

+The Top 10 of Hoosier Golf: Ten of Central & Southern Indiana's Top Public Golf Destinations

(posted on IndianaGolf.com)

By Mike May



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*Top 10 of Hoosier Golf: Ten of Central & Southern Indiana's Top Public
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By Mike May

The tradition of playing basketball in Indiana goes back for decades, though some old timers will tell you that basketball was probably played in some form or fashion in Indiana well before Dr. James Naismith officially invented the game in Springfield, Massachusetts back in 1891. While basketball has been played in Indiana for more than 100 years, Hoosiers have also been playing golf for more than a century. After all, once the snow melts, the sun shines, the temperature rises, and the checkered flag is dropped at the Indianapolis 500, it's time to go outside to combat Old Man Par before Old Man Winter returns.

This publication – posted at www.IndianaGolf.com -- focuses on the Top 10 public-access golf courses in southern and central Indiana. Those Top 10 layouts are three courses in extreme southern Indiana: Fuzzy Zoeller's Covered Bridge (Sellersburg), Champions Pointe (Henryville), and Chariot Run (Laconia).....two golf courses in south central Indiana: Otter Creek (Columbus) and the Legends (Franklin).....three courses in southwest Indiana: The Donald Ross Course (French Lick), The Pete Dye Course (French Lick), and Sultan's Run (Jasper).....and two courses in central Indiana: The Fort and Brickyard Crossing (greater Indianapolis area).

THE DONALD ROSS COURSE AND THE PETE DYE COURSE (French Lick, Indiana)

The Donald Ross Course and The Pete Dye Course are at the center of the world-renowned French Lick Resort (www.frenchlick.com) in the small town of French Lick. It's impossible to talk about one course without referring to the other.

The Donald Ross Course (11160 West State Road 56, Indianapolis, French Lick; 812-936-5523), originally named the Hill Course, opened in 1917 while The Pete Dye Course (8670 West State Road 56, French Lick; 812-936-8062) didn't open until 2009. As the names on the two 18-hole layouts suggest, both courses are named after their respective architects. It's

worth noting that the French Lick Resort is the only resort in the world which boasts a classic Donald Ross design and a more modern Pete Dye layout. And, it's the only resort with two golf courses designed by two hall of fame architects.

Courtesy of a \$4.6 million investment, The Donald Ross Course has now been restored to Ross's original plans, which were and remain brilliant. Many of the greens have false fronts, which are accentuated by the back-to-front slope of the greens. False front greens are a common sight on Ross's golf courses. When you play this course, check out the configuration of the 8th green. It's in the shape of a square, as many greens were, back in the day. After playing this course, you can



understand why the 1924 PGA Championship was held here. It's a classic test of anybody's ability to play golf.

The Pete Dye Course, which includes three man-made lakes, was built on top of the surrounding hills. Many powerful adjectives have been used to describe The Pete Dye Course -- breathtaking, dramatic, exciting, and spectacular, to name a few. This hilltop peak, where The Pete Dye Course clubhouse stands, is Mt. Airie -- 972 feet high and roughly 450 feet above the town of French Lick.



When playing the par-four 5th hole at The Donald Ross Course in French Lick, make sure that you avoid the three fairway bunkers, as well as the one greenside sand trap. (Credit: French Lick Resort)

When you arrive at the clubhouse, it's Indiana's second highest elevation point, but it probably has the best view of any vantage point in the Midwest. It's Indiana's own 'Rocky Mountain High' -- a 360-degree view of southern Indiana and the surrounding Hoosier National Forest. From many parts of this golf course, you can see 30-40 miles in every direction. When Pete Dye built this course, he wanted to give golfers a panoramic view of southern Indiana. He succeeded.

“As I built the golf course, I tried to get the tees, the fairways, and the greens in position that they have these long views over the valleys and hills,” stated Dye. “The ambience of the course is the look, the vistas from all the different tees, greens and fairways.”



The 10th green at The Pete Dye Course in French Lick -- with the Hoosier National Forest in the background. (Credit: French Lick Resort)

The most dramatic stretch of holes on The Pete Dye Course is the early part of the back nine – 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. On the 11th, steer clear of the volcano bunkers which hug the fairway along the right. The 12th is a true three-shot par five with a massive green. The views of the area as you play the par-three 13th are memory makers. The 14th is the Signature Hole. It's a lengthy par five with a split fairway, divided by a massive green hollow. Pars are celebrated at the 14th.

Not surprisingly, The Pete Dye Course is also one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail.



The view of The Pete Dye Course in French Lick, on a beautiful fall day, with an impressive view of southern Indiana in the distance. (Credit: French Lick Resort).

In 2019, the French Lick Resort was selected among the Editors' Choice Award by *Golf Digest* as one of the [Best Golf Resorts in the Midwest](#) and, most recently, its Pete Dye and Donald Ross courses were ranked among the publication's list of [America's 100 Greatest Public Courses](#).

The Pete Dye Course moved up two spots to No. 17 on the list and the Donald Ross Course was ranked No. 99.

Golf Digest's annual review of "The Best Things in Golf" by its editors appears online at Golfdigest.com. It features the Best Resorts in the Americas. The listing recognizes resorts throughout the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Bermuda and Canada.

