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Recognizing Bay County Championship's all-time greats heading into 100th event

Updated: Jul. 30, 2024, 11:41 a.m. | Published: Jul. 29, 2024, 11:56 a.m.



Justin Holyszko tees off in front of a crowd at the 83rd Bay County Championship at Bay County Golf Course in Essexville Sunday, August 5, 2007. THE BAY CITY TIMES



By [Lee Thompson | lthomps2@mlive.com](mailto:Lee.Thompson@mlive.com)

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP, MI -- The Bay County Golf Championship was built to last.

The 100-tournament milestone proves that point.

When nearly 160 golfers hit Bay County Golf Course this weekend, it marks the 100th playing of the local championship, an event that has weathered the test of time.

From its beginnings as the City Championship in 1922 to its move to the Bay County Championship in 1968 to its 100th gathering this Saturday and Sunday, the event has crowned the king of the links.

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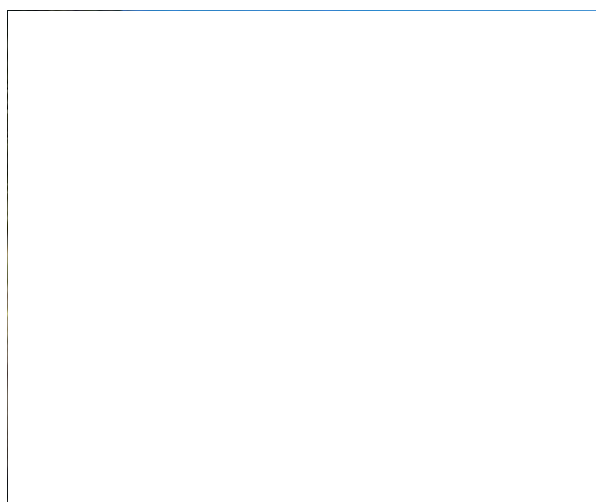
And some incredible champions have emerged. As we head into the 100th Bay County Championship, we take a look at the greatest champions in tournament history.

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John Tews owns the record with 12 titles in the City Championship, which is now known as the Bay County Golf Championship. Times Photo

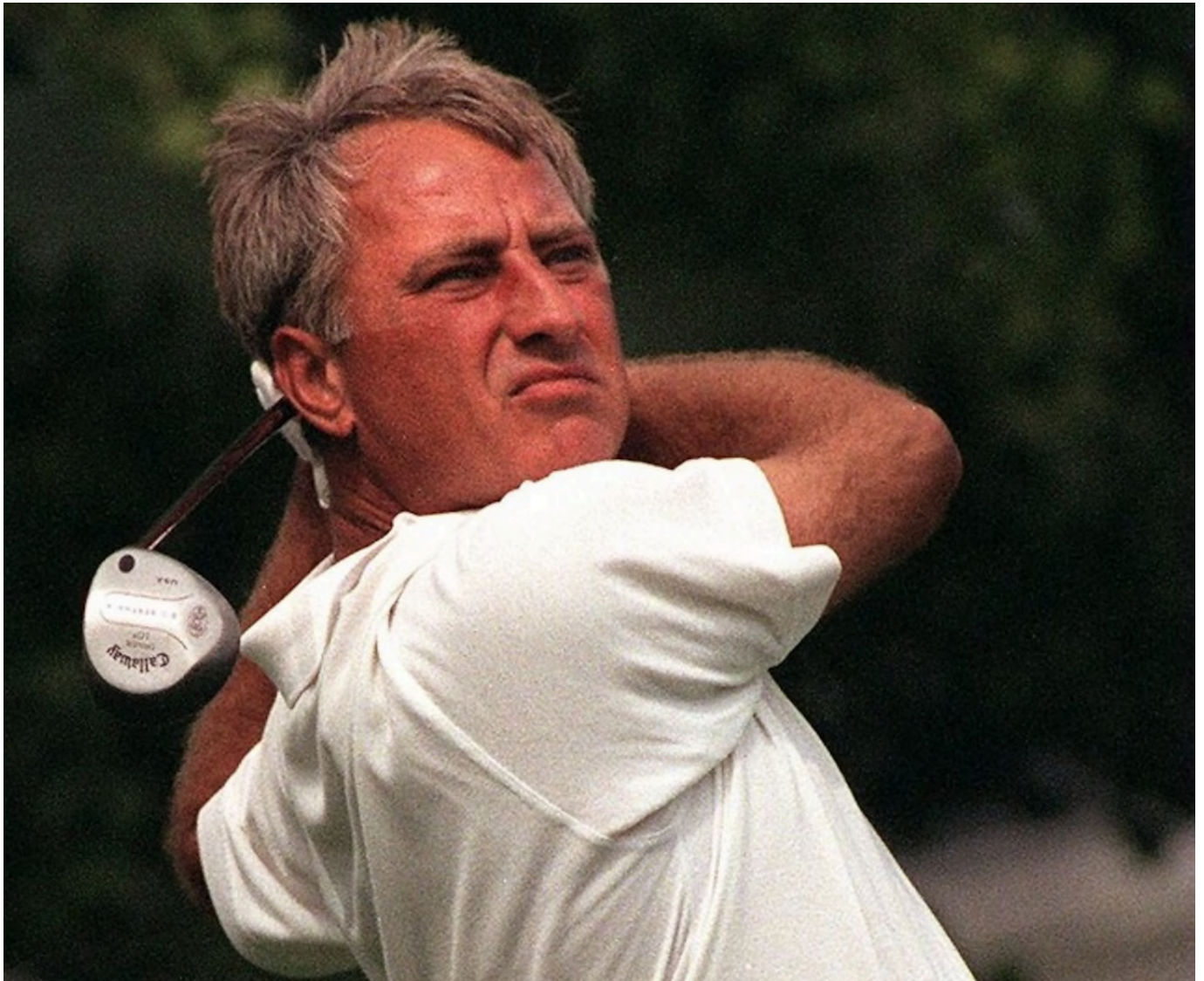
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1. JOHN TEWS - 12-TIME CHAMPION

