2024
NEWSLETTER

The A~Money Club

Supporters for Alison Takamiya's *Professional Golf Journey*

By Alison Takamiya

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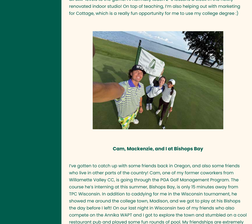
Next on the Tee... Epson (and LPGA) Awaits

July 2024

"Note: I included my end of July/August event in this newsletter, which resulted in this being a little delayed! Thank you for your patience :)

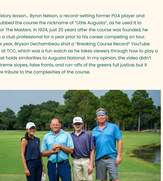
ON THE COURSE

July allowed me to experience exciting new courses I never imagined myself playing! The first being Texarkana Country Club for the WAPT Texarkana Children's Charity Open, and the second was my first TPC (Tournament Players Club) course I've ever played~ TPC Wisconsin for the WAPT Wisconsin Women's Championship! Texarkana is a city where Texas and Arkansas meet, and it was different to say the least. But the course itself was a challenging track that earned the nickname "Little Augusta"~more to come on that later. I missed the cut by 3 strokes shooting 77, 79 on a course that is not very forgiving, but I did however get to play as a pro in the pro-am which was the first time I got to experience that in any tour event! My second event of this month was the Wisconsin Women's Championship where I missed the cut by 2 strokes shooting 75, 73.



OFF THE COURSE

I've been able to spend time outside of my own golf, giving lessons at Cottage Golf Studio in Beaverton, Oregon (a suburb about 15 minutes out of Portland). I may have mentioned this in previous newsletters, but in case you're new (and it's been a while), Cottage Golf is a woman-owned golf studio that teaches and welcomes all skill-levels to the game. It normally teach 2-3 lessons a week in the newly renovated indoor studio! On top of teaching, I'm also helping out with marketing for Cottage, which is a really fun opportunity for me to use my college degree :)



Cam, Mackenzie, and I at Bishops Bay

I've gotten to catch up with some friends back in Oregon, and also some friends who live in other parts of the country! Cam, one of my former coworkers from Willamette Valley CC, is going through the PGA Golf Management Program. The course he's interning at this summer, Bishops Bay, is only 15 minutes away from TPC Wisconsin. In addition to caddying for me in the Wisconsin tournament, he showed me around the college town, Madison, and we got to play at his Bishops Bay course before I left! On our last night in Wisconsin two of my friends who also compete on the Annika WAPT and I got to explore the town and stumbled on a cool restaurant pub and played some fun rounds of pool. My friendships are extremely important to me as building community post-grad, in a place so far from home (and down a path that is known to be lonely) can be difficult at times.

INSIDE THE ROPES

Texarkana was a town that really opened my eyes to the world in a way that made me really appreciate where I come from and where I currently live. In talking to some members at Williamette Valley CC, I had the pre-conceived notion that it was not going to be in, let's just say, the nicer part of town. Luckily, I was traveling with my friend Lacey and her dad, Uncle Lance, (both of whom I traveled to Oklahoma with a couple months ago). They flew in on the same day as me, but to a different airport about an hour away, so Uber-ed from the airport to the Airbnb. I asked my driver if the area was safe, and with a slight hesitation and a dry laugh, he frankly replied, "I wouldn't walk around here by myself if I were you." At least he was honest with me... right? I noticed that some of the houses in the area had broken and boarded up windows, and some also had stacks of furniture in the yard or on the porch. Ours was very quaint and cozy inside, but we took the liberty to put a handrail to block the front door while we slept at night. But oddly enough, as you drive through what appeared to be a pretty abandoned town, about 7 minutes away from our abode for the week, was the beautiful Texarkana Country Club.

A small history lesson... Byron Nelson, a record-setting former PGA player and legend, dubbed the course the nickname of "Little Augusta", as he used it to prepare for The Masters. In 1934, just 20 years after the course was founded, he served as a club professional for a year prior to his career competing on tour. Earlier this year, Bryson DeChambeau shot a "Breaking Course Record" YouTube video out at TCC, which was a fun watch as he takes viewers through how to play a course that holds similarities to Augusta National. In my opinion, the video didn't do the extreme slopes, false fronts, and run-offs of the greens full justice, but it does serve tribute to the complexities of the course.

