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**Nationwide testing gives Arid the lead.**

### Mean Turfgrass Quality Ratings of Tall Fescue Cultivars At Four Shade Locations in the United States

Name	Mean
Arid	6.0
Finelawn I	5.6
Trident	5.4
Pacer	5.3
Mustang	5.3
Apache	5.2
Tempo	5.1
KY-31	5.0
Falcon	5.0
Hounddog	5.0
Adventure	4.9
Jaguar	4.9
Bonanza	4.8
Olympic	4.8
Maverick	4.7
Willamette	4.6
Rebel	4.5
Clemfine	4.4
Brookston	4.4
Johnstone	4.0
Kenhy	3.4

Data from USDA National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

### Drought Tolerance (Dormancy) Ratings of Tall Fescue Cultivars

Dormancy Ratings 1-9		9=No Dormancy	
Name	Mean	Name	Mean
Arid	7.7	Chesapeake	5.7
Olympic	7.7	Tempo	5.3
Apache	7.3	Hounddog	5.0
Jaguar	7.3	Pacer	5.0
Finelawn I	6.3	Johnstone	5.0
Mustang	6.3	Kenhy	5.0
Rebel	6.3	Maverick	5.0
Bonanza	6.0	Brookston	4.3
KY-31	6.0	Clemfine	4.3
Adventure	5.7	Trident	3.7
Falcon	5.7	Willamette	3.3
Finelawn 5GL	5.7		

Data from USDA National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

### Brown Patch Ratings of Tall Fescue Cultivars

Brown Patch Ratings 1-9		9=No Disease	
Name	Mean	Name	Mean
Arid	6.3	Adventure	6.2
Adventure	6.2	Jaguar	6.1
Jaguar	6.1	Rebel	6.0
Rebel	6.0	Pacer	5.9
Pacer	5.9	Maverick	5.8
Maverick	5.8	Falcon	5.8
Falcon	5.8	Clemfine	5.7
Clemfine	5.7	Apache	5.6
Apache	5.6	Tempo	5.6
Tempo	5.6	Olympic	5.6
Olympic	5.6	Hounddog	5.6
Hounddog	5.6	Chesapeake	5.5
Chesapeake	5.5	Finelawn 5GL	5.5
Finelawn 5GL	5.5	KY-31	5.5
KY-31	5.5	Mustang	5.5
Mustang	5.5	Bonanza	5.5
Bonanza	5.5	Trident	5.5
Trident	5.5	Johnstone	5.5
Johnstone	5.5	Finelawn I	5.3
Finelawn I	5.3	Kenhy	5.0
Kenhy	5.0	Willamette	4.9
Willamette	4.9	Brookston	4.3
Brookston	4.3		

Data from USDA National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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# THE EXTRA POINT

## STMA NEWS

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



**M**ost of us were brought up to believe that if one worked hard, success would follow. Our efforts would be noticed and the recognition and rewards would come.

But then, it isn't too difficult to recall those who cut corners by chatting with the teacher, being eager to run errands, and trying to please.

They got recognition, made the team,

were rarely in trouble, "lucked into" various opportunities, and usually got fairly good grades. They were ahead of the rest, and if they were also smart and worked hard, there were no barriers.

These people developed a political relationship with the individual in control of what they wanted. They became well known to the right person. Sometimes it was apple polishing. Sometimes it was aggressiveness. It was always politics. It was very effective then and still is.

Too often the sports turf manager is politically out of touch with the administrative decision makers. Even though political awareness is not in the job description, it is every bit as important to success as agronomic knowledge and managerial expertise.

Who are the people with the most influence over the operation? Do they know the sports turf manager? Is there any communication between them?

The answer to question frequently asked by sports turf managers is, "No, they can't see how much the fields are being used or what you need." They have to be told and shown. They can only be made aware through the political process—personal contact.

The administration has to know what the sports turf manager looks like, sounds like, and thinks like. Good working relationships can be developed through personal tours when things look particularly good and especially bad. Requests should only be made when they are rationally justified, with extensive homework completed. It is important to remember that administrators are rarely thanked for help received and a job well done.

The sports turf manager owes it to the facility, the users, the employees, and himself to become a significant part of the internal politics of his organization. It is not necessary to set aside moral principles or sacrifice dignity to be politically effective. It is most simply a matter of becoming known, developing lines of communication, and having credibility.

