

Course Preparation Includes Superintendent's Peace of Mind

Preparing a golf course for a show event like a club officials' tour or a golf tournament isn't easy for the person in charge. The overall mental approach of the golf course manager can make the difference between a nervous breakdown and a successful showing of his course.

To build a positive overall mental approach, try the following steps:

1. Insure yourself peace of mind by doing everything you possibly can to solve major problems in advance. This includes attending to your regular turf management. Give yourself credit for doing the best job you can.
2. Insure your emotional peace of mind by keeping major family commitments even when things are hectic at the course. You won't be calm if you feel guilty about missing your daughter's graduation in order to watch a crew member water the greens.
3. Mentally trace in advance everything you will do while your guests are on your course. Imagine what you will say and what they will see. The more detail your imagination can create, the better your chances of avoiding unforeseen problems are.
4. Maintain as normal a lifestyle as you can. Eat normal foods at about normal times for you, and keep

your same sleep and rest schedules. Change is an enemy when stress strikes, and routine is a great tranquilizer.

5. Understand and accept internally that the sky won't fall if something goes wrong. No amount of preparation can insure a perfect performance for anyone.

6. Switch your concentration quickly so you can concentrate **completely** on whichever problem you are handling at the time. Trying to solve one problem while worrying peripherally about another confuses the picture, clouds your judgment and creates stress. Deal with them in rapid succession if necessary, but only one at a time.

7. If your event lasts more than one day, check your performance each evening. What was successful? What went wrong? Correct the problems you can and restore your mental calm before moving on to the next day.

No one can guarantee harmony and peace for himself or for anyone else, but attention to these seven points will help ease your path and organize your inner self to handle whatever comes your way.

Dates to Remember

MARCH 14

Twin Shields Golf Club

APRIL 11

Talbot Country Club

MAY 9

Washington Golf and Country Club
Pro-Super Tourney

JUNE 13

Indian Springs

JULY 11

Loudon Golf and Country Club

AUGUST

Family Picnic

SEPTEMBER

Philadelphia Tournament

OCTOBER

Hunt Valley Golf Course
Superintendents' Tournament

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