

## Test of Will

Some golf holes test the mental toughness and perseverance of golfers. At the Bear Course at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich., the 11th hole is designed to break golfers' spirits.

First, the hole lulls them into a false sense of security with its middling 364-yard length. But the par 4 turns nasty as it slowly reveals itself in shot after shot (after shot). A tight fairway, bound by houses on the left and a creek on the right, pressures golfers to make the perfect shot each time they approach the ball. If they don't, the creek, high rough and trees behind the hole are prepared to test the will of even the best golfers, says Jim Bluck, superintendent. During last year's Michigan Open, professional golfers averaged 4.3 strokes, with some taking as many as nine.

"The whole course plays tough, but No. 11 is a hole for thrill-seekers only," Bluck says. "If you can make a par on this hole, you know you've accomplished something."

The creek and the wetlands give Bluck his greatest maintenance challenges for the hole, as hard rains can cause water run-off on to the fairways. Bluck says two other challenges include fixing windows on the houses that line the left side and replacing divots that golfers gouge out of backyards after errant tee shots.

Golfdom's Hole of the Month  
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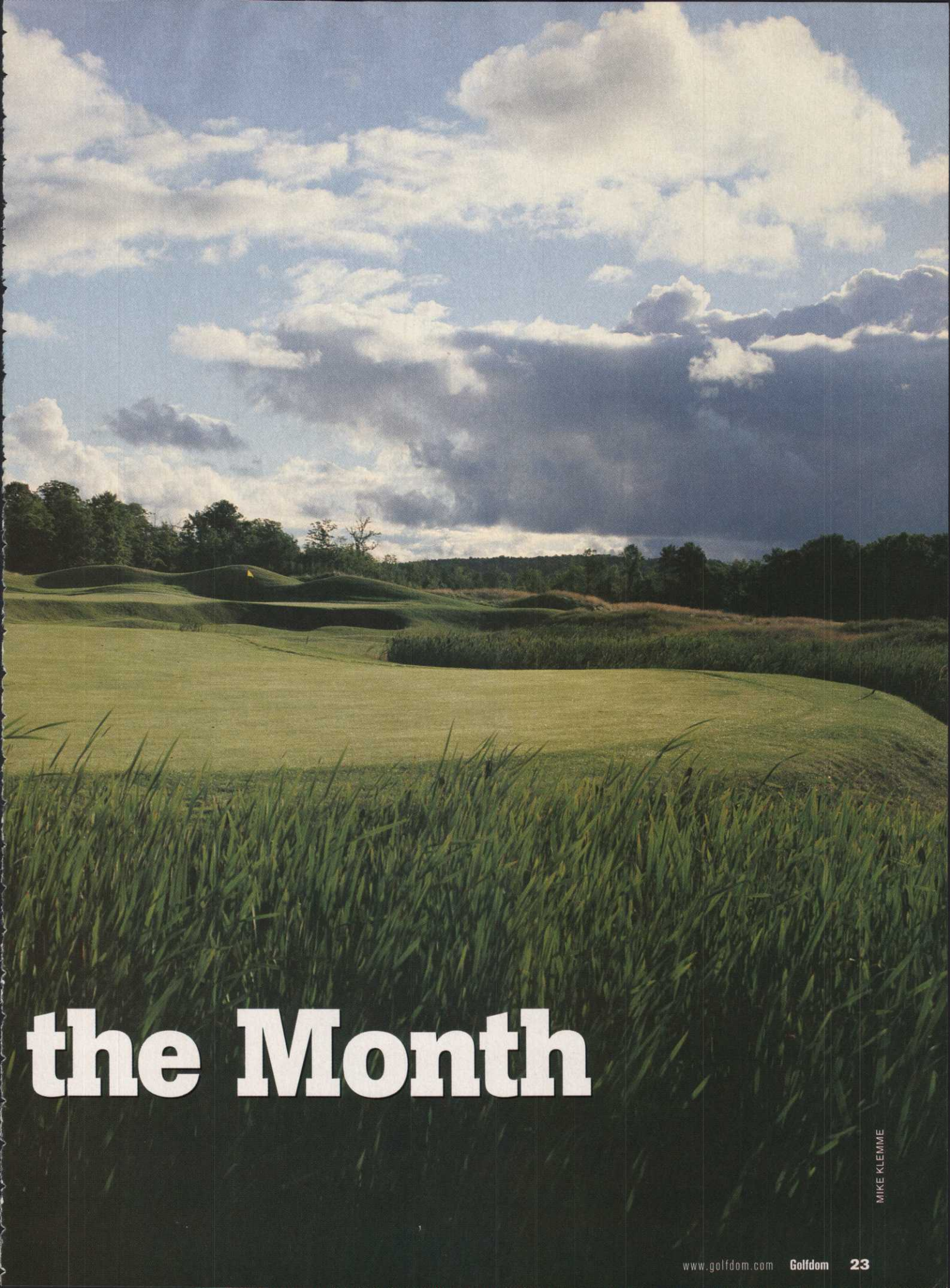


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# Hole of

■ Hole No. 11  
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Mich.



# the Month

MIKE KLEMM