

# Colonial Club Works Frantically to Get New No. 5 Hole Ready for Start of National Open Tourney on June 5

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FORT WORTH, Texas, May 21.—Number 5, the Hell's Half Acre of a great Colonial Club golf course, may not be quite ready to mock the game's foremost par drillers when they gather on the banks of the Trinity June 5 for the Naational Open tournament.

Briefly, the make-or-break hole is ailing.

Generally regarded as one of the country's toughest golf holes—the overnight dream of a quiet greenskeeper and genial Marvin Leonard, president of the club—the 469-yard, par 4 stretch of trouble has a 50-50 chance of being open.

Constant, damaging rain that plagued the vicinity a few weeks ago played hob with the infant fairway.

Rye grass, sown as a base months ago, is still there. But the badly needed Bermuda is lagging in spots.

Club officials won't comment on the matter. Most of them are confident that blazing sunshine and water will bring on the needed miracle in the next ten days.

The hole is fifty yards wide at the fattest point. On the right is

the river; on the left is deep rough, a gulley and trees. It takes a wallop of close to 250 yards off the tee to get around the dog-leg bend. Then—just a trifling 220-yard iron or lofted wood into the rolling green.

Trim Henry Picard, the one-time National PGA champion, now of Oklahoma City, played the hole last week, managed for his par four and murmured:

"Now that's golf—that hole!"

Incidentally, Picard mused through the tough rough and heavily trapped layout for thirty-six holes and 75—five over par—on the second eighteen holes was his best effort.

He lofted two balls out of bounds on the new 250-yard, par 3, fourth hole, an exacting one-shotter calling for a fade that could easily sail over the near-by out-of-bounds fence.

"Don't worry, this course will take care of itself in the Open. It will be a fine test for the boys," said Picard.

If No. 5 isn't used for play, even by permitting the players to improve lies with clubheads, the old fifth hole will be used. It has been remodeled into quite a task itself,

measuring better than 400 yards and offering a tricky shot into the green.

The Demarets, Nelsons, Hogans, Sarazens, Smiths, Woods, Sneads, Littles, Thomsons, Runyans, Guldahls, Mangrums et al. will be playing the longest course in United States Open history.

It measures 7,035 yards and plays at 35-35-70 par.

But no effort is being made to make the course ridiculously tough for the three-day swing. The rough, wiry grass now thick and green, will be cut at five inches and the four rounds will be played from the tail-end of the championship tees.

"But that is championship golf," said Leonard, "and no other effort has been made to make the course unnatural."

Dean Woods, the veteran golf course engineer, ending a year-long job of remodeling the wooded layout, has finished the task of re-trapping the place and now can offer eighty-three traps. Thirty-five are brand-new.

New sand is in every hazard.

The par 5's—the 561-yard first and the 593-yard tenth—are now well guarded at the entrance with new traps. It's all carry into the

greens now—or nothing but trouble. No trap, however, is deeper than three feet. Most of them are surface bunkers.

Meanwhile, the record pretournament ticket sale boomed.

Close to 3,500 season tickets have been sold, far past the old Open record of 3,035 sold last year by the Canterbury Club in Cleveland. Tournament officials confidently expect to handle crowds of between 7,000 and 10,000 on Thursday and Friday with a swarm of between 15,000 and 20,000 due for the Saturday windup.

The early birds are expected to start drifting in for practice rounds by midweek with virtually the full field due by Sunday.

Professional Bob Byrnes says: "The course is in its best shape. Only the first fairway is lagging, and it will be in fine condition within three or four days. All of the trap work has been completed and the place is just about ready for the firing."

Facilities for parking of automobiles at near-by Texas Christian University football stadium, with spectators offered a free shuttle bus service to the course, have been arranged.