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Dan Quast & Co. Ready . . .

(continued from page 6)

Why Medinah? "The PGA wanted to be in a major city," Dan said. "At Medinah, we have the space to host a tournament like the Championship and accommodate all of the tents and extracurricular activities. Our 600+ members are eager to volunteer and very happy to become part of the tournament. And we have experience with this caliber of event, having hosted the U.S. Open in 1990."

Getting ready to host a Major is no small feat, which is why Dan recommends accomplishing as much as possible long before the event.

To that end, Dan has in recent years overseen the rebuilding of five greens—#1, 2, 13, 16 and 17. "The slopes on the old greens were not consistent with today's game of golf and limited pin settings," Dan explained. "We also narrowed a couple fairways,

specifically #1 and 15, in preparation for the Championship."

Moreover, "we added 3" of sand to all greenside bunkers this winter," noted Dan. "We feel our sandtraps are in very good condition for the tournament, and we will reevaluate with tournament director Kerry Haigh as we approach the event."

The countdown begins

As of early July, Medinah

(continued on page 24)

Medinah by the Numbers

7,401

Number of yards Course #3 will play during the Championship

340

Number of CBS Sports staffers who will live onsite for a week in a 3.5-acre media village

11,000

Number of bleacher seats that will be available for tourney patrons

40 million

Projected worldwide TV audience tuning in to tourney coverage on CBS, the Golf Channel, TNT, CNNsi and Japanese TV, among others

58

Number of sandtraps on Course #3

45,000

Number of spectators expected at Medinah C.C. each day of the tournament



Course #3's "toughest hole," according to Dan, is 452-yard #16. The mesh netting pictured here covers the spot where balls typically come to rest after hitting the apron, then rolling down the 45-degree slope. Dan and crew placed the netting to prevent golfers from carving out divots in that area in the weeks before the Championship.

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Dan Quast & Co. Ready . . .

(continued from page 22)

looked stunning. "Keeping the course mowed and sprayed for fungus are our top priorities until a couple weeks before the tournament," Dan said. "Then, we will make some adjustments, including lowering the height of cut on fairways to no higher than 3/8" and increasing the speed of greens to an 11.5 or 12 Stimpmeter reading."

While Medinah members will be able to play Course #3 until mere days before the Championship, they were not able to use carts after mid-July. And as August drew near, they probably noticed that the rough was more eager to gobble up their shots. Primary rough will hover near 4" for the event, while intermediate rough will be cut to 1".

During the Championship

Some 45,000 spectators per day will surge across Medinah's rolling, wooded terrain. That figure is staggering enough, but then consider that another 40 million people worldwide will be watching on TV.

"It's important to me to present our course well to the country and the world," said Dan. To that end, staff will remove dead branches from Medinah's hallmark oaks and shagbark hickories for the tournament. Explained Dan, "This will add to the beauty of the camera shots and really show off the character of Medinah."

Aesthetics are only part of the equation, however. Attention to detail will be critical during tournament time, and Dan has

ample staff and equipment to keep Course #3 pristine for the pros.

Months prior to the Championship, Dan divided Course #3 into four sections. Dan's assistants Keith Peterson and Reynaldo Tijerina, as well as Jon Thronson (superintendent of Course #1) and Erik Swenson (superintendent of Course #2), will each assume responsibility for one area of the course. The group has been meeting weekly with Dan since May to develop a plan of attack and form work teams.

With the details relegated to Keith, Reynaldo, Jon and Erik, Dan will be freer to concentrate on the big picture. "My main concerns will be overall course conditions and green speeds—making sure green speeds are consistent throughout the week."

(continued on page 26)



At 583 yards, #14 is unforgiving—and approaching the green is no picnic, either. (But it might be "a day at the beach!")



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Dan Quast & Co. Ready . . .

(continued from page 24)

About 30-35 volunteers (superintendents and employees from other courses) are expected to help Dan's regular staff of 65 keep #3—the area “inside the ropes”—immaculate during the Championship by filling in where necessary—operating equipment, filling divots, fluffing the rough. Moreover, Textron, through vendor Illinois Lawn Equipment, is furnishing 15 additional riding green mowers for cutting the fairways and 10 extra Cushman utility carts. Medinah will also borrow rollers from two Wisconsin golf courses. All additional equipment was expected onsite by July 20.

