

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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### THE TEAM APPROACH

At Francisco Grande Resort & Golf Club in Casa Grande, Ariz., superintendent Juan Rascon (right) and head pro Kent Chase work together to shore up the bottom line. See this month's Public Arena, page 54.

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### SIGN O' THE TIMES

## GCSAA actively pursues public-access members

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — To keep pace with changing demographics in the industry, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is poised to more actively include superintendents at public-access golf facilities.

The GCSAA's newly formed Public Golf Resource Group met in October to discuss ways the association could reach out more effectively to superintendents at daily-fee and municipal golf courses, according to Chief Operating Officer Joe O'Brien.

"We talked about better providing services to our members in the public sector and attracting new members from it," said O'Brien. "The numbers speak for themselves."

Two-thirds of the nation's golf facilities are public access: daily-fee, municipal and resort. The percentage is climbing higher: From 1990 through 1993, 80

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## Noise laws drown out bottom line

By PETER BLAIS

SOMERS POINT, N.J. — Rounds are down, overtime pay is up and the prospect of spending thousands of dollars on new equipment is looming at Greate Bay Country Club, all because of the town's noise ordinance here.

Up the coast at Greenwich (Conn.) Country Club, the grounds crew spent many days and lots of money creating a berm to muffle noise from its power equipment to try to keep ahead of the noise laws the suburban New York community is considering.

Farther south, Lochmere Country Club's revenues dropped the past two summers when it was forced to hold golfers off

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## GOLF COURSE



EXPO  
ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 11-12, 1994

A NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE FOR OWNERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, MANAGERS, AND DEVELOPERS OF PUBLIC-ACCESS GOLF FACILITIES

Sponsored by: GOLF COURSE NEWS  
Conference co-sponsored with: NGF NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION

## Allied golf associations back Expo

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Hailing public-access golf as the fuel driving golf development and the game's key component, leaders in the industry have high expectations for Golf Course Expo.

The Expo, to be held at Orange County Convention Center here Nov. 11-12, is the only national trade show and conference targeting superintendents, managers and developers of public-access facilities. The U.S. Golf Association Green Section has helped develop the education

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### MIRROR, MIRROR...

Who's the fastest growing management company of them all? A strong argument could be made for KSL Recreation, which owns and manages La Quinta Hotel and Resort, seen above. Sixteen months ago, KSL owned nothing. But after purchasing LaQuinta and other high-profile resorts, then acquiring The Fairways Group, KSL has established itself as a player in the ever-growing club management market. See page 43.

## Experts decry inconsistent root-zone mixes

By MARK LESLIE

The contractor building a Texas sports field rejects the root-zone materials delivered for construction. The material is then trucked to a nearby golf course under construction, where it is accepted.

This incident, experts say, points to a problem infecting golf course construction: Sand and root-zone mixes shipped to project sites differ — sometimes wildly — from samples approved in soil laboratories.

"It happens all the time," said Dr. Norm Hummel of Cornell University, who spent a sabbatical year in 1992-93 checking the status of the nation's soil testing for the

U.S. Golf Association. "In most cases, it's not intentional. But I'm sure there are situations where some maliciousness is involved."

"This is a tremendous problem," agreed Glen Watkins, president of Root Zone Mix in Muleshoe, Texas, who does quality-control work on sports field and golf course construction. "It can be a total nightmare to go on a job and check the sand and, lo and behold, it's entirely different than what it is supposed to be."

In the wake of court cases over failure of golf greens, course builders and soil

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