

BRIEFS



FOREST HIGHLANDS TAPS KITCHELL

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Kitchell Contractors will serve as construction manager/general contractor for infrastructure during the expansion of Forest Highlands, a golf community eight miles south of here. The \$15 million project, developed by DMB Associates and the Forest Highlands Homeowners Association, includes lot development for 170 custom home sites with lot sizes averaging three-fourths of an acre, mass grading for a Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course and six miles of roads and utilities. It totals approximately 500 acres. The project began in May and should be completed by the summer of 1998.

PENN STATE HONORS LDR FOUNDER

COLUMBIA, Md.— Frederick D. Jarvis, president and co-founder of LDR International, Inc., has been selected by The Pennsylvania State University, Arts & Architecture/Performing Arts Alumni Board as a recipient of the 1997 Arts & Architecture Alumni Achievement Award. These awards are given annually to alumni of the college who have distinguished themselves in their profession.

Former Player chief to write own Signature

By MARK LESLIE

STUART, Fla. — After overseeing construction of 35 golf courses over the last 10 years for Gary Player Design Co., Jim Applegate now will put 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.”



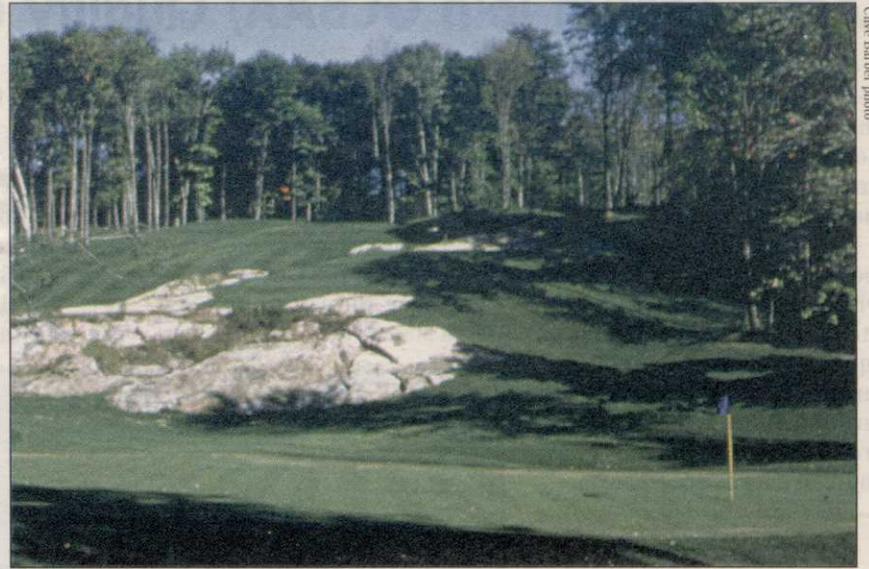
Jim Applegate

Signature Course Design, in fact, is “the same staff, same equipment, concepts and philosophy that were developed along with Gary,” Applegate said from his offices here.

While the firm is working for its own accounts, if clients desire “name” architects for reasons of marketing, course style or demand, Applegate will put together the team, he said.

Indeed, Signature Course Design has “loose verbal arrangements” with three or four PGA Tour players, including one major LPGA star, Applegate said. “I personally think that’s [female designers] been a missing element. There are so

Continued on page 37



Tom McBroom’s Lake Joseph Club north of Toronto.

McBroom taking full advantage of Canada’s ‘strong, natural features’

Canadian Thomas McBroom is president of Thomas McBroom Associates, a Toronto-based design firm he founded in 1978. He has designed more than 60 courses, including such widely known layouts as *The Links at Crowbush Cove on Prince Edward Island (PEI); Le Geant at Mont Tremblant, Quebec; and Camelot Golf Club in Cumberland, Ontario, all first- or second-place finishers in Golf Digest’s Best New Course in Canada Awards. Current work includes projects in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Vermont and Barbados.*

strong, natural features that allow an architect to do a lot with rock formations, water and undulating ground. That makes for bold, striking courses and often memorable holes.

