

Dusch defending crown against heavy competition among peers

By BARRY MOTHES

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — More than 700 golf course superintendents from around the country will gather in Las Vegas next month for a week of seminars, socials and trade-show forays. The idea is professional improvement and enrichment, and exposure to the latest trends and technology.

But there's also the matter of a 36-hole golf tournament called the GCSAA Golf Championship, where an increasing number of competitive, single-digit handicap superintendents will shoot for the championship and 19th-hole bragging rights.

A record field has already signed up for the 1997 GCSAA Championship, scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7, on six different golf courses in Greater Las Vegas.

Jim Dusch, head superintendent at the Atlanta National Golf Club, will defend the 1996 title he won in Orlando. Dusch shot 76-73-149 to win last year's championship. He will attempt to be the first back-to-back champion since Roger Null — a veteran superintendent from Boone Valley Golf Club in Augusta, Mo. — pulled it off in 1990 (Orlando) and 1991 (Scottsdale).

"Once is fun, twice would be real neat," said Dusch, 34, a Lake City Community College turfgrass graduate who has been head superintendent at P.B. Dye-designed Atlanta National since 1989. "But there's a lot of excellent golfers in the tournament. I'll have fun wherever I finish up."

"Jim is one of the best players by far," said Sam Williamson, head superintendent at Ojai Valley Inn in Ojai, Calif. Williamson finished tied for third last year and nailed a hole-in-one, the fifth of his golfing career. "Jim's a notch above the rest of the players. He's going to be tough to tangle with."

For the third consecutive year, The Toro Co. is a sponsoring partner for the tournament. Superintendents who have played in GCSAA tourneys for many years credit Toro with adding new luster to the championship, expanding the number and quality of golf courses it's played on, and attracting record turnouts. There will be a host of tee prizes ranging from Burton Golf, Inc. golf bags to Cutter & Buck golf shirts, commemorative golf balls and money clips.

The 36-hole event will be held Feb. 6 and 7, over six courses: Badlands Golf Club, Las Vegas Hilton Country Club, the Nu-Way Kaiv Course (Snow Mountain) and the Tav-ai Kaiv Course (Sun Mountain) at the Las Vegas Paiute Resort, Sunrise Country

Club and Wildhorse Country Club.

The Championship A and B divisions, comprising approximately 100 of the lowest handicap players, will play straight stroke play. Those participating in the championship flights usually carry handicaps somewhere between 0 and 3. The overall win-

ner of the tournament must be an amateur — professionals are eligible to win second place.

The remaining flights — or the other 600-plus golfers — will play 36 holes using the point quota system. There will be three senior flights: Senior I (age 50-56), Senior II (age 57-64) and Super Senior (age 65 and over). Prac-

tice rounds will be held Feb. 3 and 4, with a four-ball tournament scheduled for Feb. 5.

Dusch said he thinks there are about 20 to 30 superintendents who could win the championship. Dusch, who includes himself among the contenders, carries a scratch handicap at Atlanta National and shot 3-under

par for the 72-hole Georgia State Amateur this year (unfortunately, 16-under won the tournament). Dusch was also a participant in September's inaugural Hayter Cup challenge, a Ryder Cup-style team competition pitting North & South American superintendents against their

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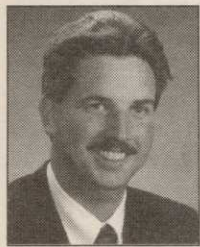
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BOARD MEMBER

Name: Jon Maddern
Age: 38
Course: Elk Ridge GC, Atlanta, Mich.
Former head superintendent at: Golf grounds and park superintendent at City of Farmington Hills, Mich.; Hillcrest CC in Mt. Clemens, Mich.



Jon Maddern

Years GCSAA member: 20

GCSAA posts: Member of GCSAA education, government relations and elections committees; chapter delegate.

Other associations: President of Michigan Turfgrass Foundation; secretary/treasurer of Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association; past secretary/treasurer of Greater Detroit GCSA; member, Western Michigan GCSA and Golf Association of Michigan.

Education: Certificate in Turfgrass Management, Michigan State University.

Family: Wife, Bev; children, Brad, 14, Heather, 10.

