

This week's tip

Herb Grant points out the problems in Michael Breed's lesson on swing planes "The Fix Show" on The Golf Channel. Monday, March 7, with Michael Breed of Sunningdale Golf Club, Scarsdale, N.Y. Mr. Breed's discussion of swing planes could have been interesting and informative, but his explanations and use of visuals miss the target. The best example of this shortcoming comes in his comments describing upper-body plane. He tries, mistakingly, to make a distinction between "spine-angle" and the "upper-body" angle. In reality, no such difference exists. When a golfer assumes his stance, the two are in the same position (at the same angle). Of course the spine twists and the shoulders rotate. In a correct backswing, the posture is maintained. In describing "Getting Stuck," Mr. Breed again drops the ball. He is correct in saying the reason this occurs is due to raising up on the downswing. This writer agrees that this could very well be the cause of getting stuck, but what is completely omitted is that this problem is far and away caused by the hips (and lower body) rotating through too quickly or too much coming down. Generally, Mr. Breed focuses too much on drills, and not nearly enough on explaining the root causes of the golfers' problem. There is not a drill for every swing fault. Michael Breed understands the issues (most of them), but does not have the on-camera, verbal communication experience to connect well with viewers. As a result, on more than one occasion, the basic point of what is being brought up is lost. (P.S. — initial ball flight is determined by clubhead "swinging" direction, not clubface alignment.) Taken from his website: WhatsWrongWithInstructionArticlesIn-GolfMagazines.com



NICK PREVENAS | GREEN VALLEY NEWS

Will undersen



PHOTO SUBMITTED

GV ELKS CLUB winners Bob Tollefson, John Vold, David Larson and Willis Greimann.

Thanks to Larry Swink for the information. Nick Charles, Dave Siliven, and Norm Brooks

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Wrapping up this edition of "The Fringe" is friend-of-the-column Norm Brooks, with his monthly update on the Santa Cruz Seniors Golf Club.

"Friday, March 4, dawned cold and clear at Rio Rico Country Club, but a slight frost delay did not deter 52 members of the Santa Cruz Seniors Golf Club from doing battle in their annual individual championship tournament.

Ron Hardy, with a nice 78 on a tough, tough track garnered the low gross title, while Davis Woods blistered the course with a net 66.

Six places were recorded in each of four flights, all net scores. Listed in order, with the flight champion first and the sixth-place player last:

A flight: John Salvatore, Tom Kramer, Bob Nicholas,

B flight: Bob Tollefson, Andy Sorenson, Dick McGinty, Loren Pocock, Dave Sickels, and Warren Starnes.

C flight: Frank Salvatore won, followed by John Robbins, Casper Weiss, Bill Stewart, Tom Rodgers, and John Matthews.

D flight: Ron Egan beat out Bob Campbell, Jerry King, John Carlson, Terry Pearman, and Bill Trefethen.

This club always rewards those players with closest-to-the-pin shots on all par threes. These were won by Stewart, Robbins, Hardy, and Bill Peake.

The next event is Friday, April 1, at Haven, which will be followed by a free lunch and the annual business meeting. The proceedings begin at 8 a.m. and will be a three-best-ball net tournament."

nprevenas@gvnews.com | 547-9747

OPEN COURT

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or Jamelle Horne's selflessness. Now think about this. It all came so close to never happening. That's a line from one of my favorite novels, "The 25th Hour" by David Benioff — later made into a film by Spike Lee. At the end of this tale, our protagonist is preparing to head to jail, but his father lays out a heartbreaking hypothetical about the life he could've led had he avoided this trouble. Sometimes, the line between success and disaster is so thin that it only takes one or two wrong moves to plunge into an irreparable quagmire. That's where the Arizona basketball program found itself two years ago. Lute Olson's rocky departure led to one season under Kevin O'Neill (more — much more — on him in just a minute) and one season under Russ Pennell — a genuinely great guy who was never meant to coach a program this demanding. When it came time for this program to finally hire a full-time leader for this program, every fan knew this was a fork-in-the-road moment for the Wildcats. One wrong step here and it was going to spell trouble. In April, the Cats actually took two wrong steps by almost hiring Tim Floyd. Thankfully, those preliminary KTAR reports proved to be false. Floyd left USC in an NCAA-sanctions mess they're just now starting to crawl out of. Imagine what would've happened had that controversy followed Floyd to Tucson? But well before Floyd, there was O'Neill. During his, um, eventful season as Arizona head coach, O'Neill was at one point named Olson's permanent successor: It was a move that didn't make a whole lot of sense at the time and grew to make even less sense as he continued to run his players into the ground and stubbornly refuse to adjust his coaching style to the

