

# Dumb like a . . .



Staff Photos by Brian Peterson

Two foxes have provided stories galore for golfers at the Viking Meadow golf course in East Bethel. On Wednesday, one of the foxes, above, lay in wait for golfers such as Bruce Berg, whose shot, below, was then spotted, picked up and carried off.



## Golfers outfoxed at East Bethel course

By Jim Parsons  
Staff Writer

The guys were sitting around the pro shop at the Viking Meadow golf course in East Bethel Wednesday evening telling stories when Lyle Kleven walked in.

"Let me tell you what the fox did to Bob Bomstad," said Kleven. "Bob and a partner were playing early on a Saturday morning and they both hit over the green on the second hole. The fox darts out and snatches both balls, hides them in

the brush and then sits down on his haunches on a little knoll and just looks at Bomstad.

"Bob gets out another ball and plays a nice chip shot onto the green. He's admiring his handiwork when he sees the fox is going for that ball, too.

"Bob starts running and screaming and waving his club and beats the fox to the ball. The fox just looks at Bob sort of like he's nuts and then ambles back to the knoll and watches them putt."

No one questions Kleven's story. No one suggests he's been sipping the sauce, either. That's because just about everyone who has played the course in Anoka County a few times has seen the fox who steals golf balls.

Actually, it's two young foxes, says Ron Olson, who owns the new golf course along with Kleven and eight others. "You can tell there are two of them because they have different personalities," says Olson. "One just ignores you. The other looks right at you and sometimes smiles

— especially after he steals your ball."

Professional and amateur photographers have recorded the felonious foxes at work.

Deanna Kleven, Lyle's wife, says she started about a month ago. "A man came in and I asked him if he'd hit a good round. He said, 'Actually, never got past the third hole but I had the time of my life. I've been playing with a fox.'

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