

# ILLINOIS GOLFER THE OPENING 9

**Monday,  
March 1, 2021**

## Calumet open this year



Tim Cronin / Illinois Golfer

**ONE MORE TIME** Calumet Country Club will welcome golfers again in 2021.

**1** It's not a reprieve from the eventual fate, but **Calumet Country Club** will be open this year – and you can play it.

The announcement was made on the Calumet website, along with the news the course will be open to the public again, as it was in 2020.

As first glance, we weren't sure if this was simply an abandoned website – it does mention joining as a member – until the scroll came up: "Open For The 2021 Golf Season."

That settled it. With most of the snow melted and temperatures climbing into the 50s more often than not, the website should have word of green fees and be open for booking rounds in the next few days.

Calumet is a Donald Ross course that dates to 1920. It was revised when the Tri-State Tollway chopped off the northern edge in the late 1950s, but in Ross' style, and is worth the trip. If fact, travelers are wise to make a day of it, playing Calumet before or after lunch and lining up a round at Ravisloe, a restored Ross about a mile to the south, on the other half of the day.

**2** **Tiger Woods** has a long road back. Rehab from the broken right leg and ankle suffered in Tuesday's car accident

will be difficult, even for someone who has come back from difficult situations before. The nature of the injuries make it so.

Just walking normally will be a triumph of the doctors' skill and Woods' will. Anything involving golf is a bonus.

Woods famously won the 2008 U.S. Open on a broken leg, and that astonishing result will give him hope that, presuming the doctors have done their job, the unlikely can be accomplished once more. But there are complications this time that don't auger especially well for playing high-level golf again.

First is the multiple fracture of the leg. Woods' woes in 2008 were bad enough, but this time doctors dealt with an open fracture – the bone piercing the skin – and multiple breaks. Muscle had to be cut to prevent swelling and a potential loss of the leg.

Then there's his broken right ankle. How complicated the break is may impact the range of motion he'll have when he can stand on it again. And that range of motion, or lack thereof, will impact how fully he can swing a golf club.

**3** Anyone who doubted Woods' stature in the world only had to watch the news coverage of his accident. Few are

## The Week Ahead

### Illinois

#### CDGA

CDGA Mid-Amateur Qualifying, Maple Meadows, April 26

#### Illinois PGA

IPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am starts March 22

### National

#### PGA Tour

Arnold Palmer Inv., NBC / GC

#### LPGA

Drive On Championship, GC

#### Korn Ferry

Louisiana Open, Mar. 18-21

#### Champions

Chubb Classic, Apr. 16-18

### International

#### European Tour

Qatar Masters, Mar. 11-14

## Tour Guide

How Illinois bred and connected players fared last week:

### WGC Workday

Matt Fitzpatrick T-11 \$189,666.66

Thomas Detry T-28 \$ 82,500

### Puerto Rico Open

Thomas Pieters T-15 \$ 45,750

Dylan Meyer T-63 \$ 6,510

D.A. Points MC -0-

## The Quote

"We can argue about major championships and whether Tiger will ever surpass Jack's 18 majors, but what can't be argued is this: Tiger Woods is the most dominant, most skilled player we've ever seen."

– Arnold Palmer

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the athletes whose misfortune would warrant special reports on CBS and NBC, to say nothing of the continuing coverage on cable nets, from Golf Channel (expected) to CNN and MSNBC (less expected). But it was a quiet afternoon in Washington, so the focus shifted to live helicopter shots from the leafy and rolling hills of Rancho Palos Verdes.

For our part, we spent much of Tuesday afternoon watching KTLA, the Los Angeles outlet that pioneered such breaking news coverage from the air. The anchors and reporters on the scene and in the studio spun their wheels well with the few details they possessed until more facts came along.

**4** If spring is near, then success by Illinois' men's golf team is as well. The Fighting Illini scored their second straight team triumph over the weekend, winning the LSU Invitational at the University Club in Baton Rouge. They beat a field that featured 12 Southeastern Conference squads.

"This was a great win for our guys against a top golf conference with a lot of great coaches and great players," coach **Mike Small** said in a release. "At this time in the season, I'm very proud of the guys for coming down here and competing against this level of competition.

"They faced a lot of adversity this week, with the conditions, the weather and the golf course, and scores showed that. But the resiliency they showed on the back nine today is what team golf is all about. I was proud of them for staying the course, after a rough front nine, and staying steadfast and keeping on point."

