FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SITE OF HEROIC PLANE LANDING BY 18-YEAR-OLD PILOT

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A fairway is often considered a golf hole's runway, a desired approach destination for one's ball flight. However, on a Florida golf course Saturday afternoon, the short stuff became a literal airstrip for a plane making an emergency landing.

The St. Petersburg Police Department said that, on its way from Lakeland to Manatee County, a 1939 Taylor Craft fixed-wing airplane suffered mechanical problems. The pilot, an 18-year-old, was flying with two other planes, and was notified to land at a nearby airport. Unfortunately, the pilot deduced the plane would be unable to make it, and found St. Petersburg Country Club as his best chance for survival.

plane-golf-1.png

Photo credit: Fred Burns/unknown

The plane landed on the club's 12th fairway. Although one of the wings clipped a tree, the pilot and his passenger were unharmed.

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"He did a dang good job for an 18-year-old pilot," said police spokesman Rob Shaw to the Tampa Bay Times.

Amazingly, this is not the first time a plane has landed on the course's grounds. According to the Times' archives, a plane crashed on the same hole in 2009.

06 MARCH 2016

SOURCE: GOLFDIGEST
ARTICLE LINK:
https://50skyshades.com/news/events-festivals/florida-golf-course-site-of-heroic-plane-landing-by-18-year-old-pilot

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