



## **November 2006: The Ultimate Wet Weather Test**

### **Verdict: Unbelievably Dry**

*With November about to set an all time record for monthly rainfall in the Seattle area, we thought it might be a good time to test wet weather playing conditions on the back nine. Our test foursome, Joe Lanza, Vince Lanza, Neal White and Blaine Newnham headed out at 11 AM Saturday, November 25th. Here is Blaine's report:*

Like taking the wheel of a new race car, the good players wanted to see all White Horse had as they headed for the back tee at No. 10. Joe Lanza has made over \$100,000 this year playing on various mini tours. He is the former Washington state amateur champion. Neal White, the athletic director at Bainbridge High School, is a former senior amateur state champion. Joe's dad, Vince, has a two-handicap and the reputation of losing very few matches.

We wanted to see what the course had, but we also wanted to see if it was playable for everyone. I took on that responsibility, taking my 11-handicap to the blue tees, the middle set of five.

We were so turned on to the beauty of the course and our chance to play the back nine, that we forgot all about the rain. The sun was shining that day and the snow was yet to fall. What we found was an unbelievably dry course. We had no mud on our shoes, let alone our pants.

The big guys wondered how long the course would play. You know, with temperatures in the 30s, and with all that rain. After all, from the tips it measures more than 7,000 yards.

"What I liked," said Joe Lanza, "was the fact we were getting roll on the fairways. In the Northwest."

Neal White shot even-par 36 the second time around the back nine. But he was more impressed with the course's beauty than his own score.

"It's just plain gorgeous out there," said White, "and a very pleasant walk. The course is visually intimidating from the tee but the landing areas are bigger than you think. The second shots to the par 4s and par 5s definitely present a challenge, but I liked that."

Joe Lanza pulled a tee shot on the par-3 13th hole into some nasty blackberries and ended up with a big number, but otherwise played near par.

"The course posed a challenge whenever you got aggressive," said Lanza. "My favorite hole was the par-5, 16th, the way the trees defined the fairway and required you to shape your shots accordingly."

As for me, I shot 85 from the 6,200-yard tees, and just loved being out there without mud on my feet. It was a great Northwest kind of experience in what has not been a very nice Northwest kind of winter.