Having three Illinois players, paced by the fourth-place tie authored by senior **Michael Feagles**, in the top 15 of the 90-player field boosted the Illini to a total of 12-over 876, two strokes ahead of Vanderbilt. Feagles scored 2-over 218 across three rounds, including an even-par 72 finish punctuated by a birdie on the 17th hole. That helped and an eagle on No. 17 by junior **Adrien Dumont de Chassart** (3-over 219, T-7) helped even more.

Other Illinois scores: sophomore **Jerry Ji** (5-over 221, T-15), and duplicate 8-over 224 scores for a tie for 33rd from senior **Giovanni Tadiotto** and

junior **Tommy Kuhl**. Illinois' **Brendan O'Reilly** played as an individual and finished tied for 49th at 11-over 227. Mississippi's **Jackson Suber** won the individual title at 5-under 211.

Last weekend, Illinois won the Mobile Bay Intercollegiate in their first tournament since the COVID-19 pandemic shut the world down last March.

**5** Without further ado, the Illinois PGA's award winners for 2020: Professional of the year: **Mark Labiak**, Ruth Lake CC; Teacher: **Chris Green**, Glen View Club; Assistant pro: **Mark Hirn**, Bloomington CC; Youth player development: **Dan Shelden**, Ruth Lake CC; Bill Strausbaugh: **Vince Juarez**, KemperSports; Professional development (Horton Smith): **Nick Papadakes**, Onwentsia Club; Player development: **Connie DeMattia**, Cantigny Golf; Bill Heald career development: **Don Habjan**, Makray Memorial GC; Merchandiser / private: **Ian Brown**, Butterfield CC; Distinguished service: **Juan Espejo**, Maryville Golf Academy; Deacon Palmer: **Jamie Nieto**, The Preserve at Oak Meadows; Patriot: **Mike Hainline**, Odyssey Golf Foundation GC; Executive of the year: **Mike Williams**, Landscapes Unlimited.

**6** It's Bay Hill week with the **Arnold Palmer** Invitational, thus fitting the USGA has honored the Palmer family by naming its new digital course management tool after **Deacon Palmer**, Arnie's father. The Deacon app is available at the iOS and Android stores.

**7** Not a bad week for the LPGA, with **Annika Sorenstam** making a cameo appearance in a tournament played literally outside her back door, Americans **Nelly Korda** and **Lexi Thompson** finishing 1-2, and fan favorite **Lydia Ko** looking like she's back by tying Thompson for second. And this will, Golf Channel will carry the action live. Imagine that.

**8** You haven't heard of him either, but **Paul McBeth**, a 30-year-old from Huntington Beach, Calif., reported to be the world's top disc golfer, has signed a \$10 million, 10-year extension to an endorsement contract with Discraft.

Yes, that's an alternative to the

venerable Frisbee. Go figure.

**9** Finally, a mini review of a book long needed in these parts. **Daniel Wexler**, a prolific author – his *Lost Links* and *Missing Links* are worth seeking out by golf architecture fans – some years ago turned his attention to authoring guidebooks, first to America's better private clubs and then to specific areas in a series called *The Black Book*.

He's recently tackled Chicago, and the result is *The Chicago Area Golf Guide*, a 228-page compilation of facts and figures for 313 courses from Zion to Kankakee and Morris to Hammond. It is perfectly-sized for keeping in the car's glove box for quick reference while on the road – and unusually in this era, there isn't an online version. Wexler is delightfully old-school.

It's not perfect – for instance, Wexler lists Pheasant Run's resort course as active when it closed after the 2019 season, and has **Harry Collis** listed as Medinah No. 3's designer when he only sold the club the grass seed architect **Tom Bendelow** ordered – but those are mere quibbles. Otherwise, it's a reliable and readable handbook to where one can play, or only look longingly through the fence and dream of playing, golf in the area.

Wexler did his homework. There's a thorough description, for instance, of the six-hole Quarry layout at St. Charles Country Club, and a solid summary of the free-to-play three-hole beginner's course in Douglass Park – which ILLINOIS GOLFER lists as a practice facility in our course directory. Most people have never heard of either.

We know of four area course guides in the modern era. None were as thorough as this one. (A fifth, which *Chicago Tribune* golf writer **Reid Hanley** and your correspondent had prototyped in the 1990s, never saw the light of day thanks to the sponsor pulling out abruptly.)

If you play public golf in Chicago, the Wexler guide is an excellent reference. If you're interested in summarized course histories, there is much to savor. Buy it. There's a listing on Amazon selling it for \$14.99. A dozen used balls will cost you more and soon disappear. This, you'll keep.