



The Toro Company

5825 Jasmine Street, Riverside, California 92504-1183
Main: 951-688-9221

Contact Information:

Vana Ankeny
Marketing Communications Manager
951-785-3742
vana.ankeney@toro.com

For Immediate Release

Toro's Turf Guard® Wireless Soil Monitoring System Helps Hazeltine National Golf Club Get Course in Top Condition for the 91st PGA Championship

BLOMMINGTON, Minn. (August 5, 2009) – As the staff at Hazeltine National Golf Club prepares to host the 91st PGA Championship, the Toro® Turf Guard® wireless soil monitoring system is on duty 24/7, providing continual updates about soil conditions at select greens where the game's top professionals will compete. The 2009 PGA Championship will be held August 10-16 at the course in Chaska, Minnesota.

Hazeltine Golf Course Superintendent Jim Nicol accesses the information provided by the Turf Guard system several times daily to monitor moisture levels and soil temperatures on and around the greens, where sensors were installed. With water availability and usage of top concern, along with creating a healthy playing surface, he regards the Turf Guard system as a valuable resource for a course superintendent.

"I look mostly at the moisture [information]," he said. "I access it and can tell if my irrigation ran on that area. I can tell whether I need to irrigate. And, when we're doing things like aerification that dry the greens out, I can look at it and keep track of soil moisture."

Nicol said Hazeltine installed the Turf Guard system last year. He finds the data so useful; he has budgeted to install sensors on every hole when the course is regrassed in 2010.

Hazeltine is known for its lush, healthy turf that grows on what Nicol described as a "loamy clay" soil type. Keeping the turf healthy this summer has required more irrigation than usual at Hazeltine because Minnesota has received below-average rainfall.

"With the dry season we've had this year, Turf Guard sensors have helped keep our root zones where they're supposed to be," he said. "We're down two inches in rainfall for the past month. I'm watching my sensors closely so I don't get it too moist, or too dry. I have it calculated for what works in our situation, and right now these readings are showing me that I'm right about where we should be."

-more-

He expects the data provided by the Turf Guard system to be especially valuable during the upcoming PGA Championship, when he determines each night's irrigation run schedule. "I'll watch it during the event for sure," he said. "It gives me an idea of where our levels are so I can plan for the night."

Nicol and the Hazeltine staff have monitored the Turf Guard data year-round since the sensors were installed. In the spring they tracked soil temperatures to determine the optimal time for turf applications, and in the winter they tracked moisture levels and temperatures.

"We're going to core out the greens and create new root zones and regrass the fairways next year," he said. "I have it budgeted to expand the Turf Guard system. We'll have it on greens and a variety of areas on the fairways." Nicol is looking forward to having sensors throughout the course to monitor every hole.

About the Toro Turf-Guard System

The Turf Guard wireless soil monitoring system provides golf course superintendents and their staff with essential soil information they need – when they need it. The Turf Guard system provides real-time information to help customers accurately manage the health of the turf.

Turf Guard wireless sensors buried across a golf course provide frequently updated reports on soil moisture, salinity and temperature to help golf courses save time and water. By analyzing this data, a superintendent can adjust irrigation schedules to precisely deliver the water needed for healthy, playable turf.

Turf Guard sensors install easily and with minimal disruption. They monitor soil conditions using two sets of sensor prongs, and transmit the data to repeaters mounted inside or on satellite controllers. The typical repeater range is 5,000 feet and the buried sensor range is 500 feet (line of sight).

Superintendents can use the data to determine irrigation schedules, flushing and syringing plans, and evaluate the effectiveness of turf applications. The data can also reveal early symptoms of looming turf disease.

Holes are immediately ready for play after easy installation of Turf Guard sensors. It features automatic network configuration and failure recovery, and the graphical course overview displayed by the GolfVision™ user interface provides sensor information for quick and easy study. The information can then be accessed from any Internet-connected computer or you can even access your sensor information from a Web-enabled cell phone.

Toro's Golf Distributors, as well as the Toro National Support Network (NSN), provide superior service and support for the Turf Guard System. A Turf Guard system can be purchased outright or for those customers looking to spread their costs out over time, Toro offers financing – including a limited time 24-month no-interest program – and a new Turf Guard Rental Program. While most customers using the technology are golf courses, other users include professional and collegiate sports venues.

About Hazeltine National Golf Club

Hazeltine National Golf Club, located in suburban Minneapolis, has developed into a favorite destination for premier golf tournaments. This summer's PGA Championship is the second such event in less than a decade for Hazeltine. It hosted the PGA Championship in 2002 and was also the site of the U.S. Open in 1970 and 1991. It hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 1966 and 1977, the U.S. Senior Open in 1983, and the U.S. Amateur Championship in 2006, along with state and regional championships, and collegiate tournaments. The Ryder Cup matches will be played at Hazeltine in 2016. Hazeltine was designed by esteemed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones and opened in 1962. Jones modified the course several times over the years, and then was succeeded by his son Rees Jones, who made changes prior to the 1991 U.S. Open Championship at Hazeltine.

About The Toro Company

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC) is a leading worldwide provider of turf and landscape maintenance equipment, and precision irrigation systems. With sales of nearly \$1.9 billion in fiscal 2008, Toro's global presence extends to more than 140 countries through its reputation of world-class service, innovation and turf expertise. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands to help customers care for golf courses, sports fields, public green spaces, commercial and residential properties, and agricultural fields. More information is available at www.toro.com.

###