Goal: "I hope to take the next step as far as involvement, to show by participating the importance of GCSAA to all superintendents, the industry, and the game. To try and make GCSAA better than it is now."

Name: Michael Wallace
Age: 46
Course: Hop Meadow CC, Simsbury, Conn.
Former head superintendent at: Rockledge CC and Buena Vista GC, West Hartford, Conn.
Years GCSAA member: 19
GCSAA posts: Chairman of conference and show and membership committees; past vice chair-



Michael Wallace

man of technical information services, scholarship and career development services committees; member of scholarship foundation board, public relations and membership services committees; candidate at chapter relations annual meeting; member career development group; voting and alternate delegate.

Other associations: Past president of Connecticut GCSA; member of Environmental Industry Council of Connecticut.

Education: Associate's degree in turfgrass management, University of Massachusetts.

Family: Children, Tye, 28; Grier, 26; Ian, 25; Sian, 22.

Goal: "We have a very dynamic board. My goal is to be a team player, help the organization move forward in education and other programs we offer and represent the industry to the best of my ability where appropriate."

Name: Samuel Snyder
Age: 42
Course: Hercules CC, Nottingham, Pa.
Former head superintendent at: Colonial CC, Harrisburg, Pa.; Sheraton Golf Links, Greensburg, Pa.; Grandview GC, Curwensville, Pa.; Punxsutawney (Pa.) CC.



Samuel Snyder

Years GCSAA member: 20
GCSAA posts: Member of career development, scholarship & research and nominating committees; member of fundraising resource group.

Other associations: Past president of Central Pennsylvania GCSA; vice president of Pittsburgh GCSA; past president of Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council; past president of Allied Golf Course Superintendents of Pennsylvania; and a past board member of Allegheny Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Education: Certificate in turfgrass management from Pennsylvania State University.

Family: Wife, Susan; Children, Emily, 15, Sam, 9.

Goal: "It's very important that we continue the environmental awareness campaign, to get the word out that this is a profession that cares about the environment and educates its members on how to protect it."

"We also need to enhance professional development programs so that club members and owners are aware how important the superintendent is to their operation and how superintendents can remain in this career until retirement."

Loggins to entertain

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Hailed as an energetic and entertaining performer, singer Kenny Loggins will cap a star-studded evening at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Gala '97, Tuesday, Feb. 11, here in the grand ballroom of Bally's Hotel.

During Gala '97, PGA Tour great and golf course developer Ben Crenshaw will be recognized as the recipient of GCSAA's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award.

Loggins' performance will be preceded by a reception at 6 p.m., with gala ceremonies including a banquet and awards presentation beginning at 7 p.m. About 1,500 conference and show attendees are expected to attend the event.

In 1985, Loggins' self-produced "Vox Humana" album was certified gold and in the process earned two Grammys.

Tickets for Gala '97 are \$75 for GCSAA members and are available now through the advanced registration brochure (distributed earlier this year to members). The non-member price is \$100.

1997 GCSAA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT VENUE

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Following are brief descriptions and histories of the six golf courses where the 1997 GCSAA annual golf championship will be played. Each flight will play 18 holes each at two of the six courses:

Badlands Golf Club — A Johnny Miller signature golf course completed in October 1995. Miller's design team, which included Chi Chi Rodriguez, created a challenging 7,106-yard, par-72 layout with a 73.1 rating from the back tees with a slope rating of 133. Badlands offers panoramic views of the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area, as well as the entire Las Vegas Valley. Gregg Fjelland is the superintendent.

Las Vegas Hilton Country Club — This championship layout hosts the PGA Tour's Las Vegas Invitational and many other PGA and LPGA events. The classic design features rolling fairways, glistening lakes and smooth greens. Dotted with lush palm, pine and olive trees, this par-71 course measures 6,815 yards from the championship tees, with a course rating of 72.1 and a slope of 130. David Reich is the superintendent.

Las Vegas Paiute Resort - Nu-Waiv Kaiv Course (Snow Mountain) — Golf course architect Pete Dye worked with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and Landmark Golf Company to create the Nu-Waiv Kaiv course, which opened in 1995. It's got all the classic Dye goodies — pot bunkers, railroad ties and waste areas integrated into the native desert. From the back tees the course measures 7,158 yards with a course rating of 73.9 and a slope of 125. James Sprinkle III is the superintendent.

