

MGC Hosts 'Dayton's Challenge'

By Dale Wysocki

Many Mondays at golf clubs throughout the state are usually reserved for corporate or outside events. These events are usually an economic necessity for the club's bottom line.

However, when the bottom line is the Children's Cancer Research Fund, you would know that the event will be special in many ways. In order to make a special event special, first you need a first-class location, like the Minneapolis Golf Club. Then you would need a "draw" like Tom Lehman and 11 of his close-personal friends...close personal friends who have won 79 times on the PGA Tour and five Majors. . . and you have the makings of the "Dayton's Challenge."

But you also need a track that is kept in shape that meets the expectations of what some people in the know refer to as "tour caliber condition," and that is where Minneapolis Golf Club enters into the picture. For years the story has been that the membership at Minneapolis Golf Club maintains the lowest average USGA handicap index of any club around the metro area. Now with all of these factors you know that you're going to need a superintendent who is organized, possesses full working knowledge of agronomics and is an all-around good person.

Dale Caldwell and the grounds staff of MGC made things happen; the golf course is excellent. The greens had found that fine edge, the fairways offered a lie where it would be no problem to use the driver, and if you strayed far from the normal landing area, well, there is the rough.

Of course, the planning of this event does not happen overnight. To coordinate the 400-plus volunteers, the construction of the bleachers, the remote-controlled scoreboards and everything from course ecology to who parks what car on what tee, well that credit has to go to Chris Murray of Signature Sports.

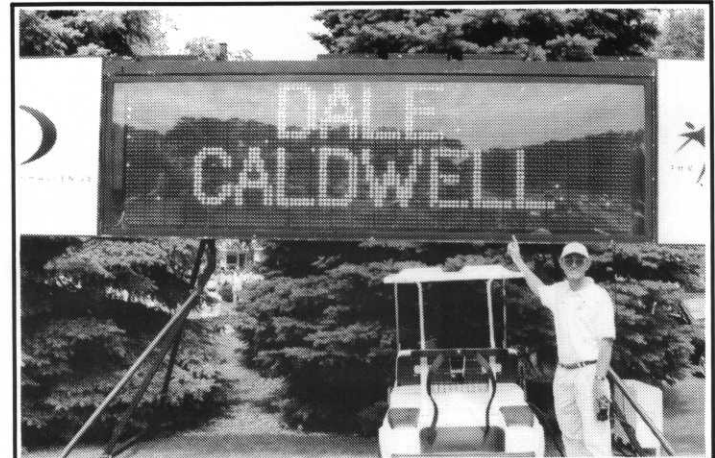
As the day went on, Payne Stewart decided to become a part-time cameraman for MSC, Peter Jacobsen did his best imitation of fellow competitors and a few other tour favorites. Eventually Tom Kite won the golfing event while the Children's Cancer Fund wound up being the real winner.



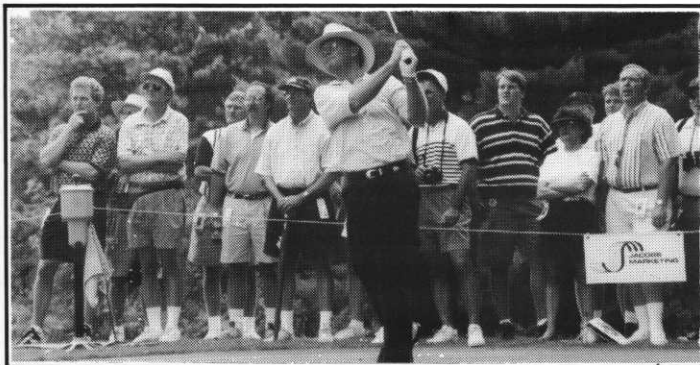
THE AMAZING HONDO amazed host Tom Lehman.



GROOMING the infamous Tenth Hole at Minneapolis GC.



HOST SUPERINTENDENT DALE CALDWELL gets his name in lights while being acknowledged for the great condition he and his staff had Minneapolis Golf Club.



TOM KITE WINS THE CHALLENGE with a fantastic birdie-birdie finish on three tough finishing holes at MGC.