

We Thought You'd Like To Know That...

The USGA will eliminate the pre-Slope handicap system after this year. Beginning in March, 1991, the USGA's Slope System becomes the only authorized USGA handicap system.

In use since 1983, the Slope System addresses the problem of portability of USGA handicaps, departing from the concept that a golfer receives the same number of handicap strokes at every golf course.

Under the Slope System, an authorized golf club or golf association issues each golfer a USGA Handicap Index, for example, 10.4. The golfer then consults a numerical table listing each course's Slope Rating to determine his stroke allowance. A golfer's course handicap increases on more difficult courses and decreases on easier courses.

Golf clubs are issued USGA Slope Ratings by golf associations authorized by the USGA. Because Slope goes into effect next March, it is necessary for clubs following the USGA Handicap System to ensure their courses are officially rated by then. Every authorized golf association has implemented the Slope System, and almost every golf club that requested one has received an official USGA Slope Rating.

Golf clubs that have not been issued a USGA Slope Rating should contact the Minnesota Golf Association for assistance. If a club is unable to obtain such assistance, it should contact the USGA Handicap Department, at (201) 234-2300, or write to Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931.

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Rochester Golf & Country Club will be the host club for the seventh U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship September 11-16, 1993.

Although it will be the first Women's Mid-Amateur to be played in Minnesota, it is the third USGA championship currently scheduled on Minnesota courses. The 1991 U.S. Open will be played at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, and the 1992 Amateur Public Links Championship is scheduled for Edinburgh USA, in Brooklyn Park.

Completed in 1925, Rochester Golf & Country Club was designed by A.W. Tillinghast at the time he was doing some of his best work. He had completed Baltusrol Golf Club, in Springfield, N.J., a few years earlier, then Winged Foot, in Mamaroneck, N.Y., after that, and Five Farms, in Baltimore, a year after completing Rochester.

An eccentric man, Tillinghast accepted no fee for converting what had been an indifferent nine-hole course into a first-rate layout of 18 holes other than a lifetime membership for his son-in-law, a young doctor at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, and Tilly's daughter.

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The USGA has raised the prize limit in tournaments to \$500, a figure that represents the amount an amateur golfer may accept as a prize in merchandise in any tournament or exhibition. That includes holes-in-one or other events in which golfing skill is a factor.

The Minnesota Women's Golf Association this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The association was founded by members of Minikahda, Interlachen, Town & Country, Northland in Duluth, Lafayette and White Bear Yacht Club in September, 1915.

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Do you play senior golf competitively? Dates for the US West Senior Open have been changed to Monday and Tuesday, June 25-26.

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The USGA has accepted a record 6,198 entries for the 1990 U.S. Open Championship, to be played June 14-17, at Medinah (Ill.) Country Club near Chicago.

The figure is a record in many respects. It exceeds last year's total entry of 5,786, and it marks the seventh consecutive year the number of Open entries has increased. The total also represents the most entries accepted for any USGA championship, and it is the first to attract more than 6,000 entries.

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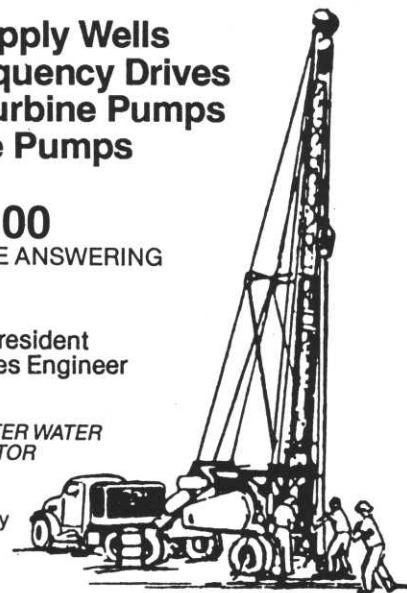
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