

Golf, It's As Easy As 3-2-1



By Rob Schultz, *The Capital Times*

It was a year when Steve Stricker re-introduced himself to the PGA Tour and the University of Wisconsin men's golf team took a major step toward becoming a player in NCAA circles.

It was a year when Northern Bay Golf Resort, located north of Wisconsin Dells, opened up to rave reviews and Erin Hills Golf Club, near Hartland, opened up to world-class reviews.

Erin Hills owner Bob Lang had the quote of the year. It followed a question about whether he'd ever consider making the majestic 19-hole course – which is so good that many believe it will host a U.S. Open someday – a private facility.

"I didn't build it so it could be played by 200 rich guys," Lang answered.

Take a look back at 2006 and it's easy to recall dozens of great golf stories and quotes. The best, of course, dealt with Tiger Woods and his return to dominance during a year when his father, Earl, died.

There were also some wonderful stories that were never told but definitely deserve to be mentioned.

For instance, I'd be remiss not to mention why Mark Disrud decided to withdraw during the first round of the Madison men's mid-amateur tournament last spring. Heavy rain postponed play during the first round at The Oaks but it finally stopped and there was enough light left to finish the round.

Disrud, however, had promised his twin sons, Brian and Bill, that he'd celebrate their birthday with them that evening. Although he was playing well and was in contention, Disrud – the 2005 men's city champion – withdrew because he knew if he continued to play he'd be late for

his sons' birthday celebration. Thus, Disrud gets my nod for sportsman of the year.

The best story of the year that nobody knows about belongs to D.J. Schuett. The talented, long hitter from the New Glarus Golf & Rest Home in New Glarus and got progressively better every time he played the course's 326-yard, par-4 18th hole.

The first time he played the short, dogleg left par-4, Schuett drove the green and two-putted for birdie.

The second time he played it, Schuett drove into a greenside bunker and chipped in for an eagle two.

The third time he played it, Schuett accomplished the near-impossible and got a hole-in-one on the par-4.

That's a 3-2-1 finish for those of you who are keeping score at home.

Here's the best part of the story: "The next time I played the hole," said Schuett, "I got a 6."

That, folks, is golf. 🌿

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