Deere tourney raises $18,700

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — The Oshawa Airport Golf Club team from Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, placed first in the 13th annual John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament, held Nov. 11-14 at the Prospector Course at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club here.

A total of 35 teams from across the United States and Canada competed in the finals.

"These teams are made up of men and women who not only enjoy the game of golf, but understand all it takes to produce and maintain excellent playing conditions and striking aesthetics," said Mike Mack, general manager, commercial grounds care products group of John Deere's worldwide commercial and consumer equipment division.

Each team won their slot in the tournament finals by competing at a local golf tournament sponsored by their John Deere golf and turf products distributor. A total of 935 teams participated in 35 local tournaments, held throughout the U.S. and Canada, in preparation for this international event.

This year, 725 U.S. teams and 210 Canadian teams participated—earning contributions of $14,500 to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Foundation and $4,200 to the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's Scholarship Fund.

Hoerr wins Warren award

ELWOOD, Ill. — Blake Hoerr, a junior enrolled in the University of Illinois Turfgrass Management program, has been awarded the first Ben Warren Scholarship. Tyler Enterprises sponsors the $7,500 annual scholarship for students enrolled in the Turf Management program at the University of Illinois.

The scholarship is named in honor of Ben Warren, a pioneer in the turfgrass industry.

"Ben Warren was a visionary man, who left an indelible legacy in the turfgrass industry," said Bruce Jasurda, chief operating officer of Tyler Enterprises. "He was a scientist with a great understanding of the importance of genetics in the production of strong, disease-resistant turf grasses."

The late Ben Warren was the owner of Warren's Turf Nursery, a sod production and turfgrass research company based in Palos Park, Ill. During his lifetime, Warren was granted 26 patents for turfgrass varieties, including A-20 and A-34, which are still on the market today. He also invented the root washer system, the automated sod cutter and a vacuum-cooled refrigeration system for transporting sod. He was one of the founders of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and Turf Producers International.

Hoerr was awarded the scholarship based upon his outstanding academic performance and his work experience in the turf industry. Hoerr has worked at the University of Illinois Turf Farm and held an internship last summer with the groundskeeping crew for the Seattle Mariners. Upon graduation, Hoerr hopes to become an assistant groundskeeper for a professional baseball organization.