

The Niners

By BEE BENESH

Acclaimed golf coach visits our club

Occasionally during the year, Bee Benesh will be the author of the Niners' Villager article. This is the first one and establishes her as an accomplished writer.

Spring is here and Niners golf is well underway. At the Welcome Back Coffee on April 2 our new members were introduced. Everyone paid close attention as Karen Siegel from the scoring committee went over the procedure for signing up for tee times for league play and Marsha Herron reviewed the changes in how handicaps are calculated. We had some unusually warm and sunny weather in March so many members had already been posting scores, which count toward handicaps. In fact, a number of ladies went right from the meeting to the golf course to get in another sunny-day round. Golfers who live in the Pacific Northwest know that sun overhead and dry grass underfoot are more the exception than rule in the early weeks of the season.

Spring is a busy time, especially if you are a golfer, but everyone wanted to make time to attend a special breakfast event on Friday, April 26. Six-time NCAA Division III West Region Coach of the Year and nine-time Northwest Conference Coach of the year, MaryJo McCloskey was the guest speaker. This event

was co-sponsored by the Niners and CWGA and many members of both groups were in attendance. MJ McCloskey is the author of the 2022 book, "When Girls Win." She spoke about her own life and career journey as she encountered challenges, setbacks and even failures while striving to achieve success in a male-dominated field. We were all inspired to adopt a positive spirit in our own endeavors. Her message is not only about succeeding in golf, but it is a philosophy that should be applied to personal struggles and goals too.

At one of these events, I had an opportunity to chat with brand new Niner, Laurie Tesoriero. Laurie has lived in West Linn for the past two years. She is originally from New York City, and she raised her two children in central New Jersey. She lived in Florida for the seventeen years prior to her move to Oregon. With both of her children and three grandchildren located here, this area was an obvious choice for a home. Laurie felt that she knew a lot about what it would be like to live here from her times visiting her children. She also knew that Oregon has a lot to offer someone like herself, who enjoys hiking, kayaking and other outdoor activities. Laurie hasn't been playing golf on a regular basis but would like to improve her game through regular play and with the help and encouragement of other women.

Our president, Cathy Loffink, has been emphasizing the Niners' motto, "We're more than just a golf club!" The golf course is the centerpiece of Charbonneau and being involved with a golf group is a great way to help support and



COURTESY PHOTOS

New Niners (left to right) Laurie Tesoriero, Rochell Petts, Lynn Hannah and Jan Bliss.

enjoy this important feature of our community. To enable more women to be involved, the Niners welcome social members who do not play golf but are invited and encouraged to participate in all of the non-golfing activities. Social members can be very active contributors, helping with and attending scrambles and awards luncheons and being a member of the dance or skit teams for the annual show that the Niners put on in September for the community. Joanna Sawyer leads the show group, and she would like to have more participants. No experience is necessary so don't be shy ladies! Social members can join at any time during the year and dues are only \$10.

Niners are getting ready for our first scramble of the year coming up on May 7. The theme is "When I Grow Up I Wanna be a Niner." Leesa Gango and the scramble committee have already made it a fun event with "then and now" photos of the Niners on the flyer. There are more games and activities planned on the course and the luncheon afterward will be catered by Market Café. Two more scrambles will be coming up in the early summer months, but most Tuesdays and Thursdays the Niners will be on the course competing in regular league play.

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