

Great Expectations

It's hard to imagine higher expectations on a course than those on Bandon Dunes in Bandon, Ore. Open since May, the course already ranks No. 10 in *Golfweek's* list of the top courses built since 1959. That's OK. Superintendent Troy Russell says he enjoys the pressure.

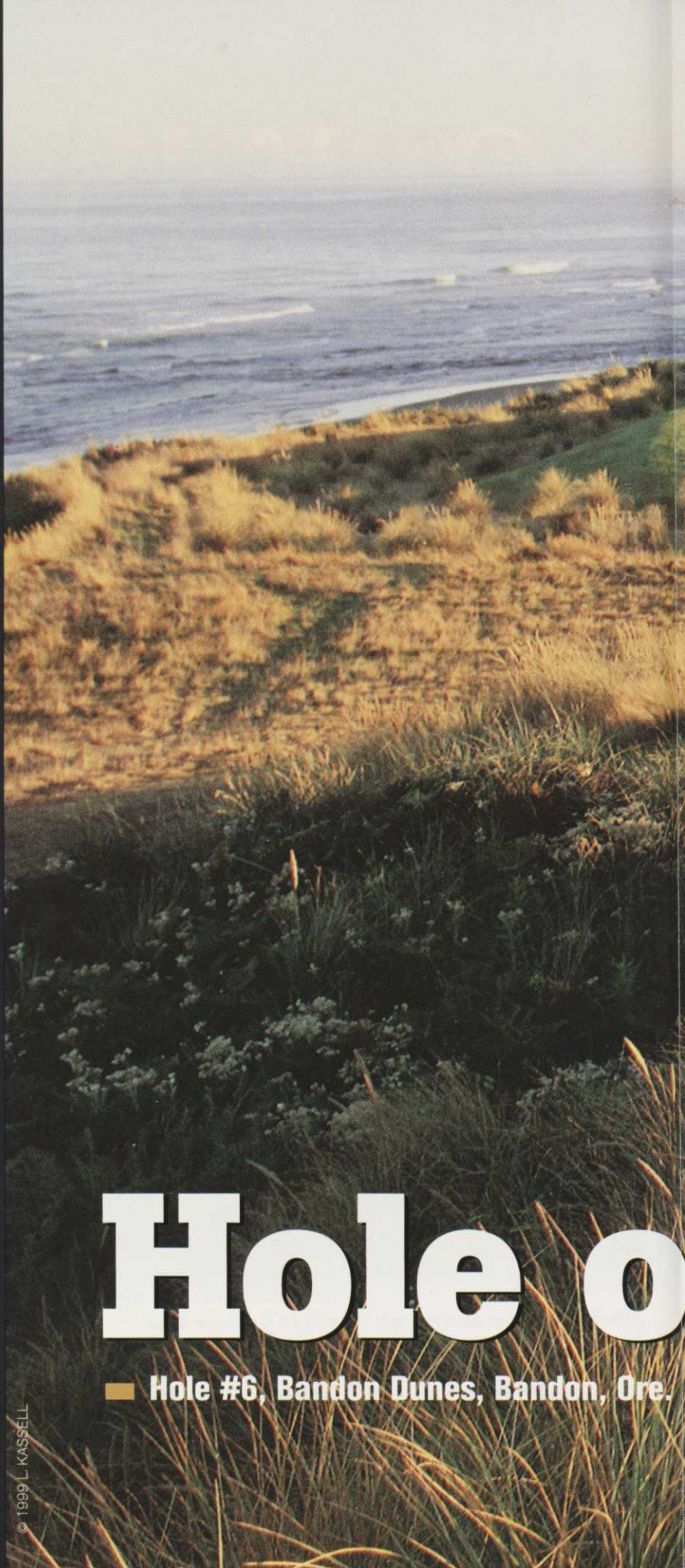
"We work hard to make sure we get all the details right," Russell says. "We want to make sure the course offers the best playing surface available to our customers."

Designed by Scotsman David McLay Kidd and shaped by Jim Haley, the course skirts the Pacific Ocean, and hole #6 presents one of the most picturesque views on the course. But don't be seduced by its beauty: a few feet right or left can mean the difference between a par and a triple bogey.

"You have to be vigilant and hit your shots carefully on this hole," Russell says. "You're constantly hitting directly into a two-club wind, and there's not a lot of margin for error on either side. For people who complain about the difficulty of this hole, however, the answer is simple: Don't mis-hit your shot."

