



Photo by Art McCafferty

Could 2006 have been the last Par 3 Shootout?

# Where Have All the Tournaments Gone, Long Time Passing?

By Art McCafferty

**W**ith apologies to Pete Seeger, the tournaments that once used to populate the Michigan golf calendar are long time passing.

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



**Chi Chi Rodriguez plays in the TPC at Dearborn**

Michigan was on top of the golf world in the '80s, '90s and the first part of this century. Hundreds of golf courses were being built, the rust belt of the 70's had given away to a return of the auto industry and Michigan's economy was robust once again.

In that atmosphere, the Grand Rapids based Senior Tour was born, the TPC in Dearborn also welcomed the Seniors, the Futures Tour was held at Mystic Creek, Boulder Point and Lake Forest Golf Club, the Canadian Tour held the Bay Mills Open in Brimley for four years, the LPGA had a great run out at Walnut Creek and the Par-3 Shootout was always a welcomed tournament. Now all are gone.

Michigan had all these tournaments and also hosted the U.S. Open at Oakland Hills, the U.S. Women's Open at Indianwood, the U.S. Publinx at The Orchards,

the U.S. Amateur at Oakland Hills and the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills.

We have been spoiled.

Our majors now include; the Michigan Amateur, the Michigan Open, the Western Amateur and the Buick Open,

What now?

We all know that everything happens in cycles and that Michigan is going through a down cycle in golf at this time. However, it has been a great ride and one that we can cherish forever. *MG*

Photo by Art McCafferty



**Vanessa Bell, one of the Futures contestants at Lake Forest GC**

**Tiger Woods  
walks a fairway  
at the Buick Open.**

**Next year  
will be  
the 50th year of  
Warwick Hills  
Golf Course.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



**Brian Bateman  
won his first PGA golf  
tournament with a birdie  
on the 18th hole to beat  
a foursome waiting to tee  
it up for a playoff.**

**His 15 under was a high  
score for the Buick.**

**Bateman pocketed a  
check for \$882,000 for  
his effort, an amount that  
moved him from 204 on  
the money list to 59.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

