

CHRISTIAN GOLF CLUB

Of

Central California August, 06

My typical M.O. when writing the main article for one of our newsletters, is to attempt to combine highlights of a tourney with some humor. After reading Rick Reilly's article, that is part of this newsletter, and reflecting on the kids that have come up thru the CGCCC, this letter will be different.

God calls us, no, demands us, as parents to raise up our children with love, and with the discipline that replicates that which God uses to grow us up in our walk from children to adults, with the Lord. 1 Corinthians 13:11 says: "***When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.***" In doing so, we have the responsibility to balance that love and discipline so as not to embitter our children. Ephesians 6:4 "***Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.***"

Included in our responsibilities as parents is to teach our children God's word. Deuteronomy 11:18&19 says, "***Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.***"

For 15 years now, I along with others have had the privilege of watching the young kids of the CGCCC mature into not only really good golfers, but much more importantly, really good, respectful, godly people. I couldn't be more proud of not only them, but of you the parents, who have taken God's commands seriously.

We've watched as an example, Todd Angel grow into a top notch golfer, with a heart after God's own heart as he reached out to "*unto the least of these*" on a mission. We've watched the likes of Jeremy Dyer, Christian Gonzales, Steven Hamett...the list goes on and on grow from scrawny little kids, into strong young men, not only in physical stature and strength, but spiritually strong as well.

I don't live with any of you, (lucky for you) and I'm sure there are times your kids really struggle, and in turn give you many sleepless nights, but I encourage you to stay the course, love them as a gift from God, persevere in the battle, you can then stand on God's promise that if you ***train up a child in the way they should go, when they are old they will not depart from it.*** Proverbs 22:6.

I don't know about you, but I so look forward to someday hearing those awesome words form God as we kneel before Him; "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*"

We all know steroid use among athletes is all over the news and papers every day. It has recently even gotten into the PGA headlines. Tiger Woods is now in favor of steroid testing among his peers on the PGA tour, while Commissioner Tim Finchem is adamantly against testing.

Well, I am going to push for steroid testing within our own Christian Golf Club. How else can you explain the extraordinary transformation of young, non-heralded new comer Jeremy Dyer and the way he completely dismantled the defenseless Madera Muni on August 12 with a one over par 73? He simply toyed with the likes of salty golf veterans Bill Horg and Mark Saltzman, pummeling them by 3 and 6 strokes respectively.

That's why they are called performance enhancers. We all know what has happened to the size of Barry Bonds' head through his years of "alleged" steroid use, his head grew to gargantuan proportions. He can now barely fit into his batting helmet. We will all be checking on Jeremy to see if he gets the "big head" after this stellar performance.

Jeremy and his dad "the Chief", won the two man best ball going away with a combined net 51. Second place went to the team of Matt Halsey and Ryan Roloff with a net 57. Third went to the fabulous Major Bros., Steve and Randy with a net 58, and in fourth place was Dennis Bailey and Bob Ying with net 60. Way to play guys.

Avila Beach / Dairy Creek

I've gotta tell ya, these 2 round coast tournaments are really starting to irritate me! First of all it's pretty obvious that there are way too many guys in our club with way too much time on their hands. What do you think it's like to be working on a Friday, battling the ol' P&L, hopelessly attempting to explain to your #&%@ boss why the numbers are down, knowing your buds are strolling the lush fairways, savoring the salty air, having nothing more to worry about than a 3' downhill putt! ***IT JUST AINT RIGHT!!***

I move that unless **ALL** can play both days that we make it unlawful to do so! Why stop there. Unless we can **All** be country club members, none can be! What happened to equality, the all for one, one for all program. This is ***BALDERDASH!!***

Just look what transpired this weekend. *Try to grasp a connection*. Ron Gonzales (country club member) (plays both days) takes low gross at Avila (73), takes low net at Avila (64). If this isn't bad enough, his son Christian takes second low net at Avila (68) second low gross at Dairy Creek (74) and guess what! He takes low net at Dairy Creek with a (62)!! *I hate the kid!* ***HELLO! McFLY!!*** What's wrong with this picture?

I gotta come clean. **I'm just jealous!**

Avila Beach results: *Bill Horg* (2nd low gross-78), *Brad Fry* (3rd low gross-80), *Ray Tarvin* (3rd low net). **Dairy Creek results:** *Brad Fry* (low gross-72), *yours truly* (3rd low gross-75), *Vic Araujo* (2nd low net-65) ***Congrats to all!!***

Making Up for Lost Time

Article by Rick Reilly, Sports Illustrated, August 22, 06

Your blank screen mocks you and the tower of unopened mail pulls at your coat, and you wonder why you didn't go into the insurance business. And you check in on your snoring 19 year old son, home from college, and he's rounding noon and heading toward one and you wonder how you missed the typhoon that came through his room. And so you trudge back to your desk and open a letter. And when you've finished, you go down, kiss your son on the forehead and wonder how you ever got so lucky.

Dear Mr. Reilly or whomever might take the time to read this:

I am not much of a writer, but since about 1996 I have wanted to nominate this kid for FACES IN THE CROWD.

