

Round 3 – July 15, 2017 U.S. Women’s Open Course Setup Notes from Shannon Rouillard

		Weather	<p><i>Here is the 11 a.m. forecast from Thor Guard Chief Meteorologist Josh Nagelberg and Jake Swick:</i></p> <p>Some sunshine has broken through the clouds this morning, allowing temperatures to warm steadily through the 70s, and they will continue to climb into the lower 80s by lunchtime and the middle 80s late in the day. It's still rather humid with dew points in the lower 70s, but drier air will gradually push in from the northwest this afternoon, dropping dew points into the 63-67 degree range. Winds will average 3-6 mph this afternoon with a high gust to 10 mph possible over the next few hours.</p> <p>The radar is pretty quiet with nothing within 60 miles of us, though some of the models have hinted that a stray shower or sprinkle could pop up early this afternoon, mainly southeast of us, so I left a 20 percent chance for a sprinkle in from 12:30-2:30 p.m., but probably nothing that would be of any sort of impact to play. The rest of the afternoon will see more sun than not, and we end play with a mainly sunny sky.</p>
		Setup Specifics	<p>We received .75 inches of rain total yesterday. Last night’s maintenance included a double-cut and roll. All short grass was cut this morning as well as the intermediate and primary cut. Putting greens were double-cut and rolled. On average, we achieved Stimpmeter readings in the mid-to-upper 12’s. We anticipate speeds settling out in the low 12s by the afternoon.</p> <p>Wind will be coming out of the northwest today at 6-12 mph gusts at most. I don’t envision it playing a major factor in play today.</p>
Hole	Par	Yardage	
1	5	530	Today’s opening hole will ease the players into their rounds as today’s hole location is very accessible at (6-4R) in the front-right quadrant of the putting complex. With the closely mown areas close by, players will be able to putt or have an easy chip. A third shot left above the hole will be downhill, but they won’t have much slope to contend with.
2	4	395	The second hole will play back from the original teeing ground (384) and the longest for this hole thus far. Once again, the first fairway bunker on the right may be in play for the longer hitters, but not the second fairway bunker. Today’s hole location is a deep one at (37-4R). There is room to attack this flag if the player chooses with 16 yards between the bunker and the hole. However, the player must keep in mind that the back half of the green

			slopes middle to back. If the player misses to the right, short-siding herself, she will be faced with a bunker shot back up the hill.
3	4	411	The best play off the tee for this challenging, uphill par 4 would be to the right center of the fairway. Today's hole location is at (28-6L), just over the ridge in the middle of the green on the left side. Due to the backstop in the back of the green, an approach shot hit to the back of the green will be primed for a reasonable putt at the hole. A putt from the front half of the green will require good touch to settle next to the hole.
4	3	203	We are back at the 192 teeing ground today and with the back hole location at (35-6C), this will be the long par 3 of the day. The player may try to chase their shot back to the hole, but with the receptive greens may not be as successful. This hole location will be tough to get close to, but putting will be reasonable once on the back tier.
5	4	388	This is the second demanding uphill par 4 and the best angle of attack to today's hole location will be from the right center of the fairway. Today's hole location is middle left at (24-13R) in the middle-back portion of the green. By now, players should know that the back-left side of this green falls off pretty hard. An approach to the back right side of the green is the best play. However, there are not too many easy putts to this hole.
6	4	382	This downhill par 4 will be played from a forward tee at 381. The strategy here is to get the players to think a little harder about the tee shot as the bunker at the corner of the fairway will be more in play. In addition, the best angle of attack to this flag at (21-9R) is from the left side of the fairway (near the bunker). Regardless, once on the putting surface, the player will most likely have some sort of downhill or sidehill putt to the hole.
7	3	166	This downhill par 3 will play from the alternate tee at 165. Today's hole location is at (17-11R), approximately in the middle of the green on top of the saddle. Club selection will be critical as the player will need to be mindful of the falloff to the water and the falloff behind the hole to the collection area.
8	5	535	A tee shot right of the two fairway bunkers will be in order to set players up for their second shot over the creek. Today's hole location is at (18-24C), 5 paces over the center bunker. Because the third shot is uphill, it will appear to be closer, but the player will have room to access it, if she has a short club in her hand. Otherwise, the player has the option to hit right of the flag with more room to work with if coming in with a longer club.
9	4	433	This par 4 hole will play at its longest for the week today as the hole location is at (40-5L), back left slightly behind the bunker. The best angle of attack will be from the right center of the fairway to the most room to chase it back to the hole. An approach from the left center will be much more challenging as there is only 9 yards between the bunker and the hole. A tough hole to get back to, but once in the back quadrant of the green, fairly easy putting. A par will be a very good score here.
10	4	395	This par 4 will play from the original score card yardage tee, but the tee markers have been placed in the front half of the teeing ground. Today's hole location is at (13-4R) tucked behind the bunker in the front of the green.

