



First Hook-a-Kid facility to be a model for the country

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Plans for the nation's first-ever Hook a Kid on Golf model facility, Creekside Golf Course and Training Center, were unveiled in a special ceremony here, July 14.

Hook a Kid officials feel the facility, scheduled to open next year, is "a major breakthrough in golf instruction and may forever alter how children are introduced to the sport," according to a press release.

"The innovative design of the training center will provide youngsters with the opportunity to learn and develop golf skills and confidence before they tee it up on a regulation course," said the Senior PGA Tour's Bob Murphy, who is Hook a Kid's national spokesman. "What's being done in Valparaiso is going to serve as a blueprint for future golf course development. In the coming years we hope to designate a number of courses as Hook a Kid on Golf model facilities."

Creekside's feature attraction is that each of the holes features a variety of tees so that youngsters of different skill levels can play the holes from many different distances. A par-4 can vary from over 400 yards to under 100 yards.

In addition to the training center, the facility will include three practice holes and a nine-hole course. Once beginners become comfortable on the three-hole track, they will advance to the nine-hole layout. They will also be able to hone their skills on the driving range, practice putting green and practice bunker. The range will have heated sta-

tions for winter play, while the clubhouse will include an indoor driving range and putting green.

The city has formed a partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), which conducts the Hook a Kid program. The city's Department of Parks & Recreation will oversee the training center and golf course

and use the Hook a Kid program, which has been popular in the community each summer.

"What's happening in Valparaiso is similar to other communities who have been running Hook a Kid on Golf over the years," said Fred Engh, NAYS president and chief executive officer. "They have already cre-

ated a base of young golfers and, in essence, the demand for a facility like Creekside Park. That is why our partnership with Valparaiso makes such sense. Now we can show other communities across America how junior golf can and should be run."

Design and program concepts for Creekside were developed

by a Valparaiso Parks staff team, including head golf professional Mike Laughner, LPGA associate professional Nancy Bender, course superintendent Paul Pera, Youth Program Director Steve Doniger, and Parks & Recreation Director John Seibert, who is working with golf course architectural firm Don Childs and Associates of Sylvan Lake, Mich.

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CALGARY, Alberta, Canada — In continuing support of junior golf, Spalding Canada contributed 200 dozen golf balls at the AT&T Canada Senior Open at The Glencoe Golf & Country Club here.

"Golf is growing in popularity with young people in Canada," said Keith Keindel, president of Spalding Canada, "and we think that this kind of practical support for junior golf programs will help kids become better at the game."

The balls, used by the Senior PGA Tour players at the practice range, were given to Glencoe for its junior golf program and the Alberta Golf Association (AGA) in support of its Future Links program.

Future Links, presented by Mackenzie Financial Corp., is a joint initiative of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association, designed to forge a link between golf and Canada's youth to ensure the future of the game.

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