

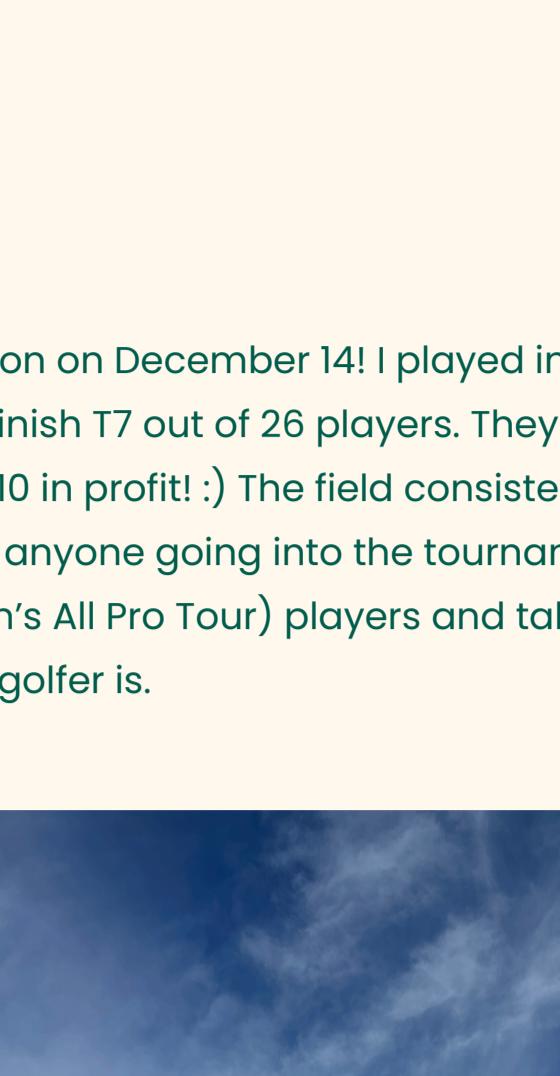


The A-Money Club

By Alison Takamiya

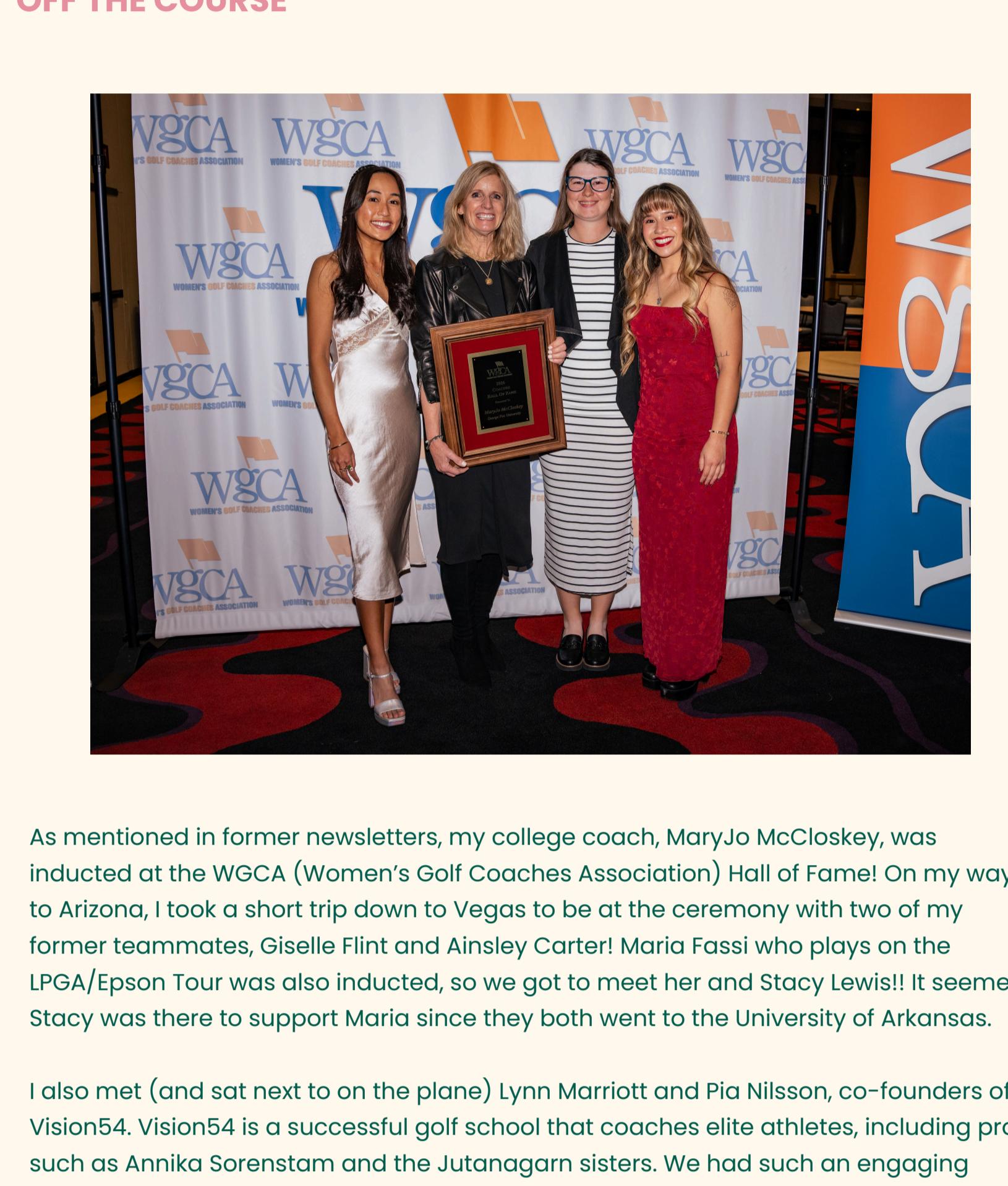
