

Defiant Heart Country Club



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Forward :

This course was originally created by the author for The Copyright Club's design contest for PGA Championship Golf by Sierra Sports. This is the author's 3rd course for the aforementioned game.

The Augusta National 2001 course library by Ken Mchale was used in the creation of this design, and a custom library called Northstar by the Author was also used in the creation of this design.

Contest Holes Information :

The Par 5 6th at 477 - 494 yards - Precision off the tee is required to set up a good chance to reach the green in two, and have a shot at eagle. The main difficulty is that the fairway is surrounded by sand and brush, causing an added danger. The second, or third shot in to the green must rely on accuracy, and a light touch. A bunker front left, and trees front right allow for only the minimalist of errors.

The par 4 12th at 264 to 288 yards - This holes primary difficulty relates to proper club selection off the tee. With a swirling wind and elevated tee, this hole can play as long as a driver, or as short as a 4 iron. The major concern is distance control, the tall trees that guard the front right half of the green, and reading the undulating green complex.

The par 3 16th at 95 to 129 yards - This multi-green designed hole requires 4 different types of shots, depending on which of the greens the pin resides on. The small green to the right juts out onto a lake, and forces absolute perfection on the possible tee shots. Going long, falling short, or fading right will cause a loss in stroke on this water bound hole.

The second green sits off to the left, and requires a different approach to conquer it. The left side of the green falls away from the player, and at 129 yards and a breeze that generally blows from behind the tee, this is no easy 3. The right side allows for a bold approach, but putting can be a problem.

Designer's notes :

My philosophy on this course was to create a design that was more subtle in appearance, and yet would place a premium on well executed shots. In past design efforts, I had attempted to create a "loud" background that would paint a pretty picture, and in doing so, I relied heavily on simple designs with a ton of objects to keep the scores honest, and yet allowed some freedom in shot selection.

However with this design, I instead tried to focus on allowing the course to control the ball as much as possible. In regards to the course setting the tone for the ball, this would allow recovery shots to be fairly successful, with the primary focus being that the player would be forced to only lose a stroke to par. In doing this, the course would allow good shots to happen, but would also allow the course to defend par if an approach shot into a green did not find the proper landing zone.


I settled on a "less is more axiom", in that the lake and forest elements would be very lightly populated with bushes and weeds, and yet allow a more natural appearance in the course to show through. Having noticed that many a course on the PGA tour's average tournament stop were indeed very uncluttered, this was a look that I tried to copy throughout the design process.

Some holes will present multiple ways to score well, and others are straight forward in their design.

I decided to create a smaller overall landplot, and in doing so give the feeling of intimacy within the design. Pines, oaks, and dead grass and shrubs are the prime objects throughout this course, with the 6th, 7th, 8th and 18th having a Pine Valley type of look, and hopefully give a subtler quality to the overall course design.


Course Information : Front Nine (Outward Side) :

The front nine plays slightly harder, based solely on the basis of a single par 3 and par 5, with 7 par 4's of varying distance. The front side does include 6 of the 10 most difficult holes on the course, including a difficult outward finish of holes 7 through 9.

DATE _____								
SCORER _____								
ATTEST _____								
HOLE	PRO	BLUE	PAR		HDCP			HOLE
1	362	348	4		14			
2	356	347	4		15			
3	158	151	3		10			
4	434	424	4		5			
5	433	429	4		4			
6	494	490	5		16			
7	409	401	4		8			
8	417	406	4		7			
9	443	436	4		3			

Back Nine (Inward Side) :

The back side starts off with the 2nd most difficult hole, and finishes at the long and challenging Par 4 18th, the hardest hole on the course. In between, the player will be faced with 2 par 3's and 2 par 5's. The finishing holes, 14 through 18, should allow for an exciting finish, and yet challenge the golfer to perform under pressure.

DATE _____ SCORER _____ ATTEST _____									
HOLE	PRO	BLUE	PAR		HDCP				HOLE
10	457	457	4		2				
11	391	385	4		9				
12	270	267	4		18				
13	151	145	3		11				
14	418	412	4		6				
15	523	515	5		12				
16	95	90	3		17				
17	522	508	5		13				
18	470	466	4		1				

Credits :

Many thanks to Bob " Dammpa " Heider and his wife for the dark green bushes included in the Northstar library. They fit the course like a glove, and though sporadically used, finished this design.

A deep appreciation to Jim Dickson for the original set of textures from his excellent Whisperwind course. I lightened this set by adding a slight contrast to them and by blending in a lighter color. This set amazed me with the complete look and feel that it gave, and Whisperwood rates as my favorite original PGA 2000 course.

Thanks goes out to Mark Huxford for the pdf file that included the ball scrubber - trash can combo. I simply added a small PGA Tour logo to the ball washer to finish it.

The Pine rough, transitional rough, transitional pine rough, bunker and bunker lip textures along with all other objects within the Northstar library are copyrighted to the author and designer of Defiant Heart Country Club.

The Defiant Heart sound file is the original BBC radio theme for their coverage of many excellent tournaments. Growing up, I remember fondly listening to their broadcasts with pounding heart and quivering nerves as they described some of the great golf action.

Contact :

If you have any comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me :

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