The aftermath

The week after the Championship, Dan expects 500 trucks to rumble in and remove all of the tournament fixtures—the tents, TV equipment, furniture, A/C units, etc. Meanwhile, he and his staff will embark on the process of restoring the course. Foot traffic extracts a heavy toll, said Dan; it may take several years for the turf to regain its former vigor. And it is not only Course #3 that will require work.

Course #1 has lost two fairways to incoming deliveries via four new gates installed on Medinah Road and structures such as the Wanamaker Tent and Champions Tent. “We will be performing seeding and aerifying after the Championship, but those fairways won't see play again until next year,” Dan said. “This is another example of the sacrifices our members have made in order to be able to host this event.”

“I'm taking nothing for granted”

With the PGA Championship only weeks away, Dan acknowledged the benefits of experience and the difficulties



Insider tip for spectators: “My favorite hole early is #12,” said Dan. “It's beautiful, challenging and offers some shade.”

inherent in hosting a Major in mid-August.

“Doing the U.S. Open made me a historian,” said Dan. “We are better prepared because we know what to expect this time. So we're managing one day at a time and hoping to get to the tournament in good shape.

“I'm taking nothing for granted,” Dan continued. “Anyone who grows grass knows the pitfalls that can happen during the months of July and August. Grass-wise, this is the most stressful time. But everybody here has a can-do attitude and is well-prepared for the Championship.”



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Water, Water, Water...

Chuck Anfield

This is the second in a series of articles by members of the MAGCS Environmental Committee.

Water—it's what comprises the majority of living organisms. I think if I remember back to seventh grade science, the human body is 98% water! It's also what our planet is known for throughout the galaxy. Water—it seems so common to us, but in actuality it's quite rare. Perhaps water is the most valuable commodity on the planet. Remarkable!

Water, so what of it? What's it to me, to you, to them? It's certainly an issue for everyone. Maybe here in the Great Lakes area, water is a different kind of issue than perhaps somewhere out west in the desert. But regardless of location, the two key points of consideration about water are quantity and quality. Golf courses are large users of water. As environmental stewards, we have to be more aware of all the issues than anyone. We are responsible for how much we use, where we use it, when we use it, and why we use it. Another key point is, where does the water go when we are done using it and in what kind of condition is it?

Turfgrass, with its extensive and fibrous root system (we hope), is well known as an excellent filter to trap and hold fertilizers and plant protectants. These facts have been gathered by test plot lysimeters; university

studies have proven this to be so. But what about other areas of the golf course, where water is used for other purposes besides irrigation? The two chief areas of concern for us would be pesticide rinse areas and equipment wash areas.


Currently, interest in watershed management is high. Sources of concern are point and nonpoint pollution. Point pollution would

Golf courses are large users of water. As environmental stewards, we have to be more aware of all the issues than anyone. We are responsible for how much we use, where we use it, when we use it, and why we use it. Another key point is, where does the water go when we are done using it and in what kind of condition is it?

be the actual spill or dump at the particular site. Nonpoint pollution would be where the pollutants wind up as they make their way through the watershed. These issues are going to intensify as our urban environment continues to grow. At present, California, Massachusetts and Florida have equipment wash containment policies; Illinois does not have any.

Industrial equipment wash areas have generated some complaints. The major concerns are petroleum distillate residues and pesticide residues washed from equipment. Many golf courses located near sensitive bodies of water have installed self-contained, recycling, gray water equipment wash systems. I suspect this trend will continue. These products have been around for at least the last 10 years and they have been able to resolve some of the related problems associated with grass clippings.

As far as the pesticide pads go, this issue seems to be following a similar course. Most of the permitting problems have been related to proper protection of the water supply through the water distribution system. I have heard reports of inspections downstate and in the Chicago area. The statewide enforcement effort is really geared more as an outreach program right now. If anyone needs help in the permitting process, the agencies are there to help.

