

The Magnificent Red Hawk, Redux



Photo by Art McCallarty

Art Hills with PGA Professional, Jody Ellis, host Michigan Media Championship at Red Hawk.

By Mike Duff

Golfing up north is a privilege for me. Southeastern Michigan, where I reside, offers plenty of terrific golf

courses to choose from, but when I have the chance to travel north to experience the deep woods, abundant vegetation and the spectacular terrain and beauty of the northern courses, I jump at the chance. One course in partic-

ular that I love to play is Red Hawk—located 5 miles from Lake Huron on Davison Road in East Tawas. Arthur Hills carved this beauty out of 205 acres of forest in the classic style of courses of the 1920's and 30's.

I got my chance again to play Red Hawk earlier this month when I attended the 2005 Michigan Media Championship event sponsored by Red Hawk and the Iosco County Community Foundation. The Foundation serves the Iosco County residents in the areas of Education, Healthcare, Arts & Humanities, Lakes and Rivers, Recreation and Youth. Print and broadcast personalities from around the state were there not only to enjoy the golf but also to lend support to the community and to promote golf around the state. Arthur Hills, the course architect, was also on hand to help celebrate this event. Heidi Dewald and Jody Ellis deserve a lot of credit and thanks for making the Michigan Media Championship a huge success.

Red Hawk was a splendor choice to hold this event and show off its magnificent venue and to draw attention to the Arthur Hills Michigan Golf Trail courses that are located throughout the Midwest. [http:// www.ArthurHillsTrail.com](http://www.ArthurHillsTrail.com)

Voted "The 4th Best Public Course in Michigan" in 2001, Red Hawk may now be the best in Michigan based on what I experienced. Red Hawk's beauty, quality, and challenge provide golfers with the total package.

Trying to distinguish my favorite holes becomes a serious challenge because each one has a unique blend of pine, oak, maple, beech and birch trees lining the fairways. Greens provide generous landing areas for your approach shots. I must, in all good conscience, call your attention to three holes that stand out in my mind.

Hole number 3 is by far my favorite and can only be compared to the signature hole (Hole Number 6) at the Robert Trent Jones course at Treetops. You must be accurate, or this par three will turn into an easy double or triple bogey. This is a spectacular golf hole.

Number seven is next. A par 5 is the longest hole on the course and can be even longer depending on the winds. You must get within 170 yards of the green on your second shot or you're facing a blind shot downhill into a slight dogleg left green.

The back nine sets up a little differently and offers some unique shot making strategies. However, the hole that makes you work for every shot is number sixteen. A par 5 has you aiming right of a fairway bunker that sits 40 yards in front of the wetland area. Your second shot must be long in order to have a full swing into an elevated green that is difficult to hold.

I could go on, but you need to experience Red Hawk for yourself. I assure you that you won't be disappointed in the course and all the amenities that go with it. The course is in great shape and the service is exceptional. I can't wait to play it again and again and again..... *MG*

