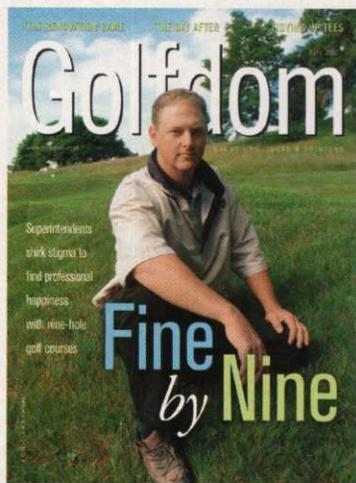


# We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD



## Fine With Nine?

Yes, I am fine with nine (July cover story). I have been the superintendent of and have worked at a couple of 18-hole courses, and the nine-hole course where I currently work suits me just fine.

The best part about my job is that I have 10 children (golf greens) to look after versus 18 or so. Salesmen have snubbed me in the past. They seem interested until they discover I am at a nine-holer. Then it's, "Oh, you take care of a nine-hole golf course?" Then I never hear from them again.

The stress level is somewhat lower and, although I only have two part-time workers, I feel like I can pay more and give more attention to the 60 acres I manage vs. 180 acres or more.

**Steve Taylor, Superintendent**  
**Tri-County Country Club**  
**Corbin, Ky.**

Although my hours are longer at my club like other nine-hole superintendents, I know I'm a crucial part of the operation and feel very proud when we are recognized for excellence, like receiving an award for best nine-hole course in the Chicago-area two years in a row.

My course has a great location, and when temperatures are really hot or cold or windy, I notice that golfers will tolerate nine holes instead of braving 18. We might not make as much on our nine-hole green fees as an 18-hole facility, but like the saying goes,

"Many small sticks can be stronger than one big stick."

**Doug Davis, Superintendent**  
**Flagg Creek Golf Course**  
**Countryside, Ill.**

My nine-hole Donald Ross golf course is in great condition. I see local golfers line up to play 18-hole courses in worse condition because they want variety.

When I took this job, there was talk about adding nine holes. Four years later, it looks like it will never happen.

This position was the best learning experience I could ask for. I do not feel looked down upon by my peers. However, I feel it is harder for me to take the next step in my career path. I am happy as a nine-hole course superintendent, but I sometimes feel like I have outgrown my position.

**Shane A. Miller, Superintendent**  
**Tumblebrook Golf Course**  
**Coopersburg, Pa.**

## Is Golf a Sport?

*Editor's note: In July we asked readers, "Is golf a sport or a skill?" We asked this question in light of Angel Cabrera's U.S. Open win. The beefy, cigarette-sucking Cabrera defeated the sculpted and sineuwy Tiger Woods by one stroke at Oakmont Country Club to gain the nation's championship. Here's how some readers answered the question.*



Golf is not a sport. Golf is a game, as is bowling, chess and poker. Our media mistakenly calls any competition a sport much as they mistakenly call George W. Bush a leader.

A sport can be a game, but a sport is an athletic competition where the determining factor is one's athletic ability. Also, in order for a competition to be a sport there must be a defense.

Hunting and fishing are not sports because they meet neither requirement. The other requirement is that the competition be

between two or more persons, therefore golf can't be included.

**Richard J. Haberstroh**  
**Emerald Greens Golf Course**  
**St. Louis**

I've been around golf as long as I can remember, and I recall hearing this same argument time and time again. I believe that golf should be considered a skill rather than a sport.

**Steve Taylor, Superintendent**  
**Tri-County Country Club**  
**Corbin, Ky.**

Golf is a sport that takes a lot of skill, natural ability and mental focus. Angel Cabrera is a strong bull, who happens to smoke. Golf is one of two sports in which you use every muscle in your body. Why do you think gymnasts, aerobic instructors and basketball, football and baseball players are so sore and contorted when they get done playing a round of golf, even with a golf car? Muscle memory.

I used to walk — carrying my clubs — 63 holes to 72 holes a day on a 7,500-yard course in Idaho. Man, those were the days. It takes stamina many times over to do that. I'm not talking about your golf car riders, who I think have ruined the integrity of golf and the physical aspect of it. As a holder of 29 course records and many amateur wins, I can only say I miss the day.

**Joe Hubbard, Certified Superintendent**  
**Broken Sound Golf Course**  
**Boca Raton, Fla.**

*Editor's note: We sought Webster for its definition of "sport." Here's what the dictionary had to say: An athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature, as racing, baseball, tennis, golf, bowling, wrestling, boxing, hunting, fishing, etc.*

## Executives Out of Touch With Workers

Once again in America, the new way of business has not learned from all the mistakes in years past ["Where is Respect For Its Own?" (June, page 32), which discussed the USGA's

*Continued on page 10*