

THE PETE DYE GOLF TRAIL: BACK HOME IN INDIANA

By Mike May



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages 3-5: The Pete Dye Course (French Lick, Indiana)

Pages 5-6: Brickyard Crossing Golf Club (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Pages 6-8: The Fort Golf Course (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Pages 8-10: Maple Creek Golf & Country Club (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Pages 10-12: Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex: Ackerman-Allen and Kampen (West Lafayette, Indiana)

Pages 12-14: Tippecanoe Country Club (Monticello, Indiana)

Pages 14-16: PGA Golf Club's Dye Course: Your Winter Golf Home (Port St. Lucie, Florida)

Page 16: P.S.: The Dye Course: A Proper Par-Three Pursuit (Franklin, Indiana)



PROUDLY PRESENTS:

The Pete Dye Golf Trail: Back Home in Indiana

By Mike May (mikemaymarketing.com)

READ ABOUT THIS GOLF JOURNEY ON INDIANAGOLF.COM

THE PETE DYE GOLF TRAIL: BACK HOME IN INDIANA

By Mike May

It's not a stretch to say that the late, great, hall-of-fame golf course architect Pete Dye was the Donald Ross of his generation. Dye's footprint on U.S. golf is prolific, just as Ross' golfing 'footprint' remains on full display in the U.S. Golf legend and Ohio native Jack Nicklaus, aka the Golden Bear, himself a world-renowned golf course architect, is a big fan of Dye's.

"I think Pete Dye was the most creative, imaginative, and unconventional golf course designer that I have ever been around," said the Golden Bear.

While Dye's most publicized project is probably the Stadium Course at the TPC in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, the roots of his golf design genius are in Indiana. Dye's first 18-hole creation was the Maple Creek Golf and Country Club – opened in 1961 and originally named the Heather Hills Golf and Country Club -- in Indianapolis.

To honor Dye's Indiana ties, The Pete Dye Golf Trail was formed in the Hoosier state. It's a seven-course trail: The Pete Dye Course (French Lick), Brickyard Crossing Golf Club (Indianapolis), The Fort Golf Course (Indianapolis), Maple Creek Golf & Country Club (Indianapolis), Tippecanoe Country Club (Monticello), and the Ackerman-Alan and Kampen courses at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex (West Lafayette).

THE PETE DYE COURSE (in French Lick)

The Pete Dye Course (www.frenchlick.com) is at the center of the world-renowned French Lick Resort in the small town of French Lick. It's impossible to talk about golf in Indiana without referring to the Pete Dye Course in French Lick,

The Dye Course (812-936-8062) didn't open until 2009. As the name of this 18-hole layout suggest, it is named after its late, great architect. It's worth noting that the French Lick Resort is the only resort in the world which boasts a classic Donald Ross design (The Donald Ross Course) and a more modern Pete Dye layout. And, it's the only resort with two golf courses designed by two hall of fame architects.



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.



The volcano bunkers are a common sight along the 2nd hole at The Pete Dye Course.

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.



The view of the Hoosier National Forest from The Pete Dye Course on a beautiful fall day.

“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 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.

P.S. 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, the Dye course was ranked among the publication’s list of [America's 100 Greatest Public Courses](#). The Dye Course moved up two spots to No. 17 on the list. (MM)

BRICKYARD CROSSING GOLF COURSE (in Indianapolis)



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, Indiana; 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 Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR’s Brickyard 400.

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 under the actual race track.

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.



The par-3 seventh hole at Brickyard Crossing is perched in the infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (photo credit: IMS Photo).

To add to the authenticity of the 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. Everybody is a winner at Brickyard Crossing!

P.S. Brickyard Crossing has been named to the list of America’s Top 100 American Public Golf Courses by both *Golf Digest* and *Golfweek*. (MM)

THE FORT GOLF COURSE (in Indianapolis)

Simply put, The Fort Golf Course (6002 North Post Road, Indianapolis, Indiana; 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 media agree. 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 view of the fairway from the tee of the par five 11th hole at The Fort. (photo credit: The Fort GC).

“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.

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.

P.S. In keeping with this golf course’s military roots, it’s appropriate that the on-site restaurant is called the Garrison Restaurant. **(MM)**

MAPLE CREEK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (in Indianapolis)

While world-renowned golf course architect Pete Dye is famous for designing the Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, the annual home of The Players Championship, The Maple Creek Golf and Country Club, located on the northeast side of Indianapolis, is actually Dye’s first 18-hole golf course design.



