

Oakland Hills set to host U.S. Amateur

By MARTY BUCKNER
STAFF WRITER

Big Brother is rough and ready. So is Little Brother. Big Brother has the monstrous reputation; Little Brother has a pretty fearsome bite of its own. Big Brother is poised to grab the attention; Little Brother is capable of stealing the thunder.

Big Brother and Little

Brother. A field of 312 linkers will battle both brothers in the 102nd edition of the U.S. Amateur - the nation's oldest golf tournament - scheduled for Aug. 19-25 at prestigious Oakland Hills Country Club.

Championship play begins Aug. 19 with 36 rounds of stroke play over a two-day span that necessitates using Oakland Hills' challenging two-course layout. The low 64 scorers then engage in grueling match-play format over the next five days to determine the U.S. Amateur champion.

The first two days of qualifying are the key, and participants know they're in for a severe test.

The Big Brother South Course, home to six U.S. Opens, two PGA championships and a pair of U.S. Senior Opens, offers an extreme 6,998-yard examination. The par-70 layout, nicknamed "The Monster," is filled with air-tight fairways, well-placed bunkers and ruler-sized rough capable of taking the fight out of the most talented golfer.

On the other side of Maple Road, the unshredded North Course is 370-yards shorter, but none-the-less challenging. Also

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Tom Meeks
USGA senior rules official

a par-70, the Little Brother is home to the championship's longest (616-yard, par-5 fifth) and shortest (164-yard, par-3 13th) holes.

Don't take either course for granted: Oakland Hills Country Club's head professional Pat Crosswell.

"You have the Big Brother that's the All-American. You can be a great player, but obviously we have the All-American here with six Opens and two PGAs," says Crosswell, who earlier this week celebrated his 15th year as the club's head professional.

"Donald Ross. Trent Jones. Ben Hogan winning in '51. When you have that kind of history, it's hard to have something across the street that's not of the deal. The South Course is the deal."

"But I always think the North Course is an awesome golf course," he says. "The North Course is rated as one of the top 20 in Michigan through the Golf Digest ratings panel maybe five, six years ago. So you have a great golf course."

USGA officials insist they will spend equal time preparing each course for championship play. "Some of the players who will

be here will have played the South Course at one time or another because it certainly has received more notoriety than the North," says Tom Meeks, USGA senior rules official in charge of prepping the courses for championship play.

"Initially, the players will have to focus in on both golf courses because they have to play both of their total 36-hole scores," he says.

Oakland Hills club members love playing the North Course and agree it is an unknown commodity.

Renovated by Trent Jones in the late 80s, the North Course has played host to just one major tournament - the 1992 Michigan Amateur Championship won by Randy Lewis. Other than that, the North Course is most known as a volunteer/pres. parking lot during Oakland Hills-hosted majors.

"In all honesty, it's the first time we're going to have (the North Course) in what you would call USGA championship condition," explains Crosswell.

"The rough has been let to grow, bordering on four-inch length right now. The greens (on the North Course) are a little more subtle, but maybe a little more difficult because you're possibly going to have a little more grass specs to deal with."

"For the guys coming here it is going to be a great test. If you drive it in the fairway, you're set. There are shorter holes that are birdie holes," he says. "I think we're going to have some fun over there. It's a wonderful golf course."

GOLF

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ed. I fell from 17th to 23rd, so I'm feeling off early tomorrow (Wednesday).
Clones said the winds didn't affect his game much. "It sneaks around a little bit on the fifth and sixth holes, but it didn't make any shots move any differently. Actually, my putting was much better (Tuesday) and it saved my round."

Walicki believes he needed to shoot 5-under par to even have a shot at winning. "The top players can all shoot under par, so I'll probably have to shoot that," Walicki said.

"The wind picked up here today. The pins were equally as tough, and I tended to play conservatively for a while, but my mistakes were stupid swing mistakes."

Strawser hoped for a come-

back. "If I hit the ball like I can, I'll be fine," Strawser said. "I just didn't get the breaks like I did yesterday."

OPENING ROUND ACTION

The field of 78 golfers took to the course Monday with hopes of making the top 30 for the cut, but Oakland proved to be as challenging as advertised for them.

Steve Cole of Clarkston shot a 79 in the first round. "I hit the ball nice, but my putting was real bad," Cole said. Twice Cole had two putts sitting on the lip of the cup, said his caddy, wife Sharon.

"The greens are difficult here," Cole said of the course, designed by Arthur Hills.

"They're small and you have to hit it close to the pin. I've hit the ball real well, I just have to work on my putts and see if we can change it."

"Golf is a game of inches. Sometimes they work for you

and sometimes they work against you." Cole ended the day at 151, but missed the cut.

John Berg of Bloomfield Township shot 85, in what he called his worst round of the year. "My dad was here to see the first round, and I shot myself right out of it," Berg said. "Now it's time to just go out and have some fun."

James Landsberg of Farmington Hills shot 77. "I hit it well, but it took a while to keep my mind on the greens," Landsberg said. "Once I got the pace, it got easier."

"The greens are difficult to read, fast, but fair. That isn't meant as a criticism of the course, either. This course is beautiful," Landsberg said.

