

Abercrombie looks to lead Wildcats to success

By Theo Tate
MANAGING EDITOR

Evan Abercrombie will always remember 2019.

That was when he won a varsity spot with the Montgomery County baseball team as a freshman and helped the Wildcats reach the Final Four of the Class 3 state baseball tournament for the first time.

"You never forget how that feeling feels," Abercrombie said. "You want to get there so bad again. The goal from here on out is to be the best we can be."

After winning a role as starting pitcher this spring, Abercrombie is looking to help the Wildcats get back to the Final Four after their 2020 season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Abercrombie is a part of a MCHS team that has just one senior and a large group of freshmen and sophomores.

"We're young," said Abercrombie, a junior. "We know that we have scrape up runs if we're going to win games. We're trying to do the best we can to execute that game plan. It's my responsibility as the older guy to lead these younger dudes for the future of our program. That's been a huge thing for me as the season goes on."

So far, Abercrombie is enjoying a strong season on the mound that includes a no-hit performance against Silex on March 29 and an eight-strikeout effort against Pacific in the season opener on March 22.

"Every time he steps on the mound, we believe we can win

the game," MCHS coach Vince Wolk said. "He's going to keep us in every game. We just have to scrape together some runs to help him out."

When he was a freshman, Abercrombie helped MCHS finish 17-10 and place fourth in the Class 3 state tournament. He had a win, 13 strikeouts and a 3.94 earned run average on the mound and had two hits with a run scored and a stolen base at the plate. His older brother, Ethan, was a member of the 2019 squad.

"A lot of guys on our team were older," Abercrombie said. "I learned a lot from those dudes. It was really exciting. Some really good baseball was played in my freshman year."

Abercrombie helped the Wildcats start their 2021 season with a 1-0 win over Pacific in 11 innings. He gave up no runs on four hits before being relieved with one out in the top of the seventh and playing third base the rest of the game.

"To be dominant as a pitcher, you've got to have the mindset of a dominant guy who could go in there in any situation and execute," Abercrombie said. "Coach Wolk told me I was the guy. I wanted to step up and prove that I could be that guy. That was a big statement game for me."

A week later against Silex, Abercrombie struck out 14 to pick up his first no-hitter of his high school baseball career.

"I was feeling it from warmups all the way through the end of that game," Abercrombie said. "It was something I dreamed about since I was 8 or 9 years



Montgomery County junior Evan Abercrombie fires a pitch to a Bowling Green batter in the top of the second of an Eastern Missouri Conference game on April 13. Theo Tate photo.

old. It was really cool. The defense made some plays, too."

Abercrombie turned in a strong effort in the Wildcats' 5-4 loss to Bowling Green on April 13 in nine innings at home. He struck out 11 in eight innings of work and delivered an RBI triple with two outs in the bottom of the seventh that tied the game at 4-4 and sent the game to extra innings.

Abercrombie has been playing baseball since he was in elementary school. He played in youth leagues at Jonesburg and Montgomery City. For the last six years, he played for the Rawlings Tigers select baseball team

in St. Louis.

Abercrombie said pitching is the best part of playing baseball.

"When I'm on the pitcher's

mound, I feel like I'm in complete control of the game," he said. "I like to be the guy everyone turns to in a big moment."

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TEE OFF

Golf Guide

Loutre Shore Country Club set for another spring season

By Theo Tate
MANAGING EDITOR

With a new golf season starting this spring, Bob Borcharding wanted to make sure that Loutre Shore Country Club is well-maintained.

So twice a week, the general manager cuts between 60 and 70 acres of grass at the nine-hole golf course.

"We cut a lot of grass," Borcharding said. "We have to keep it looking nice."

Borcharding is getting the course ready for numerous tournaments it will have between April and October. The first tournament is scheduled for April 18, which is a one-person scramble tournament. There also will be benefit tournaments at Loutre Shore, with the first one scheduled for May 14.

