



Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Harding wins Michigan PGA event at OU

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Tom Harding, an assistant pro at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, won the Lincoln Mercury Classic, a **Michigan PGA** event hosted by Oakland University's **R&S Sharf Golf Course** on September 10-14.

In the match play, 14-hole final, Harding defeated Kevin Muir, head pro at the Wyndgate Club in Rochester, 5 and 4. Earlier in the tournament, Harding clinched the 2001 Michigan PGA Player of the Year award.

The Pro-Am event, which was to be played Sunday, September 9, was rained out after five holes. Participants were given rain checks to play the Sharf course at a later date.

Qualifying for the match-play tournament began Monday, September 10. Of the 98 golfers who competed for 68 spots, Muir shot 67; Jeff Coble, head pro of OU's **Katke-Cousins Golf Course**, shot 70; Harding shot 73; Bill Rogers, Katke-Cousins managing director, shot 77; and Larry Hamilton, R&S Sharf head pro, shot 77.

In the first round of match play, John Traub of the Detroit Golf Club had a hole-in-one on the 16th hole. Rogers and Hamilton lost in the first round. Coble was eliminated in the third round.

Harding, 37, earned \$6,000 of the \$50,000 purse. The championship is Harding's first major title since 1997, when he won the Tournament of Champions and Michigan PGA stroke-play and was awarded Michigan PGA Player of the Year.

Harding and 11 other Michigan pros will participate in the National Club Pro regional at Urbana, Illinois, on September 27.

Kirk Miller, assistant golf pro at the **OU Golf and Learning Center**, said the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville will host next year's Lincoln Mercury Classic. But the OU golf staff would like to add the Sharf course to the rotation of courses for the tournament.

"We had many positive comments about how nice the course was, from the views to the way the course played," Miller said. "The course is supposed to play hard and fast, but with the rain it played short and slow. On Monday, it was probably the most difficult to play. But by and large the majority of the players loved it."

SUMMARY

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