Top 5 Things A Golfer Needs To Know (Part 1)
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In the November through March issues of this newsletter, we'll be breaking down the Top 5 Things a Golfer Needs to Know about the World Handicap System (WHS), coming January 1, 2020. More information about the WHS can be found at www.usga.org/whs. We'll also have additional educational resources posted on our website in coming months.

#1: Your Handicap Index Could Change

Each score you submit is converted into a Score Differential, based on the Course and Slope Ratings of the tees you played. Your lowest score may not always be the lowest differential, depending on how the tees are rated. The USGA Handicap System we currently use takes an average of the lowest 10 out of 20 most recent score differentials, then multiplies it by a 96% “bonus for excellence”.

The World Handicap System will take an average of the lowest 8 out of 20 most recent score differentials, with no additional calculation. Moving to an 8 out of 20 system will allow for greater responsiveness to good scores, and eliminates the need for a “bonus for excellence”, which can be difficult to explain. If you have less than 20 scores, a table determines how many differentials are used, with an additional adjustment if there are only 3, 4, or 6 scores in your record. This compensates for a minimal scoring history, since the average player typically plays to their ability 1 out of every 5 rounds.

What does this mean for you? For most golfers, it will change less than one stroke. So, you may notice that your Handicap Index is different in January, despite not having played. Below is an example of a player’s score record on December 31 (left) with the current calculation using 10 out of 20 differentials, and on January 1st (right) using the new WHS calculation of 8 out of 20 differentials. This golfer’s index increased .4 strokes. This won’t be the case for everyone.

While the impact for most will be minimal, the amount of change will depend on the player’s handicap and score ranges.

Since golfers worldwide will be using the new system, Handicap Indexes can finally be compared apples to apples and be completely portable, no matter where you play. If you have any questions about the new WHS, please feel free to contact us.
For the past 15 years, Bob Eames has held the coveted role of head golf professional at Yellowstone Country Club in Billings. Yellowstone, which has had unrivaled continuity with only two head golf professionals in over 60 years of existence, will be moving on to a third as Eames announced he’s retiring after 50 years of experience in golf.

Eames was hired at Yellowstone as an assistant pro in 1969, working for the legendary Paul Allen. Eames would get his first shot at a head gig at Idaho Falls Country Club. He then returned to the Magic City, working at The Briarwood Golf Club before returning to the club where his career started, taking over at Yellowstone in 2004. In total, Eames has provided 50 years of service to the game he loves. He credits the support of his wife, his family, and an extended group of friends in the golf community for keeping his love of occupation going strong through five decades.

Eames and longtime Laurel Golf Club professional Tom Anderson have teamed up to win the Rocky Mountain Section Pro-Pro Championship numerous times, including a string of six consecutive senior division titles as partners. Early in his career, Eames tried his hand professionally as a competitor and credited his length and accuracy off the tee for keeping him competitive, but ultimately realized that the club professional route would be the best path for him and his family.

In retirement, Eames looks forward to traveling the country, visiting his growing family of five children and 17 grandchildren. He also looks forward to playing courses outside the Billings area that he’s yet had the opportunity to play.

Those who work in the golf industry are dedicated to service, and Eames has been a steady hand at Yellowstone Country Club for the past 15 years. With a full membership, his contributions to the club, Billings golf community, and state golf is significant. We thank Bob for his service and wish him a well-deserved retirement – he’s earned it!

High School Seasons Conclude for AA, A Ranks

If every snowflake is unique, so too is the uniqueness of every golf tournament. This year, the AA Montana State Golf Tournament was especially memorable as competitors battled high winds on day one and then dealt with snow on day two, even having to brush snow off the green in order to attempt their putts during the inward nines at Great Falls’ Meadow Lark Country Club.

A little over 15 years ago, the decision was made to move the AA and A high school golf season from the spring to the fall. Among the stated reasons were the availability of golf courses after the summer rush of play and the good weather that accompanies late August and September. However, an early snow storm in late September pushed the tournament into early October. And, after moving the dates a couple of times to dodge yet more bad weather, the snow came back again anyway.

