

## 2026 GPS Spring Newsletter

2025 was another banner year for the GPS tour! 2026 marks the 6<sup>th</sup> year of senior golf tournaments operating under the official name of **Great Plains Senior (GPS) Tour**.

What started out as a “dream” a few years ago has turned into a great success story. This is only possible due to the great support shown by senior golfers across the 4 state area. **Thanks to all who play and support the tour!**

**GPS STEERING COMMITTEE:** **Harold Hoftyzer** from Orange City, **Dennis Kronaizl** from Scotland, **Don Koster** from Sioux Falls, and **Dave Huber** from Mitchell are the steering committee members. (See GPS attachment section for contact information)

The primary duties of the steering committee are to organize a yearly schedule, monitor how the tournaments are running, listen to golfer’s comments, and provide feedback to courses on tournament play, etc.

**Please feel free to reach out to these individuals with questions or concerns you may have.**

### 2025 TOUR RECAP:

- There was a total of 54 tournaments scheduled
- Weather and schedule conflicts caused the cancellation of 5 tournaments: Howard, Beresford, Lennox (2), and Rock Valley
- 3 new courses that joined the tour were **Gregory, Wild Oak (2)** in Mitchell, and **Elm Wood in Sioux Falls**
- All of these tournaments were well attended and were great additions to the tour

**2026 SCHEDULE:** As of the writing of this newsletter, the schedule for 2026 will consist of a total of **54 tournaments** to be held at **30** golf course locations across the 4-state area.

Again this year, there will be no tournaments on the same date. Please refer to the schedule, as a few courses have changed their dates from last year’s schedule.

### Schedule highlights:

**Otter Valley Golf Course in George, Iowa**, will be joining the tour. The steering committee feels this tournament will be a great addition to the tour.

**Elmwood** in Sioux Falls will be adding a second tourney on Monday, May 11. **Please note this will be a 4-man scramble event.** Get your group together and call the course to sign up. This will likely fill up fast, so sign up early.

**Wild Oak Golf Course** in Mitchell was purchased by Chase Kristensen in early 2025. Since that time, the course has undergone major renovations to become an 18-hole course. Plans call for the renovations to be completed in time for both their tournaments in 2026.

**“Gary Krstensen Memorial Tournament”** will be held at Wild Oak on Friday, September 18. Gary tragically passed away in September of last year. Gary was a long time GPS golfer and well known by many. Gary was instrumental in bringing the GPS tour to Fish Lake in Plankinton several years ago.

Gary was Chase Kristensens uncle. Gary was very involved with helping Chase with the renovations at Wild Oak. It was Gary who brought the GPS tournaments to the GPS family.

**Please check the schedule on the Sioux Links website regularly during the season for any updates and changes.**

**TOURNAMENT FORMAT:** As part of the steering committee's duties, suggestions are made by the committee to the courses on what the committee feels helps to make a tournament successful.

**However, please keep in mind that each course is responsible for setting up its own format and running its own tournament.**

**CORPORATE SPONSOR:** For the 4th year in a row, **First Dakota National Bank** will be the overall GPS tour sponsor. Additionally, they will sponsor the “First Dakota Senior Finale” tournament, to be held at Lakeview in Mitchell on September 22.

**GPS TOUR WEBSITE:** Once again in 2026, [www.SiouxLinks.com](http://www.SiouxLinks.com) will serve as the official website for the GPS tour. This is made possible by the sponsorship of **First Dakota National Bank**.

[Siouxlinks.com/great-plains-senior-golf-tour](http://Siouxlinks.com/great-plains-senior-golf-tour) is your official GPS Tour source for the following:

- The 2026 schedule
- Place winners of each tournament
- Spring newsletter
- Any updates that may occur during the season
- GPS Hall of Fame Members
- Valuable information about various tournaments and area courses across the 4-state area
- Interesting videos and golf tidbits

The steering committee wishes to thank **Derek Soukup** for all of the great work he does in setting up and updating the website. It truly has become the “**go-to source**” of information for the GPS Tour

**GPS HALL OF FAME:** In 2021, the GPS HOF was established. The official HOF “**Wall of Fame**” location is at Dawson Creek Golf course in Scotland, SD.

In 2025, new HOF Inductees were **Mike Paulson** and **Joe Bjorkman**, both of Vermillion.

**Please refer to the HOF link on the GPS website for more information about the two gentlemen, as well as other HOF members.**

The steering committee will be making HOF selections for 2026. They will be recognized at the **First Dakota Senior Finale** tournament in Mitchell in late September.

**FIRST DAKOTA SENIOR FINALE:** This tournament is always very popular and well attended, and once again will be held at Lakeview Golf Course in Mitchell on September 22.

Here are the guidelines that will be followed by this tournament:

- No signup will be allowed until July 15
- Those teams that participate in the July 14 tournament in Mitchell will have first chance to sign up
- The course only has 50 carts available to rent
- Once those are filled, only teams with carts will be able to sign up
- Will be limited to 76 teams maximum
- Call-in signup will start July 15 for those spots remaining

**Side Notes:**

- Senior tournaments are very popular. Many tournaments fill up very quickly. Be sure to sign up early to get into the tournament of your choosing.
- It is also a wise decision to verify that you are actually signed up for a tournament a day or two in advance. **This may avoid issues on the day of the tournament for both you and the tournament hosts!**
- One area that has shown good improvement over the years is **Slow Play**. Please be mindful of your fellow golfers and play ready golf as you play in tournaments this season. **SLOW PLAY IS UGLY!!!**

**Looking forward to another exciting season of the GPS Tour!**