

A professional golfer, Vijay Singh, is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a lush green course. He is wearing a light blue polo shirt with "Tommyhilf LIVING & CO." on the chest, khaki pants, and a white cap with "Cleveland" written on it. A crowd of spectators, including men and boys, are gathered behind a green rope, watching the golfer. The background is filled with tall, dark green trees under a clear sky.

Michigan
GOLFER

Tournament Wrap-up
Vijay Singh
Wins 3rd Buick

Jack Berry on Wales Golf

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Fall 2005



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Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios.



Aberdovey

Wales Golf

By Jack Berry

When I say “Wales”, what do you think of?

Catherine Zeta-Jones? Tom Jones? Robert Trent Jones? Charlotte Church? Richard Burton? Coal? How Green Was My Valley? The Prince of?

Whiskey-makers Jack Daniels and Evan Williams trace Welsh roots as does zillionaire J.P. Morgan. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright? He named his Wisconsin home and Arizona winter headquarters Taliesin, after the Welsh poet.

Now say “Ian Woosnam” and you might think golf but Wales doesn’t resonate like Scotland and Ireland when you think golf. The Welsh would like to change that. They’ve been playing the game about as long as anyone. They just haven’t boasted about it despite having the third oldest golf union in the world and Dr. Frank

Stableford first used his unique scoring system at Glamorganshire Golf Club in Penarth in 1898.

Matter of fact, the Welsh just don't seem to boast at all despite having some of the most beautiful land in the British Isles, great green mountains, picturesque valleys and villages, bordered by the Irish Sea, twisty roads, small, stick-shift cars (no SUVs or F-150s at \$8 a gallon), fast-running streams, wonderful small hotels like the Penhelig Arms in Aberdovey and Maes-y-Neuadd

Country Hotel in Harlech, and 12 million sheep to three million people. Excellent food with emphasis on lamb, seafood and Welsh Angus beef. But they don't fly their gold on black Cross of St. David flag the way the white on blue Cross of St. Andrew flies everywhere in Scotland.

Coal was king in Massachusetts -size Wales until the mid-1980s, during Margaret Thatcher's reign as premier. Long strikes closed the mines and while there still is plenty of the mineral beneath those

green mountains, it's become cheaper to import it so Wales had to begin looking for new business and to promote its natural features.

Led by Sir Terry Matthews, the first Welsh billionaire, Wales has its eye on golf and golf tourism. Matthews was born on the property where the 2010 Ryder Cup will be contested, was educated in Britain and then, after making his fortune in Canada in telecommunications, returned to Wales and built five-star 400-room Celtic Manor, the largest hotel and golf resort com-



Photo courtesy of The Wales Tourist Board

Celtic Manor



Photo courtesy of The Wales Tourist Board

Royal Porthcawl

plex in Europe, just two hours west of London's Heathrow Airport.

Matthews turned the former maternity hospital

property into part of the complex, and while in Florida happened to meet an American golf course architect with Welsh family roots – Robert Trent Jones. He hired Jones to design a championship

course and it opened in 1999. It has been home since 2000 to the Wales Open on the European PGA Tour.

Until Matthews lit the fire, about the only course traveling American golfers had heard of was Royal Porthcawl overlooking the Bristol Channel, a short drive from Cardiff, Wales' capital and largest city. Porthcawl has hosted six British Amateurs plus the Walker and Curtis Cups between America and Great Britain and Ireland, the best male and female ama-

teurs. The losing American Walker Cup team in 1995 included Tiger Woods. Padraig Harrington was on the winning side. Reminiscent of last year's Ryder Cup?

Porthcawl, founded in 1891 and at its present location since 1895, was described by Bernard Darwin, acknowledged as the finest golf writer of all time, as "very excellent links...the genuine thing – the sea in sight all the time, and the most noble bunkers."



Photo courtesy of The Wales Tourist Board

Royal St. David



Nefyn

Michael Williams, of more recent vintage, said Porthcawl “epitomizes that which is best about the game even down to a creaking clubhouse that is as

unchanging as the magnificent links.”

As good as Porthcawl is, there are nearly 200 courses in Wales, many of them seaside, and two of

the best, most memorable links are Aberdovey and Royal St. David’s, each dating to the 1890s and never victim of a bulldozer’s blade. Along with Porthcawl, *Golf Digest* this year ranked them among the

best 100 courses outside of the United States.

The Cambrian Line railroad borders each, and when the two clubs had matches, their members could board a train next to their own course, ride to the other, step off and walk to the first tee.

It always seemed to me that the great British courses were bordered by rail lines and Aberdovey and Royal St. David's qualify. Aberdovey was Darwin's favorite. His mother's family lived there – the Welsh spelling of the village is Aberdyfi. Darwin was the club's first captain, a post he held many years, and of Aberdovey he wrote "It is the course that my soul loves best of all the courses in the world."

Neither is long by today's standard, 6,571 yards and par 69 for Royal St. David's and 6,454 yards, par 71, for Aberdovey. There are only two par 5s at St. David's and they're back-to-back. But there are five par 3s and they're good ones. The shortest is 144 yards and the

others are 173, 188, 202 and 218. None are over great stretches of water, like so many American par 3s. Instead there are humps, bumps, mounds, bracken, golden gorse (in the spring), rabbit holes and, of course, bunkers.

Aberdovey has three par 5s and the par 3s and par 4s offer wonderful challenges with the big green of the 173-yard third at Aberdovey hidden from the tee, sunk among the humps and bumps with just the top of the flag visible. To the left, over medium-high dunes, is a broad, sandy beach and the sea.

Neither the Welsh nor the Scottish seaside courses I've played have the towering dunes that mark the northwest and west links of Ireland like Carne, Rosapenna, Enniscrone and Portstewart.

Standing high above Royal St. David's and looking west out to the sea and north to 3,560-foot Mt. Snowdon, Wales' highest peak, is a great stone castle built by Edward I in the late 13th Century. Edward (nicknamed Long Shanks

because of his 6-2 height, uncommonly tall in the Middle Ages), had a knack for castles. He built an "Iron Ring" of five of them in Wales to quell Welsh nationalism. And today, among many Welsh, there's still a certain animosity toward England, one reason they've held onto their language, one that uses vowels but not where you'd expect them. They share their little distaste of England with the Scots – Edward thrashed Mel Gibson's William (Braveheart) Wallace, killed him and had him drawn and quartered.

I did learn one Welsh word: ARAF. Painted on the road, it means SLOW.

