

A photograph of a golf course green with a sand trap and trees in the background. The green is in the foreground, and the sand trap is in the middle ground. The trees are in the background, and the sky is blue.

# Hole of the

■ No. 12  
Olympia Fields CC  
Olympia Fields, Ill.



# Month

## The Weather and the U.S. Open

If it's dry and the course is hard, the field can count on a difficult test. If the course is wet and the greens are soft, the field may score lower than what the USGA is accustomed to seeing for a U.S. Open. That's the prediction made by Dave Ward, superintendent of Olympia Fields CC's North Course, which hosts the second Major of the year this month. "Weather will be the big determining factor," Ward says.

The 458-yard, par-four 12th hole (pictured here) is the course's signature hole for the back nine. However, the nines are being switched for the tournament, and the 12th hole will play as the third hole. The hole requires a blind tee shot over a hill to a narrow fairway that shifts to the left of the tee. The shot must be hit left or the player will not have a shot into the small, elevated and severely sloped green.

Ward says the greens will stimp around 12 feet, give or take 6 inches. He'll be careful not to make them any faster. "Anything over 12.5 feet, and our greens would be pretty much unputtable," Ward says.

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