

Tour of Duty

MIKE McBRIDE
Muirfield Village Golf Course
Dublin, Ohio
Memorial Tournament
May 19-22, ABC

"We've either had an unusually wet and cold spring, or we've been spoiled by good weather the last four or five years," said Mike McBride, who will have a crew of people on Frost Patrol from early May until after the Memorial to prevent frost from killing the thousands of annuals planted for this event. "Annuals are not hardy. We try to keep the air temperature around them warm enough with irrigation," he said.

McBride has worked at Muirfield Village since its construction, at which time he was a political science major at Bowling Green State University. Deciding against politics, he completed Rutgers University's two-year turf management program, then returned to the grounds crew in Dublin, earning a promotion to superintendent in July 1985.

McBride said a lot of time, energy and funds were devoted the last year to a major, 16,000-square-foot clubhouse expansion and "a lot of landscaping around it."

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: "Last fall we restored the greens on 10 through

18," McBride said. "That completes our greens restoration project started three years ago." The Penncross bentgrass greens were stripped, resodded with washed sod, and returned to their original contours, with "minor modifications to create some more pinning on the greens."

Ever seen a golf course quad-cut? If all goes well, McBride's crews will double-cut the greens in the morning and again at night during the tournament, so they will Stimp over 11.

"We set up a fertilizer program so our growth will be at zero by the time the tournament comes around," he said. "You don't want a flush of growth around tournament time."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Television won't pick a lot of the work grounds crews have done, McBride said. They planted more than 200 ornamental trees, including dogwoods, Easter redbuds and Hawthorns that bloom in mid-May to June to "add a splash of color." Another 24,000 to 25,000 annuals were also planted, necessitating the Frost Patrol.



Mike McBride

MELVIN WILLIAMS
Stonebriar Country Club
Frisco, Texas
JC Penney/LPGA Skins Game
May 28-29, ABC

Melvin Williams, 51, graduated from Texas Tech in Lubbock in 1966 and has been a superintendent for 26 years. He has been involved in building and growing in six golf courses. Among his posts have been stints at Los Rios and Village country clubs in Dallas, and Farr Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club in San Antonio. He joined Stonebriar during construction seven years ago. He enjoys showing it off to the likes of this year's Skins Game competitors — Nancy Lopez, Betsy King, Patty Sheehan and Brandy Burton — as well as a pro-am tournament group of 25 that will include Bonny Blair, Kathleen Sullivan, Kathy Whitworth, Ray Knight and Sandra Haynie.

"This is the easiest week of the year: four players, nine holes each day," said Williams. "It's a lot of fun and really exciting."

It's also absolutely the best time of the year for us. In the fall — if it's a tough summer — the bentgrass greens are a problem."

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: "I think we've been able to do a good job of keeping poa annua out," Williams said. Since the course was built, he has kept poa in check with

pre-emergent treatment — to the point only one green has poa annua and that one just two to three percent.

Meanwhile, Stonebriar and other courses have "a phenomenon called spring dead spot and no one knows why it's there or how to cure it," he said. It looks like brown patch — a one-foot-diameter circles in Bermuda-grass. Since Bermuda-grass grows so quickly, Williams hopes there will be few dead spots by show time, May 28-29.

Like other area upper-end clubs, Stonebriar has wall-to-wall Bermudagrass (Tifway 419) except for bentgrass greens (Penncross), which he has overseeded with Dominant. "It's a struggle to keep the bent alive after mid-July, he said. That's when some crew members spend hours daily hand-watering dry spots.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: TV coverage elsewhere may cover a few holes. For the Skins Game, the camera's eye is on every hole. "Our entire golf course has to be groomed," Williams said. "We have to groom nine holes each day for TV. But I have a big enough crew (20) so we can get ahead of play, rake bunkers, etc."

Because Bermudagrass doesn't stripe as well as cool-season grasses, Williams will apply nitrogen "to get it growing enough to see the striping pattern."



