**Golf Digestion**

**5/2/16: Practice**

**Course – Charlie Yates**

**Par – 30**

**Score – 38**

**Putts – 19**

**F/G – 1, 2**

**3 putts – 2**

**Double Bogeys – 2**

**Bogeys – 4**

**Pars – 3**

**Notes: Irons were inconsistent, wedge game needs work. Putting would have been fruitful if the speed of the greens were more consistent. Had a couple of recovery pars, but gave some bogeys up with poor putting. Was playing with a group of 4 so not much room to mess around with different tee shots. Looking forward to playing a ball from each tee next time I play yates.**

**What needs the most work: wedges from 60 yards and in, putting.**

**5/4/16: Fun round with Jeremy**

**Course – Mystery Valley**

**Par 72**

**Score: 86**

**Putts: 38**

**F/G: Front 9 – 4 fairways/3 greens Back 9 – no record**

**3 putts: 4**

**Triple Bogeys: 1**

**Double Bogeys: 3**

**Bogeys: 5**

**Pars: 10**

**Notes: 1 – Par 5, Third shot 10’ right, 2 putt par**

**2 – Par 3, Tee shot thin, bad putting, bogey**

**3 – Par 4, perfect tee shot, 2nd shot on green, birdie putt went amateur side, par**

**4 – Par 3, Not enough club off tee (wind knocked it down), poor bump n run, putt went low side, bogey**

**5 – Par 4, Played through the trees, poor short game, double**

**6 – Par 4, decent tee shot, average iron play, 2-putt par**

**7 – Par 5, Great tee shot, second shot well right of green, poor 3rd shot, nice recovery shot, 1 putt par**

**8 – Par 4, Tee shot blocked short of bunker on right, 2nd shot on fringe, 2 putt par**

**9 – Par 4, tee shot in fairway, 2nd shot on green, missed 6’ par putt**

**No notes on back 9.**

**Overall played decent. Back out at Mystery for a full 18 was nice. Feeling the swing come back, and feeling the urge to work out and do yoga. Had some decent short game shots and the driver still feels pretty good but putting can use major improvement as well as bump n run shots with unfamiliar clubs/lies.**

**Looking forward to playing 3+ times a week again. Want to get back with Mike Lipnick for a lesson soon and talk about practice regiment.**

**What needs most work: Putting first priority, second priority would be short game.**

**Equipment changes: New grips are needed on wedges and putter. Loft/lie adjustments following a fitting. No new clubs necessary, though a 15\* 3 wood or a loft adjustment to current 13\* 3 wood may be a good idea.**

**5/8/16: Oddball**

**Course – Mystery Valley**

**Par 72**

**Score: 87**

**Putts: 35**

**F/G: Front 9 – 6 fairways/2 greens Back 9 – 5 fairways/3 greens (11/5 total)**

**3 putts: 4**

**Triple Bogeys: 0**

**Double Bogeys: 4**

**Bogeys: 9**

**Pars: 3**

**Birdies: 2**

**Notes:**

**Front 9 – 47**

**1 – Par 5, Great tee shot, great 7 iron 2nd shot, 50\* approach was too much club, poor short game; 1 putt bogey**

**2 – Par 3, Decent 8 iron off tee but was not enough club, this hole had an illegal pin placement which was confirmed and apologized for by superintendent, 4 putted for a 5, but realistically should have been bogey at worst; double bogey**

**3 – Par 4, hooked 3 hybrid into water, dropped and hit 9 iron over green, poor short game; 2 putt for double bogey**

**4 – Par 3, 6 iron was perfect distance off the tee, but had a little too much draw with a 2-club wind into the face. Poor short game; bogey**

**5 – Par 4, Pushed a thin 3 wood into the trees on right side, got an incredible kick out into middle of the fairway. Hit a solid pitching wedge from 147 that rode the wind and almost made birdie; 2-putt par**

**6 – Par 4, Complete miscue on tee shot, topped the driver about 120 yards, hit a 3 wood from 237 out uphill, faded into greenside bunker. Hit a nice clean sand shot but it had a little too much heat. 2 putted from the fringe; bogey.**

**7 – Par 5, Hit another poor drive that was topped (quick wrists), Hit a solid 3 wood out of bounds. Dropped out and played a 50\* wedge within par putt distance, but 3-putted; Double bogey**

