

# ROCHESTER HISTORY

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## From Tee to Green Rochester at Golf's Center Stage

by Bob Marcotte





Oak Hill's first clubhouse, originally a farm house, on the banks of the Genesee River. This was before the club moved to Pittsford.  
*Courtesy of Oak Hill Country Club*

COVER PHOTO: **Jack Nicklaus** raises his golf ball in triumph after winning his fifth PGA championship at Oak Hill.  
*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

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## Rochester at Golf's Center Stage

Many of golf's greatest players have come to Rochester in quest of glory – and found it.

Lee Trevino won his first professional tournament – a U.S. Open championship, no less – at Oak Hill. Nancy Lopez won a record-setting fifth straight tournament at Locust Hill as a rookie. JoAnne “Gundy” Gunderson, displaying awesome power, conquered the Country Club of Rochester for a U.S. Amateur title. And the incomparable Jack Nicklaus garnered his next-to-last major championship here.

Others have been humbled. Ben Hogan missed a putt of less than three feet on the 17th hole of Oak Hill's East Course, forfeiting his chances at a record fifth U.S. Open championship. Arnold Palmer, in a remarkable display of honesty, owned up to a whiffed putt that no one else saw, hurting his chances for a Senior Open title on the same course.

The parade of players who have competed in Rochester, both as amateurs and professionals, is nothing short of spectacular. And why not? Rochester's passion for golf has smitten its wealthiest tycoons and most humble weekend duffers for more than a century.

This passion is reflected in:

1) challenging, championship-worthy courses designed by Donald Ross and refined by Robert Trent Jones Sr.

2) a long line of talented local players who made their mark at the game's center stage. They include 1950 U.S. amateur champion Sam Urzetta, touring pros Terry Diehl and Cathy Morse, and Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) championship winner Jeff Sluman, who has also won five other PGA tournaments.<sup>1</sup> Towering over all of them is the legendary Walter Hagen, who rose from humble local caddy to win 11 major championships and elevate professional golfers to celebrity status.

3) the superb organizational skills and hospitality of Oak Hill Country Club, which has hosted a series of major championships on its storied East Course.

4) the Hill of Fame at Oak Hill – a living memorial where many of the great people of golf have been inducted. Plaques bearing their names are placed on the towering trees on the ridges around the East Course's 13th green.

5) the steely determination of Robert Wegman and other corporate sponsors to keep Rochester's annual Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tournament at Locust Hill a competitive event.<sup>2</sup>

6) Above all, this community's legions of volunteers and its apprecia-

tive, record-setting galleries, who have made Rochester a favorite stop for the game's great players and championships.

## **The first tee....**

Nantucket, 1892. The phone rings. It is William Kimball, the Rochester tobacco magnate – the same William Kimball who commissioned the Mercury statue that graces Rochester's skyline – calling from New York City.

He has bought a set of golf clubs. He wants four of his Rochester buddies – vacationing with their families at Nantucket – to hurry down to New York City the next day to try out this Scottish sport that had taken root in America only four years before.

But we know nothing of golf, protests one of the buddies to whoever answered the phone. “What of it?” is the reply. “Neither does Will.”

So they convened at the Moors, a vast grassy area outside the city. They tied handkerchiefs to bushes to have something to shoot at, and flailed away.

“The first five golfers of Rochester topped the ball. They sliced, hooked, and missed. But they were enthralled.”<sup>3</sup> The next spring, they set up Rochester's first golf “course” on Josiah Anstice's farm south of Genesee Valley Park. The nine holes would not be recognized as such today. The ground was strewn with hummocks, tufts of grass and other obstacles. There were no putting greens. A farmhand simply dug holes in the ground and inserted small flower pots to serve as the cups. But it was a beginning.

By 1895, the five had interested enough other members of the Genesee Valley Club to establish the Country Club of Rochester (CCR). It was located in southeast Brighton. The clubhouse was a farm house leased from Col. E. Bloss Parsons. A drawing dated 1896 shows an initial nine-hole golf course; nine more holes were added the following year.<sup>4</sup>

In 1901, another group of Rochesterians “prosperous and of high repute” incorporated Oak Hill Country Club with 137 members. They leased two farms along River Road near Mount Hope Cemetery and laid out a nine-hole course measuring 3,003 yards. Here, too, the farmhouse was converted into a clubhouse. “The facilities were primitive. Lockers were placed in a barn. There was no hot water. Light came from kerosene oil lamps,” Howard Hosmer wrote in his history of Oak Hill.

The initiation fee was \$25; dues were \$20 a year. Five years later, the club bought the two farms, totaling 85 acres, for \$34,000.<sup>5</sup>

These private clubs were limited primarily to the city's business and civic elite. But a nine-hole public course had also opened – in 1899 in Genesee Valley Park. It was the fourth golf course in the country to be maintained at public expense. “Remember when you had to chase off the greens and fairways the flock of city sheep that grazed on the park meadows?” Arch Merrill recalled.<sup>6</sup>

The goal, then as now, was to hit the ball from tee to green and into the cup in as few strokes as possible. But it was, in many respects, a much different game.

The courses, equipment and quality of play were understandably primitive by today's standards. CCR's Thistle Golf Club members were required to wear “blazing red jackets with silver buttons, topping white knickerbockers” – and often competed in them. There were no motorized carts, so young caddies were hired from dawn to dusk to tote bags and search the rough for poorly struck balls. They worked hard for as little as 10 cents an hour. Many of them developed into excellent ball strikers. One of them was a young boy named Walter Hagen, who grew up in Corbett's Glen just a short distance from the CCR course, and began caddying there at age 7 1/2.<sup>7</sup>

It is fortuitous that golf's first steps toward maturity in Rochester coincided with what one historian has called the city's “golden age” – the period from 1900 to 1930, when the city doubled in population and size, when its diverse manufacturing establishments flourished, when many Rochesterians enjoyed increasing prosperity. They had both the means, and the leisure, to lavish on this new pursuit.<sup>8</sup>

It is also fortuitous that, as the game grew in popularity – as more challenging layouts were demanded – CCR had the foresight to bring in a designer who would emerge as one of the best of the early golf course architects.

Donald Ross, a native Scotsman, was asked in 1912 by CCR to submit plans for a new 18-hole course. It was the beginning of a fruitful relationship between Ross and Rochester-area country clubs – as fruitful as the involvement of Frederick Law Olmsted in the development of the city's parks, notes Paul Wold, chairman of the green committee at CCR. “Isn't it amazing that Rochesterians had a way of finding the people who have gone on to become the best and brightest of their time?” Wold marvels.<sup>9</sup>

The most significant expansion of Rochester area golf courses and country clubs occurred in the 1920s.<sup>10</sup>

In 1925, for example, thirty of the “younger and more progressive business and professional men of Rochester and members of the Rochester Gyro club” bought 89 acres of the Locust Hill Farm from

Frank Zornow on the north side of Jefferson Road in Pittsford. The farmhouse was converted into a clubhouse, and nine holes were laid out. Two years later, the club bought 52 acres on the south of Jefferson to expand to 18 holes. Since 1977, it has hosted Rochester's annual LPGA tournament.<sup>11</sup>

Ross was busy here during those expansion years. When Monroe Golf Club formed in 1922 and purchased 214 acres of farmland in Pittsford, it hired Ross to design and construct a layout. Play began in 1924. The course hosts an annual invitational that attracts the nation's top amateur and collegiate players.<sup>12</sup>

But the most significant event in the history of championship golf in Rochester occurred in 1924, when Oak Hill members ratified a momentous swap with the University of Rochester. They relinquished their River Road site so the university could locate its men's campus there (and ultimately relocate entirely there). In exchange, the club received 355 acres of farmed-out, nondescript land in Pittsford – and \$360,000 to build a clubhouse and lay out two 18-hole courses.

