Japanese firms stay active

By Mark Leslie

Cosmo World, Nitto Kogyo America and Sports Shinko lead the "players" in the Japanese surge of megamillion-dollar buyouts of premier U.S. golf properties.

According to a report prepared by Mead Ventures, Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., the Japanese search for long-term returns on investments and their love for golf are keeping real-estate brokers busy in the United States.

The Japanese interest to buy, coupled with a growing willingness of American course owners to sell, have created an active marketplace.

Surfing the California drought

By Peter Blais

With some creative course managers, California golf courses are managing to survive the six-year drought that has plagued that state, according to Dr. M. Ali Harivandi.

Most of California depends on melt-water snows for summer irrigation. With snowpacks way down, golf courses are from all over the country. I probably turn on investments and their love for golf are keeping real-estate brokers busy in the United States. The Japanese interest to buy, coupled with a growing willingness of American course owners to sell, have created an active marketplace.

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BUILDERS' NEW DIRECTOR PUTS PRIORITIES IN PLACE

Philip Arnold Takes Charge of Association

By Mark Leslie

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The newly-elected director of the Golf Course Builders of America wants to develop an association that can guarantee credibility in construction, educate potential lenders, and join with other groups on the environmental front.

Philip A. Arnold, who was approved Feb. 11 to succeed the late Don Rossi, said: "I'm continuing what Don wanted to do — to give our members more. I want to deliver substance, not just form, to this group."

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USGA FUNDS STANDARDIZED LAB TESTS

By Peter Blais

A Cornell University professor will spend the next year standardizing the laboratory test procedures used to determine whether putting green soils meet United States Golf Association specifications.

Dr. Norm Hummell will devote his one-year sabatical to the effort beginning in July, although he has already done some preliminary work, according to USGA Green Section Director Jim Snow. The Green Section will pay Hummell's salary.

The turfgrass extension specialist will meet with representatives from soil-testing labs, universities and companies in the golf course development business.

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