

TEXAS GOLF



The Dallas Morning News

JUNE 2011

**BEST PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE
COURSES
IN THE
D-FW AREA**

**TOP 50
COURSES
YOU
CAN PLAY**

3 COOL
DESTINATIONS
OUTSIDE
OF TEXAS

**Road
Trip**

BILL NICHOLS GOES OFF
THE BEATEN PATH SEARCHING
FOR HIDDEN GEMS BETWEEN
DALLAS AND TEXARKANA

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the third and final Texas Golf section of the year. For our cover story, Bill Nichols and his neighbor, Jonathan Mayers, took a three-day pickup trip in the general direction of Texarkana. Faithful followers of Texas Golf may remember the eventful canoe trip Bill and Jonathan took in 2007 down White Rock Creek, which flows through several Dallas area courses. As Bill puts it, their double rainbow was the Links at Lands End in Yantis and Texarkana Golf Ranch, but there were plenty of colorful personalities in between.

We wrap up the final section with the 50 best holes you can play and the 18 most beautiful holes and 18 best holes in Texas.

We hope you'll follow our adventures when we return next spring.

Mark Kazlowski

STAFF

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR

Bob Yates

SPORTS EDITOR

Garry Leavell

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Mark Konradi

TEXAS GOLF EDITOR

Mark Kazlowski

DESIGN DIRECTOR

Rob Schneider

DESIGNER

Marilyn Bishkin

PHOTO DIRECTOR

Chris Wilkins

COPY EDITOR

Mark Johnson

ADVERTISING

GENERAL MANAGER:

Rich Alfano

SPORTS SALES DIRECTOR:

John Handley



ABOUT THE COVER

In between May storms, photographer Tom Fox captured the sunlight hitting Texarkana Golf Ranch.

SPORTSDAYDFW.COM

CHECK OUT our searchable database of courses throughout the state. Click on golf.

HOW TO REACH US

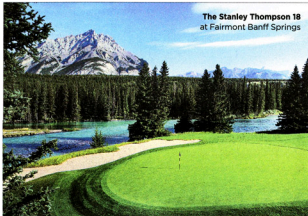
BY PHONE: 214-977-8444

BY EMAIL:

dmssports@dallasnews.com

TEXAS GOLF

JUNE 2011



The Stanley Thompson 18 at Fairmont Banff Springs

Fairmont Banff Springs

5 FIVE MINUTES WITH BRENDEN MORROW: The Stars captain talks about his affection for the game and playing with Brett Hull and Mike Modano.



6 JUNIOR PROFILE:

Tanner Kesterson's NBA dream faded, but his PGA Tour dream is alive and well.

8 PRACTICE TEE: Justin Poyner offers pointers on how to be more accurate off the tee.

10 TOP 50 COURSES: Barton Creek's Fazio Foothills is voted Texas' best course with public access.

11 BEST OF D-FW: TPC Four Seasons is voted the best public course in the area, and Dallas National is voted the best private course.

16 EL PASO GEM: The Tom Fazio-designed Butterfield Trail is closer than you might think.

19 BANDON DUNES: With the new Old Macdonald, the Oregon resort has four courses among the best in the country.

20 CANADIAN RETREAT: Fairmont Banff Springs' Stanley Thompson 18 could be as cool a course as you'll find.



Black Pearl Golf Club at Pristine Bay Resort

Pristine Bay Resort

21 CARIBBEAN PARADISE: The Black Pearl Golf Club in Roatan, Honduras, features a Pete Dye island hole on an actual island.

22 BEST AND BEAUTIFUL: Whispering Pines dominates the lists of the state's best and beautiful holes.

Island paradise

DYES BUILD A GEM — WITH AN ISLAND GREEN — IN THE CARIBBEAN



Diego Rivera

By JANINA JACOBS

Best kept secrets usually don't stay that way for very long. The Black Pearl Golf Club on exotic and unspoiled Roatan, an island 35 miles off the coast of Honduras, is no exception. Created as the centerpiece of the Pristine Bay Resort, this Pete and Perry Dye collaboration will host significant events even though both nines have been open for play only six months.

With eternally balmy weather, stunning vistas, and a superb though atypical Dye design, what's not to love? An impressive first look from the three-story hilltop Sky Lounge immediately captivates as the entire course and property layout below is revealed, along with the brilliant turquoise and azure hues of the Meso-American barrier reef, the second largest in the world. So breathtaking is this panorama, it's not surprising Spanish conquistadors and British pirates battled for 200 years after stealing this tropical gem from the Mayan Maya Indians, who lived here until the 10th century. The Brits won, but in the 1860s Honduras finally took it back.

"The course sits atop the island's central divide — a prime piece of land," said Pristine Bay chief operating officer and project

manager Luis-Pedro Toriello, whose family owns this 406-acre ecologically sensitive resort. The site truly is flawless. Water for irrigation is plentiful, and a natural channel for beachfront complexes still under construction.

Stellar conditions await golfers. Saltwater resistant and eco-friendly seashore paspalum grasses provide perfect lies and fast, smooth greens. A tough test at the black tees, the 7,180-yard course routing begins at the Caribbean Sea, journeys through the wild and unrestrained Roatan foothills then settles back down toward the ocean where prevailing north breezes lengthen the already beautiful 469-yard, par-4 finishing hole.

More than 100,000 plants and trees were

carefully preserved, maintaining a sanctuary for native animal life as well. This marriage between the environment and superb course architecture playable for all golfers was envisioned by the Toriello family when interviewing designers for the project.

Choosing the Dye father-son combo was easy. "They are the best course designers in the world. We've worked together before and consider them our partners — our Latin family," Toriello said.

And yes, there's a signature island green, though more forgiving than distinctive Dye all-or-nothing strategies. Water surrounds the short par-3 11th, but so does sand. An errant shot might end up half-submerged but not lost.

"We call it the island shot," explained Toriello, demonstrating the technique by sandsplicing a ball peeking from water barely covering the outer edge of the bunker.

On other holes, Dye uses raised mounds to crown and surround green complexes, making for tougher approaches and recoveries. However, similar berms elsewhere become fairway friendly, funneling errant tee shots back on target.

When playing in a pirates' backyard, forget the score and enjoy the journey. Low numbers are only "guidelines" anyway.

IN THE KNOW

BLACK PEARL GOLF CLUB

Air access: Pristine Bay is 6 miles from Roatan International Airport (RTB). Continental Airlines offers direct two-hour flights from Houston every Saturday from May to October (low season). In high season, November to April, direct flights are available Thursdays through Sundays.

Sea access: Multiple cruise lines' itineraries include a stop on Roatan.

Greens fee: \$75-\$145 per person and include golf, cart, practice balls, and airport transfers within a stay-and-play package.

Where to stay: Six two- and three-bedroom villas are available at \$400-\$600 per night.

Contact: 1-786-315-8657, golf@pristinebayresort.com or via website, www.blackpearlgolfcourse.com