

Round 4 – July 16, 2017 U.S. Women’s Open Course Set-up 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>We cooled off to 60 degrees this morning but with the sun out all morning, temperatures will quickly soar to 70 degrees before 8 a.m, and 80 degrees by 10 a.m. A few fair-weather clouds will develop around in the early pairings, and it will remain sunnier than not through play today. Today will have some of the least wind of the week as high pressure sits overhead, with breezes remain at 5 mph or less for much of the time. Dew points will climb back into the middle 60s and slowly dip in the afternoon, so it will feel about as humid as yesterday. With the amount of sunshine, light wind, and dew points around 65, it will feel like 90 degrees this afternoon, so be sure to hydrate appropriately.</p> <p>Temperatures will start to drop as the last putt drops, and tonight will be milder with patchy cloud cover and a return to southerly wind direction.</p>
		Setup Specifics	Last night’s maintenance included a double cut and roll. All short grass was cut and putting greens were double-cut and rolled this morning. On average, we achieved Stimpmeter readings in the upper 12s. We anticipate speeds settling out in the mid-12s by the afternoon. Wind should not play much of a factor in today’s play.
Hole	Par	Yardage	
1	5	548	Today’s opening par 5 will be a little tougher than it was yesterday as today’s hole location is at (28-3R) in the back right quadrant of this green. Players shouldn’t have any problem getting it back to the hole today. However, if the player short-sides herself in the right rough, she could have a tough time getting it close to the hole for an up-and-down.
2	4	391	The second hole will stay back at the original teeing ground (384) today. Players should not have any problems avoiding the first fairway bunker on the right; however, the best angle of attack to today’s hole location (29-4L) is from the right center of the fairway. The green slopes middle to back and toward the greenside bunker on the left. With that, the best play is to the middle of the green, letting the ball funnel down to the hole. Club selection will be key as if the player gets too aggressive, she could end up over the green.

3	4	406	The best play off the tee for this challenging, uphill par 4 would be to the left center of the fairway, avoiding the bunkers on that side. Today's hole location at (25-5R) is nestled just over the ridge on the right side. Similar to yesterday's hole location, if the player is able to get the ball back to the hole, putting should be fairly easy.
4	3	178	Even though we will remain back at the score card teeing ground of 192 yards, the hole will play very different today than yesterday as the hole will be in the very front portion of the green at (5-5R). Expecting players to have a mid-iron in their hands, they will need to play a precise shot into this green as to avoid the water hazard just short. A putt from the second tier should not be too difficult.
5	4	378	This challenging par 4 was ranked second-most difficult yesterday. I envision that today may be slightly easier as the hole location is at (7-7L) tucked behind the bunker in the front portion of the green. Again, the best angle of attack will be from the right center of the fairway. It will be critical for players to hit enough club into this green to avoid the deep bunkers in front of this hole. A putt from hole-high right will be the easiest, otherwise a putt from above this hole location will be slippery.
6	4	424	This downhill par 4 will be played back at the score card teeing ground of 407 yards. Due to the deep hole location today (45-9R), this hole will play its longest of the week. The players have a large target to work with in this green, however the challenge will lie in getting it back to the hole with the water hazard lurking close behind the flag.
7	3	148	This downhill par 3 will play forward at the 158-yard teeing ground. With today's hole location at (6-10L) tucked behind the front greenside bunker, players will have a shorter iron in their hand today. There is plenty of room left and right of the flag to land their ball, but club selection will be important on this shorter par 3 for the day.
8	5	532	A tee shot right of the two fairway bunkers will be in order to set players up for their second shot. A second shot over the creek and to the left side of the fairway will be the most strategic play and set the player up for the best angle of approach, as today's hole location is at (12-5L). This angle will allow the player's third shot to be hit straight up the hill. If the player's second shot ends up right of the bunker, the player will be forced to hit across the large fronting bunker to an area of the green that is somewhat crowned. The player will have needed to study this portion of the green to make birdie.
9	4	411	This par 4 hole should play slightly easier today as the hole location is front right at (12-3R). The best angle of attack will be from the left center of the fairway. There is not much trouble to get into around this portion of the green; however, the player will have some choices to make on shot selection if her second shot ends up in the closely mown area right of the flag. The green slopes back to front, so the player will most likely have a sliding putt from either side of the hole.
10	4	413	The 10th hole will play again from the original score card yardage tee. A good tee shot will be right center of this fairway as today's hole location is at (29-5L). From this angle, players will be hitting their second shot more into

