



The par-three 6th, guarded by a trio of the North's 90 bunkers, all of which have been restored to their Willie Park Jr. origins.



CLASSIC COURSES

How appropriate that Bryson DeChambeau won the U.S. Amateur in August at Olympia Fields Country Club's North Course just south of Chicago. From his Hogan cap to his irons all of the same length and lie angle to testing his own golf balls, the SMU physics major is a genuine throwback. With its steel-wool rough and canted, linoleum greens, so is the par-70 North Course.

The historic layout which has hosted two U.S. Opens (1928 and 2003) and the 1997 U.S. Senior Open as well as two PGA Championships and five Western Opens has never never been in

better shape architecturally after last year's restoration by Mark Mungeam. With the help of the 1928 Open program and long-lost aerial photography, Willie Park Jr.'s original 1923 design has been "sympathetically" revived.

Park, a two-time Open Champion from Musselburgh, Scotland, and designer of more than 150 courses, often included grass-island bunkers as a tribute to the 18th at Muirfield. The old photographs revealed there'd been one to the right of the fairway on the North's 626-yard opening hole, so Mungeam rebuilt it. He also restored crossbunkers in front of greens to confound players' depth perception on the narrow par-four 5th, the long par-three 8th, and the long, uphill par-four 17th, while returning all 90 bunkers to their original beauty, lower and more grass-faced.

The most charming feature on the course is Butterfield Creek, which winds through numerous holes, including two of the best: the 461-yard 3rd, where drives carry a steep, rough-filled fall-off 225 yards from the back tee; and the 450-yard 14th, where the creek crosses in front of tee and again 100 yards in front of the green.

The creek also comes into play throughout the more user-friendly South Course, an undulating 1915 design by Tom Bendelow that Steve Smyers renovated in 2008. The South was the first of the club's four courses; two were sold after World War II. Yet the men's grill in the huge clubhouse is still called "The 73rd Hole."

Got to love a club that has a sense of humor along with its sense of history. —Tom Cunniff

**OLYMPIA FIELDS
CC (NORTH)**
OLYMPIA FIELDS, ILL.
PRIVATE
Year Built 1923
Architect
WILLIE PARK JR.
Yardage 7,353
Par 70

OLYMPIA FIELDS

HAVING HOSTED NUMEROUS MAJORS
AND OTHER BIG EVENTS,
THIS MIDWESTERN MAINSTAY HAS
BEEN RESTORED—AND RE-BUNKERED