

NEWS

Skyline changes due, says AGC

American Golf Corp. plans improvements to one of its newest facilities, Skyline Woods Country Club in Omaha, Neb.

The Santa Monica, Calif.-based company will concentrate on completing the irrigation system. The cost is estimated at \$200,000.

American Golf bought the course, which opened in 1962 as Chapel Hill Country Club, from Dennis and Sebastian Circo in May.

Americans featured speakers at Europe show

American expertise in golf course design and management, master planning, water management and other areas will be evident in the second annual Golf Course Europe exhibition and conference this fall.

Golf Course Europe organizers, Expoconsult of Holland, have signed on American speakers in nearly every session of the conference, which will be held Nov. 28-30 at Le Parc des Expositions du Bourget in Paris, France.

American Society of Golf Course Architects President Dan Maples of Pinehurst, N.C., and ex-President Ed Seay of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., will speak at the design and construction session. Maples will dis-

cuss how America can help Europe in its golf development boom, while Seay, of Palmer Course Design Co., will speak on course design.

A session on the environment will feature J. Kollenkark of Ciba-Geigy talking on "The Responsibility of the Chemical Industry"; architect Bradford Benz of Los Gatos, Calif., speaking on "Golf Design and the Environment"; and G.S. Taylor of W.W. Johnson and Son Ltd. talking on "The Importance of Wild Flowers on the Golf Course."

During a session on the future for golf, National Golf Foundation President Joseph Beditz will talk on building courses for the future.

James McLoughlin of The

McLoughlin Group in Pleasantville, N.Y. and Michael C. Rippey, president of Can-Am Golf Enterprises, Inc. in Michigan City, Ind., will speak at a session on golf project management.

McLoughlin, who has consulted on projects the world over, will talk on master planning for golf course hotel and resort developments. Rippey will speak on estimating and controlling course construction costs.

Also, Otterbine Barebo Inc. President Charles Barebo will talk on water quality management, Toro Vice President of Agronomists James Watson on turfgrass management and water conservation

techniques, Larry Rodgers of Larry Rodgers Design Group in Denver, Colo., on types of irrigation systems, and Loft Seed Director of Research Dr. Richard Hurley on choosing the right seed mixture.

Ellen MacGillabry, Expoconsult's organizer of the conference, has also added workshops this year for the European greenkeepers.

A key speaker for the greenkeepers will be Gordon Witteveen, superintendent of two 18-hole golf courses and one nine-hole facility for the Board of Trade in Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. Witteveen, whose courses are in a climate similar to Europe's and who trains European students to be golf course superintendents, will give a variety of tips of the trade.

Koch forms management, design firm

Professional golfer Gary Koch has formed Gary Koch Golf, a company that will focus on golf course design and ownership, golf facility management and development of golf course residential communities.

Koch, who will serve as president, said the Tampa, Fla., company's primary emphasis will be in Florida, but that golf projects elsewhere in the United States and in Europe are also being discussed.

Tony Mattera, formerly a senior executive with a major Florida bank, will serve as chief operating officer.

"I am really excited about this opportunity to expand my career in golf," said Koch winner of six PGA Tour events. "We have been working towards starting this company for over a year now."

"I will continue to follow my normal playing schedule on the PGA Tour while developing new business opportunities."

Gary Koch Golf also announced a working relationship with Can-Am Golf Enterprises, Inc. and its golf course architecture division, Hurdzan Design Group.

Can-Am Golf, a golf course management company headquartered in Michigan City, Ind., operates four courses in the United States and Canada and is scheduled to open a fifth course in August.

