

said that all football head coaches are hired to be fired. It's just a matter of how long it takes. While that isn't exactly true of golf course superintendents, thankfully, there are definite similarities. There are a certain number of football teams. There are a certain number of golf courses. Each has only one head guy. The head guy has (normally) two assistants or main coordinators. The underlings want to be the head guy, but have to wait for a position to open. It takes extreme cohesion for the management team of both to run a successful operation, and it takes long hours of hard work to pull it off.

I think the greatest similarity of the two, however, is the fact that both football and golf are sports, and they are sports that are followed or played so passionately by so many people. Because of that, most people think they have a firm grasp of the complexities of running a golf course, because they play, or how a team should be run, because they watch football. That's where the trouble begins.

The truth is, as we in the superintendent business know, there is a heck of a lot that goes into running a successful operation at a golf course that the average golfer will never be privy too or often understand. This is exactly the same as football.

As I watch the local team struggle I am quick to offer my two cents as to what the problem is, what should be done, and pump my chest out in exclaiming that they are awful and here is what should be done. Really? How is that any different than some random golfer or a member that complains about this or that on the golf course but has no clue as to the why or how the conditions are what they are?

I hear opinions from just about everybody when it comes to the golf course. I hear just about everybody offer opinions on their football team; same thing. It is a good thing because that means that person is engaged and cares about either the golf course or the football team in question. But the next time you rip your squad's coach for a decision or call for the quarterback's head, think twice about your own situation. I think you will find quite a similarity.

Now, to be sure, a football coach is probably making more money than the average course superintendent, and functions in a greater spotlight, but if you break it down, they are just like us. Football is just like golf course management. Maybe that's why I'm so attracted to both. If you enjoy the game, enjoy the season.