			the face of this green (under the ridge), providing them with a straighter uphill putt to the hole. If the player plays her second shot and finishes front left of the hole, she will encounter a sliding left-to-right putt.
11	4	378	Yesterday, this hole played the toughest on the course with a 4.34 stroke average. I would expect it to play a little easier today with the hole location at (19-7R), back right and more accessible. A tee shot favoring the left center of the fairway would be best on this hole. If the player is able to hit her second shot front middle of the green, the ball should funnel down to the hole. If she hits it middle of the green, she could risk going into the collection area back right of the green. From almost every angle toward the hole, the player should expect a quick touchy putt.
12	4	343	This picturesque short par 4 will play shorter today due to the hole location at (8-3L). A tee shot landing left side of the fairway will yield the best angle into this tight hole location near the front left greenside bunker. There is plenty of room past the hole and under the ridge to land her second shot. However, the player will be left with a downhill putt. Hole-high right is the best place to putt from.
13	4	412	This sharp dogleg-left par 4 will require a solid tee shot to the corner for a full view of the hole which the players are not finding difficult to do. Today's hole location at (26-4L) will be challenging to access as a collection area is waiting just left of the hole and there is not much room to the right of the hole either. The best play is middle back to the wide portion of this green. It will most likely yield an uphill left-to-right putt. Par will be a good score on this hole.
14	3	191	This hole will play the longest of the par 3s today with a deep hole location at (36-9L). It will be important for players to recall that there is a spine down the middle of the green and with that to place their tee shots on the proper side with the hole. A shot hit to the middle of the green should chase back to the hole with the player able to use the green contour to her advantage if properly struck left center of the hole.
15	5	533	The third par 5 at 530+ yards today will require two solid shots to set up a reasonable approach into this big hole. Today's hole location at (42-6L) may be difficult to access, however if the player studied this green, she will know that a ball struck to the middle back portion of the green will funnel toward the hole. due to the right-to-left slope of the green. Regardless, many players will probably be left with a downhill putt.
16	3	139	This is the beginning of what should be an exciting stretch of final holes for Championship Sunday. The tee markers were moved up to the 147 teeing ground. We did not show this tee to the players during the practice rounds, so perhaps playing from this tee may be a surprise to some. Today's hole location was strategically placed at (6-4R) for use with this tee. From the view at this tee, players will have a tight landing area in front of the hole with a mild false front to manage. In addition, the water hazard back right of the hole is not far away. The safe play is middle right of the hole which will produce a sliding left-to-right putt.
17	4	403	This second-to-last hole will most likely play more difficult today with a deep hole location at (29-7L). Players shouldn't have a problem carrying the bunker off the tee to set themselves up for a longer uphill approach shot.

			A second shot hit to the middle back of the green should chase back to the hole. However, if the ball gets left of the hole in the back portion of the green, she will find that her third shot will be a chip back up to the hole due to a falloff on that side. Other than a fairly straight putt from under the hole, a putt from either side will produce a sliding left or right putt.
18	5	534	The final hole of the day will be a great finishing hole. Today's hole location at (40-8R) will make this hole play at its longest for the week. The best angle of attack will be from the right center of the fairway, closest to the water hazard. Club selection will be essential as a shot missed just short will most likely roll down the hill into the water hazard. The back portion of this green slopes back to front and left to right. Unless the player is able to squeeze her third shot right of the hole, she will most likely have a sliding left-to-right downhill putt.

Front 9 – 3,416

Back 9 – 3,346

Total – 6,762