

## Tuscaloosa next stop on Robert Trent Jones Trail?

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Tuscaloosa County is still under consideration to be a link in the noted Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, a string of 18 courses across the state designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and open to the public.

David Bronner, chief of the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) which funds construction of the courses, said the key question will be whether 500 acres of public or private land can be found on which to build a course. The RSA is also reportedly considering lo-

cations between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, in Shelby County, and a location near Montgomery as sites to build three or four more Robert Trent Jones, Sr., courses.

The Robert Trent Jones Trail is the largest integrated golf course construction project in the world and has been a strong tourist draw for golfers to Alabama. The trail features 54-hole facilities in Birmingham, Mobile, Huntsville and Auburn and 36-hole facilities in Calhoun County, Greenville and Dothan.

## Atlanta developers issue cautionary tale

By PETER BLAIS

SYDNEY, Australia — Anyone who thinks the 2000 Olympics here will be a boon for course operators and developers better think again, according to those who survived the recently completed Atlanta Summer Games.

"Golf was a minimal part of the Olympics for those visiting Atlanta," said Mike Waldron, executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association. "Those who hoped people would come in and spend



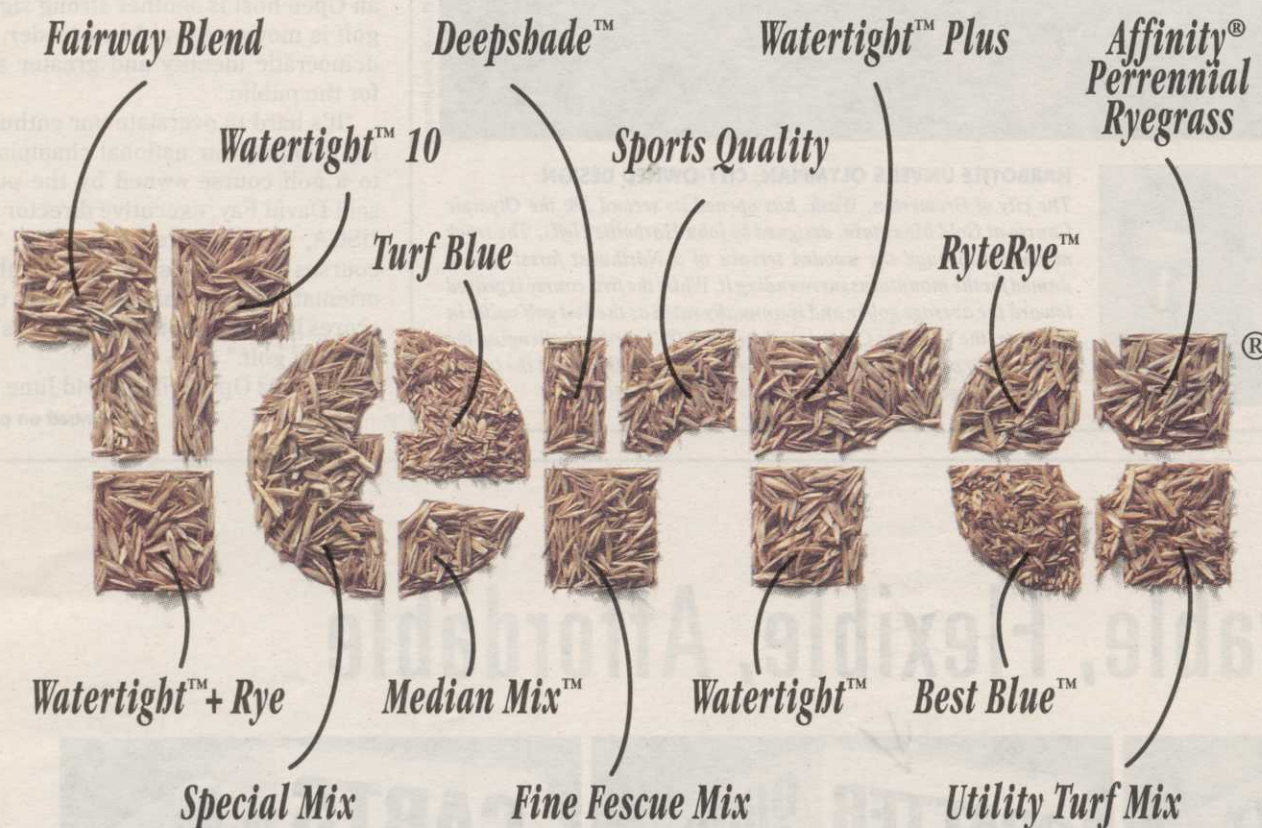
big bucks to play golf or buy memberships and homes around golf facilities quickly found out that it just wasn't going to happen.

"Two to three years before the Games, private clubs were talking about renting out their facilities to large corporations for \$100,000 a day and using the money for things like paying down their debt, putting a new roof on the clubhouse or rebuilding parts of the course. But what really happened was that visitors came in for three to four days at a time, spent all their time at the Games and never played golf. The private clubs that decided to stay open seven days a week during the Games found out it wasn't worth it. No one rented their club for the day. Even those that relaxed their public-play policies found they didn't have to."

Public courses also suffered during the Olympics. "Public play was down 30 percent during the Games," said Georgia PGA Executive Director John Bryan. "People came to the Olympics to watch the Olympics, not play golf. Say you had tickets for a 9 a.m. event. You had to catch a bus at 7 a.m. to be in your seat at the venue by 8:30. The event was over at 1 p.m., which meant you were back at the hotel around 3 p.m. If fatigue wasn't going to keep you off the golf course at that point, then the lack of daylight was."