**8 – Par 4, Striped a driver to the right side of the fairway, waited on the group in front of us for quite a while before chunking a 58\* wedge far short of the green. Second attempt made the green – from 50 yds out - but was nothing special; 2-putt par**

**9 – Par 4, Striped another drive down the middle of the fairway, hit another subpar 58\* wedge shot to the back right fringe about 20 ft away; 3-putt par**

**Back 9 - 40**

**10 – Par 5, Nice tee shot to right side of fairway, 6 iron was perfect club to green in 2, but missed right because of aim, was trying to avoid greenside bunker. Chunked my first chip, and rushed my second chip which coincidentally hit the pin and got stuck in the hole; birdie**

**11 – Par 3, Missed far right with a 4 iron into the sand, blasted sand shot way over, hit a nice comeback chip and drained the putt; bogey**

**12 – Par 4, Hit a safe 6 iron off the tee, misjudged the distance I needed for the hole and ended up having to hit a 5 iron through trees on the inside of the sharp dogleg left. The 5i was hooked left after passing through the trees but left a difficult pitch that ended up about 15 feet away. Almost drained the par putt; 2-putt bogey**

**13 – Par 4, Drilled a drive down the middle, hit a safe 58\* wedge onto the green; 2-putt par**

**14 – Par 5, Hit a high tee shot with a draw that was magnified by the strong wind and pushed into the trees on the left side, first punch shot off of a super-awkward stance with 4 iron hit a tree, second shot went through the fairway, hit a 6 iron from the right rough to about 15 feet and proceeded to 3-putt what could have been an awesome recovery par; double bogey**

**15 – Par 4, Hit a solid 5 iron off the tee, had a funky lie in the fairway on some settled ground over what looked like an irrigation pipe, led to me pulling my second 5 iron left of the green. Very nearly saved par; 2-putt bogey**

**16 – Par 3, Pushed a 9 iron right of the green then hit a poor short chip about fifteen feet past the hole. Felt like Pop Pop was watching me make the par putt and it slid into the side of the cup; Par**

**17 – Par 4, Hit a heavy draw off the toe of the driver into the left rough then hit a solid 50\* wedge on the green. Could have been better putting; 3-putt bogey**

**18 – Par 4, Best hole of the day and a great way to finish. Drilled a drive down the right side and it kicked off a hill leaving me with a 125 yd shot downwind from the middle of the fairway. I hit a 50\* wedge to about 3 feet and drained the putt; 1-putt birdie**

**Thoughts:**

**Glad to get out at the MV dogfight again. Sunday mornings can be a regular game for me again, and the competition feeling of the possibility of making some money adds a bit of pressure. For the first time in a long time I had a round that started very subpar and ended well to save a disastrous round. 40 on the back 9, no matter how I got there, feels pretty good. Breaking 80 at Mystery Valley is just a few strokes away.**

**Wedge game needs serious work. This is a blaring hole in my game right now that is making my putting seem alright in comparison (which is not). Every once in a while I’ll have a solid shot with a wedge, especially the 50\* from around 115 yards, but the game around the greens needs most work. Talked with Dad about a few practice routines. Going to buy 3 five-gallon buckets and a few cheap towels to practice shots from varying distances less than 40 yards. Also going to start cleaning up the range, so the wedge game should benefit from the extra half bucket of balls a few times a week. 3 two-hour sessions per week is the goal, focused mainly on short game for now.**

**Equipment changes: In dire need of new grips on my wedges, irons are starting to get dry and my 3-wood and 3-hybrid could use an upgrade from the stock grip. Putter grip is starting to dry out and peel apart, looking to upgrade that soon as well. Planning on buying some practice pro-v’s from a fellow employee at E.L. for shag-bag use.**

