Thoughts About Golf

Golf is a game in which the slowest people in the world are those in front of you, and the fastest are those behind.

Golf was once a rich man’s sport, but now it has millions of poor players.

Don’t buy a putter until you have had a chance to throw it. In primitive society, when native tribes body the ground with clubs and yodeled, it was called witchcraft; in today’s civilized society, it’s called golf.

Tee Time

There’s nothing quite like being on the golf course on a pleasant June morning, breathing in the fresh air, feeling the newly mown grass of the fairways underfoot and watching that little ball sail off into the distance, hopefully landing somewhere close to where it was intended.

Once considered the “sport of gentleman” golf today is a favorite pastime of the masses, as well. But where does this time-honored game have its origins? Although the answer is much in dispute, most likely it was the Scots who introduced the game as we know it today. That is, they were probably the first to be knocking a ball into a hole barely large enough to hold it. In fact the Scots were playing golf at St. Andrews even before the founding of the university there in 1411.

The game was not always appreciated. King James II of Scotland banned the sport in 1417 because it seemed his archers were spending too much time knowing about golf balls than shooting arrows. This didn’t bode well for national defense.

In time however, the rivalry would catch on to the fun. Mary Queen of Scots was a committed player, and was even criticized for playing at a disreputable time during her husband’s death in 1567. It puts a whole new spin on the term “golf widow.”

Golf even made it to the moon in 1972 when Alan Shepard arranged a double claim to the hall of fame by taking a few frictionless swings and achieved a unique hole-in-one in a lunar crater.

On the next beautiful summer when the course was open, you might be nice to remember those Scots from an earlier time. Think of them swinging a wooden club at a ball made of leather and stuffed with feathers into the horizon, hoping it would land somewhere close to where they intended.

Okay sports fans, it’s time to test your trivia skills, so lace up those cleats and pull your cap down tight: here we go! There have been plenty of celebrities who once upon a time were athletes. See if you can guess these: 1. He played the 1970-1971 seasons for the Oakland Raiders before becoming a “Hit” in the Rock & Roll music universe.

2. What outstanding basketball player for Princeton and the New York Knicks went into politics and eventually ran for President?

3. This Yale football star ended up becoming President.

4. This famous actor was an All-Ivy League guard for Harvard in 1968.

5. Name the former running back for Temple in the early ’60s who became one of America’s leading actors.

6. Known as Harvey Lee Young as he played football at Eastern Kentucky, this actor was later worth six million dollars on television.

7. This star played major league baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Chicago Cubs and pro basketball with the Boston Celtics before he “rifled” himself to a hit television series.

8. This well-known television actor was the 1971 Heisman Trophy runner-up to Pat Sullivan as a running back out of Cornell. He also played professionally with the Vikings, Jets and Seahawks.

Fathers Then, Now & Tomorrow

“One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.”

— George Herbert

Those of us a certain age remember the perfect fathers of the 1950’s television shows. With all of America’s societal changes of the past fifty years, do the dads of today, and will the pops of the future, have anything in common with those fathers of the 50’s?

With so many moms working, lots of dads find themselves taking up the slack on the homefront, as it were. Many fathers are becoming masters of the microwave meal, diaper changers and laundry room experts. Along the way they also manage to attend little league games and dance recitals, mow the lawn and make sure the oil is changed in the car. But like their ’50’s forebears, they manage to do what fathers have always done—be fathers.

They still give their youngsters the advice and words of wisdom in dealing with life’s trials, tribulations and successes. They still support their children in their endeavors—most often without complaint. And fathers still hope for their children a better life than they have known.

Fifty years in the future dads may cruise to work in hydrogen powered cars, the lawn may be cut by a robot, microwave ovens may give over to something even faster and drier may be out of the cleaning. But fatherly advice will never go out of style.

Rainbow Fruit Salad

Ingredients:
- 1 large mango, peeled and diced
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, halved
- 2 cups seedless grapes

Honey Orange Sauce
- 1/3 cup unsweetened orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

Serves 12

Prepare the fruit. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl except for the sauce, and mix. Just before serving, pour honey orange sauce over the fruit and toss well.