

# Cosmetic Bunker Work at Stanford

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Stanford University GC is undergoing some minor bunker re-shaping on its most problematic bunkers. Stanford's bunkers were completely rebuilt in 1994, but many have since shown the negative effects of play, wear, and mechanical maintenance.

Kaminski Golf Construction has been contracted to tackle some of the worst bunkers. The goal is to restore the old contours with minimal disruption. Since the sand quality and drainage is acceptable, nothing is being done to the base of the bunkers.

The first step undertaken was to dig and probe to find the old soil lines of the original bunker edges. In most cases the maintained edges have moved significantly from the original edges. In some locations, over two feet of sand had accumulated on top of the old contours.

Sand blasted toward the greens by players over the last 17 years was beginning to create large mounds between the bunkers and greens. These sandy mounds were abruptly steep, uneven and very droughty in the summer months. One goal with the work was to reduce this mound before it negatively affected the green contours. If left unchecked, this sand accumulation would cause the greens to become bowl-shaped, slowly losing good pin placements in the process.

Once the old contours were "discovered," work began to haul out the sand accumulation. An average of 10 Pro Gator loads of sand were hauled out per bunker.

The end result was a much less intimidating bunker with softer sand slopes and better aesthetics. This minor re-working will extend the life of the bunker and provide improved playability and fairness. It might be a promising solution if your course needs some sprucing up and a full bunker remodeling is out of the question.

