Tour of Duty

**PHIL OWEN**
Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club
Grand Blanc, Mich.
Buick Open
Aug. 4-7, CBS

Phil Owen, 39, is one of those when-life-hands-you-a-
lemon-make-lemonade kind of guys. Laid off from his high-
school teaching job in the late-1970s because of budget cuts,
the Spring Arbor College biology major took a job as assistant
superintendent at Goodrich Country Club. He had just been
appointed head superintendent at The Southmoor Golf Course
in Burton two years later when the school offered him his old
job back. Owen weighed his choices for several seconds before
deciding to stay with golf. "I just didn't enjoy teaching as
much as I did course management," he remembered. "But
my teaching skills helped. Being a superintendent or a
teacher is basically people management." Owen became
assistant superintendent at Warwick Hills in 1988 and was
named head superintendent three years ago.

**MARK JACKSON**
Indianwood Golf Club
Lake Orion, Mich.
U.S. Women's Open
July 21-24, ABC

This is the third U.S. Open for Mark Jackson. The
39-year-old was the assistant superintendent at nearby
Oakland Hills Country Club when Andy North won the
1985 men's event. Betsy King took the women's
tournament held at Indianwood in 1989, two years after
Jackson came to the Lake Orion club. During high
school, Jackson worked on the grounds crew summers at
Twin Beach CC in West Bloomfield. He graduated
from Michigan State University in 1977 with an
associate's degree in turfgrass management and a
bachelor's degree in crop and soil science. He spent
four years as head superintendent at Brookwood CC
in Rochester and three years as a self-employed land-
scape contractor before the chance to work his first
U.S. Open lured him back to course management at

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**

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  - The biggest change is the 13th hole. An additional tee has lengthened a short 490-
yard, par-6 to a more challenging 555 yards. A pond that
  formerly lurked in front of the green has been
  enlarged. A new green was built so that the water now laps
  against the putting surface.
  - "You still have a bail-out area to the left," Jackson said.
  - "But you'll end up in the pond if you're short of the green
    up against the putting surface.
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**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:**

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  - "A lot of praying," answered Owen when asked what he does to prepare for the
tournament. "You just hope that the weather cooper-
ates. Most of the things we do are crowd-control rather
than course related. We do a lot of fencing and roping to
make sure spectators go where they are supposed to. We
now tees and fairways daily rather than every other day.
And we roll the greens, which we don't normally do."

**STEVEN RENZETTI**
Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, N.Y.
LPGA JAL Big Apple Classic
July 14-17, Prime/NBC

Steven Renzetti, 29, credits his grandfather with setting him
on the road toward a superintendent career. The elder Renzetti
was a head pro at several New York courses. At age 82 he was
honored by then-President Ronald Reagan as the oldest active
golf professional in the country while closing out his career at
Dellwood Country Club. "He encouraged me to become a
superintendent," the Wykagyl course manager said. "He thought
it was a more versatile position than head pro because you got
to work with Mother Nature rather than giving the same lessons
day after day."

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**

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  - The contrast between the lush, 3-inch rye and bluegrass rough buffing up against
the close-cropped bentgrass fairways is the most notable
feature, Renzetti said. The fairways have turned the
corner and are now more bentgrass than poa, he added. The
natural setting is enhanced by numerous rock
outcroppings that require vast amounts of handwork to
keep trimmed. "The women have voted it their favorite
course on the Tour," Renzetti said. "The architect [Lawrence
Van Etten with refinements by Donald Ross and A.W.
Tillinghast] used the natural terrain and did little-earthmoving.
The players say it's the toughest course they play."

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:**

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  - Trees, many of the spectacular variety, are abundant at Wykagyl. With
the removal of Winged Foot's famous 10th-hole Dutch
elm, Met Golfer magazine recently voted the 300-year-old oak on Wykagyl's 17th hole the most strategic in the
metropolitan area. "We've worked with the television
people to prune trees to get the best camera angles,"
Renzetti said. The course will be coated with four ounces
of iron per 1,000 square feet for the greening effect.
Beginning a week before the tournament, greens are
double cut mornings and double cut and rolled at night.

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