

Judge sides with McLoughlin in libel suit against GCSAA

'The most business(-like) and professional way to approach this thing is (to say) that we reached an amicable settlement and just let go.'

— GCSAA attorney
Robert Ochs

By MARK LESLIE

A U.S. District Court judge reinforced wrongdoing on the part of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America but reduced the \$1.45 million judgment by half in the longstanding civil action brought by ex-GCSAA Executive Director Jim McLoughlin.

The jury a year ago had awarded McLoughlin \$457,742 on his breach-of-contract claim, \$500,000 in compensatory damages on his

libel claim and \$500,000 in punitive damages. But Judge Richard D. Rogers dropped the compensatory and punitive damages to \$100,000 apiece, stating that the jury finding was excessive.

It was left to McLoughlin to accept the reduced amount or ask that a new trial be ordered. The first trial lasted 30 days, and McLoughlin opted to end the ordeal and the added expense of a

new court proceeding.

McLoughlin attorney Dennis Egan of Kansas City said: "While the judge in his conservative wisdom felt it necessary to reduce the amount of the jury's verdict, we are very pleased that (he) totally reaffirmed all the jury's findings of wrongdoing and libelous actions that were the basis for filing the lawsuit in 1985 and the basis for the jury's historic

\$1,457,000 verdict.

"The judge's decision and jury's verdict only work in concert to fully exonerate (McLoughlin) of the numerous false charges directed toward him during his tenure as GCSAA executive director for the period 1980-83."

GCSAA attorney Robert Ochs said: "The most business(-like) and professional way to approach this thing is (to say) that we reached an amicable settlement

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GCSAA Update

Pacific Rim office opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has opened an extension office here in an effort to share technical expertise with Japan and other nations around the Pacific Rim.

The GCSAA will sponsor a Pacific Rim Golf Course Conference and Trade Show March 15-21, 1993, also in Singapore.

Staff members in the overseas office include Don Bretthauer, manager of Pacific operations, and Linda Fortunato, international conference and show manager. They can be contacted by phone at 65-568-2224; by fax at 65-568-2473; or by writing to GCSAA (Singapore), Pte. Ltd., 2 Jurong East Street 21, #04-21C, IMM Building, Singapore, 2260.

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Four seminars offered this year

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents of America will host four three-day executive development seminars this season.

The first, "Technical Business Management Strategies and the Legal Aspects in Golf Course Management," is due here Oct. 12-14.

"Technical Training for Your Spray Technician," a series of GCSAA training programs for golf course maintenance crew members in 1992 and 1993, will be offered at 30 locations within the United States.

Some big names have already started arriving for the 1992 PGA

Hosting one of golf's four major championships is a huge job. Just ask Superintendent Tom Van De Walle of St. Louis' Bellerive Country Club—site of the 1992 PGA Championship.

"I came here in 1986 with the major responsibility of getting Bellerive ready for the PGA," says Van De Walle. "Six years sounds like a lot of time, but we've rebuilt greens, tees, bunkers, fairways—even redesigned some holes entirely—and we still have a lot left to do.

"John Deere has played a big role in our success. We mow greens with the John Deere 22s, fairways with a 5-reel 3325 Turf Mower and tees and intermediate rough with a 3-reel 856 Reel Mounted Mower. The condition of the course has improved dramatically since we started using these mowers.

"We've converted almost all our fairways and tees to zoysia—a grass that's great to play on but tough to mow. The John Deere 3325 and 856 are the only mowers we've found that can handle it. Their cutting units stay true and don't let the turf get puffy. Plus, the single lever lift on the 3325 improves our fairways by allowing us to cross-cut more easily. In fact, the 3325 has done so well, we plan to buy another one next year."

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Tom Van De Walle of St. Louis' Bellerive Country Club is using a fleet of John Deere reel mowers to help him prepare for the 1992 PGA Championship.



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