Minus-20 a thing of the past at Doral, promises McAnlis as remodeling begins

By MARK LESLIE

MIAMI — “Next year you won’t see anybody shooting 20 under par” in the Doral-Ryder Open, promised golf course architect Ted McAnlis.

Speaking a day after Greg Norman came close to that in winning the tournament with a 19-under-par, McAnlis was looking forward to working with PGA Tour pro/designer Raymond Floyd in a restoration of Doral’s Blue Monster Course that will considerably toughen the track.

The contractor, MGI Inc. of Clearwater, which renovated the Gold Course last year, will begin work on the Blue Course on April 1. A December reopening is anticipated, according to McAnlis.

“We are theoretically restoring it, although we will be lengthening it from 6,939 to over 7,160 yards from the tournament tees,” McAnlis said. “It doesn’t have any real long par-4s now. The longest is 427 yards. We could end up with at least one par-4 over 450 yards.”

Saying restoration of a famous course like Doral is “more politically sensitive” than others, McAnlis said, however, that Raymond has the stature among his contemporaries and peers to be able to make the changes he feels are necessary and not be subject to too much criticism.

We’re adding some bunkers on some fairways. But the most significant change will be to the length and getting the greens back to original elevations and shapes.

He referred to Floyd’s “good knowledge of what the golf course used to be and some good ideas on how to restore it” and added: “We’re opening up some bunkers that have closed in over the years. And we will cut down on the size of the islands.”

In another project in Fort Myers, McAnlis is designing an 18-hole golf course for a community called Westminster.

The course will be semi-private, with memberships open to residents of the accompanying development.

The virgin land is perfectly flat, McAnlis said, so he will be elevating several tees while building a track that will measure 6,810 yards from the back tees.

Trevino, Player ink design pacts at Grand Traverse

ACME, Mich. — Grand Traverse Resort Village officials have signed Gary Player and Lee Trevino to design Resort Village’s third and fourth golf courses.

The Player and Trevino courses will join the Resort Village’s first signature track, The Bear, which was designed by Jack Nicklaus. When the courses are completed, Grand Traverse Resort Village will be the only site in the world with signature designs by the renowned triumvirate, according to Chief Executive Officer Mark Mitchell.

“These next steps in our master plan are very important as we continue to establish Grand Traverse Resort Village as one of the nation’s premier recreational residential communities,” Mitchell said. Player, one of only four golfers to win the game’s grand slam and the designer of over 100 golf courses worldwide, commented, “Seeing one of my courses right next to those designed by my long-time professional colleagues Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino will be a real pleasure. I’m equally excited about creating a course in such a beautiful part of the world.”

Trevino echoed Player’s enthusiasm, saying, “Gary, Jack and I have known each other and competed against each other for many years and I welcome the opportunity to showcase my design concepts along with theirs in a truly beautiful setting and with a first-class resort.”

Nicklaus, who presided over the opening of The Bear in June of 1985, said, “I’m delighted to welcome two old friends to Grand Traverse. We’ve shared a lot on the golf course over the years and now we’re sharing in the success story that’s become Grand Traverse.”

Construction of the Player course, his first in Michigan, is expected to begin late this year or early in 1997, with completion in 1998. A time frame for Trevino’s course is undetermined.

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