BRIEFS

WALKER REDESIGNING DAYTONA TRACK
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Daytona has selected Robert C. Walker, Inc. of Atlantic Beach to redesign and oversee reconstruction of the North Course at the city’s 36-hole facility, Daytona Beach Golf Club. Walker is also conducting a study of the South Course for future renovation. Plans and specifications are being developed and construction should begin this spring.

MARSH POINT A WHOLE NEW 18
KIWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The revised Gary Player-designed course at Kiawah Island Resort should be ready for play this fall. The former Marsh Point course, which will be renamed, closed last year for a major renovation. Plans soon changed in favor of building an entirely new course. The par-72 layout will stretch to 6,800 yards from the back tee compared to its former 6,334-yard length. Wadsworth Construction is the builder. Virginia Investment Trust owns the resort and is financing the $3.5 million construction effort.

GROUND BROKEN ON CC AT DC RANCH
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Scott Miller of Scott Miller Design has been selected by DMB Associates as the golf course architect for The Country Club at DC Ranch. The course is under construction and scheduled to open in January 1997. It will be a private 18-hole, 6,918-yard layout.

DYE UNDERTAKES KENTUCKY PROJECT
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Don Hensley, a 49-year-old retiree from IBM in Lexington, is developing The Peninsula Golf Resort on Herrington Lake near Dix Dam in northern Garrard County. Construction is about to begin on the 18-hole public-access golf course designed by Pete Dye. Hensley said he would like to see the golf course finished by spring 1997. Danny McQueen will oversee construction.

9-HOLE OCALA PINES DUE OPEN
OCALA, Fla. — Ocala Palms, a nine-hole course designed by Steve Newgent, is expected to be open and ready for play by late April with a full-scale opening by September. The layout will measure close to 3,400 yards from the back tees but can also be played at executive-length.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

AEUNITED

Joneses tie design knot, yet remain independent
By MARK LESLIE
MRRRIETT, Calif. — A renewed father-son partnership that began almost as a whirl with construction of Walt Disney Co.’s 18-hole golf course and the creation of a $200 million Lakeview Tomioka Country Club will welcome the public when the first round is played here this month. The 27-hole facility will bring to 50 the number of golf courses Player has designed.

Tom and Robert Jones Sr. tied the corporate knot after the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) and a development group both asked them to co-design their projects. Jones Sr. had been hired to add a new nine holes to the SCGA’s Jones Sr.-designed Rancho California Golf Course here and design an 18-hole track outside Sacramento for partners C.C. Myers and rancher Jerry Johnson. But an opportune Christmas-time visit by Jones Sr. with his son led to meetings with leaders of both groups.

RTJ Golf Ventures was created and contracts with Jones Jr.’s RTJ II International were rewritten with the new firm. RTJ II International and the Jones Sr.’s Jones Companies will continue to design their own projects as well.

“Dad came out at Christmas to look over the SCGA project, and I suggested to them [developers] it might be fun to make the grand master a part of it,” Robert Jr. recalled. “It’s a collaboration and a wonderful, fun experience.”

Asked who’s the boss, Robert Jr., who worked for his father from 1960 to 1972, dismissed the idea of being “joined at the hip like Siamese twins,” saying: “No, it’s arm-in-arm.”

Describing a visit by his father to Disney’s Celebration course — built for families — Robert Jr. said: “He said everything had good flow of line, a linksland feeling, and he was very happy.”

Asked how much input his father had...

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Q&A

ASGCA’s 50th president, &Griffiths, high on future

BRAISLTON, Ga. — Denis Griffiths assumed the presidency in late March of the prestigious American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Griffiths earned a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture in 1970 from Iowa State University, then immediately went to work for the Atlanta, Ga., design firm of Davis, Kirby, Player & Associates. In 1989 Griffiths became a full partner with Ron Kirby and one of his designs, Pole Creek GC in Winter Park, Colo., was selected by Golf Digest as Best New Public Course in 1984. In 1987 Kirby left to work with Jack Nicklaus in Europe and Griffiths continued his practice as Denis Griffiths & Associates. He has worked throughout the world.

Golf Course News: As the new president of the ASGCA, what is your focus?

Denis Griffiths: My platform is to listen the best I can to where our members feel we need to be going. I feel very strongly about what we've done in the last five, six, seven years, and others who...

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The Joneses

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on that project, he quipped: "How much input does a professor of neurology have when somebody's operating on your brain? Enough to make Trent Jones Sr. green. When somebody's operating on The Joneses — or vice versa — collaborations avoided me and son who are designing it. He'd come by and look at one of my projects and I'd go by and play his..."

But collaborations avoided the Joneses — or vice versa — until now. "I collaborated with Tom Watson and Sandy Tatum at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula, I wouldn't want to collaborate with my own father, who taught me the basics of architecture?" Robert Jr. said. "Whether the two will collaborate beyond the three present projects, Robert Jr. said, "has a lot to do with what the clients feel will be helpful to their projects."

"My father still has a staff in Florida. And, of course, anything he may need from our staff, we'll help him in fulfilling some of his obligations for other work he was in the midst of before closing his Montclair [N.J.] office."

Jones Sr. closed that office when his longtime head designer, Roger Rulewich, left to join another company. Rulewich will complete some of the work he had begun with the Jones Companies, while Jones Sr.'s Florida staff will complete the rest — some with RTJ II's help, Robert Jr. said.

Asked if he still learns from his father, he said: "Yes, I learn all the time. I learn from anybody who is as dedicated to the game as my father. I am a consummate vacuum cleaner on the game. I also share my knowledge and perception of the game."

Winchester, the Sacramento project which meanders over a 1,000-acre ranch by that name and owned by Johnson, should be under construction this summer or fall. The approval process has consumed six years, but is ready to go under project manager Linda Clifford. Sitting at 1,500-foot elevation, it encompasses environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands, a variety of birds, and a large master-planned community.

And it already has placed smiles squarely on the father and son who are designing it.

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Sprinkler heads located in the center of the putting greens have created an inconvenience for 30 years at Candia Woods Golf Links, the former Charmingfare Country Club, here. That problem will be cured this spring, with installation of a new irrigation system.

A Phil Wogan design set in the foothills of the White Mountains, Candia Woods was built in 1964. As was done at some other courses, sprinkler heads were installed at green-center. But when Community Golf Corp. bought the property in 1990, changes were in store. The firm has invested more than $350,000 upgrading the operation. Improvements have ranged from the re-design of the entrance and parking lot to renovation of the clubhouse and locker rooms and building a new pro shop, driving range and first tee.

Meanwhile, the lack of irrigation on the fairways was seen as a stumbling block for golfers. A Toro LTC irrigation system will be installed by Irrigation Systems of Maine. It will be a single-row system for the fairways, while tees and greens will be upgraded with new heads and piping. A new pump house and Black Max pumping station are included in the upgrade.

Golf course architect Al Zikorus from Canaan, Maine, has been working at Candia Woods on an irrigation pond enlargement on the par-3 15th hole. The pond, originally having a 1.5 million-gallon holding capacity, will be close to 3 million gallons and will bring the pond into play. The fill from the excavation will be used for mounding on the 1st, 10th, 11th, 16th, and 18th holes. By doing this Zikorus has better framed holes that lacked proper contour. Definition will be achieved without penalizing errant shots, while providing a free-flowing decisive fairway.

Candia Woods Golf Links superintendent Tom Lloyd has overseen the projects.

Candia Woods renovations continue with irrigation

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