

## Von Hagge calls for facelift of Blue Monster

MIAMI, Fla. — It's high time for changes in Doral Country Club's Blue Monster golf course, says architect Robert von Hagge, who oversaw course construction 30 years ago.

Owner Howard Kaskel counters, "The estimated \$1.5-million cost exceeds the benefit."

According to von Hagge, bunkers, once vast and steep, have grown smaller and shallower because mechanical rakes sweep sand toward the center, and grass grows around the edges.

Tour pro Raymond Floyd cited

the 11th hole. "The bunker in front of the green is a quarter the size of the bunker that used to be there. Every hole, there's a tremendous difference."

Formerly distinctive fairway lines have grown blurry and ragged, said von Hagge, and greens that once abutted bunkers and lakes have shrunk.

Collars and fringes between greens and hazards have grown wider to accommodate tractors instead of the 28-inch hand-pushed mowers that once groomed the fringe.

As-is Doral has its defenders.

Jack Nicklaus said Doral "still has plenty of challenge" while conceding that it has gotten easier over time. "The bunkering is not as deep, and the greens have gotten flatter, but if you're going to design a facility to move a lot of people, a resort course, it's a darn good one."

Architects Tom Fazio and Pete Dye consider the course a classic.

Declared Fazio: "If you made a substantial change to Doral, the first reaction from tour players would be that you ruined the golf

course. They'd say, 'This used to be a great course.'"

Von Hagge estimates that the Blue Monster would have to be closed for almost 10 months to return it to the shape that made it one of the country's top 30 courses. Its current ranking is 99th.

Kaskel, who inherited ownership from father Alfred, does not take such a dim view.

"We have a few suggestions — nothing major. I wouldn't call it a 'rehabilitation.' It's a beautiful course," Kaskel said.

## Weed Society cites Taylor for research

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Weed Science Society of America has presented its Outstanding Industry Award to Dr. Don Taylor, senior technical support specialist with Ciba-Geigy Turf and Ornamental Products. It was only the third time the award has been given.

Taylor, recently elected president of the North Central Weed Science Society, said, "I feel deeply honored — and surprised — that my peers feel I'm worthy of such an award."

Taylor joined Ciba-Geigy in 1968 as a field research representative and moved to the Turf and Ornamental Products group in 1989. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University and a doctorate in plant physiology from Purdue University.

The North Central Weed Science Society represents more than 1,000 weed scientists from 16 states and four Canadian provinces.

## Retirees to get their request at Alabama town

DALEVILLE, Ala. — "What recreation facilities are available?" is a question frequently asked of Daleville Mayor Gene Hughes by many retirees moving to this city.

Their interest seems to center on golf. Hughes must explain that, though 75 percent of Daleville's residents play golf, area courses are full most of the time or not available to residents.

Things soon may change in the form of a \$2.5-million 18-hole municipal golf course.

City officials and citizens heard Don Barnett, vice president and national marketing director for First Golf Corp., a Colorado concern, outline such a proposal.

Barnett said that if the feasibility study determines a need for a golf course, and the city decides to build one, construction could begin in June. Course completion would be around October 1992.

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