



Poa trivia



By Cubby O'Brien

Turf Talk

Well, it's been a long time coming, but it feels like summer is finally here, although technically it is still a few weeks off. At the time of this writing, temps in the high 80s to 90s are in the forecast, and with that come higher dew points and we all know what that means...disease. Until now it seems to me, in my travels, pressure has been fairly mild, save for the usual outbreaks of leaf spot, which seldom gets anyone too excited. Overall, damage from snowmold appeared to be minimal. Even the usual spring ("usual" and "spring" are two words that shouldn't be used together, but I digress) bouts with pink snowmold seemed absent.

So, what is there to talk about? How about **RAIN...lots of it**. Some areas received as much as 11 inches of rain in the mid-April to mid-May period. How about relative humidity levels in March that would match Las Vegas - 11%, with 30 mph winds to boot. How about cutworm and Black Turfgrass Ataenius activity in May??

What the heck is going on here? La Nina? El Nino? I don't think so. Aerosol cans and global warming? I doubt it. How about a typically atypical Wisconsin spring? As long as I've been around golf in this great state I can't remember a typical or normal spring in Wisconsin. If you think about it, in a kind of sadistic way, doesn't it make your job a little more interest-

ing? You must act and react to what Mother Nature throws your way, never quite sure of what's coming next. I think it's also what makes Wisconsin golf course superintendents the best in the business.

Oops

After reading the last issue of Poa trivia I realized that I owe Chad Johnson an apology. I'm sorry, Chad. I want to thank you for a job well done! This is a lot harder than it looks and you did an outstanding job keeping us informed and up-to-date on "the skinny". To those of you still reading this, I hope I can do half as good a job as CJ. Thanks again.

Career Moves

This time of year there aren't a lot of changes, but I did hear of a few. Mark Richards is the new superintendent at Silver Springs CC in Menomonee Falls. Mark comes to Wisconsin from Virginia, I believe. Welcome.

Joe Schneider is the new superintendent at Riverside golf course in Janesville where he was the assistant.

Brian Kruckenburg has taken the helm at Meadow Springs in Jefferson where he was the assistant.

Larry Gorman, a former employee at Westmoor CC, is now the superintendent at Scenic View CC in Slinger.

Mike Shinke was hired as assistant of the Palmer course at Geneva National where Chris Wardwell is superintendent.

Babies and Weddings

Brian Zimmerman, formerly Wisconsin's most eligible bachelor, was wed to Jill Riege in Waterloo on March 27th. Brian is the assistant at Washington County golf course (an upcoming meeting site this year). The couple honeymooned in San Francisco and now live in Hartford.

Randy Van Fleet and his wife Cara are proud parents for the third time with the March 24th birth of their daughter Julia Marie. Randy in the golf course superintendent at Merrill Hills CC in Waukesha.

Jim Moore and his wife Lori are new parents. Morgan Rose was born on February 9th, weighing in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. That's a keeper. Jim is the superintendent of the Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan.

Tab Lueke, range boy at Lac du Bay CC, finally got a date with Amanda, the beverage cart girl. They saw the new Star Wars movie, "Phantom Menace" and then went to Dolly's Woodhouse for Lake Perch. Tab said they had a "pretty good time" but wasn't sure if she'd go out with him again.

Today's Trivia

Who is both the oldest to win the US Open and the first to win it in a sudden death playoff?

Again, if I have left anyone out, I apologize. Please let me know your news. You can reach me @ 1-888-815-2437 and leave a message or e-mail me at cobrien@turfpartners.com. 