Ross designed the courses at Oak Hill with many of his trademark features: crowned, subtly contoured greens, usually visible from the tees. Strategically-placed bunkers guarding these greens to the front and side (but seldom at the rear). Bunkers dished out of hillsides, or cut in the face of slopes and knolls to make use of existing terrain. Fairways that place a premium on accuracy. Ross' object at Oak Hill, as at other courses he designed, was to "make each hole present a different problem; arrange the layout so that every stroke must be made with a full concentration and attention necessary to good golf..."<sup>13</sup>

Though modifications have been made over the years, Oak Hill retains Ross' essential characteristics; the East Course, considered the more demanding, has hosted several major championships.<sup>14</sup>

Robert Trent Jones, an excellent young golfer from East Rochester who witnessed Ross' work at Oak Hill, was inspired to follow in the architect's footsteps. Just as Hagen elevated professional golfers to celebrity status, Jones did the same for golf course architects. He designed hundreds of courses around the world – including Durand-Eastman (a redesign) and Midvale Golf and Country Club in our area. He also, as we shall see, refined Ross' work at Oak Hill and the Country Club of Rochester.

When most of the initial shrubs and other plantings at Oak Hill died, club member John R. Williams, a renowned research physician, began an extraordinary endeavor. He consulted arborists, studied the climate and historical records, and obtained thousands of tree seedlings that he nurtured in his own backyard. He determined that oaks would be partic-

ularly well-suited for the site, and obtained acorns from oaks planted by George Washington at Mt. Vernon, for example, and from the Shakespeare Oak at Stratford-on-Avon. As the seedlings developed, he transplanted them – as many as 30,000 to 40,000 of them – at Oak Hill.<sup>15</sup> They have matured into stunningly majestic trees, not only between the fairways, but around much of the perimeter of the Oak Hill property.

The blend of Ross' architecture and Williams' horticulture rendered the East Course into one of the best in the country.<sup>16</sup> It was only a matter of time before it was discovered.

"The golfer's love of the golf course is like a farmer's love for his fields. There is the same calculating, unromantic appreciation of the difficulties and potential of the site, its terrain and unique topographic characteristics. There is the responsibility for prudent stewardship of valuable acreage and gratitude for the gifts the land yields freely. And there is an enduring wonder and immense pleasure in the close association with nature," Gene Cooney has observed. "This connection with the land imparts a sense of constancy, of time slowed down to a comprehensible pace."<sup>17</sup>

The analogy is appropriate considering that so many Rochester courses were built on farmland. But good golf courses are grudging in their yield, surrendering par only to expert play and nerves of steel. For Rochesterians, that has meant some extraordinary moments of golf.

Here's a sampling of tournaments that have helped shape and define Rochester's place in golf history. Note that all references to Oak Hill are to its East Course. Non-golfers might want to review the glossary before proceeding!

## **1934: Walter Hagen Centennial Open**

For several hundred Rochesterians clustered around Oak Hill's 15th green, it was an unforgettable sight. During the final round, Leo Diegel was the first in his threesome to fire at the 125-yard par 3, and plunked his tee shot two feet from the hole. Herman Barron was next, and put his tee shot inside Diegel's. Tom Creavy hit last, and very nearly matched Diegel's shot. "All three balls lay in a straight line, just short of hole-high, and all three putts were dropped for birdie-deuces."<sup>18</sup>

The city's centennial – and the 20th anniversary of Hagen's first U.S. Open triumph – provided Oak Hill's first test, hosting a tournament for the nation's best professional players. They produced plenty of thrills under a broiling sun.

Three 66s were scored during the last round (the 6,847 yard course

was played as a par 71 that week). Two-time PGA championship winner Leo Diegel, 35, of Philadelphia, shot one of them. Along with earlier rounds of 70, 69 and 71 it earned him the \$600 first prize – despite grimacing all week from stomach cramps. Crowd favorite Ky Laffoon of Denver was two strokes back, even though one eye was so swollen from a bee sting that he had to tape the upper lid open to see. Hagen finished 12 back.

A photograph in the *Times-Union* the next day, showing the gallery circling the 18th green, is intriguing. Only a few mature trees can be seen; many others appear only a few feet high.

The pros were complimentary of Oak Hill. “Just water those fairways, bring in the rough and add a trap here and there and you’ll have a course that will stump the best of them,” Barron suggested.<sup>19</sup>

## 1941: Times-Union Open

Sam Snead’s brilliant shot making was wonderfully illustrated on the final day when he came to Oak Hill’s dreaded 586-yard par 5 13th. His third shot “hit two feet past the pin from better than 125 yards away, jumped up and seemed to be making up its mind whether to roll back and into the cup.” It stopped inches away.<sup>20</sup>

Snead, destined to win more PGA tour events than any player in history, made a birdie four, en route to a final round 67 that enabled him to win by seven strokes over another budding legend, Ben Hogan.

The tournament, sponsored by the afternoon newspaper, offered a total purse of \$5,000 – “a goodly sum in those days.” It attracted a star-studded field of 138, including Craig Wood, Denny Shute, Harold ‘Jug’ McSpaden, Clayton Heafner, Ray and Lloyd Mangrum, Gene Sarazen, Paul Runyan, Horton Smith, and Bobby Cruickshank. They liked what they saw. Snead called Oak Hill’s East Course “one of the finest I ever saw, fit for either the Open or PGA...”<sup>21</sup> Prophetic words indeed.

## 1942: Times-Union Oak Hill Open

Eight months earlier, the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into World War II. Sam Snead, in uniform, was unable to defend his title. But it probably wouldn’t have mattered. Hogan blew away the



field with a course record 64 during the opening round. Hogan celebrated his 30th birthday with 8 birdies, stumbling only with a double-bogey on the tough 462-yard par 4 17th. As word of the birdie barrage spread, “people deserted the clubhouse in droves” to watch Hogan tee off on 14.<sup>22</sup> Hogan cooled off with subsequent rounds of 68, 72, 74, but still beat the rest of field by three strokes to pocket \$1,000. The course was played as a par 70 at 6,811 yards.

