Dennis Walters to receive NGF’s coveted Graffis Award

JUPITER, Fla. — Dennis Walters, a physically challenged golfer who has inspired hundreds of thousands of golfers and non-golfers alike, has been named the 1994 recipient of the National Golf Foundation’s Graffis Award.

The award recognizes outstanding contribution to the game in the tradition of Herb and Joe Graffis, who co-founded the NGF in 1936.

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize Dennis,” said NGF President and CEO Joe Beditz.

The NGF will present the award to Walters Nov. 19 at the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Conference Resort during Golf Summit ’94.

Walter’s charisma and positive philosophy have encouraged many who otherwise wouldn’t have tried the game. Along the way he proved that golf can indeed be played by the physically-challenged.

An accomplished college golfer, Walters was on his way to a professional golf career when a golf car accident in 1974 left him paralyzed from the waist down. He faced the prospect of never playing golf again.

He was back on the course within nine months. He came up with the idea of mounting a swivel stool to the side of a golf car. Using only his upper body, Walters now hits an array of shots that have earned him praise from such legends of the game as Jack Nicklaus.

In recognition of his remarkable comeback, Walters won the Golf Writers of America’s Ben Hogan Award in 1978. The only person paralyzed below the waist who earns a living as a professional golfer, he joined the likes of Gerald Ford, Gary Player and Bob Hope, when he recently became an honorary lifetime member of the PGA of America.

Since 1978, Walters has staged “The Dennis Walters Golf Show” at scores of PGA and LPGA Tour events, corporate meetings, trade shows and golf clubs.

Arizona layout set to open by early December

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Grayhawk Golf Course’s 18-hole layout, Talon, is scheduled to open Dec. 1. Golfer David Graham and architect Gary Panks are the designers.

The landscaping features hundreds of saguaros and almost 2,000 native desert trees. Two lakes have been created.

Water comes into play on the island green of the 17th hole and on the par-5 18th.

A stunning four-level waterfall separates the 18th hole from the par-4 10th.

Maine town wants out of golf business

BATH, Maine — Seeking to avoid a financial bath, the city is seeking ways to recover $1.3 million borrowed last year by the Bath Country Club for a second nine.

The addition is considered an artistic success. Now comes the dollar challenge. Councilors paid a consultant $15,000 to determine whether the club could meet its obligation. The city owns 65 percent of the club.

The club ran out of money last August. Club officials are now seeking a $200,000 line of credit.

R.I. developer plans to build next year

JAMESTOWN, R.I. — Developer Robert Clarke expects it to take a year to complete the application process for a $5 million state loan guarantee for his renovated Beaver Tail Golf Course.

A. W. Tillinghast-designed Beaver Tail opened in 1925 as a posh nine-hole private club, but closed in 1947. Foliage and waterways reclaimed the land, and several summer residents and the town purchased parts of the land for conservation.

Corrections

Because of misinformation supplied Golf Course News, an error appeared beneath a photo of Rees Jones’ Huntsville (Pa.) Golf Club on page 3 of the October edition. The course was built by Calgolf, Inc., while Tanto Construction installed the irrigation.

Also in the October edition, because of a reporting error, a mistake appeared in the story on pumping stations (page 22). Carroll Childers Co. played no role in the development of variable frequency drive.