As we head for the new millennium and the next fiscal year, this is a good time to critically examine your operation. It's always a good idea to develop plans to continually upgrade existing facilities. If you don't have a pesticide pad, building a storage unit and a pesticide mixing/loading pad together works very well. More EPA/environmental information can be found at www.epa.gov/surf/. 



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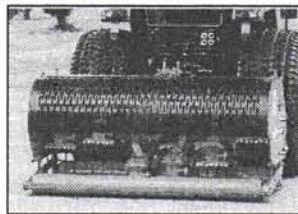
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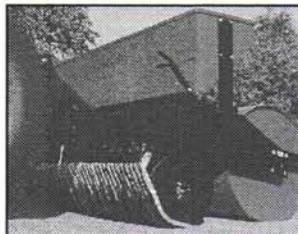
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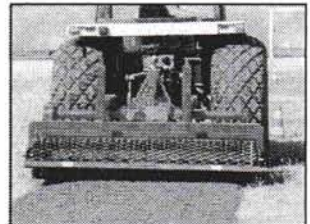
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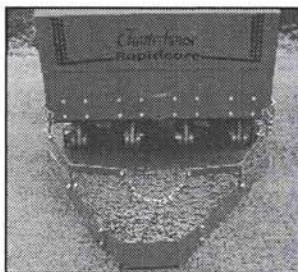
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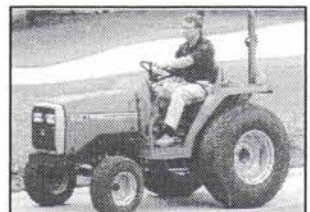
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tags will benefit the affiliated chapter (in our case, the MAGCS) as an unrestricted gift from Turf-Seed/Tee-2-Green and 50% will benefit The GCSAA Foundation's campaign. Distributions will occur annually for the next five years beginning in February of 2000. Any seed with the qualifying "blue tag" purchased after January 1, 1999, qualifies for the rebate program.

To participate in this program and raise money for the

MAGCS and the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign, redeem qualified "blue tags" by mailing them to The GCSAA Foundation, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049. Include your name and the name of our chapter with your tags so funds can be properly allocated.

If you have any further questions, please contact The GCSAA Foundation by calling 1-800-472-7878, ext. 465. 

GCSAA Government Relations Action Alert!

The 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) dramatically changed the way pesticides in this country are evaluated for risk. This law requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to evaluate and determine the risk of 10,000 chemicals over the next 10 years.

The EPA has begun this safety assessment but unfortunately is using "assumptions" and "models of pesticide use" instead of real data! Two important classes of chemicals are under scrutiny right now at the EPA—organophosphates (products such as Dursban) and carbamates (products such as Turcam).

What can you do to make sure the EPA implements the FQPA fairly and reasonably? Write, call or e-mail your U.S. representative in Congress to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 1592, "The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999." H.R. 1592 supports the fundamental

health goals of the FQPA while requiring the EPA to use the best available scientific data (rather than assumptions and guesswork!) when assessing pesticide uses. What H.R. 1592 does not

H.R. 1592 supports the fundamental health goals of the FQPA while requiring the EPA to use the best available scientific data (rather than assumptions and guesswork!) when assessing pesticide uses.

do is change the standards used to evaluate pesticides—pesticides still must meet rigorous safety standards specified by the FQPA. However, H.R. 1592 mandates that the EPA use reliable, accu-

rate data, rather than anecdotal information or "worst case" theoretical assumptions in performing evaluations.

Passing H.R. 1592 in Congress may help save valuable golf course pesticides. Writing, calling or e-mailing your U.S. representative is your first step. If you need help identifying and getting contact information for your U.S. representative, or would like additional information on H.R. 1592, please call Carrie Riordan at 1-800-472-7878, ext. 610 (e-mail at criordan@gcsaa.org) or Chava McKeel at 1-800-472-7878, ext. 619 (e-mail at cmmckeel@gcsaa.org).

To help the GCSAA track which members of Congress have been contacted, please forward copies of any correspondence you send or receive regarding H.R. 1592 to the GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859. 