

## **Dupont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware Unveils New Practice Facility**

From the start, the new owners of Dupont CC wanted to do something different and innovative with their practice facility that utilized the latest technology, allowed golfers to practicing every shot they'd encounter on the golf course, and provided a fun experience for the entire family while helping grow the game in the Wilmington area. In the end, they developed a community amenity that has helped attract new members and tournaments.

After a campus architect's master plan was developed, that included relocating the practice facility from a remote area of the property, Sanford Golf Design's David Ferris, ASGCA was brought on board to design its incorporation into the underutilized Montchanin Course. The new location, adjacent to the clubhouse, impacted eight (8) holes, including 9, 10, 11, 18 and portions of 7, 8, 12 and 17. A new 9-hole routing was created utilizing the remaining holes and a long range plan was developed to replace the Montchanin Course with a new 18-hole par 3 course that would further the owners' goal of growing the game.

The new practice facility provides a 5-acre short game area with 3 practice greens that can also be played as a 5-hole short course. The new 15-acre practice range is set into Montchanin's former hole corridors, allowing for longer practice shots that truly replicate the on-course experience and a variety of target greens for practicing shots from 50 to over 200 yards.

John Burke III, Director of Golf said "Members love everything about it. The vision came together due to David's' ability to understand what we were asking for and then make the land work. I am grateful for his ability to do what he did and turn our facility into one of the best in the country."

The nucleus for all of this is a 10,000sf learning center, designed by Rogers McCagg Architects, with 6 indoor Trackman hitting bays that provides a unique teaching tool for analyzing a golfer's swing. The bays are also used for social games, playing famous courses virtually, or opening the bay doors to hit shots out to the range. Within the learning center one can enjoy the food & beverage services or gather on the outdoor patio area, adjacent to the practice putting green and putting course, to take in the great views of the new short-game area.

The new practice facility is a part of a larger overall upgrade to the club. Also opening this year are two new pools, fitness center, and tennis facility.