

**Round 3 – June 17, 2017 U.S. Open Course Setup Notes from Mike Davis and Jeff Hall**

		<b>Weather</b>	<p><i>Here is the 5 a.m. forecast from Thor Guard Chief Meteorologist Jake Swick:</i></p> <p><b>Showers and storms overnight dropped .91" of rain</b> officially on-site at Erin Hills, but good news is that most, if not all, of the daytime hours today is expected to have a decent chance of staying dry. We are leaving a 40% chance of a shower and 20% chance of a storm in the forecast through 8:30 AM in the event that some of the short term models are right that a leftover shower pops up on the back side of our exiting wet weather, but based on the latest radar trends, that appears relatively unlikely. Mid to late morning the clouds may break up and give us partly sunny to maybe even mostly sunny skies for a short time around lunchtime. There are still models that have activity popping up anywhere from late this morning on through this afternoon, so we'll keep a 20% chance of a shower or storm going through the midday hours. We'll bump things up to a 40% chance of a shower or storm from 2:30 PM on since by then the moist atmosphere we have will have had enough time to warm up and with somewhat lighter winds, a shower or storm seems possible.</p> <p><i>The good news is that despite these subtle chances here and there, the best chance (60%) for more wet weather does wait until closer to 7 PM today and especially tonight. In fact there should be two waves of activity we'll be watching for as the first area of showers and storms forms to our west and southwest once again and moves east and southeast this evening. That area will have some severe weather with it too, but we are not the center of the severe weather bullseye and it's even possible that we get missed this evening if we can stay just north of this action. Then regardless of whether we get clipped or not during the first half of tonight, a second piece of energy will swing through with the cold front from 4 AM to 7 AM Sunday and that may have some showers or maybe a storm. As we head from 7 AM to 10 AM Sunday look for west and northwest winds to become strong and gusty as they usher in cooler air. The atmosphere will still be just unstable enough on Sunday afternoon that some instability clouds and showers/sprinkles (40% chance) could form with maybe 1 or 2 thunderstorms in the whole state (20% chance - more likely closer to the actual area of low pressure to our north near Green Bay).</i></p>
		<b>Set Up Specifics</b>	<p><b>We received almost an inch of rain overnight</b>, so the gains we made in firmness the last two days have been lost. This morning greens were triple-cut and rolled and, on average, achieved Stimpmeter readings in the mid 13's immediately after the preparation. We anticipate speeds settling out in the upper 12's by the afternoon. <b>We were unable to cut fairways and green surrounds this morning</b>, but we were able to do so last evening following play.</p>
<b>Hole</b>	<b>Par</b>	<b>Yardage</b>	
1	5	609	<p>Play will be from the 608 tee. The tee shot, as well as the second shot, will be into today's light and predominantly southwest wind. Players who lay up will be faced with a third shot with a right-to-left crosswind. Today's middle-left hole location (15-5L) is fairly accessible, but putts from short or right of this location will be faster than others as they will be downhill and down-breeze. The closely mown area located left of the green could be in play.</p>

2	4	331	The second hole will play with a left-to-right and hurting cross breeze. We will play from the 338 tee (penultimate) today which will require a tee shot to carry roughly 260 yards to carry the fairway bunker complex and drive it up around, or maybe on the putting green. Today's front-right hole location (6-4R) is on a smallish plateau. Because the green sits up in the air, this hole location is well protected by the closely mown area in front of and right of the hole location. Second shots that finish left and slightly past this hole location will result in good uphill birdie opportunities.
3	4	516	This very solid par 4 will play with a left-to-right crosswind that is slightly hurting. We are again using the back tee. Tee shots played out to the right side of the fairway will likely funnel a good ways to the lower left portion of the fairway. Today's back-right hole location (22-6R) is on the upper shelf. A shoulder that flows into the green right of this hole location will move balls left toward the hole. A miss long should result in a reasonable recovery.
4	4	432	This relatively short par 4 has held its own through the first two rounds, playing as the second-most difficult hole. The drive zone is one of the tighter ones here at Erin Hills The southwest breeze will be a left-to-right cross wind. Today's front-left hole location (6-7L/6R) is located on a smallish tongue in the left front. It is well protected by the center greenside bunker but is more accessible with the very soft greens.
5	4	504	The par-4 fifth hole will play with a slightly helping, right-to-left southwest light breeze. Tee shots must finish in the left half of the fairway in order to have the best view of the flagstick. Balls in the right portion of the fairway will potentially leave players with a blind second shot. Today's hole location (15-6L) is the left-most hole location on this green and is well protected by the front bunker, but can be accessed by using the closely mown approach left of the central greenside bunker, which slopes toward the putting green.
6	3	239	The sixth hole will play with a slightly helping, light right-to-left breeze. The hole location today (28-7R) is well protected by the front right bunker and the pronounced shoulder that flows from the bunker into the right side of the green. It should be accessible with today's soft green conditions. The deepest green on the golf course is surrounded by an expansive closely mown area which should offer players choices in recovery shots should they miss the green. Most putts here today will be back up the slope and a bit slower, so proper speed will be important.
7	5	613	This hole will play with a light left-to-right breeze that will be slightly against the player. The tees are located on the back, 619 tee for the first time this week. This fairway is one of the narrower on the course from the drive zone all the way through to the putting green. It is also one of the more strategically bunkered holes on the course. A challenging middle-center hole location (13-14L) is featured today. Putting to today's hole location from left of or behind it will present some challenges as it is downhill and will also be down-breeze. A ridge that runs diagonally in front of this hole location will require precise distance control to have a good birdie opportunity.
8	4	499	One of only a few doglegs on the golf course, the tee shot at hole 8 will play primarily down-breeze and slightly from the right. The second shot will also be down-breeze. Today's back-right hole location (21-8R) is very accessible. Players will be able to use the large slope on the back portion of this green as a backstop to help feed the ball to this hole location.
9	3	123	We will be using the most forward of the right-hand tees and the southwest breeze will primarily result in a light right-to-left cross breeze. Today's hole location (8-4L) is positioned on a small front-left knob. It's a very small