## 1949: U.S. Men’s Amateur Championship

“Where have you been for 20 years?” exclaimed Joseph C. Dey, Jr., executive secretary of the United States Golf Association (USGA). He had just toured Oak Hill in 1948 in preparation for the U.S. Amateur championship to be held there the following year. “There’s nothing else like this in the whole country!”<sup>23</sup>



The legendary Ben Hogan slashes out of trouble at Oak Hill. Hogan won the 1942 Times-Union Oak Hill Open. However, he probably would have gladly traded that win for the U.S. Men’s Open title in 1956, when he missed a 30-inch putt on the East Course’s 17th hole and finished a stroke behind winner Cary Middlecoff.

*Courtesy of Oak Hill Country Club*

The field of 210 included six Rochester players, a team of British and Irish players who were in America to compete in the Walker Cup, and an unknown Arnold Palmer from Latrobe, Pa., who was eliminated 4 and 3 in the third round. The presence of the British players helped ensure overseas attention: an estimated 150,000 words were telegraphed throughout the U.S., England and Ireland to describe the first round.<sup>24</sup>

The eventual winner: a very tired 25-year-old Oklahoma City insurance broker named Charlie Coe. The gaunt, 6-foot-one, 135-pounder had to play 69 holes the two previous days<sup>25</sup>, and skipped practice for an extra hour's sleep the morning of the 36-hole final. He came out cold, starting with two bogeys and a double bogey, but settled down to trounce Rufus King of Texas 11 and 10, the most lopsided final since 1895. (Unlike most tournaments, where the winner is the player who makes fewest total strokes during four rounds of play, the amateur championship was decided by match play. Score is kept by awarding each hole to whoever scores lowest on that hole, irregardless of the number of strokes made. If players score the same, the hole is halved. If a player's lead in holes won is more than the number of holes remaining, the match



Dr. John R. Williams, second from left, greets John Dawson, deputy viceconsul of the British Embassy, at Oak Hill ceremonies dedicating an oak tree to the British Walker Cup team in 1949.

*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

ends. In this case, Coe led by 11 with 10 holes left, and thus had to play only 26 holes to defeat King.)

15,000 spectators attended the tournament despite soaking rain and high winds on two of the days.

“It was the Amateur that established the course as one of the truly fine tests. It also established the Oak Hill membership as preeminently qualified to play host to a great tournament,” Hosmer noted.<sup>26</sup>

John Williams dedicated an oak tree to the British Walker Cup team, and two years later, when the tree fruited, sent a “bloody great sackful” of its acorns to England to plant on courses there. Only two are known to have survived!<sup>27</sup>

## 1953: U.S. Women’s Open

The Country Club of Rochester had its chance to bask in the limelight, hosting the first of three national women’s championships in a 20-year stretch. This was the first U.S. Women’s Open to be conducted under the auspices of the USGA. Only 36 players were entered to match their skills on the par 74, 6,417-yard layout.

Betsy Rawls of Spartanburg, S.C., a Phi Beta Kappa math and physics graduate of the University of Texas, was nine shots back of Patty Berg after two rounds. However, she and Jackie Pung, an ex-taxi driver from Honolulu, passed Berg on the 36-hole final day to tie at 302. Rawls then



Betsy Rawls, at left, holds the trophy after winning the 1953 U.S. Women’s Open at the Country Club of Rochester. She defeated Jackie Pung, at right, in a playoff.  
*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

dominated the 18-hole Sunday playoff in front of 2,300 onlookers. She birdied two of the first three holes, and defeated Pung 71 to 77 for her second of four Open wins and a \$2,000 first prize.

“I just couldn’t seem to do anything wrong,” Rawls said of her final round. “I stayed out of that rough pretty well.... Don’t let anyone say this isn’t a true test of golf. It’s one of the most beautiful and longest courses I ever played.”<sup>28</sup>

## 1956 U.S. Men’s Open

An early buzz was created when Ben Hogan, in search of a record fifth U.S. Open title, said during a practice round that Oak Hill was the “easiest” course he had ever seen for a National Open.<sup>29</sup>

It wasn’t. Robert Trent Jones Sr. had been called in to toughen the course, lengthening it to 6,902 yards, repositioning several tees and bunkers to accommodate the longer, modern game, and adding other, more strategic bunkers.<sup>30</sup>

Oak Hill more than held its own. Cary Middlecoff won with a one-over par 281, despite carding two sevens during the tournament. Hogan



Ben Hogan, right, congratulates Cary Middlecoff, winner of the 1956 U.S. Men’s Open at Oak Hill.

*Courtesy of Oak Hill Country Club*

was another stroke back – after missing a 30-inch putt on the next to last hole. Scores might have been even higher if a late spring hadn't kept down the rough.

It was a nail-biter until the end. Middlecoff, a lanky dentist-turned-pro golfer, had to make a “heckuva par” on 18 after his drive off the tee reached the left rough. “I knew there was no way I could get over that chasm in front of the green so I played up the left rough purposely ...”<sup>31</sup>

Still 150 feet from the hole, Middlecoff “fidgeted, tugged on his glove, took spasmodic drags on a cigaret, walked up and surveyed the green carefully, then hauled out a wedge.”<sup>32</sup> He hit it two to three feet from the hole.

Years later, Middlecoff remembered agonizing over that putt for par. It was on the same line as a practice hole from earlier in the week. “I remembered in the practice round I putted the putt several times the way it looked like it should go – and missed. ... That was one of the hardest things I ever did, talking myself into putting it against the way it looked like it would break.”<sup>33</sup>

He sank it, then had to wait an hour until Hogan and the other challengers finished. It was Middlecoff's second Open championship and third major title.

13,914 people paid to attend the final round. The *Times-Union* praised the “superb” community effort that had gone into giving the golfing world “one of its finest weeks.”<sup>34</sup>

## 1962: U.S. Women's Amateur

She was a 23-year-old strawberry blonde from Kirkland, Wash., who “boomed the ball off the tee like a power-hitting man professional and showed such a delicate touch around the greens that she described trap shots as ‘fun shots!’”<sup>35</sup>

Long before Nancy Lopez ever set foot on Locust Hill, JoAnne Gunderson won the hearts of a Rochester gallery.

“Gundy” tore up the Country Club of Rochester course, which featured three new holes by Robert Trent Jones Sr. to accommodate a practice range. She required only 28 holes to eliminate high school student Ann Baker of Maryville, Tenn., 9 and 8 on the final day. A total of 128 amateurs competed over the 6,161-yard, par-72 layout.

Highlight of Gundy's final day was an eagle on the 525-yard par 5 10th, where, with the wind behind her, she “smote a mighty drive ... drilled a five-wood shot to within 21 feet of the pin” and holed the putt.

She had seven birdies as well en route to her third of five U.S. Amateur championships.<sup>36</sup>

JoAnne insisted she had no interest in turning professional, but eventually the Hall of Famer did and, after marrying, competed many times at Locust Hill as JoAnne Carner.

