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The Prairie Course at Ivanhoe Club, site of the 2007 ITF / MAGCS Spring Play Day.
Photo Credit: Luke Cella.

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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Another Chicago First

"The State of the Game Golf Summit" was held on April 19th at Olympia Fields Country Club. The first event of its kind in the Chicago area, the Golf Summit was jointly hosted by the Chicago District Golf Association, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Illinois Section PGA, and the Greater Chicago Club Managers Association. Speakers included:

- Dr. Joe Beditz, President and CEO of the National Golf Foundation
 - Paul Metzler, Director of Consumer Marketing and Player Development for PGA of America
 - Steve Mona, Chief Executive Director of the GCSAA
 - Mike Tinkey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Golf Course Owners Association
 - Susanne Wegrzyn, President and CEO of the National Club Association
 - Jerry Maatman, Partner of Seyfarth Shaw LLP
 - Rick Jacobson, President of Jacobson Golf Course Design
 - Todd Grey, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo Financial
- Participants represented managers and decision makers from all facets of the golf industry including: golf course superintendents, course owners, club managers, golf professionals, commercial vendors, board members and club presidents. Throughout the day the discussion focused on trends and economic indicators that affect the golf industry. Demographics, politics, population growth, immigration reform, workers rights, health care reform, and new bills introduced into the legislature all have an impact on the golf industry. The following is a quick recap of just a few of the topics that were discussed during the day long event.
- The Golf 20/20 survey found that golfers identified course conditioning as the single most important factor that contributes to golfer enjoyment.
 - Core golfers are identified as golfers that play 8 or more rounds of golf per year.
 - Core golfers account for 91% of all rounds played and 87% of all spending that is related to golf.
 - Golf is a \$62.2 billion dollar a year industry. As an industry, golf is larger than the motion picture industry.
 - 30 million rounds of golf are played per year. This number has been flat for the last 6 years and is expected to remain flat for the foreseeable future. Any short term facility growth in rounds played and/or revenue will most likely be at the expense of neighboring facilities.
 - Proper course conditioning is a key component to developing a successful financial model for a golf facility.
 - In 2006, the number of golf facilities that closed out paced the number of golf facilities that opened. The last time this occurred was in 1945.
 - 25% of all golf courses in the United States were built in the last 15 years.
 - 87% of golfers use the internet to research golf facilities and book tee times.
 - If adopted, the "Healthy Families Act" would call for employers to provide paid sick days, health care insurance, pension plans, and other benefits to a larger group of core employees.
 - The National Club Association expects that some type of an immigration reform bill will be introduced by congress before the end of the summer.
 - The National Club Association also predicts that soon we will see legislation that clarifies and requires employers to take affirmative action if they receive Social Security "No Match Letters".
 - Termination law suits represent 90% of all workplace legal claims.
 - The average cost to litigate and settle a wrongful termination suit is \$75,000 - \$100,000
 - Illinois is ranked 4th among states in employee rights.
 - Future population growth is projected to be greatest within the Hispanic community. A projected growth of 63% is forecast over the next 20 years.
 - Hispanic participation in golf is 5.4%.
- Our industry changes and evolves constantly. As superintendents we are directly responsible for the single most important asset at our facility – the golf course. As such we are obligated to stay informed on trends and indicators that affect our industry so that we can better contribute to the facilities overall success.

Tim



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GCSAA and the Assistant Superintendent

On April 11 and 12, the GCSAA Assistant Committee met at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. There were six assistant superintendents including yours truly from every region of the country, and one from Canada. Sandy Queen, CGCS was the GCSAA Board Director who chaired this committee. Staff members Dave Fearis, CGCS, and R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, were integral participants in the meeting.

... the theme that took the day centered around subdivisions of Class C.

The main discussion continued from a topic begun last year. The question posed: How can we help assistants distinguish themselves and still keep them in the Class C realm?

After several hours of discussion, the theme that took the day centered around subdivisions of Class C. Obviously, these divisions would be based on years of experience, level of completed education, and number of continuing education points to name just a few requirements. Further details will follow in the coming months about how each of these divisions may break down.

Many of these ideas are utilized today with the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative for Superintendent Members (SM) and Class A members. The system would be very similar for Class C members. The rationale behind the idea is to help elevate the status of the Assistant Superintendent. When a superintendent has acquired certification through GCSAA (CGCS), they are recognized for this achievement. Similarly, if you were to reach the highest level of classification in the assistant ranks, it would distinguish you as a leader in our industry by the GCSAA.

