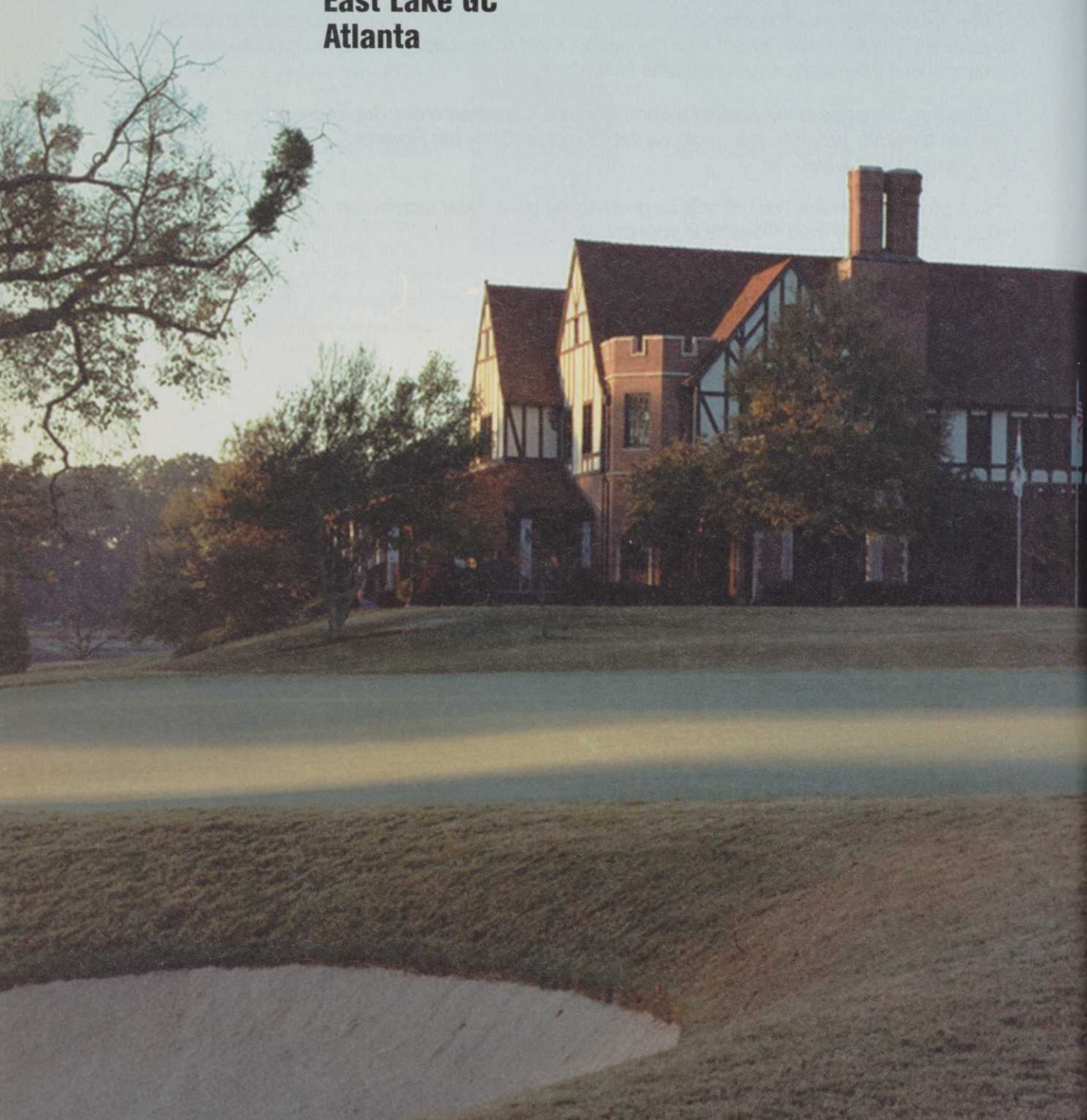


# Hole of the

■ No. 9  
East Lake GC  
Atlanta





# Month

## Comeback Course

Atlanta-based East Lake GC sports a history as rich as the peach state's largest city itself. The course, originally designed by Tom Bendelow, opened on July 4, 1908. It was redesigned by Donald Ross in 1913 and regarded as one of the top tracks in the country. But East Lake was nearly lost to urban decay in the 1980s.

In 1993, however, East Lake was purchased by a local charitable foundation whose intent was to save the course. Rees Jones restored Ross' layout and the clubhouse, pictured here near the ninth green, was restored to its 1926 condition. By 1995, East Lake had regained its place as one of the country's top golf clubs.

Certified superintendent Ralph Kepple, who joined East Lake in 1992, has watched the club rebound up close. When he joined East Lake, Kepple says the course hadn't received much tender-loving care. But 10 years later, with Kepple providing plenty of TLC, East Lake is back on a roll – like in its early days. "It's unbelievable," Kepple says of the transformation.

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