

EDITORIAL

by Ed. Fischer, Supt.

June 1975 will probably be the biggest month for Professional Golf in Chicago's history. Starting June 19th, the U.S. Open will be held at Medinah Country Club, and the following week the Western Open will again be held at the Butler National Golf Club, starting June 26th. The Professionals will have to contend with two of the finest, most challenging Golf Courses in the country, and they are not more than twenty miles apart.

This is the second year in a row that we at Butler National have hosted the Western Open. I feel that this year preparation will be a little easier, having had one Tournament under our belts already. I now know what to expect from the Pros, the TPD (Tournament Players Division) and the WGA (Western Golf Association); hopefully we will have the course groomed to their liking before everyone arrives.

Just to give an example of what is expected, look at what the TPD calls for in mowing heights:

Tees	HEIGHT		WIDTH
	Non-Bermuda Not over 1/2 inch	Bermuda Not over 1/2 inch	
Fairway Areas			
Fairway	1/2 to 3/4 inch	1/2 inch	30 to 40 yds
Collar off Fairway	2 inches	1 1/2 inches	4 to 6 feet
Rough-primary	4 to 5 inches	2 1/2 inches	
Putting Green Areas			
Putting Green	3/16 inch	3/16 inch	
Collar off Green	1/2 to 3/4 inch	1/2 inch	20 to 36 inches
Light rough off			
Collar	2 inches	1 1/2 inches	2 to 6 feet
Rough-primary	4 to 5 inches	2 1/2 inches	

If a course is not maintained close to these standards, then it can be a problem - as it was for us last year. Fortunately we got an early start and no problems came up. This year will be no problem at all, because last year it was decided that we would maintain the course to TPD specs all year round, except for the 4 to 5 inch rough height.

It is not just the TPD specs, but the roping, the locating of the concession stands, information booths and other facilities around the golf course. I must also watch the TV people, so they don't run over a green; that the tower people put up the towers in the right places; and hope that the telephone company doesn't have to trench across the 18th Fairway the day before the Tournament.

When the Tournament begins, it means long working hours - 5 AM to 8 or 9 PM. We start cutting tees, greens and fairways at 5 AM and must be off the golf course no later than 8 AM before play starts for the day. After play concludes for the day we again cut fairways and greens. We water if necessary, but the big job is picking up the trash. It takes three crews about four hours to clean up the day's debris.

Monday finally arrives, it has been a successful Tournament and you can relax - Not so! The TV people want to get out and you must watch them, they still don't know what a green is! The ropes, towers, stands and concessions must also come down. The big job is again the debris - it will take the entire crew all day to get rid of the trash boxes, plus another day of clean up help from the Boy Scouts.

Everything is down and out, and now the watering and aerifying starts. We water all traffic areas, then try to get a fairway aerifier into these areas, then water again. Last year we got a rain two days after the Tournament which really helped our cause. With any luck at all the heavy traffic areas start to look like rough three weeks later - after constant attention with water, seed and fertilizer.

No matter how much work there is to do, it seems to get done. You pray that the good Lord decides to let you have ten days of favorable weather - good weather for the Tournament itself and for about three days after so everything and everybody can be removed from the course without damage - then let it rain!

June should be quite a month for golf, two fine tests of golf on two beautiful golf courses. Good luck to John Jackman with the U.S.G.A., I know the U.S. Open will be a success at Medinah and I hope to see you all at the Western Open on the Butler National starting the week of June 23rd, 1975.

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