This and many other topics were discussed in Lawrence. One other topic that seems not only to be an issue in our area but, across the country, is Assistant involvement. As I explained some of the resources MAGCS has created for the Assistants, I realized that most members of the committee had not heard about our shoptalk series. In discussion, I think everyone was very impressed with how the MAGCS works hard to help engage its assistants. As a reminder, note there are three more shoptalks coming up this year (Bryn Mawr CC, Merit Club, and Hinsdale CC).

In meeting with the people of GCSAA, I did realize that the MAGCS is cutting edge in encouraging their assistants to get involved. We have a committee solely comprised of assistants (from what I have gathered this year, no other chapter has this). We have our Annual Workshop that many of you attended this year. Planning is already underway for next year's Workshop, and I know it will be one of the best we have had. There are opportunities to author articles for *On Course*. There are opportunities to network. The list goes on and on. Opportunities do not come everyday, but having the foresight to get involved will only make you and your facility better.



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Ivanhoe Club Hosts ITF/MAGCS May Meeting Justin VanLanduit Shines



Justin VanLanduit

On May 14th, ITF/MAGCS members converge at the Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, Illinois, to play in the ever-popular ITF/MAGCS Spring Scramble hosted this year by MAGCS member Tom Prichard. Since Tom has already been highlighted for hosting an event in the past, he thought this would be a great opportunity to introduce his first assistant superintendent of the past several years, Justin VanLanduit. A graduate of University of Illinois, Justin is going into his fourth full season at the club and as a member of the MAGCS.

About the Course

The Ivanhoe Club was established in 1991 by architect Dick Nugent who carved 27 holes out of 380 acres of magnificent terrain. The courses were later renovated by

Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest. Playing any combination of the three nine-hole courses (Forest, Marsh, and Prairie) puts the tips from 7,028 to 7,116 yards. "Ivanhoe is intimidating and from the tee looks very hard, yet I've come to learn that where people get in trouble is from looking at all the hazard areas not far off the fairway," says Justin. "The fairways are pretty wide, so focus down the middle and block out all of the stuff to the outside and swing away. If you keep the ball in play here, the round can be pretty fun," Justin continues on how best to tackle the courses at Ivanhoe.

The Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest renovation was undertaken on the three nines from 2000-2004. The renovation consisted of constructing new USGA greens with A1/A4, regressing with G1, squaring-off of the tee boxes, and the installation of a new Rain Bird irrigation system/pump house.

Justin's Beginnings

Justin made a seemingly smooth transition into the turf business. Hailing from the small town of Walnut, Illinois, Justin was scouted in sixth grade by a local golf course superintendent across the street from his house. "Steve (Wolf) walked across the street as I was mowing my

(continued on page 8)



Prairie 7 has the best green complex setting on the course. Large pines frame the hole with water along the right side of the fairway and green.

parent's lawn to see if I would be interested in a summer job mowing the rough," he says. From sixth to twelfth grade Justin continued to work at Green River Country Club, a nine-hole public track that provided the start of his professional career. Following graduation from high school, there was no deliberation about what he wanted to do. Justin enrolled in the Turf Grass Management program at the University of Illinois where he earned his bachelor's degree. While pursuing his B.S. in turf management, he secured three impressive internships: Deer Valley Country Club, Green Gables Country Club, and finally Cherry Hills Country Club. These opportunities laid the foundation for Justin to be hired in the second assistant superintendent position at Ivanhoe Club in 2004. Later he became first assistant, the position he currently holds.

The learning never ends

Justin may have completed school, but he has not stopped learning. From the start, Ivanhoe Club has been yet another training ground for Justin under the tutelage of Tom Prichard, Ivanhoe's golf course superintendent. "Tom has been an unbelievable inspiration to my career in showing me everything involved in the business along with the behind

the scenes action in the private club sector." Justin goes on to say, "Tom has trusted me throughout in making decisions. He has also shown me that one can enjoy his work along with creating a pristine golf course." Justin has not been the only one to profit from the experience. Ivanhoe has been recognized regularly by *Golf Digest* and other publications as one of the "Top 25" championship golf courses in Illinois.

Personally Speaking

Though Justin is a person who takes great pleasure in what he does for a living, he still carves out time for a

few extracurricular activities such as golf (2.3 index), snowboarding, mountain biking, and enjoying time with friends as well as some adult beverages.

