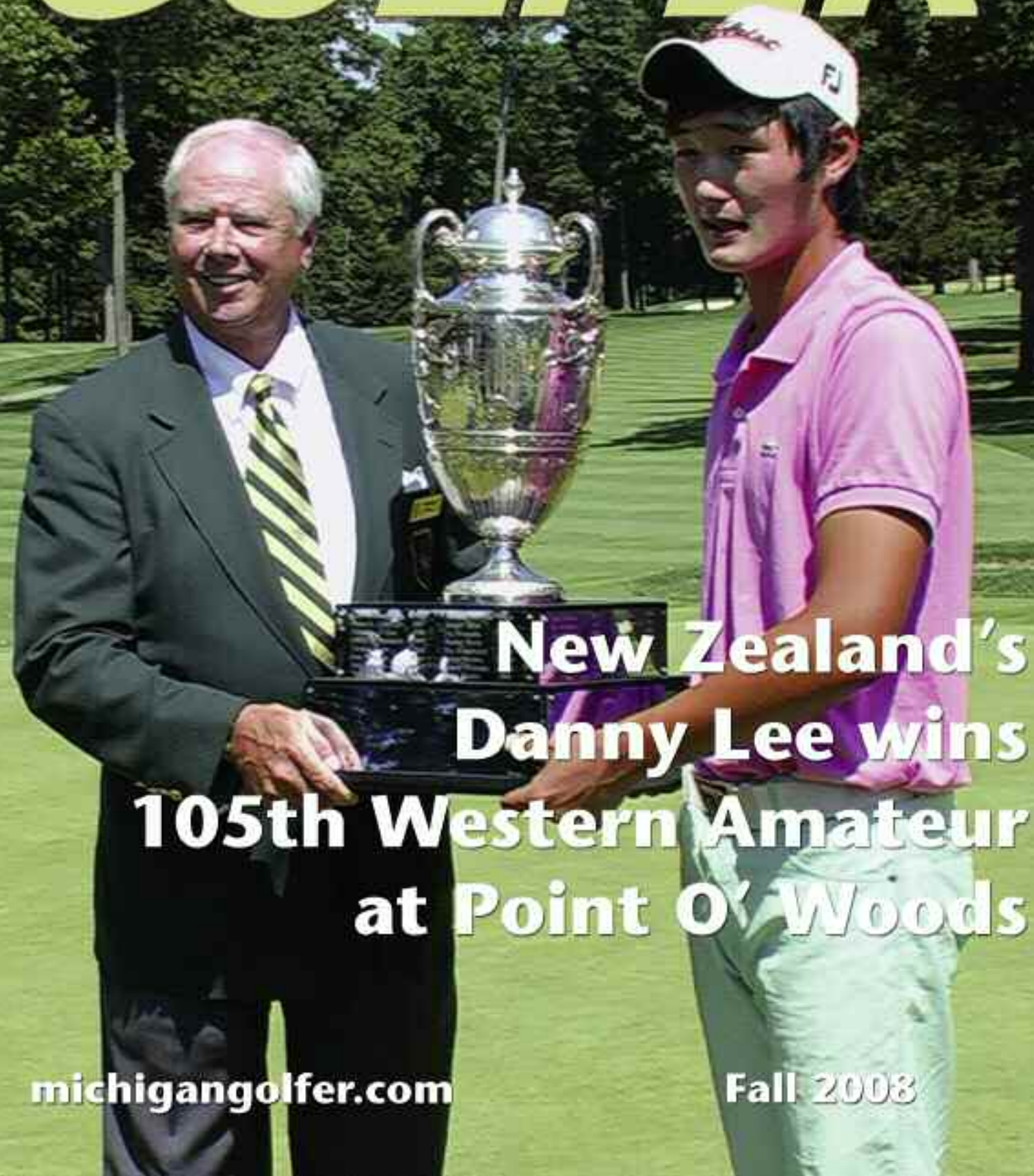


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**New Zealand's
Danny Lee wins
105th Western Amateur
at Point O' Woods**

michigangolfer.com

Fall 2008

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Cover: Western Golf Association Chairman John Fix presents 2008 Western Amateur champion, Danny Lee, with the George R. Thorne trophy. Photo by Art McCafferty

New Zealand's Danny Lee Wins 2008 Western Amateur



Photo by Art McCafferty

Danny Lee putts during the final round while his caddy, Rambert Sim, looks on.

By Gary Holoway
Western Golf Association

Benton Harbor, Mich. (Sunday, August 3, 2008) – New Zealand's Danny Lee showed why he is among the world's top-ranked amateurs Sunday, delivering a pair of 4 and 2 match play wins to

claim the 2008 Western Amateur Championship at Point O' Woods Golf & Country Club in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Lee became the first winner

since Bubba Dickerson in 2001 to take both medalist and match play honors, joining an elite group of dual winners that includes Phil Mickelson (1991), Scott Verplank (1985), Curtis Strange (1974) and

Ben Crenshaw (1973).

