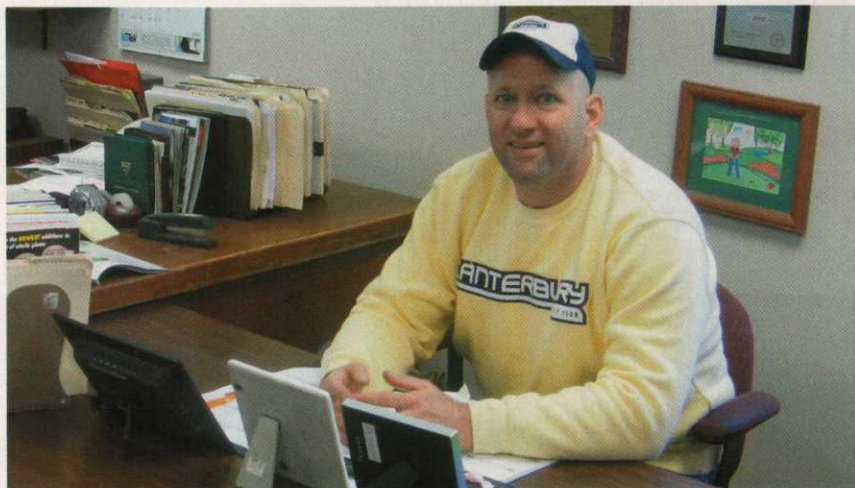


# ■ Top Assistants

*Golfdom* goes one on one with Ed Smith, assistant superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland

*Editor's note: We've been reporting on superintendents for years. Of course, that's why Golfdom exists. But we want to give assistant superintendents more due. That's why we're introducing this new feature, Top Assistants, which will feature a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent every month. If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at [larylward@questex.com](mailto:larylward@questex.com).*



**Golfdom:** How many years have you worked in the golf industry?

**Smith:** 20

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite part of the job?

**Smith:** Managing the crew and working with them on projects.

**Golfdom:** Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

**Smith:** There have been three people that have influenced me. Roger Remec, my teacher at Gates Mills Horticulture Center in Gates Mills, Ohio, who directed me to the golf course field. Don Sweda, the former superintendent at Beechmont Country Club, who I worked for in 1988 and 1989. Sweda taught me about the job and influenced me to go to Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio, where I obtained my degree in turfgrass management. Finally, Terry Bonar, who is the superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club and also my boss where I have been employed since 1990. I started at Canterbury as an intern, then a second assistant, and my

current position is first assistant golf course superintendent. Terry has taught me so much about the business.

**Golfdom:** What was the defining moment in your professional life?

**Smith:** Working the 1996 U.S. Senior Open at Canterbury. It was an awesome experience.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?

**Smith:** My favorite piece of equipment would be the dual spinner topdresser. It cuts down our time to topdress greens, and you have better control of how much material you put down, which makes it a one-person job.

**Golfdom:** If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?

**Smith:** I would change the strong emphasis on the bunkers being so perfect. So what if the sand in a bunker is not perfect — it's a hazard and it's not supposed to be perfect. It's also OK for bunkers to be a little shaggy around the edges.

**Golfdom:** Describe yourself in one word:

**Smith:** Energetic.

**Golfdom:** What is your favorite hobby and why?

**Smith:** I like to go to the park and walk because it relaxes me and gets me away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite vacation spot?

**Smith:** Hilton Head, S.C.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite golf course besides your own?

**Smith:** Colleton River Plantation Country Club in Bluffton, S.C.

**Golfdom:** If a movie were made about your life, what famous actor would play you?

**Smith:** Steve Martin

**Golfdom:** It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?

**Smith:** I would go see the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam with my family. ■