Jean Trainor, an extraordinary local amateur golfer, defeated her 20-year-old daughter Anne, 4 and 3, in the second round. It was believed to be the first mother-daughter match in the amateur championship's history. Also eliminated in the second round: Althea Gibson, former queen of women's tennis, playing in her first U.S. amateur golf championship and attracting large galleries.<sup>37</sup>

## 1968: U.S. Men's Open

Paul Kircher's family figured Lee Trevino was "just another fellow who wouldn't make the cut" when they invited the colorful, talkative Mexican-American to stay with them during Oak Hill's second hosting of the national championship. The family even stocked up on Mexican



Lee Trevino, at right, is congratulated by Bert Yancey after Trevino won the 1968 U.S. Men's Open at Oak Hill. It was Trevino's first PGA tour victory.

*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

food – not realizing Trevino was a steak and potatoes guy.<sup>38</sup>

Trevino, the 1967 Rookie of the Year, stunned everybody by shooting 69-68-69-69 – the first time anyone had shot four subpar rounds at a U.S. Open. It was his first PGA win. What a start to a Hall of Fame career!

Trevino, clad in black and red, trailed Bert Yancey by a single shot at the start of the final round. Yancey blew up with a 76; Jack Nicklaus



The score standard carried behind Lee Trevino during the final round of the 1968 U.S. Men's Open at Oak Hill tells the story.  
*Courtesy of Oak Hill Country Club*

charged with a 67, but Trevino put it away with an 18-foot birdie on the 12th hole to go four ahead, his final margin of victory. His paycheck: \$30,000.

“Lee Trevino probably hates to leave behind the 192-yard par three 11th hole of Oak Hill’s East Course,” Jean Giambrone of the *Times-Union* observed.<sup>39</sup> During the course of the tournament, Trevino birdied it three times, Nicklaus bogeyed it twice – a five-shot difference.

## **1973: U.S. Women’s Open**

It was an up-and-down and, ultimately, up tournament for Susie Maxwell Berning, defending champion and two-time U.S. Open winner. After an even par opening round of 72, she was quoted as saying the 6,120-yard Country Club of Rochester course was not tough enough, that someone in the field might end up 8-under and shatter all kinds of scoring records in winning the \$6,000 first prize.<sup>40</sup>

Then she was humbled the second round, missing two-foot putts left and right on the fast greens. After one miss, she kicked her putter three times and slammed it against her golf bag. It didn’t help – she soared to a 77.

Berning changed her putting stance, and for the third round began using a bull’s-eye putter her husband had picked up at a garage sale for \$5. The putts began to fall. She shot 69-72 the final two rounds to win by five strokes. Except for her putting “she was a machine all week long, carving the green carpet heart of every CCR fairway. It never failed. A perfect drive followed by a beautiful fairway shot,” John Czarnecki reported in the *Times-Union*.<sup>41</sup> She missed only one fairway all week.

## **1978: Bankers Trust Classic (LPGA)**

This was the second in what has become more than a quarter century of annual Ladies Professional Golf Association tournaments at Locust Hill. All eyes were on an outgoing, 21-year-old rookie with a winning smile. Nancy Lopez came to Locust Hill having won the last four events she entered. Would the Bankers Trust Classic, playing to a par 73 at 6,206 yards, be a record-setting fifth straight? It certainly looked that way as she fired 3-under on the front nine the first day.

Then she hit Dr. Jerry Mesolella, a dentist, with her tee shot on the





Nancy Lopez, shown competing at Locust Hill in 1980, forged a close bond with Rochester area golf fans.

*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

10th. She was so distraught she double-bogeyed the hole.

Lopez gave Mesolella a hug and big kiss after the round. “I kind of hate to say this, but it was almost worth it being hit,” the dentist said afterwards. “I met her and found out what type of person she is, and that almost takes all my hurt away.”<sup>42</sup>

Lopez trailed Jane Blalock by three shots entering the final day. “I’m gonna show ’em my wheels today,” Lopez vowed to her caddie. “I’m gonna move.”<sup>43</sup>

She did, firing a 69 to win by two and pocket the \$11,250 first prize. For the next two decades she forged a bond with this community like few athletes ever have, notes *Democrat and Chronicle* golf writer Sal Maiorana. “Rochester golf fans adopted her as if she was one of their own.”<sup>44</sup>

## 1980: Sarah Coventry/LPGA

For 27 holes they battled head-to-head – Nancy Lopez-Melton and Pat Bradley – two popular previous winners at Locust Hill, two future Hall of Famers. “We could hear the crowd starting wars between themselves as they rooted for both of us,” Lopez said.<sup>45</sup>

They came to the 18th hole tied at nine under. They looked at each other, wished each other luck. “I told Nancy that at least we’re giving the people their money’s worth,” Bradley said. “I had goose bumps.”

Both hit booming drives, but Bradley went with a 5-iron for her second and left it 40 feet short on the front edge of the green. She three-putted for bogey; Lopez parred and had her second of three Locust Hill titles by a stroke, shooting 73-67-72-71 for the \$18,750 first prize.

More than 16,000 people attended the final round, boosting overall attendance to nearly 53,000.

## 1980: PGA Championship

For a man who made so much golf history, this victory was especially sweet. Jack Nicklaus, at age 40, captured his fifth PGA championship, tying Walter Hagen’s record – in Hagen’s hometown, no less, at a tournament dedicated to Sir Walter’s memory.

It was, one commentator observed, “a quintessential Nicklaus performance” – rounds of 70-69-66-69 on a storied Oak Hill course tough-



Jack Nicklaus, arguably golf's greatest player of all time, lines up a putt during the 1980 PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

*Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

ened by several controversial changes by architects George and Tom Fazio.<sup>46</sup>

When it was all over, Nicklaus had blown away the rest of the field by a record 7 strokes. After an uneventful opening round, his 69 the second day was “one of my worst rounds ever.” Nicklaus was all over the course.<sup>47</sup>

He took charge with a 66 on Saturday that could have been even better: He was six under for the day through 14, before stumbling with two bogeys on the last four. But his final round was a romp in the park. Nobody made a run at the Golden Bear for the \$60,000 first prize.

This was Nicklaus' 17th of 18 major titles as a professional – a total that even Tiger Woods may find impossible to surpass.

More than 136,000 fans showed up for three practice and four championship rounds. The ultimate compliment came from the Golden Bear himself: “The course is one of the top 10 or 12 true championship courses.”<sup>48</sup>

## **1984: U.S. Men’s Senior Open**

“I made five.”

The stunning announcement by Arnold Palmer on Oak Hill’s par 3 15th green during the final round ended his dwindling chances of winning the tournament. But it wonderfully illustrated the self-policing honesty that gives the game such integrity.

Palmer, trailing Miller Barber by two shots, was only 1 1/4 inches away from the hole for bogey. “I was just going to tap it in, I wasn’t looking ... and I hit about one-quarter inch in back of it,” Palmer later said. It was a whiff. Nobody else saw it. But Palmer knew, and that was all that mattered.<sup>49</sup>

Barber ended up winning by two shots – and to be fair, “Mr. X” outplayed his legendary playing partner most of the day, outdriving Palmer on many holes and missing only two fairways.

Oak Hill proved a stern test for golf’s 50 and over crowd. Miller’s winning 286 total was six over par. The crowd estimate – 72,000 – was believed to be a Senior Open record.

