

TELEVISION AN ADDED DIMENSION

by JOHN GRANHOLT, SUPERINTENDENT
EAU CLAIRE COUNTRY CLUB

When asked by Boots Fuller to write an article for HOLE NOTES I thought writing about our locally televised golf tournament would be rather unique. The CUGA Tournament of Champions has been held at the Eau Claire Country Club for a number of years now.

First, a little about the CUGA and the tournament requirements. The Chippewa Valley Golf Association covers an area from Prescott to Neilsville and Black River Falls to Ladysmith. Tournament play begins in May and is held each weekend at a different course. The season has its finale in August with the televised tournament of champions held at the Eau Claire Country Club. All tournaments are set up on a player point system with the top 120 point winners invited to play in the finale. Players also must golf in a minimum of four tournaments to qualify.

The two-day tournament is usually held on the 3rd or 4th weekend in August. This year it is on August 27 and 28. A sponsors tournament is held on Friday, prior to the actual tournament. The 17th and 18th holes are televised both Saturday and Sunday with cameras mounted on electric hydraulic lifts which raise 40'. Also they use portable cameras on these holes.

Usually a week before the tournament the club officials and myself meet with the TV station crews, set up scheduling and final details are worked out at this time. Set up of control vans and camera scaffolding begins on Thursday afternoon. Our regular golf course crew helps out in any way we can with the set up of the TV crews. We provide rope around their equipment and rope around greens for gallery control. The gallery can get quite large on these televised holes so some control is needed. The location of cups and tee markers which can be covered by the cameras is also discussed for best locations and angles. The location of other cups and tee markers are determined by CUGA officials and myself.

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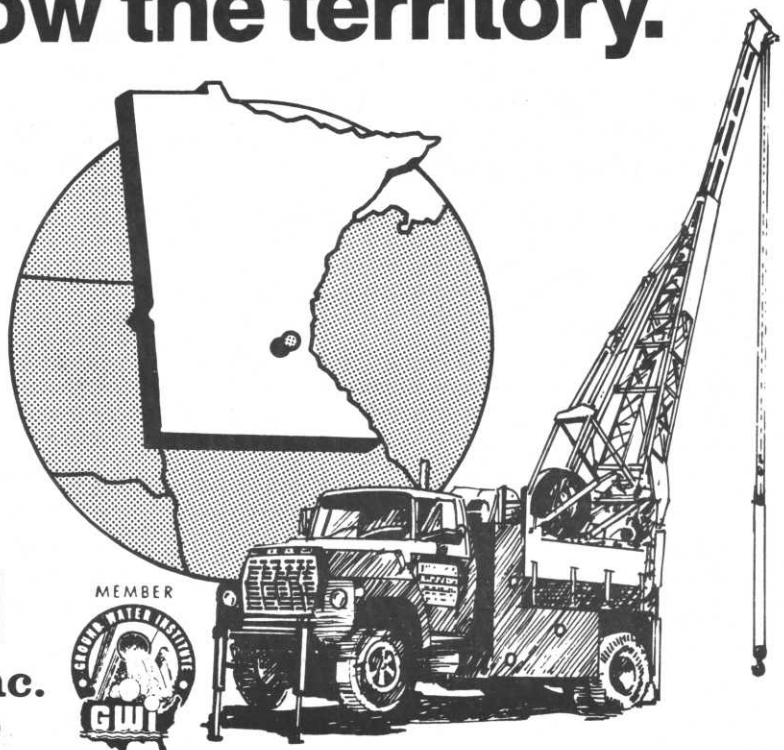
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Preparation of the golf course is not too much out of the ordinary. We try to give our members the same conditions throughout the year. Speed on the greens is increased considerably. Tees and fairways are mowed everyday, greens are mowed twice a day for the tournament.

This tournament is on a very small scale but I think it's easier to see what the P.G.A. Tournament courses go through preparing for their major events with television coverage. Many people are involved in the coverage of our tournament. I have never been to a major televised golf tournament, myself, but I can imagine the amount of people, equipment, towers, cameras, etc. that it takes to give you that coverage. These are all things you don't see when sitting in front of your TV.



EDITOR'S CORNER



by **BOOTS FULLER**
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN, M.G.C.S.A.

There weren't too many of us, but we surely had fun at Whitefish! Bernie Zimmer has quite a layout there. Nine holes are under construction to compliment a beautiful nine that is already there. And it's all carved out of native woods so it's really a demanding course. For we who have slight tendencies to spray our shots, it is really demanding!

I rode up with Dale Caldwell and Gary Peterson and that alone was worth the trip. The weather was super, the lunch
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We're seen in all the right places.



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