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GOLF NEWS



GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

DECEMBER, 1988

LPGA TOLEDO GOLF CLASSIC

by Mary Pollock

My friend Jill and I stepped through an entrance gate between the sixth green and seventh tee at Glengarry Country Club, northwest of Toledo at about 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 5 to a hushed crowd around the green. It was the final round of the fourth annual Jamie Farr - Toledo Golf Classic and we were here to see our very first live professional golf tournament. We had seen tournaments on TV, but we really had no idea what we were going to experience.

I figured the leaders would go off around noon since the awards ceremony was announced for 4:30 p.m. Actually, there were 24 threesomes who teed off every ten minutes beginning at 8:30 a.m.

We brought lawn chairs, a six pack of cold pop, a sun umbrella, good hats and our check books. It was a beautiful sunny, hot day. I'd ordered the \$12 tickets by mail to avoid possible ticket lines.

We first approached the nearest green and watched a while. There was certainly none of the banter that we'd come to associate with our league's "green chatter", even when a few dollars were on the line. This was obviously very serious business and nobody was talking much at all.

We examined the Daily Pairing Sheet that we'd been given at the gate and mapped out our viewing strategy. We decided to follow the next group for a few holes and then head for the eighteenth green to get a good place for our chairs.

On the way there, we saw a crowd of people and heard an announcer introducing someone: "Approaching the tee is Betsy King from Reading, Pennsylvania. She was the 1984 Rolex Player of the Year and leading money winner. She is the winner of four LPGA events in 1987 and is currently 13th on the money list. She has had three top-10 finishes in 1988. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, Betsy King!" Applause, whistles ...

So we wandered over and it turned out to be the first tee. We moved to about 10 feet away from where the players were teeing off - the blue tees - in prime viewing and hearing distance to the players and their caddies. I took in everything I could about procedures and equipment - the ball used, grip, height of tee, address position, shafts, club heads, foot movements, pivot timing, wrist cocks.

The next group approached the tee. This size six blond in a blue jumpsuit with padded shoulders and a four inch cumberbund (definitely non-golf) outfit saunters onto the tee eating an apple while being introduced. It was Jan Stephenson! She wiped the sticky off her hands with her caddy's towel and surveyed the fairway. Bare-handed, she quickly pulled her driver out, teed up and whacked the ball well over 200 yards.

In back of us, a horde of people moved in mass much like reporters around the President or something. Security people speaking into walkie-talkies were protecting the person - who could it be? It was the leader, Nancy Lopez! Her entourage included her father who was caddying for her. He was wearing one of those jungle hats with the battery driven fan and was quite a sight.

Lopez is rather small and less chunky looking than on TV. She had her right thumb taped up. We carefully watched that crazy lift-the-hands five second take-away she uses. It is all wrong and looks worse live than on TV. It is a wonder the club head strikes the ball at all. But then again she was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame last year so maybe there is something to it. She had a decent drive.

And then the giant Brit, Laura Davies stepped up to the tee. She is really impressive. Over six feet tall and about 230 pounds I would say. She was a vision in a bulky, cotton knit long sleeve sweater and light pink fluffy style skirt. Some ham hock sized, nautilus hardened thighs were only slightly hidden. Her hair was strawberry blond highlighted with platinum. Her skin was very pale in contrast to almost all the other golfers.

We noted that she used a glove, but wore two thick gold link bracelets, and a bulky gold Rolex watch. Her club was definitely 44 or more inches long and had a very short grip area. She wrapped her right index finger around the bottom of the grip. She then drove the ball well over 250 yards off the tee. The crowd was stunned and then roared its approval.

So then we went to the 18th green and found a place under a tree and behind a bunker about 40 feet from the pin. We alternated between watching the 18th green action and running over to other nearby greens or tees. Of course we bought visors and tee-shirts and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of huge mature trees and a well groomed course. We watched the leader board switch from Lopez to Davies when the latter eagled a short par 5 while Lopez bogeyed it. Davies took away over \$40,000 when the day was over.