			target that is well protected by the left greenside bunker complex. Although it will play as the shortest hole on the course, precise shot-making will be required to secure a good birdie chance. Balls that come to rest beyond this hole location will yield uphill birdie chances.
10	4	521	The 10th hole will play from the back tee today given the helping southwest breeze. This fairway is the widest at Erin Hills. The hole location (10-4L) is accessible as players can use the closely mown approach to bounce balls onto this putting green. Putts from beyond or right of this hole location will be relatively fast.
11	4	467	The blind tee shot at the 11th hole will be played back into the southwest breeze. The second shot will feature more of a right-to-left crosswind. Today's back-right hole location (21-4R) should yield putts with a fair amount of movement, but a ball that finishes beyond this hole will result in a very fast putt.
12	4	465	With the lightest breezes of the week predicted today, we have placed the tee-markers on the forward portion of the back 464 tee today, which will result in this hole playing its longest for the week. Today's back-center hole location (26-8 center) is six paces past the ridge that runs across the green. The back third of this putting green slopes toward the back of the green. Shots that finish short of this hole location will leave very fast putts. This is one hole where we could see greenside recovery shots from the mown rough and maybe even the fescue.
13	3	208	The southwest breeze will have this hole playing downwind. Today's front-right hole location (11-5R) is located on a small plateau. Shots that do not remain on this plateau will feed away from the hole location, resulting in uphill putts and maybe some uphill chips from the closely mown area.
14	5	599	The tees are located on the forward portion of the 594 tee, which is the tee farthest to the golfer's right. The light southwest breeze will be into the players on this hole. Given the light breeze, some players will attempt to reach the green in two shots. Those who play the hole as a three-shotter will be faced with one of the more challenging layup shots of all the par-5s at Erin Hills. The layup area offers one of the more narrow fairways and precision with distance is critical in order to have a better view of the flagstick on the third shot. Today's hole location (25-5R) is on the lower, right portion of the putting green. Players can use the contour of the green to feed the ball to this hole location. The 14th hole has played as the most difficult of the four par-5s in the first two rounds.
15	4	288	Tee markers are placed on the 288 tee today and are paired up with a hole location (18-5L) in the back-left bowl (very player friendly) of this putting green, offering two distinct strategic "risk/reward" options. With the softer conditions we may see players try to drive the green (the hole measured 283 yards "as the crow flies" when we measured it with a laser this morning) or perhaps lay up beyond the first cross bunker to have a shorter "pitch" into the green. Expect to see some excitement on this hole today.
16	3	214	We are using the back-right tee here today with a hole location (34-5L) that is on the back-left portion of the upper tier of this two-tiered green. This combination has the 16th hole playing its longest for the week. Players will only be able to see the top half of the flagstick as a result of the dune-like feature that obscures the view of the left side of the green. The back edges of the upper portion of this green feed balls back toward the center of the green where players will be left with a straight-forward uphill putt.
17	4	523	The 17th hole played as the most difficult par 4 in Rounds 1 and 2. Today's light southwest breeze will be at the players' backs and slightly from the right. Today's hole location (20-5R) is on the far right side of this putting green, which brings the expansive closely mown area right of this green into play.

18	5	667	The closing hole will play downwind but with a right-to-left bias. It has been the easiest hole through 36 holes. Today tees are located on the penultimate tee (663 yards). Today's hole location (17-6L) is on the left side of this green and is well protected by the green's unique contours and the left, greenside bunker complex. A precise shot will be required to get the ball close here, especially as the course continues to firm up.
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Front 9 – 3,866

Back 9 – 3,952

Total – 7,818