

## Kittyhawk Soars Over Deere Tournament Field

In the area surrounding Palm Springs, CA, elaborate patches of green spring from the desert through the miracle of irrigation. Golfers flock here to play beautifully designed golf courses like The Dunes Course of La Quinta Hotel Golf and Tennis Resort, and the Jack Nicklaus Resort Course of PGA West in La Quinta, just 20 miles south of Palm Springs.

One week prior to the John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament, held at these courses on November 21 and 22, 1992, the Grand Slam took over the Jack Nicklaus Course. With the image of the PGA's top players standing on these same spots, facing the same challenging holes, it's no wonder that this year's John Deere competition was so spirited.

For the sixth year, teams made up of a course's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (or Canadian Golf Superintendents Association) superintendent, PGA professional, club manager and club president (or two members of the board of directors) have competed for spots in the finals tournament through sectional competitions sponsored by their local John Deere Golf

and Turf Distributors. For the finals competition, a representative from the distributorship joins the team.

The 33 sectional tournaments drew a record 937 teams vying for the 33 slots in the finals.

The format was a modified scramble, with the pro playing his or her own ball, and the rest of the team playing the best shot of the remaining four competitors, until the ball was holed. The team's score for each hole was the best of the pro's or the team's total. Each team played both courses. A shotgun start was used, with each team teeing off at their assigned hole.

Scores were close at the end of the first day's play, with two teams tied for first at 51, three teams at 52, three at 53, and two at 54.

On the second day, Kittyhawk Golf Center topped their 53 score with a sizzling 47 for the win.

Kittyhawk is one of six city courses in Dayton, OH, under superintendent Hank Chafin. He oversees six superintendents and coordinates course operations. Chafin, club president Conrad Stewart, and club manager Terry Smith were in their second international competition, having also qualified for the finals in 1989.

Chafin spoke of the changing role of the superintendent, the increasing professionalism and greater commitment to excellence. He stressed the importance of certification.

Chafin said of the tournament, "To see what others are doing is a great educational tool. It enhances our team's ability to manage our own facility and leads to better assistance between members. The game itself was tremendous. We got off to a great start. Our first hole of the second round was the 17th hole of the Dunes Course, voted the toughest hole in America by the PGA. Things went well there and just kept going. It was a total team effort."

Club manager Terry Smith said, "We practiced a lot and really built a close relationship, which helped our team."

Golf pro Richard L. Hutchinson said, "I just drove the cart as caddy. I'd help read putts, then stay out of the way and let them do what they do best. The team sunk some key birdie putts. I'd pump them up if something bad happened. Getting such a good start made the round easier. We set a goal. We didn't quite make it, but played well enough for the win."

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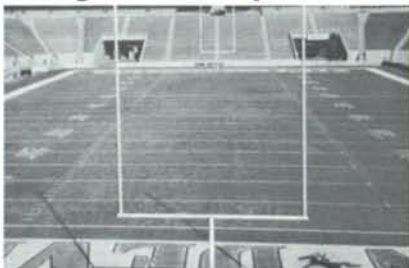
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## DEERE TOURNAMENT FIELD

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Craig Fryman, the John Deere representative from Xenia Power Equipment, Xenia, OH, said, "We struggled the first day, but got off to a great start on the second. We'd get off a little, then snap right back. This was my third time in the international tournament. You get closer to the guys each time. You can't beat a game of golf to talk and pick up pointers.

Club president Conrad Stewart said, "The team effort really builds the work relationship. Getting us all together is one of the best things that can happen to the game."

Chafin is retiring in February of 1993. He relished the idea of going out a winner, "These were great courses, great people. The fellowship of the whole tournament was tremendous. It's a great feeling to win."

## HAKO ACQUIRES PARKER

Hako Minuteman, Inc. has acquired Parker Sweeper Company, a manufacturer of litter pick-up machines and lawn sweeping equipment. Hako Minuteman, Inc. manufactures a line of commercial and industrial vacuums, chemical cleaning, and coating products.

## KAMMERER NAMED RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Steven J. Kammerer has been appointed ISK Biotech Corporation Southeast turf and ornamental research and development specialist. He will be responsible for field development of proprietary products and experimental compounds on turf and ornamentals in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

He has a master of science degree in plant pathology from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA as well as a bachelor's degree in science from Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

## JOHN DEERE COMMERCIAL PARTS SALE

Participating John Deere commercial equipment dealers are providing a special program called "Keep Green" that includes sale prices on equipment parts. The program will run through March 31, 1993.

## ASPA CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

The American Sod Producers Association's 1993 Midwinter Conference and Exposition will be February 3-5 at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

The conference will include a pre-conference, members-only seminar on family business management along with two general sessions and six concurrent sessions. Topics for the general sessions include family business strategies for the '90s, turfgrass sod production with limited chemical input, an environmental audio-visual presentation, turfgrass sod benefits as well as Habitat for Humanity, and an ASPA study tour.

Conference speakers include Dr. Al Dudeck, University of Florida; Dr. Ron Hansen, University of Nebraska; Dr. Wendell Mathews, "Turf News" editor; Dr. Charles Peacock, North Carolina State University; Dr. Eliot Roberts, Rosehall Associates; and Dr. Henry Wilkinson, University of Illinois.

Manufacturers of machinery, products, and technology will also be featured during the three-day event.

For more information on the conference, contact The American Sod Producers Association, 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 (708) 705-9898.

## SMITH NAMED HYUNDAI MANAGER

Barry Smith has been appointed Hyundai Golf Cars eastern regional sales manager. He will be responsible for overseeing the sales division and coordinating Hyundai's manufacturing and distributor efforts to ensure that the golf cart fleets are promptly delivered and properly serviced and maintained.

## TURF DIAGNOSTICS NAMES LAB MANAGER

Turf Diagnostics & Design of Olathe, KS, has appointed Jennifer Sutch manager of the Technical Operations Laboratory. Prior to this appointment, she was a research agronomist for the Okeelanta Sugar Corporation, a producer of raw and refined cane sugar and molasses.

While earning her master's degree in soil science at Purdue University, she was responsible for the operation of the Purdue soil & plant analysis lab.