## **1984: Rochester International (LPGA)**

Kathy Whitworth, winner of 84 LPGA titles, was tired of THE question: When will you win number 85 and finally pass Sam Snead for most career wins on an American professional tour?

She did it at Locust Hill. It was a classic, final-round battle of youth versus age. Rosie Jones, 24, in search of her first title, went head to head with Whitworth, 44. Jones birdied four straight holes on the front nine and led by four shots with 12 holes to go. Whitworth birdied four of the next six to move into a tie, and then caught a lucky break when she hooked her tee shot on 18. Instead of landing in a couple of evergreen trees, the ball hit a ducking spectator’s binoculars and bounced back toward the fairway. The ball landed in the rough, but at least Whitworth had a shot at the green. She saved par, then beat Jones on the first play-off hole.<sup>50</sup>



JoAnne Carner shown celebrating a good round at Locust Hill in 1982. She won a U.S. Women's Amateur championship at the Country Club of Rochester in 1962, when she competed as JoAnne "Gundy" Gunderson. *Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*

Whitworth had made history. Or had she? After subsequent reviews of the records, the PGA tour reduced Snead's victory tally to "only" 82 official events. By that count, Whitworth surpassed Snead two years before – and didn't even know it.

## **1989: Rochester International (LPGA)**

Patty Sheehan called it "the greatest shot of my life." After a perfect drive on Locust Hill's 459-yard, par-5 17th during the third round, Sheehan hit a 3-wood from 222 yards away. "The wind was blowing left to right and I told the wind to leave it alone because it was right at the pin – and it did."

The ball landed just in front of the green, bounced three times and

rolled about 20 feet before wedging itself between the lip of the cup and the flagstick. It was a rare double-eagle – three under on a single hole. The gallery went wild. The shot propelled Sheehan to a 66 and the lead after three rounds on the rain-soaked course.<sup>51</sup>

And then, for good measure, Sheehan eagled the 17th the next day, enabling her to tie Ayako Okamoto at the end of regulation. She beat the Japanese player on the first playoff hole for her 20th LPGA win and the \$45,000 first prize.

“I love 17,” Sheehan said afterwards. Small wonder.<sup>52</sup>

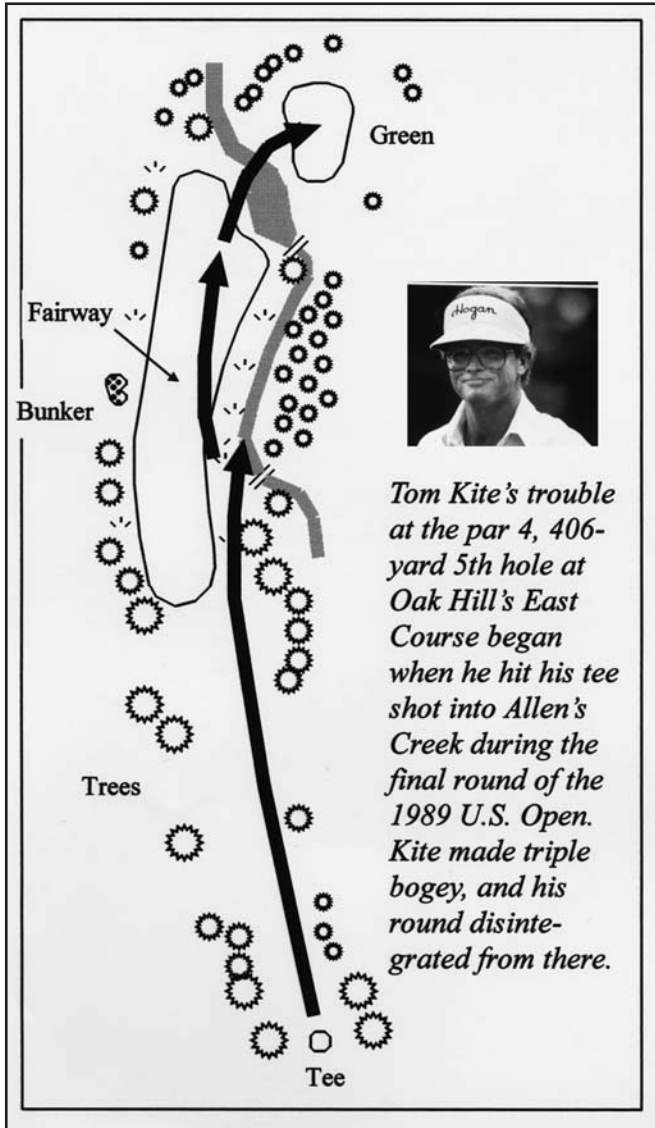
## 1989: U.S. Men’s Open

It happens often enough. A player is cruising along, seemingly in control, and suddenly melts down. On a single hole.

It happened during the final round to Tom Kite on Oak Hill’s 406-



Appreciative golf fans, such as those shown here at the 1989 U.S. Men’s Open at Oak Hill, are part of the reason Rochester attracts major golfing events. That, in turn, brings plenty of media coverage as well. Photographers get the best seats in the house, but are instructed not to click their cameras while players stroke the ball. *Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle*



Tom Kite, competing at Oak Hill during the 1989 U.S. Men's Open.  
 Photograph courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle

yard, par 4 5th hole, appropriately named Double Trouble. Notwithstanding Curtis Strange's brilliant second-round 64, tying the East Course record, Kite had played the best golf – rounds of 67-69-69 – and came to the fifth leading by three shots at 6-under.

His tee shot found Allen's Creek. He took a penalty stroke, dropped the ball in the rough, advanced it 70 yards with a pitching wedge, and finally got on the green in four. He then three-putted for a triple bogey to fall back into a tie for the lead. Suddenly, a lot of players were back in contention, including Strange.<sup>53</sup>

Double bogeys on 13 and 15 sealed Kite's fate; Strange, in the meantime, played the kind of golf that often wins a major championship on the pressure-packed final day: one birdie, one bogey and the rest pars. Strange, with rounds of 71-64-73-70 became only the sixth man in history to win back-to-back U.S. Opens. He took home \$200,000. Kite would have to wait until 1992 to finally win the title, and avoid being called one of the best players to never win a major championship.

A bizarre footnote: The par 3 sixth hole, redesigned by the Fazio brothers to the dismay of Donald Ross fanciers, was savaged with not one, not two, but FOUR holes in one in less than two hours during the second round. The odds were later calculated at 8.7 million to one.<sup>54</sup>

## **1992: Rochester International (LPGA)**

Patty Sheehan's opening round of 70 and concluding round of 71 were good, solid efforts. Her middle two rounds at Locust Hill were something else altogether.

Sheehan shot 65-63 en route to a tournament record 19 under. "It's a Patty cakewalk," one headline proclaimed. Her four-round total was two shots better than the previous record she set in winning the tournament in 1990.

The 63 was flawless. Nine birdies. Not a single bogey. "I'm exhausted," Sheehan said afterwards, citing the sheer adrenaline and concentration needed to complete a round at Locust Hill in fewer strokes than ever before.<sup>55</sup>

Of course, Sheehan's nine-stroke lead meant the final round was a mere formality, a battle of also-rans. Nancy Lopez finished alone in second. Sheehan maintained her nine-stroke margin to take her third of four Locust Hill titles and the \$60,000 first prize.