**5/9/16: Scramble**

**Course: Mystery Valley**

**Played in a best ball scramble today. The team shot 59 gross and net 40. I claimed a 12 and the other three were 20+. Started on the 7th hole with an eagle after a solid drive and 6 iron to 15 feet. 8 and 9 were pars, and 10 a stretch of a birdie. 11 was a par after no one put a tee shot on the green. 12 was a birdie and 13 was a par. 14 no one put a good drive off the tee and everyone else hit their shots before I hit a nice 3 wood to the green. We almost made eagle but settled for birdie. 15 we played a safe par. 16 was a poor tee shot hole, but one of the guys drained the birdie from the fringe. 17 and 18 were birdies after nice play through the hole. Number 1 we were 55 yards out on our second shot and we all played shots off the green. The group took a mulligan and put it on my shoulders, which I holed out for eagle. Number 2 we ended up with a 2-putt par. After we had one safe in the fairway on number 3 I tried to work a 3 wood around the extreme dogleg left, and hit a perfect shot that ended up about 20 yards out. We chipped up to 5 feet and made birdie. Number 4 we got a free birdie from one of the sponsors on the course (through donation). Number 5 we ended up with a drive that left us a short shot in but could not convert for birdie. Number 6 (number 1 handicap hole) we put one tight and finished with a birdie.**

**Team gross best ball: 59, net 40.**

**Thoughts: Wedge game still needs work, would love a new grip on the putter and 58\* wedge, if not all the wedges and 3w/3h. Would feel cleaner. Was nice to get a win in after not playing in a tournament since the same one last year.**

**5/14/16: Oddball**

**Course – Mystery Valley**

**Par 72**

**Score: 83**

**Putts: 35**

**F/G: Front 9 – 3 fairways/5 greens Back 9 – 3 fairways/2 greens (6/7 total)**

**3 putts: 4**

**Sand saves: 1 of 2**

**Woods/trees: 7**

**Water: 0**

**O.B.: 0**

**Triple Bogeys: 1**

**Double Bogeys: 1**

**Bogeys: 8**

**Pars: 7**

**Birdies: 1**

**Notes:**

**Front Nine: 41**

**1 – Par 5, Pulled drive far left, second shot was a thin pitching wedge which clipped a tree and almost went into a bunker, got a really good break. Pushed a 58\* wedge about 12 feet right, 2 putt par**

**2 – Par 3, Great 9 iron off the tee below the hole about 4 feet, drained the putt, birdie**

**3 – Par 4, 3-wood off the tee the exact same way I hit it during the tournament, except this time went to the middle of the fairway. Wanted to capitalize on the good position with a wedge, but my wedge game needs a little more work. Put it to about 18 feet, almost made birdie, 2 putt par**

**4 – Par 3, 5 iron off the tee was thin, felt swing getting quick, but the ball ended up on the green about 25’ from the hole. Really firm first putt went far past the hole, 3-putt bogey**

**5 – Par 4, Driver off the tee was crushed down to 53 yards, hit a 58\* wedge to 10’ and barely missed the birdie putt, 2 putt par**

**6 – Par 4, On the tee had the thought “the fairway is wide open” and swung out of my shoes, push faded the ball very far right and had to come out of trouble a bit with a 4 iron that was left short of the green. Chipping did not put me next to the hole, 2-putt bogey**

**7 – Par 5, Frustrated about the previous hole, tried to crush a drive and topped it. Had a severe downhill lie and a long ways to the hole, ended up topping a 3-wood. A bit further down the hole, creamed a 3 hybrid into the trees on the left, which ended up having a blocked shot from a large pine tree when it fell. Tried to hook a 6 iron around the tree, ended up hitting it straighter than intended, into a bunker. Hit a poor bunker shot over the green, and that was followed by a poor lag putt, 3-putt triple bogey**

**8 – Par 4, Settled back down on the tee and hit a solid drive down the right side that was 63 yards out from the green. Pulled my 58\* wedge to the left fringe, 3-putt bogey**

**9 – Par 4, Pulled my drive with quick hands, ended up with an angle to the green but hit my pitching wedge over the green. A poor chip followed, 2 putt bogey**

**Back Nine: 42**

**10 – Par 5, Driver was pulled far left and got a somewhat good kick off of a tree, ending up in bounds but had to punch out with a 4 iron that ran through the fairway. Had 158 into the green with a decent lie, hit a 9 iron thin and left of the green. Had a fantastic chip up to the hole, 1 putt par**

**11 – Par 3, 5 iron short of the green, wrong club for the distance (198 with a touch of wind in the face). Hit a marvelous chip up to the hole about 1 foot away and one of the other gentlemen gave the putt and hit it back to me, 1 putt par**

