Jacobsen matches golfers' donations
By Patrick Allen

Ninety-five of the one hundred forty-four golfers scheduled to play in the cancelled SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament donated all or part of their registration fees to the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE). Additionally, Jacobsen has generously pledged to match 50% of the $11,797 donated by the players, meaning a total of $17,695 has been raised for SAFE. Without a swinging a club or posting a score, the would-be golfers and Jacobsen have made the tournament a tremendous success for another year.

"Having to cancel the tournament for the first time was disappointing for us," says Karla Cuculi, Jacobsen's Director of Marketing Communications. "However, we felt that through matching the donations of the individuals and companies scheduled to compete, Jacobsen could still contribute to the SAFE Foundation at a level similar to years past."

Since the inception of the tournament, the field has grown from fewer than 80 to a full tournament of 144 golfers. "Jacobsen originally hoped to establish a reliable source of income for the SAFE Foundation, and to be able to expand that source in the future," says Monty Montague, regional sales manager out of Phoenix, and organizer of the tournament. Montague continues, "Looking at the numbers, it seems that has been accomplished, and we look forward to hosting a full field in future tournaments."

The prizes that were to be presented to the flight winners were auctioned off in the SAFE Live and Silent Auctions, bringing in more than $2,000. Montague and his staff worked the crowd on the STMA Exhibition floor, asking people to match the donations of the winning bid for Taylor Made drivers and "rescue" clubs.

The Seventh Annual SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament was scheduled for January 17 at the Quarry Golf Club in San Antonio. The Quarry would have provided a unique golfing experience; the entire back nine plays on the floor of a 100-year old limestone quarry. This golf experience is something that Jacobsen tries to provide for the players each year. "Courses like ChampionsGate last year, which hosts PGA players for the WorldPoints Father/Son Challenge every fall, are always fun. Next year in Phoenix, there are some amazing courses that we are considering, and the players will not be disappointed," says Montague. Jacobsen scours the region hosting the STMA Conference and Exhibition each year for a top-100 course and sometimes one that hosts the PGA Tour.

"One thing is certain; Jacobsen is committed to this tournament and helping the SAFE Foundation to attain its goals year-in, year-out," says Cuculi. SAFE, the students it supports, and the STMA members who tee it up each year couldn't be happier.

Jacobsen manufactures a full range of turf maintenance equipment and vehicles for golf courses, sports fields, and municipal grounds applications. The company markets Jacobsen brand products internationally.

The white objects on the turf are mushrooms. This park was created on a former landfill but the landfill was not the culprit for the unexpected mushroom population boom. The landfill was properly capped with an impermeable membrane along with state of the art air scrubber for landfill gas collection.

Drainage lines then were installed over top of the membrane and 14 inches of soil, which was comprised of 65% sand and 35% loam mix with an organic content of 5-8%, was brought on site. The project was completed in late fall by installing the soil mix but the sod was not put down until a warm Christmas Eve.

When spring came around the sports turf manager was greeted at the park by thousands of newly sprouted mushrooms. As it turns out, some of the organic matter in the soil mix came from compost that apparently also had a few mushroom spores within it. The sports turf manager reduced the amount of irrigation and continued his mowing and after 5 weeks, the mushrooms went away and have never returned.

Photo submitted by Nick Caggiano, Superintendent, Parks & Recreation Department, Nashua, NH.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to Turf-Tec International, John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Suite #13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted become property of SportsTurf Magazine.
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The SAFE Foundation (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) was formed in 2000, to serve as the charitable arm of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It was created to provide funds for research, scholarship, and education to help sports turf managers with the challenges they face in managing athletic fields. Since its inception, it has awarded more than $50,000 in scholarships and grants.

Golfers donating to SAFE
Mike Andresen Ty Arndt Rene Asprion Bret Baird Frederick Ballard Bill Barse Brian Blount Jason Bowers George Brando Nate Breeiniski Greg Brodd Michael Buras Tom Burns Chris Calcatera Bob Campbell Matt Carli
Jerry Carr Steve Christian Chris Collier Joe Collins Jeff Cordes Dave Cummings Ken Curry Bob Curry Scott Cuthbertson Durian Daily Chris Des Garennes Dan Douglas Alan Dungay Blair Elliott Curt Farmer Eric Fabbender
Brad Garrison Steve Gilbertson Jody Gill James Goebel Leo Goertz David Goodwin Curt Grinner Dana Grode Vince Henderson Tim Highshoe Brian Horgan Tim Hubbard Todd Jeasonne George Jimenez Steve Johnson Reni Lachance
Don LeMaster Jeff Limburg Jeff Martin Greg Mayfield Mike McDonald Nick McNamee Phil McQuade Scott Meikle Kevin Meredith Dave Miner Deanna Morgan Colleen Murphy Joe Nelson Dan Nelson John Noe Ezra Paddock

LeGros joins TURF & dirt Inc.
Steve LeGros is now TURF & dirt’s Sports Turf Field Consultant for the Mid-Atlantic Region. LeGros has more than 22 years of experience in sports turf and sports venue management gained through his positions at HERSHEY PARK Stadium, the University of New Hampshire, and Paetec Park soccer stadium. LeGros has managed, constructed and renovated natural grass sports fields and has overseen the construction and maintenance of synthetic athletic field systems.

In 2004 he was recognized by STMA for raising the level of professionalism in the Sports Turf Industry with the Dick Ericson Award.

“I am excited to have such a dedicated and talented professional join Turf & dirt” says Kurt Nilsson, President. “Steve is a major contributor to our industry”, says Nilsson, “and his experience in sports field and stadium operations management will be a great benefit to our company. Steve fits the company’s vision of providing the best possible customer service to sports turf managers and others who rely on us for their Green Industry needs.” LeGros can be reached at grstains@yahoo.com or 877-357-4505.