

Inside the Ropes

*A 1996 Masters Tournament
Journal submitted by John Jordan*

John Jordan is currently a senior majoring in Turfgrass Management at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He has been named to the Dean's List six semesters and was member of the Iowa State golf team for two years. John was recognized as a 1995 GCSAA Scholar and was recently appointed student representative of the GCSAA Education Committee. John has interned at several quality golf courses including Interlachen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and most recently at Augusta National, Augusta, Georgia.

Monday, April 8

Four o'clock came awfully early on this Monday morning of Masters week. Months of hard work finally began to pay off as the admission gates opened at 8 a.m. to the general public. Once inside this majestic compound, the spectator is easily overwhelmed by the perfectly manicured turf and the stunning display of flowering dogwoods, rhododendrons, and azaleas. Sure would be nice to have some of these 10- to 15-foot Japanese maples up North! Crew morale was very high as the approximately eighty-five paid and volunteer workers headed out to the course for their morning tasks. My tasks for the week included mowing the

3rd and 4th greens as well as the 1st and 2nd greens of the par 3 course. As I walked the fairways of Amen Corner whipping away clippings left behind from the 15 fairway mowers, I couldn't help but notice the impressive number of people on the golf course. The afternoon was spent with backpack duty on the second green, and it was a treat to watch the greatest golfers in the world hit shots into this par 5. Evening green runs were fun, especially in front of thousands of people taking your picture while mowing these famous greens. No cameras after Wednesday please! Bunker, flymo, and mowing crews finished up at dusk, and irrigation checks

(continued on page 24)

Hollembeak Construction, Inc. **Golf Course Construction and Remodeling**

"We believe in a quality job and take pride in our finished product."

- New Construction
- Feature Shaping
- Bunker Sand Replacement
- Pond Dredging
- Pond Construction
- Boulder Features
- Cart Paths
- Drainage

Mike Hollembeak

P.O. Box 103
Big Rock, Illinois 60511
Phone (708) 556-3891

Jeff Hollembeak

Inside the Ropes
(continued from page 14)

went deep into the night. The first day ended on the practice tee where I visited with David Frost regarding course conditions. If there were any doubts as to whether all this work was worth it, they were answered today. It is a great honor to be part of this special event.

Tuesday, April 9

The four o'clock wake-up call seemed much earlier today. Crew morale was slightly lower as many of the crew were feeling the effects of a 15-hour day on Monday. The grind had started, but day two was just as exciting as the first. After completing my daily tasks, I had the chance to watch some of the players tour the course. I was impressed with Ben Crenshaw's willingness to help out Masters rookies Scotty

McCarron and Woody Austin as they enjoyed a practice round together. You'd swear Gentle Ben was Governor of Georgia—fans just love him! Seve and Constantino Rocca provided some humor on the par 3, 16th by attempting to skip some knockdown shots off the pond onto the green. I shot an entire roll of film on my favorite player, Nick Faldo, and was constantly in awe of the length of Tiger Woods. Jack Nicklaus played today, and I saw the respect many golf fans have for perhaps the greatest player to ever play the game. After the course cleared from play, the crew was hard at work again mowing everything from tees to greens, filling divots, fixing ballmarks, and doing whatever it took to get the job done. The day ended about 9 p.m., and anticipation for another great day had begun.

Wednesday, April 10

Today was the third day of practice rounds and also signaled the start of the prestigious par 3 tournament. It was scheduled to start at 1 p.m., but due to frost, it was pushed back about an hour. It is amazing the amount of crystal they give out at this event! As for our crew, it was business as usual. By now, everything had become fairly routine; and thanks to great weather, things were running very smoothly. Most of the morning crowd followed the threesome of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Tiger Woods. Some of our crew headed to the par 3 tourney to tend their responsibilities, but most stayed on the main course to begin final preparation for the start of the tournament tomorrow. I had to mow the practice putting green that evening, and it was a thrill to talk with some of the pros

(continued on page 26)

**PRECISION BLENDED
TOP DRESSING**

Custom blended to your specifications
by our modern equipment.

