

Bit of humor needed at Glen Abbey

Assignment: Take on Glen Abbey golf course and discuss the lurid details.

I won't divulge my score. Some hints, though — 10 three-putt greens, one ball lost and five others reported drowned.

I didn't mind this assignment and I'm not bitter about the results, although golf balls cost more than \$14 per dozen and reimbursement is not forthcoming.

As with any sport, a shot at conquering the celebrated monument is irresistible: for a runner, it's the Boston Marathon; for a diver, the cliffs of Acapulco; for a cyclist, the Tour de France.

In the monument field, Glen Abbey is not yet of St. Andrews or Augusta's stature, but a few more Canadian Opens (this week, June 21-24) should remedy that situation. Unfailingly, during the first two years of the Open at Glen Abbey, the pros have soared from opening round respectability to second round disaster, or vice-versa.

Understanding the reality of such schizophrenia from men paid well for their talent is not particularly easy until the tortuous mission of golfing Glen Abbey has been accomplished personally. Beforehand, the

fairways look plush, the greens well-manicured and the trees avoidable. It seems manageable.

There's a catch, however. You're not allowed any mistakes. Punishment is im-



Tom Maloney

mediate and harsh. And mistakes are easy to make.

Last year on the par-3 15th, Jack Nicklaus made a putt that followed a route similar to the one anybody but a taxidermist would take having sighted a skunk in his path. Nicklaus's ball rounded its way to a stop an inch from the cup. Conversely, a golfer in my foursome found the sand trap on the side of the green with his first putt.

The greens are so fast one golfer joked he'd bring his retriever (dog, not ball) along next time. Undulations that ripple more than the Credit in the spring preclude 'gimme' putts, thereby explaining the ease of taking three putts on a par three hole.

Play Glen Abbey straight ahead and the golfer is out of trouble. Off to the side and he's in rough that looks easy but feels as though the club is swinging through wet cement. Backspin is difficult to attain if the ball does not gain flight.

The sand traps — 84 in total — liberally decorate the greens and reach a climax on the 17th hole, which has 14 of them. The guide book to Glen Abbey suggests the route to the green as "two huge shots and usually a sand iron."

Water can come into play on 11 holes, though pros seriously contend with it three or four times.

The huge lake guarding the 18th green provides the scene for drama on the last day of the Open, when golfers are forced out of their cautious plan of attack at Glen Abbey to play for an eagle or birdie on the last hole. When



Ben Crenshaw lost the gamble last year the crowd voiced a collective sigh.

This year, having now experienced the course, I'll settle for a bemused thought — I could have told you so.

Recreational golfers can play Glen Abbey for a \$25 green fee. A guide book to the holes is also available. It is suggested golfers bring along a sense of humor.

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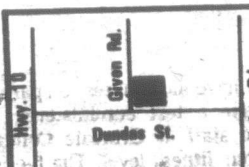
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Is the wrist worth it

Pssst! Hey, lady! Wanna make a fast buck?

You may have to push some iron to do it, but it may be worth \$50. That's the prize offered in the open ladies' division of the fourth annual Mississauga Wrist Wrestling Tournament, July 23 at Clarkson Community Centre.

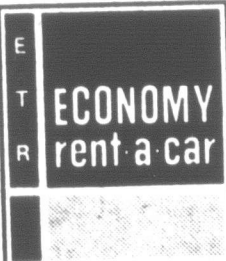
Last year, only five women competed in the division. This year, organizer Claude Lewis expects a few more women may join, as the tournament is becoming "sophisticated."

The real competition is in the heavyweight division, where maintenance mechanic Robert Snarey is set to defend his title, which he's won three years in succession. He weighs 292 pounds, but supposedly the secret is all in the wrists.

There are three divisions: lightweight, up to 175 pounds; middleweight, 175 to 200 pounds; heavyweight, over 200 pounds. Ron Smith has been most proficient of local entrants, winning middleweight in 1977 and finishing runner-up last year.

Top prize in each men's division is \$100 and a Carling O'Keefe trophy, second prize is \$50.

Weigh-ins start at 10 a.m. and preliminary rounds at noon. Finals in all divisions, including ladies, begin at 8 p.m. A Monte Carlo and a dance are also scheduled to begin about 8 p.m.



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