## 1995: Ryder Cup Matches

It was a tense moment for American team captain Lanny Wadkins. The final pairing of two-man teams on this, the second day of team matches, had come to the final hole all squared. The Americans, leading by one match, did not want to lose this one and enter the final day of individual competitions tied with the Europeans.

Corey Pavin's second shot at Oak Hill's par 4 18th hole, from out of the rough, stopped just off the back of the green. Playing partner Loren Roberts rolled his birdie putt within tap-in range, ensuring a score no worse than par. Pavin would be able to take a run at the cup from 18 feet away. He hit a delicate wedge shot that rolled down toward the cup – and dropped in!

“The roar (from the gallery) was deafening, seemingly loud enough to shake the roots loose in the majestic trees that stand so proudly around Oak Hill Country Club,” Sal Maiorana wrote in the *Democrat and Chronicle*. Wadkins let out “a primal scream,” while his players “fell over each other in celebratory glee.”<sup>56</sup>

Pavin's “shot heard round the world” – and Nick Faldo's missed birdie putt for the Europeans – enabled the Americans to enter the final day leading by two matches. To many, a U.S. victory seemed a foregone conclusion...

Few people paid much attention to golf's Ryder Cup Matches, played every other year – until America's overwhelming dominance was upended beginning in 1985.

Suddenly, the three-day event – in which golfers compete not as individuals but as team members, not for personal glory but national pride – acquired an intensity akin to soccer's World Cup.

The magnitude of interest was fully manifested when Oak Hill was picked to host the event. All tickets were sold out within hours – the year before. More corporate hospitality chalets – 49 of them, ranging in price from \$110,000 to \$260,000 – were sold than at any golf tournament in history.

Massive preparations were required to accommodate the anticipated 25,000 to 30,000 daily visitors – including Prince Andrew, Duke of York – and the millions more watching on TV worldwide. One hundred twenty five miles of television cable, 339 toilets, more than 1,300 buses, minivans and courtesy cars. Nine additional electrical transformers, providing enough juice to power Marketplace Mall.<sup>57</sup> And about 2,800 volunteers.

Many Rochesterians had to learn a new way of keeping score. The

Ryder Cup is contested in a series of single-round match play events (see 1949 U.S. amateur).

Moreover, the first two days feature two-man teams playing each other in foursomes (each team playing one ball, members taking alternate shots with it) and four-balls (in which each member of a team plays his own ball, each team counting its best score on a hole.)

Thanks in part to Pavin's heroics, Americans won 9 of these first 16 matches, and seemed well on the way to winning the cup a third straight time. After all, the Americans had traditionally dominated the final-day individual matches. They needed to win only 5 of the 12 to earn a tie and retain the cup.

Instead, the Europeans won seven of the matches, and halved another to wrest back the cup, 14 1/2 to 13 1/2. Philip Walton sealed it with his victory over Jay Haas in the next-to-last match. "I said to myself 'This wasn't supposed to happen like this,'" a disconsolate Haas later said. "Our matches (at that point in the day) were supposed to be icing on the cake."<sup>58</sup>

This was not a happy return to Oak Hill for Curtis Strange. He had gone winless on the PGA tour since the 1989 Open, and many eyebrows were raised when Lanny Wadkins made him one of two captain's picks for the 12-man team. Strange went 0-3, losing his individual match and participating in two team losses.

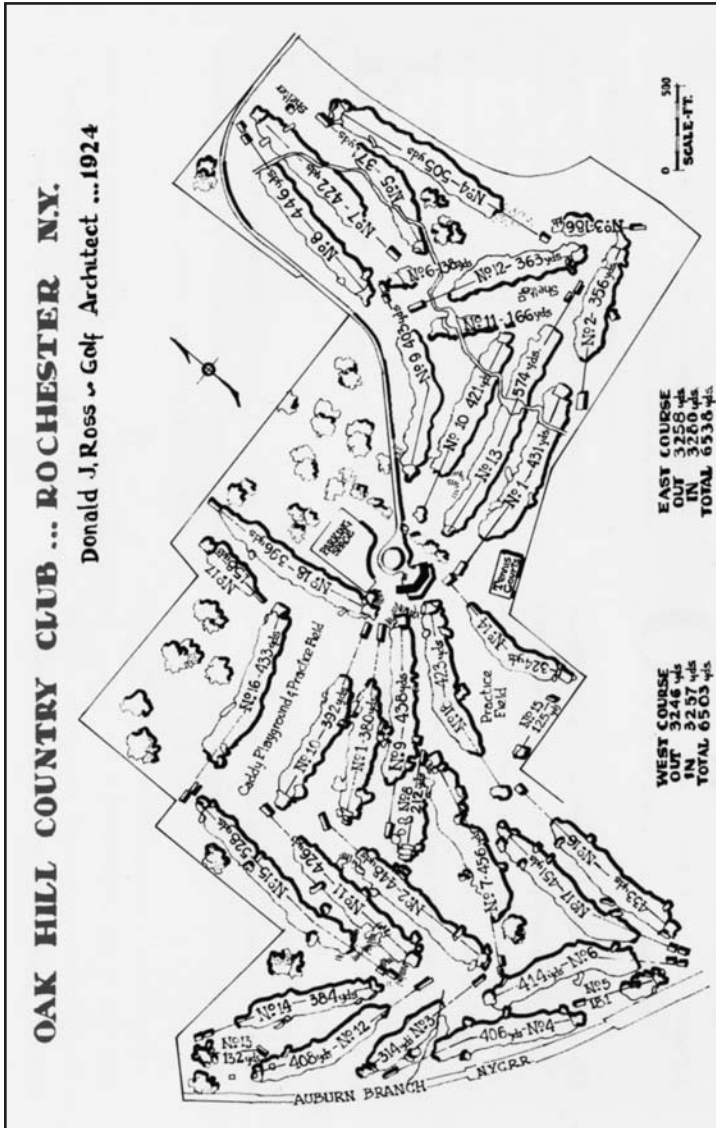
Oak Hill's profit from the Ryder Cup matches was just over \$2 million – topping the \$1.7 million profit from the '89 U.S. Open. Mike Gilligan, who directed the matches on behalf of the PGA, said Oak Hill's history of success hosting tournaments puts the club "in a league of its own. ... Oak Hill will always be looked upon as a venue for future tournaments."<sup>59</sup>

## **1998: U.S. Men's Amateur Championship**

Out of a field of 312 golfers, perhaps 50 of them had a legitimate chance to win the nation's amateur championship when it returned to Oak Hill.

Heading the list: defending champion Matt Kuchar. Among the challengers: Sergio Garcia, the 18-year-old Spanish sensation nicknamed El Niño.

Torrential downpours interrupted the second day of stroke-play qualifying – played on both the East and West courses. But once the final



The layout of the East and West courses at Oak Hill, as originally designed by Donald Ross.  
*Courtesy of Oak Hill Country Club*

five days of match play began, the crowds turned out – and were amply rewarded.