GCN: Is there a particular course of yours that solidified your reputation?

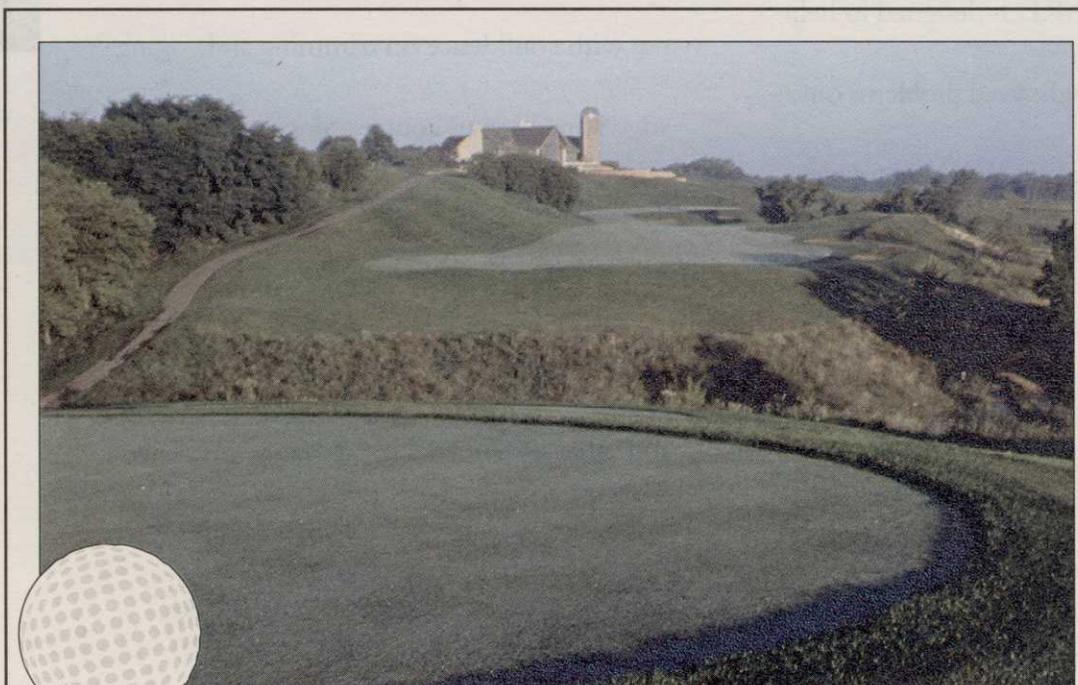
TM: Crowbush Cove gained a lot of recognition. The land allowed us to design something similar to Pete Dye’s Ocean Course at Kiawah Island [S.C.].

Any architect would be lying if he told you he didn’t want to build a course by the ocean. You don’t get sites like that very often. Politically and environmentally it took some time to get approved. But it was worth the wait.

GCN: In general, is it hard to get approval for a course in Canada?

Continued on page 41

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Golf Course News: What is your design philosophy?
Thomas McBroom: Golf design begins with the land. Canada has many



READY TO TEE IT UP IN GALENA

The General at Eagle Ridge, the new 18-hole addition at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort in Galena, Ill., held its grand opening ceremonies over Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26. Designed by two-time U.S. Open champion Andy North in collaboration with architect Roger Packard, The General might have been in play last fall — but discretion has once again proved the better part of valor. “The course had an excellent fall and winter to grow in,” said Jon Comber, general manager at Eagle Ridge. “We made a tough choice late last summer to not sacrifice the integrity of play an open the course early. Over Memorial Day weekend, we saw the rewards of that decision.”

No slowdown seen in Asia’s hottest market

By ROB GLUCKSMAN

QUEZON CITY, The Philippines — More than three years into the Filipino golf-development boom, construction companies are still building here and the market for memberships remains strong, despite overall concerns about a building glut and the 1998 presidential elections.

With at least eight major projects completed in the past five years and 20 more under construction — plus dozens more in various planning stages — the country remains Southeast Asia’s hottest market for new construction. Despite apparent overbuilding, golf-industry leaders point to strong fundamentals which separate The Philippines from market disasters which have befallen, for instance, the Thai market.

