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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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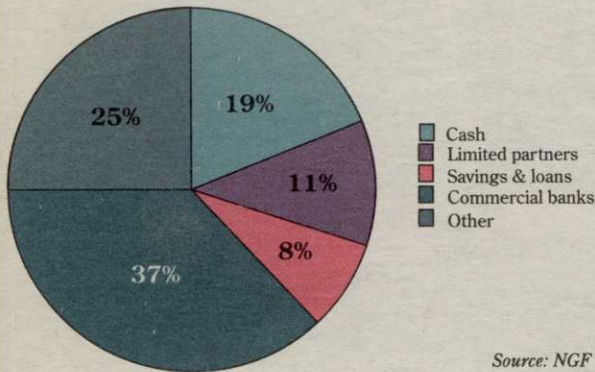
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Source: NGF

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Japanese firms stay active

By Mark Leslie

Cosmo World, Nitto Kogyo America and Sports Shinko lead the "players" in the Japanese surge of megamillion-dollar buyouts of premier U.S. golf properties.

According to a report prepared by Mead Ventures, Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz.,

the Japanese search for long-term return on investments and their love for golf are keeping real-estate brokers busy in the United States.

The Japanese interest to buy, coupled with a growing willingness of American course owners to sell, have created an active marketplace.

"Over 100 golf course owners have contacted me to find buyers or joint venture partners — looking for financial relief some way," said Donald Wizeman, president of the U.S.-Japan Golf Association based in Myrtle Beach, S.C. "Sellers are from all over the country. I probably

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Seven Bridges, the centerpiece of a major development in Woodbridge, will open in July as the latest in a number of new golf courses around Chicago. (See story on page 30.) The view from the 5th green over the 6th tee to the 6th green shows the edge of the DuPage County Forest Preserve in the background. Designed by Dick Nugent, Seven Bridges will be a high-end public 18-hole course. Residential units, a hotel, commercial center and offices are planned for the project. It lies between Naperville and Lisle.



Photo by Miles Lowry

Builders' new director puts priorities in place

Philip Arnold takes charge of association

By Mark Leslie

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The new executive director of the Golf Course Builders of America wants to develop an association that can guarantee credibility in construction, educate potential lenders, and join with other groups on the environmental front.

Philip A. Arnold, who was approved Feb. 11 to succeed the late Don Rossi, said: "I'm continuing what Don wanted to do — to give our members more. I want to deliver substance, not just form, to this group."

Perry Dye, re-elected to a third term as president of the GCBA, said: "We tried to mix Don's vision with the talent that is on the market. We found Phil."

Vice president of the National Golf Foundation for the past 2-1/2 years, the 44-year-old Arnold said he will present to the GCBA's August meeting a plan to certify all members of the association — from builders to blenders.

"Each of our seven categories of members will have a certification process to go through," Arnold said. "We



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Surviving the California drought

By Peter Blais

With some creative course management, California golf courses are managing to survive the six-year drought that has plagued that state, according to Dr. M. Ali Harivandi.

Most of California depends on melting winter snows for summer irrigation. With snowpacks way down, golf courses will likely experience an upcoming summer of even tighter watering restrictions, the University of California Cooperative Extension researcher said

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USGA funds standardized lab tests

By Peter Blais

A Cornell University professor will spend the next year standardizing the laboratory test procedures used to determine whether putting green soils meet United States Golf Association specifications.

Dr. Norm Hummell will devote his one-year sabbatical to the effort beginning in July, although he has already done some preliminary work, according to USGA Green Section Director Jim Snow. The Green Section will

pay Hummell's salary.

The turfgrass extension specialist will meet with representatives from soil-testing labs, universities and companies in the golf course development business.

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