

# Trium



*The Merit Club's Executive Committee for the 2000 U.S. Women's Open.*



*Superintendent Oscar Miles rallies the troops during a special kick-off meeting for volunteers and staff the Monday of Open week.*



*A picturesque, wooded entrance greeted spectators.*



*John Nelson, assistant superintendent and course manager for the Open.*



*Custom tee markers created for the Open.*

*The Merit Club rose admirably to the challenge of hosting the women's premier Major.*

"After the tournament concluded on Sunday, I drove around the course, said a prayer and thanked the golf course for holding up so beautifully. I said, tonight we're going to give you some champagne. And we did—we turned the sprinklers on."

Oscar Miles, CGCS, superintendent of The Merit Club, chuckles with no small degree of satisfaction as he reflects on the 2000 U.S. Women's Open. After negating drought predictions with a soggy spring and early summer, Mother Nature cooperated by providing dry, cool, sunny weather for the tournament's duration. Crew and volunteers alike performed with professionalism and passion. And any minor crises—such as a hydraulic leak on #18 fairway early on in tournament week—were quickly averted.

One surprise came when the USGA requested that Merit Club staff bring the greens to a 12 Stimp for the event. Prior to tourney week, a reading between 10 and 11 was the expectation. Oscar and his Stimpmeter team went to work, doing the requisite mowing and rolling to add the extra challenge to the course's putting surfaces.

Despite the grueling hours, John Nelson, assistant superintendent, expresses a common sentiment about the week's activities: "It was more fun than work." The staff and volunteers did have a moment in the limelight, however. Tournament director Peter de Young arranged for them to surround the left side of #18 green as champion Karrie Webb approached the grandstand during her final round. After Karrie clinched her title, the assembled group came out for a bow. It was a beautiful moment.

Oscar reports that Bert Getz, founder of The Merit Club, has asked him how he feels about hosting another tournament in the future. Oscar's response? "Put up the ropes tomorrow. We're ready."



# nph!



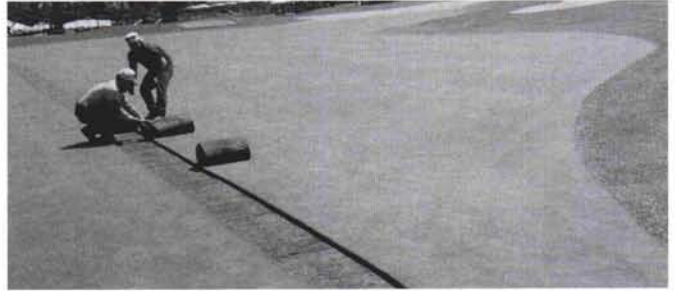
Volunteer Dave Schlagetter, Indian Hill C.C., (L) inspects the playing field with Oscar and Clarabelle.



Rolling #18 green to achieve a speed of 12.



Crisis: hydraulic oil leak, #18 fairway, week of the Open.



Crisis averted: stripping the damaged sod out, putting new sod in.



Intern Steven Craig places protection around the area where he will cut a cup.



A lovely touch: special player bridge built behind #2 green.



Hostesses with the most: (L to R) Enrique Valadez's wife Rebecca, Oscar's sister-in-law Dorothy Ryan (hailed as "Mom Dorothy" by the crew) and John Nelson's mother Peggy helped feed the hungry crew and volunteers.



Course foreman Enrique Valadez (L) and equipment operator Raphael Morales.

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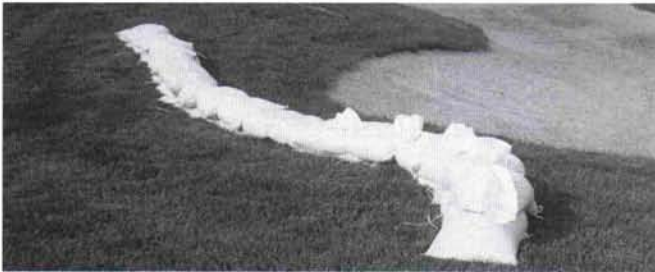




*Straight from Pebble Beach: the Palmer Group erects the Monsterboard frame.*



*Construction of temporary access roads to parking areas was a priority. Now, crew are cleaning up and overseeding this area.*



*Because of heavy rain prior to the Open, Oscar and staff experimented with bunker protection methods. Here, sandbagging.*



*Here, plastic tarp and sandbags. The method worked well, but it was ultimately a moot point—Mother Nature was kind!*



