

GILBERTO VELAZQUEZ
 White Eagle Golf Club
 Naperville, Ill.
LPGA Chicago Challenge
 Aug. 18-21, CBS' WBBM

When is more than enough too much? Ask White Eagle Golf Club superintendent Gil Velazquez. He not only has to prepare his Arnold Palmer-designed 18-hole track for the Chicago Challenge. He has to prepare it to become 27 holes — all at the same time. Indeed, the day after the Challenge ends, Velazquez' crews will start seeding the third nine. Construction has been un-

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JEFF BRANDT
 Park Meadows GC
 Park City, Utah
PGA Senior Tour
Franklin Quest
 Aug. 25-28, CBS affiliate KSL

It's curious how growing up working on a golf course sets the path for a person's career. That is so with Jeff Brandt. Now 41, he was 11 when he started working on the driving range at Meadow Brook Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah.

Brandt later worked in the pro shop, then got drafted into the military, returned to study business at the University of Utah, and — in 1986 — returned to the world of golf. He worked at Copper Golf Club in Magna, Utah, three years — one year as assistant superintendent and two as head superintendent. Five years ago, he joined Park Meadows. Last year was Brandt's first preparation for a major tournament. How does the second time around com-

pare? "I've been able to sleep nights this year," he replied.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: The biggest complaint from players last year was inconsistent greenside bunkers. Even before the 1993 event Brandt began remedying that. Now, all 56 of them have been renovated, the old sand removed and replaced with a different type. (The 49 fairway bunkers on the 11-year-old Jack Nicklaus-

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ROBERT RANDQUIST
 Southern Hills CC
 Tulsa, Okla.
PGA Championship
 Aug. 11-14, TBS/CBS

"Multi-talented" might not adequately describe Bob Randquist.

Here is a man who holds a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Oklahoma (circa 1972).



A man who turned down law school to work on golf courses. A man who has earned status as a certified golf course superintendent. Randquist, 43, followed posts as assistant superintendent at Trosper Park Golf Club, a public course in Oklahoma City, for four years and at Oklahoma City G&CC for two years by taking the head superintendent position at Quail Creek G&CC in Oklahoma City for two years before coming to Southern Hills in late 1979. He has prepared Southern Hills for the 1982 PGA Championship and the 1987 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. Is Randquist concerned about the PGA Championship? Not at all. "We had a very easy winter and are in great shape," he said.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Randquist adds 10 people to his staff for tournament preparation two months ahead of time — primarily because "bunker maintenance becomes much more intense," he said. "We are checking depth on a much more regular basis. We run the sand fairly shallow for the championship at 2-1/2 inches. To keep that consistent, we have to monitor it closely. Players on Tour like it thin so the ball won't plug and they get great lies."

Crews water greens by hand in the evenings for a week and a half before the tournament for two reasons: to keep the sand completely dry in the bunkers, and to make sure no wet spots develop in the approach areas around the greens. "If we had the sprinklers on where they overcovered a spot, we might have an area that is soft and we really try to avoid that," Randquist said.

Southern Hills is heavily forested, and in last five years "we've done a lot of tree-trimming to lift canopies up and allow more sunlight and air movement," he said.

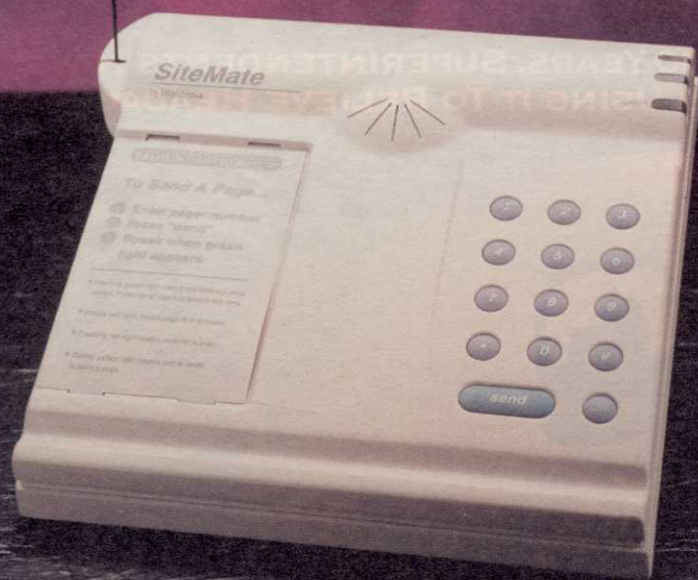
Par has been changed on two holes for fairness. In past championships No. 13 has been played as a par-4 at 470 yards. But the little 3,000-square-foot green, heavily bunkered and fronted by a pond, is built for a par-5. This year, at 537 yards, it is being played as "a real good gambling par-5," Randquist said. Also, the 465-yard 16th, which has been a par-5, is now a par-4.

