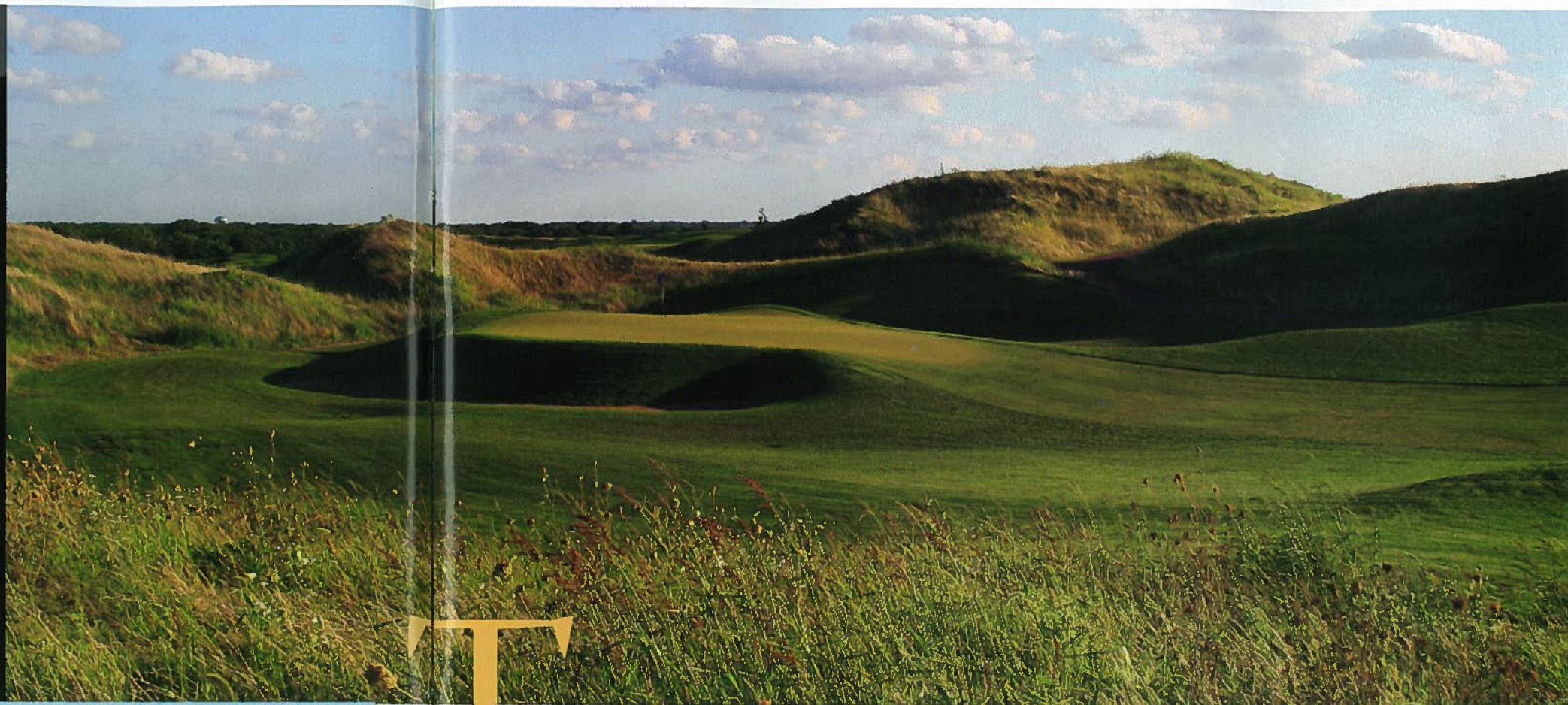


SPECTACULAR VIEWS, GREAT GOLF

Chicago Highlands Club

By Neal Kottlarck



The most challenging putt to make on any golf course in the metro area may just occur on the ninth hole at Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester. Amazingly, this green isn't spectacularly severe or tediously tricky. Instead, it's the incredible view that serves as a major distraction for any golfer lining up a putt on this hole. Step onto this putting surface and behold below you a postcard portrait of the city's spectacular skyline.

Any description of the newly opened members-only family club teems with superlatives. Following legendary city planner Daniel Burnham's sage advice to "make no little plans," the brain trust of the 270-acre complex laid out a master plan that will make the club unique in the area, if not the entire Midwest. After acquiring a huge swath of prime property from the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, owners John Baxter, Joe Hills, and Tom Healy oversaw the construction of the sprawling Scottish-inspired course which opened for membership play on May 15th. The

second part of the plan is nearing completion and calls for four swimming pools and a deluxe pool house. Future construction will include a regulation outdoor skating rink, a health club and spa, a total fitness center, an indoor practice facility, and a full service clubhouse and entertainment center featuring four bowling lanes.

Healy, who owns and operates two public golf courses in Maryland, says the vision of Chicago Highlands is "to create thrills for golfers while providing a fun place for all family members to enjoy."

The centerpiece of the club is the 7,460-yard golf course designed by Art Hills with ample assistance by his son (and club co-owner), Joe. The course is truly on "high land" that allows for the aforementioned amazing views of the city. In fact, the routing of the 14th hole calls for players to aim tee shots directly at the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower. Beyond the views, the course is as fun, challenging, and dynamic as any course—private or public—in all

of Chicago. Six tees allow players of all abilities to enjoy play along the Scottish-style course that features greens as large as 76 yards (a full wedge shot!) in depth.

Head professional Jeff Perdew says that members and guests walk off the course with smiles on their faces. "Everything from the course's design to its conditions to its magnificent views of the city make golfers eager to play the course again and again. No round is the same as wind directions can make a long par 4 easy, and conversely make the 288-yard 9th hole awfully tough."

Along with a driving range and practice facility, the property offers three practice holes, two chipping greens, a driving range, and practice area.

"The golf course," says Healy, "turned out even better than we envisioned. Our membership is already enthusiastic about the club. We believe they will be thrilled once the other amenities are completed."

For more information on Chicago Highlands, visit www.chicagohighlands.com.