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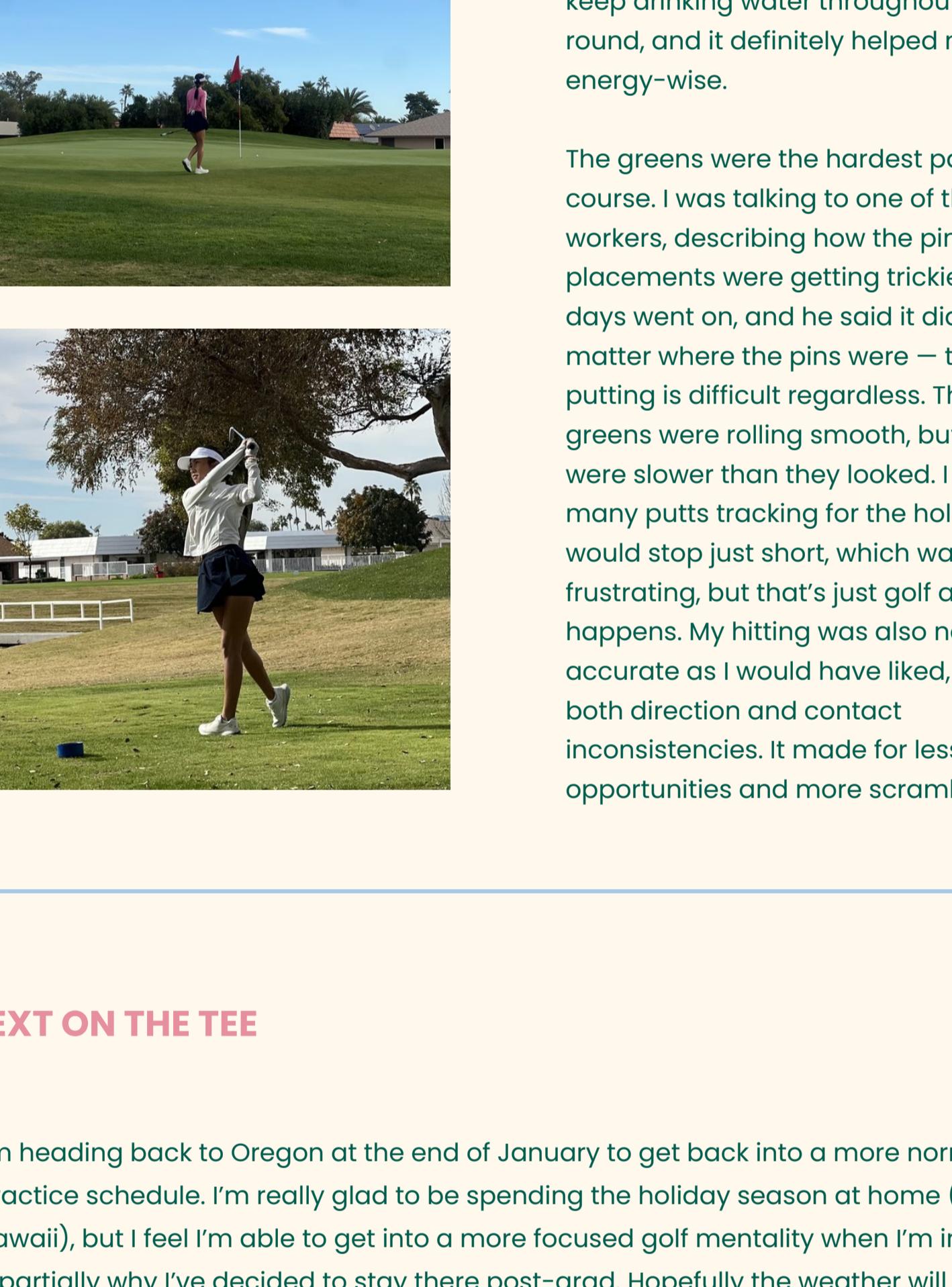
ON THE COURSE