That's the way to go, too, around Nefyn & District Golf Club in North Wales, atop a slender peninsula jutting into the Irish Sea. Slow, hold your hat and take your camera. It rivals Ireland's Old Head for Most Spectacular – you see the sea from every tee — and it is open 365 days a year. It's windy at another Welsh cliff-top course, Cardigan Golf Club above Cardigan Bay, but it can't hold a



Photo courtesy of The Wales Tourist Board

Nefyn

wind sock to Nefyn where you need the lowest shots you can hit.

And all that on a beautifully maintained 26 hole course. Right, 26 holes, Old Course dates to nine holes in 1907 and nine more in 1912. An additional nine, the New Course, was added in 1933 and in the rearranging, one hole had to be dropped.

Every hole is, well, spectacular thanks to the surroundings, but the par 3 14th can stand with Cypress Point's famed 16th. It's 165 yards, all carry, clifftop to clifftop.

Tucked at the bottom of the leeward side is a very small fishing village reached by a very narrow

one-lane road.

Pennard, on the Gower Peninsula near Swansea, Wales' second largest city, is another cliff-top course – 200 feet up from the sea but with typical links holes with humps, bumps, gorse and bluebells. Dating to 1896, it's known as the "Links in the Sky." While it's a modest 6,225 yards, par 71, as with all the seaside courses, length is deceiving and much depends on the weather which can change several times during a round.

Golfers today might like to draw and quarter a few course designers but when they walk (a key word), feel the turf beneath their feet and play those links, so

unlike our expensively manicured courses traversed in golf cars, there is a feeling that this truly is golf the way it was meant to be played. And, like Ireland and Scotland, you walk. Some courses have a few "buggies," used primarily by physically handicapped people. Unlike American resorts and real estate-driven courses, the next tee isn't a quarter mile from the previous green. They're close.

In a tongue-in-cheek effort to distinguish themselves from their English cousins and Celtic clans to the north, the Wales Tourist Board adopted a campaign stating that Wales "Is Golf As It Should Be" and "There's Stuffy Golf and There's Golf in Wales." Stuffy is



Photo courtesy of The Wales Tourist Board

Cardigan



Cardigan

represented by a mutton-chopped, bearded gent in tweed suit, bow tie and plus fours with a likewise garbed manservant behind him, while the Welsh are represented by a couple strolling, he carrying his bag, she pulling a trolley (golf cart). Strangely, they're on a rolling green course with four horses grazing, a stone castle ruin and the sea in the distance.

They're also trying to appeal to women with a picture of golf-spiked high heel pumps and the line "For Women Who Take Their Golf Seriously."

Unfortunately, not all course managers have caught up. Forward tees seemed an afterthought at Aberdovey and Royal St. David's,

just places where two tee markers were set down on rough, uneven ground. And don't expect yardage markers on sprinkler heads or ball washers at the tee. If it's windy, and, after all, you are by the sea, yardage markers don't mean much anyway. And don't expect drinking water on the course or a cute cart girl with snacks and beverages. As at most courses in Ireland and Scotland, clubhouses are unpretentious and simple. Changing rooms have benches to sit on while you change shoes and hooks to hang your clothes. Nor are the pro shops stocked like department stores.

But there's always a comfortable bar and sandwiches and friendly bartenders.

Greens fees generally compare to northwest courses in Ireland – about \$80 at Aberdovey and Nefyn, \$117 at Royal St. David's, \$50 at Cardigan, \$75 at Pennard and the two priciest are Celtic Manor, host of the 2010 Ryder Cup, at \$180 and Royal Porthcawl are \$189. The best bet is to book with a specialist:

<http://www.walesgolfvacations.com> is one, led by a personable PGA professional Dylan Williams.

Another is

<http://www.welshrarebits.co.uk>.

The Wales Tourist Board website is <http://www.visitwales.com> and it also publishes an excellent large brochure which contains websites for all of the Welsh courses. **MG**

Tournament Wrap-Up

Singh, Jacobsen, Harris and DalCorobbo Headline Summer Champions

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

Vijay Singh won the state's only PGA Tour stop, Peter Jacobsen won Michigan's only Champions Tour stop and Michael Harris enjoyed a banner summer in Michigan's major tournaments. Here is a quick review of the summer of champions:

Buick Open

Vijay Singh won his second consecutive Buick Open and his fourth PGA Tour victory of the season when he finished with a 24-under 264 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc.

Singh, who became the first three-time winner in the storied history of the Buick Open, won the



Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Tom Izzo is getting a lot of recognition for his golf. He's the new pitch person for The Chief and Hawk's Eye courses, has his annual Izzo-Mariucci Golf Tournament in the U.P. and played in the Buick Pro-Am with Tiger this year.



Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Zach Johnson tied with Tiger Woods for 2nd.

\$828,000 winner's share of the \$4.6 million purse when he edged Tiger Woods and Zach Johnson by four strokes.

Ford Senior Players Championship

Peter Jacobsen shot 6-under 66 in the final round to win the Ford Senior Players Championship at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn. The victory was Jacobsen's second major title on the Champions Tour. Jacobsen, who finished with a 15-under 273, one stroke ahead of Hale Irwin and three strokes ahead of Tom Watson, collected the \$375,000 winner's share of the \$2.5 million purse.

Michigan PGA Championship

John DalCorobbo fired a 7-under 65 in the final round on the Cedar River course at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire to claim the 2005 Michigan PGA Championship. He finished the 54-hole tournament with an 11-under 205 and edged Jordan Young of Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club by four strokes. Brad Dean of Crystal Mountain finished five strokes back.

DalCorobbo, 40, who is the Director of Golf Instruction at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Club, lost the 2002 Michigan PGA Championship in a playoff with Ron Beurmann and eventual champion Ken Allard.

“What a wonderful feeling to match the names on that (Gilbert A. Currie) trophy and be a part of that legacy,” DalCorobbo said. “There are times in my life I don't feel like I've got game any more, and then there are times like this that I think, 'Wow, I can play.'”

Video:

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/michiganopen/2005michiganpgachampionship/>

Michigan Amateur Championship

With seven birdies in the final 12 holes, Christian Vozza of Traverse City beat Patrick Wilkes-Krier of Ann Arbor 5 and 4 to claim the 94th Michigan Amateur Championship at



Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Peter Jacobsen was the popular winner of the Ford Senior Players Championship at the TPC of Michigan.

