Amid flag-waving, a couple cavets give industry pause

It’s always an education to report on the previous year’s course openings (see story page 1), as reactions never seem to match up with the data — good or bad. The 442 facilities unveiled during 1996 constitute the second highest total in history, trilling only 1995’s total of 468. However, several people I interviewed for this month’s story could hardly believe the 434 figure was accurate. Of course, I assured them the National Golf Foundation (NGF) numbers were reliable — I mean, a course either opens or it doesn’t. If anything, the number is low, as certain new course owners surely failed to inform the NGF of their activities.

In any case, several architects I interviewed for the story asked how many courses are currently under construction. When I answered, “more than 800,” they were somewhat incredulous.

“Well, that’s a healthy number,” said one. “It’s hard to believe when I have construction firms calling me looking for sure that they have a real tough time. “

Most of the architects interviewed for this story admitted they, too, had fielded calls from course builders eager for work. They also agreed that touring professionals dabbling in design have taken work away from “legitimate” architects.

Two troubling indicators in a sea of rosy market outlooks.

Ron Dodos, the president and force behind Audubon International, will chuckle when he reads Barry Mothes’ interesting trend story on the proliferation of golf courses on or near airport properties (see page 59).

In the story, a developer notes that course placement is crucial to airport projects, as birds have been know to dangerously foul up (!) jet engines. Indeed, a Federal Aviation Administration employee testified at a hearing that a golf course proposed or near airport properties (see page 59).

Orfiously fowl up (!) jet engines. Indeed, a Federal Aviation Administration employee testified at a hearing that a golf course proposed or near airport properties (see page 59).

The interesting trend story on the proliferation of golf courses on or near airport properties (see page 59).

I recall a tale or two from Bob about these nine “children.” And so I mourn, too. I wish this time were not over for Bob Spikaw.

To the editor:

Everyone at Jacobsen was truly entertained by the recent NFC Championship game. In the story, a developer notes that course placement is crucial to airport projects, as birds have been known to dangerously foul up (!) jet engines. Indeed, a Federal Aviation Administration employee testified at a hearing that a golf course proposed on or near airport properties (see page 59).

The New Yorker for the Golf Course Industry

Golf Course News

Collier’s Reserve

Country Club of the Rockies

Letters

JACK Loyalities Divided During Playoffs

To the editor: Everyone at Jacobsen was truly entertained by the recent Green Bay Packer/Carolina Panther NFC Championship game. Everyone except the folks in charge of Jake’s computers.

The game drew special interest because Jacobsen has its headquarters in Racine, Wis. (Packer Country), and a manufacturing facility and parts distribution in Charlotte, N.C. (Panther Country). The week prior to the game, fans on both sides began sending “friendly” e-mail messages on the company systems regarding projected outcome of the contest.

Well and good until one Packer Backer decided to broadcast color photos. As one former computer source said: “Wow, when that file hit the server, you could probably hear it all the way down in accounting.”

Shortly after the Packer Photo Essay made its way to hundreds of users, the coaches from Jake’s computer team put out an APB: “No more big files!!”

Short ones were okay and the rivalry continued.

Funny thing happened on Monday, Jan. 13, after another lopsided Packer victory — the e-mail from Charlotte was pretty quiet. All you heard was a little meow! — John Mielke

Jacobsen Division of Textron Racine, Wis. Ed. — When this issue of Golf Course News went to press, the Super Bowl had not yet played. Because the GCN staff is entirely comprised of Patriots fans, we wanted to take this belated opportunity to taunt golf industry Packer fans across the nation. Indeed, we have it on good authority that Jacobsen’s computers were not bogged down by color photos. In reality, the offending employee crashed the computer trying to send an enormous block of cheese as an e-mail enclosure. So there.

CLEAT MANUFACTURER ADDRESSES TRADEMARK ISSUE

To the editor: On behalf of Softspikes®, Inc., I want to thank you for the continued coverage Golf Course News has given to the spikeless movement and, in particular, to Softspikes®, Inc. We are proud of our contributions to help make golf a better game, and we appreciate your efforts to educate the golf industry about this major story.

I did want to bring to your attention the fact that we are concerned about the use of our trademark, Softspikes®, as a generic term for "soft spikes" or "spikesless".

Softspikes®, Inc. pioneered the category of plastic cleats and we remain the leading brand in that category. We manufacture plastic cleats, not "soft spikes." To help your readers better understand the difference between our products and those of our competitors, I ask that Golf Course News, Inc. use our trademark to refer to our brand of cleats. By example, you might say “Softspikes® brand plastic cleats,” “Softspikes® plastic cleats” or “Softspikes® cleats” in any story or mention of our products.

You should refrain from using soft spikes, softspikes or soft spikes when referring to the classification of products or when referring to any of our competitor’s products. The classification is plastic cleats.

I hope this helps clarify the correct use of our trademark and how it should be used when it concerns our company’s products.

Kelly Elbin

Softspikes, Inc.

Rockville, Md. Ed. — We prefer and endeavor to use "spikealternative" or "plastic cleats" when referring to the classification of products or when referring to any of our competitor’s products. The classification is plastic cleats.

I hope this helps clarify the correct use of our trademark and how it should be used when it concerns our company’s products.
Dr. Rossi heads Maine contingent

ROCKPORT, Maine — Talks by Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University and Golf Course Mechanics Association President Brian Alfond will highlight the 1997 Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Samoset Resort here, March 5-7.

Following a full-day session on "Calibration and Safety of Pesticide Application" on March 5, Rossi will speak on "Enhancing Freezing Stress Tolerance with Plant Growth Regulators" and "Selecting and Establishing Bentgrasses."

Alfond will appear with others to lead a full day of sessions for mechanics on March 6.

Q&A Niemczyk

Continued from page 19

products that are coming onto the market in the next few years?

HN: There’s an interesting family of treatments called the biorationals. One is a toxin produced by a bacteria called Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Micogen produces a product called M-Press. It isn’t registered yet, but it seems to work well on some grubs.

RhoMid has a product called Mach 2 that is supposed to be registered in January. It is a molt-accelerating compound called halo fenozide that speeds up the molting process causing the insect to die. American Cyanimid and Rohm & Haas have formed a joint company called RhoMid to market the product. It controls grubs, but is also effective on sod webworms, cutworms and billbugs. It is encouraging that we can target pests and not harm earthworms, mammals and other beneficial organisms.

DowElanco has a fermentation product called CONSERVE that it will market soon. It is effective against cutworms and other grass leaf-eating insects.

We've known for some time that an extract from the nut of the neem tree that grows in India and Burma has insecticide qualities. It also provides cutworm control by disrupting the molting process. Scotts markets such a product called Turplex that works well when the label is followed.

Leslie comment

Continued from page 16

But I sure do admire him for the 5 Ws of this enterprise of his. He struck out to play the game he loved and found a prize greater than the game. He never made a dime on Whispering Rattlesnakes... never intended to... it was simply a chore of love. I hope he finds another. There is another back 40 somewhere that could use that kind of caretaker. Have you got one?