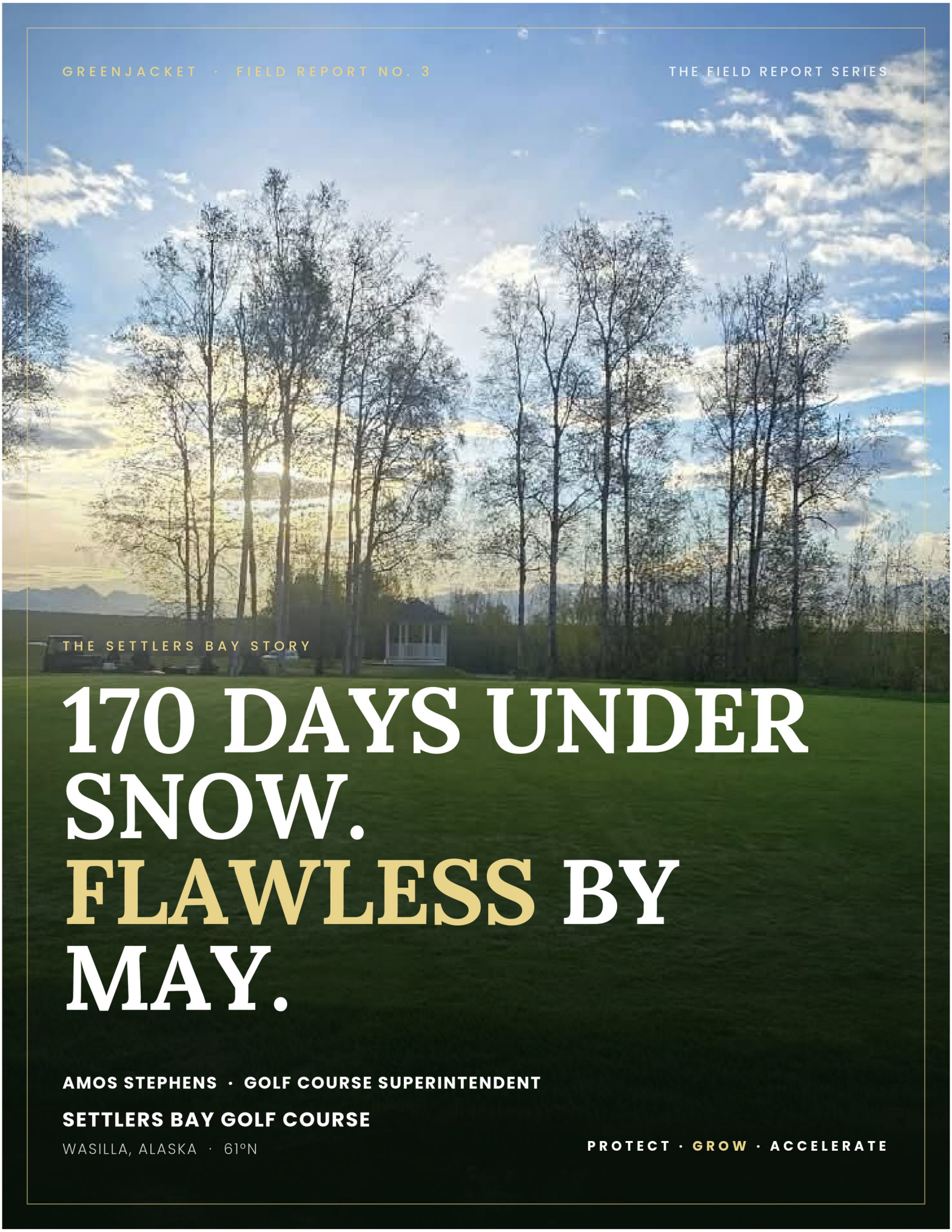


THE SETTLERS BAY STORY

170 DAYS UNDER SNOW. FLAWLESS BY MAY.

AMOS STEPHENS · GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

SETTLERS BAY GOLF COURSE

WASILLA, ALASKA · 61ºN

GreenJacket covers over the AFS Air Flow System — mid-winter.

THE CHALLENGE

THE WINTER TEST

170

DAYS UNDER SNOW & ICE

At sea level, on the coast, 61° north, no two winters are alike — and this one was the hardest in memory. Long stretches near twenty below, relentless wind, and almost none of the snow that normally insulates the surface. Over a winter this long, managing gas exchange under cover is everything.

−7°F

in the greens

−20°F

prolonged, high wind

~0

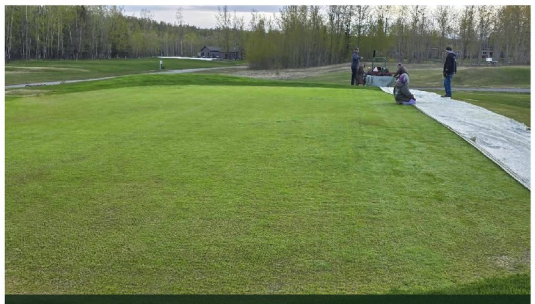
insulating snow

Greens temperatures verified in-surface — Syngenta SPIIO sensors & a University of Minnesota winter-turf study.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

WHAT AMOS SAW

When the covers came off, the bentgrass was alive and the establishment was uniform. Within a couple of weeks the surface had grown back to the standard the course is known for — clean, dense, and ahead of schedule.



The clear permeable comes off the green.

A couple of weeks after uncovering — the putting surface, fully grown in. May 26.

> *"We found the bentgrass alive and a very uniform establishment when the covers came off."*
>
> AMOS STEPHENS

THE OPERATION

Protect, Then Grow

Pulling the cover, green by green

Watering through the clear permeable

May 13 — greening up fast

Impermeable covers went down over the AFS Air Flow System for the winter. Come spring, the clear permeable went on — watered right through to drive recovery — then came off to a uniform grow-in. Through prolonged high winds, **not a single cover was lost.**

THE SYSTEM PROTECTS AGAINST

- Ice encasement
- Desiccation
- Crown hydration
- Low-temp exposure

WHAT WE LEARNED

Five Takeaways

01 **Bent built to last**
The record cold tested the bentgrass and it held — alive and intact under the covers.

02 **Covers held in the wind**
Through prolonged high winds, not one cover came off the greens.

03 **Measure, don't guess**
SPIIO sensors and a University of Minnesota study documented the in-green temps and the cause.

04 **The permeable accelerates**
Watering through the clear permeable drove a fast, uniform spring recovery.

05 **Protection plus airflow**
Together they set up the clean uncovering the course counts on every spring.

PERFORMANCE

8/10

WOULD RECOMMEND

Yes — with context

The biggest surprise of the year? "The resilience of the bentgrass."

THE PLANNING ADVANTAGE

Ready Before the Snow

You can't pick your winter — but you can be ready for it. Covers staged before the first snow. The permeable ordered ahead, waiting for spring. A recovery plan set before it's needed.

That readiness is why the greens were primed to grow the moment the covers came off — and why the course is **open on all regulation greens.**

Moose on the course — Settlers Bay.

> *Worth the effort — every season.*

“

I’ve been doing this a long time. There’s not much I haven’t seen. Protection with air flow — if you can avoid the lows we saw this year — leads to a perfect uncovering.

Amos Stephens

Partner / GM / Superintendent · Settlers Bay Golf Course

PROTECT.
GROW.
ACCELERATE.

Protect the greens, and the season takes care of itself.

Every Course · Every Winter · Every Story is Different

We'd love to share yours.

GREENJACKET.COM