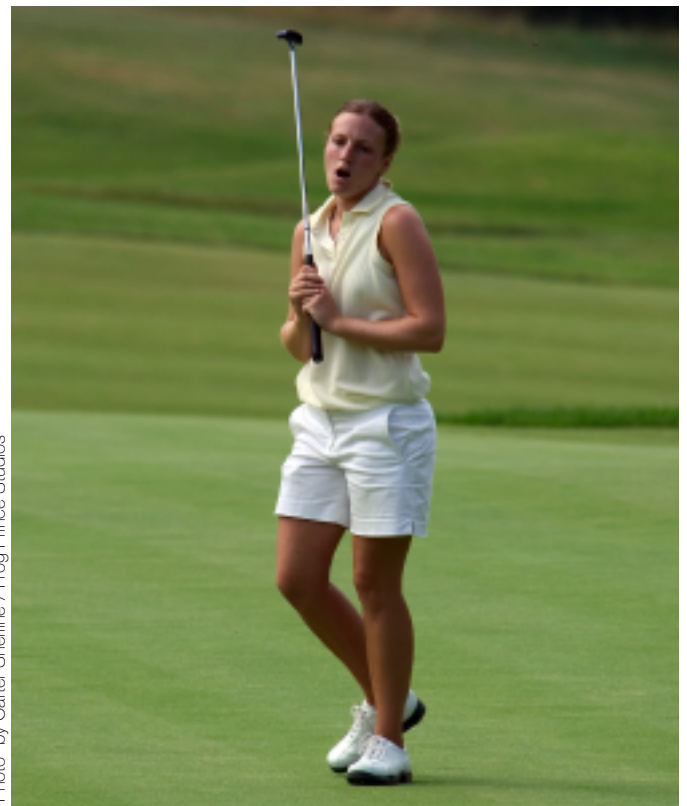


Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Mandi McConnell, a member of the MSU golf team, captured the 89th Michigan Women's Amateur Championship

Muskegon Country Club. Vozza, 22, who beat Jimmy Chestnut of Grand Blanc 2 and 1 in the semi-finals, opened the championship match with a pair of bogeys but rallied with four consecutive birdies.

"I was a little nervous out of the gate but then I made a couple of birdies and got my rhythm going," Vozza said. "Today I felt like I could make anything I looked at from 20 feet in. I'm a feel player so if I start making a few, I get in a rhythm."

Michigan Women's Amateur Championship

Mandi McConnell, a junior at Michigan State, won the 89th Michigan Women's Amateur Championship by defeating Western Michigan University sophomore Laura Bavaird 6 and 5 in the championship match at Radrick Farms Golf Club in Ann Arbor.

McConnell, 20, who was named Michigan's 'Miss Golf' in 2003 when she was a senior at Grand Blanc High School, won the first hole of the championship match with a birdie and won the next two holes with pars. "I stayed calm and tried to stay focused on what I was doing," said McConnell, who beat Rosemary Cassard of Grand Rapids 3 and 2 in the semifinals.

"It's exciting, really exciting," McConnell said of the championship. "I made some putts when I had to and I hit a lot of greens." *MG*

U of M's Harris Wins 88th Detroit Newspapers Michigan Open

By Michael Patrick Shiels

Michael Harris, a 27-year-old touring professional from Troy, shot 69 on

sional, collected \$8,4000.

"I don't think you ever stand on the first tee of The Bear and think you're going to shoot 20-under, but if you take it one day at a

I don't think you ever stand on the first tee of The Bear and think you're going to shoot 20-under. . .

The Bear in Thursday's fourth and final round to win the 88th Detroit Newspapers Michigan Open Championship. With rounds of 67-67-65-69 (268) Harris finished the championship at 20-under-par - the lowest four round total ever shot on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. The record-setting performance allowed Harris to finish six strokes ahead of Colby Beckstrom, a Muskegon rookie professional who closed with a 69 for a total of 14-under-par. Harris's share of the \$110,000 purse is \$13,000. Beckstrom, a past Michigan Amateur champion competing in his first event as a profes-

sional, hit the right shots at the right time, you can get there. Still, I wouldn't have believed it," said Harris, who made the Michigan Open his first-ever four-round victory as a professional. "I started out today wanting to break 70 in all four rounds. It was a lot windier today and a lot tougher, and the pins were tough. You have to respect that on a tough golf course. I knew the putter was there and I knew my game was still there, I just had to have the patience to let it come through."

Harris, a three-time all Big Ten golfer has twice won the three-

round Michigan PGA Tournament of Champions since he left the University of Michigan in 2000. He's finished as runner-up four times during his Canadian Tour career and, with earnings just under \$30,000 in six events this year, ranks eighth on the Canadian Tour's Order of Merit. He has also played on the PGA Tour's Nationwide Tour.

Harris began the day with a six shot lead over 22-year-old Beckstrom, who had been attending Texas Christian University but turned professional when he was eliminated from last week's Michigan Amateur Championship. Harris tried to quash any uprising by making 20 and 30-foot birdie putts on the first two holes.

“I played as hard as I could and it was almost impossible to catch him - one little falter and I might have been back in it. I never gave up hope, but he just doesn't falter and he doesn't make mistakes,” said Beckstrom, who hung tough and tightened his deficit to three strokes by the eighth hole - before losing momentum with a bogey on the ninth and letting Harris cruise away with a pitch-in eagle on the par-five 10th. “The eagle he made said to me 'It's not going to happen.' But the biggest learning experience this week was showing myself that I could do it.”

Beckstrom's 14-under finish would have tied the four-round championship record on The Bear - had it not been eclipsed by Harris's 20-under.

“That's the game. He could have shot 19-under and lost. That's the game, though,” said Harris. A lot of professional golf is timing. You have to play well on the right week. Sometimes it's just 'your time,' and I think this week was it for me.”

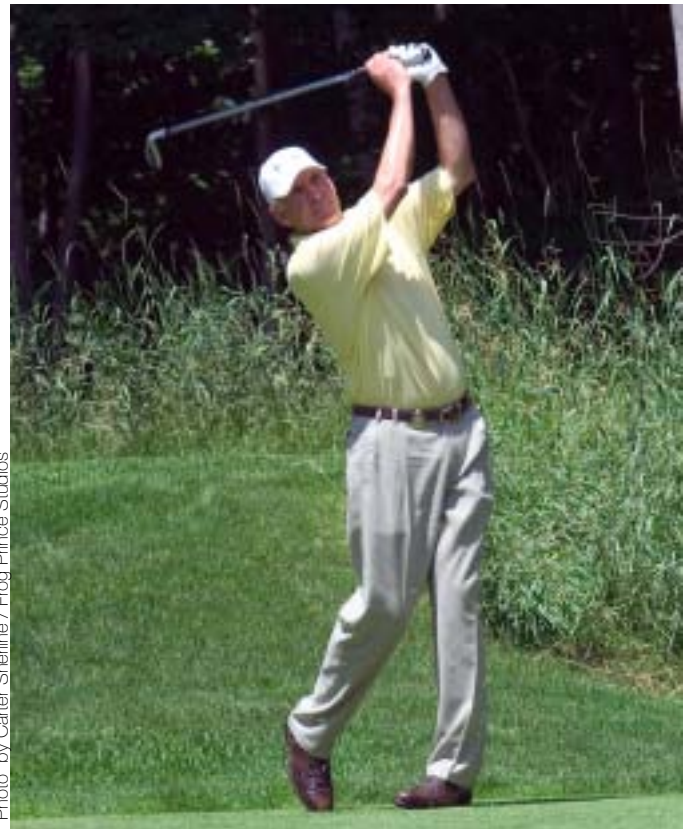


Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Andy North took home the big check at the Tylenol Par 3 Shootout at Treetops.



Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Heather Bowie captured the 2005 Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic presented by Kroger

Nevertheless, Beckstrom was pleased with his second-place finish and \$8,400 pay day. "I've been dreaming of this day forever. My goal was to win my first professional event and I got close. I put everything I had into it," said Beckstrom, who had never even seen *The Bear* other than a lone, pre-round practice tournament.

Third-place finisher Korey Mahoney, from Crystal Mountain and Eastern Michigan University, was also the championship's lowest amateur finisher, with a four-round total of 277 (-11.)

Scott Hebert, a five-time Michigan Open champion who won all of those titles at Grand Traverse and once worked as an assistant professional at *The Bear*, began the day in third place - eight strokes behind Harris, but the Sunnybrook Country Club assistant professional limped in with a 3-over-par 75 to finish the event at 6-under-par. **MG**



Photo by Carter Shelton / Frog Prince Studios

Forrest Gump was one of many celebrities participating in the 10th and final Jeff Daniels Comedy Golf Jam.



Photo by Carter Shelton / Frog Prince Studios

Cristina Baena of Pereira, Columbia was the 2005 winner of the Bank of Ann Arbor Futures Golf Tournament.

Sault Tribe Takes Inaugural Native American Cup



Photo courtesy of Sault Tribe News

Notah Begay III presents the Native American Cup to Sault Ste Marie Chippewa Tribe team captain Alan Bouschor.

Courtesy of Sault Tribe News

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians team won the Native American Cup Golf Tournament over the weekend of Aug. 12-14 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa near Traverse City, Michigan.

Four 12-member teams vied for the 2005 Cup and included the host, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, along with the Saginaw Chippewa

Indian Tribe, Sault Tribe, and Team Native America, which was composed of various tribal chairmen, American Indian businessmen and four-time PGA tour champion Notah Begay III.

Qualifying for the competition took place July 9-10. Alan Bouschor was the top qualifier for the Sault Tribe team and was designated the team captain. Also playing on the team were Jeff McLeod, Leroy Frazier, Bernard Bouschor, D.J. Kuczewski, Gary Cook, Harold Frazier, Chad Cook, Mike Nolan, Donald Smith, Brandon Jackson and Brandon Cook. The final

results were Sault Tribe, 20; Grand Traverse, 13.5; Saginaw Chippewa, 11; and Team Native America, 3.5.

"Congratulations to the Sault Tribe for an outstanding weekend of golf," said Henry Bouley, executive director of the Native American Cup. "They deserve the Cup, they earned it." Bouley said the Sault Tribe team did well all along but shined during singles matches on the final day of competition. The team won 11 out of 12 singles matches; Bouley called it an unheard of feat.

The Native American Cup dates back to 1997 when the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe hosted the Sault Tribe in a one-day golf event called the Anishinaabe Cup. Since then, the contest and the organization has evolved and there are hopes of eventual nationwide expansion. "Our goal is for this event to grow so that in future years, dozens of American Indian tribes from across North America are represented and more scholarships are awarded," said Bouley.

The goal of the organization is to enhance leadership and educational opportunities for American Indian students through annual scholarships funded through golf tournaments, sales of logo items and other fund-raisers. The signature golf tournament, the Native American Cup, will be held annually on the second weekend of August. *MG*

Video:

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/nativeamericacup/>

Harris Wins Third Tournament of Champions in Playoff

By Michael Patrick Shiels

Michael Harris, a 27-year-old touring professional from Troy, won his third career Michigan PGA Tournament of Champions Wednesday by shooting 67 in the final round on Boyne Mountain Resort's Monument course and then outlasting a charging Scott Hebert in a two-hole playoff. His three round total in the \$100,000 event was 69-69-67 - 205 (-11).

Hebert, 36, an assistant professional at Sunnybrook CC near Grand Rapids, began the day two strokes behind Harris, but shot the tournament-low 65 to finish at 11-under-par and force sudden death.

"Scott is bitten by the runner-up bug, I guess," said Harris of Hebert, who finished second to the University of Michigan alum three weeks ago in the Michigan Open at Traverse City. "When you shoot 11-under-par in this tournament you'd think he ought to win. Unfortunately for him, I shot 11-under too."

And while Harris has won the Tournament of Champions three times, Hebert has five T of C runner-up finishes, including the last three years in a row, and now two of them to Harris.

"Always a bridesmaid, huh?" quipped Hebert, who missed a seven-foot par putt on the second playoff hole - the par-three 13th hole - to seal his fate. It was his only bogey of the day. "I read too much into it," Hebert admitted, but nevertheless, was proud of his effort. "I played well. In a playoff, anything can happen. Unfortunately I three-putted. Golf is funny. I goofed up in the playoff but I missed plenty of putts earlier in the week," said Hebert. "My putting is so bad right now I can't tell if I'm stroking them well or not."

The low amateur in the event was Jenny Calkins, a 19-year old from Greenville who plays at the University of Louisville. She finished the event at 5-over-par. Mike Raymond, an amateur from Jackson, who finished 7-over-par, was the low senior. *MG*

Lovemark Earns Historic Victory in 103rd Western Amateur

By Gary Holaway

Benton Harbor, Mich. (Sunday, July 31) – Seventeen-year-old Jamie Lovemark made history Sunday in the 103rd Western Amateur, becoming the youngest player ever to win the championship and only the third player to win both the Western Junior and the Western Amateur.

Not since Bobby Clampett won both championships in 1978 had the feat been accomplished. Jim Wiechers was the first, and only other, golfer to win both, claiming the Western Junior in 1964 and the Western Amateur in 1966.

Lovemark, who won the Western Junior in July 2004 at Denver Country Club, cruised to the 2005 Western Amateur title at Point O' Woods Golf and Country Club in Benton Harbor, Mich., winning his



Photo: Clarence Sorimin

Jamie Lovemark won the 103rd Western Amateur

semifinal match, 5 and 4, over 20-year-old Luke List, a junior at Vanderbilt, and claiming the championship with a 3 and 2 win over another 20-year-old, Chris Wilson, a junior at Northwestern.

