

## Hawk Hollow reclaims sand quarry

By MARK LESLIE

BATH, Mich. — Another mining-operation property, this one in mid-Michigan, has been turned into a golf course, with interesting results.

"It's awesome," raved Hawk Hollow Golf Course head pro Kirk Sherman. "There's nothing quite like it. Jerry [Matthews] did an excellent job designing this course."

Matthews, with builder D.L. Kesler & Sons Construction, integrated 12 holes through the

mile-long reclaimed gravel and sand-mining quarry for owners Daryl and Diane Kesler. It joins such other famous quarry courses as Black Diamond in Lecanto, Fla., and The Quarry in San Antonio as developments turning mined-out properties into green space.

The 27-hole, public facility opened in August to strong reviews.

This track is not characterized by a quarry cut deep into the earth, but rather by a num-

ber of small lakes and ponds and an assortment of land forms left by the surface-mining operation, said Matthews, who lives in this community and is headquartered in nearby Lansing.

"We were lucky enough to find some really interesting land forms that we simply incorporated into golf features," he said. "For instance, the 12th tee was a peninsula of land sticking out 12 to 15 feet high in a little body of water. We enlarged the water, then built a green 230 yards away and wrapped water around the green."

Kesler bought the land intending to build a golf course on it after it was mined. But Matthews routed the course first, and the mining operation skirted the golf holes, the designer said.

Citing the work of his project manager, Gary Chapman, Matthews said: "We set out to create a course that was friendly to play. It looks more intimidating than it is because of the water. We gave golfers wide fairways and did a lot of fairway shaping to make it interesting."

A lot of wildflowers and natural grasses like creeping red fescue are being maintained, Matthews said, while greens, tees and fairways will all be bentgrass.

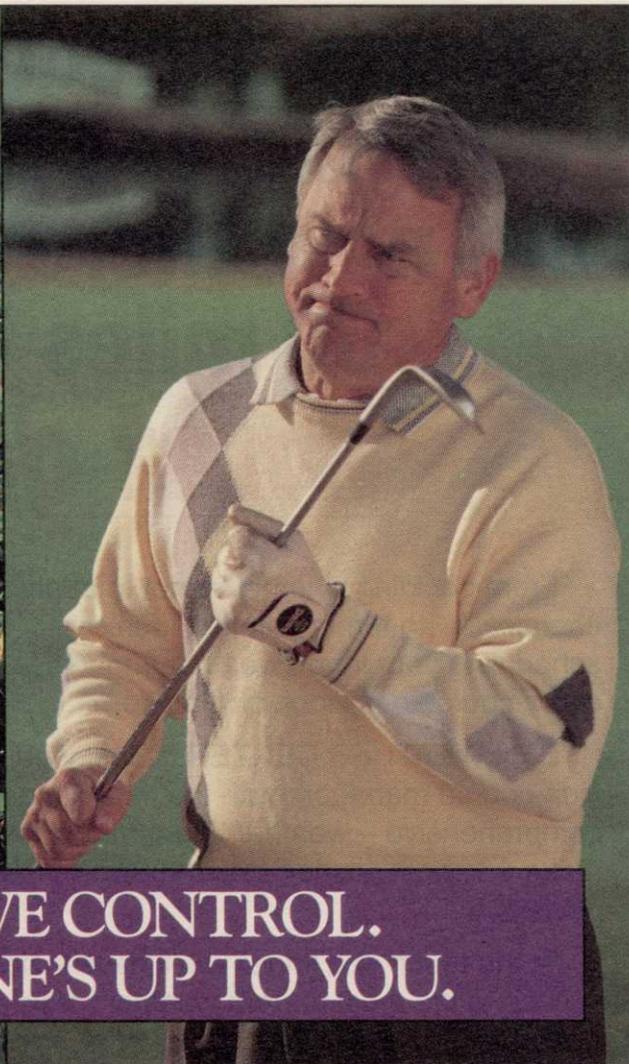
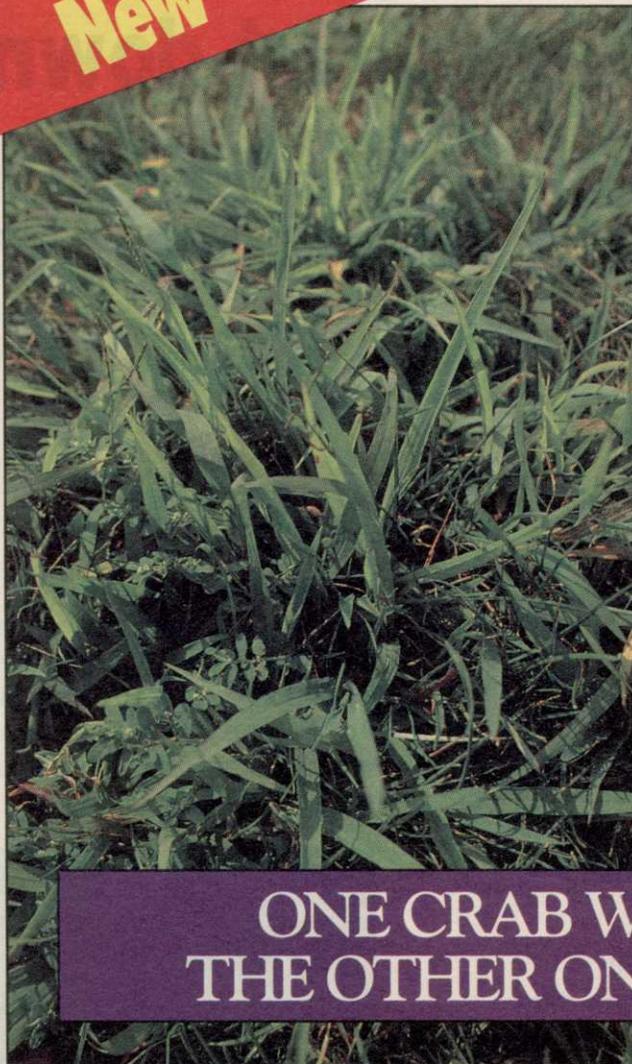
"The contouring is great," said Sherman. "And there's water everywhere — crystal-clear ponds with nice sand bottoms."

For instance, the 10-acre Hawk Lake runs along the entire length on the right side of the par-4, 395-yard 9th hole on the East Course. A series of sand bunkers on the left side of the fairway direct the way to the large peninsula green. While golfers must carry over the lake to reach the green in two, an ample bail-out area sits to the left of the green.



The 18th hole at Hawk Hollow.

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## Johnston's Cape Fear 18 complete

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The dominant feature at River Landing Country Club, a Clyde Johnston design now open for play here, is a mile of frontage on the NE Cape Fear River.

However, while Johnston brought the river into play on six holes, the course's signature element may be a man-made water feature: a 10-foot high, crescent-shaped waterfall that connects two lakes that guard the green at the par-4 18th. Johnston also used multiple lakes, streams and wetlands to help define the character of the 7,009-yard private course.

Johnston, whose firm is headquartered on Hilton Head Island, S.C., was recently voted to a two-year term on the Board of Governors of the American Society of Golf Course Architects during its annual meeting in St. Andrews, Scotland.

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