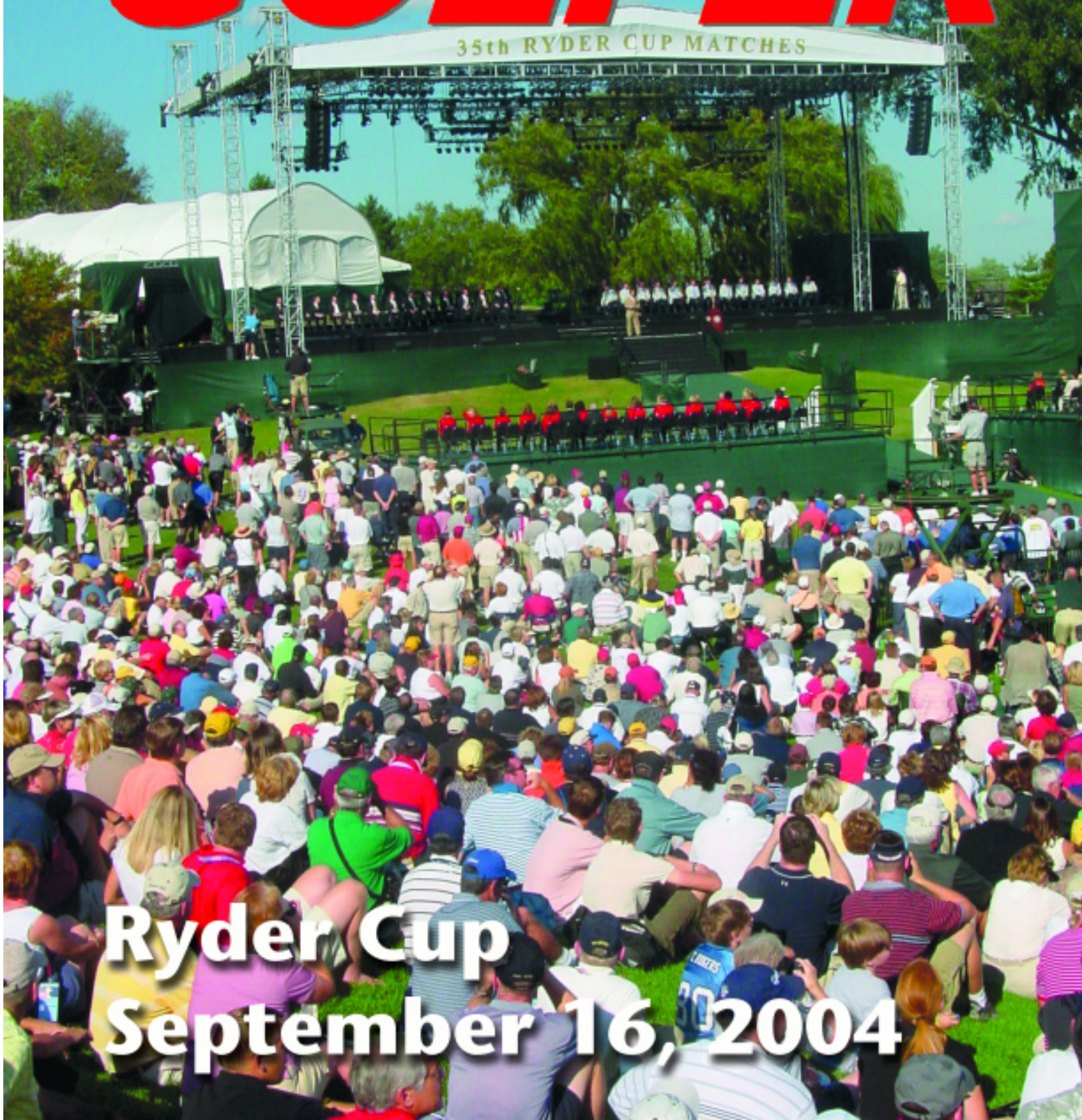


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Ryder Cup
September 16, 2004



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Ryder Cup Memories

By Art McCafferty

The buses that pulled away from a gleaming, yet weary, Oakland Hills Country Club, were packed with people that will long remember the time spent there. There will never be a time when the mention of the Ryder Cup does not conjure images of a sun-bathed spectacular weeklong setting, walking on a well-manicured and revered course and attending an opening ceremony that was more like a rock concert than the beginning of a golf event.

Michigan was able to show off its golf course inventory, its cities, lakes, museums, airports and the wonderful hospitality of our citizens. Our writers, reporters, sports broadcasters, photographers and other media types were able to be a contributing part of a world class

sporting event. Their words, voices and images will become part of the event's legacy.

