

Shannon Fish Diary

WOMEN'S GOLF

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I grew up among one of the game's greatest instructors, Dick Harmon. I started working with Mr. Harmon around 1999 at River Oaks. You could say that at 10 years old I didn't understand the company I was around.

To me, Mr. Harmon was simply, "Dickie."

Every week, my folks would drive me the 45 minutes from Spring down to River Oaks, where I was always excited to see my friend. That's what Dickie and I were: buddies, partners, friends, who shared a common love for golf.

I never looked at a lesson with Dickie as work. It was always fun. We played games, competed, talked golf. Most people may not know that Dickie loved birds, and we never crossed a species he couldn't name. Once he gave me a National Geographic book on every type of bird around the world. Then he routinely quizzed me on the birds around the golf course.

More than once we set off down a hole at River Oaks with a pair of binoculars in search of new species.

Every now and again, Dickie would adjust my grip, realign my feet and remind me to add a little "tilt" to my setup. That was about the extent of our lessons. We worked on fundamentals, but mostly he focused on making golf fun for me.

We would invent new games during our lessons with specific rules and specifications. Even as I grew up and my game matured, we constantly competed. I won \$100 off him in a putting match at the Houstonian when I was 14. I didn't even have \$100 to lose.

That hundred dollar bill is signed, framed and hangs in my trophy room.



# Enjoy The Walk

*Remembering the lessons taught to me by my friend, the late Dick Harmon*

One of my favorite games was called "Scramble." Dickie would pour a bucket of balls out on the range. You could use any club you wanted and were allowed to change clubs between turns. The object was to hit shots without touching, moving or standing on any of the balls that had been poured out of the bucket.

When addressing, swinging or striking the ball, if

you moved another ball it was a point, and whoever had the least amount of points after the last ball had been cleared won the game. It was a riot and remains a game I still convince people to play with me.

Between his love for birds and games, Mr. Harmon constantly reminded me to have fun while playing golf. He gave meaning to the phrase, "Enjoy the walk." I have been working hard on my mental game this month, practicing it just as much as my physical game.

One thing I will always remember Mr. Harmon for is how golf was never work for him. It was always fun. Now that I'm playing professionally, I hope to incorporate his attitude into my journey. **TL**

### SHANNON FISH

Shannon Fish, winner of the 2007 Texas Women's Open as an amateur, is in her first year as a professional golfer. The native of Spring has one victory and four top-five finishes on the Cactus Tour in Arizona. One of 11 young pros featured in the 17th season of The Golf Channel's Big Break reality show, Shannon will check in monthly with a diary column about her journey to the LPGA Tour.

Follow Shannon on Twitter @ShannonTFish and visit her website at [shannonfish.com](http://shannonfish.com).

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