

## Tour of Duty

**SCOTT JOHNSON**  
**CC of the South**  
 Alpharetta, Ga.  
**PGA Senior Tour**  
**Nationwide Championship**  
 Sept. 20-26  
 ABC

Scott Johnson is gearing for his late-September Seniors event, but he is excited about next June. That is when this Senior Championship will be held next year, and it is "the ideal time of the year," said Johnson. This is Johnson's second Senior Championship in September and he said: "This is the worst time because you have the stress of the summer on your grass and you don't have time to recover because the cultural things

you'd do are counter-productive to providing the good surface for the pros. So you hang on as best you can, roll for the tourney and recover in October. June is ideal for bentgrass in this part of the country."



Scott Johnson

A 1981 graduate of Kansas State University's turfgrass management program, Johnson served Texas assistantships at Lake Country CC in Ft. Worth and Preston Trail GC in Dallas before landing the head superintendent posts at Hideaway Lake Club in Tyler (for 1-

1/2 years), then the 27-hole Trophy Club in 1985. He went to Willow Springs in Roswell, Ga., where he worked until early 1992, when he took over at CC of the South, a Jack Nicklaus design.

**THINGS TO LOOK**

**FOR:** Although the course sports 419 Bermudagrass on the tees, fairways and roughs, the greens are all bentgrass. Keep a sharp eye out for fans near 14 of those greens that are set down in valleys. The fans are needed to cool

and dry them off. Johnson's 29-person crew, which balloons to 44 for the tournament, has had a tough fight keeping the grass alive this summer. The course experienced 65 days with temperatures over 100, including 34 in a row of 90 degrees plus humidity of 60 to 70 percent. Three of the four little ponds between 10th tee and 18th green have been reshaped into one large pond. Also the 10th tee was doubled in size, toward the 18 green. Crews regraded the 7th hole (tournament's 16th) which had a severe slope to the fairway, raising the fairway 3-1/2

feet, and opened up the view of the dogleg right. An acre and a half was resodded in June. Grass growth has slowed so much this late in the year that, two weeks out from play, Johnson concentrates on rolling the fairways by turning off the reels on the mowers. The fairways were verticut the first week of August.

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** Two fertilizer applications — one extra with a little nitrogen and potassium and a lot of iron (about 6%) — were made just for the fairways to provide a contrast between fairway and rough. The second application was planned for Sept. 7. A bed of yellow mums with the tournament logo will spice up the area of the 18th green.

**DEAN BAKER**  
**Glen Abbey Golf Course**  
 Oakville, Ontario  
**Canadian Open**  
 Sept. 9-12  
 CTV, ESPN

Dean Baker, 31, has spent nearly half his life tending the links at Glen Abbey. Having spent 14 years there, he is a veteran of 10 Canadian Opens — the last five as head superintendent. While other supers struggle to prepare for a major tournament now and again, the 1985 alumnus of the University of Guelph said: "The Open has become somewhat of a routine. The same people are involved every year. It almost runs itself automatically. That's the key. Every year you have the same [high] expectations. But if you've done it every year it's easier to reach those expectations."

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**

A public course that plays 35,000 to 40,000 rounds per year, Glen Abbey is normally cut at 1-1/2 inches in the roughs and 9/64ths of an inch on the greens. A month before the Open, Baker's crews let the roughs grow to four to six inches and start cutting the greens shorter by 1/64 of an inch per week until they are at 6/64ths. The greens will Stimp from 10-1/2 to 11, Baker said. Three days out from the Open, the course is closed to prepare traps, bunker faces and other spots. During the Open, groundskeepers single cut in the morning and at night and roll daily in the evenings.

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:**

Glen Abbey was Jack Nicklaus' first design on his own after Muirfield Village, and it was designed as a championship course, so the mounding is sufficient to handle spectators. Striping and other aesthetics for the cameras? "The aesthetics of striping was a fad that I think has come and gone," Baker said. "We just look for consistency, for proper cutting heights on all fairways and greens. That's the key that all players look at."

