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**Willie Mack III
Wins 100th
Michigan Amateur**



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Summer 2011

MICHIGAN GOLFER

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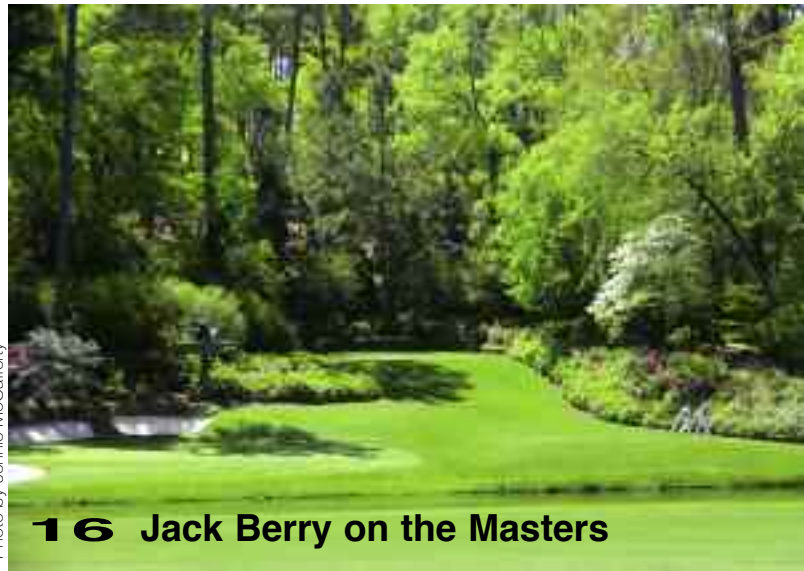


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Impressions of the 100th Michigan Amateur

By Terry Moore



Terry Moore

The 100th Michigan Amateur contested at The Heather at Boyne Highlands delivered history-making golf as Flint's Willie Mack III became the first African-American to win the state's oldest golf championship.

Mack defeated defending champion and local favorite Joey Garber, playing on his home course, 4 & 3 in the 18-hole finals match.

Although I wasn't there for the finals, I did manage to follow Mack earlier in the week including a 21-hole victory that ended in the dark.

A recent graduate of Bethune-Cookman University in Fla., Mack possesses an impressive game. Earlier this spring, he shocked west siders when he won the West Michigan Amateur at Candlestone GC by birdieing two of the last three holes to erase a three-shot deficit to Tom Werkmeister, Grand Rapids' premier player, claiming

the crown in his first attempt. (To boost the field, tournament officials this year allowed entries from across the state.)

Only 5'8" tall and weighing 150 pounds, Mack generates plenty of clubhead speed and length with a powerful whip-like swing mindful of Rickie Fowler. And like Fowler, he's an exceptional putter.

Watching him compete in several matches at Boyne, I was most impressed with his accelerating and aggressive stroke, almost always getting his misses past the hole in the preferred Dave Pelz

Photo above: The Heather, Boyne Highlands.

range of 18 inches. His putting routine is consistent and he's never careless with his short putts. In the 21-hole match on Thursday, Mack made consecutive three-foot come-backers to halve the holes before ending the match at 10 p.m. with a 30-foot birdie that rattled the back of the cup.

I also liked the pace of Mack's play; he's ready to hit and gets at it when he's away. This is refreshing in an era when the stakes of college golf have added excessive pre-shot routines and too much deliberation. But Mack's best quality, and one that will arm him well for the rigors of professional and mini-tour play, is his laser-like focus and intensity level. He's totally into the moment and the shot at hand. It will be this aspect of his game, and not mechanics, that bodes well for Willie Mack III.

Now for some other thoughts and impressions of the Michigan Amateur conducted by the Golf Association of Michigan:

I walked away with renewed appreciation for The Heather, the Robert Trent Jones-designed gem that helped spark the rise of resort golf in northern Michigan. First, it's a walkable course ideal for the Amateur and match play. (I like how Boyne allows walking and even arranges caddies at The Heather for its guests.) Greens and tees are close to one another and the

