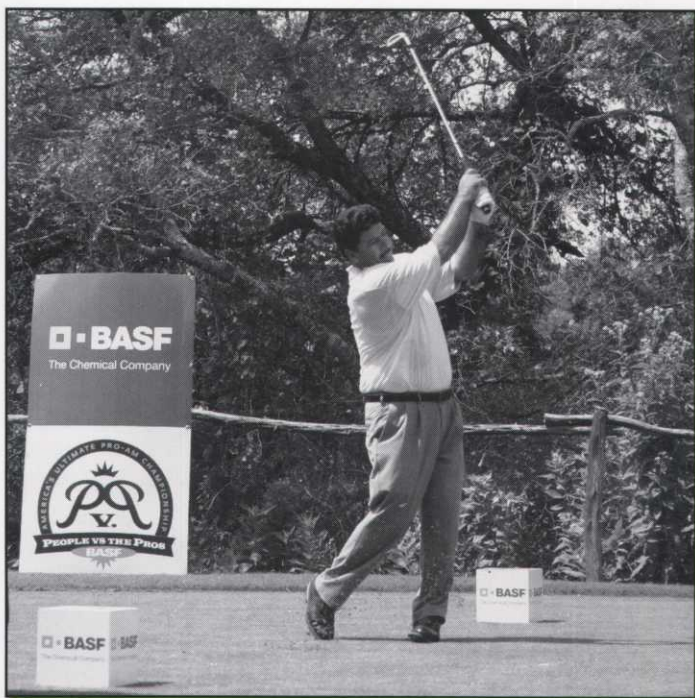


California Superintendent Captures People vs Pros Event



Rafael Martinez tees off from the 12th tee box on the Fazio Foothills course at Barton Creek Resort and Spa

BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals recognized the critical role of golf course superintendents at the BASF People vs. the Pros golf tournament, held September 9 – 12 at Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin, Texas.

Twenty BASF-sponsored superintendents joined nearly 200 competitors vying to play against PGA professionals Justin Leonard or Ben Crenshaw for the opportunity to win \$100,000. The top two scoring superintendents not playing against the pros competed against one another in the second annual BASF Superintendent's Cup.

“What drives superintendents is pride,” said Dr. Toni Buccini, business manager for BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals. “Not ego or attention, but professional pride in providing the best playing conditions possible. BASF was the presenting sponsor of People vs. the Pros to recognize the professionalism of golf course superintendents and give them the industry credit they deserve.”

As presenting sponsor, BASF hosted more than 600 superintendents who participated in 17 regional qualifier tournaments held in conjunction with Golf Course Superintendent Association (GCSA) chapters from across the country. At each event, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals

donated \$2,000 to each chapter's development fund.

A TOURNAMENT WITHIN A TOURNAMENT. At the People vs. the Pros, BASF-sponsored superintendents had the opportunity to compete in the BASF Superintendent's Cup, which featured the top two superintendent finishers from the two-day, 36-hole tournament play held on Barton Creek's Fazio Foothills and Crenshaw Cliffside courses.

Prior to the Superintendent's Cup match on Monday, Sept. 12 at the Foothills course, a three-hole playoff was required to determine the second place competitor. The playoff featured Rafael Martinez, superintendent at Via Verde Country Club in San Dimas, Calif., who edged out Matt Curl, superintendent at Indian Creek Golf and Country Club in Fairbury, Ill. The pair also tied 8th place overall with a total net score of 153 in the 18 – 49 age division. A remarkable chip shot at the 16th hole and consistent playing by Martinez forced Curl to concede at the 18th hole. For his efforts, Curl was awarded a \$2,500 consolation prize from BASF.

Martinez advanced to the final Cup match at the Foothills course against contender Greg Wiles, superintendent at The Links at Echo Springs in Johnstown, Ohio. Wiles, who won a regional BASF qualifier tournament in 2004 and participated in the Pinehurst, N.C. final, was this year's top scoring superintendent with a total net score of 147 in the 18 – 49 age division, placing 3rd overall. Martinez ended match-play with a victory on the 15th hole and won the Cup, along with a \$10,000 check from BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals and an additional \$10,000 worth of BASF products for use on his golf course. Runner-up Wiles earned \$5,000 for his second-place finish.

Forty-two-year-old Martinez resides in Chino, Calif., and won the third BASF People vs. the Pros qualifier in April, hosted by BASF and the GCSA of Southern California. Fellow BASF-sponsored superintendent Mike Werth of Monroe Country Club in Monroe, Wis., served as Martinez' caddy throughout the Superintendent's Cup. Werth finished 12th place overall in the 18 – 49 age division and also won the closest to the pin competition during tournament play.

“I was very fortunate to win the California qualifier and my short game was strong during the Superintendent's Cup match,” said Martinez. “I was tired after the first nine holes but just focused on putting the ball in play.”