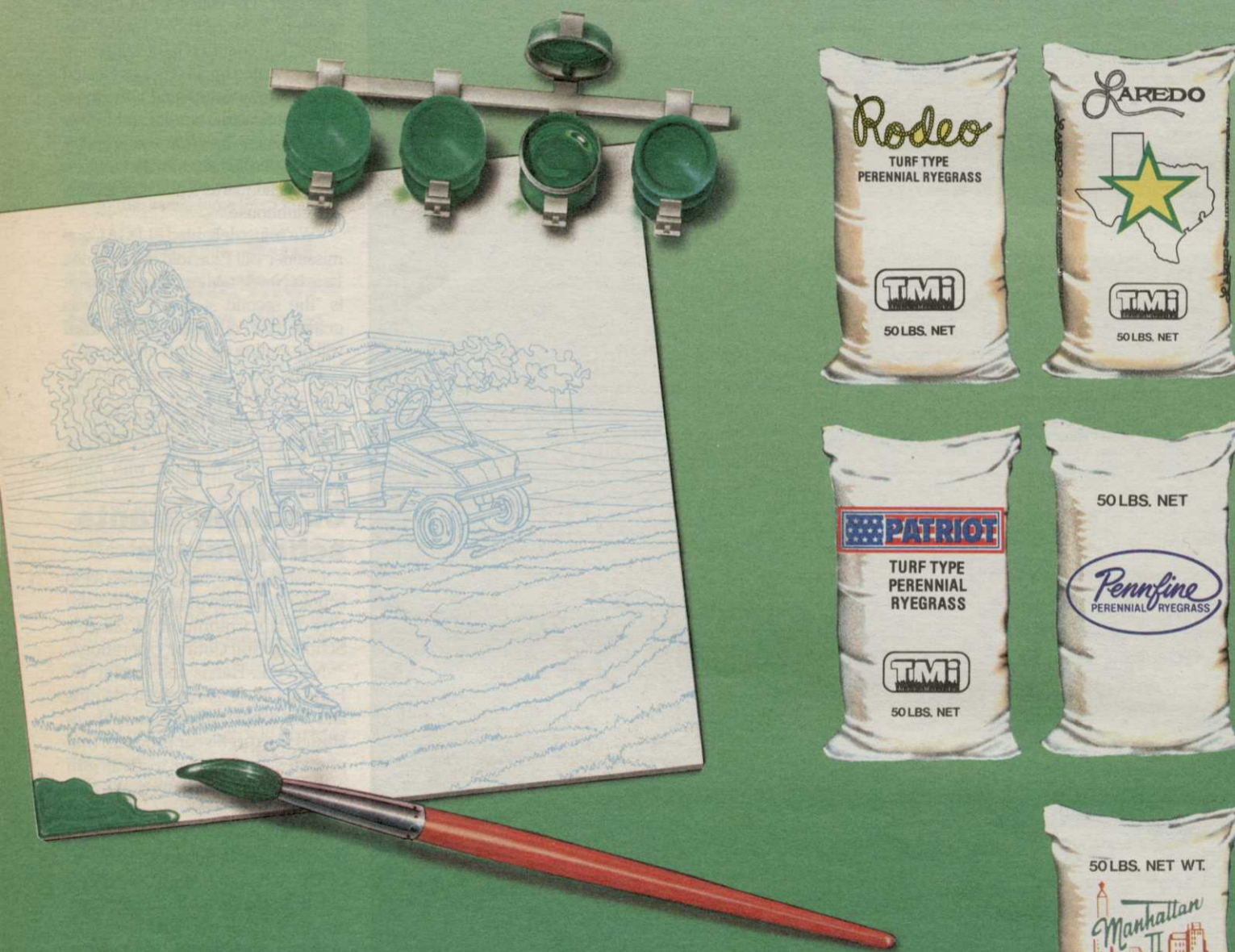
Three more are under development — one in the United States and two in Canada.

Koch said Can-Am will support his company in all areas related to course maintenance and management.

Mattera said: "Our goal has been to assemble the resources necessary to take any golf course project from design through opening day and beyond. Our association with Hurdzan Design and Can-Am will enable us to do that."

The company also is looking to acquire, lease, or enter into management contracts on existing golf facilities in Florida, and will consider joint venture projects with real-estate or resort developers.

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