For the championship the Bermudagrass roughs are being lengthened from 1-1/2 to 3 inches.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Trees are trimmed to allow camera and broadcasting towers to be in the proper places.

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Tour of Duty

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Velazquez

derway this summer under the watchful eye of Palmer Design President Ed Seay and the Bruce Co. of Wisconsin.

A native of Arandasjal, Mexico, the 43-year-old Velazquez moved with his family to Aurora, Ill., when he was 16. He started working on an area golf course and "worked my way up," he said.

He worked at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville for 22 years — 10 as an assistant and 12 as head superintendent, studying turf and ornamentals at Joliet College from 1980-86. In 1990 he was hired to take charge of course maintenance at the newly constructed White Eagle.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: "We try to keep the course 100 percent all the time," Velazquez said. "We do not close even for a day" before the tournament.

This is White Eagle's third straight Chicago Challenge, and Velazquez' crews maintain the same height of cut for the LPGA players as for the club's 300 members: 1/8 inch on greens; 3/8 inch on tees, 1/2 inch on fairways, and 1 inch in the rough.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: For the television eye, Velazquez puts down one application of nitrogen about a month before the Challenge. And a couple of weeks out, his mowing crews begin burning in straight tee-to-green striping. White Eagle boasts bentgrass from tee to green. Roughs are a mix of bluegrass, ryegrass and fescues.

Brandt

designed course needed no work.) Brandt's crews started handraking the greenside bunkers in early August.

Park Meadows switches nines during the Franklin Quest. "It's good for the gallery, set up on a hill and with room for grandstands," Brandt said.

Park Meadows can play as long as 7,450 yards, though the seniors will play at 7,000. Since the course sits 6,900 feet above sea level, it will play closer to 6,300 yards for the seniors.

Brandt has greatly lowered the height of cut on the bluegrass fairways — from 11/16 to 3/8. He has maintained the normal 4.8-sixteenths cut on the bentgrass greens.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Crews fertilize roughs and fairways about three weeks before the tournament, then hit greens and tees with iron one week out. Right-to-left striping is burned into the fairways.

ON THE MOVE

Rickert moves on to N.J. facility

MEDFORD, N.J. — **Bruce Rickert** has left the City of Brotherly Love for this community, where he is head superintendent at Medford Village Country Club. He had been superintendent at Torredale-Frankford Country Club, and before that was assistant superintendent at Huntington Valley Country Club.

ROME, Ga. — **Jimmy Geter** has left The Farm Golf Club in

Rocky Face here to grow in the new Stonebridge Golf Club here.

Timothy Kennelly has taken over Geter's superintendent's post at The Farm. The former superintendent at the Naval Academy Golf Club in Annapolis, Md., Kennelly has worked at Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh and Inverness Golf Club in Toledo.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. —

Oneil "Mac" Crouch has left Augusta (Ga.) Country Club and joined the Old Town Club here.

Greg Burleson has accepted Crouch at Augusta Country Club.

FORTVALLEY, Ga. — **Michael Allen** is the new superintendent at Pine Needles Country Club.

GWINETTE, Ga. — **David Evans** has left Country Club of Gwinette to take charge of Apalachee Farms. Jeff Plotts has succeeded Evans.

ELBERTON, Ga. — Elberton Country Club has hired **Howard**

"**Bubba**" McDonald as superintendent. McDonald just graduated from Horry-Georgetown Community College in Conway, S.C.

LAKE PARK, Ga. — Stone Creek superintendent **Dave Foster** has left the Valdosta golf course to assume the superintendent's job at Francis Lake Golf Club here.

ALBANY, Ga. — **Chuck Dougherty** has accepted the position of construction superintendent at Grand Bay Golf Club here. He was superintendent at Valdosta Country Club.

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