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NBC, ESPN will televise the Open

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that this year's U.S. Open Golf Championship at Oakland Hills is a tough ticket.

But don't fret, golf fans. Television networks ESPN and NBC come to the rescue, combining for over 25 hours of coverage.

ESPN, the all-sports network, will tee things off with first-round coverage

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 13, followed by NBC from 3-5 p.m. and ESPN again from 5-7:30 p.m.

The same schedule continues with the second round on Friday, June 14.

NBC will pick up a total of 12 hours coverage, 12:30-6:30 p.m. with the third- and fourth-round action, Saturday and Sunday, June 15-16.

In the event of an open playoff on Monday, June 17, ESPN will begin coverage at noon with NBC continuing the broadcast later in the day.

NBC's announcing crew will be led once again by Dick Enberg and chief analyst Johnny Miller.

Nicklaus is a golfing legend

Jack Nicklaus is a golfing legend.

Detroit-area golf fans will have another opportunity to see him in action at this year's U.S. Open at Oakland Hills. The 56-year-old touring pro is one of 69 exempt players scheduled to compete for the national golf championship.

Nicklaus, who won the U.S. Senior Open hosted by Oakland Hills in 1991, has had a storied career.

He joined the tour in 1962 and went on to register at least one victory in each of his first 17 years as a pro. In total, Nicklaus owns 70 PGA tour victories, eight Senior PGA tour victories and 14 international golf victories.

Nicklaus was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974 and is considered by many to be one of the greatest tour players ever. He was the first tour player to reach the \$2 million (\$2/1/73); \$3 million (5/2/77); \$4 million (2/6/83); and \$5 million (8/20/88) marks in career earnings.

Nicklaus is the winner of 18 professional golf majors, including six Masters, five PGAs, four U.S. Opens and three British Opens. He was the oldest player to win the Masters title (46) in 1986.

Nicklaus, who attended Ohio State University, has residences in both North Palm Beach, Fla. and Muirfield Village, Ohio, and plays out of Muirfield Village (Ohio) Country Club.

EXEMPT PLAYERS

The following is a list of fully exempt players for the 1996 U.S. Open (as of 5-1-96).

Woody Austin; Paul Azinger; Ian Baker-Finch; Brady Bryant; Mark Calcavecchia; Michael Campbell; Alexander Cejka; Howard Clark; Darren Clark; Fred Couples; Ben Crenshaw; John Daly; David Duval; Steve Elkington; Ernie Els; Nick Faldo; Raymond Floyd; Anders Forsbrand; Fred Funk; Jim Furyk; Jim Gallagher, Jr.; David Gilford; Bill Glasson; Jay Haas; Scott Hoch; Hale Irwin; Peter Jacobsen; Mark James; Lee Janzen; Tom Kite; Neal Lancaster; Barry Lane; Bernhard Langer; Tom Lehman; Justin Leonard; Davis Love III; Mark McCumber; Jeff Maggert; Billy Mayfair; Phil Mickelson; Colin Montgomerie; Jack Nicklaus; Frank Nobilo; Greg Norman; Jose Maria Olazabal; Peter O'Malley; Mark O'Meara; Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki; Corey Pavin; Kenny Perry; Nick Price; Wayne Riley; Loren Roberts; Constantino Rocca; Mark Roe; Scott Simpson; Vijay Singh; Jeff Sluman; Payne Stewart; Curtis Strange; Steve Stricker; Sam Torrance; Kirk Triplett; Bob Tway; Duffy Waldorf; Philip Walton; Tom Watson; Tom Weiskopf; Tiger Woods.

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