

Tour of Duty

DAVID BERGSTROM
PGA West/Nicklaus
Resort Course
La Quinta, Calif.
Diners Club Matches
Dec. 8-11, ESPN/ABC

David Bergstrom has been a fixture at PGA West for the past seven years. The 29-year-old did an internship on the Stadium Course in 1987 while working on his two-year turf degree at Michigan State University. With diploma in hand, he returned in the spring of 1988 as a maintenance foreman on the same layout.

Over the next few years, he advanced to assistant superintendent and then head superintendent of the Palmer Course, superintendent of the Private Nicklaus Course, and as of April to head superintendent of both the Nicklaus Resort and Stadium layouts. "I've worked at all four PGA West courses now," Bergstrom said. "Each one is unique. It doesn't seem like I've been in the same place for seven years."

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

The Nicklaus Resort layout has the golfer-turned-architect's characteristic plateaued fairways, according to Bergstrom.

The tournament pits two-person teams from the LPGA, PGA and Senior PGA Tours against each other. "It will be interesting to see how the tees are set up for the players on each of the tours," Bergstrom said.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "There's really not much we've had to do except move a couple of trees that would have been in the way of the television cameras," the head superintendent said. The course has hosted other televised events, so things like the best tower and trailer locations have already been determined.

The course closed from Oct. 12-28 for routine maintenance. "Well scalp everything right down and then overseed it," Bergstrom said.

Core clean-up

Continued from previous page the bucket. So you can have a tremendous amount of weight in the bucket and it won't affect the flotation of the unit. There is no scalping."

They recommended that the operator wear a mask because of heavy dust, and added that the machine needs a new air filter daily as well as frequent oil changes.

...

Eisele feels the process will allow him to improve his subsoil.

"Eventually, we want to start top dressing the fairways to get a better layer of topsoil."

STEVE SORRELL
Colleton River Plantation
Hilton Head Island, S.C.
Wendy's Three Tour
Challenge
Dec. 24-25, ESPN/ABC

Steve Sorrell, 34, was a struggling golfer on the Florida mini-tour when he chanced to meet Tom Alex, head superintendent at Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando. "I'd considered becoming a superintendent," Sorrell said. "But I got serious about it after seeing what Tom was doing. He was an

inspiration." Sorrell put away his clubs and worked on the Grand Cypress grounds crew for a year. He enrolled at Penn State, received a two-year turf management degree and returned to Orlando, where he eventually became Alex's assistant. Nearby MetroWest Country Club handed him the head superintendent's reins in 1989. A year and a half ago, Colleton River made him head superintendent of the coastal South Carolina course.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

The one-day tournament was filmed in early October and will be replayed on television over

Christmas. The Bermudagrass fairways were overseeded with rye and the greens with poa trivialis three weeks before the event. "They should stripe better," Sorrell said. "But it's a challenge to get it ready in time for the tournament. If we can maintain 60 to 70 percent of the overseeded grass, we'll be doing well." Colleton River is considered one of Jack Nicklaus' most playable layouts, with small but fairly flat greens nestled between flowing sand dunes. "It's one of the prettiest courses I've ever seen," Sorrell said.

MADE-FOR-TV PRE-

PARATIONS: The one-day, 18-hole tournament features three-player teams from the PGA, Senior PGA and LPGA tours in a sort of battle of the sexes and generations. The players change clothes after nine holes so that when the event is televised on Dec. 24 and 25, it looks like they took a day off in between. Sorrell spreads a little extra fertilizer a few weeks before the event to green things up for the cameras. Crews removed 150 trees this summer and have been busily cleaning up unsold house lots surrounding the course to help residential sales.

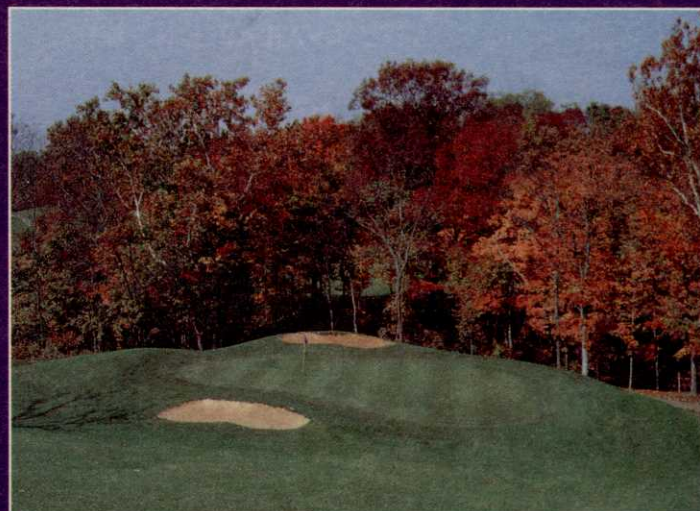
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