



116th U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP – THIRD ROUND COURSE SET-UP NOTES

Hole	Par	Yards	Set-Up Notes from Mike Davis and Jeff Hall
1	4	482	Today's hole location (19-5R) is middle right. Generally, players will have to land their ball on the very front of this green or in the approach in order to be able to keep the ball on the putting green. With the softer conditions and the east/northeast breeze, this front-to-back sloping putting green will be a bit more manageable. Approximately 5 yards right of this hole location is a pronounced falloff that will feed balls into the greenside rough. This hole location is the most difficult to get close to with the second shot, but is the easiest of the four hole locations to putt to.
2	4	351	Most players will play irons from this tee into one of Oakmont's narrowest fairways, which is well protected by bunkers right and one of the famous Oakmont ditches left. Today's hole location (26-5L) is on a small shelf in the back portion of this green. The softer conditions will require the players to control the trajectory and spin to get the ball back on this shelf for a good birdie chance. A miss over this green will leave a very challenging recovery.
3	4	420	A short but very precise par 4. The tee shot must be played into another narrow fairway that has a good deal of right-to-left slope and is flanked by a series of bunkers right and the famous "Church Pews" to the left. The second shot is semi-blind (left side of fairway) or completely blind (right side of fairway) to an uphill green featuring a false front and a large closely mown area over the putting green. Today's hole location (10-12CTR) is positioned 5 paces beyond the false front, which if not properly negotiated, will take the ball a good distance away from the putting green.
4	5	600	The only par 5 on the front nine will play with today's east/northeast wind. One of only two dogleg holes at Oakmont, so committing to an angle of play off the tee and executing is critical. Deep bunkers right of the drive zone must be avoided, but the Church Pews loom to the left of the drive zone to capture an errant tee shot. The second shot is a blind shot whether laying up or attempting to reach the putting green in two shots. Today's hole location (10-4R) is front right in a low area and is very accessible. Players who try to reach this green in two shots but miss right will have a challenging recovery.
5	4	393	One of five par 4s at Oakmont that measure less than 400 yards. The lay-up tee shot is to a fairly narrow fairway that cannot be seen from the tee. Players likely will utilize the television tower behind the putting green as a reference point in aligning their tee shots. Today's hole location (31-5R) is in the back left and all putts to this hole location will be very fast. There is also a slight ridge in the middle portion of the green that will influence putts from short of hole-high.

6	3	198	Today's hole location (19-4L) is in a low area where balls will feed to. Players will be able to use the right-to-left slope of this green to feed the ball to this hole location. The deep bunkers left and right of this green must be avoided.
7	4	477	This hole will play with today's northeast breeze. Tee shots are from an elevated tee, but the drive zone slopes back toward the tee. The hole location (16-6R) sits behind the front-right bunker and is on a small shelf, but the features of this green can be used to feed the ball to this hole location. Players who don't get the ball down on this smallish shelf will be faced with speedy putts.
8	3	247	We are using the forward tee here today with a front-left hole location (13-5L) that is well protected by the Sahara bunker. Today's east/northeast breeze will be slightly helping and from the left.
9	4	487	A blind tee shot to an elevated fairway where the drive zone is flanked by a series of bunkers to the right and one of the Oakmont dry ditches (lateral water hazards) to the left. The fairway slopes slightly from left to right. The second shot is played to one of the more unique putting green complexes at Oakmont. Today we are using a back-left hole location (30-4L) that sits on a smallish shelf. The trough that bisects the putting green will certainly have an influence on many putts today.
TOTAL	35	3,655	
10	4	432	We are using the forward tee today, which means we will use the back tee on hole 12. Today's front-left hole location (7-9L) is accessible, but has a good deal of subtle slope to it. Shots that finish short of the hole will result in very fast putts or chips. Expect most players to get the ball past this hole location and putt back uphill to it. Most players will lay up off the tee into a fairway that slopes downhill, from right to left and feeds into a bit of a trough.
11	4	378	Today's hole location (24-6L) is in the back-left portion of this green. Players should be able to keep the ball below the hole here for a reasonable birdie chance. Players will be laying up off this tee to position the ball in the fairway, which slopes back toward the tee and from left to right.
12	5	674	The back tee is being utilized today with one of Oakmont's famous hole locations – middle left (25-4L) on a small shelf. Strategically, players will be well served to get the ball past this location and putt back up the hill to it. A ball that comes to rest on the putting green short or hole high, will leave a very challenging two-putt. The player will have to putt the ball nearly into the collar of the green to get the ball close to the hole. The left-to-right sloping nature of the fairway adds to the difficulty of this tee shot, which will feature a slightly hurting east/northeast breeze. The second shot is very strategic as the players must contend with a cross bunker that is located approximately 170 yards from the middle of the putting green. This is one of Oakmont's most challenging putting greens. It is fairly narrow and runs from front left to back right. This par 5 has played to an over-par stroke average for the first two days.
13	3	164	This par 3, which plays slightly uphill, will feature a back-right hole location (31-4R) that is well protected by the right greenside bunker and the ridge that extends from this bunker into the green. The tee markers are located on the right side of the penultimate tee, some 30 yards forward of the tee sign. This offers the player a shorter shot but with a challenging angle and keeping the ball below this hole is critical. Controlling trajectory and spin will be key factors in getting the ball close here.

