

Best of the Best

Golf Course News proudly presents its design, construction and maintenance awards for 1992.

Best Maintained Course on the Senior PGA Tour

The pros go with Cochise

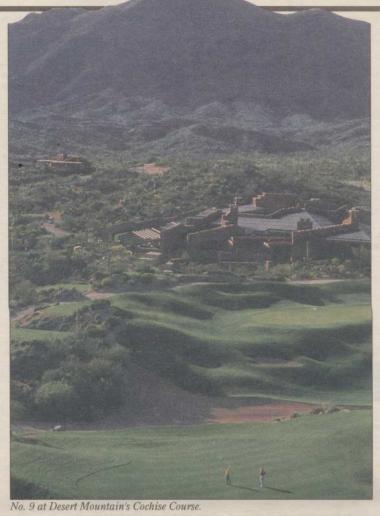
By HAL PHILLIPS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Virgil Robinson knows a little something about preparing a golf course for finicky players.

He's currently director of agronomy and maintenance at Desert Mountain, whose Cochise Course annually plays host to the Senior PGA Tour event, The Tradition. In a poll conducted by *Golf Course News*, Cochise was chosen by Tour players as the best maintained course on the senior circuit.

However, Robinson came to Desert Mountain from the Burning Tree Club, known around the Washington, D.C. as the Golf Course of Presidents. He matriculated to Burning Tree from the 36-hole facility at Andrews Air Force Base, where military types walked the course as they might conduct

Continued on page 58



Best Developer of Golf Communities

Nation's architects and builders choose Arvida

By KENT R. DAVIES

Industry leadership was key in determining the nation's Best Developer of Communities, as voted by architects and builders in an exclusive *Golf Course News* poll.

Competition was fierce, but Arvida of Boca Raton, Fla. came out on top of the 24 developers which received votes. Multiple votes were also garnered by Branigar Organization; J.H. Chaffin & Jim Light; Greenwood Development Corporation; Don Nicewonder; Bob Hardy and Crescent Resources.

Arvida garnered peer commendation for being a "great benefactor of golf," according to Gary Linn — vice president at Robert Trent Jones II International — who worked on Arvida's Weston Hills Country Club project in Fort Lauderdale. Linn stressed Arvida's industry leadership in making "golf always an integral part of their communities. They've allowed their golf courses to start becoming golf courses again.

"Arvida's courses are a statement for the whole community aside from those lots fronting the golf course," Linn continued. "When you first drive into Weston Hills, for instance, there's a big, open landscape of golf and water with the houses set way back. You come up to and enter the club without seeing a house. The housing is around as you play the course, but it isn't like driving past garages and driveways like you see in many developments."

Weston was one of the first developments with double fairways,

Continued on page 60

When it comes to covering a lot of ground, the competition isn't the only thing

Arvida gets the nod from builders and architects

Continued from page 56

not all single fairways.

Johnston Golf Design Group's Clyde Johnston said he's proud of his association with Arvida in developing their Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. He found Arvida personnel "extremely conscientious with the quality of their product and their sensitivity to the environment."

Arvida was "really interested in protecting the environment and not just following the book of the law. They didn't try to get away with anything. They hired all the proper consultants and worked their way through the permitting

process."

Arvida doesn't just develop lots, according to Johnston, but expertly builds in the feeling of belonging to a real community. "They put a greater emphasis on community than a lot of developers who just go out and build a subdivision and put a golf course in to sell lots," he said. The Jacksonville course recently received an award from the Southwestern Builders Association as best recreational community.

Linn noted that Arvida "has the equation worked out. They bring a lot of experience with them. They let the golf course at Weston Hills become the center piece of the

both the integrity and ambience of Arvida's golf courses. They have an inherent value within the community and independent of it, he said.

Linn also likes Arvida's "intent that each project have a different identity by using different architects. Even when they do multiple courses in a project they use different architects for each course.'

Clyde Johnston and Gary Linn both found their association with Arvida to be a valuable learning experience. Johnston, a land planner, now incorporates this

community." Linn said he values sense of community in other projects by convincing the developers that this community effort works.

> Johnston said he also found the people at Arvida "to be a lot of fun to work with. They were nice people and they respected my opinion. They all worked well together."

In an age of total quality management, tight financing for golf communities, and fierce competition, Arvida has been recognized as a leader by understanding what more and more Americans value in the 90s — a sense of total community and environmental sensitivity.



