LPGA Event Coming to The Hawthorns G&CC

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Golf is big in Central Indiana, and especially so in Hamilton County, where there are 19 courses featuring 18 holes.

Yep, plenty of places to tee it up.

That's a lot of courses for one county. That's only three less than more populated Marion County. That says a lot for the popularity of the sport in our neck of the woods.

From the 1991 PGA Championship, to the 1993 U.S. Women's Open, to the Pete Dye Cup National Pro-Am, to the 2005 Solheim Cup, to the 2009 U.S. Senior Open, to numerous USGA Amateur championships at Crooked Stick Golf Club, to Indiana PGA-IGA Golf Association events, our county has been a golf destination.

Make that a golf mecca . . . for players and spectators alike.

The BMW Men's Championship (PGA TOUR Playoffs for the FedExCup) comes to Crooked Stick in Carmel in September, but the (LPGA) women golfers will have an earlier tee time . . . they'll take center stage this spring in Fishers. The LPGA My Marsh Golf Classic will be held at The Hawthorns Golf and Country Club May 28 through June 3.



The event, part of the Symetra Tour, will give golf fans a chance to see professional women's golf up close while they come from all over the world to compete with hopes of earning their LPGA Tour Card.

Marsh Supermarkets, the Hamilton County Sports Authority and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) will host the Symerta Tour — Road to the LPGA. The inaugural \$100,000 purse event will directly benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, a nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases. Remember back when the LPGA-sponsored Mayflower Classic used to be played in Indiana — 3 years at Harbor Trees in Noblesville and 8 straight years at the Country Club of Indianapolis in the 1980s?

I do . . . It was a big thing for Indiana and women's golf.

Now, the LPGA My Marsh Golf Classic is being billed as the next generations of LPGA superstars in the inaugural tournament at The Hawthorns. It will be contested by 144 professional women golfers from around the world. Don't miss it . . . I won't.

About LPGA My Marsh Golf Classic

There will also be a pro-am. Go to www.<u>MyMarshGolfClassic.com</u>, and click on registration.

You can register to become a volunteer for the classic.

Youth between 6-15 years of age can register for the free Junior Golf Clinic, set for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29.

Tickets are \$10 Daily & \$25 for the weekend; youth 16 and under are FREE with the purchase of an adult ticket.

10 percent of ticket sales purchased at Marsh will benefit MDA.