

Stars offer advice

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greens are really fast. All you can do is tap it (the ball) and try to read (the green) real well."

Podlesak added, "You can get into trouble wherever you go. If you get on the fringe, you're always chipping downhill, and the greens are really fast."

With all these hazards scattered throughout the holes, the course is obviously challenging. But which hole, in particular, is the toughest?

"The 18th," said Ford. "The 11th," said Packwood. "The 15th," added Wieme. Take your pick.

THE 18TH, a par 4, 382-yard dog leg right, includes 31 bunkers and an enormous green.

"The heather on the right is real tough, and it's hard to take a short cut," said Ford. "If you miss, just a little, your in the heather, and then your in trouble."

The 11th is a par 4, 334-yard hole with tall rough and bunkers along both sides of the fairway from the tee to the elevated green. There are several bunkers behind the green and a 10-foot-deep trap on the front left.

"That trap is just incredible," said Packwood. "If you get in it, you're definitely in trouble."

The 15th, a par 5, 520-yard dog leg right, includes a 60-yard-wide water hazard, a 50-foot oak tree and tall

rough along both sides of the fairway.

"There is sand and heather on the right and a lot of water," said Wieme. "If you get tired on this one, you're dead."

DESPITE THESE stringent conditions, members of the All-Area team believe the scores at the U.S. Open will be low.

"I think the scores will be pretty low," Packwood said. "They're long hitters, and when they get to the greens, they're pretty much all the same. Plus, they hit the ball straight."

"(The pros) hit long and straight," added Wieme. "If they stay on the fairways, they can shoot a great round."

Wieme, whose parents are members of Indianwood, has been playing the course for four years and is impressed with the improvements made for the tournament.

"They've been working on the course for four years, and now it's just gorgeous," she said. "It's a totally different course than four years ago."

"They added 164 bunkers this year. The club house is gorgeous. Everything is brand new. I'm really impressed with the changes they've made for the tournament."

Ford also liked the aesthetic appeal of the course.

"The course itself is just beautiful. It's in great condition, and every hole has a beautiful view."



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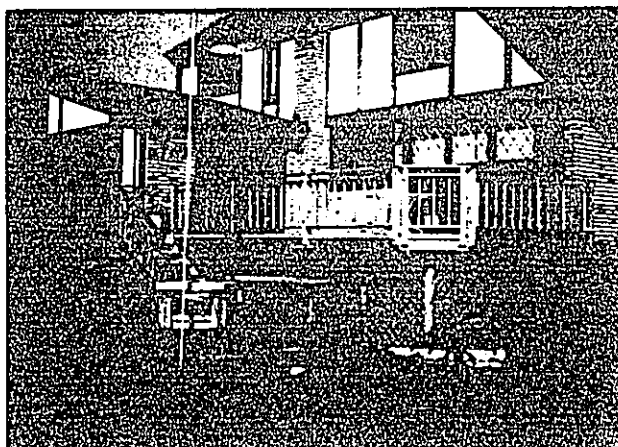
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