



The All New Jeep Lineup



THE HUTCHINSON NEWS



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Find a stray golf ball at Cottonwood Hills? Kindly sent it this way

By Matt Gorney

The Hutchinson News

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My number of the week is 31.

It's the number of golf balls I lost while attempting to play a round of golf at Cottonwood Hills.

I'll wait until you're done laughing before I continue.

When the opportunity to play this brand new course was put before me, there was no way to say no.

How often does the chance to play a championship-caliber course designed by one of the best golfers in the past 15 years come along?

So, I cleaned my clubs and hoped I wouldn't make a complete fool of myself.

By the way, I whiffed my attempt off the first tee box - but it was just a practice shot. Right.

But once I got going, things didn't get much better.

Hole after hole it would be the same story of hitting one drive and then a provisional, just in case.

Cottonwood Hills is a course that will challenge even the best of golfers.

Nick Faldo even struggled sometimes on the course he helped design.

Going in, I knew it wouldn't be my most stellar day of golf.

I know exactly how well I play on an average course and could estimate about how bad I would do out there.

OK, even I never imagined losing 31 balls. But that's what happens sometimes.

What's important is that I saw a challenge, stepped into the tee box and tried something knowing full well I wouldn't succeed.

You can't know exactly how good you are unless you take a chance and stretch yourself.

Too often do people become so set in their ways that they aren't willing to try get out of an established comfort zone. It happens often in sports.

"Pacman" Jones, for example, is apparently unwilling to break out of his strip-club comfort zone and just stay at home with a good book.

Tank Johnson has yet to prove that he knows how to separately store a gun and ammunition in his home.

Every once in awhile, it's important to break free and try something different.

Golf is a great sport for testing a player's limits because the course is the primary opponent, not the other players.

So yes, people laugh when I retell how I fumbled and hacked my way around a premier

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course.

They're amused when I say how I tried to be a hero and make blind shots that shouldn't have even been attempted.

And they bust up when I end it with the statement, "I lost 31 golf balls and couldn't be happier."

In the end, all that matters is trying something new, no matter how good or bad the result is.

But if you're out wandering Cottonwood Hills and come across either a Pinnacle or Top Flite buried deep in the thick gunch that surrounds the beautiful links course, please, feel free to send it back to me.

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