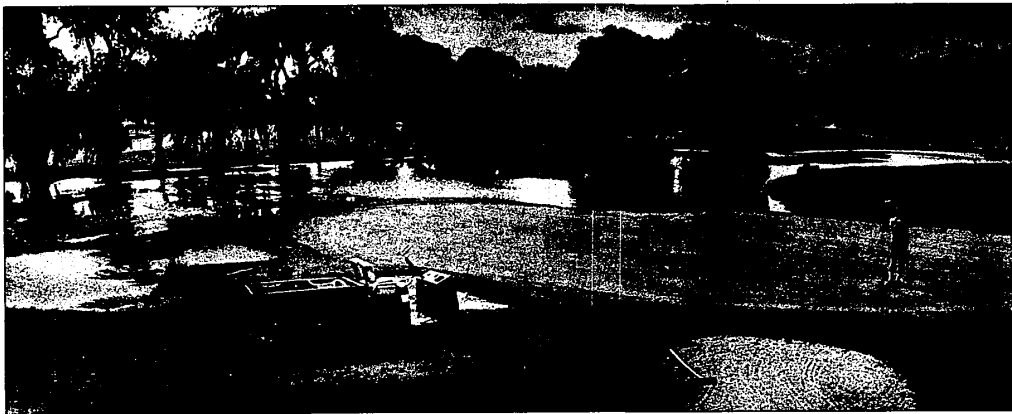


The beautiful landscape of Oakland Hills' famed 16th hole awaits the senior circuit as 150 senior players from all over the world converge at the Bloomfield Township country club this week for the second annual U.S. Senior Open. After three days of practice, the seniors begin tournament action on Thursday. The final round of the \$100,000 event is Sunday.



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Oakland Hills welcomes seniors

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Oakland Hills' employees, who one year ago began preparations for the U.S. Senior Open, are watching their last 75-hour-work week draw to a close.

The second annual United States Golf Association-sanctioned (USGA) Senior Open now is off the drawing board and in the works at Bloomfield Township's Oakland Hills — one of the most highly touted golf courses in America.

Practice rounds for the 150-man field — the majority of whom checked in at Southfield's Ramada Inn yesterday — are today, tomorrow and Wednesday. Tickets are \$8 for each practice day.

The gallery, according to tournament chairman Bob Wood, will have to "catch as catch can" (on practice

days), since players may tee-off whenever they wish on those three days.

Championship play for the 72-hole

event is Thursday through Sunday. Wood expects the total gallery to reach nearly 40,000 for the seven-day event.

Tickets on the tournament days are \$12 each day. They are available now and at the gate at Oakland Hills. To order tickets by phone, call

the U.S. Senior Open office at 647-7300.

Tickets which are purchased any

day in advance will not have to pay the \$3 parking fee on Oakland Hills' North Course, across the street from the championship South Course at Maple Road, east of Telegraph.

Advanced tickets for both the practice and tournament rounds may be purchased at a will-call trailer at the Strike and Spare bowling alley, also on Maple east of Telegraph.

ALL PLAYERS will compete in the first and second rounds of the tournament Thursday and Friday. The 50 lowest scorers — plus any who tie for 50th place — are eligible for final rounds Saturday and Sunday.

Please turn to Page 2C.

Cops prepared for tourney crowds

By Karen Sue Hermas
staff writer

The Bloomfield Township Police Department will use a "floating contingency" of officers to direct traffic and assist pedestrians in crossing streets during this week's U.S. Senior Open Championship at Oakland Hills Country Club.

"We're prepared for any size crowd," Sgt. Jim Anas said. The department

will assign up to eight officers at a time to the championship, depending on how many are needed, he said.

"As we get there, we'll determine the number," he said. "If we have to send people (officers) home, we will. If we have to bring more people in, we will."

Assistant to the patrol division commander, Anas will supervise officers at the championship.

He said it's not known how many spectators will arrive at Oakland Hills

to view the Open, beginning today and continuing through Sunday.

"Last year on the last day (of the Senior Open in Mamaroneck, N.Y.), only 3,000 people showed up."

He estimated, however, that the week's draw probably will be between 20,000 and 50,000 persons.

In addition to uniformed officers directing traffic and assisting pedestrians, Bloomfield police will assign two

plain-clothes officers to mingle with spectators on Saturday and Sunday, Anas said.

The two plain-clothes officers, he said, will aid private security guards in controlling crowds on what are expected to be the two busiest days.

Anas said police expect the championship will go smoothly. "We're not expecting any problems at all," he said.

