

Lesco incorporates major boost to IT systems

ATLANTA — Atlanta-based CST Inc. today announced that Lesco, a manufacturer and distributor of commercial turf care and golf course products, has licensed CST Jacada to provide Java-based graphical client access for its information systems that link six production locations, sixteen distribution centers, in

excess of 320 store locations, and a direct sales force.

The addition of Jacada to Lesco's information system will provide easy-to-use graphical access to a variety of information and business transactions located on its AS/400 system for its distributed sales locations that include 235 drive-through

convenience stores as well as its direct sales force and Lesco Stores-on-Wheels, a fleet of trucks serving the golf course market.

"The adoption of CST Jacada fits our development strategy to deploy 'Best-in-Class' hardware and software to create an information infrastructure that will

help us archive superior customer service," said Wayne Murawski, vice president and chief information officer, "Lesco. "Jacada permits LESCO to gain greater enterprise access to information residing on our existing AS/400 without major disruptions to our business. We can then more easily reengineer our processes, organization assignments and computer systems," Murawski said.

CENTURY RAIN EXPANDS IN FLA.

MADISON HEIGHTS, Mich. — Century Rain Aid, a wholesaler of irrigation supplies, announced an expansion in Florida with the acquisition of two local distributorships, Atlantic Irrigation and AWF.

The four-store acquisition gives Century a total of 17 branches throughout the state, announced Mike Stein, Century regional vice president. Stein said the company has plans to open additional Florida branches in 1998.

Smithco

Continued from page 59

sembly is dropped into the trap and the speed is controlled by the speed boss," said Ted Smith, founder of Smithco. "The superintendent can set it at any speed he wants. But when he goes slowly it doesn't stir the sand...it causes much less commotion. The surface then becomes a lot more firm. The speed boss allows him steady control of the important finishing process."

When the raking implement is returned to the raised position, the "speed boss" disengages and full transport ground speed can be maintained.

Toro/St. Andrews

Continued from page 59

That works fine until the individual leaves. With SitePro we can build all of that into our system so well always know."

Forbes said he'd first witnessed the possibilities of SitePro while on a trip to Pinehurst, N.C. The system to be installed at St. Andrews will not have the Satellite Positioning option apparent at Pinehurst due, largely, to the differing habitats.

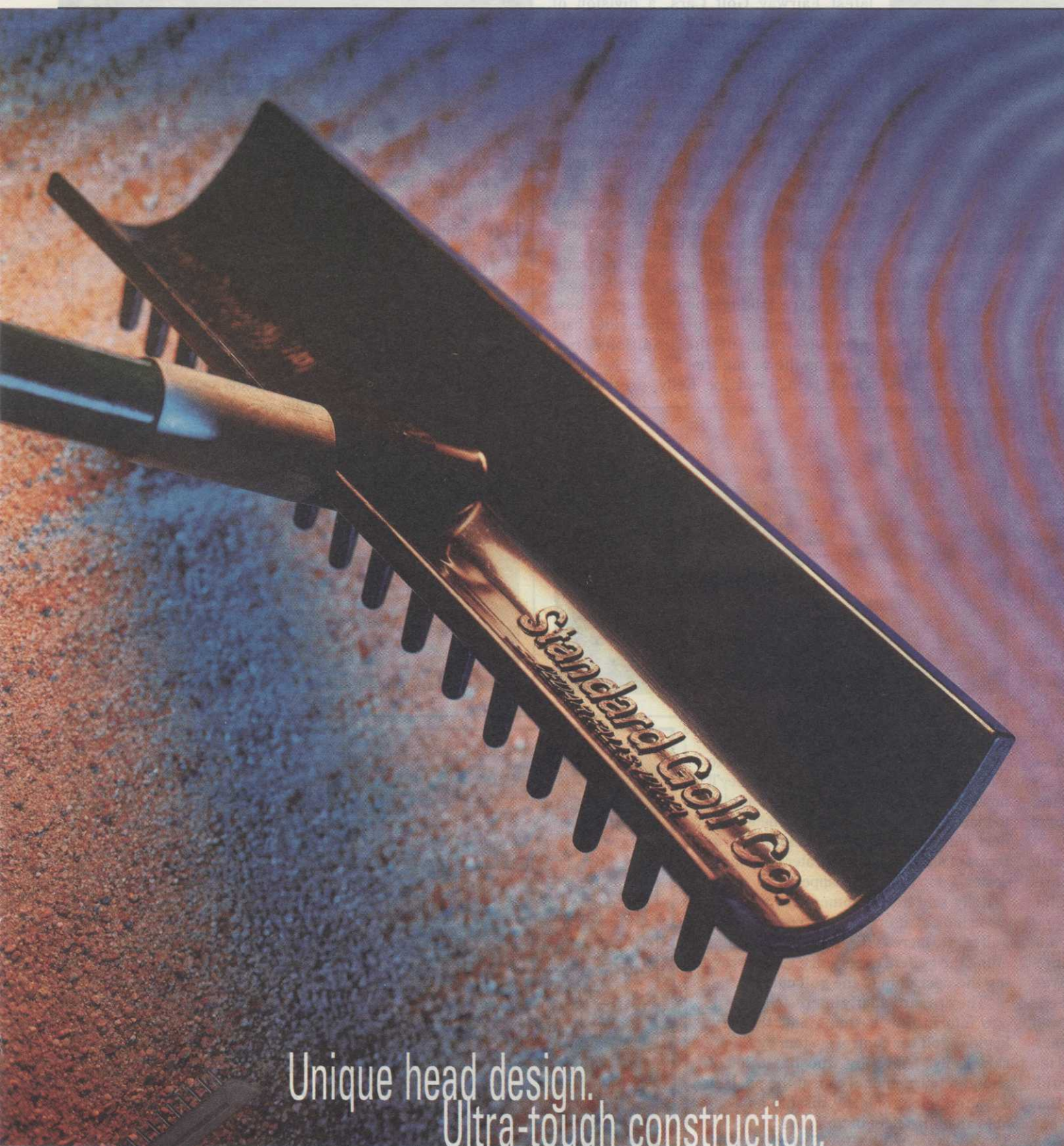
"The decoder boxes needed for Satellite Positioning could be hidden in the trees at Pinehurst," said Forbes. "We couldn't hide them at St. Andrews so we have gone for the radio option."

The system enables the head greenkeepers to travel the course with a handheld radio control and turn on individual sprinklers where they are needed. Thus, the greenkeeper controls and creates optimum water supply and a permanent record of irrigation activity that allows for precise water management.

With such a high-tech, expensive irrigation system will St. Andrews have its character altered with an increased application of water?

Not according to Forbes. "Our aim is to have hard, running surfaces. A good irrigation system is an insurance policy and should be used sensibly on a links course."

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