Postmark East Malaysia: Fream breaks ground in Sabah

BY HAL PHILLIPS

SABAH, East Malaysia — Architect Ron Fream, principal of Santa Rosa, Calif.-based Golfplan, keeps Golf Course News abreast of his overseas activities via the postcard. Every month or so, Fream drops the staff a line, telling of his work and adventures.

Fream and Robert Trent Jones II have been working in Asia-Pacific longer than any other American architects. His latest update arrived statewide from Sarawak on the former island of Bornoe:

"Hello — The prime minister of Malaysia will inaugurate ground-breaking for our Karambunai resort course along the sea-side, north of Kota Kinabalu Easter Sunday. The site is sand dunes, mangrove swamp and residential/business properties in its proximity.

Meanwhile, construction of the 27-hole Astana Golf Resort here in Kuntan is currently under construction, with an opening date scheduled for early 1995. This 27-hole member and resort course is located on the east coast of Malaysia in Pahang state, site of a former rubber and palm oil plantation.

Meanwhile, construction of the 27-hole Guangzhou South China Golf Club will soon commence near Zhenlong in Guangdong Province. Golf course approval has been granted, so ground should be broken by mid-summer, according to Crafter. The development is slated to include a clubhouse and members hotel, together with commercial shopping facilities to serve the planned 500 villas in the residential precinct.

BATES, PIERMAN TEAM IN JAPAN

KAMEYAMA, Japan — Construction has begun on a high-end private golf course here in this resort area of Chiba Prefecture. A team from Pierman Golf Co. of North Palm Beach, Florida, and Scottsdale, Arizona, U.S.A., has been coordinating the project since February. Gene Bates and Associates of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is designing the 18-hole layout. Gary Bates, former U.S. construction manager for Jack Nicklaus Design, is project manager for Pierman.

HOME COURSE ADVANTAGE

LAGUNA QUAYS, Queensland, Australia — The new Turtle Point Golf Club here recently played host to the inaugural Australian Skins Game. This Graham/Panks design, which opened in 1993 will also be site of the Skins Game in 1995 and 1996. Architect and former U.S. Open champion Dave Graham, a last-minute replacement for Nick Price, ended up winning the event — and $70,000 — over Greg Norman, Ian Baker-Finch and Craig Parry. Apparently, design partner Gary Panks finally paid out the money...

FOSTER IN THAILAND

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — Keith Foster and Associates of Phoenix, Ariz., has been retained by Prestige Properties Co., Ltd. of Bangkok to begin the design process for an 18-hole golf course here.

The resort layout, located near the King of Thailand's summer palace, will have a hotel and residential/business properties in its proximity.