The owners of Owl's Nest Golf Club yard layout. Owl's Nest Golf Club was around the natural topography of the designed by Cornish, Silva and play in December. The Canyons Course, accommodate golfers at any skill level. offers five sets of tees on every hole to Mountain National Forest. Owl's Nest views from every hole. It includes a variety of environmental and elevation changes, and panoramic views from every hole.

Vegas course copies great holes from British Open

LAS VEGAS — Eighteen holes inspired by famous holes played in the British Open comprise the new Royal Links here. A daily-fee course developed by Southwest Golf and designed by Dye Designs International, the project will include a traditional Scottish-style clubhouse and numerous museum-quality displays honoring the history of the game.

"Golf is very, very special to me," said Bill Walters, chairman and CEO of Southwest Golf. "I look at this as an opportunity to give something back to the game by providing players who might never visit Great Britain an opportunity to experience golf the way it was originally intended."

The Royal Links is not associated nor affiliated with or sponsored by The British Open or any of the courses that inspired The Royal Links, nor has permission been sought or attained to use their names or hole designs.

In designing the 6,970-yard, par-72 Royal Links, Perry Dye sent his design team to the United Kingdom to experience the golf courses for themselves.

"What we learned from visiting the actual golf holes that inspired The Royal Links is much more than simply what the holes looked like and how things were laid out," said Dye. "Those things you can get from a drawing or a photograph. Rather, we gained first-hand knowledge of the real nuances that give these great holes their enduring character."

"For instance, we now know exactly what it feels like to stand in one of these menacing sod-faced bunkers and peer out towards the green. We know from experience how deceptive reverse bunkers can be to a player. And, all of these 'feelings' will enable us to ensure that what we are building here in Las Vegas is truly authentic."

The scorecard reads like an all-star...
Arcadia Bluffs
Continued from page 27
"With no water hazards on the course, there's a 690 with chipping areas around the greens that make Arcadia Bluffs look as much like a seaside links as possible," said Smith. "And, best of all, it won't require a passport or an overseas flight to get there."

The Arcadia Bluffs site is comprised largely of sand, lending itself to a windswept dunes appearance. Native grasses and fescues will enhance the links look Smith and Henderson aspire to, as will dozens of sod-wall bunkers.

"The sod-wall bunkers create a fantastic visual effect," said Smith. "As the sun goes down late in the day, they create shadows which give every hole a unique look, one that seems to change by the hour."

The par-72 layout stretches over a 245-acre parcel situated 150 feet above the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Arcadia Bluffs will be a daily-fee course offering private club amenities. The club will feature a clubhouse overlooking Lake Michigan as well as a practice facility and practice putting greens. The project was commissioned by RVP Development Corp. of Grand Rapids.

Olde Stonewall
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Connoquenessing Country Club nicknamed Hvizdak "The Stone Baron," a moniker that will be given to the bar in the 30,000-square-foot, castle-like clubhouse, which will boast 47-foot-high turrets on the corners.

Superintendent Rich D'Ambrosio, who came here after serving three years as an assistant at both Allegheny Country Club and Diamond Run Golf Club in Sewickley, sits in a 8,000-square-foot maintenance building also shaped like a castle.

Yet, D'Ambrosio points to other facets of the course that set it apart. Among them:
• a 30-foot-high bridge that spans a 250-foot natural ravine and has a natural rock waterfall ledge beneath it; and
• a par-3 14th hole on which two waterfalls front the green.

But in the end, Fry said, the upscale public-access course "will gain its notoriety from the amount of rock walls. It physically is unbelievable, especially when you see the size of these rocks."

To wit:
• More than 2,000 linear feet of sloped rock served as rip rap along the Connoquenessing River.
• The 420-yard length of the par-4 6th hole was "rock-walled."
• All the tee boxes, curbing, lakes, rivers and streams were rock-walled.
• Rock walls serve to hold up many areas along the back nine that were built with severe elevation changes and deep cuts.

For Niebur, the project encompassed challenges far beyond the norm. "We're using a 690 with an oversized grapple," he said. "We busted the thing twice, but it's as big as we could find."

"The other problem was getting the rocks to the back of the property where the terrain is severe."

But it was worth it, Niebur said, adding: "The owner has a good taste for quality. He and Dana have come up with some great stuff."

Fry summed it up:
"Rick loves golf," he said, "and is one of those guys that if one rock's good, two is better, and three must be the best."

DYE, WEED OPEN OCEAN LINKS AT AMELIA ISLAND PLT.
AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. — Featuring five holes along the Atlantic Ocean, the Pete Dye and Bobby Weed-designed Ocean Links at Amelia Island Plantation opened for play on Sept. 1. "Building this golf course represented two unique opportunities for me: working with my mentor, Pete Dye, and designing the ocean-front holes," Weed said. "It was certainly an experience I will remember for some time."

The course provides golfers with a memorable experience as well. The medium-length par-3 13th plays directly towards the Atlantic, and club selection is at the mercy of the ocean breeze. It can be anything from a 5-iron to a bazooka," Weed said.

The first nine holes opened in April.