BRIEFS

JUPITER, Fla. — Jack Nicklaus and several partners have signed a contract to buy 369 acres for a private golf course community to be known as The Bear's Club. The planned private course would not be intended for tournament play but for members only. Nicklaus would design the course, which would be located near his home in Lost Tree Village.

PINEHURST, N.C. — The Pinehurst Resort and Country Club has banned metal spikes from its eight courses. The policy went into effect Jan. 1. Resort officials say the use of non-metal spikes allows for smoother putting surfaces and will improve the health of the greens.

DEVIL'S TOWER JUNCTION, Wyo. — A new executive-length course will open in April near the Devil's Tower Monument. The new 18-hole layout sits on 80 acres. It will feature waterfalls, ponds and streams, bridges and mountains, plus a complete golf shop. Kent and Nikki Neiman, longtime residents of the area, will be the owners/operators.

Course development continues strong in Europe

By Dr. FALK BILLION

MUNICH, Germany — Since the new figures (by end of 1997) on the number of courses and golf club members permeate the European golf industry, there is actually a slow-down in the growth in the numbers of courses.

The increase in numbers of players, however, seems to have sped up again after a slow-down around the middle of the decade.

Here are the latest figures, compiled from the National Golf Federations, one important source being the German Golf Federation:

In those 22 European countries with five or more golf courses each (which excludes most of the Eastern European States) there are some 4,500 courses now in existence.

Dr. Falk Billion (Munich) is a leading German golf course management consultant. Billion is a chartered (certified) golf course appraiser and has been actively involved in more than 120 golf course projects with more than 180 studies, reports and appraisals since he established his office in 1991.