Stadium courses—
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projected to accommodate 1,000 spectators; the same number as had been seated in bleachers in years past. "We figured we would need 18 inches per person or 1,500 linear feet. In actuality, the last day of the tournament we had probably 3,000 people watching golf from the mound," he said.

"Some of those occupied a "Skybox" for patron sponsors which was constructed on a flat area, to the golfer's right. To the golfer's left was ABC-TV booth. In past years, ABC had to build a tower and put a booth atop that. In 1989, they simply constructed the booth. They had a great view."

If Luikens has a problem with his dirt pile, it is one he readily accepts. "We have to mow the rows or benches with a Flymo and a Weedeater. It takes about two hours and that's costly. Over the years we've lengthened holes, moved bunkers, put mounding down the sides of fairways, anything to improve individual holes or groups of holes. The big hill behind No 18 will probably benefit more people in more ways."

How does Luikens justify a $100,000 "bump" on a daily fee course?

"Ask yourself," says Luikens, "does the daily tee golfer deserve a course with all the excitement he would expect to find on a championship tract played by pros? We think he does."

Gary Rippy, TPC's head professional concurs. Rippy adds the course averages 37,000-40,000 rounds per year, of which 25,000 are tournament rounds.

"Those include corporate outings," advises the pro. "Plus, we hosted the Golf Digest ROLEX Intercollegiate and the U. S. G. A. Senior Women's Amateur this spring and summer and will host the Lee Trevino State Open this Fall." In 1988, TPC was the site of the Insurance Youth Golf Classic tourney and several qualifying events as well.

The comment of one PGA Tour official to superintendent Luikens sums up the effort and finished product. "He told me that we had the most natural looking stadium on Tour," said Luikens. And a pretty nifty stage for the fat lady's finale as well.

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