Las Vegas Paiute Resort - Tav-ai Kaiv Course (Snow Mountain) — The newest of the courses in the bunch, Tav-ai Kaiv just opened in September 1996. Another Pete Dye creation, Tav-ai Kaiv offers beautiful mountain scenery and rolling terrain. The par-72 Tav-ai Kaiv measures 7,212 yards from the back tees.

Sunrise Country Club — Sunrise features undulating terrain, numerous water hazards and large greens with extensive pitch and roll as requested by Jim Colbert, the senior PGA star who was one of the developers of Sunrise. The 7,200-yard, par-72 West Course layout was designed by Jeff Brauer, 1995 American Society of Golf Course Architects President. The course rating is 73.6 with a slope of 127. William Rohrer is the superintendent.

Wildhorse Golf Club — Redesigned by Robert Cupp and Hubert Green in 1989, this 7,053-yard,

par-72 championship layout has a 75.2 rating from the gold tees with a slope of 135. The course features contoured fairways and a strategic mix of sand and water along with tiered bentgrass greens. Tim Martinez is the superintendent.

GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP PAST WINNERS

Year	Site	Champion
1940	Indianapolis	Emil Masciocchi
1941	St. Paul, Minn.	Emil Masciocchi
1946	Indianapolis	Emil Masciocchi
1947	State College, Pa.	Roy Jones
1948	Chicago	Emil Masciocchi
1949	Akron, Ohio	Emil Masciocchi
1950	Lansing, Mich.	Emil Masciocchi
1951	Lafayette, Ind.	Paul Schurtz
1952	Columbus, Ohio	John Zoller
1954	Miami	Marcus List
1956	Long Beach, Ca.	Marcus List
1958	Pinehurst, N.C.	John Connolly
1960	Houston	Bill Adams
1962	Miami	Bob Mitchell
1963	Palm Springs, Ca.	Chuck Fatum
1968	Monterey, Calif.	Art Donaldson
1969	Freeport, Bahamas	Gene Stoddard
1970	Houston	Bob Martino
1971	Phoenix	Harry Cirata
1972	Tallahassee, Fla.	Bob Martino
1973	Hilton Head, S.C.	Bob Martino
1974	Anaheim, Calif.	Ennio Lattini
1975	Pensacola, Fla.	John Doughton Jr.
1976	Toledo, Ohio	William Knox
1977	Monterey, Calif.	Vaughn Barker
1978	Corpus Christi, Tex.	Thomas C. Hamilton
1979	Sea Island, Ga.	Dan Meyers
1980	Guadalajara, Mex.	Thomas C. Hamilton
1981	Anaheim, Ca.	Dan Meyers
1982	Orlando, Fla.	Mike Apodaca
1983	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Roger Null
1984	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Dan Meyers
1985	Hilton Head, S.C.	Dave Powell
1986	Palm Desert, Ca.	David Oliver
1987	Tucson, Ariz.	Mike Apodaca
1988	Houston	Dave Powell
1989	Palm Springs	Dave Powell
1990	Orlando, Fla.	Roger Null
1991	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Roger Null
1992	Ponte Vedra, Fla.	Gary D. Bennett
1993	San Diego	Richard A. Stuntz
1994	Austin, Texas	Robert Friend
1995	Monterey, Ca.	Todd Barker
1996	Orlando, Fla.	Jim Dusch

Dusch in defense

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counterparts from Britain, Europe and Australasia.

"It's a lot of fun and giggles," Dusch said, "but when the rubber hits the road everybody's trying to win. It gets very competitive. Everybody's trying to finish in the top few."

As competitive as Dusch, Williamson and others may be during the tourney,

they also said the event is yet another valuable educational seminar.

"I have always felt I learned as much networking and walking and playing a golf course with my peers as I do any other way," said Williamson, who's been head superintendent at Ojai Valley the past 10 years. A 1.6 handicap, Williamson, 45, was also on the 1996 Americas Hayter Cup team.

"The tournament is always a great learning experience," he added. "It's a blast."

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