**Player excited about designing Pinehurst #9**

By Mark Leslie

PINEHURST, N.C. — Contemplating the nostalgia, the Golf Hall of Fame and the great architects who have designed courses at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, Gary Player said it is a “great thrill” to be chosen to design Pinehurst #9.

“I've always had respect for the Pinehurst area, and to be able to put your ideas into your own course there is wonderful,” said Player, who agreed in March to design the course.

Among the first five men inducted into the Golf Hall of Fame, the South African Player will join co-Hall inductees Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus as having designed courses at Pinehurst.

Sam Snead and Ben Hogan, the other two among the first group of inductees, have not designed layouts here.

Player said playability, good drainage and beauty are critical aspects of the design philosophy he will instill into Pinehurst #9, also called “The Holly Course” at Pinehurst.

"I don't believe in the type of golf courses many are building today," he said, adding that golfers want to get away from the stress of life. "After playing some of the courses out there today, they have to go back to the office for a vacation."

Player said: “I'm 'anti' huge undulating greens. Members can hardly play them if the pros can't. I'm 'anti' hazards in front of greens. Ladies and the elderly are the backbone of the game, and you can't design hazards that penalize a straight drive. I believe in putting trouble on the side of greens.

"I design flat greens with a neck where judgment on the second shot is vital," he added. "I'm a believer—and Scotland's courses are great examples—in being able to carry the ball to the flag or run it up. I'm also a great believer in variety of greens."

---

**McAnlis wins raves of distinction at Venice G&CC**

Golf course designer Ted McAnlis of North Palm Beach, Fla., has opened Venice (Fla.) Golf and Country Club this winter and has two other 18-hole courses under construction in the state.

Venice G&CC, the cornerstone of a golfing community that will include 500 homes, has received high marks since opening Jan. 12. Under construction are Calusa Lakes in Laurel and a yet-to-be-named course in Brookville. Shaping is done on 16 holes at Calusa Lakes and the course is expected to open in October.

The Brookville site has a long construction schedule. McAnlis said the first nine holes will be seeded in October. Approved and with construction pending is 18-hole Stoneybrook in Bradenton. Meanwhile, planning is under way on Oyster Creek, an 18-hole executive course in Englewood, and University Commons, an 18-hole layout in Bradenton. Approvals are pending for the 27-hole Gardens Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens and the 18-hole Lakes of Indianwood in Indianuntown.

At Venice G&CC, McAnlis said, "each hole has its own character," the front nine being routed through pasture and the back nine through pine and oak woods.

"The tee angles are critical to the design," McAnlis said, adding that he also likes to pitch his greens from back to front so the player can see the green on the approach shot.

One of McAnlis’ favorite holes is the 428-yard par-4 10th, which features a series of island tees.

The par 72 course plays from 6,790, 6,380, 5,964 and 5,203 yards.

The site work contractors were Wendall Kent and Co. of Sarasota and Beans Contracting of Venice. The shaping was done by Richard Laconte of Stuart, while the irrigation and finish work were completed by MGI Inc. of Clearwater.

Rob Roy is Venice G&CC’s professional.