

HealthSouth inaugural

Disney's Eagle Pines G.C., Walt Disney World

Manager of Golf Facilities: *Larry Kamphaus*, CGCS; Bonnet Creek Head Superintendent: *Scott Welder*; Eagle Pines Superintendent: *Pat Hennessey*.

A funny thing happened on the LPGA Tour this year. After the Tournament of Champions was over, the players just had to go across the street for the next tour stop. Eagle Pines is literally less than a mile from Grand Cypress.

Besides being the first full-field event of the year for the LPGA, it was the 2nd professional event in less than four months for Eagle Pines. The Walt Disney World-Oldsmobile Classic PGA event was played there in mid-October. In fact it wasn't until sometime in November that the decision to have the LPGA event at Disney was finalized.

Time, tide and tournament sales wait for no man. Pat and his crew had to prepare for this new event in the midst of a busy, already-booked, schedule of group tournaments and resort guests. The worst unavoidable conflict came Monday of tournament week when the course hosted a 144 man shotgun tournament in the morning and a 90-man shotgun in the afternoon the day after a heavy rain event on Sunday.

It was a tough assignment to get ready for the LPGA at the same time. Because of the normal maintenance programs, there wasn't a lot of extra work to be done other than sprucing up the native areas with fresh pine straw. Pat was able to assign one temporary foreman to oversee a crew of part-time workers to get that accomplished.

During the tournament itself, Pat ran his schedule basically like he does for the Classic. The regular crew is split into morning and evening shifts. The morning shift of 14 people comes in at 2 a.m. and rakes the bunkers until daylight. Then they mow greens, tees, collars and approaches. They also drag the fairways to remove the dew.

The evening shift of four people mows and blows fairways, and top dresses divots on tees and fairways. Because of the stress from heavy traffic already on the greens this season, Pat opted for a combination of double cutting and rolling to achieve the desired 9.5 speed on the greens.

The HealthSouth Inaugural was also the debut of The Golf Channel's tournament broadcast coverage. The new cable entity got to cut it's teeth on this event, and Scott and Pat got to help

them through this first broadcast.

The most amazing challenge and accomplishment of this event was that it went from non-existence to successful completion in eight to ten weeks. Pat gives the lion's share of credit to Head Golf Professional, Kevin Weickel for coordinating everything between Disney, LPGA, Del Wilber Management, and The Golf Channel.

Pat predicted that it would be a veteran shotmaker who would win the tournament. He was right. It was patient Pat Bradley who battled Pete Dye's challenging layout to a 5-under score and a victory. By dawn the next day the course was ready for normal resort guest play with all traces of the tournament magically gone overnight.

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Disney's Magnolia GC

Royal Caribbean Classic

Links of Key Biscayne, Florida

Superintendent: *Mark Richards*

The sixth annual Royal Caribbean Classic was hosted this year by superintendent Mark Richards at the Links of Key Biscayne. Mark has been working for Metro Dade County for ten years, with the last seven spent at Greynolds Park in North Miami. He began working at Key Biscayne on December 19, 1994 with only a month to prepare for the tournament.

The first decision Mark made was to overseed the greens because, like many other golf courses in South Florida, the greens were still recovering from all the rain we had in 1994. Mark overseeded the greens with *Poa Trivialis* at a rate of 10-lbs.-per-thousand-sq.-ft. on Dec. 30-31. The greens were touched up with another 5-lbs.-thousand-sq.-ft. on Jan. 13. The tees were scalped down to take out as much thatch as possible. They topdressed tees heavily and brought the height back up to one-half inch.

Richards began rolling the putting surface during the Pro-Am on Wednesday and Thursday and once after the first round of the tournament. He brought the height down to .145 (accugauge), double cut in the morning and once after play was finished. The results were greens that were rolling 10 to 10.5 on the stimpmeter. Although Mark seemed to be worried about the



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Royal Caribbean Classic

Links of Key Biscayne

Superintendent Mark Richards checks green while preparing for tournament.



The Intellinet Challenge
The Vineyards, Naples

Superintendent Pete Metcalf, photo left.

GTE Suncoast Classic
TPC of Cheval Tampa Bay, Tampa

Superintendent Chuck Green (above left) and Assistant GCS Scott MacEwen check green with a stimpmeter.

greens a week before the tournament, most of the praise was about how great they putted. J.C. Snead, who won in a playoff against Raymond Floyd, gave special thanks to the golf course superintendent. The announcers on ESPN also gave rave reviews of the course condition all weekend.

One of the superintendent's worries during the tournament came in keeping a watchful eye on all the service companies that came out to set up tents for all the social events. On Wednesday night after the first day of the Pro-Am, one of the companies was setting up patio tables and hammered an umbrella stand down through a 3" irrigation line and an 8" main line.

Mark and his crew began digging out around the pipes at 7 p.m. and, due to the proximity of the 8-inch main, it was dug mostly by hand. They had to cap the 8-inch to finish the watering

cycle that evening, and everyone called it a night around 2 a.m. They left the 8-inch capped until after the tournament was finished.

Mark said he relied on his previous experience, as well as the support of others. He would like to thank Steve Kuhn, Monica Elliott, Bill McKee and Chuck Gast for all their help. He also said he would like to pass on thanks to some vendors for their contributions, including Florida Superior Sand, Kilpatrick Turf, Liquid Ag, Du Cor Chemical, Atlantic Fertilizer, and Hector Turf.

Once again, congratulations go out to Mark Richards for a job well done

*Kelly Cragen, GCS
Biltmore GC, Coral Gables*