“This is a huge event,” said Lee, 18, of Rotorua, New Zealand. “It gives me so much confidence. This is the first time I played really well in the United States. It’s special. It’s the biggest win of my life.”

Up against UCLA’s Erik Flores in the championship match, Lee struck early, dropping three straight birdie putts on the middle three holes of the front nine to forge a 4-up lead through six.

After moving to 5-up through 12, Lee and Flores matched birdies on the par-5 13th before Flores dropped two straight birdie putts to cut Lee’s lead to 3-up. On the par-4 16th, Lee finally closed the match, 4 and 2, with an 8-foot con-

ceded birdie putt after Flores failed to make his own birdie putt.

“I know he’s a good player and was going to come back,” said Lee. “I was thinking ‘Oh, he’s going to come and get me.’ I was really nervous the last couple of holes. All I was thinking was don’t make any mistakes and make pars.”

Flores wasn’t expecting Lee to fold.

“That guy’s tough,” said Flores, 21, of Grass Valley, Calif. “He’s really impressive. He’s a machine.”

But Flores was hoping to give Lee a tougher match.

“I didn’t play very well today. I just didn’t hit my iron shots close,”

he said. “I didn’t have any looks at the hole.”

Leading up to the final match, Flores’ had played near flawless golf.

“This week was awesome,” he said. “I shot even par my first stroke play round, then I was under par in the rest of the stroke play ... three straight 67s ... and in match play.”

Flores finished the match with Lee at 2 under par, but it wasn’t nearly enough to stay with Lee, who shot 31 on the front and was 6 under for the round.

I played 36 holes with him Friday,” said Flores. “I expected him to play well.”

Born in Korea, Lee moved to New Zealand when he was nine. Heading into the Western Amateur, he was fourth in the Golfweek Scratch Players World Rankings. The win at Point O’ Woods this week moved him to the top of the world rankings. Lee earned medalist honors on Friday with a 12-under-par 268 total in 72 holes of stroke play.

A lot of hard work before coming to the United States to play the summer amateur circuit helped prepare him for success, Lee said.

“I practiced so hard ... eight hours a day,” he said. “I expected to play really well in the United States. I think I’ve done a great job.”

In the morning semifinals, Lee and Flores both notched 4 and 2 victories on the strength of birdie binges on the back nine.



Rambert Sim, of San Diego, California, served as caddy for family friend Danny Lee.



Eric Flores (l) and Danny Lee tee off on Point O’ Woods during the final round of match play in the Western Amateur Championship

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Photo by Art McCafferty

The Gallery approaches during the final round of play at Point O' Woods

Lee defeated Conrad Shindler, 20, of Westlake, Texas, with birdies on three of the final four holes. He never trailed after driving the green on the par-4 eighth hole and draining a 10-foot eagle putt.

Shindler briefly pulled to all square with a five-foot birdie putt on the par-3 ninth, but Lee countered with a short birdie putt on the par-4 10th to regain a 1-up lead. Lee's birdies at 13, 15 and 16 closed out the match.

"He's a great player," said Shindler, a sophomore at Texas A&M. "He's not going to make the mistake to give you a free hole. I shot even par and lost, 4 and 2. I

hit my putts, they just didn't go in. I burned three edges and had one monster lip out."

Shindler left Point O' Woods Sunday with some newly-found confidence.

This shows me I can play with anyone, not just in the nation, but in the world," he said. "It's pretty special to make it this far in such a prestigious event."

Flores finished with a flourish, hitting Dubuisson with a string of five straight birdies and seven birdies over the final eight holes.

A chip-in on the par-4 12th gave

Flores his first lead of the match and jumpstarted his game. Four birdies later, he accepted congratulations from Dubuisson and moved into the championship match.

"It's always bad to lose," said Dubuisson, 18, of Mougins, France. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. It's okay.

"His putting was very good. This morning my putting was bad," he added. "I was not very lucky."

Dubuisson, 53rd in the world amateur rankings heading into the Western Amateur, will take a week off from golf before playing in the Canadian Amateur. **MG**

Western Amateur Bids Adieu to Point O' Woods

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

BENTON HARBOR - Tom Weiskopf, Andy North, Ben Crenshaw, Curtis Strange, Andy Bean, Hal Sutton, Scott Verplank, Phil Michelson, Justin Leonard and Tiger Woods.

What a lineup! Between them, those 10 golfers have won at least 196 PGA Tour events and 27 major championships.

Before that however, when they were amateur golfers, they combined to win 12 Western Amateur Championships.

And all of them won at Point O' Woods Golf and Country Club in

Benton Harbor.

Tom Weiskopf won the first Western Amateur played at Point O' Woods, in 1963. Andy North won the Western Am at Point O' Woods in 1971, the year that began a string of 38 consecutive years in which the tournament was played at Point O' Woods.