Politicians and celebrities were everywhere, finding yet another venue in which to bask in the spotlight. The Brits, French, Swedes, Spaniards, Germans, Italians and people from other countries were able to visit us, knowing that golf would be the spoken language.

The legacy of Donald Ross, Robert Trent Jones and Arthur Hills was brought front and center as the best golfers in the world attacked their work. The words of Robert Trent Jones: "As an architect, it is my job to protect par," seemed to ring wonderfully true. The legendary golf architect, Pete Dye, had seen those greens being built by Jones in the early 1950s and was rooting for the course on every shot. The course held up as

the fairways were challenging, the greens were fast and undulating and the winds blew enough to influence the flight of many a ball.

The memories of my family have come full circle with this event. My father used to tell me how he searched for golf balls at the club and sold them to make some extra money. That extra money eventually contributed to the start of Michigan Golfer Magazine, which in turn featured Oakland Hills on many of its covers. The profit from the magazine allowed us to hire my father's grandson and my son Michael, to appear in a series of Michigan Golfer Television shows that featured "The Haig," Walter Hagen.

Oakland Hills CC, The Ryder Cup and Walter Hagen, a lifetime of memories. **MG**

Donald Trump kicked off the opening ceremonies. Photo by Art McCafferty



Hanging Out with Pete Dye at the Ryder Cup

By Art McCafferty

I had the opportunity to hang out with arguably the greatest living architect of our time, Pete Dye, during the Ryder Cup. It actually proved to be more thrilling than watching the meltdown of the U.S. team on the final day of play. Dye is getting up there in years and is fighting a battle with cancer and thus sightings and opportunities to converse with him will become all too rare.

This was Dye's fifth Ryder Cup, having watched the past four on U.S. soil and the last match at The Belfry. We watched most of the pairings from the point in the 10th fairway, where most of the drives were landing. His knowledge of the players and their games was extraordinary. He also praised the course and Oakland Hills greens. They were the first greens to have

a substructure and he watched Robert Trent Jones build them for the 1951 Open. He felt they would hold up to the test at hand, and they did.

His other tie to Michigan was the design of the University of Michigan's Radrick Farms. He went up against Dick Wilson and Robert Trent Jones for the job, but Harlan Hatcher gave him the responsibility. He said he stole most of his ideas from Jones for Radrick Farms and chuckled when Jones later told him he had done some nice work as an architect and that he particularly liked the work he did at Radrick Farms. He said he was asked to look at upgrading Radrick Farms, when the Buick Open was available a couple of years ago, but he didn't think it would work because of opposition from faculty and others. He was also in town to lobby Larry Peck,

marketing director for Buick, to see if they would be interested in bringing the Buick Open to Indiana on an every-other-year basis. He also mentioned that there was not much happening on the proposed Boyne course.

In discussing life with another famous Dye, Alice, he said that her book, *Alice Dye: From Birdies to Bunkers*, had vastly out-sold his book, *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker*. The books collectively represent over 100 years in the golf business. They also serve to chronicle their lives since they met in college, just after Pete returned from active duty.

They were outstanding amateur golfers when growing up, she having won the Indiana Women's Amateur seven times, he winning

*Photo opposite: Pete Dye (left)
and Art McCafferty*

THE 35TH
RYDER CUP
MATCHES
Oakland Hills Country Club
Bloomfield Township, Michigan
September 14-19, 2004



the Indiana Amateur once and finishing second twice. He said that Alice was asked to play in the Indiana Amateur this year as a guest celebrity and did surprisingly well. "I left her at the course that morning and when I returned to pick her up, I was prepared to console her. Instead, when she got in the car, she said she had beaten the defending champion by shooting a 74." Pete also confessed to setting the course record, a 74, at the opening of his new TPC course in New Orleans. He beat a couple of tour players, although he was play-

We did an Internet TV show with Mike David, the Executive Director of the Indiana PGA and Indiana Golf Association, a couple of years ago, showing off the HOF. You can see this show at <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show10/index.html>.

Dye doesn't really know exactly how many courses he has designed, but feels that it is north of 80. His sons, P.B Dye and Perry Dye are both architects. I have worked with both of them on courses, but they are really just friendly competitors. He indicated

chandize on Saturday, and Mr. Kohler, said, 'Not here they won't.' They ordered heavily and had a fire sale right after the event and sold out everything. Kohler has a new piece of property in Ireland and we are looking at building something there. He is a powerful man, who individually owns the largest plumbing company in the world. I am probably the only person that stands up to him. We have had some interesting conversations about what he wants on the golf course; he still does not know that much about golf course design."

