



With GPS feeds, events coordinator John Peterson will be able to enhance tournament play with electronic scoring and real-time LeaderBoard data.

ing wheel. Golfers who choose to walk may pay \$5 extra for a portable GPS display unit that can be strapped to a golf bag.

For all the perks to golfers — truly like a super caddy, save for carrying your clubs — the GPS units also will be like little course marshals for keeping up the pace of play on the hilly terrain at Diamond Woods.

A big computer in the clubhouse will monitor the signals from each GPS unit on the course. If a group of golfers starts to lag behind — and even five extra minutes can cause gridlock on a golf course jammed with 136 players during peak hours — the clubhouse knows.

The lollygagers will get a polite prod on their GPS unit to pick up the pace. If not, the court marshal will ride out and ride herd.

“It’s the best pace-of-play tool out there,” says Diamond Woods owner Jeff Doyle, who hopes to have the GPS system in operation by mid-May. Golfers nationwide lament slow play above all other complaints, he says, and the system only makes sense for the hilly portions of Diamond Woods that can cause backlogs.

Developed by GPS Industries Inc. and distributed by Satellite Golf Inc., the “Inforemer” system runs about \$150,000 for equipment and startup costs, Doyle says. The GPS units are far superior to earlier models tested at Diamond Woods in 2000, he adds.

Let me see

A bit like satellite navigation systems in cars, the Inforemer GPS units have a monitor for displaying color graphics. Aerial photos were used to help create maps of each hole at Diamond Woods. Golfers will be able to see exactly where they’re at on the course, with distances calculated to the green, hazards and traps.

Twenty-seven satellites some 12,000



Course marshals can be summoned quickly by golfers with GPS units.

miles above Earth beam down the GPS signals, and the network also utilizes high-speed, two-way wireless communication technology. Golfers and clubhouse can communicate at will, plus the GPS units will display real-time sports scores, financials and breaking news. The “hot zone” of repeater antennas also will provide golfers with wireless broadband connections, should they desire.

For tournament management, the system is a boon to John Peterson, events coordinator at Diamond Woods. Real-time LeaderBoard scoring will provide golfers with instant access to tourney results as they happen, including fun stuff like longest drive and KP.

All while the course maintains a steady place of play. “That’s our goal,” Peterson says in sum. “We want to have people come out and golf and let us worry about the management and logistics.”

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