

Strikes n' Strokes

Bowling and Golf news

GOLF COURSE REVIEW • GREEN ACRES

MIKE GODARD

Strikes n' Strokes editor

I have found the fun part of entering The Saginaw District qualifier is to develop a plan to improve my score. I always go into the qualifier with anticipation on trying to make the cut. But I also know, it usually takes my best score of the year to make the cut. Needless to say, that hasn't happened, yet.

I always find time to play a few practice rounds, take some notes and work on decreasing my score. This year has been no exception. I have already made a couple of stops at Green Acres Golf Course, in Bridgeport, and have a couple more in line before the qualifier on Sunday, June 9.

I have my plan in place and will use those extra practice rounds to try and refine it. I am not a long ball hitter by any means, so I'll have to be creative on how I'm going to shoot my best score. That means using the clubs that I have the most confidence in, and staying out of trouble.

The Saginaw District qualifier and District tournament are played with longer distances and tough pin placements. At Green Acres, neither would be hard for the District committee to accomplish. Many of the greens are crowned in shape, making it very important to hit the center of the green.

Green Acres measures 6,526 from the tips – a far cry from the 5,700 yards I am used to playing. Three

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Mike Godard/Strikes n' Strokes

The shortest par-4 on the course can present a big dilemma. The hole measures 301 yards from the elevated tips. This huge tree is nestled right in the middle of the fairway about 135 yards from the back tees. Long ball hitters will try to go over the top. If you don't get it high it can deflect right toward the deeper rough; left into some trees or play pinball straight down.

Green Acres Golf Course

7323 Dixie Highway, Bridgeport MI 989.777.3510 • www.greenacresgc.net

Front (yards)		Back (yards)		Total (yards)	
Blue	3,252	Blue	3,274	Blue	6,526
White	3,042	White	3,168	White	6,210
Red	2,490	Red	2,823	Red	5,313

Just seven minutes from downtown Frankenmuth and minutes off I-75 at Exit 136 or Exit 144. Summer rates: Monday-Friday, 18 holes \$27. Saturday-Sunday \$30. Also, walking and 9-hole rates are available, putting green and driving range. Check out Daily food specials and the May SNS ad for Fathers Day special: Hot dog and 18 holes with cart - \$27.

Green Acres is hosting this year's Saginaw District Qualifier on Sunday, June 9

FROM COVER GREEN ACRES

This year's District qualifier could prove to be a good test at the Bridgeport Golf Course.

of the four par-3s measure more than 183 yards. There are three par-4s that are 415 yards or more and then there is the "Monster" hole – the 595-yard, double-dogleg par-5 where an errant shot could easily lead to a snowman or worse with one of the smallest greens to land.

I am a big believer in the USGA initiative of "Tee it Forward." That is, playing the tee boxes in accordance to your drives.

As mentioned earlier, I am not a long hitter, so, I like playing between 5,500 and 5,800 yards (but that's another story). Early in the season, I usually put the "Tee it Forward" on hold – just to get ready for the district qualifier. It's a whole different mind set of playing longer distances; thus, the need for a plan.

The last time the qualifier was at Green Acres, in 2008, the cut line was 81 for the regular division and 82 for the seniors.