Steve Cockerham

### FLORIDA CHAPTER IS UP AND RUNNING

The first official chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association is meeting monthly in Miami, FL, and has elected its first set of officers. Pro-tem Chairman Tom Mascaro relinquished his post with the installation of the new



South Florida Chapter Number One officers (L to R) Jim Barnes, Ed Birch, Dale Sandin, and John Mascaro.

officers but will remain active to help build the chapter. Attendance at monthly meetings has doubled to nearly 20 turf managers since last November when the chapter was formed.

Edmond Birch, Broward County Schools, is the first president of South Florida Chapter Number One. Dale Sandin, groundskeeper at the Orange Bowl, is vice president. Mascaro's son, John, of Turf-Tec International, was elected secretary/treasurer. Jim Barnes, with Broward County Schools, is education and meetings chairman.

The organization has adopted and will abide by the objectives and bylaws of the national. Emphasis will be on education and information. The chapter is working closely with Dr. John Cisar and Dr. Monica Elliott, both Florida extension turf specialists, and Dr. Ed Freeman, state turfgrass coordinator.

Topics discussed at the meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month, include specification for construction of sports fields, grasses, water management, and maintenance. For further information on the new chapter, contact: Edmond Birch, 22577 S. W. 64 Way, Boca Raton, FL 33428.

Both Birch and Tom Mascaro will speak on sports turf management during the Florida Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held October 8-11, in Tampa.

### CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar!

September 26 - Northeastern Sports Turf Institute

College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

January 19-21, 1990 -

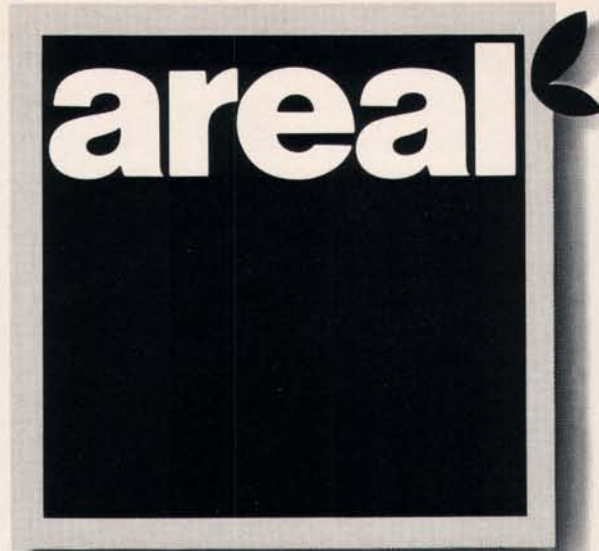
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# TEAMWORK

**Pays Off  
For Pala Mesa**

**T**eamwork has always been important to Bob Dobek, golf course superintendent at Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook, CA. The greatest moments in his life and career have resulted from working with others to achieve a common goal.

From the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team in 1976 to the management team at Pala Mesa, winner of the 1988 John Deere Golf Team Championship, Dobek has always been a team player with spectacular success. *SportsTURF* thought you'd be interested in knowing how teamwork can affect the success and condition of a golf course.

Dobek has fond memories of the '76 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. As starting center for the U.S., he remembers waiting nervously for the faceoff to begin the semi-finals against Poland. With two players injured, the rest of the team had to stretch their talents beyond their limit if they were to advance to the finals.

They were assured a bronze medal if they beat the Poles by seven goals. At the final buzzer, the Americans were on top, but only by five goals. Olympic rules eliminated them from medal play. Dobek returned home to Detroit, MI, with a sense of accomplishment and a great respect for teamwork.

