



A STEADY CLIMB TO THE TOP

Vicki Philpott began playing golf in her mid-20s. She recalls shooting 156 in her first competitive round. “It only made me want to get better ... faster,” recalls the Sacramento area resident.

Now 70, Philpott flirts with a single-digit Handicap Index and this past fall claimed the Whitney Oaks Women’s Golf Association title after a narrow victory in the three-round event that takes the two best scores.

Philpott, who is playing the best golf of her life after recovering from a detached retina, credits being a “Steady Eddie” on the course for her three-stroke victory over Hong Yee, the 2023 club champion. Philpott’s driver and approach shots carried the way, but “her putter can always use some work.”

“I don’t stress out,” she says of her mindset. “Sometimes we lose and sometimes we win. If you’re a golfer, you know it goes up and down.”

Philpott has five career hole-in-ones. Her most

recent came at Bing Maloney in Sacramento. However, she is still hoping for her first at Whitney Oaks, the “challenging” course in Rocklin that she joined last December to challenge her game. Philpott, who retired after a career in finance, plays a weekly Thursday game with friends, and enjoys the course’s tree-lined fairways and elevation changes.

Her favorite hole is the par-5 11th – appropriately named “Stymie” – which requires a precise second shot to land between bunkers and granite rocks in order to have a clear approach to the green.

“I love the idea of being outside and playing against myself and the challenge of getting the little ball into the hole,” explains Philpott, who also competes for the Sacramento chapter in LPGA Amateur events. The 12-member team recently won a two-day event at the Griffith Park courses in Los Angeles.

“It’s a sport I’ll play,” she says, “until I can no longer walk.” 🌻