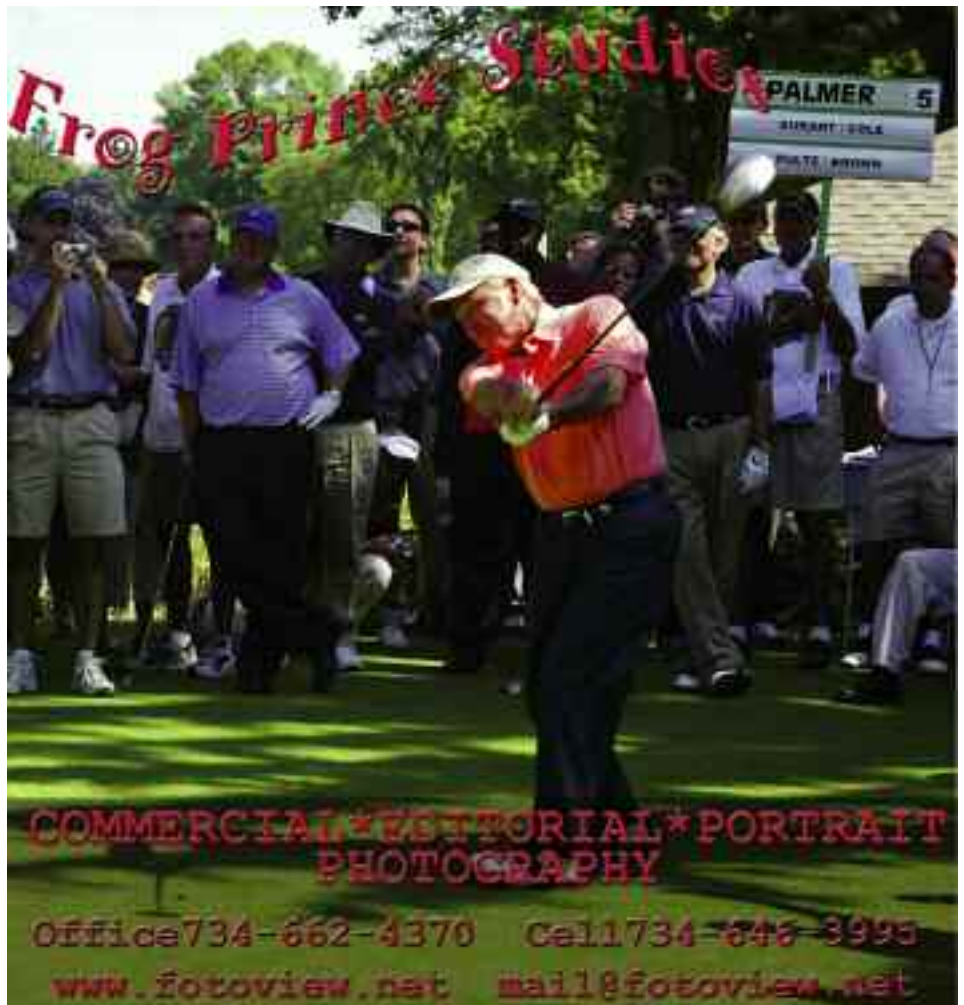
terrain is generally flat. Secondly, the course was in fine condition throughout and it held up well in spite of all of the rain that beset the championship. Checking out several bunkers I didn't notice any stones—a common pitfall of northern Michigan courses. And of course, the Boyne Highlands setting is hard to match even in the most unfavorable weather.

How did spitting on the green and on the course become a fashionable "tic" among young players? Was it Sergio Garcia and Tiger Woods, serial spitters both, who helped spread this nasty habit? I observed at least three players in the Amateur spitting on the green after they holed out. It's

a nervous, thoughtless habit and one many players probably aren't aware they're even doing. But it's something that should be nipped in the bud by parents and coaches alike. I'd even like to see "no spitting" reminders placed on first-tee rules sheet and/or pin placements.

Kudos to the many volunteers who turned out for the 100th Michigan Amateur. Boyne did an incredible job of recruiting an enthusiastic army of spotters who made a huge difference in the pace of play by quickly locating balls in the rough, which was a healthy and ball-hiding four inches deep.

- MG -



Stephanie Kim Wins Island Resort Championship

By Lisa Mickey



Photo: by Brian Oar

Sweetgrass Golf Course, Hole Number Seven

HARRIS, Mich., June 26, 2011 – Teenager Stephanie Kim earned her first professional victory in wire-to-wire fashion today at the \$100,000 Island Resort Championship presented by Delta County Chamber of Commerce.

The 2011 LPGA and LPGA Futures Tour rookie carded rounds of 67-72-70 to win by two shots at 7-under 209 at Sweetgrass Golf

Club in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Kim edged runner-up Jane Rah (70) of Torrance, Calif., who finished at 5-under 211, and Hanna Kang (72) of Seoul, South Korea, who finished third at 4-under 212.

"It wasn't as hard leading the pack as it was hitting the fairway today," said Kim, 19, of Bayside,

N.Y., who hit only nine fairways in regulation in today's final round. "I was scraping it around, but making a lot of putts. When my swing fell apart, I guess I just dug deep."

Fortunately for the former Wake Forest University collegian, her putter responded when she needed it most. Kim rolled in a 15-foot birdie on the third hole, a 90-foot birdie monster on No. 7 and a five-



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foot birdie on the ninth hole.

But she gave back two shots when her drive found a water hazard on the ninth hole and she hooked her tee shot left into the fescue on No. 10. On the par-5 11th hole, Kang chipped in for eagle to draw within two strokes of Kim.

“After Hanna made the eagle there, I said, ‘I guess I need to make birdie,’ and I did [from eight feet],” said Kim, who played as an amateur on the LPGA Futures Tour in 2009 and 2010.

Kim rolled in an eight-footer for birdie on No. 11, gave it back with a bogey on No. 12 when she flew the green, and then rolled in a 15-foot birdie on the 13th hole.

But Kim was wobbling and Kang, Rah and rookie Lizette Salas of Azusa, Calif., were applying pressure with five holes to play.

Rah missed her five-foot birdie chance on the 18th hole. And Kang’s approach to the 18th green landed in the back fringe. She missed her 10-foot putt for par.

Salas (73) took double-bogey on No. 17 to drop into a tie for fourth at 3-under 213 with Kathleen Ekey (67) of Sharon Township, Ohio.

