

Television coverage will run all four days

Those unable to witness the 85th United States Open golf championship first hand at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township will have plenty of chances to view the tournament from home.

ABC television (Channel 7 locally) will telecast the third and fourth rounds — and Monday's playoff if necessary — while cable station Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) will have first- and second-round coverage.

The ABC telecast will mark its 20th Open coverage. According to an ABC spokesperson, the weekend telecasts will each be lengthened by a half hour. Coverage each day begins at 2 p.m. and runs until 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, ABC will air a 15-minute highlight segment beginning at 11:30 p.m. Friday, a half-hour highlight segment of the day's play will begin at 11:30 p.m.

AMONG THE anchors will be Jim McKay, who anchored ABC's coverage of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, and Jack Whitaker. Dave Marr will serve as the expert commentator.

As is tradition with television coverage, ABC will use local personnel to help with the spotting, scoring "and other small production tasks," according to the ABC spokesperson.

Mike Soltys, ESPN's communications representative, said the cable network

will air live telecasts Thursday and Friday from noon until 2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.; Thursday, 8-11:30 p.m.; and Friday, 7-10 p.m., repeat telecasts will be aired for prime-time viewers.

"We air the later (4-6 p.m.) telecast because the leaders are not always teamed up early in the day," Soltys said. "This way, we can catch most everyone during the early rounds."

ESPN will pick up ABC's coverage the first two days of the 72-hole tournament and will use the major network's reporters and anchors. ESPN's Lou Palmer will report on the show's Sports Center segments.

The 85th Open is the fourth aired by ESPN.

Oakland Hills Country Club has been the site of four United States Open and two Professional Golf Association championships. Following is a list of the previous U.S. Open and PGA winners at Oakland Hills.

Champion	Tourney	Year
Cyril Walker	U.S. Open	1924
Ralph Guldahl	U.S. Open	1937
Ben Hogan	U.S. Open	1951
Gene Littler	U.S. Open	1961
Gary Player	PGA	1972
David Graham	PGA	1979

Viewing tips offered for first-time golf fans

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Unlike most other sports, golf fans rarely get to see their idols perform in person.

Unless they're vacationing in Florida or California — where the majority of golf tournaments are played and the galleries aren't as large — you have a better chance of scoring a hole-in-one on a putt-putt course than you do of getting an autograph from an idolized pro golfer.

Professional golfers just aren't as accessible in Detroit as they are in other parts of the country. The *modus operandi* for most fans in watching the pros in action is via the wonderful medium of television.

How many times is a professional golf tournament played in metropolitan Detroit?

Not often.

The last two tournaments hosted by Oakland Hills were the 1981 United States Senior Open and the 1979 PGA championship.

THE KEY QUESTION is, how does a spectator watch a golf tournament in person?

Oakland Hills' South Course — where the 1985 U.S. Open Championship will be played this week — is just shy of 7,000 yards in length. It's impossible to catch all the action.

But, there are basically three ways to get the best possible view of your favorite golfers.

- If you've got the drive, so to speak, you can follow your idol around for the full 18 holes. Chances are you won't have any problems catching action through the first dozen holes. But, as you approach the final few holes — especially as the tournament climaxes — you may have problems finding a suitable viewing spot because of the large crowds.

- You may have a favorite hole at Oakland Hills. Arrive early at a particularly good viewing point on any hole, and watch the pros drive, chip or putt all day from that one spot. It may be interesting watching how the different golfers prefer to play the hole. One thing for certain, by staying at one hole you'll be able to see every pro.

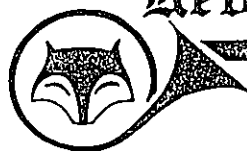
- Also, there may be a position on the course where you can watch more than one hole at a time. There are two or three spots at Oakland Hills where you can see greens and tees within a few yards of each other. For example, there's a nice grassy hill where you can watch golfers tee off from the ninth and 12th holes, and watch them putt on the eighth and 11th holes.

A couple other simple suggestions might be to take binoculars to watch the action from a distance, or watch pros who may be practicing their swings at the driving range.

Also, if you don't really want to be part of the huge crowds expected for Saturday's and Sunday's rounds, try and catch the practice rounds on Monday or Tuesday in a more relaxed atmosphere. The first-round action Thursday and Friday also should offer decent spectator viewing.

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