



The area in front of the 10th green, a par 3 hole (above), and the 14th green and surrounding fairways at Beverly CC looked like they were in the monsoon belt the morning after the big rain fell. The course had to be closed and entrants in the Western Open had to defer their practicing for one day.

You get a lift from the excitement

Don't Choke Up Over A Big Tourney, Says Beverly Supt.

By TED WOEHRL

Supt., Beverly CC, Chicago, Ill.

Probably any supt. whose course is selected as the site of a bigtime tournament has misgivings as to whether he is going to be fully prepared for it or, if he is, if the combination of players and spectators aren't going to tear the place to pieces by the time the big event is over.



Ted Woehrle

Most supts. I have talked to have rather welcomed the idea of a major tournament being played at their clubs. Only a few seem to dread it. Those who are in favor look upon the thing as a challenge to their ability and resourcefulness. The few who aren't receptive say that it isn't so much that they don't feel they can bring their courses into the best possible shape for a tournament, but it's just that too many people start sniping at them before and during the time the tourney is played.



What we all worry about the most, of course, is the weather. About a year ago when I learned that the Western Open was to be played at Beverly in late July of 1963, my first thought was: "I wonder how I will make out with the weather." I foresaw hot and dry conditions, high humidity and acres of wilted bent. What I got was rain — oceans of it. In the week preceding the tournament, Chicago's south side was flooded with 9 inches of rain; on the Sunday evening before the pros were to move in to start practicing for the Western, we had three inches of rain in about one hour. So, instead of worrying about wilt, I saw the course infested with disease.

Not Too Much Criticism

Some turf was lost because of standing water, especially on the second nine which doesn't drain as quickly as the front side. Disease naturally hit us hard during the hot, humid weather that followed the heavy rains, but it wasn't noticeable except to the practised eye. Not more than five per cent of the 150 or so pros who played in the tournament were critical of

our greens. This percentage, I understand, is standard, and nothing for any supt. to become unduly perturbed about.

Getting the course in shape, and then trying to keep it that way, generally is thought to be the biggest problem confronting a supt. But as the tournament proceeds, you begin to realize that this perhaps is a relatively minor, if vital, factor. Cleaning up, both during and after the tourney, may well be the most important work you have to contend with. Debris left by the gallery was picked up after each day's play. During the first two days of the tournament, when the crowds were somewhat smaller than they were on the weekend, we hauled away two one-ton truck loads of debris each day. On both Saturday and Sunday, this was increased to seven truck loads. For the playoff round, the haul again dropped to two loads.

Follow Final Threesome

The concession company that was responsible for policing the course hired a troop of boy scouts to follow the final threesome and start the day's cleanup operation. Each scout was equipped with a sticker or stabber for picking up paper, discarded cups, etc. and the refuse was placed in containers spotted around the course. Within an hour after the last threesome had holed out, the course was completely free of litter. The time required for a two-man crew to put the trash containers on a truck, which hauled them away, was about 14 hours daily.

The erection and maintenance of ropes and stakes, which kept the galleries off fairways, greens and tees, turned out to be a fairly big job. It took our crew a couple days to get the stakes set out and the rope threaded through them, and thereafter two men were kept busy every day straightening the stakes and re-threading or tightening the ropes. The gallery was quite orderly throughout the entire regular tournament, but when Palmer, Boros and Nicklaus hooked up in the playoff round, the crowd got a little out of hand. At least, many of the stakes were bent on the final day and the rope chewed up in spots. For the statistical minded, we used 70,000 feet of rope and nearly 2,000 stakes in getting the course roped off.

Galleries Were Considerate

Considering that more than 65,000 people viewed the five-day Western proceedings, we had no kick on the way the galleries treated the course. Some of the turf

This Young Lady Wanted the Point Clarified

Rules governing the USGA's Women Amateur competition stipulate that players aren't permitted to use automotive transportation during play. According to John English, vice-chairman of this year's tournament at Taconic GC in Williamstown, Mass., the following inquiry was received from a young lady who was considering entering the tournament:

"Does prohibition of automotive transportation mean that I wouldn't be allowed to use my automobile to drive back and forth between my residence and the course?"

around the elevated tees was damaged and the clubhouse lawn, of course, took a thorough beating, but this was expected, because the ground had been well saturated by the heavy rains of the previous week. The souvenir hunters helped themselves to no more than a few flags and tee markers. On the final day, there was some damage to the traps because the gallery continued to close in to watch the playoff contestants putt out. But this and whatever other small damage that was done was repaired within a few days, and by the following Saturday, you never would have known that a big, 5-day tournament had been played at Beverly.

Actually, my biggest headaches during the pre-tournament and tournament days were caused by the truck drivers for the concessions company. They refused to drive along the routes we laid out until we cracked down on them. Two of them were forced to bring their deliveries in on foot after repeated violations. No trucks were allowed on the course after the tournament started.

They Clean Up The Range

The practice tee was both interesting and discouraging to behold after the tournament was over. One-hundred and fifty golfers can tear up a lot of real estate when they are turned loose on it for from two or three to five days. Some of the turf surface was completely removed by the pros in areas as large as a 9 x 12-foot rug. There must be at least 20 such bare spots on our range in addition to thousands of small divots scattered over the area. A heavy mixture of seed and soil is being

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Woehrle: Don't Choke Up (Continued from page 26)

used to bring the practice tee back to normal.

If tournament sponsors are looking for suggestions to improve their operations, the most important idea I can offer is to provide more crossovers so that galleryites can move more freely from one area to another. These should be as close to the tees as possible. On par five holes it would be wise to install two crossovers. They should be distinctly marked and an effort should be made to inform the fans of their locations.

Advice to Supts.

As for supts. who aren't enthused about having a national tournament brought to their clubs, I say this: Don't worry about it. A tournament can be handled through routine preparation, especially if you get a break in the weather. In the two weeks preceding the tournament there may be numerous small details that have to be cleared, but you're undoubtedly used to such things. During the tournament itself, you're caught up by the fever and excitement of the event and momentum kind of carries you through, even though you may put in two or three 20-hour days. When it's all over, you're happy to know that you can handle a project as big and important as one of the year's outstanding tournaments.

Also, don't overlook the press and TV and radio men. On the morning the tournament started, I went into the press tent and described the condition of the course and explained how the heavy rains of the previous week had undone some of our preparations for the tournament. Everyone was sympathetic and I'm happy to report that, as far as I know, not a single derogatory word was written or spoken about the course's condition. Incidentally, I also spelled out my name for the writers and sportscasters just in case they wanted to mention it. I think we all agree that a little personal publicity doesn't hurt any of us.

Illinois Field Day

The Illinois turf field day will be held Sept. 16 at Urbana. The morning session will be held at the University's horticulture farm on S. Lincoln ave., and the afternoon portion is scheduled for the University's turf research area on the 18-hole course in Savoy.