I should have started with all the junior golf tournaments he won at ages six to 10. I should have sent in something when he was written up as a golf prodigy in our paper at age 12. I should have sent in something when he got two holes in one in the summer after eighth grade.

I should have nominated him for being a three-time state qualifier and holding most all individual scoring records at his high school.

I should have sent in many of his wrestling accomplishments...but I'm having trouble remembering everything.

This young man was my very best friend. We were golfing partners for 16 years. You see, this young man was my son.

He was killed in a motorcycle accident.

So what I am doing to honor him is to nominate Cory Lemke for FACES IN THE CROWD.

Cory's real accomplishments were being the best friend a guy could ask for, the most loving and best son a father could ask for and a truly gentle and loving kid with the greatest smile in these United States.

I don't know how I will cope without him. I hurt so much, and I miss him so much, just to talk to or watch sports together. God, I loved that boy so much!!

Please accept this nomination!!

Mark Lemke—Cory's Father

You call him. He's a 51 year old truck driver in Sheldon, Iowa. He's on the road four or five days a week, just him and his rig and his sorrow.

Even on the phone, you can tell he's one of those tough guys who's not used to fighting off tears. And you can hear that he's losing.

He tells you how he and Cory played golf together every day they could—"thousands of rounds," he says—kidded each other endlessly and then, when it got dark or cold, played video golf together or watched the Vikings or just shot the bull. How his son gave him 16 shots the last time they played and still took \$20 off the old man.

He remembers telling the kid that night, July 7, as Cory left to go to a car show in Hull, "Get some sleep, buddy. You gotta play tomorrow." And later: the phone ringing and the sickening cry in his wife Maud's voice from the kitchen, moaning, "Is he dead?"

He didn't even wait to see what it was, he just sprinted to his car and floored it to Hull, But he couldn't get there fast enough because Cory was as good as dead the second he hit that van. "No brain activity at all," the doctor said. Great idea, *Let me test drive your motorcycle.* No helmet. Kids.

The next morning they unplugged the respirator. On the way home he picked up his cell and played Cory's last message—"Got us a tee time Sunday over at Spencer," Cory says. 'Lets leave at 7:30. Gonna kick your butt.'

God, that Sunday morning came down hard on the big truck driver. He just sat in his chair, numb, like somebody'd cut off his arms. And Maud walked in, tears pooling in her eyes, holding out the car keys. "You better go," she whispered. "He'd want you to."

And he did. He pulled his two-ton heart out of that chair and mummy-walked through 18 holes, because buddies don't let each other down. And all the way he ached about all the things he never said or did for his son. And later on he took out his pen and paper and fixed one of them. LOVE YOUR KIDS!!

Christians in a Competitive World

"I believe that God made me for a purpose. For China. But He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure. To give it up would be to hold Him in contempt. . . . To win is to honor Him."(23)

These poignant phrases are from *Chariots of Fire*, one of the truly great films. They were spoken by the actor who portrayed Eric Liddell, a great athlete and a great Christian. He is talking with his sister, who is pleading with him to fulfill his commitment to their mission in China. He was to fulfill that commitment, but first he considered it his duty to run in the 1924 Paris Olympics for the glory of God. When I first saw the film I wept with joy and gratitude because of the film's portrayal of a man who understood and appreciated God's gift to him. In my estimation the film, and this scene in particular, contains a clear and eloquent statement of a Christian world view as it applies to games, play, sports, or athletics. With Eric Liddell's words in mind, we will offer principles that can help us establish a foundation for a Christian's involvement in games. First, "play is best seen as an attitude, a state of mind rather than as a distinguishable set of activities."(24) One doesn't have to be involved in play to play; work can include an attitude of play as well.

Second, "play is not the key to being human, but being human is the key to play."(25) And being human includes a free spirit that is "celebrative and imaginative because of the possibilities God has for us in this world."(26)

Third, play should instill "an attitude that carries over into all of life, finding joyful expression in whatever we do, productive or not."(27)

Fourth, play should be seen as an act of worship. "It is the religious meaning of life that gives purpose and meaning to both work and play. A responsible relationship to God includes play."(28) **I think the author is saying we have a responsibility to play golf !! Oh yeah!**

Some of you may be saying, "OK, I can think on these things in solitude or in group discussion, but what about principles that will help me when I'm actually involved in games? How should I play?" Application on the field is a challenge for many of us. Even Albert Camus, the existentialist writer, said that sports provided him with his "only lessons in ethics."(29) Thomas Aquinas "expressed three cautions that we would do well to observe nowadays. **First, do not take pleasure in indecent or injurious play.**" Think of a sold-out football stadium of people screaming their approval as an opponent lies immobile on the field. Such a reaction surely does not align with a Christian attitude toward games. "**Second, do not lose your mental or emotional balance and self-control.**" This may be one of the most challenging cautions. When we lose self-control during games, we are damaging what we say outside of games about our relationship with Christ. "**Third, do not play in ways ill-fitting either the hour or the person.**"(30) When we play and how we honor God in the process speak loudly about the place of games in our lives. So when we hear "Play ball!" or "Let the games begin!" or "Take your mark!," let us remember, whether as participants or spectators, that God can honor our games, but He requires a playful attitude that honors Him.