The players reminded me very much of women gymnasts. My guess is there were less than a half dozen players over a size 10 or 130 pounds. All were extremely well groomed and very tan. These are healthy, strong, graceful women, combining steely nerves with fairway power and green-side finesse.

Next year the Jamie Farr - Toledo Golf Classic will be held June 5 - 11 at the same course which has been renamed Stone Oak Country Club. For tickets write to LPGA Toledo Classic, 218 Huron St., Toledo, Ohio 43604.

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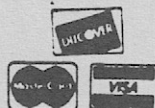
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CALLAWAY GARDENS

by Dave Hershey

One of the columns we hope to run on a regular basis is this one. It is meant to be a review of resort courses and their facilities. We thought it would be a great opportunity to share information on some of the great golf vacation resorts GLAGA members have been to. If you know of one, why not write a brief story about it and get it to one of the publication committee members.

Callaway Gardens is more than a great golf resort; it is an almost year around family vacation resort. There is the Azalea Festival, world class water skiing competitions, a circus on the grounds, skeet shooting, and an incredible botanical gardens and much more. Located in Pine Mountain, Georgia, about an hour and a half southwest of Atlanta, it is the golf that Callaway is best known for.

There are four golf courses to test every skill level, from the 6605 yard par 72 Mountain View to the 6096 yard par 72 Garden View, or the 6006 yard par 70 Lake View. Even the 9 hole 2000 yard Sky View presents a challenge to those trying to work out the cobwebs from a winter layoff. Each course has it's very own character.

The par three fifth hole of the Lake View course is probably the most widely known. It is featured in the ads for Callaway--it's the one with the long winding bridge over the lake from tee to green. Only 152 yards, but always into a stiff wind it's a tough hole. I've hit everything from a seven to a two iron.

If you've listened to conversations about Callaway, undoubtedly you have heard of the par 5 fifth hole on Mountain View. It is a killer. From the blue tees it is 530 yards in length crossing a lake off the tee and again to the green. In between, the lake lays to the right of the fairway, which is sloped toward it. Often deer can be seen on the far side of the lake from the tee.

Golf packages can be arranged for any number of days you want, except there is a minimum of three. The price in 1987 was \$115 a day, which includes all the golf you can play, a cart for eighteen holes, golf gifts (bag tag and towel), complimentary cocktail, one round of skeet shooting, and a breakfast and dinner buffet. Lodging in a two bedroom cottage with a kitchen is also included. While it sounds like an expensive proposition, if you add everything up individually you'll see it is actually quite a bargain.

The most noticeable thing is that everything is first class, which adds up to a hassle free vacation--the best kind.

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THE ADVANTAGE OF
KNOWING THE RULES

By Dave Hershey

Unlike most other sports there are no umpires or referees on the golf course. It is up to you to interpret and apply the rules of golf as you play. In order to do that you must understand the rules and how they were meant to apply. From time to time in this column we will examine different rulings that our membership has knowledge of (usually first hand) or discuss the rules in general. If you have a specific question we will attempt to answer it if you send it to GLAGA at P.O. BOX 25091. Be specific, include as much detail as you can, perhaps your question will be the subject of a future column. Remember though the United States Golf Association (USGA) is the final interpreter of the rules in the United States. Rule books are available from the USGA for \$1.00 plus \$.50 for shipping, or they welcome your direct question. You may write them at Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

I thought we would start this column off with an example of how knowing the rules and applying them can benefit your game. Everyone has probably heard the story of Arnold Palmer and Ken Venturi battling down to the wire in the Masters tournament years ago when on the 12th hole, a short par three, Palmer's tee shot ended up embedded in soft ground behind the green. The official on the spot ruled he had to "play it as it lies", Palmer felt he got a free drop. Not accepting the officials ruling Arnold played out the first ball making five, then dropped a second ball from the appropriate spot and made three. The rulings came several holes later that Palmer was indeed entitled to the free drop and should be credited with a three on the hole. That ruling is credited with being the stroke margin and physiological boost that Palmer needed to go on to win the Masters that year.