As spring tournaments in the B and C divisions are at the mercy of snow and poor weather, usually the weather improves as the season goes on, with the better conditions occurring at the season’s end. But, as experienced Montanans know, Montana’s weather has a mind of its own, weather spring or fall. While 2019 was not the first season in which prep golfers encountered snow in their state tournament, this year’s tournament was the most vivid, with players mostly surviving their rounds and weighing how much effort to put into finishing quickly, or with a clear putting line. At the conclusion and given the conditions, scores were incredibly impressive, national attention was garnered, and awards were presented. After all, the tournament must go on, but the season for the AA and A ranks is over. ...Continued on the next page

WHS Educational Videos

As the final part in the USGA’s continued education for the upcoming World Handicap System in 2020, here is the link to the last video in the series, released in October.

For a full archive of the videos, along with more information about the WHS, go to www.msgagolf.org/whs and www.whs.com.
Class AA State Championship
The Bozeman Hawks captured a fourth consecutive state title as the girls posted a two-day total of 700, winning by 22 shots over second place Billings West, with Butte High third at 737.

The Hawks had three players earn All-State honors as Cooper Knarr led the way for Bozeman with rounds of 85-78, 153, which tied for second overall with Flathead's Marcella Mercer (79-84, 153). Cora Rosanova shot 90-84, 174, tying for fifth and Sami Yates 89-86, 175, was tied for seventh. Franchi Ceartin shot 188 and Halle Vandersloot shot 189 to round out scoring for the champion squad. Ceartin and Vandersloot were just outside the top 15 individually.

Carrie Carpenter of Billings West was able to conclude her prep career with a victory at the state tournament after finishing runner-up as a junior. She ran away with medalist honors with rounds of 75-75, 150, and a 13 shot overall margin of victory. Carpenter propelled the Golden Bears to second overall with some help from her teammate, Kadence Fischer, who shot 90-82, 172, for fourth overall and earned All-State honors.

Other All-State performances included Helena High's Ginny Kerr at 174 in fifth (89-85), a four-way tie for seventh at 175 with Yates, Jillian Wynne of Flathead (89-86), Samantha Benson of Billings Senior (87-88), and Ella Prigge of Butte (82-93). Cierra Sundheim of Billings Skyview was 11th with 183 (88-95) followed by a pair of Bulldogs from Butte in 12th at 185: Grace Luoma (93-92) and Kodie Hoagland (91-94). Amanda King of Billings Skyview was 14th with 186 (98-88) and a three-way tie for 15th at 187 included Gigi Montague of Billings Senior (99-88), Celi Champman of Helena High (94-93), and Lauren Williams (87-100) also from Helena High. For full results, click here.

The boys' competition also saw the Bozeman Hawks as victors. Bozeman won back-to-back titles led by a repeat medalist performance from sophomore Justus Verge, as he edged out his twin brother Jordan Verge for the state title. Justus posted 71-73 for a 144 even-par tournament, incredible considering the wind and snow conditions players endured over the two days in Great Falls. Jordan shot 74-74 for a 148 total. Teammates J.R. Small and Ramey Lloyd incredibly both shot rounds of 82-82 for a 164 total and tie for 8th. Daniel Loomis shot 87-87, 174, to round out scoring for the championship Bozeman team, who cruised to an easy title with a 620 total (309-311) and a whopping 68 shot margin of victory over second-place Missoula Sentinel at 688. Helena Capital was third at 690.

Tyler Avery of Glacier was third individually at 158 (84-74), Gabe Witham of Capital (82-78) and C.M. Russell's Eli Groshelle (81-79) tied for fourth at 160. Aidan Binau of Billings Skyview (82-79) and Kaven Noctor of Butte (79-82) tied for sixth at 161. Joe Opitz led the way for second place Missoula Sentinel with 165 (87-78) and 10th overall followed by Blake Brock of Belgrade in 11th at 168 (85-83). Reece Mayala was 12th at 169 (85-84), Sentinel's Jaden Dennis (85-85) and Billings West's Connor Halligan (85-85) tied for 13th at 170, and three players tied for 15th at 171 with Jhett Braley of Billings Senior (89-82), Hayden Ellis of Missoula Big Sky (86-85), and Capital's Trevor Swanson (85-86) rounding out the All-State accolades. For full results, click here.