14	4	368	Another of Oakmont's shorter par 4s. The players may lay up off the tee, but the fairway has a fair amount of slope from right to left, requiring focus on this shot. Today's back-center hole location (40-8R) appears fairly accessible but is three paces behind a gentle mound in the putting green, which will have a significant influence on all putts from short of this hole location. The hole will play down-breeze. You might see some players take out a driver to get the ball very near this green under these conditions.
15	4	481	The front-left hole location (19-6L) will be a challenging one to get close to. It is located in a trough and putts from short range will be very quick. A miss short or left will be a very challenging up and down. The blind drive zone slopes from left to right and is flanked by a bunker left and bunkers and a dry ditch (lateral water hazard) right. The breeze will be hurting on this hole today.
16	3	227	A demanding par 3 featuring a front-right (15-11R) hole location that is located behind the right greenside bunker. The slope of this green will work the ball toward this hole location. The front portion of the putting green slopes significantly toward the tee. With the softer conditions, players will have to carry the ball a bit deeper into this green.
17	4	295	One of Oakmont's signature holes. A very strategic, risk/reward par-4. The hole measures 290 yards from today's tee location (placed on the back portion of the penultimate tee) to the hole location using a laser (adjusted to 309 yards for the uphill slope). The hole location (13-3R) is in the front-right portion of this putting green behind the bunker that Oakmont refers to as "Big Mouth." Missing this green into any of the five greenside bunkers will result in a very difficult recovery. Today's east/northeast breeze will be from left to right and slightly against.
18	4	496	One of the most demanding finishing holes of the U.S. Open. The hole will play with today's northeast breeze. The drive zone slopes from left to right and is flanked by bunkers on both sides and a ditch on the left. The putting green is one of the most interesting at Oakmont and today's back left-hole location (30-10L) brings many of this green's unique features into play.
TOTAL	35	3,515	
TOTAL	70	7,170	

Course Set-Up	The golf course is firming up slightly. We were able to perform regular putting green maintenance this morning and rolled the greens between the completion of Round 2 and the beginning of Round 3 to assist with smoothness.
Green Speeds	Putting green speeds are in the 14-foot range on the USGA Stimpmeter.
Weather Forecast from Jake Swick of Thor Guard	<p>The forecast is still on track as high pressure continues to protect western PA with very nice summer-like weather this weekend. Plenty of sunshine through the midday hours may be joined by a very thin veil of high level clouds at times later on today. Temps will warm up above average as we top out in the middle to upper 80s this afternoon with dewpoints falling out of the 60s and back through the 50s. Winds will be light out of the north and east for the rest of today only occasionally getting up to 4-8 mph.</p> <p>Tonight the ridge axis slides across our area and will begin to shift our winds to come more out of the south, but again still remaining light. There may be a few more fair-weather clouds that drift towards Oakmont overnight as lows stay a couple degrees milder in the low 60s. Highs on Sunday will be similar to today in</p>

	<p>the mid-to-high 80s with dewpoints once again in the 50s and maybe lower 60s. Winds will be a bit more apparent on Sunday out of the south to southwest at 5-10 mph, but some 6-12 mph periods will be very possible late morning and late afternoon. Also we'll find mostly sunny to partly sunny skies on Sunday ahead of a cold front that keeps speeding up - once was aiming for Tuesday afternoon, but now is more like Monday night or Tuesday morning.</p>
--	---