

Course Review: Oakway Golf Course

Ooh. Aah. Mention Oakway Golf Course in Eugene, and the first thing Don and Pete remember are the oohs and aahs.

We played Oakway as part of our Golf Week 2011, based at a friend's home in Springfield and hitting a dozen or so courses in greater Eugene. Oakway is an executive course built adjacent to a housing development off of Cal Young Road. The course doesn't take tee times, and seems to cater to seniors, at least on weekdays. The no tee time policy caused a bit of a wrinkle in our day, as we had to wait longer than expected and play was slow.

That's our major criticism of Oakway, pace of play. By not taking tee times, it's complete pot luck as far as both getting on *and* getting around the course are concerned. We didn't see any single players, but we played as a twosome, had a twosome behind us, played behind a threesome and saw groups of two, three and four scattered all over the course. By not taking tee times, they can't — or at least don't — put foursomes together to efficiently manage pace of play.

This is what led to the oohing and aahing scenario. We had a pair of old codgers behind us. As we were behind a threesome, which was behind another twosome, etc., pace was at a snail's pace. We'd finish a hole, then while we waited to tee off on the next hole, the two old-timers would catch up and join us on the tee. They declined several invitations to join us, saying they were in "no hurry." But they enjoyed watching us tee off. You use a lot of irons off the tees at Oakway, and Don generally hits his iron shots with a lot of loft. The two guys behind us were aged enough they didn't whack it very far, so every time Don teed off, one would "ooh" and the other would "aah" as the ball soared off, then they'd cackle and talk about how far Don hit the ball in the air.

Cute little anecdote, huh? What makes it so funny to us is that Don was *not* playing well that day. Those high soaring tee shots? They weren't going particularly straight. Now, they weren't off in Timbuktu, but Pete was consistently hitting better tee shots most of the day. The old guys didn't care about accuracy.



On a couple of par 3s, Pete hit the green to no remark, but Don launched towering iron shots right or left, 10-15 yards off target, but drew the jealous reaction. We continue to chuckle about it.

OK, a little on the course itself. It's an executive course, 11 par 3s and 7 par 4s for 61 par total. It measures 3576 yards. The course is essentially flat and easily walkable. There are three ponds on the course, but two of them flank the No. 18 green. The third is in play on No. 4 and No. 7. However, all three are par 3s, so your chances of getting wet aren't great.

Otherwise, the layout at Oakway is pretty average. As noted in other reviews here on our Don and Pete website, "average" doesn't mean "bad," it just means average. While the course meanders about its limited property about as much as it can, the holes are all fairly straight — and straightforward from a golf standpoint. The course is built around an area of multi-family housing, and many holes have houses on at least one side.

You don't get to warm up much at Oakway, as there's no range. There is one putting green. The small pro shop sells little more than candy, soda and the barest of golf essentials: balls, tees, gloves and such. However, they did have logo balls, so we have those in our display racks and memories of oohs and aahs to cherish.