Yamaha Golf Car to unveil $31 million factory, '03 model

By A. OVERBECK

NEWNAN, Ga. — In a strong statement of its commitment to the golf market, Yamaha Golf Car (YGC) is set to open a brand new $31 million manufacturing facility dedicated solely to golf cars, utility vehicles and off-fairway vehicles June 8. At the grand opening the company will also unveil its 2003 golf car model — reportedly the first of several new products slated to roll off the production line at the state-of-the-art, 220,000-square-foot factory.

"The first car to come down the line will be the '03 model," said Jon Bammann, division manager of new business development and off-fairway vehicles. "We will also be expanding our utility vehicle line. We feel we have a good medium-duty vehicle in the G21, but there is a spot in our lineup where we could have a heavy-duty and lighter-duty vehicle." Yamaha officials also hinted at future products that will push golf's staid image.

"We have some fun stuff that we are going to leverage," said Stu Horlak, general manager for Yamaha Motor Co. "We have the advantage of bigger markets and more diverse product lines [ATVs, motorcycles, watercraft]. The guys at YGC don't stop thinking with the traditional fleet golf car, [superintendents] have needs from turf care to off-fairway vehicles."

POINT

Damian Pascuzzo and Walter Uihlein square off over the impact of improving golf ball and club technology.

COUNTERPOINT

To be certain, YGC's significant investment in a new factory is a spot in our lineup where we could have a heavy-duty and lighter-duty vehicle. The guys at YGC don't stop thinking with the traditional fleet golf car, [superintendents] have needs from turf care to off-fairway vehicles.

PGA Village foes face referendum deadline

By DEREK RICE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Opponents of the proposed PGA Village here were disappointed by the City Council's 9-2 decision to approve a deal with Austin-based Lumberman's Investment Corp. to build the resort on land that drains into the Edwards Aquifer, the city's sole source of water. Hours after the April 5 decision, a coalition of groups that oppose the plan began scrambling to obtain a number of different interpretations about what that date...