Even with a two-stroke lead heading into 18, Kim had a tricky fairway bunker shot into the last green. Her blast out of the sand hit the firm green and rolled 65 feet past the hole, leaving Kim a tester to two-putt for the win.

“Did you see my bunker shot?” quipped Kim. “If it hadn’t stopped when it did, it would have rolled on to Canada. I just knew I didn’t want to three-putt to win.”

Kim eyed the long putt on a double green built in the shape of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and rolled it to eight feet, making her putt for par and the win.

“I was thinking, ‘Be fearless, Stephanie,’ and that this putt was shorter than the one I had on the seventh green today,” said Kim, who

needed only 26 putts in the final round. “You can’t win looking in your rear-view mirror.”

Today’s runner-up finish was a disappointment for Rah, who has posted four top-10 finishes in four of her last five tournaments. The Californian was still stewing over a missed birdie chance from eight feet on the 17th hole to move within one shot of Kim. And the missed five-foot birdie effort on the last hole added insult to injury.

“I knew that a birdie on the 17th would have been big and missing that putt really stung,” said Rah. “I still wanted to make a birdie on the final hole to see what would happen, but these greens have a lot of subtle breaks. I missed a lot of birdie opportunities today.”

In spite of four inches of rain earlier in the week, 25 mph winds in Friday’s first round, and firm and fast greens in today’s final round, Kim was able to hang on to her lead in this week’s inaugural event. She said the win felt like “a weight was lifted” from her shoulders, adding that it also helps validate her decision to leave college golf after only a year.

“It’s not about silencing the critics,” said Kim, with the trophy, a cardbook check for \$15,400, and a handmade Native-American blanket in her arms after the awards ceremony. “It’s about me and my future. If you don’t step on the first tee and think you can win, you shouldn’t play. I’m glad I delivered.”

For scores and more information, visit lpgafuturestour.com.

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Photo by Brian Oer

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A photograph of a golf course landscape. In the foreground, a pond with a central fountain spraying water upwards. The middle ground shows a lush green fairway leading to a sand trap on the right. The background is filled with a dense line of tall, green trees under a bright sky.

Northern Indiana Golf

By Mike Duff



Hole Number 11, Cobblestone

“Where Golf and Hospitality Meet” is the slogan used to describe the experience one can expect from a two to three day golf adventure in Northern Indiana. Three of us took advantage of this offer and made arrangements with

I am part of a standing foursome which tries to choose a golf destination somewhere south of Michigan in early April or May to avoid the early spring bad weather. This year we found just the right location. Three hours from Detroit, four hours from Chicago and only

All the packages include a complimentary deluxe breakfast buffet, golf and your choice of six 4-star (Golf Digest) golf courses and lodging. Our package was for two nights and 45 holes of golf with cart, for \$159.

The six courses to choose from

The six courses to choose from are Noble Hawk, Cobblestone, Glendarin Hills, Bridgewater, Autumn Ridge and Cherry Hill.

Kimberly Hays, the director of golf, at the Kendallville Best Western Hotel conveniently located in NE Indiana near I-69 and I-80/90 toll roads. What we experienced was good service, friendly people and outstanding golf.

a chip shot from Lansing and Grand Rapids. We found this golf package through the Novi Golf Show and would recommend taking the time to check it out. The golf packages can be customized to meet your group's personal needs.

are Noble Hawk, Cobblestone, Glendarin Hills, Bridgewater, Autumn Ridge and Cherry Hill. Two of the courses, Autumn Ridge and Cherry Hill are located in Fort Wayne about 25 minutes from Kendallville. Glendarin Hills is in Angola. All of these courses are an easy drive from the hotel.

During our stay, we played Noble Hawk and Cobblestone and were scheduled to play 9 holes at Glendarin on our way home on Sunday but weather conditions did not allow us the opportunity. However, we were credited for that cost which is a nice way the management handled this situation.

If Noble Hawk and Cobblestone are any indication of how good the other courses are in this package then you can be assured that your time spent here will be well worth the drive. Rick Hulett and his wife Cristine from Noble Hawk made us feel right at home. They were eager to share the special features of this “Scottish” style golf course. The course features gently rolling bent grass fairways, large undulat-



Photo courtesy of Cobblestone.

Hold Number One, Cobblestone



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Hole Number Two, Cobblestone

ing greens with plenty of sand and water in combination with natural ornamental grasses. The course is in a housing development but the homes do not impinge on the course. There are 5 tees to choose from and the yardage is suited to every level of play. It is a beautifully designed Scottish links course.

We played Cobblestone, a more traditional style course, on Saturday and again we were impressed with the design and condition. In 1999, just after Cobblestone opened it was rated by Golf Digest as the 8th best new course that year and “Places to Play” in 2002-2003. Jeff Huffman the Director of Operations was extremely proud of the course and the reviews it has received over the

past ten years. It is not an exceptionally long course but the fairways allow for generous layups and the condition of the course was excellent.

