

# PGA's Brooks designing daily-fee Ft. Worth layout

FORTWORTH, Texas — Mark Brooks Golf has announced construction has begun on Southern Oaks Golf Club, an upscale daily-fee facility located 15 minutes south of downtown Fort Worth. Featuring an 18-hole layout designed by 1996 PGA Champion Mark Brooks, the facility will also include an expansive 15-acre practice and teaching area, an 8,400-square-foot clubhouse and an indoor/

outdoor pavilion with seating for more than 200 that will be used for tournaments and corporate outings.

Brooks was able to take advantage of the site's natural landscape and wooded areas because golf course routing was given a top priority by developer, Timberchase Development Co.

"The routing is the heartbeat of any course, and in many cases, is the only

permanent feature of a golf course," said Brooks. "The Southern Oaks project will benefit tremendously from its natural environment, and I look forward to creating the centerpiece of this unique community."

Nine holes at Southern Oaks are strictly core golf. Only three holes will have home sites on both sides, but will be buffered by 300- to 350-foot-wide corridors. Alternate routes of play and multiple tee boxes

have been incorporated into the par-71 design, allowing the yardage to vary from 5,500 to over 7,200 yards.

The 300-acre course and practice facility will be at the center of a planned residential community developed by Timberchase.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield, Ill., is building the course.

Southern Oaks will be managed by Mark Brooks Golf and is scheduled to open for play on Oct. 1.

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## Thunder Hill GC to reopen 'easier'

MADISON, Ohio — Thunder Hill Golf Club here is in the midst of a \$1.5-million renovation project by Meadowbrook Golf Group, Inc.

"Many golfers have played Thunder Hill and left the facility saying, 'It's an interesting experience, but it's really too difficult to play regularly.' That won't be the case when the renovation work is completed," said Michael Rippey, president of Meadowbrook Golf Group's Development Division. "Thunder Hill will still have its 'bite' from the back tees, but golfers playing from one of the other sets of tees will enjoy the round, with all the challenge the course has to offer."

When the course re-opens for the 1998 season, it will play to nearly 7,400 yards. Because there will be at least five sets of tees on every hole, its modified layout will be fair and enjoyable to players of all ability levels, Rippey said. The forward-most set of tees will play to approximately 5,500 yards.

Among the work completed or planned prior to the re-opening of Thunder Hill:

- Hundreds of trees have been removed from various holes in an attempt to widen the line of sight from tee to landing area and from fairway to green. Removing several of the trees resulted in greater hole aesthetics.
- Many water hazards were drained and reconfigured. Some were taken out of play to remove forced carries from tees, while others were removed for aesthetic purposes.
- Underbrush is being thinned and removed to increase playability.
- Bunker redesign work is underway to create better hole definition and a style which conforms to Thunder Hill's natural shapes.
- Tee area is being increased and reshaped.
- All fairways are being converted to bentgrass, and many landing areas will be widened.
- Certain hole widths will be widened.
- Drainage projects are aimed at promoting uniform turf quality.