"Last year, we had our club tournaments, but we had very few benefit tournaments," Borcharding said. "We picked up one or two at the end of the year. Most of them have all come back and they will keep COVID in mind when they have the tournaments as far as food and stuff. As far as the golf situation, it's not going to affect it too much. We have a pretty good slate of tournaments."

Loutre Shore is located 1.5 miles north of Hermann. Built in 1967, Loutre Shore is a semi-private, member-owned golf course with a full pro shop and driving range.

"It's a nine-hole golf course, so you can come in here and spend two hours to get a round of golf in and get out of the way," Borcharding said. "So it's not going to take the whole afternoon or the whole morning to play golf. We want people to come in and enjoy the golf course and play their round, which doesn't take all day to do."

The golf course also holds high school athletic events, such as the Hermann Cross Country Invitational in the fall and numerous golf matches during the spring.

"We try to help out the high school groups," Borcharding said. "We have a cross country meet and high school matches. They come out to practice and play. We're very receptive to our high school teams. We have to get young people playing golf. That's a key to our business."

Borcharding said membership within the last three years has attracted plenty of younger families.

"They're bringing their kids out there and getting them interested," Borcharding said.

The general manager said even when the coronavirus pandemic started hitting the country last spring, the golf course re-



Dan Robb tees off during the Montgomery City Area Chamber of Commerce golf tournament at Loutre Shore Country Club in August. Theo Tate photo.

mained popular.

"We were very, very busy," Borcharding said. "We started out by being shut down for membership only for a month, then we decided to open up. We still do the social distancing and stuff like that. I think that's here to stay. But it's business as usual. We limited our food offering a little bit more. We're just doing some work on keeping the place up, filling holes and doing yearly maintenance."

Borcharding said doing maintenance on golf courses was something he was looking for when he was hired as Loutre Shore's general manager in 2012.

"I just wanted to come out here and cut grass," Borcharding said. "I'm semi-retired. I was just looking for something to keep me busy. They decided to hire somebody, so I went ahead and took the job. I enjoy it. Going to a golf course every day and going to work is not too bad."

Applications for membership to Loutre Shore Country Club are available upon request, according to the golf club's website. A membership includes a spouse and children up to the age of 21 or while in an institution of higher learning.

An initiation fee is required with the application, and the first year's dues must be paid in full at the time of acceptance by the Board of Directors.

A newsletter, along with bills, is sent out each month. Members may charge liquor, food, beverage and pro shop goods and be billed monthly. A variety of activities are offered throughout the year for members.

For more information on Loutre Shore Country Club, call 573-486-5815.

Loutre Shore Country Club

is offering a promotional membership for the balance of this golf year.

This offer is open to any prospective new members or returning members* and runs from Now until September 30th, 2021.

The cost is \$750 for a membership that includes a cart, range balls and clubhouse discounts.**

All family members living at home and those that may be in college are included in this membership*.**

(Payment of \$375 due March 15th, balance of \$375 on June 1st)

Call Bob at 573-486-5815 or email us at lsc@loutreshorecc.com for information regarding this offer.

*Returning members must have been away from LSCC for more than a year, left in good standing and have not used a promo plan in the past. **One cart per visit, additional carts at regular cart fee. ***Family members up to the age of 21, unless in college

Loutre Shore Country Club
Call 573-486-5815
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Country Lake looking for continued success under new management

Will Schatz took over as the new general manager for Country Lake Golf Club in March 2020. Then a pandemic hit and ownership erred on the side of caution.

“Ownership of Country Lake and Incline Village took a precautionary stance and closed operations for seven weeks, then reopened May 1,” Schatz said. “They limited large outings, delayed events, and required utilization of outside operations.”

The biggest addition this golf course has seen is a fleet of new golf carts.

“Country Lake leased 40 brand new golf carts with USB ports for media, club and ball washers, and a great ride while enjoying a country stroll around the course,” Schatz said.

Schatz is looking forward to bringing more ideas and events to the golf course as well.