SULTAN'S RUN GOLF CLUB (Jasper, Indiana)

Sultan's Run Golf Club (1490 North Meridian Road, Jasper; sultansrun.com; 812-482-1009) is one of the marvels of golf in Indiana, if not the entire Midwest. Designed by Tim Liddy, a protégé of Pete Dye, this 18-hole layout is located in the southwest Indiana community of Jasper, about a 30-minute drive from French Lick.

Years ago, this piece of property where Sultan's Run (1490 North Meridian Road, Jasper, Indiana) is now situated, was once the home turf of the famous horse Supreme Sultan, which once sired a



At Sultan Run's downhill par-three 12th hole, aggressive tee shots will find a watery grave if they go too far left or beyond the putting surface. (Credit: Sultan's Run GC)

record number of world champion American Saddlebred horses. Not surprisingly, the logo for Sultan's Run features the silhouette an American Saddlebred horse, which might be Supreme Sultan. In keeping with this property's equestrian past, each hole at Sultan's Run is named after a world champion horse sired by Supreme Sultan. Some of those more unique names are Foxfire's Prophet (4th hole), Magic Marvel (8th hole), Candledance (12th hole), Starpina (14th hole), and Bellissima (15th hole). When you play Sultan's Run, you sense this property's equestrian roots as Supreme Sultan's presence from the past seems to hang in the air. Sultan's Run is definitely a great place to live if you were a horse, back in the day.

Sultan's Run, which provides beautiful views of the scenic southern Indiana countryside, features rolling hills, wonderful bunkering, bent grass greens, and a one-of-a-kind waterfall behind the 18th green. That waterfall is an ideal backdrop for a photo of you and golf buddies.

The fairways and tees of Sultan's Run feature zoysia grass which is a very hardy turf which can handle the extremes of cold and hot temperatures. The rolling hills in this part of Indiana give golfers a series of uphill and downhill shots. The most memorable downhill shots are the tee shot at the par-three 2nd hole and the approach shot on the par-four 14th hole. In fact, only a handful of holes at Sultan's Run don't have some type of elevation change.



The 18th hole –named after Supreme Sultan -- is the Signature Hole at Sultan's Run. The left-to-right dogleg, par four is a classic finishing hole – possibly the most dramatic home hole in the state of Indiana. The tee shot is hit from a high perch to wide, spacious, bunkered fairway in the distance. Driver is your club of choice on the 18th tee. When you strike your uphill approach to the 18th green, don't swing too much club and airmail the putting surface, which is flanked by the afore-mentioned waterfall at the back. When you play the 18th at Sultan's Run, the pin should always be at the back of the green in order for you to maximize the presence of the waterfall.

Some type of water hazard – pond, lake, creek, or stream – exists on ten of Sultan Run's holes, including the last four. The most prominent water hazard is the lake that hugs the left side of the fairway at the 15th hole. That lake also comes into play on your approach to the 15th green.

Sultan's Run features two 'risk and reward' short par fours – the 7th and 11th – which can be tempting for big hitters looking to drive the green.

When the weather gets dicey, that doesn't golf stop from being played at Sultan's Run, it just creates a slight delay to the beginning of play on that particular day.



The view of the 13th green at Sultan's Run. The 13th is an uphill, par five. (Credit: Sultan's Run GC)

“Wet weather is always difficult but we have cart paths all the way around so we can keep carts off the turf until the course dries out.,” said Bob Johnson, Sultan Run’s pro shop manager. “Frost delays are taken seriously! The superintendent will be in command and will give the go ahead on the opening of the course during frost delays.”

In 2015, Sultan’s Run was voted the #1 golf course in Indiana by the Indiana Golf Owners Association. That honor was well deserved. Sultan’s Run has been the host of some prestigious events in golf such as Web.Com Tour Qualifiers, Indiana PGA Senior Open, Golfweek Midwest Junior Classic, and the Indiana PGA Junior Masters Series.

April through the end of October is the best to play Sultan’s Run, which *Golf Digest* has given 4 ½ stars.

When visiting southwestern Indiana, you would be hard-pressed to discover a better 54-hole golf experience than Jasper’s Sultan’s Run and French Lick’s dynamic duo of The Donald Ross Course and The Pete Dye Course. That’s a terrific trifecta. And, when you cap off 54 holes of golf with a cold German beer and dinner at The Schnitzelbank in Jasper, that would be a true ‘grand slam’ experience.

OTTER CREEK GOLF COURSE (Columbus, Indiana)

The Otter Creek Golf Course (11522 East 50th North, Columbus; www.ottercreekgolf.com; 812-579-5227) is one of Indiana's most respected and first-class golf courses. Otter Creek does not have a pool, tennis courts, or a spa. It is simply a golf course – and a great one at that.

Opened in 1964, Otter Creek – designed by the late, legendary Robert Trent Jones, Sr. – has matured like a fine wine. Otter Creek has gotten better with age as it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014. Otter Creek is as popular, appealing, and relevant now as it was when it opened for business in 1964.



Otter Creek was originally owned by Cummins Engine, the largest employer in the area. The course was intended to be used by employees of Cummins, but soon after being opened, the company donated the course to the nearby city of Columbus. Golfers in the area – and throughout Indiana and the Midwest, for that matter – are indebted to the generosity of Cummins Engine. It truly has been a gift that keeps on giving.