Not exactly the Master's but let's look at another situation. It's position night and your opponent has just hit a beautiful drive on #5 at Oaklane in Webberville. It's your turn and you heel one into the small pine trees behind number #4 tee, as you walk up the fairway the strokes are adding up in your mind. Let's see drive, unplayable penalty or punch out from tree-one stroke, long approach, chip and one or two putts equals five or six. Just great your opponent in position for a birdie and you've got six, a three stroke deficit with four holes to play.

It gets worse you cannot find your ball! Being careful to stay within the allotted five minutes (Rule 27, definitions) you look for the ball now thinking of the prospects of having to return to the tee to hit another (Rule 27-1 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds). You find it is under a pine tree with low overhanging branches hardly a chance to swing at it and embedded to boot. Wait, how does a ball become embedded after hitting a tree?

Close inspection reveals the ball is not embedded but rather in a "gopher" hole. Now we've got a chance! Rule 25-1 a provides relief from "... a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal...". The prescribed relief is one club length from the nearest point which avoids the condition and is not nearer the hole. Dropping as Rule 25-1 dictates would put you on the cart path though. What do you do? Cont. Page 8

DONAHUE RESPONDS

It seems that my opinions in the last newsletter have, in the words of a few readers, "painted a pretty bleak picture" for the future of golf in the Greater Lansing area. That couldn't be further from the case. What I did try to point out is that unless more Lansing area golfers take some time and interest in the future of golf in this area - we will have some real, if not very unpleasant decisions to make in the very near future.

Lets start off with the All-City Medal (or Stroke Play) Championship. This tournament has grown to massive proportions in the last few years. I really believe that once we get to 300 players (which could happen this year) we will have reached the limit. I can not see how we could run this tournament with any more entries than that.

Right now, we face some real hard decisions if we should get rain on any day of the tournament that would force us to cancel that day's play. That would force us to figure out a way of flighting the tournament with only two (2) days of play. No matter what we would decide to do, I am sure we would be wrong in some of the players' eyes.

What happens if the guys who are currently doing the majority of the work in setting up this tournament and who go after hole sponsors and this

type of thing just say "the hell with it - no one cares what we have done or what we are doing" and just quit? The first thing you would see is the prize list drop. It was not all that long ago that 1st Place in the Championship Flight got around \$100.00 and a Trophy for his efforts. The same or nearly the same was the case in every flight.

Who would organize this tournament? Who would print up the entry blanks? Who would mark off the courses, set the tees and pins? These are just some of the little things that have to be done, but are not considered by the majority of players.

I am not saying that this is what is going to happen, but on more than one occasion, the thought of calling an end to the association has been brought up by some of the board members. (This is usually the case when we have received complaints about tee times etc.)

In the last meeting, I decided that enough was enough and told the other Board Members the following - "I, personally, am very tired of the fact that I have to justify what we are doing or what we have done." "I feel that we have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of!" "We have created an association that has done a great deal to improve golf in the Lansing area and we don't have to apologize for anything."

In the past we have always tried to justify what we are doing or what we have done. I say NO MORE! I say - lets tell people what we have done and what we are doing and what we expect to do in the future.



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What have we done? Well as I stated before - we have increased the amount of the prize list in all flights. We now have a "Match Play" tournament again. We have started the "Womens All-City" tournament and of course the "Reniger". We put a out newsletter (which we have had some major problems with). I feel you will see a great improvement in 1989. We have a good and improving Junior Golf Program now in place. Who would have thought that we would be able to have a "Tour" player come to Lansing and put on a free clinic for not only the Junior players but for anyone who would like to attend in 1980? In less than four (4) years, we have accomplished all this.

What we need in the future is for our members to encourage other golfers who are not members to join. We need our members to start to help us in the ways that they can. We know that there are some unique and much needed talents in our membership. We need these people to come forward and help. We need new blood on the committees and on the board. We need new ideas, because we must not ever get the idea that we have done such a good job that there is just nothing left to do.

