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SPOTLIGHT FEATURED

## Two local golfers each hit hole-in-one on same hole on the same day

BY JERRY RATCLIFFE 18 hrs ago



Local golfers Dick Nunnally (left) and Mark Krebs (right) both shot a hole-in-one on the same hole at Farmington Country Club last week. Photo/Andrew Shurtleff/The Daily Progress/Andrew Shurtleff [Buy Now](#)

According to Golf Digest magazine, the odds of making a hole-in-one are 12,500 to 1.

The odds of two golfers recording a hole-in-one on the same hole less than three hours apart are incalculable. That's exactly what two Charlottesville golfers did last week at Farmington Country Club's par-3 17th hole.

It is difficult to distinguish exactly what was the most impressive aspect of Dick Nunley's ace, which came at approximately 1 p.m. last Wednesday.

Certainly the fact that his hole-in-one came on his very first swing of the day (shotgun start) was impressive. So, was the reality that Nunley is 89 years old. If you think the ace was grand, then consider that he went on to score four strokes under his age, something he does between 70 and 80 percent of the time.

How could 69-year-old Mark Krebs follow that act? With his own ace, also on the 17th, at approximately 3:45 p.m. For Krebs, it was old hat. It was his fifth career hole-in-one, but they're all special.

Nunley's was his second, the other coming on Farmington's No. 2 about a decade ago. To bag his second one at age 89 was a true feat.

"The ball just made this beautiful flight and landed a little below the hole, rolled up past the cup, and dribbled back down into the hole," Nunley said. "We were all standing there on the tee box shouting, 'Go in, go in, go in,' and it did."

His foursome celebrated with high fives, and there's no truth to the rumor that Nunley slept with his seven-hybrid club that night.

Krebs' ace didn't come without some good-natured razzing by his foursome before he teed up his ball for the 147-yard, downhill shot.

"The crowd I play with doesn't give you much slack, and my partner, noting that there was a strong left-to-right wind, said, 'Don't hit at that pin. The wind is going to take it to the bunker on the right,'" Krebs said. "I told him that if I had that much accuracy, I'd be on the tour."

Krebs' 9-iron sailed a little left of the flagstick, landed about seven feet above the pin, and spun back into the hole. None of his foursome saw the ball go in the cup, so when he arrived at the green, he saw his divot but not the ball.

"I was thinking it might have kicked into the bunker, but one of our group casually walked past the hole, pointed to the cup, and said, 'It's in the hole,'" Krebs said. "I was as surprised as anybody. I almost didn't believe it until I went and picked it up out of the cup."

Partner Wade Tremblay quickly pulled out a camera to record the moment.

It was the fifth such moment for Krebs. That made two career aces on No. 17, another at No. 2, one at a course in Stowe, Vermont, and another at the devilish 217-yard par-3 16th hole at Oakmont, a hole that gave U.S. Open players all they wanted last June.

A tradition of posting a hole-in-one is buying a round of drinks for everyone in the clubhouse afterward, but both golfers got off easy.

"I got lucky," Nunley said. "Fortunately there weren't too many people in the lounge."

Krebs only got stuck with buying a pizza for his group.

"A lot of the crowd had dwindled away by the time I finished," Krebs said.

For both men, longtime Farmington members, and even longer time residents of Charlottesville, the aces were just part of why they love the game of golf.

Nunley, who has lived in Charlottesville his entire life, is well known for his chairman of the board role at Better Living and his charity work in the community. He took up golf late in life, about 30 years ago, because of time demands. He played tennis until he discovered a new game.

"I do love golf," Nunley said. "I now live on the golf course, so my wife [Judy], and I can get in a golf cart or get our push carts, and in a few minutes we're on the golf course. I love the camaraderie of golf. You're out there with other people and you get a lot of time to know each other."

While the hole-in-one was spectacular, scoring below his age was more so.

"That was about the 200th time I've shot my age or under," Nunley said. "The first time I did that was when I was 74, so I've had plenty of time to build it up to 200."

He estimated that he scores his age or under "seven or eight times out of every 10" rounds he plays.

"That's my goal every time I go out there," Nunley said. "The secret is you've got to stay healthy."

Krebs, who has built Northwestern Mutual insurance investment company of Charlottesville since he graduated from Virginia 48 years ago, also took up golf late in life after playing rugby for 18 years.

"I started as a caddy as a teenager in Birmingham, earning money on weekends," Krebs said. "That's where I developed a love for the game but didn't take it up until I was 38."

He credits Farmington club champions Philip Mahone and Larry Hund for helping teach him the finer points of the game, along with the club's professional staff.

Unlike Nunley, he hasn't scored his age yet, but came close in last year's Jefferson Cup when he shot 2-under par and missed a four-foot putt on the 18th hole that would have matched his age.

He's got time on his side.

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