OB Sports realigns top managers

SEATTLE, Wash.—OB Sports has realigned its top management staff, appointing Bob Marshall president of OB Sports/Northwest and Ed Francese president of OB Sports/Southwest.

Francese and Marshall, both long-time employees of the Seattle-based golf course development and management firm, will be responsible for facilitating the company's growth and coordinating new golf course developments and management contracts within their respective regions.

Since 1972, Francese has excelled in all facets of the golf business. He was instrumental in the design, construction and openings of three new golf facilities in Arizona and has operated daily-fee courses, private, and hotel/resort properties. Before assuming his current role, Francese worked for OB Sports as head golf professional at Angel Park Golf Club and director of golf at The Legacy Golf Club, both in Las Vegas. Currently he is coordinating the development of The Gallery in Tucson, Ariz., as well as other new OB properties in Palm Springs, Calif., and Nevada.

Throughout his career, OB Sports co-founder Bob Marshall has worked in almost every aspect of golf course management. His diversified abilities were fully exhibited by his performance as director of golf, club manager and superintendent at Teton Pines Golf Club in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Marshall acted as project manager and construction supervisor from inception and contributed significantly to the design of this highly regarded facility. With OB Sports, he was directly responsible for the "turnkey" development of The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, a 36-hole facility in Portland, Ore.

OB Sports operates, or is in the process of constructing, courses in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas.

In related personnel announcements:

Jeff Fought has been named project manager at Langdon Farms in Portland. Fought previously held head professional positions for OB Sports at Angel Park and at Langdon Farms.

Sean Cracraft has been named project manager for The Reserve, a 36-hole facility designed, built and managed by OB Sports in Aurora, Ore. He previously served as head professional for OB Sports at Angel Park and at Langdon Farms.

Wade Dunagan was appointed project manager for The Gallery at Dove Mountain, a new 18-hole course and residential community opening in Tucson this November.

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Management

Clubhaus

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cant upgrading.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Forêt de Montpensier club in Vichy, France had a new clubhouse open in May, making the club fully operational. March 1998 saw the launch of Clubhaus' own brand of golf merchandise ranging from clothing to clubs under the brand name 'Ikarus.'

Jonathan Talbot-Weiss of Clubhaus' group marketing and sales confirmed chairman Bourne's plans for the immediate future. "We have no plans for further expansion at the moment. We shall continue to focus on the UK and Germany. We believe that the long-term trend for these areas is positive. The German golf market is robust and growing. With three courses already in place there, eventual further expansion is a natural progression for us as we will need very little further infrastructure."