**12 – Par 4, Tried to recreate the shot from #3, hooking it around the trees, but hit the ball dead straight into the trees on the right side. Had a decent shot at the green but in trying to keep the ball low I ended up turning it over and left it pretty far left of the green with a severe downhill lie. Hit a pitch shot that, in my book, was pretty amazing considering my level of skill with the wedge right now, but being 12 feet away made for a tough putt. Almost made the par putt, 2 putt bogey**

**13 – Par 4, Pulled drive pretty far left and ended up getting another good break, pulled my 9 iron over to an awkward downhill lie and had to stop the ball on a raised green which did not end well. Made a decent putt up the hill then a 5 footer after that, 2 putt bogey**

**14 – Par 5, Hit a great drive to the right side of the fairway with about 260 in, aim was off but hit a pure 3 wood that unfortunately ended up clipping a tree and dropping straight down. Hit a 9 iron that ended up on the back of the green, a pitching wedge would have been next to the hole. Poor putting, 3 putt bogey**

**15 – Par 4, Hit a 4 iron thin and right. Had a decent, slightly up hill lie. Pulled another with my 3 hybrid, and chunked a chip. Second chip was better, but not stuck tight. 2 putt double bogey**

**16 – Par 3, Hit a thin 7 iron that ended up safely on the green and left my birdie putt short but definitely on the line with enough speed. 2-putt par**

**17 – Par 4, Hit a good drive to the left side, just outside the fairway, and pushed my 50\* wedge, followed by a chunked pitch shot. Chip shot after that was put to 1 foot, 1 putt bogey**

**18 – Par 4, Drive was a high flying draw that ended up in the left side rough, followed by a pushed 54\* wedge that ended up in a greenside bunker. Hit an awesome shot out of the sand to 3 feet, 1 putt par**

**Thoughts:**

**Re-gripped all of my wedges, my 3-wood and 3 hybrid, as well as my putter yesterday. Cleaned the bag up a bit last night.**

**Played in the oddball and was shooting for 24, made 26. No money from the birdie on 2. Felt a lot better about my recovery game today than last week, but full swing needs a little mechanical work on the range. Wedges felt a touch better after the bucket practice I put in yesterday after work. Still need to work on short game a ton. Hoping to get started cleaning the range at E.L. this week. Started off super hot, and got a little bit in my head feeling the nerves starting on 6 thinking that I could shoot a personal best being even par through 5. Need a better method of resetting for each particular shot. Pregame routine works well enough to get focused, but the big picture creeps in from time to time. The blowup on 7 was isolated, which is good news for overall mental game progress. Felt very good about how the back nine started, but didn’t get any back. The drives that I hit well were hit with reasonable strength swings, and the ones that were missed were ones I either tried to crush or did not feel completely comfortable over. Irons just need range work and the punch out shots in particular need better vision, mostly within knowing trajectory and stance position of the ball. Within 15 and 75 yards of the green I could have saved at least 5 shots today and another 3-5 strokes with putting. Overall felt very sound playing today, felt like I did not let the triple bogey beat me with as much golf as there was left to play. In terms of the stableford I scored points on 16 of 18 holes, which I found to be a success from last week’s 14 of 18. A few more rounds at different courses, particularly Stone Mountain lakemont and stonemont, Golf Club of Georgia, Cherokee Run and Heritage are on my radar in the short-term for analysis rounds and to get a better idea of how well my game is traveling right now. There is a possibility of an East Lake play day coming soon.**

**For the 7 holes I hit the green in regulation, I was 1 over par. For the 11 holes I did not, I was 10 over par. Two of my four 3-putts were on holes that I made the green in regulation. I made up and downs for par on three holes (10, 11, 18). For the 6 holes I hit the fairway in regulation, I was 5 over par with one double bogey. For the 8 holes I did not, I was 7 over.**

**Plan:**

**In the next week I plan to practice Tuesday afternoon on short game after a round at Charlie Yates, 1 ball from each tee box. Thursday should have time to practice after caddying. If Sunday morning is open, will try to get back to the oddball. Itching to get back into more competition and feel more pressure while playing once my game gets a little tighter. Men’s association at MV plays a tournament every 3rd Saturday of the month with a 1-time forty-dollar initiation fee to the group. MV also offers a 1-calendar year membership for something like 800 bucks. Might be worth it in the long run if MV is predominant spot. If its 33 bucks to play on the weekends (walking) and I play there once a week, that is almost double what the membership would cost if the membership cost is accurate.**

