

## N.Y. firm enters high-tech golf market

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—A new company, Pegasus Environmental Ltd., is flying high in its technological venture to keep golf courses greener.

Founder-owner Zeke Hurd works with scientists at Rochester Institute of Technology and Cornell University to develop technology to interpret infrared photos of "stressed" grass and vegetation.

Hurd is undertaking a pilot project at Oak Hill Country

Club to prove the technology. He plans 400 flyovers of 100 golf courses the first year. He said Pegasus provides a better and more complete picture of what areas are stressed by pests and environmental programs than can be obtained by walking around at ground level.

Hurd said course managers can use the information to reduce annual chemical bills from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

## Both sides reach agreement on Kiawah remedy

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The federal Resolution Trust Corp., which owns Kiawah Ocean Course, site of the 1991 Ryder Cup matches, has reached virtual agreement with two regulatory agencies seeking a remedy of course wetlands damage dating back to 1990.

Restoring portions of the course to natural vegetation is the main thrust. Cost of buying 140 acres of land and paying an "administrative assessment" may top \$500,000.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, a division of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, devised the wetlands plan.

The RTC frowns on such plan aspects as turning a large portion of a sand hazard in front of the green on the fourth hole into vegetation, altering a portion of the 10th hole and creating 2.8 acres of wetlands.

A \$27 million sale to the Audubon Society of New York — backed by a partnership of the Kiawah resort owner and its major developer — collapsed last summer.

## Nicklaus to design Tenn. park courses

JACKSON, Tenn. — Four state parks in Tennessee are ticketed for golf courses, two with the Jack Nicklaus architectural stamp.

The Tennessee state legislature has given bond authorization for construction. Chickasaw, just west of Henderson, could be in play in two years. Next is Natchez Trace, near Carroll.

Golf Services Group/Whitley Developmental Group will form Tennessee Golf Inc. to operate the four courses.

The group is putting up a \$2 million letter of credit.

Nicklaus Design of North Palm Beach, Fla., will design the courses to be built by Wadsworth Golf Construction.

## Study finds courses are safe for golfers

BELLE GLADE, Fla. — Pesticide use on golf courses poses little danger to golfers, according to University of Florida researchers who teamed with the United States Golf Association and 10 other universities in a \$2.7 million, USGA-funded environmental study to determine the mobility, persistence and dislodgeability of pesticides.

Their conclusion? "Really minimal based on what we've seen so far," the report states.

UF soil scientist George

Snyder and UF turfgrass scientist John Cisar conducted their studies on a USGA-spec green. One phase of their work determined the amount of pesticide residue left on used golf shoes, golf pants and golf balls.

The scientists walked on the pesticide-treated turf, knelt with their pants touching the grass as if they were lining up shots, and even putted balls. They also measured what amounts of pesticides remained in the soil and in runoff groundwater.

"We concluded that most of the organo-phosphate insecticides that are sprayed on the green are strongly absorbed into the golf courses' thick thatch layer, which is the dead and dying organic matter on top of the soil surface and just below the grass," Snyder said. "Even less of the pesticide penetrated into the soil, and very little seeped into the percolated water."

The USGA has spent \$8 million the past 12 years to fund 46 projects at 28 universities.

