©P.B.S. Studios
Manassas, VA 20112

12th Hole at Augustine Golf Course
By
Peter Smolens

What Club Would You Hit?

Today's golf hole is the 12th hole at Augustine Golf Course in Stafford, VA. I've played the golf course several times over the years. It was one of the first "high-end, daily-fee golf courses" in the Northern Virginia region. It is also the golf course where I met the editor of Washington Golf Monthly (later called GolfStyles, Washington), Jeff Thoreson. He was there to review the golf course, and I was there, skipping out of work on a beautiful spring day, and (as always) had my camera to take stock photos of the golf course. At the end of the round, he gave me his business card and told me to send a selection of my slides. A few months later, I had my first publication in Washington Golf Monthly. That began a long relationship as a writer–photographer with the magazine.

He picked a great golf course to review. Designed by Rick Jacobson, a protégé of Jack Nicklaus (Jacobson also designed Bull Run Golf Course), it's a thinking man's golf course. You can't just "grip it and rip it," you must plan your attack on each hole based on your abilities.



The 12th hole is a perfect example of popular golf hole design in the Mid-Atlantic region. There is a good reason for this to be the hardest handicap hole on the second nine. Using the natural rolling hills, the golf hole rises from the teeing ground to a generous landing area. There are woods and out of bounds to the left if you try to cut the corner too much, and three fairway bunkers to keep you from going too far right. At 441 yards from the tips, the hole bends to the left with a natural area cutting across the fairway at 325 yards (the last 25 yards is downhill, causing golf balls to

bounce into the natural area). A drive of 250-275 range leaves you with a level lie and an uphill approach shot of 150 – 175 yards.

The second shot is what makes this golf hole difficult. It's deceptive. When I played the 12th hole, my tee shot (from the white tees) landed on the fairway, equal to the last bunker on the right. I had 185 yards to the green. The approach shot travels over the natural area, and the fairway rises to a large two-level green surrounded by bunkers to catch wayward shots. It's more uphill than it looks, making the approach play longer than the yardage indicates. Although I checked the yardage with my rangefinder, my approach shot was short. With the pin on the upper tier, my chip didn't make up the slope. I two-putted for a bogey.

This photograph is used as an illustration in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the pbsstudios.com Golf Photography Gallery Section of pbsstudios.com

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings in the series based on photographed golf holes.

Give me a like and leave a comment. Let me know what you think about the series.

# # #