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## GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

United State Golf Association  
U.S. Amateur  
August 22 - 28, 2011

Erin Hills Golf Course  
Erin, Wis.

### Golf Course Management Information

**GCSAA Golf Course Superintendent:**

Zachary N. Reineking

**Availability to media:**

Contact Zach Reineking by phone 262-709-7991; cell 262-370-1621; email [zach@erinhills.com](mailto:zach@erinhills.com)

**Education:**

B.S., Soil Science/Turf Management, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wis., 2004

**Years as a GCSAA member: 8**

**GCSAA affiliated chapter:**

Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

**Years at this course: 5**

**Number of maintenance employees: 32**

**Number of tournament volunteers: 15**

**Previous positions:**

2004-2005, Intern/Crew Foreman, Whistling Straits, Haven, Wis.; 2003-2004, Intern, Black Wolf Run, Kohler, Wis.

**Previous tournament preparation:**

2008 Women's Amateur Public Links, Erin Hills Golf Course, Erin, Wis.; 2004 PGA Championship, Whistling Straits, Haven, Wis.

**Previous tournaments hosted by facility:**

2008 Women's Amateur Public Links

### Course statistics

**Average tee size:** 1,500 sq. ft.  
**Tournament Stimpeter:** 12.5 ft.  
**Average green size:** 6,000 sq. ft.  
**Soil condition:** Loam/clay loam  
**Green construction soil mix:** California  
**Rounds per year:** 14,000  
**Acres of fairway:** 40  
**Source of water:** Well  
**Acres of rough:** 30  
**Drainage conditions:** Fair, good  
**Sand bunkers:** 129  
**Water hazards:** 3

### Course ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
<b>Black</b>	7820	72	77.9	145
<b>Blue</b>	7227	72	75.2	139
<b>Green</b>	6712	72	72.8	135
<b>White</b>	6423	72	71.5	131
<b>Red</b>	5123	72	69.3	118

### Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
<b>Tees</b>	Bentgrass	0.300"
<b>Fairways</b>	Fine fescue	0.500"
<b>Greens</b>	Bentgrass	0.085"
<b>Rough</b>	Fescue	3"

### Wildlife on the course

Beaver; Canada goose; Deer; Hawk; Pheasant; Red fox; Turkey; Turtle; Several different species of birds; Sand hill crane



Syngenta Professional products is proud to support GCSAA and the efforts of GCSAA golf course superintendents to produce the finest quality tournament playing conditions.

## Interesting and historical course-related facts

Erin Hills has both old-fashioned and modern elements. It was built both to test the very best players in the world and to accommodate comfortably the thousands and thousands of people who will watch them. It was built on topography ideally suited for golf but on soil that is far from ideal for golf. The bunkering includes small, traditional pots and the more fashionable free-form bunkers.

Not surprising given the books on the subject of golf course architecture by Hurdzan and Whitten, the architects took care to get the practical aspects of the routing "right". For example, the opening holes do not play towards the east and the rising sun (the 5th is the first hole that does so), and the last three holes run to the east with the setting sun behind them. While it would have been tempting to route the holes through the valleys for both attractive holes and for the expected spectators as at Royal Birkdale, Hurdzan, Fry and Whitten routed the holes so that they attack the hills from all angles –along the sides (e.g., the 1st), between hills (e.g., the 17th) and over hills (e.g., the 12th).

When Hurdzan, Fry and Whitten initially designed the course, they did so with the mindset of erring on the side of moving too little earth. While it is possible to return and push earth around, it is impossible to go back and return the ground to its natural state.

When Andy Ziegler purchased Erin Hills in October 2009, Ziegler knew work had to be done immediately if Erin Hills were to host a successful U.S. Amateur in 2011 and land the prize of being awarded the U.S. Open. Ziegler appreciated that the golf course is the key to Erin Hills' success. In addition to the architectural changes to the course, Ziegler also made the decision that Erin Hills would become a walking-only course, as the cart traffic was bad for the fescue fairways and as Erin Hills should appeal to the serious golfer. Ziegler also had a network of substantial asphalt roads built throughout the course for the maintenance equipment and to provide significant infrastructure for the hoped-for U.S. Open. All the work was rewarded when the

United States Golf Association awarded the 2017 U.S. Open to Erin Hills in June 2010.

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### Course architect/date:

Hurdzan & Fry, 2005

### Original course builder/date:

Landscapes Unlimited, 2005-2006

### Most recent redesign/renovation:

Hurdzan & Fry, 2009-2010

### Redesign builder:

Landscapes Unlimited, 2009-2010

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## Other key course personnel

Brian Moesch, Assistant Superintendent  
John Jacques, Assistant Superintendent  
Don Heesen, Equipment Manager  
Brian Brendimehl, Equipment Manager  
Rich Tock, Club Manager  
Ben Farenholz, PGA Professional  
Jim Lombardo, PGA Professional  
Andy Ziegler, Club Owner

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## Golf course management facts

For additional information please visit the GCSAA [association news](#) section or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, [The Environmental Institute for Golf](#), works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts. Visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).