Class A State Championship
While the AA prep golfers were battling wild weather, the Class A competition was full of close competition and galleries that are newer to Montana with the recent change in MHSA policy to allow spectators. One consistent between the two levels were the sweep of team titles and repeat of championships – the Laurel Locomotives got it done again, this time at their home course. Trailng going into the final round of the state tournament, Laurel overcame a six-stroke deficit and defeated Billings Central to win their third-straight title. Laurel posted 665 (341-324), with Billings Central at 669 (335-334) for second, and Hamilton secured third with 676 (339-337).

The competition was not only fierce in team action, but the individual drama was a sight to be seen and eventual galleries formed to watch a sudden-death playoff between Laurel's Carson Hackman and Whitefish's Cameron Kahle. Kahle closed in style with a birdie on hole 17 and drained an eagle putt on the 18th to force a playoff at 156 with Hackman. Both players shot ...Continued on the next page
rounds of 79-77. As the duo headed to replay the 18th hole, they each had opportunities, but parred the hole and did the trick once more before moving to hole 10 for the third sudden-death playoff hole. On the 10th, Hackman found trouble and eventually made double-bogey leaving Kahle a tap-in bogey for the victory and medalist honors.

Hackman’s teammate, Nick Pasquarello, was one shot off the pace finishing in third at 157 (80-77). Caleb Myers of Fergus (80-78) and Tristan Hanson of Hamilton (78-80) tied for fourth at 158. Bryce Reed of Hamilton was sixth at 161 (83-78). Connor Walsh of Billings Central was the leader after round one (77-86) and eventually tied with Hamilton’s Tanner Hanson (81-82) at 163 for seventh. Kade Ewalt of Laurel was ninth at 164 (84-80) and Trey Kelley of Polson was tenth at 165 (80-85). Ryan and Alex Adolph of Billings Central were 11th and 12th respectively at 166 for Ryan (86-80) and 170 for Alex (89-81). Andrew Brozek of Whitefish was 13th at 171 (87-84), Colby Emmons of Frenchtown was 14th at 173 (83-90), and Reese Jensen of Billings Central (83-91) and Gater Yelenich of Butte Central (86-88) tied for 15th at 174 to round out All-State honors. For full results, [click here](#).

Laurel picked up a repeat championship on the girls’ side, thanks to strong play from the Adams sisters as Hannah’s tournament rounds of 83-82, 165, earned medalist honors and her sister and final group member, Haylee, was third at 172 (84-88). The Locomotives posted 744 overall with rounds of 368-376 to win easily over Whitefish at 803. Corvalis came in third place by virtue of their 805 tally. Laurel’s Madi Cooney (100-100) finished in a four-way tie for 12th at 200 to earn All-State honors. Laurel’s championship team also included Keli Hodges (207) and Breana Jensen (232).

Corvallis was led by Macee Greenwood who was the individual runner up at 171 (83-88). Additional All-State recognition went to Kyra Brockhausen of Billings Central who was fourth at 181 (96-85), Cali Cannon of Polson was fifth at 189 (98-91), Ashytn Swigart of Custer County was sixth at 190 (86-104), and Sarah Karanjai of Sidney posted 193 (99-94) for seventh overall. Keelee Storrud of Corvallis (103-94) and Ellie Thiel (102-95) tied for eighth at 197. Jasmine Oyler of Stevensville shot 198 (100-98) for 10th place and Megan Archibald of Whitefish came in with 199 (100-99) for 11th place. Rounding out All-State honors in a four-way tie for 12th at 200 were Cooney, Harper Armitage of Frenchtown (100-100), Karly Volk (106-94), and Emma Torgerson (100-100), both of Sidney. For full results, [click here](#).

