

Hole of the

▶ Hole # 13 | The Ridge Golf Course | Auburn, Calif.

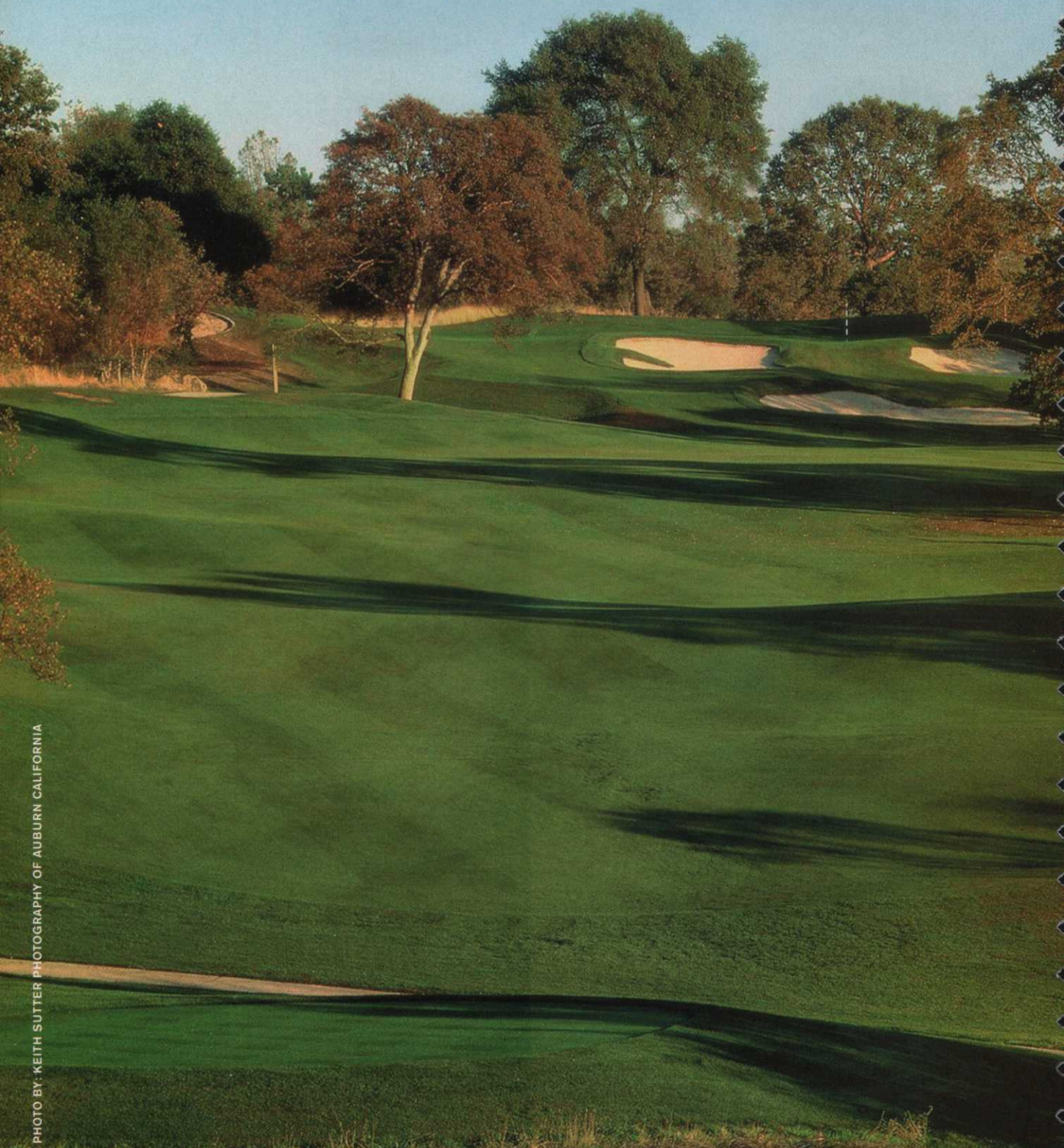
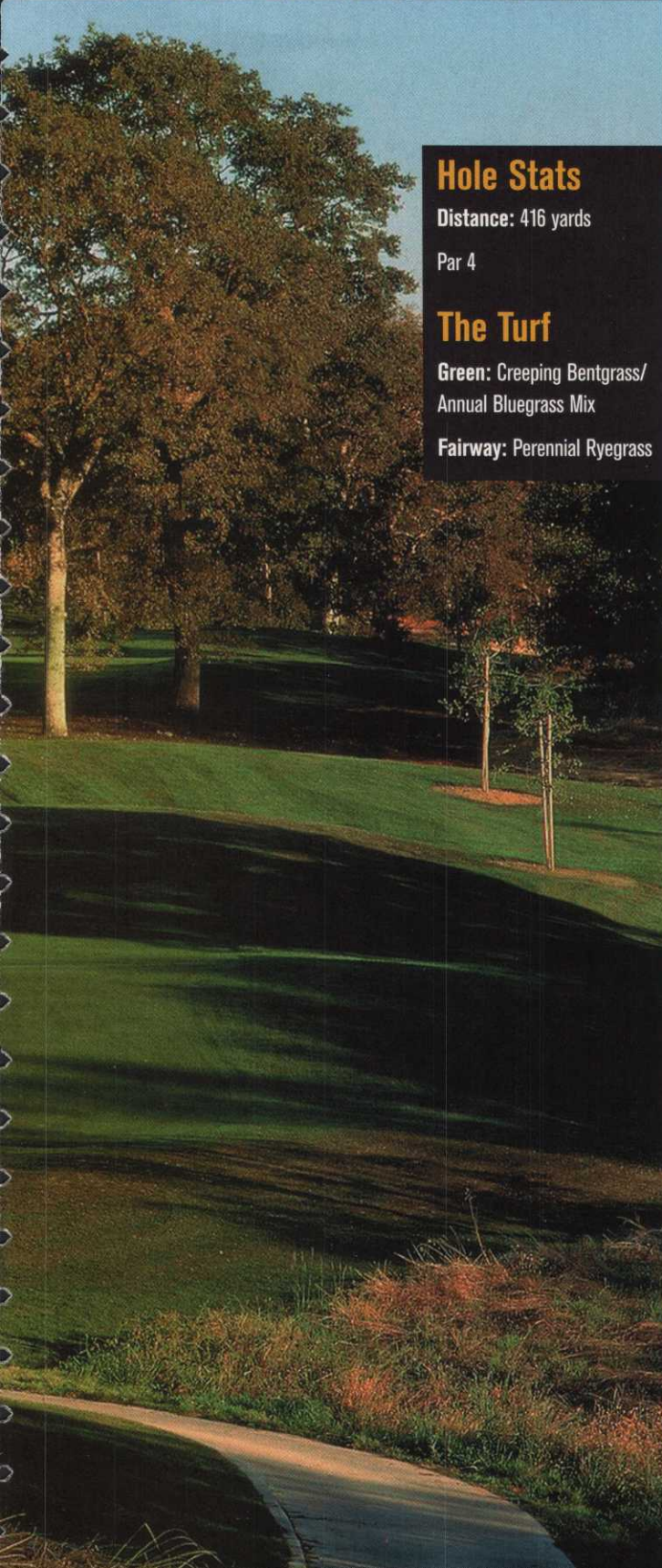