Originally opened as Heather Hills Golf and Country Club in 1961, this 18-hole layout was created in partnership with his wife, Alice. Today, the Maple Creek Golf and Country Club (10501 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; 317-894-3343; www.maplecreekgc.com) features small tees and greens, narrow fairways lined with mature trees and natural long grass areas. Multiple bunkers compliment a creek that winds its way through the front nine, which raises the bar, so to speak, for players of all skill levels.



The first green at Maple Creek Golf & Country Club.



The approach shot to the 13th green at Maple Creek.

According to Jim Grossi, Maple Creek's general manager/head golf professional, Pete Dye designed a golf course that will remain forever relevant and never go out of style.

"Maple Creek is a picturesque, traditional and classical setting defined by challenging yet rewarding design features," states Grossi.

If you are searching for evidence that Pete Dye had a role in designing this golf course, you simply need to examine how the putting surfaces were built.

"By far, our greens tell the story of Pete Dye and are a preserved piece of history," adds Grossi. "You will find these original design features prominent in Mr. Dye's later career work."

While all 18 holes at Maple Creek are creative designs, the signature hole is the par-five 13th.

"At 13, you will find great optical design features from the teeing ground as well as the second and optional third shot approach," reveals Grossi. "This green (at 13) challenges even the most achieved golfer."

While the 13th hole may be Maple Creek's signature design, the most memorable shot takes place late in the back nine.

"The view from the 16th tee box boasts one of the most picturesque views in the state of Indiana," says Grossi.

While Pete Dye designed this great golf course, Grossi says that his superintendent is doing a great job of preserving Dye's legacy.

"Our superintendent Steve Conlin has always done a tremendous job preserving and manicuring the greens," says Grossi. "Most notable, this year we have dedicated capital towards a property wide tree-grooming project. The sole purpose is to return the sight lines from tee-to-green that Mr. Dye had originally planned and designed."

P.S. This course's website accurately describes Maple Creek as "A hidden gem on the Eastside." This layout is also described as "A shot maker's course that cannot be overpowered." (MM)

BIRCK BOILERMAKER GOLF COMPLEX: ACKERMAN-ALLEN & KAMPEN (in West Lafayette)

The men's and women's golf teams at Purdue University in West Lafayette are blessed with not one but two great, nationally respected and admired golf courses which can be found at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex (1300 Cherry Lane, West Lafayette, Indiana; www.purduegolf.com; [765-494-3139](tel:765-494-3139)). The names of the two courses are Ackerman-Allen and Kampen.



The 13th green at Ackerman-Allen.

"It's not often that you get to play golf at a university and get to play two of the best courses in the State of Indiana. Not only that, but the two are Pete Dye-designed courses," says head golf professional Daniel Ross. "What is so unique about the Kampen Course and Ackerman-Allen Course is that each course is very different from the other."

Ackerman-Allen is a parkland-style course, while Kampen is a links style course.

"As for Ackerman-Allen, Pete Dye took an already good golf course and turned it into an incredibly fun and truly enjoyable golf course," adds Ross. "Kampen has always been a strong golf course. Now, the course is in great condition and the greens are very consistent. People walk off Kampen praising the consistency of the greens. Both courses are kept in phenomenal shape."

Opened in 1934, the Ackerman-Allen Course (first called the South Course) was originally designed by Bill Diddle. It was a good enough golf course to host the 1961 NCAA Men's Golf

Championship which Purdue won and Jack Nicklaus, playing for The Ohio State University, was the individual medalist. Fast forward to 2015-2016, at which time Pete Dye performed his redesign magic on the 18-hole, par-72 layout. Today, the greens, fairways, and tees feature bent grass. From the moment you walk off the first tee, you'll see that this course is a memory maker featuring rolling hills, tree-lined fairways, white sand bunkers, and wide collection areas around the greens. During the redesign, two new holes were created and the championship tees were extended from 6,400 yards to 7,500 yards. Now, this course's five sets of tees range from 5,200 yards (forward 'silver' tees) to 7,500 yards (championship 'black' tees).

The course is named in honor of Jim and Lois Ackerman and Sam Allen for their support of Purdue University athletics.



The 18th green of the Kampen course.

The Kampen Course – formerly called the North Course -- is every bit the equal of Ackerman-Allen, as it has hosted the 2000 Men's Big Ten Championship, 2003 Women's NCAA Championship, 2004 Indiana Open, 2005 Women's Western Amateur, and the 2008 Men's NCAA Championship.

