Tour of Duty
Continued from page 14

Fleming...


THINGS TO LOOK FOR: "The shade conditions here are unique, and they make it sort of difficult at times," said Fleming. "In terms of disease problems, we've had rains in October three of the last five years. So that could be a problem for us.

"We'll just try to firm things up so these guys can't fire at the flags all day. Of course, you receive a format from the PGA that's slightly different from that of the USGA. The rough will be three inches [for the Tour Championship], whereas it's four inches at USGA events."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: As you might expect from the superintendent at one of America's premier golfing venues, Fleming does little to prepare for the TV cameras:

"No, it's just prep work for TV crews that come in. We're not looking at a different mowing format, or anything like that. If you're into diagonal cutting on the fairways — as opposed to up and down — we do that anyway."

Thrailkill... International] and a bunch of pros commented that we had some of the best greens on tour.

"But I taped the Nabisco a few years back, and what I noticed was that we had the most gorgeous bunkers I've ever seen on TV."

Does he enjoy working with the PGA?

"This is my ninth one, and I know all the guys by now. We know what to expect from each other. It's real comfortable. Besides, they're traveling all over the world preparing tournament sites. I can learn something from these guys every time they come in."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "We do more soluble applications to give the fairways a bit more color. During the Nabisco, we sprayed all 18 fairways every day.

"We won't lay it on that heavy this year... Problem is, we have common Bermuda fairways which you can't stripe up real nice like you can on northern courses."

"I save an hour or more a day on maintenance time."

"Before, it was almost impossible to see what I was doing, let alone repair it. Now everything is right where I can see it... sitting down!"

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Golf Course Mechanic

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