

Business Man Hits Jackpot in Texas Golf

FORT WORTH, Texas, March 15.—(AP)—It seemed quite logical to bring the national open golf tournament to Texas. So Marvin Leonard simply went out and got it.

Marvin Leonard? He's a mellow, bespectacled fellow, a department store tycoon who shoots in the middle 80's, puffs a cigar and dates everything by the first week in June, 1941. On June 5, 6 and 7 the world's canniest players will roam Marvin Leonard's golf course for the game's richest reward—the national open title.

No one knows exactly how much Marvin Leonard has spent readying for the first national open ever held in the Southwest. Some speak rather fabulously of \$75,000 — or more.

Dream Fulfilled

But to have that golf tournament played on Colonial Golf club's magnificent, 7,036-yard layout, to have putters stroking the first bent grass greens in this sector of the country, is the fulfillment of this mild man's dream.

"No — I didn't get the open for colonial," he insists.

"Some pretty good Texas golf players got the national open for Fort Worth and Texas. It's only fair and logical. Year in and year out we send our Texas players over the tournament trail. It isn't going too far to say they make the tournaments."

"Texans, home-grown Texans, have won the national open three out of the past four years. Ralph Guldahl, the Dallas boy, won it two years in succession. Then came Byron Nelson, our own Fort Worth boy."

"We let a 'foreigner,' Lawson Little, win it last year—but Nelson stepped in to take the other national title—the P. G. A. championship."

On 8, in a famed list he wanted Ben Hogan, poker-faced former Fort Worth caddy who was the game's leading money winner and Vardon trophy winner in 1940; Jolt Jlm Demaret of Houston, the noisily dressed laughing boy of the links who won seven major tournaments last fall; Dick Metz, Lloyd Mangrum, Harry Cooper, Jack Burke, the national senior P. G. A. champion, etc.

Texans Favor Local Boys

Texans will take not too prohibitive odds that either Nelson or Hogan, former hometown caddies, makes good locally.

Just a few months ago Hogan dropped into town and played Colonial's daring 18 holes in 33-32—65, exactly three shots under any previous round that had been played there.

But Ben made his 65 before Marvin Leonard's corps of course experts started remodeling the place.

Dean Woods, course engineer, and Perry Maxwell, course architect, came in a year ago and started formulating plans for a new Colonial. Woods since then has given every hole a thorough going-over; has added three new ones.

Tough Fifth

No hole in golf could be any tougher than the publicized fifth, a 469-yard dogleg par-four backed by rivers and gullies and only 45 yards wide at its fattest point. Preceding that hole is a 251-yard par three and the third hole is a ducky little par four of 463 yards.

Byron Nelson and Hogan agree that the tournament can be won or lost in that three-hole stretch—a severe test of golf.

Frankly, Marvin Leonard doesn't think the professionals and amateurs will wear his course.

"With the new holes ready and the course playing at its best, I don't think 280 will be broken in the open. If the weather is good, I will take between 280 and 282 as the winner. Wet weather could run it close to 290."