As previously mentioned, we did not have a chance to play Glendarin Hills but after talking with Matt Funkhouser, Head Professional, we were able to put together a picture of what this course looked like and how it could be played. We learned that both nines offer a variety of open and tree lined holes. Driving past the tenth and eleventh holes on the way to the club house reminded us of a Scottish links design and Matt pointed out that the course has a nice balance of trees and bunkers and rolling terrain. We realized on our way home that Glendarin was

something special and we regretted not having the opportunity to play it. All the more reason to return.

We all agreed that we haven’t seen enough of this golf destination and vowed to plan another trip to NE Indiana.

So, if you are looking for a golf experience that gives you outstanding golf, with excellent lodging at affordable prices within a reasonable driving distance. Then go for it!

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A Memorable Masters

By Jack Berry

This was a memorable Masters Tournament, prefaced by countless interviews of Jack Nicklaus remembering his victory 25 years ago at the age of 46 (he said he was interviewed more this year than he was when he won), whether Phil Mickelson's hot hand at Houston would carry over to a second green jacket or if Tiger Woods' "process" finally would pay off.

Nicklaus left town after he and Arnold Palmer hit ceremonial open-

ing tee shots to start the tournament and Mickelson seemed to disappear too, never contending. Woods, who says his swing change is in a "process," hasn't turned in four consecutive good rounds since he hit a tree and fire hydrant outside his driveway and turned into his own Thanksgiving turkey 18 months ago.

Instead, this turned into one of the best of the 75 Masters since Michigan Golf Hall of Famer Horton Smith won the first one in 1934. Woods turned in fireworks

like the young Tiger with a 5-under-par 31 first nine Sunday but the cliché is that the Masters doesn't begin until the last nine on Sunday afternoon and there certainly was an element of truth in it.

Woods, 35, faded on the nine after being one of 10 people with a shot at it, then seven and finally South African Charl Schwartzel won with four straight closing birdies, 50 years after Gary Player became the first South African to win the Masters.



Charl Schwartzel practices the day before the Masters first day.

Actually, the die was cast on the first hole when Schwartzel holed an 80-foot chip from short right of the green and four shot leader Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, playing right behind him, missed a short par putt.

Despite opening 65-69-70 and leading from the start, McIlroy consistently missed short putts in those three rounds, failing to capitalize on excellent iron play. And that has been the Irishman's weakness despite some 63s in tournament play including the first round of the British Open last year on the Old Course at St. Andrews.

McIlroy isn't the first leader to implode on Sunday at Augusta, though. Greg Norman led by six in 1996 but shot 78 on Sunday and Nick Faldo, Norman's nemesis in the majors, shot 67 and won by five shots. Norman had tied the course record with a first round 63. But Sunday is different at the

Masters with the best finishing nine holes in championship golf with equal opportunities for eagles, birdies, bogeys and worse.

McIlroy got worse. His hooked tee shot on the 10th ricocheted off one of the tall loblolly pines and landed in virgin territory. No one remembered seeing a shot wind up between two member/guest cabins 40 yards to the left of the fairway. Triple bogey. Then a double at the 11th and single at the 12th.

As good as McIlroy is, and he is good, he has a penchant for a triple or double, sometimes a couple doubles. Rickie Fowler is the same. They're young. McIlroy is 21, Fowler is 22. Learning often is tough, especially in

the highly pressurized major championships.

"I unraveled," said McIlroy who led for 63 holes until the disastrous 10th, a tough hole even when the tee shot lands in the fairway.

But again, McIlroy didn't blow the biggest lead.

After Norman's six shots weren't enough, Ed Sneed's five shot lead in 1979 wasn't enough either. Sneed bogied the last three holes and went into the Masters' first sudden death playoff with Tom Watson and Fuzzy Zoeller who was playing his first Masters. They all parred the first hole and Zoeller won on the second with a birdie. Then, as now, the playoff started on the 10th hole.

Ken Venturi, like McIlroy, had a four shot lead in the 1956 Masters. Venturi was a 24-year-old amateur. He shot 80 on Sunday and Jackie Burke, with four rounds in the 70s (Venturi had two in the 60s), came from eight shots back and won by a shot. Burke shot one-under-par 71, one of only two rounds under



Rory McIlroy practices putting during Wednesday's practice round

par that day. Sam Snead also shot 71 and tied for fourth.

Venturi received a silver medal for runnerup, a silver-gold cup as low amateur, a gold medal as low amateur, a crystal vase for the low first round, a crystal highball glass for an eagle on 13 in the first round, and another one for an eagle on eight in the second round. He got everything but a green jacket and green money.

It's doubtful that McIlroy will find much solace in the fact that he's the third 54-hole leader in the last four majors to shoot 80 or above. Dustin Johnson shot 82 in the last round of the 2010 U.S.

Open at Pebble Beach, won by McIlroy's Northern Ireland compatriot, Graeme McDowell.

And Nick Watney shot 81 in the final round of last year's PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. Watney wasn't a contender but he also shot an 81 in the last round of the Open at Pebble Beach.

One thing McIlroy has had, as opposed to Johnson and Watney, is support from fans and the media. In nearly every sport when a player has blown a big lead, he shuns the media and certainly doesn't sign autographs.

McIlroy talked on television,

talked to the writers and everyone described him with one word: Classy.

And, uniformly, everyone figures he will win a major, maybe more. McIlroy said he will learn from this experience. It would help, too, if he'd work on his putting.

