

On their own

GCN JUNE

Applegate leaves Player

STUART, Fla. — Overseeing construction of 35 golf courses in the last 10 years for Gary Player Design Co., Jim Applegate now will be putting his own signature on golf courses.

Applegate, the founder and former president of Player Design, already has two contracts on his desk for Signature Course Design and will finish projects already started with Player, he said.

"Rather than a sharp break in business, it's a very smooth, long-term transition," Applegate said. "In fact, I agreed with Gary last week to work on a project in New York State. We have four or five courses under construction and will finish those as well. It will take 1-1/2 to 2 years.



Jim Applegate

GCN APRIL

Dasher leaves Hill

WINTERPARK, Fla. — His background encompasses 16 years and more than 40 golf course projects as a lead designer for

Arthur Hills & Associates. His territory is "any point that's a nonstop airline flight from Orlando." His philosophy is to build a golf course "that works with the land."

Mike Dasher is on his own now, and defining points for Dasher Golf Design are crucial.

Starting his own design firm, Dasher said, has "always been on my mind. It was never a question of 'if' but 'when.'

Averaging 2-1/2 courses a year during his time with Hills, Dasher intends to design two a year on his own, saying: "I'd like to stay a one-man show."



Mike Dasher

GCN SEPTEMBER

Phillips leaves RTJ II

GRANITE BAY, Calif. — Like the Marines, Kyle Phillips is looking for A Few Good Men — owners, that is.

Phillips, 39, has opened his own course design firm, leaving his position as vice president of design with Robert Trent Jones II after 16 years.

"I've worked on a lot of different sites — in the Caribbean, Europe and domestically and tackled a lot of problems," Phillips said. "That experience will be helpful. But the owners are very important, and it's crucial to get owners who are not only supportive in the design and construction process, but also in the operation of the golf course including the maintenance, which is so important."

Phillips, 39, has designed about 25 courses since joining Jones shortly after graduating from Kansas State University with a landscape architecture degree.

GCN MAY

Wright leaves partner

SINGAPORE — Rodney Wright is principal of the newly formed Wright Golf Design. During his eight-year partnership with Robin Nelson, Wright took seriously the marriage of golf courses to their surrounding environment and culture. He will continue this tradition. In 1995, Nelson and Wright accepted senior designer Neil

Haworth as a full partner. However, a slowdown soon thereafter convinced Wright it was time to strike out on his own.

GCN OCTOBER

Curley buys Landmark div.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Brian Curley, former director of golf course design for Landmark Golf Co., has signed a buy-out agreement with the firm to purchase its

Design Division. Curley has 20 years experience in golf, 11 in design with Landmark, where he worked with Pete Dye and Lee Schmidt. He recently collaborated with Fred Couples on The Plantation, a private club in Indio, Calif., and is working with him on The Palms in La Quinta, Calif.



Brian Curley

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