ASGCA panel targets dangers to the health of golf

By MARK LESLIE

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Trying to head off dangers to the health of golf, leaders of the game's major associations are targeting equipment and balls that add too much distance, the cost to play, the "intimidation factor" in learning, and attracting and keeping new golfers.

Speaking at the annual conference of the American Society of Golf Course Architects here, U.S. Golf Association (USGA) President F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor warned that, if measures are not taken, golf's popularity could sink like tennis's. It was an ominous statement, illustrated by the fact that NBC Sports is dropping its contract for coverage of Wimbledon because "it can't sell the time," Taylor said.

Similar remarks, pointed toward fixing any holes in the dike of the expanding sport of golf, came from PGA of America Executive...