

Tom Cade: Hello, this is Tom Cade. I'm the Director of Communications for Washington Golf, and you're listening to Pod For the Course. And this year, 2022, is the centennial year, the 100 year history of Washington Golf. It was founded in 1922, when the very first Washington State Amateur was held at a nine-hole layout in Yakima called Yakima Country Club. Yes, at the time it was just nine holes.

We're going to be doing several things during the year to celebrate the centennial for the association. And one of the things we did was publish a book. Titled "Washington Golf – 100 Years of Growing the Game," the book is 160 pages of photos and memories.

The book was written by Dan Raley, and we're happy to have Dan with us today. Dan is a former longtime sports writer for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, as well as many other publications, such as the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* and currently is a website content creator for *Sports Illustrated*, which focuses on the University of Washington sports, including golf, as well other sports, such as the NFL and the Seattle Seahawks. Dan Raley, thanks so much for coming on board with us today.

Dan Raley: My pleasure, Tom. It's good to hear your voice.

Tom Cade: At some point along this particular journey of publishing this book, or even having the idea for this book, you were contacted by Washington Golf to offer the suggestion of writing this particular book. Can you explain how that all came about or who contacted you, and go from there?

Dan Raley: Yeah, well, I have a little bit of background of writing some golf books in the area and the organization, Troy Andrew and yourself, reached out to me and asked if I'd be interested. I actually am doing about five books that entail golf centennials in the Seattle-Tacoma area. And the trick to this one was it came up right before the pandemic. So I had to scramble to research it in different ways facing a world crisis. But we got it done.

Tom Cade: For your overall work on the book, how long did it take? It's 160 pages, and I believe there are 11 chapters to the book, as well as some appendices and sidebars and all of that. How long does a process like this take and where do you start, and what were some of the hurdles once you got started?

Dan Raley: Well it takes probably a year, a good solid year. And part of that year is researching and then the other part of the year is writing. And so I ran into issues with the pandemic because I couldn't meet anybody in person. The only person I met was the son of Charles Draper Sr., the former executive director. And I met him at the height of the pandemic in a parking lot in Factoria, near Bellevue. And he handed seven boxes of Washington State Golf Association records and other mementos to me. And I just remember that as one of the few people I met during the height of the pandemic. And then of course I handed all those boxes to you during the pandemic as well.

Tom Cade: Yeah. I remember that we actually met in some sort of Rite Aid parking lot there in the Eastgate area, east of Bellevue. So you mentioned Charles Draper Jr. who you met with

to talk about this, who are some of the other people that you talked to and interviewed for the book?

Dan Raley: Yeah, so some of my most memorable interviews were of course, Charles Draper Sr. who was in his mid-90s and living in San Clemente halfway between San Diego and Los Angeles. And I had him on a speakerphone with, I think, a number of his daughters around him, and we chatted for close to an hour.

A real memorable conversation I had was with Fred Couples. And Fred was very passionate about the Washington State Golf Association. He won the State Amateur back in the heyday of his college days (in 1978). And I interviewed him while he was driving from Palm Springs to Los Angeles and Fred would go, "I'm coming up on a hill. I might lose ya, I might lose the phone signal." So it was kind of interesting, it was kind of fun – here I have Fred Couples driving his car and talking on his cell phone. There's a long time in life he did not drive a car, but he was driving the highway from Palm Springs to Los Angeles.

And then I talked to Joel Dahmen, another winner of the State Amateur, and former University of Washington player and now a winner on the PGA Tour. And I caught him, I think, in a Chicago hotel room, him and his wife, and he talked to me for a good half hour to close to an hour, I imagine. And he was funny and he was passionate too about his roots in Washington golf. So that was kind of fun.

And then there were a number of other people. I can't even remember the names, but I found a guy who is now a golf pro, I think in Montana, that had competed in the State Amateur and he didn't win it, but he'd been the first real outsider to come in and challenge for the title. And then I just emailed and talked to a bunch of guys that won the event, anywhere from Portland to somewhere in the state of Washington.