During the Ryder Cup, Dye

"We watched most of the pairings from the point in the 10th fairway, where most of the drives were landing. His knowledge of the players and their games was extraordinary."

ing from the white tees.

On his ties with higher education: Dye designed the newest Purdue course at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex and has helped raise millions for the school. He also hires students right out of college to work with him in the construction of his courses. He has the client pay the students directly and he supplies the direction. He sketches out his designs and is not that enamored with the world of computers.

He also worked to raise funds for the establishment of the Indiana Golf Hall of Fame. In addition, he built a par-3 course there for instructional purposes.

that P.B has a mind of his own and that he does not get involved very much with his projects. "He does not want me around," Dye said. He thought that Perry had done a nice job with a course in Japan.

He felt that the pros would score 8-10 under on his Whistling Straits course in Wisconsin. It is a resort course and the greens were designed for fast play. "The ground was flat when we started and Mr. Kohler wanted an Irish looking course, so we began to dig. They had over 300,000 people go through there during the tournament. The PGA sold more merchandise at that tournament than they ever did. I remembered that one PGA official said that they would most likely start to run out of mer-

continued to keep in contact with work that he and Chris Lutzke were doing at the New River course in Virginia. "We are not renovating it, but we are totally making a new course out of it. It has frontage on the New River and it is at a point on the river where there are rapids. It is a very exciting piece of property.

As wave after wave of PGA officials passed by our spot, many of them recognized him and then stopped to say 'Hello' to Dye. As the last two-some passed us on the 10th fairway, we parted ways. As I watched him head toward the clubhouse I knew that one of my most memorable moments at the Ryder Cup was hanging out with Pete Dye. **MG**

<http://michigangolfer.tv>

Preview of Coming Attractions 2004



Vanessa Bell & Tony Jacklin

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Series

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- Everett Kircher: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Bill Shelton and Jack Berry
- Dan Pohl: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry
- Dave Hill: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry
- Elaine Crosby: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame with Jack Berry

Destination Golf

- Barona Creek Golf Course - San Diego with Jennie McCafferty
- Ireland and Ryder Cup 2006 with Vanessa Bell

Golf Course Designer Series

- Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and the Fieldstone Golf Course with Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest
- Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and the Ivanhoe Golf Course with Arthur Hills & Steve Forrest
- Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Kinsale Golf Club with Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest
- Jerry Matthews and The Majestic Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- Jerry Matthews and The Natural Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- Jerry Matthews: A Sneak Preview of the Sundown Golf Course with Jerry Matthews
- Robert Trent Jones and Point O Woods with Greg Johnson
- Mike Husby and the Loon Golf Course with Mike Husby
- Jack Nicklaus, Tony Jacklin and the Concession with Tony Jacklin and Vanessa Bell
- An Evening with Tom Doak with Jack Berry

Michigan Memories

- Arnold Palmer and the Turning Point Invitational with Art McCafferty
- Memories of the 2004 Ryder Cup with Vanessa Bell
- The Irish Invasion of the Henry Ford with Vanessa Bell



Long Live the King

By L'anse Bannon

The Arnold Palmer Turning Point Invitational recently held at the Country Club of Detroit was just about as good as it gets for a fund raiser. Final tabulation, has the total take hovering near the six million dollar mark. It was the culmination of "A Big Idea".

The idea was unique, the celebration of Arnold Palmer's 50 year anniversary of winning the U.S. Amateur at the club. The other part of the uniqueness was to invite all the past U.S. Amateur Champions to join in the celebration.

The idea was well received by all of the past champions. Those who attended included: Gary

*Photo by Carter Sherline /
Frog Prince Studios*

Cowan '66 and '71, Robert B. Dickson '67, Bruce Fleisher '68, Steve Melnyk '69, Lanny Wadkins '70, Marvin (Vinny) M. Giles '72, Fred Ridley '75. John Fought '77, Mark O'Meara '79, Nathaniel Crosby '81, Jay Sigel 82 and 83, Sam Randolph '85, Billy Mayfair '87, Phil Mickelson '90, Mitch Voges '91, Matt Kuchar '97, Hank Kuehne '98, David Gossett '99, Jeff Quinney '00, Ben Dickerson '01, Ricky Barnes '02, Nick Flanagan '03 and Ryan David Moore '04

Ryan Moore, an amateur who won everything this past year, had a turning point of his own, and that was when Arnold Palmer told him to stay in school. Moore is just about the hottest new thing in golf, but when asking advice from Arnold, The King told him to stay and finish up school, enjoy the moment and then take up the game

professionally.