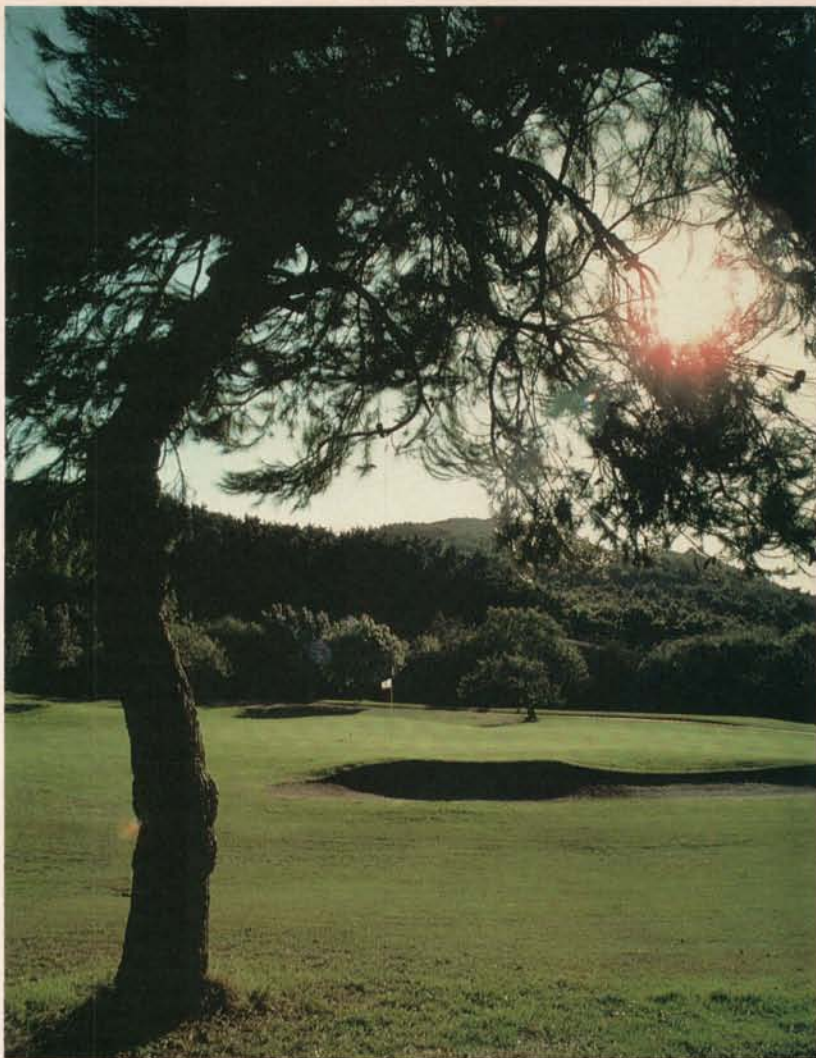
His life as a team player didn't stop with the Olympics. He continued playing varsity hockey at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he received a degree in business. After college, he was drafted by the San Diego Mariners, a professional hockey franchise owned by McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. When Kroc decided to disband the team in 1977, Dobek had a choice: move to Birmingham, AL, and play professional hockey, or change careers.

Throughout his hockey career, Dobek had enjoyed playing golf. To prepare himself mentally for each Mariner home game, he would play 18 at Singing Hills Country Club in El Cajon. Golf seemed to improve his concentration in hockey.

In the fast-paced game of hockey, he had to make split-second decisions based upon set plays and pure instinct. In golf, his main opponent was the course. The contrast between a cold, flat rink and the rolling landscape of Singing Hills captivated him. It didn't take Dobek long to seek out Superintendent Dave Fleming for an insider's view of the course and how it was maintained.

Dobek and Fleming became golf partners. The more Dobek asked about course design and maintenance, the more Fleming thought he saw a budding superintendent. When the decision to disband the Mariners was announced, Fleming invited Dobek to join the staff at Singing Hills. To his surprise, Dobek accepted.

For seven years at Singing Hills, Fleming and Dobek worked side by side. When a fluke storm flooded the course and wiped out 42 of the 54 greens, Dobek was



**Pines majestically frame this bunkered green at dusk.**

introduced to the fine details of reconstruction.

"Basically, we had to rebuild the whole golf course," he recalls. "Talk about a team effort! We really had to pull together that year." Dobek was hooked. After that experience, he enrolled in the two-year Nursery Landscape Technology program at Mesa College in San Diego, graduating in 1982.

In 1981, North American Resorts purchased the aging Pala Mesa Resort in nearby Fallbrook. Competition had grown tremendously in the San Diego resort industry since Pala Mesa was built in 1961. The stakes were higher. A major key to the success of these resorts was the condition and quality of their golf courses.

The Slavik family, which owns the company, decided in 1984 to make their move: to build a convention center and improve the course and grounds. They started looking for a superintendent with experience in golf course renovation. The timing was perfect for Dobek, since he now had the experience and education to take on a challenge on his own. With Fleming's support, he got the job.

