



Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update July/August Volume 30, No. 3

2001

President's Message

"We don't need more education. We don't need more thought control." THE WALL by Pink Floyd (not Raymond).

The Great Wall of China.

The Green Monster in Boston. Home of the Red Sox.

An Olympic marathon runner about 3/4 of the way through the 26 mile race.

Dale Earnhart on his final turn at Daytona.

The Berlin Wall formerly separating East and West Germany.



Anyone who works in the golf course industry suffering from summer burnout in mid-July or August?

I hope this golf season has been kind to you this year. But from early indications of the lack of rain lately, lack of golfers playing the course or just plain bad luck, I'm guessing most of us have or are going to "hit the wall". We all do it. All at different times and all different ways. But we all experience this job-related syndrome.

All walls are unique and everybody handles the wall a little different. Some seem too Great to overcome. In the case of the runner, sometimes you feel like you are in a state of euphoria and you can't think straight, but you know you must continue on to the finish line. Other walls will kill you if you let them (hats off to number 3, NASCAR fans.) Walls can be chipped away at over time and finally be torn down providing new avenues from the once separated goal.

We all try to hit the perfect home run ball, when a single off the wall is all we need. We fail to realize this golf industry is a team game and bunch of singles or a double once in a while beats an individual home run every time. Now that the All-star game is over, (July 4th, when all the play-once-a-year hacks come out) we can gear up for the second half of the season with our teammates. From golf course maintenance co-workers, Pro shop, kitchen and clubhouse staff to Turf venders, fellow superintendents, family and friends all working together towards a common goal in getting through another golfing season. We need to utilize each other to get through the tougher times.

A friend of mine reminded me of a key ingredient after I hit the wall, hit the wall, and hit the wall

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President's Message Continued.....

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again (you have to understand, I'm very stubborn.) COMMUNICATION is extremely important to softening the blow when you suffer a shot to the cranium. Talking it over with the other parties involved did not change them or how they view my position, but it did change how I view my position. Thanks to a good friend in the industry giving me a boost over the wall, a shotgun start still means the beginning of an eighteen hole golf tournament. Hey, c'mon I would have only winged him !!!

As we look towards the downward part of the hill, knowing that snowmold season is just around the corner, summer staff are migrating back to school and days are getting shorter, I have one goal in mind. Looking forward to climbing my next wall. A wall of snow that is..... Instead of smelling two-cycle weed- whip mix. Well, you get the point.

Good luck the remainder of the season getting over, under, around or through your walls to accomplish your goals that you have set for the season. Remember, you can't have your pudding if you don't eat your meat.

Green side up,

Daniel J. Bissonette



NMTMA Events

August 22.....MSU Field Day
September 13.....NMTMA Fundraiser
Black Lake Golf Course
October 2.....Tuck Tate Championship
Michaywe' Hills, The Pines

Correction

Please add to your 2001 NMTMA Directory:

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Editor's Note.....

I am so sorry this issue is getting out so late. For the first time in my years working with computers I came down with a few viruses. There were 13 of them to be exact. They would not let me access the internet and would keep shutting down my computer. Since I use my home computer to do the layout, this caused a few problems. Only the computer gods know where I got it, but it was not fun. Now I am cured and getting this out as soon as possible. A little lesson to everyone, check your computer often for viruses. They can be sent unintentionally from someone you know. One place that helped me out was a website with the address of http://housecall.antivirus.com/housecall/start_pcc.asp. I hope everyone's summer has been as interesting as mine has been.

Scott Pulaski

Million Dollar Par-3 Shootout at Treetops Resort

By Mike Dunn, Gaylord Herald Times

DOVER TWP. - Lee Trevino parlayed a hole-in-one on Monday (July 30) into a triumph on Tuesday (July 31) in the third annual Par-3 Shootout.

Boosted by the \$1 million bonus that the hole-in-one gave him, Trevino coasted to victory in the two-day, 18-hole event at Treetops Resort. Trevino finished with \$1,130,000 in prize money. Phil Mickelson came in second place with \$330,000, followed by Paul Azinger with \$60,000 and Raymond Floyd with \$30,000.

In the Shootout format, \$20,000 is awarded to the winner of each hole. The winner of a hole must validate the skin, however, by either tying or winning on the following hole. There is also \$10,000 awarded on each hole for closest to the pin.

Mickelson, the second-leading money winner on the PGA Tour this year, earned the only skin of day two of the Shootout. His birdie putt on the 18th hole of the competition secured \$220,000 in prize money and assured him of a second-place finish in the event for the third year in a row.

Trevino became the third golfer in three years to win the Shootout. Lee Janzen won the event in 1999, and Floyd was the winner a year ago.

Trevino accepted the trophy on the 18th green from Michelle Melling, daughter of late Treetops Resort founder Harry Melling. Trevino said how much he enjoyed playing golf on the Threetops Course, and then he peered into the sky.

"If old Harry is looking down right now, I just want him to know that he did a good job when he designed this place," Trevino said.

No one who was there to witness Lee Trevino's amazing hole-in-one on Monday will soon forget it. The ball seemed to have eyes as it rolled back on the sloping green of the seventh hole and followed a straight line to the cup.

The shot created an instantaneous response from the gallery. The cheering and clapping lasted several minutes. Even the ESPN cameraman perched on a high tower behind the green raised his arms. It was great to be there to witness the first million-dollar ace in the brief three-year history of the Par-3 Shootout, but the fact that it was Trevino, made the accomplishment even more special.

Trevino's triumph at the famed Threetops Course was everyone's triumph. Before he stepped up to the seventh tee, the 61-year-old Texan, known as the "Merry Mex" for his colorful personality, had already won over the crowd with his wisecracking ways and his playfulness during Monday's round.

Not only had he kept his fellow golfers loose and relaxed all day with a continual barrage of jibes and quips, but he had come across to the spectators as everyone's neighbor. Here was a genuine celebrity, a legend of golf with 56 PGA victories in his career, who was reaching out to the crowd around him and making all of us feel like a part of the proceedings. It was a big thing for Trevino to do, but very much in keeping with who he is.

And his actions were contagious. Even the normally stoic Raymond Floyd, who gives the appearance while he's playing that melted butter would harden in his mouth, took part in the badinage. After Paul Azinger missed the green twice on the third hole, Floyd called out, "Come on. Once more and you'll get it on the green."

Azinger and Phil Mickelson, for their part, were also animated. The pair exchanged lots of public comments between them, much to the delight of the gallery.

It was Trevino who was the catalyst of it all, however. The man simply has a way of touching those around him and making everyone feel just a little bit better. When his arching shot on the seventh hole hit the fringe beyond the green and rolled back into the cup, everyone cheered loud and long.

It was Trevino, after all, who had made the remarkable shot. And that meant that everyone had a part in it.

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