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MORE OPEN INFORMATION

THE ARCHITECT: Donald Ross originally designed the South Course at Oakland Hills, which opened in 1917. It was lengthened before the 1937 Open and then toughened up by Robert Trent Jones before the 1951 Open. It was after the 1951 tournament that the course earned "The Monster" nickname.

THE MONSTER: The label for the South Course at Oakland Hills is first attributed to Willard Mullin, a cartoonist for the now defunct New York World Telegram, who used the phrase in his account of the 1951 Open. Ben Hogan probably made it stick when after shooting a brilliant 67 in his final round to win, he said at the trophy presentation, "I'm glad I brought this course, this monster, to its knees." In 1991, the colorful Walter Zembriski shot a 66 in his third round of the Senior Open and kidded an audience of journalists, "Hogan brought the monster to its knees and I finished her off."

DEFENDING CHAMPION: Corey Pavin rallied from three strokes behind the leaders after three rounds to win by two strokes over Greg Norman. His winning total was even-par 280, the first time since 1979 that the Open champion failed to break par. He steadily improved his position with each day, going from 46th (72) on Thursday, to 11th (69), to fifth (71) to first (68).

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH: Corey Pavin's first top-10 finish in a major golf championship as a professional was in the 1985 Open at Oakland Hills. He finished only four shots off the lead but tied for ninth with a total of 3-over-par 283. His best round was a 68 on day two. Other Open winners also did well at Oakland Hills in 1985. Payne Stewart, the 1991 Open champ, was just two shots behind the winner in a tie for fifth place, Tom Kite, who won the 1992 Open, was 13th. Hale Irwin, the 1990 winner, was 14th. Scott Simpson, the 1987 winner, tied for 15th.

BIG JACK'S 3RD OAKLAND OPEN: From the 1996 field, Jack Nicklaus will be the only player who also played in the 1961 Open and the 1985 Open and Oakland Hills. He finished tied for fourth in 1961 but missed the cut in 1985. The popular tour veteran did win once at Oakland Hills - the 1991 U.S. Senior Open.

FOOTNOTES FROM 1985: Fred Couples' first-round score of 66 was an Open record until T.C. Chen later finished with a 65; Ben Crenshaw posted a hole-in-one on the 217-yard ninth hole, but missed the cut; Jack Nicklaus missed the cut for the first time in 22 Opens (1964 to 1984); 24 players broke par in the second round, most in Open history at the time.

LOW OPEN SCORES AT OAKLAND HILLS: T.C. Chen's opening-round 65 in 1985 was the Open record low until the next day when Andy North and Denis Watson tied the mark. In his 1991 Senior Open playoff win over Chi Chi Rodriguez, Jack Nicklaus also shot 65.

COURSE RECORD IS 65: Seven players share the Oakland Hills (South Course) course record of 65. George Archer was the first to claim the record with his first-round score in the Car-

ling World Championship in 1964. Next to shoot 65 were Allen Tapie and David Graham in the second and fourth rounds of the 1979 PGA, respectively. Then came T.C. Chen, Denis Watson and Andy North in the 1985 Open and Jack Nicklaus in the 1991 Senior Open.

THE WINNER'S SHARE: First place money for the U.S. Open is \$425,000, more than four times the amount earned by Andy North in his 1985 win at Oakland Hills. North received \$103,000 for his victory. The total purse in 1996 will be \$2.4 million. The total purse for the other five Opens at Oakland Hills combined was about \$737,000.

COURSE SET-UP: The South Course will play at 6,974 yards, 22 yards less than it did for the 1985 Open. The 18th hole, however, will play as a 465-yard par-4, 15 yards longer than in 1985. The course was stretched even longer for the 1937 Open when it played at 7,037 yards and par 72. That was the first time an Open course exceeded 7,000 yards.

THE WALK OF CHAMPIONS: In 1993, Oakland Hills Country Club decided to honor its past champions and its history with a series of huge, 10-ton boulders along the first tee of the South Course. Each stone is carved with a plaque commemorating the 12 Oakland Hills winners, beginning with the 1922 Western Open and running through the 1991 Senior Open. Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer are among the winners commemorate along the Walk of Champions. The 1996 U.S. Open winner will take his place alongside those players.

OAKLAND HILLS HEAD PROFESSIONALS: Pat Crowell, who assumed his duties as head professional at Oakland Hills in 1988, is only the seventh head professional in Club history. The first was Walter Hagen, followed by Mike Brady, Ernie Ford, Leo Conroy, Al Watrous, Mike Souchak and Al Mengert. In the 1961 Open, Souchak finished tied for fourth place with Jack Nicklaus. In 1967, Souchak left the Tour and was named head professional at Oakland Hills.

ON THE RANGE: More than 12,000 golf balls are used on the practice range at an Open.

CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD: The starting field of 156 golfers will be cut after 36 holes to the low 60 scorers (and ties), and any player within 10 strokes of the leader.

OPEN A SELLOUT: For the 10th consecutive year, the U.S. Open is expected to be a sellout. Tickets are available for practice rounds Monday through Wednesday, and a limited number of tickets are available for Thursday's first round. Second, third and final round tickets are sold out. There have been ticket-buyers from every state except Alaska. There also is an avid interest among Canadian fans. The ticket office phone number is 1-800-336-4446.

WHO CAN ENTER: The Championship is open to any professional or amateur golfer with a USGA Handicap Index not exceeding 2.4.