



Los Angeles CC's South Course readied

By MARK LESLIE

LOS ANGELES — The remodeled South Course at Los Angeles Country Club should be open for play in late fall, a milestone in a very busy year for golf course architect John Harbottle.

The Tacoma, Wash.-based Harbottle has five courses under construction, collaborating with Johnny Miller on a layout 15 miles outside Lake Tahoe and with Fuzzy Zoeller on a track in Reno. Nev.

Harbottle, who co-designed Genoa Lakes with Peter Jacobsen, said designing golf courses with Tour pros is interesting in several ways.

"Contouring and bunker place-

ments are the key elements they comment on," he said. "They aren't always trying to make it flatter, like people think. Peter and Johnny put bunkers in very interesting places that made for dramatic situations." He hasn't worked with Zoeller yet, as major earthmoving has just begun on their 18-hole Arrow Creek course.

Crews were grassing Miller-Harbottle-designed Sierra Nevada Golf Club outside Lake Tahoe in June, and developers hope to open it by next spring. Built on more than 200 acres of dramatic high-desert savanna, it plays into the Sierra Mountains. Native pine and sage define the holes. The finishing holes have mountains in the background and play over and along water.

Miller, Harbottle said, "is very low-key, easy to talk with, has a lot of great input on the design and has a good eye for the artistic sense of architecture.

"I like to think I know a lot about how people play the game. But a Tour pro knows how a truly fine player will play it. I've been surprised when Johnny has said he wouldn't play a hole the way I had thought.

"Peter was the same. He'd play a draw into a hole on which I thought he would play a fade. I made some adjustments to holes because of their input."

His favorite hole in the Sierra Nevada Golf Club design is a short, driveable par-4. "A stronger player with a wind could reach the green, but it's risky," Harbottle said. "It's a slight dogleg left and the green has an open approach right to left, but there is a pot bunker in the middle. A diagonal set of bunkers stretches down the left-hand side of the hole. Although a perfectly played straight shot will roll into the green, the best shot is a draw."

The Zoeller-Harbottle project, which will break ground at the end of June, will be built in association with an Arnold Palmerdesigned course. It will be a privately owned public facility, with related real estate.

Harbottle's other projects are:

• The 27-hole Tradition course, the first public track built in San Jose since 1965. It is developed by Lee Brandenburg of San Jose real-estate developer Brandenburg Properties, it will be open to the public. Harbottle hopes to grass it by November and have it ready to open by late spring or fall 1998.

• A new privately owned public resort course to accompany the existing Izatys Golf & Yacht Club in Onamia, Minn., 1-1/2 hours north of Minneapolis.

Ground has been broken on the layout. Chip Glaser of The K. Charles Development Corp. is developing the course.



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