*Buy when you need —
Eliminate costly storage*

We sell an air-dried, uniform and
free flowing top dressing.

ASK THE MAN WHO HAS USED IT.

HENRY FRENZER

Area Code 708
658-5303

620 Webster St.
Algonquin, IL
60102

DUNTEMAN
TURF FARMS

Growers of Quality Sod

SERVICE!

LOCAL GROWING FOR
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

QUALITY!

FEATURING
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,
BENTGRASS SOD, AND
TURF-TYPE FESCUE

- LOWER MAINTENANCE
- MORE DROUGHT
& SHADE TOLERANT
- BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

PRICE!

CALL FOR A QUOTE

NEW
PRODUCT

630-557-2900



**MAIN STREET
11 MILES WEST
OF BATAVIA, IL**

Inside the Ropes
(continued from page 24)

as they tried to make final adjustments to their game before the tournament started. Every last detail was polished; and at 9 p.m., we were released to rest for a few hours until early the next morning.

Thursday, April 11

After all of the waiting and preparation, it was finally tournament time! The players' attitudes changed from smiles to serious business as they were called to the first tee. The crew had the routine down by now as we had our quickest and most efficient performance with morning tasks. No doubt about it, the course was in excellent shape! I watched Greg Norman play flawless golf en route to a course record tying 63 on this course—give me a break! The crowd was unbelievable, and working in front of thousands of people each day was exciting. I had back-

pack duty on the second green again and was constantly asked by gallery members about mowing heights and stimp readings. Top secret, of course! Play finished up, and the crew hit the course late but still managed to finish all duties in preparation for Friday's second round. Each day was a challenge for us to look for ways to improve the course for the weekend. There is only so much you can do to a golf course, and it seemed as though there was nothing left unattended.

Friday, April 12

Mother Nature continued her good grace as the crew was treated to another warm and sunny day. Course prep and maintenance went off without a hitch; however, I could notice that the long work week was starting to take its toll on several workers and volunteers. Earlier in the week, everyone opted to watch golf dur-

ing any spare minute of free time. This trend was starting to reverse itself as workers would try to catch a nap wherever possible, including offices, the irrigation building, and even golf carts. The meeting room in the maintenance building was full of guys watching the tourney on the big screen rather than live on the course. The excitement was still there, but the grueling week was taking its toll on everyone. No problems as far as our crew is concerned, and Greg Norman is starting to look like the next Masters Champion. Fosters Lager for everyone!

Saturday, April 13

The tournament cut was made last night, and many big names were left off the tee sheet for weekend play. The golf course was firming up, and the greens were becoming quicker each day. Should make for some interesting golf! By
(continued on page 28)

TURCAM®

Insecticide to control a wide variety of pests including white grubs, chinch bugs, mole crickets and several other surface and subsurface pests.



A company of Hoechst and NOR-AM

Specialty Products
AgrEvo USA Company
Little Falls Centre One, 2711 Centerville Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Important: Please remember always to read and follow carefully all label directions when applying any chemical.

John Turner
Senior Sales Representative
630-462-9866

(800) 553-6320
Joe Marley, Owner

1111 Timber Trails
Downers Grove, IL 60516

TURF Concepts

Specializing in fine
turf cultivation



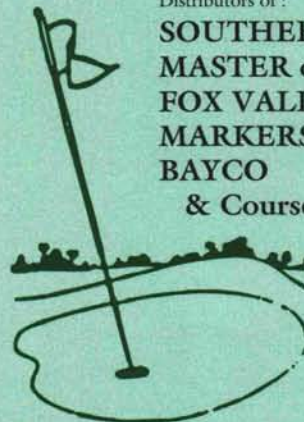
Golf Course Hydroinjection
- Day or Evening Hours
- 2 Machines Per Course

Burdett's, Inc.

