

Outrigger Golfers' Scores Soar

By Mark Osmun



Bob Allin drives as a plane lands at Honolulu International Airport behind him.

Of the 35 golfers who signed up for the April 19th tournament at Hickam Air Force Base's Mamala Bay Golf Course, none shot under 80; a remarkably high number for this group. Perhaps the wind caused the high scoring, or maybe the abnormally-large number of shots were the result of the parched, sandy greens, or the fact that all the par-three's are long and protected by trees, bunkers, and . . . *explosives*.

The sixth hole, for example, is a 166-yard, par-three that borders a road. Motorists driving on this road can't fail to notice a sign that reads, "Explosive Ordnance Area. DO NOT STOP!" The sign is planted three feet from the edge of the sixth hole's playing area.

I thought about that sign as I hooked my tee shot and watched it come to rest a yard or so from this dire warning. DO NOT STOP! So . . . *hit the ball while on the run and get as far away from the fence as fast as possible? No. All right, just take the shot and hope that the descending blow doesn't catch a heretofore-unexploded piece of ordnance.* It's the type of thing that could distract a golfer.

Distractions, nonetheless, are one of the best things about Mamala Bay. Located close (very close) to the Hickam/Honolulu International runways, the course offers golfers a continual air show--sleek F15 fighters, C-17 Globemasters--those lumbering cargo ships of the skies--and commercial aircraft thunder around every minute.

None of this seemed to bother Terri Lui, however. She shot the lowest score of the group, an 81. Don Cutting and Don Mailer followed, each with 86s.

Probably the best hole of the day, however, belonged to Rick Piper whose experiments with a new swing enabled him to reach a 466-yard, par-five in two shots. He sunk his first putt on that green for an eagle-three.

The difficulty of the par-threes may be best illustrated by pointing out that, of the 140 shots taken during the day at the four, par-three holes--only four landed on a green. Rick Piper managed it on the second hole; Bill Tetmeyer on the sixth, Jerome Bookin on the twelfth, and Terri Lui on the sixteenth.

Bill Tetmeyer scored the lowest net figure with a 68; Buddy DeBruyn was next at 71.



Rick Piper tees off at Mamala Bay Golf Course.



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