GRAHAM, PANKS SPLIT
Player consultant David Graham and architect Gary Panks are terminating their 10-year association in golf course design. Graham is concentrating on a full PGA Senior Tour schedule, while Panks will continue to focus on course design and share more of the credit with his staff, including senior designers Gary Stephenson and Michael Rhoads. The firm will continue to operate its Phoenix and Dallas offices under the name of Gary Panks Associates.

DOAK HIRES PLACEK
TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Renaissance Golf Design has named Don Placek as a design associate. With a degree in environmental design from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Placek has joined the firm to assist primarily to develop concept drawings, construction documents and other graphic-related areas. He has been in the golf course design and construction field for nearly eight years, spending six years at Dye Designs in Denver. His responsibilities will include various levels of involvement with new construction, restoration and consulting.

PUTTING CHALLENGES GO FORWARD
ORLANDO, Fla. — Classic Golf Group, Inc. has been hired by Golf Challenge Corp. to design a "putting challenge course" along International Drive here. Len deBoer, president of Classic Golf, said the course will feature challenging Tifway greens and will give golfers an opportunity to win prize packages, including a $25,000 cash grand prize. Construction is under way. A spokesman for Golf Challenge Corp. said the Orlando Putting Challenge Course could be the first of many such projects to be located in high-traffic, resort destination areas.

OSU HONORS ALUMNUS HURDZAN
COLUMBUS, OHIO — Golf course architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society in November at Ohio State University. This award recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves, their college and OSU through participation, commitment, and leadership in their profession and community.

One of nation's best 9, Rolling Rock Club, goes 18

IGNIONER, Pa. — After 76 years as perhaps the best nine-hole course in America, Rolling Rock Club has expanded to 18 holes. The original Donald Ross-designed loop was joined last year by nine new holes from the hand of architect Brian Silva.

A partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Silva worked to match the unique architectural style embodied in the original nine. While Silva is an experienced interpreter of vintage design — he just finished the restoration of 185 bunkers at Ross’ Seminole Golf Club in North Palm Beach, Fla. — the original holes at Rolling Rock Club (RRC) proved a tough act to follow.

"Donald Ross was no fool. He used all the good land back in 1917," Silva explained. "The site we worked with was very difficult; it was essentially the side of a mountain. It took us close to a dozen route plans to make it work. While Ross was able to gently lay his golf holes onto design-friendly terrain, we were forced to stair-step the holes up and down the side of this mountain. In doing that, we knew right from the start there would be hard edges to the new holes, unlike the comfortable edges of the original nine.

"Our greatest efforts in matching design styles can be found in the green and bunker designs. We consciously set out to

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Palmer to get Rossi Award
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Golfing legend Arnold Palmer will receive the 1998 Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award here during the annual Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) banquet, Feb. 6.

"The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of golf and its growth, and who have inspired others by their example," said GCBAA President Paul Eldredge. "I don't know who we could possibly give the award to who fits that description any better than Arnold Palmer."

The award is named for Don Rossi, who served as executive director of the National Golf Foundation from 1970 to 1983 and of the GCBAA from 1984 until his death in 1990.

"I am very pleased to receive this award," said the 68-year-old Palmer. "I knew Don Rossi and appreciated the role he played in building the industry around our game. To receive an award named for him from the golf course builders — who are the backbone of our industry — is indeed an honor."

Palmer will, however, be unable to attend the GCBAA banquet. Ed Seay, his partner in Palmer Course Design, will accept the award on his behalf.

The son of a golf course superintendent in Latrobe, Pa., Palmer

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