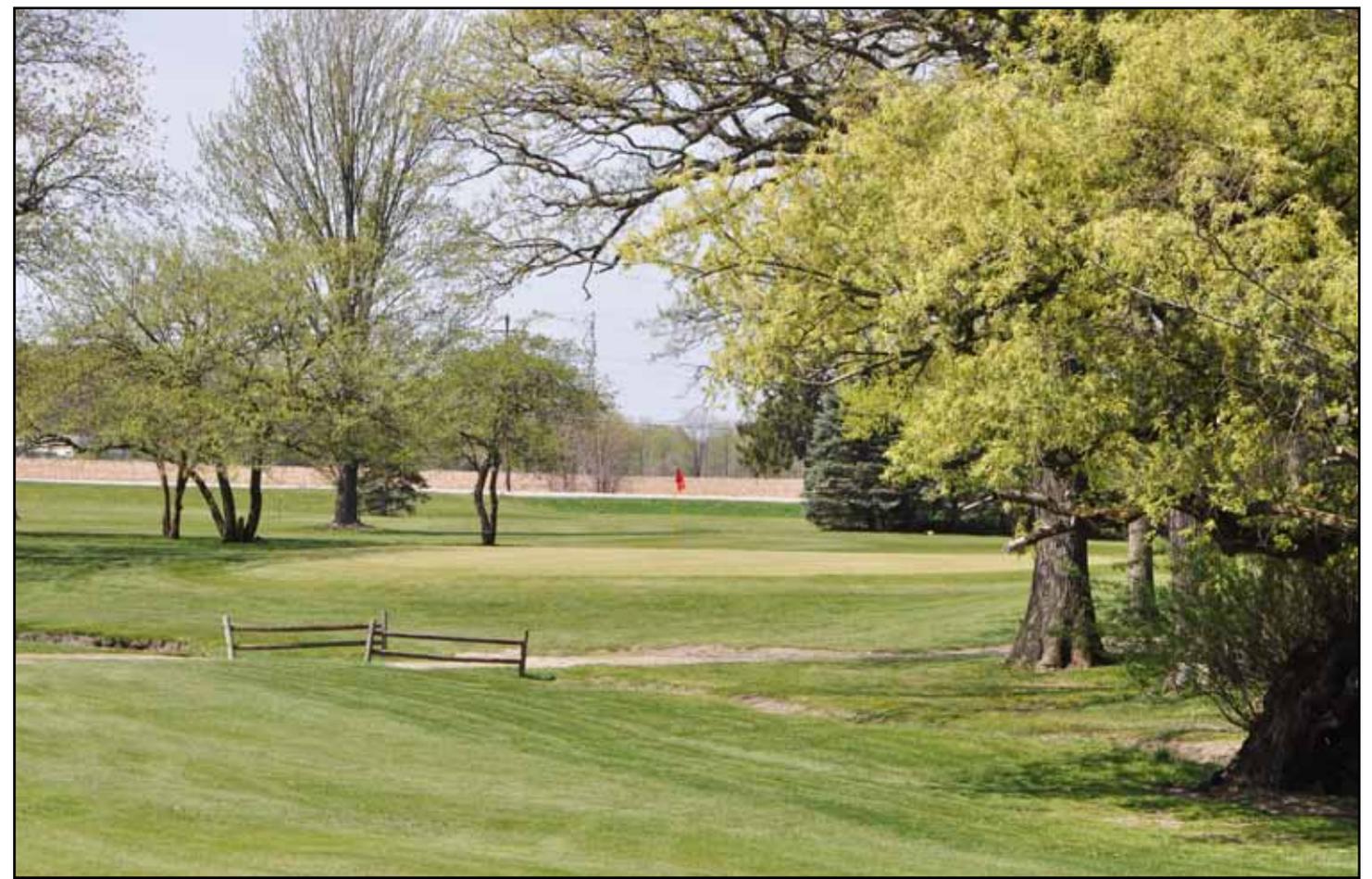
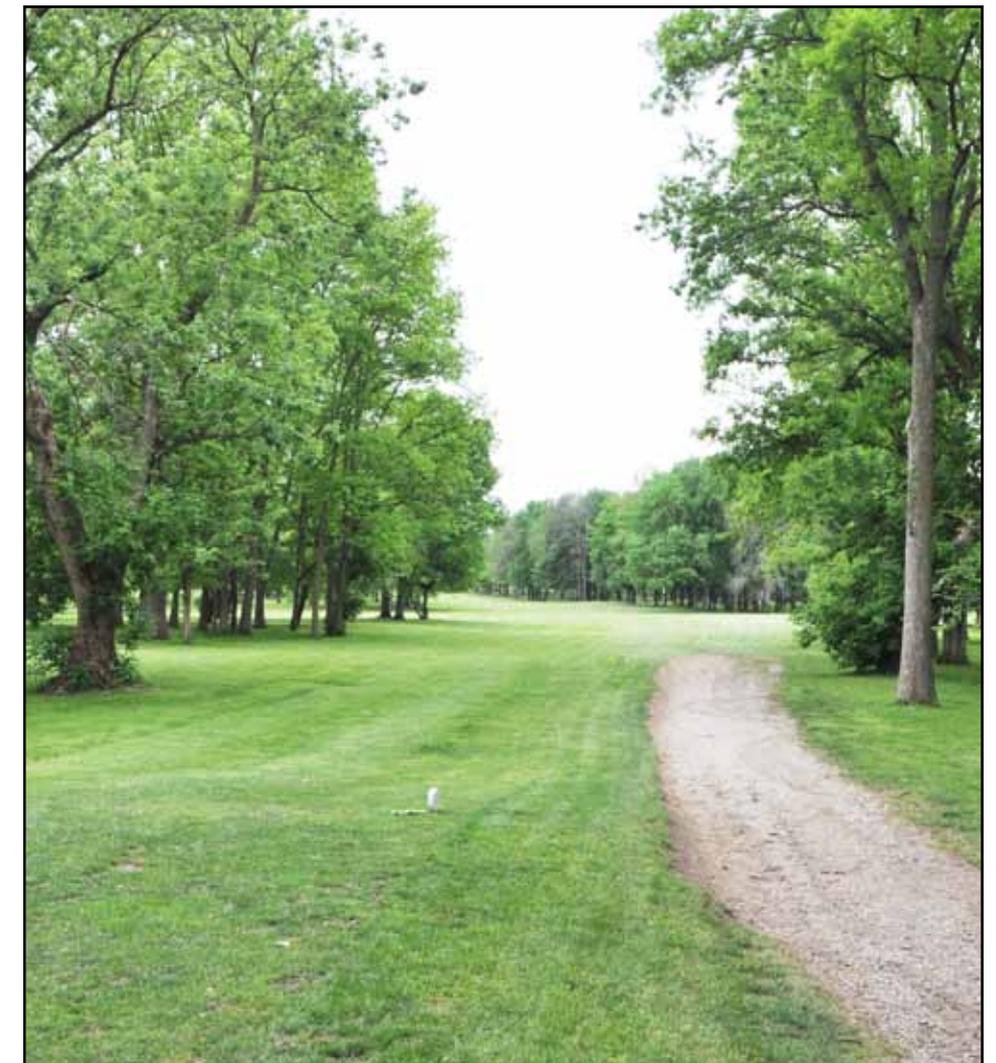
I expect it to be a little higher this year as much of the course (trees especially) continues to grow making tee shots more difficult.

