



Poa trivia



By Cubby O'Brien

Turf Talk

What a difference a couple of months can make. What started out as a seemingly mild season had turned into anything but.

Let's see... The first signs of real disease pressure occurred about the second week of June with dew points in the high 60's and a couple of days in the low 70's. This lasted for about five days and didn't cause too many problems.

Then there was the 4th of July weekend, the 3rd thru the 5th. Dew points in the mid 70's with highs in the 90's. Bad timing but you got through it with some needed sprays. This was followed with periods of heavy rain for some, while there was talk of drought by others.

By the time mid-month hit, there were some outbreaks of basal-rot anthracnose in the areas that had received the rains. Along with everything else a particularly nasty leaf spot, *Leptosphaeria* sp, began to appear on some courses.

And that brings us to the last two weeks of July. Ouch! Around the 22nd, heat indexes were in the 105 degree range, and bouts with brown patch, pythium, anthracnose and summer patch were common.

Well, this was nothing compared to the 29th through the 31st. As a person who sells fungicides I have fond memories of 1995 but I don't remember weather as wicked as that of Thursday and Friday. At 10 p.m. Thursday

night the heat index was 101 degrees! Friday morning it felt like a sauna. You name it and it was running on the turf. I think the stage was set earlier in the month and those three days were the Coupes de Gras for already weakened *Poa*. If the saying "misery loves company" ever applied..... I could be wrong but doesn't it kinda feel like fall is in the air? Let's hope so!

Career Moves

Matthew Davis, former 2nd assistant to Wayne Otto at Ozaukee has taken the 1st assistant position at Ridgeway under Tom Wenzel. Todd Fregien has taken a new superintendent position in Vernon. The new grow-in course is tentatively named Morningstar. Todd was Josh Lapine's assistant at Bristlecone Pines in Hartland. Congratulations to both Matthew and Todd on your new positions.

Hats Off

To the entire staff at the O.J. Noer facility for their tireless efforts to put on yet another outstanding field day!

And to Steve Bailey and his crew for a fine showing as host of the GMO.

And to Danny Quast for having Medinah in such great shape despite difficult circumstances for the PGA Championship. Tiger Woods is treating the 7400-yard monster like it's an executive length course. Hitting irons on his 2nd shot into the greens on some of those par 5's??

Babys and Stuff

On July 30th Chad Johnson and his wife Stephanie had their second child, Alec Brian, an 8lb. 3oz. boy.

One of WGCSA's most prolific producers of progeny is rumored to have number 7 "in the oven." I'll keep you posted when he/she arrives. Hint: He's known by some as "Kenny the Gardener."

At a June 5th ceremony Randy Swonger, assistant at Butte de Mortes CC, was married to Sheri Barlow who is the second assistant at Oneida CC.

An apology to Dave Smith whose compelling story about Jims' remodeling job was lost in cyber-space. I fully intended to run it but when I went to retrieve it from my e-mail it was gone. Please re-send it to me if you can...it was hilarious. I'm sure everyone is dying to know how it turned out.

Today's Trivia

Which four players have won the modern Grand Slam of golf(The U.S. Open, The British Open, The Masters, and The PGA Championship)?

The answer to last issue's question was none other than Hale Irwin. He was both the oldest and first to win the U.S. Open in sudden death in 1990 at Medinah CC.

Again, if I've left anyone out I hope it's because I didn't know about it.

Please e-mail me @ cobrien@turfpartners.com or call @ 1-888-815-2437 and leave a message. 