Environmentalists, golfers won over by Squaw Creek

**Robert Trent Jones Jr.‘s track**

**Best New Mountain Course**

By **MARK LESLIE**

Robert Trent Jones Jr.’s “environmentally correct” Squaw Creek Golf Course in Olympic Valley, Calif., was named the Best Public Mountain Course to open in the last five years, according to the nation’s golf course architects.

After being used as a parking lot for the 1960 Winter Olympics, Olympic Valley was noticeably improved by Squaw Creek Golf Course.

Wetlands creators point men for future

By **PETER BLAIS**

**Crenshaw, Coore team hot property**

With the GCSAA tourney being played on Barton Creek, the PGA Tour having just played the Lincoln-Mercury Kapalua International on Princeville Kapalua, and the widely anticipated opening of Sand Hills, golf course architects Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore are in the news. Managing editor Mark Leslie tracked them down in La Costa, Calif., where Crenshaw was competing in the Mercedes Championship.

Golf Course News: It seems the word is out. Do you get the sense you’re a hot architect team and people are after your services more than before?

Crenshaw: No. We really don’t think of ourselves that way. If anything, we try to stick to our original philosophy. We have a small organization and we want to remain mentally correct. Squaw Creek, in Olympic Valley, was certainly name recognition is of inordinate value from a business perspective. There is a philosophy that says, ‘Do a great deal of projects and doing them well and going at a pace at which we’re comfortable.”

Coore: Do we think we’re a hot item? We’re very pleased with the work and how golfers have been won over by Squaw Creek Golf Course.

Weiskopf, Morrish ending partnership

By **MARK LESLIE**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Having generated a legacy of renowned golf courses from Arizona to Scotland, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish are “winding down” their golf course design partnership.

“We’re not splitting. We really are just phasing out,” said Morrish, parrying any talk of a feud with Weiskopf, with whom he has designed 20 courses. Among their gems are Forest Highlands, Troon North and Troon in Arizona, Double Eagle in Ohio, and Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland.

In a statement, Weiskopf said: “Competition and design complement each other and after working on the design of 20 golf courses, I find that golf course design is just as stimulating for me as competition. I will continue to utilize my design expertise and competitive experiences to build and design outstanding golf courses, in addition to playing on the Senior Tour.”

Weiskopf and Morrish are working on a handful of unfinished courses, along with some long-range projects. And Morrish added, “We will honor any agreements we’ve made with people with whom we have spoken, if they desire to press forward. In fact, we have not ruled out working together, say, five years from now. If a past client were to call and say, ‘I...”

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of work while in the spotlight. There is nothing wrong with that. But we are a very small company. We realize what we do is business, and we're comfortable with. We don't shy away from projects, but to pick situations that allow us to express ourselves.

Coore: Quite candidly, I don't think there is any such thing. There are groups of extraordinary courses around the world. One thing that makes golf so fascinating is the variety. It's the heart and soul of golf. I grew up playing Pinehurst #2 and adore its subtlety and the crowned greens. By the same token, I love the imagination of the National Golf Links (on Long Island). It is one of my absolute favorites in the world. And certainly no two courses could be more different.

GCN: The last couple of years the industry's collective voice is "we're returning to classical design." Has the pendulum really swung back?

Crenshaw: The first depictions of golf architecture—other than seaside golf—was in the latter 1800s when man actually started working with earth artificially. From that point on, it has gone through tremendous swings and fluctuations in style, depictions, earthworks and all kinds of different presentations. I think the last 15 to 20 years is almost a natural reaction to what golf technology and implements and balls are giving us. Let's face it, the clubs and balls we use today are far surpassing anything we ever thought of 25 years ago. When I hear Pete Dye trying to devise different ways to combat that, I am very much in concert with his philosophies on how to test the best players. That point given, there are masses of golfers coming to the game who on television have seen golf courses laden with water and all different types of visual presentations. When you mention a course—like Oakmont and Royal Melbourne which don't have bodies of water—I'm sure they scratch their heads and say 'Where is the pizzazz? Where are the bells and whistles?'

We've gotten beat over the head by magazines, television, all types

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Q&A: Crenshaw and Coore

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Coore: I learn from Ben every day — particularly subtleties, shot values and things of inordinate value in the quality of a golf course that might be overlooked by someone without his talents. He is extremely well versed in golf architecture. This is the furthest thing imaginable from the situation common in the last 10 to 12 years of players consulting. This is an ego-oriented business as well, and sometimes — particularly from the lesser-known person's perspective — some guys may have a problem doing work when their partners get the lion's share of the credit. We don't have that problem. Ben even tends to downplay his role, which is not fair to him. We try to show up together as much as possible.

GCN: Your involvement in buffalograss seems to be such a departure from the Tour and course design. Ben, what got you interested?

Crenshaw: I have been interested in how a course should be maintained and what awaits us in the future. Buffalograss is an alternative — nothing more. It's not a wonder grass. You can use less water with it...

Superintendents have such a difficult existence these days. There's so much demanded from them. A lot of times things are asked of them that are impractical. And they are very much maligned in a lot of different aspects. I have a lot of admiration for them.

GCN: Are you watching any other grasses in particular?

Crenshaw: Lots of new Bermudagrasses are coming out that are extremely heat-tolerant and use less water. There's a tremendous surge of new bentgrasses. We're not a very nice situation and time where we can offer these grasses in the future. And it's fun to watch and apply them.

GCN: How will water use and grasses affect course design?

Crenshaw: In a lush situation, there's a limit to what the ball can do and what it's outcome will be. In a lot of areas and a lot of our courses in America, what happens to the ball when it hits the ground becomes a major determining proposition. It's an air game. Why is it that people worked so hard on [greens] approaches in the '20s? That's where the game's happened and is presented to different classes of players. The old architects preached all the time about the approach. It can be just as important as the green itself, and so can how it's maintained because it allows lesser players a chance.

GCN: Bill, what does the element of your five years of work as a superintendent bring to this aspect of your career?

Coore: It's a great asset. I never started out to be a course superintendent. I worked with Pete Dye in the early '70s. Golf course design had been a hobby of mine. I appreciate Pete's disease. I got a chance to learn construction from the ground up. At one of his courses I inherited the superintendent's job, which, quite frankly, I was not trained for. I was forced to learn about maintenance. I knew what a well-maintained course was like, but how to get it there was foreign. Dick Psota, a well-known soil scientist out of Ohio, held my hand for a year and taught me.

I learned, it worked well and it was a fruitful beneficial experience, because having done that I am at least aware of superintendents' concerns — and whether those concerns are legitimate.

Sometimes they are and sometimes they are a personal objection.

Byron Nelson, Weibring team up

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Byron Nelson and PGA pro D.A. Weibring have teamed up with German developers to plan The Palm Springs Classic, a 306-acre mixed-use project featuring a championship 27-hole golf course. The development will also feature a hotel with as many as 400 rooms, corporate offices, commercial space and up to 400 vacation ownership units. The project is financed by Hypo Bank of Munich, Germany. Construction of the hotel will be completed in 1997.

Project developer is D.T. Palm Springs Inter-Continental Golf Center Enterprises, Ltd., headed by Rolf Deyhle of Stuttgart, Germany.

City Manager Rob W. Parkins said city staff stand ready to process the application as a high-priority development.