

## USGA report on labs expected in spring

By Mark Leslie

Dr. Frank Hummel, the Cornell University professor on leave to study soil-testing laboratories, will soon recommend changes in testing procedures that should bring all labs in line with one another.

United States Golf Association Green Section National Director Jim Snow said Hummel "has determined what he thinks are the best methods of physical testing — for percolity, infiltration rate, bulk density and particle size distribution.

"They (properties) are the same

as in current specs but we're changing the numbers."

Hummel's recommendations, expected this spring, will be reviewed by a board of experts around the world before being approved, Snow said.

"The labs have cooperated completely in the whole thing," he said. "They all seem willing and eager to help. It's been tough on them, too. They've all been using different methods, and thus have produced different results."

Snow said the makeup of the greens construction profile — the

gravel, choker and sand layers — will remain the same. "But we'll probably change the particle size and infiltration rate."

He added that the USGA will expand on how to follow specifications from the standpoint of quality, "so if you have a problem you can trace from where it came."

The soil testing has long been a source of debate. Snow said three soil labs could report three different findings on the same soil specimen because of inconsistencies in testing methods.

## Colorado city with 3 courses may add another two

AURORA, Colo. — The city of Aurora is considering building two golf courses in the next five years, perhaps near Denver International Airport and at Aurora Reservoir.

Each course would cost about \$7 million and be paid for through revenue bonds.

Aurora already has three courses — Meadow Hills, Aurora Hills and Springhill. Prices at the three courses have gone up 50

cents for nine holes and \$1 for 18 holes.

The fee increases will generate a positive cash flow for the courses, which will help the city sell revenue bonds in the future.

More than 200,000 rounds of golf are being played on the city's municipal courses each year.

The city initiated a computerized tee-time system in September, which sends golfers off, four at a time, every nine minutes.

## Springfield CC going private for tax status

EUGENE, Ore. — Springfield Country Club, one of three public clubs in the Eugene-Springfield area, has elected to go private.

The club expanded to 18 holes in 1982 and opened a new clubhouse and pro shop in 1988.

The club went private at 550 members in order to apply for tax-exempt status.

About 60 percent of greens-fee revenues have come from guests at the club, who will probably continue to play the course.

Dues have gone up to \$100/month (from \$20), and the club plans to purchase 20 adjacent acres to use for expansion.

## NGF promotes Russell to vp

JUPITER, Fla. — Michael T. Russell, who joined the National Golf Foundation in 1990, has been promoted from senior director to vice president of research.

NGF President Joseph F. Beditz said: "Mike has done an outstanding job this past year and has elevated our research program to new levels of excellence. We are looking forward to ongoing innovations from Mike and his department."

Russell first joined the foundation as senior project director for NGF Consulting, a subsidiary specializing in golf course development services. In 1991, he was transferred to research to oversee that department's activities.

He came to NGF after eight years as director of research for Bradlees Department Stores of Braintree, Mass. Prior to that, he had worked in a research capacity for A&P Supermarkets of Montvale, N.J., Stop & Shop Companies, Inc. of Boston, and Angelo's Supermarkets of Rockland, Mass.

After interrupting his studies at Boston College to serve in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, he completed his undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he received his bachelor's degree in economics in 1973. He then studied at Oklahoma State University, where he received his master's degree in geography in 1974.



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