

When DO Wisconsin Golf Courses Open?

OPENING DAYS!

By Rod Johnson

This year's exceptionally mild winter and a record breaking lack of snow cover spark thoughts of an early golf season. A quick survey of 7 Wisconsin Golf Clubs was made regarding opening dates over the last ten years. Incomplete records and Superintendents changing jobs resulted in a shortage of information from 1976 and 1977, but none the less results are interesting.

1981 was the earliest golf season in the 10 years surveyed. Maple Bluff, Madison, recorded the earliest opening date of March 26, 1981. Sandwiched around the 1981 early season were the late openings of 1980 and 1982. Pine Hills lays claim to the latest opening date with April 24, 1982.

Before you sharpen your cup cutter and get ready to stick out the flags, note that of the 62 reported opening dates only five are in March. An average of the reported dates is April 10th, so hang tight. It's like a wise neighbor Superintendent told me a few years ago, "April 15th, give or take a week."

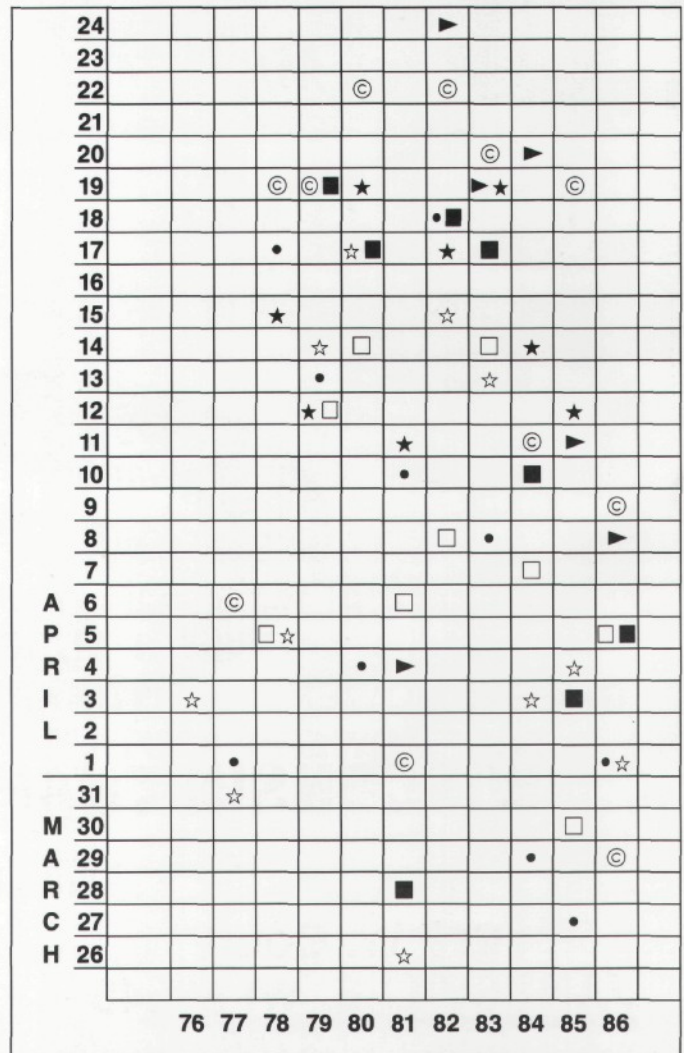
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|-------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 1976 | | | |
| April 3 | Maple Bluff | | |
| 1977 | | | |
| March 31 | Maple Bluff | | |
| April 1 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 6 | North Brook | | |
| 1978 | | | |
| April 5 | Stevens Point | Maple Bluff | |
| April 15 | North Shore | | |
| April 17 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 19 | North Brook | | |
| 1979 | | | |
| April 3 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 12 | North Shore | Stevens Point | |
| April 14 | Maple Bluff | | |
| April 19 | North Brook | West Bend | |
| 1980 | | | |
| April 4 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 14 | Stevens Point | | |
| April 17 | Maple Bluff | West Bend | |
| April 19 | North Shore | | |
| April 22 | North Brook | | |
| 1981 | | | |
| March 26 | Maple Bluff | | |
| March 28 | West Bend | | |
| April 1 | North Brook | | |
| April 4 | Pine Hills | | |
| April 6 | Stevens Point | | |
| April 10 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 11 | North Shore | | |
| 1982 | | | |
| April 8 | Stevens Point | | |
| April 15 | Maple Bluff | | |
| April 17 | North Shore | | |
| April 18 | West Bend | Ozaukee | |
| April 22 | North Brook | | |
| April 24 | Pine Hills | | |
| 1983 | | | |
| April 8 | Ozaukee | | |
| April 13 | Maple Bluff | | |
| April 14 | Stevens Point | | |
| April 17 | West Bend | North Shore | |
| April 20 | North Brook | | |

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| 1984 | | |
| March 29 | Ozaukee | |
| April 3 | Maple Bluff | |
| April 7 | Stevens Point | |
| April 10 | West Bend | |
| April 11 | North Brook | |
| April 14 | North Shore | |
| April 20 | Pine Hills | |
| 1985 | | |
| March 27 | Ozaukee | |
| March 30 | Stevens Point | |
| April 3 | West Bend | |
| April 4 | Maple Bluff | |
| April 11 | Pine Hills | |
| April 12 | North Shore | |
| April 19 | North Brook | |
| 1986 | | |
| March 29 | North Shore | |
| April 1 | Maple Bluff | |
| | Ozaukee | |
| April 5 | West Bend | |
| | Stevens Point | |
| April 8 | Pine Hills | |
| April 9 | North Brook | |



KEY

- ☆ = Maple Bluff
- ⊙ = North Brook
- ★ = North Shore
- = Ozaukee
- ▶ = Pine Hills
- = Stevens Point
- = West Bend



Connect the dots for the golf course in your section of Wisconsin and note the variability!