Garcia, for example, matched Kuchar shot for shot, eliminating him 2 and 1 in an exciting quarterfinal match. Garcia, in turn, was ousted in the semifinals, setting up an intriguing 36-hole championship matchup that few would have predicted: Tom McKnight, 44, against Hank Keuhne, 22. Age versus youth. Short-hitter versus long-hitter.

Trailed by a record gallery of 10,500, the two battled for 35 holes, McKnight's hot putter making up for Keuhne's length off the tee. Down by three holes after the morning 18, McKnight made four birdies in the first six holes of the afternoon finale to go one ahead. Keuhne battled back, retaining a one-hole lead with a knee-knocking six-foot putt for par on 16.

Finally, at the difficult par 4 17th, Keuhne launched a 311-yard drive, hit a pitching wedge 10 feet from the hole, and was conceded the victory when McKnight missed his par putt.

Keuhne, a recovered alcoholic, put it all in perspective: "This is the second-greatest victory in my life."<sup>60</sup>

## **1999: Wegmans Rochester International (LPGA)**

The hottest golfer on the women's tour –24-year-old Australian Karrie Webb – came to Locust Hill with four wins for the year.

An opening 75 left her well back in the pack. But she didn't stay there for long. She scorched the course with rounds of 67-68 the next two days, making nine birdies and an eagle against only two bogeys. She entered the final round leading by two – and was very nearly upstaged. Cindy McCurdy, an 11th-year pro, birdied the first three holes and finished with a 68.

Webb came to the 16th hole trailing McCurdy by two. She responded with a "masterful dissection" of the final three holes. A five-foot birdie putt on the 16th. Another from tap-in range on the 17th. And then, playing the 18th all tied, Webb let fly a monster drive of 270 yards, struck a pitching wedge within six feet of the hole and sank her third straight birdie putt to win the tournament and the \$150,000 first prize.<sup>61</sup>

A *Democrat and Chronicle* editorial writer said it best: Webb's "late-Sunday birdie barrage will be remembered for a long time by those who observed it. It was the stuff of legend."<sup>62</sup>

## GLOSSARY

**Course:** A typical golf course unfolds like segments in a chain. There are 18 segments, or “holes,” each unique in length, in the shape and contours of its fairway and green, and in the configuration of bunkers, trees and other obstacles. These holes are played in a set sequence. There is a beginning “front nine,” and a closing “back nine.”

**Tee:** A small peg the golf ball is placed upon to take the first shot (tee shot) at a hole. Also, the area where players are allowed to place the ball to make this first shot.

**Fairway:** A mowed area between the tee and green where players try to land their tee shots on most holes, and, on lengthy par 5s, their second shots.

**Rough:** Area on either side of the fairway and around the greens where the grass is allowed to grow longer to penalize players who misplace their shots.

**Bunker:** A depression, deliberately placed to present a hazard. It can be either sand-filled or grassy. Creeks, ponds, even trees can serve as hazards as well.

**Green:** A small, usually irregularly circular or oval area of very closely mowed grass around the cup.

**Cup:** 108 mm wide, located in the green so the opening is level with the surface. A player must stroke the ball into the cup to complete the hole.

**Hole:** Sometimes refers to the cup; also the entire area from tee to green.

**Scoring:** The object is to put the golf ball into each cup with as few shots, or strokes, as possible.

**Par:** The standard number of strokes that an expert player, playing error-free golf, would be expected to make on a given hole – and by extension on an entire 18-hole course. On short par 3 holes, for example, the player should be able to reach the green with a tee shot, then put the ball in the cup with two putts. On par 4 holes, playing longer, the player should be able to reach the green in two shots; on par 5s, the longest, in three shots.

If par for an entire 18 holes is 70 strokes, a player who scores 69 is “one under” par for the round; a 70 would be “even par” and a 71 would be “one over,” etc. At most professional tournaments, players who do not score well enough during the first two rounds to “make the cut” are eliminated, and sent home empty-handed.

**Birdie:** Taking one less stroke than par to put the ball in the cup,

thereby scoring “one under par” on that hole.

**Eagle:** Scoring two strokes under par on a hole.

**Double eagle:** Scoring three strokes under par on a hole.

**Bogey:** Scoring one stroke over par on a hole.

**Double bogey:** Scoring two strokes over par on a hole. Triple bogeys – and worse – are always possible!

## Equipment

Golfers use various clubs to strike the ball. Drivers and woods, for example, have a large clubhead, usually with lesser degrees of loft, so a player can hit the ball long distances with a low trajectory. Irons have a smaller clubhead, with varying degrees of loft; these usually can be wielded with greater accuracy. Irons include various wedges specifically designed to hit the ball out of the sand or to make short, lofted shots near the green. The putter is a flat-faced club used to “putt” the ball so that it rolls across the surface of the green toward the cup.

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*(Special thanks to Paul Wold, chairman of the Green Committee at CCR, and to Donald Kladstrup, historian at Oak Hill, for their guidance and comments.)*

## END NOTES

1. Other local golfers who have won major national titles include Charlie McKenna, Oak Hill's club professional, who won the PGA Senior championship in 1948; Mike Ferentz, formerly of East Rochester, who won the 1948 U.S. Amateur Public Links crown, and Dennis Bradley, Locust Hill club professional, who won the National PGA Match Play Championship for club pros in 1982.
2. Wegman is chairman and chief executive of Wegmans Food Markets Inc. Since his company became the name sponsor of the tournament in 1998, the purse has been doubled to \$1.2 million. The annual proceeds to help disabled children have increased as well. A total of \$400,000 is split between Rotary's Sunshine Camp and Camp Haccamo. See "Top of his Game," *Democrat and Chronicle* (D&C), June 16, 2002.
3. *Through Half a Century: Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Country Club of Rochester*, Rochester, N.Y. 1945, pp. 3-4.
4. *Through Half a Century*, p. 5; per communication Paul Wold, chairman of the Green Committee at CCR.
5. Kladstrup, Donald M., *The Crown Jewels of Oak Hill*, Oak Hill Country Club, Pittsford, N.Y., 1989, p. 2; Hosmer, Howard C., *From Little Acorns: The Story of Oak Hill, 1901-1976*, Oak Hill Country Club, 1977, pp. 6-7.
6. Merrill, Arch, *Rochester Sketchbook*, The Gannett Co. Inc., Rochester, N.Y., 1946, p. 174. The parks commission had "acquired a flock of sheep to help crop the grass and create a pastoral atmosphere," notes Blake McKelvey in *A Growing Legacy: An Illustrated History of Rochester's Parks*, City of Rochester, County of Monroe, 1988, p. 15. CCR also looked into acquiring a flock of sheep to crop its turf, according to *Through Half a Century*, p. 10.
7. Hosmer, Howard C., *The Year of the Diamond, being an account of the first seventy-five years of the Country Club of Rochester, N.Y.*, Country Club of Rochester, 1971, p. 19; Hagen, Walter, *The Walter Hagen Story, by The Haig Himself*, as told to Margaret Seaton Heck, Simon and Schuster, 1956, N.Y. p. 10.

