By ANDREW OVERBECK

IRVING, Texas — While superintendent Scott Miller has hosted nine Byron Nelson Classics during his tenure at the TPC at Four Seasons-Las Colinas here, this year’s event was special because it marked the culmination of a two-year renovation program.

“The tournament went great and the improvements that we made over the last couple years really came together,” said Miller. “The landscaping we added has matured and we narrowed the fairways and let the rough go a little longer. We got tons of appreciative and positive comments from the players.”

Over the past two years the club has planted more than 1,500 trees and added two acres of ornamental beds around the tee boxes.

In addition to the aesthetic fine-tuning, Miller has also overseen major course redesign work that was drawn up by architect Jay Morrish.

“All of the bunkers have been renovated giving them more character and higher flashing sand,” Miller said. Miller is also rebuilding all the bunkers at the facility’s member course, Cottonwood Valley.

Five greens were also renovated.

“We rebuilt the green on the 15th hole when we raised the fairway and we have reshaped and returfed four other greens,” Miller added.

The new greens are Cato, Crenshaw bentgrass and the others are Penncross and the fairways, tees and roughs are 419 bermudagrass. The final step in the redesign work was drawn up by architect Jay Morrish.

Miller also had to deal with extensive downpours that washed out bunkers on Thursday night. “Forty people from our staff and some from other courses came in to pump water out of bunkers and throw sand on Friday morning,” said Miller.

Miller’s crew first concentrates on aerifying 20 to 25 acres of damaged turf areas, and pumping them back up with water and quick release and complete fertilizers.

“The heat we get this time of year also helps recovery,” he said. “We get a lot of good growth going on.”

In order to keep the two courses running and handle what amounts to almost four months of tournament-related activity, Miller directs a crew of seven managers and 70 employees. Between the two courses, Miller has 41 utility vehicles to keep the operation running efficiently.

“Organization and planning and having good people underneath you are the keys,” said Miller. “It takes a lot of hard work and long hours. But there is a lot of gratification, especially this year when we had the chance to see the improvements we have made blossom. The hard work and dedication has paid off.”