That same year, Pala Mesa hired golf professional Chris Starkjohann to develop instructional and merchandising programs for the course. John Slavik, the company president, made it clear he wanted Dobek, Starkjohann, and Club Manager Danna Campbell to work together as a team to bring new life to Pala Mesa. To develop an esprit de corps, he encouraged them to play golf together. For Campbell, the financial expert, that meant she had to learn how to play, which she did enthusiastically with Starkjohann's help.

By playing the course, its flaws became obvious to the team. All the greens on the back nine were virtually dead. A previous experiment of plugging hybrid bermudagrass into the existing mixture of *Poa annua* and old bentgrass had failed. Temporary greens had been cut out of the common bermuda fairways and an automatic two-putt rule was established.

Dobek's first move was to build a 15,000 square foot nursery with Penncross bentgrass. Yet, he needed a temporary solution to the dead greens until the sod from the nursery was ready and he could start

*continued on page 16*



Three greens have been rebuilt with Penncross sod from the resort's nursery.

### Teamwork Pays Off

*continued from page 15*

rebuilding. His only choice was chemical renovation, killing the remaining bermuda, bent and Poa with glyphosate. In September, he aerified the dead greens heavily and seeded with Seaside, a salt-tolerant creeping bentgrass. His final step was to topdress

with mason sand, irrigate, and hope for the best.

The most important season for the resort business in Southern California begins in October. The greens had to be ready for the peak season . . . and they were. By October 20, the nine problem greens were back open and the temporary greens were gone.

By then, Dobek had also overseeded the tees and fairways with perennial ryegrass. This was done by scalping and verticutting the common bermuda with a Toro 450D five-reel, hydraulic fairway mower. After removing the debris with an Olathe vacuum, he broadcast the seed and dragged it in.

The emergency work performed by Dobek and his crew paid off. The confidence of the Pala Mesa team grew, and their success opened the doors for Dobek to purchase more equipment and to create a five-year plan to rebuild tees and greens.

The new convention center would make the resort busy year-round and increase the importance of the summer condition of the course. That meant doing all they could to improve the health of the Poa in the summer with better drainage, more precise irrigation, and a close watch on diseases. The greens are 85 to 90 percent Poa.

"I'll never forget the first time we aerified the greens," says Dobek. "The stench from anaerobiosis was so bad we had to wear masks!" It turned out the greens had not been aerified in two years. They were compacted and had no subsurface drainage. The silty soil tested at a pH of 7.5 to 7.7 and was high in both chlorides and salts.

To restore drainage and improve root depth, Dobek developed a plan to incorporate sand into the root zone by coring and sand topdressing. He started the following summer, aerifying and topdressing the

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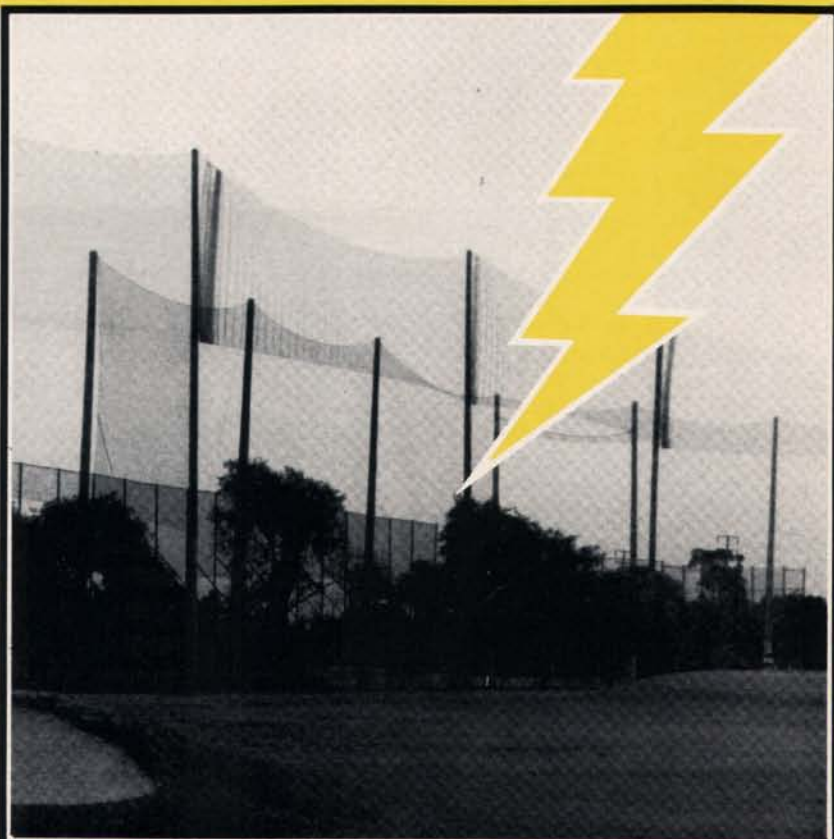
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Santa Ana Country Club, Costa Mesa, Calif.

