

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Miller shows off revamped TPC at Four Seasons

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 renovation process at the TPC course will come this winter when they add a

lake to the 18th hole.

BYRON NELSON CLASSIC PREPARATION



Scott Miller

Even with renovation work wrapping up, Miller was able to keep to his usual tournament preparation program for the Byron Nelson Classic which was held in the first week of May.

"We started the preparation process in mid-March which is when the bleachers and corporate tents go up," he said. "But our programs all year long are geared toward the tournament. We start kicking it into gear and pick up the mowing frequency on fairways to every day. Two weeks out we start double cutting greens and use a Smithco tournament roller one week out to speed things up and smooth out the greens."

This year the weather threw Miller a curveball as cool, dark, rainy days slowing the bermuda's growth.

"The bermuda did nothing until mid-April and then it got hot and humid and it started to take off," he said. "Then around the tournament the temperatures dropped back into the 50s and 60s and the ryegrass kicked back in. But the course looked good."

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.

CLEANING UP

With another Byron Nelson Classic under his belt, Miller then turned his attention to post-tournament recovery efforts.

Miller's crew first concentrates on

NICHOLSON'S TOOLS

GREENS MOWERS: 12 Jacobsen 422 and 522 walking greens mowers

TEE MOWERS: 4 Toro Greensmaster 3100

FAIRWAY MOWERS: 2 Jacobsen LF 128, 4 Toro 5400

ROUGH MOWERS: 3 Toro 455 D Rotary, 1 Bush Hog pull behind rotary, 2 Jacobsen reel-type pull behind, 1 Toro Groundsmaster 72" rotary

RIDING BUNKER RAKE: 2 Smithco bunker rakes

TURF UTILITY VEHICLES: 41 - variety of Toro, Jacobsen, John Deere and Club Car

VERTI-CUT REELS: National Verticutter, pull behind for fairways, groomers on greens mowers

AERIFIERS: 2 Toro, 2 Ryan Greensaire

TOPDRESSERS: 3 Turfco walk behind

TOURNAMENT SPEED ROLLER: 3 Smithco Tournament rollers

REEL GRINDER: Express Dual Spin Grinder

BEDKNIFE GRINDER: Anglemaster

IRRIGATION PUMP STATION: TPC: Flowtronex, 4,000 gpm; CVC: 2,500 gpm

IRRIGATION SYSTEM: Toro OSMAC

GOLF CAR FLEET: Club Car electric

FLAGSTICKS: Par Aide

COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES: 4 computers, 2 irrigation computers

PRIMARY HERBICIDE: Roundup

PRIMARY INSECTICIDE: Scimitar

PRIMARY FUNGICIDE: Heritage

SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER: SCU

CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT: My golf course manager and landscape manager



The 18th hole at Miller's TPC Four Seasons-Las Colinas

OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON COURSE: 1982 Toro Rac-o-Vac

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING: 7,500 sq. ft.

ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF: TPC: 38,000; CVC: 28,000

NORMAL GREEN SPEED: 9'-10'

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 manag-

ers 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."

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