Tews was just a 17-year-old whiz kid when he won his first championship in 1938 – and he wouldn't be budging from his perch as the king of local golf for a long, long time. The University of Michigan standout won 12 titles and finished second a record seven

other times. Perhaps fittingly, the Bay County Sports Hall of Famer won his final title on the final day of operation for Euclid Municipal Course in 1964.



Jerry Snable tees off on the eighth hole during the Bay County Golf Championship. THE BAY CITY TIMES

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2. JERRY SNABLE - 11-TIME CHAMPION

As far as legends of the local links go, there are none greater than Jerry Snable. A star on the course since he played in the Buick Open at age 16, he won the first Bay County Championship in 1968 – when it was revived at the County course and renamed from the City Championship – and added titles in 1971, 1982 and 1990. Then the Bay County Sports Hall of Famer took it to a whole new stratosphere, ripping off a record seven consecutive victories from 1992-98. With a magical short game and the knack for finding a way to win, his legacy as an all-time great is cemented in time.



Justin Holyszko sizes up his tee shot in the Championship Flight at the 2023 Bay County Golf Championship. (Lee Thompson | MLive.com)

3. JUSTIN HOLYSZKO - EIGHT-TIME CHAMPION

A dominant player in the current era, Holyszko was a star for state champion Bay City Western and GLIAC champion Northwood University. He separated himself from the pack by stringing together four straight championships from 2012-15, joining Jerry Snable and Eugene Hand as the only players to accomplish the feat. He has finished first or second 14 times since 2002. He and/or twin brother Jason Holyszko finished among the top-3 in the tournament in 21 of the past 23 years.



Eugene Hand was a seven-time City Championship winner during the early years of the golf showdown. Times Photo

4. EUGENE HAND - SEVEN-TIME CHAMPION

The first dominant player in tournament history, he rattled off four straight championships while still a teenager from 1925-28 then added crowns in 1930 and 1931. A product of the University of Michigan golf team, the local doctor continued to excel on the local golf scene as a Bay City Country Club champion in the 1930s and 1940s.



Tom Rezler tees off during the 2015 Halub Cup golf challenge Saturday, July 11, Saginaw Valley Golf Course in Frankenlust Township. (Yfat Yossifor | The Bay City Times) The Bay City Times

T5. TOM REZLER - FIVE-TIME CHAMPION

Rezler competed in the Championship Flight for more than 50 seasons while asserting himself as one of the all-time greats. The Bay County Sports Hall of Famer was the dominant player for a stretch, winning in 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980 and 1989. He is also owner of six runner-up finishes and 18 top-three showings. He has added three Senior Championship titles and is currently the four-time reigning Super Senior champion.



Pete Pafford competes at the Bay County Golf Championship, an event he won five times. Bay City Times file

T5. PETE PAFFORD - FIVE-TIME CHAMPION

Long one of the top names on the local golf scene – be it as the 1973 state champion at Bay City Central, owner of State Park Driving Range or coordinator of the junior golf program – Pafford was the player to beat in the 1980s. The Bay County Sports Hall of Famer finished in the top-3 11 times in 15 years, winning it all in 1979, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1987. Pete’s threeppeat was the first in the tournament in 45 years.



Harry Halub won the City Championship five times to be one of the golf tournament's all-time greats. Times file photo

T5. HARRY HALUB - FIVE-TIME CHAMPION

The one golfer who proved to be a thorn in the side of all-time champ John Tews was his good friend Harry Halub. The two famously squared off in the match play finals four times in five years, with each winning twice. Halub finished first or second eight times in 12 years, winning championships in 1948, 1949, 1954, 1955 and 1957. The Bay County Sports Hall of Famer inspired the Bay County vs. Bay City Country Club challenge match known as the Halub Cup.



