

"CADDYSHACK"

FOUR COMICS HAVE A BALL --  
AS GOLFERS -- IN "CADDYSHACK"

Starting time was 6 AM when a bleary-eyed foursome, consisting of Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight and Bill Murray, gathered at the first tee of the Rolling Hills Country Club, near Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

They would, they were told, play a round.

"Play around," asked Chase. "Just the four of us? No girls?"

"Chevy, why don't you tee off?" suggested golf pro John Cusano, who had been assigned to help the star groove his swing.

"Okay," answered Chase, raising a five iron over his head in mock fury. "I'm teed off. Now what?"

"Caddyshack," a Jon Peters production and Orion Pictures release through Warner Bros., was officially under way. The comedy is the first movie to pay tribute to golf since Glenn Ford starred as Ben Hogan in "Follow the Sun" thirty years ago.

But "Caddyshack's" approach to the fairway is somewhat-less reverent -- no surprise considering its cast and creative credentials. Co-writer/producer Douglas Kenney and co-writer/

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director Harold Ramis were among the co-authors of the wildly successful "Animal House." Co-writer Brian Doyle-Murray is best-known for the satiric onslaught of "Saturday Night Live."

Their screen story is set in the mythical Bushwood Country Club, where social climbing is as much a sport as the game itself, and the term "golf nut" takes on a deranged double meaning.

For all four co-stars, some golf practice was essential. Nightclub comic Rodney Dangerfield's role -- as a nouveau riche land-developer who gate-crashes the exclusive club -- required him to play well enough to appear to play atrociously

Arriving in Florida, he was asked his handicap.

"My handicap is...I don't know how to play golf," he answered frankly. "You can't find a hole in the dark, and I'm seldom awake during the day."

Determined to measure up to his part, Dangerfield visited the pro shop to be outfitted with a new set of clubs.

"You'll want a driver," he was advised.

"You're right," said Dangerfield. "Have him pick me up at seven tonight."

The characters in "Caddyshack" are based on writer Doyle-Murray's youthful recollections of caddying at the Indian Hill Country Club, outside Chicago.

"It was an eye-opening experience," says Doyle-Murray. "A caddy comes in contact with many different role models, including some odd...and funny... people."

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Among the oddest in "Caddyshack" is Bill Murray (Doyle-Murray's brother) as the club's assistant greenskeeper. Again, the basis for the role is real. Murray was, at one time, employed as a greenskeeper -- at the Evanston Country Club in Evanston, Indiana.

But the slovenly schizoid he plays in "Caddyshack" is not the one most clubs would rush out to hire.

A typical moment finds Murray ogling a pair of luscious young duffers at the women's tee when he is interrupted by his boss.

"The gophers are tearing up the course," he is told. "I want you to kill all the gophers."

"All the golfers?" he asks. "Won't that cause trouble?"

While "Caddyshack" is supposed to take place in Illinois the timing of the production -- late fall -- raised potential weather problems. Following the sun south to Florida, the producers set out to find a golf course without such visual giveaways as palm trees and bougainvillea.

Several dozen courses were scouted before they came to Rolling Hills, created twelve-years ago by renowned golf course architect William Mitchell. Bored with the sub-tropic flora found throughout the state, he'd planted towering oaks and Australian pines instead.

Arrangements were made to use Rolling Hills as a massive film set. The club's rustic lodge became a mini-studio, complete with production, editing, wardrobe, make-up and screening facilities. Two new floors were added to the low-

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slung clubhouse. When fresh locales were required, the film crew moved to the nearby Plantation Country Club (to stage a screwball swimming party) and to the fabled "millionaire's club," the Boca Raton Hotel (for a rowdy dinner dance).

But Rolling Hills' eighteen holes remained the scene of most of the "Caddyshack" action, including the climactic final match between Chevy Chase and Ted Knight.

As playboy Ty Webb, Bushwood's resident Romeo and "perfect golfer," Chase is a master of trick shots who practices constantly but never plays against anyone. Knight, as the club's pompous, petty president, is a compulsive winner.

Their rivalry is precipitated by tycoon Dangerfield who arrives on the links, armed with a small fortune in betting money -- and an arsenal of grandiose golf gear. Included is a golf bag with a hi-fi stereo system, a portable beer tap and a radar screen built in. When Dangerfield reaches for the first time for his putter, his opponents are shocked to discover that it is equipped with a Norden bomb sight.

When filming was finished, Dangerfield was congratulated on having played so badly he made the scene look good. if There was one hole where you almost shot par," said Ted Knight.

"I never laid a finger on him," insisted Dangerfield.

"Caddyshack," a Jon Peters production for Orion Pictures release through Warner Bros., stars Chevy-Chase, Rodney -Dangerfield, Ted Knight, Michael O'Keefe and Bill Murray as

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FOUR COMICS HAVE A BALL -5-

Carl. Produced by Douglas Kenney with Jon Peters serving as executive producer, the film was directed by Harold Ramis and written by Brian Doyle-Murray & Harold Ramis & Douglas Kenney. Original songs are by Kenny Loggins, with music composed by Johnny Mandel.

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