

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

The firms that run the courses, pages 41-43  
**Management Companies**

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### 2nd quarter 1991 course update

Type	Open			Under Construction		
	1991 YTD	1990 YTD	1990 Yr-end	1991 YTD	1990 YTD	1990 Yr-end
Daily Fee	48	—	166	340	—	301
Municipal	13	—	37	88	—	71
Private	27	—	86	189	—	184
N/A	—	—	—	3	—	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>560</b>

Source: NGF

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## High Court ruling said 'scary'

By Peter Blais

The recent Supreme Court ruling freeing local governments to impose pesticide regulations that conflict with federal law could severely restrict the use of golf course chemicals, according to a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America official.

"It scares the hell out of me. It's

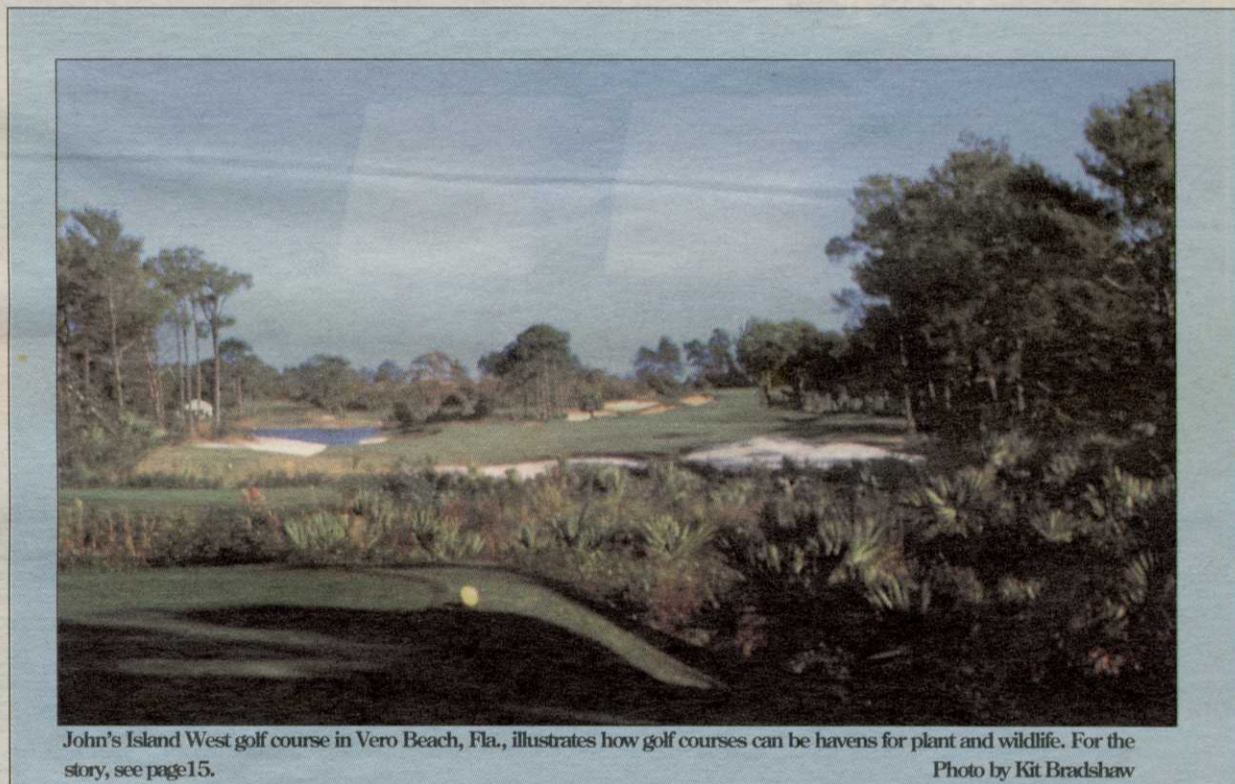
another step toward more regulations," said Charles Passios, government liaison to the GCSAA board of directors.

"It means superintendents are going to have to be more pro-active than ever, participating in the process and taking a lead role to make sure our concerns are heard when towns want to pass regulations."

In the case of the Town of Casey, Wis. v. Ralph Mortimer et al, the court ruled unanimously June 21 that the language of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act does not allow it to pre-empt locally passed regulations.

The decision overturned a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that FIFRA

Continued on page 23



John's Island West golf course in Vero Beach, Fla., illustrates how golf courses can be havens for plant and wildlife. For the story, see page 15. Photo by Kit Bradshaw

## Major changes expected in revisions of wetlands laws

By Mark Leslie

Wetlands preservation regulations that have handcuffed golf course developers and created long, expensive waits for approvals are being rewritten — and loosened extensively — on two fronts.

