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NC GOLF PREVIEW

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STRIKING YOUNG WOMEN

Upon initially observing these girls/women in their “less is more” garb, I was stunned, maybe even offended, by the amount of skin being displayed. My old 1960s mentality that women shouldn’t use their womanly wiles to their advantage kicked in. But I overcame my neurotic, provincial way of thinking and, feeling a little guilty (*thanks, Mom*), have actually expressed OUT LOUD that I like their cheeky ways. I think the young golfers have given us permission, once again, to act like women, and to look like women on the golf course.

The difference in the styles of the previous golfing generation and the millennium generation is dramatic. No one from the era

of Nancy Lopez, Laura Davies or even Juli Inkster could pull off the amount of clothing that the new group has, and “pull it off.”



Natalie Gulbis

The younger golfers are physically fit and are also not afraid to flaunt their femininity. If you don’t believe me, just watch Gulbis’ TV show and see how hard she works out with her equally fit trainer. Of course, the show doesn’t let us see her sweating or anything as banal as that. She actually smiles while E-F Trainer postures over her and imposes a full body press on her

flexed knee under the pretense of stretching her hamstrings. (*Ha! Ha! Oops, I’ve lost my “train” of thought here.*)

Gulbis is only one of the many striking young women striking the ball on the

LPGA tour. She and her contemporaries have heightened our interest in the tour by not only excelling at the game, but also by pushing the dress codes to the limit. While Sorenstam has taken the women’s game itself to a new level, these slightly younger players have elevated the LPGA to new altitudes and attitudes, exercising their freedom to be themselves. I predict great things for the future of the LPGA based on the talent of these new young professionals and the freshness they bring to the tour. (*When is the USGA going to allow professional male golfers to wear shorts on the links so we can see THEIR legs?*)

And just one more thing ... I am thankful these young golfers maintain a certain decorum and haven’t adopted the practice of their tennis compatriots who eructate those awful grunts with every swing. **MM**

Metro Ranks The Top Golf Courses in North Carolina

THE ENJOYABILITY FACTOR by Jim Hughes and David Droschak

Mark Twain said most people wouldn’t know what love is unless they’d read about it. You could say the same thing about golfers. Most of us wouldn’t know what a great course is unless we’d read about it in a golf magazine.

Metro invited golf writers David Droschak and Jim Hughes — with advice from a few of their well-chosen friends — to give us the scoop on North Carolina’s best courses. They came back with not just one list, but several to cover the rich offerings in North Carolina. And their Best in State list is quite different from *Golf Digest* and other publications.

Naturally, we demanded they explain/defend their choices:

Jim Hughes: “This is an exercise that gets harder every year. Droschak’s been saying for years there are probably 25 or 30 Top 10 courses in North Carolina. And that number is getting bigger all the time.

“So we talked about the best way to rank the best courses and decided it comes down to just one thing: We call it The Enjoyability Factor. If God wouldn’t let you play but one course for the rest of your life, which one — day in and day out — would keep you coming back for more?

“Because that’s really the most important thing. It’s like Jimmy Demaret said in the best

golf quote of all time: ‘Golf and sex are the only two things you don’t have to be good at to enjoy.’

“We factored in all the other stuff — shot values, playability, aesthetics, setting, history, tradition. But basically we just looked at that one thing. And by that standard, our list was unlike all the others. Some of the names are the same, but the order definitely isn’t.

“Once we got our Best in State list, we realized a lot of outstanding courses never had a chance to make the grade. So we came up with six other categories — Best Places to Live (Classic and Modern), Best Fee Courses You Can Play, Best Places You Can Stay, Best on the Horizon, and Pure Golf.

“One thing: You’ll note that Primland ranks number one in that last category, even though it’s 20 miles over the Virginia line. We say that’s an accident that goes back to William Byrd’s Dividing Line of 1733. So make the trip, shell out the \$175 green fee, and if you don’t agree it’s the best pure golf experience you’ve ever had, we’ll pay for your year’s subscription to *Metro Magazine*.”

Best in State

1. Pinehurst No. 2 – Donald Ross, Pinehurst Resort
2. Old North State – Tom Fazio,

- Badin Lake
3. Grandfather Mountain – Ellis Maples, Linville
4. CCNC Dogwood – Ellis Maples, Pinehurst
5. Wade Hampton – Tom Fazio, Cashiers
6. Pinehurst No. 8 – Tom Fazio, Pinehurst Resort
7. Linville Golf Club – Donald Ross, Linville
8. Eagle Point – Tom Fazio, Wilmington
9. Old Chatham – Rees Jones, Durham
10. Landfall – Pete Dye, Wilmington
11. Longview – Jack Nicklaus, Charlotte
12. Elk River – Jack Nicklaus, Banner Elk
13. Pine Needles – Donald Ross, Pinehurst
14. Charlotte Country Club – Donald Ross, Charlotte
15. Forest Creek – Tom Fazio, Pinehurst
16. Governors Club – Jack Nicklaus, Chapel Hill
17. Wakefield – Hale Irwin, Raleigh
18. River Landing – Clyde Johnson, Wallace

Classic Communities

1. Grandfather Mountain
2. CCNC Pinehurst
3. Charlotte Country Club
4. Old Town – Donald Ross, Winston-Salem

5. Biltmore Forest – Donald Ross, Asheville
6. Forsyth Country Club – Donald Ross, Winston-Salem
7. Hope Valley Country Club – Donald Ross, Durham
8. Cape Fear Country Club – Donald Ross, Wilmington
9. Greensboro Country Club – Donald Ross, Greensboro
10. Croasdaile Country Club – George Cobb, Durham
11. North Ridge Country Club – George Cobb/Gene Hamm (36 holes), Raleigh
12. McGregor Downs – Willard Byrd, Cary
13. Carolina Country Club – attributed to Donald Ross, Raleigh

Modern Communities

1. Old North State
2. Wade Hampton
3. Forest Creek
4. Landfall
5. Longview
6. Elk River
7. Governors Club
8. Wakefield
9. Prestonwood Country Club – Tom Jackson, Cary (54 holes)
10. Linville Ridge – George Cobb, Linville
11. Quail Hollow – George Cobb/Tom Fazio, Charlotte
12. National – Jack Nicklaus, Pinehurst
13. Currituck Club – Rees Jones, Corolla
14. Devils Ridge – John LaFoy, Holly Springs

Best Fee Courses You Can Play

1. Tanglewood Park – Robert Trent Jones, Winston-Salem
2. Finley – Tom Fazio, Chapel Hill
3. Tobacco Road – Mike Srantz, Sanford
4. Bryan Park – George Cobb and Robert Trent Jones (36 holes), Greensboro
5. Duke – Robert Trent Jones/Rees Jones, Durham
6. Legacy – Jack Nicklaus II, Aberdeen
7. Mount Mitchell Golf Resort – Fred Hawtree, Burnsville
8. Crow Creek – Rick Robbins, Calabash
9. Anderson Creek – Davis Love, III, Spring Lake
10. Heritage – Bob Moore/JMP Design, Wake Forest
11. The Preserve at Jordan Lake – Davis Love III, Chapel Hill
12. Keith Hills – Ellis Maples, Buies Creek



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