

My Name Is Jonas

No... nothing to do with the Jonas Brothers but more on the title in a bit. This evening, we gathered at my oldest brother's house with the fourteen of us and more extended family for the birthday celebration of my oldest (**14!?**) niece and **13** year-old nephew/godson. The kids hunted eggs when we arrived. Then some of us watched GOLF while others engaged in some Guitar Hero on the Wii. I actually amazed myself as I went head-to-head with almost everyone then had to go up against the household crowd. Elizabeth kept selecting the same song again and again and beating everyone again and again until she competed with her dad. I told them that I would just have to sneak out to the house while she was in school and practice... but as before, a little Wii goes a long way.

Birthdays mean cake and candles. I don't know why it took so long between the time the candles were lit and the blowing but I decided to test my wind strength. Honestly, I was sitting at the opposite end of the 6' table and blew all 14 candles out... not totally because they relit. I was thinking that the ice cream cake with peeps on top was going to melt before the candles were extinguished.

After the cake was wrapped up, someone had the BRILLIANT idea of playing golf on the Wii. WOW... wasn't it enough to sit and watch Tiger Woods hit a tree and others hit birdies (which kind, I still do not know) and bogies (why anyone would want to hit a poor dead actor is beyond me)? Needless to say, I was pleased when the 18 holes were done so we could return to Guitar Hero and Elizabeth's endless selection of [My Name is Jonas](#). At least on my turn, I was willing to try songs we had not done previously. And I did get to see a picture of John Truitt's adorable baby girl.

My \$8.00 putter...

Since my pal [jamiahsh](#) mentioned my \$8.00 putter, I guess now is a good time to tell how I happen to own said putter. I am not a golfer by any means. I've played maybe 2 games of golf in my lifetime. In both games, I did lousy. My drives were short, but straight, my short game was all over the place, and putting on a real green, forget about it. The one thing I do reasonably well with a golf ball is miniature golf, especially the par 2 [Putt Putt](#) courses. I've played on a few, and while I'm nowhere near to being a Putt Putt pro, I usually can break or make par on these courses after a round or two to get used to it. As with any sport, somedays you just don't have it, so I don't always make par.

Anyway, on to the story of my \$8.00 putter. A few of years ago (was it really so long??, yes, it was during our magic show) a group of us were invited to have a day at the nearest Putt Putt / Go-Cart place. I got to the town a little early and we stopped at a local sporting goods store. I'm not sure now if I stopped with the thought of picking up a putter, or just saw it when I got there, and had the idea, but anyway C is a slightly competitive person, and his friends know this about him. Me, I'm never beyond trying to set someone up for a joke, so knowing about his nature, I wanted something to play games with his mind.

So I picked up the cheapest putter available at the sporting goods store. For 8 American dollars, I picked up a putter that was much better than the clubs at the local Putt Putt. And it gave me a wonderful joke to play on the rest of the gang. I arrive at the Putt Putt with putter in hand. Now everybody thought that I was a serious putter. I saw fear in their eyes. (not really but it sounds good doesn't it?) I did have a

really good game that day, having quite a few holes-in-one and ended up in first. I was lucky my putter worked. I may have looked a fool if I didn't have a good game. After that I don't think too many believed that I just picked the putter up that day. They can comment if they remember. But I think my youngest convinced them.

So now, I always have that putter with me during the summer months. My youngest and I frequent the putting places often, and I've grown used to my stick. Sometimes, like today, it brings out the fear in my opponents.... Ha ha ha (how do you write an evil laugh???)

Watching Paint Dry

There are two sports that I really cannot stand to watch. I realize that this may put me in the minority especially in this area where it seems that both sports seem to have legion of fans (particularly in my own family).

The first is NASCAR racing. How anyone can sit for 3-4 or sometimes 5 hours at a time watching cars go around and around a track is beyond me. My mother regales us with stories of her youth and spending weekends at the area race track watching local drivers compete. I can sit through maybe an hour of televised auto racing before I excuse myself and do something more constructive. I do enjoy cheering for my favorite drivers. These are not the more popular stars including Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Jeff Gordon, etc. I chose to chose the most colorful name I can think of, usually one who is nowhere near competing. Names like Dick Trickle (Tricky Dicky or Trick Dickle as I used to call him), Hideo Fukuyama (I wonder if he is related to Chicago Cubs acquisition Kosuke Fukudome sorry

if I insulted the new Cubs outfielder), or my new favorite... AJ Allmendinger.

My second favorite sport to fall asleep to is professional golf. Honestly, whenever I hear that someone hit a birdie I say... what kind? At a recent extended family gathering where everyone was gathered around the television quietly waiting for Tiger Woods or some other player to take a shot, I shouted **"THREE AND A HALF!!!!"** They were not amused. When I want to watch golf on television I stick with the classics: *Caddyshack* and *Happy Gilmore*. And if I want to play a good round, I much prefer going eighteen holes at the area miniature golf course.

Sometimes I really think I would prefer watching paint dry or worse yet.... The multi-colored bar code test pattern on the television screen HAHAHA.