**ONE NETWORK IN 2020**

Regardless of handicap vendor, all Associations will be converted to one network by the end of 2019.

- **ONE network # - multiple states**
- **ONE handicap record - no linking**
- **Accessible by anyone in ONE place**
- **Centralized handicap calculation**
- **All handicap vendors, same network**
- **Invisible to golfers, no software or program change**

**DO YOU HAVE A GHIN# or other record outside the MSGA?**

If so, we need to link your records, if this hasn’t been done already! With the merge to one network coming, this needs to be completed soon to eliminate problems and confusion for both you and anyone searching your record.

Email us and we’ll get you set up: [support@msgagolf.org](mailto:support@msgagolf.org).

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**2019-20 Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!**

ALL proceeds go to support Junior golf programs in Montana! Go to [www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser](http://www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser) for more information and to download a brochure with application.

Twelve great trips are offered, including: Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; Universal Studios, Florida; Rome, Italy; Las Vegas, Nevada; Denver Broncos football; and more! Don’t want to go it alone? Share a ticket with a friend. With only 300 tickets sold, and 2 winners a month, your chances are good for a return on the cost of the ticket.

And, ultimately, 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 WINNERS!**

**OCTOBER'S DRAWING:**

Whitefish, Montana - Scott & Sue Irvin, Lewistown
$200 cash - Janet Cook, Billings

**NOVEMBER’S TRIP PRIZE is Two Airline Tickets**
Both Montana State and the University of Montana competed at the Rose City Collegiate tournament at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora, Oregon. The Bobcats finished 8th out of 12 teams while the Grizzlies were 11th. MSU senior Kelly Hooper tied for eighth overall with a three-round total of 223 (+7). Fellow senior Delaney Elliott tied for 10th at 225 for her tournament. Coral Schulz, who competed as an individual, posted 238 and tied for 46th overall. Lilly Navarre was T48 at 239 followed by Lucia Prieto Romano at 242 (T55), and Hannah Rosanova rounded out play for MSU with a 261 total and finishing 69th.

For UM, Kylie Esh was the low finisher at 232. Esh was T26, followed by Faith D’Ortenzio, who posted 236 in T40 position. Next was Allison Sobol at 240 tying for 52nd, followed by Patricia Joyce in 63rd at 246, and Jessica Ponce posted 249 for 67th. The Grizzlies had three players compete as individuals: Brooklyn VanBebber was the lone Grizzly in the 70s all three rounds and posted 236 tying for 40th, Teigan Avery was 54th at 241, and Emma Sundby was 64th at 247. CSU Fullerton won the team title with a total of 886 strokes. Eastern Washington’s Madalyn Ardueser was the individual medalist with a 54-hole score of 1-under 215. For full results, click here.

After returning from Oregon, the Grizzlies conducted a two-day match play event deemed the “Griz Match Play Challenge” at Missoula Country Club. On day one, the Griz faced the Bobcats picking up a 4-1 victory with MSU’s Kelly Hooper earning the Bobcats lone point.

**Montana 4, Montana State 1**
(1) Brooklyn Van Bebber (UM) vs. Kelly Hooper (MSU) MSU, 7-and-5; (2) Faith D’Ortenzio (UM) vs. Lucia Prieto Romano (MSU) UM 1 up (19); (3) Kylie Esh (UM) vs. Sofia Rodriguez Todd (MSU) UM, 3-and-2; (4) Allison Sobol (UM) vs. Hailey Oster (MSU) UM, 3-and-2; (5) Jessica Ponce (UM) vs. Coral Schulz (MSU) UM, 4-and-3; Tricia Joyce (UM) vs. Annika Danenhauer (MSU) All square; Teigan Avery (UM) vs. Lilly Navarre (MSU) UM, 4-and-3; Margaret Harmon (UM) vs. Hannah Rosanova (MSU) MSU, 2-and-1

