



**PALOUSE RIDGE DEBUTS AT NO. 2 ON GOLFWEEK'S 2009
STATE-BY-STATE GUIDE FOR PUBLIC-ACCESS COURSES**

<http://top100.golfweek.com/GolfweeksBest/article.asp?ID=1609>

Pullman, Washington – March 23, 2009 – Palouse Ridge Golf Club, a spectacular new daily-fee golf course located on Washington State University's Pullman campus, has been ranked No. 2 in Washington in *Golfweek's* 2009 State-by-State guide. The magazine's comprehensive 'Best Courses You Can Play' roundup is devoted to the nation's finest daily-fee and resort facilities. Only Chambers Bay, like Palouse Ridge the state's top new public-access course the year it opened (2007), was ranked higher than the WSU standout among the 10 Washington courses listed.

The recognition by *Golfweek* is the latest in a long string of accolades for the new home of the Cougar men's and women's Pac-10 golf teams. The club, slated to host the 2009 Washington State Men's Amateur, celebrates its first full season this spring.

Palouse Ridge was previously recognized by *Golfweek* in October, 2008 a mere two months after its debut as one of the 'Best New Courses' in the nation. Designed by John Harbottle III, Palouse Ridge was ranked 15th out of 50 on the publication's list, which covered new courses opened in the past two calendar years (2007-08).

From the time it opened for play in August, 2008, national golf publications have heaped praise on the rugged layout, which occupies 315 acres at the east end of WSU's campus and offers panoramic views of distant mountains in neighboring states from its elevated tees.

Since the beginning of the year, the unanimous consensus of the game's leading magazines is that Palouse Ridge is one the finest newcomers in the nation. In a *LINKS* online feature posted in January, Palouse Ridge claimed a spot on the magazine's 'Best New Public Courses of 2008' list.

"The new home of the Washington State golf teams, John Harbottle's...Palouse Ridge is a windswept, links-style layout that offers a graduate-level test of shotmaking," the report states. "For former Pete Dye protégé Harbottle, whose works mostly had been based in the Northwest, Palouse Ridge should gain him national attention." The roster features nine premier public-access courses nationwide, from New York to Washington.

More recently, *LINKS* produced an online feature devoted to the Top 25 College Courses in the country. Palouse Ridge, ranked No. 16 on the list, was described as a "links-style course...in an area of southeast Washington underserved by first-class layouts."

“We are extremely honored to be recognized by *LINKS Magazine*, a respected authority in the golf industry,” said Bruce Perisho, General Manager of Palouse Ridge.

The *LINKS* commendations were preceded by a handful of major awards garnered by the university-affiliated club. In its ‘Best New Courses of 2008’ feature in January, 2009, *GOLF Magazine* placed Palouse Ridge on its roster of the ‘Top 10 New Courses You Can Play.’

“In tough economic times, you need to know what courses are really worth your money,” *GOLF Magazine* reported. “With a green fee structure ranging from \$39 to \$89 for non-residents, Palouse Ridge...represents exceptional value for dollar.” While noting that “Palouse Ridge belongs in the upper echelon of college courses” and “boasts panoramic views of mountain peaks in Idaho and Oregon,” the story playfully suggested that “Palouse Ridge has proven to be the perfect excuse to cut class” by WSU students.

Shortly before the club received the esteemed *GOLF Magazine* award, the November/December 2008 issue of *Travel + Leisure Golf* named Palouse Ridge to its ‘Best New Courses of 2008’ list. Selected from an elite list of domestic and international venues in both public and private categories, Palouse Ridge was hailed for its “John Harbottle-designed golf course with greens perched high and fairways that heave and tilt like turbulent seas.”

The championship-caliber course, stretching to 7,308 yards from the Crimson tees (par 72), is a bold creation that fits the rolling topography of the Palouse. The firm, fast-running layout, selected to host both the Pac-10 Women’s Championship in 2012 and the Pac-10 Men’s Tournament in 2014, is arguably the finest course in the Inland Empire based on its national media plaudits.

“It’s very exciting to be included on the prestigious lists of these major publications,” said Perisho. “It’s amazing we’ve gotten this much attention in such a short period of time. Then again, the golfers who’ve played here have raved about the course and enjoyed it immensely.

“It’s truly an honor for us to receive these awards, and it’s also an honor for John Harbottle to receive this kind of attention for his work,” Perisho added.

The Tacoma-based designer, who made over 100 site visits during course construction to supervise grading, shaping, finish work and grassing, gives credit for the success of Palouse Ridge to the site itself.

“The main idea was to preserve the character of the region,” Harbottle said, echoing the university’s mandate that the golf course fit the environment. “The terrain here is so dramatic, it allowed us to create a tremendous golf course.”

The epic, grand-scale layout follows the lay of the land as it weaves through the giant Palouse hills. The holes, each self-contained, appear to have been extruded by the landscape, not superimposed upon it.

Enrolled in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, the golf course, a wildlife habitat that encompasses riparian corridors and wetlands, serves as a research center and recreational outlet for WSU students and staff. A broad donor base ensured that the \$12.3 million complex was built entirely without state funding.

In addition to an expansive practice facility, Palouse Ridge is served by a 7,000-square-foot clubhouse set on a hill overlooking the 18th green. Banyan's on the Ridge, a British Colonial-themed steakhouse, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The clubhouse uses a geothermal heating and cooling system to achieve its desired temperature while reducing energy needs.

For more information on Palouse Ridge Golf Club, visit www.palouseridge.com.

###

Contacts:

Kathy Kok, kkok@wsu.edu, 509-335-4409
Mel Taylor, mhtaylor@wsu.edu, 509-335-2447