

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## Best of Environmental Golf

In a year made of lists, Audubon International releases its top 200 environmental golf courses ..... 14

## Y2K

As the millennium nears, so does the Y2K computer bug. Find out what could go wrong and what it will take to reach compliance ..... 17



**NICKLAUS ARCHITECT BRUCE BORLAND PERISHES**  
Bruce Borland, right here with Jack Nicklaus, was among the passengers in Payne Stewart's Lear jet which crashed Oct. 25. See story, page 9.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Supers' inventions and innovations ..... 17
- PVC pooch saves the day ..... 18
- Outsourcing becoming increasingly popular ..... 22

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Forrest named Hills' associate ..... 23
- First Audubon International course opens ..... 24
- Richmond's First Tee project proceeds ..... 25

### COURSE MANAGEMENT

- ClubCorp, AGC buy Cobblestone ..... 27
- Wilson on the move in the Midwest ..... 28
- Sports and Fitness expands ..... 29

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- ABT consolidates and integrates ..... 31
- New technology moves to the forefront ..... 31
- Scotts switches to distribution ..... 32

NEWSPAPER

## Wadsworth to receive Don Rossi Award

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Brent Wadsworth, touted by many as the inventor of the golf course construction industry, will receive the Don A. Rossi Award for the year 2000 from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA). The award will be presented Feb. 18 at the GCBAA's annual awards dinner in New Orleans.

Wadsworth is the first golf course builder to receive the award, which was inaugurated by the GCBAA in 1991 to honor its late executive director, Don Rossi.

"Going into the millennium, we wanted to honor the man who invented the golf course construction business," said James J. Kirchdorfer,



Brent Wadsworth

Continued on page 10

## Leiweke leaving First Tee Program

By MARK LESLIE

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Tod Leiweke, executive director of the First Tee program, has officially been named president of the National Hockey League's new Minnesota Wild expansion team.

Leiweke, who had spearheaded the First Tee nearly since its inception in November 1997, was expected to join the team by December.

Director of Resources Len Stachitis



Tod Leiweke

Continued on page 37



### THEN AND NOW: A LOOK BACK AT THE SUPERINTENDENTS' TRADE

In a special section, former Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Golf Collectors Society President Mel Lucas, former GCSAA Director of Publications Clay Loyd, and former GCSAA President and Acting Executive Director Palmer Maples weigh in on 1) the history of golf course maintenance equipment; 2) the evolution of the job of the greenkeeper/superintendent; and 3) a throw-back to "real golf," Oakhurst Links golf course in West Virginia. Audubon International, meanwhile, names its Top 200 Environmentally Conscious Golf Courses. See pages 11-16.

## Rye suit reaches fed'l court

By ANDREW OVERBECK

EUGENE, Ore. — The Perennial Ryegrass Bargaining Association (PRBA) has filed lawsuits against Turf-Seed and Seed Research of Oregon (SRO), maintaining that they violated the Agriculture Fair Trade Practices Act of 1967 by sending letters to PRBA members demanding a price for tournament-quality perennial ryegrass seed below the PRBA established price.

The 260-member PRBA, which represents approximately half of the ryegrass growers in Oregon, first filed complaints against each company in Oregon state court but both cases have since been transferred. The complaint against Turf-Seed has been refiled in federal court and, in November, the complaint against SRO was in the process of

being refiled in federal court.

Meanwhile, Turf-Seed filed a counterclaim in federal court Nov. 3, alleging that the PRBA is acting improperly because not all of its members are producers or farmers — some are seed dealers, or board members and stock holders in seed dealers.

"We take the position," said Michael Martinis, Turf-Seed's lead attorney, "that the PRBA is not entitled to the limited Anti-Trust Act exemption that they claim to have by Oregon and federal statute." Turf-Seed, thus, considers all contracts or agreements of the PRBA void.

According to the complaint the PRBA filed in federal court on Sept. 20 against Turf-Seed, the letter that the company sent to growers on July

Continued on page 38

## ClubCorp obtains additional \$300M from Cypress

By PETER BLAIS

DALLAS — The Cypress Group LLC, a New York-based private equity firm, has committed to invest \$300 million in ClubCorp.

Said Robert Dedman Jr., chief executive officer of ClubCorp: "We examined a variety of alternatives to support the growth initiatives we intend to pursue, and we found that Cypress was the most compatible choice for us. ClubCorp has been a leader in consolidating our industry, and we believe today's investment from Cypress will position us to continue to proactively take advantage of that trend through the growth of our existing properties and the acquisition of others, both in the U.S. and abroad."

What are those growth initiatives ClubCorp will pursue?



Palmilla, on the Sea of Cortez in Los Cabos, Mexico, is a ClubCorp property.

"There are a number of opportunities in the marketplace for further consolidation domestically and internationally," answered Gerry

Continued on page 36

## ClubCorp gets \$300M

Continued from page 1

Smith, ClubCorp's executive vice president of marketing and communications. "Japan, which is the second-largest golf market outside the United States, is a place where we do not have a presence. We want to position ourselves in terms of our capital availability to make an acquisition should one present itself that is a good strategic move for us.

"We are always looking to grow the businesses that we have. That requires capital for additional improvements at some of our existing properties. For example, we are currently undergoing a major expansion at Barton Creek [in Austin, Texas], virtually doubling the number of rooms available and adding a fourth golf course. We felt private equity was a good avenue for us to pursue, it gives us the capital we need to continue our growth. We've grown quite aggressively in the past year with the Cobblestone deal, our joint venture with Jack Nicklaus to build 36 courses over the next 10 years."

ClubCorp has roughly 200 golf courses and 234 properties, including country clubs, public-access and semi-private golf facilities, as well as business clubs and athletic clubs. Its resorts include Pinehurst (N.C.) Golf & Country Club; The Homestead in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.; Barton Creek; Daufuskie Island near Hilton Head, S.C.; and Palmilla in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Said Cypress Vice Chairman James Singleton: "The Dedmans have built an extraordinary company which is clearly the market leader in the industry. We are honored to become their financial partner as they implement the next phase of their strategic growth plan."

The transaction is expected to close in 1999. When it does, ClubCorp will expand its board of directors from four to seven members, with two representatives from Cypress and one additional independent director joining the board.

The Cypress Group manages two private equity funds with more than \$3.5 billion in commitments. Cypress invests in privately negotiated transactions, targeting established operating businesses and investing with management to foster continued growth.

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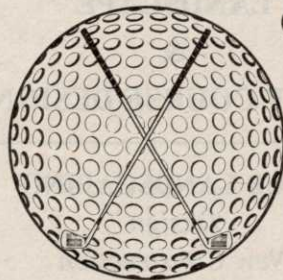
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