Brent Goik drives the ball on hole one during the Bay County Golf Championship on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021. (Kaytie Boomer | MLive.com) Kaytie Boomer | MLive.com

T8. BRENT GOIK – THREE-TIME CHAMPION

Goik is making Act II of his golf career a championship one. After coming up short in his first few shots at a title, the Bay City Central state champion and Michigan State University standout turned pro and became ineligible to compete, serving as tournament director for many years. But the Bay County Sports Hall of Famer regained his amateur status in 2020 and returned to the field in spectacular fashion, winning three times in the past four years. He fired a record-tying round of 66 in 2021 to charge back from a seven-shot deficit. He added a historic win last summer, outdueling Justin Holyszko in the tourney's first 18-hole playoff, which ended up stretching to 19 holes before Goik rolled in a 25-footer for birdie.



Mike Wenglikowski watches someone drive the ball during the first day of the Saginaw District Golf Tournament on Friday, Aug. 20, 2021. (Kaytie Boomer | MLive.com) Kaytie Boomer | MLive.com

T8. MIKE WENGLIKOWSKI - THREE-TIME CHAMPION

When the All Saints and Northwood University standout won his first title in 2000, it signaled the start of a youth movement in the championship. No player older than 29 would win for the next 12 years. It was Wenglikowski who emerged at the forefront of the young guns, winning again in 2003 and 2005. He made history by rattling off four consecutive championships in the Saginaw District tournament.



Carl Herber hits a shot en route to the title at the 1970 Bay County Golf Championship. Bay City Times file

T8. CARL HERBER - THREE-TIME CHAMPION

Carl Herber is the answer to the trivia question “Who is the only golfer to win championships at both Euclid Municipal Golf Course and Bay County Golf Course?” Herber won his first title in 1960, defeating his brother Chick in a preliminary match then topping John Tews in the final. When the championship shifted courses, Herber’s game traveled well as he won again in 1970 – the last time the tourney was contested under a match play format -- and in 1972. He narrowly missed out on a fourth title when he lost a playoff to Tom Rezler in 1977.

T8. HOWARD TAYLOR - THREE-TIME CHAMPION

Eugene Hand won six of the first 10 championships, and it was time for a fresh face to come along. Taylor would provide a new look, taking home titles in 1932, 1933 and 1935. He couldn’t prevent the passing of the torch, however, as he lost to young upstart John Tews in the finals in 1940 and 1941. He is a three-time runner-up.



Scott DeWyse booms his drive on No. 1 in the Championship Flight at the 2023 Bay County Golf Championship. (Lee Thompson | MLive.com)

T12. SCOTT DEWYSE – TWO-TIME CHAMPION

Few cherish the championship trophy as much as DeWyse, who grew up playing Bay County and worked his way up the tournament ladder. He halted Justin Holyszko's run of four straight titles in 2016, becoming just the second player in the Bay County Championship era to win a First Flight title then add a Championship Flight crown. He doubled up his feat by repeating his title in 2017 and has stamped himself as one of the all-time greats with five Top 3 finishes in eight years.



Chad Horner hits a shot during the 2006 Bay County Championship at Bay County Golf Course. The Bay City Times

T12. CHAD HORNER - TWO-TIME CHAMPION

A two-time Bay County High School Championship winner, Horner quickly showed he could play with the big boys by winning men's championships in 2006 and 2009. His first title came in record fashion as he fired a two-day 136, edging Kurt Valley, who also broke the previous record with a 137. Horner's first title was highlighted by a hole in one on No. 11.



Pete Mayo presents the winning check to Kevin Janasik after his win in the 1991 Bay County Golf Championship. Dan Staudacher | Times file phot

T12. KEVIN JANASIK - TWO-TIME CHAMPION

The former All Saints standout worked at Huron Golf Club in Ypsilanti when he splashed onto the Bay County Championship scene, winning in 1988 and 1991 and finishing second in 1990 and 1992. His first title snapped Pete Pafford's string of three straight wins and his last title came just prior to Jerry Snable's seven-year domination.



Joe Spyhalski won the 1976 Bay County Golf Championship. Times File Photo

T12. JOE SPYHALSKI - TWO-TIME CHAMPION

During an era when it seemed like the championship came down to Pete Pafford or Tom Rezler, Spyhalski twice proved he was a player in the game. He won his first title in 1976 when he was a senior on the Saginaw Valley State golf team, denying Rezler of what would have been the tourney's first three-peat since 1940-42. Spyhalski rallied from two strokes down to edge Kendall Kinsey for his second crown in 1984.

T12. CHICK HERBER - TWO-TIME CHAMPION

Fred "Chick" Herber became one of the tournament's youngest champions ever when he won the title in 1944. Ironically, Sam Young would become the oldest champion ever when he won it the following year at age 51. Herber would remain a factor in the event for 20 years, winning his second title in 1950, finishing second in 1956 and third in 1952 and 1964. He and Carl Herber were the first brothers to win the crown.

T12. DUDE EVANS - TWO-TIME CHAMPION

The first two-time champion in the history of the event, Wendell "Dude" Evans won back-to-back in 1923 and 1924 – the second and third editions of the now 100-year tournament. Evans was a Country Club caddie who outdueled veteran golfer Fred

Johnson in the final each year in the match play format. With the arrival of Eugene Hand the following year, Evans never won a third.

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