**Eastern Washington 3, Montana 2** - Day two saw the Bobcats and Grizzlies both lose their matches 3-2.
(1) Madalyn Ardueser (EWU) vs. Kylie Esh (UM) EWU, 2 and 1; (2) Alexa Clark (EWU) vs. Faith D’Ortenzio (UM) EWU, 1 up; (3) Megan Ohland (EWU) vs. Allison Sobol (UM) UM, 1 up (19); (4) Stephanie Heimler (EWU) vs. Jessica Ponce (UM) EWU, 2 up; (5) Morgan Baum (EWU) vs. Teigan Avery (UM) UM, 1 up; Jaelin Ishikawa (EWU) vs. Brooklyn Van Bebber (UM) UM, 1 up; Ashley Ohland (EWU) vs. Tricia Joyce (UM) UM, 1 up; Emmy Sundby (UM) vs. Lilly Navarre (MSU) MSU UM, 3 and 2; Margaret Harmon (UM) vs. Coral Schulz (MSU) MSU, 3 and 2

**Idaho State 3, Montana State 2**
(1) Kelly Hooper (MSU) vs. Hadley Hersh (ISU) MSU, 1 up; (2) Lucia Prieto Romano (MSU) ...Continued on the next page
vs. Tyler Erickson (ISU) MSU, 1 up; (3) Annika Danenhauer (MSU) vs. Alexis Wilson (ISU) ISU, 3 and 2; (4) Sofia Rodriguez Todd (MSU) vs. Jamie Connell (ISU) ISU, 4 and 3; (5) Hannah Rosanova (MSU) vs. Tya Seth (ISU) ISU, 3 and 2; Hailey Oster (MSU) vs. Kyla Hoster (ISU) ISU, 3 and 2

UM finished its fall schedule at the Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club in Lakewood, Washington. The Grizzlies finished 17 out of 18 teams competing. UM shot a team total of 920 over three rounds (309-310-301). Tricia Joyce led the way with a 227 total and T38 finish. Faith D’Ortenzio was next at 231 (T57), followed by Allison Sobol at 233 (T70), and teammates Kylie Esh and Brooklyn VanBebber shot 236 and tied for 81st. Gonzaga (290-278-292) won the tournament by 13 strokes over Seattle (292-295-286), 20 over Nevada (298-290-292). Gonzaga’s Quynn Duong (69-69-71) won the individual title by four strokes over Houston Baptist’s Elise Parel (74-70-69). For full results, click here.

Montana won’t compete again for nearly five months. The spring schedule opens at the Lady Thunderbird Invitational in St. George, Utah, on March 12-13.

Montana State is finished for the fall; the Bobcats resume their 2019-20 season in Phoenix next February at the Grand Canyon University Invitational, February 22-23rd.

**NCAA Division II**

The MSU Billings men’s and women’s golf programs finished out their fall schedules with two tournaments each. The men traveled to Portland, Oregon, for the Concordia Invitational and finished 8th out of 14 teams after posting a three-round total of 896 (296-295-305). Caleb Trost notched a top-ten performance with rounds of 73-70-71 for a 214 total (+1); Trost finished T8. Garrett Woodin posted 240 for his tournament and a T40 finish, followed by teammates Riley Lawrence and Payton Stott each at 229 in a tie for 50th. Logan Martin rounded out the scoring for the Yellowjackets at 233 in T58 position. For full results, click here.

MSU Billings then traveled to Chico, California, and Butte Creek Country Club for the Sierra Central Wildcat Classic. The Yellowjackets tied for 10th overall with a three-round tally of 907 (311-293-303). This time it was Woodin who earned a T8 finish after posting rounds of 76-71-70 for 217. Trost came in T21 with 222 strokes, followed by Lawrence at 224 in T30 standing, and Stott was T71 after posting 244. Riley Kaercher was 74th with 249. For full results, click here.

The women’s squad from MSU Billings traveled to Hurricane, Utah, and played at Sand Hollow Golf Course for the Dixie State Invitational. The Yellowjackets finished 14th out of 14 teams with a two-round total of 676 (341-335). Tierney Messmer led the way with a 165 and T55 finish. Sydney Rochford and Kinsey Irvin tied for 64th at 171, followed by Avery Gill at 173 (T66), and Renae Heisler at 175 was T70. For full results, click here.

