

Top 10

Moments at Inverness

FOUR-BALL



From 1935 to 1952, with the exception of a three-year hiatus for World War II, the Inverness Four-Ball team event was a regular PGA Tour stop in Toledo. Although their personalities were as different as night and day, Ben Hogan and Jimmy Demaret formed a prodigious team. In 1948, they won their third straight, and fourth overall, Inverness Four-Ball title.



Four-time winners Jimmy Demaret, left and Ben Hogan

LADY PROS



Only one event for lady professionals has ever been held at Inverness, but it drew one of the all-time greatest fields. In 1954, the club staged an invitational team tournament for 18 LPGA players and two top amateurs. Six of those 20 players who participated are now in the LPGA Hall of Fame. The field included the legendary Babe Zaharias and Mickey Wright, arguably the greatest women's player ever, as well as Patty Berg, Betsy Rawls, Louise Suggs and Betty Jameson.



Babe Zaharias, right, and Betty Dodd at Inverness.

GOLDEN ERA



Jack Nicklaus has played in five majors at Inverness.

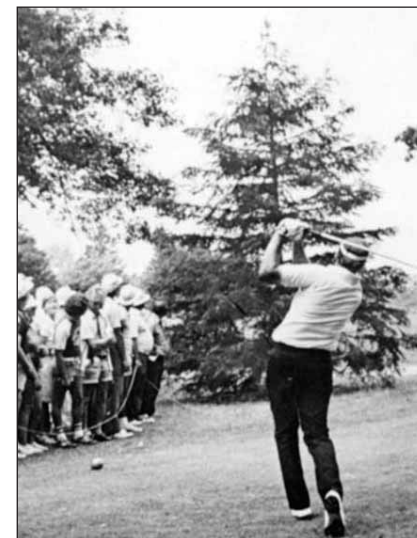
Dick Mayer won the 1957 U.S. Open at Inverness in a playoff over Cary Middlecoff, but the tournament, in hindsight, will be remembered as the Open debut for an Ohio teenager who shot 80-80 and missed the cut. Jack Nicklaus would play in 44 consecutive National Opens, winning four times, before stepping aside as the greatest professional golfer of his era, if not all time. Nicklaus would play in five major championships at Inverness, later adding the '79 Open as well as PGA Championships in 1986 and '93, and the 2003 U.S. Senior Open.



HINKLE TREE



The 1979 U.S. Open is remembered more for landscape work than for its champion, who happened to be Hale Irwin at even par, marking the fourth time in as many Opens at Inverness that par was not bettered. The eighth hole was envisioned by its designers as a three-shot par-5, but Lon Hinkle saw the hole otherwise. During the first round, he used the adjacent 17th fairway as a shortcut to the green. Word spread, and by the end of the day four other golfers had taken the same route. The USGA had an answer and by 5:30 the next morning a fairly scraggly, 25-foot Blue Hills spruce had "grown" overnight in an attempt to block the path. The Hinkle Tree, as it is known, stands to this day.

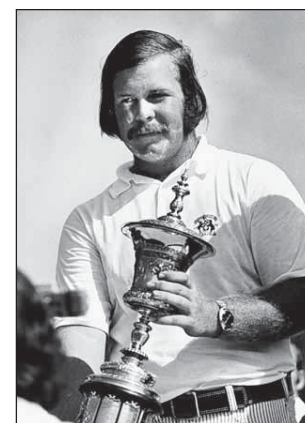


Lon Hinkle drives a shot over the Hinkle Tree at 1979 U.S. Open.

UPSET-MINDED



In 1973, upset-minded Craig Stadler defeated reigning British Amateur champion Dick Siderowf and defending U.S. Amateur titlist Vinny Giles in back-to-back matches en route to winning the only U.S. Amateur championship ever played at Inverness Club.



Craig Stadler won the only U.S. Amateur championship at Inverness.