

**Oregon State AC State Championship
River Ridge Golf Complex
Eugene, OR
May 14-15**

After a week of absolutely gorgeous weather here in the Willamette Valley, with highs in the low 80's, come tournament time, the great weather flew on out and its stormy uninvited guest took its place. By the time mallets struck balls on Saturday morning, it was 58 degrees and raining. Just a few strokes later, it was thundering and a nearby lightning strike had players abandoning umbrellas and ready to throw in the towel.

Players remained positive despite the bad weather. Most were thinking back about the great venue we have had here in Eugene since 2003. Now it will most likely be just a memory, falling prey to big money and big development. As the nearby osprey return to their nest next year, things will look and sound much different. The crack of mallets to balls, and the smack of golf clubs to their respective balls will be replaced by bull dozers against boulders and laborers wearing anything but all white. We are not going to wallow over the good times lost, but instead be thankful for what had been provided.

This was one of the largest turnouts we have had for a State Championship in many years. We welcomed three new players and their family members from the new Classic Croquet Club in Ashland, Oregon. Dick Titus, Bill Brown, and Dick Mastin. These players participated for the sheer love of the game, knowing that their experience level would most likely not allow them to make it out of block play. Dick Mastain, 90 years young, was an extremely pleasant and wonderful man to meet. Dick was slow getting around the court, but it was an enjoyment to see him doing something he loved. Dick suggested that next year we have an age block for him, or at least "someone in a wheel chair" that he might beat.

Garth Eliassen, also made his first trip to River Ridge to participate. Most of us know that Garth published the National Croquet Calendar for 24 years, which was mainly news on the Association game. Garth's untraditional shot making stance and wealth of croquet knowledge are easily apparent. His last tournament was 3 years ago for the American Rules State Championship in Westmoreland Park, Portland, OR. Even though he is currently unranked in Association play, he showed many moments of greatness. In his final block game against Jim Herzog, he made several long roquets to give Jim a run for his money. Garth fell short, losing 8 to 7. With only 1 win, Garth was done for the weekend.

Granted, the nice weather departed before tournament weekend began. Players knew we would not be playing croquet at The Nines next year. It remains to be a great time on a court somewhere at some time. That is what we did this weekend.

Players Standings

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| 1. Steve Scalpone | |
| 2. Richard Alderson | 6. Non Member |
| 3. Jim Herzog | 7. Garth Eliassen |
| 4. Richard Scholl | 8. Arthur Brown |
| 5. Dick Titus | 9. Richard Mastain |

Article by: Rick Alderson