greens five times. He then injected wetting agents into the Rain Bird irrigation system and flooded them to leach out the salts and chlorides.

"In this valley you live with Poa," Dobek points out. "Bentgrass just isn't aggressive enough during the winter. That's when the Poa shines. The test comes during the summer, especially in July and again in September, when the Santa Ana winds kick up. For three months you have to babysit it, being real careful with fertilizers, irrigation, and now disease."

The disease he is referring to is summer patch, a root disease that hit most of the Poa courses in the area during the past two years. "We couldn't identify the problem at first," says Dobek. "Joe Vargas (turf pathologist at Michigan State University) happened to be out here last year and gave us the answer. Since then, we've been on a preventative fungicide program with benomyl." This is in addition to summer applications of Subdue and/or Koban for pythium control.

Pala Mesa has rebuilt one green each year for the past three years. The main reason is to improve drainage and root growth. The other is to take out some of the more severe undulations to allow a wider choice of pin placements. "John (Slavik) makes the final decision on grading and reshaping," adds Dobek.

The crew strips off the top 16 inches of soil and installs a network of four-inch per-



The Pala Mesa golf team savoring victory after the John Deere Team Championship, (L to R) Jim Davis, Bob Dobek, Danna Campbell, Chris Starkjohann, and John Slavik.

forated drainpipe. After lining the bottom with a four-inch layer of pea gravel, they bring in river sand, amending it with fir bark. The new root zone is fumigated before the Penncross sod from the nursery is laid.

"It takes about six weeks to rebuild a green and get it back in play," states Dobek.

"So far, we've rebuilt three greens and reseeded six others." To make certain each piece of sod cut from the nursery is level, the meticulous Dobek turns it upside down on plywood and shaves off some of the soil with the bedknife of an old mower.

The greens are topdressed with sand

*continued on page 18*

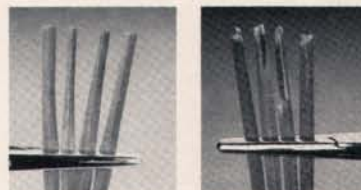
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Water and trees make the approach to this large undulating green challenging.

### Teamwork Pays Off

*continued from page 17*

every four to six weeks. They are aerified four times a year before topdressing. "After three years of repeated coring and topdressing, the soil is now a sandy loam texture," Dobek reveals. "We no longer detect an odor when we aerify." The cutting height of the Jacobsen Greens Kings is set at 1/8-inch in the fall, winter and spring and 5/32-inch during the summer.

Four tees have been converted from common bermuda to Tifgreen. All the tees are aerified four times a year and topdressed monthly. The tee mower is kept at 3/8-inch year-round.

Fairways are aerified three times a year and maintained at 1/2-inch with the 450D. The common bermuda has few problems with diseases, weeds or insects. Divots in the aggressive turf fill in rapidly. Thin or thatchy areas are verticut and seeded in late spring.

The cart paths have been rebuilt and golfers are required to keep their carts on them during certain times of the year.

"This is a classic golf course and we intend to keep it that way," says Dobek. "It reminds golfers of some of the great courses they played back East, lined with mature pines and oaks." If you look closely at the desert foothills you also see sagebrush, tall eucalyptus, and junipers. It's a challenging course at 6,500 yards, with tight fairways, undulating greens, and heavily bunkered greens. Nearly 40 large bunkers and three lakes challenge the golfer.