By winning the Western Amateur, Lovemark also earned an exemption to play in the 2006 Cialis Western Open, the PGA TOUR's annual stop at Cog Hill Golf Club in Lemont, Illinois. That makes him eligible to play in all three WGA championships next year. On Sunday, Lovemark still was at a loss for words to describe his thoughts on winning the Western Junior and Western Amateur in a 13-month span.

"Right now it's very hard to explain. It hasn't really sunk in," said Lovemark, of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. "When I wake up, I think I'll realize I just won one of the best amateur tournaments in the country. It's beyond words ... it's pretty much beyond belief to me. That's quite an honor to win both."

Lovemark, a senior at Torrey Pines High School, recorded his historic Western Amateur win while playing in just his second amateur event. He played in the 2003 U.S. Amateur but failed to make match play.

“I’ve haven’t really played against these guys,” he said. “My first round (in stroke play on Wednesday), I shot 69. I looked at the other scores and realized I could play with them.”

Success at the junior level also helped prepare him mentally. “I’ve won some pretty big events, the Western Junior and the Rolex (Junior All-American),” he said. “You have to learn how to win first. Once you win, it becomes easier.”

Lovemark indicated he’s looking forward to testing his game against the world’s best golfers at the Cialis Western Open in July 2006. “That’s like a newer level. That’s as high as it gets,” he said. “I’m going to work really hard over the year, and, hopefully, I’ll be ready for it.”

For now, Lovemark expects to drop plans to play in next week’s Pacific Coast Amateur. “I’m pretty sure I’m going to cancel that and go back home and rest,” he said. “I knew a lot about this tournament. I knew you had to play a lot of golf ...” – 72 holes of stroke play and four 18-hole matches for the champion and runner-up.

Lovemark played fewer holes than his opponents in match play; none of his matches went past the 16th hole – his four victories were 3 and 2, 3 and 2, 5 and 4 and 3 and 2. Wilson, who fell in the final, went the full 18 holes in two of his matches and needed 22 holes to win his quarterfinal match.

For Wilson, of Dublin, Ohio, the finish was bittersweet. It was his best performance in a national amateur event, but he couldn’t help pondering what might have been.

“Jamie’s a great player, and he deserves it. When you’re playing a player of Jamie’s capacity, all facets of your game have to be at the top,” Wilson said. “I missed a couple of putts I should have made. I didn’t drive it as well

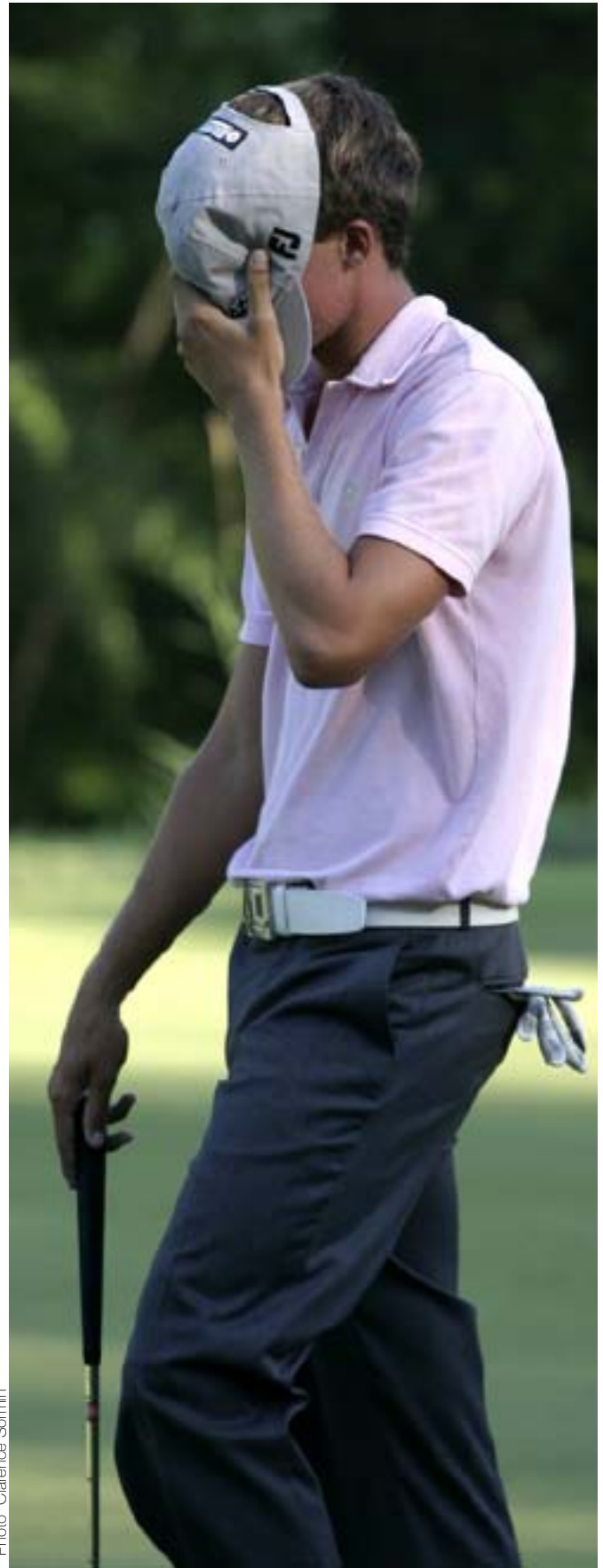


Photo: Clarence Sormin

Jamie Lovemark reacts after sinking a 37 yard eagle putt on Hole Number 2 during the playoff.

as I did yesterday. It just comes down to who makes the putts. Today, he made a couple and I missed a couple.”

Although most junior events are stroke play, Lovemark proved match play fits his game. “I consider myself a good match play player,” he said. “I try to make people make birdies and not let them win holes with par. I’m very aware of the strategies involved in match play.”

Making your own birdies helps, too. In his morning semi-final match against List, Lovemark made four birdies on the front nine to take a 3-up lead at the turn, and birdied the par 4, 422-yard, 16th to notch the 3 and 2 victory. Against Wilson, he birdied the first hole to take a lead he never lost.

Wilson advanced to the championship match by edging New Zealander Brad Iles, 1 up, in his morning semifinal. Wilson took a 1-up lead on the second hole against Iles and built the lead to 3-up through 13 holes. Iles scratched back, winning the next two holes to cut Wilson’s lead to 1-up, but Wilson managed to halve the last three holes, sinking an 8-foot, uphill par putt on the par 4, 421-yard, 18th to seal the win.

*Gary Holaway is
Communications Director,
Western Golf Association MG*

30 Year Return at 103rd Western Amateur

By Scott Sullivan

I admitted I was powerless over golf 30 years ago.

