Bay area courses recovering

Irrigation systems, greens major victims of quake

BY MARK LESLIE

In the aftermath of an earthquake that turned some San Francisco area communities upside down, Northern California golf course superintendents braced for the predicted next trembler and worked to get their courses back in shape.

While the nation's eyes focused on the deadly tragedy at the Bay Bridge, nearer the epicenter 50 miles to the southeast, Santa Cruz's downtown was leveled and some people's lives permanently changed. Lost in the tumult of more important matters was the Oct. 17 earthquake's effect on the region's golf courses.

The major problems at the courses were damage to clubhouses and other structures, breaks in irrigation systems, cracks on the pavement.

Bay area courses recovering

A 95-day miracle

And he could have done it faster, says developer

BY MARK LESLIE

Construction of a "quality" golf course in 95 working days at a Cenvill Development Corp. real estate project in Illinois has drawn astonishment in the golf industry.

"That's absolutely fantastic," said Golf Course Builders of America Executive Director Don Rossi. "It's a quality golf course that's a tremendous effort."

Rossi stressed that he's not impressed with speed unless the work is high-quality, and the principals involved insist the Callan development's golf course in Plainfield, Ill., is top-notch.

Cenvill Director of Golf Dan Jones declared, "This is no risky-dink course. It's an excellent product."

Steve Balogh of Kenova Construction in West Palm Beach, Fla., who coordinated the project, indicated that the design and construction went smoothly. "People would slip while working along a