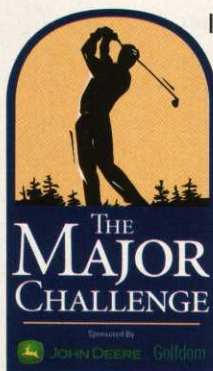


WILL TIGER BE PLAYING IN THE MASTERS THIS YEAR?

IT'S UP TO YOU.

**Play The Fantasy Golf Contest Exclusively
For Golf Course Superintendents, Sports Turf
Managers, And Other Industry Professionals.**



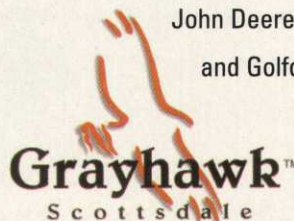
It's free. It's fun. And it's exclusively online. It's The Major Challenge, the fantasy golf contest where you're the coach and the world's best golfers are on your team!

As your team competes in the Masters, the U.S. Open, the British Open, and the

PGA Championship, you have a chance to win great prizes, from travel golf bags to an all-expense paid trip to this year's John Deere World Championship at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona this November. The Major Challenge is sponsored by



John Deere Golf & Turf One Source™ and GolfDome Magazine. Go to



The Major Challenge website and register your team today.

www.majorchallenge.com

Sponsored By



JOHN DEERE

GolfDome

Hole of the

■ No. 17
Boulder Creek Golf Club
Streetsboro, Ohio

Month

Tough But Pretty

Add Boulder Creek Golf Club to the list of golf courses that feature challenging and picturesque holes with island greens. Pictured here is the par-3, No. 17 on the Streetsboro, Ohio, course.

The threat of the drink definitely invokes a challenge. The hole also doesn't have to try hard to look pretty.

Joe Salemi, president of Boulder Creek, designed the course, located on about 200 acres in northeast Ohio. Salemi had never routed a golf course before. The wall-to-wall bentgrass course is said to offer interesting shots for golfers of all abilities.

Boulder Creek gets its name – no surprise here – from the many boulders that are natural to the site. The course's superintendent is Chris Loos.

Golfdom's Hole of the Month is presented in partnership with:

www.johndeere.com



JOHN DEERE

BOULDER CREEK

Thank goodness spring has sprung. It was a goofy winter here at Lake Omigosh Country Club. After an early October cool snap, our superintendent Duffy Mc-

Duffy rushed to get the overseeding done before it got too cold to germinate properly and pro Harvey Doyle reported at the weekly staff meeting that sweater sales had jumped in the pro shop.

Then Mother Nature cranked up the thermostat in November, and Duffy's crew was running sprinklers and hoses all day long to keep the new seedlings cool and damp. The golfers hated the maintenance department during that grow-in period, and some of them even returned their new sweaters.

Harvey was going nuts with all the complaints about slow, wet greens and having to refund cash for the sweaters. Duffy told me he couldn't recall ever seeing the pro at the maintenance shop so often in the past. Maybe it had more to do with Duffy not stopping in the clubhouse for his usual second cup of coffee to avoid getting an earful of the same old complaints.

Duffy lamented the many times he has had to explain that new seedlings need to be coddled in the heat until they start tillering. He sighed heavily when he explained to the hundredth golfer that the process will take at least several weeks.

He added in an aside to me that if Harvey wanted good greens after the holidays when the snowbirds come down, he needed to calm down the moaners and groaners and not just nag Duffy.

To the surprise of many members, it *did* cool off again, just like it does every year. Around mid-December, we had our first heavy frost of the year. The course looked just like one of those Currier & Ives Christmas card scenes. But wouldn't you know it, the same grumps who were grouching about the daytime watering to keep the seedlings alive were all up in arms because Duffy had to impose a one-hour frost delay until it melted.

All this seemed to be getting to be too much for our one of our more outspoken members, Gordon Goodnight, a lawyer who

The Latest News From Lake Omigosh

BY JOEL JACKSON



THANK GOODNESS

SPRING HAS

SPRUNG BECAUSE

IT WAS A GOOFY

WINTER HERE AT

THE COUNTRY CLUB

specializes in workman's comp and malpractice cases. He told club president Colonel Artemus Blodgett that he was starting a *FireMcDuffy.com* Web site to call for the ouster of a superintendent who couldn't manage to have the course ready for play each day. The Colonel told him to back off. Goodnight had been responsible for firing Duffy's predecessor, Kyle Murphy, for keeping the course too wet. The fact that the recorded rainfall that year was 50 inches above normal, the push-up greens had no drainage and the sun never shone for 37 days straight during transition somehow escaped Gordon.

