

Reflections

By Kris Pinkerton, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



As the 2000 golf season draws near to a close, I would guess that most superintendents, as well as myself, take time to reflect on the past growing season. How were course conditions this past year? How did Mother Nature influence our game plan? Could the greens have been a little

faster or perhaps a bit smoother? What about the fairways - maybe greener, less dollar spot or even more upright turf? Did we retain enough staff members this past summer? Did we utilize our operating budgets to their greatest potential? Under budget? The list goes on!

Without question, golf remains a great game, whether we enjoy playing the game or enjoy the challenge of working with Mother Nature to condition our courses. However, when we collectively gather our thoughts, evaluate them and then look at the big pic-

ture, will our members and guests remember the course's condition three years from now? How about in three weeks?

In reality, most superintendents are evaluated each day regarding current course conditions. Yesterday is gone, and it means very little in our turfgrass profession. Now, don't get me wrong. We should all take a great deal of pride in our jobs and what we accomplish day in and day out. However, there are those few select golfers who can become obsessed or even confrontational about course conditions. It is often a corner that most of us do not like to get backed into. It may also lead us to question our original motives! "Should the greens have been a little quicker or perhaps a bit smoother? Will everyone be pleased now?" Probably not! There will always be something more or something else that someone will want.

A retired superintendent friend once shared a small tidbit of information with me. He said, "Do your best and go home." It's more often the relationships with family and friends that will endure and make a long lasting difference in life, not the day to day golf course conditions we produce. So go home this off season and rekindle those relationships with family and friends.

Remember, life is not about the game of golf or course conditioning. ♣