A revision of the much-maligned federal wetlands delineation manual — used by the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection

Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Soil Conservation Service since 1989 — is under review and is said to more narrowly define what constitutes a wetland.

Further up Pennsylvania Avenue, congressmen have answered the call of voters and drafted legislation to correct deficiencies they see in the wetlands protection system.

Some conservationists are

angry. Linda Winter, director of wetlands programs for the Izaak Walton League, said a scientifically sound definition is "being thrown out and ignored for political reasons."

One EPA ecologist resigned and another asked that his name be dropped from the credits of the revision.

But others are looking forward to changes.

Continued on page 28

## First facilities open for handicapped

By Mark Leslie

Two golf facilities built especially for the physically challenged will open within the next month, marking milestones for the country's millions of handicapped people.

In Akron, Ohio, Edwin Shaw Hospital is completing the first course in the country designed especially for handicapped golfers. Dedi

Continued on page 38

## End of drought won't solve Calif. woes

By Peter Blais

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Water will continue to be in short supply for many years in California because of the six-year drought, increased demand from a growing population and environmen-

tal concerns, according to a Southern California water expert.

"We are going to see changes in our landscapes and maybe in our lifestyles if the shortages are severe enough and long enough,"

Coachella Valley Water District water management specialist Dave Harbison said during a recent water management seminar sponsored by the University of California, Riverside Cooperative

Continued on page 20

# First two golf facilities for physically challenged

Continued from page 1

ation ceremonies for the long-awaited project will be held at 1 p.m. on Aug. 21. The driving range will open at that time, with the three-hole golf course expected to be ready for play next spring.

And in Berryville, Ark., teaching professional Shirlee Hicks will realize a longtime dream on Sept. 1 when she opens Golf for Life, a practice facility built to facilitate rehabilitation-type patients.

Bob Wilson, executive director of the National Amputee Golf Association, hailed the two openings as a good omen for the physi-

*The hopeful success of these ventures may turn the industry around, make people take another look at what they have.'*

— Bob Wilson

*Nat'l Amputee Golf Assn.*

cally challenged public.

"From the standpoint that they (Edwin Shaw Hospital) are pioneers, I'm anxious to see the outcome. That is, the playability of the course —whether there is any damage to it

from wheelchairs, whether the aesthetics are good... The acid test will be if people will play it...

"The hopeful success of these ventures may turn the industry around, make people take another look at what they have."

He said if the public responds well to the hospital course, "it will provide the impetus for others to be built. Those who are designing municipal courses, especially, will have to take a hard look at it for accessibility."

Wilson, who travels extensively from his Amherst, N.H., headquarters to teach the physically challenged how to play, said

handicapped people in other regions will not travel to Ohio to play golf. He cited the need for similar courses elsewhere.

That has already been considered by Edwin Shaw officials.

Ron Tristano, director of Edwin Shaw Challenge Golf Course, envisions hospital staff training therapists from other regions.

"There is a terrific need throughout the country," said Tristano, a Class A PGA pro, who was a volunteer instructor at Edwin Shaw for three years before being appointed this spring to his present job. "One of our main goals is to be a leader in training other people. We will probably be doing that locally this fall and with people from other areas in 1992."

Tristano said the dedication is set to coincide with the World Series of Golf competition in Akron. Tournament sponsor Akron Golf Charities has been the main source of funding for the golf facility.

The driving range is on 12 acres across the street from the hospital. Its 3,500-square-foot handicapped tee area is being sodded to open on time. It also has a non-handicapped tee area so the public can play and help provide adequate funding, because "there are not enough handicapped golfers to support it themselves," Tristano said.

The course, on 10 acres adjacent to the hospital, has par-3 holes that play 130 to 160 yards from the back tees and half that distance from forward tees. A middle set of tees has also been constructed. It will have bluegrass fairways and bentgrass tees and greens.

After a debate over using artificial turf or ModSod on the greens, officials decided on real grass, figuring wheelchair-bound golfers won't harm it. They comprise 10 to 20 percent of all the golfers in Edwin Shaw's golf rehabilitation program, Tristano said.

He said the 2,500-square-foot practice green will also feature bentgrass.

Tristano said hospital therapists and volunteers work with "people with any number of physical disabilities," including amputees, stroke and accident victims, and people with

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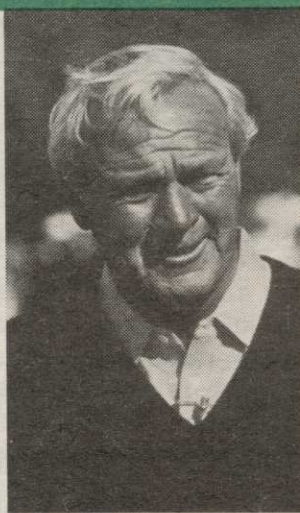
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# opening at Ohio hospital and Arkansas range

spinal cord injuries and muscular disorders. Three six-week training sessions are held annually, and this year a private ski club attended a separate session.