**Equipment:**

**I really want to get fitted and have my current clubs adjusted to those specifications. Getting new grips on the wedges and woods made me realize how dried out my iron grips are as well. Not in a huge hurry to get more practice golf balls, as they are steadily coming in from playing and working at E.L., though a few new gloves may be in my near future.**

**5/20/16: 3 ball practice**

**Course – Charlie Yates (27 Holes)**

**Par 30**

**Score: 40, 36, 34**

**Putts: 20, 19, 19**

**F/G: F: No record G: 16/27**

**3 putts: 8**

**Sand saves: Sand traps are ground under repair at the moment**

**Woods/trees: No record**

**Water: 1**

**O.B.: 3**

**Quadruple Bogeys: 2**

**Triple Bogeys: 2**

**Double Bogeys: 1**

**Bogeys: 8**

**Pars: 10**

**Birdies: 4**

**All holes that were started with a O.B. tee shot are considered double par and given a 3 putt.**

**1 – Par 3, 1) 162 yds, downhill, hit 8 iron to 20 feet, 2 putt par. 2) 142 yds, downhill, hit pitching wedge right of green, chipped to 15’ and 2 putted for par. 3) 124 yds, hit 50\* wedge to 20 feet, 1 putt birdie.**

**2 – Par 3, lots of wind at the back 1) 180 yds, hit 7 iron O.B. right, auto double par. 2) 150 yds, hit pitching wedge to 12 feet, 2 putted for par. 3) 127 yds, hit 50\* wedge to 6’, 1 putt birdie.**

**3 – Par 4, 1) 320 yds, pull-hooked driver O.B. left, auto double par. 2) 280 yds (with wind), hit 3 wood to back left side of green, 3 putted for par. 3) 240 yds with wind at back, hit 3 hybrid O.B. right, auto double par.**

**4 – Par 3 with severe downhill slope (30+ yds), 1) 104 yds, 58\* wedge was short, bounced out of maintenance guy’s wheelbarrow into bunker under repair, dropped out and chipped to 15’ and 2-putted for bogey. 2) 72 yds, hit 58\* wedge to 8’, 2 putted for par. 3) 54 yds, hit 58\* wedge thin, behind pin about 20’ and 3 putted for bogey.**

**5 – Par 3, 1) 217 yds, hit a thin 4 iron that ended up 8 feet from the hole, 2 putted for par. 2) 170 yds with wind, hit 8 iron that was pulled left of the green into the water. Dropped and chipped to 7 feet, almost saved bogey but 2 putted for double. 3) 146 yds, hit a decent pitching wedge to right side of green, 2 putt par.**

**6 – Par 4, 1) Lined up on the back tee box which was about 330 yds, pulled driver into water. Dropped out of water 67 yds from pin, hit 58\* wedge to 10’, 1 putt par save that felt very good. Instilled some confidence back into the wedge. 2) 291 yds, hit driver that ended up on the green about 30 feet form the hole, 2 putted for birdie. 3) 242 yds, hit 3 wood pin high in the right fringe and 2 putted for birdie.**

**7 – Par 3 steep uphill, 1) 189 yds, hit 4 iron and pulled it left of green, chipped on and 2 putted for bogey. 2) 137 yds, hit a poor 9 iron that was pushed into the trees but was kicked back onto the green 60+ feet away. 3 putted for bogey. 3) 114 yds, hit 50\* wedge thin to middle of the green about 30 feet out. 3 putted for bogey.**

**8 – Par 3 severely downhill, 1) 220 yds, hit 5 iron pin high onto the left fringe, 3 putted for bogey. 2) 163 yds, hit a clean 7 iron over the green on the right hand side. Hit an awesome chip to 3’ and 1 putted for par. 3) 130 yds, hit 54\* wedge to 30 feet. Left first putt 8 feet out and drained an awesome one for par.**