One last note: Louis Oosthuizen, Schwartzel's best friend and reigning British Open champion, is pictured in the 2011 Masters Media Guide holding a big crystal bowl for winning last year's Par Three Contest. And this year, Schwartzel did him one better: a green jacket.

- MG -



Photo by Jennie McCafferty

Mike Weir, Davis Love and Lucas Glover walk the fairway on Hole Number Ten on a practice round Wednesday.

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Briegel, Hills, Moore, Perné Enter Michigan Golf Hall of Fame



Photo courtesy of Michigan Golf Foundation.

**2011 Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Inductees—
Left to right standing: Arthur Hills, Jim Briegel, Terry Moore. In front: Don Perné.**

(Lake Orion, Mich.) Former Michigan State University golf teammates Arthur Hills and Don Perné were inducted into the

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Sunday at Indianwood G&CC along with 85-year-old publicist veteran Jim Briegel and multi-

faceted Terry Moore.

Hills said he gave up on the idea of being a professional golfer

because Perné was five shots better than he was and he'd have better luck working as a golf course architect. Hills has designed more than 225 courses world-wide and earned acclaim as one of the best in the game.

Hills was especially busy in Michigan where he earned a bachelor's degree at MSU and a master's in landscape architecture at the University of Michigan. He designed 23 private, public and resort courses in Michigan and also designed a collection of courses in the Naples, Fla., area and The Landings at Skidaway Island in Georgia. Hills pointed out south Florida and Georgia are much warmer in the winter than his Toledo, OH, base.

Ironically, Hills eventually wound up on the same "team" with Perné who closed his career as a Master PGA Professional at Inverness Club where Hills is a longtime member. Hills twice worked on remodeling projects on the championship course and also designed the short game practice area.

Perné points to the PGA's Professional Golf Management Program as his chief achievement in golf. More than 1,600 young men and women have gone through the five-year program at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., that leads to a business degree and PGA membership. Robert Ewigleben, a high school teammate of Perné's, was president at Ferris when the program started and Gary Wiren also was instrumental as the PGA's Director of Education.

Moore has worn many hats since exchanging a position as a public school administrator for his love of golf. He co-founded Michigan Golfer Magazine and started the West Michigan Golf Show in his hometown of Grand Rapids where the mid-winter show annually draws crowds of cabin fever golfers hungry for new equipment, lessons and travel tips.

Moore also coordinated two Michigan Golf Summits, started the All About Golf midwest radio show, worked on a television show featuring Great Lakes courses, is a governor of the Golf Association of Michigan, past board member of the Golf Writers Association of Michigan, has covered 28 Masters tournaments and continues to write for the online Michigan Golfer and TheAPosition.com

Briegel, 85, still is renowned for his long ball and Michigan Golf Hall of Fame member Bill Zylstra, one of the top senior amateur golfers in the country, said "Jim's a horse. He hits it by me and makes me feel bad."

Retired from the publishing industry, Briegel caddied as a youngster at the University of Michigan Golf Course where he now serves as a ranger. He has a 5.8 USGA handicap and won the Michigan Publix Seniors Golf Association's competition to recognize the best player relative to his age over the full season so regularly that they took him out of competition and named the trophy the Briegel Cup. The cup is a trophy Briegel earned for winning the 70-plus division of the British Senior Open Amateur in 1996.

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The University of Detroit Mercy Titans Maintain Consistency and Strive for Imminent Success

By Chris Lewis

As the University of Detroit Mercy's head men's golf coach, Mark Engel has always believed that winning truly breeds winning.

His credence is simply undeniable.

Throughout the last 21 years, Engel's squads have consistently contended for Horizon League championships, while winning 22 individual tournaments and producing 19 distinct medalists.

Since 1999 alone, his teams have captured six Horizon League Championships while also finishing either second or third in the conference on four other separate occasions.

As a result, Engel has been honored as his conference's Coach of the Year four times, including last season, after the Titans acquired the Horizon League Championship through a demanding six-stroke victory.

Yet such honors will never satisfy Engel nearly as much as his

Photo courtesy of University of Detroit Mercy



University of Detroit Mercy Titans, 2010/2011 Golf Team

team members' collaborative and individual successes – both on and off the golf course.

Consequently, he is just as focused on recruiting upstanding and motivated prospective golfers now as he was when he was first hired by the university in the early 1990s.

With such drive, motivation, and experience, Engel is prepared to help his future squads continue to build upon the university's past – and present – achievements.

A Longstanding Tradition of High Caliber and Reputable Squads

To say the University of Detroit Mercy's men's golf program has a

“storied” history would likely be an understatement. Ever since the “Roaring Twenties,” a wide range of teams have regularly vied for and won dozens of tournaments and league championships, within and outside of the state of Michigan.

From 1926 through 1964, the university participated in statewide and

Midwestern-based competitions hosted by prestigious colleges and universities such as Butler University and Valparaiso University. Although the university's teams were steadily successful throughout each of those four decades, the golf program no longer competed on a regular basis after the conclusion of the 1964 season.

However, following a 16-year-long hiatus from competition, the Titans were reinstated into the Horizon League in 1980 and have progressively become one of the league's most celebrated, top-tier teams ever since.

