

Business briefs

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acquire Port Washington, Wis.-based OmniQuip International in a cash transaction valued at about \$477 million. OmniQuip is a manufacturer of light construction equipment, including telescopic material handlers, aerial work platforms and skid steer loaders.

The agreement was to be finalized in late September.

ABT meets with analysts

Henderson, Nev.-based AgriBioTech said it would suffer a significant loss for its fiscal year ended June 30, according to a report. ABT blames the loss on the bankruptcy of a former customer, the Hechinger Co., a lumber and hardware chain.

In other company news, ABT's senior executive team recently met with sell-side analysts that cover ABT to review and update them on the company's business plan; to announce that the company has received proposals for and is working on completing new, long-term debt financing to provide working capital to carry out its business plan; and to present data that supports the company's expectations of profitability in fiscal year 2000.

Eco Soil revenues up, income down

Rancho Bernardo, Calif.-based Eco Soil Systems reported revenues for the three months ended June 30 of \$40.7 million, compared to \$26.9 million during the same period in 1998. It was comprised of \$34.2 million from turf business and \$6.5 million from agriculture sales and services.

The company reported net income for the quarter of \$1.1 million, or \$.06 per share, compared to net income of \$1.6 million, or \$.08 per share, for the same quarter last year.

King & Bear under construction

Construction began on The King & The Bear, the World Golf Village's second golf course and the first collaboration by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. The course, to be owned and operated by Hilton Head, S.C.-based Scratch Golf Co., is scheduled to open next fall in St. Augustine, Fla.

"The property is exceptional, and will lend

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The Full (Of It) Monty

First, it was professionals complaining about the difficult conditions at Carnoustie. Then, it was complaints about the course condition at Medinah. Now, it's European players saying fans shouldn't be allowed to cheer for their team in the Ryder Cup.

If professional golfers want to be considered athletes, they need to play under adverse conditions. Colin Montgomerie was one of the worst offenders at the Ryder Cup, proving that France isn't the only country to produce w(h)ine. Monty made an annoying habit of backing off 2-foot putts every time a baby belched in the tri-state area. We think Peter King of CNN/SI summed up his display best:

"Colin Montgomerie ought to shut up, stop glaring at the crowd and play golf. The Ryder Cup was fun to watch, but Montgomerie was a wuss throughout. What is so horribly unsportsmanlike about a crowd that is rabidly rooting for the home team and cheers when a foe misses a putt? Golf is so ridiculous about these things. Imagine Yankee Stadium, after Roger Clemens strikes out Chipper Jones in the World Series, being silent. Join the real world, Monty."

You Know You've Made It as a Superintendent ...

... WHEN THEY NAME A SALAD AFTER YOU ON THE CLUB'S MENU

At Doral Resort and CC in Miami, you can stop by Champions Sports Bar & Grill after playing 18 and munch on Dan Dupree's Greens Keeper Salad, featuring romaine lettuce, garlic croutons, parmesan cheese and caesar dressing.

Now, if you don't like the green speeds, you can go looking for Dupree. But if you don't dig the greens, as in the salad, go looking for the chef. Club rules.



Can't Keep a Good Man Down

Superman would be impressed with Mark Connor, the superintendent of the South Course at Firestone CC in Akron, Ohio, who suffered a head injury after he was hit by an automobile while driving his golf car in August.

The accident occurred one week before the NEC Invitational, the biggest annual event at Firestone, and landed Connor in intensive care for three days where he was treated for bleeding on the brain. Initial reports said Connor would

miss the tournament on the course that he had (literally) almost killed himself to prepare.

But Connor showed up at Firestone on the second day of the tournament just in time to watch Tiger Woods take control. Brian Mabie, Firestone's director of golf course maintenance, was happy to see him.

"Connor deserves a lot of credit," Mabie said. "He baby-sat the course all summer."