

2009 PRESIDENTS CUP: A SUCCESS FROM THE GROUND UP

By *Emmy Moore Minister*

The 2009 Presidents Cup at Harding Park Golf Course was glorious on more than one level. The U.S. and International players converged in San Francisco for a week filled with team meetings and media conferences, a memorable opening ceremony, and several days of stellar play on a course that was in excellent condition due to the assistance of experienced superintendents.

Planning is paramount when it comes to preparation for the Presidents Cup. Just ask Harding Park golf course superintendent Wayne Kappleman or Mike Garvale, CGCS, of Kemper Sports, who oversees agronomy for this jeweled, public course.

As the Presidents Cup drew near, volunteers arrived from various regions in Northern California. Some traveled from Southern California, while others made the long trek from the east coast. No matter where they came from, each crew member had the same mission in mind: to help provide a premier playing surface for the 2009 Presidents Cup, a highly visible event that would attract worldwide viewers.

Garvale praised the crew which provided key support as he and Kappelman took on the enormous assignment of hosting the 2009 Presidents Cup. Starting with a normal crew of 35, an additional 33 volunteer superintendents jumped on board to help. "It's through the relationships you've developed with colleagues over time, folks you can count on...that's how you survive," Garvale revealed.

One of the greatest highlights for Garvale, Kappelman, and crew, took place during a practice round when U.S. Team Captain Fred Couples along with assistant captain Jay Haas, visited the maintenance building to personally acknowledge the crew for their outstanding work. Couples and Haas were eager to pose for a photo surrounded by more than fifty dedicated crew members.

"It is amazing what can be accomplished when you have a chance to network with fellow superintendents," stated Garvale. "So many folks graciously offered to help....some sent their staff, others shared their equipment, and others provided us with another set of eyes—offering great suggestions at a critical time. Today, we share our success with each of them."

While some superintendents had a chance to observe a competitive match or two, other enjoyable moments were found during the daily lunch gatherings at the maintenance tent where delicious meals were provided by GCSANC affiliate members/vendors. Special thanks are extended to the following companies for their generous hospitality: Andersons Golf Products, Simplot/Best Professional Products, Ewing, Sierra Pacific Turf Supply Inc., Target Specialty Products, TMT Enterprises Inc., TurfStar, Inc., and Peerless Coffee & Tea. A tip-of-the-hat goes to the City of San Francisco and its maintenance crew, to Kemper Sports, and to all volunteer crew members from neighboring courses and from afar, too. Special congratulations to the U.S. team for retaining the Presidents Cup!



GCSANC Honorary Member **Ken Venturi** (left) enjoys chatting with **Tom Gray**, CGCS, of CordeValle Golf Club. Venturi (the 2000 Presidents Cup U.S. Team Captain) was in town as an honoree for the 2009 event at Harding Park and was also bestowed The Langley Award by the NCPGA Foundation.



Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Tatum enjoyed a day at Harding Park. Sandy, former USGA Past President, was instrumental in the renovation of the course in preparation for major events such the recent Presidents Cup.



Mike Garvale with Kemper Sports at Harding Park GC (center) surrounds himself with four volunteers from the Olympic Club who diligently assisted during Presidents Cup Week. (L to R) **Dave Proctor, Will Basland, Dan McFadden** and **Ryan Snead**.



Photo courtesy of PGA Tour.

U.S. Team Captain **Fred Couples** and Assistant Captain **Jay Haas** made a special visit to the maintenance center at Harding Park GC to express appreciation to the crew for their outstanding job in preparing the course for the Presidents Cup.

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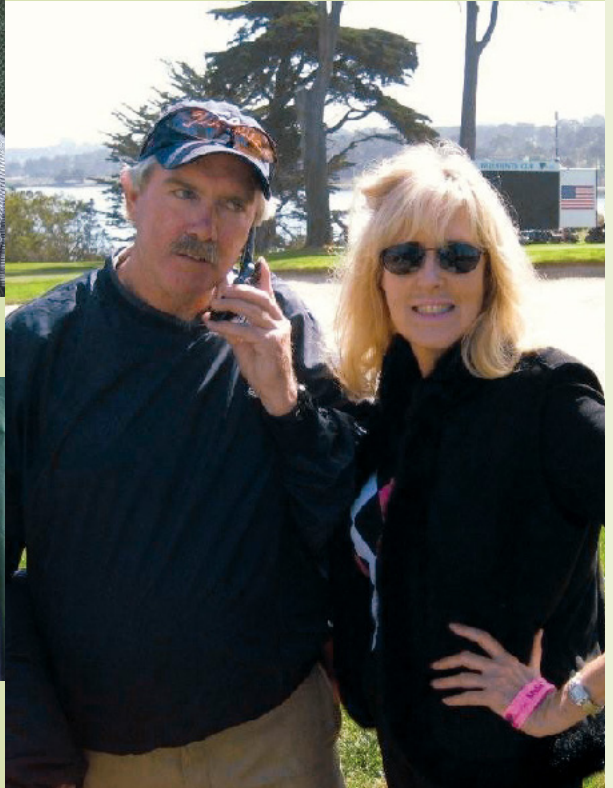


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On Thursday, the team from **Ewing** provided a tasty barbecue for a hungry crew at Harding Park GC.

GCSANC Member **Tim Powers** assists Media Consultant **Emmy Moore Minister** in coordinating logistics for TV interviews at Harding Park.



Simply the Best! lunch host & area manager **Dave Piper** with co-worker **Courtney** (from the J.R. Simplot Modesto Office) were on site Friday to provide a noon-time meal for the entire volunteer maintenance crew.



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While there may be logo restrictions on course during Presidents Cup week, once duty is done GCSANC volunteers **Nick Checklenis** and **Tim Powers** make sure to display the Sierra Pacific Turf Supply logo gracing the wind parkas kindly donated by GCSANC colleague and friend **Don Naumann**.



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It was like a Picnic in the Park...Harding Park, that is. Thanks to several GCSANC affiliate members who kindly provided lunch for the crew throughout Presidents Cup Week.



Putting the "fun factor" back in golf during Presidents Cup Week are (left) radio co-host **John Abendroth** (with KNBR's Hooked on Golf Radio Show) joined by associates from Loud Mouth Golf.

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