8. See Barnes, Joseph, "The City's Golden Age," *Rochester History*, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, April 1973.
9. Hosmer, in *The Year of the Diamond*, p. 15, says the club approached Ross in 1913; Wold says this actually occurred one year earlier.
10. Prohibition, it is theorized, also helped spur the development of country clubs. "People wanted a place where they could go and drink and no one would bother them," notes Michael Fay of the Donald Ross Society. (*D&C*, Sept. 17, 1995)
11. See the club's history at its Web site, [www.locusthill.org](http://www.locusthill.org)
12. See the club's history at its Web site, [www.monroegolfclub.com](http://www.monroegolfclub.com)
13. Kladstrup, Donald M., *The Evolution of a Legacy, Oak Hill Country Club*, p. 7; "Donald Ross: Architect of Golf's Golden Age," *D&C*, Sept. 17, 1995; Maiorana, Sal, *Oak Hill Country Club, 1901-2001, A Centennial Anniversary*, Oak Hill Country Club, Pittsford, N.Y., 2001, p. 26.
14. See Kladstrup, *Evolution*, for a fascinating, hole-by-hole examination of how the East Course has evolved from Ross' original designs. Ross also designed the Irondequoit Country Club course, which is adjacent to Oak Hill and was completed in two phases, the first nine holes in 1919 and the final nine holes in 1951 after the acquisition of additional land. It hosted a qualifying round for the U.S. Men's Open in 2002. Ross also designed the 18 holes at Brook-Lea in Gates, completed in 1926.
15. Maiorana, p. 29; Avery, Brett, "He Helped Make Oak Hill Oak Hill," *1989 U.S. Open: The Magazine of the Championship*, Sports Marketing Group Inc., Norwalk, Conn., 1989, pp. 37-38.
16. It was ranked in the "third ten" of the nation's top 50 courses in 1982 by William H. Davis and the editors of *Golf Digest*, in *100 Greatest Golf Courses – and Then Some*, Golf Digest/Tennis Inc., Norwalk, Conn., 1982, pp. 23, 90-91. It is now ranked number 10 in the nation by the editors of *Golf Digest Magazine*. *Democrat & Chronicle*, April 3, 2003.



17. Cooney, Gene, "Oak Hill Country Club: Embracing Golf's History and Traditions," *1989 U.S. Open: The Magazine of the Championship*, p. 29.
18. "Diegel's Sub Par 66 Takes Hagen Open; Laffoon Wins Second," *Times-Union (TU)*, Aug. 10, 1934.
19. "Tournament May Become a Fixture," *D&C*, Aug. 10, 1934.
20. "Golfers Tire, Gallery Shows Stamina," *TU*, Aug. 18, 1941.
21. Hosmer, *From Little Acorns*, p. 47, 50.
22. "'Benny the Beaver' Digs In, Unearths Course Record," *TU*, Aug. 14, 1942.
23. Hosmer, *From Little Acorns*, p. 53.
24. "USGA Test Tabbed Rochester's Most Important Sports Event," *TU*, Aug. 30, 1949; "Third Round Scores," *TU*, Aug. 31, 1949.
25. "Coe Wins U.S. Amateur Golf Championship," *D&C*, Sept. 4, 1949.
26. Hosmer, *From Little Acorns*, p. 74.
27. Davies, Dai, "Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow," *1989 U.S. Open: The Magazine of the Championship*, pp. 84-85.
28. "In the Pink..." *D&C*, June 29, 1953.
29. Maiorana, p. 35.
30. Davis, Martin, "Hole-By-Hole: The Open Course," *1989 U.S. Open: The Magazine of the Championship*, p. 91.
31. Berry, Jack, "Dr. Cary Middlecoff," *1989 U.S. Open: The Magazine of the Championship*, p. 75.
32. "Ability to Recover from Two 7's Gave Middlecoff U.S. Open Title," *TU*, June 18, 1956.

33. "They Never Get Over The Hill," *D&C*, Sept. 17, 1995.
34. "Rochester Plays at Par," *TU* editorial, June 18, 1956.
35. Hosmer, *The Year of the Diamond*, pp. 39-41.
36. "Gundy Takes It All 9 and 8," *D&C*, Sept. 2, 1962.
37. "It's Mother Again In Trainor Duel," and "'I Will Be Back,' Althea Promises," *D&C*, Aug. 29, 1962.
38. "Lee's Fleas Eat Tacos And Tamales," *TU*, June 17, 1968; "They Never Get Over The Hill," *D&C*, Sept. 17, 1995.
39. "Lee Beat Nick On 11th Hole," *TU*, June 17, 1968.
40. "Susie: CCR's a Snap," *TU*, July 20, 1973.
41. "Rawls, Berning recall CCR," *D&C*, June 15, 1993; "Susie Has All the Shots," *TU*, July 23, 1973.
42. "Bertolaccini one up on Lopez," *D&C*, June 17, 1978.
43. "The records fall under Lopez's pressure," *D&C*, June 19, 1978.
44. "Lady of Golf: Rochester fans fete their favorite player," *D&C*, June 16, 2002.
45. "Lopez-Melton by a shot," and "For Bradley, second place can be satisfying," *D&C*, June 30, 1980.
46. Cooney, p. 31.
47. "Jack's hot, and party's rolling, now," *D&C*, Aug. 9, 1980.
48. "Nicklaus: The legend grows," *D&C*, Aug. 11, 1980.
49. "Sorry Arnie, it's Miller time," *D&C*, July 2, 1984.
50. "A lucky bounce into history," *TU*, July 23, 1984.
51. "Double eagle lifts Sheehan to first place," *D&C*, June 4, 1989.

52. "Familiar shots give Sheehan title in playoff," *D&C*, June 5, 1989.
53. "Soaring Kite suddenly feels a major thud," *D&C*, June 19, 1989. The naming of golf holes is a tradition that dates back more than 200 years, probably starting at the famed Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland. Under Kladstrup's enthusiastic leadership, Oak Hill members were invited to suggest names for all but the East Course's 13th hole, already named The Hill of Fame. More than 1,500 entries were submitted, with the Board of Governors making the final decisions in 1963 and 1964. See Hosmer, *From Little Acorns*, pp. 80-81.
54. "Few praises for 6th hole at Oak Hill," *D&C*, June 17, 1989.
55. "It's a Patty cakewalk," *D&C*, June 28, 1992.
56. "U.S. roars back," *D&C*, Sept. 24, 1995.
57. "The Venue: Building A City for 30,000," *D&C*, Sept. 17, 1995.
58. "Jolly good show," *D&C*, Sept. 25, 1995.
59. "Ryder Cup turned out a cash cow for Oak Hill," *D&C*, Jan. 19, 1996.
60. "Hand it to Hank," *D&C*, Aug. 31, 1998.
61. "Webb weaves her magic," *D&C*, June 14, 1999.
62. "Webb made of steel," *D&C* editorial, June 15, 1999.

Back cover: The present Oak Hill Country Club. The East Course was ranked Number 10 in the nation by *Golf Digest* in 2003.

