



## 71st U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP – FOURTH ROUND COURSE SET-UP NOTES

Hole	Par	Yards	Set-Up Notes from Ben Kimball
1	4	400	The opening hole is tipped out at 400 yards and afternoon northwest winds will continue to likely have it play longer by mid-day. The hole location is in the back-right portion of the green snuggled up to the edge, really bringing into the play the closely mown area that falls off to the right of the hole. An approach shot to the back plateau in the center should leave a relatively flat putt at the hole. Miss right and good luck with making a 4.
2	4	421	Tee markers are up again today to compensate for more afternoon winds from the northwest. The hole location is in the front-left corner of this horseshoe-shaped green, which should be a nice visual reprieve for players. Long approach shots will continue to funnel to the lower bowl right of the hole location, but bouncing your approach shot into this hole will likely be the play.
3	5	494	We are using an alternate tee on this uphill par 5, so the hole is playing 494 yards, which should put players in a position to make a decision on whether to attack this green in two or not. Today's hole location may prevent them from taking that risk, since it is in the back-left portion of the green. I wouldn't be surprised to see some players lay up to the right fairway to have a better angle at this hole location. A little ridge in the back of the green that runs northwest to southeast could be used upon approach to filter the ball closer to the hole.
4	3	214	Par will be a really good score here today. We are back to using the 210 tee on this par 3 so wind will be a significant factor in club selection. Today's hole location is in the back-right quadrant of the green and players may need to respect the firmness of this green and attempt to hit a shot that uses the left approach and left side of the green to "slingshot" the ball toward the hole. A shot that collects in the low area below the hole is a good miss because players will likely face a straight uphill putt from there.
5	4	360	This hole remains pretty straightforward, but today's hole location is just in the back middle portion of the green, so if a player continues to use the backslope to assist them they will be looking at a much longer birdie putt than in previous days.
6	4	381	Tee location remains in the same spot as in previous days. Today's hole location is in the back middle portion of the green, which brings the back bunker into play. I would expect to continue to see players make some birdies here if they are able to hit the fairway. A longer approach shot but not necessarily a difficult one.
7	4	416	The tee markers on the 7th hole remain behind the tee sign again today, continuing to making the driving line important. Northwest winds should be helpful here but will players will enjoy a back-right hole location that will allow them to use the full depth of the green to chase the ball back.
8	3	147	We are using the same alternate tee on this par 3 today as we did yesterday to give player's a slightly better angle to attack today's hole location which is in the front left quadrant of the green. Downwind holes to front hole locations are never easy but at 147 yards with a little backstop behind it, I would expect this hole to play easier than any day all week. Distance control here will be extremely important with a northwest wind and a hole location that sits in the only area on this green that runs from front to back.

9	5	572	This hole continues to give players fits. It played as the second-hardest hole yesterday but today's hole location is on the back plateau near the back bunker which should give them a little more depth to hold a shot on the green. However, there is not much room to land a ball short of the hole location before it tumbles back down to the front-right portion of the green.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	3,405	
10	4	399	The opening hole of the incoming nine will likely play a little more difficult today due to the front-left hole location. The very receptive approach and green should allow shots with all types of clubs to be bounced onto this green, but it's where those balls end up that will determine whether you make birdie or bogey on this hole.
11	4	358	Continues to be a very straightforward hole but today's tee markers have again been pushed pretty far right to visually effect the player's swing thoughts here. One of softest greens on the course earlier in the week has started to align with the others which might make getting at this middle-right hole location just behind the front greenside bunker more of a challenge.
12	3	183	Tee markers have again been placed on the left-hand side of the 191 teeing ground; players should attempt to use the "Redan-like" effect again of this approach and green to get their ball near this front-left hole location. Bigger hitters may be able to take a direct line at this hole but distance control being downhill/downwind will be extremely important. Should be a fun hole to see what option or strategy they use.
13	4	384	We remain on the 382 teeing ground on this hole. The hole location is in the middle-left portion of the green just a few paces over the front greenside bunker. A center-of-the-green approach shot should leave a pretty reasonable opportunity for birdie.
14	4	435	The hardest hole on the course won't get any easier today. Players will need a big tee shot to be able to negotiate the front greenside bunker and get at this back-right hole location that is just 6 paces from the right edge. A prudent player would take their medicine here and avoid the big number by hitting their approach shot to the left side of this green. This could be a pivotal hole.
15	5	485	The shortest of the par 5s should provide us with some great scoring moments today. A back-right hole location gives players all the room they need to chase a ball back to the hole and have a chance at eagle. The back greenside bunker could get some action and if it does that would leave a very difficult up and down.
16	3	120	We are using an alternate tee here and the hole is playing 120 yards. That is 46 yards in front of the tee sign they have been playing all week long. Tee markers are tight and placed to the left to force the player to play completely over the front greenside bunker. Today's hole is just 10 paces over the front bunker and with the likelihood of the green getting firmer throughout the day, distance control will be important. A miss left of hole could catch the "false left" on this green and chase the ball all the way down into the rough. Missing this hole left today could cost you a chance at winning a national championship.
17	4	426	This downhill, dogleg-right hole is playing over 420 yards into the prevailing wind and will have a hole location in the back-right portion of the green that will test players down the stretch. The safe play will be to use the ridge that runs from left to right in the middle of the green in order to chase the ball down toward the hole. An aggressive play at the hole location may only be an option for the longest of hitters.
18	5	523	Very straightforward hole again today. Today's hole location, however, is front left just mere paces from catching a closely mown approach that will certainly send balls short to their watery grave. With that being said, where players choose to lay up today could be different than previous days in order to have the safest angle of attack to this great hole location on the 72nd hole.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	3,313	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	6,718	

Course Set-Up	Green speeds have stayed very consistent all week and continue today averaging in the 12½ range for the 4th consecutive day. The tightness in the range from hole to hole is as close as I have ever seen it.
Green Speeds	The golf course has gotten slightly firmer than previous days but the daily supplemental hand-watering that we have been doing has us again pretty balanced across the golf course. The prevailing northwest winds will again aid in drying us down significantly by mid-afternoon. The philosophy of "firm and fast" has been obtained with relative ease this week due to Mother Nature and an outstanding grounds staff here at CordeValle.
Weather Forecast from Jake Swick of Thor Guard	The marine layer got shut down last night as we slipped onto the back side of the upper level trough to our north. This has given us clear skies overnight with lows dropping into the upper 40s to around 50. While there is a chance we may see a couple of clouds try to reform shortly after dawn, we are generally looking at lots of glamorous California sunshine today. Dewpoints will stay in the 40s and lower 50s today and with that drier air, temps will warm up nicely by this afternoon topping out just past 80. Light winds to start this morning will gradually pick up as we head toward lunchtime with 10 to 20 mph likely across the higher elevations this afternoon and maybe a high wind gust past 20 mph later on. Northwest winds down around the clubhouse will be more in the 5 to 15 mph range this afternoon. And the trend early this upcoming work week keeps less afternoon wind and more afternoon heat as the marine layer tries harder to fill back in each morning.