There were relapses. Now and then I would whack a bucketful with my old steel-shafted clubs, tune in telecasts to inflame the sense of transport the sport gave me, even play rounds of mini-golf to see if my only gift — for bouncing balls off the spinning windmill blade — had deserted me.

But play real golf? View a tournament firsthand? The thought triggered memories of 12-step programs and 12-stroke holes. There are only recovering golfaholics.

“If you start me up, I’ll never stop,” the Rolling Stones sang ... and keep singing. Same with me and golf. Visions of myself clinging to a mashie, like Mick to a microphone or Keith to his sunburst Gibson till we are all older than Methuselah were, ewww ... Don’t make a grown man cry.

Still, 30 years? Surely I had licked this. So when the chance came to view the 103rd Western Amateur at Point O’ Woods Golf and Country Club July 30, I decided to prove golf had no more grip on me. It was only a

Tiger Woods drive from home, the sun was shining, the weather perfect. This would be a watershed, not my Waterloo, I felt sure.

My confidence began withering upon entering what designer Robert Trent Jones called “perhaps my best American golf course.” One minute you’re cruising the Red Arrow Highway near Benton Harbor, the next you’re in Wonderland, where fairways are like greens, greens like magic carpets. Bunkers, shaped like amoebas or Rorschach ink blots, hold sand so white it has to be manufactured.

Sentinel trees dwarfed two-man armies — golfers and caddies, advancing on pins — framed by mirror ponds and hallucinatory blooms that seemed to radiate their own light.

God grant me the serenity ... Cathedral silences were broken by twittering birds as lean-jawed athletes under ballcaps addressed balls aggressively, swung and, CLINK!, sent them shooting rocket-like toward feathery, soft-plunk landings.

I was one with the gallery, whispering/murmuring speculations and second-guessing golfers whose toenails held more talent than I could hope for or even

dream of, unless they cared to consult me on hitting windmill blades.

This was rapture. Rats. I had not worn a hat just in case this happened, thinking frying my brain would chase me back to the clubhouse, my car and life as a golf teetotaler — Tees! — free of pin-placement palpitations, compulsions to count dimples on my Dunlops and other obsessions that 30 years ago had plagued me ... but no such luck.

“The mind is a terrible thing to lose,” said Dan Quayle, a better golfer than politician. But to give up a game you love — Davis Love! — because it is driving you nuts, is crazy.

I accept this thing that I cannot change. Golf has a Vardon grip on my jugular. I stayed till the 22-hole match I had been following was complete, shadows swallowed paradise, and mowing crews came on to shave stray-grass whiskers and prepare the next day's perfection.

Why fight that?

Scott Sullivan is Editor, Michigan Runner magazine, and can be reached by email at scott@glsp.com MG

Kelly Cavanaugh Makes Michigan Women's Open Her First Win

By Michael Patrick Shiels

Kelly Cavanaugh, a 22 year old from Palos Verdes, California, made the 12th Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open her first professional victory Wednesday at Crystal Mountain Resort. The touring professional, who confessed to not having won any tournament since playing junior golf, shot a final-round 68 on Crystal's 6,150-yard Mountain Ridge course, which, added to her first two rounds of 71 and 70, gave her a 209 (7-under-par) total and the \$5,500 first-place check.

“It feels great,” said Cavanaugh, who began the final round a shot behind LPGA veteran Tracy Hanson. “I played one shot at a time and tried not to pay attention. I just wanted to see what would happen without forcing anything.”

But Cavanaugh forced the issue by making three-straight birdies on the 10th through 12th holes, holing putts of six, 24 and 21 feet to push her way in front of Hanson.

“She played a really solid round of golf today. Three birdies in a row

definitely gave her some momentum. I made par putts, but I couldn't get the birdies to go in,” said Hanson, 33, who spends her summers in Holland, Michigan and has played 11 years on the LPGA Tour. Hanson did hole a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-three 17th to put the heat on Cavanaugh, who was then forced to hit her tee shot on the 18th with a tenuous one-stroke lead.

“I was so nervous, but I decided to go for it and hit my driver. I'd been doing it all week,” said Cavanaugh, who turned professional in 2003 and has been cherry-picking mini-tour events wherever she could qualify. She was rewarded with a closing birdie while Hanson, forced to play aggressively, double-bogeyed to close with 73 and slip to third place.

“I'm going to phone my grandfather Gene Parana, back in Palos Verdes. He got me into golf,” said Cavanaugh, who was also congratulated with cheers and hugs from her fellow mini-tour players behind the 18th green.

“I'm working really hard to get

This is definitely the best state open in the U.S. I love this golf course - it's wonderful.

to the LPGA Tour. I really want it bad.”

Cavanaugh's triumph made her the first non-Michigan resident to win the Michigan Women's Open, which first began welcoming players from outside the state in 2003. Almost immediately, LPGA Tour players and other touring professional from around the America and Canada began traveling to Michigan to compete.

“This is definitely the best state open in the U.S. I love this golf course - it's wonderful,” said Cavanaugh, who finished T-14 in last year's Michigan Women's Open. This year, she came to Crystal Mountain after competing in last week's LPGA Canadian Open in Nova Scotia. “I shot 81-79 in that event, so this is a really nice turn around.”

Brooke Tull, an LPGA rookie from Fort Worth, TX, closed with a tournament-best 67. Her three-round total of 70-75-67 - 212 (-4) made her runner-up, she collected \$4,000. She began the final round five strokes out of the lead.

“I was just going out there to try to have fun,” said Tull, 22. “It was my best round of the year and ties my best round ever. It helps. It's a real confidence boost.”

Sara Brown, from Tucson, AZ, who plays golf at Michigan State University, finished as low-amateur after shooting rounds of 73-75-73-221 (+5). She received a gift certificate for \$750.

Fifty professional and 39 amateurs from around America and Canada competed in the \$40,000 Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open on Crystal Mountain Resort's Mountain

Ridge course. Fifty-nine players were from Michigan. First prize was \$5,500.

Final Results, 2005 Detroit Newspapers Michigan Women's Open. July 25-27. Mountain Ridge Course, Crystal Mountain Resort

- 1st Kelly Cavanaugh, Palos Verdes, CA \$5,500.00
- 2nd Brooke Tull, Ft Worth, \$4,000.00
- 3rd Tracy Hanson, Holland, MI \$3,000.00
- 4th Emily Bastel, Upper Sandusky, OH \$2,500.00
- 5th Marie Josee Rouleau, Ft Lauderdale, \$2,000.00
- 6th Dodie Mazzuca, Scottsdale \$1,600.00
- 7th Janice Olivencia, Austin, \$1,500.00
- 8th Cortney Reno, Grosse Ile \$1,400.00
- 9th Ria Quiazon, San Francisco, CA \$1,300.00
- 10th Misia Lemanski, Grosse Ile \$1,100.00 **MG**



Harris Wins Bay Mills Open



Photo courtesy of kramtv.com

Bay Mills Open Champion: Michael Harris

By Marty Henwood

August 28, 2005 — BRIMLEY, Mich.—If drama was what you were looking for, Sunday's final round of the Canadian Tour's Bay Mills Open Players Championship provided plenty of it.

