

# MAGCS on Tour

*Oscar Miles, Dan Quast, Ken Lapp, Ed Fischer, Dave Ward, Gregg Rosenthal, Mike Sauls and Roger Stewart . . . what do these luminaries of our profession have in common? Major tournaments.*

*In recent years, many premier golf tournaments have visited or resided at various Chicago-area venues. The Western Open, the PGA Championship and the U.S. Women's Open are but a sampling. Here, a profile of eight MAGCS members still presently employed as superintendents who have played host to these events . . . and earned recognition and respect for our profession.*

Chicagoland has been blessed to host a number of premier tournaments over the past few years. All of the above superintendents have set a high standard to bring their golf courses, and our vocation, the utmost recognition and reward. The following is a brief history of our famous "eightsome," as well as some of their insights that perhaps you can use at your own golf course.

Oscar Miles has worked in the Chicago area for about 30 years (except for several years in Indianapolis). He has hosted the Western Open 12 times—twice at Olympia Fields C.C. and 10 times at Butler National G.C. In 1990, Oscar started working at The Merit Club and soon thereafter, began preparing the course to host a major tournament: the 2000 U.S. Women's Open.

Now at Old Elm Club, Ed Fischer was at Butler National during the 1970s. Ed hosted the first Western Open in 1974 on a very young Butler facility and brought the club into the limelight. Ed proceeded to oversee the next six Western Open events.

Mike Sauls joined Butler National G.C. in 1990 and hosted the Western Open that year. Prior to that, he had two years' experience hosting the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Ken Lapp has been at Cog Hill G.C. for 27 years. In 1991, when the Western Open moved from Butler National to Cog Hill, Ken was ready. The Western Open has been at Cog Hill for 10 years and will be there for another 10. Congratulations, Ken!

In 1989, Dan Quast left Milwaukee C.C. to take the reins at Medinah C.C. In 1990, Dan hosted the U.S. Open; in 1999, he hosted the PGA Championship.

Dave Ward has been at Olympia Fields C.C. since 1990. Having successfully hosted the U.S. Senior Open, Dave is now getting his course ready for the U.S. Open in 2003.

Kemper Lakes G.C. has been under Gregg Rosenthal's leadership since 1998. Gregg has hosted the Ameritech Senior Open for

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three years and will continue to do so for a couple more years. In 2001, the Women's Amateur Public Links National Invite will visit Kemper Lakes.

Roger Stewart, a loyal MAGCS member, was at Stonebridge C.C. from 1988 to 1996; there, during 1990-94, Roger hosted the Ameritech Senior Open. Roger will be hosting Instinet Classic, a Senior Tour event, at his new course, TPC @ Jasna Polana.

**A little applause is in order here. Now, for a bit of Q & A.**

**Question:** What positive results did you experience from hosting a major tournament?

**Answers:** Recognition for myself, my staff and the golf course . . . a sense of pride and satisfaction . . . career enhancement . . . course improvements . . . attendance at

other major tournaments.

**Question:** What kind of problems did you encounter and what aspects of the experience would you change if you could?

**Answers:** Problems—Weather!!! . . . Gallery, media, vendors . . . Bluegrass fairways, C-15 decline, course changes . . . Logistics problems. Changes—Better control over media, gallery and vendors . . . Perks for staff . . . Increased staffing and volunteers . . . A three-year leasing program . . . Better respect from the touring professionals.

**Question:** What insights could you pass along to other superintendents who host events, from club championships to regional qualifiers?

**Answers:** Be prepared and trust your own instincts . . . Make

sure that the turf is mature and can withstand traffic . . . Be flexible, patient and firm . . . Prepare a maintenance program designed specifically for the event . . . Avoid 'tunnel vision,' make the course fair and rewarding . . . Learn from other major events and from your fellow superintendents . . . Learn how to handle the media . . . Remember that the course can't have tournament conditions on a day-to-day basis . . . Trust yourself and have fun.

I want to thank these eight superintendents for their time and wisdom. Also, I would like to say thank you to all the superintendents and their staff who have volunteered their services to aid the superintendents profiled herein during tournament time. Chicago has earned its reputation for being a top-notch venue for outstanding tournaments. Let's all keep up the great work!



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