OPINION ON UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

Golfers are well known for making comparisons. They seem to take pride in telling anyone who will listen how a course down the road does something this way or that. They compare budgets, acreage maintained, soils, grass types, green speed, the amount of labor, and many other facts. Sometimes the comparisons are accurate, sometimes not.

Let's take this comparison one step further. It's not really valid, but it is interesting nonetheless.

**Baseball:** A .250 batting average is just that - average. A ball player hits safely one at-bat in four. A “star” bats .300, and an immortal like Ted Williams bats .400. If you are keeping score, and you should be, that’s four out of ten.

**Basketball:** Superstars shoot just over 50% from the field. They shoot a ball into a hoop distance of zero (a dunk) to 18-22 feet or more.

**Golf:** A par round of golf is normally about 72. Golfers who consistently shoot less than par are found on the PGA Tour, making lots of money. Golfers who shoot consistently over par are found everywhere, and includes those people making the comparisons. The average handicap in the country is 18. The average golfer, therefore, shoots about 25% over par.

At what percentage do golf course superintendents produce quality turfgrass? As a basis comparison, golf course contain about 30 acres of fairways, 2.5 acres of greens, and 2.5 acres of trees. This equates to about 100,000 sq. ft. of greens and tees and 1,320,000 sq.ft. of fairways. Thus, if a superintendent “bats” .400, which would put him in great company in baseball, it means your superstar would lose the equivalent of 10.8 greens and tees out of 18. On fairways, he would lose about 18 acres of turf.

While this .400 batting average might get you into the Baseball Hall of Fame, you would probably lose your job as a golf course superintendent.

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OR EXPERIENCED MAINTENANCE MAN

AMERICAN GOLF CORPORATION
SAN BRUNO PRACTICE CENTER
SEND RESUME TO SAM SINGH
100 GOLF COURSE DR.
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTRY CLUB
SEND RESUME TO: CARL KING
801 GOLF CLUB ROAD
PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523
415-687-9880

SUPERINTENDENT WANTED

OLD BROCKWAY GOLF COURSE
NORTH LAKE TAHOE
SEND RESUME TO: BOB COSTA
LAGUNA SECA GOLF CLUB, INC.
10520 YORK ROAD
MONTEREY, CA 93940
408-373-0881

Anyone who bats this percentage or better deserves a pat on the back, not a kick in the pants. After all, what other industry which deals so closely with Mother Nature can boast a 99% average or better? Not many.

Therefore, the next time you read about a professional athlete making $2,000,000 a year to achieve only a 30% batting average, be proud...because golf course superintendents are batting 99% or better.

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