

Round 2 – June 30, 2017 U.S. Senior Open Course Setup Notes from Ben Kimball

		Weather	<p><i>Here is the 5 a.m. forecast from Thor Guard Chief Meteorologist Jake Swick:</i></p> <p>We did not receive any rainfall last night as all the showers and storms thankfully stayed in VT/NH. Obviously it is starting off much warmer though and more humid with temps right now around 70 and dewpoints in the 60s. Look for dewpoints to reach the upper 60s by this afternoon when highs top out in the upper half of the 80s. Southwest winds will spend most of their time in the 10-15 mph range today with gusts 15-20 mph at times (20-25 mph gusts will likely stay at treetop level and above). There are some showers on radar right now I'm watching that could impact our weather during the second half of the morning hours (hence the 40% chance of a shower around 11 AM), otherwise look for sunshine early this morning to mix with clouds as the morning wears on. Then we'll be paying very close attention to what is going on our to our west in PA/NY around lunchtime. The idea was that showers and storms to our west would form and move northeastward staying hopefully just to our west and northwest this afternoon, however the latest indications are that the activity we'll see on radar in PA/NY around lunchtime will have a little more east-northeast movement. This means we appear to have a better chance (60%) of getting clipped by some showers and storms after 5 PM, especially closer to 8 PM and on into the first half of tonight.</p> <p>Behind this area of showers and storms we may have to contend with the possibility of fog early Saturday morning, but at this time it does not appear to be very thick or soupy. Then we'll likely do the same song and dance on Saturday with much of the same conditions expected. The only subtle difference is that we might see gusts try harder to get past 20 mph late in the day and the radar should potentially have a little more action to our west than today. One bit of good news I'll leave you with is that Sunday's forecast is trending better and better.</p>
		Setup Specifics	<p>The entire golf course was mown last night with the exception of the 4-inch secondary rough cut which is a part of our overall strategy. Regular putting green maintenance was performed last night (single cut) and the greens were single-cut and rolled this morning to get us to an average Stimpmeter reading of 11 which has been our target. We anticipate speeds settling out in the high-10s by the afternoon. Even with no rainfall last night, greens remain relatively receptive but the steady winds forecasted today should help with that.</p>
Hole	Par	Yardage	
1	4	417	<p>Play is right from the post here today. The tee shot along with the approach will have the prevailing wind steadily helping it today as opposed to breezy at times yesterday. Today's back-left hole location (24-5L) is accessible but just beyond the hole the green does begin to run away so players will need to respect that from the fairway and</p>

			when putting up to it. An easy uphill putt from the middle of the green should give players a reasonable chance to begin their round with a birdie.
2	4	484	No surprise that this long par 4 played as the hardest hole yesterday. It will play again right into the predominantly west wind, which should be steadier. Keeping that in mind, the tee markers are set 14 yards forward of where the tee sign is located. Today's back-right hole location (32-7R) will fend off all aggressive plays as par will again become a wonderful score to walk away with here.
3	3	153	This green can lend itself to some exciting moments given the two-tier back to front pitch. The tee markers have been shifted to the left-hand side of the 149 teeing ground to mix up the look and angle slightly. The hole location is in the middle of the upper tier of this green, so it is likely we will see players use the back half of this green to get their ball to stop and release back down to the hole. Shots left below the hole will result in what will be a very straight but likely slow uphill putt.
4	4	330	This short par 4 will play very similar all week and we should see the steady westerly breeze have some impact on the club selection to the punchbowl in this fairway again today. Today's front-right hole location (6-8R) is in the front-right bowl/collection area on this green. With wedges or the like in hand into this green spin control is going to be at premium. Anything left above this hole location will be a mistake. Putts from above will have the tendency to run anywhere from 3 ft to 10 yards by if the players is not careful with the speed. Well executed shots from the fairway will funnel down near the hole and will likely result in a kick-in birdie.
5	3	190	This was the toughest par 3 on the course yesterday, playing to a stroke average of 3.21. We are using the player's left teeing ground on this hole today with the tee markers pushed up 13 yards to give the players a slightly better angle at this front-right hole location (8-5R). The hole location sits to the right of the ridge that could either funnel the ball down toward the hole or away from the hole into another collection area that would leave a challenging uphill putt over the ridge and back down to the hole.
6	5	535	The dogleg sixth hole will again play back into the prevailing wind for both the tee shot and approach. Birdies will be harder to come by with a back-left hole location that is protected by the severe left shoulder (as the player's face it) on this green. Putts from the center of the green will be uphill and have a decent amount of break from left to right.
7	4	413	This hole will play with a crosswind again today (right to left), likely making the approach shot to today's front-right hole location slightly more challenging. The hole location (12-5R) is snuggled toward the front-right greenside bunker and the green has a mild runoff 3-4 paces to the right of the hole location. The play to this hole today will be center of the green which will leave a relatively flat birdie chance. An aggressive play can be taken by using a very pronounced ridge as a backstop behind this hole.

