



Merion's finishing hole, among the more demanding in American golf, 458 yards past bunkers infested with Scotch broom to a flatish green that must be held with a fairly long iron.

A Lot of Shots, A Lot of Thinking

GEORGE FAZIO

Merion's East course, I believe, will be a new and often frustrating experience for the majority of the field playing in the U.S. Open Championship. Unlike most of the courses they tackle each week—and, for that matter the majority of the Open courses of recent years—power won't mean much on this old course on Philadelphia's Main Line.

When Ben Hogan won the Open at Merion in 1950 (beating Lloyd Mangrum and me in the playoff after we had tied at 287, seven over par) the announced yardage was 6,694 yards. The only shorter course selected for the Open since World War II was St. Louis C.C. in 1947—6,532 yards.

Even though they have cut back through the woods 20 yards for a new tee on the 12th hole, the maximum yardage at Merion this year will be 6,544. The explanation for this is that the course has been remeasured with transit since 1950, and the yardage determined more accurately.

Incidentally, as an architect I think we should be building more courses of this length today—and fewer of the 7,000-yards-and-up monsters that are the current rage. Only the pros and the low handicap amateurs can handle a course of that length, which excludes 95 per cent of the average club membership. And while I think about it, there's something else at Merion which impresses me very much. Far better than at most courses, the size of the greens are in proper proportion to the length of the holes.

But getting back to Merion as the Open test—on many holes the drivers won't get out of the bag and only a few

of the par 4s, even under the worst conditions, will require full second shots to get home.

The premium will be on accuracy and the ability to finesse the ball. You cannot drive those heavy, hard shots into Merion's greens and expect to get within birdie range. You've got to loft them high and soft to get close to the holes.

Unless a player is skilled at playing these feathery, or lob type shots—they are not required very often on the weekly tour events—he will be smart to get to Merion in time to adjust his game to them.

Merion will require all the shots and a lot of thinking. On some holes it may be advantageous to lay up off the tee just to make a longer shot to the green, because you will be able to stop the ball better that way.

Most of the pros today think that when they have wedge shots they should get within birdie range a good percentage of the time. But unless the weather makes it impossible to have the greens as hard and fast as they usually are for the Open (and as they were in 1950), these sharpshooters very likely will have some unpleasant surprises.

I can think of at least six holes (Nos. 1, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13) where it's often tough to put the ball within 15 feet of the hole even with a wedge.

And on greens that break as deceptively as at Merion, there will be many putts from 15 feet and less that will not come close.

Par and yardage for the 71st U.S. Open

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	355	4	10	312	4
2	535	5	11	370	4
3	183	3	12	405	4
4	600	5	13	129	3
5	426	4	14	414	4
6	420	4	15	378	4
7	350	4	16	430	4
8	360	4	17	224	3
9	179/195	3	18	458	4
Out 3,408/3,424			In 3,120 Out 3,408/3,424 Total 6,528/6,544		

Be 'Creative,' '34 Open King Tells Hopefuls

AVILA BEACH, Calif. (UPI). — Olin Dutra, who won the U. S. Open 37 years ago when it was played at the Merion Golf Club, had a few words of advice Monday for the golfers who are playing this week in the open on the same course at Ardmore.

"Merion rewards good shot-making," said Dutra who celebrated his 70th birthday in January. "It especially rewards good driving. Don't underestimate it. It's a great course, a challenging course, and those who play it have to use their imaginative and be creative."

Dutra, still active as a teaching pro at the San Luis Bay Club, came from eight strokes back at the halfway mark to beat Gene Sarazen for the U. S. Open title in 1934 at Merion.

"Anyone who knows Merion simply doesn't underestimate the last four holes," he said. "I feel those famed 'quarry holes' are irrefutably four of the greatest holes in America."

1971 U. S. Open

Sunday, June 20

Sun. June 20	NAME	54-Hole Total	72-Hole Total
12:47	STARTER'S TIME		
12:54	J. A. (Chi Chi) Rodriguez, Dor. B., P.R.	214	
	Arnold D. Palmer, Ligonier, Pa.	214	
1:01	Doug Sanders, Houston, Texas	214	
	Dave Eichelberger, Waco, Texas	214	
1:08	John L. Schroeder, La Jolla, Calif.	214	
	Gay Brewer, Jr., Dallas, Texas	213	
1:15	Robert R. Rosburg, French Lick, Ind.	213	
	John L. Miller, San Francisco, Calif.	213	
1:22	Bert Yancey, Pompano Beach, Fla.	213	
	Raymond Floyd, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.	213	
1:27	STARTER'S TIME		
1:34	Bruce Devlin, Hialeah, Fla.	212	
	Larry W. Hinson, Beech Mountain, N.C.	212	
1:41	Ken Still, Tacoma, Wash.	212	
	Bob Erickson, Sanford, Fla.	211	
1:48	James J. Colbert, Jr., Prairie Ck., Ark.	211	
	George Archer, Gilroy, Calif.	211	
1:55	Lee Trevino, El Paso, Texas	211	
	Bobby Nichols, Akron, Ohio	210	
2:02	Jack W. Nicklaus, Columbus, Ohio	209	
	A- James Simons, Butler, Pa.	207	