

Family Golf purchases six golf properties in Midwest, Southeast

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Family Golf Center, Inc. has acquired the rights to six additional golf properties, has purchased the Icelands Skating and Family Entertainment Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and acquired Confidence Golf, a manufacturer of custom golf clubs.

The company entered into a merger agreement with Blue Eagle Golf Centers to acquire all the assets of that company, which consists of two owned locations: Champions Golf Center in Kansas

City, Kan., and Sports World in Wichita, Kan., and a leased property, Golf 76, in Stuart, Fla.

The agreement with Blue Eagle, which is subject to various conditions, would mark Family Golf's first entry in the state of Kansas. Two additional golf properties acquired are Cantera Golf Center in Warrenville, Ill.,

and Laguna Creek Golf Center in Elk Grove, Calif., both of which are under long-term lease agreements. Another center will be constructed on leased property in Douglas County, Denver on County Line Road and will complement Family Golf's growing presence in that city.

The company also announced

the acquisition of Confidence Golf located in Palm Desert, CA. Confidence has manufactured custom golf clubs since 1966. Family Golf, which retails golf equipment in its 57 pro shops across the country, will use Confidence to manufacture and distribute a full line of golf clubs, bags and other accessories.

EXPANSION PLANNED FOR NY TRACK

AMENIA, N.Y.—Island Green Country Club plans a multi-million-dollar, nine-hole expansion project. Others plans include a new clubhouse, hotel, lodge and conference center. Construction could start this spring.

Walkers' group

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1/2 hours. Foursome matches, with two teams of two golfers alternating shots on one ball, are often played in two hours. Whatley wants to develop a series of videos that would show golfers how the existing rules of golf can help speed up the rate of play. He lists the five-minute limit on looking for a lost ball and the playing of a provisional ball as two simple rules that many golfers don't know. He'd also like to see the average non-competitive golfer get away from time-consuming habits like marking their ball after every putt on a green.

The main target of the association will be the growing number of high-end daily-fee courses that require golfers to take carts at all times or during peak hours. Whatley said a first positive step would be for these courses to allow golfers who prefer to walk the option of walking but paying for the cart fee. Whatley said other options include requiring golfers to take motorized pull caddies that would still allow them to walk. The ideal, he said, would be for courses to allow walking and not charge an additional cart fee for a privilege that has been considered the essence of the game for centuries.

The United States Golf Association has a walking section dedicated to the subject of walking in golf. But Whatley said he has not been overly impressed with its efforts. "They've been around more than two years," he said, "and they've got 12,000 members ... and it's free. Give me a break. They're not even doing any promoting. I called the USGA and the woman who answered the phone didn't even know they had a walking section."

Whatley also said the trend of mandatory cart use at public-access golf courses in the United States has other troubling implications for the future of the game. "If you're forcing everyone to go out in a cart," he said, "You're restricting the chances for youth and minority golfers to get on the golf course."

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