

Ivanhoe Club, Thom Prichard

On the seventh hole of the Prairie Nine, Thom has built one of the coolest tees that I have ever seen. It occupies the site of what was only recently an overgrown knoll adjacent to the teeing ground. One day Thom climbed up through the brush and realized that he had discovered a great spot for a tee. He brought his chairman up to look at it and he agreed that it should be a tee. There is a hand crafted stone stairwell leading up to it. This tee is used primarily for special events.

Another great idea that I noticed at Ivanhoe was the color-coded CDGA markers on each tee box. This eliminates any possible confusion as to where the tee blocks should be placed, or which tee you may be playing from.

The new Arthur Hills bunkers at Ivanhoe were designed with fairly steep turf slopes. The intent behind this design was for the golf ball to kick off these embankments and roll down into the flat sand interior. In some

places however, the ball is hanging up in the bluegrass embankments. In order for the ball to release into the sand, Thom has been forced to take the height of cut down. Lowering the height of cuts has helped the ball to fall as it was designed to on these slopes, but the health of the bluegrass has struggled, particularly the slopes with southern exposure. Thom is currently removing the existing turf and planting a variety of low-mow bluegrass that should perform better at providing a dense and healthy bunker embankment turf, allowing also for the ball to roll to the sand base.

In our 2007 Midwest Breezes installments, we will be revisiting Ivanhoe to report on Thom's aeration and topdressing practices at Ivanhoe Club.

Brad Anderson, CGCS



The two pictures above show the new tee found on a knoll by Thom on the Prairie number 7. The image on the right depicts the hand crafted stone steps leading to the tee.



From Left to Right: The steep sloping embankments with struggling bluegrass, a bunker with the slopes prepped for sod, and a completed bunker embankment planted with new low mow cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass.