

Few Changes in Oakland Hills Since Playing of 1951 Open

There have been few changes made in Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham, Mich., site of the 1961 Open, since the course was toughened up for the USGA event 10 years ago. Seven traps have been removed, five of them in the driving areas. There are now 113 traps on the course. Five greens have been modified to allow for additional pin placements. How far in the rough will be brought for the June 15-17 shooting remains to be decided by the USGA championship committee.

For the 1951 Open, Robert Trent Jones was brought in to give a shock treatment to the course which, prior to the event, was considered too soft a touch for the country's greatest golfers. Jones developed what he called "two target areas," one for the tee shot and the other for the green, for the tournament. This called for double accuracy on each of the par four and par five holes and didn't permit any serious mistakes. Ben Hogan, winner of the 1951 Open, expressed dislike for Oakland Hills even after he shot a final 67 and won the Championship. But upon reflection, in later years, he agreed that it had been redesigned to bring out the best in an aspirant to the title.

This is Oakland Hills' fourth Open. Cyril Walker won the first in 1924 with a 297. Ralph Guldahl established what was a record score in the second one in 1937 with a 281 over the longest course in Open history, 7,037 yds. Hogan's winning total in 1951 was 287.

Expert Advice from Women

(*Continued from page* 40) ed several proposals which the greensmen

said they would translate into action. The Feminine Wrist

One thing the women's association officials concentrated on was the feminine wrist. Their wrists, the ladies said, are so much weaker than men's that some thought should be taken for thinning rough for women's tournaments.

For the same reason they besought the use of sand of reasonable texture in traps. Sperandio assured them that most clubs in the New England area used concrete No. 3 which comes as close to filling their requirements as any.