Through contributions from former members like Adam Walicki,

Mark Sommerfeld, and David Byrne, Coach Engel's squads have consistently ranked amongst the most successful, stable members of the Horizon League since the early 1990s.

"The unique talents and influences of each of my team's members have had significant effects on the camaraderie and capabilities of the teams I have coached throughout my career. Without each of them, the history of the University of Detroit Mercy's golf program would certainly not be the same," Engel said. "Yet, the career highlights of some golfers definitely stand out – and will be well-noticed during the coming years.

As an inductee into the Titan Sports Hall of Fame, Adam Walicki enjoyed a variety of accomplishments during and after his collegiate career – on an individual basis and as a member of the Titans.

Upon winning the 2002 Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) Championship, an annual tournament held at numerous courses throughout the Great Lakes State and contested by several amateurs from all four corners of the United States, Walicki qualified for match play at the 2002 U.S. Amateur, contested at Oakland Hills Country Club. The qualification ultimately led to a match against PGA TOUR star Camilo Villegas, which he lost on the 18th hole.

At the same time, Mark Sommerfeld will likely be remembered by his former teammates and fellow alumni not only for his consistency with every club in the bag,



Photo courtesy of University of Detroit Mercy

Mark Sommerfeld



Photo courtesy of U of Detroit Mercy

Adam Walicki



Photo courtesy of University of Detroit Mercy

David Byrne

but for his wide array of accolades as well.

As a three-time Horizon League Player of the Year, Sommerfeld was also honored as a four-time All-Horizon League member. While capturing three individual tournaments throughout his career as a Titan, Sommerfeld was rewarded for his regular triumphs and dependability on the golf course through membership on the Canadian National Team.

Meanwhile, David Byrne is one of only four golfers in Horizon League history, along with Sommerfeld, to have been voted as an All-Horizon League member throughout each season of his collegiate career. With such personal achievements as Player of the Year honors during his senior year and conference championship medalist attainment as a freshman, Byrne enjoyed a long, highly successful career as a Titan.

While reflecting on the past 21 years, Coach Engel believes that one team undoubtedly stands out in his memory – the 2001 – 2002 Titans.

"It was the first team in school history to repeat as conference champions – and they accomplished the task with the exact same five members as the year before," Engel said. "Four of the five members were named All-Horizon League at least once during their careers – a feat that is rarely heard of in men's collegiate golf."

Continuous Success: The 2010 – 2011 Titans Capture Three Tournament Victories

Although the 2010 – 2011 Titans have not obtained the same level of success as their 2001 – 2002 predecessors, the team still captured a dual match against Oakland University last October and won two other events – the PGA Village Invitational, held at Wanamaker Course in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and the Detroit Titans Invitational, hosted by the University of Detroit Mercy itself and contested at Highland's Prestwick Village Golf Club.

Even when the squad did not actually win tournaments, team members still displayed a level of consistency, week in and week out, that has not occurred in as frequent of fashion since the dawning of the New Millennium. With two third-place finishes in addition to its two tournament victories, the Titans may have played at their highest level during the Georgetown Intercollegiate, which was contested in mid-October in Beallsville, Maryland.

“The team probably played its best golf – certainly, scoring-wise – at the Georgetown Intercollegiate. Some of my former teams competed in that tournament in the past and it never fails to attract a high caliber field, with teams from the Big Ten, Big East, MAC, and the Pac-10,” Engel said. “It is a very challenging event; yet, each one of my team members stood up to the task and faced it head-on.”

Led by Jeff Clarridge ('11), a native of Barrie, Ontario, the team also won its very own Detroit Titans Invitational in wire-to-wire fashion.

“The Titans Invitational was one of the most, if not the most, memorable tournaments of the season,” Engel said. “As a coach, it was satisfying to watch my team win their own tournament in such a dominating manner and in front of so many of their friends and family members.”

As a four-year collegiate veteran, Clarridge's career has been compared to some of the other golfing greats of the University of Detroit Mercy's past.

“Jeff had a solid senior season. In my opinion, I think he played the best golf of his career this year. He struck the ball well on a consistent basis, led the team in scoring average, and was the team's top finisher in three events,” Engel said. “He was also voted a member of the All-Horizon League at the end of the season – an honor that I thought he definitely deserved.”

Coach Mark Engel Prepares for the 2011 – 2012 Season....and Well After

In spite of losing two of his team's brightest stars next season, Jeff Clarridge and Britt Pronk ('11), of London, Ontario, Engel is still hopeful for a successful campaign in fall 2011 and spring 2012.

“Senior Mark Hicks, of Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, and junior Simon Reyers, of Kingston, Ontario, will be well-prepared to lead the Titans next season,” Engel said. “I am confident in their abilities to play steady golf on a regular basis.”

In the meantime, golfers like junior Sheldon Keyte, of Portage, Michigan; sophomore Brendan Leonard, of Cambridge, Ontario; and sophomore Kyle Benford, of Amherstview, Ontario, have attained vast experiences within the Horizon League that will enable them to become future leaders of the Titans – leading through their golfing talents, sportsman-ship, and perseverance.

Coach Engel will also recruit a variety of prospective golfers throughout the pending months in

preparation for the coming years and decades.

