Goosen Won't Loosen Up

Continued from page 60

maintenance, including what turf types
to use on his layouts. He says superin-
tendents know best what will work and
what won't.

Speaking of Goosen's designs, they
might take on the look of a few Jack
Nicklaus-designed courses.

"[Nicklaus] is my favorite designer,"
Goosen says. "I look a lot at what he
has done at his golf courses and try to
learn from him. Some of his courses aren't
severe [layouts], and average players can
play them and enjoy them. Some of his
other courses are purely designed for pro-
fessional golf."

Goosen's favorite Nicklaus design is
Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin,
Ohio, where he has played several times in
the annual Memorial Tournament. "I love
that course," he says. "It's a great design."

Even though Goosen has made a
name for himself at the U.S. Open, he
didn't fare so well this year in the tour-
nament, which was held at Winged Foot
Golf Club in June. Goosen failed to make
the cut.

"I like Winged Foot; I like all U.S.
Open setups," Goosen says. "I just didn't
play as well as I would have liked."

Two years ago Goosen won at Shin-
necock after staging a remarkable putting
exhibition. Interestingly, Shinnecock's
slick greens left many players complain-
ing they were too fast. But not Goosen.

"I don't think they went over the top
there," Goosen says of Shinnecock's setup.
He points out that he won the tour-
nament with a four-under par score. "Look
at Winged Foot," he says. "Five-over (par)
won there. I don't think anything was
wrong at Shinnecock."

Despite the high scores at Winged Foot,
no one really complained about the con-
ditions as they did at Shinnecock, which
turned into a gripe fest on some levels.
Goosen says Winged Foot's greens were
more challenging to play than Shinnecock's.

"They were much bumpier and not
nearly rolling as true as they were at Shin-
necock," he adds. "The tough obviously
was thicker at Winged Foot than it was at
Shinnecock."

Goosen says he's not complaining about
Winged Foot's setup. "The whole idea at
the U.S. Open is somewhere close to par
should be the winning score," he adds.

Goosen says competition on the PGA
Tour these days is tougher than ever. It's
also tough in overseas events.

"You have to play really well to win," he
says. "Everybody hits it 300 yards and
straight. It basically comes down to the
guy who makes the most putts who will
win at the end of the week."

But it's great to see so many players
have a chance to win, Goosen says.

"It's a lot tougher to win out there than
it was five years ago," he adds. "But then
again, Tiger Woods was so on top of his
game five years ago that it seemed like he
was winning every week."