

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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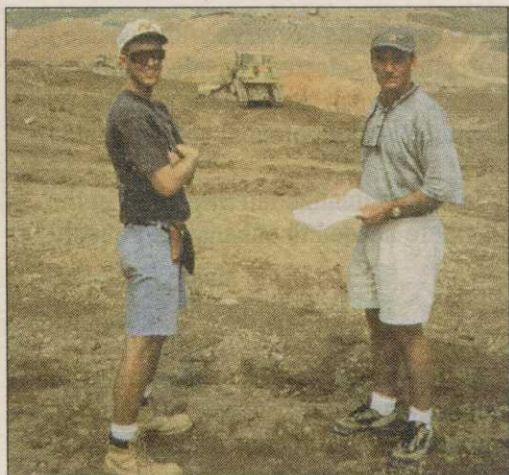
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NICKELS GETS A JUMP START ON KOREA
Doug Nickels (right), of Nickels Golf Group, and shaper Cliff Hamilton on the fairway at Club 200. See story page 33.

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Texas seeks shelter from the heat

By MARK LESLIE

DALLAS — A typical day in August: The heat climbs to 101 degrees at noon, reaches 104 around 4 p.m., drops back to 101 at 7 p.m., and slowly descends to 90 by midnight. The low for the day is 82, recorded at 3 a.m. Water levels on Falcon and Amistad lakes along the Rio Grande are 50 feet below normal; boat ramps look like they are sitting on a cliff.

With four to five hours above 100 degrees nearly every day from July deep into August, and with an inch or so of rain in more than two months, Texas cooked on a high simmer — to the point that lives were in danger when precautions weren't taken.

That's the human side.

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N.C. State/Fazio next with research & teaching course

By MARK LESLIE

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State University is on the verge of building an 18-hole golf course on its Centennial

Campus here that will serve as a research, teaching and extension facility.

The Tom Fazio-designed course will be part of a hotel conference center complex that will be developed and operated by private enterprises, according to Dr. Charles Peacock of the Department of Crop Sciences and NC State's point man on the project.

The private companies
Continued on page 24

Golden Bear Inc. hits hard times

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — At the beginning of July, Donald Trump dismissed Jack Nicklaus' construction company, Paragon Construction, from the job of building Trump's \$40 million resort just South of Palm Beach International Airport.

That was just the beginning of Golden Bear Inc.'s trouble.

At the end of July, Golden Bear said that it would restate its 1997 results after discovering that former managers of Paragon deliberately falsified reports, misrepresented

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GOTTA HIT IT FAR AT CINNABAR

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Cinnabar Hills Golf Club's #8 is a dramatic 222-yard par 3 perched atop the Canyon course. See story page 30.

Creative management ideas abound at PGF

By PETER BLAIS

The "Build It And They Will Come" philosophy may work in the Iowa ballfield business. But in golf, it takes efficient management and creative marketing to get golfers past the bag drop area as the speakers at this year's Management/Marketing Track of the Public Golf Forum can attest.

Six management/marketing sessions are on the line-up card at this year's *Golf Course News*-sponsored business conference and expo for superintendents, owners, managers and developers of public-access golf facilities on October 26-27 at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort in Palm Springs, Calif. The Management, Development

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GLOBAL GOLF: NEPAL'S 'NEW MONUMENT'

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Proof that golf is truly global can be found here in the King of Nepal's 800-acre, walled hunting park which also contains the Royal Summer Palace. Astaff of women plant a green blade by blade on the King's new course (above). The organic matter consists of composted rice husks and fresh, local elephant manure, the latter being collected daily from the jungle by a team of 60 laborers.

NC State eyes 'lab' course

Continued from page 1

involved "have been very supportive of the fact that this is going to be a teaching and research tool as much as it is a recreational facility," Peacock said. "We are also getting a lot of support from the university's ecological community — botany, zoology and so forth — and they will have input [in the project] as well as people from the agronomic side."

NC State will also strive to initiate a PGA Professional Golf Management Program, he said, adding that the only thing that has prevented that in the past has been the absence of a golf course.

Peacock is especially interested in the opportunity for long-term research into "everything you can think of — variety testing, leaching and runoff studies, effects of different grass types in buffer zones," he said. "It's an excellent opportunity to look at how we can go into an area from the beginning and, through design, construction and proper management, institute Best Management Practices and make them work."

It also affords an opportunity to evaluate techniques and materials as they come into existence.

NC State officials envision the Fazio track as a model for courses designed in the same fashion in similar locations.

The project, Peacock said, is similar to Kansas State's new course, "but much different in climate, geographical location, topography, soil types and so forth. It will fit very well into the traditional mid-Atlantic transition zone golf course. What we learn will be applicable to Best Management Practices for this region."

Once permitting and routing are accomplished, a GIS [Geographic Information System] model developed by a zoology professor will be used to investigate bird distribution in relationship to the habitat. Later, it will monitor changes in wildlife in relationship to changes in land use.

"This is an excellent opportunity to see how his model works with golf course development," Peacock said. "It has been used in other situations, primarily with military facilities... A GIS software company on Centennial Campus will help us."

Wildlife habitat and the changes in habitat will also be monitored, as will water quality. "There are some protected streams on the property that we will look at," Peacock said.

Multiple lysimeters will be placed in greens and fairways, while catch basins will be installed to check surface runoff, he added.

From the students' viewpoint, the Centennial Campus course will be a living laboratory and training ground.

"We hope [the course] will use a lot of our turf students as interns and the clubhouse opera-

tion will use our parks, recreation and tourism students as well," Peacock said.

"It opens a lot of doors for us that we haven't had," Peacock said. "Industry at times justifiably says that a lot of the work we do is not on a golf course. They are right. Now this is a great opportunity for us."

At the same time, the course's impact on the community will be "tremendous," he said. "It will

be like a municipal course but privately run. We're sitting in the middle of a million people — 27,000 on the two campuses."

...

Meanwhile, Fazio, who has been working on the project's planning and routing for two years, said: "We always feel honored to be involved with things that are creative and that have long-term involvement. It's also a big responsibility. But that's our job."

...

The golf course property lends itself to "potential for a wide range of golf holes," Fazio said. "It's an upper Piedmont area — beautiful natural rolling terrain and many areas of intense vegetation."

He said it could play to par 71 instead of 72, depending on how the wetlands and creeks affect the design.

Fazio's team is already at work on a complete renovation of the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's 40-year-old Finley Course, which sits 25 miles away from the Centennial Campus.

Starting construction in late August or early September, Fazio will build "in effect, a brand new golf course," he said. The new layout will be contained on a portion of the present site, but the holes are being completely repositioned and designed with the Fazio touch.

HERE.THERE. EVERYWHERE.

HOW'S THAT FOR APPLICATION GUIDELINES?