The increased play at local courses that accompanied football's Super Bowl and baseball's World Series — both of which Atlanta hosted in recent years — fueled much of the golf industry's optimism sur-

Continued on page 35



# The Word Is Spreading.

The word from Terra® is seed. With 15 different in-depth research, agronomic expertise, and blends, we've got you covered on golf course quick delivery. Terra's high-quality seed and fairways, roughs, non-play areas, lawns, excellent selection of turf care products landscapes, sports fields, parks, rights-of-way and commercial areas. The best of make Terra the one-stop shopping place for your turf needs.

hearty, attractive bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fescue varieties—scientifically blended to provide top performance. Every one is backed by

Talk to your Terra Professional Products representative today.



Terra International, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6000  
Sioux City, Iowa 51102  
1-800-831-1002

Affinity is a registered trademark of Lebanon.

## 'Rebirth' of Miami muni set for Dec. 15

MIAMI — The old, worn-out municipal Melreese Golf Course is on its way to becoming the new and vastly improved Melreese Golf Course.

Melreese, which opened in 1962 and was considered one of the best public courses in the country for many years, is undergoing a \$3.1 million makeover and is scheduled to reopen Dec. 15. Another \$800,000 is going to a new clubhouse and other improvements.

The City of Miami, which owns the course, funded the project with money borrowed from the state. The loan will be paid back over 17 years by the management team in place, Bunkers of Miami Joint Venture, of which longtime Melreese golf professional Charlie DeLuca is the managing partner.

The revamped Melreese course will be a par-71 measuring 7,100 yards from the back tees.

DeLuca, who has been at the course since 1972, said the new greens fees at Melreese will be comparable to other top public courses in Dade County like The Links at Key Biscayne, the Golf Club of Miami and Biltmore, which are all around \$35 in peak season.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## ASGCA goes on line with 'great golf holes' series

A number of questions have plagued man over the years. But now, there is an answer to perhaps the most exasperating of all: What makes a golf hole great?

Golf enthusiasts can see what the experts think are the best holes in golf and why, when Architect's Corner arrives at the American Society of Golf Course Architects' (ASGCA) website.



The new series is at <http://www.golfdesign.org>, and will feature each ASGCA member's favorite hole with a personal description and photo or illustration.

Architect's Corner will allow visitors to see what considerations architects face in their designs.

Golf enthusiasts will be able to learn from

each architect's expertise and vision of the behind-the-scenes planning and processes linking a hole from tee to green.

"This is a great way for our members to explain the subtle details that really separate a good hole from a great one," said Denis Griffiths, ASGCA president. "It will teach more golfers about course design and hopefully help them further appreciate this wonderful game."

## Olympic moderation

Continued from page 4  
rounding the Olympics.

"That was different, though," Bryan noted. "People started showing up on Thursday for the Super Bowl and the game wasn't until Sunday night. That gave visitors all day Thursday, Friday, Saturday and most of Sunday to play. People usually showed up a couple days before the World Series and got out on the course then or during the day before a night game. With the Olympics, people came in the day before the events they wanted to see and then left as soon as those events were over. That didn't leave time for golf."

Hoping to cash in on the 19-day Olympic window, several developers with projects nearing completion talked about working overtime to open prior to the Games. A harsh winter made that impossible for most developers, said course architect Mike Young.

But a Young client, Heritage Club's Whiteside Ltd., thought the gamble was worth it. Whiteside spent an additional \$2 million re-sodding the course after the cold winter temperatures killed most of the original planting.

"They didn't recoup what they spent," said Young, a course owner himself who saw play drop during the Olympics at his own suburban Atlanta facility. "My advice to Sydney developers would be to weigh the prospects of any new development over the long term and not base their decision to build or open early on what a short-term event like the Olympics might bring. The final decision has to make sense, with or without the Olympics."

## Biosolids popular

Continued from previous page  
ing condition.

How does a golf course superintendent or builder find usable compost?

Advising golf courses not to use yard-waste composts and any compost whose materials are not phytotoxic, Hummel added, "The better ones we've seen are usually from municipal waste-treatment plants or food processors."

Companies like Allgrow in the Northeast establish compost facilities at municipalities and serve as brokers, selling the product.

Then, there are companies like New Milford Farms in Connecticut and Anheuser-Busch that compost their waste products. New Milford Farms composts cocoa and coffee shells from its Nestle's production. Anheuser-Busch, meanwhile, "has a number of composting facilities that produce a consistent product," Hummel said.



Rounding out Toro's Reelmaster® family are, from left, the lightweight but powerful 5300-D and 5100-D, plus the 4500-D, another proven performer.

Like the new Reelmaster® 6700-D, the first riding mower with seven hydraulically driven reels. And its cousin, Reelmaster® 6500-D, is engineered to take on thick, tough turf throughout the year.

Want a lightweight? Reelmaster® 5300-D and 5100-D are

light on their feet, but down to earth for precision performance.

Want maximum productivity and power? Reelmaster® 4500-D is your choice. Or perhaps another member of the family.

The Toro Reelmaster family. Born of our longtime partnership

with golf course superintendents. To create what you want most. Fairways of stunning beauty and peak playability.

Family values we share.



Helping You Put Quality Into Play.®

For more details, contact your Toro Distributor:

1-800-803-8676  
ext. 152

CIRCLE #128