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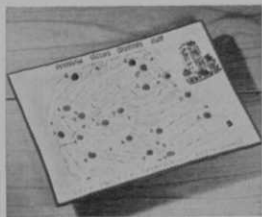
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Bidwell Changes Face of Olympia's North Course for PGA Event

A total of 170 professionals will compete in the 43rd PGA Championship which will be played on the North course of Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, July 27-30. By mid-June 67 players had been qualified for the Championship with about 100 to be selected for the remaining spots through sectional tests held on June 19-20 throughout the U. S.

Olympia Fields is located about 25 miles south of Chicago's Loop.

The North course is more than 6,700 yards long and par is 70. It is one of the two courses at Olympia which, before the Depression, had four standard length layouts. Olympia's clubhouse is one of the



In photo is ashtray with map of Olympia Fields' North course, one of the souvenirs of the 1961 PGA Championship.

largest in U. S. and is palatial in design and decor. A clock tower, that can be seen for miles, is one of its standout features. The club is more than 45 years old and its first pres. was Amos Alonzo Stagg, one-time Chicago University coach and the "grand old man of football." He served from 1916 through 1919.

Two Years of Preparation

Warren Bidwell, Olympia's quiet, hard-working supt., who has played an important role in the affairs of the national GCSA in the last decade or so, has been working for nearly two years to get the North course in shape for the big test. In that time he has designed and constructed 32 new green traps, relocated 13 fairway bunkers and added 320 yards to the course by enlarging tees. Fairways also have been narrowed. Green traps formerly were located from 20 to 30 yards in front of the putting surfaces, making it difficult for high handicap players but easy for par shooters. Both PGA and Olympia Fields officials agreed that the traps should be moved back. About 400 tons of sand were imported to complete the job.

Much of the reconstruction work in the last two years has been carried on in the

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wintertime. Ten extra maintenance employees were added to the regular Olympia Fields staff after the course had been closed for the season to make the changes. In addition to helping out in reconstructing the course, the extra workers have repaired and strengthened bridges and repaired or built shelters.

Scene of Four Big Ones

Olympia Fields has been the scene of the 1925 PGA Championship, the 1928 National Open, the 1927 and 1933 Western Opens and several other ranking tournaments. Walter Hagen won the 1925 PGA and returned in 1927 to capture the Western. The 1928 USGA Open was won by Johnny Farrell in a playoff with Bob Jones. The 1933 Western went to Macdonald Smith who shot a 282. The North course's competitive single round record is owned by Lawson Little who shot a 65 in qualifying for the 1940 National Open.

Chuck Tanis, Olympia Field's veteran pro, thinks that the 1961 PGA will be won by the professional who can play long, well positioned shots from the tees, go boldly for the pins with his irons and not be afraid to roll his putts to the back of the cups.

The North course was known as No. 4 in the original scheme of things at Olympia. It was designed by Willie Park, Jr., who is said to have laid out more golf courses than any man who ever lived. It was put into play in 1923.

Wilt Is Coming Back

(Continued from page 36)

any cuttings. I have noticed that if rain keeps us from mowing for a couple days during August, the bent seems to suffer a slight shock when cutting is resumed. Normally, we cut at 1/4 in. six days a week, skipping Monday. Last year we went to 5/16 in. from mid-Aug. through mid-Sept., but I'm not yet completely sure if this is the answer. At least, it is a thought.

Some fellows I know feel that pre-dawn watering gives the greens a better chance of coming through the day in good shape. There probably is merit in this, but I wouldn't depend on it as total protection. If I were to do this, I'd still want to give my greens a check every two hours between mid-morning and mid-afternoon.