“During 2021, Country Lake will finalize details for new open golf instruction clinics, junior events, Ladies Day, Couples’ Nights, along with many other upgrades for continued improvements,” Schatz said.

Continuing along this season will be their weekly two-man senior scramble that tees off every Wednesday morning.

“This continues to flourish with a new scoring system, organization, and posting of weekly results,” said Schatz. “The cost per player is \$30 which includes 18 holes with cart and prize money allocated for the flighted tournament.”

Schatz also mentioned that there are optional skins game, closest to the pin contests, and discounted drink/food



Country Lake Golf Club. Adam Rollins photos.

specials for the senior scramble.

Also on Wednesdays, after 2 p.m., Country Lake also offers other deals while bringing a scene from an infamous golf movie into real life.

“Based off the pool scene in the movie Caddyshack, everyone has a chance to win something we’re calling ‘Caddy Day,’” Schatz said. “The skins game is based off the day-of-scores and is broken down into flights, based on the number of players.”

Country Lake’s Men’s League runs on Thursday nights, too.

“The league has been restructured to entice more teams with large payouts

and playoff system at the end of the season,” Schatz said.

Country Lake Golf Club is over 6,200 yards and was established in 1993.

“Country Lake offers an 18-hole, par 71 golf course and a driving range,” Schatz said.

The top three hardest holes on the course are all par 5’s, with its hardest being the only dog-leg left hole on the course that is 551 yards long.

“The golf course itself is complemented by multiple lakes, towering stands of oak and elm, gently rolling zoysia fairways, and exceptionally healthy greens provide a great golf ex-

perience which is also a great walking course,” Schatz said.

The facility offers other amenities as well.

“Country Lake also has a 5,000-square-foot indoor banquet facility that can seat up to 200 guests, a back deck overlooking a beautiful lake, and friendly, professional staff,” Schatz said.

Need help with your golf swing? This course also provides professional golf instructors and club fitting.

Schatz raved about the location of the golf course and used a rather clever phrase when speaking about it.

“Country Lake is located just west of Warrenton, off the new Interstate 70 interchange, which offers convenient access to this ‘hidden gem’ of a golf facility,” Schatz said.

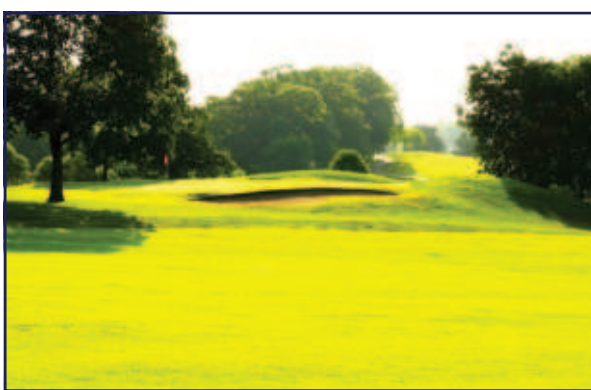
Schatz was eager when he accepted the position and is ready for the course to continue to grow.

“It’s definitely been challenging, but very exciting to gain our hidden gem at Country Lake Golf Club while being responsible to our guests and staff,” Schatz said.

Tee times can be made online by visiting Country Lake’s website at www.countrylakegc.com.

You can also contact the facility at 636-456-1165 to book your tee times or to find out more information and other details.

Fans can also check out Country Lake on Facebook, found at @countrylakegc, or email info@countrylakegc.com with questions.



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TEE OFF

Golf Guide



Incline Village making steady improvements for a better experience

Entering his ninth season as the general manager and head golf pro at the Golf Club of Incline Village, Taylor Goodsell is busy making sure his patrons are pleased with their golf experience.

"We've put in new cart paths on about a third of the course with more to come this season," Goodsell said. "The parking lot was redone in the summer of 2019, and we made restroom renovations in the clubhouse and on the course too."

There are also changes in the forecast at the club.

"We have an all-new fleet of golf carts coming in April 2021," said Goodsell.

Just like their sister course at Country Lake in Warrenton, Incline Village handled the uncertain times on the side of caution.

