

At Denison Community Golf Course June 20

Long-drive king Boever to put on golf exhibition

Dan Boever, a three-time Re/Max North American and two-time World Long Drive finalist, will be putting on a free professional exhibition on Friday, June 20, at the Denison Community Golf Course.

Boever of Ozark, Missouri, has performed over 400 exhibitions, showcasing his ability to hit the long drive, as well as entertaining crowds with his trick-shot antics that will leave everyone in amazement.

The exhibition at 6 p.m. is open to the public and will precede the dinner and benefit auction that's scheduled for 7 p.m. The Farmland boneless chip dinner cost is \$5 for non-golfers.

Boever, who grew up Sioux City and attended Remsen St. Mary's High School in Remsen, is looking forward to his trip to Denison.

"I'm really excited about it. My whole show is geared towards fun; it's light-hearted, family-oriented, clean, and really designed for people to laugh and just have a good time," said Boever, in an interview with the Denison Bulletin and Review on Thursday morning.

"You don't have to golf, you don't have to like the game of golf, but at the same time, I'll be teaching those who do golf the trick of hitting the ball farther. You won't believe some of the antics I use. It's going to be a lot of fun," added Boever, who now hits the ball an average of 360 yards with his 52-inch, 7-degree head, Cobra 427 driver.



Dan Boever

Boever said that Tiger Woods averages around 290- to 300 yards.

The Donna Reed Celebrity Golf Tournament, in which Boever will participate, is set for Saturday, June 21, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

The entry fee is \$50 per person. Teams of three will have a celebrity added to their group at the time of the tournament.

The entry fee does include the boneless chop dinner on June 20, as well as green fees for the tournament, a sleeve of golf balls, and sandwiches during the event.

Boever, 42, was a baseball All-American at the University of Nebraska.

After he told me that, I had to let him know he was talking with an avid Iowa State fan.

Boever remembers ISU well from his Cornhusker days on the diamond.

"My senior year, we won something like our first 26 games, close to a national record, and Iowa State came to Lincoln and beat us, giving us our first loss. Talk about humiliating at the time. Our football team came to our aid, though, and beat the Cyclones, 80-2, or something like that," Boever said laughing.

"Here's a name a lot of folks will remember. Turner Gill was our shortstop then and he made a few errors to help Iowa State's cause. He'll love me for telling you that," Boever remarked.

Gill played quarterback at the University of Nebraska

and is now an assistant coach with the Huskers.

He played professional baseball for seven years with the Cincinnati Reds, Seattle Mariners and Cleveland Indians.

"I spent six years with the Reds. Then with Seattle, I made it through spring training and two weeks of the regular season before I was traded to the Indians for a quality water cooler and some other cool stuff," Boever said with a quirk.

So at the ripe age of 28, his playing days were over.

"I needed a job, so I worked in Florida for a while at the Wade Boggs Hitting School. I never sweated so much in my life as I did there, so I said the heck with that and headed to Springfield, Missouri, to work at a dairy chemical plant."

"That was always a dream of mine. Laying in bed at an early age, I dreamt that someday I'd be working at a dairy plant," Boever said sarcastically.

Some of his accomplishments include having the third longest drive in the history of the national long drive finals (425 yards in 1997); driving the ball 336 yards with a putter; and placing the ball to within eight inches of the cup on a particular 376-yard, par 4, when challenged.

Boever has turned full-circle since starting his professional exhibitions seven years ago with only four or five clubs to his name.

"I had a six-iron, an eight-iron, a nine-iron and a Mickey Wright putter. At the time, I

didn't know that Mickey Wright was a chick. I couldn't believe I was using a woman's putter. That's how myself, I had going for myself," Boever said.

"I also had a golf bag that I think cost \$5, so I might have had a few hundred dollars worth of stuff. It was really impressive, let me tell you."

That's all changed, as Boever is now sponsored by the likes of Pinnacle, American Airlines, AITEL, and Titleist, to name just a few.

Speaking of Pinnacle, Boever is associated with the Pinnacle Distance Team national advertising campaign that's currently running on television.

"I'm the guy in the background with no speaking lines," Boever said.

Did you ever see the movie, Happy Gilmore?

That's just the impression I got of Boever.

"That movie is a classic. It should have won an Academy Award," Boever said, "And yes, I've tried the running-tee-off shot like Adam Sandler did in the movie. I broke the shaft on my driver, though, so I stopped doing that."

"Like I said, I'm really looking forward to coming to Denison and taking part in the Donna Reed festivities. It's going to be a lot of fun. If you're looking for a fun hour of entertainment, this is it. I guarantee people will go away shaking their heads at some of the things I'm planning to show them. Come out, enjoy, and be prepared to laugh," Boever said.