Arnold has left his legacy in Michigan, winning the U. S. Amateur, the Senior Championship at Oakland Hills and by designing the likes of The Ravines, The Preserve, The Legend, Northville Hills, King's Challenge and The Crown.

It was a glorious even that perfectly captured the impact this man had on golf. As the score bearers walked behind their respective foursomes, it was noted that Arnie's group wasn't keeping score. It seemed they were concentrating on the moment. There was one moment, when Arnold walked up the 18th fairway holding the hand of his new lady friend, stopped, and then gave a soft and knowing wave to all those who were there to honor him.

Long Live the King. **MG**



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Photo by Jon Kamps



*Greywalls, No. 7
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Michigan Enjoys Championship Summer

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

A PGA Tour event, two Champions Tour events, one Canadian Tour event, the “Masters” of amateur golf, four Michigan majors and two state amateur championships headlined a busy summer of championship golf in Michigan. Here is a quick look back:

The Buick Open

Vijay Singh claimed his fourth PGA Tour victory of the year at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc when he posted a 265 to win this year’s Buick Open. Singh edged John Daly by one stroke and Tiger Woods by two to claim the championship.

The Ford Senior Players Championship

Mark James shot a 1-over 73 in the final round yet managed to hold on for the first Champions Tour victory of his career at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn. James posted a 13-under 288 to edge Jose Maria Canizares by one stroke and Bruce Fleisher by two.

The Farmers Charity Classic

Jim Thorpe fired a 6-under 66 in the final round of the 54-hole event at Egypt Valley Country in Ada. Thorpe’s 13-under 203 was good enough for his first Champions Tour victory of 2004, a one-stroke victory over Fred Gibson. Gil Morgan finished two strokes off the pace.

The Bay Mills Open

Chris Wisler shot a 12 under 276 total to win the Bay Mills Open Players’ Championship at Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley. Four players finished five shots behind to tie for second.

The Western Amateur

Ryan Moore won the 102nd Western Amateur at Point O’ Woods and everything else in sight this year, including the respect and admiration of Arnold Palmer. Moore, who beat Australian James Nitties on the first extra hole, also won the U.S. Publinxer, the U.S. Amateur, and an invitation to play Arnold Palmer’s Turning Point Invitational at the Country Club of Detroit.

The Western Am has produced

many champions who have gone on to greater things, but it would be hard for any golfer to duplicate the year Moore had in 2004.

The Michigan Open

J.R. Roth, 46, shot a 4-under 68 in the final round on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme to win the 89th Michigan Open by three shots over Eric Jorgensen of Grandville and Mike Austin of Burton. Roth, who finished at 12-under, also won the Open in 1998.

The Michigan Women’s Open

Stacy Snider of Grandville won the Michigan Women’s Open on the first hole of a playoff with Amy Malinaric of Rancho, Mirage, CA. Snider, 24, who birdied the first playoff hole at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, finished the 54-hole tournament with a 6 under 210 and collected \$5,000 for the victory.

Opposite page: photo of Vijay Singh by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



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The Tournament of Champions

Jorgensen, 26, avenged his runner-up finish at the Open by winning the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions. He shot a 2-under 70 in the final round on the Monument course at Boyne Mountain Resort. Jorgensen, who lives in Grandville and is a regular player on the NGA Hooters Tour, finished 11-under for the 54-hole tournament. He finished four strokes ahead of five-time Michigan Open champion Scott Hebert and six strokes ahead of two-time LPGA Tour champion Elaine Crosby.

The Michigan PGA Championship

Joe Pollack held a six-stroke lead with eight holes remaining in the final round of the Michigan PGA Championship at Shanty Creek in Bellaire. He then lost five strokes over the next five holes. He did, however, manage to hold on to that single-stroke lead and claim his first major Michigan championship. Pollack, 36, a part-time instructor at

Photo of Mark James by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



Mark James

Boulder Creek Golf Club in Grand Rapids, edged Ron Beurmann, 44, of the Country Club of Jackson by one stroke and Andy Bethune of The Sawmill Golf Club in Saginaw to collect the \$9,500 winner's share of the \$80,000 purse. Pollack finished the 54-hole tournament, played on The Legend and Cedar River courses at 6-under.

The Michigan Amateur Championship

Jeff Cuzzort, 19, won the 93rd Michigan Amateur Championship on the course where he has worked as a caddie for the past two years, Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. A recent graduate of Grosse Ile High School, Cuzzort defeated Michigan State University sophomore Matt Harmon, 3 and 2, in the championship match. Harmon, 19, was the tournament's medalist, having shot 70-71-141 in the event's stroke play qualifying rounds.