"At the beginning of the pandemic in mid-March, we closed the course and clubhouse completely until May 1," Goodsell said. "Since reopening on May 1, we have kept the occupancy to a minimum inside with zero customer seating in the clubhouse, single carts, noodles in cups, no rakes on course, and no drinking water on course too."

However, Incline Village is back to a fully operational golf course after a chaotic year in 2020.

"Now, to start the 2021 season, we are pretty much back to normal with everything back on the course for the players," Goodsell said. "We are also back to two golfers per cart."

Established in 1964, the Golf Club of Incline Village plays around 6,000 yards with a par of 71.

"Incline is a fairly short course, especially for longer hitters, but is a great senior and tournament course," Goodsell said. "Some tight fairways, water in play on eight of the holes and overall small greens mean players of any skill level or distance will need to hit their targets

and play smart."

During a round of golf here, fans can also take in some breath-taking scenery.

"I think some of the amazing views you get while playing, along with our friendly atmosphere, makes this a golf course for all ages and skill levels," Goodsell said. "The feeling of getting away from the busy city and holes lined with homes you have to worry about hitting and without having to travel too far is what sets us apart from other courses in the area."

One of the more famous, and challenging, holes on this golf course is No. 11. It's a 152-yard, par-3 with an island green that has a large slope.

Incline does offer events and leagues, too. "Our senior two-person scramble is every Monday morning with an 8 a.m. shotgun start," Goodsell said. "\$30 a player includes 18 holes with a cart, money toward the prize fund, coffee and donuts, and optional skins game and closest to the pin contest."

Incline Village also provides some of the better prices around.

"Mondays after 1 p.m., all players can play 18 holes with cart at \$26 or nine holes with a cart at \$18," Goodsell said. "Tuesdays through Fridays, seniors, at 55 years old and above, pay \$30 for 18 holes with a cart."

Incline does not have a banquet center or restaurant, but there are other amenities available.

"We do have a small pro shop stocked with the essentials such as golf balls, gloves, golf tees, hats, and socks," Goodsell said. "And we do have a snack and drink counter."

Tee times can be made online by visiting Incline Village's website at www.inclinevillage-gc.com.

Patrons can also contact the facility at 636-463-7274 to book your tee times or to find out more information.



Golf Club at Incline Village. Adam Rollins photos.



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Weekend: 18 Holes = \$46,
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Email tgoodsell.incline@outlook.com for inquiries
or call our Clubhouse at (636) 463-7274.

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Escape the hustle by visiting Warrenton Golf Course

Spring is here, summer approaches, and the itch to hit the links is prevalent all over. For local golfers, Warrenton Golf Course is the place to go.

Known for its unique, country atmosphere, the front nine on the course opened in 1971 with the back nine opening up in 1978. Event Coordinator Leslie Colegg knows why the course is so popular.

“From the pro shop based in a barn, to the quiet nature on the golf course, you’re definitely able to escape from the hustle of everyday life,” she said. “At the Warrenton Golf Course you will find contoured and well maintained zoysia fairways for optimum playing conditions. You can warm up or hone your putting skills on our practice green.”

The course also offers a pavilion with a capacity of 200 people - a bonus for patrons whether they are on a golf outing with friends or another event.

“Our friendly and accommodating staff, along with our teaching professional, will do their best to ensure you will enjoy your time at our facility,” said Colegg. “The have-to-see spot at Warrenton is actually the pro shop. This is unique because it is housed in an old barn which adds to the rustic charm of the course. Another fact about Warrenton is that this year is the 50th year that it has been open. We will run specials throughout the year to celebrate this milestone.”

Additionally, the Warrenton Golf Course offers a Senior Scramble every Thursday at 8 a.m. This includes coffee, donuts, and prizes all for \$27. For more information on Warrenton Golf Course, call 636-456-8726, email events@warrentongolfcourse.com or visit warrentongolfcourse.com. The course is located at 24805 South Highway 47, Warrenton.

