

EDITORIAL

By Ed Fischer, Supt.

The 1976 Western Open Golf Tournament is history, and I can safely say a much bigger success than last year. Some of our sports writers called it a "Ho-Hum Tournament", but anyone watching the Sunday round found it anything but "Ho-Hum."

There are a lot of problems and worries and believe it or not, even some humor in hosting a major tournament. On Monday morning when the caddies draw for their player, their conversation generally sounds like "Who is this guy?" and "I bet mine finishes higher than yours."

On Pro-Am day the rain evidently got to some of the pros. Chi Chi Rodriguez was playing so bad that on his 17th hole (the eighth hole on the course) he gave his club to the small boy carrying the standard. The youngster hit the first ball in the water and the second in the trees. Chi Chi said that's exactly how he would have played the hole.

After the afternoon round was washed out, one of the amateurs, after playing five holes and drinking five Scotches, joked that the afternoon had cost him \$100 a hole.

On Thursday the serious golf started along with the serious girl watching. The TPD officials have radios and it doesn't take long for the word to get spread about the good looking female spectators.

This past spring we had a pair of Canadian geese hatch four young and they have owned the waters of Butler National ever since. On Monday morning some of their relatives arrived to watch the tournament. This made the total about 30 geese. On Friday some of them decided to nap on the front of 5 green and there was no way to move them. For two hours play continued while the geese napped on the front of the green.

It's a good feeling Sunday night when it is all over and the winner is in the Press Conference telling how he won or was given the tournament. But on Monday morning the work starts again along with the chance to look back with satisfaction at a job well done.

A HINT FROM AN OLD TIMER

PAUL N. VOYKIN

At this time of the year the greens are terribly pock-marked with ball-marks. The usual procedure has been to mix a little dirt, seed and fertilizer, then on some Monday fill in all the deep ball-mark holes with this top-dressing mixture. The only problem with this old method is that no matter how porous the topsoil used for filling in the ball-mark holes the dirt is usually spread by the mowers in the early mornings when the grass is wet, making unsightly dirt streaks, and leaving a "gum" like appearance all over the greens. Rarely does the grass come up the way that we would like it to. I think now I have a better way to do this. Here's what I do. I mix seaside bent, along with some Milorganite (the real fine type) together with the very fine TERRA GREEN CALCINED CLAY. This works out beautiful. It's easy to apply and there are no dirt or streak marks and no "gummy" appearance afterwards. The mowing units ride over the calcined repair-marks smoothing out the putting surface and leaving the green perfectly clean. In a few days usually up pops the seed. It's a clean practical solution to an old problem and it works one hundred percent all the time. Best of all, when the members see the **seeded** brown ball-mark holes, before the grass comes up, they say, "Did we do that?" Then for awhile (a very short while) everyone fixes their ball-marks like everything.

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