

Tour of Duty

DAN PIERSON
Cherry Hills Country Club
 Denver, Colo.
U.S. Senior Open
 July 5-11, ABC

Dan Pierson, 44, grew up in South Hadley, Mass., and matriculated to the agronomy program at the nearby University of Massachusetts in Stockbridge. From there he landed his first assistant's job at venerable Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland. In 1978, Pierson was named head superintendent at Crooked Stick in Carmel, Ind., before moving to Cherry Hills in 1985, just after it hosted that year's PGA Championship. While at Stockbridge, Pierson met architect Geoffrey Cornish.



They would later collaborate on restorations of both Canterbury and Cherry Hills.

Things to look for: "We started our restoration project back in 1986," said Pierson, a self-described fan of old designs like Cherry Hills. "We've been trying to bring the bunkers back to their original Willie Flynn design (1922). Over the years there's been a migration of the bunker edges. Before we addressed the problem, they used to run right into the greens, which was a real maintenance problem. You couldn't even turn mowers around."

Pierson explained the original bunker boundaries have been restored, under the direction of he and Cornish. "Mr. Cornish and I really see things the same way. I basically oversaw the whole thing and had more than a small hand in the design aspect. But from a political standpoint, you always want the membership to feel the architect is really

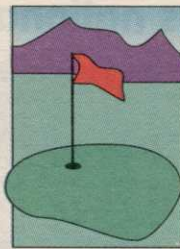
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CHRIS HAGUE
Crooked Stick Golf Club
 Carmel, Ind.
U.S. Women's Open
 July 22-25, ABC

When the 1993 U.S. Women's Open is finished, Chris Hague will be the only superintendent to have hosted all three USGA Open events. Hague, 41, grew up in Pittsboro, Ind., about 40 miles west of Crooked Stick. He attended the Purdue University Extension, where he earned a degree in turfmanagement. He held his first head superintendent's job at Eagle Creek in Indianapolis, where he supervised the 1973 grow-in. After hosting the 1982 U.S. Publinx (another USGA event), Hague moved on to Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minn., site of the 1983 U.S. Senior Open and the 1991 U.S. Men's Open. He returned to Indiana in March, 1992.

Things to look for: Like Eagle Creek, Crooked Stick — site of the 1991 PGA Championship — is a Pete Dye design. "Pete and the previous superintendent made a lot of changes to the course in 1989 and '90, prior to the PGA," Hague explained. "For the women this year, we extended the tee on no. 8 about 10 yards. We also extended tee areas on no. 10 and no. 14. The course will play about 6,300 yards for the women. It played about 7,300 for the men."

For those who remember John Daly's romp through Crooked Stick in '91, there are some changes. "We now have close to 60 acres of natural rough, tall fescues and bluegrass, that we let go natural," said Hague. "It'll be



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JERRY DUCKER
TPC at Southwind
 Memphis, Tenn.
Federal Express St. Jude Classic
 July 29 to Aug. 1, CBS

Jerry Ducker, 40, is Michigan born, bred and educated. After growing up in Fenton, Mich., just north of Detroit, he matriculated to the turfgrass management program at Michigan State. After leaving Lansing, he accepted the assistant superintendent's job at hallowed Oakland Hills in Birmingham, then took the head super's position at Heather Highlands Golf Club in Holly. Ducker left the state to accept the top job at Hallbrook Country Club in Leawood, Kan., right outside Kansas City. He arrived at Southwind in April of 1992, just four months before the St. Jude Classic. Is he better prepared for this year's tournament? "A lot better prepared," he said with a laugh.



Things to look for: The TPC at Southwind is a Ron Prichard design, with assistance from PGA course architect Bobby Weed. Fuzzy Zoeller and Hubert Green were the consulting professionals. It opened in 1988, and the stadium course is still maturing, said Ducker. "The roughs and the general landscaping still have a way to go. We're still adding irrigation and hopefully — and I emphasize the word hopefully — we'll be starting a major tree-planting campaign soon."

"The most distinctive thing about our golf course is the low cut around the greens. And the way the bunkers are designed — the fine-cut turf goes right to the edge of the bunkers. There isn't any long, shaggy look around the

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Ducker

edges, which is sort of unusual."

Made-for-TV preparations: "We try to view all the holes from the camera settings. We tend not to worry so much about striping so much as improving the areas that don't come into play. For example, the area to the right of the 10th tee is totally out of play. But you can see it from the camera. So we've gone in and irrigated it, sodded it and put in a landscaped bed."

Ducker said he hopes the course will look more manicured this year. "Last year we had eight inches of rain during the tournament. The roughs got real shaggy because we simply couldn't mow them."

Hague

three feet tall by the tournament. On most holes, there will be no more than 20 yards of primary rough before you hit the real tall stuff."

Made-for-TV preparations: Hague has experience with TV and with ABC, which televised the Open at Hazeltine. "I'm very fortunate to be working with ABC again," Hague said. "We know where all the towers are going to be, so we can adjust for striping. But after they set up, I'll go up in each tower and take another look from every angle."

Every superintendent has his own theories on striping and Hague is no exception: "We try to stripe not necessarily with the flow of the hole. I feel it shows up better on TV and it's not as obtrusive to the players—at least, they've told me that. About four to five days before the tournament we'll burn the stripes in place."

Pierson

in charge."

Made-for-TV preparations: "Back in 1990 [when Cherry Hill hosted the U.S. Amateur], Mr. Boatwright [then USGA president, P.J.] said he wouldn't change a thing for the Senior Open. So we haven't. The nature of a golf course of this caliber is you do all that stuff for the members anyway. We double cut all year long and we get the greens to 10-1/2 for member events."

As part of the ongoing restoration process, Pierson has overseen reconstruction of every bridge on the property — all in rustic brick. Thirteen of the 18 holes at Cherry Hills have water features. However, Little Dry Creek has grown, creating an erosion problem in spots. In response, Pierson has instituted a rock stabilization program using a lined-boulder approach for "a more natural look."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Rutgers opens two-year turf school to applicants

New Brunswick, N.J. — Applications are being accepted for the two-year Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School. The course is presented in two 10-week sessions over two years and requires two seasons of supervised field experience where students apply skills developed in the classroom.

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The fall session will be held Oct. 4 to Dec. 10, and the winter session will be held Jan. 3 to March 11, 1994. Applications are due on Aug. 6 and Oct. 29, respectively.

To request a brochure and application or for more information, contact the Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903; telephone 908-932-9271.

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