**9 – Par 4, 1) 360 yds, pulled drive into left side rough, had 69 yds far uphill and hit 58\* wedge to about 50 feet. Awesome lag putt to 3 feet to save par. 2) 335 yds, topped driver into the lake, followed with a re-teed drive into the right bunker. Free drop out, hit 63 yd wedge shot to 50 feet out, 3 putted for bogey. 3) 290 yds, pulled driver into trees on the left, had a poor chip shot that led to a 3 putt bogey.**

**Thoughts: Had some good shots and putted much better than I have been recently. Was nice to hit more iron shots through a round and get a chance to make some nice up-and-downs. Overall still pulling most of my shots, but the misses are manageable. The holes that I ended up O.B. could have been bogeys or better, however the pace of play was important to keep up so I didn’t end up late for an event I had later in the day. I figured that taking an appropriate penalty would be fitting. Wedge game felt much more in check, there were a few shots that I hit very well, but a few others sprinkled in that could have been much better. Need some more short game practice for sure. No opportunity for bunker practice today. Lag putting and putts outside of 15’ are becoming more comfortable. Putts inside 10’ are entering into the ‘must and likely will make’ realm. Need to put some time into long game as well, working on lag, which has become a prominent issue. I’m pulling almost everything, and the shots that I feel very good over are still missing. A lesson may be in order shortly after the 10 rounds are up. Planning on establishing a legitimate handicap after first 10 rounds and joining the men’s association out at Mystery Valley so I can play in the monthly men’s tournament and acquire the handicap through the same fee. Would like to purchase a new 58\* wedge before any other clubs. Putter is fine, more the carpenter than the hammer on this one. Driver and 3 wood feel very good. Continuing to lose faith in my 3 hybrid. Irons are in the same boat as the putter. 50\* wedge and 54\* wedge aren’t used enough to warrant a change yet.**

**5/21/16: Short Game practice at Charlie Yates**

**Had a chance to break out the recently (almost) filled shag bag. Been collecting nicer balls, particularly Pro-V’s from E.L. while caddying, and was very excited to get out on the short game area with them. Got 4 mini sessions in, mostly working with 58\* wedge.**

**1: 30-40 yd pitch shots for warm-up/form practice. Had a few clean shots that felt very good coming off the club. Worked mostly on wrist hinge/lag control. Had a few flop shots sprinkled in as well. Won’t be attempting any flops on the course until I get a few more solid sessions in with flops.**

**2: 25-35 yd pitch shots. Focusing again on form and wrist control, and was aiming to leave myself makeable putts. The form was feeling better this time around and the wrists were becoming more of a unit. 13/48 shots were makeable putts, though 24+ is the next goal in this drill.**

**3: Worked on severe uphill shots between 50 and 80 yds. Most of the shots were hit from a blind angle, could not see anything hitting the green. Made good contact, and this drill was more about becoming visually comfortable with hitting uphill shots in order to envision the shot before hitting it with more effectiveness. Had a few shots from the 40-50 yd range that immediately felt like they were going to be close. Although I did not see anything actually drop into the cup, 2 of the 48 were holed out. 16 shots missed the green and the others were scattered around. Hard to claim which ones were makeable putts as no flag was truly being aimed at for the most part.**

**4: Bump-n-run shots from the fringe in order to start getting comfortable with pitching wedge around the greens. 30/48 shots ended up as makeable putts, and only one shot missed the green. Never really practiced this before, however already feeling pretty confident with the pitching wedge around the greens as opposed to trying a cute flop/pitch with the 58\* when there is no trouble other than taller grass to prevent a putt from being the shot of choice, which would be my go to whenever possible. Good practice for inconvenient greenside lies, but needs a lot more work.**

**Thoughts: Was nice to get out at C.Y. short game area again. Kind of bummed that the area was made smaller, but there is still plenty of room to get good practice in. Will make it a goal to hit the short game area at least once a week as the summer progresses.**

**5/22/16: Oddball**

**Course – Mystery Valley**

**Par 72**

**Score: 79**

**Putts: 31**

**F/G: 8/14, 9/18**

**3 putts: 0**

**Sand saves: 2/4 (1 holed out for birdie)**

**Woods/trees: 2.5**

**Water: 0**

**O.B.: 1**

**Quadruple Bogeys: 0**

**Triple Bogeys: 0**

**Double Bogeys: 2**

**Bogeys: 6**

**Pars: 7**

**Birdies: 1**

**Eagles: 1**