

Course Review: Evergreen Golf Course

Considering the circumstances, Don and Pete were quite impressed with Mt. Angel's Evergreen Golf Club. We played Evergreen on Jan. 2, 2013. Anxious to get our Quest to play every course in Oregon off to a good start with the New Year, we were undeterred by temperatures barely above freezing. It was dry, that was all we cared about.

The day had started with a frozen nine at Ranch Hills near Canby. We had to wait for that course to thaw a bit, though they let us on with the greens still very much iced. After a quick lunch at an out-of-the-way McDonald's somewhere between Canby and Mt. Angel, we arrived at Evergreen not expecting much, but just anxious to whack another course off the list. So we were pleasantly surprised by our tour of Evergreen's nine holes.

Evergreen, which opened in 1960, was in remarkably good shape for mid-winter. Sure, there were some squishy spots here and there, but overall the course was not mushy. The greens, in particular, were in outstanding condition. Somewhat thawed for our early afternoon round, they rolled quick and true. They must be a treat to play in the other three seasons!

Duck fans beware, the Evergreen owner has an affinity for that *other* school. The pro shop is littered with OSU stuff, and the tee markers are black, white and orange. The white tees measure a hair under 2900 yards, the blacks only about 150 yards longer. Evergreen's layout is pretty straight-forward. Most of the fairways run parallel, so you can be off course quite a bit off the tee and have the opportunity to recover.

Evergreen's design allows you to sort of "grow" into your round, which was nice considering since the



temperature peaked at about 35 that day. While there are scattered trees on Holes 1-3, by-and-large you're just back and forth on parallel fairways. No. 1 is only 345 yards and a good warm-up hole. No. 2 is a 413-yarder, by far Evergreen's longest par 4, and No. 3 is a respectable 492-yard par five with a slight dogleg right.

Following the short par 3 fourth hole, things perk up on No. 5, which offers a nice view of Mt. Hood in the backdrop. While it's a short par 5 (413 yards), the left side is heavily treed and OB beyond the trees. There's also a pond smack dab in the middle of the fairway — Evergreen's only water hazard — so you have to lay up off the tee. Resist the temptation to try and rocket your second shot to the green and lay up again, a good chip will still garner you a birdie attempt. No. 6 is also a potential birdie hole *if* you hit a straight drive. A mere 290 yards, there are trees on the right and also trees — plus adjacent Church Road — on the left. You should consider a 3-wood off the tee on No. 6 if your driver doesn't always behave properly.

You finish up with a short par 3 and a pair of short par 4s that offer little trouble other than heavy trees left of No. 8's fairway. While there are some rolling hills within Evergreen's terrain, none of them are severe — No. 5 is a bit of a trudge — and you can easily walk the course. We walked just to help stay warm on a chilly winter day; otherwise, we had an excellent day at Evergreen Golf Course.