BestoftheBest

By the seaside

Fazio design and "Every golf project and hole must be special," he said. "That's our job and people expect it." At Hammock Dunes, Fazio faced a challenge in creating unique settings for each hole because the land forms were the same in many areas. Even though he designs up to 90 holes a year, Fazio said he "can't imagine doing any two alike. It would be boring and not any fun to go to work.'

Greg French, head golf pro at the Ocean Course, found his association with Pete Dye to be a match made in heaven. Because Dye had previously worked with the folks at Kiawah, Dye was considered "basically a part of us," said French. "Pete literally begged to design it."

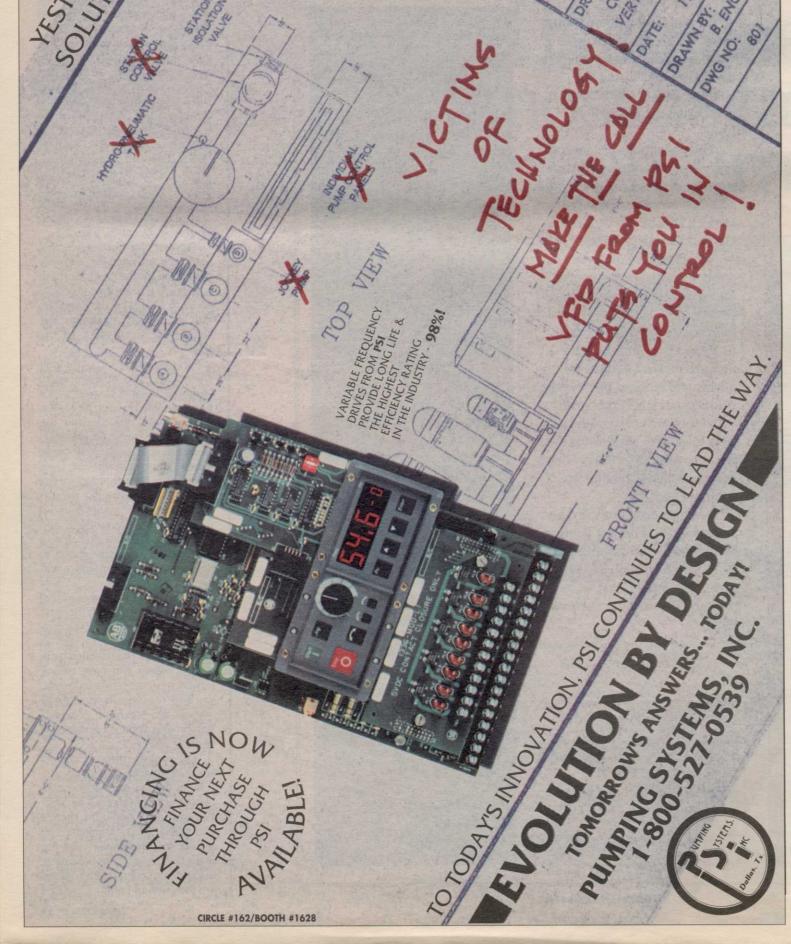
French finds the most unique thing about Dye's work is his disdain for blueprints-driven design. He moves to each site during construction and prefers being called a builder or even a foreman. French often observed Dye "dropped to his knees, smoothing the sand."

The Ocean Course presented special challenges not many designers face. It's bounded by beach front and natural marsh areas, creating special erosion and habitat protection problems. The sand dunes, reconstructed to their specifications following Hurricane Hugo, are covered by sea oats and other natural vegetation planted by migrant workers, who were put out of work in the fields by Hugo's destruction.

Dye said his greatest pleasure comes from the U.S.G.A and Clemson University, both of which consider the Ocean Course one of the most environmentally sensitive golf courses in America. Dye protected the sensitive marshes by running pipe down the middle of every fairway and recycling the water and chemicals to an irrigation lake for storage. This system, at little cost, self-contains the chemicals within the property while recycling 90 percent of the rainfall.

Tom Fazio's big opening this spring will be The Virginian in Bristol, Va. He describes it of "Hammock Dunes and Shadow Creek quality.

Pete Dye has just finished the Speedway Golf Course inside, of all places, the Indianapolis Speedway. Calling it "the damndest thing you've ever seen - with telephone poles, inexpensive housing, and railroad tracks on one side, and the race track on the other." Dye's next hands-on project will be on the southside of Pittsburgh at the Menacolin Resort.



GOLF COURSE NEWS