

Michael Murphy's *Golf in the Kingdom* Marathon

September 30, 2013 • Peacock Gap Golf Club • San Rafael, California

Highlights from GKM 2012

By David Meggyesy, former linebacker with the St. Louis Cardinals

The 2nd annual Golf in the Kingdom Marathon (GKM) held at the Peacock Gap Golf Club in San Rafael, CA, in August 2012, is yet another reflection of the staying power of Michael Murphy's classic book *Golf in the Kingdom*. The book speaks to us athletes, not necessarily just golfers (my golf game is "flog," golf spelled backwards), and hits a vein regarding the bedrock of sport and the athletic experience. Sport is an expression of our primal human energy, indeed the energy of life itself. It provides its practitioners with the experience of unity, the non-dual experience of reality called "the Zone." As Murphy put it many years ago, "Sport is our emerging Western Yoga."

The golf tourney is delightful. Beginning with a clinic led by Bobby Clampett and Steve Pate, current PGA Champions Tour players and former Tour players, four-member teams play 18 holes, including several "mystery holes" (putting blindfolded on one hole), in a scramble format. Both Bobby and Steve and other returning players understand the deep connection between consciousness and golf, and the application of various consciousness approaches for improving and appreciating their game.

Following the tourney is a superb dinner with appropriate libations and informal conversation with Murphy, Clampett, Pate and others about the nature of the emerging, recognized connection between sport and consciousness exploration.

Having played in many scramble golf tournaments, mostly business-related events, GKM by far, is the most interesting and full of great good will and enjoyment. I think making the sport/consciousness connection within ourselves and with others as we play in this event buoys up and liberates the ineffable spirit of the game and sport itself. It makes one feel it's good to be alive in the presence of these most enjoyable companions.