

Dynasties



**AS I SEE IT
BY JIM WALKER**

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

That quote by Jimi Hendrix really has nothing to do with this article, but I was so taken by it, and amazed Jimi could be that deep. Maybe it reflects the angst and human condition around the world. I wanted to share it with you.

I want to talk about dynasties. There are many types, of course, like the success the Yankees have enjoyed a couple of different times. The Boston Celtics had a great run with Auerbach and Russell. The Steelers in the 70s had their way with the NFL. The Patriots have been on a tear since 2003 and the list could go on and on.

I must say here and now that the Giants winning the Super Bowl this year was one of the most wonderful

sporting events I have ever seen. Handing “Bill Billacheat” his crushing and only defeat of the season sat sweetly on my tongue as a Dolphin fan of their undefeated ‘72 team. Tom Brady flew his hairdresser in for a Saturday haircut. How’d that work out for ya Tom? You should have flown in a stone mason to build a wall at the line of scrimmage to keep the New York Football Giants off your ass and you off the ground. Sorry I got carried away there, but God, that was a “make mine a double of your best single-malt scotch” victory.

Eldrick has been King of the Hill on the PGA tour for so long now, that his may be the most impressive and dominating of dynasties in the history of sports. Nick Faldo is predicting that, given the venues of the Majors this year, Tiger could actually achieve the first Grand Slam since the great Bobby Jones. Normally I would be a vocal doubting Thomas of this feat being accomplished, but after Woods starting 2 for 2 this year, even I have to say the odds are even money he climbs that mountain in 2008. I’m not sure if this magazine will hit the streets prior to the Masters, but if he doesn’t win, you know he’ll be there in the hunt when the tournament begins on the back nine Sunday.

There are lots of other dynasties as well. I saw a man buy a rundown pizza joint from George Mira (the U. of Miami and 49’er quarterback) 25 years ago and turn it into a hugely successful Italian restaurant which is better than

ever now. *Ciro* is out front spinning pizzas and *Mama* *Ciro* is back in the kitchen turning out some of the best food you will ever eat. Given that 90 percent of all restaurants fail, his is a real dynasty. *Joe’s Stone Crab* on Miami Beach has been there since the 1930s and it takes a C note to the Maitre D to get a table unless you want to wait a couple of hours. There are many other great restaurants, hotels and such around the country and the world, so I think you get the idea.

This is another example of a dynasty: My friend Bryan Singleton and a gentleman named Bill Wagner both went to work at a private club about the same time 17 years ago. Bryan was the golf course superintendent and Bill was the club manager. At the time they began, the club was not doing that well as they had less than 300 members and teetered on insolvency.

After seven or eight years, the membership was capped at 500 members and there was a waiting list to join. Beyond that there were also 500 social members and this place was rocking. Their run went on for 15 years and then sadly both were let go despite all the success they had achieved and the dynasty they had built.

Ironically, Bill who was a past president of the National CCM Association was on his way to receive a national award as one of the most important people in golf course management when he got the news he had been terminated. Sort of like the head coach whose team makes the

Tifton Physical Soil Testing Laboratory, Inc.

Accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Specializing in:

- Testing All Materials for USGA Golf Green Construction.
- Developing Putting Green Rootzone Mixtures that meet USGA Specifications.
- Recommending Topdressing and Bunker (Trap) Sands that meet USGA Specifications.
- Developing Sportsturf Rootzone Mixes with Optimum Physical Properties for Athletic Fields.

1412 Murray Avenue
Tifton, Georgia 31794



www.tiftonsoilab.com

T. Powell Gaines
(229) 382-7292

playoffs but is then fired because they didn't win the championship.

Another pal of mine – and I must say without a doubt one of my best friends ever – has also built a dynasty not only at the club where he currently practices his gift of golf – course maintenance but at the other clubs he worked along the way. Joe Pantaleo's career has been his own personal dynasty full of success and accomplishments as he left each place he worked better than he found it upon his arrival.

Across Alligator Alley on the West Coast, Tim Hiers has blazed trails for our profession ever since he was the first FGCSA president back in 1978. He has walked the talk so long his environmental stewardship and advocacy for the positive contributions of golf courses is legendary. His counsel and leadership is often sought when issues arise. Tim has garnered so many awards for his unselfish service to our

industry, his walls must be sagging from all the plaques and certificates. You lads in Collier County are certainly lucky to have such a dynasty builder in your back yard. On top of everything else, Tim's a down to earth guy and very nice man.

Dynasties, like houses, are built one brick at a time. A guy is born, goes to school, grows up, meets a girl, gets married, has a family, works his entire life, hopefully retires and then goes gracefully into that sweet goodnight.

How is your dynasty going? You don't have to be a star, baby, to be in my show. Build your own dynasty one brick at a time and please exercise the power of love.

“Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions.

“Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it will become your destiny.”

Why Not Lead By Example?



**GREEN SIDE UP
By JOEL JACKSON**

Instead of local governments picking on fertilizers in particular and turfgrass in general in an attempt to show the voting public that they are doing something about the environment by passing virtually unenforceable



SANDSTOR™

- *Keeps Dried Sand Dry
- *No Waste or Contamination
- *Delivered Fully Assembled
- *2 Models - 30 or 50 Ton
- *Cage Section & TopRail Optional

Rymatt Golf, Naples, FL

(239) 513-9238