Course pipeline hot into future

By MARK LESLIE

ARMOUTH, Maine — The pipeline of new golf courses does not show any signs of drying up, according to the vast majority of golf course architects and builders responding to a Golf Course News survey.

Answering the questionnaire, 74 percent of the respondents said there is no indication of the reservoir going dry. Fourteen percent felt the number of new courses being built would begin to slow. Twelve percent felt the backlog is indeed diminishing.

More than 350 courses have opened in the United States each year since 1991, and the number topped 400 in 1995. Another 743 are under construction, according to National Golf Foundation statistics.

Asked about the financial marketplace, 62 percent responded that clients are finding it easier to secure financing for golf projects, while 27 percent said financing is not easier to get. The remaining 11 percent felt the situation has not changed.

"I converse with many of our members on a fairly regular basis, and most
Continued on page 72

Illuminated alum takes golf to Mississippi State

By MARK LESLIE

STARVILLE, Miss. — With University Club golf courses taking shape at the University of South Carolina and Louisiana State University, a favorite son of another Southeastern Conference school will not be outdone.

Former Mississippi State University (MSU) football lineman and 1987 political science graduate Carl Middleton has broken ground on Dogwood Golf Club and Residential Community on property two miles from campus.

Middleton, 31, who owns Dogwood Development Co. with partner Michael Mosesby and subsidiary Middleton Golf Course Construction, expects the 18-hole golf course to be the cornerstone of the 614-acre development.

Continued on page 71

Survey reveals costs of course construction

By MARK LESLIE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — A nationwide survey spelling out ranges of costs for specific elements of golf course construction will be released Feb. 8 by the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA).

"This is a vehicle to help the first-time developer estimate what his project will cost," said Bill Kuby, chairman of the GCBA committee that oversaw the survey and resulting 12-page document that will be made available to potential developers. "It's been a need in the industry, and is a plus for the developers more than builders."

"One of the problems is that people get the opinion of what a golf course costs. If you tell a developer it's somewhere between $3 million and $5 million, invariably $3 million ends up in the budget," said W. Tom Sasser, president of Paragon Golf Construction Inc. in North Palm Beach, Fla., a member of the survey committee. "The purpose of the survey was to allow a prospect to try to understand the variables that affect this process."

Continued on page 70

NWH at home in Pacific, eye statewide projects

By MARK LESLIE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Jay Eddy, Jack Parker and Bill Ellis, the principals of the successful Quarry Golf Club here, plan to develop a new golf course project called Courage Creek. They have retained course architect Keith Foster of St. Louis and Scottsdale, Ariz., who designed The Quarry.

GOLF COURSE NEWS