

# "MUST HAVE THE BEST"

By BOB KELLUM

Sports Dept., Indianapolis (Ind.) Star

**T**HE Charles E. Coffin Municipal golf course, bordering the west bank of White river south from Thirtieth street, Indianapolis, is getting expert grooming before the brassies and niblicks swing in the National Public Links tourney the week of July 29.

According to A. C. Sallee, superintendent of parks, the whole layout is in fine shape right now and it undoubtedly will be that way when the country's greatest municipal golfers start firing for the crown worn this past year by Dave Mitchell of the Hoosier capital. Harry Schopp, supervisor of Indianapolis public links, has been given a free hand by the Board of Park Commissioners to prepare the course for the tournament and he's doing a real job.

The work is progressing while the city's players try their luck down the hills and around the lagoons, too. The course never was better patronized even though it is widely considered the toughest in town, public or private. Very few come close to par 70 but games are improving under this course's tests. It's definite that after playing Coffin the munny golfers won't be satisfied with anything less than championship standard of maintenance in the future.

The only difference in the links for the title event will be that back tees will be used. They are wired off now. All these back tees are being fertilized and top-dressed. The seventh is being enlarged. Tee sizes range from 120 by 30 ft. to 80 by 30 ft.

The fairways average 150 ft. wide. The fairways are fescue, redtop and Kentucky bluegrass. Fourteen of the eighteen holes are in the valley where dirt is rich. The rough is heavy and being kept at about six inches. Most of the fairways are tree-lined and some are bordered or crossed by lagoons.

## Greens Are Seaside Bent

The greens are good sized, the biggest being 10,000 sq. ft. and the smallest 5,500 sq. ft. They are all Seaside bent. Schopp is using 4-12-6 fertilizer on them. Lead arsenate is being applied to a few for eradication of poa annua with this being followed by treatments of ammonium sul-

## Indianapolis Grooms Munny Course to Private Club Standards for Tourney

phate to clear out a little clover. Top-dressing is going on, as well. The greens are undulating and well trapped.

Approaches are being topdressed, treated and smoothed.

There is a special watering plant for the course with a pump house near the river. Approaches and fairways, out 175 to 275 yds. from the tees, are sprinkled regularly.

A crew of about 45 men is kept at the job of grooming the links.

## Munny Caddies in Uniform

One feature Mr. Schopp is not overlooking is the caddie service. By order of the Board of Park Commissioners this year, every caddie in the city must buy an inexpensive shirt and cap of a selected color and style. On the caps are the numbers by which the boys are registered.

There is no charge for this registering or for the marking that goes on the cap but in this way a close check can be kept on every caddie. It improves the caddies' appearance. The kid's have to pass a few simple tests before they are put on.

For the big tourney the caddies will be picked from all over the city. There are six public links here. Groups of the boys are being taken over the Coffin course from time to time so they will be entirely familiar with it and they are getting instructions on how to do their jobs during the play. Two hundred and fifty of them will be ready July 29.

A practice tee just across the roadway from the clubhouse will be available to all entrants. Some 200 lockers have been added. Gallery facilities will be supplied and large bulletin boards have been ordered to help keep track of what each sharpshooter is doing. Telephones for the press will be at every third hole and press tents will be set up at convenient locations.

Bill Heinlein, the present open champion of Indiana, is pro at the Coffin course.

Will H. Diddle, one of the middle west's leading golf architects, designed the links which was opened in 1932 with an exhibition performance by Gene Sarazen and Tommy Armour. Sarazen gave it high praise then as one of the sportiest in the state.