

your BEST GOLF GAME *may be a short drive away*

story by Bill Bauer



Multiple indoor and outdoor full swing stations, a series of putting, chipping and bunker lined practice greens, and an indoor training room with video capability, provide the perfect setting for instruction and analysis.

[photo by Bill Bauer]

In his book on the mental side of athletics, *With Winning In Mind*, sports psychologist Lanny Bassham describes three kinds of golfers: the informed, the uninformed and the overinformed.

He hints that a large percentage of golfers occupy the latter two groups. Either their heads are filled with an abundance of swing thoughts manifested by an endless supply of friendly tips, or they take a very limited knowledge of the game to the golf course and simply blast away.

Neither group has much success, and both are often frustrated by an inability to improve their game.

That leaves what Dana Rader, a Bassham disciple and director of the Dana Rader Golf School, sees as the ideal student of the game — the informed golfer — the one who understands there are no quick fixes and that good coaching and dedicated practice are the keys to a repeatable swing and a consistently good golf game.

With over three decades of teaching golf, Dana and her team strive to get golfers to where they are informed about their unique blueprint, unique swing and unique game.

And, best of all, The Dana Rader Golf School, one of the Top 25 golf schools in the U.S. as selected by *Golf Magazine*, is located right down the road on the premises of the Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge, in Charlotte, NC. Specifically, the school is located between the 1st hole and 18th tee at the Golf Club at Ballantyne, one of Charlotte's premier public golf courses.

Rader's affection for golf instruction began shortly after playing golf on the men's team at Pfeiffer College and honing her game to head out on the LPGA circuit in 1980. She discovered her passion for teaching rather than touring after a visit to The Farm, a teaching facility owned by renowned instructor Ellen Griffin.

"On a cold rainy day, Ellen transferred her philosophy, a love for students and for growing the game, to Dana. That philosophy became her roadmap for 35 years," said Dale Jennings, marketing director at the school.

Her passion for teaching and dedication to her students now attracts, annually, over 12,000 students of the game to the Dana Rader Golf School, the sole Golf Channel Academy in the Carolinas.

I stumbled across the school when playing and reviewing Ballantyne over a year ago. When my scores began to rise to unprecedented heights, I decided to pay the school a visit. I chose a 4-pack of lessons from



{above} Dana Rader understands there are no quick fixes and that good coaching and dedicated practice are the keys to a repeatable swing and a consistently good golf game. Here, she works with a young woman at her golf school in Charlotte, NC. *[photo courtesy of Dana Rader Golf School]* • {below} Much attention is paid to the short game, sand and uneven lies, trouble shots and putting, along with presentation and pre-shot routine. *[photo by Bill Bauer]*





Dana Rader's passion for teaching and dedication to her students now attracts, annually, over 12,000 students to the Dana Rader Golf School, the sole Golf Channel Academy in the Carolinas. [photo courtesy of Dana Rader Golf School]

Master Instructor Doug Breuer, whose tutelage had an immediate impact on my game. Recently I decided to kick it up a notch and signed up for Dana's highly-acclaimed, signature Three Day Golf School. It was not a camp, as there were no marshmallows. Nor was it a clinic, as there were no shots. It was total immersion in all facets of the game that began shortly after sunrise and ended each day just before sunset.

Rader has surrounded herself with good people, dedicated to her mission.

"Dana credits her outstanding staff for the school's rise to the top. Their training is an ongoing process incorporating seminars, summits and certifications," Jennings said.

From arrival to departure, everyone associated with the DRGS works to make your experience well worth the time, travel and cost. It actually

starts a week before you arrive when you receive a questionnaire requiring you to rate all the parts of your golf game and establish your goals for the three days.

"I felt that the bios that each participant sent in were paid attention to. The groups that we were placed into were compatible, which led to cohesiveness and more enjoyment. The weekend was worth more than I paid for it," said Stuart

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Wakeman a recent participant.

The student teacher ratio for the 3-day school is 4:1, allowing for both group instruction on basics and one-on-one instruction on individual needs.

Charlotte development visionary, H.C. "Smoky" Bissell personally chose Dana to build her school on the golf course he created. Multiple indoor and outdoor full swing stations, a series of putting, chipping and bunker lined practice greens, and an indoor training room with video capability, provide the perfect setting for instruction and analysis.

