

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Hurricane Floyd leaves its mark on Carolinas

By PETER BLAIS

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Floyd and the heavy rains that followed in mid-September left numerous courses submerged and forced many to close for a month or more.

Floyd came ashore here Sept. 13. The Wilmington area was hit full force by the hurricane, but escaped the worst of the floods, according to Joey Hines, head pro at Cape Fear Country Club.

"We got 33 inches of rain, but never flooded to the point many other courses did," Hines said. "Anything from Wallace to Kenston to Greenville was badly flooded. The perimeter roads leading into and around Wilmington were washed out. But Wilmington did not have real bad floods."

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RTJ II TRACK NO GAMBLE IN VEGAS
Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., right, discusses a modification in the design of a fairway at Southern Highlands Golf Club in Las Vegas with club President Garry Goett. See story, page 17.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

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Supers benefit as outsourcing grows

By ANDREW OVERBECK

Using outsourcing for various tasks is becoming increasingly attractive to superintendents and golf course operators across the country. Independent contractors can often out-perform the regular maintenance staff in specialized tasks like fertilizer applications and aerification or relatively simple jobs like maintaining the clubhouse grounds. More and more superintendents are employing these services because it saves time, manpower and maintenance costs and provides access to specialized services and new technology that were previously out of reach.

"Outsourcing jobs means there is one more headache that superintendents don't have to worry about," said Terry Buchen, president of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International, a consulting firm based in Williamsburg, Va. "They can make more use of their existing crew. For

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Tyler Enterprises' custom fertilizer application truck in action.

PRODUCT NEWS



John Deere revamps ProGator

The John Deere ProGator is a compact utility vehicle designed for use on golf courses. It features a new engine, transmission, and suspension system, making it more efficient and durable. The vehicle is also equipped with a new set of tires and a new set of lights.

E-Z-GO rolls out PD5 golf cars



The E-Z-GO PD5 is a new golf car designed for use on golf courses. It features a new engine, transmission, and suspension system, making it more efficient and durable. The vehicle is also equipped with a new set of tires and a new set of lights.



Milwaukee Trimmer makes the cut

The Milwaukee Trimmer is a new trimmer designed for use on golf courses. It features a new engine, transmission, and suspension system, making it more efficient and durable. The trimmer is also equipped with a new set of blades and a new set of lights.

New Hover Mower from Eastman Industries



Toro's Reelmaster rolls light, cuts big

The Toro Reelmaster is a new reel mower designed for use on golf courses. It features a new engine, transmission, and suspension system, making it more efficient and durable. The mower is also equipped with a new set of blades and a new set of lights.

NEW FROM GOLF COURSE NEWS

For a preview of GCN Product News, which will debut in March, see the pullout section, pages 21-28.

Development management new to the golf industry

By MARK LESLIE

PALM DESERT, Calif. — From the blades of grass on the golf course to the depth of the sewers on the streets of a development, Winchester Development Co. controls what it does as no other company does. Indeed, Winchester is a new breed of company, defining a previously undefined niche: development management.

"We know where everything goes on a golf course project," said Craig Bryant, co-managing partner with John Shaw of Winchester, which has offices here, in

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AMERICA'S (ARGUABLY) OLDEST COURSE ADDS NINE

After 113 years of operating as a nine-hole course, Dorset Field Club in Dorset, Vt., has added another nine holes, designed by Steve Durkee. See story, page 17.

NEWSPAPER

THE REASSESSMENT

October: Internet release of preliminary risk assessment, public comment period opens.
December: Public comment period closes.
February, 2000: Release of revised risk assessment, public comment period opens.
April, 2000: Public comment period closes.

Comment starts on chlorpyrifos

By ANDREW OVERBECK

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its initial risk assessment for chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate commonly used in turf and ornamental applications and known to the golf course industry as Dursban. Under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996, the EPA is systematically reassessing numerous classifications of pesticides

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The Diary of a Ryder Cup superintendent volunteer

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team couldn't cover both. On the way up to the 12th, the rain stopped and the sun attempted to appear. Suddenly, as we were making our rounds, the siren sounded for suspension of play. The 45-minute delay was a blessing in disguise, giving us a chance to take a few minutes rest.

