

Open titles on line

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Crystal Mountain host tournaments

The state's top golfers will descend on Northern Michigan this summer for the Michigan Open at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa and the Michigan Women's Open at Crystal Mountain Resort.

The Michigan Open will be June 28-July 1. The Michigan Women's Open will be July 23-28.

Both were won in playoffs last summer.

Bob Ackerman, a teaching pro who runs his own golf academy in West Bloomfield, defeated Detroit Golf Club assistant Bryan Snyder on the first extra hole to win the men's Open.

In doing so, Ackerman, then 50, became the second oldest player to win the event. He also snapped Scott Hebert's string of four consecutive Open championships.

But it was Ackerman's heroics off the course that many will remember. He saved the life of a 3-year-old boy who jumped in to the deep end of a pool at the hotel he was staying at the day before the tournament began.

Ackerman and Snyder both finished at 7-under 281.

Ackerman, however, won the playoff on The Bear to snare

the title and the \$13,000 winner's check.

It was the 16th Open on the Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

"It's certainly wonderful to be the host and for The Bear to be known as the home of the Michigan Open," said Tom McGee, director of golf operations at the Resort. "The golfers enjoy having it here. It's a great test for them. If you did a poll of PGA golf pros they would tell you they want to play it on The Bear. It's a good challenge. It's the premier golf event."

McGee said it's important for the Resort to host it.

"It keeps us on the map," McGee said. "We're proud to have the facility to handle it."

Meanwhile, The Michigan Women's Open at Crystal Mountain was won by Breanne Hall, a 21-year-old senior at the University of Toledo. She let a two-stroke lead slip away with a double bogey on No. 18 before regrouping and sinking a 10-foot birdie putt on the same hole to win a playoff.

The East Kentwood native, who finished seventh in 2002, became the first amateur champion in the 10-year history of the event.

The Michigan PGA Women's

Open Tournament is a 54-hole, stroke play tournament.

Last year, the event carried a \$40,000 purse and drew over 60 female professionals and amateurs from all over the nation as well as England and South Africa.

Prior to the championship, there is a two-day, 36-hole Pro-Am. The format for the Pro-Am is a five-person scramble, where each foursome plays with a PGA or LPGA Professional.

Last year, the event raised \$25,000 for the Munson Healthcare Regional Foundation, whose mission is to provide for the improvement of health of the people in the communities served by Munson Healthcare. It was the first time in the Open's history that a beneficiary was named. This year, the monies raised are being specifically earmarked for Munson Healthcare's capital campaign for the creation of a new emergency/trauma center.

To register for the Michigan PGA Women's Open Tournament, interested parties may call the Michigan PGA at (734) 522-2323. Registration for the

Pro-Am may be done by calling Crystal Mountain directly at (800) 968-7686, ext. 6607.

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