

Round 1 – July 13, 2017 U.S. Women’s Open Course Setup Notes from Shannon Rouillard

		Weather	<p><i>Here is the 5 a.m. forecast from Thor Guard Chief Meteorologist Josh Nagelberg and Jake Swick:</i></p> <p>It's shaping up to be another hot and humid day today with the high reaching 92 and dewpoints of 69-73 pushing the heat index up to near 100 from noon to 3 p.m.</p> <p>While the day is starting off with patches of fog, I don't think we'll have any trouble with it by the time play gets going this morning. The sky looks to be mostly sunny for a few hours today, with clouds starting in increase later in the morning, and partly sunny skies by lunch time. Winds will be west to southwest increasing to 5 mph this morning and then averaging 8 mph with a few gusts over 15 mph from lunch time on as the wind becomes more northwesterly in the afternoon. We should get by without anything of note on the radar this morning, then I expect to see a few isolated cells developing to our north and west around and after 2 p.m. More organized activity should develop to our north and west after that and we have chances for showers and storms increasing to 40 percent by 5 p.m. and then 60 percent by 7:30 p.m., so the end of play today may have more potential to see action on radar and possibly delays in play.</p>
		Setup Specifics	<p>We were fortunate to escape the expected rain last night. All of the rough was cut last night, maintaining intermediate cut at 1.50”, primary cut at 2.75”, and secondary cut at 4”. In addition, greens were double-cut and rolled last night. All short grass was cut this morning and greens were double-cut and rolled. On average, we achieved Stimpmeter readings in the upper 12’s. We anticipate speeds settling out in the mid-12s by the afternoon.</p>
Hole	Par	Yardage	
1	5	541	<p>This straightforward par 5 (playing with/cross breeze) is a solid hole to ease players into their round. This putting green is pretty benign in relation to many of the others on the Old Course. Today’s middle-left hole location (18-4L) should provide a birdie opportunity. Green slopes back left to front right.</p>
2	4	345	<p>The second hole (playing with/cross breeze) will play from the alternate teeing ground of 351 yards, pushed up 32 yards. Both drive-zone bunkers on the right will come into play off the tee and some players may choose to hit a fairway metal instead of driver. Today’s hole location (15-4R) sits in the front-middle portion of the green. The easiest place to approach this hole is from short left, having an uphill sliding left-to-right putt. If the player hits their approach past the middle of the green (slopes middle to back), she will have a much more challenging putt coming back to the hole.</p>

3	4	412	This very demanding, uphill par 4 will play slightly with/cross breeze. Players will need to avoid the two fairway bunkers on the left that the longer hitters may try to cut off at the corner. Today's hole location is (30-8R) in the middle-back portion of the green past the ridge. The toughest part of this approach will be getting the ball back to the hole as it is all uphill. An approach shot hit to the middle portion of the green should chase to the back portion of the green, leaving a relatively easy putt.
4	3	193	This hole is playing the longest par 3 (playing cross/into the breeze) for the day. Today's hole location is tucked close to the left bunker in the middle of the green at (20-3L). If the player hits her tee shot above the hole (green slopes back to front), the contour of the green may bring it back to the hole. A ball left hole high on the right side will face a fairly severe right-to-left putt. Otherwise a ball left below the hole will putt straight up the hill.
5	4	388	This is the second demanding uphill par 4 that will play into the west-southwesterly breeze today. It has one of the tighter fairways on the Old Course, ranging from 26-30 yards wide. Today's hole location is in the back-right quadrant at (26-8R) over the ridge. If players are able to carry the ball over the ridge located at 18-20 paces on the green, the ball should funnel toward the hole. If not, the player will be faced with a challenging putt over the ridge, breaking right to left.
6	4	389	This downhill par 4 (playing with/cross breeze) will allow tee shots to chase down the hill. Today's hole location nestled front right at (6-8R) will allow players to have a high-lofted club in their hand on their approach. The green slopes left to right in this front portion of the green toward the water. The safe place to putt from is hole-high left or just above the hole favoring the left side. In either case, the player will be faced with a downhill putt. What may appear to be a birdie hole on the sheet will take great shotmaking and course management to achieve.
7	3	154	This downhill par 3 (playing cross/into the breeze) has an undulating shallow green with the hole location in the front left at (10-6L) today. Players who miss their tee shot over the hole will funnel into a collection area. That recovery shot will require finesse in getting the ball on top of the ridge to trickle down to the hole.
8	5	539	This par 5 (playing cross/into the breeze) will require two solid shots to have a relatively easy third shot. The hole location at (24-10L) will appear to be just over the large bunker centering the boomerang-shaped green, but actually will provide quite a bit a room for players to land their approach under the hole, leaving a relatively flat putt up the hill. If played strategically, players could gain a shot back on this hole.
9	4	423	The par-4 ninth hole is playing the longest of the par 4s today. This hole will play cross and into the breeze, making it play even longer than the indicated yardage. A big drive will be required to see the hole on this deep green. The approach is slightly uphill to a hole location at (30-3R). Players will be able to chase the ball onto the green if desired. The safe play is to the middle of the green to have a relatively easy putt to the hole if they can get there.

