

Water Losses

The 11th hole at The Meadows GC in Dubuque, Iowa, is a bit like Napoleon: short but dangerous. It also features its own Waterloo.

The green on the 140-yard par 3 is guarded in front by a pond and on its left side by a creek. If a golfer isn't careful, his ball will end up wet.

"The hole deceives a lot of golfers," says superintendent Gregg Wille. "It's not a long shot. But because of the pond, the creek and the way the green slopes, it appears easier than it is."

Wille says heavy rains cause the most severe maintenance problems for the hole because of its own water hazards. During heavy rains, which Wille says are storms that drop 4 inches of rain an hour, water occasionally overflows the pond and the creek into the fairway. Fortunately, such storms are few and far between.

The pond is also stocked with grass-eating carp to keep clippings from choking the pond, and Wille says he adds copper sulfate to the water to keep algae from tarnishing the water's brilliant blue surface.

"I'd advise golfers to aim for the middle of the green on their first shots," Wille says. "Anything else has a tendency to roll off the green and back into the water."

His own success rate?

"I hit the middle of the green once every hundred times," Wille says, laughing.

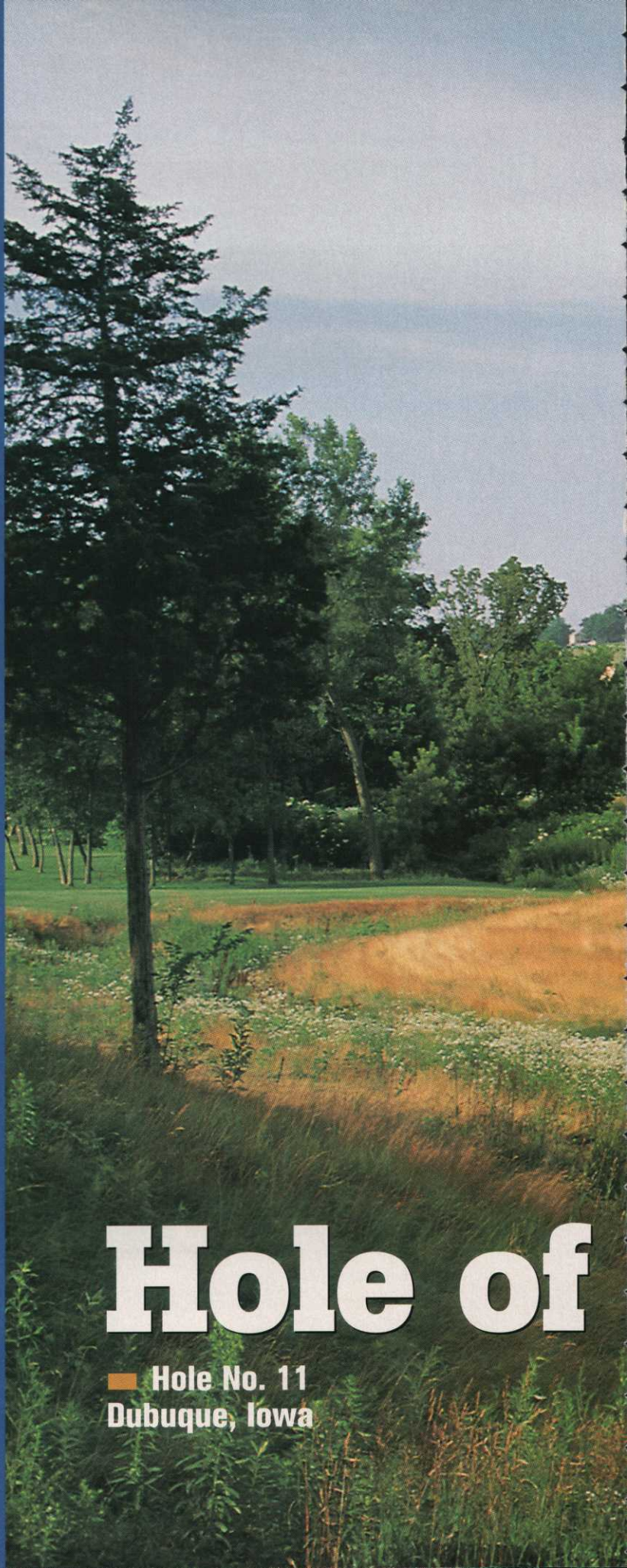
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1721 Packard Avenue
Racine, WI 53403-2564
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■ Hole No. 11
Dubuque, Iowa





the Month

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