



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



Rose Bowl! Rose Bowl! Rose Bowl! Never in my wildest dreams did I really think I would get the opportunity to say that chant, and really mean it. When Wisconsin used to win a game or two, the fans at Camp Randall would yell the Rose Bowl chant. However, it was all in jest.

The Badgers won the Rose Bowl and now everywhere you look there is a red and white Badger sweat-shirt. I know years from now, many people will have claimed they attended the biggest event in Wisconsin sports history. However, there were a number of people from our industry to make the trip to Pasadena.

Jerry Kershasky (Westmoor Country Club) and his family, Joe Kuta (Hartford Country Club) and his wife, Lila, Chad Eberhardt (assistant at Blackhawk Country Club) and his wife, Erin, all flew out on Rose Bowl trips. Fortunately, they all had tickets in their hands.

Mark Kienert (Bulls Eye Country Club) and his family drove out to Pasadena. The trip was a bit longer than his usual trips down to Madison on football Saturdays, but well worth every mile of it!

The WTA Turf Expo was a bit hit this year. Attendance almost doubled from previous years, and the national speakers provided excellent insight on the direction of our industry. The food and facilities provided at the Holiday Inn were first class all the way!

In January, Wisconsin Turf held their Service Clinics in three locations. Over 125 people attended the equipment clinics in Milwaukee, Madison, and Freeport, Illinois.

Coming in early March, Spring Valley will be putting on their Turf Fair at the Country Inn, in Pewaukee. This will also provide the opportunity to meet their new Customer Service Manager, Jeff Korpala. It's always nice to meet the person on the other end of the phone.

The new construction business continues to boom throughout Wisconsin. Whispering Springs Golf

Club in Fond du Lac closed down their old nine this past fall and will be building a new nine starting in spring. Bob Lohman will be designing and building this new course. Originally planned for a championship 18 hole course, they will only build 9 holes initially, and look to add the other nine soon.

Also in Fond du Lac, Rolling Meadows Golf Course is under reconstruction. Dick Nugent redesigned the 18 hole public golf course, and work began last fall.

Marc Hjortness, is getting an additional nine holes to maintain. Construction will begin this summer at Ives Grove Golf Course in Racine. The nine holes designed by Garrett Gill is scheduled for seeding this fall.

At Bishops Bay Country Club in Madison, the Bruce Company will be maintaining the golf course even after they have completed the new construction. Mike Semler will still be the superintendent, but with the Bruce Company as his new employer.

According to Tom Emmerich (TJ Emmerich & Associates), a number of new irrigation systems are in the works. One of the new systems is at Brynwood Country Club, where Steve Blendell is getting a new Network 8000 system. Leibold Irrigation has completed one half of the double row system and only has to pull the pipe this spring.

Lake Windsor Country Club outside of Madison hired a new superintendent in January. Jim Krutilla will be taking over the 27 hole golf course which is under new ownership.

Wilbur Ellis has hired Ed Witkowski as their new Sales Representative for Wisconsin. Witkowski was working the WTA show in the Wilbur Ellis booth, but still maintains his Pendleton Turf Supply business.

On the personal side of the business, there are some marriages taking place this spring. Mike Lyons, who is the assistant at Pine Hills in Sheboygan is getting married April 9th. His future bride, Dawn, is from the Sheboygan area.

Another former Pine Hills em-

ployee is also tying the knot. David Oberle, who is the Scotts Rep in San Diego, and worked as Rod Johnson's assistant a number of years back, is getting married in Kohler. His future wife is also from Sheboygan.

Steve Wasser (Prairie du Chien Country Club) is a proud daddy these days. His wife, Tamara, gave birth to Rebecca Ann on January 7th. Rebecca is the first child for the Wassers.

Scotts had their national conference in Florida in January. The conference provides a good opportunity to meet other reps from around the country, and with the purchase of Grace Sierra, an opportunity to meet the new General Manager of ProTurf.

On the second night of the conference, they had a casino night. Chips were provided to gamble with, and then the chips accumulated could be used to purchase raffle tickets at the end of the evening.

I purchased a few tickets, and happened to have one of my tickets drawn. On the stage of this huge banquet hall, there were various prizes. As I approached the stage, I saw this NCAA football sitting there, and people from the audience recommended choosing it. Well I did, and I grabbed the pigskin by the strings, and without thinking real intelligently, well...I threw it. I should say I tried to throw it. Never claiming to be Joe Montana, I tried tossing it to the back of the room.

However, I hit some glass chandeliers that hung from the ceiling, and glass shattered into a billion pieces, onto the same people who suggested I choose the darn football.

I froze, and I thought to myself, Wayne, you had a good job. At this point in time there wasn't a hole deep enough to crawl into so I got out of the room as quickly as I could.

Fortunately, no one got hurt, and the audience roared in laughter. I never took possession of the football, but I am still employed! 