



INSIGHT: *One Superintendent's Dog's Perspective*

By NUGGETT

North Oaks Golf Club
North Oaks, Minnesota



My name is Nugget. I am the good looking one on your left, but my side kick Tyson isn't too bad to look at either, for a little mixed breed dog.

My pal and I have worked at North Oaks Golf Club for a combined total of five years. The rolling hills of this 18-hole track is great to run and keeps my figure svelte. And the 13 water hazards sometimes attract geese. And boy do I love to chase geese, even better than the neighbor's cat.

My course is located just 15 minutes north of what my human calls the "Cities." Every day my human takes Tyson and me to the club to run around and look for geese. It sure beats chasing my tail at home. Oh yeah, sometimes my human's son goes to work with us. He rolls greens and runs a weed whip. Once on the drive in we hit a deer. Gosh, I've been chasing them for a couple of years and never caught one. However, it wasn't much fun peeling my face off of the windshield. Sure wish I was buckled up!

Years in the Business

I've been going to the shop for the last three years, first as a pup snuggled in my human's jacket and then riding up front next to him. Tyson came along a year later. I let him share the seat with me.

Why did you enter the turf management industry?

With my good looks and talent I could have been real "show" material. But I'm cool with being a viable member of the

green staff at North Oaks. That reminds me, one time one of the crew fed me cheese and rice balls (don't tell my human) and I was plugged up for a couple of days!

Who was your professional mentor?

I guess you could say that the old goose hound Bailey was my mentor. She taught me lots of stuff like where the fish wash up on the lakeshore for a good roll and how to tree squirrels. I miss her, but now I'm top dog.

What has been the highest point in your career?

Catching irrigation sprinklers. Not that there is much of a challenge to biting one, but I just love to get blasted by the big stream. Every time my human takes out a key and stands next to a silver box I am ready to roll.

What has been your lowest point?

Well, I pooped on the 17th green just as a group of people was putting. My human was not too impressed! And then there was the time I chased a rabbit into a forest of burr plants. Ouch! And who could forget the skunk I tangled with on the 8th green?

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

Managerial of course. Sometimes my human just can't understand what I mean. When I whine at the door, I want to go out and chase something. I don't care if it is

raining or snowing. When I want out, I want out. At least he remembers to feed me in the morning right away and then just as soon as work is done.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course?

Once I had a little rash in what you would call my swimsuit area, but don't you think that is getting a bit personal?

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

Tyson is working out just fine. He just doesn't like to swim. But he has other qualities like running fast and chasing me around. Yeah, I like him.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

I beg your pardon?

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

This is an industry? I thought I was here for the fun of it. Should I be asking for compensation?

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

Well, in 10 of *your* years I'll be 91 in *my* years and I expect to have just as many ponds to play in and rides to go on with my human. Sure I may be a bit grey in the muzzle, but somebody's got to be around to keep that other dog in line.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

I am very disappointed and a bit concerned that there isn't a membership category just for dogs. Jeez, is it just a good old boy's club or what?

Name your foursome

Well, my little buddy Tyson of course, and Ginger from Forest Hills and Dakota from Southern Hills Golf Course. And of course the cover dog from last years SuperNews Calendar, Bailey of Angushire Golf Course. They would all be a fun pack to hang out with.

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