



PRESS-REGISTER

Change good for Mobile's Bell Micro LPGA Classic

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PRATTVILLE — A number of top LPGA players like what they've heard about moving Mobile's Bell Micro LPGA Classic to the spring and changes to the Crossings Course.

The Bell Micro was moved to late April or mid May in part to ensure that renovations to the Crossings could be completed.

Magnolia Grove director of golf Paul Martino was in Prattville assisting with the Navistar tournament earlier this week and said several players asked him about the changes to the course.

"I told them the greens are flatter and there will be more pin placements available," Martino said. "And I told them that on every hole there's an out in case they find themselves in trouble. Their reaction has been good. There's a lot of interest in the changes to the greens and they seem to be excited about the date."

Martino said the change in the date should help attract many of the top golfers to Mobile. In its originally scheduled time this fall, the Bell Micro would have been played the week before the LPGA Tour's Asian swing.

"I'm really interested in seeing the changes," Christina Kim said. "But as long as there are 18 tees and greens, we'll play. I've never been in Alabama that time of year, so I'm looking forward to it. Maybe it won't be as hot and humid as before."

Natalie Gulbis said she liked the previous design of the Crossings Course, but added that change can be good.

"I don't think they needed to make any changes, but I'm looking forward to seeing what they've done," she said.

World No. 1 Lorena Ochoa believes the date change for the Bell Micro will be favorable, adding: "I'm excited to see the course and I'll be there."

Anna Rawson said she liked the design of the Crossings before the changes.

"I played well there last year, so obviously I liked the design of the course," she said. "I loved how it was before because it was difficult, and I like playing difficult courses. But I'm sure the changes will be good ones and we'll enjoy playing there at that time of year."

Brittany Lang remembers all the lovebugs that were evident at last year's tournament in Mobile and said she was happy to hear the date was changed.

"It will kind of be a new course, so that will level the field for everyone because it will be new for everyone," she said. "That should make it fun."

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