

# MINNESOTA golfer<sup>®</sup>

JUNE/JULY 2008

## 2008 U.S. Women's Open Preview

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# New Improved

By Joseph Oberle

**Additions and renovations make old,  
familiar tracks play like exciting new courses.**





## North Oaks' New Look

Ever since architect Stanley Thompson created North Oaks Golf Club in 1951, it has had a reputation for excellence. But a great golf course doesn't rest on its laurels. So this past year North Oaks GC went through a major renovation at the hands of PGA Tour pro and course designer Tom Lehman.

"Two things that we always aim for in any design are strategic interest and visual beauty," says Lehman. "At North Oaks, with the Stanley Thompson original design, we were already halfway there. Our goal was to rekindle the strategy as it was originally intended, fix whatever issues were requiring attention and do it all in a way that makes the course aesthetically pleasing."

The renovation project was extensive and has given the course a bold new look. "Every hole was impacted," says superintendent Jack Mackenzie. "Besides rebuilding and adding bunkers filled with Ohio's signature white sand,

several forward tees and pro tees were added, half of the greens [were] enlarged and all of the fairways were re-contoured.

"From a players' perspective, the views off each tee [are] outstanding. The high-flashed and significantly larger bunkers are very dramatic and identify where you don't want to go or create a target to line up your next shot."

Part of the North Oaks GC tradition is hosting MGA tournaments, and the course's new look will be on display at the MGA Four-Ball in 2009. According to Mackenzie, those MGA competitors—and anyone who plays the course this season—will be in for a treat. "Each hole has a new twist that will be appreciated by anyone who compares the old design to the new."

### North Oaks Golf Club

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