By Bob Seligman

PG A TOUR ENTERS PUBLIC MARKETPLACE

This following winter's opening of the Golf Club of Miami, PGA Tour officials said they intend to operate more golf public

courses.

The Florida facility, which opened its third 18-hole course in January, joins The Golf Club of Jacksonville (Fla.), as public courses operated by the PGA Tour. The Tour runs several Tournament Players Club private, semi-private and resort courses.

Gary Dee, director of operations for PGA Tour Public Golf, Inc., said the announcement of a third public facility may come by late May or early June.

Dye said the PGA Tour would like to open one or two public facilities a year for the next 10 years and, ultimately, to have 15 to 20.

"It's a significant commitment of resources and staff of the PGA Tour. But compared to the major operators of public facilities, it's not a lot," said Dee. "We'll pick our spots here and there. The TPCs will still be the primary thrust."

Dye said the new spots will likely be in warm climates, primarily in communities with at least 300,000 people living within a 30- to 40-minute drive. An ideal facility would have 27 to 36 holes. Public courses could eventually become part of a resort, but he's uncertain when, or if, that will happen.

Dye said greens fees will be $20 and up. Current greens fees at The Golf Club of Miami range from $6 in the off-season to its executive course to $31 in-season at its West course. The Golf Club of Jacksonville charges $15 on weekdays and $19 on weekends.

The PGA Tour is aiming for 40,000 to 50,000 rounds per year at each facility.

Dee said the rise in golfers, particularly public-course players, is a driving force in the

By Mark Leslie

PLAYER EXCITED ABOUT DESIGNING PINEHURST #9

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 Pinewild.

"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 game, and you can't design hazards that penalize a straight game.

"I design flat greens with a neck where judgment on the second shot is vital," he added. "I'm a believer—and Scotland's great, 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."

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Recent changes in frequency of play

By Mark Leslie

AGE PARTICIPATION RATE CHANGES — 1986-1989

Gary Player

The rebuilt course was constructed on the property's pre-existing course area. Among improvements to the nine-hole, par-36 layout were reshaped greens, new men's and women's tees, replanted fairways and roughs, and an upgraded drainage system.

By Mark Leslie

GOLF COURSE NEWS

By Mark Leslie

MARRIOTT'S LEE COURSE GROWS IN MARCO ISLAND FLA. — Carved out of 180 acres of southwestern Florida cypress, palm and pine trees, the new golf course at Marriott's Marco Island Resort and Golf Club is scheduled for completion next fall.

The 6,925-yard par-72 course was designed by Bates/Heard Plantation Resort & Yacht Harbor has rebuilt 18 holes at Calusa Lakes and the course is expected to open in October.

The Brooksville 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 Stonybrook 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 Indiantown.

At The Golf Club of Venice, 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 dogleg left 10th, which features a series of tight trees.

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 Deans 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.

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Three Player designs opening

Gary Player Design Co. of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., opened one course in April and will have two open in June. River Falls Plantation in Spartanburg, N.C., an 18-hole daily-fee course, opened April 22. Blackmoor at Myrtle Beach, an 18-hole daily-fee layout, opens June 10. River Run, a daily fee resort course in Ocean City, Md., will open June 16 and 17.

Player also will begin construction in September on 36 holes for the city of Palm Beach, Fla., in conjunction with the PGA of America.

Player touch a personal one at Pinehurst #9

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"I want a course everyone can play, but also where the pros can go to the back tees and have a feel of a test," he said.

"Some courses in the United States are costing $2 million a year to maintain," said George I. Blonsky Jr., managing director of Pinewild and senior vice president of ClubCorp, which owns Pinehurst Resort and Country Club.

"Any time a course costs more than $600,000 for maintenance, that's a sign of a bad architect." Water is valuable and you don't buy soil in a drug store, Player said, pointing to the need for conservation.

"Given all the nostalgia, the Hall of Fame, and the other great architects who have been at Pinehurst, it will be hard to keep him away. This is high on his list," Applegate said. Player's design will bring "normalcy." He said the success of that style of golf at Player's Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head National courses "speaks for itself. People keep coming back and coming back to play it."

"When they leave the course they don't feel like they've been beat up by a Mack truck." Player was to do the initial walk-through on the site on April 24 and construction should begin late this fall, Applegate said.

"In 1979, under previous ownership and operation by ClubCorp, which owns Pinehurst Resort and Country Club. Saying the agreement between Pineval and Player was the result of several months of planning, Blonsky added: "It is a major coup to bring the International Ambassador course for our community. It will positively influence the future tradition of golf at Pinehurst."

Pinehurst #6 open; after redesign work

Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort and Country Club officially reopened its championship No. 6 golf course on March 1, after eight months' work redesigning all of its greens and four fairways.

The original No. 6 greens were removed, then enlarged and recontoured to reflect the character of each hole. The four fairways were redesigned to enhance their playability.

"In 1979, under previous ownership and due to budget limitations, No. 6 was constructed with smaller greens than designer Tom Fazio wanted," said Don Padgett, Pinehurst director of golf operations. "With Tom's input, the redesigning makes No. 6 an even better course than it was because the new greens and fairways allow for increased playability."

Pinehurst No. 6 is a 7,098-yard, par 72 course, with a 74.5 rating. Officials also upgraded No. 6's driving range and added a new putting green, new golf carts, cart storage facilities and clubhouse.

Pinehurst is owned and operated by Club Resorts Inc., an affiliate of Club Corp. of America.