

One Big G

By Jake Kocak, Assistant S



From open until close, this past golf season, 2013, will go down as one of the shortest in recent memory. At Somerby Golf Club, we had our hands full with not only maintaining the golf course to championship standards, but also with the construction of a one-acre putting green (the putting green was built within a subdivision of the

Somerby Community surrounded by 29 new lots). With all of the challenges the construction process brought, the 2013 golf season felt much longer than the calendar indicated for the staff at Somerby,

The project was contracted out to Greenseth Golf, with Scott Greenseth being the owner/opera-

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Superintendent Wayzata Golf Club (Former Assistant at Somerby Golf Club)



tor; he was essentially a one man show and our staff provided him with help on a daily basis (anywhere from one person to our entire staff depending on the day). Scott is to be credited and commended for the design of the green and the overall flow of it. See pictures for the design and layout; the green is really long and not very wide, roughly

about 800'x 50' with the goal being to touch as many lots as possible.

The green also has really nice flow and undulation, with two bluegrass mounds in the middle of it and a 22 foot elevation change from one end to the other. The green was seeded with A-4 bentgrass on a profile with 4" pea rock and a 10"

89/11 greens mix. Both sand and gravel were from a local sand/gravel pit and the sand was blended with the peat locally as well. The goal was to keep the new putting green profile and grass type similar to the

myself, but everyone who was involved. Anybody who has done similar construction or renovation projects can attest to the fact that they can be mentally, physically, and emotionally draining; filled with



other greens on the golf course. We went through 136 pallets of sod (88 bluegrass, 48 fescue) on the surrounds and the two bluegrass mounds in the middle, and planted 47 trees as well. With the late spring, the project got a late start as well and ultimately took the better part of four months to complete from start to finish. The green was seeded on the third of September.

This project was a unique experience to be a part of, not only for

long days, setbacks, weather interruptions, and unforeseen issues.

As soon as we seeded the green, finished the surrounds and the green began to take shape, we could see our hard work come to



fruition and it made it all worth it. In reflecting upon the process, the analogy I keep coming back to is that of running a race.

You plan and prepare months in advance for everything, just like you would train prior to a race. Once race day approaches or construction begins,

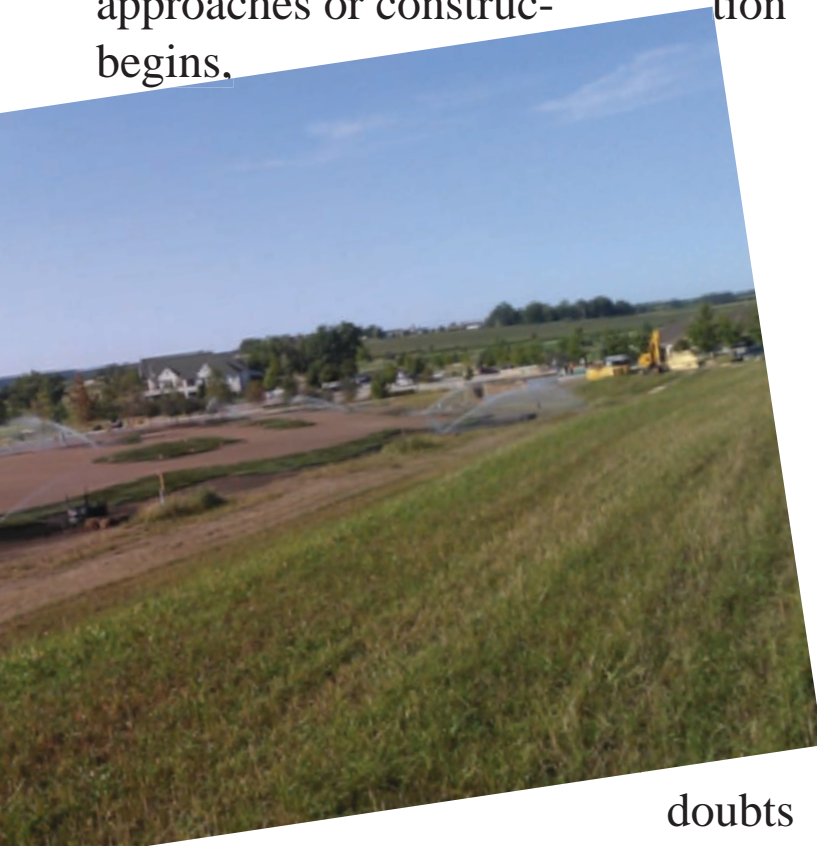
start to creep into your mind whether you've



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equately prepared or trained yourself for absolutely everything. Then, during the actual race or construction phase you encounter hardships and setbacks, but you ultimately get through them and persevere. When the race is over or the project is complete you look back on it and you're proud of what got accomplished, and all of the hardships and setbacks seem like blips on a radar and you're ready to do it again, just next time maybe something a little more normal in scale.

The entire GCM staff at Somerby is doubts to be commended for the completion



of this project; as I stated above, Scott was by himself to essentially do the shaping and technical work, the rest of the work fell to our staff. We were fortunate that our intern, Tyson De-Meyer, had many years of experience in the golf course construction/renovation side of things and so he was a huge asset and offered a unique perspective throughout the project. Obviously a lot of credit has to go to Scott as well, he put in countless hours and really had a unique eye, and it shows in the visuals of the green.

A project of this magnitude takes a ton of planning and preparing and as the project gets going, things can sometimes change and frankly this whole

project would have been stuck in neutral all summer if it was not for Superintendent Eric Counselman. Getting ownership, management, contractor, and employees all on the same page and heading in the same direction was an endless task, but was also the main reason this project was a success. The pictures will do more justice than me trying to explain it, and seeing it in person will do it even more justice; so enjoy the pictures and hopefully many of you can make it down to Somerby Golf Club to see it in person. If anybody has any further curiosities or inquiries, they can contact Eric at ecounselman@somerby.com.



HERFORD □ NORBY

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The logo for Hartman Golf Course Construction & Renovation is centered over a background image of a golf course green with a sand trap. The logo features a stylized green tree on the left, the word "HARTMAN" in large, bold, serif letters, and a red flag on a black pole to the right. Below the name, it says "Golf Course Construction & Renovation". In the top right corner, the text "Quality since 1971..." is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom left, the text "Specializing in..." is written in a purple, cursive font, followed by a list of services: "Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades". At the bottom left, the address "8099 Bavaria Rd. Victoria, MN 55386" and phone number "952.443.2990" are listed. At the bottom right, the email "info@hartmancompanies.com" and website "www.hartmancompanies.com" are listed.

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