

Trevino gives flair to tournament field

By Jim Toth
staff writer

The reasons behind the continued growth in the following of the U.S. Senior Tour are plentiful. Many surround the presence of Lee Trevino.

A true fan favorite and one of the most colorful personalities the game has ever known, Trevino has given as much to the game and received more than most in return.

In 25 years of competition on the PGA and Senior Tours, Trevino has cashed in more than \$4 million in prize money.

He enters the 1991 U.S. Senior Open as the tournament's defending champion. Last year at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J., Trevino edged out Jack Nicklaus by two strokes to earn first place prize money.

Tackling the 6,718-yard layout at Oakland Hills is nothing new to Trevino, who last played here in 1985 in the U.S. Open.

"IT'S A great golf course," Trevino said of Oakland Hills during a recent conference call hookup. "1985 was the last time I played it and I remember it is long and you always have to worry about putting."

"With the course playing shorter, it gives everybody a chance."

"But I'm looking forward to this be-

cause Oakland Hills is a great golf course and I always get up for the majors more so than others."

Since joining the PGA Tour in 1967, Trevino has claimed the top spot 27 times, racking up close to \$3.5 million in the process.

He hooked up with the Senior Tour in 1990 and has won a total of nine events, cashing in \$1.6 million in earnings.

THE INAUGURAL Senior Open Championship was established in 1980, resulting from a steady growth in senior golf at the professional and amateur levels.

That first Open, played at the famed East Course of the Winged Foot Golf Club in New York and won by Roberto De Vicenzo, was conducted for golfers 55 years of age and over with a handicap limit of eight strokes for amateurs.

One year later, the United States Golf Association decided to lower the qualifying age from 55 to 50. Its reasoning was that reducing the minimum age would make for a more competitive championship.

Those changes, along with the presence of Trevino, Nicklaus, Chi Chi Rodriguez and Gary Player, the Senior Tour has grabbed some of the spotlight away from the regular PGA Tour.

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