And then some.

After five runner-up finishes, Michael Harris finally snagged that elusive first win in his home state with a come-from-behind playoff victory at the Bay

Mills Open Players Championship.

In the final full-field event of the season, Harris' win translated into much more than having his name etched on the championship trophy. With the \$32,000 payday, Harris leapt from fourth into top spot on the money list with \$77,622, earning an automatic exemption into the second stage of PGA Tour Qualifying School. Harris will also be one of six Tour players in the Bell Canadian Open next month in Vancouver.

Harris carded a final-round 6-under 66, one shot

better than Hultman, with both players winding up with a four-day total of 13-under 275. Californian Peter Tomasulo, a virtual lock for Rookie of the Year honours, was third at minus-9.

Canadians Stuart Anderson, Matt McQuillan and Chris Baryla tied for ninth at 4-under 284.

Despite his strong showing Sunday, Tomasulo ended up losing a lot more than he gained. Harris' triumph bumped Tomasulo into third on the money list, meaning the 23-year-old standout will have to roll the dice in the first stage of PGA Tour Qualifying while Harris and Jaime Gomez (\$74,920) get the free pass.

"The exemption is great, but the win means so much more to me right now," admitted Harris. "I've had to answer those questions (of finishing runner-up) for the past two years. Now I can put that behind me. This is pretty special."

This day certainly wasn't for the faint of heart.

For the first half of Sunday's round, it looked to be a safe bet that Harris was destined to be the proverbial bridesmaid once again. Hultman birdied his final three holes of the front side to lead by three at the turn, leaving Harris with plenty of work to do on the inbound nine.

It was then that Harris began spinning a little Sunday afternoon magic.

It all began when the former University of Michigan star chipped in for birdie on the par-4 11th to get within two. Harris narrowed the deficit to one stroke when, after leaving his tee short on the par-3 13th, he once again pitched in from the heavy rough. On the next hole, Harris pulled even by sneaking a birdie putt in the side hole.

But the fun was just beginning.

Tied for the lead on 16, Harris misread what was essentially a tap-in par putt, opening the door for Hultman to take a one-shot edge with two holes to play. Leaving himself short in the rough on the par-5 17th, Harris defied the odds once again, pitching in for the third time in eight holes. This time, he clanked his attempt off the flagstick before watching to drop in the hole for an eagle-3.

Seconds later, Hultman drained a birdie putt to square things up again.

On the par-4 finishing hole, Hultman hit his approach to within twelve feet. Harris did one better, tape-measuring a wedge from 104 yards to within six inches. Hultman answered the bell once again, converting the birdie attempt to force a playoff.

On the first extra hole, Hultman left his 16-foot birdie attempt on the lip before Harris jarred his 10-footer for the win.

"Unreal," said Harris shortly after he collected his first championship trophy on the 18th green. "They say luck isn't a part of this game, but I proved otherwise today. Anders played fantastic. Anytime you are leading and shoot 67, you should win the golf tournament. It's a crazy game for us lucky ones that have chosen this to make a living."

"I call it divine intervention," he added with a laugh.

For Hultman, who, ironically, defeated Harris to win his first Tour start in Texas two years ago, the loss was a tough pill to swallow.

"I don't know, man," said a subdued Hultman. "I played better than I did any of the other days. What can you do? It thought it was just going to be my day. It's so disappointing. It certainly didn't end the way I wanted."

With so many heartbreaks in the past two seasons, Harris was asked if his mental mistake on the tap-in putt with three holes to go was, perhaps, a sign of things to come.

"Sure, that putt could have cost me, but the four-footer that I may have missed on Thursday could have cost me as well. It never really bothered me. You know that you are going to get a chance over those final few holes. You just have to wait for it."

As fierce a competitor as you will find, Harris decided to take a more relaxed approach to the game in the past year. Instead of playing not to lose the tournament, Harris stressed he now plays it one day at a time before adding up his score at the end of the week.

"I've tried to put golf in its proper place," added Harris. "I've played a lot of tournaments worried about losing. I try not to let things get to me now. You learn where golf is in the list of priorities." **MG**

Video: <http://baymillsopen/video05.html>

Golfing Indian River Country



Photo by Art McCafferty

Chestnut Valley

By Jack Berry

Indian River

Indian River Golf Club borrows an old newspaper review to bill itself as the “Best Kept Secret in the North.”

But it isn't a secret. Established in 1923 as a nine hole course and with the second nine added in 1984

by Warner Bowen who did the popular Schuss Mountain course, Indian River rightly has become known as one of the most enjoyable, playable courses in the golf hotbed at the top of the Lower Peninsula. It's just a few minutes off the 310 exit of I-75, 25 miles from Petoskey, Harbor Springs and Mackinaw City.

Indian River is a comfortable, well-maintained layout with four sets of tees that measure 6,692, 6,143, 5,380 and 5,167 yards. The slope rating is

125, 122, 114 and 119 and there usually seems to be a tree when you stray too far off the fairway. Water is in play on four holes but there aren't any forced carries.

And with perhaps a little nod to Ireland's famous Ballybunion which has a cemetery on the right side of the first hole, Indian River's par 3 ninth is bordered on the right by a cemetery.

Indian River's prices are really right after Sept. 5 – it's the twilight rate of \$25 walking and \$35 riding. Canadian money is accepted at par after Labor Day.

Chestnut Valley

American chestnut trees were nearly wiped out by an Asian fungus that infected them beginning at the turn of the last century. Once a staple of American forests and valued for its exceptional wood and the nuts that were feasted upon by wildlife, the tree virtually disappeared.

Some survived, though, and one is the anchor of Chestnut Valley Golf Club in Harbor Springs. It's just south of Brutus Rd. and east of Pleasantview. The magnificent specimen chestnut by the green of the 10th hole is believed to be 135 years old and is the second largest chestnut in Michigan.

Chestnut Valley's other trees aren't as old but Larry Mancour weaved the course through some outstanding oaks and maples (a huge maple is by the green of the par 3 14th

hole) and produced a very playable course that measures 6,506 yards with a 120 slope from the back tees, 6,007 yards from the middle and 5,166 from the front markers.

