Job openings

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Winter programs have found jobs," said OSU assistant professor David Willoughby. "We have 12 to 15 openings right now and no one to fill them. There seems to be a lot of construction going on and a number of people retiring from the business."

Added Penn State instructor George Hamilton: "It's been a banner year for assistants. The number of course openings, particularly near Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. A new course generally hires away the assistant superintendent from somewhere else to its new head superintendent. That leaves an assistant opening at his old course as well as an assistant position to be filled at his new one."

Hamilton noted that with the additional administrative responsibilities being placed on head superintendents, many assistants are now doing the day-to-day work done by the head superintendent 10 or 15 years ago. Today's assistant superintendent often oversees a second assistant, who does the work the first assistant used to do. Consequently, there are more applicants for assistant positions.

Hamilton said Penn State's agronomy office recently listed 51 assistant openings ("a significant increase over a year ago.") as compared to a number of course openings ("about the same as last year."). Other schools report the number of head superintendent listings remaining stagnant as well.

"The problem is getting from assistant to the next level," Rogers said. "It's a real dogfight for head superintendent jobs."

Part of the problem is the growing number of turf school graduates. While the Midwest, Northeast and Ohio States have kept enrollments steady ("We reject two applicants for every one we accept." — Hamilton, Penn State), many schools have added new turf programs or expanded existing ones. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America "guess-

GOLDFIELD COURSE NEWS

BY PETER BLAIS

Expanding job opportunities and influencing job continuity — largely because of an effort recently raised by Professional Golfers Association of America members — has become part of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's strategic plan.

"The golf course superintendent's profession is not exempt from such trends as downsizing," warned Tommy Witt, GCSAA board member and chairman of the superintendent association's career development committee.

But too many people chasing too few jobs is something superintendents and golf pros have had to wrestle with in today's uncertain economic environment. Several years ago, the Professional Golfers Association introduced a new certification program designed to break up the logjam of golf pros. And since entry into the field was easy and the lifestyle seemingly attractive, many more would-be pros continued to pour in. The result was a glut of golfers.

Golfers and golf pros have had to wrestle with job fears with in today's uncertain economic trends as downsizing," warned Tommy Witt, GCSAA board member and chairman of the superintendent association's career development committee.

The PGA recognized the problem. Acting on a study recommending the association revamp its educational offerings and upgrade members' skills, the PGA moved the Player Ability Test (PAT) to the front of its educational program in 1993. Would-be pros could not enter the apprentice-

Many apprentices stayed in the business, however, working as assistant pros. And since entry into the field was easy and the lifestyle seemingly attractive, many more would-be pros continued to pour in. The result was a glut of golfers.

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GCSAA shares job fears with PGA, who took steps to help pros

The second program, called Career Links, uses computers to match employer job opening requests with potential job seekers. A PGA member puts his resume on file with Career Links. When an employer lists an opening with certain skill requirements, Career Links searches its files for potential candidates whose skills match those requirements.

Resumes are forwarded to the prospective employer who reviews the materials and sets up interviews. The program was just started last fall.

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