“Two Toronto-based golfers, Michael Nedoszytko and Lucas Kim, are currently on the four-man Ontario Under-19 Team and will be the latest members of the Titans next season. I believe they will fit right in with the rest of my team,” Engel said. “The team will be young, but fully capable of earning another Horizon League Championship nonetheless.”

Above all else, Engel feels the university's superior academics, in addition to stellar athletic programs, will continue to enthruse incoming students well into the future.

“The University of Detroit Mercy is regarded as a wonderful educational option for students based in and out of Michigan,” Engel said. “Students compete against some of the most distinguished universities in the country, while also receiving a quality educational experience. Athletics are important to my staff and me, but not nearly as much as the pursuit of a solid education that will enable students to succeed throughout the entire course of their lives.”

For more information about the University of Detroit Mercy's wide selection of athletic programs, please visit <http://www.detroittitans.com>.

In the Fall 2011 issue of the Michigan Golfer magazine, the “Collegiate Spotlights” series will profile Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University's men's golf programs. Stay tuned.

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The Eastern Michigan University Eagles Reflect on a Successful Past, Prepare for a Bright Future

By Chris Lewis

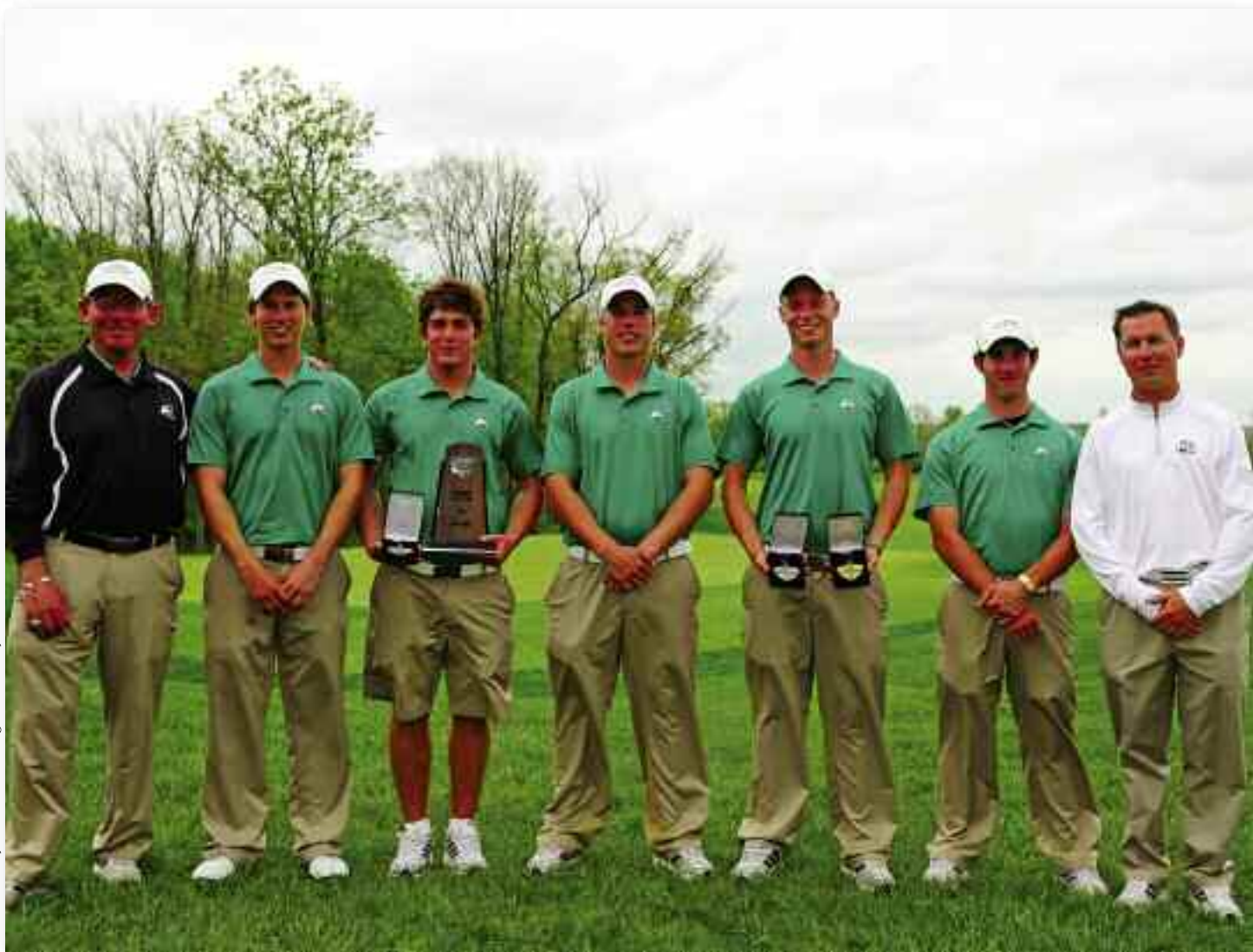


Photo courtesy of Eastern Michigan University

Eastern Michigan University Eagles Golf Team

For the past 18 years, Bruce Cunningham, Eastern Michigan University's head men's golf coach, has been focused on steadily crafting championship-level teams, time after time again.

