

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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