As the sun broke, the massive crowd applauded and play resumed. Since play was suspended on hole #9, it didn't take long to reach our hole. As with the previous day, with four morning and afternoon groups, play moved quickly. In no time, the morning fourball matches were finished through the 12th and we ran to the tent for lunch, then back to our green for afternoon duty.

As in the day before, when we arrived at the green a staff member was mowing the green and the new hole location was being cut. We had to re-rake our greenside bunkers, as the PGA official required the rake lines to be all toward the hole location. As Brett and I analyzed them, we thought the lines might have been off, maybe, 5 degrees. But we sucked it up, gave him his wish and prepared for play. This was a definite blow to our pride. In between each group we gave our area the white glove treatment.

The shot of the day for us was a pitch shot from 30 yards by Phil Mickleson. It wasn't so much that the shot coized to 3 feet; it was because of the size and story of the divot. As Brett and I went to repair the large crater, I picked up the divot and he filled it with the mix. As I was walking back to the TV tower, I heard from the gallery, "Hey, divot man, can I have that?" Why, I don't know, but I tossed the divot to the guy and the gallery applauded. It turned out to be one of the classics of the week. I told Brett the guy offered me \$20 for the divot. Being a young assistant,

and not knowing me well, he still probably believes it.

When the last group finished we headed to the maintenance center. On our walk down, we noticed [Country Club superintendent] Bill Spence had the mowing

crew out on fairways. The fairways, composed of 95 percent bentgrass, were cut at 3/8 inch and mowed in two halves in the afternoon using a team of seven triplex mowers with no baskets. In all my years in the business, I've never seen fairways of that age with such a quality stand of bentgrass. As we watched them mow for a few minutes we could tell the staff's pride and concentration.

As the evening sun set and the matches finished, we halved with the Euro's for the day, 4-4. This still gave them a commanding 10-6 lead going into Sunday's play. The best news of the day, however, was that the start time for Sunday morning was backed up one hour. As we drove through the traffic on the way home, that extra hour of sleep sounded very nice.

Day #5, Sept. 25 — At a 5:45 a.m. meeting of volunteers and regular staff in the maintenance complex, Bill Spence thanked his crew for the dedication and the years of preparation it took for the event. He also thanked the volunteers for the help throughout the week. What really hit home to me was how Bill explained that this was the highlight of his career, and maybe if somehow the Americans could pull off a miracle it would make it all the sweeter. Walking down the stairs on the way out, I thought how Bill and his staff had spent countless hours

What really hit home to me was how Bill explained that this was the highlight of his career, and maybe if somehow the Americans could pull off a miracle it would make it all the sweeter.

and energy only to have the Euro's come here and kick our butts. There weren't many people that morning who thought the Americans stood a chance of even a miracle.

As we met for the final day's assignment I heard the familiar sound of "Kevin — dew whip team." Heck, I did it the previous four days, one more couldn't hurt. Then suddenly the best news of the week: We only had to whip holes #1-7 and didn't start until 9 a.m. This was because of the late 10 a.m. singles start. This gave me a couple of hours to take some pictures of the course conditioning and set-up by the maintenance staff. I marveled at the bunkering with a slight laced-edge appearance and the non-mowed lips of the bunkers. The grass around the bunkers was very long. This caused it to lay over toward the sand and give a true Scottish flavor. My sentiments were echoed when I chatted with Dana Fry of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Design in Ohio. Dana, too, could not stop talking about how magnificent the bunkers were. After the photos, I regrouped with the Dew Whippers and we went into action. A quick seven holes of whipping, back to the maintenance center for lunch and off to our green for the remainder of the day.

As we anticipated, the matches went very fast. The stunning comeback of the Americans had the gallery in a frenzy. The Cup seemed to hinge on one match, Mark O'Meara vs. Padraig Harrington. The word from the NBC crowd was that the United States was dominating eight of the 12 matches and they only needed a

halve from one of the other four. O'Meara's was the only close match of the others. Justin Leonard was four down as he arrived at the 12th green. He then made a great par putt to cut his deficit to 3. The rest, as they say, is history! Shot of the day was Jim Furyk's second to 15 feet and knocking in the slippery side-hiller for a birdie 3. It was only the second birdie of the week there.

As we drove home that evening we were still stunned that the Americans pulled it off. I was happiest for Bill Spence and his staff for the miracle that happened to make their Ryder Cup truly special.

