



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Tourney time

A banner on the cross-walk over Maple Road announces the second annual U.S. Senior Open, which kicks off at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township with 150 starters playing in first- and second-round action July 9-10. The lowest 50 then move on third and fourth rounds July 11-12. Purse is \$100,000, with the pro winner taking home \$20,000.

Big draw

'Arnie's Army' invades Oakland Hills for Open

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Arnold Palmer will be *THE* major attraction at the U.S. Senior Open.

One of golf's legends, Palmer still commands legions of followers despite not having won a major tournament since the Bob Hope Desert Classic in 1973.

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"Arnie's Army," a designation given to his faithful fans during the pinnacle of his career in the early '60s, will flock to Oakland Hills' South Course to gain possibly one final glimpse of the man who popularized golf.

"I've played with him many times while I was on the tour," said George Bayer, a former Southfield resident who began his nine-year professional career in 1955 — the first year that Palmer joined the tour.

"I remember playing with him one year in the Canadian Open and everyone applauded whenever he hit the ball. He just had so much magnetism. Everyone was enthralled by Arnold Palmer.

"Everything came together for him, and he was an instant popularity. He performed miraculous shots, and he was famous for his charges. When you were ahead of him you always looked over your shoulder to see where Palmer was.

"And, the thing about Palmer is that he's never changed," said Bayer, the 55-year-old head professional at the Detroit Golf Club. "He was the most amiable per-

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Observer & Eccentric details Senior Open

The Observer & Eccentric sports staff is proud to bring you this special section on the 1981 U.S. Senior Open Championship at Bloomfield Township's Oakland Hills Country Club.

Tournament week will begin on Monday, July 6, with the first of three practice rounds at the 6,798-yard, par-70 course, on Maple (15 Mile) Road west of Telegraph.

Actual tournament action will be on Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 12.

Tickets are \$8 each day for the practice rounds and \$12 each day for the tournament. Parking on Oakland Hills' North

Course across the street is free.

IN THIS SPECIAL section, you will find stories about the Seniors circuit, the history of the two-year U.S. Senior Open, sketches of players and maps and information about the famed "Monster" — the championship South Course at Oakland Hills.

The O&E sports staff includes Tom Baer, Marty Budner, M.B. Dillon, Brad Emmons, Doug Funke and Dennis O'Connor.

The O&E sports coordinator is Ron Garbinski.



Arnold Palmer still commands legions of followers whenever he plays. Scores of his fans are expected to crowd the U.S. Senior Open tournament at Oakland Hills Country Club July 6-12.