That string ends this year.

After hosting 38 straight Western Amateur Championships and 40 in the last 46 years, Point O' Woods Golf and Country Club is hosting its final Western Amateur Championship, for at least another five years.

"The club had a contract with the Western Golf Association and that contract has run out this year," said Dennis Mitchell, a Point O' Woods member for 21 years who served as Chairman of the Western Am in 2002, '03 and '04. "The tournament has had a great run and it is a great championship, but it has had its run."

Significant drops in attendance is one reason the tournament will be played at a different venue each year, and possibly return to Point O' Woods once every five years.

"There was a time when we would easily get 10,000 people for the entire week, but that's when



Photo courtesy of Western Golf Association Archives

**Tom Weiskopf, Western Amateur
Champion, 1963**



Photo courtesy of Western Golf Association Archives

**Andy North, Western Amateur
Champion, 1971**

Photo opposite page: Ryan Moore on his way to winning 2004 Western Amateur at Point O' Woods



Photo courtesy of Western Golf Association Archives

**Curtis Strange, Western Amateur
Champion, 1974**



Photo by Clarence Sormin

guys like Phil (Michelson) and Tiger (Woods) were playing,” Mitchell said. “Amateur golf is not a major event for spectators and there are not names out there in amateur golf like there used to be.

“There are also a lot more activities in Benton Harbor than there used to be,” Mitchell said. “In recent years there have been five weeks with something to do in the

summer and the tournament was the fifth week. It has been one thing after another, and in the past not all of this was a factor. We have seen a weakening of the attendance.”

According to Mitchell, the 2007 Western Am at Point O’ Woods drew fewer than 2,000 spectators, the entire week. “That had a lot to do with this,” Mitchell said. “We

thought it was a good time to make a change.”

While future sites of the Western Am are yet to be determined, the club and WGA have agreed that the championship will return to Point O’ Woods once every five years, but the club does not know where it will fit into the rotation of the event to various venues.

“Maybe now more people will come out for it,” Mitchell said. “Playing at a different venue every year doesn’t hurt, and this way it could be played at other Michigan courses, too.”

Crenshaw won the 1973 Western Am at Point O’ Woods, Strange won in ‘74 and Bean won in ‘75. Sutton won in 1979 and 1980, while Verplank won in ‘85. Michelson won in 1991 while Leonard won in 1992 and ‘93. Woods won at Point O’ Woods in 1994. *MG*



Hal Sutton, Western Amateur Champion in 1979 and 1980 and David Ogrin, 1980 Runner-up.



Justin Leonard, Western Amateur Champion, 1992 & 1993 and Runner-up 1991



Camillo Villegas, Western Amateur Co-Medalist with Kevin Stadler, 2002



Phil Mickelson, Western Amateur Champion, 1991



Tiger Woods, Western Amateur Champion, 1994



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Thank You, Mr. Jones

By Art McCafferty

This year, I visited Michigan's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and it was a phenomenal experience. Jones, one of the great golf architects of the world, left his imprint on four of our golf courses, Oakland Hills CC, The Heather at Boyne Highlands, Point O' Woods CC and Treetops.

Our first stop was at The Heather at Boyne Highlands. The Heather was a benchmark course in that it brought golfers in numbers to northern Michigan. It was, with the exception of the Jewel at the Grand Hotel, the first destination course in Michigan. It was also a course that regularly made Golf Digest's 100 Best Courses list in the 1970's and most of the 80's, even when it was split up for a time with the emerging Moor course.

Two years ago, the course was all gussied up for the Michigan Amateur, and it delivered big time. By the end of the week, writers, players and officials ran out of superlatives. It was great.

Photo courtesy of Robert Trent Jones Library



Robert Trent Jones

Point O' Woods, like The Heather, was a regular in Golf Digest's Top 100 course list. It only recently fell off the list.

While the Western Amateur's run at Point O' Woods is over, there is still the thought from club members that there are other tournaments out there that they can host.

We shall see.



Western Amateur

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNIJpX-CCXI>

The second leg of the trip has actually been an annual trek for the past six years. Point O' Woods CC has been the host of the The Western Amateur for four decades, this being the last time. Our company was in charge of creating the program and thus, we were in attendance at the last six tournaments.

Great amateurs and later great pros have wandered the pristine fairways along with throngs that sometimes reached over 10,000 in number. Nicklaus, Mickelson, Woods, Hutton and just about anyone who is anybody on the PGA Tour has golfed this course. To a man, they feel that this is one of the great golf courses in the U.S.

Millions of words have been written about Oakland Hills CC in the past and certainly hundreds of thousands this year during its hosting of the PGA Championship. Designed by renown architect Donald Ross, it was one of Detroit's great courses over its first three decades until Robert Trend Jones arrived for his famous U.S. Open make over. It was after his famous tweaking of the course, to set it up for the U.S. Open, that Ben Hogan called it the monster. With that remark, both Oakland Hills and Robert Trent Jones reputations grew.