Amateur golf in Indiana is especially indebted to the existence of Otter Creek. Why? Because the Indiana State Amateur Golf Tournament was held here from 1965 – 1990 and on five other occasions since then. Otter Creek is where Indiana golfers go to earn their golfing credibility.

Otter Creek is now a 27-hole complex. In 1995, another set of nine holes was opened. It's called the East course. The original 18 holes at Otter Creek were then renamed the North (front nine) and the West (back nine). There are two words which best describe the North and West course: 'fair' and 'traditional.' When veteran golfers imagine playing Otter Creek, they think about the North and West courses.



Looking down the fairway from the green of right-to-left dogleg par five 9th of the West Course at the Otter Creek Golf Course. (Credit: Mike May)

The North opens with a par five, where birdies and the occasional eagle are common occurrences, especially for better players. The West closes with a par five which is often played into the wind, making par an acceptable outcome. To play well on the North and West courses requires creative shot making and an efficient set of greenside chipping, pitching, and putting skills. To the credit of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. the North and West courses at Otter Creek are as revered now as they were when the course first opened in 1964.

As for the East Course, this par-36 layout is as good a nine-hole course as you will find anywhere in the U.S. There are two words which best describe the East Course: 'strong' and 'spirited.' It can also be called a special treasure. Frankly, the East Course deserves another nine holes of a similar design which would make it one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the Midwest. The setting for golf at the East Course is pure and pristine. It's the kind of place where the robins land on each tee to 'welcome' you to their home and where there's no outside noise caused by nearby planes, trains, buses, motorcycles, jet skis, and automobiles. On the East Course, there are pastoral sightings of cornfields and country barns, which confirm Otter Creek's peaceful, rural setting. Simply put, this piece of property was destined to be a golf course. And, thanks to the creativity of golf course architect Rees Jones -- son of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. -- it is.



The welcoming sign at the Otter Creek Golf Course is natural and unpretentious. (Credit: Mike May)

All in all, the East Course at Otter Creek is the type of place which you want to play again, immediately after walking off the 9th green. After all, any golf course that is classified as a true treasure of a golf experience is worth finding and enjoying.

BRICKYARD CROSSING GOLF CLUB (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Ladies and gentlemen, start your golf carts! That is an appropriate message for anybody that tees it up at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Club in Indianapolis. This 18-hole stretch of championship golf is named in honor of its more famous sporting neighbor, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (aka, the Old Brickyard).

As you would expect, golf at Brickyard Crossing (4400 West 16th Street, Indianapolis; www.brickyardcrossing.com; 317-492-6417) is a blend of golf



and motor sports. This golf course sits inside and outside of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the site of the annual running of The Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's Brickyard 400. It's worth noting that space is not an issue on the infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It's so big that there's room to place Churchill Downs, Yankee Stadium, the Wimbledon tennis facility, the Roman Coliseum, and the Vatican City in the infield. In the case of Brickyard Crossing, it's holes eight, nine, ten, and eleven – one par three and three par fours. As you would expect, since you make the turn inside the Speedway, the snack shop near the 10th tee is called "The Pit Stop."

The Brickyard Crossing Golf Club, a Pete Dye re-design, has 14 holes situated on the outskirts of the Speedway and four holes that are located within the infield of the ‘Racing Capital of the World.’ Those four golf holes are a hop, skip, and a jump away from Gasoline Alley. And, to reach those four infield holes, you must drive your golf cart through a tunnel which is underneath the actual race track.



At Brickyard Crossing, four of the holes are actually constructed inside the infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing” – The Indianapolis 500. (Credit: Indianapolis Motor Speedway)

As you play holes 1-7 and 12-18, the grandstands of the Speedway are always lurking in the background, but they never impact play. Three of the most memorable holes are #7, #8, and #18. The 7th hole, the first hole inside the Speedway’s infield, is a par three which is played from a perched tee to a raised green. From this tee, there’s a 360-degree view of the Speedway which is jaw-dropping. The 8th hole is a terrific par four which has a large unnamed lake bordering the entire fairway and the green. When standing on the tee, you must determine how much of the lake that you want to carry before finding the fairway which has a slight right-to-left slant to it. On the 18th hole, a historic barn, which sits in the distance beyond the green, is your target off the tee. In many respects, this barn is a tribute to Indiana’s strong agricultural roots.



Brickyard Crossing -- which has been named to the list of America's Top 100 American Public Golf Courses by both *Golf Digest* and *Golfweek* - is also one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail. And Brickyard Crossing is one of the few golf courses in the U.S. to host a PGA Tour event (500 Festival Open from 1960-1968), an LPGA Tour Event ("500"

Ladies Classic in 1960), and a Champions Tour event (Brickyard Crossing Championship from 1994-1996 and the Comfort Classic at the Brickyard from 1997-2000) in its history.

To add to the authenticity of the golf experience, each flag on every pin is a black-and-white checkered flag with the logo of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway sewn across the flag. So, when you play Brickyard Crossing, you get 18 checkered-flag experiences. Clearly, everybody is a winner at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Club!

