

CELEBRITY GOLF IN WISCONSIN

Every season Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents are host to a number of celebrities who travel to our state to play golf. Usually they are here to participate in charity events, but of course we also see a lot of well known and famous golf players when Ray Knapp has the GMO at Tuckaway each year.

Two tournaments stand by themselves in terms of the names they attract. Although scheduling problems used to set the GMO in competition with the British Open, the recent date change has helped in that regard. Witness the fact that last year's tournament field included Jack Nicklaus. I can still remember hearing Rob Schultz talk about his personal interview with this living legend of golf. The GMO has certainly spoken well for golf in Wisconsin and the excellent job done by Ray Knapp keeps them coming back each year.

The other golf event that serves to bring a lot of well known political figures, entertainment stars and sports heroes to our state is the Lombardi Tournament that North Hills Country Club plays host to each year. Bob Musbach's golf course has seen the likes of former President Jerry Ford, Bob Hope, Bart Starr and James Gardener tee the golf ball up to help raise money for cancer research in Milwaukee. The fine playing conditions of North Hills and the magic of the name of the former great coach of the Green Bay Packers draws not only participants but many spectators as well. "The Lombardi" is a permanent fixture of the celebrity golf scene in Wisconsin each year and gives an example of how golf "gives back" to our society.

By the time you read these words, Bill Roberts will have had a tournament that featured many of the names that really brought televised golf to where it is today. Probably the most famous to play the SENTRYWORLD links has been Arnold Palmer, a participant in a previous event. This year Bill was able to watch the likes of Gary Player, Orville Moody, Miller Barber,

Bob Charles, Dow Finsterwald, John Brodie, Tommy Aaron and Roberto DiVincenzo play in this public event.

There are plans for two Madison charity celebrity golf tournaments this summer. 1986 was the first of what appears will become an annual event—the Ray-o-Vac/Andy North Invitational Tournament. Tom Harrison and his crew had fun watching last years field and expects even more fun this year. The proceeds from the August tourney go to Wisconsin Special Olympics - last year's contribution was \$30,000. Scheduled to play this year are Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight, former Calgary Flames coach Bob Johnson, former Milwaukee Bucks coach Don Nelson, Ernie Banks, Jim Bakken, Rick Barry, Otto Graham, Wayne Embry, Gordie Howe, Jim Taylor, Steve Yoder, Oscar Robertson, Bob Lanier and Willie McCovey.

The first Madison Charity Golf Classic, featuring former National Football League players, will be held on August 21 at Blackhawk Country Club. The 18-hole scramble tournament is one of many events held near the 26 NFL cities. The winner of the team tournament advances to the Super Bowl of golf in Callaway Gardens, Georgia in March of 1988. Proceeds will go to the Boy Scouts of America and the UW Hospital Pediatrics Unit.

Elroy Hirsch, president of the local chapter of the NFL alumni association, reports that 33 players (one for each fivesome) will participate. Ex-players already signed up are Ken Stabler, Gale Sayers, Paul Warfield, Jerry Kramer, Fuzzy Thurston, Ray Nitschke, Pat Richter, Larry Mialik and Elroy. The tournament preceeds by a day the Packer/Redskin game in Camp Randall.

Its seems that there are ample opportunities to see some of America's favorite people play golf this summer. Call one of the WGCSA members hosting a tournament — I'll bet you could get a prime parking spot — at his shop!

—MSM

"Golf, uniquely among games, has no defined pitch or court and much of its charm derives from the variety of countryside over which the golfer directs his erratic progress."

—Peter Dobereiner

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