During the U.S. Amateur, the Monster was humbled by the blasts



Boyne Golf

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2006shows/boynegolf>

Photo previous page: The Opening Hole at the Heather. Photo opposite page: Pointe O' Woods Hole No. 8

Photo by Resort & Golf Marketing





Photo by Art McCafferty

Perhaps Oakland Hills hosting of the Ryder Cup will be its greatest and most lasting moment.

of winner Ricky Barnes. It was then that the call went out to the newly anointed course doctor, Rees Jones, the son of Robert Trent Jones. "When I interviewed for the job, I said, 'I've been waiting for this call my whole life,' The changes my father made at Oakland Hills, which was the first course strengthened after World War II, catapulted his career.

The Rees Jones re-model put back the teeth into the Monster. In fact, until the course underwent a

soaking rain, the scores were seldom in the red.



**Oakland Hills hosts
35th Ryder Cup**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2008shows/oaklandhills/>

Photo opposite page: Robert Trent Jones says the par-5 first hole at Treetops is one of the top opening holes of a golf course in America.

Treetops, the last course designed in Michigan by Robert Trent Jones, brought the Golf Mecca tag line to Gaylord and made it a golf destination. Treetops, like The Bear and other 80's courses, was built to be a demanding course with a rating in the upper 130 range. The course, the deep pockets of Harry Melling and a young energetic golf pro, Rick Smith, soon put the course and resort on the map. Four other courses followed, three by Rick Smith and one by Tom Fazio, to flesh out the Northeastern part of Michigan as the golf mecca.

Treetops has sired a number of tournaments, the Pepsi Fall Charity Invitational, now in its 21st year, started the same year the course came on board. Treetops has been softened over the past two decades, but it can still cause some havoc, if you go to the back tees.



**Treetops
Robert Trent Jones
Masterpiece**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/treetops/>

Michigan has been blessed with the work of some of our nation's finest golf architects, such as Arthur Hills, Bruce and Jerry Matthews, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Rees Jones, Tom Weiskopf and Jim Engh. However, none can match up to the legacy of Robert Trent Jones **MG**



Photo courtesy of Treetops

These Guys are Good?!

By Jeff Bairley

Last Sunday I went to the 90th PGA Championship at Oakland Hills. It had been awhile since I'd attended a professional golf tournament. It's hard to say whether I was more excited to be a spectator at the PGA or a concert goer at the heavy metal festival I attended the night before. In many ways, the anticipation was exactly the same, aside from the obvious aesthetic and sonic differences.

Despite the lack of the traditional big "rock star" names in the field and the less-than-ideal weather at Oakland Hills, people showed up in huge numbers to watch the action. Crowds mobbed nearly every tee box and green to get a glimpse of their favorite golfers. When Ernie Els flips his ball to a fan on the way to the 13th tee, the lucky catch makes the recipient go absolutely ballistic. A lot like catching a Ringo Starr drumstick.

And who wouldn't love it? When I found myself just a few feet away from Phil Mickelson's ball on the sixth, I felt like I had won the lottery. I would soon be witnessing a signature shot from one of my favorite golfers – the Phil Mickelson flop shot. He had put it in the left rough about 10 yards from the green, and was looking at a short pitch over a bunker to treacherous pin. He walked up, checked the lie, paced it off, grabbed a wedge, took a few practice swings, opened the face up and.....chunked it into the



Phil Mickelson with Rick Smith at the Arnold Palmer Turning Point Invitational, Country Club of Detroit, 2004

Photo by Art McCafferty

greenside bunker. While I was picking my jaw up off the ground, Phil cleaned up the mess and moved on to the next hole.

This is exactly why I love golf so much. Even the best golfers in the world screw up once in awhile. Sometimes they even make complete fools of themselves. Sure, the shot Lefty had just messed up was very difficult. His ball was also sitting down in the deepest rough I had ever seen. It was also Sunday at a major championship.

But in that moment, I realized that I could do the same thing Phil just did. I too could have chunked it in the bunker just like he did. I do it all the time.

On any given swing, even the most mediocre golfer can hit a great shot. Likewise, the greatest golfer can miss hit. But greatness can happen to anyone at anytime, just ask Padraig Harrington. Unfortunately, so can mediocrity. Just ask Sergio Garcia. And that is the beauty of golf. *MG*

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Welcomes Janke, Leeke, Morgan and Salutes the Buick Open

By Michigan Golf Foundation

A full spectrum of golf in Michigan was honored May 18 at Indianwood Golf & Country Club in Lake Orion when Ken Janke, Meriam Bailey Leeke and John Morgan will be inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame and the Buick Open was given a special award as it celebrates its 50th anniversary as the state's long-running PGA Tour event.

