



WELCOME TO THE 53RD ANNUAL BOBCAT NORTH DAKOTA OPEN | FARGO COUNTRY CLUB



## TURNING INJURY INTO AN OPPORTUNITY: Carpenter's Career Change Leads to Victory at 2016 Open

Minnesota's Hudson Carpenter is living proof that no matter the setback, perseverance, skill and confidence can lead to a win at the 2016 Bobcat North Dakota Open. He posted a two-shot victory over Fargo native Tom Hoge and Andrew Ruthkoski during the three-day event to claim the \$10,000 first prize winnings, plus \$4,500 to cover his Web.com Tour Qualifying School entry fee.

"It was the first time playing on this course, but I felt confident the entire

time," Carpenter says. "I play on courses that have the same tree line and classic feel that Fargo Country Club has, so I was comfortable."

Carpenter started the first round with a bang, sinking a hole-in-one on the par-3 seventh hole, which helped offset bogeys on two of the three holes the first day. The kick-start led to a confident second round, with eight birdies and an eagle on the par-5 fifth hole. In his final round, he faced fierce North Dakota winds contributing to a bogey on the 18th hole, but was able to maintain his lead to win the tournament with a total of 204 (69-64-71).

"It was tough because I had to adjust my ball flight with the 30-mph wind speeds," Carpenter says. "I had to plot what I wanted to do at each hole and shoot lower to the ground to make the shots. I tried to play my own game, and it paid off."

It may come as a surprise, but the Stillwater, Minnesota, native did not know how to play golf until he was 15 years old. In fact, he was on a well-laid out path to become a professional ballplayer with little interest in playing golf. But when he was 15, he tore his shoulder, abruptly ending his dream.

"It was devastating ending a sport that I had loved," Carpenter says. Despite the setback, Carpenter was told he would be able to play golf.

"I was not good at it," he says. "But my dad took me out on the course, and I just kept practicing every day at my swing and learning the game. In about a year, I went from someone who couldn't break 100 to a scratch golfer. I truly got addicted to the game."

After graduating in 2010, he went on to play at South Dakota State University. He consistently improved his golf game, setting multiple school records, including most rounds in a year (111) and wins in a season. Immediately after graduating, he decided to take the next step professionally.

Carpenter won the North Star Open in 2016 – comprised of five tournaments at various courses in Minnesota – and played four other events in the Dakotas Tour in addition to winning the Bobcat North Dakota Open. Currently, Carpenter is playing in the Mackenzie Tour in Canada for a portion of 2017. His goal is to finish in the top 25, which would earn him a spot in the final stage of Qualifying School (Q-School) for a spot on the Web.com Tour.

Carpenter is playing in the Bobcat North Dakota Open again in 2017, with hopes of winning the tournament, and getting one step closer to the PGA tour.

"I really love the sport and am committed to playing my best game I can each week," he says. "I try to continue to practice, meet with my coaches to improve on my game, and stick to the processes that have been successful for me so far. I'm looking forward to the future and what it holds for me."



## A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER: FARGO NATIVE NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Corrin Jones-Kremer is not one to seek recognition, but 11 years of volunteering at the Bobcat North Dakota Open have not gone unnoticed. To recognize her efforts, she has been named this year's Volunteer of the Year.

Jones-Kremer began giving her time to the Bobcat North Dakota Open after a friend asked her to help run the scoring tents and run miscellaneous errands.

"I'm not a golfer and had no idea what I was doing the first time I volunteered," Jones-Kremer laughs. "I soon caught on, and really enjoyed learning about the game of golf."

After completing her first day, Jones-Kremer was hooked and has worked the scoring tent for all three days of the North Dakota Open since.

"The event benefits The Village Family Service Center, helping raise money for countless individuals and families in the Fargo area," Jones-Kremer says. "It is such a worthy cause, and I want to give back any way I can."

Since 1984, the Bobcat North Dakota Open has benefited many worthwhile programs at The Village Family Service Center. The Village is dedicated to strengthening individuals, families and organizations through behavior health services.

In addition to volunteering at the Bobcat North Dakota Open, Jones-Kremer spends her time helping at a local pet rescue agency, Habitat for Humanity and participating in fundraising efforts through her employer, US Bank.



