

# TPC course suits fans, challenges golfers

By Jeff Barr

Beauty, opulence and expertly designed golf courses have always been the ideal locales to host PGA events, and the TPC of Michigan meets all three criteria.

But, the Dearborn course — like all 15 TPC courses throughout the country — have more to the golfers in mind.

Jack Nicklaus, Deane Beman and the rest of the staff the TPC of Michigan have not forgotten about the spectators.

"When (PGA Tour) Commissioner Beman designed the first TPC in Sawgrass, (Fla.), he came up with a concept with the spectator in mind," TPC of Michigan Director of Golf Billy Dettlaff said. "He called it Stadium Golf, copyrighted it, and it is a concept which is being used at all the TPC courses."

Stadium Golf is unique to TPC courses, and it has made viewing a tournament a whole new experience. No more is there a need to scramble up and down bleachers, climb trees, or fight the crowd. Stadium Golf has made watching a TPC tournament a walk in the park — literally.

"It's completely different for the fan at a TPC course," Dettlaff said. "The natural terrain has been designed to make it possible for large amounts of people to all get a great view of the action. There is no need for bleachers."

"On the 18th (at the TPC of Michigan), for example, 15,000 people can enjoy the final hole of the golf tournament. (Beman) realized the importance of the spectator to the game of golf, and any spectator going to a TPC course can see that."

Fans at the upcoming Senior Players Championship will notice the fantastic viewing sites throughout the TPC of Michigan course, but there are some "prime spots" that give the informed fan an edge on the rest of the spectators.

To become an informed fan, read on:

**Twelfth hole, par-3, 168 yards:** If you're into panoramic beauty, waterfalls, ponds, grass swales and wetlands, this hole has it all. And, it's all packed into 168 yards. The tee is elevated, so spectators who are lucky enough to get a spot at the 12th tee will have one of the most breathtaking views on the entire course.

Not only that, but if you turn around you can watch players on the 11th fairway. It's a short hole which cuts down on available space, but this one is worth getting up early.

**Eighth hole, par-3, 182 yards:** The main entrance to the course has been moved this year, and the eighth hole will be the very first hole you see. It also provides one of the best, and most pleasant, sites to watch the action.

"Coming in from the east side of the course and onto No. 8 will really give people a great first impression of the course," Dettlaff said. "There is a real pretty walkway as they march along Rotunda (Road) and there is some beautiful spectator mounding that gives the spectators a beautiful view of the green."

The eighth hole is the second of four demanding par-3 holes. It requires a well-struck medium iron if a bogey is to be avoided. Underclubbing is disastrous because wetlands are the only thing in view from the tee to the green.

The green is protected by two bunkers, front right and left, and grassy hollows in the back. Hitting the green is no guarantee of making par.

"Remember, the eighth hole is the first hole the people will see, so if they want any edge, there's a while, they'll have to get there early," Dettlaff. "I have an idea that's going to be a real hot spot."

**Seventh hole, par-5, 542 yards:** This hole is not only a comedically attractive place to spend some time at the tournament, but it could also provide some of the most exciting shots of the day.

The player who hits a well-positioned tee shot to the right side of the par-5 may have a chance to reach the green in two. Huge trees down the left side of the fairway and a large swale in between the landing area and the green make this hole demanding.

But, if the first two shots are struck just right, it provides a great chance for a birdie. That's where the fun comes in for the spectator.

"Once again, this hole has some great mounding for the spectator, so there are a lot of excellent places to watch," Dettlaff said. "There are going to be a lot of interesting shots to watch. You'll be able to see the real long-batters take aim at the green in two, and that's always fun. And, the guys that don't go for the green in two will have a short

iron shot. When you get these kinds of players with short irons to the hole, you're going to see some great shots. And, don't forget they'll be playing with eagle putts. You don't see too many eagles, but there will be some chances on No. 8.

**Eleventh hole, par-4, 410 yards:** Almost anyone begins here!

This is one of the more unique holes in golf. There are two landing

areas, with two separate fairways. If players elect the easier tee shot down the left side of the fairway, they are left with a difficult approach angle to the green. The right fairway requires a 235-yard shot over wetlands.

Not much fun for the player, but plenty of excitement for the spectator.

"If you choose to spend some time

on this hole, it will be very interesting to watch players make a decision on which fairway to take," Dettlaff said. "I think it will depend a lot on how the player is playing that particular day as to what fairway he will take."

"There's some excellent spectator mounding near the landing area in the right fairway, and that's probably the best place to watch the hole."

"I really like the TPC of Michigan. You've really got to be a shotmaker and use every club in the bag on that course. Even though it looks like a wide-open golf course, it's actually narrow and long. Mentally, I think I can do well there because I enjoy playing the course. That's a large part of competing in a tournament of this magnitude."

— Walter Zembriski

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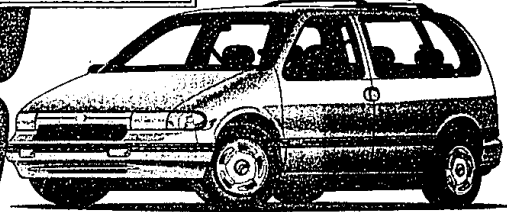
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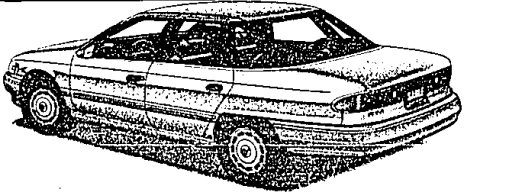
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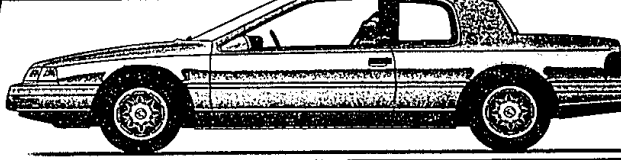


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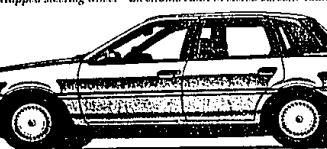
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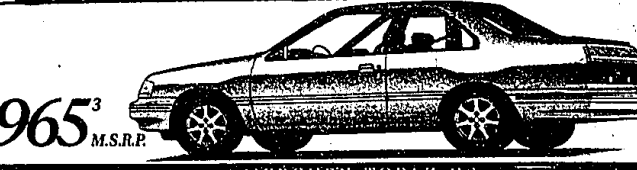


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