

Netwal prepares Deere Run for opening, Tour

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said his next challenge is to make sure the course survives the inevitable heat and humidity of summer without losing ground. "Turfgrass doesn't grow in hot, humid months," said the certified golf course superintendent. "The best growing seasons are spring and fall. We just hang on

in the summer. It's a challenge even on mature courses." Two wet springs in a row in the Quad Cities have been the biggest challenge to the growing schedule, according to Netwal. But the PGA Tour construction staff has worked diligently to ensure that the TPC at Deere Run will be ready for tour-

nament play by the year 2000. Sod contractors from Michigan worked through last December laying sod. Erosion areas have been re-seeded and re-sodded in order to keep the project on schedule, Netwal said. Extra drain basins have been added on several holes to handle water run-off. Meanwhile, the spring rain

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— John Netwal

was like a house guest who doesn't know when to go home. And it was still hanging around this summer.

"We've been pummeled [with

rain] the last week and a half," Netwal said in June. "We got one inch in 15 minutes the other day and we've had two other downpours that were worse. It causes erosion on newly seeded areas and it undermined some sod in some areas. But that always happens in construction. It's not anything out of the ordinary."

Netwal has little choice but to remain stoic in the face of such uncontrollable weather uncertainties, so he goes with the flow and maintains a cool, just-dry-enough sense of humor consistent with his weather preferences.

"The drought we were hoping for hasn't arrived yet," Netwal said. "As soon as the drought arrives, we'll be praying for rain."

The construction of the TPC at Deere Run is part of Deere & Co.'s nine-year title sponsorship agreement of the PGA Tour's long-standing Quad City tournament. Deere gave the Tour 385 acres of rolling, wooded property on the Rock River to build the course. The Tour will own and operate the facility as part of its TPC network. Deere Run is being designed by D.A. Weibring, winner of three Quad City PGA events, and Chris Gray of the Tour's design department.

Savvy Super

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students or assistants to work for them because they are not at a "household name" course. This is very frightening and very sad for our profession's future. I suggest that students intern with the lower- to medium-level clubs with knowledgeable superintendents. Try it and you and your career will really like it.

GCSAA BACKS 1ST TEE

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