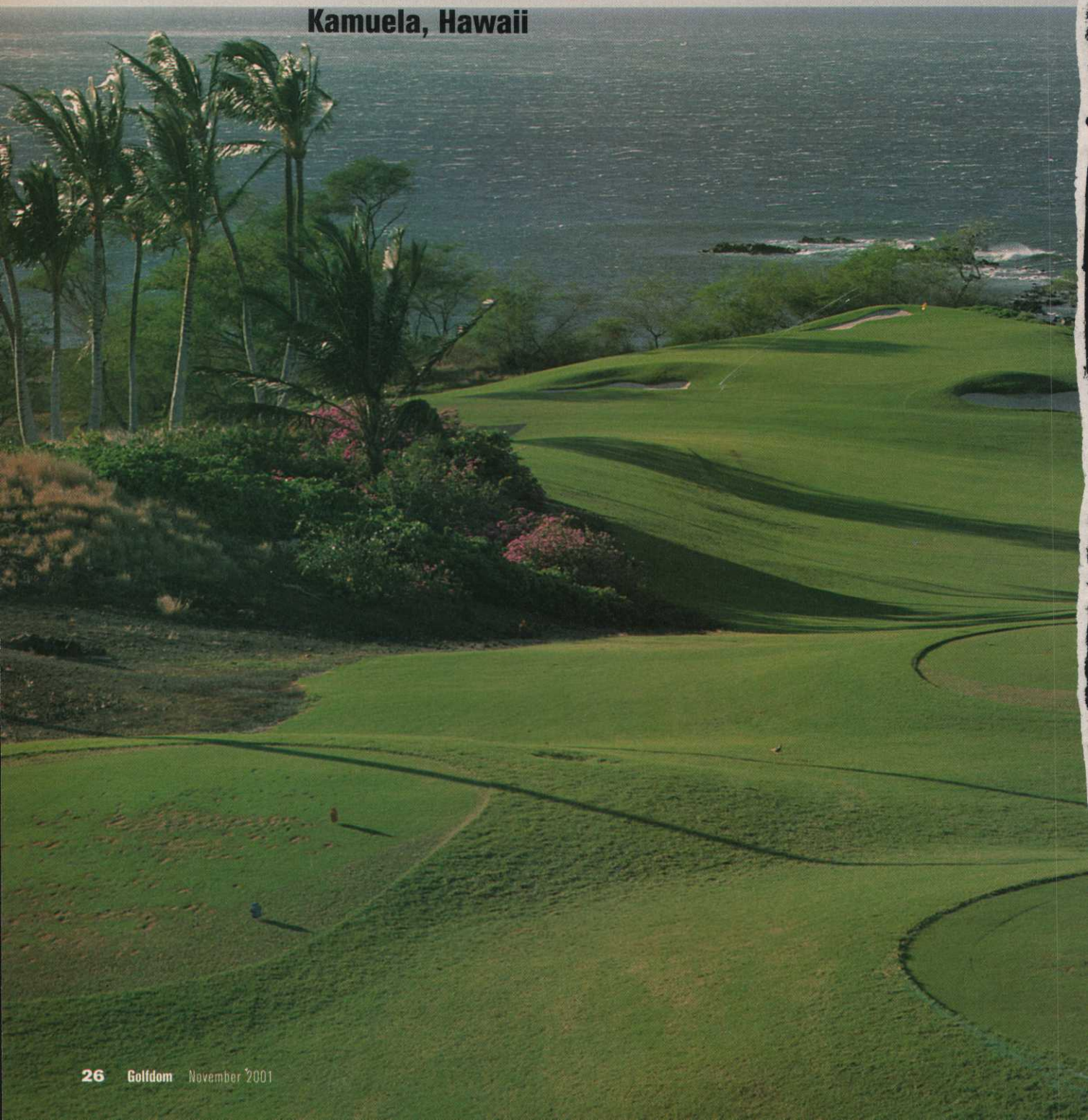


Hole of the

■ No. 11
Mauna Kea Resort GC
Kamuela, Hawaii



Month

Tight Squeeze

Accurate golfers are happy golfers, particularly when they're playing the 245-yard par-3 No. 11 at Mauna Kea Resort GC in Kamuela, Hawaii.

Golfers battle not only winds on the hole, which juts into the Pacific Ocean, but also a tight fairway that hides severe drops on both sides with trees and flowering shrubs. Superintendent Bob Itamoto says golfers better hit their balls straight if they want to find them.

"It's by far the hardest hole on the course," Itamoto says. "During our professional tournaments, the average score is 3.5 strokes. You have to hit it straight or you don't stand a chance."

Itamoto says the hole poses the same maintenance difficulties as the other holes on the Robert Trent Jones-designed course. His crew members face an undulating green that makes mowing more difficult and the four bunkers that surround the hole must be maintained by hand.

"Jones was an architect who made life difficult for those who maintain his courses," Itamoto says. "What results from his work, however, are some of the most challenging courses in the world."

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