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No. 18
Grayhawk GC, Raptor Course
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Home-Field Advantage

Superintendent Ernie Pock knows all the trouble spots that lurk for players on No. 18 at Grayhawk GC's Raptor Course in Scottsdale, Ariz. But he's not sharing them with his colleagues as the course prepares to host the John Deere World Championship, which will be held Nov. 20-24.

The tournament will pit 33 teams from seven countries against each other. Each team will consist of the golf professional, club manager, club president and superintendent. That's why Pock won't reveal any information – he wants to win.

"We don't want to give up our home-field advantage," says Pock, chuckling. "Of course, we're all going to be so concerned about making sure the course is ready for the tournament each day that I'm not sure how much of an advantage we'll really have."

What Pock will say is that superintendents should look out for

blue herons as they play the hole.

"My biggest agronomic challenge on the hole is to chase them off and repair the damage they do," Pock says.

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