Slash! OCC cuts 6 sports from program

By Scott Adler
staff writer

Oakland Community College, faced with large budget cuts, has eliminated six different sports teams from the school's previous 14-sport program.

The sports teams being cut are men's and women's swimming, men's and women's bowling, men's tennis and men's soccer. The eight remaining teams are men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, men's and women's cross country, men's golf and women's tennis.

"It's too bad," said Athletic Director Prentice Ryan. "We had built up from eight to 14 sports over a number of years and now suddenly we're back to eight in one fell swoop."

The sports budget was cut by \$32,000 which forced Ryan to re-evaluate the athletic program.

It's too bad. We had built up from eight to 14 sports over a number of years, and now suddenly we're back to eight in one fell swoop.

— Prentice Ryan
OCC athletic director

"WE USED a different rationale," Ryan said. "We tried to keep the full-time time employees. If it was between a full- and part-timer, the full-timer took precedence. Even though soccer is an up-and-coming sport, it was also the last one that we added, which influenced our decision."

OCC belongs to a state league for community colleges, so the reason for dropping the swimming programs had a lot to do with the other community colleges in the state dropping their swim teams, as well.

OCC, however, built a new pool only two years ago.

"There are 20 community colleges in the league," said Ryan. "Everyone else cut swimming so there wouldn't have been anyone else to swim against."

The new pool will be used for instructional, community and student intramural needs, according to Ryan.

The college is working on a minimal funds but will hang on to the eight remaining teams, which also suffered cutbacks, for another year.

"We will hold on to the teams that we have as long as we can," said Ryan. "Right now we are working on a very minimum budget. We're just sliding along."

Weir loves training Swimmer 'masters' her sport

By Scott Adler
staff writer

Lynn Weir believes in the adage that "Life begins at 40."

When most competitive swimmers are over the hill at age 22, Weir disproves the theory with her latest accomplishments in the recent Masters events, for swimmers 25 years and older.

"My goals are different," Weir said. "Now, you're competing more with yourself."

The 40-year-old Birmingham resident has little trouble winning, no matter who the competition might be.

In her last Masters meet, Weir finished first in five individual events, including the 50-, 100-, 200-, 500-, and 1650-yard freestyle races. She also plans to enter the National Long Distance swim in Huntington, Ind., on Aug. 2, and the Outdoor National Master event in Canton, Ohio, Aug. 13-17.

• Weir says she enjoys the competition, as

her times continue to improve. "It's interesting," said Weir, "how the change in training methods has improved our times. Thanks to things such as aerobic training, we're going as fast as we did in high school."

Weir also finds the Masters program to be more than just physical training. It's a social group, as well.

"There are excellent quality people involved," she said. "We keep in shape and keep fit, but we do a lot more than swim. We do a lot together as a group. We have events planned for the near future, so it is social as well as physical for us."

WEIR WAS head swim coach for the women's team at Oakland Community College, but the program recently was eliminated from the athletic program because of financial problems.

Weir still teaches scuba diving at OCC, however, and keeps busy training by getting up at 5:15 a.m. and heading over to Cranbrook for a 1 1/2-hour workout. She also does weight training on a Nautilus machine and

runs periodically to supplement her swimming program.

"It's grim," said Weir of her early rising, "but at least we get it over with."

Approximately two-thirds of the Masters swimmers competed in high school or college, according to Weir, a native of Indianapolis who never went out for the high school varsity swim team. Instead, she swam for an AAU team, tutored by Doc Counsellman, the 1976 U.S. Olympic coach and present coach at Indiana University, a perennial Big 10 swim champion.

Weir went from there to Wellesley College (Mass.) and participated in intramurals, because women's swimming was not a varsity sport.

She got involved with the Masters after being injured in a skiing accident.

"I broke my leg badly while I was skiing and began to swim to get back into shape," Weir said. "And while I was getting back in shape, I kept running into people who were racing, and that's how I got started."

Weir said that the Masters program has been very beneficial.

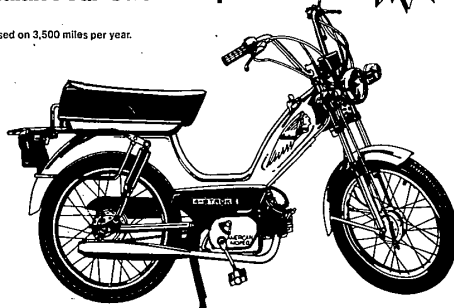
"I don't know how long I'll go," she said. "I don't plan on quitting."

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