Two Strokes Ahead of the Competition

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"Two hazards we avoid at the Atlanta Athletic Club are motor pump failure and lightning damage"

Todd Daniel - GCS, Atlanta Athletic Club - Highlands Course
Host Site of the 2001 PGA Championship

Super tourney
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around," said Stevens. "There are a couple of waterways, some greens that are bulkheaded or partially bulkheaded, and an island green on the 18th hole."
The signature 18th hole, with the island green designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay, is surrounded by Lake Hope and Lake Pray. "It's hit or miss there," said Stevens.

CYPRESS KNOLL GOLF CLUB
The Cypress Knoll course, playing at 6,591 yards from the back tees, requires target golf in order to navigate the narrow fairways and small greens. Superintendent John Jenkins expects to increase the green speeds to help keep the superintendents on their toes.

"We'll double cut the greens at about .115 of an inch and apply some growth regulators to them for the tournament," said Jenkins.

"My course is a little bit shorter than most layouts. I may speed the fairways up as well and raise the roughs a little bit. We'll try to make it like a mini U.S. Open."
The course, which was designed by Gary Player, is extremely narrow, said Jenkins. "One of the hardest holes, I find, is the third hole. It's a straight shot par 4, with no real bunkers, that plays at about 450 yards," said Jenkins.

GRAND HAVEN GOLF CLUB
The Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast was designed by Jack Nicklaus. Ocean breezes may influence scores at Grand Haven especially on the signature 8th hole that sports an island green, according to superintendent Jim Moulton.

The layout offers elevated greens that are heavily bunkered. "It's primarily a wooded course, but we get a good ocean breeze," Moulton said. "It's like the wind circles here making it tough to place shots sometimes. When the ball is hit at the top of the tree line, it could get tricky. The last four holes play into the wind off the ocean."

The eighth hole, a 156-yard, par 3 with an island green, may become a home for some superintendent's balls. "It's a tough shot to make, you never know which way the wind is going on that hole," said Moulton. "The green is about 6,000 square feet with a small landing area and a bunker on the left surrounded by stone. There also is an elevated tee, so superintendents will be hitting down at the green with about a 40-foot drop."

THE GOLF CLUB AT SOUTH HAMPTON
A 6,915 yard layout designed by Mark McCumber, The Golf Club at South Hampton is surrounded by tall pines and oaks. Sixteen lakes and more than 60 bunkers will provide opportunity for a risk-reward style of game. Superintendent Jason Green will be looking to beef up the already challenging layout.

"We'll definitely step up our program by triple cutting the greens and rolling them," said Green. "I don't play golf, but I'm looking forward to having the superintendents out here on the course."

The long, par 5 sixth hole is fairly challenging for those who play the layout, according to Green. Named "Lightning Strikes," the 545-yard signature hole offers a tee shot framed by two large oak trees.

"There are small fairway bunkers hidden from the teeing area and water covers the left side of the green," Green said.

NGCOA show heads to Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz. The National Golf Course Owners Association will be holding their 20th Annual Conference and Trade Show here at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix in the golf mecca of Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 19-23. The event is one of the largest gatherings of golf course owners and operators in the world.

Educational opportunities, networking, entertainment and golf will highlight this year's event. They include: educational sessions that cover everything from wage and hour issues and food and beverage to course marketing and pace of play; a pre-conference on management, succession and other issues in family businesses; an UpLink golf outing at Troon Golf-managed Talking Stick Golf Course; and updates on the Internal Revenue Services' ruling to allow depreciation of tees, greens and sand bunkers.