Dye puts his stamp on 3rd nine at Kohler

Anchored by a golf hole Pete Dye says may be the best he has ever designed, the River Course opened Aug. 1, transforming Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wis., into two 18-hole championship courses.

The River Course’s 9th hole, a short par 4 dubbed “Pele Pines,” becomes a legendary golf hole, according to the club’s head pro, Jeffry Moorman. It offers a choice of three (high-, middle- and low-road) fairways to the greens and, reportedly, the only clue is that the best choice may be the least obvious.

Until River Course opened, Blackwolf Run played as three nine-hole courses. Golf Digest magazine named Blackwolf Run the Best New Public Course in 1988.

The other 18 holes, now called Meadow Valleys Course, has had two holes renovated.

The River Course’s tournament tees play 6,991 yards, is rated 74.9 and has a 151 slope. Its forward set on the par 4 course tees play 5,090 yards with a 70.7 rating and 128 slope.

The Sheboygan River comes into play on 14 holes of the River Course, which incorporates the new nine.

“Our fourth nine maintains the tradition of Blackwolf Run’s awesome design,” said Alice Hubbard, the club’s manager. “Strategic play with accurate shot placement is the goal, but if you miss, you’re still rewarded by the view.”

The river runs through the property and separates the two courses, which are the centerpiece of Kohler Village, which is being developed by Herbert V. Kohler Jr. as a business, residential and recreational center.

Courses newly approved in the United States

Golf Course News is publishing this list monthly. It includes courses that have been in the preliminary planning stages. When these courses are ready to begin construction they will be listed again on the “Courses newly approved in the U.S.” chart.

We would appreciate your help in updating this section. To contact us call 207-846-0600 or write Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, 38 Lafayette St., Yarmouth, Maine 04096.