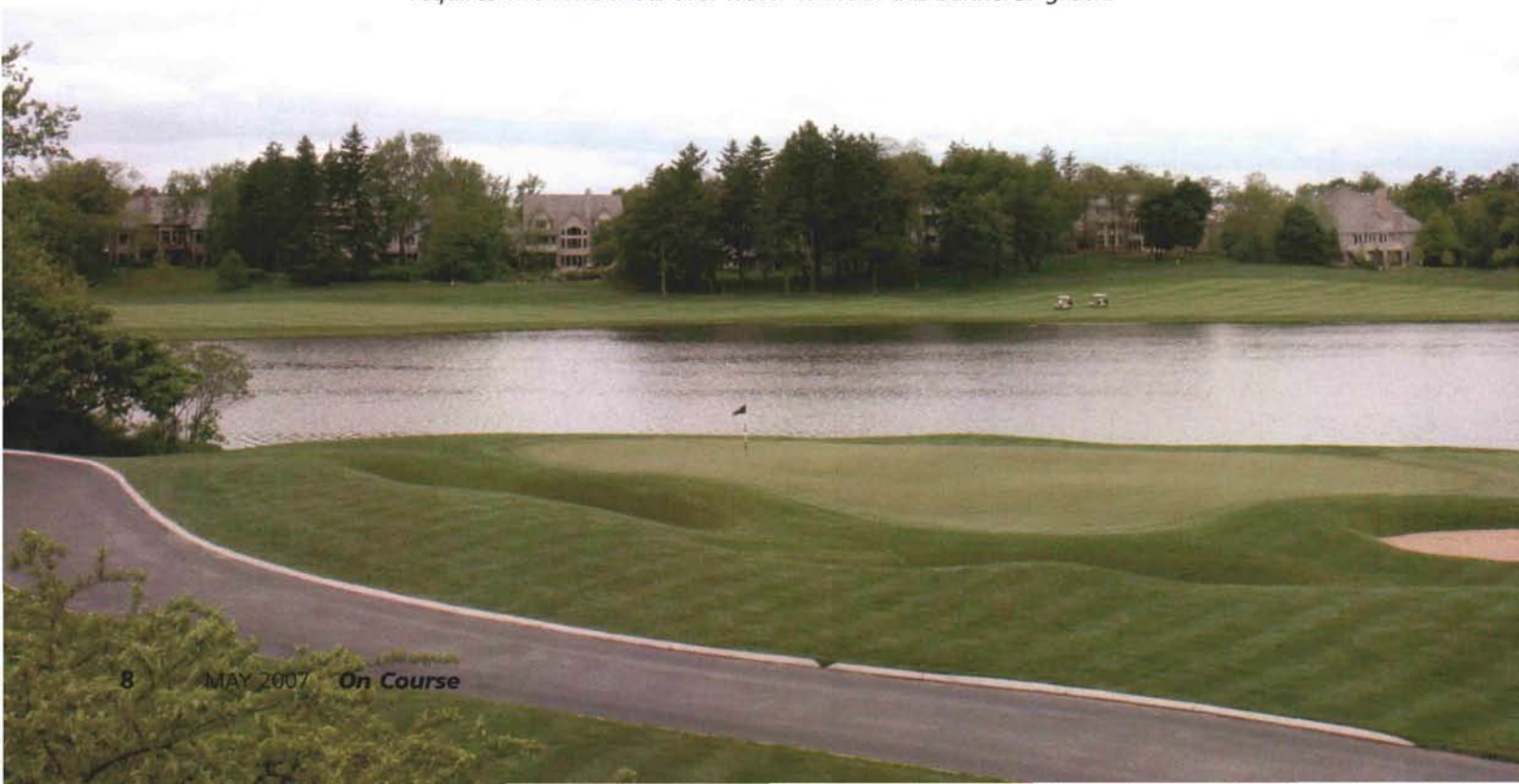
At the end of the day, the Ivanhoe Club has been an opportunity from which Justin has truly benefited. He says, "I just want to learn something new each day along with continuing on that perfect piece of artwork 'the golf course.'"

Tom, Justin, and the crew at Ivanhoe hope that all participants find Ivanhoe Club a challenging, but worthy, track to play.



The Ivanhoe's Prairie fairways contrasted by native grasses, forbs and flowers.

The fourth most difficult hole on the golf course, the 443 yard par 4 Marsh #9 requires two solid shots over water to reach this bunkered green.





Ivanhoe Club's Forest Ninth, challenges the golfer right from the tee teasing them to go for the green in two.



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- **University Ridge, Verona, WI** - Home of the UW Badgers, ranked #8 in Wisconsin by Golf Week Magazine 2006.
- **Whisper Creek Golf Club, Huntley, IL** - Located within the award winning Sun City, a Del Webb community, and one of the many, very fine courses managed by Billy Casper Golf.

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