THE FORT GOLF RESORT (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Simply put, The Fort Golf Resort (6002 North Post Road, Indianapolis; www.thefortgolfcourse.com; 317-543-9597) is widely considered to be one of the finest public golf courses in the state of Indiana. In fact, on the home page of this golf course, it's stated that The Fort Golf Course is one of the "best golf courses you can play in Indiana." And, after you play The Fort, you will agree.



The first hole at The Fort is a scenic, straightaway par four. (Credit: The Fort GC)

The media agrees. In December 2018, Golf Advisor listed The Fort as first under the “Top 25 Courses for Layout in the U.S.” In that same list, Bethpage Black in New York was listed second. Also, *Golf Digest* has reported that The Fort was a “top 10 public golf course in the state of Indiana” from 1997-2007 and as third under the heading “Best Affordable New Public Courses.”

“The Fort is a very enjoyable golf course and very secluded, yet only 25 minutes from downtown Indianapolis,” said John Swan, head golf professional at The Fort. “Our course is surrounded by the Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park, so there are no residential homes on the course.”

The military history of the land on which The Fort sits is worth noting, especially if you are a military buff. Golf has been played here since the early 1950s by U.S. Army soldiers and officers on a golf course which was originally called the Fort Harrison Officers Club and Golf Course. Things changed in 1998 after the re-design by well-known and well-respected golf course architects Pete Dye and Tim Liddy. The course was re-named The Fort and is now one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail. Since then, it has generated many words of praise from golfers such as “awesome” and “the best course for money in Indy.”

The Fort, a par-72 layout, caters to all golfers, as it has five sets of tees (red, green, white, blue, and gold). The red tees measure 5,045 yards while the gold tees stretch out to 7,148 yards.



In the fall, every hole at The Fort reminds you of a picture postcard. (Credit: The Fort GC)

Adding to the golf experience at The Fort is the chance to stay on-site at one of three housing options – (1) Fort Harrison State Park Inn: A 28-room historic building, located just 300 yards from the first tee; (2) Harrison House: You can see the first tee from the Harrison House, which

features a Master Suite and six bedrooms, each with private bathrooms. The Harrison House includes a common gathering room, kitchenette, and a dining area. Up to 16 people can sleep at Harrison House; and (3) Officer's Home: This has four 3-bedroom homes, each of which is a short walk to the first tee. Each home is fully furnished with a kitchen and dining room. Each home accommodates 10 to 13 people.

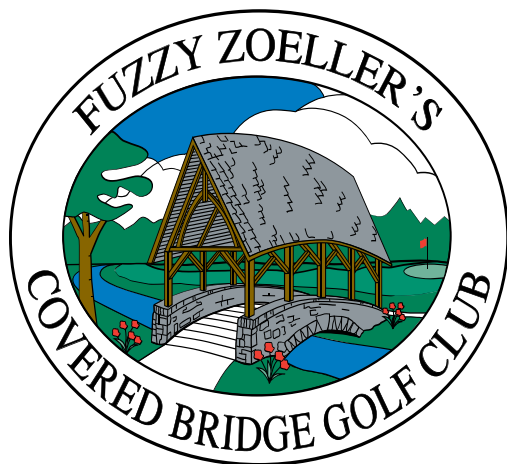
In keeping with this golf course's military roots, it's appropriate that the on-site restaurant is called the Garrison Restaurant.

COVERED BRIDGE GOLF CLUB (Sellersburg, Indiana)

When you 'mix' the game of golf, a historic Indiana landmark, and southern Indiana's most beloved golfer, you get Fuzzy Zoeller's Covered Bridge Golf Club (12510 Covered Bridge Road, Sellersburg; www.fuzzygolf.com; 812-246-8880). It's a golf course that you can't help but love and adore. This Fuzzy Zoeller/Clyde-Johnston-design features 18 holes which are "carved through the gorgeous landscape of southern Indiana," as is stated on FuzzyGolf.com. If you like Fuzzy, you'll love his course.

Two words best describe Covered Bridge: 'beautiful' and 'brilliant.' Even though the golf course's degree of difficulty is enhanced by the presence of five lakes, a meandering stream, and plenty of trees, it's a golf course that you will enjoy week after week and month after month. At Covered Bridge, the course is playable, the greens are puttable, and the rough is manageable.

One of Fuzzy's philosophies when he built this course was that he wanted to cater to the amateur golfer. His goal was not to build a course that would challenge the best players in the world. Instead, he wanted to build a course that would challenge, entertain, and delight every golfer in the world.



Two of the treats at Covered Bridge are the 'finishing' holes – the 9th and 18th. Not only are they both par fives, they also parallel one another and they share a huge double green. As you stand on the 9th and the 18th tees, you'll see the clubhouse in the distance, perched atop a sizable hill which overlooks the entire course. Truth be told, Fuzzy's clubhouse at Covered Bridge has an aura and mystique to it. As you play the 9th and 18th, you can just imagine Fuzzy and his members looking down at you from their lofty clubhouse perch.

As you would expect, an actual covered bridge sits on the golf course and is used by golfers who must cross a stream to go from the 2nd green to the 3rd tee. That same covered bridge is also used to make the transition from the 5th green to the 6th tee.