			The best angle of approach will be from the left center of the fairway to have a better look at the hole. Most likely players will have a downhill or sidehill putt to this hole location.
11	4	371	The tee markers were placed 6 paces back of the post on this par 4. With the hole location at (6-7L), the best angle of attack will be from the right center of the fairway so the player will not need to carry the left greenside bunker. A second shot played from the rough on the left side will have a tougher time getting the ball to stop near the hole and may leave the player chipping back up from the collection area behind the green.
12	4	357	This picturesque short par 4 will play longer today as the hole location is deep in the back-left quadrant at (22-7L). A tee shot to the right center of the fairway will give the player the best opportunity to access this hole successfully. The player will need to be mindful of only 6 paces of putting surface behind the hole, but that is a little deceiving as there is a falloff in the back-left corner of this green. We may see players chipping from the collection area behind the green or putting up the ridge, which is not too difficult.
13	4	397	This sharp dogleg-left par 4 will require a solid tee shot to the corner for a full view of the hole. Today's hole location is at (8-10L), the peninsula of the green. Since this area is only 16 yards deep, club selection on the second shot will be critical to stop the ball near the hole. However, due to the greens being receptive, this should not be a problem for these great players. If not, players will find a collection area behind the hole.
14	3	170	This par 3 will play back at the 179 teeing ground today. It will play the shortest distance from that tee thus far as the hole location at (12-10R) is in the front portion of the green. Players who hit their tee shot slightly right of the hole will have a backstop (ridge) to assist them in keeping the ball on the same side as the hole. There is a small spine down the front middle portion of the green. Therefore a shot hit hole-high left will be faced with a slight downhill, sidehill putt at the hole.
15	5	531	The third par 5 at 530+ yards today will require two solid shots for the player to set herself up for a reasonable third shot into this deep green. The best angle to today's hole location at (32-4R) will be from the left side of the fairway as today's hole is nestled behind the right greenside bunker. Players will most likely have an uphill putt to this right-to-left sloping green and a reasonable birdie opportunity.
16	3	161	The tee markers on this mid-range par 3 were placed on the far right-hand side two paces behind the post. Today's hole location is at (11-10L) in the middle portion of the green. Club selection will be important as the hole location is only 3 paces back of the false front. The best spot to putt to this hole will be from the right side, however putting from the left side on top of the ridge is not as difficult as it may seem.
17	4	389	This second-to-last hole should play easier than yesterday (third-most difficult) as the today's hole location is (10-4R) and accessible. The best angle of approach will be from the left-center portion of the fairway, requiring a tee shot to carry the left fairway bunker. The only challenge that may present itself is if the player misses hole-high right and leaves herself in the collection area up the hill.

18	5	485	The final hole of the day will present an opportunity for a portion of the field to potentially go for the green in two. Today's tee was pushed up to the 495 teeing ground. With today's hole location at (11-3L), it is certainly accessible. Players will be able to utilize the backstop behind the green to their advantage, but must be careful not to miss back left of the hole where a greenside bunker sits. If the player decides to bail to the left side of the green in the approach, she will be faced with a challenging pitch/chip sloping hard left to right.
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Front 9 - 3,443

Back 9 - 3,256

Total - 6,699