I just completed my last tournament of the season on December 14! I played in the Arizona Women's Open and shot a 72-72-76 to finish 17 out of 26 players. They paid the top 9 players, and I made my entry fee back + \$10 in profit! :) The field consisted of a mixture of pros and amateurs, and I didn't know anyone going into the tournament. I got to play with some Epson Tour/WAPT (Women's All Pro Tour) players and talk to them a little bit about how life as a professional golfer is.



The course itself was pretty flat, yet we were able to take carts — which definitely helped as I didn't have a caddie at this tournament, but I did have a ton of snacks. The greens were by far the trickiest part of the game, with subtle breaks near the cup and tiers/false fronts. We played at 6,400 yards and distance wise, it didn't feel too unbearably long, considering in college the max distance we'd play was 5,800, maybe 5,900. I'm getting used to these longer yardages though, as that's what will be the new normal when I start playing on different tours in 2026!

OFF THE COURSE



As mentioned in former newsletters, my college coach, MaryJo McCloskey, was inducted at the WGCA (Women's Golf Coaches Association) Hall of Fame! On my way to Arizona, I took a short trip down to Vegas to be at the ceremony with two of my former teammates, Giselle Flint and Ainsley Carter! Maria Fassi who plays on the LPGA/Epson Tour was also inducted, so we got to meet her and Stacy Lewis! It seemed Stacy was there to support Maria since they both went to the University of Arkansas.

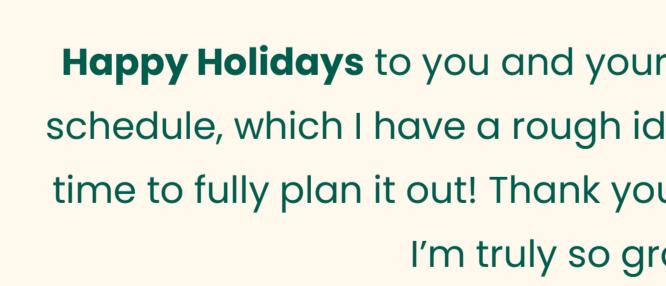
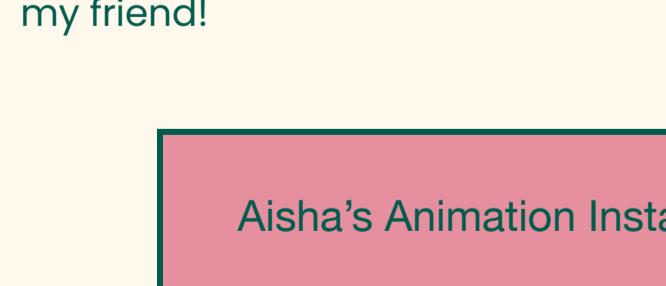
I also met (and sat next to on the plane) Lynn Marriott and Pia Nilsson, co-founders of Vision54. Vision54 is a successful golf school that coaches elite athletes, including pros such as Annika Sorenstam and the Jutanagarn sisters. We had such an engaging conversation talking about our backstories, college to professional golf, and how social media is changing everyday life. It was really cool to have a conversation of that depth with two amazing women in the golf industry, especially since I had just met them on the 45 minute plane flight from Vegas to Arizona.

