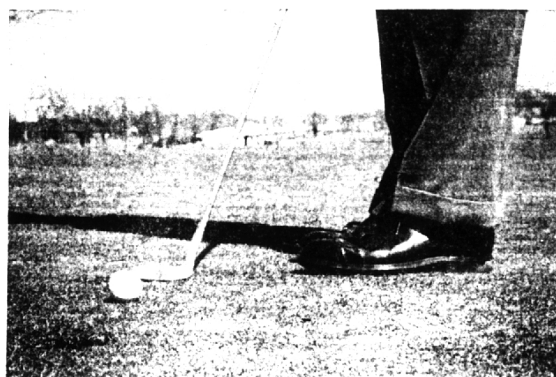


Sure Signs of the SWING into Spring



Forest Lake CC Site of USGA Women's Open June 26-29

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

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Rawls, Berg Early Favorites; Classic In State 1st Time

The USGA Women's Open comes to Michigan for the first time in history in June, with Bloomfield township's Forest Lake country club host to the national links classic.

The 72-hole, four-day affair is set for June 26-29. The USGA is expected to establish the purse later this month.

Early favorites in the big girls' event are Betty Rawls and Patty Berg. They finished one-two in the Women's Open last year and are the favorites so far in the 1958 ladies winter tour.

MISS RAWLS is the winner of the golf in seven events in Cuba, Florida and Oregon this year. Miss Berg is the most consistent.

Betty, a shotmaker famed for her exact aim and swing, is the only one to have registered more than one victory in the national tests. She finished second to Mickey Wright in the Sea Island Invitational women's tour opener Jan. 12, and ended up outside the top 10 only twice. For her, that is unusual consistency.

PATTY WAS ALWAYS the same—always good. She has posted two seconds, two thirds, two fourths and one seventh to date. Through the St. Petersburg tourney, Miss Rawls had won purses totaling \$3,543. Miss Berg's winnings totaled \$2,544.

Jackie Pung, the husky Hawaiian, is still having hard luck. She tied Fay Crocker for the Havana Open crown, then lost in a sudden-death playoff. She led Miss Rawls by nine strokes at the mid-way mark in the St. Petersburg meet, then finally lost by four strokes.

Walt Smith, the former amateur sensation from St. Clair, was having a rough time. He was tied for second as a freshman in 1957, finishing fifth among the money winners in the pro circuit. She has been a contender in the '58 winter tourney.

MARLENE HAGGE took the Lake Worth Open Jan. 26 with 218. Besides winning the Havana Open, Fay Crocker took second place in the Lake Worth and Jacksonville tourneys.

Marlynn Smith, the Kansas ace, posted a 229 to win the Jacksonville Open Feb. 9. Then Beverly

Sports Calendar

Baseball	Today
Redford Union at Southfield, 3:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
Assumption at Cranbrook, 2 p.m.	
Tuesday	
Berkley at Cranbrook, 4 p.m.	
Track	
Southfield at Redford Union, 4 p.m.	
Bloomfield Hills at West Bloomfield, 6:30 p.m.	
Triangular, Berkley and Utica at Cranbrook, 2:45 p.m.	
Golf	
Southfield at Walled Lake, 4 p.m.	
Tennis	
Tuesday	
Grosse Pointe at Cranbrook, 3:30 p.m.	

It Was a Chilly Afternoon, But Cranes Were Boiling

PONTIAC—Two Cranbrook groundsmen held Pontiac to a pair of hits here Tuesday afternoon as the Cranes, fresh from their southern tour, blanked the Chiefs, 8 to 0.

Bitter winds and near-freezing temperatures marred the 18 opening basebatters as Fred Campbell's charges notched single runs in the second, third and fifth innings, and then came up with five in a wild seventh frame.

Cranbrook garnered just four hits off three Chief hurlers, six strikeouts and another five free passes. Cranbrook had just one hit in the big seventh inning, four walks and three Chief errors turning the game into a rout. Lloyd Ashby singled to drive in two of the five runs in the frame.

THE CRANES, winners of two of eight starts on their recent southland tour, face Assumption on Saturday at 2 p.m. in their home opener.

Golf Bug Bites; Play Heavy on All Area Links

By LES LEE
Sports Editor

The avalanche has begun! Perhaps it's a bit earlier than usual, but then, golfers aren't ones to pay much attention to the calendar. It doesn't take much more than a day or two of warm weather for that left arm to start itching. When that happens, watch out!

Biased by near-perfect assistance from the weatherman, Birmingham area golfers have poured by the thousands onto the 20 private, semi-private and public courses in the vicinity in the past two weeks.

All layouts are open for play and have experienced heavy turnouts. Head professionals are returning at all the clubs, but new assistants are numerous. Changes have been made on some courses and several clubhouses have undergone redecoration and other improvements.

ing with a completely redecorated clubhouse and many new features on the course. New trees and a couple of reconstructed greens are in execution, reports veteran pro Les Conroy.

