

Show Time '93

Jemsek honored

"Mr. Chicago Golf," Joe Jemsek, was hailed at the Golf Course Builders Association of America banquet as a spokesman for golf and an example of outstanding sportsmanship, fair play, talent and skill.

Jemsek, who owns and operates eight public golf courses in Chicago, was given the GCBA's annual Donald Rossi Humanitarian Award.

"This is a very special honor for me. Don Rossi was a close friend," Jemsek said. "I respect his memory and will cherish this award."

Longtime friend and Ladies PGA Hall of Famer Patty Berg called Jemsek "a builder at heart — building better and better golf courses which are not only havens of lasting beauty but also great tests of skill; building better and better lives around him with his care and concern for his fellow man; building love and respect in all those who are fortunate enough to get to know him; and building a permanent place, not only in our hearts, but especially in the lasting history of golf."



Joe Jemsek, left, and Pete Dye share a laugh.

Golf course designer Pete Dye, on hand for the ceremonies, said Jemsek owns "more public golf courses in the Chicago area than anybody ever dreamed. But more than that, he has done more for the game of golf..."

Dye cited Jemsek's recent goodwill for golf course caddies.

A caddy master when he was young, Jemsek hosted the recent Western Open Championship at his Dubsdread course.

"The Western Open is the second-largest scholarship fund in the world," Dye said. "Mr. Jemsek gives his golf course to

the Western Golf Association for this championship so all the funds go to the caddies.

"This is a great way to reward these young men, and to put back in the game what he has taken out."

Frank Jemsek said his father "has always believed golfers recognize and deserve the things that make golf courses special..."

"He isn't afraid to dream and take a chance," Frank added.

"Joe," said Berg, "you are truly a spokesman for golf and a wonderful example of outstanding sportsmanship, fair play, talent and skill."

'Bobby' Jones suggests: Build bridges with foes

By MARK LESLIE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Warning against "violent knee-jerk reaction" against environmental activists, golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. asked superintendents to carry a message of conciliation.

Speaking here at the International Golf Course Conference and Show's annual U.S. Golf Association session, Jones said: "We are talking today about building bridges between those who love the game and those on the other side who don't truly understand or appreciate it."

Based in Palo Alto in the highly regulated state of California, Jones said: "Many of these well-intentioned people often see a golf as an elitist game enjoyed only by the wealthy. And they see it as a giant private club with privileges not being enjoyed by the populace. They see it as wasteful of land and water. They see it as a residue for toxic chemicals."

"There are obviously growing political and social misunderstandings here. And it is our mission to heal this void, bringing more true understanding to these detractors ... and to make them realize that all of us are true environmentalists."

Mentioning superintendents'

"absolute professionalism," Jones asked that they carry this message: "Golf may have been for the well-to-do but is now played by everyone. Take them [activists] to your local munis. Let them see the seniors play, the women, the juniors, the peewees, even the handicapped. Let them see the billions of recreational hours the game provides for some 30 million Americans and others around the world."

"Let them see your strict adherence to the tight regulations on chemical use... Show them how we follow the rules, how we often do better than what is regulated as standard practice."

Adding that those in the golf industry are "dedicated environmentalists and are getting better in what they do with each passing day," Jones said: "The environmental movement is here to stay and we are a part of it. We always have been... We desperately need more golf courses. Golf is the best answer to environmental problems."

USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow urged superintendents to speak out — at schools and to friends and social and business organizations — "not just as an individual under attack but as a service to society."

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