

Desert floods bedevil Las Vegas courses

LAS VEGAS — Golfers at Sun City Summerlin's three golf courses often remark on the gently sloping fairways, and their ability to keep an errant tee shot in play. However, this winter's rains underscored an equally important element to the courses' design — the ability to channel damaging storm water away from homes.

Because of the master-planned community's proximity to the Spring Mountains, the occasional southern Nevada storm poses a potential water hazard. The desert floor's inability to absorb water exacerbates the problem.

Anticipating the potential for flooding, Del Webb Corp. land

development staff and golf course architecture firm Casper Nash and Associates worked to create a natural runoff system.

"We design them as golf courses, green belts, open space, and to convey storm water," said Dick Mastin, vice president of land development for Del Webb. "They all carry water. That's typi-

cal of all the golf courses in Sun City Summerlin and Sun City MacDonald Ranch."

According to Mastin, all of the community's courses are designed with flood control in mind.

"We have to create drop structures to control the velocity of the water and redirect it," he

said. "Summerlin was more of a challenge in that respect than Sun City MacDonald Ranch, because there generally were no natural constricting features we could utilize."

Instead, engineers and golf course architects created water channels using Sun City Summerlin's golf course, which wind throughout the active adult community. In addition to capturing water flowing through its property, Del Webb's water-control system benefits its Summerlin neighbors as well, Mastin said.

"We also pick up some off-site flows and transmit them through the project," he said. It's all part of our master drainage plan. The flows from this project wind up in the Cheyenne Channel."

As Mastin explained, designing a golf course involves a variety of elements.

"We worked with Casper Nash and Associates to create the footprint for all the courses," he explained. "There's a lot that goes into a course. It has to work with the lot layouts so it's an efficient use of land, but at the same time, we have to work within the parameters of the golf course's needs."

Creating a course which satisfies the needs of golfers while addressing aesthetic, water control, and land use issues requires a great deal of coordination and planning, Mastin said. "You have to think about all the elements at the same time," he remarked.

AGCC awarded GC of Okla. pact

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — American Golf Country Clubs (AGCC), a division of American Golf Corp., has been awarded a long-term management contract for The Golf Club of Oklahoma.

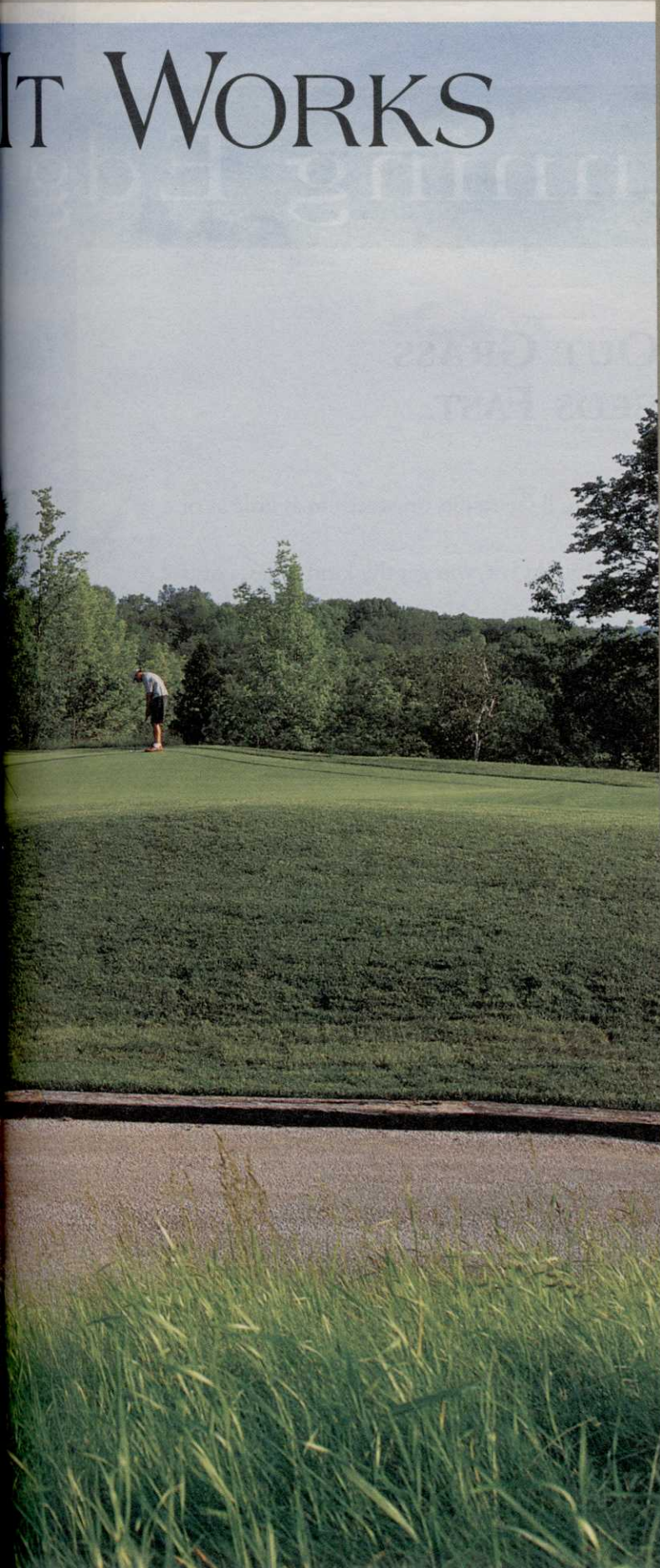
David G. Price, American Golf Corp. founder and president, said, "With total respect for what is already in place at The Golf Club of Oklahoma, AGCC will deliver the same superior service associated with a club of this level."

The centerpiece of The Golf Club of Oklahoma is the secluded, 18-hole championship course designed by Tom Fazio. The course is filled with stately stands of oak trees and large lakes and streams.

Fazio returned in 1996 for an extensive remodeling and renovation of the facility that now has a 15-acre practice facility complete with a 2-acre short-game practice area and a four-bay indoor teaching facility.

The 28,000-square-foot clubhouse features a men's locker room complete with library, fireplace and men's grill with full-time service staff on hand. Three cottages are also available.

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