

Tools of the Trade...at Burger's The Quarry Golf Club

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Bruce Burger has been the only superintendent here at the unique layout known as The Quarry Golf Club, rated the top public golf course in Texas in four of the past five years.

Built in 1993, the Keith Foster design gives golfers two radically different looks. Measuring roughly 6,800 yards from the back tees, the course has a links-style front nine, followed by a rocky back nine that's contained entirely in an old cement quarry. "There are a lot of native grasses, a lot of mounding in the roughs, some creeks and lakes and no trees on the front nine, versus a boulder-infested back nine that gives the course a nice contrast," said Burger.



Bruce Burger

The links nine has been constructed over the quarry's old clay vaults, where kiln dust from the cement operation was buried. The environmentally sensitive aspect to the front nine requires that Burger's 14-member staff keep close watch on monitoring wells.

But it is the 84-acre back nine layout, nestled in the 100-year-old limestone

quarry, that visually intimidates players. "As far as I know, we're the only golf course that has nine holes entirely in a quarry," he said. "I've got some rock walls that rise over 100 feet above the quarry floor. The native grasses can be punishing to players on the front nine, but the rock features on the back nine can be even more difficult to manage. They definitely encourage accuracy."

Burger's career began in high school, when he worked on the Piney Woods Country Club in the small east Texas town of Nacogdoches — the same town where he graduated from Stephen F. Austin University with a B.S. in geology.

Burger later took an assistant superintendent position with Neil Thraillkill at the Oak Hills Country Club here in San Antonio, where he gathered grooming experience in preparing a course for tournament play. "With the detail work, we had to time everything to peak for a tournament week," said Burger. Oak Hills CC hosted the 1986 Vantage and the 1987 Nabisco tournaments during Burger's stay, as well as the 1988 Texas Open.

As superintendent at the Woodlake Country Club in San Antonio, Burger became acquainted with then-club manager Jack Parker, developer and owner of The Quarry. Parker made him The



1993 Jacobsen Turfcut, Burger's first piece of equipment

Quarry's first employee, giving Burger leeway in building up his maintenance staff from scratch.

Assistant Jeff Farley and many of the staff members from the grow-in stages still remain at The Quarry.

Greens mowers: 4 Jacobsen Greens King IV

Tee mowers: 1 Jacobsen Greens King IV

Fairway mowers: 2 Jacobsen LF-128
Rough mowers: 2 Jacobsen Tri-Kings 1900

Riding bunker rake: 1 Toro Sandpro 5000, 1 Smithco bunker rake

Turf utility vehicles: 5 Cushman, 2 E-Z-GO Freedom HP, 1 Jacobsen 810

Verti-cut reels: 1 set LF-128, 1 set Greens King

Aerifiers: 2 Ryan Greensaire 24, 1 Jacobsen Fairway Aerifier, 1 Aerway

Topdressers: 1 Cushman Topdresser 5th wheel, 1 Dakota Turf Tender, 1 Vicon

Grooming reels: 3 sets Jacobsen Greens King IV Groomer Sets

Tournament speed roller: 1 set Jacobsen rollers

Reel grinder: Foley Accu-600

Bedknife grinder: Foley Bedknife Grinder (manual)

Irrigation pump station: Flowtronex/PSI 1870 GPM

Irrigation system: Rainbird Nimbus

Golf car fleet: E-Z-GO Freedom HP (electric)

Flagsticks: 7' black & white tournament sticks, Par Aide

Primary herbicide: Trimec, MSMA

Primary insecticide: Dursban

Primary fungicide: Daconil 2787 Flowable

Primary slow-release fertilizer: Scotts

Cannot live without: Our mechanic, Jim Theriot

Oldest piece of equipment: 1993 Jacobsen Turfcut 422D with 60-inch flail

Total square footage of maintenance building(s): 7,500 square feet

Annual rounds of golf: 46,000
Normal green speed: 8.5' to 9'

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