Janke and Leeke have had multi-faceted careers and the self-taught Morgan compiled a strong playing record which led to his being named Golf Association of Michigan's Player of the Decade for the 1980s, a period in which he won the Michigan Amateur, won three GAM Championships and two of his three Michigan Mid-Amateur Championships. Morgan qualified and played in three United States Amateur Championships and four Mid-Amateurs. Playing first as a member of the Michigan Publinx Golf Association and making its Honor Roll in 1981 and 1982, Morgan made the GAM Honor Roll 11 times in a span of 1983-95 during which he was an Oakland Hills member and now at Detroit Golf Club.

"I joke that I got my competitive nature from my Dad but not his golf swing," said the 6-foot-1 Morgan whose golf swing has the easy grace of Tom Weiskopf.



Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Foundation

Ken Janke

Morgan thought he was headed for a Division II school in Pennsylvania after two years at Oakland Community College on a team that went to the national finals but five hours at the Michigan Amateur changed that. "I was on the range and hitting next to Jim Lipe who was the Assistant Coach at the University of Michigan. I'd lost to Bud Stevens in 19 holes and Lipe said, 'We want you at Michigan.'"

Meriam Bailey Leeke also is a Big Ten product but when she played at Northwestern University, women's golf wasn't recognized as

a varsity sport. Leeke was inducted into the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992 although the school didn't hand out varsity letters to all the past women athletes until a special ceremony at half-time of a football game in 2002.

Leeke's father, who played football at Illinois with Red Grange, introduced her to golf and she broke 80 by the time she was 12. She began playing national events at 13,



Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Foundation

Meriam Bailey Leeke



John Morgan

played high school golf in Evanston and in 1956 won the Chicago District Golf Association Match and Stroke Play titles and the Illinois Women's Amateur. In 1957 she won the National Intercollegiate and the Women's Western Amateur and in 1958 was named to the U.S. Curtis Cup team.

Although she played in a number of women's professional tournaments, the purses averaged only \$2,000 and Leeke decided against turning pro. She and her husband, Lyle, took over the family course, Old Channel Trail in Montague (MI) in 1966. It was a nine hole course by Robert Bruce Harris on 90 acres and in the years since nine holes designed by W. Bruce Matthews and nine more by his son, Jerry were added. Meriam has been on boards of banks, charities, two colleges and currently is director and treasurer of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

Ken Janke got an early start in golf, caddying at Plum Hollow Golf Club when he was nine years old. While always a strong player – he captained his

Dearborn High School team for two years of unbeaten match play events and won the 1957 U.S. Army Military Championship in Chantilly, France — Janke is better known for his contributions to the game.

Establishing the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame was Janke's idea in 1982. Janke also was the father of major charity golf events beginning in 1967 when he and former Detroit Lions All-Pro Ron Kramer founded the Walter Hagen Invitational to benefit the American Cancer Society. That led to similar tournaments around the country and Janke was awarded the Cancer Society's Founder's Award.

Janke also has organized the Babe Zaharias Invitational, March of Dimes, Tournament, St. Jude Invitational tournaments and B'nai Brith Championship. In 1979 he was instrumental in founding the Detroit Lions Alumni Golf Outing to benefit the NFL Alumni Dire Need Fund and the format has spread to 28 cities. Janke also found time to build a comprehensive collection of golf memorabilia and to write four books on the game's quirks, laughs and facts.

Since its inception in 1958 with the then-unheard of purse of \$52,000 with \$9,000 of it going to the winner, Billy Casper, the Buick Open has brought big-time golf to Michigan. The game's greatest players have played in the Buick Open including Casper, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Julius Boros, Ben Crenshaw, Hale Irwin, Tom Weiskopf, Fred Couples, Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk, and Tiger Woods.



Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

Fan Favorite John Daly at the 2007 Buick Open.

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc, its members and the thousands of volunteers have made "Buick Open Week" one of summer's major events in Michigan and the tournament has raised \$8.8 million dollars for southeast Michigan charities.

When Buick introduced the tournament it was the first major corporate sponsor of the PGA Tour and while sponsors have come and gone in other tournaments, Buick and Michigan golf have enjoyed a long, fruitful relationship. In recognition of the Buick Open's great influence on the game in Michigan, the Michigan Golf Foundation will honor the tournament during the Hall of Fame induction ceremony at Indianwood. **MG**

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Allison Fouch Gets Acquainted with Success on LPGA Tour

By Kelly Hill
Managing Editor

Knowing it and showing it are two very different things.

East Grand Rapids native Allison Fouch, 27, has known for years that her game was good enough to contend on the LPGA Tour. Until this season however, she had not shown it.

In 2006 and 2007 Fouch, who graduated from Michigan State University in 2004 with a degree in chemistry, played in five LPGA events, survived the cut only once each year, finished no higher than 31st and earned a total of \$15,069.



