

# The SCORECARD

Special Edition March 1, 2023

Dr. Ed Updegraff, our friend, passed December 23, 2022. Here we remember the Man and the Accomplishments.

With a tee sheet for our MGA events we would often find Dr. Ed on the patio overlooking the 10th green making certain to watch the action. Pictured at right is one of the many foursomes greeting Dr. Ed during play. Standing: Dr. Ed, Bob Soucek, and Bill Lockett. Front row: Bruce Fink and Mick Borm.



Inside you will find some of our favorite recollections while observing, being observed and talking with Dr. Ed. You may find the hint of humor that permeated many.

It's about the man so let's get started with one of Dr. Ed's comments:

Everybody asks me about golf but nobody ever asks me what it's like to be a urologist.

There's a grand underpinning to the man, the golfer, our friend. Hopefully you will find it as rewarding as we have.



## What could a conversation be ...

So many may want to ask questions, but Dr. Ed was at ease controlling the conversation.

Arriving at his home with little back and forth he discovered my background. With that we started with the day's Wall Street Journal that was on the table. After some agreement and disagreement on articles he headed toward the markets and where they may rest one day. Afterwards it was about taxes. He was pushing me hard.

Next came our local Arizona paper and events of the day. Finally the two books sitting on his table were reviewed just in case I needed some reading material.

Having not spoken of golf, it was time. First was the balls left in his yard behind the 10th green. To him it seemed that they provided an opportunity to talk with golfers but they never came to gather them. Offering to me the most recent collection I told him I would give them to the First Tee rather than keep them for myself. He smiled.

The afternoon was lengthening and we again turned to golf. During this he graciously agreed to our renaming out Club Championship, The Updegraff Cup.

## What Are Toreadors

1939 and 1968

Who would have guessed that at the Ranch we would have a 1939 Graduate of Boone High of Boone Iowa and a 1968 Graduate of the same high school. Their standard greeting from the cart path and patio behind the 10th green:

GO TOREADORS

Dr. Ed and Ron

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## Connections

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With Dr. Ed it wasn't who you knew but the connection you may have had with them.

Introduced to Dr. Ed on the practice Range here about 5 years ago. I asked Dr. Ed if he had played golf with Bill Campbell, a great amateur player from my hometown of Huntington, WV. He laughed. Did I play with the US Amateur Champion and past president of the USGA? Only in the Masters, Walker Cup and many other events. Knew him when he was being mentored by Sam Snead.

Dr. Ed went on to recount some of his fondest memories of Bill Campbell and other past greats of golf. It was some interesting golf history that I'll never forget.

Ron

Dr. Ed first entered my radar in 1982 at the US Senior Open at Portland Golf Club. I was in the gallery following Arnold Palmer and Dr. Updegraff was an amateur in the same group. At the par 3 8th hole Arnold flew in a shot that covered the 200 yards and threatened the pin. We all Applauded. Then Dr. Ed hit a towering shot that dropped inside of Arnold's. That shot made me take notice—"Who is this guy?" I followed his career from that day on. Imagine my shock of astonishment when I found out he lived behind the green at hole #10. I never failed to wave whether I saw him or not.

Steve

Standing with Dr. Ed one day a lady from the Ranch approached and asked him how he got to play in six Masters. He replied without hesitation "Bobby invited me".

David

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## A Little Golf—Dr. Ed Style

It's all about being an Amateur

Competing at the highest level as an amateur, Dr. Ed managed extraordinary results. Among the achievements in a playing career spanning a half century were the following championships:

- 3 Northwest Amateur Championships
- 4 Arizona Amateur Championships
- 4 Southwestern Amateur Championships
- 2 Western amateur Championships
- 1 Sunnehanna Amateur Championship
- 1 Pacific Coast Amateur Championship
- 1 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship
- 6 U.S. National Team appearances
  - 4 United States Walker Cups, 3 playing and 1 captain; 3 winning teams and 1 tie
  - 2 Americas Cups, 1 playing and 1 captain; both winning teams
- 6 Playing invitations to the Masters, highest finish 44th
- 27 Consecutive Club Championships, Tucson Country Club

Never turning professional just winning at all levels. A Competitor.

