Rossi-winner Duich spreads out admiration to others in golf

By MARK LESLIE
SAN FRANCISCO — Dr. Joseph Duich was the man of the evening at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's (GCBAA) annual banquet, but he turned the table on his hosts, citing their work in golf.

Receiving the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the GCBAA, Duich said: "We know who gets all the press about golf courses. One day on TV, they... will mention who actually built some of these magnificent golf courses."

"Saying he admires the "shapers" who operate bulldozers and fine-tune architects' designs, he added that "99.999 percent of the population would devastate a landscape." And he pointed to the rigors of golf course construction, including its hard, dirty labor and time spent away from family.

Duich quoted his Penn State University department head, the late Dr. Howard Sprague, as saying that one should only be judged by those who've known him. "I have been in this industry long enough to know I can truly judge the value and contributions of golf course builders. And I salute you and thank you very, very sincerely for this award," he said. "It is very gratifying."

Tribute was paid to Duich by two former students — Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Joseph Baidy and U.S. Golf Association Green Section regional director Stanley Zontek.

"I knew Don Rossi. He was a great man, a friend to us all, and quite literally a father and architect of golf," Baidy said.

"I know Joe Duich. He, too, is a great man, a major contributor to the turfgrass on which the game is played, and perhaps most importantly of all, a teacher and a friend."

"We know if fertilizers and insects are going to be around for 20 years." Turco said. "You must make bacteria in the subsurface ecosystem has very poor degradation powers." The solution is to create degradation in that subsurface.

"Look for every opportunity to speak with and befriended members of your course, organizations, schools, etc. encourage them to follow your examples of environmental stewardship."

"The trick is to avoid pumping too much air onto the zone.

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