

Low 65 on Colonial Course Brings Moans

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FORT WORTH, Tex., (U.P.)—Ben Hogan shot a 65 over the Colonial club course here the other day, and immediately everyone began moaning over what was going to happen to the layout when all the best golfers started operating on it in the national open championship here next June.

I talked to Hogan and he said, "don't worry about Colonial; when they get it fixed up it will take care of itself. It'll be plenty tough, even without those open championship jitters that hit all of us when we tee off in the big one."

As a further, and final check, I got Lawson Little, who'll defend his title there next sum-

mer, to play Colonial with me. I won't give you my opinion or score. There isn't any such thing as an easy course for me. I could hook out of bounds in the Holland tunnel. Little was around the course in 67 with a three-putt green on the fifteenth hole. And like Hogan, Little took exception with the folk who consider it a push-over course.

"You must remember," Little pointed out after his round, "that Ben and I didn't play the Colonial that'll be waiting for the boys in June. It'll be well over 7,000 yards long when Perry Maxwell gets through stretching it, and that's a pretty fair distance, even for out here in the plains country. And you saw for yourself that there is

little or no rough now. But there will be. They'll let that Bermuda grass grow and then give it a wetting down. And if you have ever tried to hit out of that stuff you know what it is."

Neither Little nor Hogan played the third, fourth or fifth holes as they'll be in June, because they are being completely revamped. And they are going to be great holes, especially the fifth, what with a fairway as narrow as a daschund and guarded on one side by a river and by a ditch on the other. And in Texas you don't smile when you call a ditch a ditch, because ditches are bigger than canyons.

Little said he had never putted finer greens than those

of Colonial. Hogan agreed with him, and added that the fairways would be the best any open had had in many a year.

"And the narrowest, too," said Little. "They average just a shade more than 40 yards in width now. And they'll be narrowed. Any player who isn't planning on biting the ball straight had better start practicing how to get out of Bermuda rough, from under big pecan trees, and out of water hazards."

Colonial's two par five holes won't be reached in two by all of the players unless they have an exceptionally stiff following wind, and its par threes are superb holes, particularly the sixteenth. Colonial's head man, Marvin Leonard, said the

course would not be tricked up.

"Our aim is a sound test of golf. A fair test. We don't claim to have the toughest course in the country, and our pride won't be hurt if some of the boys get hot and shoot in the middle sixties. As a matter of fact, we'd like that."

Par for the course is 70 and Little's guess of the winning score is four rounds of that sort of shooting. He likes 280. Hogan thinks 282 will be good enough.

Given fair weather and the open, Fort Worth will attract the biggest gate of any open in a long time. Already reservations are pouring into the hotels. This is the first time the southwest has had a national tournament and the southwest is going to see that it goes.