



— WELCOME TO THE —
57TH ANNUAL
BOBCAT
NORTH DAKOTA OPEN
THE FARGO COUNTRY CLUB

2020 BOBCAT OPEN WINNER ANDRE METZGER RETURNS FOR COMPETITION IN 2021



Two-time Bobcat Open winner Andre Metzger is coming back to the 2021 Bobcat Open in hopes of a third title. He won the tournament in 2020 with a two stroke lead.

Metzger, who has been participating in the Bobcat Open for more than a decade, reflected on his 2020 win saying, “It was a battle, then I got a good break on 17. I was able to capitalize, and then I kind of knew I had it.”

Golf was not always Metzger’s sport of choice. He grew up focusing on baseball, but at age 17 when a shoulder injury kept him from pitching and throwing, he turned to golf. The summer following his injury, he won three junior events and was recruited by colleges to play golf. Metzger’s passion for athletics was inspired by his dad and namesake, Andrew Metzger, who is a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Metzger, who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, has a reputable list of accolades from his career on the Dakotas Tour. He made the cut 10 years in a row, has twice been named Player of the Year, and won the North Dakota Open Championship two times. Through all his experience, Metzger says the Bobcat Open is the best course to play on the Dakotas Tour. He compliments how it has always had a “big tournament feel.”



A GREAT GOLF EVENT
 HELPING KIDS AND FAMILIES
 BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
 Bobcat ND Open



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
 @BobcatNDOpen #BobcatNDOpen

BOBCAT EMPLOYEE BEN POTTER NAMED 2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Ben Potter, sales incentive financial analyst for Bobcat, has been named the 2021 Volunteer of the Year. Ben has been with Doosan Bobcat for 20 years and over the last 12 years has volunteered for the Bobcat Open Tournament.

Always a positive presence, Ben enjoys ball spotting and assisting players finding wayward shots. This role helps keep a nice pace of play for participants and in some cases can save strokes. He is proud to be

a part of the event and finds joy in getting others involved. "I really enjoy volunteering at the tournament and sharing my enthusiasm with others with hopes they will get involved," says Potter.

Potter is honored to be recognized – he says, "I am thankful for this acknowledgment knowing there are many great contributors and volunteers that make this event a success every year."



LONGSTANDING PARTICIPANT DARRELL BURKLAND NAMED HONORARY CHAIRMAN

Darrell Burkland has been playing golf since he was 11 years old. His passion started when he came across the sport in the newspaper. From there, his father found him a 3 iron and 4 iron at a sale following a fire at a local store and he started practicing in the backyard with a tin cup. While the set wasn't complete, it instilled in him a love of the game that he's carried throughout his life.

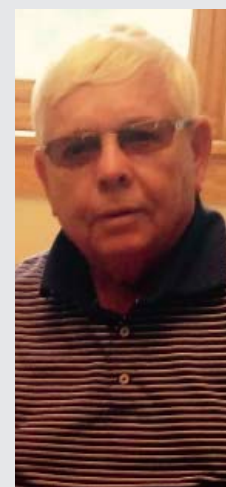
Burkland participated in the second ever Bobcat Open event

and has been an annual guest ever since. In 1995, he finished first in his division. The tournament was held in honor of Steve White, who passed away in a car accident earlier that year. Burkland states, "The 1995 tournament was extra special for me to win because the tournament was dedicated to Steve White."

Burkland, reflecting on some of his fondest memories from the tournament over the years, recalls his favorite professional

to be paired with: Frank Nobilo, a New Zealand native who won 15 professional golf tours around the world and is an announcer for CBS Sports. During his career, Burkland also won North Dakota Seniors Division four times, and boasts that he's shot his age or better approximately 400 times, the first at age 72.

Burkland is honored to be a part of this event. He loves seeing the event grow over the years and the opportunities for all divisions.



BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT

Tournament director and former head professional for the Fargo Country Club Mark Johnson is looking forward to marking another year with the Bobcat Open. Mark worked for the Fargo Country Club for the past 16 years, leaving in April 2021 to focus on his role with Suite Shots, the outdoor golf entertainment facility being built in Fargo. He's had a celebrated PGA career since 1995.

2021 will see Johnson complete his 16th year as tournament director, drawn back every year as he enjoys seeing community come together. "The last five years, we have seen an increase on amateur interest level and the level of play of those has improved. There is more of a variety of skill levels wanting to participate. This event helps golfers reach a steppingstone in their career and prepare for next level tournaments," says Johnson.

During his golf career, which spans approximately three decades, Johnson played in the 2005 tournament before being named tournament director in 2006. He was awarded Dakota Chapter PGA Golf Pro of the Year, Dakota Chapter Teacher of the Year twice and made the cut once during a tournament.

Johnson appreciates the tournament bringing the community together every year.

JACOB SKARPERUD LEADS NEW GENERATION

For those in the golf world, there's no greater joy than seeing youth find their passion for the game of golf. Jacob Skarperud, a Shanley High School golfer, played in the Bobcat Open for the first time last year, winning the amateur championship.

Skarperud is a creature of habit and appreciates routine when he is playing. As a testament to his routine, his warmup includes hitting the same number of balls with the same sequence of clubs. He then moves to the putting green where he repeats the process of a specific number of practice putts prior to the round. Every time he plays, he marks the ball right before putting and doesn't use the ball again until he is on the first tee.

Being paired with Fargo native Dave Schultz was a memorable experience for Jacob. Skarperud appreciated Schultz's mentorship and willingness to help everyone around him. In September 2020, Schultz played the best game of his life, hitting a hole in one and setting the Fargo Country Club course record. Schultz, the former golf pro at Maple River Golf Club, started 2021 on a cross country venture to follow his PGA dreams.

Jacob is thrilled to return for the 2021 Bobcat Open and loves being a part of an event that is well known. Going into the event, he is focused on doing his best and enjoying the game he loves.



Jacob Skarperud (left) and Mark Johnson (right)



LOCAL TALENT CAREER UPDATES

Amy Olson, an Oxbow, North Dakota native, played college golf at North Dakota State University (NDSU). Her career continues to flourish in the LPGA as she recently finished in the top 20 of the Meijer LPGA Classic in Belmont, Michigan. Her strongest finish in 2021 came at the U.S. Women's Open in San Francisco, California, where she placed 12th. In the past, Olson played in the Bobcat ND Open and is a current Fargo Country Club member.

Tom Hoge, a Fargo native, burst on the golf scene while in high school, being named North Dakota's Most Outstanding Golfer his senior year. He attended Texas Christian University and during his college career, won two events and tied for third in the individual portion of the 2009 NCAA Golf Championship.

The 2021 season has brought Hoge a great deal of success, including a top 50 finish at the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in San Diego, California, where he shot seven over. Hoge celebrated his best finish at the Mayakoba Golf Classic at the El Camaleón Golf Course at Mayakoba in Playa del Carmen, and placed at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and Valero Texas Open. Tom was the pro champ at the Bobcat ND Open in 2017 and took the amateur championship in 2006.

