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snowmobile

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superintendent is being infiltrated from within. Among certain experts in the turf management field there is a feeling that snowmobiles are not the tools of course destruction. None of them wish to be identified but each drops the hint that maybe the super is crying foul before one is committed.

The superintendent is ever mindful of the possibility he might be barking up the wrong tree. However, he must look upon his task through different eyes, since he remains responsible to the membership for bringing the course to manure sharpness at the first signs of the golf season.

In all matters of course damage the super assumes the attitude of the researcher, rather than the physician. He is brought up on the doctrine of prevention, not cure. "Why court trouble?" is the universal question. "We have enough of it without these mechanical devils."

Technical arguments follow. From the superintendent's vantage point, the snowmobile causes a fabricated sheet of strangulation on top of the naturally porous snow cover. In doing so, the compaction shuts off all oxygen to the plant below, hindering life just like a choking layer of ice. For that reason alone, the snowmobile serves as a curse to the turf.

The snowmobile cult and its supporters counter with their ammunition, based on the flimsy but applicable assumption that the super's conclusions are controversial. The plea here is that off-season damage or winter kill existed

The long and the short of it

Short caddies have a tall problem with apparently no solution in sight.

Since many are not 6 feet, they are forced to carry the golf bag at a level that rubs up against their knees. The bag manufacturers have standardized their product so that when the strap is raised to the highest possible notch, the bag still hangs too low for shorter people.

A leading manufacturer responded to this single complaint with the statement that if they were to make the straps any shorter many people wouldn't be able to fit their arm inside it. He also added: it would be highly expensive to redo production lines; it didn't seem to warrant the expense, and that he had never gotten any complaints in the some 40 years he has been in business.

Obviously, one short caddy doesn't agree. □

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