At Covered Bridge, a double green is used on the 9th (L) and 18th (R). (Credit: Covered Bridge GC)

The most exciting ‘risk/reward’ hole at Covered Bridge is the 5th. The green on this serpentine par five can be reached in two, but the presence of a pond to the right of the green will ‘sink’ your chances of a sub-par score if your second shot veers too far right. Play it safe by hitting a mid-iron as a layup. Then, it’s a wedge shot to the green, giving yourself a birdie putt. Holing your third shot for an eagle is not out of the question at the 5th.



While approaching the practice putting green at Covered Bridge, Fuzzy Zoeller’s presence is strong and clearly visible. (Credit: Covered Bridge GC)

The best time to play Covered Bridge is late in the day in the spring, summer and the fall because it's peaceful, tranquil, and serene. It's also a great time of the day to enjoy the flora and fauna that are unique to southern Indiana. Those are the reasons why Covered Bridge is now one of the pride and joys of the Hoosier State.....and for Fuzzy Zoeller, too.

CHAMPIONS POINTE GOLF CLUB (Henryville, Indiana)

Champions Pointe -- located just north of Louisville, Kentucky -- represents one of Fuzzy Zoeller's greatest legacies as he played a leading role in designing and directing the construction of this 18-hole venue, which opened in the summer of 2007. Champions Pointe (1820 Champions Club Lane, Henryville; www.fuzzygolf.com; 812-294-1800) has character, charisma, and charm. Champions Pointe is also fair, fun, affordable, and, at times, forgiving.



The 18th green of Champions Pointe, with the clubhouse in the background. (Credit: Champions Pointe GC)

But, most of all, it's simply a championship caliber golf destination that exudes authenticity and integrity. In other words, there are very few bad bounces at Champions Point. Good shots are rewarded and inaccurate shots are not.



Champions Pointe opens like a lamb and closes like a lion. One of the keys to your success at Champions Pointe is to successfully negotiate the first four holes, which feature a short par four, two long par threes and one lengthy par five. If you can play those four holes in no worse than one over par, you should be OK for the remaining 14 holes. Also, beware of the 'beasts' of the front nine – holes 7 and 8 – which are back-to-back par fours. Wind and water impact both holes. Securing a pair of pars at those two holes – the number 1 and number 3 handicap holes -- is a good barometer for the state of your game.

As was just mentioned, Champions Pointe closes like a lion, as two out of the four most difficult holes are the 16th and 18th. To successfully negotiate the par five 16th, you need a strong, accurate tee shot. If not, you will probably be forced to layup short of the fescue-strewn stream that crosses the 16th fairway at an awkward juncture. At the 18th, it also requires a strong, accurate tee shot. If not, you are then faced with a 200+ yard carry into the wind over water to the green. Or, you have a bailout option – a layup to your right -- in an adjacent, 'sister' fairway -- which then requires to you to get up & down to secure your par.



The 14th hole at Champions Pointe, pars are treasured & celebrated. (Credit: Champions Pointe GC)

After finishing your round, visit the Champions Pointe Sports Bar, where it's all about Fuzzy -- as his PGA Tour experiences are chronicled, documented, and showcased on the walls. The collection of photos of Fuzzy with sports and movie stars from the past and present always attracts a regular flow of onlookers. Everybody has always liked getting their picture taken with Fuzzy, as well as playing the course that he helped design and build.

LEGENDS GOLF CLUB (Franklin, Indiana)

The Legends Golf Club (2555 Hurricane Road, Franklin; www.thelegendsgolfclub.com; 317-736-8186) was the vision of five business partners, including former Indiana University men's basketball coach Bobby Knight. Ted Bishop, the 38th President of the PGA of America and the general manager of The Legends, led the startup and oversaw construction of the course, which was designed by accomplished golf architect Jim Fazio. Bishop continues to 'hang his hat' at the Legends Golf Club to this day. If the sun is shining and golf is being played, Bishop can be found somewhere on the premises of the Legends. And, he's often there before sunrise and after sunset.



Since the course opened, it has been listed as high as 6th among public and private courses in the state of Indiana and has been voted as "Indiana's Best Course" by *The Indiana Business Magazine*. And, it's been designated a 4-Star Facility by *Golf Digest*. And, the Legends Golf Club may well be the most popular golf course in the Hoosier state, based on daily play. And, the Legends has hosted more Indiana championship golf events since the early 1990s than any other course in the Hoosier state.

"We had over 48,000 rounds played in 2018 over our 27 holes," said Bishop. "When the weather is good, we are busy."



See the reflection of the pine tree in the pond that protects the 7th green on the Middle Course at the Legends Golf Club. (Credit: Legends Golf Club)

The three nine-hole courses at the Legend are The Middle, The Road, and The Creek. This 27-hole layout is a classic Indiana creation as it's surrounded by soybean and corn fields, and marigolds in between growing seasons. One of the commonly seen sites while playing the Legends is a trio of grain silos that are built on the property of a nearby farm. That visual confirms your geographic locale – in the heart of the American Midwest.

The Middle is where most players start their journey at the Legends. The Middle is an impressive and memorable layout which has nine superb holes, each of which deserves the signature hole moniker. Those nine holes exude integrity and class. The most majestic shot on the Middle is the tee shot on the par three 7th hole. At the right time of the day, a mirror-like image of the tall pine tree that sits behind the 7th green is reflected in the pond that separates the 7th tee from the 7th green.

