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CIRCLE #118

Tour's Glen Day joins course designer Blalock in new company

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — PGA Tour pro and golf designer Glen Day and Alabama golf course architect Alan Blalock have formed a golf course design firm called Glen Day Alan Blalock Golf Design.

The 33-year-old Day, who was born in Mobile and lives in Little Rock, Ark., with his wife and two young daughters, will continue his pursuits on the PGA Tour in addition to partnering with Blalock.

Day and Blalock will work together on three major projects already under development:

- The master plan proposal for the redesign of the golf course at Vestavia Country Club in Vestavia Hills.
- Moore's Mill Golf Club, a new 18-hole, 6,916-yard, par-71 course in Auburn.
- The Tartan Pines Golf Community in Enterprise, which features an 18-hole, 7,002-yard golf course surrounded by a residential community.

"Alan and I will create the kind of courses that will challenge a PGA Tour pro, yet provide the average player with a very enjoyable day of golf," said Day.

"We will create our courses the way a sculptor creates a fine work of art," said Blalock. "At the same time, our courses will be completed on time and on budget."

Day had his best season ever last year. He finished 1998 as the 15th-ranked money leader on the PGA Tour with \$1,283,416 in tournament winnings. He competed in 26 events and had six top 10 finishes, including a tie for second place at The Player's Championship and a second place finish at the MCI Classic.

Jack Nicklaus influenced Day's work in design. The Nicklaus design team provided technical support for Day's creation of his golf course, the Salem Glen Country Club, near Winston-Salem, N.C.



Rees Jones' first Michigan golf design challenges around the green sites.

Rees Jones: Thousand Oaks 'a spectacular, natural site'

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Rees Jones has finished construction on his first Michigan project, Thousand Oaks Golf Club just outside this city. Slated for a summer debut, Thousand Oaks' opening will be the culmination of a dream which began nearly a decade ago.

In the early 1990s, developer Mike Dodgson approached Jones with the idea for a course on the site. A few years passed before local businessmen David Mehney and Frank Southwell teamed with Dodgson and the project began to take shape. When a final few critical parcels of land were acquired, Jones was summoned to return to west Michigan to start his design.

Situated on 420 acres above the banks of the Grand River, the course has the earmarks of a prototypical Rees Jones design: wide, sweeping fairways and landing areas, subtle bunkering and classic, traditional greens complexes.

"Thousand Oaks possesses a spectacular, natural site we were able to optimize for the game of golf," said Jones. "I guess you might say there are a thousand reasons why you should play this golf course over and over again."

Said Dodgson: "We told Rees to build a great course, and to let us worry about real estate later."

Added Mehney: "Rees's attention to detail is amazing. His design is such that houses here won't impact the golf experience."

Built almost entirely on rich, sandy loam, Thousand Oaks cuts through acreage filled with oak, maple and ash trees. It will measure 7,100 yards from the championship tees, but will be decidedly user-friendly, thanks to generous landing areas and open approaches on most holes.

Thousand Oaks will be overseen by Director of Golf Operations Gary Smithson, who previously worked under Buddy Whitten as head golf professional at nearby Blythefield Country Club. Eventually, the course will be bordered by 125 single-home sites, with a proposed condominium development planned for the early 21st century.