The Women's Michigan Amateur Championship

Former runners-up Sarah Martin and Jenna Walter went four extra holes before Martin won the 88th Women's Michigan Amateur

Championship with a par on the 132-yard, par-3 fourth hole at White Pine National Golf Course in Spruce. Martin, 21, a senior at Michigan State University, was runner-up in the women's state amateur two years ago. Walter, 20, who was the runner-up last year, is a junior at Western Michigan University. **MG**

PGA Championship, Whistling Straits, Wis.



The awesome 18th Hole at Whistling Straits

By Mike Beckman

Watching Vijay Singh being presented the PGA Wannamaker Trophy after the thrilling three-hole playoff with Justin Leonard

Photo above by Art McCafferty

and Chris DiMarco in the 86th PGA Championship, August 15, I had a flashback to seven years ago at exactly the same site. Standing on an 80-foot bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, nine miles north of Kohler, Wis., I was trying to listen to Steve Friedlander, Director of Golf for the Kohler Company,

and conjure up an image of the grand undertaking of creating a championship course to replicate and rival the great links courses in Scotland and Ireland. How could a former U.S. Army anti-aircraft firing range 10 miles north of Kohler be America's answer to Ballybunyan? Teeing off the fol-

lowing year at the grand opening with Art McCafferty of the Michigan Golfer, our questions were answered with an awesome, 'Wow!' Each hole was a new treat and adventure. No carts. Irish cad-dies. No trees. Irish black sheep with bells on, and 1,400 bunkers. It was, and still is one of the most challenging and beautiful courses I have ever played. And that list includes Treetops, The Bear, Oakland Hills, Pebble Beach, and many of the resort facilities in Arizona.

Pete Dye and Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of the

Blackwolf Run in 1998, won by Se Ri Pak in a playoff. The tournament set LPGA records in attendance that still stand.

Upon completion of Whistling Straits, Kohler set out to get a men's major. The course landed the 1999 U.S. Club Pro Championship and the word was rapidly spreading as to the magnificence and toughness of this gem. Just this year the USGA announced the U.S. Men's Senior Open will be held at Whistling Straits in 2007. Initial talk is already under way for another PGA, a U.S. Open and possibly a Ryder Cup.

For the two weeks prior to the championship players were complaining about the length of 7,600 yards and the fact that they had to play the 1,400 bunkers as hazards got the attention of Dye. "This course is played every day by 200 golfers like you and I. The course is popcorn," he said with a smile. "Some people choke on popcorn." The PGA did give in to the players and shortened the run by about 150 yards. The conditions were perfect, no wind and the scores were low. Saturday and Sunday however, the officials went back on the tees and Sunday the wind finally blew off the lake. The

"This course is played every day by 200 golfers like you and I. The course is popcorn. Some people choke on popcorn."

-- Pete Dye

Kohler Company have teamed up to develop one of the finest golf destinations in the world. Right next to the Straits course is the Irish Course, inland and west of the PGA venue and a very nice hunk of land in its own right. And of course the two Blackwolf Run Courses, the River Course and the Meadow Valleys Course located in Kohler. One of the big reasons the PGA was played on such a young course was the great success of the Women's U.S. Open held at

With so many years without a men's major (1933 PGA Championship won by Gene Sarazen at Bluemound Country Club in Milwaukee), the many golf fans in Wisconsin were ready. Although the PGA hasn't released exact figures the seven-day event averaged 40,000-45,000 each day with Saturday and Sunday getting closer to 50,000. The flow of this many people in an area quite rural was a phenomenal success.

course finally had its revenge. A final-round 76 got Singh into the playoff. What a great finish to a great week. This wrapped up the 2004 Grand Slam. As Terry Moore of Michigan Golfer said, "The Masters and three British Opens," with an exclamation point. Herb Kohler, Pete Dye, the PGA, the players, the thousands of staff and volunteers, and the fans made this a memorable event that will be talked about in Wisconsin for years to come. *MG*

Colorado Golf



Beaver Creek Resort

By Jason Deegan

The stunning, wintry, white ski slopes surrounding the Vail Valley have always overshadowed the lush green fairways that emerge every summer.

The valley, about 110 miles west of Denver, houses some of the country's best ski resorts -- Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Vail and Keystone, all owned by Vail Resorts Inc.

Photo above by Dann Coffey

But two of those properties, Beaver Creek and Keystone, are not just winter destinations. Come summer, those same beautiful mountain views that captivate skiers will create a golf trip you'll never forget.

And since the sun shines in the valley an average of 300 days a year, smart golfers flock there as often as snowbirds.

