From the Golan to the Gulf, Israelis await golf

Continued on page 30

It's do or Dye at Black Bear

By MARK LESLIE

EUSTIS, Fla. — Eighty-foot dropouts in central Florida? Features reminiscent of the PGA West making a statement of character? A 19th "Shootout Hole" (frightened, no less) to break ties, or offer up a challenge after a round of golf? Yes, and more, says majority owner and general partner Richard Stein of his Black Bear Golf Club.

"We wanted a fun course, sort of a PGA West on the East Coast," Stein said. "And we wanted a golfers' club, not a country club. Golf alone. That's what we've got."

To get his wish, Stein hired P.B. Dye — son of PGA West architect Pete — to design the 18-hole semi-private track. Then he brought in John Regeg, PGA president for North Florida, as director of golf and Dan Forre of the Medalist Club as superintendent.

The result opens for play Nov. 1 and hosts a tournament later. Golfers will be tested by sandy waste bunkers, undulating greens and dramatic fairway elevation changes on a track measuring 5,100- to 7,000 yards over five sets of tees. Dye, now part-owner, moved 500,000 cubic yards of earth to create soft rolls on the 164-acre site — a chore made easy since the former citrus grove boasts sugar sand 60 feet deep.

Two bodies of water add punch to the challenge, including a 10th hole that is encircled by sugar sand 60 feet deep.

Continued on page 34

P.B. filling his own Dye-ary

By MARK LESLIE

P.B. Dye, 40, is the brother of designer Perry Dye and young-est son of Pete and Alice Dye, the most famous golf course design duo on the planet. A scratch golfer, P.B. [Paul Burke] admits to learning most of what he knows about course design from his parents. He assisted Pete with highly touted Long Cove Club (1982) on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and the Honors Course (1982) in Chattanooga, Tenn. He has designed numerous courses on his own, including Black Bear Golf Club near Orlando, which will open in November, and the new nine at Urbana (Ohio) Country Club, which his grandfather originally designed in 1929.

P.B. Dye operates a building design, Heritage Club, in Mason, Ohio.

PGA + Fazio = Golf Club at The Reserve

By MARK LESLIE

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Fraternal twins, born together but very different in look and style. That's how Tom Fazio views the two courses he has designed here at the PGA Golf Club at The Reserve, which will become home to the pros and open to the public when it opens this winter.

The North and South courses represent "a vast difference in styles and looks," said Fazio. "I think if you took a consensus of golfers after they played the two, you'd get a split vote on which is best."

Comparisons will come soon enough. The North Course is slated to open in December and the South Course a couple of months later.

Their openings delayed at least two months by a series of drenching hurricanes and storms, the courses are "the fruition of a lifetime dream for the PGA to own a golf club whose members can call their home," said PGA of America Chief Executive Officer Jim Awtrey. With a cap of $49 set on the greens fee and car during high season, the tracks fulfill the association's mission "to make world-class golf open and affordable to the public," he added.

A learning center is also planned and a third 18-hole...
P.B.: Keeping up the long Dye family tradition

Continued from page 27

I was playing with a guy on one of my courses and he said 'You know, this course has VD. It's visually disturbing.' I like that. My father and I like to visually disturb people.

— P.B. Dye

on projects and delegate authority. Mom and I are great organizers.

I play with and love my friends and like to party. We just don't work together. Our work habits are totally different.

He wanted the big office, large staff and high-level selling with clients late at night. I like a small office, no payroll and want to just go home and go to bed at night.

What was the greatest advantage in growing up a Dye and carrying that name as a designer? Any disadvantages?

P.B.: [Former Landmark Land Co. executive] Joe Walther said of Dad after he finished PGA West's Stadium Course, "I gave Pete Dye an unlimited budget and he exceeded it by $2 million."

GCN: What was the greatest advantage in growing up a Dye and carrying that name as a designer? Any disadvantages?

P.B.: Growing up on Crooked Stick, Dad gave me a lot of exposure to the game of golf and the golf industry.

GCN: How many courses a year do you design?

P.B.: Two, maybe three. There's just no way to do more than that.

GCN: Was there a course that made you as a designer?

P.B.: Growing up on Crooked Stick [Carmel, Ind.] got me interested in golf. But I really got off the stick and decided I wanted to be a golf course architect at Long Cove.

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