Distributors of:

**SOUTHERN GOLF
MASTER of the LINKS
FOX VALLEY SYSTEMS
MARKERS INC.
BAYCO**

& Course Maintenance Supplies



P.O. Box 1865
Lombard, IL 60148-1865
1-630-620-5558
FAX #1-630-627-1104
IL Toll Free 1-888-TURF-888

Inside the Ropes

(continued from page 26)

the way, in case you were wondering who cuts the cups each day, the same guy has been doing it for the past ten years! Because of the reduced field, tee times did not start until 11 a.m. This was considerably later than the 7:45 a.m. start times of the previous two days. The crew took extra time on their morning duties since there was no major rush. I spoke with Scott McCarron, a Masters rookie having a great tourney, as he came off the second green where I had backpack duty all afternoon. He was very impressed and complimentary on the condition of the course. The realization of having only one more day of this magnificent event was starting to hit home; and despite the many hours of hard work, one could not help to feel a little sad. The excitement level continued to rise as crowd favorite, Greg Norman, finished his round and led by six strokes. My favorite golfer was next on the leader board, a seemingly insurmountable

six shots back. It was great seeing him in contention even though it looks like Norman's tournament. I'm hoping Faldo can make it interesting, but Norman is playing so well that I don't think anyone can catch him.

Sunday, April 14

The final day has arrived! Four months of my life had been given for this event, and I was rather sad to see this day arrive. The crew began to leave throughout the day as soon as they finished their morning tasks. Many of the volunteers had very long drives ahead of them. It almost seemed like I was at summer camp, exchanging addresses and phone numbers with all the great people I had met throughout the week. As play began, the entire place was buzzing with excitement. I spoke with Nick Faldo's caddy, Fanny, and she said she would give me a ball that Nick had played with during the final round! I also had the opportunity to watch golf with ESPN's Dan

Patrick and Jim Colbert for some time on the 2nd hole. Much to the displeasure of the crowd, it was a day that witnessed one of the greatest collapses of a champion in the history of golf. I followed Nick and Greg almost the entire round and was obviously pleased with the outcome despite witnessing the struggles of Mr. Norman. Amongst the thousands of people, I did finally catch up with Fanny after the round; and true to her word, she gave me the ball Nick rolled in for the victory. I met her later that evening and gave her the flag from the 17th hole that she had requested. The tournament was finally over; and after some last minute syringing, the festivities began—unfortunately no Fosters Lager though! To many people, the 1996 Masters will be the one Greg Norman let slip away, but to me it will always be the Masters that Nick Faldo won. It's been one of the greatest weeks of my life! ■

Scotts Introduces...



Triaform™ Technology is a superior alternative to any traditional fertilizer you've ever used. It's patented, environmentally sound process dramatically improves the physical characteristics of a homogeneous fertilizer granule while delivering excellent agronomic performance and handling. Triaform technology offers better methylene urea (MU) nitrogen distribution to deliver more available nitrogen to the plant.

An innovation you'd expect from a name you can trust.



For details, call your
ProTurf Tech Rep

or 1-800-543-0006 today.

THE PROFESSIONAL'S SINGLE SOURCE - -

• CHEMICALS •

SIGNAL Spray Colorant

INCIDE-OUT Spray Tank Cleaner

TRUE BLUE Lake and Pond Dye

DIRECT Drift Retardant

BALANCE pH Adjuster

TEE-UP Ball Wash

KNOCKDOWN Defoamer

PEN-A-TRATE II Spreader/Activator

• ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY •

CHEMSORB®

SARANEX/TYVEK SUITS

BOOTS

GOGGLES

GLOVES

WASH STATIONS

CALL US FOR INFORMATION ON THESE PRODUCTS--AS WELL
AS MANY OTHERS: 800-323-6280.

PRECISION
LABORATORIES, INCORPORATED
P. O. Box 127
Northbrook, IL 60065