

Hole of the



■ No. 17
Tobacco Road GC
Sanford, N.C.

Month

Challenges Abound

Tobacco Road GC challenges every facet of a player's game. It also challenges many facets of a superintendent's maintenance capabilities, says Perry Payne, director of golf course maintenance.

"The mind is used more than the muscles," Payne says of playing the course. Of the course's maintenance, headed by Payne and superintendent Morgan Stephenson, Payne says, "It's never boring because the architecture is so distinctive and unusual."

Tobacco Road was designed by Mike Strantz and opened in 1998. The 142-yard par-3 17th hole is one of the course's more distinctive holes. The green is about 85 yards wide and 20 yards deep, making for diverse putting angles.

A major maintenance challenge on the course, including the 17th hole, is caring for waste areas, especially after heavy rains.

"A normal course doesn't have as much sand and waste area as this course," Stephenson says. "So we spend more time raking the waste areas as needed?"

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