

# Course Review: Marysville Golf Course

Memorial Day 2014 was unusual for Oregon: it didn't rain. Which was great, as we planned an outing to Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis along with frequent playing partners Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack. We finished up around 4:30, felt pretty good and decided, "Let's play nine more." Which is how we ended up unexpectedly at Marysville Golf Course about 15 minutes later.

Marysville is an unpretentious little 9-hole track on the south end of Corvallis, near Avery Park. A single hustled off the tee in front of us, but otherwise, we had the course to ourselves. We checked in with owners Doug and Mona Hoselton, who greeted us warmly and were intrigued by our Quest. Doug was a hero when he pulled some extra logo balls out of a back room; the bin was empty up front and we thought we might get skunked that day, as Trysting Tree had been temporarily out.

Marysville is set on a 74-acre parcel purchased by Doug's grandparents when they retired. Despite no experience in the business, friends convinced them to build a golf course, which opened in 1958. It's been a family-run business ever since.

Marysville measures 3166 yards from basically both the blue and white tees. There's also a set of red tees, though on several holes the yardage difference is less than 10 yards. The first six holes are all essentially straight as an arrow. After the 18 at Trysting Tree and the short car ride, we were all pretty stiff, so all of us except Dave ended up taking a first hole mulligan off the No. 1 tee. After that, though, we were off and rolling.

The original Hoseltons used their 74 acres to full advantage. That's not a ton of room for nine holes, but



there are par 4s of 385, 402 and 361 yards (plus two in the 340 range), legitimate par 5s of 511 and 495 yards and the two par 3s aren't shorties — they're a decent 167 and 159 yards. Most of the fairways are wide and forgiving; many of them run parallel as well, and for the most part, you can whack a shot well left or right and still have a play (see Mitch on the No. 2 tee below). Things tighten up on the last three holes. No. 7 is a short (344-yard) par 4, but the fairway narrows down to a thin neck just as it dog-legs right a bit. No. 8 is a 159-yard par 3 that has an extremely narrow chute to hit through and a pond on the right, while the 495-yard closing hole is open to the right but has trees hugging the left side.

While the fairway grass is so-so, Marysville's greens are better than you'd expect. Redone in 2008, they had been recently aerated and were about 7 to 10 days from being completely recovered the day we played. So while they were a little bumpy here and there, you could tell that under normal circumstances they would be lush and true — if a little slow. They were hugely different in both texture and speed from our earlier venture at Trysting Tree.

Marysville features a covered driving range and a small but well stocked snack bar within its modest clubhouse. We were the last group in, and rather than trying to hustle us out of there, Doug and Mona invited us in for free drinks and 30 minutes or so of chit-chat, mostly about the course history and Doug's family. We couldn't have asked for more gracious hosts or a better end to a very good Memorial Day holiday.

