

'A wonderful resource,' Envirotron lab opens

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation, in company with the University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agriculture Science, officially christened its long-awaited Envirotron here on Nov. 19, 1993. More than 200 people attended the dedication to celebrate the opening of the \$700,000 one-of-a-kind turfgrass research facility.

University President John Lombardi started the dedication with true optimism, stating the

Envirotron is "a wonderful resource." The 3,100-square-foot, state-of-the-art research field laboratory is designed to study and develop new technology on the relationship of turfgrass with all biological, environmental and cultural factors affecting turf. The state of Florida now has one of the best teaching and extension facilities for turfgrass research in the country and the state's first Environmental Research Unit. Lombardi recognized all who had first hand taken part to make the

Envirotron a reality.

Guest speaker Steve Melnyk, president of Riverside Golf Group and an ABC Sports golf analyst, delivered the dedication address. Melnyk, a Gator alumni, spoke highly of the opportunities the Envirotron holds for researching the environment, stating "turfgrass is literally nature's sponge." He backed the turf industry and the professors who study turf, saying, "We hope to fight the misconception" that it harms the environment; and "one



University of Florida President John V. Lombardi addresses the crowd at the Envirotron dedication.

golf course produces enough oxygen for a city of 10,000 people."

Following the speeches, the Envirotron facility was open for a tour. The facility includes a research lab, growth chambers, environmentally controlled greenhouses and a soils lab. The Envirotron's most distinctive feature is the rhizotron, a hoist system that lifts 24 individual glass-walled research plots out of the ground so researchers can get a better look at root systems.

It is also equipped with student housing which will allow recruitment of top turf scholars, and scholarships will be provided through the Dr. G.C. Horn Endowment.

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Top 10 list for success

By TERRY BUCHEN

1. Golfers can see everything that we do. This is very rewarding.
2. Use your powers of observation. Do not let anything get past you.
3. Anticipate what the golfers want at your course. Give them playing conditions better than what they want.



4. Use your gut feeling first. Usually your natural reactions are the correct ones.
5. Never assume anything. Check every area of your responsibility, eliminating any "guess" work.
6. Use common sense. Ninety percent of anything is usually common sense-related.
7. Be a good listener. As much as we all try to be one step ahead of the golfing public, we still must listen to everyone we encounter.
8. Never get too over-confident. Yesterday's great conditioned golf course can change in a matter of hours.
9. We have the most responsibility at our golf course but we do not always get the proper credit that we deserve. Be easy to get along with while still acting professional; communicate with your golfers "out on the course" as much as practical; ask golfers how the course is playing today as they will appreciate wanting their opinion.
10. Play golf once a week. If possible, play with a different group of players each week; walking the course taking notes is the next best thing to playing; walking the course in reverse order is quite revealing for further note taking.