For those who want to practice their putts in Wentzville, Bear Creek Golf Club can play more than 7,000 yards and is ranked one of the toughest golf courses in St. Louis. Designed by noted architect Gary Kern, Bear Creek opened in 1998 and includes 46 green and fairway bunkers, beautiful lakes and several large creeks that run throughout the course.

“This included the preservation of most of the trees and natural habitat allowing each hole to have its own unique features, challenges and beauty,” said Colegg. “The layout stretches across 150 acres with beautiful homes set back along the course’s perimeter. Over the years Bear Creek has become known by most of the avid golfers as ‘The Home of the Grizzly.’”

Bear Creek allows golfers to tee off from any of four sets of tees, landing on over 25 acres of zoysia and bluegrass



fairways. On this course, you’ll make good use of your putter to master the large undulating bent grass greens and mark your scorecard lightly. The most well-known spot on the course are holes 2, 3, and 4.

“This spot is difficult due to a winding creek that crosses all of these holes and several sand bunkers,” said Colegg. “This area has been named ‘The Lair at Bear Creek.’”

Bear Creek is also available for special events/weddings. Interested parties can reach out to the event staff at events@bearcreekgolf.com to schedule a tour or book an event. For more information on Bear Creek Golf Club, call 636-332-5018, email info@bearcreekgolf.com or visit bearcreekgolf.com. Bear Creek Golf Club is located at 158 Bear Creek Drive, Wentzville.

Enjoying some time in Elsberry? Head on over to Sun Valley Golf Course, a beautiful course located in Lincoln County.

The course, laid out among the rolling hills and valleys of the Lincoln County golf community by Gary Kern.

“Kerry Davis performed the majority of construction and the front nine was opened in 1989, followed by the back nine in 1994,” Colegg said. “Sun Valley sports some of the most interesting holes in eastern Missouri and is considered a

stern, but fair, and solid test of golf by all players.”

Since opening in 1989, Sun Valley has allowed golfers to experience the countryside, enjoy the fresh air, relax, and get away from it all.

“Sun Valley rolls out over 200 acres of gentle elevation changes on the front nine to unbelievable heights and views on the back nine,” said Colegg. “Playing Lincoln County golf at Sun Valley is quite a journey in playing the shots, seeing the natural beauty, and enjoying the quiet countryside, rolling hills, and wooded areas.”

For more information on Sun Valley Golf Course, call 573-898-2613, email sunvalleygolfmo@gmail.com or visit sunvalleygc.com. Sun Valley Golf Course is located at 192 S Highway W in Elsberry.

In addition to the aforementioned Senior Scramble at Warrenton Golf Course, Bear Creek and Sun Valley also have Senior Scrambles. At Sun Valley, this is on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. at the cost of \$27, while at Bear Creek, this takes place on Monday at 8 a.m. for \$32.

Colegg noted that the best rates for any of the courses are available online, with special rates for seniors. They also all have lessons available.

“Because our General Manager, Kirk Porter, is a PGA professional, all three

courses offer golf lessons,” she said. “This is great for anyone looking to improve their game.”

Porter, who is not only the general manager but also the owner of all three courses, has been in the area playing and teaching golf for decades.

“Kirk grew up playing junior golf and working at his favorite course, St. Andrew’s Golf Club in St. Charles,” said Colegg. “He played college golf for two years at the University of Missouri - St. Louis and graduated with a business degree.”

From there, Porter became a member of the PGA and the general manager at St. Andrew’s Golf Club in 1989, where he stayed for over 12 years teaching both group and private lessons, coordinating junior camps, and promoting their golf tournament business.

From there, he went on to manage Country Lakes Golf Club for a year before coming to Bear Creek in 2002. Porter has also managed Sun Valley since 2005.

“Kirk enjoys working with each department of his staff to make Bear Creek and Sun Valley two of the finest courses in the area,” said Colegg. “He received the Quarter Century Award for his recognition in the PGA and continues to support and contribute to the PGA’s growth of the game initiatives.”