## THE BEST GREENS IN TOWN – Fargo Country Club Super's Experience and Dedication Helps Transform Course into Champion Playing Field

Restoring a 210-acre golf course to its former glory is not a project most people willingly take on. But for Iowa native Aaron Porter, it was a challenge he was eager to undertake after becoming superintendent of the Fargo Country Club nine years ago.

"Before taking this job, I had never been to Fargo," Porter says. "I had always loved the North country, so when I saw the course, I jumped at the opportunity. The course was tired and a bit outdated, but I could see its potential."

Bringing the greens back to life wasn't something that happened overnight. In fact, Porter dealt with many setbacks, including continuous flooding from the Red River.

"During my first six years, I experienced 16 floods," he says. "I never had 18 holes continuously open for more than a few months at a time."

To bring the greens back to life, Porter and his crew of 25 built a floodwall that now protects five holes along the back nine of the golf course from the overflowing riverbanks. He also incorporated a strict maintenance schedule that he had learned while working at the Wakonda Club and the Des Moines Golf and Country Club in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Starting at 5 a.m., we mow the greens once, if not twice, set up the tees and check the moisture levels," Porter says. "We make sure the levels are at 15 to 18 percent in the morning and continue to moderate at noon and the evening. We

determine how the greens are doing by the look, touch and feel."

The daily maintenance alone, not including trim mowing, weeding or checking moisture levels, takes 10 crew members four hours to complete. When prepping for this year's Bobcat North Dakota Open, Porter says all hands will be on deck.

"We will have 20 crew members at minimum working on mowing tees, greens and fairways every morning from 5 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.," Porter says. "Our job is to provide golfers playing in the Bobcat North Dakota Open an unbeatable experience they can't get anywhere else. When they walk away, we want them to be proud of what they accomplished. I take pride in knowing that I can help make that happen."

By following strict maintenance practices, the 18-hole championship course is one of the top-ranked private golf courses in North Dakota and has one of the fastest greens in the area. Currently, the green speeds stimp no lower than 10 or 11, which is the highest speed rating Porter says he has experienced as superintendent.

"I have a phenomenal crew and staff that work toward a shared goal to provide members and golfers who are on the Dakotas Tour a quality experience each day they are playing," Porter says. "I'm proud to see the progression of the Fargo Country Club greens since I started. The course is next level; it is championship golf."



## BOBCAT COMPANY DONATES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION TO THE VILLAGE

Since 1984, Bobcat Company has donated more than \$1 million to benefit programs of The Village Family Service Center, an organization designed to improve the quality of lives of individuals, families and organizations.

The charitable partnership is a true testament to Bobcat's long history of community involvement.



## 2006 ND OPEN WINNER SCHULTZ CONTINUES HIS PASSION FOR GOLF AS HEAD PRO AT MAPLE RIVER GOLF COURSE

Fargo native and professional golfer Dave Schultz has lived and breathed golf, quite literally, for more than 15 years. Now he's on the other side of the sport as general manager and head pro at the Maple River Golf Course in Mapleton, North Dakota, located only 8 miles away from his hometown. He spends his day managing staff at the club and giving weekly lessons to up-and-coming golfers.

"Golf has always been my focus," Schultz says. "When the job opened in 2016, I jumped at the opportunity. I really underestimated the amount of joy I have with clients to inspire and guide them to be the best they can be."

Schultz turned pro after graduating from Texas Christian University in 2006, the same year he won the Bobcat North Dakota Open, and continued to have a successful professional full-time career for 10 years. In 2014, he married Kelsey, and they now have a 10-month-old daughter.

"My priorities over the years have shifted from golf full-time to my family," he says. "Working at Maple River allows me to spend time with my family and be connected to those in the community through the game of golf. It's rewarding seeing my clients grow in their golf game."

Although Schultz doesn't play professionally full time, he does make it a priority to be around golf as much as he possibly can, including participating in the Bobcat North Dakota Open. To date, he has played in eight North Dakota Open tournaments over the course of his career. He plans to play again this year.

"Growing up, I practically lived at the Fargo Country Club," Schultz says. "It's a beautiful golf course, plus playing in my hometown is always very special. I can't wait to get back on the course."