

Rough course awaits seniors

By Doug Funke,
staff writer

If the yardage doesn't get them, the rough probably will. If they can avoid the tall grass, there are plenty of bunkers with which to contend.

Then, there is the pond on the famous 16th hole, and finally, if they can avoid trouble all the way from tee to green, the slick putting surfaces will present final challenges.

Oakland Hills, site of the second annual U.S. Senior Open, isn't called The Monster for nothing.

"I've been here eight years and it's an inspiration to play every time," said Al Mengert, golf professional at Oakland Hills. "I get a lot of pleasure and never tire of it."

"The challenge is always there," he added. "Nothing is routine about it. I can go out there and shoot 79 on Saturday and 69 on Sunday. I never feel I've mastered the place and never get cocky."

"The only real birdie hole out there is number two (511 yards par five)," Mengert said. "Others (birdies) will have to be made with great shots."

The second hole is long, but fairly wide open except for some bunkers in the rough about halfway out. There are also four bunkers in front of the green to punish short shots and four trees behind to penalize shots hit too long.

"A number of players in the field will be

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**—Al Mengert
Oakland Hills pro**

able to reach the green in two strokes, and there will be a few eagles recorded," Mengert said.

THE THREE MOST difficult holes for the seniors, according to Mengert, will be 18, 14 and eight.

The home hole — 18' — will play 445 yards to a par of four. It is a par five for the general membership.

The 18th also played to par four during the 1979 PGA Championship. The younger tour professionals averaged 4.5 strokes, Mengert suspects the seniors will average nearly five shots this year.

The 18th fairway bends to the right approximately 275 yards from the tee. It is an uphill shot from the dogleg to the putting surface. Two large bunkers protect either side of the green with only a small opening toward the front.

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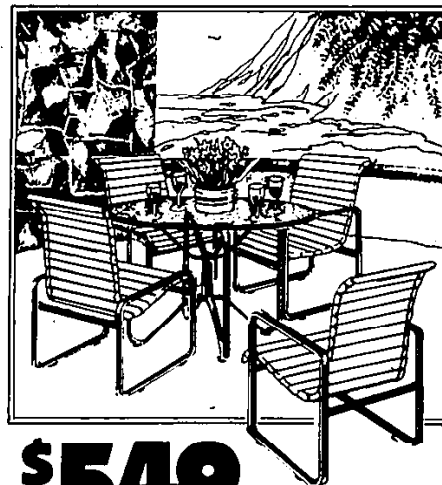
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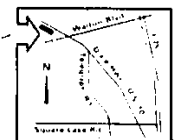
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