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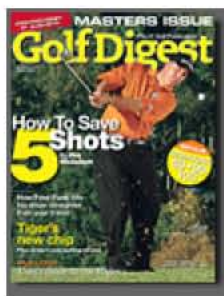
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Course Critic

A critic's eye: Clint's sudden impact

Clint's sudden impact on golf



Stephen Szurlej

By Ron Whitten
Golf Digest

Just off the Pacific coast, above the city heat of Carmel, Calif., sits a breezy new private course owned by Clint Eastwood. It's called Tehama (tah-HEY-ma), the same name as a line of golf apparel in which Eastwood also has a piece of the action.

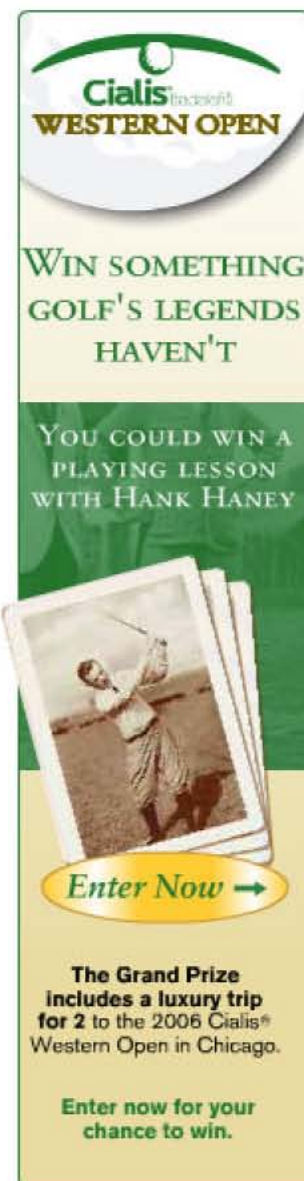
I may be unforgiven for predicting this, but Tehama Golf Club will probably get a thumbs-down by many critics, because it's built on Bronco Billy terrain. Golf architect Jay Morrish, a master at routing on tough sites, somehow fit 18 holes onto foothill slopes and spiced them up with flashy bunkering and mind-boggling greens.

In a perfect world, golfers don't face uphill shots, but at Tehama eight greens, including two par 3s, are very elevated. At 6,437 yards from the back tees, Tehama does not demand absolute power, and on holes edged by deep canyons, the key is to hit tightrope shots past the gauntlet. Tehama's design is so old-fashioned that drives on four holes crisscross, but no hole is ever in the line of fire.

A fistful of dollars, and a personal invitation from Mr. Eastwood,

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It's no Pebble Beach (where Eastwood also has a piece of action) but I give Tehama a mild thumbs-up. And in answer to Mr. Eastwood's most famous question: Yes, I do feel lucky. I played Tehama without driving a golf ball or golf cart into a canyon.



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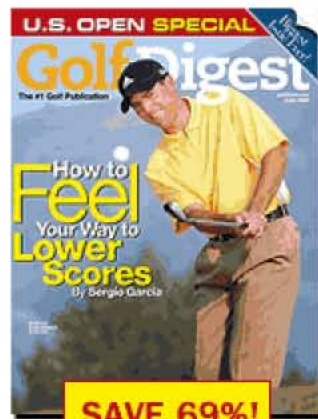
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