



Big League Golf Returns to Whistling Straits

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Kathy Whitworth was at our club on July 16th to play golf. She was with one of our members and played on what was our warmest day in some time.

I couldn't hide my excitement over the prospect of watching her play. I also had to endure the aggravation that came from many of my young crew: "Who's Kathy Whitworth?"

"She is one of the greatest woman golfers ever; she has nearly ninety four victories, more than any other woman (or man, for that matter). She did a lot to position the LPGA Tour where it is today."

Like many my age, I like senior golf events because I like senior golfers like Kathy Whitworth. These players are the ones I watched and followed and dreamed of seeing when I was in my younger years.

Honestly, the current crop of Tour stars just doesn't measure up to the likes of Palmer and Nicklaus, Watson and Crenshaw, North and Irwin and all the rest of those graying players. They were great.

So next year should be tops for

senior golf fans in Wisconsin. The U.S. Senior Open will be at Whistling Straits from July 2nd through July 8th. They have already started selling tickets.

I was among the lucky people invited to Kohler on June 1st to attend media day. It was informative and exciting and I didn't even play golf! The podium featured Herb Kohler as the host and Jim Reinhart, current vice president of the USGA. Jim is a Wisconsin guy

who was beaming that day. Governor Jim Doyle, a golf enthusiast himself, came to Kohler to help with the kickoff of the Senior Open. The Kohler Company's golf tournament director Barry Leach moderated the news conference. And of course the two most important people involved in the 2007 U.S. Senior Open were also there on media day - Mike Lee and Dave Swift. We know they'll do the best job; they proved that at the PGA



Two WGCSA favorites - Gene Haas and Rob Schultz.



Herb Kohler talked about golf with Gov. Doyle and USGA V.P. Jim Reinhart.



Dave Swift and Mike Lee are ready for golf's center stage in 2007.



The golf course at Whistling Straits drew everyone out for a look at its beauty.

Championship in 2004.

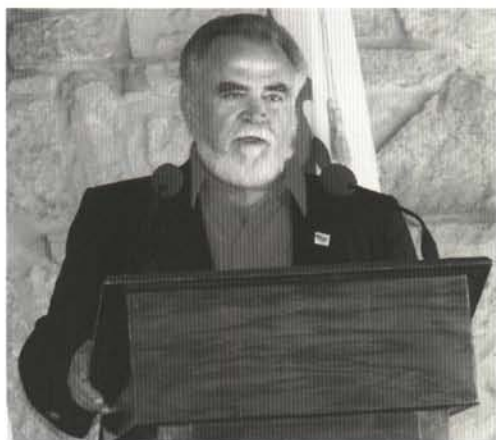
It was a gorgeous morning, warm and green following generous rain the preceding day and night. Mr. Kohler had some wonderful reminiscences of players expected to play in the tournament. I hadn't realized just how many of these great players he knew personally and had played golf with over the years. The event is open to pros and amateurs 50 and over, and that covers a lot of our greatest all-time golfers.

This tournament should be as good for golf, generally, in Wisconsin as the 1998 U.S. Women's Open at

Blackwolf Run and the 2004 PGA at Whistling Straits were. All of us benefit from that.

As we get closer to the tournament we will learn more about the passes our GCSAA card will earn. And even if we had to purchase a pass like everyone else does (heaven forbid!), it will be a delicious treat. And, who knows, maybe Jack or Arnie will decide to play one more time.

By the way, Kathy Whitworth's score on July 16th was even par. ♡



The host of hosts - Herb Kohler.



What threesome could offer a warmer welcome than Reinhart, Doyle and Kohler?



Gov. Doyle recognizes the huge roll golf plays in Wisconsin's economy.

We in Wisconsin are proud of Jim Reinhart, and he is proud to have the USGA Senior Open in Wisconsin.



163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



HERFORD ■ NORBY

Golf Course Architects

6452 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
 Phone: 952.942.0266 Fax: 952.942.0197
 e-mail: golfnorby@eschelon.com
 web: herfortnorbygolfarchitecture.com