

Tour of Duty

SCOTT KROUT
Desert Mountain
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Senior PGA's The Tradition
March 31-April 3, ESPN

Scott Krout, 30 was born to be a superintendent. Krout's father was head superintendent for many years at Range End Country Club in Dillsville, Pa. Scott began working for his father at age 16, part-time during the school year and full-time summers. A bachelor's degree in business management from East Stroudsburg State University and a two-year turfgrass management degree from Rutgers University prepared him for the assistant superintendent post he held at Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg, Pa., from 1988-90. Desert Mountain hired Krout as assistant superintendent of the Cochise and Geronimo layouts in late 1990. He was promoted to head superintendent in April 1992 and can take much of the credit for last year's GCN award as the Best Conditioned Course on the Senior Tour.

Things to look for: Hopefully drier weather. A record rainfall fell on Desert Mountain the month before last year's tournament, 10 inches during the month of January alone.

Since many of the normally dry washes come into play, Krout's crew performed extensive drainage work to get the course ready for last year's tourney. It rained Monday and Tuesday of tourney week, but fortunately cleared just in time for play to begin. This year's tournament will be played over the Cochise layout.

"It's a Nicklaus course and not very easy to maintain," Krout said. "There's heavy mounding and undulating greens that are difficult to keep evenly watered."

Made-for-TV preparations: The Bermudagrass tees and fairways have been overseeded with ryegrass. They will receive a shot of iron to green them up for the cameras, Krout said.

The bentgrass greens will be cut at 1/8-inch and should roll on the Stimpmeter at 10 to 10.5, up from 9.5 of a year ago.

DAVID HICKS
English Turn Golf & Country Club
New Orleans
Freeport-McMoran Classic
March 31-April 3, NBC

English Turn has been David Hicks' home since he graduated from Texas A & M University with an agronomy degree in 1987. The 30-year-old superintendent, who also holds a bachelors degree in business from North Texas State University, was assistant superintendent from 1987-90 before moving up to head man 3-1/2 years ago.

Hicks was well prepared for the post since he was on board during grow-in at English Turn, which opened in November 1988. The Freeport-McMoran, formerly the USF&G Classic, was first held in 1989.



David Hicks

Things to look for: The course has been overseeded wall-to-wall with ryegrass. The only exception is a 20-foot-wide natural area bordering a lagoon that surrounds much of the course.

Originally intended to reduce maintenance, the natural area provides an interesting contrast to the manicured fairways and is one of the layout's most distinctive features, Hicks said.

English Turn is wide and long, playing over 7,000 yards from the back tees. Frequent winds have dried the greens, making them difficult to hold in recent years, Hicks noted.

To soften them up, the grounds crew has performed more-frequent HydroJect aerification treatments and introduced wetting agents in recent months. Heavier watering during the tourney should help make them even more receptive, the superintendent said.

Made-for-TV preparations: Pros have complained about fairway mowing patterns leading directly to and away from tees affecting driving distance, Hicks said.

To minimize that effect, Hicks plans to mow fairways diagonally, resulting in a 45-degree striping pattern.

Hicks will introduce more iron and nitrogen to his fertigation system to green up the turf. Greens will be double-cut mornings and single-cut evenings during the tournament.

JUAN LOPEZ
Randolph Park North Golf Course
Tucson, Ariz.
LPGA's Ping/Welch's Championship
March 10-13, No TV

Born in Phoenix and raised in Tucson, Lopez, 50, has spent half his life with the Tucson Recreation Department. He began mowing greens 25 years ago, working his way through the system as an equipment operator, assistant superintendent, course superintendent and finally the head man in charge of the city's five courses — Randolph Park North and South, Del Rio Golf Course, Fred Enke Golf Course and Silver Bell Golf Course.

Things to look for: Randolph Park is planted in common Bermudagrass. That results in stress areas during the hot, parched summer months. This time of year, however, the course is overseeded with ryegrass and should be quite attractive, Lopez said. The bugs have pretty much been worked out of a new Rainbird Maxi irrigation system installed last September, he added. A sand trap in the middle of the 11th fairway and a pond/puddle in front of the 2nd green have been removed. Approximately 100 square feet of putting surface has been added to the 9th green, which will serve as the final hole for the tournament.

Lopez added spectator mounding behind the 4th green. The 6th hole has been rebuilt over the past two years and the finished product will be ready in time for this year's event. A fairly flat layout, what the course lacks in contour it makes up in length.

Made-for-TV preparations: The tournament has not been televised since the mid-1980s, Lopez said. "I would prefer to have it on television, but there isn't much I can do about it," he said.

Aside from not having to contend with laying television cables, the lack of TV coverage will not alter his preparations. Greens will be double-cut evenings and single-cut mornings at 1/8-inch to as low as 3/32-inch to get the desired 9 on the Stimpmeter. Tees will be top dressed prior to the tourney.

Senseman leaves Columbia-Edgewater for Green Section

PORTLAND, Ore. — Bob Senseman, superintendent at Columbia-Edgewater Country Club here since 1989 and president of the Oregon superintendents association, will replace the U.S. Golf Association's (USGA) James E. Connolly in the Northeast.



Bob Senseman

Connolly, the USGA agronomist in New England since 1988, has joined Jacklin Golf in Post Falls, Idaho, as senior technical agronomist. (see related story, page 59.)

Senseman has extensive experience in course construction, and installed many irrigation systems at leading courses.

In his course superintendent capacity, Senseman has hosted several LPGA tournaments.

AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER

BEAUTIFUL SOLUTION NUMBER 6.

- Interchangeable Nozzles
- 120 Volt Underwater Lighting
- Patented, High-Efficiency Stainless Steel Propeller Diffuser System
- Industry's First and Only 3 Year Motor Warranty
- No Seal or Internal Maintenance for 3 Years Guaranteed
- 1/2 to 10 HP Stainless Steel Housing with the Most Energy Efficient Motor Available
- Underwater Cable Disconnect

UL LISTED

BEAUTY BENEATH THE SURFACE

Aqua Master is the industry's only manufacturer of UL LISTED aerating fountain pump systems. Take a closer look at our beautiful solution to your water quality problems.

Superior Aquatic Management Systems

16024 CTH X, Kiel, WI 53042
PH. 414 693-3121 FAX 414 693-3245

Crown & Geyser - 2 HP

Standard High Volume Flow (HVF) - 1 HP

Plume - 5 HP

AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER AQUA MASTER