“The big difference here is that you’ve got real estate underpinning the value of the shares,” said Rudy Anderson, regional managing director for ClubCorp, manager of The Orchard Golf & Country Club outside Manila. “It’s not a ‘right of access’ like you have in Thailand. Members actually own the project, the land and improvements, and share values are based on that net asset value.”

“All the projects under construction are solidly financed from what we can see,” agreed Ed Johnson, area manager for East Asia for Rain Bird Irrigation. “Our business is good, and there are none

Continued on page 38



- Weiskopf juggles multiple projects
- Rodney Wright signs two solo deals
- Is anyone busier than Palmer?

Q&A : McBroom

Continued from page 35

TM: Every bit as difficult as in the United States. Land use is very heavily regulated. As an architect you have to be able to work with those restrictions. If you use the environmental limitations properly, you can turn them into an opportunity to do something special. Permitting takes anywhere from six months to two years, about as long as it takes to actually build the course.

GCN: How difficult is it to obtain financing for a new course?

TM: Financing has gotten easier, probably because of the lower interest rates the past few years. Lenders have a lot of money they are looking to place and they seem to consider golf a more stable investment than they used to. Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the savings & loans were having trouble and the real-estate market was depressed, golf had a bad reputation among lenders. But there seems to be money now for well-conceived projects. Banks want the developer to have about a 50-percent equity position.

GCN: How did you get into course architecture?

TM: I graduated from the University of Guelph in 1975 [bachelor's in landscape architecture] and worked as a landscape architect [with Hough, Stansbury & Woodland Ltd.]. I'd always played golf and decided to take the plunge into full-time golf architecture in the early 1980s. The first few years were tough. I knocked on a lot of doors, got a few good projects, and things have expanded exponentially since then.

GCN: Was there a turning point in your career?

TM: Working with Bob Cupp in the mid-1980s. We did two projects together [Beacon Hall Golf Course in Aurora, Ontario, and Deerhurst Highlands Golf Course in Huntsville, Ontario] which were a big help for me. I enjoyed that experience a lot and it was just what my career needed. Bob and Jay Morrish used to work with Jack Nicklaus before going on their own. I can see now what made Nicklaus such a strong designer, great architects like Bob and Jay.

GCN: Are there any particular courses or architects you particularly admire?

TM: I love the courses in Scotland and Ireland and architects like Old Tom Morris and James Braid. Braid did Gleneagles Hotel Golf Course in Scotland. Donald Ross and [A.W.] Tillinghast were the outstanding architects of the Classic Era. I try to play Pinehurst No. 2 at least once a year.

Of the modern architects, Pete Dye is the one I really admire. People have been hard on some of his designs, claiming they are

too severe. But Pete has the most creative mind in the business. He's a hands-on guy.

GCN: How important are the positive reviews your courses have received recently?

TM: Any designer wants the exposure. To be prosperous, your work needs to be celebrated and presented to the public. Powerful aesthetics are important for any course. But I'm afraid that, in some cases, strategic elements are tak-

ing second place to aesthetics. Owners want their courses to be on the front cover of golf magazines. But producing courses with quality golf shots is still the most important aspect of design.

GCN: Is Canada placing the emphasis on public golf, particularly affordable public golf, that is being experienced in the U.S?

TM: There's little said about the need to keep golf affordable here. There seems to be an ad-

equate supply of average courses at affordable prices. The demand now seems to be for high-quality, daily-fee courses plus upscale private courses, particularly in the Toronto and Vancouver markets.

GCN: You're basically known as a Canadian architect. Do you plan to expand into the United States or elsewhere?

TM: We've been a little slow to exploit some opportunities in the

United States because this market has been so strong.

Stratton Mountain in Vermont is my first U.S. project. We're renovating the existing 27 and will start construction on a new 18 next year.

We lost out to Mike Hurdzan recently on a project at Keystone Ranch in Colorado. And we've signed on for an 18-hole project in Barbados called Duranti for the government there.

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