

Jim Connolly forms agronomy consultancy

By MARK LESLIE

SPOKANE, Wash. — Jim Connolly, who over the last 20 years has provided agronomic advice to more than 400 golf courses in the United States and six foreign countries, has opened his own consulting firm.

Director of agronomy and technical services with JacklinGolf

and Jacklin Seed the last four years and an agronomist with the U.S. Golf Association the six years before that, Connolly said: "I like to feel that I'm offering assistance to owners, architects, superintendents, whoever my clients are. I get a lot of gratification in helping people, and I wanted to be able to dedicate myself full-

time to consulting."

At JacklinGolf, he was only able to consult part-time.

His personal goal in forming James Connolly Consulting, he said, "was to be self-employed and enjoy that freedom, along with the challenges, commitment and risks."

Connolly called his relation-

ship with JacklinGolf "close," but I added: "I just won't be selling any products. I went to work for Jacklin because they are leaders in the industry. I don't believe in recommending a product as much as I recommend people. I will not hesitate to recommend the people at Jacklin. The same would be true with



Jim Connolly

any company I have worked with and respect and admire.

"The most important thing as a consultant is to be able to hook up your client with professionals in the industry — whether they are independent reps or the

USGA or whoever."

Connolly will be consulting for clients involved in all phases of golf course development, with a specific focus on agronomic and maintenance issues. He believes his international experience will be a significant benefit for his clients overseas, including his first client — a Chinese facility.

"Agronomic issues run like a thread through every part of the golf course development process," he said. "Whether the golf

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course is in planning, or 100 years old, sound agronomic advice plays a very important role in the golf course's long-term success."

Jacklin Seed President Doyle Jacklin has asked Connolly to remain the company's liaison to The First Tee Program. "I have a deep passion for that program and Jacklin Seed realized that," Connolly said. "I appreciate the opportunity to remain involved with The First Tee and represent Jacklin with it."

Connolly can be reached at 10315 E. Holman Rd., Spokane, Wash. 99206; telephone 509-921-5421; fax 509-892-3840; e-mail jeconnolly@msn.com

Intern Olympics

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timed and scored for hose-rolling neatness and the proper water level in the bucket.

The final event is the Greensmower Trailer Backup Challenge. Using a utility vehicle, interns are required to back up a greensmower trailer through a series of cones into a parking place. This is a timed event, with deductions made for any cones hit or run over.

The winner of each event is awarded a sleeve of golf balls from the pro shop as their gold medal. All times are recorded, so in following seasons records may be broken. The Intern Olympics proves to be much fun and a great addition to the year-end staff barbecue. I encourage anyone who has an internship program to invent their own Olympics. It can be amusing and entertaining.

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