

Dave Sime Proud of 'New' Irrigation System at Benson

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It Was First Installed By His Father At Interlachen in 1973

Superintendent Dave Sime has good reason to be proud of the "new" irrigation system Benson Golf Club now has on its 18-hole course in west central Minnesota.

First of all, it's accomplishing what was desired. Secondly, it's working well, and thirdly, from a financial standpoint, it's proved to be a real bargain.

The "new" system actually is 20 years old, having been installed by Dave's father in 1973 when he was the head superintendent at Interlachen Country Club in Edina. Dave, too, was familiar with the equipment since he also worked at Interlachen for six summers.

This prior knowledge, coupled with Benson Golf Club's desire to update its course, led to Sime talking with John Katterheinrich, head superintendent at Interlachen, after that course installed a new system.

Benson Golf Club did not have the capital budget for new equipment, but the purchase of the Toro VariTime 4000 from Interlachen for \$4,000.00 worked well within the Benson budget. In fact the installation was paid for through cash flow.



Dave Sime

Here, basically, is the equipment Benson Golf Club purchased from Interlachen:

Quantity	Type
150	690 Toro wide area sprinkler
120	630
50	650
1	Central with 3 central clocks & 3 syringe clocks
20	Satellites & pedestals
1	Hydraulic pump

A Mankato State University marketing graduate, Dave also worked several summers at Mankato Golf Club, where he later became an assistant superintendent before accepting the head superintendency at Benson in the Spring of 1991.

During the summer of 1992, Dave and his summer crew of 11 persons installed one-half of the system on the front nine, then completed the second half last summer.

Overall, Sime said, the installation went very well. Time was taken to make certain that all parts were working well, sprinklers were cleaned and everything was placed properly.

"It was all up and running this past season," Sime said. "Obviously it's reduced a lot of watering time, considering what we had to do with our old manual system. Furthermore, we save about \$2,500 a season in labor."

Dave figures Benson Golf Club invested about \$35,000 for the used equipment, compared with a price tag of approximately \$170,000 if the equipment were brand new.

Sime worked closely with Leroy Young to know if the whole project was feasible. Young designed the system and Jim Grossman from Benson installed tubes and wires.

His advice to other superintendents: If you just don't have the money for new equipment, keep your eyes open for used equipment that may come on the market.

"Check them out and go for it," he said. In Benson's case, it proved to be a masterful move.



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