

# Tour of Duty

## FRANK KYNCOR

**PGA National**  
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.  
**PGA Seniors Championship**  
April 14-17, NBC & USA

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Frank Kyncor has spent his entire superintendent's career in the state of Florida. After graduating from Michigan State's turf program in 1986, he worked at Jacaranda West Country Club in Venice. He then accepted the head superintendent's job at Innisbrook's Copperhead Course, where he played host to the J.C. Penney Classic. From there he moved to St. Andrew's in Boca Raton, before accepting responsibility for PGA National's five golf courses. He had been on the job for exactly nine days when we called in early March.



Frank Kyncor

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

Though new on the job, Kyncor said tournament preparation in Florida boils down to one thing:

"Basically, the major challenge at any Florida club during this time of year is trying to balance the transition from over-seeding.

"We over-seeded with Cobra bent and, at the moment, all the greens are doing well.

"But to hone them in for the tournament itself, we have to be extremely aware of the rain and colder temperatures. You have to try and forecast what Mother Nature will do — and you're not always right."

## MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:

"We're triplexing fairways and hand-mowing tees. We're burning in all the mow lines [four to six weeks prior to the tournament] to achieve a striping effect. We're also hand-mowing all the approaches to burn smaller lines to contrast with the triplex lines.

"The special bed work and annual work are already out there. We'll just spruce them up."

**MARK ESODA**  
**Atlanta Country Club**  
Marietta, Ga.  
**Bellsouth Classic**  
May 5-8, CBS

This will be the fifth PGA Tour event Mark Esoda has hosted since arriving at Atlanta Country Club in January 1990 — a far cry from crewing summers at Stone Harbor Golf Club on the Jersey Shore, where he grew up. Has the Bellsouth become old hat? "No, it's never the same," he said. "The weather is the big problem. It's so hard for Bermudagrass to get up this time of year. It's always a crap shoot."

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** There have been so many changes at Atlanta CC over the past 12, it nearly qualifies as a new venue:

"We regraded a bank on the right side of 13 green," Esoda explained. "The 14th tee has been expanded. And the 15th tee has been expanded and landscaped with a lot of nice rock work."

The 16th tee offers the most dramatic changes, especially the rock work by Esoda and his crew, who also quadrupled the tee size there. "It was so small, they couldn't get four days of tee placements on it," he said.

"Also, on the back of 16 green, there was a very penal hollow — but we raised it a foot

and made it two separate hollows, to improve drainage. We should get some positive comments from players on that."

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** "We don't have enough grass to be doing any striping," laughed Esoda. "Our mowing patterns have to be set the fall prior or we won't have any definition at all. We don't have much to begin with, so what little we have we try to keep."

He also admitted to a little cheating: "We do about an acre and a half of painting, which I defy anyone to find. We paint only where we need to — for TV reasons."

## DAVID GARDNER

**Eagle's Landing Golf Club**  
Stockbridge, Ga.  
**Atlanta Women's Championship**  
April 15-17, No TV

David Gardner was born and raised in Mansfield, Pa., exactly 100 miles from State College. Can you guess where he went to college? Yes, Gardner graduated from Penn State in 1986 and took an assistant's job at Port Armour GC in Greensboro, Ga. His first head job was Golden Eagle Golf Club in Tallahassee, Fla.

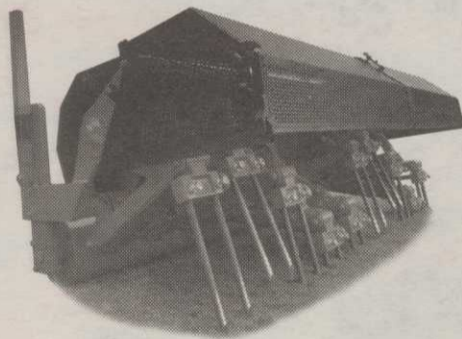
When the owner opened Eagle's Landing in 1990, Gardner assumed responsibility for both courses. He continued this double duty until a few months ago, when the owner finally sold the Florida track: "Thank God," said Gardner. This will be his third Atlanta Women's Championship, and TV rights have yet to be secured.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** "At this time of year, it couldn't be easier for us," Gardner explained.

"The golf course is still trying to come out of dormancy and there really isn't much going on — no height of cuts to establish or anything like that. We just try to get the greens to consistent speeds and get the bunkers consistent."

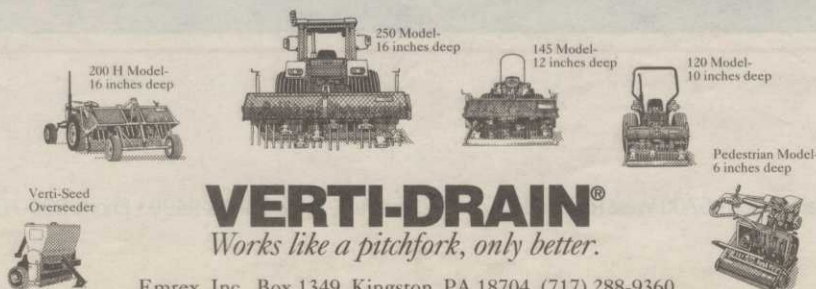
**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** With broadcast coverage undecided until mid-March, Gardner wasn't worried so much about cosmetics. Besides, he spent two years interning at Augusta National, where "the look" was paramount.

"When we had TV the first year [at Eagle's Landing], we did a little landscaping around the leader board and clubhouse — bringing in potted plants and mulching around them; paying special attention to divots, making sure they're filled. But nothing special. Striping looks great on TV but it doesn't affect playability. And you need a degree in geometry to go out there and make it look right."



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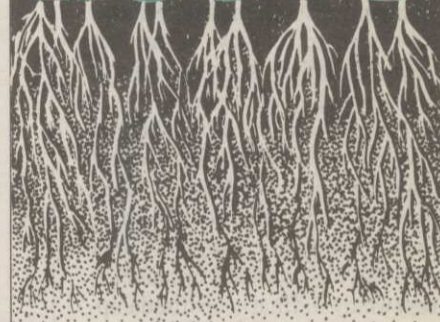
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