Flint native Mancour has been one of Michigan's top professionals over the years on both the state and national scene and he's had a flair for design – Grand Blanc Golf Club, Sugarbush in Davison and Dunmaglas, a strong test, in Charlevoix. Chestnut Valley has a nice variety with nothing overbearing and two sets of twilight rates, after 1 p.m. — \$45 during the week, \$55 weekends, and after 3 p.m. — \$35 during the week and \$40 weekends.

Besides that great, spreading chestnut tree on the 10th, there's another distinctive signature – caps in the pro shop that say: The Nut. **MG**

Video: <http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/indian-river/>



Photo by Art McCafferty

Indian River

2005



Photo by Art McCafferty

Notah Begay III

Destination Golf

- Grayling Golf-Grayling CC, Fox Run, Grandview and Twin Birch
- Ireland Golf & the Ryder Cup with Vanessa Bell

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Series

- Dan Pohl with Jack Berry
- Elaine Crosby with Jack Berry
- Jerry Matthews with Jack Berry
- Stan Aldridge with Jack Berry
- Joan Garety with Jack Berry

Michigan Golf History

- The Ryder Cup Opening Ceremonies with Vanessa Bell
- Arnold Palmer and the Turning Point Invitational
- Memories of the Ryder Cup with Vanessa Bell
- The Irish Invasion of the Henry Ford
- An Evening with Tom Doak

Tournament Golf

- 2005 Michigan PGA Championship
- 2005 Bay Mills Open Players Championship
- 2005 Detroit Newspapers Michigan Open
- Treetops Pepsi Challenge
- Native American Cup with Notah Begay III

Golf Architects and Their Courses

- The Natural with Jerry Matthews
- The Majestic Golf at Lake Walden with Jerry Matthews
- Timberstone Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- The Tribute Golf Course with Gary Koch
- The Loon Golf Club with Mike Husby
- The Concession with Tony Jacklin, Jack Nicklaus and Vanessa Bell
- True North Golf Club with Jim Engh
- Sundance Golf Course with Jerry Matthews

SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

*Everybody talks about
the weather, but no one can
do a darn thing about it.*

--Mark Twain

Weather makes golf course owners like cloud-watching farmers. Just as in agriculture, golf is highly dependent upon favorable weather conditions. I was thinking such thoughts the other day after I read a little weather note in the *Grand Rapids Press* by local meteorologist Bill Steffen, an Evans Scholar by the way.

Steffen reported that the summer of 2005 for west Michigan has been the warmest since 1955. Also, it's been one of the sunniest. Usually noted for partly cloudy skies due to the effects of nearby Lake Michigan, west Michigan this summer has averaged 78% sunshine. The normal percentage of

sunshine in these parts is 62%. And last summer, not one of the best, it only averaged 56% sunshine.

What this all means to me is that if you own or manage a golf course and can't turn a profit in this type of climate, I doubt you'll ever do so. There's no argument, however, that weather is only one element in the number of rounds per year. The oversupply of golf courses in many sections of the state continues to impact negatively on overall business. The law of supply and demand is often harsh and immutable as operators have discovered. Equally significant is the economy of a state or region. Michigan's economy has suffered in recent years with a dramatic

decrease in manufacturing jobs—long the lifeblood of our state, particularly in the auto industry. This downturn in the Michigan economy has been felt at golf courses. How the golf industry is interdependent with the general economy of the state has always interested me.

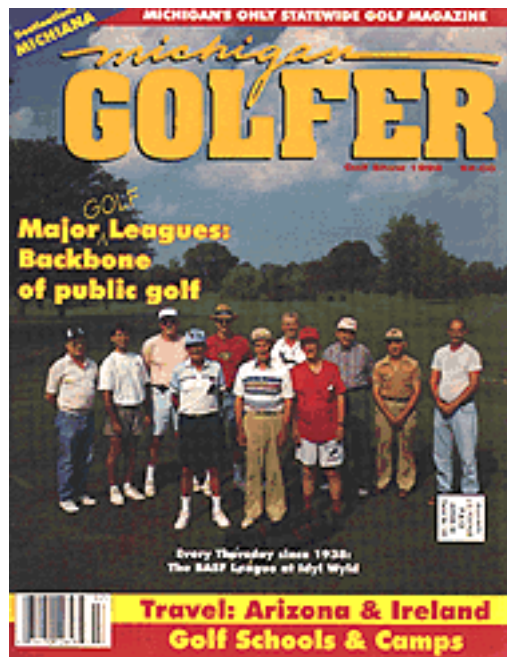
When asked sometimes why Michigan had so many public golf courses (still no. 1 in the country), I usually like to share my pet theory that it was largely due to the history of our industrialized and union-based state. Henry Ford had a lot of faults but his idea of paying his workers a living wage so that they would be buyers of his autos was prescient and made good business sense. The other automakers soon

followed suit. Also, due to the influence of the United Auto Workers and other trade unions, workers earned not only a decent wage and benefits but also had more leisure time for recreation. Let's face it, even if you have a good job you won't be playing golf if you're working 60 hours a week. The 40-hour work week allowed Michigan laborers to have enough time and leisure to play a game like golf that takes at least 2 hours for nine holes. I remember a cover story for *Michigan Golfer* we once did on league play around the state. Many of those leagues—some dating back to the '30s—originated out of the auto industry. Golf leagues are an important source of steady, dependable income for many public golf courses.

OK, back to the weather. I know several savvy golf operators who record the weather daily at their course so as to better understand and analyze their traffic. If an operator just looks at rounds per day or week without comparing it to the weather then he or she is

missing some important factors. Also, bad weather on the weekend is a killer for operators. It's one thing to endure a heavy rainfall or lightning on a Tuesday in May but a rainout on a Saturday or Sunday in July is hard to make up.

And speaking of lightning let



me digress on one my pet peeves. Yes, I'm angry about lightning and how deadly it can be for careless golfers. But what ticks me off even more are owners and operators who don't employ lightning and/or weather alert systems at their courses to ensure greater player and staff safety. It's inexcusable for

public courses not to have adequate weathers systems, many of them computer-based, that should be matched with sirens and horns so as to clear play from courses when dangerous weather approaches. Yes, players must be responsible for their actions out on a golf course but fast-approaching storms ought to be monitored by operators and managers for the safety and well-being of their customers. End of digression.

For sure, we all tend to give too much attention to bad news and negative trends. That's why that sunny factoid from Bill Steffen was so welcomed and encouraging. We all should feel blessed by this long stretch of ideal golf weather. Maybe next summer we won't be so lucky. With that in mind, it's never too early for golf courses to start thinking about a "rainy day fund."

Founding editor of Michigan Golfer, Terry Moore lives in Grand Rapids and can be reached at tmoore@usxc.net. MG