Allison Fouch

This year however, Fouch eclipsed her last two years' total

top 25 five times and with her runner-up finish at Kingsmill which

earnings just four events into the season. In three tournaments this season Fouch made more money than in the previous two years combined and when she finished second to Annika Sorenstam in the Michelob ULTRA Open at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, Va., she earned more than nine times what she earned in the previous two years.

Through the U.S. Women's Open, Fouch had played in 13 LPGA events, had missed the cut only five times, finished in the

earned her \$138,548, had pushed her season's earnings to \$225,412.

Perhaps most importantly, her Tour card is secure through the 2009 season.

"I can't not be pleased with the position I am in, and the security I have for next year, knowing that I have secured my Tour card for next year," Fouch said recently. "Even though I have not been playing well lately," she said after missing the cut at the U.S. Women's Open, "I know that I can play and win out here.

game," she said. "It made it easier to work on my game." Forgetting poor shots was not easy for Fouch. "The first thing I had to work on, my most glaring problem, was putting shots behind me," she said.

"I wanted it so badly, but you can want it too much," she noted. "Allowing myself to make mistakes has allowed me to play golf with so much more freedom."

It also allowed Fouch to shoot a 64 in the final round of the Michelob ULTRA Open and fin-

sudden I was second only to Annika Sorenstam."

Since finishing second in Virginia, Fouch's best finish is a tie for 20th in the Ginn Tribute, where she earned \$27,820.

"I played well for a while but then I fell into a slump," Fouch said. "Now I have to do what got me up to that level. I have to work hard again and I know what that is about."

With new success this season, have come new goals.

"Allowing myself to make mistakes has allowed me to play golf with so much more freedom."

"In my first couple of events, I missed the cut but I was playing with girls whose names I knew and who had been out there for a long time, but at the same time, I honestly felt like I had a better game than they did. I hit it a little further, I had a better short game and a better putter. I recognized that I didn't need to learn or perfect any shots."

Fouch's mental game is what needed work. "I realized how important my mind is to my

ished tied for second with Karen Stupples, Jeong Jang and Christina Kim. Fouch shot a 12-under 69-71-68-64-272 at Kingsmill.

"I have been working for this for the last 12 years of my life, but I can't believe that I shot a 64 on Sunday in an LPGA Tour event to move into second place and get the check that I got.

"I got a taste of what it feels like to be at the top. Second place is completely different than a bunch of top-20 finishes. All of a

"I could finish in the top 40 on the money list and get a two-year exemption, what an accomplishment that would be," she said. "My goals have changed. I could finish in the top 80 and keep my card, but now I want to be one of the top Americans on the Tour and I want to play on the Solheim Cup team.

"Now I am not happy being 40th on the money list. I want to be one of the top players, if not the best!" *MG*

G.R. Golfer Gilman Cherishes the Game

By Kelly Hill

Managing Editor

Rick Gilman is the kind of golfer we all wish we were.

Gilman, 56, who has been a member at Sunnybrook Country Club in Jenison for 36 years, is the kind of golfer who never gets in trouble. When he misses a green, which is rare, it's almost as if he designed it that way.

"He never hits it in trouble," said Bill Lane, who has played hundreds of rounds with Gilman over the years. "Rick has been one of my best friends for 35 years, and when we play golf together, he never hits it in trouble. If he misses a green, he always hits it in the right spot."

Gilman, who currently is a 1-handicap, has won the Sunnybrook club championship nine times, won the Grand Rapids City Match Play championship and as a member of the Sunnybrook team he has won the West Michigan District Championship twice. He also has finished second in the Kent County Amateur Championship four times. In early August, he finished second to Rick Grover in Sunnybrook's Senior Championship.

"Golf is a big part of his life," Lane said of Gilman. "Actually, it's a huge part."



Rick Gilman

Six-time Michigan Open champion Scott Hebert played a lot of golf with Gilman while Hebert was an assistant pro at Sunnybrook. "Gil's a great player, for his age," Hebert said. "He's a very straight hitter, a low hitter and a really nice guy."

"Rick is an old-school golfer," Hebert said. "You can tell that he played golf as a kid at a country club. He respects the game a lot. He played when it was more of a gentleman's game."

Gilman took up the game at the age of 12, because his childhood

home in Wyoming was situated across the street from what became L.E. Kaufman Golf Course. "I lived across the street from where they built L.E. Kaufman, and when they built the golf course, a kid that I was in the sixth grade with had parents who played golf."

Since 1974, which is the year he got married, Gilman has missed only one Kent County Amateur Championship. "I like the competition and the camaraderie," Gilman said. "We have a lot of competitive players at Sunnybrook and it is competitive every time I go out there."