I remember calling K.C. Anderson four or five times. We were trying to find some records that I couldn't go to the library to get, and I was hoping he had a scrapbook or something and he lives on the Idaho border. So there's a little bit of a challenge to it, but that's what makes it fun.

Tom Cade: The Washington State Amateur was really the only thing that the Washington State Golf Association did for many years. Again, it started in 1922 and really was for 70 years that's all they did was run one tournament, ran the annual Washington State Amateur. So the history of the WSGA really, for the first 70 years was just the one tournament. That's all they did. So lots of personal tournament history really is what the history of the association was about.

And you mentioned Fred Couples, that he won it in 1978. Joel Dahmen, he won it in 2007, I believe. And you mentioned Charles Draper Sr., who really took control or took charge of organizing everything about the WSGA in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, really, when he became the first executive director of the association. And actually that was when the Washington State Senior Amateur began. And that was a Charles Draper Sr. creation. Was that right?

Dan Raley: Yes. It certainly was. It was his age group at that time and he felt there was a need for it.

Tom Cade: And then the Women's State Amateur began in 1994. Did you talk to any of the initial winners of the women's amateur?

Dan Raley: I did. I did. And again, that was a little bit difficult because of the pandemic. I couldn't meet anybody in person, but I remember, and I'm short of names here because it's been more than a year since I gave this to you, but I did talk to the original winner for sure. And then I talked to Paige Mackenzie.

Tom Cade: Yeah. Paige Mackenzie, she won the women's amateur in 2002. And of course she went on to the LPGA Tour and now is in the TV booth for Golf Channel as an analyst.

Dan Raley: Yeah, that's true.

Tom Cade: What were some of the interesting factoids? I got a little list here myself, but anything that you remember in particular that you, during your research, you thought, "I didn't know that, that's something new."

Dan Raley: Well, yeah, the one big one was Gene Littler. The hall of famer showed up unannounced and arrived in Bellingham for the 1950 State Amateur and played and got eliminated in the first round, and then turns out the golf writers caught onto him and found out he was given some temporary membership at Broadmoor and so was playing out of Broadmoor. And he then played in the Seattle City Amateur and lost in the first round. And he was a young; I think he was 19, 20 years old, I'd have to go back and look at my notes, but he showed up here. And I think he intended to go to the University of Washington, but he stuck around for just about four or five months. The weather changed. And this is a man from San Diego and he realized his golf game wasn't going to go very far in this weather during the winter. And so he left town and actually went and joined the Navy and didn't play golf competitively for three or four years.

But we had him in Seattle for four or five months and all the sports writers got excited because he was known as a national player, as a teenager, and we could call him one of our own for a while when he stayed in the city.

Tom Cade: That was in 1950 that he played in the State Amateur, and in 1953, three years later, he won the U.S. Amateur, and then in 1961 he won the U.S. Open, and was well on his way to a World Golf Hall of Fame career. That's for sure.

Dan Raley: Yeah. I felt bad. He would've been somebody I would've loved to talk to, but he had just passed away maybe six or nine months before I started work on this book, so I just missed a chance to call him up and say, "Talk to me about your time in Seattle and hanging out at Broadmoor and playing in the State Amateur."

Tom Cade: That would've been good. The other one of the celebrities, so to speak, who played in the State Amateur was Bing Crosby. He played in the 1955 Washington State Amateur.

Dan Raley: Oh yeah. Yeah, a Spokane native. So he made sure to combine his roots, his growing up roots with his favorite sport. And yeah, I remember reading about him and it was exciting for people that he was going to come out and join them in the competition.

Tom Cade: Yeah, I think he got down to about a two handicap. So golf was definitely a favorite of his and the other little tidbit I found out about him was that he started in the game working as a caddie in 1916 at the Downriver Golf Course in Spokane. So there you go.

