

N.H. course to test artificial greens

LEBANON, N.H. — A new nine-hole par-3 course at Fore-U Golf Center will be watched closely by golf industry observers from around the country.

The reason? The course will have artificial surface putting greens.

U.S. Indoor Golf Inc.'s Tour True Turf Technologies developed the synthetic greens at Fore-U's par-3 course. The Tour True greens consist of a synthetic turf packed with an artificial aggregate fill that allows them to realistically mimic a bentgrass surface.

Mark Johnson, a professional golfer from Lebanon who developed the Fore-U center with his father, said the synthetic greens appealed to them for two reasons. One, the course is near a river and the synthetic greens will greatly reduce the chemical use on the course and thereby almost eliminate any negative environmental impact. Secondly, the greens will be as playable in early March as they are in the middle of July, which is a bonus for a golf course in northern New England.

Johnson said he and his father

have been keeping an eye on synthetic greens for the past 7 or 8 years. He said it's only in the last two or three years that synthetic greens have become good enough to be realistic for the course they wanted to open.

Tour True President Irving Bookspan said the synthetic green will never replace greens on PGA championship courses, but it would be perfect for heavily used public courses, municipal courses and 18-hole executive courses where there's a lot of traffic.

W. Va. golf instructor finally gets to build dream track

RIPLEY, W. Va. — Longtime instructor and former golf school owner Keith Marks Sr. has partially realized his dream of creating an idyllic golfing retreat in his native West Virginia.

Marks, 60, has opened nine holes of a public 18-hole course called Sycamore Creek. He has taught golf worldwide and once owned a golf school in Hilton Head, S.C., before returning to West Virginia in 1993. His original plan was to build a golf instruction center and three practice holes in Jackson County.

But as he began to shape the fairways and greens on the land, Marks decided the pasto-

ral setting was perfect for an 18-hole layout.

Marks teamed with longtime friends and businessmen Marshall Hanno of Columbus, Ohio, and Tom Wynne of Washington, D.C.

Sycamore Creek opened nine holes in June. Plans call for work to begin next summer on another nine holes, with the entire course ready for play by spring or summer 1998.

Jason Griffith, formerly of Woodridge Plantation golf club in Mineral Wells, is superintendent.

Marks plans to sell lots along the course to persons willing to build log homes. He also wants to build a 24-room lodge.

As you know, success on a green calls for a balanced stance. Quiet concentration. Unerring accuracy. And a true roll.

Cupp completes Tenn. remodel

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — Private Oak Ridge County Club reopened last month after a 13-month, \$2.1 million facelift with more tee areas, larger greens and a renamed grounds staff.

Architect Robert Cupp redesigned the 49-year-old course, which was originally laid out by the club's charter members, none of whom were professional course designers. None of the original holes were moved completely, but substantial changes were made to every hole.

Oak Ridge president Hughie Thomas said the club considers the revised layout a new course. Cupp essentially plowed everything under and started over, although the holes followed similar layouts.

The redesign increased the course length from 6,263 to 6,836 yards from the back tees. Each hole now has four separate, rectangular tee areas. The redesign also enlarged the greens. Before the redesign, the course had less than 80,000 square feet of green space. The new layout features around 110,000 square feet of putting surface, including a large practice green.

Fairways were sprigged with a combination of zoysia and Bermudagrass. The rough is completely fescue. A new computerized irrigation system was added.

Oak Ridge's Golf Course Supervisor Guy Hudson and his 16-person staff are now known, officially anyway, as the Turf Care Crew. Their home, the former maintenance building, is now the Turf Care Center.

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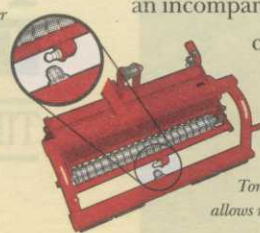
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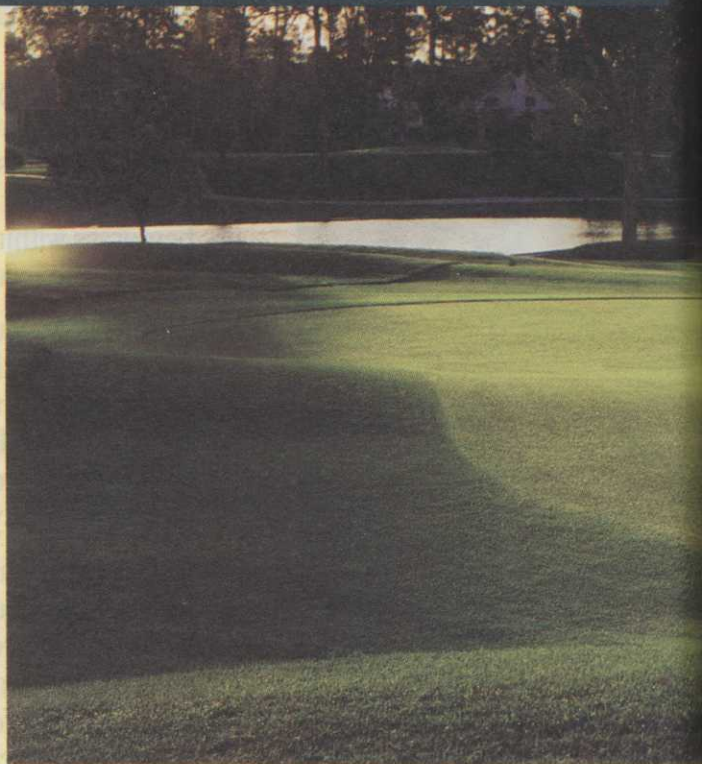
Greensmaster 3200's remarkably quiet performance is music to the ears of neighbors, golfers and operators.



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Both mowers feature fully floating reels and independent baskets. And the 3200 also offers a single point connection. All ensuring a consistent height of cut. In addition, the 3200 has an all new cutting system. New reels, bedknives, rollers, suspension, everything it takes to give your greens

an incomparably superb quality of cut. Cleanly consistent with few stray clips. Plus a true roll.