



THE MASSACRE AT WINGED FOOT

Hale Irwin discusses his intense win at the 1974 U.S. Open, why Tour players should stop acting like robots, and his design philosophy behind Glacier Club.

DURANGO, COLORADO: Hale Irwin has been a marquee name on Tour leaderboards since 1971.

As a young boy, Hale lived in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where baseball dominated the sporting scene in the 1950s. The popular hometown Whiz Kids, a semi-pro team, was famous for having a 17-year-old from Oklahoma who truly was a “whiz kid.” His name was Mickey Mantle.

“We had a nine-hole municipal golf course with sand greens in town. That was as good as it got,” recalled Irwin.

Hale’s father was an excavation contractor and had to relocate the family to Boulder, Colorado, for employment.

“I started caddying at a local public course and earned \$2.75 for a single loop,” said Irwin. “I played all sports and rotated from basketball, football, and golf, depending on the season. In football, I was a quarterback and a defensive back. It allowed me to have a little independent thinking. In my heart, golf was my favorite. I liked to play



Hale Irwin

on my own, determine my outcome, and not rely on teammates.”

Irwin’s career path toward golf blossomed in Colorado. Hale entered a local junior competition at 14 and, after several qualifying state tournaments, advanced to the finals in Virginia.

“I thought to myself, how cool. Here I was, a kid from a small town in the Midwest, about to play in a prestigious junior championship on the East Coast. I started to wonder that just maybe I had a future in golf.”

Born as a natural athlete, Hale excelled in all sports. He was recruited by the University of Colorado at Boulder with a *football* scholarship. “I tried to practice and play as much golf as possible,” decried Irwin. “My parents were not rolling in money. I had to work. If I took time off to compete in a summer golf tournament, I was required to put in overtime for lost hours.”

Hale also worked overtime on his game, and, in his senior year of college, he won his first national golf title at the NCAA Division I Championships. *(continued)*

“WHEN WE CREATED THE PRESIDENTS CUP IN 1994, the first U.S. Captain was Hale Irwin. It was Hale and International Captain David Graham who set the standard of conduct by which the event has been played ever since.

“Hale has long been admired for his passion for the game, but he has never let that passion and drive overcome his sense of integrity. It was Hale who called a penalty on himself in the 1983 British Open that eventually resulted in a one-stroke loss to Tom Watson. The violation was not obvious to anyone, but Hale never hesitated to call the penalty.



“Like so many of his PGA TOUR peers, Hale has given so much of himself over the years that the Hale Irwin Center for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at St. Louis Children’s Hospital is named in his honor. The center, which Hale helped fund through a charity golf tournament that he held for 25 years, offers a comfortable, non-threatening space for children and their families to receive specialized care.”

—TIM FINCHEM, COMMISSIONER, PGA TOUR

• CAPTURING THE SOUL OF COLORADO •

Glacier Club is designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary

WHEN THE HALE IRWIN-TODD SCHOEDER DESIGN IS COMPLETED, Glacier Club will have 36 holes of golf. The Glacier Course is expected to open July 2016.

The two courses play through ancient, glacially striated rock formations and a thick forest of trees. Amenities include an intimate clubhouse perched on a cliff with long-range mountain views, fitness and tennis facilities, miles of walking trails, a dog park, and Camp Glacier for kids. The community’s two-up/two-down equity legacy membership expands privileges to five generations of the family under one membership. Grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren are considered full members with access to all amenities.

“Our legacy membership is attracting younger families and has resulted in increased usage and a growing membership,” said Bruce Geiss, director of real estate at Glacier Club. “It is hard to put into words the bonds and friendships formed here, but it allows your whole family to call Glacier Club home and show off their club.

“It was an easy pick for us to ask Hale to design our course. He is a sports hero in Colorado, respected on Tour, and represents all the values we believe in at Glacier Club,” explained Geiss. “His expertise will bring out the drama and splendor of the 14,000-foot peaks surrounding Glacier Club.”

For more information on membership and real estate opportunities, please call (866) 379-5724, or visit TheGlacierClub.com.

Alex Fisher, director of instruction at Glacier Club, has been named one of the “Best Young Teachers in America” by *Golf Digest*.



“PEOPLE MUST LEARN WHO THEY ARE. YOU CAN'T HAVE SOMEBODY ELSE TELLING YOU WHO YOU ARE.” – HALE IRWIN

“TO WIN WITH INTEGRITY. THAT HAS BEEN MY INTENTION IN EVERY TOURNAMENT THAT HAVE PLAYED SINCE TURNING PRO IN 1968.” – HALE IRWIN

“I planned to turn pro, but I had to keep the news hush-hush,” explained Irwin. “Back then, *intent* to turn professional would raise eyebrows at the USGA. They could revoke your amateur status.”

