

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

# Elliot readies Colonial CC amid Sorenstam buzz

By ANDREW OVERBECK

FORT WORTH, Texas — Annika Sorenstam, the best female golfer in the world, is creating extra excitement at Colonial Country Club as superintendent Jeff Elliot makes the final preparations for this year's Bank of America Colonial May 22 to 25. The PGA Tour event, which was been at the club since 1946, always attracts a top field, but it has never included a player from the LPGA Tour.

"She is creating quite a stir," said Elliot. "We are counting on more media and more fans, so we are putting up more bleachers, adjusting crowd control measures, putting up more scoreboards and moving around marshal's tents."

In addition to getting the course into tip-top shape, Elliot has to oversee these logistical tasks that have been made even more hectic because Sorenstam is playing. From lining up contractors for portalets, trailers and Dumpsters, to running new power and phone lines, to putting up new electronic scoreboard pedestals, he has his hands full.

However, Elliot doesn't mind the extra work, or the pre-tournament buzz.

"Everyone's excited, which takes all the limelight off me," he

said. "That's good because we don't want to hear them talking about the golf course, we want the players to be the focal point."

With the added logistical challenges this year, having a staff that functions like a well-oiled machine is the key to Elliot's success. "I have a staff that has been here for so many years that it goes really smoothly, they all know what to do," he said.

According to Elliot, agronomic preparations are also going smoothly.

"The PGA Tour agronomist did his dry run in March and we are going through our usual tournament preparations," he said. "We have changed fertilization practices to try not to have too much grass out there and get the green speed to stay consistent. We did granular applications early, but as of the beginning of April, we are total foliar once or twice a week."

The course also put in a sulfur burner this year to help deal with its poor irrigation water, which has high pH and sodium and bicarbonate levels.

"We pull water out of the Clear Fork of the Trinity, which runs out of Lake Benbrook," said Elliot. "The sulfur burner helps the soils flush better, helps with drainage

problems and gives us firmer greens. The Tour players want fast and firm."

Elliot is aiming for a green speed of 10.5 for the tournament, because, he said, if they get up past 11, wind can cause the ball to move on greens. The greens were upgraded to A4 bentgrass during the 1999 Keith Foster bunker and green renovation.

"As a putting surface, A4 can't be beat," Elliot said. "But because of its upright growth, it lacks a little bit on recovery and healing from ball marks and stress."

The rough is another area Elliot is watching carefully.

"The 419 bermudagrass is always slow to bounce back," he said. "We fertilize in February with ammonium sulfate to push the roughs and we put down slow-release nitrogen to carry us over in the fall. They are greening up now, but in the shade they don't grow up to two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half-inch rough like they like to see on Tour."

With tournament preparations in hand, what does Elliot think about Sorenstam's chances?

"This is an old-style, short course where you have to work the ball" he said. "That's why she's coming. It fits her game better. Hitting it 10 miles is not going to be as much of an advantage here. It's a player's golf course." ■



Jeff Elliot

## ELLIOT'S TOOLS

### GREENS MOWERS:

12 Toro 1000

### TEE MOWERS:

3 Toro 1000 26"

### FAIRWAY MOWERS:

1 Toro 6500, 2 Jacobsen LF-128

### ROUGH MOWERS:

1 Toro Groundsmaster 4500-D, 1 Jacobsen Turfcat 72

### RIDING BUNKER RAKE:

1 Toro, 1 Smithco

### BEDKNIFE GRINDER:

Foley Accu Pro 670

### IRRIGATION PUMP STATION:

Flowtronex, 2,500 gpm

### IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Rainbird Nimbus

### GOLF CAR FLEET:

60 E-Z-GO gas

### FLAGSTICKS:

Par Aide, Standard

### COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES:



The PGA Tour event has been at Colonial CC since 1946.

### TURF UTILITY VEHICLES:

5 John Deere Gators, 11 Club Car, 5 E-Z-GO

### VERTI-CUT REELS:

5 Jacobsen 3810, 3 Greens King IV

### AERIFIERS:

3 Ryan GA 24

### TOPDRESSERS:

1 Ty-Crop 300, 1 Turfco

### GROOMING REELS:

1 Toro 1000

### TOURNAMENT SPEED ROLLER:

2 Salsco

### REEL GRINDER:

Foley Accu Pro 630

Hewlett Packard and IBM

### PRIMARY HERBICIDE:

Barricade, Ronstar

### PRIMARY INSECTICIDE:

Merit

### PRIMARY FUNGICIDE:

Eagle, Subdue, Fore, Daconil

### PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER:

Nitroform

### TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING:

8,000 sq. ft.

### ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF:

35,000

### NORMAL GREEN SPEED:

10'

Shouldn't your Grounds Crew look as groomed as your greens?



Golf Shirts

\$7.95

with your logo

GOLF SHIRTS • CAPS  
JACKETS • PANTS • RAINSUITS

CHESTNUT  
IDENTITY APPAREL

800-336-8977

www.chestnutid.com

© 2002 Flowtronex PSI, Inc.

# CALL FLOWTRONEX BEFORE YOUR REPAIRMAN DOES.

Trusting complicated pump station repairs like controls or VFD problems to an unqualified repairman can make the situation worse and end up costing you more. The Flowtronex network of certified technicians can handle virtually any problem on any brand of manufactured pumping system anywhere in the world. So whether you have an emergency or just want a consultation, give us a call.

**FLOWTRONEX**

No One Makes Your Life Easier. No One.  
1-800-786-7480 • www.flowtronex.com



## Get Zoysiagrass from seed without getting clipped.

Now, affordable hybrid Zenith Zoysia fairways, roughs, and tees from seed (anywhere in the Transition Zone):

- Eliminates costly reseeding of rye and bluegrass fairways and tees.
- Can provide full coverage in one growing season.
- Costs a fraction of the cost of sod.
- Delivers the zoysia characteristics you expect - from seed.
- Gives golfers the best ball lie year round.
- Provides for Poa annua control - Finally!

For a free informational CD and pricing call 800-634-1672

Zenith® Zoysiagrass a product of Patten Seed Co.  
www.pattenseed.com