Colbert’s development team active in K.C.

BY PETER BLAIS

SPRING HILL, Kansas — Jim Colbert’s business home will be the site of the first development underway by the Senior Tour golfer and his new partner, the major national engineering firm Burns & McDonnell.

Colbert-Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, an integrated golf course development firm specializing in municipal and daily-fee projects, hopes to break ground late this summer on an 18-hole course, practice area and clubhouse for this suburban Kansas City municipality. The architectural firm of Finger Dye Spann has completed a preliminary routing and started construction drawings. Colbert-Burns & McDonnell will help obtain financing, build and eventually manage the facility.

“We hope to have at least three courses scattered around the country under construction by the end of the year,” said Larry Lundine, director of project development for the new firm.

Colbert, leading money winner for two consecutive years on the PGA Senior Tour and chairman of Jim Colbert Golf Design & Development, recently formed a limited liability corporation with Burns & McDonnell, one of the leading engineering, architectural and project management companies in the country.

“Through my experiences with Jim Colbert Golf Design & Development, I learned of the need for a higher degree of professionalism and talent in the development of golf courses to better serve municipalities, golf course architects and landowners,” said Colbert, chairman of the board for Colbert-Burns & McDonnell.

The firm will concentrate on municipal facilities, banking on the close relationships forged over the years between 1,100-employee Burns & McDonnell and the many cities where that firm has undertaken government projects, Lundine explained. Obtaining financing will be one of the major services the firm provides. In Spring Hill’s case, that means developing a $6.5 million revenue bond, according to Patrick Crooks, director of Colbert-Burns & McDonnell.

“In the financial markets,” Crooks said, “those accustomed to providing traditional sources of financing have trouble understanding the golf business, and therefore, are reluctant to fund golf course development. To alleviate this problem, Colbert-Burns & McDonnell has established relationships with some of the premier financing institutions in the golf course development industry, which gives us access to capital markets.”

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