

Birmingham CC tests golfers

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles examining the toughest hole at local golf courses.

By JOHN BOZZO

Birmingham County Club is the site of the final installment of the golf series. The overcast day was very similar to the one during the first golf column at Oakland Hills Country Club in Birmingham.

In playing that first hole, I banded every ball I owned into the water and was unable to finish. Since then I have managed to score 30 over par on the next seven holes.

Gaddy Alan Kline met me at the Birmingham Country Club entrance and carried my golf bag through the pro shop and onto the course where assistant caddy manager Bruce Colasanti led the clubs onto a golf cart and prepared to drive me out to the number four hole.

Before we left, Birmingham head golf professional Ray Maguire gave me a diagram and description of the fourth hole which was ripped out of a golf magazine.

The fourth plays 418 yards from the championship tees, with a slight dogleg to the left. The description notes that a good drive up the right side of the fairway is re-

quired to gain position for a second shot into the green's entrance.

A CAREFUL TREE shot is also the order because there is heavy rough and trees to deal with if the ball travels too far right, and a drive too far left could bring rough trees, a fairway trap and a blind shot to the green.

I was unable to see the green from the tee and Colasanti pointed to the flag on the top of which was visible when looking directly at the fairway sand trap. Colasanti also suggested a tee shot to the right side of the fairway.

Surprisingly, enough, my drive landed 25 yards from the tee, right of the middle of the fairway. Colasanti made my day, and perhaps my summer, when he looked up and said, "You're 30 over par with that drive?" Perhaps I owe the successful first shot to the practice round I played two days earlier with Carl Lemle, the Birmingham School District athletic director.

Or maybe the good drive was helped by a present from my assistant sports writer, Brad Anderson, who gave me a book called "Never Say Never," by Bobby Nichols. The first sentence in the book reads, "No golfer is a hopeless case."

Since starting the book, I have renewed

encouragement in playing golf, and I was definitely elated as we rode out to where I would play my second shot.

There was about 100 yards left to a well-guarded green. A large sand trap wraps along the left side of the green toward the front. There is a small sand trap in front of the green and another large bunker next to it that runs along the right side of the green. Beyond the green, there are grass bunkers. I decided on a three iron.

"THE GREEN has two ridges in it," explained Colasanti. "The pin is in the lower ridge now. If it were in the higher ridge, you would probably need a club-and-a-half more."

As it turned out, I didn't have to worry about the two ridges of the narrow, sand trap-guarded entrance because I dubbed the second shot, lifting up or slipping on my right foot. The ball rolled about 100 yards, stopping more to the right side of the fairway.

I set up to the ball carefully for my third shot, holding a nine iron. Making sure to keep my feet planted, I hit the ball very solidly and thought for a moment that I might have driven it past the green. However, the ball landed and held on the back ridge of the green.

Although I had a putt for par, it was

quite a long one, about 50 feet, and the ball must travel over two bumps along the gently sloping of the green.

The first putt was seven feet short and to the right of the cup, while the second attempt came within three inches of falling into the cup but did not, leaving me with a short tap-in for a double bogey six, which I holed.

"That's not a bad score for not warming up or anything," Colasanti said. "I was grateful for the encouragement that double bogey leaves me 22 over par for the golf series and happy, for now, that it is over."

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Salmon outlook brightens

The more than two million coho and chinook salmon now schooling off 34 Michigan rivers and lakes are ample evidence that the state's 1976-77 season-old salmon planting program according to the Ontario Club of Michigan.

While the first 60,000 young coho salmon were planted in Lake Michigan in 1961, no one even dreamed of the crowds of fishermen and tourists they attract.

This year an army of anglers approaching a half million from across the continent will take home about 12 million of the silvery coho and chinook, which soon will start spawning runs into rivers and lakes, listed on Auto Club's 1976 salmon guide. Peak runs should occur from mid-September to mid-October.

Coho up to 25 pounds and chinook averaging 30 pounds will appear at five more streams than last year. Three streams along Lake Huron, plus one in Lake Michigan will receive their first runs of mature coho or chinook. The first run of spawning coho also is expected in the Detroit River near Belle Isle, Auto Club stated.

This fall must decide if the Detroit River can become a major salmon fishing ground. Chinook runs were in the river last fall, but anglers' success was minimal, said Harker. This year's experts hope that a substantial run near Belle Isle will develop.

The biggest increase of mature fish is expected on the Au Sable River near the state's urban centers. From more than 400,000 chinook planted in 1973 and 150,000 coho salmon planted in 1975 already are schooling for runs to Lake St. Clair.

This year's anglers fish the half-mile stretch from the dam to Box Road from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, also are permitted to keep 100 pound Pacific salmon under the state Department of Natural Resources rules.

Anglers are restricted to use of an weighted double or triple hook no more than three-eighths inch from point to hook or single hook no more than one-half inch from point to hook. Legalized snagging also is permitted in 11 other rivers and lakes, all indicated on Auto Club's map. For dates and sections the rules apply on each stream, contact any Department of Natural Resources office.

An Alaskan strain coho will appear for the first time at two Thumb area streams: Diamond Creek at Port Hope and Elk Creek at Sault Ste. Marie Park in Sault Ste. Marie.

A first time run of chinook is expected in Saginaw Creek at Huron State Park north of Howell City and a moderate coho run will develop in Tawas Bay as well. Other good runs are expected at Hartsville and Au Gres.

The recent landing of chinook approaching 40 pounds off Hartsville and Oueda is good reason to feel that state-reared salmon now may be in Lake Huron.

THE STATE coho record has stood at 30 pounds eight inches since 1971 and is ripe for breaking, said Harker. The record 44-pound, two-piece chinook caught last year in the St. Joseph River could fall just as easily.

Best bet for fall Lake Michigan coho an-

glers should be on Platte Bay above Frankfort off Manistee near the Manistee River. Portage Lake north of Manistee and the Au Sable River near Ludington. Chinook fishermen should try Lake Michigan off the E. Manistee plus the Grand Mackeron, St. Joseph and Big Sable rivers. Fishing on the Big Sable in Ludington State Park is by permit only from Sept. 15 to Oct. 31. Daily drawings will pick 50 an-

glers to fish the half mile of river from the mouth to Hamlin Lake Dam in three-hour shifts. Other Lake Michigan waters expecting good chinook runs are Howery Creek in Grand Traverse Bay's West Arm, Bear River area between Priday and Charlie, and Thompson Creek near Manistee and the Upper Peninsula's Big Cedar River near Marquette.

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16'	125	185	265	375	485	240
18'	125	185	265	375	485	240
20'	125	185	265	375	485	240
22'	125	185	265	375	485	240
24'	125	185	265	375	485	240
26'	125	185	265	375	485	240
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