Today the resort and convention center are busy both summer and winter. Nevertheless, the management team of Slavik, Starkjohann, Campbell and Dobek still find time to play their course regularly. With all the original flaws corrected, the team now discusses small refinements as they play, like tucking the tees further back

into the trees to add yardage or reshaping greens to adjust for the shade from the trees as they grow taller.

"You need to make small improvements each year to keep classic courses in top condition," says Dobek. "It's condition that impresses golfers and makes them want to come back. After a few rounds on a Pete Dye course, they want to return to a course they feel comfortable playing."

With each improvement, the Pala Mesa team's game got a little better. They missed the first Deere Team Championship in 1987 at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. They were determined not to miss the next one.

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*"You need to make small improvements each year to keep classic courses in top condition."*

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The Deere Team Championship started out two years ago as a way of introducing all the decision makers at golf courses to the company's products and distributors. They recruited the PGA to set up and direct a series of sectional golf tournaments in which the superintendent, club manager, golf professional, and club president play together as a team. The winners of more than 40 regional events advance to a national championship.

PGA set up the tournaments in a modified scramble format, explains Clair Peterson, tournament director for Deere. In this format the professional plays his own ball while the rest of the team plays best ball, using at least two drives from each member of the team. The pro helps the others plot strategy. At the end of the tournament, the pro's score is added to the score of the other three.

"To score well a team has to plan each stroke, utilizing the strengths of each player," explains Pete Wofford, PGA's information manager. "That requires a group decision on every shot. If you don't work well together, you won't win a scramble."

The pro lends his expertise on shotmaking, while the superintendent advises the team on the effects of the condition of the course, such as the speed, grain or softness of the greens. The club manager and president witness the skills of their staff in reading the course and reap a different kind of reward from working together as a team.

The Pala Mesa team had an advantage in the 1988 sectional since it was held there. But they were just as awestruck as the rest of the finalists by the tough Jack Nicklaus Resort course at PGA West. In the championship, the Deere distributor representative serving the club joins the team to play best ball with the amateurs. Jim Davis from Hydro-Scape in San Diego, a two-handicapper, was Pala Mesa's Deere representative.

"We had one day to practice and build our strategy," recalls Starkjohann, captain of the team. "The course had just been reopened after overseeding. The ryegrass was young and slick, so we expected some flyer lies. But we had been practicing at home in similar conditions.

"The fairways were just as narrow as ours. Instead of trees, the Nicklaus course had big, steep-walled bunkers, lakes, and mounds topped with lovegrass. Water is a bigger factor at PGA West.

"The bent greens had about the same undulation as ours, but more grain. Since ours are Poa, they were about as fast as the low-cut bent," noted Starkjohann.

For the next two days, everything seemed to click for the Pala Mesa team. At the end of the first round they were one stroke off the pace.

"Everybody got hot in the final," Dobek recalls. Starkjohann shot a 70 the first day. Campbell, playing from the ladies' tees, drove over 150 yards consistently. Instead of using just two of her drives, they used more. Dobek and Davis, both long hitters, provided strength on drives and fairway shots. Slavik proved invaluable with his chipping.

The final day was a shotgun start with the Pala Mesa team beginning on the tenth hole. "Danna (Campbell) sank a 35 footer right off the bat," Starkjohann remembers vividly. "Then John (Slavik) sunk two long birdie putts. We ended up birdieing the first five holes!"



With one hole left to play, Starkjohann was worried. "The ninth hole is a par 4 with water. In the first two rounds, my drive went into the lake. This time not only did my drive end up in the lake, so did everybody else's. We had to take drops. Bob hit an unbelievable eight iron 15 feet from the hole. With that inspiration, I hit mine five feet inside his.

"As we walked up to the ninth green, we knew we had to sink our puts to save par and have any chance to win the tournament. Dana, Bob, and John all missed the 15-footer. It now was up to Jim and me. The rest is like a dream. Jim rolled his right into the center of the hole for their par. We all went nuts! I stepped up to my ball, having read the break on Jim's. Like fate, I caught the right side and it dropped in the cup. What a great sound!

When Pala Mesa's score was posted, they realized they had the lead by two-tenths of a point. When the last team finished, nearly 30 minutes later, they remained on top of the leader board.

To the team, the victory meant more than a trophy. It was the climax of five years of consistent teamwork. Not only had they brought their resort back to life, they had developed a rapport that held up under competition.