Kyle is now a sales rep for Mowers and Goers Inc. and has rediscovered weekends with his family, and he can even help coach his son's little-league team. He actually sent Gordon a thank-you card once he began to sleep nights and his blood pressure dropped 25 points. The card mystified Gordon, who still doesn't get it that jumping through his impossible hoops took its toll on old Murphy.

Now that the mature overseeding is stripping nicely and looks like a TV golf tournament course, Duffy has asked the Green Chairman Duncan Morrison to help him lobby for a budget increase in labor. Duffy wants to hire an extra part-time person to help repair a rash of ball marks on the greens. It seems a little odd that the members demand perfection and when old Duffy gets close to giving it to them, they sabotage the effort with their inattention to such details.

That's all the news I have from Lake Omigosh, where the superintendent is dedicated, the crew is hard-working and the members are all about par for the course.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, retired from Disney's golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.

Using technology to increase length and control is a story as old as golf itself.



Always read and follow label directions.
Emerald is a registered trademark of BASF Corporation. ©2003 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.



Emerald®
F U N G I C I D E

Dollar spot's never seen anything like new Emerald® fungicide. Emerald is the first all-new class of fungicide chemistry for dollar spot control to be introduced in years. That's good news for superintendents battling resistance issues. Emerald sets a new standard for dollar spot control, offering you the first fungicide to reliably control dollar spot for three to four weeks with a single application. If you're tired of losing sleep over dollar spot, now you can rest easy knowing Emerald is on the job. It's the only fungicide you can really trust to consistently provide you with dependable dollar spot control for weeks at a time. It's time to make room in your fungicide rotation for the next generation of dollar spot control—Emerald® fungicide. To learn more, visit www.turffacts.com. **SETTING A NEW STANDARD.**



We don't make the turf. We make it better.

BASF

**Thingamabob
EXTRA.**

Doodad PRO.

**Whatchamacallit
PLUS.**





**The only weed
control you really
need to know.**

Roundup PRO has been etched
in the minds of professional turf
managers for nearly a decade.

There's good reason for that.
Like its one-hour rainfast
warranty. The way it consistently
delivers superior control of
tough weeds under a variety
of conditions. And the fact
that no imitator herbicide
can match its patented

surfactant system with
PROformance™ technology,
which speeds weed-killing
power right to the root and gets
the job done right the first time.

Trust Roundup PRO.
Talk to your authorized
Monsanto dealer today,
call 1-800-ROUNDUP or visit
www.monsanto.com/ito.

Always read and follow pesticide label directions.
Roundup®, Roundup PRO® and PROformance™
are trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC.
[19117 jl 1/04 LndMgt] ©2004 Monsanto Company.



CAUTION! Read precautions
on side panel.