**DONALD ECKHART**  
**Oakwood Country Club**  
 Coal Valley, Ill.  
**Hardee's Golf Classic**  
 Sept. 16-19  
 ESPN

It has been "a long day every day, seven days a week" for Don Eckhart, who for the first time ever has had to fight "too much moisture for a year." The 1965 Iowa State University graduate said: "It seems like the ground's been saturated for 12 months. We had so much rain, it froze and we had ice damage last winter. It smothered a lot of grass. Once it got back, we lost it again because of drainage problems." The superintendent at Oakwood since 1969, Eckhart has prepared the course for the Hardee's Golf Classic since 1975.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**

Where else will you see C7 bentgrass — an old-style apple-green cultivar, on putting greens? The upright and broad-leafed characteristic of C7, in fact, is one of Eckhart's major troubles in

preparing his course for the tournament. Because of its stature, it is difficult to obtain the high speeds the PGA desires for championship play.

"We try to get the Stimp meter to 9.5 or 10 but may cut down to 110/1000ths of an inch," Eckhart said, adding that his low-maintenance budget has just now provided rollers. A Pete Dye design, Oakwood boasts some highly undulated, small greens. Eckhart's crews have been reshaping sand traps into collection-type bunkers, but it's been so wet they couldn't finish the project the 90 days in advance that the PGA desires.

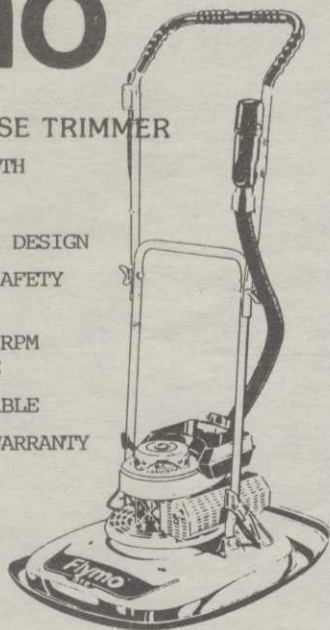
**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:**

Eckhart said he is in continuous preparation for the tourney. "It's always in the future — always in the back of your mind." Mowing crews hold the stripes so they stand out more for the cameras. Other than that, the only extra provision for aesthetics is added shrubbery that spells out "Hardee."

# Flymo®

**GCT 20 GOLF COURSE TRIMMER**

- \* 20 INCH CUTTING WIDTH
- \* WEIGHT 34 LBS
- \* NEW REINFORCED DECK DESIGN
- \* PATENTED & PROVEN SAFETY CUTTING SYSTEM
- \* 98cc/2 STROKE/4200 RPM POWERFUL JLO ENGINE
- \* COMPLETELY REBUILDABLE
- \* 1 YEAR COMMERCIAL WARRANTY (ENGINE ONLY)



**PRECISION**  
**SMALL ENGINE CO.**  
 POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA  
 (305) 974-1960 OR 1-800-345-1960  
**REPS WANTED**

CIRCLE #133

## A Masterful Stroke Of Weed Control Genius.



The Andersons has created a masterpiece of a mini-granular weed control and fertilizer combination product.

GALLERY® combined with our Tee Time® fertilizer, controls 44 weeds in turf and ornamentals while feeding — all in one application.

**Ask about our:** 18-3-12 fertilizer with .38% GALLERY Herbicide and 50% NUTRALENE for pre-emergence spring or fall application.

Create your own golf course masterpiece. Find out more today.

**The Andersons Tee Time Products.**  
**Uniformly The Best In The Business.**

**1-800-225-ANDY**  
**the professional's partner®**



©1993, The Andersons. ©GALLERY is a registered trademark of DowElanco  
 ©NUTRALENE is a registered trademark of NOR-AM Chemical Co.

CIRCLE #109