Melvin Williams



WITH
CUTRINE-PLUS and AQUASHADE
A WINNING COMBINATION FOR
CONTROL and MAINTENANCE of ALGAE
and AQUATIC WEED PROBLEMS.

CUTRINE-PLUS
ALGAECIDE/HERBICIDE

**PATENTED
AND
EPA REGISTERED**

AQUASHADE
AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH CONTROL

The Turf Professional Choices for Algae Control
■ **QUICK RESULTS**

Cutrine-Plus Kills Algae From Top to Bottom Within Days

■ **MAINTENANCE CONTROL**

With Regular Applications of Aquashade

■ Controls All Forms of Algae-Filamentous, Planktonic and Chara.

■ Effective in All Types of Water Qualities.

■ Concentrated-Economical Low Dosage Rates.



**People and Products
Dedicated to Algae Control and
Aquatic Plant Management.**

Available From Your Quality Distributors

Call 1-800-558-5106

applied biochemists inc

6120 W. Douglas Ave. ■ Milwaukee, WI 53218

STEWART RICHARDS
TPC AT PIPER GLEN

Charlotte, N.C.

Senior PGA Tour PaineWebber

Invitational

May 12-15, ESPN

Stewart Richards is not only one of the nation's more-educated superintendents, he has more tournament preparation experience than most. The owner of a degree in accounting from the University of South Carolina (in 1979) and of the two-year turfgrass program at Penn State, Richards has prepared courses for eight Tour events. The assistant superintendent at Kenwood Country Club in Washington, D.C., until graduating from Penn State in 1988, he joined TPC at Avenel in Potomac, Md., as superintendent. In 1990 he moved to South Wind, then in 1992 to Piper Glen.

"We try to have the course in the best shape year-round for the members," Richards said.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Opened in 1987, Piper Glen is one of few courses that sport Myer zoysiagrass fairways and tees.

"We try to have it in the best condition because it's one of few with it that they do play," Richards said. "It's great. Players love it. I don't know why more courses don't use it."

"We've been green a month and clubs around here are just starting to green up. The ball will stand up on zoysia more. Usually the player who picks a ball will have an advantage."

Crews are cutting the zoysia to 7/16 inch in the fairways and 3/8 inch on tees.

Tall fescue is grown around the greens, slopes and bunkers, while the rest of the rough is Bermudagrass. "The fescue will look its best in May," Richards said. "We're in the transition zone. When Bermuda is dormant the fescue is great; and in the hot summer when the fescue is not so good the Bermuda is."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "Zoysia loves iron," Richards said. "It brings out the color. So, starting in early March, we start feeding it more iron than nitrogen."

Also, crews will "burn" in stripes left to right on the Arnold Palmer-designed track to highlight the zoysia.

AMERICA'S PREMIUM
HEAT-TREATED
TOP-DRESSINGS

PARTAC
GOLF COURSE
TOP-DRESSING



PLUS CONSTRUCTION,
CART PATH, SAND TRAP, AND
DIVOT REPAIR MIXES

TYPAR

GEOTEXTILES & TURF BLANKETS

Terra-Green
USA MADE, NOT IMPORTED

SOIL CONDITIONER
IMPROVES AERATION AND DRAINAGE
BETTER THAN SAND
YET RETAINS NUTRIENTS & MOISTURE!

PARTAC
GREEN SAND
FOR DIVOT REPAIRS

The Ultimate Solution to Unsightly
Divots at Televised Golf Tournaments
and other Sports Events!

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE
800-247-2326

IN N.J. 908-637-4191
PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION
KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, N.J. 07838
ORLANDO (FL) MEMPHIS (TN) RENO (NV)

HIGHLIGHT GOLF HOLES,
IMPROVE VISIBILITY,
and SPEED UP PLAY with

**U.S. GOLF HOLE
TARGETS™**



GREENGRAPHICS® GREEN
PERMANENT TURF COLORANT
SAND TRAP PUMPS
RAKES, PLUG PUSHERS, SQUEEGEES
AND MANY MORE
GOLF SPECIALTY PRODUCTS