

# A spectator's guide to the Open

By BOB FEAVER  
Canadian Open spectators at Glen Abbey June 21-24 can add to their own enjoyment by following the Scout's motto — Be Prepared.

**WHAT TO WEAR**  
**Shoes** — Starting from the ground up, don't go out and buy a new pair of shoes for the Open. Give a little away to fashion. You'll be further ahead in a pair of well-worn shoes. Remember you are going to be tramping around more than four miles of golf course.

Although the 1977 Open was played in sweltering heat, it may be a little wet this year. Be prepared to get your shoes wet if it has rained before the tournament. Viewing areas don't dry out as quickly as the manicured playing surface.

Don't wear too high a heel; most of the viewing areas at Glen Abbey are mounds which means you'll be standing on an angle.

**Socks** — Again be comfortable! Men can compare it to going to the gym if the weather is hot. If it's wet and your shoes are going to be soaked, consider heavier socks that will absorb most of the moisture. Women might consider tennis socks.

**Clothing** — Don't wear anything too restrictive around the collar. Make sure you have plenty of freedom to allow your skin to breathe. But make sure you don't wear anything too brief unless you already have a deep tan. Watching golf in the sun can be a long experience and you may stay longer in the sun than you realize.

Don't wear anything you don't want to get grass stained; you'll want to sit down.

If the weather is wet or threatening, bring along a lightweight plastic or rubber suit. The plastic ones fold up nicely, and are quite portable.

**Hats** — Hats are a good idea rather than a parasol or umbrella. Other spectators tend to get nasty if they have been sitting in the sun all day waiting for their favorite player and someone else comes along and sticks a bumbumshot in their line of vision.

Tennis visors are popular but again remember that your head is exposed to the direct sun, even if your eyes are shaded.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

As mentioned, expect to walk a lot. Just getting to the nearest green from the nearest public parking lot is a quarter-mile hike. To get to the tough holes you have to tramp a long way. If you want to watch some pros put their shots in the water, you'll have to go down into the valley of Sixteen Mile Creek.



Don't stay down in the valley too long. Remember, while it was a breeze walking down, you still have to climb out of it.

The best bet would be to hit the valley in the morning before it gets too hot and choose the front nine in the afternoon when you don't have to climb out of the valley to leave.

Getting around the greens and tees, you'll be watching from mounds which means you'll get a good view but will be standing on an angle.

Get some walking practice in a day or so before you go. Walk downtown or around the block a few times and see if you get stiff. If you get too stiff, plan not to move around too much. Or better still, plan your moves in short jaunts rather than trekking from one end to the other.

Be prepared to move quickly for a good spot for viewing. Bashful golf fans end up seeing a lot of the backs of people's heads! If you want to watch from a particular spot that is occupied, be patient! The fan there will eventually move to another location.

### HOW TO WATCH

There are several methods of watching a golf tournament the calibre of the Canadian Open. Some ways are best used in combination with others depending on whether you'll be

there for part of a day, just one day or the entire tourney.

**Pick a hole** — Situate yourself at either one green or one tee (or even one part of a fairway).

This way, you can compare the approaches of different golfers to the same situation (e.g. putting or approaching a green).

This method also works over several days to compare the same golfer's approach to different pin placements. You can compare how a hole plays early in the day compared to later, especially if weather conditions are variable.

Some of the best holes for this method are behind the green at numbers 2 and 3, behind the tee at 4, along the fairway at 5, behind the tee at 11, behind the green at 12, and behind the greens at 15, 16 and 18.

**Follow-a-group** — Pick your favorite golfer and follow him around (e.g. Arnie's Army, Lee's Fleas). If you don't have a particular favorite, follow one group for a while and then pick another group.

Mixing groups over the same few holes, you can compare how different golfers play a combination of holes.

Combining holes 1, 2 and 3 can bring you

in circles to watch different groups as will the combinations of 6, 7, and 8, and 17 and 18.

**Tee/green-combinations** — There are several areas around the course where you can sit down and watch the green from one hole and the tee from another hole.

This expands the pick-a-hole method to include two holes at once. The best area is the mound just before the creek along the fairway of number 13. You can watch the approach shots and putting on 13 and the tee shots on 14 behind you.

**Several-holes-combination** — There are a few selected areas on the course where it is possible to view several holes at once. A pair of binoculars comes in handy if you choose this method.

The best area is a promontory mound just north of the 7th green. From there you can see the play on the 7th, the play of the 9th green, the tee shots on 4 and 3 and with some help from binoculars, play on 8, 6, 18 and 17.

Sitting on the north hill along the 15th fairway with a pair of binoculars you can watch the 15th, 14th, 13th and some of the 12th as you look back down the valley.

## PGA tour notebook

Surely a healthy portion of Tom Watson's success on the PGA Tour can be attributed to his philosophy regarding the game of golf. Prior to his first start of 1979 in the Andy Williams-San Diego Open, he said:

"Golf is still only a game, but I love it. I will treat it as seriously as I can because I do love it and I will try to do the best I can. It is rare in most people's lives that they can have something that they really love to do and do it well, but still feel they can do better and make a hell of a living at it with very little sacrifice."

After nailing down his victory in the rain-shortened Phoenix Open,

Ben Crenshaw commented, "It's unbelievable the scores you have to shoot out here to win, scores like 61." And, that's just what Ben posted in the second round en route to his one-stroke margin over Jay Haas.

Jerry Pate credits his improved play with the three wood "to finding the right three wood. My first year on the PGA Tour, I must have tried at least 10 three woods and 10 sand wedges." After a pause, he said with a grin, "There wasn't anything wrong with the clubs. It's all mental."

Even though Jerry was a strong contender in the Phoenix Open, he said of Crenshaw's 10-under-par

61, "I'm happy to see Bee strike the ball as well as he did because he has worked so hard on his game. I'm always glad to see guys shoot 61 or 62, because it is a credit to the players on the Tour and a testimony as to how good they really are."

John Mahaffey had seven straight birdies in the Bob Hope Desert Classic (one shy of the all-time record held by Bob Goalby and Fuzzy Zoeller).

Pat McGowan had his "first ever" 29. It was a six-under-par effort on the back nine at the Phoenix Country Club.

Hale Irwin went into the year with a string of 86 tournaments without miss-

ing the cut and cashing a cheque every time. He had planned to start in Phoenix, but had to withdraw before the start of the tournament because of an injured left hand. He hurt it at home in December when he "crashed" into a wall while playing indoor tennis.

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