



HOLE NOTES

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HOST SUPERINTENDENT MATT ROSTAL HAD COURSE IN SPECTACULAR SHAPE FOR TOURNAMENT

USA Wins Solheim Cup At Interlachen

For the second time in two months, the national spotlight of golf focused on Minnesota, and, once again, participants and fans were rewarded with excellent competition *and* excellent golf courses on which to compete.

September 16-22 was Solheim Week for two of the state's top courses: Interlachen Country Club in Edina, where the 2002 Solheim Cup was contested, and Oak Ridge in Hopkins, where the inaugural Junior Solheim Cup was played.

In August accolades also went to Hazeltine National in Chaska where the successful PGA was held as well as to the TPC in Blaine for the PGA Seniors.

One might think that considerable advance preparations would have to be made at the Solheim courses for these prestigious events, but those who know their golf course superintendents – Matt Rostal at Interlachen and Keith Scott at Oak Ridge – also knew that the courses would be in prime condition, even without any special preparations.

Ahh yes, there was *some* extra work to do, but nothing too much out of the ordinary. Interlachen hired 10 extra persons, primarily for routine mowing and bunker work



PHOTO BY RICK FREDERICKSEN, CGCS

THE SOLHEIM CUP OPENING CEREMONIES AT INTERLACHEN kicked off what proved to be a great tournament between the best women players from Europe and the United States. The USA won the Solheim Cup by a score of 15^{1/2} to 12^{1/2}.

while Oak Ridge pursued everything with its normal staff.

Early morning hours, as one might expect, focused on mowing greens, fairways and tees while tidying up bunkers

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PERIODICAL

Please Deliver Promptly

Solheim Cup-

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and placing pins. Play usually ended around 4 p.m. at Oak Ridge and an hour later at Interlachen at which times preparations for the following day would begin.

Perhaps more tedious at Interlachen was the clean-up work after the tournament was completed. With some 10,000 fans following the action, there was garbage to be removed, aerating, seeding, sodding plus other duties to get the course prepared for member play.

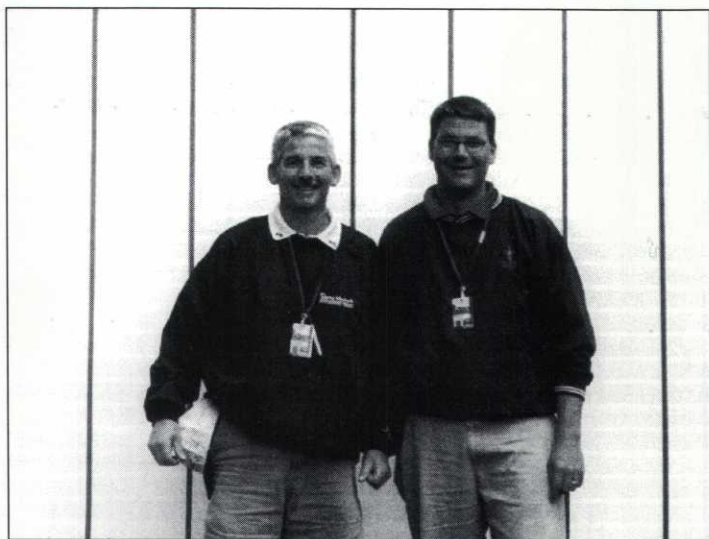
This wasn't as difficult at Oak Ridge where smaller galleries followed the 24 junior players.

Interlachen first learned it would be the 2002 site in 1996, and Oak Ridge was advised in 2000 that it would be the location for the juniors. Both superintendents were pleased to get the news.

"I was extremely excited," said Rostal, who also had good reason to be pleased with the variety compliments paid by players and tournament official. Many said it was one of the best overall venues they had ever visited.

And such was the case with Scott, who said "it was a great honor to host this inaugural junior tournament." He also enjoyed "spending time with the Solheim family, the Ping Company, the American Junior Golf Association officials and viewing the golf matches."

For the record the American team recaptured the Solheim Cup 15.5 to 12.5 while the American juniors prevailed 17-7



INTERLACHEN'S HOST SUPERINTENDENT MATT ROSTAL, right, with his assistant Richard (Auto) Carr.



INTERLACHEN'S CLASSIC CLUBHOUSE

in this opening tournament.

Both U.S. Captain Patty Sheehan and European Captain

Officials also lauded "the perfect conditions for a tournament of this magnitude" while noting that the fairways were cut and groomed so well "that you almost felt guilty taking a divot."

Dale Reid warmly praised Rostal for the superb condition of Interlachen as well as the manner in which the club itself proved to be a good host. So did the players.

This course also will be the site of the 2008 U.S. Women's Open.

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With winter around the corner, all of the August and September tournaments will make for great reminiscing about how well Minnesota proves itself continually as an excellent tournament host in all aspects of the game.