

Here's a Hole-by-Hole View of The Les Bolstad U of M Golf Course

By CHARLIE POOCH

Superintendent, Les Bolstad U of M Golf Course

Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf course covers 130 acres of wooded, hilly terrain located on the western edge of St. Paul within a metal driver distance of the St. Paul Campus.

Les Bolstad, whom the course is named after, one of the greatest amateur golfers Minnesota has known, went on to coach many of the areas greatest, including Tom Lehman and John Harris, while at the University course.

Built in the late '20s, most of the elevated, push-up greens still exist today.

Five years ago the connecting short course was converted into a successful driving range/learning center, accomodating men's and women's golf teams, kinesiology classes, golf camps and the general public.

This year has become a construction year as a tunnel has been added underneath Larpenteur Avenue and fill provided by the road construction is being used to upgrade many tees. Many of you will be able to see these changes on October 6.

1 393 Yards
Par 4

A drive down the right and you are welcomed by the University mascot, Goldy Gopher. Any drive under 240 yards leaves you a blind shot to a fairly open green. Out of bounds lurks on the left from tee to green.

2 163 Yards
Par 3

Water should not come into play, as this is an easy iron shot to a slightly elevated green with a large, green-side bunker on the left.

3 400 Yards
Par 4

A drive to the top of the hill



Charlie Pooch with Goldy Gopher.

leaves you with a beautiful approach to this open green. Go too far and you hit off a 45° downhill slope.

4 355 Yards
Par 4

All uphill to an elevated green. An accurate tee shot is required if you want to reach this green in regulation. Water lurks if you happen to hit it over the green.

5 150 Yards
Par 3

An elevated, rather small green with two bunkers on the left leaves very little room for error. Safety can be had by staying short and right; don't be long.

6 306 Yards
Par 4

Slight dogleg with an accurate tee shot extremely helpful. Fairway bunker very much in play on the left, but keeping to the right edge of the fairway takes bunker guarding green out of play.

7 464 Yards
Par 5

Water along right for first 200

yards with accurate drive required. Hit it too far and trees protecting left give you no chance of going for the green in two. Second shot is best left about 100 yards short as a deep valley lies in front of the green allowing very little view of the cup.

8 185 Yards
Par 3

Another elevated green that requires accurate tee shot. Any errant shot bounces off side hills around green leaving very difficult second shots. If in doubt, keep it short and straight.

9 472 Yards
Par 5

Water on the right collects a few errant tee shots; however, this should be no problem. Accurate tee shot and you may have a chance to reach this green in two. Greenside bunkers surround green, but it is possible to roll up onto green. Be careful of going over as out of bounds is directly behind green.

10 339 Yards
Par 4

Important to hit an accurate tee shot as mature oaks closely guard the edges of this fairway. A large green awaits a successful second shot.

11 347 Yards
Par 4

Out of bounds entirely along left with another accurate tee shot required if you want a chance of reaching this green in regulation. A small green requires an extremely accurate second shot.

12 415 Yards
Par 4

Playing 343 yards this year due to construction along Larpenteur Avenue makes this very reachable in

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University of Minnesota GC—

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two. Accurate drive puts you well within reach of another elevated green.

13 525 Yards Par 5

A drive of 200 yards gets you over a large hill and part way along the dogleg left. Staying along the left shortens this hole immensely; however, two large oaks do an excellent job of batting down errant shots if you stray too far left as you approach this green. Cleveland Avenue and out of bounds loom on the right for errant shots that way.

14 305 Yards Par 4

Dogleg right provides a great hole for righthanded slices. Safest shot is five iron off the tee to the middle of the fairway allowing for a wedge or 9-iron to green. Adventurous golfers drive through or around radio tower with accurate shot reaching green in two. Errant drives often end up out of bounds right and behind green or in bunker protecting approach to green.

15 390 Yards Par 4

Straight drive required as out of bounds is very close on right and bail out to the left leaves you in trees with little chance of reaching green. Be careful of uneven lies in fairway as green has very little room for error on right and any shank is O.B.

16 388 Yards Par 4

This hole will be playing 165 yards of uphill par 3 due to the building of a new tee and addition of a pond between the old tee and existing fairway. Walkers get a workout as this hole is a constant climb.

17 145 Yards Par 3

Another accurate shot required to stay on this elevated green. Bunkers on left and right sometimes come into play with short shots leaving a difficult uphill chip and long shots leaving an extremely long, difficult, uphill chip.

18 406 Yards Par 4

Accurate drive of 200+ yards gets you on hill with beautiful approach to green. Be careful of going long or left as out of bounds looms. Mature trees line both sides of the fairway.