Tristano said the hospital will promote the facility to the public, reserving times for the physically challenged.

"The goal is to allow people to get into a mainstream activity, to continue to get the therapeutic benefit physically and emotionally," he said. "And they can go at their own

pace."

## GOLF FOR LIFE

Meanwhile, Hicks, a retired Navy nurse and one of a handful of people licensed as a teaching pro by both the PGA and LPGA, will fulfill a goal she has looked forward to for a number of years.

"I love golf. I love to teach. And I wanted to incorporate my medical background with golf," Hicks said. One way was to become involved with rehabilitation.

"It's been wonderful," she said.

Hicks, who in June oversaw the opening of the only golf clinic for the deaf in the United States in San Jose, Calif., is moving from her Dublin, Calif., home to Arkansas on Aug. 10.

That project has "absolutely gone wild. It's growing by leaps and bounds," she said, hoping the same success awaits her in Berryville.

Set on a 53-acre site, the Arkansas facility

now includes a 15-acre driving range with a huge sand bunker, along with a 15-by-45-foot artificial-turf putting green fringed with Bermudagrass.

She said the trap was sloped to be easily accessible to all types of trauma patients.

Hicks will be on site to teach and will also use video teaching aides.

She has already made a two-story building handicap-accessible and plans to build a 25-station driving range next year.

Arkansas, she said, is the third-largest retirement area in the country and "golf is booming" there. That leads her to high hopes for the life of Golf for Life.

## Many firms contributed to hospital course construction

AKRON, Ohio — Construction of Edwin Shaw Challenge Golf Course here started as a seed in the minds of hospital officials and grew to embrace the entire state and, indeed, national corporations.

Ron Tristano, director of the course for the physically challenged, lauded everyone from local contractors to national golf equipment manufacturers for helping the effort without charge.

Initial tree clearing was done by the local firm of Keller/Hall Inc., he said.

That was followed by clearing and rough grading work donated by the Ohio Contractors Association, who "did a marvelous job and were here for quite some time," Tristano

said.

Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, Ohio, designed the course, making it wheelchair-accessible from tee to green.

Wadsworth Construction Co., a national golf course builder based in Plainville, Ill., performed the final grading and shaping and provided Tom Kluck as project manager for the three-hole course and 12-acre driving range.

Kurtz Brothers of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, provided all the greens and tees mix, while Commercial Pump of Swanton, Ohio, donated the pump station.

LESCO, Inc. of Rocky River, Ohio, provided all the grass seed, fertilizer, cups and ball

washers.

Since the rehabilitation program was started, Wilson and MacGregor sporting goods companies have given equipment for the golfers.

Meanwhile, a group of area PGA professionals has given continued support through lessons, and therapists from the hospital as well as Akron residents have volunteered time in the program.

"Without all their help, and the funding of Akron Golf Charities, this would never have happened," said Tristano, himself a former volunteer pro.

"We owe a lot to a lot of people in the community and beyond."

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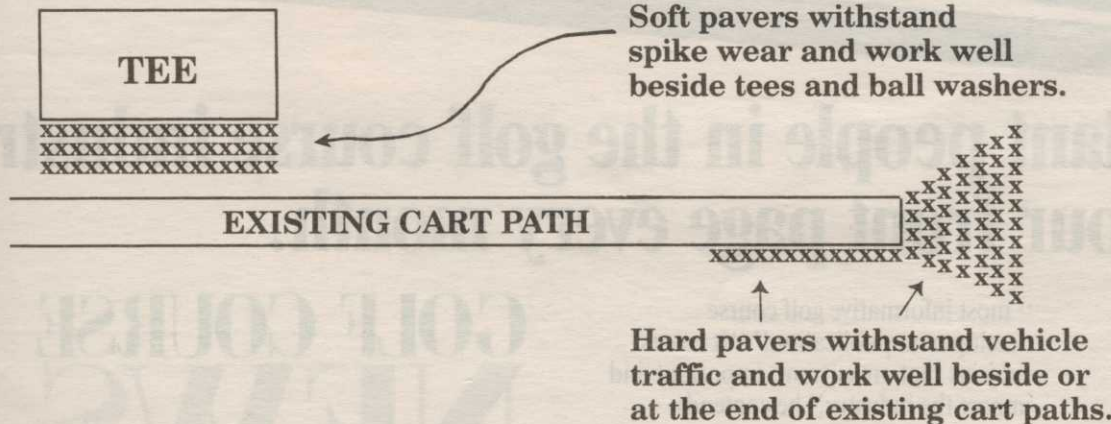
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