

# PGA Tour honors Myers for top-conditioned TPC track — Summerlin

By MARK LESLIE

The story of an Indiana farm boy who made good has continued for Gary Myers. The superintendent at TPC of Summerlin until March, Myers was presented the PGA Tour's annual Tournament Players Clubs Golf Course Maintenance Operations of the Year Award for 1993.

TPC Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations Cal Roth presented Myers the award, citing excellence in course conditioning

for the members and the Las Vegas Invitational; personnel training; safety; budget and equipment management; and innovation in operational improvements for the TPC of Summerlin and the TPC Network.

"Because Gary has done such an outstanding job at Summerlin, he has been promoted to the TPC of Scottsdale," Roth announced.

Myers compared the challenges presented by his jobs at Summerlin and Scottsdale.

Summerlin, he said, was "a great design [Bobby Weed and Fuzzy Zoeller], built by quality contractors and with no shortcuts taken. It was the most-finished TPC course to open, and our challenge was to maintain it at the level of expectation everybody had at that time. We did."

At the 36-hole TPC of Scottsdale, Myers faces 110,000 rounds a year, including a number by many PGA Senior Tour golfers who call it home.

"It's a challenge in itself to maintain quality turf conditions under that enormous amount of play," he said. "But we also have to be aware that the touring seniors spend a lot of time playing here and it takes extra special care because of that."

TPC of Scottsdale hosts the Phoenix Open in January. But that's nothing new for Myers. During his term as superintendent at Desert Inn Country Club in Las Vegas from 1982-90, he prepped

the course for 17 or 18 PGA, LPGA and Senior PGA tournaments. Regular PGA and LPGA Tour events were hosted two weeks apart. Only two other courses host even two major PGA tournaments.

Myers, who studied engineering at Purdue University, graduated in 1978 from the winter school at the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School. He also worked from 1979-82 at Country Club of Green Valley south of Tucson.

## Winter kill causes major problems

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coming season.

Keith Happ, USGA agronomist with the Mid-Atlantic Region, illustrated that the winter damage is widespread across the region. They all discussed how superintendents should proceed to repair damaged areas.

Some of the clubs hardest hit by winter injury will not be opening until "well into May," said superintendent Thomas L. Grimaldi of Tavistock Country Club, who spearheaded efforts to organize the meeting.

The Green Section experts outlined several turfgrass recovery procedures, saying superintendents should:

- Restrict traffic as long as possible on renovated and overseeded winter-damaged areas.
- Apply a starter fertilizer to the seed bed, achieve good soil-to-seed contact and use heavier seeding rates for the most rapid recovery.
- Overseed on damaged greens.
- Delay pre-emergent applications.
- Lightly cultivate the surface through spiking, shallow aeration and, possibly, careful slicing.

"Covering the seed with geotextile fabrics could aid germination, and primed seed will germinate better than traditional seed at lower soil temperatures," the Green Section said.

They also said perennial ryegrass should recover rapidly and well after overseeding.

The meeting was videotaped, and an edited edition is available at cost. Copies are available from Judy Policastro at 201-379-1100.

### DEAD AIR FINDINGS IMMINENT

Preliminary results from the Georgia Turfgrass Foundation's flagship project — the dead air syndrome research green — should be forthcoming in mid-summer. Overall project coordination has been the responsibility of Jim Dusch and Ken Mangum, who have donated routine maintenance of the green. However, donations of cash and materials are still needed for this \$90,000 project. For further information, contact Douglas Moody at 404-975-4123.

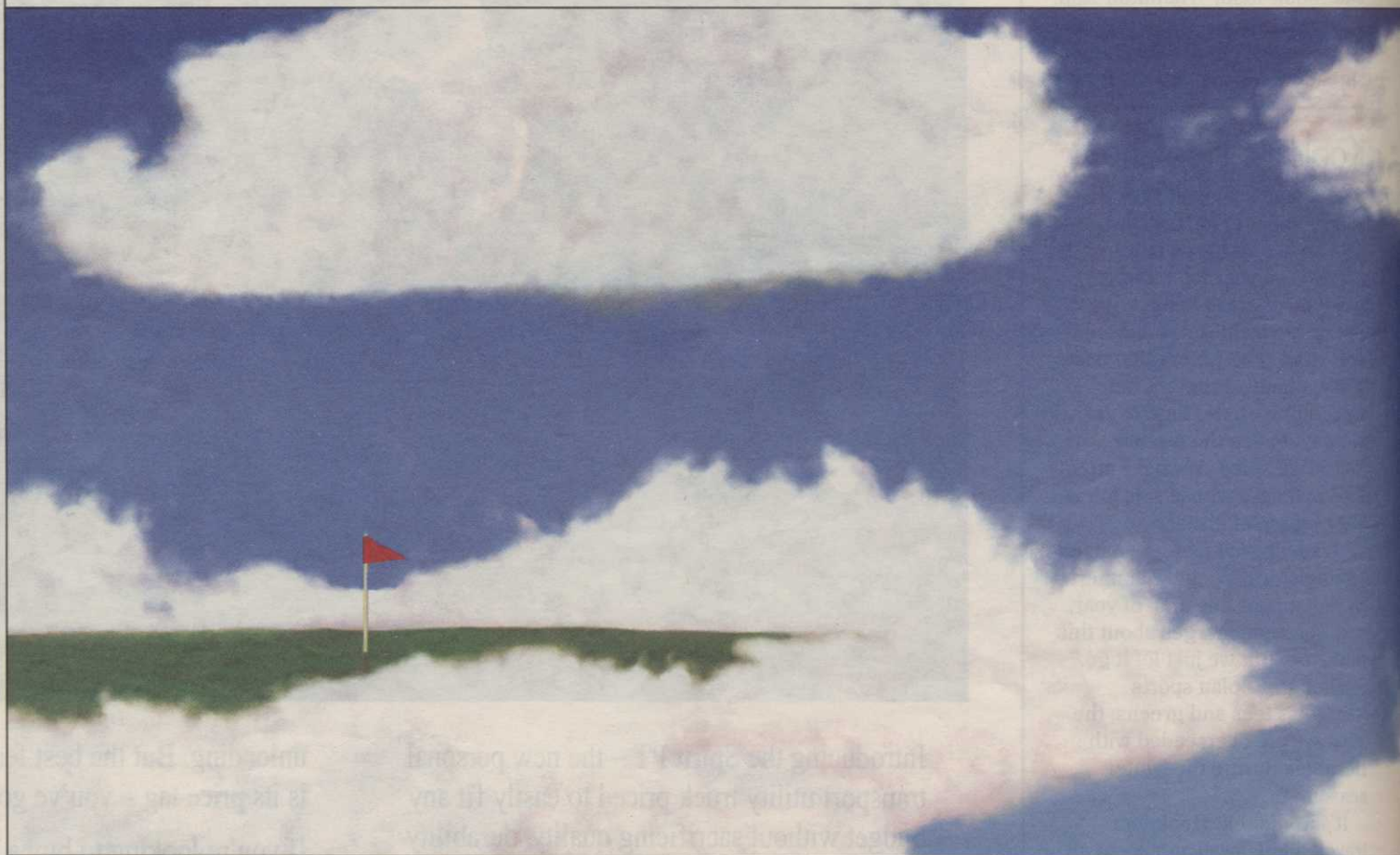
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