Beaver Creek Resort

Beaver Creek Resort, an alpine village retreat at 7,000 feet

of elevation in Avon, offers a good course of its own, a 6,750-yard Robert Trent Jones Jr. design, but the addition of two new dramatic layouts at Red Sky Golf Club, a 36-hole private club in nearby Wolcott, has taken its status up a notch. Red Sky, good enough to entice one of the most powerful men in golf, PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, to buy a second home there, is only accessible by staying at Vail Resorts Inc. properties.

The 7,113-yard Tom Fazio course at Red Sky, which opened



Keystone Resort

in 2002, wins more praise than its younger sister, the 7,580-yard Greg Norman course.

The Fazio plays shorter and friendlier than the difficult Norman course, which demands courageous shots over gulches and gullies. The Fazio climbs up the property to a flawless back nine that flows through a secluded aspen forest high on Bachelor's Gulch, providing some awe-inspiring vistas.

Back at the resort, the Beaver Creek Golf Club starts off with two of its toughest holes at

Photo above by Jack Affleck

No. 1 and No. 3 - both tee shots must stay between tight tree lines and steer clear of the creek that meanders throughout the entire 18 holes. If your ball survives those holes, chances are you'll score well the rest of the day.

The resort also offers the other outdoor activities that make Colorado so attractive -- mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding at its equestrian center and tennis.

Staying at the Elkhorn Lodge provides some convenience, although a lavish new Ritz-Carlton (called Bachelor Gulch) and the Beaver Creek Park Hyatt are also

onsite. The lodge sits next door to the golf club (and its upstairs lunch hotspot) and is within walking distance of the Beaver Creek Village, the heart of the resort.

Trendy shops and eateries dot the extravagant village, centered around an outdoor skating rink that is open year-round. The Vilar Center for the Arts welcomes some of the nation's finest plays, theatre groups and performances for nightly entertainment.

Dinner haunts range from the Beaver Creek Chophouse to the Toscanini, a fine Italian eatery. The Allegria Spa ([www.allegrias-](http://www.allegriaspa.com)

pa.com), a 20,000-square-foot spa in the Hyatt designed by feng-shui experts to promote bliss and balance, invites visitors looking to unwind with dozens of treatments, including a Swedish or Thai massage.

The nearby Vail Village, about 10 minutes from Beaver Creek, has more of the same walkable, friendly feel with its collection of tourist traps and restaurants.

Keystone Resort

About 45 minutes east of Vail, and about an hour from Denver, the 36-hole Keystone Resort in Silverthorne has long been ranked as one of the nation's top 100 golf resorts.

The main village and condominiums in the River Run Village, the centerpiece of the resort, can only be described as more functional than flashy when compared to Beaver Creek and Vail. The Keystone Lodge Hotel, in the nearby Lakeside Village, boasts the best choices among the resort's 1,500 rooms. Chances are you won't be spending much time in your room, though.

Each golf course has a fun, distinct personality. Many consider the flatter, more traditional 7,090-yard Keystone Ranch course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., as the country club of the resort. It plays out of a log-cabin-style clubhouse that features the state's No. 1 restaurant, three years running, in the ZAGAT Survey.

Visitors flock to the more

Photo right by Jack Affleck

dynamic 6,886-yard par-71 River course, designed by Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry. It has the mountainous feel players love about the Rocky Mountains. The front nine follows the Snake River until the trees tighten their grip on the back nine.

Believe it or not, your best memory of Keystone won't be golf related. The venture to the highly regarded Alpenglöck Stube, the highest fine-dining restaurant in North America at 11,444 feet above sea level, requires a romantic 45-minute gondola ride up the mountain to a fantastic seven-course meal.

The panoramic views will stay with you long after your trip home. **MG**

Keystone Resort

www.golfkeystone.com

800-876-1429

Beaver Creek Resort

www.Beavercreek.com

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Beaver Creek Resort

Georgian Bay Golf

By Brian Manning

Blue Mountain, located in Collingwood, Ontario about two hours north of Toronto, is a four-season resort that once was only recognized for its skiing. A lot has changed the past few years. Monterra golf, located at Blue Mountain, has become one of Ontario's premier golf destinations. People are traveling from all over Ontario, other parts of Canada and from the United States to get a taste of the great Ontario golf found at Blue Mountain.

Monterra golf is Blue Mountain's ultimate golf experience. Monterra, literally meaning "at the bottom of the mountain," is exactly where you'll find the 18 holes of great golf. Canada's most famous golf course architect, Tom McBroom, created this great course on the base of the Blue Mountains using the natural topography to create many challenges for golfers and giving every hole its own picturesque view of the Blue Mountains. Ron Heeson, the Director of Golf at Monterra, describes Monterra as, "not exactly having a single signature hole, but 18 different holes that have its own

challenges and character."

