

TOURNAMENT TURF

From the day his course is named site of a major professional tournament, a superintendent's thoughts turn to toughening it up for championship play and making accommodations for more than 30,000 spectators, miles of television and telephone cables and the national press. The superintendents below were awarded a "Citation of Performance" by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

CANADIAN OPEN

Turning a flooded golf course into a championship tournament course in less than two months for this year's Canadian Open was the task of Mississauga Golf and Country Club's superintendent, Paul Dodson. The tournament finished up July 28 at the suburban Toronto course.

Although spring flooding is as regular as spring itself in Dodson's area, he had anticipated those problems and was ready to deal with them. What he did not expect in addition was an early January thawing and rain which caused some flooding and ice damage.

This was compounded by a four-hour record setting rain in May which pushed the Credit River well over its banks, followed by 14 consecutive days of rain early in June that was another record.

Critical to play on a majority of the holes, the river grew in areas that are normally 100 feet wide to flooded areas that became as much as 200 yards wide, forcing Dodson to call in bulldozers to remove layers of silt

and debris from his greens, tees and fairways.

He then began to lay more than 10,000 yards of new sod to repair the most severely damaged areas, with his turfgrass management techniques being called upon to restore the remaining areas.

As if contending with the flood problems was not enough, Dodson was also in charge of making the course tougher for tournament play.

Officially measuring 6,839 yards, new tees for the first, fifth and 15th holes and an extended tee at the 18th added new dimensions to the par-70 course. In addition to the longer tee at 18, the green was completely rebuilt, making it four feet higher and turning a flat green into a relatively rolling one.

New sand traps were also placed around the green to make the final approach shots even more difficult than before.

During the final days before the tournament, Dodson was also in charge of preparing the course for crowds of approximately 35,000 each day of the competition.

This work included the erection of four temporary bridges, the largest two being 100 feet long and 16 feet wide, and more than a mile and a half of snow fencing for crowd control along the course.

PGA

A "new" golf course faced the 56th annual PGA National Championship competitors this year at Tanglewood Golf Club, Clemmons, N.C. as a result of architect Robert Trent Jones' design, and

superintendent Vance R. Price's implementation of those changes. The tournament ended August 11.

Combining nine holes each from the club's west and east courses to facilitate a new championship course was Price's task, along with completing modifications to toughen an already difficult course.

This included placing 290 white pine trees, reducing the size of the greens from an average of 9,000 square feet to between 5,500 and 6,000 square feet and rebuilding each of the 110 sand traps on the course.

Over 10,000 tons of white sand was hauled 120 miles from Spruce Pine, N.C. for the traps.

Another added feature to the course is a 200 x 140 foot lake, four feet deep, near the third green. Shots from the new tee, set back another 50 yards, became critical because of the lake and the surrounding traps.

While all of the course changes were being completed, Price was also overseeing installation of buried telephone and television coaxial cable around the course.

He had seen before the interference and tripping problems experienced by players and spectators with above-the-ground cables, so he determined that an extensive system of buried cable would not only eliminate those problems, but would also improve the efficiency of the scoring system for the officials, spectators and press corps.

Other preparations required for press coverage included erection of nine broadcast towers and raising a 150 x 180 foot press tent.

For the estimated 35,000 daily spectators attending the tourna-

to page 48

TURF

from page 46

ment, Price established a crowd control system around the course and set up three bleacher areas near the most exciting holes. The stands at the 18th green seated 2,500 persons while the bleachers at the ninth and third holes were not quite as large.

U.S. OPEN

In preparation for this year's U.S. Open Championship at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y. June 13-16, superintendent Ted Horton was responsible not only for the general condition of the course, but also for the reconstruction of several putting, tee and bunker areas.

He placed 400 additional trees to help beautify the course and place minor obstacles for the tournament players. A total of nearly 4,000 man-hours were expended on special con-

struction projects in these areas required for the tournament.

While he was preparing the course for 150 tournament competitors, he was also in charge of preparations for the 25,000 to 30,000 daily spectators, as well as network television equipment.

Over six million feet of electrical cable (1,136 miles) were either unobtrusively stretched along the course's trees or buried in trenches.

WESTERN OPEN

Preparing any golf course for a major tournament is no easy task, but to host a tournament like the 71st Western Open less than two months after the course officially opened required the work of an exceptionally talented superintendent.

This job fell to Edward Fischer at the Butler National Golf Club in

Oak Brook, Ill. for the tournament that finished June 25.

Special preparations included laying over 15,000 feet of telephone cable for network television and scoring purposes.

In addition, there was the daily grooming of the course just prior to tournament play and special accommodations for the 15,000 to 20,000 daily spectators.

Fischer joined the Butler staff in 1971, assisting in the initial planning and construction of the Western Open's new home.

USGA MEN'S AMATEUR

When 200 of the nation's finest amateur golfers converged on the Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J. to compete in the USGA Men's Amateur Aug. 30-31, few of them realized the man responsible for the playing conditions had been at the job since before most of them were born.

Robert Kapherr, Ridgewood's superintendent, joined the staff in 1930 as the assistant superintendent and was named superintendent in 1955.

During his 44-year tenure he has participated in hosting such tournaments as the Ryder Cup, National Seniors and the New Jersey and Metropolitan New York Amateurs and Opens.

While the estimated 55,000 trees which faced the amateurs on the 6,754-yard course caused golfers numerous problems, they were also the source of unusual maintenance problems for Kapherr.

Not only did he have to keep the trees constantly trimmed so as not to interfere with play too much, but the grass shaded by the trees also had to be carefully watched and treated for growing problems peculiar to areas shaded by trees.

The 27-hole private course was established in 189 and is the oldest golf club in New Jersey and one of the six oldest in the country. The 18-hole course played in this year's amateur was designed by A. W. Tillinghast and built in 1929, a year before Kapherr came to Ridgewood. □



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