PONTIAC COUNTRY club, site of the Michigan Public championship June 12-15, has all new kiosk on facilities, according to Pro-cessor Frank Syron. Frank Wilson is the pro there again this season.

A new drainage system on the first and ninth holes is expected to relieve a bad "wet" situation at Cranbrook Hills country club's pro, Bill Graham has a new assistant, 22-year-old Tom Miller, of Lafayette, La. The club's official opening is set for May 12.

Franklin Hills' pro, Wally Bruck, is home from the winter tour and has a new assistant, golf veteran Kenny Martin. Martin is a former pro at Forest Lake.

A PEORIA HANDICAP best ball tour May 10 opens the season officially at Oakland Hills, reports pro Al Watson. Al's son, Tom, starts his first full season as assistant pro there this spring. Tommy Cosmo is back as the club's other assistant.

Ted Hoffman has returned as assistant to Warren Orlick at Tam O'Shanter after a two-year absence. He was pro the past two seasons at Sammingdale country club, Sylvania, Ohio. Tam O'Shanter will be host to the opening Michigan DTA section tournament of the season May 5. Play at Tam totaled just under 500 during March, exceeding the '57 total for the same month, Orlick reports.

PRO JOE THACKER at Knollwood has two new assistants, 26-year-old Ron Stevens from Minneapolis, Minn., and 22-year-old Sam Cropley from Akron, Ohio. The annual club stag April 30 is the first event of the Knollwood season.

Nine-hole Stonycroft is going private this year, reports its pro, Don D'Ombria. The inside section of the course has been renovated.

The '58 quarter at Birmingham country club will be the spring fourball, scheduled for May 2-3, according to Pro Ray Maguire.

BIRMINGHAM'S Springdale Park course, meanwhile, has boosted its individual membership fee to \$35 and has added a family play plan. Improvements planned for the course, manager Dale Rolph states, include addition of new traps, narrowing of fairways and posting of out-of-bounds signs on several fairways. Rough will also be increased. Far will remain the same.

North Hills is open and operating in the Key Biscayne golf club championship tournament in Miami, Fla. Right is Mrs. Ross.

Gets Ace in Florida Play

Ross Pierce (center), 1387 Chesterfield, Birmingham, receives a trophy from Pro Bob Litter for his hole-in-one while com-

peting in the Key Biscayne golf club championship tournament in Miami, Fla. Right is Mrs. Ross.

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Golfers . . . Here's a Club You'll Surely Want to Join

Golfers note . . . That one lucky swing may be worth quite a bit to you this year.

Membership in The Eccentric sports section's exclusive new hole-in-one club—and a dozen golf balls, compliments of the Varsity shop—is waiting for Birmingham area residents who score an ace on any of the many area golf courses.

Photos of golfers who join the elite circle will be published in The Eccentric. And Vince Sextonite of the Varsity shop will give the ace owner his or her choice of a dozen Air-Flite or Cro-Flite balls.

THERE ARE RULES, THOUGH. The hole-in-one must be witnessed by two ADULTS, preferably playing partners. And it must be accredited by the pro at the course. It must be reported immediately.

Only residents of the Birmingham area are eligible. This area includes Birmingham, North Adams, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield township, Westwood, Lathrup, Franklin and Walnut Lake.

And the hole-in-one must be shot on a course in the Birmingham area. Those country clubs and golf clubs considered in this area include Birmingham, Springdale, Oakland Hills, North Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Stonycroft, Franklin Hills, Glen Oaks, Tam O'Shanter, Knollwood, Orchard Lake, Pine Lake, Forest Lake, Lancaster Hills, Riverbank, Plum Hollow, Sylvan Glen, Pontiac and Red Run.

GOOD GOLFING . . . AND GOOD LUCK.

Babe Ruth Tryouts Set

Tryouts for Birmingham's Babe Ruth league will be held at St. James field the next two Saturdays, with April 26 set as the rain date in case weather foils the baseballer's plans.

Boys 14 and 15—and those who will reach that age before the end of the season—will work out at 10 a.m. Thirteen year olds, including all of last year's Little League graduates, will report at 1:30 p.m.

EACH YOUNGSTER will be given tests in batting, fielding, throwing and running, and each will hit against a pitching machine. Ratings will be kept of the performance of each candidate.

The Babe Ruth season opens Memorial day with doubleheaders at St. James, Pierce and Birmingham high fields.

Poodle Match

The poodle club of southeast Michigan will hold a qualifying sanctioned show match and a qualifying sanctioned obedience match Sunday at Veterans hall, Ferndale. The show will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Detroit Tiger pitchers Jim Bunning and Lou Sleater are both the father of twins.

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