When Dye started the redesign efforts on the Kampen Course in the fall of 1996, he had two main goals: (1) create a course that would challenge and excite top collegiate golfers and (2) create an atmosphere of learning for Purdue's students. With that in mind, Dye started working alongside course superintendent Jim Scott and 32 Purdue students affiliated with the departments of forestry, entomology, water quality testing, and agronomy. One of their projects was to build a water reclamation project. Thankfully, all of the water now used on the course is recycled.

The Kampen Course has a few shared characteristics with Ackerman-Allen, but it has many more differences such as a links-style layout, vast sand bunkers, well-placed waste bunkers, man-made wetlands, many ponds, and a natural celery bog.

From a degree of difficulty, the Kampen Course, from the championship tees, is now a stern test, as three of its par fives measure more than 600 yards.

It's been stated that the degree of difficulty at the Kampen Course increases a great deal as you move back to a longer tee box, so make sure you choose the tee box that best suits your game.



The Kampen Course is named in honor of Emerson Kampen and his support of Purdue University athletics. A statue of Kampen overlooks the first tee.

"As a person who calls Indiana home, I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to build two of the finest university golf courses in the country at Purdue," said Dye.

P.S. The website for the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex provides a succinct and accurate summary of what awaits all golfers: 36 Holes, 2 Courses, 1 Unforgettable Experience. That's a profound and definitive statement. **(MM)**

TIPPECANOE COUNTRY CLUB (in Monticello)

Many people feel that the Tippecanoe Country Club (3267 NW Shafer Drive, Monticello, Indiana; www.tippecanoecc.com; 574-583-9977), which is adjacent to Lake Shafer, is one of the oldest and most treasured attractions in northern Indiana, especially in White County. This golf course was originally a nine-hole golf course. It opened for play in 1920. Those nine holes were designed by Roy Robertson. It's worth noting those nine holes were first built along the banks of the Tippecanoe River, before the lakes and dams were added in later years. Over the years, the Tippecanoe Country Club has since been updated and expanded. The most significant change to the golf course took place in 1963. Back then, a young, new golf course designer was hired to add an



additional nine holes to the existing golf course. This fresh-faced, ambitious, and talented golf course architect was from Indiana. The new golf course designer was none other than Pete Dye. Yes, the Tippecanoe Country Club was fortunate to have access to the professional expertise of Pete Dye before he became famous around the world. The future hall of fame golf course architect poured his heart and soul into the Tippecanoe Country Club. When all was said and done, Dye had designed the back nine and had also re-designed portions of the front nine, including all the tees and greens. Dye's design remains as relevant today as it was back in the early 1960s.



The second green at the Tippecanoe Country Club sits next to Lake Shafer. (photo credit: Margaret Duffey).

According to head golf professional John Alexander, his golf course's biggest compliment comes from the high percentage of annual return play.

"I have many golfers from Indiana and the entire Midwest who come back to play our golf course every year," admitted Alexander. "Our golf course features a few risk and reward holes, a number of old trees, and well-designed layout by Pete Dye. The presence of Lake Shafer on the first three holes gets your attention immediately. It's just a beautiful golf course."

Today, this 18-hole, par-72 golf course is a semi-private club that is open to the public. This golf course is as appropriate for a serious, competitive, single-digit handicap as it is for the casual, infrequent golfer. Golfers of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities enjoy their treks around the Tippecanoe CC. From the back tees, this scenic golf course measures 6,850 yards. It's somewhat long, but it's not arduous. This golf course opens for play as soon as weather permits in the spring,

usually mid-to-late March and remains open until mid-to-late November. The Tippecanoe Country Club is a popular facility to stage tournaments, charitable fund-raisers, and corporate outings.

P.S. From the 1st tee to the 18th green, Tippecanoe is meticulously groomed and is considered one of the finest layouts in the state of Indiana. (MM)

PGA GOLF CLUB'S DYE COURSE: YOUR WINTER GOLF HOME

If you are looking for a winter golf course to complement your Pete Dye Golf Trail experience back in Indiana, consider the Dye Course at the PGA Golf Club (www.pgavillage.com; 1-800-800-GOLF) in Port St. Lucie, Florida. In recent years, the Dye Course has been renovated and is now in tournament-level condition. The renovation was done by Indiana native and respected golf course superintendent Dick Gray, a protégé of the legendary Pete Dye, the original designer of the course. Gray grew up in Logansport, Indiana.

When the Dye Course was first built in 2000, it was constructed with such respect for the natural habitat that it was labeled as a Certified Signature Sanctuary for Audubon International. When Gray's team renovated the Dye Course in 2016, they maintained the respect of the natural terrain, while upgrading what was already a terrific golf course. Mother Nature and Mankind are now in perfect harmony at the Dye.



