

2 Down, Bottom of the 7th

Part 3

Thursday January 10th, 2013 2:15PM

Adam arrives along with a “warm” spell... Forecast calls for low to mid 40’s with a little rain here and there.... Adam changes the oil and tunes up the equipment that TDI has left... We are back to flipping sod and need to finish 8, 10, 18 and start work on 13... Ron and some TDI assistants show up a couple of days later and they are going to try and “rough” all the remaining work... If we have a mild winter like last year we’ll get it all set before Keith returns from Everest...

Wednesday January 16th, 2013 12:30PM

The Michigan winters must be rough, as Ron has returned with a high level of energy.... Fairway bunkers on 18 are being put in place... Old fairway bunker on right has been broken into 2... Pushed left into the fairway... Fairway pushed 20 feet to the left... I will have to smack it to carry the new 2nd bunker on the right, from the white tees. I usually need to see grass and sand, but the view from the tee is going to be formidable... Also not sure a slight miss-hit from the blue tees will reach the fairway... fairway line moved closer to the green by 20 yards... Bunker on left at the bottom of the hill, 185 from the green, is gone and is flat and newly sodded.... This will become the 2nd shot bailout/lay-up area... New fairway bunkers about 130 yards out are in place, in the “holes” that were in the fairway and in the left rough... Fairway shifted to the left, trees removed and left side of fairway is on the drip line of the big elm 80 yards short of the green... What a gorgeous specimen, a local artist has taken time lapsed photo of it, for an exhibit at the Met, really looks better without leaves....

I can’t say I birdied 18 a lot, but I always felt like I had a good chance... I will never have that feeling again... new fairway bunkers and distance from blue tees will make driving difficult.... From white tees accuracy will become paramount as well... If you missed fairway in past, especially to the left, you could always slap something up the fairway... get it rolling and you could get to 100 yards without hitting any good shots... the fairway bunkers will limit that recovery shot and most likely force you to lay up to 150 yard marker... If you hit fairway from blues, you probably have 200+ to carry the new fairway bunkers with your second shot... I didn’t make a lot of birdies from 100 yards, I make a lot less from 150...

Sod flipping on 8 is about done and even though we only narrowed the fairway 4-5 paces on the left side, it seems like a lot more... Could be this is now the toughest driving hole on the course... Remember fairway bunker on right moved slightly left and now fairway squeezed from the left... Yup, it’s longer, especially from blues but angles from tee seem more natural... It will be interesting to see how holes get handicapped but this has to be in contention to be in top 4....

Friday January 18, 2013 1:45PM

Sod flipped on 10 and fairway now starts 30 yards further from the tee... New fairway bunker on right side in rough, about 140 out... left side bunkers squeezed into fairway and there aren't as many.... Fairway meanders a little to the right as we approach the green... right side greenside bunker raised and doesn't really start until you get to the back half of the green... The bunker on the left has been raised and roughly the same position... both greenside bunkers seem like they will be a fairer test....small green expansion to be done... the big hill, full of wild flowers and weeds between 10th and 17th greens, has been lowered and reshaped and will be seeded with native grasses to match/contrast the rest of the native grasses on the course... the view from 17th green may be the best on the course... 11th tees are in, excess soil has been mounded at far end of driving range, curving to the skeet house... This provides screening of 11th hole from driving range, and as you walk away from 11th tee towards fairway, I get the feeling of being in Ireland winding through the dunes to get to the fairway... 14th tees moved slightly left towards road... Blue tees could occasionally be put on 9th tee as the tree by the well is now gone.... Slight mounding near the fence will help provide separation...

Mound behind 13th green lowered, hill won't be lowered until green is moved, rough cut on bunkers left and right of green in place, but until back 1/3rd of green flipped to the front exact placement is unsure, fairway bunker 30 yards short of green pushed left and rotated a little, my guess is this will change a couple of times... Fairway pushed way left, new fairway bunker on left side about 130 out... Right side fairway bunker moved left and closer to the tees (which if you remember, have been pushed back).... Forward tee centered and moved next to the pond...

The past few days have not gotten above freezing and the ground has gotten rock hard... Not a bad thing, it kills bugs and diseases.. It allows the big tree trucks to come on the course without damaging the turf and allows the big top dressing machines to go on the greens and tees without damaging them... but it is starting to slow work and potentially damage the machinery... as Ron said, "it's like raking baseballs". They have gotten a lot of work done in a 10 day period and it's a good start for when Keith comes back March 15th... I expect to see these guys again early March if the weather permits...

I think we will start with 13th green, as that is the work that will need the most time to heal...If they are able to start March 15th, and it takes 3 weeks, then another 6-8 weeks to cure the new sod and work, we could have the course fully playable early June... All this is weather permitting, considering the bad weather pattern we had this fall, we are due for a little weather luck... With real luck and good growing spring we can be earlier than that...

Monday February 4th, 2013 2:15PM

TDI guys still plugging along, setting bases for new cart paths... Tree crew was in today and got most of the tree work done... We will always find more work for them... We

continue on working on getting storm damaged trees removed from course.. A huge pile of tree trunks, 50 yards long at least 10 feet high, has been stacked along the road to the right of the tenth green... We replanted 3 new trees between the 14th and 15th holes and 2 new trees between the 4th and 5th holes... 4 of them were elms we had been growing in the nursery between the 15th and 16th holes... One was moved from elsewhere on the course... They looked like weeds in the nursery but look great out on the course... Winged Foot may have interest in our remaining elms, the rest of nursery will be removed and you guessed it, replaced with native grasses...

I'll report back when TDI comes in early March or sooner if something comes up, we're just trying to get to the closer... I'd love to see Mariano come out of the bullpen and finish this thing up...