Dan Raley: Wow. Well, I think he passed away on a golf course, if I remember right.

Tom Cade: You are correct. Yeah. He just finished playing 18 holes and made some nice comment to the crowd and fell over of a heart attack, there walking off the 18th green. Not a bad way to go.

Dan Raley: Not bad at all.

Tom Cade: One of the other things you figured out during your research, and I thought this was really interesting, was that the Washington State Amateur was really the only championship of any kind that played continuously through World War II. We didn't know that in the Washington Golf office, we didn't even know that. Even on our website, we had it listed as during the war years of the early 1940s, that there was no tournament held because of the war. How did you go about figuring that out?

Dan Raley: Well, one of the things when I do these centennial books is I get online, from my home, and I go back through a hundred years and with the Washington State Golf Association, I looked at every single tournament and looked at every single year. And I'd punch in the names "Washington Golf Association" and "State Amateur" were a couple of key words, and I was surprised when it popped up because I saw your list and it said it was discontinued or on hiatus. And all of a sudden I'm finding, all the way up into the 1970s and '80s, when we didn't have pro sports like we do now, events like the Washington State Amateur got a lot of media coverage. They got sports writers assigned to the events and they wrote big stories. And so, during the war, I ran into these big stories on the State Amateur when I didn't expect them.

And there was some explanation, that these events were going to continue and they were going to change the format from match play to stroke play. And one of the reasons – having done a lot of history, I wrote a book on the Seattle Rainiers baseball team – is they wanted some sports to continue such as this golf event, and baseball in general, to keep the people who were home preoccupied from the war and give them an outlet of some kind. Like this pandemic in a way, golf has taken off because of the pandemic, because it's a safe place to go and play. Well, some of the events during WWII couldn't continue on, like the Masters and the U.S. Open. Those are based on fan counts and national interest, and the top golfers were gone serving in the war.

But locally here, we had a lot of guys building military airplanes and ships across in the Bremerton Shipyard and these guys needed some kind of outlet, some kind of recreation. And so they left the Washington State Amateur alone and let it continue.

They changed the format because actually the fields were so huge because there weren't any other golf events to play in. So in order to get all these unlimited number of players through the competition, they turned it into a stroke event rather than a match play, or else they would've been playing all summer.

Tom Cade: And the other thing about this championship being converted to stroke play was because of war restrictions they couldn't play golf during the week. It had to be played on the weekend. Is that right? Saturday, Sunday.

Dan Raley: Yeah. At the height of the war, I think they were limited. Because they're busy building, like I said, cranking out number of airplanes and ships down the street and the Duwamish area and Boeing, they were building the bombers and doing it at a high rate. And so yeah, there was a limitation.

One of the championships ended up in a tie. They couldn't play for seven days until the following weekend, before they went into some kind of extra play to decide the event. (Editor's note: in 1944, Harry Givan defeated Scotty Campbell in an 18-hole playoff, which was held one week after the conclusion of regulation play.)

Tom Cade: For me personally, I just thought that was one of the most interesting tidbits that you figured out, that it was played continuously, even during World War II.

Jumping forward here a little bit in the years, one of the people you interviewed was John Bodenhamer, and Bodenhamer was the executive director and CEO of Washington Golf for 21 years from 1990 until 2011. And now he is the director of championships for the USGA. And I would imagine that was an interesting interview for you to talk to him for the book.

Dan Raley: It certainly was. And we reminisced a little bit. I met him when I was initially the golf writer for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and it was in the 1980s and he was just a kid. I was going to go meet him somewhere, and he goes, "No, I want to come up and see your newspaper there on the waterfront." So John came up from Tacoma and spent some time with me in my office. I showed him around and I just remember, I kidded him about it, one of the reasons he came into Seattle was not just to see me, but he had a bunch of baseball cards that he'd collected and he was going to sell them to get the money to help promote his golf and college ambitions. And so I caught him when he was just a kid, and now he is this well-to-do man that's really done well for himself, nationally in golf as far as being a golf administrator for the USGA.

