

Fla. sports mogul plans golf facility

PALM BEACH, Fla. — "Wayne's World" seems somewhat out of geographical sync, but Palm Beach County Sports Commission Executive Director Pam Gerig is impressed by video king H. Wayne Huizenga's plans for a giant South Florida sports, business and entertainment complex.

James J. Blosser, assistant to Blockbuster Entertainment Corp. chairman Huizenga, unveiled an artist's rendering of the 2,500-acre sports-based complex earmarked for Broward and Dade counties.

The complex would embrace a champion-

ship golf course and such attractions as baseball, movie studio, hockey, business park and water and arena sports.

"Wayne's World" will cause visitors to spend more time and money in South Florida, some of that in Palm Beach County, said consultant Bernie Budd.

Gerig agreed, "though we would have loved to have seen the complex move further north."

While concrete benefits for Palm Beach County were hazy, listeners liked the ring of "20,000 jobs created."

Calif. planners see room for drivers, bugs

MODESTO, Calif. — Move over, once-threatened snail darter and spotted owl.

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle will co-exist, if on a somewhat reduced scale, with players at a planned nine-hole addition to Del Rio Golf and Country Club.

The Stanislaus County Planning Commission has approved development of the course designed to nurture both golf bug and the pencil eraser-sized bug, which has a three-month life cycle in the bark of the elderberry bush. Del Rio will plant 6,000 elder-

berry bushes and 12,000 other native plants.

Next step is to obtain federal approval for the course, planned as a blend of dense, chaotic, riverside habitat pocketed with manicured fairways and greens.

One environmentalist questioned the vagueness of the promised protections for the beetles. Another termed the decision "another victory for a non-threatened species, the two-legged, yellow-bellied golfer."

To which a member of that species cried, "Fore!"

Getting to "be like Mike" in Chicago

CHICAGO — Former basketball star Michael Jordan, who soared high for the Chicago Bulls, wants to bring the game of golf down to earth and within financial reach of the common man.

His latest business venture is intended to make "high-quality golf" more affordable. The Michael Jordan Golf Co. is seeking a local site to build a center that would include 80-tee practice ranges — grass and artificial — with bunkers, water hazards and target greens in the landing area.

While the center wouldn't skimp on luxury or professionalism, Jordan said he would make the fees cheaper than those on the average course, and would provide, with the aid of corporate sponsorships, grants and scholarships to help the underprivileged gain access to his facility.

The first center will be built next year and will open in 1995.

Said Jordan: "A lot of people feel that golf is restricted to rich people. They don't understand golf. I've grown to love it and benefit from it as a person. Golf teaches discipline, patience and determination."

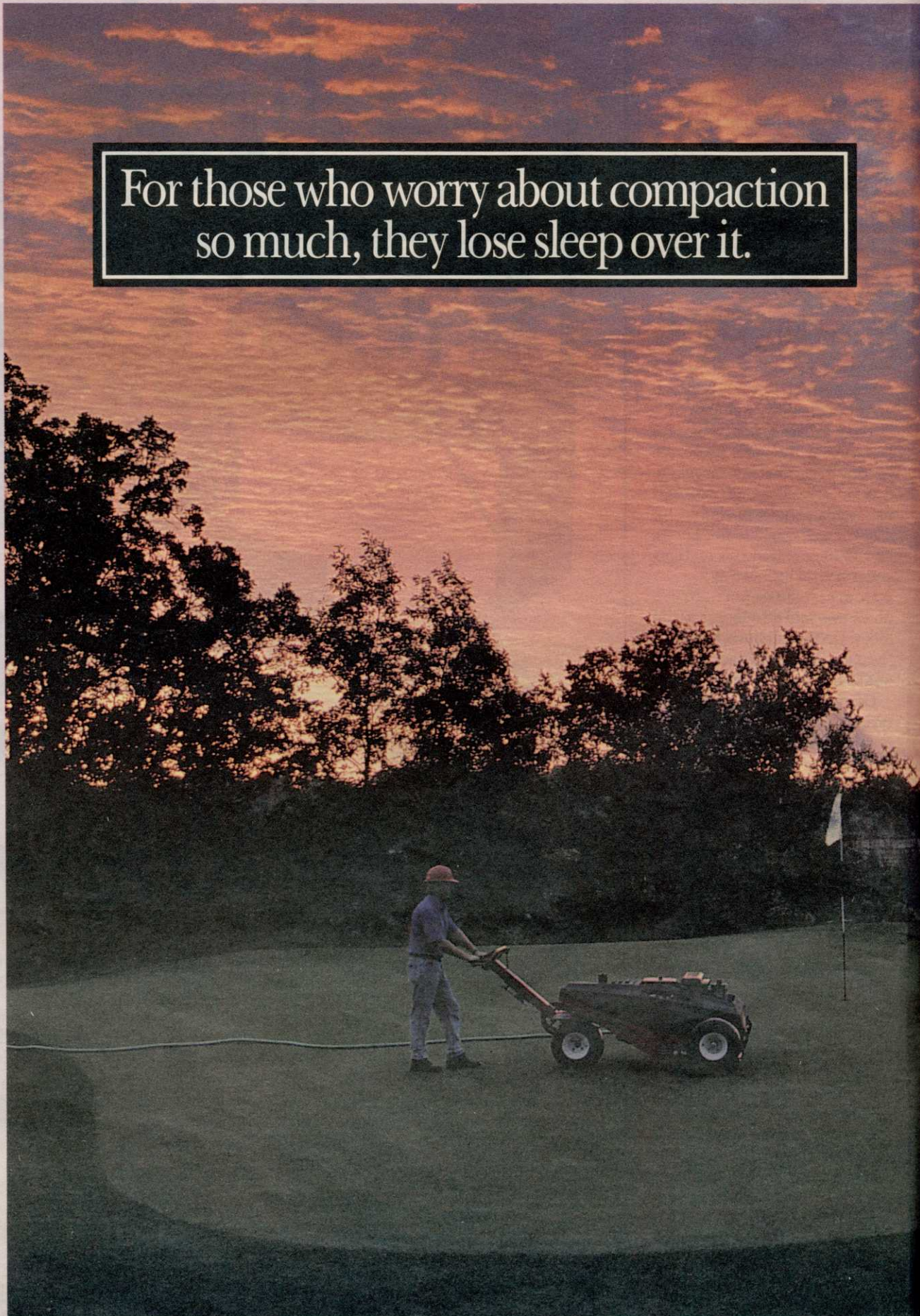
Ore. antelope and golf may not mix

BEND, Ore. — Mike Maier's vision of an 18-hole municipal course north of Bend may have run afoul of an antelope range.

Maier has been working on the project three years. Neither Maier nor the golf course developer were aware that, last year, county planners designated the proposed course site part of an antelope range in new wildlife zones.

County planners didn't think the range would sabotage the project, but Steve George, a biologist for Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife, said, "If you make one exception, you're going to have to make a bunch of others."

About 250 head of antelope were observed on the site last winter, George said. "We were concerned about development creeping north," he added. "Golf courses are not a good use within a wildlife area."



For those who worry about compaction so much, they lose sleep over it.