

Area All-Stars offer pro advice

By Bill Parker
staff writer

The heather at Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion seems to reach up and grab the balls like the greedy fingers of a troll, and some of the bunkers are deeper than the U.S. deficit.

The greens are hilly, causing putts to pick up steam like a runaway locomotive, and if you get caught in the rough, simply forget it. You'll never find the ball.

Sound tough? It is, according to the Eccentric Newspaper's 1989 All-Area girls golf team. But they also agreed the course at Indianwood, site of the 1989 United States Golf Association Women's Open, can be loads of fun.

Five members of that team — Carrie Nosanchuk, a senior from Cranbrook/Kingswood; Angela Ford, a junior from Rochester; Katie Podlesak, a senior from Rochester Adams; Kara Packwood, a senior from Troy Athens and Drea Wieme, a sophomore from Athens — had the opportunity to play the course recently. The sixth member of the team, Katie Shannon, a sophomore from Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School, was unable to shoot the course.

Although they all enjoyed the 6,123-yard, par 71 course, none were hesitant in admitting how tough it could be. The key to a good game, they all agreed, is to play straight, consistent and aggressive.

"THE HEATHER IS really tough," admitted Podlesak, the Metro Subur-

ban Activities Association champion. "The women (in the U.S. Open) will have to play pretty conservative so they don't go into the heather.

"I think they'll probably go for it on the first day, but then they'll learn."

Ford agreed. "Once you're in the heather, it's hard to find your ball. Once you're in (the heather), the best thing to do is not to try to play it, just get out. It's really tough."

The bunkers, including 31 on hole 18, also will offer a challenge.

"There is a lot of sand, and some of the traps are really deep," said Packwood, runner up at the All-Oakland County meet.

"Once you're in, it's hard to get out. Some of the traps, like the one on (hole) 11, need a ladder. That one's tremendous."

Wieme agreed the sand could be tough at times and believes it could get even tougher by tournament time.

"If we get a lot of rain before the tournament, they (Open participants) will be in trouble," said Wieme. "They'll have a hard time getting out of wet sand. But (a lot of rain) may slow the greens down; that would help a little."

THE GREENS will offer yet another challenge for the women, especially the 18th — one of the biggest in the Midwest, encompassing better than 24,000 square feet.

"Most of the time you're putting downhill," said Packwood. "And the

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Katie Podlesak found the heather unfriendly during a recent round of golf. The Rochester Adams graduate was quick to note that it doesn't take much to locate trouble on the 6,123-yard layout. However, it may take some doing to locate an errant shot.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Kara Packwood may have thought she was spending the day at the beach with all the sand that surrounded her during play at Indianwood. Once out and on the green, the task didn't get any easier with the quick and undulating putting surface.