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just right of the fairway. When we got to the ball it was in high grass and yucca. There were also some mounds made by burrowing animals nearby and he asked for some help relative to what his options were. I asked him to address the ball based on how he would play it given the position of the ball.

He would have had to simply pitch the ball back sideways to the fairway and based upon that stance he had no interference from the burrowing animal mounds. A short discussion with his caddy later they decided to declare the ball unplayable, he dropped it twice and it rolled closer to the hole both times. He then placed it where it first touched the ground after the second drop, then proceeded to hit a wonderful shot to just in front of the green, chipped it to five feet and sank the putt for a great five.

Purtzer began to play much better and Rhoden and Hall both played solid golf all day. Hall made consecutive birdies on Nos. 13 and 14, then missed makeable birdie putts on Nos. 16 and 17 to shoot even-par 70. Rhoden also played solid, finishing at one over 71, and Purtzer righted the ship to shoot 76. All in all it was a fun day, all three guys were personable and we had an enjoyable walk.

I went with Henri Wolbrette, one of our LGA Directors who is also working the event this week, for dinner at a Mexican place downtown and got back to the hotel by around 9 p.m. I was in bed by 10:30 with a 5 a.m. wakeup for tomorrow morning. I've got the first time tomorrow off No. 10 (7:15) so I want to be downstairs to catch my shuttle to the course by about 6 a.m.

Prairie Dunes is an equal opportunity course as it provides the chance for lost balls and unplayable lies for everyone. Another double bogey on No. 8 for Small and finishing bogeys for all three players made the 19th hole look pretty good. We finished with two 80s (Blackburn and Small), and an 81 (Spence).

Friday, July 7, 2006: I was downstairs to check out by 5:45 this morning and arrived at the course around 6:15. After a quick breakfast with the rules rovers (rules officials that take carts and are available for second opinions and timing issues) I got my radio and other materials and headed for the 10th tee. The guys I have today played pretty well yesterday (Blackburn and Spence both had one-over-par 71s, and amateur Small shot 76).

It was absolutely beautiful when we started at 7:15. Around 70 degrees with a hint of a breeze and the sun just beginning to peek through. Our first 14 holes were relatively uneventful. The occasional lost ball, unplayable lie, and burrowing animal mound relief.

When we reached the sixth tee (our 15th hole of the day)

Spence hit both his original and a provisional to the left into the native grasses. When we reached the area where the spotters and caddies were searching, Spence's caddy indicated to us that the provisional had been found. We took the full five minutes searching for the original ball and when the five-minute period had

elapsed, Spence approached what he thought was his provisional only to discover that it was not.

Three minutes into the search for the provisional he decided to head back to the tee to hit another.

Fortunately, one of the frontside rovers was there to transport him. He again hit it left but we were able to follow if from the tee and located it quickly. He made a great four with that ball for a quadruple-bogey 8. The seventh hole saw another lost ball (Small) and another unplayable lie (Blackburn). Prairie Dunes is an equal opportunity course as it provides the chance for lost balls and unplayable lies for everyone. Another double bogey on No. 8 for Small and finishing bogeys for all three players made the 19th hole look pretty good. We finished with two 80s (Blackburn and Small), and an 81 (Spence).

We kept hearing roars from a couple of holes behind us all day as Tom Watson shot 66 to take the lead after two rounds. Walter Hall, who I had yesterday, created a bit of excitement by making a hole-in-one on No. 10 (his first hole of the day). He also had an ace at last year's Senior Open at the NCR Club in Dayton.

After lunch with my cousin (he was able to re-schedule his Friday appointments and make it over for today's round) and some of the other rules officials, I hit the shower and shuttled to the Wichita airport where I watched the telecast of the championship from the airport lounge.

I arrived back into Baton Rouge at 10:30 p.m. and was home by midnight. I've got to go into the office tomorrow to get ready to head to Monroe and Bayou DeSiard Country Club (believe it or not Bayou DeSiard was originally a Perry and Press Maxwell design) on Sunday to prepare for our Junior Am there next week.

All in all, a wonderful week at Prairie Dunes. My schedule makes for a hectic summer, but as I always say, "It's a labor of love."

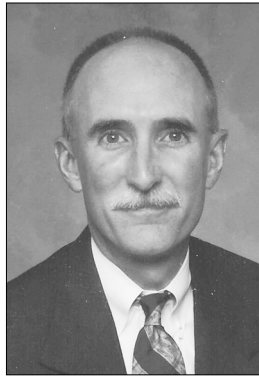
Don't forget: We've got deadlines coming up for our last two championships of the 2006 LGA golf season. Deadline for entries into the Senior Amateur at Oakbourne Country Club in Lafayette is Aug. 8 and that event is filling quickly. Our Net Amateur Championship deadline for entries is Aug. 15.

This year's Net Am will be held at Beaver Creek in Zachary.

If you have questions about either of these Championships don't hesitate to call our office (337.265.3938).

I'll see you next month...Inside the Ropes

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Carr McCalla