



Summer Brings Tournament Golf

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Summer brings excitement for all golf courses as each one hosts a variety of local and statewide tournaments. Two of Wisconsin's biggest tournaments each year are the Wisconsin State Open hosted by the Wisconsin PGA and the Wisconsin State Amateur hosted by the Wisconsin State Golf Association.

The 107th Wisconsin State Amateur will be held at Old Hickory Golf Club in Beaver Dam July 21-24, with Mike Lyons the host superintendent. Old Hickory began as an interesting nine-hole layout designed in 1920 by Scottish-born architect Tom Bendelow. Bendelow's design would be among the more than 400 venues he created. Among his efforts were Medinah CC #3 and Skokie CC, both in Illinois, and Tripoli CC in Milwaukee. Later *Milwaukee Journal* golf writer Billy Sixty, Jr. and golf course designer Robert Greaves finished the project.

Set in the rolling hills outside of Beaver Dam the course features oak and hickory tree lined fairways, elevated greens and rolling hills that will challenge the states best amateur players.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need to have a USGA index of 9.4 or under to qualify at one of 9 qualifying tournaments or be one of the approximately 40 exempt players based on past championships and amateur play. This year qualifying sites include District 1 - Skyline GC, Black River Falls and New Richmond GC, New Richmond, District 2 - Foxfire GC, Waupaca, District 3 - Krueger Haskell GC, Beloit, District 4 - Yahara Hills West, Madison, District 5 - Brown County GC,



Old Hickory Golf Club, hole 1, par 4, 317-390 yards.



Eau Claire Golf and Country Club, hole 5, par 4, 328 to 434 yards.

Oneida and District 6 - Mee-Kwon Park GC, Mequon, Naga-Waukee GC, Pewaukee and Deertrak GC, Oconomowoc.

180 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes for the low 70 players and ties. 4 days of 18 hole

play will challenge the states best players and award the true State Amateur Championship the Sinnissippi Cup.

Players not only compete for the Sinnissippi Cup but any WSGA member golf club with three quali-



Old Hickory Golf Club, hole 11, par 4, 283 to 421 yards.



Eau Claire Golf and Country Club clubhouse.

fiers can compete for the Yule Cup. The Yule Cup is given to the winning three man team after the first 36 holes of play.

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and PGA Tour players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson. Last year at Bristlecone Pines Travis Meyer of River Falls won with a 1 under par 283 over defending champion Daniel Woltman and Jeff Kaiser who each shot 285.

The Wisconsin State Open will be held at Eau Claire Golf & Country Club in Eau Claire, August 18-20, with John Granholt the host superintendent. John has been at Eau Claire for 28 years and last hosted the State Open in 1994.

Eau Claire Golf & Country Club was designed by Tom Vardon and established in 1901. The links features 250 acres of mature, wooded terrain, including sweeping hillsides and towering white pines in Wisconsin's Chippewa Valley. In 2003 a new clubhouse and practice facility opened.

The Wisconsin State Open has been played since 1919 and attracts a field of top club professionals, mini-tour players and amateurs. The open was considered a PGA tour stop in the 1930's.

Players enter the open through exemption or qualifying at one of 8 district qualifier tournaments. District 1 – La Crosse CC, Lacrosse, District 2 – Timber Ridge GC, Minocqua, District 3 – Oshkosh CC, Oshkosh, District 4 – Bishops Bay CC, Middleton, District 5 – Janesville CC, Janesville, District 6 – Fire Ridge GC, Grafton, District 7 – Hartford GC, Hartford and District 8 – Wild Ridge GC, Eau Claire.

Exempt players include past open champions, the previous years top 40 players along with winners of a number of state tournaments.

The Wisconsin State Open is played over 72 holes with the low 60 and ties playing the final 36 holes on the third day. In 2007 at Blackwolf Runs River Course Daniel Woltman as an amateur shot a 7 under 281 with

a final round 68 to beat out Jim Schuman who shot 283. Woltman is a member of the University of Wisconsin Golf Team and Schuman is his coach leading to a competitive finish.

The list of past winners is impressive and features Skip Kendal, Jerry Kelly and Steve Stricker. Stricker is one of 4 players who have won 5 times. Steve won first in 1987 as an amateur and in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000 as a professional.

Both the Wisconsin State Open and State Amateur are open for spectators at no charge. It is a great way to see some of the best golfers Wisconsin has to offer, and some of the best golf courses Wisconsin has to offer. I hope to see you there. 🌱



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