The fairway of the par-five 7th hole at the Dye Course features more than a dozen bunkers, a visually intimidating sight from the tee, one of Pete Dye's design trademarks.

Owned and operated by the PGA of America, the PGA Golf Club actually has three golf courses – one of which is the Dye -- which are open to the public. The other courses are the Ryder and the Wanamaker. The PGA Golf Club is ranked as one of America's top 75 golf resorts by *Golf Digest*.

The Dye Course – ranked #27 in Florida by *Golfweek* -- delivers many memory making moments, from the opening drive into a bunker-filled 1st fairway to your journey up the formidable 18th hole.



The re-design of the Dye Course by Indiana’s Dick Gray has given the course ‘pop’ appeal.

“Golfers can love the Dye and they can hate the Dye on the same hole,” says Gray. “The kid in you loves the challenge of the Dye and the adult fears the consequence. With the risky shot angles, bumps, hollows and slick and subtle greens, the Dye becomes a chemistry test.”

This Dye design is probably not as famous (yet) as some of his other creations, but this may be one of his most prized designs. The course is a pleasure to play, but is not a pushover. The fairways are a little easier to find off the tee. The greens are fair, true, and consistent. Every bunker is a hazard worth avoiding. And, water hazards are a common sight at the Dye, but are easy to navigate around them. Dye’s use of waste bunkers was strategic. The waste bunkers actually are more of a help than a hindrance as they help maintain pace of play, serving as sentries, guarding against errant shots rolling toward trouble.

At the Dye, good play is rewarded with good scores. It also helps to have GPS on every golf cart so the distance to every pin is never an issue. This is a golf course which golfers truly relish playing.

In 2016, the Dye’s fairways and greens were completely renovated. The fairways were converted to Celebration Bermuda while the greens are now Tifeagle Bermuda. The course is now as good as it gets. The greens are simply true and consistent. Putts can be struck to the back of every cup with purpose and conviction.

“Mother Nature takes a toll on a golf course,” adds Gray. “This comprehensive project has corrected altered surfaces due to years of top dressing and, in turn, restored the greens to Pete Dye’s original version and intent.”



PGA
V I L L A G E

St. Lucie

The first six holes – three par fours, two par threes, and one par five -- are a microcosm of the Dye experience. After experiencing the joy of diversity on the Dye’s first six holes, you’ll know what to expect on the remaining dozen.

Upon leaving the 18th green, head to the newly renovated 20,000 square-foot clubhouse for a meal at the Taplow Pub. You can’t go wrong with the Taplow Chili followed by the Taplow Chopped Salad or the Pub Burger. Also, try one of the signature drinks: Taplow Bloody Mary or the Taplow Tea. And, look for the PGA of America logo on the top of every sandwich bun. If you have a morning tee time, the Taplow Pub is open for breakfast at 6:30 – seven days a week. Order the Champion’s Breakfast. Why Taplow? This pub is named in honor of the New York City location (Taplow Club) where the PGA of America was founded on January 17, 1916.

Also, inside the clubhouse, you’ll find the PGA History Gallery which features trophies and pictures which highlight the history of the PGA of America and the people -- Sarazen, Snead, Hagen, Hogan, Player, Palmer, Nicklaus, Trevino, Mickelson, and Woods, among others -- who made that history. Also, the redesigned pro shop now looks like a retail boutique. It’s a welcoming atmosphere for both men and women.

It’s clear that the Dye Course is everything as advertised, and then some. It truly is a place where your golf game will exist in perfect harmony with Mother Nature and Mankind.

P.S. The Dye Course in Port St. Lucie, Florida is worthy of being included as the winter-time option for golfers who love playing golf along Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail. **(MM)**

P.S.: THE DYE COURSE: A PROPER PAR-THREE PURSUIT

It’s worth noting that the Legends Golf Club (2555 Hurricane Road, Franklin, Indiana), under the leadership of Ted Bishop, the 38th President of the PGA of America, has an 18-hole par-3 golf course on site, which complements its existing 27-hole championship layout. 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 Pete Dye. The Indiana Golf Foundation sits adjacent to the Legends Golf Club. This par-3 course opened for play in 1996.

On this par-three layout, there is no single signature hole. And, there’s a reason why, states Bishop.

“They are all good holes,” said Bishop.

That’s a good way to summarize every hole at The Dye Course in Franklin, as well as every hole at every course along Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail, which awaits your arrival. Fore! **(MM)**