Hurricane Floyd leaves its mark on Carolinas

By Peter Blais

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Floyd and the heavy rains that followed in mid-September left numerous courses submerged and forced many to close for a month or more.

Floyd came ashore here Sept. 13. The Wilmington area was hit full force by the hurricane, but escaped the worst of the floods, according to Joey Hines, head pro at Cape Fear Country Club.

“Fifteen inches of rain, but never flooded to the point many other courses did,” Hines said. “Anything from Wallace to Kenaston to Greenville was badly flooded. The perimeter roads leading into and around Wilmington were washed out. But Wilmington did not have real bad floods.

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Development management new to the golf industry

By Mark Leslie

PALM DESERT, Calif. — From the blades of grass on the golf course to the depth of the sewers on the streets of a development, Winchester Development Co. controls what it does as no other company does. Indeed, Winchester is a new breed of company, defining a previously undefined niche: development management.

“We know where everything goes on a golf course project,” said Craig Bryant, co-managing partner with John Shaw of Winchester, which has offices here, in

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Supers benefit as outsourcing grows

By Andrew Overbeck

Using outsourcing for various tasks is becoming increasingly attractive to superintendents and golf course operators across the country. Independent contractors can often out-perform the regular maintenance staff in specialized tasks like fertilizer applications and aerification or relatively simple jobs like maintaining the clubhouse grounds. More and more superintendents are employing these services because it saves time, manpower and maintenance costs and provides access to specialized services and new technology that were previously out of reach.

“Outsourcing jobs means there is one more headache that superintendents don’t have to worry about,” said Terry Buchen, president of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International, a consulting firm based in Williamsburg, Va. “They can make more use of their existing crew. For

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October: Internet release of preliminary risk assessment, public comment period open.

December: Public comment period closes.


April, 2000: Public comment period closes.

Comment starts on chlorpyrifos

By Andrew Overbeck

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its initial risk assessment for chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate commonly used in turf and ornamental applications and known to the golf course industry as Dursban. Under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996, the EPA is systematically reassessing numerous classifications of pesticides

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This was a definite blow to our pride. In the week after Floyd arrived, 18 of the 27 Clyde Johnston-designed holes remained closed. The newest nine, 12 of the course conditioning and set-up by the maintenance staff, I marveled at the bunkering with a slight laced-edge appearance and the non-mowed lips of the bunkers. The grass around the bunkers was very long. This caused it to lay over toward the sand and give a true Scottish flavor. My sentiments were echoed when I chatted with Dana Fry of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Design in Ohio. Dana, too, could not stop talking about how magnificent the bunkers were. After the photos, I regrouped with the Dew Whippers and we went into action. A quick seven holes of whipping, back to the maintenance center for lunch and off to our green for the remainder of the day. As we anticipated, the matches went very fast. The stunning comeback of the Americans had the gallery in a frenzy. The Cup seemed to hinge on one match, Mark O’Meara vs. Padraig Harrington. The word from the NBC crew was that the United States was dominating eight of the 12 matches and they only needed a halve from one of the other four. O’Meara’s was the only close match of the others. Justin Leonard was four down as he arrived at the 12th green. He then made a great par putt to cut his deficit to 3. The rest, as they say, is history! Shot of the day was Jim Furyk’s second to 15 feet and knocking in the slippery side-hiller for a birdie 3. It was only the second birdie of the week there.

As we drove home that evening we were still stunned that the Americans pulled it off. I was happiest for Bill Spence and his staff for the miracle that happened to make their Ryder Cup truly special.