O P E N U. S. 9 9 6

it's Ne It's classic. It's major.

And It's right in our own backyard.

The 1996 U.S. Open Golf Tournament begins next week at world-renewned Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township.

Yes, golf fans, it Joesn't get any better than this.
One of professional golf's four major tournaments, the United States Open golf championship is set to (see off with practice rounds beginning June 10. Championship rounds begin June 13 and conclude Sunday, June 16.

The big names - Jack Nicklaus; Fred Couples, Corey Pavin, Greg Norman and Nick Faldo – are stated to be among the 156 person starting field. And so are the not-so big names, players like Phir Mickelson, Davis Love III. Jeff Maggert and David Duval who are having great years and could challenge for the national

In this special U.S. Open section, you can learn all about the Open. For instance, take a look out for the colorful map of historic Oakland Hills on

pages 12 and 13. The map not only offers a unique perspective of the course layout, but also gives, locations of important elements like bleacher seating, leader boards and concession stands.

The center spread provides a series of charts detailing the course's yardage and par, past Oakland Hills champions and a map of how shuttle service will work

Andy North, the last U.S. Open chempion at Ookland Hills in 1985, is still involved with golf. North has a lot of things to say about his experience with 'The

Monster'. Look for his story in this special section.

Also, look for interesting items about defending champion Corey Pavin, Oakland Hills caddles, a recap of the 1985 tournament and a history of the major tournaments Oakland Hills has hosted.

We enjoyed putting the section together. We hope you enjoy browsing through

And, most of all, enjoy the tournament.

- Marty Budner

Sports reporters Marty Budner, Chiris Mayer, Bill Parker, Steve Stein and Jim Toth provided story material. David Snyder coordinated advertising, and Glenny Menilat, creative services supervisor, designed the cover. Center spread graphics provided by Tammie Graves. Orect questions to Budner at 901-2564.

U.S. OPEN INFORMATION

U.S. OPEN FACT SHEET

WHAT: 96th United States Open Championship contacts by the United States Golf Association (USGA). WHERE: Onlight Hills Gountry Club's South Course in Bloomfeld

Club's South Course in Pholomited Township tsoutheast corner of Tele-graph and Maple roads). WHEN: June 10-12 (practice rounds); June 13-16 (championship

rounds).
WHO: The Professional Golf Associa-

on's top tour golfers.
TOTAL ENTRIES: A total of 5,925 entries were accepted by the USGA. Nearly 500 entries came in via overnight delivery on the last two days

overnight delivery on the last two days before the closing date. EXEMPT PLAYERS: Sixty-nine players are fully exempt in the 156-player Open field, including the past 10 champions. Ernic Els (1994), Lee Janzen (1993), Tom Kite (1992), Payne Stewart (1991), Hale Irwin (1990), Cur-tic Strange, 11980 1884) Scatt Simpsen tis Strange (1989, 1988), Scott Simpson

(1987) and Raymond Floyd (1986). FIRST ENTRY: The first entry received by the USGA for the Open was on March 5 from 1990 champion Hale

OTHER RETURNING CHAMPI-ONS: Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson are also past Open winners exempt from qualifying. Nicklaus, a four-time winner, and Watson, who won in 1982, vere given special invitations from the SGA Executive Committee.
NUMBER 40 FOR JACK: This will

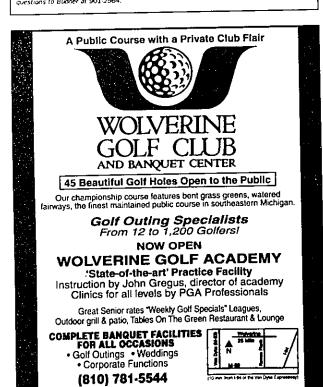
be the 40th consecutive start for Jack Nicklans, who competed in his first Open in 1957. Nicklaus finished fourth in the 1961 Open at Oakland Hills, but missed the cut in 1985. He wan the Senior Open at Oakland Hills in 1991. Raymond Floyd will be making his 31st consecutive start; Hale Irwin will be making his 27th start; and Tom Watson and Tom Kite will be making their 25th

OAKLAND HILLS' SIXTH OPEN: Oakland Hills' last U.S. Open was in 1985 when Andy North survied with a winning final round of 4-over 74 a round in which he hit only four fairways and birdied just once. The first Open at Oakland Hills was won by 118-pound Englishman Cyril Walker in 1924. Ralph Guldahl setan Open record with his winning score of 7-under-par 281 in 1937. Ben Hogan's masterful final-round 67 gave him the 1951 Open title. Sweet-swinging Gene Littler showed he was fully recovered from rib injury when he won the 1961 U.S.

Open.

REPEAT WINNERS: Six players

that US. Open champihave defended their U.S. Open championhsips over the 96-year trurnament history, Curtis Strange, in 1988 and 1989, was the last golfer to successfully defend his U.S. Open title. The others to win two consecutive championships were Willie Andoerson (1903, 1904, 1905); John J. McDermott (1911, 1912); amateur Robert T. Jones, Jr. (1929, 1930); Ralph Guldahl (1937, 1938); and Ben Hogan (1950, 1951).



17201 25 Mile Road at Romeo Plank Road - Macomb

