

Local indoor golfing facility provides an all-weather alternative

BY JIM DONOVAN, MCKINNEY COURIER-GAZETTE

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It would be safe to say that pretty much everyone in the state of Texas is ready for the rain to end. That is, except for Bill Adler and Wendy McIntyre, a pair of McKinney entrepreneurs.

After a unique idea and a chance meeting in the world of telecommunications, the duo partnered up to found Fore McKinney, an indoor golfing center complete with two state-of-the-art, three-dimensional imaging simulators, another training simulator, a 6- to 8-person driving range and putting green.

“Our storyline was simple; two duffers needed a place to practice and here we are,” Adler joked of he and McIntyre’s foray into the indoor golfing world. Only, it wasn’t that simple.

After falling on some hard times in his work in telecommunications, where Adler met McIntyre and her husband, and going through a few extended stints that allowed for plenty of time to hit the links, an idea popped into his head. He eventually found a partner in McIntyre, and after the duo decided that an outdoor driving range was going to be too expensive and take too long to get running at full speed, Fore McKinney got started.

“It just sounded like a great idea,” McIntyre said. “Bill had contacted my husband, and he told me about it. I pretty much take the attitude that you can do anything you set your mind too, and I thought hey, that’s sounds like a really great idea. More than that it sounded like a great idea for this community. I love the people in McKinney, and this place just fills a void.”

Adler and McIntyre chose to set up shop in McKinney due in large part to its close proximity to a large number of public and private courses, but also because of the reputation of the strong community relations. Created with the hopes of maintaining McKinney’s first indoor golfing center for a cheap, yet enticing experience, Fore McKinney has turned into a ball-striking hot bed during the past rain-filled month. “It’s really been great,” McIntyre said. “We’ve been almost filled up most of the time.”

Open seven days a week, the center schedules tee times for every hour, up to a four-some on both of its course simulators. And Adler says these aren’t your garden-variety, bar-room golf simulators with a handful of courses. Each one comes equipped to play up to 30 courses, including all-time great courses such as the popular Pebble Beach and fantasy courses featuring unrealistic yet fun fantasy courses.

Both playing simulators come equipped with three-dimensional mapping systems that

take into account ball speed and trajectory, and even those untimely shanks, slices and hooks, in addition to a tee, rough and sand patches and regular turf to emulate real-course conditions.

“I have not had one person who played on these screens say anything negative about it,” Adler said. “They are the most accurate screens on earth. After people play a couple of holes I’ll ask them what they think, and they’ll say, ‘pretty nice.’ So yeah, it’s accurate.”

Fore McKinney’s other gem, the practice simulator, runs on roughly the same technology as the other two, but instead breaks down each individual swing and ball-strike which is excellent for players testing out clubs in a controlled environment.

Considered to be in direct competition with Plano’s PGA Tour Superstore, Adler insists his facility isn’t at all. Instead he and McIntyre are trying to develop relationships with the local high school programs in addition to the local courses.

“As we grow and become more well known we’ll try to develop relationships with the local golf courses,” McIntyre said. “Some local [course professionals] already know about us, and when it’s raining or too hot sometimes they’ll bring their students in.”

For the first few months, at least, McKinney’s only indoor golfing center is finding a niche in the market, and Adler and McIntyre couldn’t be happier to have had Mother Nature on their side. But rain or shine, you can always schedule a tee time at Fore McKinney.

Fore McKinney welcomes golfers of all ages and periodically hosts free introductory events in addition to special-occasion cookouts throughout the year. For rates, tee times and more information call 972-542-7072 or logon to www.foremckinney.com.

Thank you McKinney Courier-Gazette,
Bill Adler & Wendy McIntyre

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Fore’ McKinney

INDOOR GOLF CENTER

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