

235D Rousing grand opening for Rope Rider Golf Course



**CER Warrior golfer,
Rylee Iacolucci, scores big
with golf pro and crowd**

SUNCADIA'S THIRD GOLF COURSE, the Rope Rider, was designed by pro-golfer, Peter Jacobsen (left) and pro-golf teacher, Jim Hardy (right). At the grand opening on Friday, Aug. 26, they conducted a golf clinic for a crowd of resort guests, homeowners and the general public. The course takes advantage of the outstanding physical envi-

ronment, and provides champion-style play for experienced golfers, youth tees for family play and a set of tees for all levels in between. Rope Rider is named in honor of the miners who balanced themselves on the roped coal cars that maneuvered steep mine shafts.

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SUNCADIA – Let the land be the hero – that was the original idea when the new Rope Rider Golf Course at Suncadia was in the planning stages. “Looking out here right now, said Jared Jeffries as he gestured to the surrounding landscape. “I think that’s been accomplished.”

Jeffries, Rope Rider club manager and superintendent of the Suncadia and Tumble Creek Clubs, made his comment as he welcomed those gathered for the grand opening of Suncadia’s third golf course, on Friday, Aug. 26.

“This is a celebration of the game of golf,” he told the crowd, adding that one of Suncadia’s goals in developing the course was to create a place to bring families together.

“A gathering place for resort guests, homeowners, and the residents of Kittitas County,” Jefferies said.

Golf course designers, Jim Hardy and Peter Jacobsen, echoed that thought in the golf clinic they conducted as a part of grand opening activities. They explained how the course would challenge pro-golfers, and still be within the reach of beginners – including children.

“Yardage is what makes the difference,” Hardy said about meeting pro-golfers needs. “The best challenges can be accomplished through distance and still make it accessible to non-pros.”

“You can always move the tee back there in the weeds somewhere,” Jacobsen joked.

Among the family-friendly features of the par-72 course are shorter loops and youth tees with distances of 80 to 150 yards from the center of the greens.

Additionally, holes one through six can be played in a short loop that returns to the clubhouse, and holes seven through nine can be played for a three-hole loop. The traditional nine-hole loop and full 18-hole course is still available to those who prefer that.

“The convenient shorter loops are ideal for families and company outings, and require less time commitment than traditional four hour golf rounds,” Jefferies said.

Rope Rider also has a five-acre short game area with a large practice putting green, and three chipping greens designed to allow players to practice a wide variety of short game shots.

“I was told the first people to play on the course was a mom and dad and two daughters,” said Jacobsen. “That’s

what this is all about.”

Proving his point, Jacobsen handed a club to his caddy for the day, 17-year-old Rylee Iacolucci, a senior and golfer with the Cle Elum-Roslyn Warriors team.

With that hand off, and much to his surprise, Iacolucci became the star of

the golf clinic.

“I thought I’d just be standing by the [golf] bag and looking good,” Iacolucci laughed.

“When Peter gave me the club, I was pretty excited.”

Iacolucci proceeded to hit several great shots down the fairway, prompting Jacobsen to ask, “Can you hit anything

but straight?”

“As it worked out, I really felt my swing,” Iacolucci explained

He said the best part came when Jacobsen hands him the driver, “because I’m kind of known as a long hitter.”

Iacolucci hit the ball so well and so consistently the crowd was soon chanting, “Rylee, Rylee, Rylee.”

“I’d never been in front of a crowd before,” Iacolucci said. “That was a really good experience.”

As was Jacobsen’s encouraging comments.

“I’ve been having trouble with my mental game,” Iacolucci admitted. “I think having a tour professional say he wished he had a swing like me – that was a real confidence booster.”

Along with the golf clinic, opening day events included

the Deadliest Open Celebrity Golf Tournament earlier in the day, and a chance to meet *Deadliest Catch* TV stars in the evening at Suncadia’s Summer Crab Feed.

Suncadia homeowners, Tom and Terry Sebastian enjoyed the grand opening of the new golf course.

“We love the Prospector [Golf Course], said Terry. “Now it’s great to have both. Between the two courses there’s a lot of diversity.”

“This one [Rope Rider] seems really nice. It’s wide open with lots of different views.”

“If I had one suggestion though,” she laughed and said, “I think they should make one tee box up on top of the slag pile.”

For more information on the Rope Rider Golf Course, visit www.suncadia.com or call 866-904-6300.



CERHS WARRIOR GOLFER, and caddy for the grand opening at Rope Rider Golf Course, Rylee Iacolucci, gets an impromptu call to the tee from pro-golfer and course designer, Peter Jacobsen. It was an exciting moment for the young golfer who is interviewing colleges, looking for the ideal fit for his golf skills on the collegiate level. Right now Iacolucci favors Boise State University. Jacobsen’s positive comments “were a real confidence booster” Iacolucci said.

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