*Sealing the service road to control dust.*



*Applying Aquashade (a dye) to color the water and algae, #7 hole.*



*The staging area. Maintenance headquarters (L) with adjacent hospitality tent.*



*Volunteer Jon Jennings, Chicago Golf Club, mows #18 fairway.*



*Landscaping around merchandise tent with native trees from The Merit Club's nursery.*



*The special Stimpmeter team: (L to R) Dr. Jeffrey Grigos, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois; Dave Schlagetter, Indian Hill C.C.; Dave Ward, Olympia Fields C.C.; and Tom Lively, Ruth Lake C.C.*



## A Thousand Thanks

Oscar Miles warmly thanks all those volunteers, including many members of the MAGCS, who gave of their time and efforts during the 2000 U.S. Women's Open at The Merit Club.

They contributed enormously to the tournament's success.

### *Hospitality/Catering*

Brent Miles (Oscar's son)  
Mardelle Miles (wife)  
Dorothy Ryan (sister-in-law)  
Don Ryan (brother-in-law)  
Mary Lammers (sister-in-law)  
Chris Nelson (John Nelson's wife)  
David Nelson (John's father)  
Peggy Nelson (John's mother)  
Sue Salemi (Oscar's daughter)  
Judy Turlay (daughter)  
Terry Turlay (son-in-law)  
Jammie Turlay (grandson)  
Louis Turlay (son-in-law's father)  
Sid Kemmis (nephew)  
Carleen Kemmis (niece)  
Carolyn Goodman (Arthur Clesen, Inc.)  
Clarabelle (Oscar's dog)

### *Stimpmeter/Course Health Team*

Dave Schlagetter (Indian Hill C.C.)  
George Ott (Hillcrest C.C.)  
David Ward (Olympia Fields C.C.)  
Thomas Lively (Ruth Lake C.C.)  
Dr. Tom Voigt (University of Illinois)  
Dr. Jeffrey Grigos (University of Wisconsin)

### *On-Course Care*

Greg Benson (Bonnie Brook)  
Craig Lewis (Shepherd's Crook)  
David Smith (Abbey Springs)  
Jim Pederson (Family Golf of Chicago)  
Jon Jennings (Chicago G.C.)  
Pete Kiraly (Hilldale G.C.)  
Brian Bossert (Bryn Mawr C.C.)  
Kerry Satterwhite (City of Bloomington)  
Al Jansen (Baraboo C.C.)  
Matthew Springer (Sunset Ridge C.C.)  
Rumon Ruiz (Indian Hill C.C.)  
Michael Bavier, Jr. (Ivanhoe Club)  
John Girolamo (Steeple Chase G.C.)  
Josh Laughridge (Augusta National)  
Aaron Willings (Chicago G.C.)  
Evan Haney (Wynstone G.C.)  
Rob Nixon (Wynstone G.C.)  
Tyler Applegate (Inverness G.C.)  
Justin Schroeder (Knollwood Club)  
Jess Jansen (Baraboo C.C.)  
Dave Schingel (Lohmann Golf Designs)

### *Merit Club Caddies*

Joe Rierden  
Greg Lynn  
Andy Lynn  
Matt Lyons  
Sean Maher  
Greg Gottfried  
Rod Boyce  
Tim Brooks

### *Equipment Service & Repair*

Vollie Carr (Textron)  
David Jordan (Textron)  
Jerry Holcum, Jr. (Textron)  
Jerry Holcum, Sr. (Textron)  
Tim Snell (Illinois Lawn Equipment)  
Kurt Kunze (Chicago Turf & Irrigation)  
Bill Schreier (Growers, Inc.)

### *Special Situations*

Dr. Douglas Maxwell (University of Wisconsin)  
Dr. Jung Gleunhwa (University of Wisconsin)  
Larry Haynes (Old Dutch Sand Co.)  
Amy Nefs (EPIC of Wisconsin)

### *Service and Company Representatives*

Bob Dugan (Thorguard)  
Reed Moremier (DTN)  
Chris Smith (Conserv FS)  
Richard Mika (Old Dutch Sand Co.)  
Joel Johnson (Nels Johnson Tree Experts)  
Eric Foerster (Turf Partners)

### *Providers of Manpower/Equipment*

Don Pieper (The Merit Club)  
Peter Leuzinger (Ivanhoe Club)  
Randy Wahler (Knollwood Club)  
Dan Quast (Medinah C.C.)  
Ted Fist (Wynstone G.C.)

### *Contributors to Oscar's Catering/Hospitality Fund*

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