A horse and bogey show...

By MARK LESLIE

Colorado is a horseman's paradise. It is also a golfer's delight. So the city of Arvada, a Denver suburb, and Zenith Developers Corp. of Woodland Park have joined in a search for both passions in two very different projects.

In Arvada, 140 acres of city land will be home to municipal Westwoods Golf Course and will feature 2-1/2 miles of equestrian and biking and hiking trails.

Norman brings Mackenzie look to American 18

From staff reports

LONG GROVE, Ill. — Greg Norman and the folks at Kemper Sports Management feel golf course architect Alister Mackenzie would be happy with their new creation 35 miles northwest of Chicago — Royal Melbourne.

"We tried to be true to the traditions of the game," said Kemper Vice President Doug Schmidt. "The Royal Melbourne course in Australia is one of Greg's favorite in the world, and we feel we have kept Mackenzie's rules of design in our Royal Melbourne."

The American version, a private course that opens to members Aug. 15 and whose grand opening will be Sept. 12, indeed fits the Mackenzie mode in all the key areas.

Mackenzie said a golf course should:

• Consist of two loops, creating different wind conditions. ("Done," says Schmidt.)
• Mix long par-4s with shorter, tough par-4s, calling for an infinite variety of shots. ("Done.")
• Have greens and fairways that are very undulating but not severe. ("I'd like to do this one.")
• Sport minimal blind shots. ("None.")
• Stress natural beauty, not contrived by man. ("Put an asterisk on that.")
• Cause absolutely no annoyance by causing the golfer to look for lost balls. ("Only if you want to skin dive in one of the nine lakes.")
• Maintain excellent course conditions. ("We've hired Tim Sedgley from Oakhurst Country Club in Antioch, Calif.")
• Flash the sand as opposed to building overpowering bunkering. ("Done.")
• Camouflage (Mackenzie's strength). ("On the 18th the bunker is out 40 yards from the green, just like Mackenzie would do it.")

Schmidt said the course combines three natural elements. Six holes are set in a heavily wooded area with mature oak trees. Six are set in a designated preservation prairie-wetland area. And six holes play around nine manmade lakes.

This balance in design came from the team of Norman, who was involved from the pre-planning stages; architect Ted Robinson, who did the routing plan; and Kemper Director of Golf Bob Spence, who supervised construction.

The course plays four sets of trees from 5,500 to 6,800 yards. The 325-member club includes such notables as NBA star Michael Jordan, PGA Tour pro Chip Beck; Chicago Bears star Jim Harbaugh and Ron Rivera; and Western Golf Association President Bob Aebteen, who lives off the 17th hole.

They already have a challenge — matching Normans inaugural round feat. Norman reached the 565-yard, par-5 17th, a double dogleg, with a 325-yard drive and a 2-iron which cleared the towering oaks from 255 yards out and stopped 15 feet from the pin.

"We will put out a plate on the fairway to commemorate that shot," Schmidt said. "People will try to duplicate that shot for years."
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Horses, golf mix in mountains of Colorado

"It's always scary and risky to run trails through a golf course," Phelps said. "We tried to run them along the greenbelt with a lot of foliage for protection." Phelps said the region has a lot of pedestrian-type trails on courses, but horse trails are rare. And Westwoods has the only trails he knows of that are specifically dedicated to and built for horses.

Earthwork was started on the course in March. Phelps said the front nine should be seeded this year and could open for limited play next summer. The back nine will probably be seeded next spring and open a year later. "This will be an excellent municipal golf course," Phelps said. "We have a mixture of woods, we're building ponds, and there are high points with beautiful views of the foothills and Denver."

Wilkins said: "We're looking forward to having this golf course open... There is quite a bit of wildlife: mountain lions, deer, foxes, coyotes, cranes."

AN IDEA FOR THE FUTURE

Will this idea of mixing equestrian trails and golf courses catch on? Zenith's Ranney said these are "some of the amenities people are looking for."

Ranney's 480-acre Hawk Ridge development will include an 18-hole Scottish links-type course designed by Byron Color. Crushed, compacted granite-surfaced trails will run parallel to all roads.

"There has been interest in an equestrian center with a stable," he said. But the homes will be on sites as large as five acres, so many homeowners will house horses on their own land.

Since the development is surrounded by Pike National Forest, equestrians can literally ride along the golf course and off into the sunset.

Irwin signs to design N.C. layout

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. has been commissioned to design the golf course planned for The Meadowlands golf community.

The Meadowlands is located in Davidson County between Winston-Salem and High Point, N.C. The Meadowlands is a 600-acre master planned golf community near Busky Fork Creek. The golf course plans to be an 18-hole par-72 semi-private country club.

The developer is W&W Properties, Inc. The site has extensive old-growth oak and pine forests interspersed with gently rolling meadows. William G. Daniel & Associates of Cary, N.C., has been retained as engineers for the community. John Ranyan, development coordinator with W&W Properties, said, "Golf course construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1993, with an opening planned for the summer of 1995."

Architect Richard M. Phelps will provide the architectural plans used in course development.