

Tournament Action to Take Few Breaks This Summer

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

Beginning on Tuesday, June 20, and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 6, seven weeks of championship golf in Michigan will be interrupted this summer only by Fourth of July week.

Take a couple of weeks off after the Buick Open concludes Aug. 6, but be prepared when the Michigan PGA Championship takes to a new venue later in August.

Michigan Amateur Championship - Heather Course, Boyne Highlands

Michigan's summer of championship golf will open Tuesday, June 20 when the 95th Michigan Amateur Championship is hosted by the Heather Course at Boyne Highlands.

Traverse City resident Christian Vozza, who was 22 years old last summer, survived successive bogeys at the onset of the championship match to eventually beat Patrick Wilkes-Krier of Ann Arbor, 5 and 4, to claim the 94th state amateur championship at Muskegon Country Club.

In one of the state's most grueling tests of tournament golf, two rounds of stroke play cuts the amateur field to the low 64, after which two matches are played each

day until the state amateur champ is crowned.

The tourney is slated to end Saturday, June 24.

Michigan Open - The Bear, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Only two days later, the 89th Michigan Open will open at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Michael Harris, a 27-year-old touring pro from Troy won last year's event with a record 20-under 268. He posted rounds of 67-67-65-69-268, to finish six strokes ahead of Muskegon resident Colby Beckstrom, who was playing in his first professional tournament.

The four-round Open is scheduled to run through Thursday, June 29.

Michigan's summer of championship golf will now take a short intermission while the country celebrates its birthday.

Michigan Women's Amateur Championship - Barton Hills CC

The championship schedule will resume on Monday, July 10, when the 90th Michigan Women's Amateur Championship is contest-

ed at Barton Hills Country Club.

Mandi McConnell, who is a junior at Michigan State, defeated Western Michigan University sophomore Laura Bavaird 6 and 5 in last year's championship match at Radrick Farms Golf Club in Ann Arbor.

Here is where the scheduling of Michigan's summer of championships gets a little complicated and a few choices may need to be made.

Ford Senior Players Championship, PTC of Michigan, Dearborn

The final matches of the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship are scheduled for Friday, July 14, but the Ford Seniors Players Championship is scheduled to open play on Thursday, July 13. The \$2.5 million Ford Seniors Players Championship, which is played at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn, is the state's only Champions Tour event.

It was won last year by Peter Jacobsen, who fired a 6-under 66 in the final round to claim the second major championship of his career on the Champions Tour. Jacobsen finished one stroke ahead of Hale Irwin and three ahead of Tom Watson.

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Michigan Women's Open, Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville

While the Ford Senior Players Championship is slated to end on Sunday, July 16, the Michigan Women's Open is scheduled to open play on Monday, July 17, at Crystal Mountain Resort on Thompsonville.

Kelly Cavanaugh, a 22-year-old from Palos Verdes, California, made last year's Women's Open, the 12th playing of the tournament, her first professional victory. The touring professional, who confessed to not having won any tournament since playing junior golf, shot a final-round 68 on Crystal's 6,150-yard Mountain Ridge Course.

Photo by Crystal Mountain Resort



Crystal Mountain Resort's Mountain Ridge, Hole No. 8

The final round of the Women's Open is slated for Wednesday, July 19.

Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions - Boyne Mountain Resort

The following Monday, July 24, the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions is scheduled to tee off at Boyne Mountain Resort.

Harris also is the defending champion in the tournament played on the resort's Alpine and Monument courses. Harris won his

third Tournament of Champions last year, on a second playoff hole with Scott Hebert. Harris finished the event's 54 holes tied with Hebert, who is an assistant pro at Sunnybrook Country Club in Jenison, at 11-under par.

Harris, who also won the T of C in 2000 and 2002, won last year's title when Hebert three-putted the second playoff hole.

Buick Open, Warwick Hills, Grand Blanc

The Tournament of Champions,

which is slated to end on Wednesday, July 26, will be followed by the Buick Open, which is scheduled for August 3-6 at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc.

Vijay Singh is the defending champion of the \$4.8 million tournament which is Michigan's only PGA Tour stop.

Michigan PGA Championship, Eagle Eye Golf Club, Hawk Hollow

When the Buick Open champion is crowned on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 6, Michigan golf enthusiasts will have a two-week respite from championship golf in

the state, before the Michigan PGA Championship tees up on Monday, August 28.

Played at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire the past few years, the Michigan major has been shifted to Eagle Eye Golf Club at Hawk Hollow.

John DalCorobbo, the Director of Golf Instruction at MSU's Forest Akers Golf Club, fired a 7-under 65 in last year's final round to finished 11-under, four strokes ahead of Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club pro Jordan Young. **MG**