Blue Mountain is in the midst of transforming from a resort that was once only famous for its skiing to becoming one of Ontario's premier golf destinations. That transformation will include 18 more holes of fabulous Ontario golf. Blue Mountain plans to open its new, 18-hole golf course in 2006, at Lora Bay. The course will be part of Intrawest's premier brand, The Raven. The Raven at Lora Bay is designed by British Open Champion Tom Lehman, and McBroom. The Raven will be located on the Georgian Bay, providing vistas overlooking the bay.

Blue Mountain offers several varieties of accommodations in which golfers can stay during their visit. There are hotels or condos, or stay right at the Blue Mountain village, and have just a 100-yard walk to Monterra golf. With Monterra, and The Raven at Lora Bay, Blue Mountain will offer 36 holes of fabulous golf, challenging enough for the most experienced golfers, yet fun and challenging for even the average golfer. So come check it out, as Blue Mountain is no longer known as Ontario's "Ski Capital," but a great place to relax and enjoy the golf season, which begins each year on May 1 and ends November 1. **MG**



SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

Much as the diehard golfers may wish to deny it, the golf season is slipping away. But September and early October possessed just terrific weather and helped to make up for the horrible wet spring. In fact, West Michigan had the best September weather on record, with over 81% sunshine and more than 14 days hitting 80 degrees. Anyway, I usually devote this column to a recap of the past season, listing some of the highlights and lowlights of the year. So here we go:

The Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills

Sure the U.S. got clobbered and nearly every gambit that Captain Hal Sutton tried seemed to back-fire, but the 35th Ryder Cup Matches was a most memorable and successful event. Very little if anything went wrong in terms of organization, logistics, gallery demeanor and safety, and economic impact. Things that go well hardly ever get the deserved acclaimed they should. In all, it was a tremendous boost for Detroit and the state of

Michigan. And Oakland Hills stood tall and proud throughout, proving that it is indeed a great (and I don't use this word casually) golf course. My only complaints are relatively minor like the PGA of America's cave-in to the honchos at NBC for having someone like Donald Trump (of NBC's highly rated "The Apprentice" series) providing a "welcome" at the Opening Ceremonies. Show business politics shouldn't trump golf tradition at the Ryder Cup. And it was too bad fans arriving in the afternoon for Tuesday and Wednesday practice rounds saw so little if any of the U.S. team on the South Course. Thank goodness, the Europeans were winning the gallery over with both their presence and charm.

The Buick Open at Warwick Hills

This is really where winner Vijay Singh began his outstanding play that culminated in his no. 1 World Ranking. Vijay switched back to not only a new standard length putter but he also went back to a conventional putting grip. And when Vijay's putter gets hot, everyone else seems to be playing for second place. This year's Buick also was exciting for not only Tiger being in the hunt but also for crowd favorite John Daly. He may never make it as a Captain's Pick in the Ryder Cup, but Daly still remains one of golf's most popular players.

Farmers Charity Classic at

Egypt Valley: In a few weeks, we'll all know if Jim Thorpe was indeed the last winner of this Champions Tour event held in Grand Rapids for the past 18 years. In this tough economy, it'll be a major challenge for event organizers and the GR Jaycees to sign a title sponsor. Although it struggled at times fielding some of the biggest names on the Senior and Champions Tour, the event delivered some exciting golf for West Michigan. I'm one still hoping to hear the fast-talking and jovial Thorpe at next year's Media Day.

Michigan Amateur at Grosse Ile G & CC

I relished watching the state's best amateurs contend at match play at such a fine old and smartly renovated course as Grosse Ile. With its confounding and authentic Donald Ross-designed greens, it proved a tough nut for players to crack throughout the week. The green speed may have been a tad excessive at times, given the slopes of the green, but still the venue was excellent. I especially enjoyed watching such up and coming Big Ten players such as Ryan Brehm and Matt Harmon, both at Michigan State.

