



Photo by Art McCafferty

Could 2006 have been the last Par 3 Shootout?

Where Have All the Tournaments Gone, Long Time Passing?

By Art McCafferty

With apologies to Pete Seeger, the tournaments that once used to populate the Michigan golf calendar are long time passing.

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



Chi Chi Rodriguez plays in the TPC at Dearborn

Michigan was on top of the golf world in the '80s, '90s and the first part of this century. Hundreds of golf courses were being built, the rust belt of the 70's had given away to a return of the auto industry and Michigan's economy was robust once again.

In that atmosphere, the Grand Rapids based Senior Tour was born, the TPC in Dearborn also welcomed the Seniors, the Futures Tour was held at Mystic Creek, Boulder Point and Lake Forest Golf Club, the Canadian Tour held the Bay Mills Open in Brimley for four years, the LPGA had a great run out at Walnut Creek and the Par-3 Shootout was always a welcomed tournament. Now all are gone.

Michigan had all these tournaments and also hosted the U.S. Open at Oakland Hills, the U.S. Women's Open at Indianwood, the U.S. Publinx at The Orchards,

the U.S. Amateur at Oakland Hills and the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills.

We have been spoiled.

Our majors now include; the Michigan Amateur, the Michigan Open, the Western Amateur and the Buick Open,

What now?

We all know that everything happens in cycles and that Michigan is going through a down cycle in golf at this time. However, it has been a great ride and one that we can cherish forever. *MG*

Photo by Art McCafferty



Vanessa Bell, one of the Futures contestants at Lake Forest GC

**Tiger Woods
walks a fairway
at the Buick Open.**

**Next year
will be
the 50th year of
Warwick Hills
Golf Course.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



**Brian Bateman
won his first PGA golf
tournament with a birdie
on the 18th hole to beat
a foursome waiting to tee
it up for a playoff.**

**His 15 under was a high
score for the Buick.**

**Bateman pocketed a
check for \$882,000 for
his effort, an amount that
moved him from 204 on
the money list to 59.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