Scott Dielman has known Gilman since 1972. "He plays golf the old-fashioned way," Dielman said. "He doesn't hit it real far, but he has a little draw and he never hits it in trouble. When he misses a green, he is a great chipper and putter, and that is what has made him the player he still is today."

Gilman does more than play golf, though. He has been on the board of the West Michigan Golf Association for approximately 15 years. The association organizes all of the major championships in the Grand Rapids and Kent County areas. "Our organization is all about helping youth golf," Gilman said. "We have established scholarships for young golfers and we donate a lot to junior golf." *MG*

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Northern Michigan Gets a Big Dose of 'Green' Urban Chic

Introducing the New Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel

By Susan Bairley

The new Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel in Williamsburg, Mich., is chic, modern and new-age comfy. With its dark and golden wood grains, brushed and polished chrome, sharp contrasts and modern lines, it's very urban chic.

As a result, it may seem a bit misplaced in Northern Michigan, where woodsy lodges and the whitewashed look of seaboard homes and architecture typically rule. Unlike its sister property, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Turtle Creek also doesn't have its own golf courses, extensive resort amenities or spectacular northern Michigan views. But it does offer 137 stylishly appointed guest rooms, attached to a friendly, airy and attractive 54,000-square-foot casino. And to its credit, the new facility has special 'green' qualities that go beyond the color of the money wagered and won. Its many eco-friendly features, including its green planted roof, will be tallied

up in its application for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council – and that's a very good thing.

Owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Turtle

Photo opposite page: The new Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel has 137 stylishly appointed guest rooms and 54,000-square-feet of gaming fun.

Creek is in experienced hands. The Band owns and operates Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge in Peshawbestown, Mich., and the nearby Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. Participating in the hotel's grand opening in June, representatives of the Band blessed the ceremonies with a spiritual drumming ceremony and warmly welcomed



Photo courtesy of Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel

The new Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel in Williamsburg, Mich., officially opened in June with a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the front door of the hotel. Members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and community business leaders participated in the ceremony.



Photo courtesy of Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel

its hometown residents and neighboring communities.

Ron Olson, chief executive officer of the Economic Development Corporation for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, said he appreciated the risk involved in opening a world-class facility amid Michigan's tough economic times, yet was confident in its success, as it adds jobs and revenue to the Michigan economy.

"We're not recession proof, but I think in-state and out-of-state travelers will find Turtle Creek to be a great destination," he said.

Turtle Creek's standard double hotel room sets a pretty high standard. While the

two beds seemed to be full-sized vs. queens, sleeping is comfortable. Glass shower stalls and earth-tone tiles surround a generous spray. A flat screen, wall-mounted TV and high-tech bedside clock accent the stylish lighting and décor. What were missing when we visited, though, were the in-room coffeemaker and a pool.

Common areas like the outdoor patio – with metal tables, chairs and red umbrellas, and the Level 3 Lounge carry a similar city-style feel.

The casino is nice, relaxing and spacious with towering sloped ceilings. And its staff is among the friendliest I've met. The approach from the hotel takes two escalators – the first brings you to a mid-level

lounge with a great view of both sides of the gaming floor; the second cascades you to the ground level.

The slots are fun and seemingly generous. My brother won \$651 on a 10-cent machine. And the payout attendant was genuinely happy for him as she counted out his winnings. ...To say the least, he'll be back!

Being a golfer and when up north, focused on recreation, I couldn't help but think how nice it would be to have an onsite golf course, pool, spa and waterside lounging. Maybe that will be part of Phase II!

For more information, visit www.casino2win.com or call 1.800.922.2WIN. **MG**

Timberstone Gets That Fifth Star Again From Golf Digest



Photo courtesy of Timberstone

Susie Fox, Director of Golf for TimberStone GC at the Pine Mountain Resort, is pumped again, as Golf Digest has awarded them their 5 Star award for a second time. Susie, who went to school with Tom Izzo and Steve Mariucchi and worked with them for 10 years on their Izzo-Mariucchi Classic. (<http://michigangolfer.tv/2004shows/show4/>) Susie has been at the course since Jerry Matthews designed the course.

Timberstone Golf Course has partnered up with Marquette's Greywalls and Harris's Sweetgrass to form a powerful trioka of courses. While many golfers from lower Michigan thought long and hard about driving to Iron Mountain to try TimberStone, they now might now make the trip to golf these terrific courses..



The new Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel features the Bourbons 72 Dining Room.

Tom Doak's Pacific Dunes Edges Out Pebble Beach on Top 100 Courses You Can Play



Photo by Kevin Frisch / Resort & Golf Marketing

Golf Magazine celebrates public golf courses in its September issue with the release of the 2008 Top-100 Courses You Can Play – a biennial ranking of the top courses across the country where membership is not a requirement to play. Pacific Dunes, Tom Doak's Links-style masterpiece in Bandon, Ore., edged out Pebble Beach Golf Links for the top spot on the list.