Tom Cade: Yeah. Bodenhamer actually won the Washington State Amateur in 1981. And now the perpetual trophy for that championship is named the John M Bodenhamer Trophy. Which I think is pretty cool.

Dan Raley: Yeah.

Tom Cade: Some other folks you spoke with for this book was Troy Andrew, who is now John Bodenhamer's replacement as the CEO and executive director of Washington Golf. And Troy is still on staff here performing those duties.

Dan Raley: Yeah. I also met him when he was at the outset of his golf administration career. I just remember him as being really young. I guess I've always been old. No, I'm kind of a historian and I just have all these visions of seeing people progress and age and in the sporting world in Seattle, and Troy and John Bodenhamer are good examples of that.

Tom Cade: One of my favorite features that you used to do was the "Where are they now?" It's about catching up with athletes from the region, what are they doing now, once the lights have dimmed from their athletic careers. And I think this was one of the reasons that we became interested in you for writing this book was because of your interest and passion for finding out where these people are and what are they doing now. And I always thought that was a very good feature series.

Are there other golfers, such as the Fred Couples' of the world, who you've reached out to, for these items? One of the players I remember was Ruth Jessen. You spoke to her once.

Dan Raley: I did, that was incredible. I spoke with her not long before she passed away. And I remember meeting her in a restaurant in North Seattle while she was visiting her relatives, because she lived down in the sun country in... I'm trying to think, I think she lived in Arizona, if I remember right. But we sat and just talked about her heyday out on the LPGA Tour and her Seattle background and she was just really pleasant and I enjoyed the heck out of her. I got a chance to meet almost all of the great Seattle golf figures at one point, men and women. And I can tell you all the different connections, like sitting in the Masters locker room, talking to Fred Couples. So yeah, I've had an interesting avenue of employment.

Tom Cade: You speak about talking with Couples in the Masters locker room. Did he remember you when you called him to talk about this book? Does he remember you from the Seattle area? He himself is a big sports fan anyway.

Dan Raley: That would be true. He and I, we probably clashed a little bit early on in his career because he was very temperamental when he became famous. He didn't quite know how to handle it. And I was the local guy hounding him and I just wrote it that it was difficult for him. But we got to a good point where he remembered me for liking me, liking what I wrote. And being a big sports fan that he is, and I have this undying love for sports and history, especially in my hometown in Seattle.

So yeah, Fred knew who I was, because I met him right when he first got on the PGA Tour in the early 1980s, and then I would run into him every time I'd go to the U.S. Open or the Masters. And he finally, he sat me down, he says, "I want to do a story about this, what's been my issue. I don't want people back home thinking I'm a prima donna out here on the PGA Tour." But he goes, "I just had trouble becoming famous. I'm out there playing and nobody knows me, but then all of a sudden, everybody knows me; and I'd

play with Greg Norman and nobody'd care about me, and they'd all be looking at Greg Norman. And then all of a sudden I became Greg Norman for a while." And it was really hard for him to be this person that was really popular and everybody wanted to touch him and root for him and cheer for him. But he got used to it.

Tom Cade: We'll keep speaking again with Dan Raley. Again, Dan is the author of the centennial history book for Washington Golf, which is called "Washington Golf – 100 Years of Growing the Game." And the book will be out shortly and it will be available for sale online on the Washington Golf website, which is wagolf.org.

And Dan, thanks so much for taking the time today to talk about this. It's been great working with you over the past year and a half, putting this book together. Your work has been great to be involved with what we're trying to do for the celebration. Again, Dan Raley thanks so much for coming onboard today.

Dan Raley: Well, great talking to you, Tom, and always good working with you too.

Tom Cade: Okay. We'll see you down the road, Dan.

Thanks.

Dan Raley: Bye, bye.