To give you an example, I feel that we should have a 2-person "Match Play Best-Ball" Tournament. I feel that we should look into the possibility of having a "Best-Ball" tournament at MSU. I think that we will find a way to make the All-City Match Play Tournament an equal to that of the All-City Medal and the "Reniger".

We, can do all these things, be we must work together. If you don't think that we are doing the right thing or have an idea of how to improve what we are doing or have done - get in touch with any board member and let them know what you have in mind. We need your help!

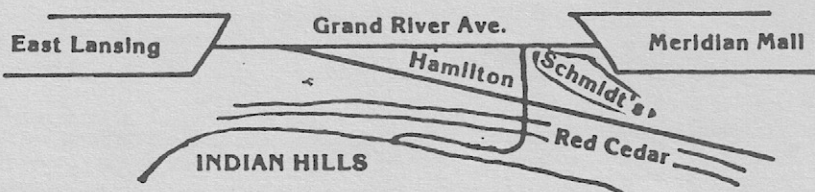
In the very near future, our board will select a new president for 1989. - whoever it is - will need help from not only every board member, but also from every member period. We can do some great things in the future and the future looks brighter than ever, all we have to do is work together to achieve these same goals. He can lead only if we will follow. Lets make Lansing the Capitol of Golf as well as the Capitol of the State.

Jim Donahue
Past President - GLAGA

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Relieved to be free from the tree I hit a excellent long approach and sink the putt for a birdie, my opponent in the mean time has got down in par giving me a one up advantage.

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SANDY BUNKER

I have been asked to write a column on a more regular basis in the future. I, of course knew that this would happen! Being blessed with the ability to see into the future is a gift only a few of us have been granted. It is because of this that I have decided to share what I see with all of you on a more regular and topical basis.

Now that 1988 is winding down, let's take a look at 1989 and what is store for us:

The Weather: I feel that this winter is in no way going to be as bad as all the local weathermen have predicted. I see more snow than in the last couple of years, but that really isn't saying all that much. The big difference between this year and last year will be that we won't have such long spells of extremely cold weather. We will have a couple of short spells of sub-zero weather, but they won't last very long.

We will see a fairly early spring with above normal temperatures and above normal amounts of rain. The summer will almost be ideal temperature wise but we will have more rain than this last summer (which really isn't saying all that much). I see a few tournaments being played with a few rain suits and umbrellas. I see one of our tournaments really hampered by rain. I will go into this more in future issues.

I see a great fall. I see alot of our members playing into November and quite few still playing in December. It looks like a long season next year.

Equipment: The more things change, the more they stay the same. This statement is never more true than this coming summer. I see more and more players going back to the "forged" headed irons. Hogan and its new "Edge" iron will lead the way. Many of the so-called better players will return to the old irons because they will find out that the new clubs don't give them the big edge that they thought that they would. "Feel" will be the new "IN" word in golf this year. Everyone will be looking for the "Right Feel" this next year. This same feeling will go for the putter. More and more players will go back to 8802's and Bullseyes because they are looking for the "feel".

Metal woods will continue to grow and dominate that part of the equipment. Such companies as Gorman and others will be caught with a hugh supply of "wood" heads and real bargins could be had this next summer.

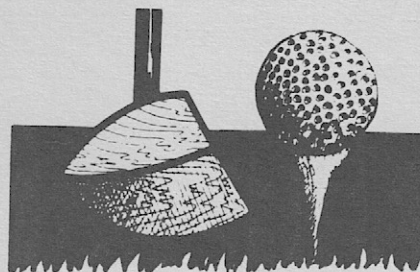
Titleist will regain its leadership in the golfball market. Dunlap and Slazenger will still be a prominant ball (at least locally), but the Titleist will be used by more players this year than in the past.

Nike will make a big splash in the shoe market. On the heels of Nike will come Reebok. These shoes will help make buying shoes more competitive. Footjoy and Etonic will have to get their acts together or face losing even more of the market than they lost to Dexter. Signature will make some headway, but not as much as these other two shoe companies.