This year the sectional was again held at Pala Mesa. But this time the team from Mission Trails in San Diego rallied on the final



An outbreak of summer patch forced Dobek to treat his Poa greens with benomyl.

hole to beat Pala Mesa by one stroke. "We'll be back next year," Dobek promised.

Sectional tournaments are being held across the country until October, says Deere's Peterson. This year the championship will be played on two courses in La Quinta November 16-19. The 40 finalists will play one round on the Nicklaus Resort Course at PGA West and the second on the Dunes Course at the La Quinta Hotel.

Two teams, Pala Mesa Resort and Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club in Ocean City, MD, winner of the first Deere Team Championship, have shown that teamwork pays off in more ways than one. The club president, club manager, golf professional and superintendent have a joint stake in their course. By working and playing together, they can accomplish more than they could as individuals. Just ask Bob Dobek. ●

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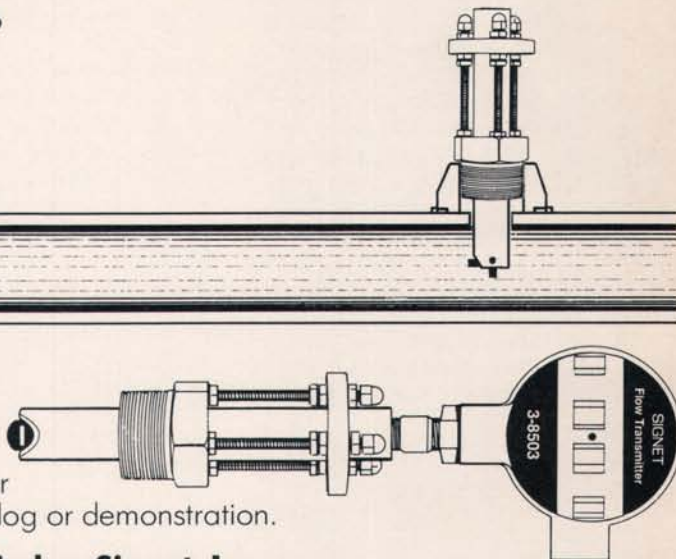
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## **BALSAM BUYS SPORTEC FROM TECSYN INTERNATIONAL**

Balsam Corporation continued its expansion into the North American sports and recreational surfacing market last month with the purchase of Sportec International from Tecsyn International, Inc. The sale consolidates ownership of Balsam, AstroTurf, Omniturf and All-Pro artificial turf surfaces.

Balsam AG, a West German-based manufacturer of athletic surfaces, purchased Astro-Turf Industries in 1988 from Monsanto and formed Balsam Corporation, headquartered in St. Louis, MO.

Last year, Tecsyn acquired Texas-based All-Pro to add to its Sportec Division. Sportec manufactures Omniturf, Omnigreen, and Omnicourt sand-filled synthetic turf surfaces, as well as Laykold tennis and track surfaces.

"The addition of Sportec ensures Balsam's commitment to establishing a foothold in the tennis surfacing marketplace," explained Dale Orrick, president of Balsam Corp. Richard Burke, president and chief operating officer of Sportec, commented, "We are now part of a corporation solely dedicated to the sports and recreational surfacing industry."

The purchase of Sportec by Balsam did not include the All-Pro golf and playground products. Those surfaces will continue to be marketed by Tecsyn from All-Pro offices in Dallas.

Balsam will serve as an umbrella over its separately operated divisions. Omniturf will continue to compete against its sister company, AstroTurf Industries, according to Mike McGraw, vice president of marketing for Balsam Corporation. All-Pro turf has been assimilated into the Omniturf Division based in Rome, GA. The Sportec group, offering Laykold, Omnigreen and Omnicourt, will be headquartered in Chattanooga, TN. The AstroTurf Division will continue to operate from Dalton, GA, providing both AstroTurf and Balsam athletic turf surfaces.

Industry analysts predict that Poligras and D.L.W., two other West German-based manufacturers of artificial sports surfaces, will increase their marketing efforts in the U.S. as a result of Balsam's purchase of Sportec.

## **SOUTHERN TURF NURSERIES OPENS FACILITY IN SPAIN**

Southern Turf Nurseries, based in Norcross, GA, has opened a sod production facility near Malaga, Spain. It is the first international production facility of an American-based turfgrass producing facility, according to the firm. The company also

has sod farms in Tifton, GA, and Lake Wales, FL.