personnel on hand. After watching O'Neill spend the last three weeks of that season jamming square pegs into round holes, former athletic director Jim Livengood pulled the successor tag. This bizarre game of musical chairs eventually led O'Neill to USC, where he did a remarkable job turning the Trojans into a borderline tournament team this season. The Feb. 24 game where USC thumped Arizona wasn't a fluke. But on Friday night, we caught a glimpse into a weird alternate universe where we saw just how bad things could've been for Arizona basketball. After an embarrassing encounter between O'Neill (and his wife, Roberta) and Arizona booster Paul Weisman, USC didn't have any choice but to suspend him. It was the sort of incident that reminded people why O'Neill can't seem to keep a job in one spot for more than four seasons. Imagine if a similar incident had happened while he was in Tucson. It barely registers as a blip on the radar for Los Angeles sports fans, but in Tucson, UA basketball is the biggest show in town. Also, imagine how it would've felt to have to take on the USC Trojans, led by Derrick Williams, Solomon Hill, and MoMo Jones — each of whom originally committed to USC — without our head coach on the sidelines. Make no mistake, the Wildcats earned their success this season through hard work, teamwork and commitment. However, it was a great deal of good fortune that allowed this group to achieve this level of success. Saturday's game was just one example of how an entire game — heck, an entire season — can shift because of one or two plays. The fate of an entire program can be sealed by one or two decisions, as well. The margin for error in college basketball is razor thin. Whenever your team catches those good breaks, never take them for granted. nprevenas@gvnews.com | 547-9747

THE FRINGE

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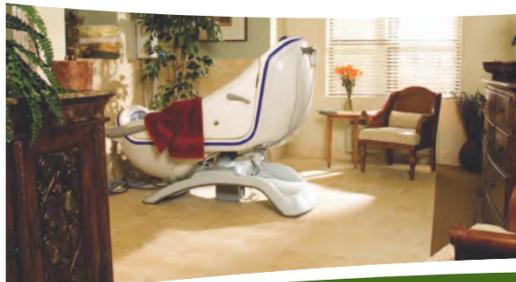
ington is a scratch golfer who also holds the record (a 10-under par 62) at his old home course in Redmond, Wash. That course is now a shopping center, so don't look for anyone to challenge Gundersen's record there anytime soon. When he has his putter going, Gundersen is tough to beat. He must've had the putter dialed in this past week, as he won the Country Club of Green Valley's men's title this past week. Gundersen's three-day score of 220 gave him the overall victory. Dan Rasmussen was the winner in flight two, followed by Joe Mercier (flight three), and a tie between Glenn Barrett and Peter McMullen in flight four. Congratulations to Mr. Gundersen — truly one

of the nicest guys I've met while I've been at the paper. In other CCGV news, Carole Blazisk and Sandy DeBolt won the "Gals Pals" tournament for the second straight year, edging Judy Noren and Loella Speer in the 18-team field. Thanks, as always, to Speer for the heads up.

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Green Valley Elks Lodge 2592 held their annual championship golf outing at Desert Hills Golf Club on March 4. The Elks traditionally feature some fine golfers, and this year was no exception. Flight winners were Bob Tollefson, John Vold, David Larson and Willis Greimann. Vold was the overall net champ, firing a 74 in a horrific wind storm. Roughly \$800 in prize money and numerous door prizes were awarded at the annual banquet at the Lodge on March 7.

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