There is no bigger fan of The Road Nine than Bishop.

“The Road Nine features a solid collection of par fours on holes 11-12 and 17-18,” stated Bishop. “Depending on the wind, two of these holes will play down wind and two will play into the wind. Any player that makes four pars on these holes is headed towards a good score on The Road Nine. This nine holes has two "risk-reward" par five and the risk might outweigh the reward!”



The view of the practice putting green and the clubhouse at the Legends Golf Club, while standing on the first tee of The Middle Nine. (Credit: Legends Golf Club)

To be successful on The Creek Nine, you should aim for the middle of every green because the greens are small, which will leave you with a makeable birdie putt. If you miss the greens, your ability to chip and putt to save par will be tested, according to Bishop.

“The Creek Nine features the most difficult three hole stretch on the course in holes 2-3-4,” added Bishop. “Overall, The Creek Nine challenges players with slightly smaller greens that set up with interesting angles from the center of the fairways. The prevailing wind at The Legends means that all Creek holes except the first hole will play into a difficult cross wind or into the wind.”

While Legends has quickly gained a reputation as a great golf course played by great players, Bishop reveals that the Legends has universal appeal to all golfers.

“All credit must be given to our course architect Jim Fazio,” admitted Bishop. “With access to five sets of tees, the Legends can be set up for championship play as well as casual play.”

If you pick the right set of tees, any golfer can have an enjoyable and memorable day at the Legends, added Bishop. As a golfer, what more can you ask for?

And, now, the Legends Golf Club has added an 18-hole par-3 course, the clubhouse has been updated, and swimming facility has been added for members and the general public. The par 3 course – which was gifted to the Indiana Golf Foundation in the late 1990s -- was designed by Jim Fazio and named The Dye Course in honor of legendary golf course architect (and Indiana native) Pete Dye.

CHARIOT RUN GOLF CLUB (Laconia, Indiana)

The Chariot Run Golf Club is an 18-hole, inland, American-style links course featuring bent grass greens, well-maintained fairways, and sparkling lakes. Located 30 minutes west of Louisville, Kentucky and nine miles from the Horseshoe Southern Indiana Casino, Chariot Run GC is one of Indiana’s top public golf courses.



The par-five 11th at Chariot Run offers big hitters a bail-out zone to the left of the green when attempting to reach the green in two shots. (Credit: Chariot’s Run Golf Club)

In 2019, Golf Advisor ranked the Chariot Run Golf Club (8191 Chariot Run Drive SE, Laconia; www.chariotrungolf.com; 812-578-3355) #1 as the Top Course in Indiana. In 2018, *Golfweek* listed Chariot Run as Indiana's 4th Best Course You Can Play.

With access to five different tees, every golfer can find his or her comfort zone at the Chariot Run Golf Club, which can play as long as 7,200 yards from the back tees. With access to five different tees, every golfer can find his or her comfort zone. It's also a course where you can drive for show and putt for dough as its website reveals that Chariot Run "has wide, rolling fairways and some of the purest greens around." By selecting the correct distance to play, Chariot Run will be as enjoyable to play for golfers of all handicaps. To emphasize the importance of course management, water (lake, pond, stream or creek) does come into play on ten holes at Chariot Run.



The green at Chariot Run's par five 18th hole is flanked by water and sand. (Credit: Chariot's Run Golf Club)

“Chariot Run is always in spectacular shape,” said Ryan McGinnis, head pro, Chariot Run Golf Club. “The greens are some of the best in the area. Chariot Run is easily the best golf in the greater southern Indiana/Louisville area, especially for the price. Our offseason rates start November 1st but we have play into early December. It’s all weather-dependent. We had a great January this season (2019). We caught a couple of good days and had around 100 players when the weather allowed.”

The most memorable stretch of holes at Chariot Run can be found on the first four holes of the back nine – 10-13. The 10th is a solid, left-to-right par four where the tee shot must split the two fairway sand bunkers. The 11th is a straight-away par five, which is reachable in two, if you can successfully negotiate the bunkers that protect the entrance to the green. The 12th is a delightful par three where a small lake looms large in front of the green. There is room to bail out to the right of the putting surface, leaving you with a reasonable chance to get up-and-down for par. The 13th is a short par four which provides you with two fairway options off the tee, unless you go pin seeking with your driver.

“You have to play a variety of shots to get through this stretch with a good score,” said McGinnis.

It’s also worth noting that Chariot Run is an Audubon International Certified Signature Sanctuary. The types of wildlife that call this course home include squirrels, skunks, foxes, rabbits, raccoons, purple martins, turtles, bats, deer, quail, and the occasional bald eagle.

After golf, enjoy visiting the state-of-the-art clubhouse and conclude your experience with a meal at the aptly named Double Eagle Bar & Grill which serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week. The most popular menu items are its All-American burgers, highly-acclaimed chicken wings, and the BBQ Tri-Top Steak Sandwiches. Seating-wise, you can either sit inside, where you enjoy a number of large flat-screen TVs, or outside on the patio, where you can enjoy the views of the southern Indiana countryside.

“THE 19th HOLE”...

