AIR FORCE CHOOSES GPS
LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Air Force has selected Golf Planning Solutions (GPS) of Hacienda Heights, Calif., to provide construction management for the $4 million expansion and renovation of the Nellis Air Force Base golf course here. An additional nine holes will be built on land adjacent to the existing course, while several existing holes will be realigned, a new irrigation system installed, cart storage building built and water features modernized. The project was designed by Halsey Daray Golf of La Mesa, Calif.

TWIN BRIDGES SHAPING UP
DANVILLE, Ind. — Twin Bridges Golf Club is being developed by Heritage Golf Management, Inc., an Indianapolis-based development management and consulting company. The 6,975-yard layout was designed by Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. of Marengo, Ill., and is expected to open in late fall of 1996. It will be the centerpiece of the proposed 800-acre recreational area being developed by the Twin Bridges Recycling and Disposal facility, which is owned and operated by Waste Management of Indiana.

STILLWATERS ADDING TRACK
LAKE MARTIN, Ala. — The Golf Group, Inc. has been selected to build a second golf course at StillWaters on Lake Martin here. The new course at StillWaters, The Tradition, was designed by Kurt Sandness of Raleigh, N.C., and is expected to be ready for play in the fall of 1996. This facility will serve the new course as well as the existing George Cobb-designed "Legend" course at StillWaters. The total project cost for the new golf course and clubhouse is approximately $5 million.

PRIMADONNA INKS FAZIO
STATELINE, Nev. — Primadonna Resorts, Inc. and Sheldon Gordon and Randy Brant, developers of the Forum Shops at Caesars complex, plan to build a 1 million-square-foot themed shopping facility on 100 acres here that will blend medium and upscale retail factory outlet stores with restaurants and the latest in high-tech interactive entertainment. The golf angle? A Tom Fazio-designed 18-hole championship golf course, with an additional 18 holes planned for the future.

DEVELOPMENT

A Casper & Nash flex their design versatility

PHOENIX, Ariz. — After winning 51 PGA victories, including two U.S. Opens and a Masters Championship, and Vardon Trophies with the PGA Tour’s best scoring average for five years, Billy Casper took his playing credentials to the design table. In 1986 he joined forces with Greg Nash, who had already designed 27 golf courses, to create Casper/Nash & Associates. Since then, they have designed 50 golf courses worldwide. They have worked extensively for Del E. Webb Corp., Continental Homes, Gandoll Builders, Southwest Forest Industries and others. Managing Editor Mark Leslie caught them in a rare moment when they were both indoors and not out on the course.

Golf Course News: Billy, you’d accomplished enough in golf. Why did you decide to get involved in course design?

Billy Casper: I felt many of the architects were designing golf courses that were too difficult. Many courses were being designed for less than one percent of the golfers. I’ve always felt golf courses should be playable and enjoyable. I often tell people if their golf game gives them a headache or an ulcer they might as well turn professional. At many of the courses, the cost is not only a substantial amount of money to play, but you’d better take three dozen golf balls with you... Consequently, your round would not take 3-1/2 to four hours, as it should take, but five and sometimes six hours.

GCN: What drew you to Greg as a partner?

BC: I searched for somebody who had a reputation as a good designer. I didn’t have the tools of an architect. But I had a lot of ideas as a golfer. I’ve played since I was 4-1/2 and I’ve played in 36 countries. I have a lot of likes and dislikes, and I felt I could add something as an architect.

I was drawn to Greg because of his work with a large corporation headquartered in Arizona [Del Webb]. They told me he was pretty good. And, by golly, he was. We’ve had a wonderful time together.

Greg Nash: We had that conversation before we got together: Basically, we found out that we had the same goals. We’re not into mass production, doing 30 courses a year, but we wanted quality and playability. I’m not a professional golfer, but I’ve played for over 30 years, and the average golfer wants to be challenged but not get beat up.

BC: Another thing we like to bring to the table is flexibility in a golf course. By having a series of tees that are not in a straight line, but island tees, you get different concept of each hole... With that flexibility, they can play the same course but get a different feeling each time out.

We love to point to Terravista in North Scottsdale as a course that is not only playable but very flexible.

GN: They held the U.S. Open qualifier there this May and the average score was 74.5. Yet, for members playing the different tees, it doesn’t play that way. When we had the opening, the members told us: “You designed this for us.” That

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PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTIONS

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Q&A: Casper-Nash

Continued from previous page

was exactly our direction. Yet wanted a roller course — mean-
to the chip-and-run game? pros definitely got a challenge.

Continued from previous page

fron course. For instance, Sun City
ents for a period of time and find
gotte

Also, you can use tees not only
tees some time ago, and we have
bump-and-run... Over here, you

and it is one tough test of golf,

Our trademark is play-

e of the design of greens

BC: Our trademark is play-
ability. Greg was adding multiple
trees some time ago, and we have
expanded on that.

GN: The philosophy is this: Tees are fairly cheap to build and use. Why not build them, maintain them as tees, or let them go and bring them up to quality just for certain events? Also, you can use tees not only to shorten or lengthen a hole, but you can go laterally with them. It totally changes the perspective of the hole.

GN: Billy, is retirement in your lexicon?

BC: My 11 children are finally grown and gone. My wife has wanted to do some traveling for 30 or 40 years. If I retired, it would disappoint her. And, too, it's fun to go to different sites and see the raw land and how it can be developed into a beautiful facility that brings a great deal of enjoyment to a lot of people.

GN: You mentioned your fam-
ily. Do you have any children who will join your design firm?

BC: My oldest son, Bill Sr., is in business with us. He helps coordinate projects, in market-
ing, and the business end.

GN: Billy and Greg, your names have become almost syn-

onymous with community and resort golf courses. Has this painted you into a corner, designwise? And do you intend to broaden your palette?

GN: It's a concern to us when people say we are retirement golf course architects. But I say be-
cause it's in a retirement commu-
nity, it doesn't mean our design philosophy and the design quality and challenge is different than we would do for anyplace else.

We're building a course for Del Webb in Henderson (Nev.) (McDonald Ranch). The people out here are not knowledgeable about executive courses. Their misconception is that it is like a pitch-and-putt. But you could take any of those par-3s or par-4s and put them on a championship-calib-
er course. It's just a different com-
bination of pars.

BC: Greg and I sit down and talk about everything that we do...

GCN: I've had a few lectures about it, yes.

BC: I make recommendations and if Greg does something and I ask why, he has to have a very valid reason. Or else, I'll make a recommendation and he'll say every once in awhile, "I never thought of that; that ought to work nicely." We communicate and work together and have a lot of fun doing it.

I'm reminded of Jim Murray's article a year or so ago, talking about good players involved in golf course design. He commented that the designer today is designing courses for Fred Couples, not married couples. Is that true, is that true?

GCN: Has any of your special attention to the mid- and high-handicapper come from now be-
ing part of that older group?

GN: Over the 25 years of doing work with Del Webb, it's been interesting to watch the evolution of the golfers and their communi-
ties and golf in general. A lot of people 50 or 60 don't play, or if they did they weren't very tal-
eted. We've started to see a swing to people — now 50 or 60—who are good golfers. They come from good country clubs and expect more challenging golf.

BC: Let's do a comparison be-
tween that and the modern-day teaching of golf. There are so many interesting features that can be brought into the teaching program today. Each teacher makes it a little more complicated than the teacher before him. Compare that to golf course architects.

Everything in business is the same: the computer world, for in-
stance. We have so much going on to improve. Not necessarily is it better but it seems to be better.