Tournaments: Because I don't want to use all of my material at this time, I will try to limit my predictions in this area. What I will predict at this time is that there will be another "new" tournament in this area. It will be a Best-Ball Tournament and it will be a "big" one. Players from all over the state will come in to play in it. It will be first class in every respect. A good prize list. Free food and beverages and it will be very well run. If you can - play in it this year because in the future, it may become very hard to get into if you haven't played before.

Well I've cover quite a few topics and in the next issue I will start to pick the tournament winners for 1989.

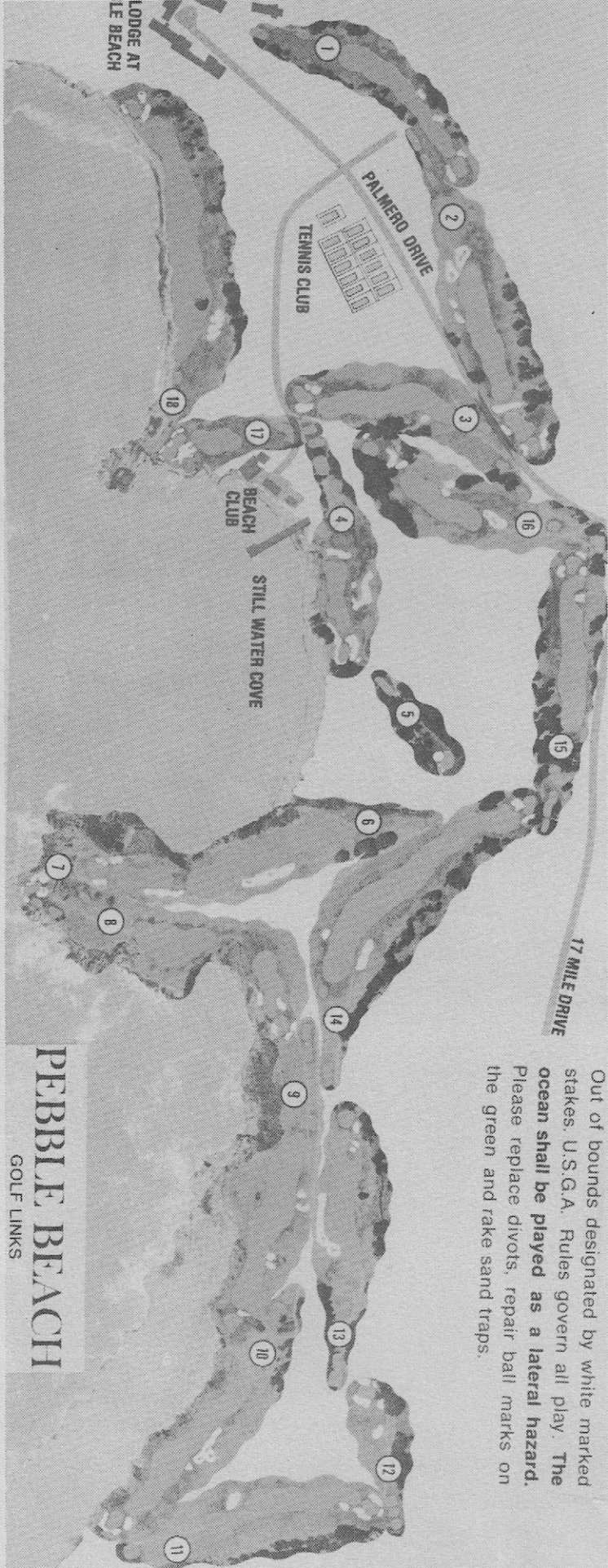
Sandy



SQUARE GROOVES CONTROVERSY

It seems that we cannot pick up a golf publication without having to read about how the new grooves are changing the game of golf. The question that I have is....changing the game for whom?

