



## Cantigny Golf Hosts 2006 Western Junior Amateur Championship July 17 thru 21

*Cantigny Golf is located on the estate of Robert R. McCormick, former publisher of the Chicago Tribune. McCormick was a colonel in the First Division during WWI. He named the estate after Cantigny, a small village in France which was the scene of fighting during World War I where First Division fought for a time. The facility is owned and operated by the non-profit Cantigny Foundation. The course was built to honor a pledge in Colonel McCormick's will. He deemed that his estate would serve as a source of recreation, education, and welfare for the people of the state of Illinois.*

In the heart of Cantigny's 500 acres, are the McCormick Mansion and the First Division Museum. Using realistic, interactive exhibits, the museum portrays history from the vantage point of those who served with The Big Red One. Both museums are surrounded by formal gardens, picnic groves, hiking paths and park settings. Designed by Roger Packard, construction of the course was completed by the Wadsworth Construction Company in 1988. The golf course opened for play in the spring of 1989.

Cantigny is composed of three nine-hole courses: Woodside, Lakeside and Hillside. Each can be combined with another to create three separate 18-hole tracks. Lakeside is home to the signature hole nine, a medium length par

*(continued on page 36)*



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4 with a sand bunker in the shape of Dick Tracy and water surrounding the fairway and green. Tees, greens and fairways are bentgrass accompanied by twelve lakes, two creeks, over eighty sand bunkers, more than 100,000 flowers and thousands of oak, ash and other hardwood trees. The 27-hole layout is a challenging yet a fair test of golf that can be enjoyed by golfers of all abilities.

Newest of the Cantigny courses is the Cantigny Youth Links. Designed by Roger Packard and Andy North, Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole course designed for junior players, ages 8 to 15. Just like the adult size course, Cantigny Youth links features a club house complete with a real head pro who handles the Youth Links, a kid sized pro shop, snack shop, a course marshal, starters, and a complete tee time system. All youth golfers must go through a certification process, learning rules, safety and etiquette before being allowed to play on their own. Every

year the program has increased with over 1,000 children participating annually and over 14,000 rounds played on the Youth Links Course.

### **The Western Junior is the Oldest National Junior Championship**



The Western Golf Association officially founded the Western Junior Championship –the first national junior championship – in 1914.

Since then, the tournament has been held annually with the exception of 1918 and 1943-45 due to war.

The Western Junior consistently has been regarded as one of the premier junior golf tournaments in the nation. Each year the tournament draws the top junior players from around the country and throughout the world. For some, it has even been a prestigious stepping-stone to the PGA Tour. Past participants who have played on the Tour include the 1977 medalist Fred Couples, 1971 medalist Jay Haas, 1967 runner-up Andy North, 1978 champion Bobby Clampett and 1988 co-medalist Phil Mickelson. Other past participants in the Western Junior who have made their marks on the PGA Tour include Tiger Woods, Chip Beck, Mark Brooks, Hale Irwin, Scott Hock, Tom Lehman, Jeff Maggert, Rocco Mediate, Corey Pavin, Tom Purtzer, Craig Stadler and Fuzzy Zoeller.

The field of 156 participants is open to boys ages 16-19 with a hand-





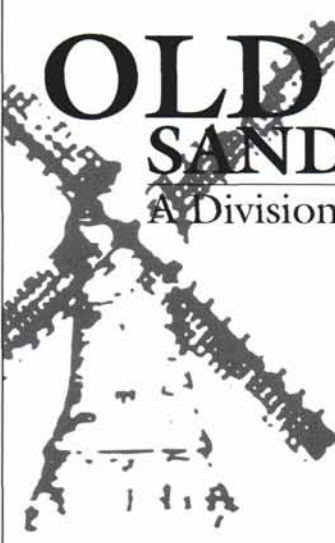
icap of three or less. The competition is 72 holes of stroke play. The champion's name is engraved a trophy donated by past WGA executive vice president Milt Woodward and named for him. The medalist's name is engraved on the Adelor J. Petit Jr. Trophy. Mr. Petit served as WGA president in 1966-67. In addition to winning this event, the champion and runner-up earn exemptions into the Western Amateur.

Recent champions have gone on to stardom in NCAA collegiate golf, including: 1990 champion Kelly Mitchum at North Carolina State; 1991 champion Trip Kuehne, at Oklahoma State; 1992 champion John Curley at Florida Southern; 1993 champion Michael Jones at the University of Arizona; 1994 champion Brad Elder at the University of Texas; and 1999 champion Hunter Mahan at Oklahoma State.

Past Champions have come from 26 states, including as far east as New York and New Jersey and as far west as Arizona and California. The championship has been held in 19

states and will return one of Chicagoland's finest public facilities this July. Scott Witte, CGCS and staff have been preparing the course and expect another fine tournament.





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