The results truly speak for themselves.

During the 2006 – 2007 season, the Eagles captured the first Mid-American Conference (MAC) championship in school history. To

prove such a victory was not a fluke, Cunningham's squad successfully defended its MAC championship the following season.

Since then, the Eagles have finished runner-up within the confer-

ence during two of the last three seasons. Throughout this time span, Cunningham's squads – as well as individual team members – have achieved a variety of “success stories,” ranging from at-large individual bids to the NCAA South Central Regional to at-large team bids to the NCAA Northwest Regional.

Consequently, the Eagles are now competing against some of the most revered Division I colleges and universities in the country – an honor that Cunningham does not take for granted.

“We are very fortunate to have an opportunity to play a top 100 national Division I schedule now,” Cunningham said. “While competing against various top-tier university and college golf teams, the Eagles have maintained an overall Division I record of 560-373 during the last six seasons.”

As Coach Cunningham prepares for the future, he is hopeful that his impending squads will continue to uphold the Eagles' winning traditions throughout the coming months.

“Current members like sophomores Brian Churchill-Smith and Jared Dalga, as well as juniors Brad Altenhoff and Casey Olsen, will be prepared to lead their teams in the future as Nick Carbary ('11) and Adam Winwood ('11) begin their post-graduate lives,” Cunningham said. “At the same time, future recruits will also be able to utilize their talents and skill sets as they strive to lead the Eagles to upcoming MAC championships.”

With a full lineup of high caliber, well-experienced golfers, the team's present – and future – capabilities appear to be just as bright as ever before.

2010 – 2011 Eagles Maintain Consistency and Look Ahead to the Future

Although the 2010 – 2011 squad did not earn a tournament victory throughout the season, the team's regular top-five and top-ten finishes were certainly noticed by Coach Cunningham.

After a second-place finish in April's Mizzou Tiger Inter-collegiate, a tournament contested in Columbia, Missouri, and a fourth-place finish during last October's Firestone Intercollegiate, held in Akron, Ohio, the Eagles ultimately played quite well during the final tournament of the regular season – the MAC Championship.

As last year's MAC championship runner-up, the Eagles may not have scored as well as they did during last April's contest, but they still upheld a respectable finish nonetheless, with a total team score of 1198 for a third-place finish.

In addition, the Eagles set a team record score of 273 (15-under-par) at the Hoya Intercollegiate, which was hosted in Beallsville, Maryland.

“Such finishes lead me to believe that our forthcoming teams will be able to maintain the same level of success that each of our squads have upheld throughout the past decade,” Cunningham said.

“Our future is very bright. An outstanding fall 2011 recruiting class, as well as a wide array of experienced golfers, will allow the Eagles to continue to be one of the top teams in the MAC conference for the unforeseeable future.”

With a proper mix of both youth and experience, the Eagles, led by Nick Carbary, achieved a stable seasonal record that will only likely improve next season.

“It is always challenging to lose the most-experienced members of the team as they graduate and prepare for their careers,” Cunningham said. “Each one of our seniors contributed so much to the success of our squads during the last few years, but, again, they will be replaced by many other golfers – both young and old – who will sustain the Eagles' reputation within the MAC conference.”

Coach Bruce Cunningham Reflects on the Eagles' Successful Past

From highly talented golfers like Carbary, who retained a 73.4 scoring average this past season, to former members like Korey Mahoney, Chris Ross, Graham Hill, Marty Jeppesen, and Cam Burke, a number of individuals have worked together to create formidable team units in order to achieve their ultimate goals – to qualify for NCAA regionals, to constantly improve their teams' standings, and to, of course, add to their collection of MAC championship trophies.

In a bid to do just that, many golfers' individual performances

have led to a variety of records that will be remembered by former, current, and future Eagles golfers for years to come – and have been well-recognized by Coach Cunningham.

“Korey Mahoney, who is arguably the most successful golfer in team history, has held two of the team’s best individual, seasonal scoring averages – a 72.17 and a 72.26. Meanwhile, Graham Hill, Chris Ross, Cam Burke, and Marty Jeppesen had career scoring averages of 73.24, 73.98, 74.47, and 74.67, respectively,” Cunningham said. “Such strong individual performances motivated their other team members to play to the best of their abilities each and every

time they competed. This motivation and leadership has surely led to our teams’ latest successes.”

Due to their strong performances in recent MAC championships, their regular qualifications in NCAA regional events, and their recruitment of gifted individuals like Mahoney and Carbary, the Eagles have arguably been one of the most consistent performers within the MAC conference throughout the past decade.

So what will the future hold for the Eastern Michigan University men’s golf program?

How will Coach Cunningham continue to achieve regular team

success while also recruiting some of the state’s and region’s most talented high school golfers?

By forming squads that have a variety of skill sets and experience, learning from the success of prior championship-level teams, and continuously striving to achieve their lofty goals, the Eagles’ future will remain bright throughout 2011 and well after.

For more information about Eastern Michigan University, as well as its wide selection of athletic programs, please visit <http://www.emueagles.com>.

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Photo courtesy of Eastern Michigan University

Eastern Michigan University Eagles Golf Team