Rulewich ends Jones era, launches solo signature

By MARK LESLIE

OMERS, N.Y.—And the last shall be first...

The openings of Anglebrook Golf Club here on May 15 and of Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg, N.J., on July 1 mark the convergence of two life paths for Roger Rulewich: the end of three decades as a lead architect with the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. and the beginning of another relationship with the team with whom he worked under the Jones tent.

Rulewich, who opened his own company in December 1995 after 34 years with Jones, is pleased with his last design under the Jones moniker: Anglebrook Golf Club. At the same time, he eyes the opening of his first Rulewich solo layout, Ballyowen Golf Club, with a look of glee.

"I'm working with the same people and with much of the same ideas, except nobody is looking over my shoulder. That's a nice feeling," Rulewich said. "As a group, we have seven shareholders and all of us worked for Mr. Jones. Nothing much has changed in many ways. But I feel more freedom and it's a great feeling."

Ballyowen Golf Club, which will give National Golf Development Co. its fourth of a projected 10 golf courses, is, in fact, the culmination of a dream of The Golf Group and The Rulewich Group, the two components of the old Jones company. The Golf Group is the

The 7th hole at Anglebrook Golf Club in Somers, N.Y., above, is a 397-yard par-4. It is the last course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. with lead architect Roger Rulewich. Below is the par-3 6th hole at Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg, N.J., the first design by The Rulewich Group.

Beidel back to back in Pa. openers

By MARK LESLIE

MOUNTJOY, Pa.—Back-to-back home runs usually happen in baseball, but course architect Ed Beidel Jr. believes he has two in golf. The Beidel-designed Groff's Farm Golf Club here will be unveiled in a grand opening on May 27, followed the next day by the grand opening of Beidel's Turtle Creek Golf Course in Limerick.

Two 18-hole public golf courses opening a day apart — both laid out in a links style and both stressing strategy and variety — might be an oddity for a fellow headquartered four states away, in Mount Pleasant, S.C. But Beidel is no stranger to Pennsylvania, having worked for X.G. Hassenplug for 16 years before starting his own firm in late 1992.

The Mount Joy project is developed on the 133-acre Lancaster County farm of the Groff family — Abram and Betty Groff and their son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Cindy. Betty Groff is renowned for her country recipe books and restaurant that sits in a building that now serves as the clubhouse.

Groff's Farm Golf Club had a "soft opening" March 1.

"There are some great offsite views of adjacent farmlands, and those farms are immaculate," Beidel said.

The par-71 track plays from 4,900 to 6,400 yards from four sets of tees.

"It is a shorter course, but it will chall...
GRIFFIN JOINS FOUGHT DESIGN TEAM
AURORA, Ore.—Jimmie W. Griffin has joined John Fought Design, a division of OB Sports, as design/construction manager. Griffin will assist Fought with site visits to all projects and work with Bill Campbell, vice president of agronomics and construction for all OB Sports projects. Working with Bob Cupp Design in Atlanta since 1989, Griffin was primarily responsible for the contract management of projects in Canada and the United States. He has also worked with Jack Nicklaus Golf Services, where he was involved with the construction and maintenance of projects throughout the United States, United Kingdom and Caribbean. In his 21 years in the golf course construction business, Griffin has participated in the development of more than 40 golf courses throughout the world.

Beidel opening two in Pa.

Continued from page 35

WALTER BEIDEL is playing it all the way. For as long as he can remember, he's been building golf courses. And he's never met a course he didn't like. "It's a great challenge for everybody," Beidel promised. "It's target golf."

The three finishing holes — a par-5, par-3 and par-4 — are the pick of the litter, he said. The par-5 16th is a double dogleg to the right, starting on one of the highest points on the property and working down the flood plain of a major stream that horse-shoes around the last three holes. The par-3 17th, Beidel said, resembles the 10th at Pine Valley, with deep grassy hollows and sand bunkers. The par-4 18th is only 305 yards long from the tips but demands a lay-up shot. An irrigation lake along the left of the fairway eventually pinches to a green which is supported by natural limestone and sets up 50 feet above the landing area.

For a par 4 beside the restaurant above the 18th green, a waterfall cascades down a manmade channel along the 18th fairway and down to the irrigation lake.

Meanwhile, in Limerick east of Pottstown, Turtle Creek Golf Course is set half on a former sod farm and half around a natural stream that runs through the property and provides most of its elevation change.

"We moved 170,000 cubic yards of earth there," Beidel said. "Holes 10 to 12 run along the stream with mature vegetation, but the rest of the course was table top flat and we sculpted some beautiful fairways."

The owners, Bill and Bobby Waltz, live in a farmhouse which was built by William Penn Grant and sits to the right of the 18th green.

Red and brown stone, saved from an old collapsed barn on the site, was used on the 18th hole as facing for the green which sits three to four feet above an irrigation lake that fronts it.

The par-72 course stretches from 5,100 to 6,800 yards over four sets of tees and drew nearly 12,000 rounds between a "soft opening" last Aug. 15 and Nov. 1.

"We plan to seed fescues and let the deeper rough areas grow up and give it a Scottish look," Beidel said. "And the wind always blows on the site, so it's ideal. The greens average 6,800 square feet — some smaller and some larger, depending on the approach shot. I didn't go crazy on the green contouring, but there is enough to make the golfer think. And we do have protected champion pin placements where the pins are tucked in behind a sand bunker or other tougher area."

"It's strategic golf," he said. "If you execute a shot and place your drive close to a bunker on the fairway, you're rewarded with the best opening coming into the green, or along the long axis of the green. But there are bailout options on most of the holes, too."

Turtle Creek's signature hole? The 8th, a double dogleg left that goes around a manmade pond and whose green is bulkheaded and juts out into the water.

"Strategic design and variety are key elements for me," Beidel said. "I think every hole on both these courses has a unique character all its own, I like to alter yardages. All the par-3s play differently, whether it's yardage, or playing into the wind, or having the wind behind you. And I don't favor the golfer who hits the ball to the right or the left."

In a single stroke, professional golf course superintendents can control dollar spot, leaf spot, spring dead spot, melting out, brown patch, crown rot—in fact, more than 15 tough diseases in all. They do it with Eagle® fungicide, one of the tools every pro should have in his bag of tricks.

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As part of a 14-day protectant schedule, Eagle offers unbeatable disease control, exceptional turf safety, and easy handling. With performance like that, it's no surprise so many pros Eagle every hole.

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