

December, 1995

The Main Course

Rancho Cañada Golf Club - December 8, 1995

Rancho Cañada - Not Looking to 3-peat

By Bob Costa

The smile eases from Tim Greenwald's face when asked if he is looking forward to winter's first rain. The memories of last winter, and the floods that twice forced the closure of 18 holes is still fresh in his mind. "Without question the biggest challenge I've ever faced in my turfgrass career," Greenwald states, "I can't imagine how it could possibly be any worse." Greenwald describes the day after the March 10th flood as a scene of total destruction. What had been the day before, a 36 hole golf course bisected by the serene Carmel River had been transformed into a scene that could have provided a set for a Hollywood disaster movie. Mother Nature had struck again, this time her footprint would be left for months, for all to see.

The first task the following morning for Greenwald and his staff was to assess course conditions. Greenwald set out on foot, video camera in hand, and realized very shortly that his number one priority was to remove silt from the greens. Fifteen greens in all were covered in silt, ranging in thickness from several inches, to several feet.

Removing the silt proved to be a tedious task. Hand shovels and water were used to scrape and wash the soupy mud onto the collars and green surrounds. After four days the job was complete and Greenwald's attention now turned to developing an 18 hole golf course that would allow Rancho Cañada to reopen. "We combined ten holes from the East Course and eight holes from the West Course," Greenwald remembers, "utilizing holes on the north side of the river." For lack of a better name the new look golf course was referred to as the "Dream 18" by the staff, a name that helped

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The Course

Rancho Cañada Golf Club is a 36 hole golf complex designed by Robert Putman. The courses opened for play in 1975, and are currently celebrating their 25th anniversary. Located in Carmel Valley, nestled against the Santa Lucia Mountains, the West Course, site of this year's tournament, plays through native Cottonwoods and Monterey pines. The Carmel river runs through the property and comes into play on several holes.

After severe flooding last winter, both courses have fully rebounded and feature many new improvements, including a new practice facility, cart paths, a bridge and renovated bunkers.

The West Course, was selected as one of the courses used in last years GCSAA's conference tournament. It

has also served as the site for numerous qualifying tournaments and most recently the U.S. Senior Amateur.

Our Host

Tim Greenwald has served as the Golf Course Superintendent at Rancho Cañada for the past 10 years. Tim began his career in Golf Course Management at Quail Lodge, located in Carmel Valley, where he was involved in the TARP program. A native of Michigan, Tim was involved in the lawn care industry before he ventured out to California in 1979. Under Tim's guidance, Rancho Cañada has served as the host course for the Christmas Party several times. The tournament has carried the name of former Rancho Cañada Superintendent, Larry Lloyd.

General Meeting Slated for January

A general meeting is being planned for late January, at a yet to be determined South Bay location. The meeting was proposed at a recent board meeting as a means of developing some dialogue with the membership regarding the proposed affiliation agreement with GCSAA. The meeting will also serve as an open forum, whereby members are encouraged to share, directly with the board, comments, concerns, and/or ideas regarding association programs, policies or board performance. The meeting is scheduled for late afternoon, and will include a short presentation, followed by the meeting and dinner. Details will be available in early January.