10	4	381	The 10th hole will play from the alternate tee at 386, 25 yards forward of the score card yardage. This hole will play cross/with the breeze. Today's hole location is at (17-4L), allowing the player to use the closely mown area to the front and left of the hole if so desired. If the approach shot is left above the hole, the player will be faced with a slippery downhill right-to-left putt.
11	4	369	This relatively short par 4 will play cross/with the breeze. The player should be left with a short club in their hand to attack the hole location at (10-16R). If the player misses short, the ball will come back off a mild false front and down the hill leaving a pitch back up to the hole. The safe play is hole-high left for a relatively flat, uphill putt. We could see a number of birdies on this hole.
12	4	353	This picturesque short par 4 (third in a row under 400 yards) will play uphill, cross and slightly with the breeze. Players may choose to hit a fairway metal off the tee to ensure their tee shot avoids the three fairway bunkers guarding the drive zone. Today's hole location is in the back-right quadrant at (20-5R) on top of the ridge, just 11 yards deep. An approach shot missed over this hole will be gobbled up by the collection area behind the green, leaving the player with a touchy chip. The best play to achieve birdie is hole high on the left side.
13	4	402	This sharp dogleg-left par 4 will require a solid tee shot to the corner for the best angle of attack to the hole. Today's hole location is at (17-6L) nestled near the falloff in the middle-left portion of the green. Players who attack this flag head-on and miss left and long will be faced with a tough recovery from the collection area. The best play is short, under the hole or hole high on the right side.
14	3	182	This relatively long par 3 will play cross/into the breeze into this large putting complex. Today's hole location is at (29-6R), tucked just over the ridge on the downslope. A tee shot played to the middle right of the green should chase to the back portion of the green. However, players need to ensure they stay on the right side of the spine down the back-middle of the green to be on the proper side of the hole. Players will encounter an uphill putt from just beyond the hole.
15	5	524	The tee markers were pushed up 7 yards on this slightly uphill, dogleg left par 5, playing cross/into the breeze. Today's hole location is at (40-7R) deep into the green, sloping back to front and right to left. Players will have a short club in their hands but must stay out of the back-right bunker to avoid short-siding themselves. Birdies will be attainable from under the hole or hole-high left.
16	3	168	This mid-range par 3 over the pond will play cross/into the breeze. Today's hole location is at (21-6L) in the back-left quadrant of the green on top of the ridge that divides the green length-wise. There is plenty of room to hold a well-struck shot on the left side. If able to, players will have a relatively easy birdie opportunity.
17	4	391	The tee markers were pushed back 5 yards from the score card yardage. This par 4 will play cross/into the breeze today and will require a solid tee shot to carry the bunker on the left and avoid the water hazard on the right.

			Today's hole location is in the front-left portion of the green at (10-4L) near the greenside bunker. An approach shot hit to the middle of the green will be left with a downhill, right-to-left putt. The best play is hole-high right.
18	5	514	The final hole of the day is a par 5, playing cross/with the breeze. Today's hole location is at (17-7R) in the front portion of this deep green. The best angle of approach is from the right-center of the fairway hitting into the face of the green, leaving the ball under the hole. An approach from the far left side of the fairway for longer hitters trying to get close to the green, will be more challenging due to the strong left-to-right slope of the green from that angle. A par will be hard to obtain if a third shot is missed over and back right of this hole location.

Front 9 - 3,384

Back 9 - 3,284

Total - 6,668