

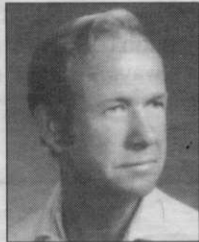
Tour of Duty

JAMES ARLIN GRANT
Innisbrook Hilton Resort
 Tarpon Springs, Fla.
JC Penney Classic
 Dec. 2-5, ABC/ESPN

James Grant is a 23-year veteran at Innisbrook, where the vice president of grounds maintenance oversees 63 holes, 1,000 acres and 140 employees.

He was involved with construction of The Island (1970), Sandpiper (1972) and Copperhead (1973) courses.

A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., he spent eight years at nearby Valley Brook Golf Course and a year at Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples, Fla., before coming to Innisbrook. Grant holds a two-year certificate in turf management from Mississippi State University.



J. Arlin Grant

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: This is the fourth year the Copperhead course will host the male/female team event.

The rolling hills and huge pine trees are reminiscent of western North Carolina and make the course more challenging to maintain than a typical western Florida layout, Grant said. Grant's biggest maintenance headache is mole crickets. The pesky insects eat up \$50,000 of insecticide and hundreds of man-hours each year.

Innisbrook fortunately was north of Hurricane Andrew, which devastated southern Florida last August.

But a no-name storm packing 80-mph winds toppled 70 large pine trees on March 13. Fortunately, most were well out of play and the damage won't be evident to television viewers, he said.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Grant said preparation for the Classic is fairly routine. Rough heights are raised to 2 inches.

Riding mowers are put aside and greens instead hand-mowed two or three times daily beginning six weeks before the tournament. Compactors are used to tap down traps.

encroaching on the desert. Golfers frequently enter the desert in search of errant shots. Ramirez' 20-man crew hand rakes and brushes those areas every two weeks to maintain a natural, windswept look.

Television cameras don't capture Big Horn's elevation change, 300 feet from its lowest to highest point. That elevation change makes cart paths the only way for maintenance vehicles to reach some points on the course.

It also slows maintenance work, forcing the maintenance crew to complete work on holes 1 through 8 before the first golfer normally begins play.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Because of possible scalping problems on the steep aprons leading up to some elevated greens, Ramirez will forsake the triplex mower in favor of Flymos and hand-held weed whackers for the three weeks prior to and during the tournament.

Of the four golfers in the Skins field, "John Daly is the one who scares me," Ramirez said. "It will be interesting to hear what he has to say. Some of his drives will be out of the fairway.

"At 275 yards there will be rocks that he'll have to drive by. We'll do some things to try to take the driver out of his hands."

BILL HAMILTON
Sherwood Country Club
 Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Franklin Funds Shark Shootout
 Nov. 18-21, CBS/ESPN

Bill Hamilton started his turf career caring for lawns, but not just any lawns. His first job after graduating with a four-year agronomy degree from Texas A & M University was maintaining the grounds at Jack Nicklaus' North Palm Beach, Fla., home. Hamilton later worked at several Golden Bear golf facilities and had a brief stint with Landmark Land Co. before arriving at Nicklaus-designed Sherwood three years ago.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Hockey star Wayne Gretzky. The Great One is among the many famous members of this exclusive private club and is likely to be among the gallery. Despite its near-desert location an hour north of Los Angeles, Sherwood Country Club is a cool-season turf layout. Bentgrass graces tees, greens and fairways with bluegrass inhabiting the rough. "It's tough to grow grass here when its 100 degrees with 95 percent humidity," Hamilton said one late September afternoon. Reclaimed water is used for irrigation and has caused some salt problems in the past. Additional vertidrainage and deep-tine aerification have improved conditions this year. "We've learned from our mistakes," Hamilton said. "November should be a perfect time for our cool-season turf."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: The deep-pocket make-up of Sherwood's membership allows Hamilton to keep the course in tournament condition the year round. About the only accommodation to the PGA Tour will be a higher cut in the rough. "But with the best ball/alternate-shot/scramble format, I don't expect them to be playing out of the rough too often," Hamilton said.

Envirotron lab opening Nov. 19

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Envirotron, the turfgrass research laboratory at the University of Florida, will be dedicated Nov. 19, beginning "a new era of scientific research for the Florida turf industry."

The dedication climaxes more than two years of construction of the facility which is expected to yield invaluable information on the relationship of turfgrass with biological, environmental and cultural factors, according to Florida Turfgrass Foundation Director Bob Yount. Primary goals will be study of the aspects of turfgrass culture and the impact of turfgrass on temperature modifications, noise abatements, pollution filtration and water purification.

The 31,000-square-foot field lab includes student housing to allow the university to recruit top turf scholars. The Dr. G.C. Horn Endowment will fund scholarships.

Envirotron has been funded by \$350,000 raised by the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation, and by moneys from the state of Florida Capital Facilities Trust, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and other private organizations, clubs and individuals.

HOMMOSASSA SPRINGS, Fla. — The inaugural Envirotron Golf Classic held at World Woods Golf Resort raised \$22,500 to benefit turf research.

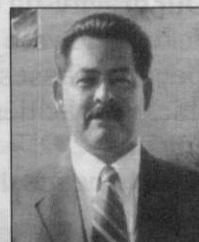
The Seven Rivers Chapter of Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, led by President Glen Oberlander, developed the tournament concept. Oberlander challenged members to put together the largest single-day event in the state of Florida, with proceeds generated to support the purchase of equipment needed for the Envirotron facility in Gainesville.

The World Woods Golf Resort owner, Mr. Inoue, donated the Pine Barrens course for the four-man scramble, which drew 196 players and grossed \$35,000. Major sponsors for the event also included LESCO and AG Resources/Helena Chemical.

Contributions for the Envirotron facility should be directed to FTGA at 302 S. Graham Avenue, Orlando, Fla. 32803. For more information, call 800-882-6721.

RUBEN RAMIREZ
Big Horn Golf Course
 LaQuinta, Calif.
Skins Game
 Nov. 27-28, ABC

Ruben Ramirez broke into the golf course construction business as an irrigation installer, eventually working his way up to foreman. Noticing the work was steadier, he decided to become a course superintendent and enrolled in The College of the Desert's two-year turf management program. Ramirez helped build several Palm Springs area layouts, including The Vintage Club and the three courses at LaQuinta Hotel Golf Course.



Ruben Ramirez

He arrived at Big Horn as construction superintendent in 1989 and later became head superintendent.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Big Horn includes 72 acres of turf and 46 acres of desert landscape. Ramirez installed drip irrigation in the desert portion. More expensive than conventional irrigation, a drip system saves water and minimizes weeding of grass

KOHLER engines

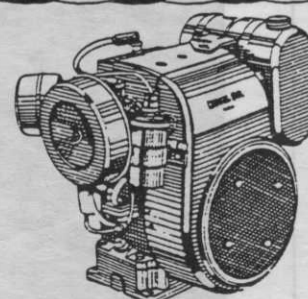
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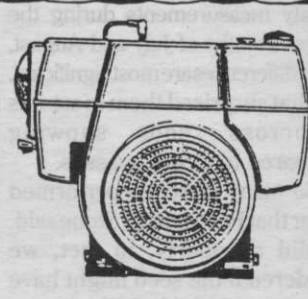


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