

PGA WEST TO HOST DEERE GOLF FINALS

A series of more than 40 regional qualifying tournaments gets underway this month in the second annual John Deere Golf Team Championship. The national tournament teams up the golf course superintendent, golf professional, president and business manager of golf courses across the country for a one-day scramble tournament sponsored by John Deere golf distributors. The winning team from each of 41 sectional tournaments will play in the national finals to be held Nov. 18-20 at PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Resort Course in LaQuinta, CA.

Last year 800 teams participated in 34 sectional tournaments culminating in the national championship at PGA National in West Palm Beach, FL. A team from Ocean Pines Country Club in Ocean City, MD, won the inaugural event.

"The tournament gives the four main managers at golf courses a chance to spend a relaxing day of golf together," states Clair Peterson, tournament director, "something they don't get to do often, even though they work together. It also highlights the importance of the superintendent in club operations." Peterson is senior writer for golf and turf products at Deere headquarters in Moline, IL.

Deere is working with the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) and regional golf and turf organizations to set up the tournaments. "The PGA handles the tee times, rulings and setting up courses for the sectional tournaments," explained Peterson. "The Deere distributor works with GCSAA chapters and local turf organizations to invite teams to enter." Each sectional tournament also features a demonstration and display of the company's turf maintenance equipment. Ten of the 41 finalists that advance to the finals win cash prizes and equipment for their courses.

CHEVRON, SUMITOMO CREATE JOINT VENTURE

The well-known turf and landscape chemicals Orthene and Diquat from Chevron Corporation will soon be part of the product line of a company called Valent, U.S.A. Corp. This new company is a joint venture between Chevron and Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., of Japan to develop and market agricultural chemical products in the U.S.

Valent, created in April with the signing of an agreement by Chevron President R. W. Davis and Sumitomo President H. Mori, is the culmination of several years of cooperation between the two firms to market Sumitomo products in this country. The joint venture will have exclusive rights to market current and future Chevron agricultural chemical products in the U.S., including a line of products recently acquired from PPG Industries, Inc.

CHIEFS PROPOSE SYSTEM FOR WORLD CUP SOCCER



The Kansas City Chiefs put on a show for the World Cup Soccer 1994 inspection team in April to prove that the artificial turf in Arrowhead Stadium could be temporarily covered by a natural field. The group from the Federated Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) not only were presented with 12 different options of covering the AstroTurf 8 Drain Thru field at Arrowhead, they were able to walk on a 600 square foot demonstration plot installed at the stadium by groundskeeper George Toma and his crew. Since FIFA will not play World Cup games on artificial surfaces, it was Toma's assignment to prove that covering artificial turf was possible.

Arrowhead is one of 18 U.S. stadiums the inspection team visited in April to determine whether the 52-game international soccer competition in 1994 should be held in this country or in Morocco or Brazil. "Our impression has been most favorable," said Keith Walker, a member of the FIFA Technical Inspection Team from Scotland. "There is definitely a tremendous interest in soccer here." FIFA will announce its decision on July 4 from its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland.

With the help of Dr. James Watson, vice president of The Toro Company, Toma put together 12 different combinations of thick-cut sod, sand, geotextile, plywood, plastic and drainage. "The real challenge is how much time George has to convert the field," explained Watson. "Four days would be a rush, but three weeks would be a cinch. It's obvious that the management of the Chiefs is behind World Cup Soccer 100 percent!" Arrowhead Stadium would not have to contend with a baseball schedule, since the Royals have their own facility next door. The preliminary matches will be held in July with the final in August.

Toma's first choice for the event starts with a thick geotextile cover (Warren's TerraCover) over the AstroTurf, followed by six mil plastic, 3/4-inch plywood, another layer of plastic, two inches of pea gravel, a sheet of filter fabric and five inches of a sand/soil mix. The system is topped off with two-inch-thick Tifway bermudagrass sod overseeded



Top: Model of natural field for World Cup Soccer 1994. Bottom: Present at demonstration were (top, l. to r.) Lamar Hunt, Chiefs owner; James Trecker, press officer World Cup Soccer; Keith Walker and Guido Tugnoni of the FIFA inspection team; Jack Steadman, Chiefs president; Richard Berkley, mayor of Kansas City; (top) Doug Schallenberg, Andre Bruce, Chip Toma, George Toma, Scott Martin and Dr. Jim Watson.

with a blend of perennial ryegrass.

The other 11 options eliminate the sand layer to reduce handling and grading and are topped off with two-inch-thick sod containing a mixture of perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Another version utilizes two layers of Enkamat on top of geotextile and plastic. One layer of Enkamat filled with sand is used in a third model over geotextile and plastic. Seven options include sod laid over plastic grids, either on top of plywood or geotextile and plastic. The simplest method utilizes sod laid on two layers of wood snow fence over geotextile and plastic. One layer of snow fence is put down 90 degrees to the first.

"I'll probably retire before the World Cup," said Toma, "so the real job will be up to young guys like my son Chip. They really jumped into this project. They even painted the test plot with soccer field markings and the World Cup Soccer logo." The bermudagrass sod was trucked up from the Royals Spring Training Center at Boardwalk and Baseball in Florida. HOK, a Kansas City based architecture firm specializing in stadium design helped scale down FIFA soccer field dimensions for the model.

"These (the models) are all experimental," said Chip Toma. "This is like the Mercury Space Program; we're just beginning. We're not even close to the moon yet."