

Orangevale

Sports

June 13th, 2008

Volume I - Number 10

Growing Pains for Local Disc Golfers



Part Two of Two Parts
By Stephen Jones

One of the first things you'll notice, when you spend an afternoon at Shady Oaks, is that there is no average golfer. The diversity



of this culture is extraordinary. Teenagers commonly meet and play with (and in some cases get beaten by) players in their 50's and 60's. With no thought of age, race, or social status, disc golfers are golfers first. The common bond is powerful enough to create some otherwise odd friendships.

The other thing that you'll notice is that there is no shortage of players. Several years ago, the sport exploded in popularity. A huge

increase in players and a lack of development of new courses in the area can make for a long round if you hit the course at peak times. From after work until sundown on weekdays, and from around 10 a.m. to sundown on weekends, you'll likely find a full parking lot, and a full first tee. A healthy dose of patience may be required.

The brightest hope for a relief valve to crowds at Shady Oaks is the development of a centrally located course in Del Paso Park on Auburn Blvd. near Winding Way. If approved this new course promises to show the local community what disc golfers can do to clean up a blighted area. The course is laid out on land that for decades has been home to some infamous deviant activity. The Sacramento Police sponsored the course, and endorsement was quick to come from the city, the neighbors, and the Horseman's Association. An environmental impact report is in the works, and hopefully will be completed soon, clearing the way for completion and opening of the as yet unnamed disc golf course.

Sacramento County isn't the only place in Northern California where one could find a disc golf course to spend a sunny afternoon on. Lake Tahoe is dotted with them, featuring four



established courses from Truckee to South Lake Tahoe. Rocklin, Auburn, Grass Valley, Vacaville, Napa, Berkeley, Ukiah, Willits, Lakeport, Oroville, Stockton, Modesto and many other communities support disc golf courses. A full list of courses, updated regularly, can be found at www.PDGA.com, the official website of the Professional Disc Golf Association.

Also there are game rules, tournament schedules, tournament results, and general information concerning the sport.

Exercise, companionship, competition and that very cool feeling you get when you bang your first 50 foot putt are some very good reasons to encourage the continued growth of the sport and the development of new courses.



The price is right as well, as all but a few private courses have no greens fees. Discs range in cost from \$7 - \$15.

Local information, tournament photo galleries, information about local clubs, an online store, and discussion group can be found on Final Nine Sports webpage at: www.Final9Sports.com.

Lessons in American History

For well over ten years, local Boy Scouts from Troop 310 and Cub Scouts from Pack 149 have helped decorate Mt. Vernon Memorial Park for Memorial Day Celebrations. The Cub Scouts work Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning, placing small American flags on each Veteran's grave. Monday morning at 5:30am, the Boy Scouts arrive to place approximately 300 large American flags on the interior roadways and at the Court of Honor. This last Memorial Day, at 5:30 in the morning there were 70+ Boy and Cub Scouts working to honor the community's men and women that served in the Armed Forces. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts appear in full uniform,

place the flags, attend the ceremonies, and stay to take the flags down.

According to one participant's father, the events were so impressive to his young Cub Scout that a discussion took place around the family dinner table regarding how and why the flags and the ceremony were important. In fact, his other children wanted to help after they heard about it so on Monday, Alea age 9, and Rowan age 4, joined their Cub Scout brother, Larkin age 6, in removing the flags. Adults with both Troop 310 and Pack 149 commented on the eager questioning about the history of their country and, frequently of their own families, by the young men working to honor the Veterans.



Caution:
Heat can be an athlete's worst enemy!
See previous page for story about Heat and Your Heart.

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