Dave Turner of Troy said he struggled, as he shot a score of 82. "I have to work on some short-game things," Turner said. "I need to be a little more careful with the greens. I need to keep playing my game and keep it going."

GAM TOURNEY RESULTS

GOLF ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP (AUG. 5-6 AT OAKHILLS G&CC) (scores through three rounds)

Colby Beckstrom (Muskegon), 212; Andrew Rutkowski (Muskegon), Russ Cunningham (Dowdell), 213; Johnny Strawser (Flushing), 215; Brian Stuard (Jackson), Tim Katanski (Livonia), Rob Tigue (Troy), 216; Eric Jorgensen (Grandville), 216.

Adam Walicki (Jackson), Randy Lewis (Alma), Gary Kaus (Livonia), 217; Doug Anderson (Boy City), Jaysen Hanson (Grand Ledge), 218; Kaj Vazales (Potosky), John Carras (Midland), 218; Kevin Vandenberg (Kalamazoo), Casey Lubahn (Sand Lake), 220; Eric Cowles (Perry), 221; David Noe (Monroe), Mark Kurzynowski (Jackson), Josh Mondry (Franklin), Adam White (Ann Arbor), 222; Ian Harris (Franklin), 223; Michael Collins (Orion Township), 224; William Montell (Dearborn), 224.

Jimmy Chestnut (Grand Blanc), John Quigley (Warren), 225; John Leach (Livonia), 226; Corey Mahoney (East Lansing), 229; Thomas Senkowski (Rochester Hills), 230; and Brian Ward (East Lansing), 231.

The following golfers played Monday in the first two rounds, but did not make the cut of the top 30: Eric Spencer (Bloomfield Hills), 150; Steven Cole (Clarkston), Rob Tate (Troy), Marcus Myers (Pontiac), Chris Vozza (Bloomfield Hills), Mark Holowicki (Farmington Hills), Chris King (Auburn Hills), Rob Reynolds (Waterford), 151; Stephen Madalena (Jackson), Richard Lay (Midland), 152; James Landsberg (Farmington Hills), 153; Razmig Boghikian (West Bloomfield), Pat Peterson (Southfield), Brian Miller (Shelby Township), 154; Mark Christianson (Rivoli), Clay Poff (Mio), 155; Dale Dickson (Flushing), 156; Pete Wutz (Jackson), 157; Steven

Matz (Northville), 158; Tom Rex (Chamblee), Larry Sterling (Shelby Township), 159; Dave Turner (Troy), Tom Moores (Holly), Timothy Roberts (Ypsilanti), 160; Mike Sanderson (Brighton), Kelly Trantit (Royal Oak), Mark Drolet (Lake Angelus), Smith Patterson (Lansing), Daniel Alcock (Canton), Ryan Riley (Sarasota), Kevin Futing (Livonia), 161; Tom McPhailan (Ann Arbor), Siegel Clore (Detroit), 162; Christian Vozza (Troy), 163; Jeff Bozza (Howell), Jim Wirtz (North Street), 164; Tim Meehan (Bloomfield Hills), Mark McCormick (Kalamazoo), 160; Dave Chumley (Brid Ave), John Berg (Bloomfield Township), Vincent Butbank (Auburn Hills), 171.

The following golfers withdrew: J.J. Beckstrom (Muskegon); Jared Jawor (Lake Orion); Chris Patten (Grand Blanc); Patrick Wilkes-Water (Ann Arbor); Todd Dickinson (Rochester); and Michael Ignasiak (Saline).

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STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Trust Estate

Estate of BENJAMIN D. POOLE, Deceased, Social Security Number 376-07-6873

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Benjamin D. Poole, who lived at 8041 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan, died June 12, 2002. There is no probate estate. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Benjamin D. Poole Trust Agreement dated March 10, 1992 as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to William F. Elders, 27221 Apple Tree Lane, Franklin, MI 48026, the named Successor Trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Attorney: William F. Elders, Attorney 27221 Apple Tree Lane, Franklin, MI 48026. Telephone No. 248-626-6656. Publish: August 8, 2002

LAWRENCE A. KING, Attorney, 840 West Long Lake Road, Suite 200, Troy, MI 48068

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Trust

Estate of MARILYN J. SPENCER, Social Security Number 370-29-5940

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marilyn J. Spencer, who lived at 475 South Evansdale, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan died June 28, 2002. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Marilyn J. Spencer Trust Agreement dated August 27, 1976 will be forever barred unless presented to Andrew R. Spencer, named Successor Trustee under decedent's Trust Agreement at 475 South Evansdale, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Attorney: Lawrence A. King, 840 West Long Lake Road, Suite 200, Troy, MI 48068. Telephone Number 248-678-2000. Publish: August 8, 2002

SPORTS NEWS

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Northville Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual USTA-sanctioned Youth Tennis Tournament Friday through Sunday, Aug. 16-18, at Northville HS, located on Six Mile between Beek and Sheldon.

The tournament is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 16. Entry fee is \$40 for Northville residents, \$45 for those in the school district and \$47 for non-residents, and it includes a T-shirt. There is a two-match guarantee.

Entries are available at the Northville Parks and Rec office, located at 700 W. Baseline. Entry deadline is 4:30 p.m. Aug. 12.

For more information, call the Recreation department at (248) 349-0203.

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