NET 2.5 GAL

Superintendent Gone ARCHITECT

Kris Spence is trying to make a name for himself as a golf course designer

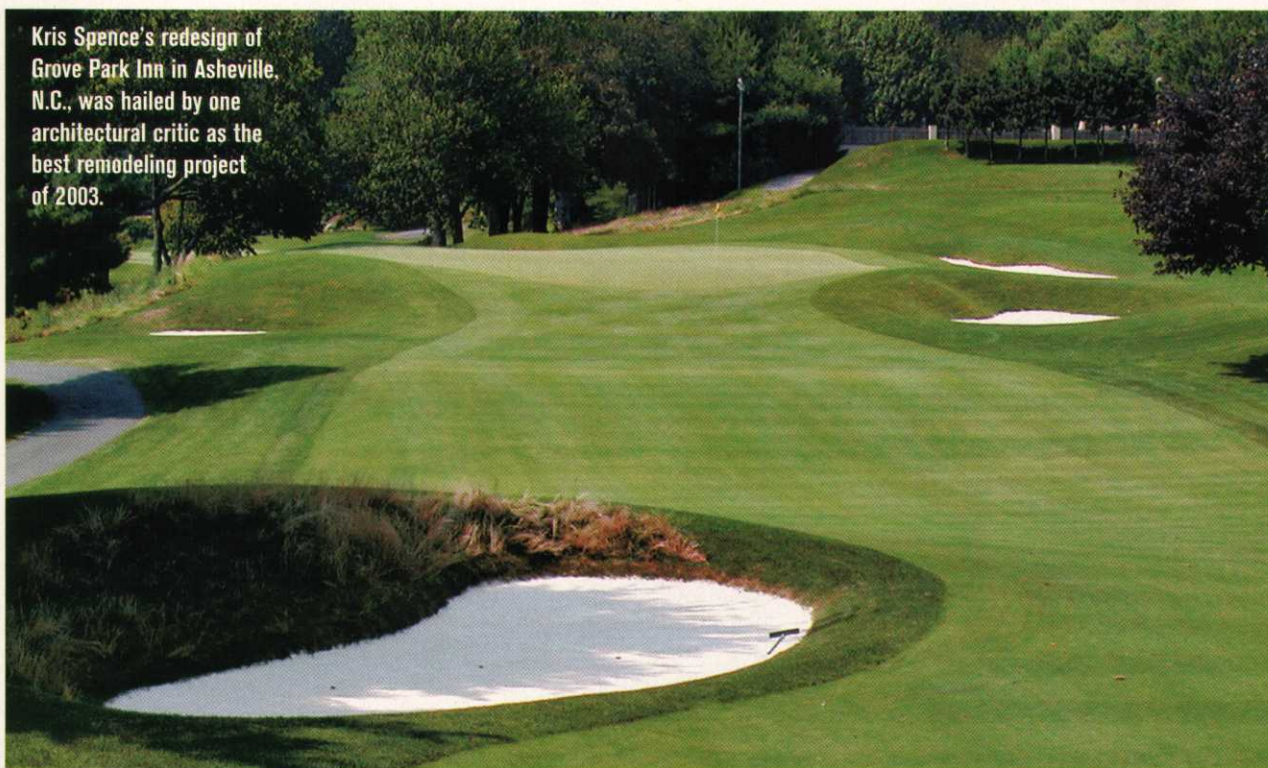
BY SHANE SHARP

Kris Spence has spent countless hours pouring over original design sketches from Donald Ross and Ellis Maples. He's consumed numerous books on golf course architecture and can recall the smallest details about Alister MacKenzie's bunkers and A.W. Tillinghast's green complexes. The Greensboro, N.C., native even practices his passion: He has a handful of redesigns to his name, including a remake of the Ross course at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., that one

prominent architecture critic hailed as the best remodeling project of 2003.

The catch? Spence, by trade and training, is a *superintendent*. The 41-year-old Ernie Els look-alike graduated from Lake City (Fla.) Community College's Golf Operations and Landscape program in 1985. He cut his superintendent teeth at the Atlanta Athletic Club and Forrest Oaks Country Club in Greensboro, where he was heavily involved in bunker and green remodeling projects and prepping both courses for PGA Tour events. However, his true

Kris Spence's redesign of Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., was hailed by one architectural critic as the best remodeling project of 2003.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRAIG DISTL



passion lies in the practice of what he dubs “traditional” golf course architecture.

“It is ironic, really,” Spence says. “Both Ross and Maples got their starts in the business as greenskeepers, and it evolved for them. The same thing happened to me. My formal education is in agronomy, not landscape architecture like most designers these days.”

Despite his lack of “formal” training, Spence recently hung his own design shingle, specializing in the restoration of Ross and Maples courses. In addition to the Grove Park Inn, he also has redesign projects at Mimosa Hills Country Club (Ross) in Morganton, N.C.; Carolina Golf and Country Club (Ross) in Charlotte; and the Greensboro Country Club (Maples) under his belt. While solo projects aren’t his bag (yet), he’s designing a par-3, Ross-inspired course in Greensboro and has his name in the hat for a couple full-scale projects.

“I am in some light discussions with some folks about designing some new courses,” Spence says. “There have been some offers and opportunities in Florida to build some generic courses for senior citizens, but I just can’t get excited about that. I’m looking for clients who want a true golf experience.”

A true golf experience, according to Spence, means designing a course heavy on strategy and light on bells and whistles. Modern golf course

design emphasizes aesthetics with little attention to strategy, he opines. Spence is quick to point out that Ross and Maples were masters of envisioning two or three ways to play a golf hole without moving tons of dirt or using fancy window dressing. This stance has garnered Spence some detractors in the industry. Some golf course architects have attacked his résumé, citing his lack of a from-scratch solo project.

“The only guys who criticize me are my competitors,” Spence says. “They try to criticize my background, and they say I’m never going to be a member of the ASGCA (American Society of Golf Course Architects). That’s funny because the guys that started [the ASGCA] were superintendents (including Ross.)”

Not only does Spence defend his profession and background, he thinks his superintendent skill set is the most valuable thing he has to offer his clients. An intimate knowledge of course maintenance and operations is just as important in the design process as a grasp of landscape architecture, he believes.

Greg Benton, superintendent of Grove Park Inn, says Spence was able to talk golf course maintenance with him during the course’s renovation.

“He could relate to us when we asked particular questions,” Benton says of he and his

Continued on page 30

Kris Spence (right) confers with Gaston Country Club superintendent Tim Carpenter. Spence is doing a major restoration of the Ellis Maples-designed course.

Superintendent Gone Architect

Continued from page 29

crew. "He knew why we were asking such questions."

