

2025 Men's Senior



July 29-31

Wolf Creek Golf Resort

David Schultz

2024 Alberta Men's Senior
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Men's Senior Championship at Highwood Golf, what memories are most vivid?

Schultz: "It's the kind of week that I was in control of for two rounds. I shot 68-68, and that's the worst I could have been. I was playing well. And obviously the last day, I woke up and something changed. It was a battle. I'm sure it was fun for people to watch, but it was excruciating to play for both of us. It was like, 'Here, you have it.' 'No, you have it.'"

Q: What was ultimately the difference?

Schultz: "It can be hard playing with a big lead, and I lost it by the middle of the back nine. And then he gave it back, and then I messed up on No. 18 and he played it well. So going to the playoff, anything can happen, right? I hit a pretty good approach, except it hit right in front of the green and scooted straight over. It was a weird bounce. So I had 70 feet coming back and he'd hit it inside 10 or 12 feet. I hit my chip-shot about four feet away and he missed and I made, so we went to the second playoff hole, which was lucky for me. On the second hole, I hit it in the fairway and he blocked it right into another fairway. And I'm watching him over there and he hits his approach in and as soon as he hit, I just heard him say, 'Get down!' Unfortunately for him, he hit it a groove or two low, hit it a little thin, and it rocketed over the green and out of bounds. From there, it was just me trying to get it in and make sure I beat him by one. So it was a bit anticlimactic on that last hole, but it was exciting day."

Q: Did you breathe a big sigh of relief when that last putt dropped?

Schultz: "Oh yeah, that's a lot of pressure on an old man's nerves."

Q: You have won a lot of golf tournaments over the years. What's the key to still finding success on those days that you maybe don't have your 'A' game?

Schultz: "It's a matter of making sure you think clearly, anytime you're in or around the lead. I mean, that's the fun part for most of us that are out there playing to win — it's being in the hunt. But when you don't have it, it's tough. experience and really wanting to be in that moment. It's fun. It's nerve-wracking and pressure. But for me, that's the fun part."

Schultz, a regular at Country Hills Golf Club in Calgary and an inductee to the Alberta Golf Hall of Fame, outlasted Senan Foley on a back-and-forth final day. After both posted three-round scores of 1-over 214, Schultz prevailed in a playoff.

Alberta Men's Senior Past Champions

2024 – David Schultz

2023 – James Varnam

2022 – Kelly Risling

2021 – Senan Foley

2020 – Grant Oh

Alberta Men's Senior Interprovincial Team

2024 – Finished (1st)

David Schultz

Brian Laubman

Senan Foley (1st)

The Wolf

is back and set to howl at the Alberta Men's Senior Championship

By Gord Montgomery

The bite is often worse than the bark on the famed Old Course at the Wolf Creek Golf Resort near Ponoka, and some of the best senior golfers in Alberta are about to find that out in late July.

After a year of being out of operation the Wolf is back, and ready to bare its fangs once again as it looks to claw up some scorecards in this annual tournament. It will see the best players in Alberta aged 55 and over, competing during the 54-hole, three-day event.



As the course looks to build on its reputation under new ownership, the club's General Manager, Jim Boomer, pointed out the illustrious history of this track. "Obviously that would have been the '80s and '90s as part of the Canadian Tour so a lot of big name golfers came through. It certainly put the golf course on the level where it's not that common to get the ink when it's sort of in the middle of nowhere. Because those players spoke so highly of Wolf Creek, it certainly gained quite a reputation."

Now under the control of Golf North, work has been done to begin bringing the Old Course, and its sister the Links course, back into championship condition. The competitors in the Senior Championship will be on the Old Course, which, Boomer said, is likely to give them all they can handle, especially if the wind is blowing.

Boomer noted that while there is trouble lurking around just about every corner, or straight away for that matter, here, there is a particular stretch that will be key to coming out on top.

"I think 9, 10, 11 is definitely that three hole stretch. They can, for whatever reason, play the first eight really well, but then the real holes separating the men from the boys seem to be 9 (a par-4), 10 (a testy par-3), and 11 (a par-5). Even going through there with a couple of bogeys isn't too bad. That's a place where you can get derailed. There are certain shots where there's no such thing as second place. You either make the shot, or you're reloading!"

"I say this with caution, but a links golf course is still a bit of a rough cut in comparison to a country club type of maintenance program. They're certainly going to see the fairways in the condition they're used to and that's one thing the players want. They'll find the greens back to the speed they're used to. We know the greens here are small so there's a little more emphasis on accuracy."

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One thing that Boomer pointed out was how the new ownership has gone out of their way to repair/replace things at this rural layout to update the facility. He noted that as people begin to come back to once again test their game against one of Alberta's most storied courses, they'll notice big changes, both on the course and elsewhere. But, this is about guys who can play, and who are familiar with the Old Course.

In looking ahead to what players like last year's top-3 finishers, Senan Foley, David Schultz, and Brian Laubman will have to shoot, Boomer said he doesn't expect anyone to go dramatically low. "My guess is somebody could go around here in a few under, if the weather is really good. I'd be surprised if, especially over three days, if somebody is going to go lower than that. Because of course, there's lots of places to get bit. You think through that group of seniors, and they're not young but they still play awfully well. We'll say somewhere between two and five-under would be my estimate."

The one thing this tournament does for the future of Wolf Creek is it brings back what used to be into the here-and-now, Boomer said about hosting this major Alberta Golf event. He agreed that his staff, club members, and the general public are all excited to see the Wolf howl again.

"Exactly! It is particularly nice to see Alberta Golf giving us one of their best events. With

Alberta Golf wanting us to host the Alberta Men's Senior Championship, you know those guys are of the age where they love this place. I think maybe they encouraged Alberta Golf to approach us, and I think we are going to make a lot of older golfers happy with having this event here. It's going to be really nice to host them the last week in July." ■