

Fred Haas' 108 hours

That's all it took to build nine greens with Mod-Sod

By Vern Putney

Fred Haas, 45-year tour professional who has spent more time on golf courses than any top-flight player in the history of the game, may go down in the record books as more than just the well-seasoned amateur who on Aug. 20, 1945, at Memphis, Tenn., National ended Byron Nelson's PGA Tour win streak at 11.

The Metairie, La., native last April spearheaded a volunteer crew of Highmore Country Club, S. D., members constructing nine greens in 4 1/2 days and playing on the afternoon of the fifth day.

The secret of their speed success was use of Haas' patented Mod-Sod.

Highmore members had played on a Mod-Sod green course in the summer of 1990, and decided to replace their sand greens with that easy-to-maintain product.

After their course closed in the fall of 1990, they sculptured the bases. The greens weathered the winter well.

In April of 1991, the bases were dragged to get them smooth, stable and compacted.

On April 20, the Mod-Sod panels, which had been stored over the winter, were placed on the nine bases. With the help of 40 club members, panels were sealed together and then top-dressed with the patented Mod-Sod process.

With the holes cut and cups and flags placed on the fifth day, play began. The Guinness Book of Records may have ex-



Fred Haas remains active in golf as well as entrepreneurship.

Photo by Dr. Carman Pettapiece

panded a few paragraphs.

Green sizes went from an average 900 to 2,500 square feet.

Maintaining the desired stimpmeter is achieved by use of a \$150 seven-foot-wide mahogany pull broom dragged or pulled over the Mod-Sod two to five times a week.

A 6- to 12-foot Mod-Sod fringe will eliminate maintenance of watering, mowing and fertilizing, plus the capital expenditure of a Triplex and other expensive mowing equipment.

If the base is prepared correctly, Haas said, rain never will be a problem.

Haas sees Mod-Sod as the best way over

the next decade to beat the high cost of course construction.

"Communities such as this small farming area can make golf affordable and courses practical to build," Haas declares. "Highmore is the 11th Mod-Sod course. All have defied harsh weather conditions."

At 74, Haas has about severed tour connections in favor of close attention to an expanding Mod-Sod market. Somewhat reluctantly, he's yielded his grip on an outstanding tour record.

Haas sees his golf future as making the game more enjoyable and economical for families. Mod-Sod, he feels, is the answer.

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