Baird globetrotting from U.S. to Far East

The monsoon seasons of the Far East have been challenging for a number of golf course designers. Gary Roger Baird has been working on projects in the United States and the Far East, including in Taiwan, the Philippines, and Japan. He has been busy with projects in the United States as well, including the 18-hole private Windham Country Club in New Hampshire.

The site has been cleared and the shape is being defined for a project near New Orleans. Baird is also working on projects in Hawaii, Australia, and the United Kingdom. He has been involved in projects with Gary Panks and PGATour veteran Roger Baird in one of 15 projects they have worked on together.

New projects include the 36-hole Warren Valley Golf Course in Detroit, which is being designed by Gary Panks and PGATour veteran Roger Baird. The course will be a daily fee course and is being developed by C.K. Ibry Construction Co. of Huntington.

Also opening this fall is the 36-hole Rancho Solano course in Fairfield, Calif. The 6,500-yard championship course near the wine country north of San Francisco was developed for the city of Fairfield within a 2,000-acre, private residential development for which all lots already have been sold.

Construction will begin soon on the Guntowne Golf Course in Huntsville, Ala., where Baird is incorporating a split fairway on the 5th hole, with a water hazard greeting the straightest, shortest route and a "moonscaped" series of undulations serving as the alternate, longer approach.

Also opening this fall is the 36-hole Warren Valley Golf Course in Detroit, which Baird is working on as part of a luxury residential development nestled on 200 acres at the foot of a pine-covered forest. It will be a daily fee course and is being developed by C.K. Ibry Construction Co. of Huntington.

Baird also plans to open a new course in Japan next year on the 6,650-yard Inokel Valley course outside Detroit, Mich., which he designed for the County of Wayne. In addition to that public course, Baird has completed the master plan for the restoration and renovation of one of the few remaining undisturbed Donald Ross courses — the 36-hole Warren Valley Golf Course in Detroit.

Baird has taken a two-year construction cycle of building dikes, draining a rice paddy site, letting the moisture, then doing final shaping on the course. It all has to be accomplished between monsoon seasons.

Meanwhile, an 18-hole semi-private course that Baird designed in Ronan, Mont., at the base of the Mission Mountains, just opened for play, and the second nine holes at the Heatherdale Golf Course is to open soon.

Baird has placed his design partnership in one of the few remaining undisturbed Donald Ross courses — the 36-hole Warren Valley Golf Course in Detroit.

The Chibo course is located east of Tokyo and is part of a $400-million development financed by Australian businessman Peter Montgomery.

Graham/Panks get major projects underway

With my playing schedule winding down, I am excited to move on to the next stage of my professional career," Graham said. "With more than 20 years of professional playing experience under my belt, I feel I have a lot to offer the world of golf course design from the players' perspective."