Tim Bowyer, president, said the facility was added in response to the need for high quality hybrid bermudagrasses in the tropical and subtropical regions of Europe and Asia generated by the expanding worldwide golf course market and the exportation of American golf course architecture expertise.

Both Tifway 419 and Tigreen 328 are being produced at the new facility. Larry and David Cooper, who have been involved in farming and agriculture in Spain for many years, are partners with Southern Turf Nurseries in this venture.

## **TWINS SIGN LEASE TO TRAIN IN FORT MYERS**

The springtime residents of Fort Myers, FL, were disappointed two years ago when the Kansas City Royals left Terry Park for Boardwalk & Baseball in Orlando. For 18 years the Royals had trained each spring at the old stadium and park maintained by the Lee County Parks Department.

County officials quickly sought another franchise to replace the Royals and succeeded this summer with the signing of a 20-year lease by the Minnesota Twins. Instead of playing at Terry Park, the Twins will play at a new 80-acre training facility scheduled for completion by February 1991. The \$14 million complex will include an 8,000-seat stadium, four practice fields, a clubhouse/office building, two full-size soccer fields, and four tournament-quality softball diamonds.

The site will be developed for the Twins as well as a community park, explained Jim Lavender, director of planning and construction for the Lee County Department of Community Services. The architect for the project is Lescher & Mahoney of Tampa. Case Construction of Plant City will work with the architect under a design/build arrangement. Many of the contractors working on the project also built the Texas Rangers training facility in Port Charlotte.

Lavender said the Twins will send their minor league teams to Fort Myers beginning this spring, but the major league players won't work out there until 1991. The park maintenance staff, under the direction of John Yarborough, was trained by Royals head groundskeeper George Toma. "The stadium will have a grass infield instead of the artificial surface at Terry Park," said Lavender.

Terry Park, on the other hand, is being prepared to serve as home stadium for a new Senior Baseball League franchise. In this league, retired professional baseball players play a three-month season before spring training begins. Fort Myers baseball fans will be able to watch professional baseball from late October until April.

## **IOWA UNIVERSITY COMPLETES CONVERSION TO GRASS**

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes, who have been playing football on artificial turf in Kinnick Stadium for the past decade, will play their first home game on grass this September. Turf Services Inc., of Spring Lake, MI, completed installation of a P.A.T. System this past May.

Kentucky bluegrass sod is now flourishing on the 80,000 square foot stadium field. Beneath the turf lies more than a foot of sand rootzone contained by a plastic barrier. The automatic drainage and subirrigation system is in operation with roots extending six inches down in less than six weeks. David Heiss, president of Turf Services, says the project was completed a week ahead of schedule.

Like Soldier Field in Chicago, IL, and Del Amo Park in Carson, CA, centrifugal pumps were installed instead of diaphragm pumps to provide suction to four separate drainage and subirrigation sections of the rootzone. And like Soldier Field, Huber Ranch Sod supplied the mixture of Northrup King Kentucky bluegrasses grown on sand.

"The interesting thing about this particular project," explains Heiss, "is the field in 41 feet below street level and there were no tunnels large enough to get trucks from the street to the field. All the excavated soil and all the sand had to be moved in small loads down a steep stairway covered with dirt. The sod was brought in a small tunnel underneath the stadium with fork lifts."

## **SAN ANTONIO PROCEEDS WITH DESIGN FOR DOME**

Flexibility is the primary goal set by the San Antonio City Council for the city's new 65,000-seat dome stadium. Since passage of a \$100 million voter referendum this January, the city has been on a fast track to complete the stadium by the beginning of the 1992 National Football League season. This summer it launched the design process by hiring HOK Sports Facilities Group of Kansas City, MO.

A design team headed by Ron Labinski is rushing to complete the initial design by this fall. "We have the opportunity to create the most flexible multi-event center possible," said Labinski. The stadium is to accommodate professional football, concerts, trade shows, and conventions. The dome will not be retractable and therefore the stadium will utilize artificial turf.

HOK is also working on designs for the New Comiskey Park in Chicago and the Camden Yards Twin Stadium Complex in Baltimore. The company has reportedly been involved in every professional football or baseball stadium during the past six years.