

Irwin practice facility

Continued from page 39

Card that shows the entire practice range, each tee station and target green locations. Greens are identified by different colored flags, allowing the golfer to easily match up the target green with the corresponding colored flag drawn on the *Yardage Card*.

Below each flag on the card is the exact distance from the middle of the tee box at that specific station to the target green. The pro shop staff informs golfers how far in back or in front of the center

line the stations are located that particular day. The golfer simply adds or subtracts that many yards from the posted distances to calculate the exact yardage to each target green.

The entire tee area is 24 yards wide, allowing turf about three weeks to recover before stations return to that particular location, Guenther said.

The 630 distances noted on the cards were obtained by using a laser, triangulation of points, and a spreadsheet program.

Guenther's method for determining distances reduced the number of measurements needed to just twice the number of targets. Irwin's Learning Center has nine targets meaning 18 laser-measured distances were needed.

"We used a laser, but that wasn't absolutely necessary. A marked rope would have worked just as well. And any practice facility is bound to have plenty of rope around," Guenther said.

The card is laminated to protect it from the elements and affixed to the bag stand at each station. Laminating costs were about \$1 per card.

Irwin is offering to produce the cards for any practice range or golf course nationwide. Site visits aren't necessary. Local staff can measure distances and forward them to Guenther, who inputs the information into the WordPerfect software and produces the *Yardage Cards* on an HP LaserJet printer.

"The cards are only as accurate as the information provided, though," Guenther cautioned.

The Hale Irwin Learning Center is the only facility using the cards thus far. Guenther said several course owners have approached him since the NGCOA

conference about reproducing the cards for their ranges.

While he has not determined a price, he expects it to be "fairly inexpensive."

While figures aren't available that would document the cards' effects on profits, Guenther points to the positive response from golfers and the early success of the St. Louis Learning Center as evidence that the cards help.

"The center opened in July 1992," he noted. "Two other ranges are within a mile and we have more than held our own against them. The cards have provided us with a competitive edge."

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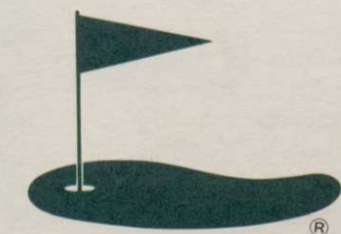
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Panel hopes to make golf more accessible to disabled players

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson University and Indiana University have taken the lead in formatting a national task force to make golf more accessible to the disabled.

The National Forum on Accessible Golf, a panel of disabled golfers and representatives of the golf industry, was established to identify major issues and concerns as they relate to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); explore and articulate specific solutions to these issues and concerns; and develop strategies and deadlines for addressing these issues.

"I think everyone involved is getting a fresh perspective from this group," said Dr. Larry Allen, head of Clemson's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Department, one of the organizers of the task force. "The golf industry representatives get an up-close look at the challenges faced by disabled golfers, while at the same time they are given the opportunity to share their concerns on the various issues."

The task force was formed at Myrtle Beach at the first meeting of the National Forum on Golf and the Americans with Disabilities Act, co-sponsored by Clemson and the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University. Disabled golfers from across the country met with representatives of major professional and amateur golf governing bodies.

One of the most prevalent messages of the four-day conference was that disabled golfers are not looking for golf courses built just for disabled individuals.

"Disabled golfers are most concerned with maintaining the integrity of the golf course," Allen said. "Nobody wants a flat, unchallenging golf course, Disabled golfers just want access."

The task force is compiling a report based on recommendations made during the meetings. The report will be sent to the Architecture and Transportation Barriers Compliance Review Board and the U.S. Department of Justice for review.

A second national forum, tentatively scheduled for late August, is also being organized.