Pete Dye and Whistling Straits:

The best boat ride I took all summer was the new high speed ferry from Muskegon to Milwaukee to attend the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. Without the ease and convenience of the new

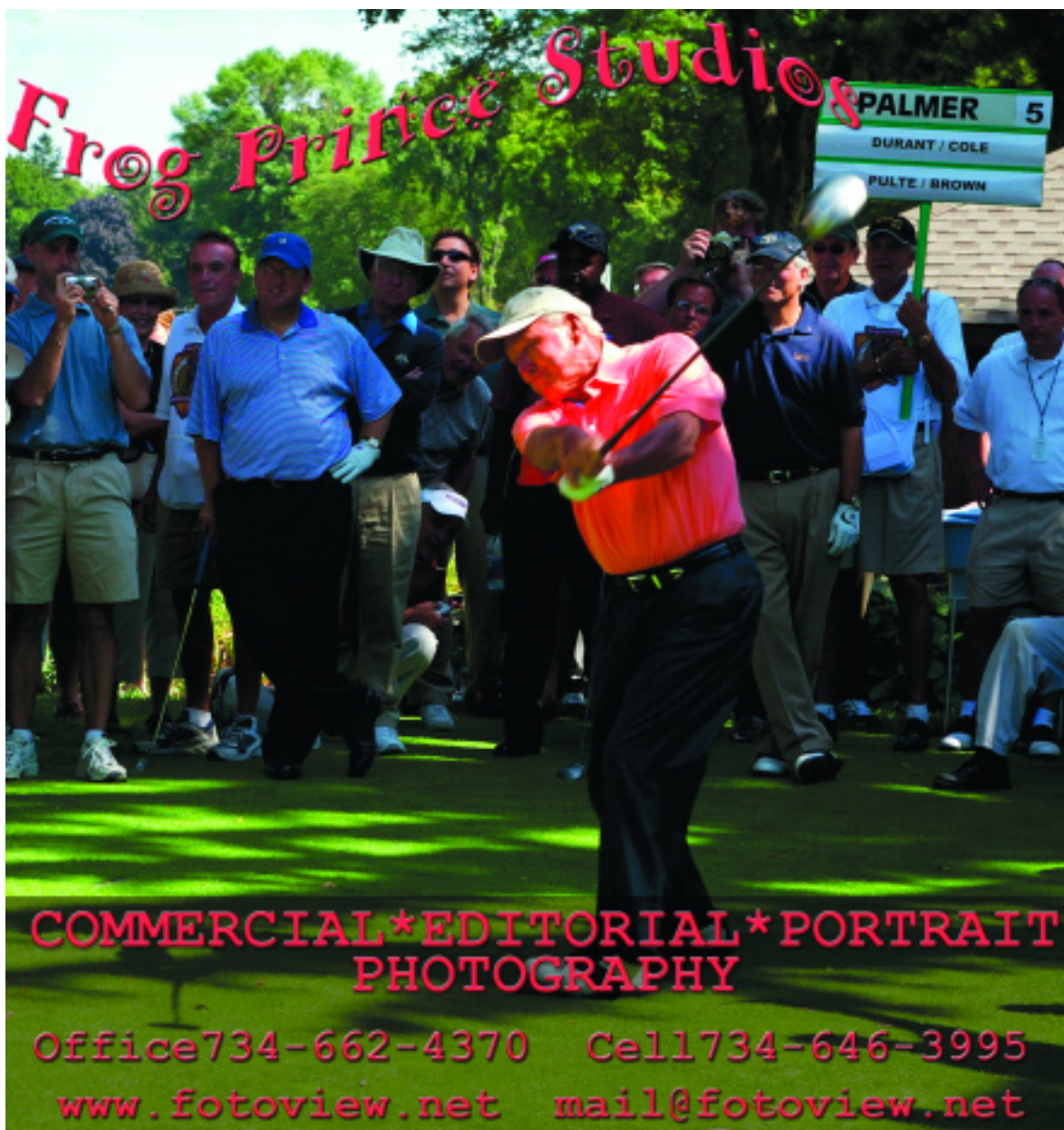
ferry I may not have witnessed Dye's stunning creation for Herb Kohler. While it is really a links-like or links-inspired layout, I would argue that Whistling Straits is the result of most imaginative and daunting construction project ever successfully executed in golf. Pete Dye is golf's boldest visionary in terms of design. As Michelangelo needed the ample coffers of the Papacy to fund his masterpieces, Dye was fortunate to have Herb Kohler's deep checkbook to build

Whistling Straits. Kudos too for the PGA of America for how it "set up" the course for the championship. Unlike the USGA at Shinnecock, the PGA ably managed length, pin location and green speed as course conditions dictated.

Best stretch of amateur golf after a bad start: I was in the threesome in August when two-time Egypt Valley club champion Jim Hegarty began his defense of his title with a double bogey and

then carded this string of holes—birdie, par, eagle, birdie and ACE! Six under par in five holes over some of the toughest holes around. Hegarty finished the nine at 32 and fired a 68. Incidentally, it was Hegarty's first ace after more than 30 years of competitive golf.

It's that type of golf memory that's needed to ward off the numbing effects of the coming Michigan winter. May it pass quickly. *MG*



Ireland Ryder Cup 2006