Texarkana Pro-Am Group 1️⃣ | Bryson's Video (click photo to watch) 1️⃣

On Monday of tournament week, I got to play in the pro-am as a pro! I had a wonderful time with my pro-am group, playing with the superintendent of Texarkana CC, his son, and the superintendent of Northridge CC (Texarkana CC's sister course). I got some insider knowledge about the course and how to play some of the trickier holes. The format of WAPT pro-ams is a scramble amongst the amateurs, but they can use the pro's first shot or can use the pro's score if it is lower than the group's score. The pros also play for a Skins game on the side, which adds an element of fun camaraderie!

Alternate Group Wisconsin ~ ft. Jinna, Katherine, Nikita, and Andrea :)

In Wisconsin, I was an alternate in the pro-am, meaning if someone in the pro-am couldn't make it, I would be in. As an alternate, it's basically a free practice round in a cart. I got to play off my tees gals on the tour and it was just really fun to meet new people! The marsh that TPC Wisconsin was built on comes into play on a lot of holes, thus it was a beautiful course with amazing wildlife. It features some pretty tight tee shots surrounded by water and firm greens that were either really small, or really large. Steve Stricker (PGA tour player) has a daughter, Bobbi, who plays on the WAPT. Her grandfather owns TPC Wisconsin, which is how our tour got the incredible opportunity to play out there.

TPC Wisconsin #1⃣

NEXT ON THE TEE

I am looking forward to finally getting my Epson Tour starts this month! The first being out in Pendleton, OR. That will follow the week of the LPGA Portland Classic, where I plan to Monday Qualify into for the second consecutive year! The thought of playing a course I am familiar with, especially being one of my favorite courses ever, fills me with excitement. Learning all these different courses and adjusting to vastly different conditions, especially grass types, has been one of the most challenging parts about pursuing professional golf. Currently, I am currently in the field for the Epson Tour Dream First Bank Charity Classic in Garden City, Kansas!

Summer 2024 Schedule

Link to Wishonsa Ladies Golf Classic

Link to Dream First Bank Charity Classic

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

Even though I missed the cut in the last two events, I feel like I am finally giving myself more grace. I feel like I'm just having more fun with it all. I'm finding that balance of being focused, but also having fun with meeting new people, seeing new places, and being a lot easier on myself than in the past. In both tournaments, I had some minor mistakes that cost me, or great shots that didn't get rewarded. Golf works in a funny way like that, where even if you execute things the way you want it to, there are so many uncontrollable factors at play. I'm learning the best thing you can do for yourself is move on and put your energy toward the next one. I've recently been adopting the mindset of "you can either be your best friend or your worst enemy," and I'm choosing the first option. Since being back in Oregon, I've been tightening up my game and truthfully do feel confident in where I know it can take me. I just need one small break because there is so much more left in my tank and I'm just ready for what's still yet to come :)

March 2012 ~ Mrs. G, Kaylee and I

I wanted to close out this month's newsletter by recognizing the late Mrs. Iwalani Gomand (1931 ~ 2024). For many, many years, "Mrs. G" ran a weekly junior golf program every Saturday at the Hickam Air Force Base's Ka'ala'ā Par 3 course! She was instrumental in helping junior golf flourish in Hawaii by teaching kids the rules, etiquette, and most of all respect for the game and other players. Many Hawaii junior golfers (myself included) have Mrs. G to thank for giving us a place to learn and fall in love with the game. Everyone could always count on a hug from her before teeing off. Mrs. G's generosity was also well known. We always had a treat to look forward to as we got rewarded a can of corn(!) or some other grocery item for birdies. And if someone got a hole-in-one, they treated everyone to pizza the following week! Through discipline, benevolence, but most of all love for us kids, she created a legacy for Hawaii golf that will live on forever. 'I'. We will miss you, Mrs. G!

updated results page :)

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