THE SCHNITZELBANK: REAL GERMAN CUISINE (Jasper, Indiana)

Authentic, genuine, delicious and memorable. Those are the four words that best describe what it’s like to eat at The Schnitzelbank, the German-themed dining and drinking establishment in Jasper, Indiana. Opened by Larry and Betty Hanselman, The Schnitzelbank (www.schnitzelbank.com; 393 Third Avenue, Jasper; 812-482-2640) has been cooking and serving high-quality German and American fare to hungry and thirsty guests since 1971. The origin of The Schnitzelbank was a tavern that opened on the same property in Jasper in 1961.

If you want to eat some delectable, award-winning German food, but you don’t have a passport or enough money to fly to Germany, then head to The Schnitzelbank in Jasper. You don’t have to

speaking German nor understanding German in order to truly enjoy all that The Schnitzelbank has to offer. Though, you might be speaking a little German by the time you leave!

The Schnitzelbank is located minutes away from Jasper's Sultan's Run Golf Club and about a 30-minute drive from French Lick's dynamic duo of The Donald Ross Course and The Pete Dye Course.

At The Schnitzelbank, you will find some great German food such as Goulash, Sauerbraten, Weiner Schnitzel, Beef Rouladen, Schweine Schnitzel, Knackwurst, Bratwurst, Bockwurst, and the #1 sandwich in Indiana, The Bratzel -- a jumbo salted pretzel lightly covered with sauerkraut, two Merkley bratwurst and a drizzle of honey mustard sauce, served with German fries.

The Bratzel was the winner of a statewide competition for the best sandwich in Indiana during the buildup to Super Bowl XLVI which was hosted by the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis in 2012. Now under the leadership of Alan Hanselman and Gail Hettinger, Larry and Betty's son and daughter, The Schnitzelbank's atmosphere and menu continue to be a reflection of southwest

Indiana's strong German roots. In fact, three generations of the Hanselman family are now working at The Schnitzelbank.



When you arrive in the parking lot at The Schnitzelbank, you immediately get the feeling that you are about to be 'transported' to Bavaria, Germany's historic Black Forest, or to downtown Dusseldorf. This restaurant's exterior and interior décor, the glockenspiel in the restaurant's clock tower, and the items for sale in the restaurant's gift shop are a reflection of The Schnitzelbank's links to 'Old World' Germany. And, as you would expect, The Schnitzelbank's waiters and waitresses are also dressed in true German attire – leder hosen for the men and dirndls for the waitresses. By the way, the glockenspiel, one of two in Indiana, normally plays on the hour and the half hour.

German beers are popular at The Schnitzelbank. (Credit: The Schnitzelbank)

“We have been serving German food produced from local family recipes that date back for more than 100 years and we haven’t changed them,” admitted Alan Hanselman.

The quality of the food is so good that many of the strongest complements come from visiting Germans. There’s a local exchange program with Jasper’s sister city in southern Germany -- Pfaffenweiler -- which brings high school students from Germany to Jasper and vice versa. Around 1850, German immigrants from Pfaffenweiler first settled here because the geographic terrain of this part of Indiana reminded them of the dense forests and rolling hills back in Germany.



After playing golf at Sultan’s Run in Jasper or in nearby French Lick, golfers are visiting The Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper to quench their thirst and satisfy their appetite. (Credit: The Schnitzelbank)

“German tourists who eat at our restaurant say our food is more German than what they eat back home in Germany,” added Gail Hettinger. “There’s no need to book a flight to Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, or Frankfurt in order to eat authentic German food. We serve it here in Jasper.”

The Schnitzelbank’s menu features items listed in both English and German such as appetizers (Vorspeisen), soup (Suppe), seafood (Meeresfruchte), German specialties (Deutsche Spezialitäten), regular side dishes (Seiten), German side dishes (Deutsche Seiten), and desserts (Nachspeise). And, if you arrive for a late breakfast, you can order the Spates Frühstück – two country fresh eggs served with your choice of bacon or sausage with German fries and toast.



When it comes to alcohol, there are 20 beers (bier) on tap at The Schnitzelbank.

Eight of those beers are brewed in Jasper under the direction of Alan Hanselman’s son, DJ. The most popular local brew is a blonde wheat beer. That particular beer redefines ‘smooth’ and ‘satisfying’ in a cold beer. For those who want their beer ‘to go,’ guests can order a 32-ounce can, known as a crowler, or they can purchase a 64-ounce container, known as a growler. And, the selection of German wines at The Schnitzelbank is impressive, too.

According to Kim Voegerl, The Schnitzelbank’s sales and marketing coordinator, the restaurant sells 35 different wines – five of which are imported from Germany, three of which come directly from Pfaffenweiler. The Schnitzelbank also sells 13 wines produced by Indiana wineries.

The Schnitzelbank is clearly the real deal – always has been and always will be. Everything that is served at The Schnitzelbank is produced with great attention to detail by a loyal, dedicated, and hard-working staff, many of whom have been working at the restaurant for more than 25 years.

