

Sponsored By:



2010 U.S. Women's OPEN PREVIEW



Where energy meets innovation.

Cristie Kerr is a 12-time winner on the LPGA Tour, including the 2007 U.S. Women's Open at Pine Needles Golf Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina. The 32-year-old got her first look at Oakmont Country Club in late May and shared her first impressions with PSR's Mike Dudurich.

PSR: What were your impressions after seeing Oakmont for the first time?

Kerr: Well, you hear what other pros have said, you've read things about it, but you don't understand until you get out there. That's a very tough golf course, it's gritty. I think, honestly, of all the U.S. Open courses we've played this will be the toughest.

PSR: Angel Cabrera won the men's Open here in 2007 at 5-over par. What might the score be this year for the women?

Kerr: Honestly, I think 5-10-over will win our Open. Last year, even par won and not to take anything away from Saucon Valley, but this is way tougher.

PSR: The USGA has said it will give players an opportunity to go for the green on the short 2nd and 17th holes. What did your first look at those holes tell you?

Kerr: On drivable par fours you have to give yourself the best chance to make birdies and pars. Seventeen green is so difficult and the bunkering is tough, I don't know if I'd go for it in the tournament. Two green is pretty severe, too. The USGA likes to tempt you, but I look at it as if you have a sand wedge in your hand, you should get it to 10 feet and that may be the way to go.

PSR: You are 8th on the LPGA money list, one of the best American players on tour. How important is it for an American to win the Open at Oakmont?

Kerr: I definitely think we need it to just really establish the American force on our tour again. To have an American win the money title or win player of the year would be a great thing. We're kind of in a hole since the year is almost half over, but anything is possible.



Teeing Off with Cristie Kerr

PSR: Was your first look at Oakmont better or worse than you expected?

Kerr: It was about what I expected. I knew from talking to other tour players that the bunkers were very severe and greens very,

can tell how difficult these greens can be. The USGA will definitely firm them up, but the slopes are so treacherous that they don't have to be that much faster to be really difficult.

Of all the U.S. Open courses we've played, Oakmont will be the toughest.

very sloped. I told my caddie that even if I had to hit three woods off the tees and have 180 yards left, that's better. If you hit it in the bunkers and hit it out sideways, you're hitting about the same shot. You



Women's U.S. Open Champions This Decade

2000 – Karrie Webb, Merit Club (Libertyville, Ill.)

2001 – Karrie Webb, Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club (Southern Pines, N.C.)

2002 – Juli Inkster, Prairie Dunes Country Club (Hutchinson, Kan.)

2003 – Hilary Lunke, Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club (North Plains, Ore.)

2004 – Meg Mallon, Orchards Golf Club (South Hadley, Mass.)

2005 – Birdie Kim, Cherry Hills Golf Club (Cherry Village, Colo.)

2006 – Annika Sorenstam, Newport Country Club (Newport, R.I.)

2007 – Cristie Kerr, Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club (Southern Pines, N.C.)

2008 – Inbee Park, Interlachen Country Club (Minneapolis, Minn.)

2009 – Ji Eun-Hee, Saucon Valley Country Club (Bethlehem, Penn)

Where energy meets responsibility.

