

# Ivanhoe Club Hosts ITF/MAGCS May Meeting Justin VanLanduit Shines



Justin VanLanduit

*On May 14th, ITF/MAGCS members converge at the Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, Illinois, to play in the ever-popular ITF/MAGCS Spring Scramble hosted this year by MAGCS member Tom Prichard. Since Tom has already been highlighted for hosting an event in the past, he thought this would be a great opportunity to introduce his first assistant superintendent of the past several years, Justin VanLanduit. A graduate of University of Illinois, Justin is going into his fourth full season at the club and as a member of the MAGCS.*

## **About the Course**

The Ivanhoe Club was established in 1991 by architect Dick Nugent who carved 27 holes out of 380 acres of magnificent terrain. The courses were later renovated by

Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest. Playing any combination of the three nine-hole courses (Forest, Marsh, and Prairie) puts the tips from 7,028 to 7,116 yards. "Ivanhoe is intimidating and from the tee looks very hard, yet I've come to learn that where people get in trouble is from looking at all the hazard areas not far off the fairway," says Justin. "The fairways are pretty wide, so focus down the middle and block out all of the stuff to the outside and swing away. If you keep the ball in play here, the round can be pretty fun," Justin continues on how best to tackle the courses at Ivanhoe.

The Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest renovation was undertaken on the three nines from 2000-2004. The renovation consisted of constructing new USGA greens with A1/A4, regressing with G1, squaring-off of the tee boxes, and the installation of a new Rain Bird irrigation system/pump house.

## **Justin's Beginnings**

Justin made a seemingly smooth transition into the turf business. Hailing from the small town of Walnut, Illinois, Justin was scouted in sixth grade by a local golf course superintendent across the street from his house. "Steve (Wolf) walked across the street as I was mowing my

*(continued on page 8)*



*Prairie 7 has the best green complex setting on the course. Large pines frame the hole with water along the right side of the fairway and green.*

parent's lawn to see if I would be interested in a summer job mowing the rough," he says. From sixth to twelfth grade Justin continued to work at Green River Country Club, a nine-hole public track that provided the start of his professional career. Following graduation from high school, there was no deliberation about what he wanted to do. Justin enrolled in the Turf Grass Management program at the University of Illinois where he earned his bachelor's degree. While pursuing his B.S. in turf management, he secured three impressive internships: Deer Valley Country Club, Green Gables Country Club, and finally Cherry Hills Country Club. These opportunities laid the foundation for Justin to be hired in the second assistant superintendent position at Ivanhoe Club in 2004. Later he became first assistant, the position he currently holds.

### The learning never ends

Justin may have completed school, but he has not stopped learning. From the start, Ivanhoe Club has been yet another training ground for Justin under the tutelage of Tom Prichard, Ivanhoe's golf course superintendent. "Tom has been an unbelievable inspiration to my career in showing me everything involved in the business along with the behind

the scenes action in the private club sector." Justin goes on to say, "Tom has trusted me throughout in making decisions. He has also shown me that one can enjoy his work along with creating a pristine golf course." Justin has not been the only one to profit from the experience. Ivanhoe has been recognized regularly by *Golf Digest* and other publications as one of the "Top 25" championship golf courses in Illinois.

### Personally Speaking

Though Justin is a person who takes great pleasure in what he does for a living, he still carves out time for a

few extracurricular activities such as golf (2.3 index), snowboarding, mountain biking, and enjoying time with friends as well as some adult beverages.

At the end of the day, the Ivanhoe Club has been an opportunity from which Justin has truly benefited. He says, "I just want to learn something new each day along with continuing on that perfect piece of artwork 'the golf course.'"

Tom, Justin, and the crew at Ivanhoe hope that all participants find Ivanhoe Club a challenging, but worthy, track to play.




*The Ivanhoe's Prairie fairways contrasted by native grasses, forbs and flowers.*

*The fourth most difficult hole on the golf course, the 443 yard par 4 Marsh #9 requires two solid shots over water to reach this bunkered green.*





Ivanhoe Club's Forest Ninth, challenges the golfer right from the tee teasing them to go for the green in two.



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