
Ryder Cup Memories

By Art McCafferty

The buses that pulled away from a gleaming, yet weary, Oakland Hills Country Club, were packed with people that will long remember the time spent there. There will never be a time when the mention of the Ryder Cup does not conjure images of a sun-bathed spectacular weeklong setting, walking on a well-manicured and revered course and attending an opening ceremony that was more like a rock concert than the beginning of a golf event.

Michigan was able to show off its golf course inventory, its cities, lakes, museums, airports and the wonderful hospitality of our citizens. Our writers, reporters, sports broadcasters, photographers and other media types were able to be a contributing part of a world class

sporting event. Their words, voices and images will become part of the event's legacy.

Politicians and celebrities were everywhere, finding yet another venue in which to bask in the spotlight. The Brits, French, Swedes, Spaniards, Germans, Italians and people from other countries were able to visit us, knowing that golf would be the spoken language.

The legacy of Donald Ross, Robert Trent Jones and Arthur Hills was brought front and center as the best golfers in the world attacked their work. The words of Robert Trent Jones: "As an architect, it is my job to protect par," seemed to ring wonderfully true. The legendary golf architect, Pete Dye, had seen those greens being built by Jones in the early 1950s and was rooting for the course on every shot. The course held up as

the fairways were challenging, the greens were fast and undulating and the winds blew enough to influence the flight of many a ball.

The memories of my family have come full circle with this event. My father used to tell me how he searched for golf balls at the club and sold them to make some extra money. That extra money eventually contributed to the start of Michigan Golfer Magazine, which in turn featured Oakland Hills on many of its covers. The profit from the magazine allowed us to hire my father's grandson and my son Michael, to appear in a series of Michigan Golfer Television shows that featured "The Haig," Walter Hagen.

Oakland Hills CC, The Ryder Cup and Walter Hagen, a lifetime of memories. **MG**

Donald Trump kicked off the opening ceremonies. Photo by Art McCafferty

