



Club selection?

YOU'VE GOT A COURSE SELECTION IN YANKTON

A golfer is shown in the first tee at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton.

Text by *Tim Gallagher* | Photographs by *Tim Gallagher* and *Tim Hynds*

YANKTON, S.D. – THERE is more than club selection when it comes to golf in Yankton.

You can talk “course selection” first. Hillcrest Golf and Country Club at 2206 Mulberry St. dates back to 1953. Fox Run at 600 West 27th St. opened 40 years later.

Both welcome players from Yankton and beyond to courses situated in residential neighborhoods. Fox Run has seen new housing spring up since the course took shape west of Broadway Avenue. Houses surround the perimeter of Hillcrest.

Here’s a bit about both courses.

Hillcrest Golf and Country Club isn’t named because it’s on the crest of a hill. No, the man who owned the ground upon which the initial nine-hole course was built was named Hill.

“It’s not a hilly course,” says Pat Kramer, PGA certified head professional and general manager.

The first nine holes are narrow and tree-lined. The greens are small and shaped like an upside down bowl. The second nine holes opened in the early



Pat Kramer, general manager at Yankton, S.D.’s, Hillcrest Golf and County Club is shown in the pro shop.

1970s. This area is more open and features larger greens.

Ponds come into play on seven holes. The signature hole is No. 17, a par 5 that requires many low-handicap players to drive the ball with a middle iron.

“There is out-of-bounds to the right of the water and the left of the fairway,” Kramer says. “The drive is possible for a big hitter to carry a portion of the pond. But if you hit it a little left, you might go out. You hit it right, and you might not



carry.”

Hillcrest has hosted a number of South Dakota state events through the years. This summer, the state’s husband/wife tournament will be held at Hillcrest. According to Kramer, more Hillcrest members play each year in the husband/wife tournament than from any other course in the state.

Jim Gevens, the interim manager at Fox Run, said his course hosts a Dakota Tour three-day event. The state senior tournament was held at Fox Run in 2010, among others.

Signature holes at this public course are Nos. 9 and 18.

“Water lines both sides of the fairway on both holes,” Gevens says of the dueling par 4s.

Fox Run, which plays nearly 7,000 yards from the tips, is named for the foxes, which do run in this area.

“Yes, we have foxes out here,” Gevens said. “They do run the course. You can see them from time to time.”

IF YOU GO...

Hillcrest Golf & Country Club at 2206 Mulberry St. in Yankton can be contacted at www.hillcrest.4t.com or by calling (605) 665-4621, Fox Run at 600 West 27th St. in Yankton can be seen at www.cityofyankton.com or by calling (605) 668-5205.

Above Deb Gubbels tees off as Tena Becker, left, and Lois Haar watch as the three play a round of golf at Hillcrest Golf and County Club.

Left Jim Gevens is the interim manager at Fox Run Golf Course.

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