

Courses receive updates after floods

■ Davenport Country Club has facelift

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superintendent at Davenport Country Club. "What had happened was that golf technology had changed so much in the last 15 to 20 years that some of our traps had been taken out of play."

"The course hadn't kept up with technology. So we moved some bunkers, added others and added mounding."

Azinger also got a different maintenance building. His equipment and staff was moved from a low area which was hit by the flood to a farmhouse on the course that a member owned. The member gave the course a long-term lease on the building.

"We took a bad situation and tried to make something positive out of it," said Jeff Deets, head golf professional. "The course is in beautiful shape now."

The clubhouse also got a planned facelift, sending the cost of improvements close to \$1 million.

One of the hardest hit holes was No. 16, probably one of the best and best known holes in the Quad-Cities. Immediately following the flooding, the hole had to be turned into a par-3 but is now back as a par-4 with a new trap and mounding.

Duck Creek lost its entire back nine holes from June 16 until opening day of this season.

"We actually had four floods last year," explained Roger Murray of the Park and Recreation Department. "We had the two in June but then late in Au-



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This bridge on No. 17 at Duck Creek Golf Course has been rebuilt since last June's floods.

gust we were ready to go again on the back nine and we had two more."

Murray said the department has never added up the total costs of damage. He said, however, that the loss of revenue was also significant.

Duck Creek reopened this fall with a 13th hole which was rebuilt basically from bare ground. The other holes which were hardest hit were Nos. 11, 12 and 17.

On the 17th, a bridge was washed out and wound up against a bridge on Kimberly Road. It was moved by a truck back to the course and rebuilt.

Included in the repairs at Duck Creek was renovating the drainage tiles. Murray said the hope is that the course will drain more quickly following future floods.

"There is not much we can do to prevent future flooding but hopefully we'll be able to get the water off the course more quickly," Murray said.

Palmer Hills was also ravaged by the flooding. Bridges were damaged and fairways and greens were ruined.

This spring Palmer Hills is nearly back to normal. The grass is still coming back on the hardest

hit holes, like No. 3, but the course is in good shape.

Like Davenport Country Club, the Bettendorf Park Board used the floods to work on other changes. Sand traps and grass mounds were added on No. 5 and the No. 18 green was improved.

"It was an ugly mess those first few days but we managed to keep some holes open even the day after the flood," said Palmer Hills pro George Henry. "At first we had four holes open and then we got the entire back nine open."

"We're back in the swing now. The course is in great shape."

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