

# Michigan Enjoys Championship Summer

**By Kelly Hill**  
*Managing Editor*

A PGA Tour event, two Champions Tour events, one Canadian Tour event, the “Masters” of amateur golf, four Michigan majors and two state amateur championships headlined a busy summer of championship golf in Michigan. Here is a quick look back:

## **The Buick Open**

Vijay Singh claimed his fourth PGA Tour victory of the year at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc when he posted a 265 to win this year’s Buick Open. Singh edged John Daly by one stroke and Tiger Woods by two to claim the championship.

## **The Ford Senior Players Championship**

Mark James shot a 1-over 73 in the final round yet managed to hold on for the first Champions Tour victory of his career at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn. James posted a 13-under 288 to edge Jose Maria Canizares by one stroke and Bruce Fleisher by two.

## **The Farmers Charity Classic**

Jim Thorpe fired a 6-under 66 in the final round of the 54-hole event at Egypt Valley Country in Ada. Thorpe’s 13-under 203 was good enough for his first Champions Tour victory of 2004, a one-stroke victory over Fred Gibson. Gil Morgan finished two strokes off the pace.

## **The Bay Mills Open**

Chris Wisler shot a 12 under 276 total to win the Bay Mills Open Players’ Championship at Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley. Four players finished five shots behind to tie for second.

## **The Western Amateur**

Ryan Moore won the 102nd Western Amateur at Point O’ Woods and everything else in sight this year, including the respect and admiration of Arnold Palmer. Moore, who beat Australian James Nitties on the first extra hole, also won the U.S. Publinxer, the U.S. Amateur, and an invitation to play Arnold Palmer’s Turning Point Invitational at the Country Club of Detroit.

The Western Am has produced

many champions who have gone on to greater things, but it would be hard for any golfer to duplicate the year Moore had in 2004.

## **The Michigan Open**

J.R. Roth, 46, shot a 4-under 68 in the final round on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme to win the 89th Michigan Open by three shots over Eric Jorgensen of Grandville and Mike Austin of Burton. Roth, who finished at 12-under, also won the Open in 1998.

## **The Michigan Women’s Open**

Stacy Snider of Grandville won the Michigan Women’s Open on the first hole of a playoff with Amy Malinaric of Rancho, Mirage, CA. Snider, 24, who birdied the first playoff hole at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, finished the 54-hole tournament with a 6 under 210 and collected \$5,000 for the victory.

*Opposite page: photo of Vijay Singh by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios*



BUICK  
OPEN

Cleveland  
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## The Tournament of Champions

Jorgensen, 26, avenged his runner-up finish at the Open by winning the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions. He shot a 2-under 70 in the final round on the Monument course at Boyne Mountain Resort. Jorgensen, who lives in Grandville and is a regular player on the NGA Hooters Tour, finished 11-under for the 54-hole tournament. He finished four strokes ahead of five-time Michigan Open champion Scott Hebert and six strokes ahead of two-time LPGA Tour champion Elaine Crosby.

## The Michigan PGA Championship

Joe Pollack held a six-stroke lead with eight holes remaining in the final round of the Michigan PGA Championship at Shanty Creek in Bellaire. He then lost five strokes over the next five holes. He did, however, manage to hold on to that single-stroke lead and claim his first major Michigan championship. Pollack, 36, a part-time instructor at

*Photo of Mark James by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios*



Mark James

Boulder Creek Golf Club in Grand Rapids, edged Ron Beurmann, 44, of the Country Club of Jackson by one stroke and Andy Bethune of The Sawmill Golf Club in Saginaw to collect the \$9,500 winner's share of the \$80,000 purse. Pollack finished the 54-hole tournament, played on The Legend and Cedar River courses at 6-under.

## The Michigan Amateur Championship

Jeff Cuzzort, 19, won the 93rd Michigan Amateur Championship on the course where he has worked as a caddie for the past two years, Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. A recent graduate of Grosse Ile High School, Cuzzort defeated Michigan State University sophomore Matt Harmon, 3 and 2, in the championship match. Harmon, 19, was the tournament's medalist, having shot 70-71-141 in the event's stroke play qualifying rounds.

## The Women's Michigan Amateur Championship

Former runners-up Sarah Martin and Jenna Walter went four extra holes before Martin won the 88th Women's Michigan Amateur

Championship with a par on the 132-yard, par-3 fourth hole at White Pine National Golf Course in Spruce. Martin, 21, a senior at Michigan State University, was runner-up in the women's state amateur two years ago. Walter, 20, who was the runner-up last year, is a junior at Western Michigan University. **MG**