

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Intrepid traveler Andrew Overbeck summarizes the Asian golf market's most tumultuous year 7

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PRESIDENTIAL SWINGER

President Bill Clinton (left) receives some tips from Maroon Creek Club (MCC) Director of Golf Todd Williams during a presidential visit in August to the exclusive Aspen, Colo., golf facility. Photo by Dick Durrance II.

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GCN JANUARY • DEVELOPMENT

The First Tee takes a giant step forward

By MICHAEL LEVANS

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The First Tee, launched in November in a national publicity wave headlined by George Bush and Earl Woods, has managed to pull together the golf industry's heaviest hitters in what is being called the most significant concerted initiative to create accessible golf facilities for minority and junior golfers.

According to The World Golf Foundation, The First Tee's founding organization, the initial focus will be on developing financial support to acquire locations for the facilities. To supplement

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Ice-laden limbs and entire trees crashed to the ground on the fairways of Springbrook Golf Club in Leeds, Maine.

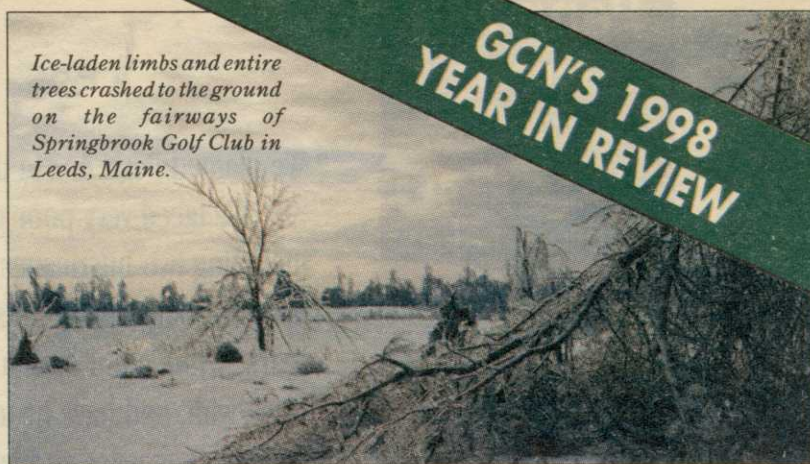


Photo by Jammie Golden

Access to the 15th tee at Pebble Beach Golf Links is destroyed as a result of the El Niño-driven storms in early February.



Photo by Dave Wilber

1998: El Niño takes its toll

April: California golf courses take a huge hit

By DAVID WILBER

The winter's intense El Niño-driven storms have hammered California golf courses, highlighted in early February when a series of weather-related records were broken. Several areas of the state recorded the lowest barom-

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April: Rains, tornadoes wreak havoc in Florida.

By JOEL JACKSON

Florida's golf courses escaped El Niño's big wind, but the rains are causing serious problems.

A winter storm attributed to El Niño raced across central Florida in the early morning of Feb. 22, unleashing a cluster of tornadoes that

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PHOTO OF THE YEAR: Golfplan will design 18 holes here at the Sparreboosch Clifftop Estate in Knysna, South Africa.

GCN MARCH • SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Textron/Ransomes: The dust settles, new structure emerges

By TREVOR LEDGER

IPSWICH, Suffolk, England — Now that the dust has settled on Textron

Inc.'s takeover of Ransomes PLC, a clear picture of the group's strategy and structure is emerging.

The new company is called Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products and is headed up by the former president of Ransomes, Peter Wilson. As president of the new worldwide organization, Wilson is based in the company headquarters here in Ipswich. The

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GCN NOVEMBER • MANAGEMENT

KollStar plans to double size by 2000

By PETER BLAIS

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — KollStar, a major operator and developer of golf courses, has acquired seven courses on the southwest coast of Florida, giving the Newport Beach-based firm a dozen courses nationwide.

KollStar purchased six of the courses from National Fairways Ltd. The acquisition includes Sunrise Golf Club (GC), Rolling Green GC and Sarasota GC, all in Sarasota; Hibiscus GC in Naples; Port Charlotte GC; The Tides GC in Seminole; and Eagle Ridge GC in Fort Myers. Each is an 18-hole,

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