A Day of Mini

Finally the snow has stopped (quick, where is some wood for knocking?!? Our snowblower has been put away, which is enough of a jinx, but add a comment like the above, and I'm asking for trouble!), and the weather is finally being cooperative enough for some outdoor fun. So this weekend had us taking in the first mini-golf game of the season with friends. Unless, of course, you count the mini-golfing we did in Florida in January, but I don't count that since in Florida the mini-golf is more like a distraction to the lizards hopping around the course and the captive alligators you can feed at our favorite mini-golf place in Orlando.

I did not do very well this weekend. Of the four of us actually playing (the kids futzed about the course), I came in last. I will blame it on my pregnancy bump – it's getting

quite large lately and is throwing off my balance, not to mention my stamina. I was distracted by looking for a bench to sit on after every hole. Yeah, that's it, I can't mini-golf while pregnant. Nevermind all the practice I got on my computer this winter (see previous mini-golf posts of mine where I have links to (mostly) cool computer versions of mini-golf), I just can't mini-golf while pregnant. Oh, just kidding, I've done it before, it's no big deal and not that much different, just gotta swing around the bump. I just lost because I was rusty, and I didn't take my time putting. Besides that, my husband did extra well this time, and he usually comes in last, so last place had to go to someone. I don't really care if I win or lose, for me, it's just about learning what the ball does in various situations, gaining that experience, and most importantly, having fun! I did win the mini-bowling we played afterwards though... I really want to get one of those for my basement. I've always liked bowling, and here is a way the physically impaired (as I am for a few months here) can still enjoy participating in the sport. Pipe dreams, of course... if I had that kind of money or space in my basement, I could think of a dozen better things to put down there... mostly animals...

But anyway, I looked for cool mini-golf shots on youtube, and I actually didn't see any... just a lot more people worse at mini-golf than I am who don't even realize it. But I did come across this pretty cool contraption at a mini-golf course in Colorado, check it out:

Mini-Golf – The Sequel!

Thanks to my awesome husband for finding this... I haven't had a chance to try it yet but I am about to, so I will post my best score... which will probably be at least twice the score of you "experts" out there! Oh well, they are fun... let's see how this one compares:

<https://www.gigarcade.com/full-960-MiniPutt-3.html>

When Forwards Are Addicting...

I'm talking about email forwards. And just about everyone knows someone or is someone (even if they won't admit it) who just can't seem to resist forwarding EVERY forward they get to EVERYONE in their address book. I've mentioned before that my mom's neighbor from about 5 years ago *still* forwards me stuff... and it's not like I knew them all that well to begin with. They just got my email address from a forward list one time (I think), and just forward every forward to everyone they know – and some people they don't know, apparently. I get about 3-5 forwards in my email per day from various people. I don't read them all – who has time for that? Some of them I pass along, and others I don't. I always feel a little guilty when I do pass them on though because there is a slight chance they could contain viruses or just be incredibly annoying to those poor people I do send them to... So, with my apologies ahead of time to those who don't like it, here is a link that I got as a forward the other day. It links to this really fun and addicting mini golf game that my husband and I

have had lots of fun with. So far, my top score – well it's golf, so my low score is a 42... holes #14 and #18 kill me every time. See what you think: <https://www.ibogleif.dk/spil/flashpil/minigolf/minigolf.swf>

[swf]<https://www.ibogleif.dk/spil/flashpil/minigolf/minigolf.swf>[/swf]

Oh, yeah, and DO NOT open this at work – I do not want to be responsible for getting anyone into trouble on the job! I know I can't put the game down... enough of this posting, the baby needs a diaper change... I'll change her after one more game, just gotta play while holding my nose...

Don't Worry, Be Happy

I was having a brain freeze today and could not come up with a suitable movie to review... until I read a blog form a friend.

Happy Gilmore is one of the funniest movies involving one of the most boring sports imaginable: GOLF... UGH!!!!. Adam Sandler is one of the funniest guys around. I abhor watching golf... it is so quiet that that you are just dying to yell out "FIRE" or some other attention grabber. But this movie makes it hilarious. My favorite part of the whole movie has got to be when Happy is in a celebrity pro/am tournament. He was lucky enough to be paired with America's favorite game show host: Bob Barker former star of The Price is Right. Happy's day on the course does not go well. Bob makes the comment that Happy's hockey playing could not be worse than his golf game. Then, the hilarity begins. Bob Barker gets into a knock-down, drag-out fight. When it seems that Happy is victorious, he exclaims: "The price is WRONG, B*%#H." To

which Bob goes into a fit of rage and gives his golf partner a good beating. After finishing Happy off, Bob returns the favor by saying: "now, you've had enough... b*\$@h." All those days Bob spent boxing in the service must have payed off because the fight actually resembled a choreographed boxing match. It was one of the highlights of the movie to watch the normally composed game show host lose his cool. Speaking of boxing matches, Happy's golf mentor, Chubbs, was played by Carl Weathers who played Apollo Creed in the Rocky movies.