

LARRY'S "TIP SHEET" FOR THE DUKE

GENERAL: With wide fairways, generous landing areas, and undulating greens the key to saving a few shots and getting that good score at the Duke is tee ball placement and smart shot selection to the greens. Comments based upon Gold Tees (6,500 yards).

NOTE TO PLAYER: For comparison purposes I'm an 8 handicap and I hit my Driver lower than most players with about 195-210 Carry and 220-235 total roll, 5 wood 185-205 yards total roll, 7 iron 142-147 yards, 9 iron 115-120 yards and 52 degree wedge 95-100 yards.

#1. About 270 yards to the river wash, so you longer hitters might consider 3-wood. Third shot approach is MUCH easier from the right side of fairway provided you have an easy second shot "carry" over the wash. However, if you've got more than 150 yards to carry the wash, just get it over as the right carry is 30+ yards longer than the left.

#2. Easier approach is from the right side of fairway—10 yards from end of bunker to beginning of green. Long is better than short on your second.

#3. Favoring the middle/right side is the better play, but long hitters can carry traps on left. Green slopes from right "down" to left so aim a little right of pin. Looks shorter but isn't.

#4. Play the right side on both tee and second shots. What looks like a bunker on the left for your second shot is actually a nasty waste area. Hit your third shot to right of green (left side of hill): should kick down nicely for front/middle pin locations.

#5. Usually plays a little longer especially to the right back pin location. Long left NO GOOD.

#6. Tough hole. Favor middle/left on drive. False front to green. Long better than short. Hit the extra club when in doubt on second shot.

#7. Plays a little uphill. Relax and hit the extra club. Balls pulled left lead to double bogies.

#8. Dogleg right. Aim at the pole and there's some extra room to the right. Hump directly in front of

green in play. Long better than short on second shot. Flat green with very little break.

#9. Cutting left corner takes off 20 yards but brings desert area into play. About 200 to carry corner just to left of pole. Tee shot risk/reward is better if pin is back right. If pin is left or left front just fire tee shot at the pole (or just a little left) on your tee shot. Tough green to read.

#10. Proper line for tee shot: Just between the bunkers on the right and the aiming pole. Bunker on right front is 20+ yards from front of green. Back pin is easily extra club. Aim just "a little to the left side" on second shot for middle/back pin locations.

#11. On tee shots: More room left than it looks. To carry bunkers you need a very good hit. Avoid the right traps and you'll have an easy second shot.

#12. Favor middle/right line for tee shot. Favor right and long on second shot. Trouble left. Hit extra club for back pin locations as green slopes up hard from left front to back right.

#13. Check wind often; plays a half club longer to middle pin. If the pin is front right a little long to middle of the green is the safe play and leaves a pretty easy putt.

#14. Favor the middle/left side just a bit on the tee shot. Unless you crush your drive, laying up to the right side of the fairway with your 185-200 yard club will leave you an 85-100+ yard shot. Trouble is left on second shot and approach.

**Our Last Four Are All Great Holes.
Play Them Smart in Order to End with a Great Round!**

#15. Avoid the waste area to the right. Aim at right side last bunker near middle of fairway (It's about 210 to carry it on the right side) and it will kick right. Aim left and long on second shot as balls will kick right. Aim at the middle back of green (see the crest in middle?) if pin is right.

#16. Now go back to cart and get the extra club. Aim right over the left side of the hill on left in front of green (25 yards from top of hill to front of green and everything kicks right to front and middle pins). If back pin hit two extra clubs and aim over middle of hill on left after you curse the greens keeper for putting the pin back there. Play WAY more LEFT break on all putts coming from back to front of green and visa versa RIGHT BREAK on putts toward back of green. Putts heading from front bunkers to hill behind green still have break but not as much.

#17. Perhaps the toughest hole on the course to par. Stay a little left on tee shot and if you're not to top of hill (inside 200 yards) for second shot, it's not the worst thing in the world to lay up to a comfortable distance (30-50 yards) rather than try the heroic shot. Left on second shot is "dead" and right is "critical care". False front on green and backstops behind green call for you to hit the pitch shot longer rather than shorter. Left back side of green has a tricky "nose" that can affect the pitch shot.

#18. "Aren't we done yet?". All but long hitters aim at left side of bunkers on the right and on second shot aim a comfortable club up the right side toward mesquites on right. Should be left with 75-125 yards after two good shots. Approach shot should be aimed right of pin as ball is probably above your feet and green slopes down from right back to left front. STAY RIGHT!

How'd you and I do? Please send any comments/suggestions to larry.mclennan@cox.net .