

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 11
NOVEMBER 1992

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Congress controls fate of military courses

By PETER BLAIS

The battle brewing over control of the military's 240 golf courses could be settled in early 1993.

That's when Congress is likely to act on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's (D-Ariz.) bill to turn operation of the facilities over to private management companies and open them to the public.

Management companies, most notably American Golf Corp., are lining up behind the idea, claiming DeConcini's Senior Government Officer Benefit Limitation Act will provide public golfers with more places to play, improve services at the government layouts and make more money for a fiscally strapped federal government.

The Pentagon is generally opposed, arguing that opening the courses to private managers and public play would jeopardize security at sensitive military installations, deprive service men and women of a well-deserved benefit and reduce funding for non-profit activities currently subsidized by golf course revenues.

"Golf courses are something the military is involved in that they don't need to be," said Shannon Brown, a DeConcini staffer.

Countered David Moffett,

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Subsurface injection

The race is on!

By MARK LESLIE

Gentlemen, start your engines. From Saskatchewan to Nebraska researchers are racing to market the first workable piece of equipment to inject liquid chemicals below the surface of the turf.

Ransomes America of Lincoln, Neb., displayed a prototype of its Liquidator at the last international golf conference, and hopes to have a working model at January's show. Rogers Innovative Inc. of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is testing its Liquid Pulse Injector (LPI) at the University of Guelph and intends to unveil it at the Green Industry Expo in mid-November in Indianapolis. And Pattison Brothers Agro Ltd. in Lemberg, Sask., hopes for positive test results so that it can display its Spoke Injector at the Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show in late November.

Meanwhile, Toro has made adjustments to its HydroJect aerifying unit to render it useful for injecting chemicals just below the surface.

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BIG-small partnerships in vogue

By HAL PHILLIPS

Aeromix Systems Inc. of Minneapolis and Otterbine/Barebo Inc. of Emmaus, Pa., have a lot in common. Both firms are members of the golf course industry, providing complete lines of water aeration products. Both are small — Aeromix has 24 employees, while O-B counts 27 on the payroll. And both have been approached by The Toro Company to form partnerships, whereby Toro would mar-

'Toro doesn't have five years to develop an aeration line. They need it today.'

— Peter Gross, president Aeromix Systems Inc.

ket and distribute their products.

Here the similarities end, however. Otterbine/Barebo turned down the offer and

Aeromix accepted it. Last spring, Aeromix and Toro agreed to offer a line of aquatic systems products and services under the Toro brand name. Financial terms were not disclosed.

This sort of BIG-small relationship has become increasingly common in the golf course industry, as petite companies seek the marketing and distribution power offered by megafirms — and these

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Fazio part of \$10 billion Malaysian deal

By MARK LESLIE

A \$10 billion theme park, centered around eight golf courses, is about to be undertaken in Malaysia, according to sources.

An Italian developer reportedly has brought together the Italian and Malaysian governments and private money to build the facility.

It is expected to eventually include 24 hotels with 1,000 rooms each. Develop-

ers, who have been working on the project for the past 18 months, expect the park to draw 150,000 people a day.

American golf course architect and builder Jim Fazio of Juno Beach, Fla., has been contracted to organize the golf construction. He will design two courses and sign others to design the six remaining layouts on the 300,000-acre

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Jim Fazio