

The 19th Hole with...

Brian Koffler

Superintendent, Waverley CC, Portland, Ore.



Drinks are on me. What are you having? A gin and tonic. One of the great things about Portland, it's always been a microbrew town, but now they've also advanced to small-batch distilleries. There's all these vodkas, gins, whiskeys... I'm not much of a hard alcohol drinker — I'm more of a wine guy — but I do like good gin.

Gil Hanse did a renovation project here recently. What was it like working with him? I feel very, very fortunate with the timing of our project. At the end of our project he was selected as the architect for the Rio de Janeiro/Olympic job. The entire time he was a refreshingly humble person, and he didn't change through the whole process.

You graduated from Oregon State University in 2002. In language I can print, tell me how much you dislike your in-state rival, the Oregon Ducks? It makes my skin crawl to even drive through Eugene. If there was any way to drive on I-5 South that could circumvent the town of Eugene, I would utilize it.

Which do you think would be the biggest adrenaline rush; hitting a homer in the Majors, dunking off an alley-oop pass in the NBA, or catching a touchdown in the NFL? A touchdown pass in the NFL. That's like the question, 'Would it be easier to shoot even par at Augusta, or get a hit off Randy Johnson in his prime?' It would be easier to get a hit off Randy Johnson, as implausible as that is, because no matter how much you practice you can't shoot 72 at Augusta.

What do you love the most about Portland? The summers are incredible here. We'll get some days in the 90s, but usually it's in the 80s. Humidity is high in the morning but by noon it's 40 percent at the most. The day length, the daylight is so much later, it's great.

You just lucked into \$1,000. Where are you taking your fiancée, Nicole? Mexico. We've been to Playa del Carmen a number of times. I haven't been to Sayulita, north of Puerto Vallarta. I've heard good things. I'm not a surfer — I hear it's a surf town — but the more low-key, the better. I'm not the active type when I go on vacation.

How do you like driving your Santa Fe? I love it. Living in an urban environment, I don't really need a pick-up. It's a great economical option for a small SUV. It's been a great car for us. As Ferris Bueller says, "If you have the means, I would highly suggest it."

Will you be getting your crew anything for Christmas? Thank you to Syngenta — I don't know if I can make plugs like that, but... Syngenta's early order program, with GreenCast Online, we usually take those points and buy gift certificates. We buy 15 \$50 gift certificates and everyone draws one out of a hat. So thank you to Syngenta for supplying our staff with gift certificates for the holidays.

As interviewed
by Seth Jones,
Nov. 14th, 2012.