When it’s time to order food, you’ll quickly realize that it’s going to take multiple visits to this restaurant in order to fully sample everything that’s worth eating. Simply put, everything on the menu is great, but a good place to start is the giant German pretzel, served with beer cheese and horseradish mustard. A family of four can easily devour this oversized soft pretzel. After eating the pretzel, make a beeline to the salad bar, which has been labeled the “Best in the Midwest” and is nicknamed the “Wunderbar.” Every day, two soups are also served at the salad bar. Some of those soups are tomato basil, beef noodle, and beef ribbie. On Fridays, bean soup and cornbread are always served at the salad bar. For a group dining at The Schnitzelbank, it would be wise to order the German Sampler Platter, which is advertised as being “large enough for two,” but it’s sufficient for at least three and maybe four. A classic entrée that is truly mouthwatering is the pork shank which is served over mashed potatoes with gravy and red cabbage. The two-inch hickory smoked pork chops are also outstanding. At The Schnitzelbank, it’s all good, all the time. For

dessert, the coconut cream pie, apple strudel, German chocolate pie, and the Black Forest Cake are beyond compare. Don't forget to order the cinnamon ice cream with the apple strudel.

The Schnitzelbank is open six days a week. It's closed on Sundays, with the exception of the brunches which are served on Easter Sunday and Mother's Day.

The hard-working staff looks forward to seeing you at The Schnitzelbank, possibly in the vicinity of the "Wunderbar." And, make sure that you take time to listen to the glockenspiel - on the hour and the half hour -- Ein, Zwei, Drei, Prost – 1, 2, 3, Cheers!

SPECIAL THANKS

GOLD TOE GOLF SOCKS -- THEY ARE SECOND-TO-NONE

Any car mechanic will tell you that the key to a smooth ride in any kind of automobile, regardless of the vehicle's sticker price, is a good set of tires, which must be balanced and properly aligned. That same theory applies to golfers, as well. Regardless of the quality of your golf clubs and the



rhythm of your swing, it's important to have a solid foundation when you step foot on any golf course, which starts with the right kind of socks. If you don't take care of your feet, then your chances of registering a good score are negatively impacted. In my opinion, the gold standard for golf socks starts and finishes with the Fairway edition of Gold Toe Golf Socks.

I don't think that I have seen so much attention to detail given to one piece of athletic apparel, which, in this case, is the golf sock. First of all, these golf socks are lightweight and very comfortable. The AquaFX® Moisture Control technology wicks away moisture from the foot keeping your feet as cool, dry, and comfortable on the 18th green as they were on the 1st tee. In this sock, there's a comfort tab where the sock meets the Achilles tendon, Y Heel reinforcement, cooling mesh panels on the forefoot, support for the arch, and a reinforced toe area. Where there's a possible issue, Gold Toe Golf Socks has addressed the situation so that it will not become an issue. The colors range from white to a mixture of light and dark color combinations.

After golf, it's time to transition to the Clubhouse edition of Gold Toe Golf Socks. These socks are comfortable, colorful, and durable. This sock, which is produced in a variety of argyle color combinations, is a longer dress sock. In this sock, there's Spandex throughout it, to provide a perfect fit for you. Just as you can see in the Fairway edition, the Clubhouse edition of the Gold Toe Golf Sock has a reinforced toe to improve comfortability. So, if you want to improve your chances of success on the golf course, invest in Gold Toe Golf Socks (GoldToe.com)

NEW BALANCE – WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



My experience of walking along the top golf courses in central and southern Indiana was made possible because I wore the correct footwear – the NBG2004 golf shoe from New Balance Athletic Shoe. Those golf shoes were (and remain) comfortable, trendy, functional, waterproof, fashionable, striking, and appealing to the eye. On the course, these shoes gave me the necessary grip, traction and support that I needed to hit any kind of shot and walk any type of golf course terrain that I encountered. The durability

issue is a key part of the design process because the game of golf is played in diverse weather conditions that range from dry to wet. Producing a top-notch golf shoe is not an easy proposition, but New Balance Athletic Shoe has figured out the solution.

BIONIC GLOVES – SIMPLY THE BEST

Golfers who are searching for fit, feel, and comfort in their golf glove would well-served by wearing a golf glove from Bionic Glove. There are four models available in the golf category: Performance Grip Pro, StableGrip (with Natural Fit), the newly released RelaxGrip 2.0, and ReliefGrip. All gloves are designed by an orthopedic hand specialist with the purpose of providing the best tools to play golf with a focus on the anatomy of the hand.

The Performance Grip golf gloves have been designed for competitive golfers. They give the golfer a greater natural fit and superior feel on the golf club. These golf gloves are made with premium Cabretta leather that's durable, supple and safe to wash. With fit, feel, grip and moisture management built in, you are guaranteed a top-quality golf glove with maximum performance. The StableGrip golf gloves are made of Cabretta leather. There are 12 mini towels inside the glove that will help keep your hand drier. This glove has a strategically placed pad system which provides increased durability in areas that are prone to wear and tear and better contact surface with the club. And, the easy grab tab makes glove removal simple and quick. The RelaxGrip 2.0 golf gloves provide an extra relaxation layer to your hand, providing instant control and balance. The terrycloth lining inside the glove provides moisture absorption. The ReliefGrip golf gloves are designed to provide relief for sore tender hands. This glove has all of Bionic's signature technology; motion and webzones for breathability, dexterity and comfort; patented pad system for durability comfort; plus form-fitting LightPrene for enhanced wrist and thumb support.



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