## A Little Golf—Ranch Style

I moved to SBR May 2020. One of the first rounds I played here I three putted Number 10. I was chewing on my cigar and stormed off to my cart. Dr. Updegraff had a front row seat from his patio. I was obviously on a “steam”. Dr. Updegraff said loud enough for everyone to hear “Your cigar smells great but you can’t putt”. It was hysterical and I won’t soon forget it. I knew then I moved to the right place.

Matt

One time I skulled a shot from the bunker that’s about 80 yards out from the 10th green. The ball ended up about 8 ft from the hole. When I drove around to the green’s back-side, Dr. Ed on the patio commented that he had never seen anybody play that shot in such a manner. I laughed and pretended I had planned it that way. He wasn’t fooled as he smiled back.

Steve

Still working on his game

While working in the pro shop I spied Dr. Ed out on the grass in front of the chipping green. He was hitting short shots out towards a tree and then going out and hitting them back onto the practice tee. Every ball landed within a couple of feet of each other. He told me that the game is played from 150 yards in.

Steve

“It isn’t the clubs” Family and friends alike have been on the receiving end of that one.

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## This and That

Playing with Dr. Ed one day I was short of the green. Getting out of the cart I grabbed my range finder. Dialed it into the approximate 50 yards selected a club and hit my shot. Getting back into the cart Dr Ed asked: Ever been there before? Did you remember the distance and what you hit before? Realized he was telling me that I should not have needed the range finder to make that shot. Shook his head and smiled.

Ken

At times we would see Dr. Ed following a pairing on the Ranch. Mostly this was special events such as the Club Championship or Founders' Cup. He would be in his cart a reasonable distance behind the pairing. Who would he follow? Golfers he had a connection to regardless their abilities. Always cognizant of the pairing approaching and attentive to our pace of play.

During a conversation shortly after the Memorial Tournament, Dr. Ed inquired if I had seen Jack. Not really knowing how to respond I simply pointed out the recent Memorial Tournament. He said "That's right. I'm going to call Barbara. They have significant medical connections. I'm a urologist and I could take care of it." He then smiled that wry smile as you likely know there was more to the story. He has so many friends.

Someone once said Ed you should be on the tour. With a swing guys envy. Heck you could swing in a phone booth. Dr Ed politely declined. Amateur status keeps it fresh and in urology something new comes about each day. Who was that someone ... Bobby

Dr. Ed

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## A Sense of Caring for All

I always enjoyed conversations with Dr. Updegraff on those nice sunny days when he was sitting in his chair, with a big smile on his face, watching all the golfers play through hole ten. He offered stories, tips, and advice. He was truly an ambassador for the love of the game.

My story with Dr. Updegraff begins with the passing of my wife Susan mid-February 2021. My family was gathered here the days after her passing and the boys (my brother, son, son-in-law, and myself) decided to go and play a late afternoon round of golf in memory of Sue. The sun was setting fast by hole 9 but we decided to play on. On hole 10, I hit a decent drive, laid up short of the second arroyo, and hit a seven iron toward the green. The ball landed on the front and rolled toward the hole and disappeared into the cup. Dr. Updegraff was sitting in his usual chair behind the green enjoying watching the golfers play through. When I picked the ball out of the cup he stood, applauded, and said “great shot”. I went over to him, shook his hand to thank him, and informed him that was in memory of Sue who always asked me when I returned home from a round “did you get me a birdie today?” Dr. Updegraff expressed his condolences and assured me that she was in heaven and enjoyed the eagle (it is bird after all) as much as he did. As an aside, I proceeded to birdie eleven and par twelve. That was a pretty good start to the back nine. Had to end the round at that point due to darkness. Thank you Sue and Dr. Updegraff, may you rest in eternal peace.

Keith

## So Long Dr. Ed

As we ended a conversation he mentioned that when on the patio I always stopped to speak but when he was in the house I would just honk and wave as I passed. Don't be afraid to knock on the door. And by the way your putting has improved.

Dr Ed from his home saw more than any may recall.

So many others have chronicled your golfing career. We enjoyed a complex entertaining man who's attributes of honesty, humility, integrity, and welcoming of golfers of all abilities made all of us better competitors. Not to be remiss, your competitive spirit was part of each exchange. It's simply a part of you.

In closing ... What is it like to be a urologist?

Our Updegraff Cup may not shine like the one at right. But you will shine through it.

May peace follow you on this  
journey.