Day One found the instructors simply watching as everyone hit from the tee, the fairway, around the green and on the putting surface. It was here that our fundamentals — grip, posture and stance, ball position, alignment and target awareness — were analyzed and plans for improving our game were drawn up.

From that point on, a customized approach, designed to reach each player's personal goals, was the order of the day. Fifteen hours blending hands-on full swing and short game instruction combined with 6-8 hours on the course covered every part of the game. The importance of the mental aspects of golf — course management, a consistent pre-shot routine and organizing your thoughts on the golf course — were

THREE DAY GOLF SCHOOL SAMPLE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

9:00 – 9:10	Intro
9:15 – 10:15	On-course evaluation
10:15 – 10:20	Break
10:20 – 11:10	Full swing
11:10 – 11:20	Break
11:20 – 12:10	Putt — Green 1
12:10 – 1:00	Lunch at DRGS
1:00 – 1:50	Full swing
1:50 – 2:00	Break
2:10 – 2:50	Chip/Pitch — Green 2
2:50	Gather under hitting bays
Tee time: 3:08	

SATURDAY

8:00 – 10:00	On course
10:00 – 10:10	Break
10:10 – 11:00	Full Swing
11:00 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 12:00	Review Short game — Green 2
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch at DRGS
1:00 – 1:50	Full Swing
1:50 – 2:00	Break
2:00 – 2:50	Sand/Uneven lies
2:50	Gather under hitting bays
Tee time: 3:08	

SUNDAY

8:00 – 9:50	On course (captain's choice + coaching)
10:00 – 10:30	Practice presentation
10:30 – 11:00	Full swing
11:00 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 11:40	Par 3 challenge
11:40 – 12:00	Closing presentation

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During each full swing session, instructors focus on specific swing flaws and bring participants individually into a state-of-the-art video room for an analysis of their swing.

[photo courtesy of Dana Rader Golf School]

repeated with every swing of the club.

During each full swing session the instructors focused on specific swing flaws, and brought us individually into a state-of-the-art video room for analysis. Here, drills designed to fix our flaws and produce a consistent swing, were demonstrated and recorded. Each golfer's personal swing instruction and drills are available online for six months.

Complimentary club checks are performed during school hours. Club fitting under the watchful eye of Stan Roach, not included in the tuition, is available Wednesday through Saturday by advance appointment

"Out of all those I've worked with, only six have fit to standard clubs. Most need more or less length, more or less lie degree or larger or smaller grips," Roach said, noting that properly fit clubs affect your posture, swing path, contact, direction, distance and ultimately improve your game.

Full swing, short game and on-course instruction are carefully planned around breaks and a selected lunch.

"We have really worked to develop a 3-day schedule that maximizes instruction without wearing out our golfers," said instructor Doug Breuer. "We want them to take the day's lessons onto the golf course

at the end of the day and enjoy their round of golf. And, to be ready to go the following morning!"

Much attention is paid to the short game, sand and uneven lies, trouble shots, and putting, along with presentation and pre-shot routine. It is here where the DRGS believes golfers can achieve their goals and break 100, 90 or 80.

In her book, *Rock Solid Golf*, which every Three Day School participant receives, Dana states, "Nothing is as important for a lifetime of success in golf than developing and maintaining the proper fundamentals." That philosophy is the foundation and blueprint for success at the Dana Rader Golf School. ■

Information on golf programs, instruction and club fitting is available at www.danarader.com. Special promotions and events like the "Early Birdie Special" for 2016's Three Day Golf School, which runs through January 15, are also posted on the website. Call the golf school at 704.542.7635 and ask for Elizabeth, Dale or Anna for additional information on this and other special offerings. The DRGS partners with the Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge and the Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne for Stay and Play packages. Alternate accommodations are also available at nearby hotels.

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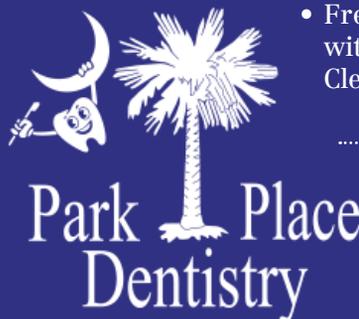
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