



Friday, September 7, 2001

Michigan PGA event comes to OU

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

R&S Sharf Golf Course is hosting the Lincoln Mercury Classic, a **Michigan PGA** event, September 9-13.

This is the first time this event, one of four major championships for Michigan PGA pros, has been held at Oakland University.

"It's a real nice opportunity for us to show off the course (which opened in August 2000)," said Larry Hamilton, head pro at **R&S Sharf Golf Course**. "I think the elevation changes and the heather on the side of the fairways are very nice. Golfers won't find a lot of that on courses in southeast Michigan. That will be challenging for golfers who aren't as familiar with the course."

The Pro-Am event takes place Sunday, September 9, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. First prize for the professional players is a \$5,000 travel voucher. First prize for the amateurs is a \$500 pro shop gift certificate.

Qualifying for the pro event begins Monday, September 10, at 7:42 a.m., with about 100 golfers vying for 63 spots in the match play tournament, which begins Tuesday, September 11. Tee times for match play are 8 a.m. and noon.

The tournament has a \$50,000 purse with the champion earning \$6,000. Jeff Gniewek, a pro from the Pestwick Village Golf Club in Highland, is the defending champion and automatically qualifies.

Hamilton plans to compete in the match play tournament, which rotates among several state golf courses year to year.

Spectators are welcome and there is no charge. For more information on the tournament, call the **Oakland University Golf and Learning Center** Pro Shop at (248) 370-4150 or visit the Michigan Section of the **PGA of America** Web site.

SUMMARY

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