



National Exhibition Preparations

BY NICK DUNN, SUPERINTENDENT
HAZELTINE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

On July 1, 1980 a special P.G.A. event will be held at Hazeltine National Golf Club. The Grand Slam of Golf is a one day exhibition match between four of the top ranking champions to benefit the P.G.A. Junior Golf Foundation. The day starts with the 1979 champions of the P.G.A., U.S. Open, Tournament Players' Championship and the Masters presenting a one hour clinic and shot making demonstration at 11:00 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. David Graham, Lanny Wadkins, Hale Irwin and Fuzzy Zoeller tee it up for 18-Holes of head to head excitement for the spectators.

Following the day of golf a dinner will be held at the Carlton Celebrity Room where many outstanding celebrities will be in attendance. Dinner ticket holders will have the opportunity to visit with the supporters of Junior Golf including the day's players.

The P.G.A. created the Junior Golf Foundation to support a program to help juniors develop their skills and knowledge of the game. All tickets for the golf event and the dinner are tax deductible with all proceeds going to the Junior Golf Foundation.

The golf course will be set up as if the club were hosting a national championship. We met with the P.G.A. officials last fall and discussed the course set up and reviewed the P.G.A. Tournament Manual. The course will be completely roped tee to green. The following cutting specifications have been set up: Greens will be cut at 3/16 inch or less; a 30 inch collar around the putting surface will be maintained at 3/8 inch; tees will be cut at 1/2 inch or less. An intermediate rough 6 to 10 feet wide will be cut around the entire fairway and green at 1 1/2 inch. The fairway will be at 1/2 inch. All rough except for the intermediate rough will be at 5 to 6 inches. All cutting specifications are currently being followed except for the 5 to 6 inch rough. The P.G.A. is allowing us to maintain a 3 inch rough until one to two weeks prior to the event, depending on weather, and then discontinue cutting to achieve the deep rough desired. You can imagine the questions and complaints about rough depth that I am receiving.

Hosting this event is not a great problem but when you consider the winter we have experienced, the areas of no turf cover and the construction that was started last fall and is yet to be completed before the event, my staff and I have been kept very busy.

As of May 20 we were just completing the sodding of the 18th Fairway and still had 10,000 square yards of bluegrass sod to lay in rough areas and around eight newly constructed fairway bunkers.

Needless to say, the rest of the golf course has suffered some in general maintenance in our attempt to use all of the dry weather working on course construction. Hopefully, we can pull it all together prior to the deadline of July 1.

Following the exhibition on July 1 the last phase of the Hazeltine reconstruction program will begin. The 16-Hole, now a Par 3, will be changed to a 390 yard Par 4. Tees have already been constructed below the 15th Green on the shore of Lake Hazeltine. The tee shot will have to carry 210 yards of open water to a narrow fairway with the lake on the right and a creek on the left. From there the hole will bend slightly right where a new green will be constructed to the right rear of the present green out into the lake at the level of the water. The 17-Hole will then become a Par 3 with a new tee being built about 180 yards from the present green. Both holes should be in play in the spring of 1981.