During my time in Vegas, I also got to spend time with family I hadn't seen in years — two sets of uncles and aunts and one of my cousins. They showed me some of their favorite dining spots near their neighborhoods including an all-you-can-eat sushi restaurant, which I really enjoyed. I golfed with Uncle Rob, at a course nearby — which had been my first 18 holes of golf in a while.

In Arizona, I stayed with one of my best friends (Aisha Oakes) from college whose family lives in Phoenix; about 25 minutes away from the course the tournament was at. Aisha came out to watch two of the tournament days and her family came out to join on the last day! It was really great to spend time with all of them and I got to join in on some family events like watching her younger sister's school's musical theater performance and the neighborhood Christmas light parade.

A few days after my tournament ended, I came home for the holiday season and to escape some of the Oregon winter. I've been getting some much needed rest after a lot of travel and have been spending some time with friends/family at home!

INSIDE THE ROPES



Back to the Arizona tournament. I started the first round great being -3 on my first 9 holes, but playing in 80-degree heat like that for the first time in a while was something I didn't take into account, as I lost energy toward the end. The following days, I made sure to keep drinking water throughout my round, and it definitely helped me energy-wise.

The greens were the hardest part of the course I was talking to one of the workers, describing how the pin placements were getting trickier as the days went on, and he said it didn't matter where the pins were — the putting is difficult regardless. The greens were rolling smooth, but they were slower than they looked. I had so many putts tracking for the hole that would stop just short, which was frustrating, but that's just golf and it happens. My hitting was also not as accurate as I would have liked, with both direction and contact inconsistencies. It made for less birdie opportunities and more scrambling.

NEXT ON THE TEE

I'm heading back to Oregon at the end of January to get back into a more normal practice schedule. I'm really glad to be spending the holiday season at home (in Hawaii), but I feel I'm able to get into a more focused golf mentality when I'm in Oregon — partially why I've decided to stay there post-grad. Hopefully the weather will be somewhat decent when I'm back, but luckily there are indoor facilities I can use! I've been able to help out the current George Fox women's golf team in the off-season with some technique/drills to do in the off-season, which has been a fun way to help give back to the program that has given me so much.

My next event is most likely going to be in the **beginning of April** on the WAPT Tour!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

To be completely honest, I wasn't the most thrilled about my tournament performance. The score wasn't what I was hoping for and the different parts of my game just didn't feel as strong as I would have liked. I had seen working on small technique changes in my swing for weeks leading up to this, but I had to relearn them in the rounds I just had to trust what I had at that point in time. I'm trying my best not to be too hard on myself because I know I am capable of more than how I performed. What Aisha and her family told me after that last day was **'we all start somewhere'**, and that truly helped put into perspective to take the small wins and to look forward to the future.

This month's shoutout goes to a lot of people!

First off, thank you to my Uncles and Aunts for the first time in years I hadn't seen them since before moving away to college, so it was really great to spend some time catching up with them and talking about how life has been since.

I wasn't able to get photos with both sets of Uncles and Aunts, but pictured is Aunt Dee and Uncle Rob who live about 30 minutes away from the strip! I stayed with my Uncle Art and Aunt Sharon for my nights and saw one of my cousins, Travis.

Secondly, thank you to Aisha and her family for letting me stay with them for a week in Phoenix! I actually stayed with Aisha's grandparents who didn't get a photo with, but we were extremely hospitable and did a wonderful job of making me feel comfortable in their home.

Aisha is extremely talented and has such an eye for anything creative. If you ever need an illustrator/animatior or know of someone who is hiring for that position, I'd be more than happy to connect you with her!

She's also a wonderful, vibrant all-around wonderful human. I'm so grateful to call my friend!

Aisha's Animation Instagram (you should really check it out! 😊)

Happy Holidays to you and your family! The next time I'll be in touch is to share my schedule, which I have a rough idea of! What the next time I'll be in touch is to share my time to fully plan it out! Thank you so much for your support, but just need a little more time to truly say thank you for having me in your corner!

Alison

