

# Course changes brings major back to Indianwood

By Jim Toth  
staff writer

Unique may be the quickest and safest way to describe the playing conditions at Indianwood Golf & Country Club, host of the 44th United States Women's Open Championship.

Designed and built by Englishman Wilfrid Reid in the mid 1920s, the reputation of the Scottish links-style course quickly spread throughout the state.

In 1928 the club was the site of its first Michigan PGA Championship. In 1930 the Western Open, won by Gene Sarazen, stopped by for a visit. Two Michigan Opens have also been decided at Indianwood.

The course also was frequented by many of the game's early greats, including Walter Hagen, Tommy Armour and Al Watrous.

Owned by the Ruebelman family since the early 1940s, the club had fallen into disrepair before being sold in 1981 to its current owner, Stan Aldridge.

NUMEROUS CHANGES were made, including lengthening of holes

and adding bunkers. Even the dining room has been expanded.

A major club house expansion project began in 1988 with the opening of Indianwood's New Course in June of that year.

"There are presently 550 members, and it is one of the best jobs there is," said Indianwood club professional Dave Zink. "Mr. Aldridge has made it a nice place to work."

The changes have, in part, played major roles in returning a major championship to Indianwood. The only previous visit to Michigan by the Women's Open came in 1958, when the tournament was played at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills.

The Women's Open will be the fifth United States Golf Association championship played in the state this decade. The 1980 Junior Amateur was played at Pine Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake, the 1981 Senior Open and 1985 U.S. Open at Oakland Hills in Birmingham and the 1984 Senior Amateur at Birmingham Country Club.

The Women's Open is the seventh of the 13 national championships sponsored by the USGA.

Monday, July 10, 1989

U.S. Women's Golf Open

Page 5



## ● MALLON'S HOMECOMING

Meg Mallon, a former Birmingham resident who graduated from Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy High School, joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) in 1986 and has been a steady tour player the last three years. She is slated to participate in this year's women's Open at the Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion.

Mallon, 28, attended Ohio State where she earned All-Conference honors in 1984 and 1985. She was runner-up in the 1985 Big 10 championship tournament, and, in 1983, Mallon captured the Michigan Amateur title.

Mallon said her career 'thrill' was playing in the 1986 U.S. Women's Open.

Now a resident of Ramona, Calif., Mallon earned \$25,000 last year to break into the top 90 on the LPGA money list and earn exempt status for this season. She registered a career-best showing in the Safeco Classic last summer with a 21st-place finish. She also tied for 23rd in the 1988 Jamie Farr Toledo Classic and tied for 27th at the Women's Kemper Open.

Mallon, who was a member of The Observer and Eccentric's All-Area girls golf teams in both 1980 and 1981, tied for 44th at last year's women's open at the Baltimore Country Club.

## ● 1958 REVISITED

The Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills hosted the 1958 U.S. Women's Open Championship. This year's Open at Indianwood will mark just the second time the women will have played their most prestigious championship in Michigan.

Just for nostalgia's sake, the winner of that 1958 June tourney was Mickey Wright. She shot a four-round score of 290 — two under par. Louise Suggs placed second at 295.

Incredibly, those same two golfers finished one-two the following year in the open hosted by the Worcester Country Club in Worcester, Mass.

A total of 57 golfers were entered in that 1958 tourney. Today, the women hold qualifiers around the country. Last year, a record field of 735 attempted to qualify for 153 open slots.

## ● PRIZE BREAKDOWN

The winner of this year's open will receive a check for \$80,000. The runner-up will get \$40,000.

The total purse for the 1989 open is \$450,000.

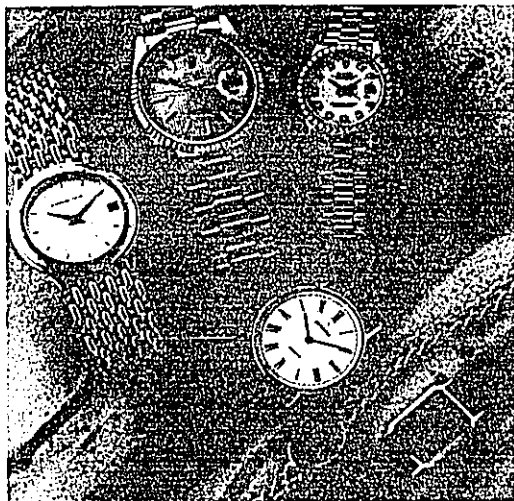
## ● USGA THIS DECADE

The United States Golf Association (USGA) took over sponsorship of the women's open in 1953 and has run the event each year since. Michigan has been a frequent stop on the USGA tour this decade.

In fact, this year's open marks the fifth time this decade a USGA-sponsored event will have been played in the Great Lakes State.

## A timely gift

Greenstone's offers a variety of prestigious and functional timepieces: Rolex, Audemars Piguet, Concord, Movado, and Seiko. Find the gift of esteem — for notable milestones, birthdays and anniversaries — at Greenstone's.



**GREENSTONE'S**  
CREATORS OF FINE JEWELRY

528 N. WOODWARD, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48011 4 BLOCKS NORTH OF MAPLE 313/642-2650  
MONDAY-SATURDAY 9:30 TO 5:30

## U.S. Women's Open Specials

- **FREE HEAD COVERS**  
with purchase of Bag
- **FREE FOOT JOY SOCKS**  
(1 pair) & \$10 REBATE with purchase of Foot Joy Shoes
- **FREE VISOR**  
with purchase of Mark Scot Shirt
- **SPECTATOR SEATS**  
specially priced at 75% OFF
- **FREE SPORTECH SWING ANALYSIS**  
with any purchase

**U.S. OPEN TICKETS  
ON SALE HERE**

**GOLF USA**

AMERICA'S GOLF STORE

3050 WALTON BLVD.  
(University Square Shopping Center) • ROCHESTER HILLS  
375-1500 Offer Good thru 7/24/89