Els, Kemper team on Md. links

Ijamsville, Md. — 1997 U.S. Open Champion Ernie Els and Kemper Sports Management are teaming up to design an 18-hole golf course near Ijamsville to be called Whiskey Creek Golf Club. Developer Sam Dunn has said he’d like the facility to open for play by summer 1999.

The Chicago-based Kemper, which owns and manages 25 courses around the country, including the nearby Holly Hills Country Club, and also sponsors the Kemper Open golf tournament, will manage the club. Well-known golf instructor David Leadbetter will also reportedly help develop the course and offer a golfing school. Ryan Inc. Central is the builder.

The course was at one time set to be called Ironwood, but Dunn decided to change the name to Whiskey Creek. He discovered there were at least 10 other courses in the country with the name Ironwood and decided on Whiskey Creek, a reference to prohibition-era activities in the region where the course will sit. According to Dunn, prohibitionists burned a Price’s Distillery to the ground at a site not far from the golf course site. Construction is set to start this spring.

VA. course developers set to start construction

Chesapeake, Va. — Jerry Harris and William Judah plan to build an 18-hole, public course on 113 acres in southwestern Chesapeake.

Glencoe Greens will be completely handicapped accessible, Judah said. Some golf carts will be equipped with hand controls and space to carry wheelchairs, while assistants will be provided to help visually-impaired golfers sight their balls. Harris-Judah Limited Liability Co. is investing $3 million to $3.5 million in the course. It will border the 17-lot Fountain Farms residential development.

The Planning Commission should consider the application next month. Construction is scheduled to start in June with the course opening in August 1999. Judah designed the course. Harris-Judah LLC will build and manage it.

Fla. resort links to be restored

Hollywood, Fla. — A new Diplomat Resort & Country Club will soon be built here.

The United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters plans to spend nearly $400 million to redevelop the Diplomat’s 21 acres and redesign its golf course. Architect Joe Lee is overseeing the course renovation.

Plans call for work to begin next month on a 30-story, 1,000-room hotel. Driscoll Development also intends to build a 107-unit condominium complex.

In the early 1960s, The Diplomat was among the great South Florida resorts. Reopening the Diplomat, once Hollywood’s biggest employer, has been one of the city’s top economic goals. Driscoll estimates the new Diplomat will create 2,100 jobs and generate $28 million in tourist spending the first year.

The project will have a new 150-acre country club, including a championship course and 12-court tennis center.

Driscoll has applied for building permits, but the project has a number of hurdles to overcome before construction can begin. In addition to needing approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration and state Department of Transportation, it will have to undergo an environmental assessment and pass local reviews.

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