Airport-area courses ready for take-off?

By J. BARRY MOTTES

"Cheap land near airport. Water, sewage and electricity already in place. Located near transportation center. Possible neighbors include office or industrial parks. Round-the-clock security available."

Sound like a good fit for golf course development? In a growing number of locations across the country — from Mississippi to Los Angeles to Minneapolis-St. Paul — it is.

Within the last year, an increasing number of public golf course projects have been proposed for sites at or very near airports. Some, like the under-construction Airline Golf Club at the Hattiesburg-Laurel Airport in Mississippi, are close to becoming reality.

The 18-hole Airline Golf Club is scheduled to open for play by September. The daily-fee course will cover 141 acres and sit near an 800-acre business park run by the airport authority.

"We think we've got a very good match with the golf course at our airport," said David Senne, executive director of the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority, which is leasing the land for 25 years to the developer, Deerfield Golf. The golf course was designed by Rich Fulkerson, who is also part of the development, design and management team.

"We have excellent transportation access," Senne said, "with the airport and an

A Development's Tale

Some fairways have already been cut at the Bob Cupp-designed Arrowleaf course.

HAPPY ENDING FOR 25-YEAR-OLD WASH. STATE PROPOSAL?

By BOB SPIWAK

MARRAKECH, Morocco — With plans for more than 30 to 40 new courses ready for play by the 21st century, this small north African country clearly seeks recognition as a leading worldwide golf destination, according to Kamil El Khati, chairman of the Communication and Development Committee of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (RMGF).

"King Hassan II has given his blessing to developing golf in Morocco and has put Mr. Driss Basri in charge of putting the plan into operation," Khati said.

"There are three parts to the plan."

"First, we want to develop more Moroccan golfers. There are 6,000 licensed golfers now and each club has golf schools. Other countries — like Spain and Portugal — went into the Common Market. In some sense that was great for the infrastructure of the countries, but Portugal is the only country right now in Western Europe where there is a modicum of decent golf course development.

In the last couple of years, there have been projects going on, but all the "big names" have pretty well pulled out of Europe the last few years because there was a real slowdown... London is a good example. The big names — Rees Jones, [Jack] Nicklaus and Bobby [Robert Trent Jones Jr.] — did some

GCN EUROPEAN REPORT

Destination:
Morocco? It's not far off

By PETER BLAIS

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