AN INTENSE WIN

Since turning pro in 1968, Hale has earned \$26 million, won three U.S. Open titles, two U.S. Senior Open titles, a total of 20 PGA TOUR victories, and 45 wins on the Champions Tour.

During the 1974 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, Hale's 7-over par (287) cemented his reputation for performing well on difficult golf courses. His 7-over par score is the second highest winning score in relation to par of any U.S. Open after World War II. The extreme course conditions hailed the championship, “The Massacre at Winged Foot.”

The USGA toughened the course after Johnny Miller's final round of 63 at Oakmont the year before.

When asked if the USGA was trying to embarrass the world's top golfers, Sandy Tatum, former president of the USGA, quipped, “no, we're trying to identify them.”

CUTTING THEIR TEETH

The culture between the PGA TOUR and Champions Tour is different. “The Champions Tour has a relaxed

vibe,” explained Irwin. “All of us have confidence in our abilities. The PGA TOUR's attitude is intense and demanding. Younger players are cutting their teeth and shaping their image. The pressure is extreme.”

Today's PGA TOUR players are in a much larger spotlight than when Hale played the Tour; and more guarded, too. “They are cocooned with agents, swing coaches, and sports psychologists,” noted Irwin. “It's hard for them to breathe on their own without someone critiquing their actions. We didn't have all that doting, but to be fair, we didn't have the added threat of international players eating our lunch.”

“Many Tour players act like robots. Their emotions are bottled up inside. It seems to me they aren't being themselves,” said Irwin. “Tiger Woods has been criticized for being too demonstrative, but I've never had an issue with it. If your behavior is flat, your game will be flat as well.”

Hale's vote for “the best player in the world” goes to Rory McIlroy, but he believes American players are growing tired of the accolades heaped upon foreign players. “I predict this will be the year Americans will be a factor in international competitions,” guessed Irwin.

Another significant change is the involvement of cor-

“AESTHETICALLY AND TECHNICALLY, HALE STANDS AT THE BALL AS WELL AS ANY PLAYER I'VE EVER SEEN.” – KEN VENTURI

“IF YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE NERVOUS BEFORE A MATCH, YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE THE EXPECTATIONS YOU SHOULD HAVE.” – HALE IRWIN

porate America on the Tours. “I appreciate what our sponsors have done,” said Irwin. “I'm not naive. However, the soul of the Tour has evolved. Local identity of tournaments has been lost. For example, the Los Angeles Open is now the Northern Trust Open and the Phoenix Open is the Waste Management Open. It's not a bad thing, just different.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Hale's travels have given him the opportunity to examine golf course designs, architectural styles around the world, and golfers' likes and dislikes.

“I've played in hundreds of pro-ams and whenever an amateur compliments the course, I ask why,” said Irwin. “I want my designs to deliver an experience members want, not what I want. Designing a difficult course is easy. Designing a course where members gather at the 19th hole to seriously plan their round for the next day requires much work.”

Hale founded Hale Irwin Golf Design in 1986. His team is currently working with architect Todd Schoeder (iCon Golf Studios) on the final course at Glacier Club in Durango, Colorado. The private club, situated in a dense forest of ponderosa pines, at an elevation of 7,500 feet, features dramatic elevation changes, rock outcrop-

pings, and stunning vistas. Glacier Club will be one of a handful of luxury private mountain communities in the West with 36 holes of golf.

“The developers of Glacier Club are straight shooters. They have kept their promises to me, and I will keep my promise to design the best course in the West.

“They have provided me the leeway to create a design that will knock your socks off. Only the Rocky Mountains dictate restrictions on routing,” stated Irwin. “Your senses come alive. The sweet smell of pines and a rustling breeze through the forest creates a special feel. Vistas are as good as they get, towering mountain peaks surround the community, and elevation change on the course is gentle.”

CHANGING THE PARADIGM

The legacy membership at Glacier Club allows two generations up and down your family tree to be full members.

“It engages the entire family and inspires kids to *want* to come out,” said Irwin. “It is a forward thinking game plan on the part of Glacier Club.

“I learned a lot about myself as a kid on the golf course, and I cringe to think kids don't have the same opportunity to have this powerful character building experience,” concluded Irwin. ■

