

Mark Weiss, Director of Communications
GOLF, MUCH MORE THAN A GAME

I have been playing golf for many years. Over those years, I have experienced elation, frustration, wonder, frustration, a sense of satisfaction and of course, frustration. However, in my golf career a single thread continues to be apparent. I continue to meet new friends and have lifelong friends (50 years) who I met on the links. Many of these folks were a part of my professional life others, through organizations, or just people that joined a foursome at some point.

I believe that all of us have had a thread in our lives that lead to similar acquaintances that have become treasured friends.

I want to introduce Roddy Lee, one of those guys who loves golf for all the right reasons. Roddy moved to Rossmoor 6 years ago with his wife Karen. They have 2 children, Adam and Jessica and 2 grandchildren, Evelyn and Lucy. He loves Rossmoor and says that without golf, he wouldn't know what to do with himself.

He has quite an athletic history, that started as a child, wanting to participate in the Olympics. Also, in his 1967 Senior Will he stated, "I want to be in the Olympics".

Roddy was born in Oakland in 1949, living in Berkeley and Kensington. He went to Cal Berkeley starting in 1967 and graduated as a Business major in 1971 lettering in Track and Field as an intermediate and high hurdle runner. In his junior year, Roddy was approached by an official of the Taiwan National Track and Field Team asking if he would like to become a part of their team and participate in the Asian Games. In 1970 Roddy went to Bangkok for the games. He finished in two races in second place requiring a photo finish and received 2 Silver medals. In 1971, Roddy was recognized as the world's fastest Asian, running in the 110 meter high hurdles. Roddy continued as a part of the Taiwan team and represented them in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. He ran the high hurdles coming in 28th in the world. He accomplished a childhood dream.

When asked about his athletic career he said the most important thing was meeting people from all over the world. He wishes that the internet was in existence at that time so that he could have kept in touch with them all.

Roddy was quite the athlete. However, and I believe more important, he's also quite a man. After obtaining his teaching credential, he began teaching and coaching at Kennedy High School and then El Cerrito High School. During his 38 years as a teacher, he taught everything from computer science and business law to sports. At one point, Roddy coached golf finding it was a bit frustrating. He enjoyed being a mentor to high school kids understanding that these folks are often not focused. To this day, he loves walking down the street and hearing someone call out to him, "Hi Coach".