My score back then was 104. I expect that to be much better – if I can execute my plan. ♦

The tee marker shows the shape of this long hole. If you have the long ball capability, your first shot needs to land to right, toward the trees in the right background (top photo).

The second shot also has to be placed well. Anything right of the 150- or 100-yard marker will have trouble reaching the green as it is protected by a bevy of trees.

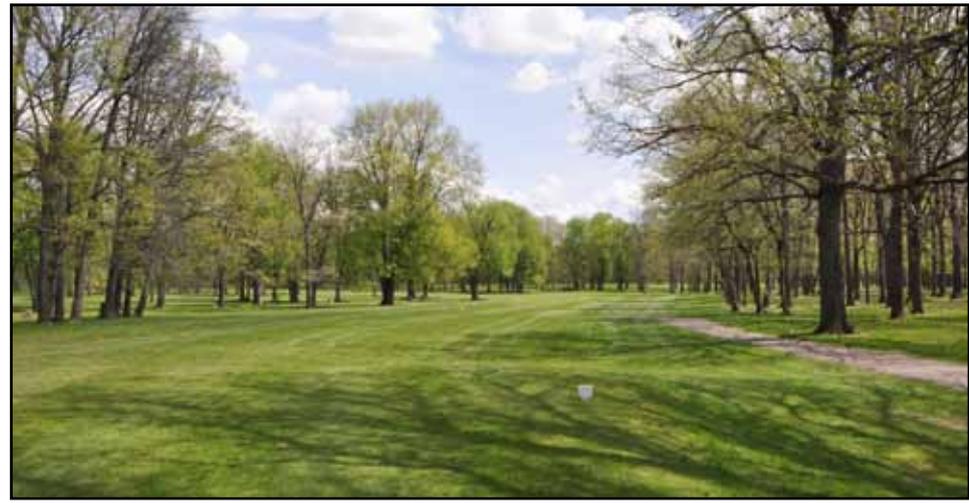
Finally, the shot toward the small green has to be left of the guarded trees and cross the creek. ♦



Green Acres Golf course has eight holes with severe dogleg formations (Nos. 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17). Several of the other holes have dogleg characteristics.

Right, is the view from the tee box area of No. 13. It measures 425 from the tips. It takes about a 225-yard drive to get to the corner. Something shorter could work, but you take your chance going over the trees on the corner. Being right of the middle is better. Middle photo, shows the corner. The tree on the left stands tall on the short drives.

Bottom photo, the very next hole, a 385-yard, par-4 with a severe dogleg right. There is no room to the as the trees on high bank covers the view to the river. If you don't get to the 150-yard marker, again trees are your obstacle to the green. The green is long but narrow, anything not near the middle will slope off.





The first hole is fairly wide open with a slight dogleg left. However, the tee boxes line your shot up toward the trees on the right. Make sure, you adjust accordingly, left is better. Below, left, the No. 8 hole a dogleg left. If you try to cut the tree-lined corner, there is a creek to consider. Below, right, the tree-lined, No. 15 hole, par-5, 470 yards is short but is also narrow all the way down.





Above, holes No. 16, above, and No. 11 (right side of picture) are parallel until the dogleg to the left on 16 starts. There are a row of trees that separates them. Below, left, the green on the par-5, No. 16, slopes from the back to the front. Below, right, a long 212-yard, par-3 finishes your day. After your round, check out the daily food specials in the lounge.