AFTERTHOUGHTS FROM THE CUP

Little did I know when I volunteered for the Ryder Cup what an historical event it would become. Some two weeks later, the magnitude hasn't set in. Still today, it is the talk of the golfing world. I reserve my comments concerning fan behavior, #17 green celebration, heckling, etc. I will say that the event peaked interest of golfers and non-golfers. It can only be good for golf, and whatever is good for golf can only be good for our profession.

GOLFER OF THE WEEK AWARD

Tie between Hal Sutton and Colin Montgomerie. Sutton because he was an absolute horse for the U.S. Team; Montgomerie because of his tenacity. Although heckled by fans, his play was truly outstanding.

NBC MAN OF THE WEEK

Johnny Miller. You can never blame anyone for saying what he believes!

MAN OF THE WEEK

No, not Ben Crenshaw. No, not Justin Leonard. Bill Spence for one awesome golf course!

DEW WHIP COMMENT OF THE WEEK

"Hey, could you tell me what are those things you're carrying?" I couldn't believe someone actually wanted to know! ▶

Hurricane Floyd leaves its mark on golf

Continued from page 1

"We lost quite a few trees. Everybody in the area had pretty much the same thing — a messy cleanup, a lot of standing water, trees and debris.

The worst of the flooding occurred farther north and west.

At one point, water covered half the bentgrass greens, Bermudagrass fairways and roughs of River Landing Country Club in Wallace, said first assistant pro Lonnie Knowles. In mid-October, roughly a month after Floyd arrived, 18 of the 27 Clyde Johnston-designed holes remained closed. The newest nine, which first opened in late August, is located farthest from the river and reopened first, Knowles explained.

"We're reseeding the greens on the front nine and resodding the greens on the back nine," Knowles said. "Come late November we should be back to 18 and to 27 next May."

Significant amounts of silt remained on the greens once the waters receded at River Landing, Knowles said. The flood waters also contained oil, gasoline and other contaminants from cars.

"The silt killed the greens," Knowles said. "The fairways should be fine. The rain helped wash much of the silt away."

Jeremy Shadle, head pro at Bradford Creek Golf Course in Greenville, N.C., said: "We've come through this pretty well. We got a lot of rain during the storm. There were some large ponds out there. But less than 25 percent of the course was underwater right after the hurricane struck."

The rivers began rising two days later, the bridges closed leading to the course, and eventually the entire layout was underwater.

"The local television station took some aerial shots," Shadle said. "The only thing you could see was the clubhouse and a little patch of grass around it. We were completely underwater for several days."

Bradford Creek has hybrid Bermudagrass fairways, common Bermudagrass roughs and a bentgrass blend consisting of L93 and Crenshaw on the greens.

"We had two greens underwater for seven to eight days," Shadle said. "We'll replant those. The others came through real well. In fact, they seemed to grow underwater. They were just as green as a gourd and the turf was very long when they popped out."

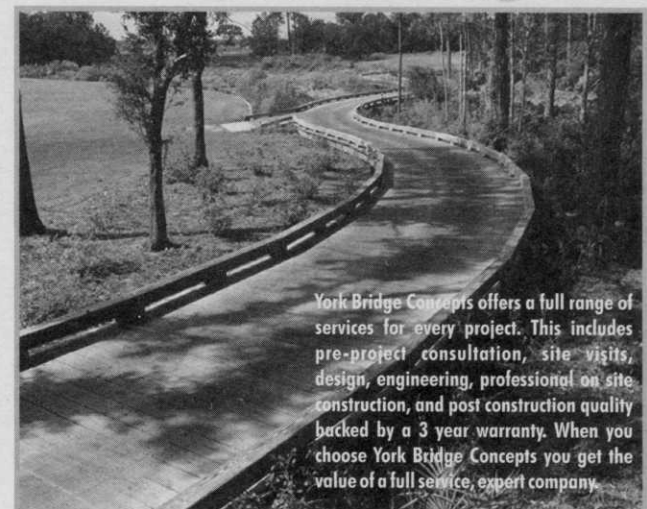
"Unfortunately the waters were contaminated with animal waste, oil and gas. So we had to fight a little fungus and disease with fungicides and a lot of fertilizer. We'll open nine holes this weekend [Oct. 16-17]. We've been closed for a month... Under the circumstances, we came through pretty well." ▶



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