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
KIAWAH 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 late 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 tees 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.

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 new 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.

Asia-Pacific Update

Building boom continues pace
TOMIOKA, Japan — The $200 million Lakewood Tomioka Country Club will welcome the public when the first round of golf is played here this month. The 27-hole facility will bring to 75 the number of holes Shigemitsu Omori has developed at Japan's Lakewood golf course chain.

A stand-alone course in the foothills of the Japanese Alps, 90 minutes due north of Tokyo, Lakewood Tomioka is a "breathtaking property," said golf course architect Ted Robinson, who has designed all five Lakewood facilities.

Meanwhile, in Bogor, Indonesia, the Jakarta-based Suryamas Group will open the Robinson-designed Rancamaya course this month. Also, on Korea's Cheju Island, the Robinson-designed Pinnix Golf Club is now being planned. A stand-alone facility that calls for an 18-hole private course with a 9-hole public-access track, Pinnix will be Robinson's first course design in Korea.

OSAKA, Japan — Stressing an "environmentally sound approach," Greg Norman Golf Course Design has completed the 18-hole Himie Shirasagi course here.

"Despite the significant earthworks (3 million cubic meters), through our 'least-disturbance' approach, we were able to maintain 40 percent of the property's pine forests untouched," said Bart Collins, international vice president of Norman Design. "The course has already received a great deal of attention in Japan as this approach has given Himie Shirasagi an unparalleled aesthetic beauty." Mitsui & Co. built the project.

MEDAN, Indonesia — The Gary Player Group is reporting an "overwhelming response" to its Grand Village golf project here in Indonesia's third-largest city. The 18-hole Player design is already under construction, close to the city center. Upon completion, Grand Village will be Medan's first "international standard" golf course, according to Player officials.

Player's 18-hole Royal Jakarta project is continuing apace, as grassing is about to commence. Design coordinator Kosie Mentz, who assisted in the maintenance of the Gary Player-designed Fancourt golf course — recently voted South Africa's

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Q&A

ASGCA's 50th president, Griffiths, high on future

BRASELTON, 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 1980 Griffiths became a full partner with Ron Kirby and one of his designs, Polo 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 our members and make sure we are doing what we think is right for our members... We have a wonderful personal connection to the clients that we work... We take great pride in what we do.

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Q&A: Griffiths
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have been there longer. It’s quite a challenge to try to sort out the different ideas and philosophies of the society and where the business is going.

I personally have a major concern of where the golf industry is going. We have been very fortunate to have seen a golf boom since 1966. We had a lot of ups and downs through the 1970s and 80s. And I look with a bit of guarded optimism to where we’re going.

If we can keep golf affordable and keep the market growing, then my concerns aren’t as paramount. The more affordable golf is, the bigger our market is.

DG: Much of it hinges on the green fee, then? Is that scary?

GN: Is it getting any easier to obtain land and landfills, quarries, segmented parcels and other limitations that add to the time and permitting costs. If only you could afford it. He had 15 acres. We built a small-scale, nine-hole public golf course — positive memories they wanted to pass on to the golfers.

GCN: More and more people are jumping into golf courses. From Tour pros to former lead designers like Roger Rulewich and your own Tom Johnson. Is there enough work for everyone?

DG: No. It’s very simple. In the 26 years I’ve been in business that’s always been the case.

There is that individual who is going to do one golf course in his lifetime — whether he is a landscape architect, golf pro, or golf course owner. That segment has been there and will always be there. But to survive today just doing golf course design is going to be very difficult with all these people in the industry.

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Family builds public 9

HAMMOND, La. — Ponchatoula residents Art and Ges Zieske are building a small-scale, nine-hole public golf course in Hammond. The Zieskes planned to open Ironwood Golf Club for play in April 1996.

The course has been carved out of a 35-acre tract of land about a mile east of the Zieskes’ old Ironwood Driving Range. The new Ironwood courses will include two par-4 holes and seven par-3 holes ranging in length from 100 to 230 yards.

The Legends finally under construction

YORK, Maine — Construction could begin in April on The Ledges, an 18-hole, daily-fee course in this Southern Maine coastal community. Developer Pat Rocheleau hopes to complete a least nine holes this fall and open them late next spring or early summer. Bradley Booth is the course architect. No residential component is planned.

Booth is also beginning work this fall renovating two holes at Lincoln, (R.I.) Country Club.