

KemperSports Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Chicago Golfers

Founded in 1979 by Steve Lesnik and James Kemper, Jr., KemperSports became one of the first golf course management companies in the country to give public golf course patrons an experience of being a “member for the day” – as though they were part of a private club.

Through the years, KemperSports has become a strong player in the golf course management scene. Its vast array of courses stretches from municipal-owned properties such as Bolingbrook Golf Club in the Chicago suburbs, to world-class golf resorts like Bandon Dunes Golf Resort on Oregon’s Pacific Coast. Its courses have hosted numerous PGA TOUR tournaments including the 2009 Presidents Cup at Harding Park in San Francisco, Calif., the upcoming 2010 U.S. Amateur and 2015 U.S. Open Championships at Chambers Bay in University Park, Wash., and the annual IPGA Illinois Open at Hawthorn Woods Country Club in Hawthorn Woods, Ill.

The company continues to enhance the customer experience by creating cutting edge marketing and management programs that are designed to provide an exceptional day of golf.

Building on the goal of providing a first-class golf experience, KemperSports created the True Service™ program, which was introduced company-wide in 2009 as a way to standardize customer service practices. The program aims to create happy, loyal customers through five key tenets and practices.

True Service works hand-in-hand with KemperSports’ TrueReview system which monitors customer satisfaction on an ongoing basis bringing the True Service program full circle to enhance the customer experience.

KemperSports also realizes its responsibility to care for the environment and started Green to a Tee™ to extend and formalize the company’s practices in environmentally sound golf course management. The program, which was rolled out at the 2009 KemperSports Leadership Conference, gives the company’s more than 5,000 staffers tools and training in environmentally-friendly practices that they can implement on the job and in their homes.

“Green to a Tee is an interactive program that provides KemperSports staffers not only an awareness of environmental practices but also real-world applications that they can begin using immediately to make a difference in their everyday lives,” said KemperSports CEO Steve Skinner. “As a company, we have always tried to act in an environmentally sensitive manner and to be good partners in the communities in which we operate. This program takes that commitment to the next level.”

The Northbrook, Ill.-based company, which now manages more than 90 public, private and resort golf courses throughout the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, heads into 2010 with a strong foundation based on the same principles on which the company was started in 1979, always remembering to give back to the community.

The organization’s most recent philanthropic effort took shape with the Kids Fore Kids™ Art Contest, a cooperative program in partnership with The PGA TOUR, The First Tee of San Francisco and Harding Park golf course, host of the 2009 Presidents Cup. The contest awarded one lucky First Tee participant the opportunity to have her art work signed by both Presidents Cup teams and auctioned off at The First Tee of San Francisco’s annual awards dinner, with all proceeds going back to the chapter.

For more information on KemperSports, visit www.kempersports.com.

Chalet Hills – Cary, Ill. – Located a little more than an hour from downtown Chicago in the northwest suburbs, Chalet Hills is nestled among mature oaks and hardwoods with sculptured fairways, bent-grass from tee to green, scenic lakes and ponds from the moraine glacier. The course, designed by architect Ken Killian, has been honored by *Golf Digest* with a 4 1/2 Star rating, was named as one of *Golf Digest's* Best Places To Play in 2006-2007. (added period)

The Glen Club – Glenview, Ill. – The 18-hole, Tom Fazio-designed championship course opened in 2001 to much critical acclaim. Owned and operated by KemperSports, The Glen Club has been named among “The Best Courses You Can Play” by *Golfweek* magazine in 2006 and 2007 and was included among *GOLF Magazine's* “Top 100 Courses You Can Play” in 2002, 2004, and 2006. Other accolades include *Golf Digest's* “Best New Upscale Public Course” and *Sports Illustrated's* “Top 10 New Courses.” The Glen Club features a spacious 48,000-square foot clubhouse with banquet and meeting facilities, a grand ballroom, casual and fine dining as well as overnight rooms and corporate amenities.

The Golf Club at Harbor Shores – Benton Harbor, Mich. – Set to open spring 2010, The Golf Club at Harbor Shores is one of the most anticipated golf courses in country. Set along the sand dunes of Lake Michigan, Harbor Shores is an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus design that will serve as the cornerstone for the 530-acre master-planned community which will include residential units, commercial space, a marina, a hotel/conference center and various other resort and community amenities. Custom home sites are still available.

Hawthorn Woods Country Club – Hawthorn Woods, Ill. – Designed by Arnold Palmer in 2006, Hawthorn Woods Country Club is a 7,100-yard private golf course that incorporates bent-grass fairways and greens with enhanced wetlands, meandering streams and towering pine and elm trees. Golfers experience many challenging and dramatic elevation changes throughout the course. The course recently hosted the 2009 Illinois Open Championship for the second consecutive year.

Highland Park Country Club – Highland Park, Ill. – Formerly a private club, Highland Park Country Club is currently owned by the City of Highland Park and managed by KemperSports. Designed by Dick Nugent Associates, Highland Park Country Club measures 6,506 yards from the back tees. The picturesque terrain features nine ponds and mature tree-lined fairways adorned with towering oaks, maples and willows.

Royal Melbourne Country Club – Long Grove, Ill. – Founded in 1992 as Greg Norman's first U.S. design, Royal Melbourne Country Club is carved into the surrounding wetlands, ponds, prairies and trees and combines the beauty of sport with the beauty of nature. Members not only get to experience the challenge of the game the way it was meant to be played, but they get to do so in a lushly landscaped world inhabited by deer, swans, hawks and other local wildlife.

Water's Edge Golf Club – Worth, Ill. – The par-72, 18-hole layout is owned by the Village of Worth and managed by KemperSports. Water's Edge delivers lush natural grasses, protected wetlands and dense forest golfers will remember as one of the most beautiful courses in the Chicagoland area.