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Month



Hole Stats

Distance: 416 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Green: Creeping Bentgrass/
Annual Bluegrass Mix

Fairway: Perennial Ryegrass

Located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, The Ridge Golf Course sits atop land once used by the ancient Maidu tribe and later by miners traveling to the California Gold Rush. Today, golfers enjoy a classic 18-hole course designed by master architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. Hundreds of stately blue oaks complement the rolling terrain, giving the course a mature feel that challenges golfers at any level.

Steve Fackler has served as certified superintendent of the course since it opened in 1999. He also shares his professional experience with future turf-care specialists as an adjunct professor at Sierra Community



College in nearby Rocklin, Calif. "I teach my students about both traditional and organic practices," Fackler says.

Back at his course, the 416-yard, par-4 13th hole challenges golfers with two extremely difficult shots. It requires a first shot to a very narrow landing on an uphill slope. Golfers must then maneuver between three sand traps and two mature valley oaks to reach the elevated and well-guarded green. "It's one of the more difficult holes on the course," Fackler says.

Fackler's main philosophy for course maintenance is a base-saturation method of soil balancing, where his crew regularly monitors calcium and magnesium ratios in the soil. He practices what he preaches to students, mixing organic methods with chemicals when necessary to keep his course in pristine condition. When facing an outbreak of fairy ring, Fackler uses Insignia® fungicide to control the problem. Fackler begins his applications when the soil temperature rises, beginning in the spring and continuing into early fall. "Insignia works well on fairy ring, and I have also been successful using it to control grey leaf spot," he says.

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