"What Pacific Dunes has going for it is that it's totally back to nature," says Joe Passov, Golf Magazine's Course Rankings and Architecture Editor. "There are no homes; there are no roads; there are some truly gigantic dunes that occupy holes; various routing quirks that are a lot of fun that you don't see elsewhere – back-to-back par 3s, four par 3s on the back nine alone – and you've got more ocean views there than you do at Pebble Beach."

-- Taken and edited from a Golf Magazine release <http://www.GOLF.com>

SLICE OF LIFE

Recalling Royal Birkdale and a certain caddie



By Terry Moore

On Sunday afternoon at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, a smiling and very relieved golfer will be named the "champion golfer of 2008" and will hoist the famed claret jug of the Open Championship, aka the British

Open. This will be ninth time Royal Birkdale will have hosted the Open Championship and I always look forward to watching its majestic dunes-laden landscape confound the world's best golfers.

Forgive me for being a "course dropper" but I have played Royal Birkdale and found it to be wonderful although a stern test of true links golf. It was back in 1989 when I traveled to England to cover the Ryder Cup Matches at The Belfry in Birmingham. Several months before departing, I contacted budding course designer and world golf traveler Tom Doak and asked him for some advice on playing some courses in the region. Doak not only kind-

ly offered several "must play" suggestions but also generously mailed me a Michelin road map with the suggested courses and the routes to them highlighted in bright magic marker. A pre-Mapquest travel guide! With the itinerary in hand, I then wrote the suggested golf clubs, introducing myself and asking for a teetime on such and such a date. In my letter to the Secretary of Royal Birkdale, I distinctly remembered asking for his assistance in reserving one of his best caddies for me. I knew Birkdale would be a challenge especially for a first-timer and an able caddie would be an invaluable resource and ally. Okay, now here's the rest of the story.



Photo by Getty Images

Royale Birkdale

Accompanied by a fellow golf writer and friend from Michigan, I drove to Royal Birkdale located in the seaside town of Southport, north of Liverpool. Driving into the carpark, I marveled at the towering sand dunes gracing the layout. This was indeed a links course in the truest sense of the term—land left by the departing sea. After checking in the clubhouse, we were instructed to head to the first tee where our two caddies were waiting for us.

Approaching the first tee, I noticed two older gentlemen dressed in tams and jackets and looking every part of a central casting call for “veteran local caddies.” Drawing closer I caught better sight of one of the men and something told me I had seen this gentleman before. I stretched out my hand to introduce myself and he did the same saying, “And I’m Alfie Fyles and I’ll be your caddie today.” Yes, THE Alfie Fyles, the famed Scottish caddie who was on

Tom Watson’s bag for all five of his Open titles, the last being at Birkdale in 1983. What good fortune, I said to myself. Not only was I familiar with Fyles but I had closely followed the career of Tom Watson and his remarkable British Open record. I knew this day would be a special treat.

Meanwhile, my traveling companion had the look of doom on him as he sized up the day’s match—knowing a friendly wager as always was in the cards. “Oh great, I’m playing you and you now have Alfie on your bag,” he lamented. He too had a veteran Birkdale caddie but as we quickly learned he was not in Alfie’s league in terms of stories and course knowledge. My friend was already 2-down and we hadn’t even teed off.

Although only a quarter mile from the Irish Sea, Royal Birkdale’s holes lay hidden from the water as they are set down and between the dunesland. The only time I recall seeing the sea was when we were searching for a golf ball and we climbed atop some on the giant dunes (think Arcadia Bluffs backside.) Other than that, the entire round is nestled within the dunes with only an occasional sight of the quirky and

modernist Art-Deco-designed white clubhouse in the distance. Alfie was an absolute delight and naturally a most able caddie as he showed me the best line off of the tee and into the green. He inspired me to concentrate and play my best and I kept the ball in play throughout the day.

Meanwhile my friend seemed lost and out of sorts at times with his caddie. He struggled off the tee which can be ruinous at Birkdale which then was marked by heavy gorse, bushes and scrub vegetation. (Note: in the last several years a major course renovation included stripping the layout of such scrub vegetation while leaving the dunesland intact.)

Fortunately, in my bag I had carried along a mini-tape recorder so as Alfie and I headed down the fairways I would ask him various questions about the course, Watson, and the Opens and he gladly shared his insights and stories. Later in the round after I nailed a drive long and straight down a long par-four, I turned to him and asked, “Okay, Alfie, now tell me, did Watson hit his drive any farther than that in ‘83?”

He looked at me and with a Scottish brogue and a wry smile, he said, “Oh yes, Terry, that he did and Tooom used a one-iron, nay a driver, from the tournament markers twenty paces behind us here!”

It was a royal retort by an Open Champion’s caddie and a lesson quickly learned by me. Don’t mess with the legend and lore of Tom Watson at Royal Birkdale. Not when Alfie Fyles was around. **MG**

