Bobby Weed leaves PGA Tour to design courses freely on his own

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — After 11 years with the PGA Tour, golf course architect Bobby Weed has left PGA Tour Design Services and set up his own company, Robert C. Weed Jr. Design, Inc., based here.

Although disappointed to see Weed end his relationship with the Tour, PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem lauded his work. "Bobby Weed has done a fine job for the Tournament Players Club network," said Finchem. "He is one of those unusual people who, although very creative, is willing to listen to other ideas. This should help make him a success in his future endeavors and we all wish him well."

The 39 year-old designer is unique in golf in that he holds both associate membership in the American Society of Golf Course Architects and certified status as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. A native of South Carolina, he was trained at Lake City Community College in Florida, and spent seven years apprenticing with Pete Dye.

Weed worked for two years as course superintendent at Sawgrass. From 1985 to 1987, he was construction superintendent for Tournament Players Club projects, working in conjunction with Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, among others. He became chief designer of PGA Tour Design Services in 1987.

Weed then went on to design the TPC at Tampa Bay (site of Senior PGA Tour GTE Classic), TPC at River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn. (site of PGA Tour Canon Greater Hartford Open), TPC at Summerlin in Las Vegas (home of PGA Tour Las Vegas Invitational), the International TPC Mito, Japan, and new municipal facilities at the Golf Club of Miami and the Golf Club of Jacksonville.

Weed has worked with a number of PGA Tour player consultants, including Ray Floyd, Johnny Miller, Calvin Peete, Chi Chi Rodriguez and Fuzzy Zoeller. Weed's work has been strongly influenced by the naturalistic approach to design made famous by such architectural masters as Donald Ross, Alistair Mackenzie and A. W. Tillinghast.

Weed is also interested in the work of legendary architect Tom Simpson (Muirfield, Cruden Bay). A continued re-reading of classical architectural literature, Weed believes, is essential to recapturing the game's enduring traditions in the modern business environment.

Weed's office are located at 38 Ponte Vedra Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. 32082; telephone 904-273-3355.

Foster adds staff

The Keith Foster Golf Course Design firm has relocated its Western office to a Scottsdale address: David Druzik, Western Associate, 6619 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85250, 602-947-9915 (tele/fax).

In addition, added Robert McNeill, a graduate of Ohio State University with a master's degree in landscape architecture, to the St. Louis staff.

Asian roundup

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Kajang, Malaysia — The first 18 holes here at Palm Garden Golf Club, a Robbins & Associates International design, are now open for play. Robbins was just awarded the contract for an additional nine at the Malaysian facility. Other Robbins projects in Asia-Pacific include:

• Sukaharja Golf Club in Tangerang, Indonesia, scheduled to open in early 1995.
• Cinta Sayang Golf Club in Kedah, Malaysia, where an additional nine holes are in the design phase. • And Hua Xian Resort in Guangdong Province, Peoples Republic of China, where design is ongoing.

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