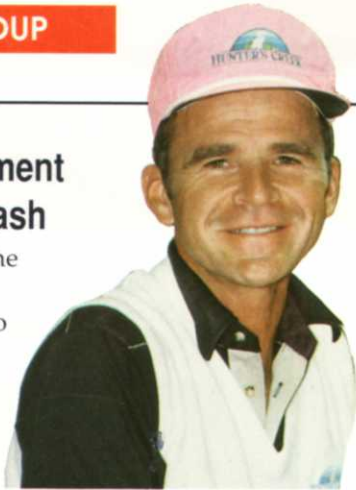


GCSAA Tournament host killed in crash

On the day before the Florida GCSAA golf team was scheduled to conduct its first practice round over Hunters Creek GC in Orlando — one of two courses to be



used by the championship flight in the GCSAA national championship Feb. 19-20 — the host superintendent was killed in a head-on collision on Interstate 4, only a few miles from his golf course.

John Jankiewicz, 42, died instantly when his car was struck head-on by a tractor-trailer shortly before noon on Dec. 1. The Florida Highway Patrol theorized that the driver of the truck fell asleep and crossed the median. Jankiewicz was on his way to Grand Cypress Resort, where he and Hunters Creek Head Professional Fred Fuhrman were scheduled to play a round of golf with two friends. Traveling in his own car a few seconds ahead of Jankiewicz, Fuhrman was unaware of the accident until late that afternoon.

"John was a bright example of a true professional who took immense pride in his work," said Joel Jackson, FGCSA President.

"He was very dedicated and loyal."

Known for his team leadership, Jankiewicz kept his mechanic and his assistant superintendent, Craig Shelton, with him for more than 12 years. His spray and irrigation technicians had been with him for more than five years.

A native of Utica, N.Y. Jankiewicz was graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in business administration and agronomy. He began his career at The Bay Hill Club of Orlando. He was involved with the construction of the Deer Run GC in Casselberry and the Interlachen CC in Winter Park. Before moving to Hunters Creek to supervise its construction in 1984, Jankiewicz had been head superintendent at Errol Estate GC in Apopka for nine years.

In addition to his love for golf, he enjoyed fishing, diving and photography.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Orlando, the GCSAA and the Central Florida chapter of the FGCSA.

He is survived by his wife, June; his parents; and two brothers.

The Scandinavian Connection

In a sense, it's only fitting.

Of all the areas in the world, golf is growing fastest in Florida and in Scandinavia, the countries that form the northern coasts of the Baltic and North Seas — Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

It shouldn't be surprising, therefore, that an aspiring golf course superintendent from Finland, which has 35 golf courses in operation and 20 more under development, should choose to take his training at Lake City Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.

And this past summer, the Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc., brought 90 superintendents from the four countries to Florida to observe golf course maintenance practices after

getting tours of the company's plants in Racine, Wis., and Charlotte, N.C.

That the two exchanges were entirely unrelated only underscores the growing importance of Florida as a world leader in the golf industry.

This past summer, Jarkko Lahdensuo, now a junior in LCCC's three-year program, returned to his homeland for the first of his two required summer OJT programs. And, with the Finnish Sports Institute and the



LCCC/PIERSOL

Layout of Vierumaki Golf Course at the Finnish Sports Institute, where two LCCC students — one a Finnish exchange student — performed their summer OJT.

Finnish national airline — Finnair — picking up the expenses, he brought classmate Bruce Chestnutt with him.

Furthermore, the two national institutions brought John Piersol, chairman of the LCCC golf course operations program, into the country for 12 days to check on the turf management programs at their golf

90 superintendents from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden observed maintenance techniques at Doral CC in Miami and Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando. The superintendents also toured the Jacobsen plants in Racine, Wis., and Charlotte, N.C.

