Diggin' golf in Beantown

Golf and traffic benefit from Boston's notorious 'Big Dig'

By PETER BLAIS

BOSTON — Developer Charles Geilich and course architect John Sanford have coupled the interests of a major Boston road construction project and a nearby landfill closure to develop a 27-hole golf course in suburban Boston.

Boston's 'Big Dig' project, a multi-year undertaking designed to speed traffic through Massachusetts' capital city, planned to spend $300 million to dispose of the millions of cubic yards of dirt excavated from the construction site. Meanwhile, Quincy and Milton officials were planning to close their

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An aerial shot of the Quarry Hills site and the Boston skyline in the distance.

La. to grow golf image

By PETER BLAIS

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana officials plan to approach the state Legislature with a master plan to finance construction of seven to 10 courses throughout the Pelican State, making it more attractive to visiting and native golfers.

Representatives from Gov. Michael Foster's office, the state Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, and golf industry representatives Thomas Marty of Marty Golf Management and Linda Curtis of The Sabine River Authority, which is building a new course, met to discuss the possibility early this fall and plan to meet again in November.

A joint commission which would research the state's golfing needs and the costs involved will likely be formed, according to tourism department

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L-93 holds it own in NTEPs

By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — While the A and G series of bentgrasses have been grabbing the headlines the past couple of years, L-93 has quietly taken the grand prize in the final report of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program tests for putting-green bents.

"L-93 has really taken off big-time," said Dr. Rich Hurley, director of research at Loft's Seed in Bound Brook, N.J. "We have good seed production, and superintendents are following the test results."

Those test results put L-93 atop Penn A-4, Penn A-1 by a mean average of 6.6 to 6.5 in the final results of the NTEP trials which began in 1993.

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KOLLSTAR GOLF CO. UP TO A DOZEN COURSES IN EIGHT MONTHS

The Ocean Course at Cabo del Sol, Los Cabos, Mexico, is a KollStar-owned and managed property. To learn more about this fast-growing company, see story page 33.
Indian workshop [Indian slate mining] areas cropped up and we had to pretty much redesign the whole project."

Shipments of Big Dig fill material to the course site began a year ago. Roughly 800 truckloads are being delivered daily. Actual shaping of the course and irrigation work is scheduled to begin next spring and 15 of the holes should be ready for seeding by next October.

"But the project [opening date] isn't really under our control," Gellich said, "because we don't know how fast they are going to dig the dirt out of the tunnel. They have at least a half-dozen contractors working right now, but some days they dig better than others."

McCourt Construction of South Boston is the course contractor, but will sub-contract out some of the shaping work. The developers have not made a decision regarding who will manage the course. Plans are to hire a superintendent by next summer.

The course will have five sets of tees and almost 300 feet of elevation change, Sanford said. Seventy percent of the course sits over landfill area that is basically devoid of trees. In order to create a dynamic hole," he said, "we need to utilize all the dirt to create the framing and aesthetics we're looking for.

"We'll have bentgrass on the greens, tees and fairways," Sanford said. "The immediate rough and surrounds will be a mix of bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue. The far rough will be in different types of fescues.

There are a lot of steep slopes between the holes that will be planted with wildflowers and field grasses. "The clubhouse will be on the highest point of the project, about 320 feet above sea level, and will give tremendous views of the Boston skyline six miles away."

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