Lely awarded control of East Naples courses

EAST NAPLES, Fla. — A Collier County judge has awarded Lely Development Corp. full control of the two golf courses it has opened at Lely Resort, a 2,900-acre project underway here.

Judge Thomas Trettis ruled that Donald Breckenridge and his St. Louis-based resort development company had failed to honor terms in the lease agreement to make lease and security payments to Lely when they came due last summer.

Breckenridge and his Naples attorney, Cathy Reiman, said they would appeal the decision.

Trettis' action came following an eviction suit Lely brought against Breckenridge last August. Lely sought to have the developer stripped of control at the Robert Trent Jones-designed Lely Flamingle Island course and Gary Player-designed Lely Classics track.

Breckenridge argued that Lely has tried to prevent his company from developing a 350-room hotel complex at the development.

Parched Palo Alto municipal to get major makeover

PALO ALTO, Calif. — A parched Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course will likely receive $6 million in renovations following six years of drought-induced decay.

Although it has yet to give its formal approval, the City Council has expressed support for the 35-year-old course, one of the Bay Area's most heavily played tracks.

The course, which sits below sea level, was built on a former marshland where accumulated salt and other minerals have made growing grass almost impossible in some areas. Under the plan, which has a target completion date of 1998, all playing areas would be rebuilt with a 12-inch layer of sand underneath for better drainage.

The proposal also calls for installation of a $300,000 pipeline to irrigate the course with treated wastewater from a nearby sewage treatment plant. This process could save the city $250,000 in water costs.

The renovation would be financed by bonds to be paid for by an increase in greens fees, savings from using reclaimed water, and increased course revenues that currently average $206,000 annually.

Dubuque voters reject 2nd course

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Dubuque voters recently rejected a $5 million bond issue to build a second municipal golf course.

The proposal to build received 57 percent of the vote (3,775 to 2,895), but Iowa law requires a 60 percent margin on these issues.

New pesticide regulations proposed for Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin would establish new regulations on the information released about pesticides applied to golf courses under a proposal drafted by the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

The proposal, developed by an advisory committee of legislators, pesticide applicators and environmentalists, is designed to provide citizens more information about the commercial application of pesticides in their neighborhoods.

According to a DATCP analysis, the proposal would not restrict the volume or kind of pesticides used, nor would it regulate where the pesticides are applied. Rather, it would require firms to post notices on properties after application, specifying the type of pesticide.

The bill (AB 498) recently passed out of the Wisconsin State Assembly and moved on to the Senate's Agricultural Committee.

Cohen to chair NGWA Ground Water Protection Committee

DUBLIN, Ohio — Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services in Wheaton has been named chairman of the Ground Water Protection and Management Committee of the National Ground Water Association.

President Ron Hiddleston commended Cohen's leadership and commitment to his profession and his association.

The Ground Water Protection and Management Committee guides the NGWA in the establishment of policies toward the protection of our nation's ground water.

The NGWA is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 24,000 ground water scientists and engineers, ground water contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers in 70 nations.