I have used a set of irons for two years now that have the new "square grooves", and I'd like to share my thought with you. The "square grooved" club has been studied by the U.S.G.A. and has been found to have only a "limited" effect on golf shots. The main area where this club has it's advantages seems to be out of the rough. The U.S.G.A. stated in a recent article that "there is no apparent difference when shots are played out of the fairway or off of a tee". The main controversy stems from the P.G.A. Tour and from some of it's "STAR" players. This fact was never more clear than at last year's U.S. Open Championship. Jack Nicklaus was describing Tom Watson's approach to the green, and as Tom's shot landed and danced on the green--Jack made the statement that "Tom must be using the square grooved wedge." The irony of this is that Tom Watson has been one of the biggest critics of clubs with square grooves and at that time was not using clubs with square grooves. Jack's remark did



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an injustice to the talent that Tom Watson has. But it is no more an injustice to Watson than the remarks that Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, and Raymond Floyd have made about the new players who have come on the tour and are winning. These fading "tour stars" like to rationalize the fact that these players are winning because of the clubs rather than because of talent.

If the U.S.G.A. is right and all this hype is really for nothing, just what effect do these grooves have for the amateur golfer? As I stated before, I have been using "square-grooved" irons for two years, and the biggest and first thing that I noticed was the fact that I could spin a balata ball a little more than normal; but I was also tearing up the cover of the ball so badly that it was almost unplayable. So in order to be able to afford to play this game, I switched to both the two-piece and the surlyn covered ball. Now when I switch balls, any advantage that I had in stopping the ball on the green was lost; but I discovered something else--the two-piece and the surlyn covered balls go farther. This new distance is off both the "v" shaped grooved irons and the "square-grooved" irons. In fact, you can gain as much as two clubs in distance with some balls. So the "square-grooved" irons really have no effect for most of us amateurs at the present time. That doesn't mean that as companies such as Wilson, Ram, and Spaulding continue to perfect the Lithium-balata and other blended covered balls, that it will stay that way, because it won't--but as of right now, any effect is minimal at best.

HISTORY NOTE--

Ran across this article in the archives. Note the fourth name from the end.

B.A.

Rather than the grooves, I feel that the focus should be placed on the balls. It is obvious that balls now go farther than they used to. Every ball made seems to claim that it is the "longest ball" and they all have some kind of test to prove it. I'm not against this either. I feel that if you stifle the club or ball manufacturers as they search for and develop new materials for clubs, balls, and shafts, you are limiting the potential of the game. Each and every time something new comes out on the market, fear seems to rush through people, and for what? I don't see the pros shooting in the 50's as was feared a couple of years ago when the carbon grafite shaft first came out. I don't see players in our local area improving all that much because of the clubs that they use. What I do see is more and more people beginning to enjoy golf, because the clubs that are now being used are designed for them and not for the "tour player". Isn't this what we all want? I think that it is.

I say, let's give the manufacturers some broad guidelines and let them go. We will all benefit if we do!

Donahue

Golf record tumbles

The world record is intact, but the Lansing record was shattered.

5-7-78

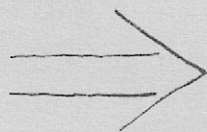
That's what happened Saturday morning at Groesbeck Golf Course during the fifth annual Golf Day activities.

In their attempt to break the world record for propelling a golf ball around an 18-hole course, the field of 144 golfers posted a time of 15 minutes and 20 seconds.

The old time for Lansing golfers was 15 minutes and 55 seconds set in 1975. The world record is 12 minutes and 15 seconds.

In the four-man scramble that followed, the team of John and Dick Wakulsky, Larry Pulice and Gordie Hubbard won the title in a playoff with Todd Colthorp, John Weurding, Bob Aumaugher and Jeff Klingbiel after the two groups tied with 14-under par 58s.

Three teams were deadlocked with 62s, good for third place. They were: George Idomir, Steve Eckert, Phil Kurth and Mike Murphy; defending champions Joe and Steve Malatinsky and Ron and Howard Clevenger, and Darryl Rogers, Tom Jamieson, Tim Staudt and Fred Stabley Jr.



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U.S. Women's Open

July 13 - 16, 1989

Indianwood Golf & CC
Lake Orion, MI

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