



— WELCOME TO THE —
58TH ANNUAL
BOBCAT
NORTH DAKOTA OPEN
THE FARGO COUNTRY CLUB

BOBCAT OPEN NEWSLETTER



DAVID SCHULTZ

Head Professional at Fargo Country Club

As someone who was born and raised in the Fargo area, the Bobcat Open has always been special for David Schultz.

“Growing up in Fargo and at the Fargo Country Club, it was great every year to see the professional golfers come from all around the country to play in this city and the FCC,” Schultz recalls. The Fargo Country Club has been Schultz’s home course since he picked up the game of golf, and he appreciates the caliber of this event and the draw it has to attract the best field this area sees every year. This is also a special tournament for Schultz, having won the event in 2006 at the age of 23.

In addition to drawing some big names to the FCC, Schultz also acknowledges the positive impact the tournament has on the local community, specifically by supporting The Village Family Service Center. Schultz said: “I think it’s fantastic what the Village does for our community. I enjoy getting to spend time with the bigs and littles during our golf clinic during event week. Seeing how the bigs interact with the littles and the connection they have is really cool. He goes on to say that the event is a perfect marriage of championship golf, great sponsorship and a wonderful cause. “You can’t beat it.”

Having played in the tournament multiple times over the years, Schultz has many fond memories, but the most memorable moment was the year he won the event, specifically the final hole where he ended up making a long-range putt to secure the win. He described another moment that is special in more ways than one, telling us: “Another would be a hole-in-one on the seventh hole while playing with my dad as my amateur partner. He went crazy and we had a cool moment. He passed away in 2018, and I think of him every time I play the seventh in the tournament.”



**ANDRE
METZGER**
Defending Champion

Fast facts:

- Average driving distance: 297.5 yards
- Driving accuracy percentage: 57.25%
- Greens in regulation percentage: 64.86%
- Putting average: 1.732
- Birdie average: 3.80
- Scoring average: 70.07
- Turned pro in 2007
- In the Air Tonight by Natalie Taylor would be his intro song



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



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NICK LAKODUK

Honorary Chairman

Over the years, Nick Lakoduk has had many roles in the Bobcat Open: caddying for his father when he was in grade school, working the event as an FCC golf shop employee, participating as a contestant for many years, and he is now the honorary chairman. When asked why he continues to be part of the Bobcat Open, Lakoduk's answer came easy. "The Bobcat Open, to me, is the result of many great people coming together for the betterment of golf and the community of Fargo/Moorhead as a whole." He goes on to say that "every year I play I feel fortunate to see many friends from the golf community, and the years I'm unable to compete I miss the experience greatly."

Having played in the tournament so many times over the years, there are many fond memories to look back on, but when asked what his most memorable moment from past years playing the Bobcat Open, Lakoduk remembered one in particular. He recalls playing alongside Dean North and Kane and Tom Hanson in 2004 when Dean North, a professional at the time, set the then course record at FCC and went on to win the tournament.

One of the most important parts of the Bobcat Open is the community aspect, particularly supporting the Village Family Service Center as an organization that allows individuals the opportunity to better themselves in many ways. Lakoduk firmly believes in this organization and the good work they are doing and emphasizes the importance of giving back and helping those in need. "I believe deeply that the greatest impact a person has on this world is how they choose to give back to others." Lakoduk adds that "time is our most valuable asset" and that everyone involved in supporting the Village should be very proud.

Lakoduk will be getting back on the links to play in this year's tournament and is excited to play alongside, and compete against, many great friends. Additionally, he is hopeful that the community will come out and support the players but also remember the impact that any donation can have, big or small. After all, Lakoduk commented that "we all get by with a little help from our friends." And we couldn't agree more.

BRADY CALKINS

Coming back for his fifth year, Brady Calkins is excited to finish the season with the Bobcat Open at what he calls the best course on the tour. Another reason Calkins looks forward to this tournament every year is because of the late Russell Newman who was an avid golfer and businessman in the Fargo area. Newman was inducted into the North Dakota Golf Association Hall of Fame in 2000 and was a very influential person in Calkins' life, which is one of the reasons he looks forward to this tournament year after year.

When asked about the tournament's support of the Village Family Service Center, Calkins expressed that he is always looking for ways to support the community by doing what he loves – golfing.



ANDREW ISRAELSON

Although he is not playing in the Bobcat Open this year, Andrew Israelson has a good reason why. After an impressive run on the Dakotas Tour earlier this year, Israelson finished two under for the tournament at Home Course in Washington, which earned him conditional PGA Tour Canada Status, and he will be competing in Brainerd on the PGA Tour Canada the same weekend as the Bobcat Open.

Reminiscing on his time playing the Bobcat Open last year, Israelson noted that being from Minnesota and being an NDSU graduate, it's incredible for him to have the opportunity to play so close to home and on such an epic course. He said, "It's a great last hurrah for all the guys on the tour." The relationships are another aspect of what makes this event special, adding that it is great to see family and friends and connect with past players.

With the Bobcat Open being the last event on the Dakotas Tour, Israelson appreciates that players can close out the season with a charity event where amateurs can raise money for a good cause.



JEFF SORENSON

As a long-time participant in the Bobcat Open, Jeff Sorenson keeps coming back for more – since 2001 he has only missed this event once. Sorenson enjoys the atmosphere of the tournament and the fun aspect of being mixed in with the amateurs for the first two days. Sorenson has many fond moments looking back on his previous years playing the Bobcat Open, but he points out that his two third-place finishes and his eagle in front of a huge crowd on hole 17 as two of his highlights. Although he has had some good finishes and has enjoyed each of his experiences playing, he still has hopes to win it all someday.

One aspect of the tournament that Sorenson appreciates is the charity component of the tournament and giving back to the local community and the Village specifically. "I think that's a great part about golf and I think it's great that they do that up in Fargo."

In addition to having success at the Bobcat Open, Sorenson recently played in the PGA Tour event at the TPC Club in Minneapolis. Overall he feels good about how he performed but admitted that he missed a few shots that cost him, and ended up missing the cut. Despite this, he learned a lot and had strong support staff, which really was an energizing feeling. It all made the week very memorable.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

HONORING MICHAEL LOCHOW

It is with deepest sympathy that we award this year's Volunteer of the Year award posthumously to Michael Lochow. We were recently able to speak with Michael's brother-in-law, Ron, about Michael's experience with the Bobcat Open and his passion for giving back to his community.

This would have been Michael's twelfth year volunteering at the Bobcat Open. He loved the social aspect, especially meeting all of the golfers and other volunteers associated with the event and working in the scorer's tent, which he did every year. Michael's passion for giving back to the community shone through in many ways: he volunteered with other local non-profit organizations that helped disabled children, and he also served as a clerk for his Presbyterian Church for many years before he passed away.

Ron was unable to recall a specific moment from previous years at the Bobcat Open that stood out, but he said that this event was a highlight of the year for Michael. In addition to being passionate about giving back and helping those in his community, Michael was also an avid golfer who loved the game.

