

'Penn Pals'
at the
1996 PGA
Championship

Eighteenth hole, Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, Kentucky

Pennncross and PennWay are Part of the Picture at the 1996 PGA

"We have always maintained high standards at Valhalla. Pennncross creeping bentgrass greens and PennWay blend fairways and tees are some of the perks our members enjoy. Touring pros also expect the best fairways and greens, and our bents will accommodate them.

Turf preparation began in fall prior to this golf season. Our plan was to have the

turfgrass healthy and ready the fall before the tournament, so we encouraged growth with an aggressive renovation and fertilization program before our cold temperatures came.

The PGA is August 5-11, typically a difficult time of year for cool-season grasses. Louisville is past the extreme edge of bentgrass adaptation. You'll find more bermuda- and zoysiagrass fairways around here, but the Penn bents perform like warm season grasses for us when it's really hot. The bents are especially aggressive and repair ballmarks, spikemarks, and divots quickly. We do take extra care to keep them from overtaking bunker faces and encroaching on our roughs. As far as disease pressure and turf vitality,

the Penn bents have been a good choice. We grow ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, fine and tall fescues in the roughs.

Valhalla opened in 1986. I've been here since 1988 and have experienced very little *Poa annua* even though it's a problem in the area. A good maintenance program and aggressive bents seem to control it, but we are seeing more signs of the persistent nuisance.

Our greens are mowed at 1/8" all year. I don't change the height of cut, but I will change from a grooved to solid roller in the summer. For the PGA, I want the greens to be 'the Beast'. I want to take them to the edge. To go along with the Jack Nicklaus course design, the greens need to test the best players

in the world. More so than the roughs or anything else.

I'm proud to be a part of the PGA Championship here at Valhalla. Preparation for a Major is much simpler with a spectacular course, great people, and exceptional turfgrasses."



Mark Wilson, CGCS, Supt.
Valhalla Golf Club
Louisville, KY

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1996 PGA Championship' and for
the Penn Pals dealer nearest you.



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