Arnie, Jack to team up at World Golf Village

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The first of two highly-anticipated golf courses designed by four living legends of golf has opened at the World Golf Village, while the second will soon be underway.

"The Slammer and The Squire" — an 18-hole course designed on the collaborative vision of golf legends Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen, opened last month. Later this spring, ground will be broken on the second collaborative 18-hole effort there by two of the game's all-time greats — Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. "The King and The Bear" — named for co-designers Palmer and Nicklaus — will be set with a residential community about four miles west of World Golf Village.

According to the Florida Times Union, architects from Palmer Course Design in Ponte Vedra Beach and Nicklaus Design in West Palm Beach have already held discussions on the philosophy of the course's design. Nicklaus and Palmer reportedly talked things over at the Senior Skins Game earlier this year and have continued the conversation both on and off the course.

Palmer and Nicklaus, who waged so many memorable tournament battles through the years, have both designed more than 100 courses. But this project will mark a first for each in many ways. Lead designers for both firms have said the course will reflect a genuine collaborative effort with input from both legends on each hole, as opposed to having one man design nine and the other another nine. Although Palmer and Nicklaus have some different ideas about golf course architecture, one designer said they have at least one common belief.

"Both of them let the land dictate the design," said Greg Stang of Palmer Course Design. "They don't like to force anything."

Bruce Borland, a senior designer with Nicklaus, has said, "It's going to be a flat Florida course," and "very naturalized in its look." He said both Palmer and Nicklaus are also very sensitive to designing playable courses for all golfing abilities with different strategic options on each hole.

"I think they're going to be very compatible," said Borland.

Giles, George join forces in Va.

MANAKIN-SABOT, Va. — Work is scheduled to start by May on Kinloch, an 18-hole daily-fee facility that will feature a course designed by Lester George in collaboration with Virginia golf legend Vinnie Giles.

Giles is a former U.S. and British Amateur champion and Walker Cup captain who now represents more than 25 professional golfers as an agent.

CBB Associates of Richmond is developing the course, which will be set on 275 acres near the 3,400-acre West Creek commercial-industrial development. The course will be part of a 645-acre project that will include residential development and a lake.

Kinloch will also feature a unique finishing touch — a 170-yard par-3 19th hole that will play across a lake back to the clubhouse. George said the hole — which will be optional — will give golfers a chance "to settle bets and have something to do on the way back to the clubhouse."