Benton says he was impressed with Spence's knowledge of bunkers. Spence agreed with Benton that bunkers should be designed so maintenance crews don't have to spend several hours dealing with washed-out sand after a rainstorm.

"His knowledge of pin placements was also helpful," says Benton, noting that Spence realizes not to design greens with so many undulations that pin placement is limited.

Spence's superintendent training proved invaluable at the Grove Park Inn. More recently, it came in handy at the aforementioned Mimosa Hills, a private

Ross-designed course in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The course opened in 1928 and is one of the few Ross designs in North Carolina to have remained virtually untouched over the years. Spence worked closely with the membership and head professional Dan Dobson to restore the course to its 1930s specs. He laboriously scraped away seven decades worth of topdressing to unearth the original greens and studied Ross' original plans to get a feel for the original bunkers.

"The first thing golfers will notice from a before-and-after sense are the bunkers," Dobson says. "It used to seem like there were a few of them speckled around the course, but now we have deeper, steep-faced bunkers that are the real deal."

The same could be said for the putting surfaces. A number of the greens had shrunk to thumbnail-like proportions, severely limiting the number of pin placements and, according to Spence, the strategic value of the entire course.

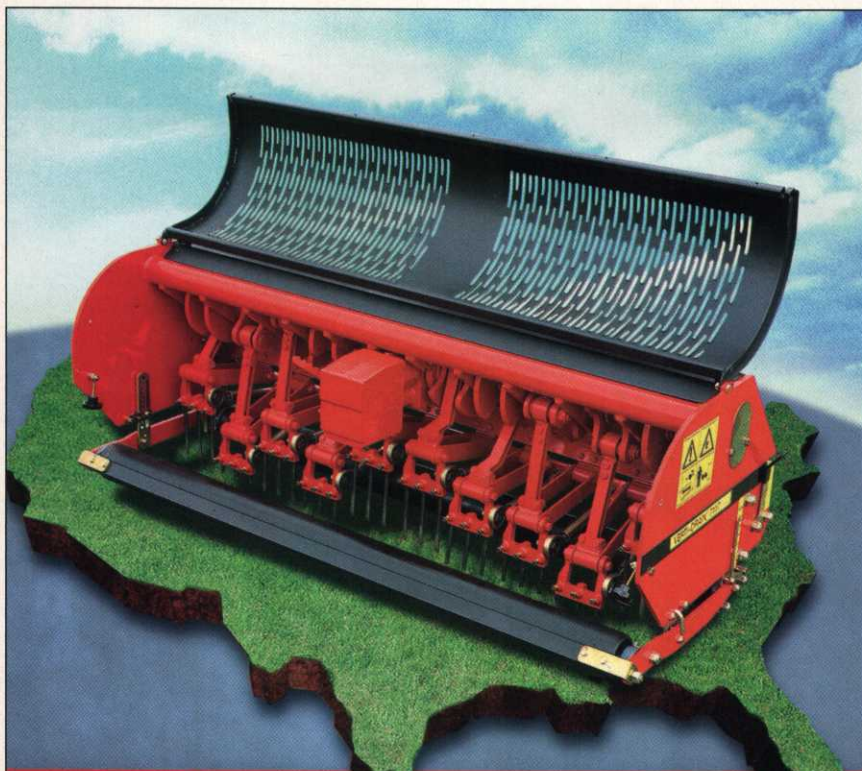
"Strategic green corners are very important with Ross courses," Spence says. "You have to be able to place the hole as close to the greenside bunkers as possible to force the strategy off the tee and determine the ideal approach into the green."

With a few Ross projects under his belt, Spence is turning his attention to the often-under-appreciated Maples, who worked for Ross in Pinehurst toward the end of Ross' career. Spence says the similarities between the two men are striking.

"They had similar thoughts about how golfers should have ground options available to them," Spence says. "It was hard to get the ball up in the air back in those days with that equipment. They also offered similar rewards to golfers who could get the ball up in the air and hit it a long way."

For example, both Maples and Ross made use of natural ridge lines when laying out fairways. Often, a par 4 or 5 was routed over a ridge about 220 yards to 250 yards from the middle and back tees. Golfers who could fly the ridge were rewarded with downhill "power chutes"

Continued on page 32



21 YEARS ON AMERICAN TURF

Over the past 21 years, innovative design, craftsmanship and heavy duty construction make Redexim Charterhouse products the standard of quality in the sports turf marketplace. By building relationships with turf care professionals, Redexim Charterhouse has listened, learned and produced the best machines money can buy. Redexim Charterhouse has not only gained a reputation of being an industry leader, but we have also earned your trust.

Redexim
Charterhouse

21 YEARS IN AMERICA
AND STILL GROWING

1-800-597-5664 • Fax: 570-602-3060 • www.redexim.com