

seeing the results of the all the hard work that he and his crew accomplish during the season, but he also enjoys waking up in the morning to a beautiful piece of property. He recently retrofitted (with help from mechanic Don Briggs) a Gator with a 25-gallon boom sprayer, an electric fertilizer spreader, and a speedometer. This allows him to be very versatile in the field while completing detail work. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his fiancé and his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. Arne also plays the drums in his band and, when time allows, he likes to fish and play golf. Overall, Arne feels very privileged to have worked with the people he has. He attributes his success to John Nelson, Kenny Goodman, Scott Spieden, and Brian Comiskey.

John Nelson's other assistant is Joe Baert. Joe grew up in Geneva, and started working at the Geneva Golf Club for Ed Braunsky in 1999 as a part of his grounds crew. After graduating from Kishwaukee College, he went to work for Jason Funderberg and Jeff VerCautren at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois, in 2006. From there, in 2007, he went to the "Brute" course at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, under the guidance of Mark Barthel. In 2008 an opportunity arose, one that he could not refuse, at the Merit Club working for John Nelson. As in every



assistant superintendent position, Joe is kept on his toes determining the most effective use of the grounds crew. He's always thinking of new and creative ways to complete tasks. He explained that plans are being made for building and restoring tees, as well as for restoring pond banks with fiber logs and boulders. Joe said that one of his favorite tools at the course is the New Jacobsen Eclipse mowers, which they use to cut greens and fairways. For Joe the most enjoyable aspect of working on the golf course is being outside, working with his hands, and taking in the views that the Merit Club has to offer. Outside of work, his hobbies include playing softball, golfing, grilling out, and spending time with his girlfriend, Jen.

Joe and Arne both agree that #9 is the most picturesque hole, especially when standing on the #13 tee, which is the highest vantage point on the golf course.

In addition, they agree that what makes the Merit Club unique is that it's all golf. There are no tennis courts and/or swimming pool, which makes their job a little easier.

On behalf of all the assistants and superintendents in the Chicagoland area, I want to thank John, Arne, Joe and the Merit Club for hosting the 2011 MAGCS College Championship.

-OC



MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Toyota Park

Which game is the real football? Is it the game that Americans play in the fall with helmets and shoulder pads or is the “beautiful game” played with a round ball by the rest of the planet? Just a question, however if you are going to play soccer you will want to want to play on the best pitch in Chicago. You are going to want to play at Toyota Park in Bridgeview where Eric Adkins is the Turf Manager.

Toyota Park, located in Bridgeview was the site where the American Women’s soccer team began their quest for the World Cup with a must win “play-in” with Italy. They won the game and went on to run the table until they met their fate and finished a disappointing second to a very quick Japanese team in the World Cup Finals held this past summer in Germany. The site is also home to the MLS (Major League Soccer) Chicago Fire and the WPS (Women’s Professional Soccer) Chicago Red Stars. Toyota Park has hosted high school football, high school and college soccer and lacrosse games. Along the way, it has also entertained the likes of the “Parrot heads” with a Jimmy Buffet concert and the “Phish-heads” the loyal followers of the band Phish. The Park is a multi-use field that gets a lot of “action” yet needs to maintain “world cup quality” turf for MLS and inter-

national “friendly” soccer games. Not the easiest job in turf maintenance.

Eric is a graduate from the Michigan State University Turf program and has previously worked as a Golf Course Superintendent at courses in Illinois and Michigan. He has worked at Toyota Park since 2006 when it opened. The field has some unique features that help Eric grow the high quality turf the athletes demand. The soil profile is sand based, similar to a USGA green and is plumbed for water removal and forced cooling with a Sub-Air system. In order to maintain the soil at a constant 62 degrees, the profile has 40 miles of ½” tubing filled with glycol and a large pump station to heat the field and keep the turf actively growing as needed during the colder seasons. The turf is a blend of low mow Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass mowed at 5/8”. Eric prefers to keep the turf firm and fast but the players prefer it a little softer (insert faking soccer injury joke here). Eric has help from his Assistant Tom Forrest and a crew of 2.

Eric faces some unique microclimate challenges. Shade is his biggest enemy. The east side bleachers block out the sun until noon each day. The stage overhangs the goal mouth on the south end which is also one of the heaviest wear areas



on the field. He needs to manage for diseases just like the rest of us. He over-seeds p. rye as needed in small wear areas and will call in the "Godfather of Sod" Paul Carlson from Central Sod to do turf repairs featuring the big roll sod. "The nice thing about the big roll sod is the sod is so thick that that it provides a stable foundation to play on the next day". Eric has good success using Tenacity to control the ever invasive poa annua. He top-dresses heavily with sand three times a year to promote overall firmness and smoothness. He has similar a concern as Golf Course Superintendent trying to promote a smooth ball roll. I didn't get a chance to "stimp" the field but it looked pretty "fast". Go check it out football fans. -OC



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IS YOUR TURF TOUGH TO WITHSTAND SNOW

IN NEED OF AN EFFECTIVE FUNGICIDE FOR SNOW MOLD CONTROL PROGRAMS, GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS TURN TO *TOURNEY* FUNGICIDE.

