

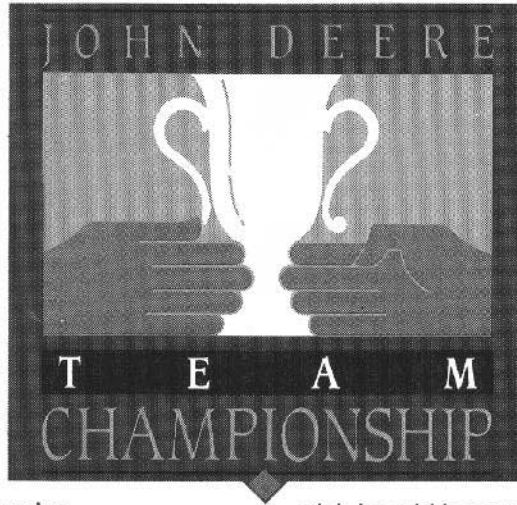
John Deere Team Championship (or, Playing Golf in Heaven!)

By Tom Schwab

The national finals for the 1990 John Deere Scramble, which teams up a club's golf course superintendent, golf pro, president and clubhouse manager, was held in Palm Springs, California on November 14-18. The two courses we played were like a dream. Designed by Pete Dye, they were a green oasis built right against the Santa Rosa Mountains, dotted with lakes, deep bunkers, gorgeous greens and playing surfaces, numerous desert plantings, and of course the sand and railroad ties. We were treated like royalty from the time we picked up our complimentary Oldsmobile rental car for the week, to our final meal on Sunday evening.

John Deere, including our local dealer (J.W. Turf), spared no expense on the 37 teams from throughout the U.S. and Canada. At registration on Thursday, we were handed an armful of John Deere souvenir shirts, sweatshirts, etc. Then we were off to play our first practice round on the Dunes course of La Quinta Golf Club. That evening there was a welcoming reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a drawing for a \$2,500 gift certificate on John Deere equipment. Each of the next three days there were drawings, but it increased \$2,500 each day to the \$10,000 final drawing on Sunday.

After a breakfast buffet on Friday, we headed out to Mission Hills Resort for our second practice round. Another fun day was had by all of us as the weather was once again



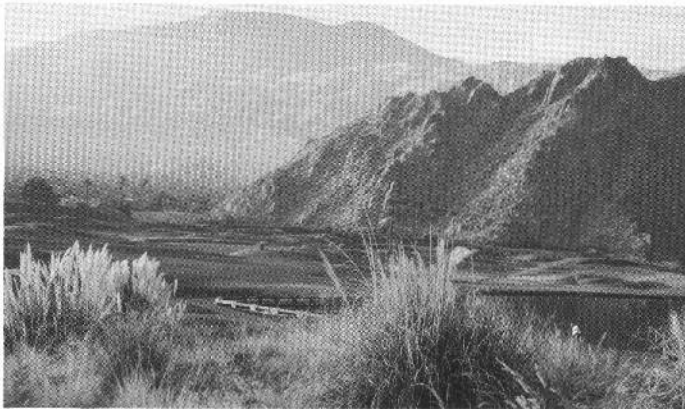
85° and sunny. Lovely weather when you're not managing the turf! That evening we were treated to an outdoor barbeque with all the fixings. Bill Roberts was in attendance at this event.

Then the games began. I don't have great results to report from our Wisconsin contingent of myself, club pro Mike Muranyi, President Curt Schwerin, clubhouse manager John Van Blarcum and JD Rep. Holly Gilmour. We shot 18 under the first day and 19 the second. The winning team from California was 27 under the first day and 26 under the second, with lots of teams in between. I only

wish I could have made as many good golf shots as I made good snap shots.

The tournament was complemented by an entertaining and insightful golf clinic put on by tour professional Dave Stockton and his son David. Dave was also the guest speaker at the sit-down dinner on Saturday night. That dinner was high-lighted by John Deere's presentation of \$7,500 to the GCSAA's scholarship and research fund. One more asset from the tournament was making some good friends, especially from our neighboring states.

It's unfortunate that only one team from Wisconsin can qualify for the national tournament. These golf courses are some of the most gorgeous in the world and, in addition to the climate, a true golfer's paradise. Good luck to everyone in next year's state qualifying.



View from the clubhouse of the Dunes course.



The Monroe Country Club team on the 8th green.



The living quarters were as beautiful as the golf course itself!



Mike Muranyi putts out for Monroe CC's team on the 17th green.