Though Russell says working on the Pacific Ocean is one of the greatest rewards of working at Bandon Dunes, it also presents some unusual challenges. The salt from the overspray – the hole sits 90 feet above the beach – and the constant wind keep the grounds crew focused on maintenance. The greens and surrounds are frequently hand watered, and the severe Oregon winter brings with it monsoon-like rains that have to be compensated for with gypsum treatments.

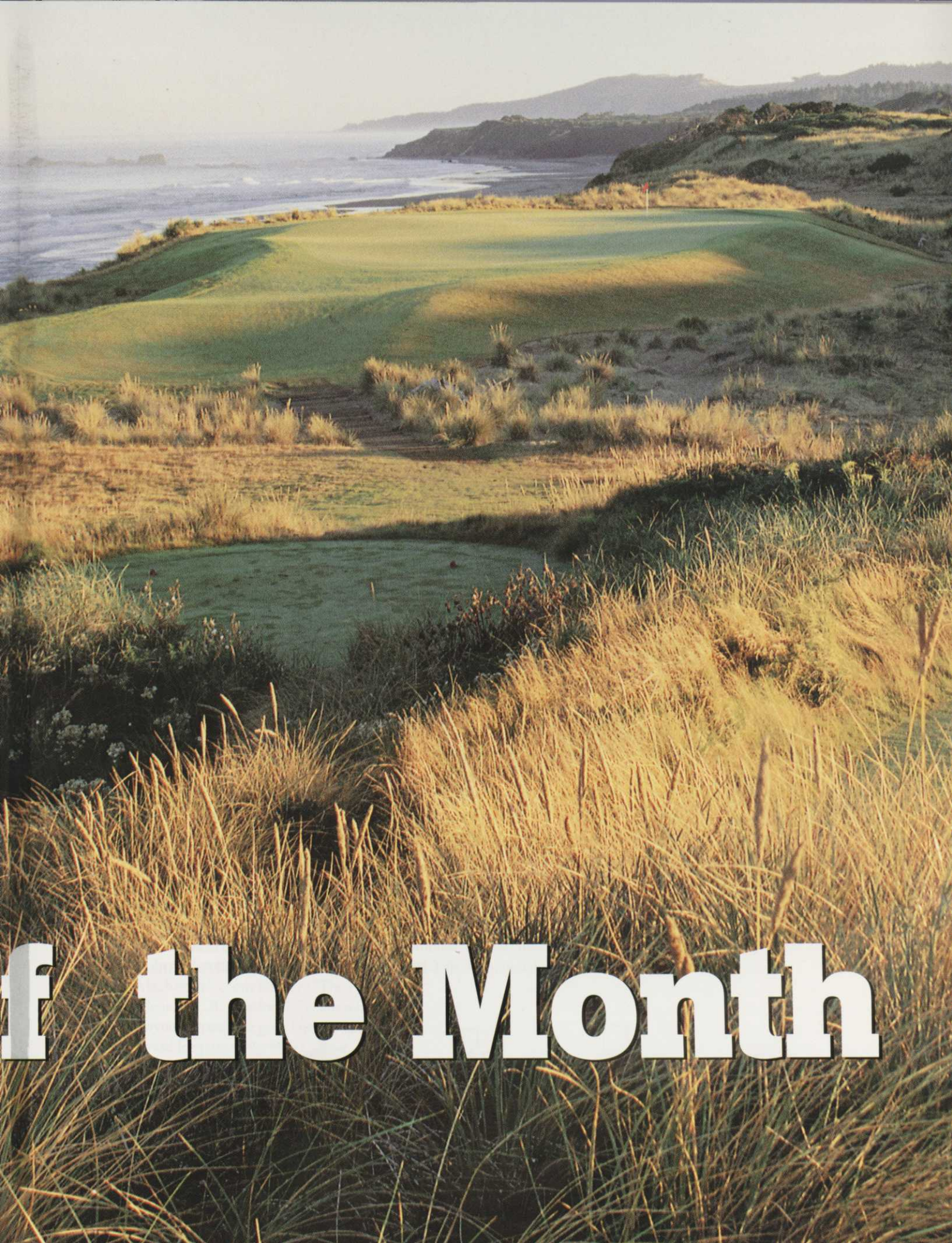
"There are days that I wish the expectations of the course weren't already so




Hole 6

■ Hole #6, Bandon Dunes, Bandon, Ore.

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elevated, being the young course that it is," Russell says. "It doesn't add a lot of pressure to anyone, though, since our own expectations of how the course should be maintained are already up there with the best."

Golfdom

OCTOBER

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