

Lawnmower Man Open sets new mark

Birdies, bogies, and beverages replaced reels, rotaries, and rakes on July 24 at West Woods Golf Club in Arvada, CO. The 6th annual Lawnmower Man Open (LMO), a fund-raising golf tournament sponsored by the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association, began with an 8:00 am shotgun start on a beautiful mile-high day. With two foursomes per hole, the field was full with hackers, duffers, and choppers, all competing for the coveted honor of winning the LMO.

Supported by more than 30 hole-sponsors contributing \$100 each, and with companies like Graff Turf Farm contributing \$1,000 for individual tee prizes and Ewing Irrigation Products donating two round-trip vacations (for 2) to the Phoenix Open in January, this year's tournament attracted 144 golfers and raised more than \$4,000 for the chapter's scholarship fund, a record LMO amount.

This year's tournament again featured the popular modified scramble format that has been a staple for the LMO. Each hole has 3 teammates playing a scramble, while the fourth teammate plays their own ball. Both scores are counted for a team total.

"This tournament couldn't even begin to be successful without the support of everyone who participates in this event," said tournament director By Hanson. "When we first started this tournament 6 years ago, we were lucky to get 40 players. Each year it has grown and improved to the level that we experienced this year. I no longer have to beg, borrow, and plead for participation or support. Now, people call me and ask what they can do to help."

The tournament's 36 teams were divided into four flights that competed for more than \$3000 in prize money. Prize money was awarded to the top five teams in each flight, making a majority of the players very happy to win prize money. "If you didn't

cash, you had a really, really bad day," said Hanson.

Disappointment started the day when it was announced that the automobile giveaway for a closest to the pin on the par 3 8th hole had to be cancelled due to the fact that the car broke down on its way to the course. The 50-mile trip from Greeley was just too much for this year's prize, a 1991 Dodge Colt with engine problems, making this annual event a casualty for the day. Usually, either the car is given away for the best golf shot of the day, or a player can get out of the competition by paying a \$5 fee.

However, the betting hole, the 180-yard par 3 twelfth hole was a huge moneymaker for the tournament. Teased with the offer of doubling your bet if you hit your ball inside the 30-foot circle, golf course maintenance mismarked the hole by only painting a 10-foot circle around the hole. This game of fair chance from 180 yards turned into a huge profit maker for the scholarship fund.

Combined with the usual long drive contest for both men and women, closest to the pin for ladies on the par 3 #6 hole, mulligan sales, and the banquet raffle, this tournament offered lots of action and fun.

The banquet raffle, hustled by Jeffco Stadium staff members Dave Rulli and Phil McQuade, proved to be the biggest event of the day. Raffle tickets were sold for such items as golf equipment, rounds of golf, autographed memorabilia, sports stuff, dinners, hotel stays, hats, shirts, game tickets, etc. Enough was raised from just the raffle to pay for everyone's lunch!

"It felt good to tear up someone else's turf for a change," quipped Invesco Field at Mile High's turf manager, Ross Kurcab, CSFM.

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STMA Chapter News

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The NorCal STMA's annual Fall Continuing Education Seminar will be held in November. More details will be announced soon. For information on the NorCal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The Tennessee Valley Chapter is planning a November 20 meeting at the Tennessee Titans Field in Nashville. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. The featured speaker for this event is Floyd Reese, General Manager of the Titans. The meeting will include a tour of the practice facility. For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will hold a meeting in the Village of Pinecrest on December 5. For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Colorado Chapter will participate in the RMRTA 48th Turf Conference and Trade Show to held in December 5 - 7,

2001, in Denver, Colorado. For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Midwest Chapter will again participate in the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December in conjunction with the Illinois Turf Foundation and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, call The Chapter Hotline at 847-622-3517.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The OSTMA 4th Annual meeting and awards breakfast will be held at the Columbus Convention Center from 7:30 am to 8:30 am on December 5th in conjunction with the December 3 - 6, 2001, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference. Featured will be a special Sports Turf Track and vendor displays with products for the sports turf manager. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.glstma.org.