

**MIKE GIUFFRE**  
**TPC of Michigan**  
 Dearborn, Mich.  
**Ford Senior Players Championship**  
 June 21-27, ABC

Despite preparing EnJoie Golf Club in Endicott, N.Y., for two BC Opens and TPC of Michigan for two Senior Players Championships, Mike Giuffre said, "You're never a veteran. There's always something that comes up that's unique and different." A 1983 graduate of Penn State's two-year turfgrass management program, Giuffre worked at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich., EnJoie, and Princess Anne CC in Virginia Beach, Va., before returning to Michigan during construction of TPC of Michigan. It opened its doors in 1990 and hosted its first Senior Players Championship in 1991. "We strive to make the golf course as appealing to the players as possible. Sometimes that doesn't go hand in hand with television," Giuffre said. "The players are looking for consistency. When you're in tourney preparation, they don't want the fairways wet, and at that time of year it's hard to keep things green without putting out water." The decision comes down on the side of forgoing water in favor of a firm course.

**Things to look for:** With TPC of Michigan architect Jack Nicklaus and PGA Commissioner Deane Beman putting their heads together — and considering suggestions from the senior pros, the signature 14th hole has undergone changes since last year. The fairway was widened in the landing area, adding five feet to the right side. Rough was added on the right side so balls wouldn't roll into the wetlands so easily. A 20- to 30-foot-high tree in the fairway, which tended to block off the second shot into the green, was removed, and two 30-foot spruce trees were planted on the right to provide golfers a target to the landing area from the tee. Giuffre's crews have planted \$30,000 worth of trees — a dozen 30-foot spruces and a mixture of 60 to 70 smaller spruce and flowering trees.

**Made-for-TV preparations:** "We use a lot of iron, starting about three weeks from the tournament, to keep everything green," Giuffre said, adding that the green speed is monitored daily, starting it at 9.5 and not exceeding 10. Crews double-cut the greens at night and single-cut in the morning during the tournament. For two weeks ahead of the event, greens are mowed at 9/64ths inch and the tees at 5/16ths. The fairways are mowed to 7/16ths. "Striping is very important, not only for TV but from a spectator's standpoint. We start mowing specific patterns in many, many different directions about three weeks out and stick with those patterns through the tournament to burn in the stripes," Giuffre said.



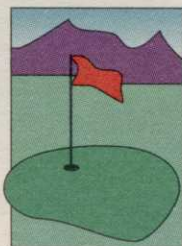
## Tour of Duty

**JOE FLAHERTY**  
**Baltusrol Golf Club (Lower Course)**  
 Springfield, N.J.  
**U.S. Open**  
 June 14-20, ESPN/ABC

Four years ago, Joe Flaherty began preparing his golf course for the 1993 U.S. Open. This month the 50-year-old superintendent will expose his efforts to a national television audience. A 1964 graduate of Rutgers University, with a degree in plant science, Flaherty worked as an assistant at Baltusrol from 1964 to 1967, then took charge when Ed Casey retired. The club hosted the 1967 U.S. Open, the 1980 Men's U.S. Open and the 1985 Women's U.S. Open.

**Things to look for:** The A.W. Tillinghast design of the 1920s will look a little different to people familiar with Baltusrol. Rees Jones has completed a renovation project that included extending the par-4 3rd by 20 yards with an entire new tee; lengthening the par-4 5th by 20 yards to bring fairway bunkers into play; building a third bunker on the right side of the 7th fairway and a third bunker on the left side of the 8th fairway; building a new tee to the right of the existing tee on the par-3 9th so there will be different shots coming into the green and it will play more as a Redan hole; moving the par-3 12th tee to the right to bring bunkers on the right more into play; extending the par-4 13th so players can't hit the ball over the trees and cut the corner on the dogleg right; and lengthening the 14th and adding a bunker on the left side of the approach to the green. The U.S. Golf Association doesn't want bentgrass roughs because of the difficulty of hitting out of long bent. So, where the USGA narrowed the fairways in 1989, Flaherty converted bentgrass to bluegrass. Flaherty said the U.S. Golf Association wants green speed to measure 10.5 to 11 on the Stimpmeter. He will double-cut in the mornings but not roll the greens, he said. The normal cutting heights of 11/64 on the greens will be lowered, but exactly how low won't be known until Open-time.

**Made-for-TV preparations:** Flaherty's crews have done some tree-trimming for camera locations, but that is the extent of special work for the cameras, he said. He added that Baltusrol members had decided to have Jones update the course irrespective of the Open.



**DEAN GRAVES**  
**Bethesda Country Club**  
 Bethesda, Md.  
**Mazda LPGA Championship**  
 June 10-13, NBC

Dean Graves and his staff are busy and excited to be "working on something that is very important to everyone," he said. This is the fourth Mazda LPGA Championship Graves has prepared this course for, in addition to one Greater Washington Open. He said: "June 7 is the perfect time to open a tournament. Mother Nature should be on our side. It's nice for the spectators and for the players because it's normally cooler. And it's nice for the course because it's peak golf season condition-wise — a less stressful time for the turf. Graves pointed to the appropriateness of his course hosting the LPGA Championship. In the 1920s it was the nation's only exclusively women's golf club; Amelia Earhardt used to land her airplane on the course, lunch there and take off. In the 1940s it changed its name and accepted male members. Graves earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 1979 and a turfgrass management degree from Penn State in 1981. The Lewis, Del., native worked at Wilmington (Del.) CC from 1978-81, Baltimore CC from 1981-85 and Kenwood Golf and CC in Bethesda from 1985-89 before coming to Bethesda CC.



**Things to look for:** Orchestrated by architect Art Hills, Bethesda has "completely excavated and rebuilt" eight greens and their surrounds, Graves said. Reconstruction began last July 6, and the greens were unveiled and opened May 1. Hills added his touch to the greens' contours, approaches and "surrounds," and added new bunkering. Graves said whiter and more consistent sand was also put in place. "Bunkers are very important and, in most cases, the most neglected part of any golf course," he said. "As a golfer, the bunker shot should be the most consistent in golf. It rarely is. Now, we have consistent play there." Bethesda CC also sports ryegrass fairways, a rarity in the area but a choice Graves defended because it retains winter color better than bentgrass.

**Made-for-TV preparations:** "We try to make it greener, so we apply iron," Graves said. "We stripe everything — fairways, roughs and immediate roughs. And we make sure the striping on the tees is aligned with the TV cameras. The stationary cameras, once fixed, are the same year after year." Check out the new Dominant-blend bentgrass greens, chosen by Graves for its dark green color, upright growth and resistance to pests. The seed is 50 percent Providence and 50 percent SR 1020.

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