Turf care gets a bit ‘gamey’ in N. Dakota

BY MARK LESLIE
With game reserves as neighbors, Darrell and Ann Elder are used to wild animals visiting their Rolla (N.D.) Country Club course. But they would like to know what on earth got into one particular moose who happened by recently.

It seems this hefty visitor walked up next to the 6th green. No problem.

But then, apparently the flag on the green about 20 feet away attracted his attention, startled him, angered him, teased him — who knows? But the result is obvious.

“He clawed at the ground, scraping the apron, and charged the flag a couple of times,” Elder said. “Then he just walked away.

“He walked over to the 8th green, but just smelled that flag and walked on.”

Perhaps the moose had learned his lesson at the 6th.

Was the flag red? No, the flag and stick are yellow.

While the flag suffered no ill effects from the attack, the damage report was a bit more extensive for the turf.

“He tore up the greens,” Elder said. “He sunk in about one inch and, where his hoof came out of the ground, raised it up about an inch.”

Elder used a screwdriver and knife to repair the damage, then kept traffic off those areas for a few days.

Sitting on the border of Turtle Mountain Reserve and two miles from Wakapa Game Reserve, the rugged Rolla Country Club is home to a number of foxes, who like to steal balls, and deer, who apparently just like the feel of low-cut grass.

None of these animals really bother the Elders. And neither would the moose, if they were half as heavy. But they’re larger than the Hereford cows on the farm where Elder grew up.

“We had a big moose come by a couple of years ago, and he left hoofprints in the ground about four inches deep,” Elder lamented.

Yet, “it’s all part of a course being a working habitat,” he said. “Golf courses are one of the few places with natural surroundings that both animal and man can use and enjoy.”

Irrigation conclave set

“Irrigation Awareness for the ’90s” is the theme the host Arizona Chapter selected for the 1990 National Conference of the American Society for Irrigation Consultants. The Oct. 26-29 conference, at SunBurst Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Scottsdale, Ariz., will cover the gamut in water issues.


Further information is available from Wanda Sarsfield at 415-516-1300.