PLAYER COURSE GETS FACELIFT

MACON, Ga. — River North Country Club, host to the former Ben Hogan-Now Nike-sponsored Macon Open, held its grand reopening Oct. 23, after undergoing a major renovation project this summer. After the Hogan stop, bunkers on the front nine of the Gary Player-designed course were reshaped, sodded and tamped in-house by superintendent Arthur Jamison and his maintenance staff. Bunkers for the back nine were to be redone this spring. The greens were cored and rebuilt to USGA specifications and original profile by Hendrix & Dail, Inc./Sunbelt Services of Tifton, Ga., and Palmetto, Fla., a division of Hendrix & Dail, Inc. of Greenville, N.C.

HILLS BUSY, WISCONSIN TO S.C.

Construction has begun on the new La Crosse (Wis.) Country Club. Designed by Arthur Hills, the course will measure 7,090 yards from the championships tees and will be the centerpiece of a 1,200-acre residential development. Meanwhile, Hills is teaming with Greenwood Development Corp. to fashion Coosaw Creek Country Club in North Charleston, S.C. Hills' Southpointe Golf Club is under construction in Pittsburgh. Being developed by Millcraft Investments, Inc. of Pittsburgh, Southpointe is the focal point of a 58-acre mixed-use development.

GOLF SERVICES INKS CONTRACT

LEWISBURG, Tenn. — Golf Services Group, Inc. of Knoxville has been awarded a contract to develop a municipal golf course for the city of Lewisburg. The course will be designed by Gene Bates and Associates of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and construction is expected to begin early this year and open in the summer or fall of 1994. The course will be built on land donated to the city by the Edward Roberts family.

RAVINES RENOVATION COMPLETE

ORANGE PARK, Fla. — Ravines Golf & Country Club in Middleburg, just south of Jacksonville, has reopened after extensive renovation. Originally designed by Mark McCumber & Associates in 1979 and built on land that weaves over and around 80- to 100-foot ravines alongside historic Black Creek, Ravines was purchased in 1996 by Kondo Sangyo Corp. of Asaka, Japan, which later commissioned McCumber to redesign and renovate all 18 greens.

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — After two years of legal struggles with equestrians and environmentalists, the city of Lakewood has completed what superintendent Don Tolson calls "a masterpiece"—Fox Hollow. Equestrians, who had no developed trails before, now have a trail through most the heavily wooded part of the property, crossing Bear Creek three times and twice climbing a hill overlooking the entire course.

"With 650 acres, we were able to build 27 holes, keep the trail apart from the course and set aside all the high-quality habitat," Tolson said. "It's a great piece of property. The soil conditions and water quality are good. Environmentally, we're going to be extremely aware, with integrated pest management practices."

Because Bear Creek runs through the course, architect Denis Griffiths and builder Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. builders maintained a 50-foot buffer for chemical applications and dug two ground-water monitoring wells between the course and the creek. Tolson's crew will monitor the wells monthly through the growing season. "Our wildlife has prospered through construction," Tolson said. "It is abundant and probably has increased. A pair of nesting redtail hawks had three babies. There are a half dozen coyotes that are really tame, a herd of about a dozen deer, geese, ducks, great horned owls and a diversified population of songbirds. Any foxes at Fox Hollow? "Not yet."

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