Florida golf spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$0.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$0.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct 4%</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related (45%)</td>
<td>$1.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-golf (15%)</td>
<td>$0.6 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-related</td>
<td>$4.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$5.2 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Florida golf spending: Will other states follow the lead?

BY MARK LESLIE

In the wake of Florida's successful golf summit and with Golf Summit 90 set for Nov. 12-13, states where golf is big business may follow suit by adding lobbying arms and bringing together the industry and government agencies.

Summits like Florida's are "very important because golf is not well coordinated in most states," said Gerald Faulke of Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club.

Source: NGF

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Pebble Beach course facelift going full tilt

BY FRANK POLLARD

Plagued by drought and turf problems, Pebble Beach Co. on California's Monterey Peninsula faces an aggressive renovation program at the hands of its new owners. Prior to the billion-dollar sale of Pebble Beach Co. to Ben Hogan Properties, Inc., officials at the facility had started an extensive program to restore Pebble Beach Golf Links to its original design. At the same time, though plagued by drought, Pebble Beach was undertaking a program of additional course changes to meet the stringent requirements of the U.S. Golf Association for the U.S. Open, scheduled there in June 1992.

The primary challenge was eradicating Kikuyugrass and all noxious weeds from the tees, aprons, collars, fairways and rough.

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Flood hits Augusta National and others

By MARK LESLIE

Augusta National Golf Club lost its entire 11th green complex, Augusta Country Club faced washed-out riprap and one-quarter inch of silt on its 8th green, and other courses in Georgia and South Carolina dealt with their own problems after receiving as much as 15 inches of rain Oct. 10-12.

Tropical storms Klaus, Lily and Marco converged in a deluge creating the equivalent of 50-year floods in some areas.

Many courses simply watched the heavens open for two days and waited as the water soaked into the ground.

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New products hit marketplace

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Calendar

November loaded with shows, seminars
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The restoration also included bringing the course back to its original 1919 design of Jack Neville and Douglas Grant by restoring original greens and bunker sizes, shapes and precise locations. Greens had gotten smaller and, along with the bunkers, had changed over 70 years of play and associated normal maintenance practices. Hogan Properties, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Cosmo World Corp., decided not only to meet the previous commitments but to accelerate their execution.

Jack Nicklaus was hired as a long-term consultant to make changes that will bring the course back to its original links look and quality, plus put it in ideal condition for the '96 Open. Nicklaus has made a preliminary course inspection and was to return in early November for further analysis and recommendations. Nicklaus will first see that all bunkers conform to a more natural seaside links condition and appearance rather than the current well-manicured and tightly trimmed quality and look.

A program to kill all Kikuyugrass on the course was immediately undertaken. Ed Miller, newly appointed Pebble Beach Co. superintendent of courses, set the program in motion.

"In order to eliminate the Kikuyugrass, we treated all fairways—with the exception of holes 3, 6 and 16, and the approaches on 8, 9 and 13—by spraying them with Round-up, a non-selective herbicide that effectively destroys all unwanted vegetable matter," said Miller. "The Kikuyugrass remaining on those badly disturbed by the soil-chiseling process and needed a lot of follow-up preparation, including daily play could continue. The tarp was kept on for 48 hours.

The surfaces of the fairways were badly disturbed by the soil-chiseling process and needed a lot of follow-up preparation before seeding. Fairways were aerated and then smoothed by flail-mowing, harrowing or simply rolling. The surfaces were then scratched by vertical mowing and seeded. Areas around trees as well as the collars and aprons on each of the 18 holes were also sprayed and resodded.

"We used perennial ryegrass, rather than bentgrass, to reseed all of the fairways," said Miller. "It establishes itself better and faster in this environment and has shown the ability to resist the invasion of Kikuyugrass better than many other grasses. We selected Seed Research of Oregon's perennial ryegrass blend consisting of 40 percent SR4200, 30 percent SR4100 and 30 percent SR4000 for the fairways. This mix results in a great filtering fairway turf that can handle the stress of traffic and play very well.

Methyl bromide was applied by agricultural equipment developed to desiccate commercial strawberry fields of insects prior to planting. This equipment, specially modified and mounted on a caterpillar tractor, used soil chisels to penetrate the fairways so methyl bromide could be injected deep into the soil. Simultaneously, plastic tarp was laid down for protective and safety purposes during the fumigation process.

Extra precaution was taken to keep people and animals clear of the fumigated areas, which were roped off with crews continuously monitoring the areas. Warning signs were also posted.

Following tarp removal, no dangerous after effects were encountered since methyl bromide becomes inert immediately on contact with the atmosphere.

The methyl bromiding process involved treating one-half a fairway at a time (lengthwise) so daily play could continue. The tarp was kept on for 48 hours.

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In addition to a great many old and quite excellent photographs from our archives, one of the processes we are using to discover earlier green shapes is to use soil probes to plumb and extract cores from the perimeters of the greens," Miller said. "We can detect the exact location, shape and size of earlier greens by analyzing soil samples and by observing grass annua and creeping bentgrass that would typically be in the greens rather than in the current collars and/or immediate rough.

Paul Spengler, vice president of golf, outlined other areas of renovation. "We are also enlarging the tees and, in several cases, realigning them with the fairways. With the amount of play the course sees yearly—some 50,000 rounds—we need as much teeing area surface space as possible to handle this volume of traffic.

"We are also adding new ladies' tees which are more accessible to the cart paths and will improve play through better alignment with the current fairways."

"It's a very exciting program to restore such a prestigious old course to its original state," said Spengler, "and there are quite a few new plans in the offing.

Among them are re-establishing the practice greens at Spyglass Hill Golf Course and Pebble Beach Golf Links with better turf and practice facilities, such as practice bunkers and chipping greens.

"When the work at Pebble Beach is completed, each of the remaining Pebble Beach Co. courses — Del Monte, Spyglass Hill and the Links at Spanish Bay — will be upgraded to provide the finest possible product for those players who come from around the world."

Frank Pollard is a freelance writer based in Hollister, Calif.

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