The final fall invitational for MSU-Billings was in Portland, the women competed at Riverside Country Club and finished 7th out of 10 teams. Irvin put together a top-twenty showing as she shot 158 to tie for 19th. Heisler was T24 at 161, followed by Messmer at 167 and in 36th. Avery Gill was two shots behind and finished T37 at 169, while Rochford rounded out scoring with 171 and T40 position. For full results, click here.

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**COLLEGIATE ... from previous page**

The Marvel Comics Avengers Junior Golf Guide and Teachers Edition are now available to order. Click Here.

[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. Click Here to see the 2019 Rules chart on the MSGA Website.
CROSBY RETURNING AS USA WALKER CUP CAPTAIN IN 2021
BY JEFF ALSTADTER, USGA

Nathaniel Crosby, of Jupiter, Florida, will return as the captain of the USA Team for the 2021 Walker Cup Match at Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Florida. Winner of the 1981 U.S. Amateur Championship, Crosby, who turned 58 on October 29, was the low amateur in the 1982 U.S. Open Championship. He was also a member of victorious USA teams in both the 1983 Walker Cup Match and the 1982 World Amateur Team Championship.

Crosby recently captained the USA Team to a 15½-10½ victory in the 2019 Match at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, in Hoylake, England. The USA overcame a 7-5 deficit after Day 1, rallying with victories in eight of the 10 Sunday singles matches to secure its largest margin of victory in an away Match since 1987.

“The 2019 Walker Cup experience was an unbelievable journey from start to finish, and I am honored to be allowed to once again guide an outstanding group of young men in 2021,” said Crosby. “As a member of the 1983 Walker Cup Team, I formed bonds and created friendships that have lasted a lifetime. I hope that I have left this year’s players with that same sense of excitement and honor, and I look forward to passing it on to our next group of players.”

The 48th Walker Cup Match is scheduled for May 8-9, 2021. It will mark the first time that the biennial team competition between 10 amateur players representing the United States and 10 amateur players representing Great Britain and Ireland will be held in the spring on U.S. soil.

Nathaniel’s previous Walker Cup experience and guidance proved to be the right mix to lead the 2019 team to victory,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “Our players experienced life lessons from a true gentleman and competitor and we are excited to have him lead the team again at Seminole.”

Born in Hillsborough, California, Crosby is the son of the late legendary American singer and entertainer Bing Crosby, who introduced him to golf. Nathaniel’s godfather is World Golf Hall of Fame member Jack Burke Jr., a Masters and PGA champion who served as captain of two USA Ryder Cup Teams and is a founder of Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas, which will serve as the host site for the 2020 U.S. Women’s Open.

Crosby won the 1981 U.S. Amateur at age 19 at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, California, defeating Brian Lindley in 37 holes despite being 4 down with 10 holes to play. Crosby’s 20-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole decided the longest final in 31 years. He followed that victory with a win in the 1982 Porter Cup and was the low amateur in the 1982 U.S. Open, finishing 59th at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Crosby also earned co-medalist honors in the 1979 U.S. Junior Amateur at Moss Creek Golf Club in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. In the USA’s 1983 Walker Cup victory at Hoylake, Crosby compiled a 1-1 record, losing a singles match to A. Philip Parkin, 6 and 4, and winning a foursomes match with William Hoffer.

In 1982, Crosby represented the winning USA Team in the World Amateur Team Championship at Lausanne (Switzerland) Golf Club along with future fellow Walker Cup captains Jim Holtgrieve, Bob Lewis, and five-time USGA champion Jay Sigel. Crosby’s final-round 68 helped the USA post a seven-stroke victory over Japan and Sweden. The USA Team was captained by the late Frank “Sandy” Tatum, a past USGA president.

Crosby, who played professionally in the U.S. and Europe, regained his amateur status in 1994. He has competed in seven USGA championships, including four U.S. Amateurs. He graduated from the University of Miami in 1984 with a degree in politics and public administration, was inducted into the school’s sports hall of fame in 2005.