8	4	418	The tee shot and approach at hole 8 will benefit again from the steady breeze coming from the west. Today's hole location (10-13C) will be tough to attack given that is only 5 yards from the false front on this green. Players will need to be cautious with putts back down toward the front of the green.
9	4	448	Tee markers are at the post (439 yards) today on Hole #9 and overall from a wind standpoint the hole will play similar to yesterday. Today's hole location however (24-6R) is positioned just 7 paces from the back of the green, which will require a ½-club or more to get to than the previous day. Over the back of this green would be a big mistake given that it runs severely from back to front.
10	4	404	The 10th hole is playing back into the wind (coming from 10 o'clock) again today which will make this opening hole slightly more challenging for some of the field. A pronounced mound (no bulldozer required) in the left half of this fairway is the primary aiming point, knowing balls will repel down to a flat area right. Longer hitters can certainly challenge this mound and find a relatively flat lie as the fairway pinches toward the green. The hole location (19-5L) is at the base of the most severe back-to-front portion of this green. Players can use the back of this green to try and get their ball to trickle back, but the prudent play would be to the center of the green, which leaves a very challenging left-to-right downhill putt to the hole.
11	4	395	This par 4 played as the second-hardest hole on the course in Round 1. This sharp dogleg will have players reaching for 3 wood or hybrid again off the tee in order to keep their ball in the short grass. The first cut of primary rough on the right side of this hole was slightly widened during advance week to accommodate some running out of the golf ball as things begin to firm up. Today's hole location (17-6L) is nicely hidden from the drive zone and blocked even further by a fescue grass mound short left of the putting green. Putts from hole high will tend to dive from right to left. This will likely be the only time you can get away with missing over the 11th green.
12	3	171	The tee markers favor the right side of this teeing ground today to what appears to be a middle-back right hole location. The hole location (22-7R) is only 6 paces from the back of the green. Over this green spells trouble so I would expect to see players just staying below the hole here and putting back up to the hill.
13	4	381	The westerly breeze is hurting off the tee, which will likely make this hole play much longer than expected again. The tee markers have been pushed up 4-5 yards to accommodate. The front-right hole location is just 3-4 paces behind a false front that will keep players honest with their distance numbers. Putts from above the hole will be speedy back down to the hole location.
14	5	509	Easiest hole on the golf course yesterday. I certainly expect that trend to continue, however today's hole location (21-4L) is not as accessible as the previous one. Today's hole location is in the back left quadrant of the green and guarded by a mound that flows out in front of it from left to right. Aggressive players don't want to short-side themselves left into the tall rough that borders the green. Center of the green upon approach is the play, leaving a flat putt toward the hole location.

15	3	218	Tee markers are 3 yards forward but shifted to the far left on this back upper teeing ground. Tee shots from this elevated tee will be significantly impacted by the westerly breeze. The hole location is in the back-right portion of this green just right of a pronounced back-to-front mound/spine that divides the back portion of this green. Players certainly don't want to miss this hole long but if they miss slightly left then the spine will repel their ball farther out to the left, leaving a very testy and sweeping left-to-right putt.
16	4	379	The turn for home continues to be wind-aided, but the front hole location (7-7L) is only 7 paces on from the left side which will make distance control extremely important due to the impending false front that fronts this green. As to be expected, putts from back to front on this green will be slippery, yet the prevailing wind will make them feel otherwise.
17	4	490	The 17th will be the longest par 4 on the scorecard again today, yet it continues to play straight downwind with the westerly breeze. No drive-zone hazards to contend with so this hole will be all about the power game this week in order to shorten up approaches into this tabletop green. The hole location (9-7R) is in the front-right portion of the green, which will be hard for players to play aggressive to as greens begin to firm up. This hole played as the third-hardest yesterday and I would expect that trend to continue.
18	4	474	The closing hole will play straight downwind with the westerly breeze and may allow some players to use the contours of this fairway to shorten up their approach into this very diabolical putting surface. This green is tilted heavily from back to front and today's hole location (18-8L) is on the back shelf. Putts across this back shelf are scary but true but it is likely players will leave their approaches below the hole to save them from any anguish. Over the green on Hole #18 today leaves you looking at bogey or worse.

Front 9 - 3,388

Back 9 - 3,421

Total - 6,809