With the potential for more than 100 inches of snowfall each winter, golf course superintendents need a snow mold product that they know will work even in the toughest conditions.

Mike Armstrong, superintendent at Mendon Golf Club in Mendon, N.Y., decided to try *Tourney*® Fungicide from Valent Professional Products last winter as part of a tank mix with Chipco® 26019. Armstrong applied *Tourney* at a rate of 1 pound per acre mixed with 4 ounces of 26019 and achieved "excellent control" of snow mold.

"We get 100 inches of snow per year here, but we had very limited breakthrough this year," Armstrong said. "We used one app of *Tourney* with 26019 in the second week of November and that was it. Everything came out as good as could be. The course was probably cleaner than it's ever been using PCNB."

If *Tourney* can control snow mold in the extreme conditions seen in upstate New York, it can do the job just about anywhere snow cover is a concern. A new report from the University of Wisconsin shows that a single application of *Tourney* can provide excellent snow mold control and turf quality on golf course fairways (see chart on reverse).



EXCELLENT QUALITY TURF TREATED WITH *TOURNEY* COMPARED TO UNTREATED TURF. CLIFTON SPRINGS COUNTRY CLUB, CLIFTON SPRINGS, N.Y.

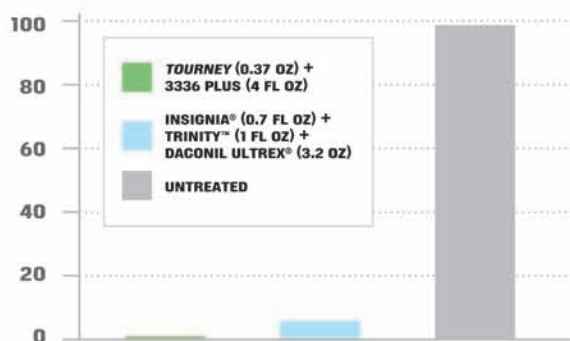
Conducted on creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass fairways at Wawonowin Country Club in Champion, Mich., that had been naturally infected with various forms of snow mold, the University of Wisconsin study rated both disease control and turf quality.

Applied in early November 2010 and rated in mid-April 2011 on plots that experienced continuous snow cover during that period (approximately 150 days), a tank mix of *Tourney* and 3336 Plus™ delivered superior snow mold control, with a lower disease percentage than a tank mix of other similar fungicides (*Tourney* = 0.37 oz; 3336 Plus = 4 fl oz). The *Tourney* tank mix also delivered a high turf quality rating, on par with the competing tank mix used in the study.

Mel Leaver, superintendent at Brookside Country Club in Macungie, Penn., had similar success after turning to *Tourney*. "I stopped using PCNB because it's a little dangerous with the root systems," Leaver said. "We tank mixed *Tourney* with 26019, and we didn't have a spot of snow mold."

Ed Gross, superintendent at Northampton Country Club in Easton, Penn., was a little nervous after a long, tough

DISEASE SEVERITY (% DISEASE/PLOT)



SOURCE: KOCH, LIESCH & KERNS, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON.

ON CREEPING BENTGRASS AND ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FAIRWAY WITH CONTINUOUS SNOW COVER FROM MID-NOVEMBER THROUGH MID-APRIL, *TOURNEY* MIXED WITH CHIPCO 26019 SHOWED GREATER CONTROL OF SNOW MOLD.



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ENOUGH MOLD?

winter. But he was delighted to see the results from his Tourney snow mold application come spring.

"I had about 60 days of snow cover and came out of it pretty much unscathed in terms of snow mold," Gross said. "I tank mixed Tourney with 26019 at the recommended rate, and it held up pretty well. Based on the tough winter we had last year, it did a good job."

As he plans for this season's snow mold application, Armstrong knows what he will be applying to his turf.

"I was nervous because I had never used anything [besides PCNB] before, but I was very pleased with Tourney," Armstrong said. "I was very happy with the spring color and green-up compared to PCNB."

For snow mold control, the recommended use rate of Tourney is 0.37-0.44 oz/M (16-19.2 oz/A). For best performance on snow mold species, make 1-2 applications in combination with chlorothalonil, iprodione or other fungicides active on snow mold in late fall before snow cover.

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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



October 2011

GCSAA has hooked a big fish—David Feherty has signed on to keynote the Golf Industry Show's General Session in Las Vegas. Feherty is well-known in the golf world for his entertaining commentary and his new Golf Channel show cleverly titled "Feherty." Look for his "Tales of a Survivor: The Wit and Wisdom of David Feherty" on March 1st at the Show.



Not to be outdone, the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation has announced that Craig Krenzle, quarterback and MVP for the 2002 National Championship Ohio State Buckeyes and former Chicago Bear (ugh) will deliver the opening address during the 2011 OTF Conference and Show December 5-8 in Columbus. Having endured his time with the Bears, I would think if he delivers a speech like he delivered a football, about 23% of the audience will receive it. Ba-da-boom.

Heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of **Mark Neuroth** who passed away suddenly last month. Mark worked for the Village of Buffalo Grove for 25 years, serving as golf course supervisor at Buffalo Grove Golf Course since 1989. Please keep Mark's wife Cheryl, his son Brad, and his family and friends in your thoughts. The Midwest will be taking up a collection at this year's Turf Clinic for the Neuroth Family.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Championship at the Merit Club in Libertyville, IL, **John Nelson, Arne Nordenson & Joe Baert** hosts.

October 4-December 16 – Fall session of Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 11 – MAGCS and GCCMA education event at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, IL, **Dan Sterr** and **Aaron Hearn** hosts.

October 14 – Deadline for volunteers for GCSAA's 2012 Committee Service.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2012 Excellence in Government Relations Award.

October 21 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at the Glen Club in Glencoe, IL. **Paul Voykin** is among the inductees.

November 6-8 – Irrigation Show at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

November 16 – 59th Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

February 27-March 2, 2012 – GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

February 29-March 1 – Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas, NV.

We also mourn the passing in August of Bob Dickinson, who was the superintendent at Buffalo Grove from 1973 until 1990. Prior to that, Bob was assistant superintendent under Ben Kronn at Twin Orchard Country Club. Bob leaves his wife Betty, daughter Barb, and son Bobby along with his many family members and friends.

(continued on next page)

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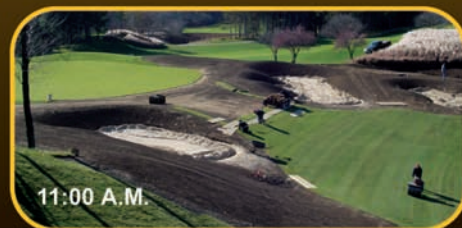


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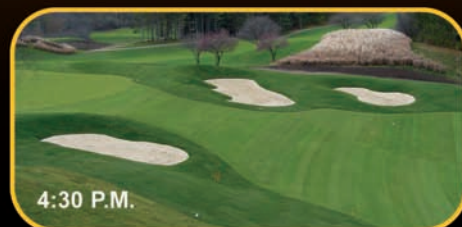
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November 30th is the deadline for nominations for the TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. The 11th annual award is given annually to a golf course superintendent who excels in labor management skills, maximizing budget limitations, educating and advancing the careers of colleagues, negotiating with government agencies, preparing for tournaments under unusual circumstances, service to golf clientele, upgrading or renovating the course, or dealing with extreme or emergency conditions. The award will be presented at the Syngenta booth at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Nominations can be submitted by downloading the PDF form or by filling out the online form which can be found at www.turfnet.com under the "Features" tab. We are fortunate to have two past winners in **Paul Voykin** and **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**.

.....
Speaking of **Paul Voykin**, this is his month—on the 21st he will be inducted in the 2011 class of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. The ceremonies will take place at the Glen Club, home of the Illinois PGA. Paul is the fifth superintendent to achieve this honor, following Ray Gerber, Carl Hopphan, Oscar Miles, and Bob Williams. Congratulations Paul!

.....
Over Labor Day weekend, a large number of KemperSports golf courses, included several in our area, participated in the 2011 Patriot Golf Day, which raises money for the Folds of Honor Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational scholarships and other assistance for the children and spouses of military men and women disabled or killed during service. Among the courses that participated were Bolingbrook GC (**Jeff Gerdes**), Hawthorn Woods CC (**Nicholas Hillyard**), Royal Melbourne (**Dave Groelle, CGCS**), and the Wilderness at Fortune Bay (**Vince Dodge, CGCS**).

.....
Along these same lines, on August 18th Billy Casper Golf hosted approximately 2,200 golfers at 80 properties in 24 states during the "World's Largest Golf Outing" to benefit Wounded Warrior Project." The event raised over \$40,000 for the cause, eclipsing the previous golf outing participation by 70% according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Good stuff there.

.....
Congratulations to **Scott Pavalko, Nick Marfise, Ken Lapp**, and everyone at Cog Hill for their fantastic work in preparing the Dubsdread course for the BMW Championship last month. The course was absolutely perfect, and the tournament truly was fun to watch. Also thanks to **Tracy Murphy** and the folks at Lemont Paving for hosting their annual hospitality tent during Saturday's round on their VERY NEARBY property. Great job by everyone!



The green gloves give away Troy Tietjens of JW Turf loyalty.



Scott Pavalko checks the quality of cut during morning set up.



Don Cross and Dan Marco wait in line to perform their pogo stick routine at the talent show contest during the commercial breaks at the Cog Hill.



(continued on page 20)



Why don't they ever televise the Pro's doing the ball mark fix pirouette?



Nick Marfise color coordinates his attire with his ride each day, and does a nice job of it.



From the O in Joy, the 18th green of Dubsread during set up on Thursday morning.

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