.

An avid golfer, Morty learned the game in Winnett at the Ardmore Country Club, a six hole sand green golf course established by his father. Morty was a member of the Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls where he had three holes-in-ones during his golfing years. He was instrumental in establishing the Meadow Lark Country Club Junior Golf Program and The Lark Member-Guest Tournament. He was also a longtime supporter of junior golf around the state and a very generous man who supported many golf programs. Morty served on the Montana State Golf Association’s Board and was president for two terms.

Morty is survived by his wife, Maggie Boyd, of Great Falls, who served as a co-chair of the USGA Junior Girls Championship, held at the Meadow Lark CC in 1994. She has also served on the MSWGA Board in the past. Morty is also survived by his sons Ky J. Boyd of Santa Rosa, California, and Byron Boyd of Great Falls.

MSU Assistant Coach
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

A new face has been helping the women’s golf team at Montana State University this fall as assistant coach Travis Amendt joined Brittany Bayse’s staff to help with recruiting, player development, practice and lesson plans, tournament operations, and travel.

Prior to coming to Bozeman, Amendt served as head golf instructor of the Amendt Golf Academy for two years and was an assistant golf professional from 2012-2015 at Oak Valley Golf Club in Beaumont, California.

Amendt has experience competing on mini-tours and caddying in events in addition to his work as a teaching professional and coach.

The Bobcats fall season has concluded and will resume next spring.

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Donna Benner, 10/24/17, Village Greens GC, Hole #5, 104 yds, 7 Hybrid
Jan Carter, 10/19/17, Meadow Lark CC, Hole #16, 153 yds, 5 Wood
Tim Casey, 10/7/17, Laurel GC, Hole #17, 157 yds, 7 Iron
Chuck Creech, 9/17/17, Whitetail GC, Hole #5, 138 yds, 8 Iron

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$200 cash - Linda Jacobson, Billings
www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser

** NOVEMBER’S TRIP is to Golden State Warriors Basketball **
FORMER USGA PRESIDENT BLOCH DIES AT 84

BY DAVID SHEFTER (USGA)

Stuart F. Bloch, who called for stronger environmental stewardship in the game as the USGA's president in the early 1990s, died on October 29 at the age of 84 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Bloch was active on several USGA committees before serving two consecutive one-year terms as president in 1992 and 1993. He chaired the Championship Committee and the Implements and Ball Committee, and he was also a member of the International Team Selection Committee, which chooses the players for the Walker Cup and Curtis Cup Matches, as well as the World Amateur Team Championships.

As chairman of the Implements and Ball Committee, he was involved with the “square grooves” debate in the late 1980s. The USGA opted not to ban U-shaped grooves at the time, but did implement a groove rule for its championships in 2010. When he retired from the Executive Committee, Bloch also said golf needs to focus harder on protecting the environment.

“Golf’s popularity has placed us on the world stage,” said Bloch at the 1994 USGA Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. “From that view, we can now see the challenges facing us such as blending golf course needs with the demands of wildlife, water, and modified pesticide use… We have learned that we must alter some cultural practices, for the health of people, preservation of our courses, and the environment.”

Bloch remained active as a consultant to the Equipment Standards Committee and as a member of the Past Presidents Advisory Committee. In the latter role, Bloch was instrumental in Judy Bell becoming the USGA’s first female president in 1996. Before being asked to join the Executive Committee, Bloch was heavily involved with the West Virginia Golf Association and served as its president from 1980-83. At his home club, Wheeling Country Club, Bloch was director and chairman of the Green Committee for 25 years.

Bloch discussed his role as his club’s green chairman in an article for the May 1992 issue of the USGA’s Green Section Record. “When you add my love for the game of golf to my interest in the outdoors, it was a natural,” Bloch wrote. “I had the luxury of serving as chairman of the committee and also as its only member. I decided that it was clearly going to be more than I could handle to have a committee of four or five members. So I convinced the board that I would serve only under the condition that I would be the committee and I would resign every fall; if they didn’t like the way it was going, then they could start another program. I finally got fired after 18 years, but it was a lot of fun while I was doing it.”

As a player, Bloch competed at both Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and at Princeton University before serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1957-60. He joined the family business, the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company, in 1960 and worked there 15 years, serving as president from 1970-75. From 1975-80, he was vice president of General Cigar & Tobacco Company. In 1980, he became executive vice president of the investment firm Hazlett, Burt & Watson Inc. Outside of golf, Bloch served as coach and commissioner for the Wheeling Area Hockey Association. In 2013, Bloch and his wife, Stephanie, who were longtime friends of the College of Arts at West Virginia University, made a donation to the university’s Art Museum for its new Print Study/Collection Room.

Bloch is a former president of the Smokeless Tobacco Research Council and former president of the Associated Tobacco Manufacturers, West Virginia Manufacturers Association, and chairman of the West Virginia University Foundation. Bloch has been inducted into both the West Virginia Golf Association and city of Wheeling Halls of Fame. Bloch’s wife, Stephanie, died earlier in 2017. He leaves four children, Karen, Caroline, Steve, and Thomas II; and several grandchildren.