Nicklaus to put stamp on Par-3

BRANSON, Mo. — Officials of Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge and Nicklaus Design have announced plans to develop a Jack Nicklaus Signature Par-3 golf course on Big Cedar Lodge property near this town. The course, a part of The Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program, is the first Nicklaus-designed track in Missouri.

"I'm looking forward to working on the course in an area of the country that is trade-marked with its natural beauty," said Nicklaus. "This area in Missouri has tremendous features to the terrain and is one of the top new golf markets in the United States.

The course would surround the former residence of Dr. Graham Clark, which would serve as both pro shop and restaurant. The layout will be suitable for play by family members and experts. A practice area is also planned.

The facility, which has a commanding view of Table Rock Lake, will be known as the Top of the Rock. The course will be planned and operated in an environmentally friendly manner with maximum attention being given to preservation of wildlife habitat and the natural surroundings.

John Santacroce, executive director of The Audubon Society of New York State, said: "We welcome Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge as a registered member of the Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program. I look forward to expanding our long-standing relationship with Johnny Morris and his organization."

With help from the Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program, maximum attention will be given to preservation of wildlife habitat and the natural surroundings. This is the first Missouri golf course to be registered for the signature program and one of only 10 in the nation.

This is the first phase of what the company hopes will eventually become a world-class golf center that will include an 18-hole golf course. The complex will initially include a 5,000-square-foot retail golf shop and clubhouse, plus a restaurant with one of the most panoramic views in the Ozarks.

The course and facilities are initially planned to be open to the public.

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Paragon Golf Construction, Inc., a construction services company affiliated with Golden Bear International and Nicklaus Design, has announced that construction has begun on the Nicklaus Design restoration project at LaGorce Country Club in Miami, and 54 holes at two sites in Asia.

Several other courses are under contract, with construction scheduled to begin over the next few months.

"We are excited to break ground and begin the restoration of such a great course like LaGorce," said Paragon President Tom Sasser. "During our two-year affiliation with Jack Nicklaus, approximately half our work has centered in China, Taiwan and Japan. As our third project in the U.S., LaGorce gives us the opportunity to continue to showcase our abilities here at home."

Internationally, Paragon is constructing two courses in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia — one by Jack Nicklaus and one by Jack Nicklaus II. The company is providing its construction services for Nicklaus design at the Jerudong Resort in Brunei.

Construction for the LaGorce project is expected to take four months to complete, while the targeted completion date for the Asian projects is the summer of 1995.

Leslie commentary: Worthy crusade

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greens and railroad ties — will be prevalent, said the company's Andy Parker, who is also arranging an entire line of Harvey Penick sportswear.

The merchandise will arrive at pro shops nationwide next spring, Parker said.

"It is a first," Parker said. "Most companies go after Tour players with varying degrees of success. "Those guys are so up and down, it's a crapshoot. With Pete and Harvey, we have two highly visible men in golf who are not players."

With the shifting financial world, what sort of developers are safe? Municipalities must be good clients. Right?

Wrong, says Jay Morrish (see interview on page 31).

"I automatically and routinely turn down any job in which public money is involved," he said. "TPC at Scottsdale was an absolute nightmare to get built. That convinced me I didn't ever want to do that again."

If he were to build the Milt Engleke Country Club in Dallas, what would Texas A&M's Dr. Milt Engleke use for grasses?

"I would probably use what I call my DALZ 8514 on the tee boxes; my DALZ 8507 in fairways; my DALZ 8512 in roughs; and I'd put the Cato-Crenshaw combination bentgrasses (CNG) on the greens," Engleke said.

"In the deep roughs, I'd put Prairie buffalograss, so I'd have every one of my grasses on the course," he laughed. "I'd also put in quick couplers for an irrigation system — wall to wall. In other words, I wouldn't use an irrigation system. I've told a few architects: I think the biggest mistake they make is putting an irrigation system in around the greens. If they had to hand-water the greens, they'd be so much better off."