Architect Borland dies on Payne Stewart flight

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — When golfer Payne Stewart's private Lear jet crashed in South Dakota on Oct. 25, golf course architect Bruce Borland was among those killed. Mr. Borland, 40, a senior design associate with Nicklaus Design, is survived by his wife, Kate, of Jupiter, Fla., and children Daniel, 13; Thomas, 12; Benjamin, 10; and Elizabeth, 8.

"I am truly shocked and saddened by today's tragic events," Jack Nicklaus said after the crash, pointing to the loss of "a long-time friend and employee." Mr. Borland was traveling with Mr. Stewart to discuss a golf course design project they would perform with Payne, but under the Nicklaus Design banner.

"I feel terrible that the two will not get that opportunity to work together, because Bruce was not only a wonderfully talented designer but a wonderful person," Nicklaus said. "Barbara and I will greatly miss both Bruce and Payne. Our hearts go out to their families, as well as the families of the other victims in the accident."

Mr. Borland joined Nicklaus Design during a 1990 expansion of the golf-course design firm. He was the design associate on 10 Jack Nicklaus signature Golf Courses, including nationally acclaimed Colleton River Plantation in Hilton Head, S.C., and one co-design course, all of which have opened since 1992. Mr. Borland was also the solo designer on two projects over that period of time and was the design associate on seven projects currently under construction or under design.

"Bruce Borland had been with me for almost 10 years," Nicklaus said. "In that time, we've done a lot of golf courses together, we've traveled together, and we've had a great deal of fun together. He was simply a terrific addition to our company, and a good friend. He was also a wonderful husband and father. This is an extremely difficult time for his family, as well as his extended family at Golden Bear."

Born Nov. 4, 1958, in Peoria, Ill., Mr. Borland was a 1981 graduate of the University of Illinois, where he earned his degree in landscape architecture. He began his golf course design career by working with Chicago firms David Gill & Associates, then Killian and Nugent and Hitchcock Landscape Architecture Design. He earned membership into the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1986, and established his own Chicago-based design firm in 1989.

He then joined Nicklaus Design in 1990. Mr. Borland was among the first course architects to use computer design. Among his projects with Dick Nugent were Oak Brook Hills in Oak Brook, Ill., Ivanhoe (Ill.) Club and Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, Ill. His work with Nicklaus included Colleton River Plantation on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and Barrington Country Club in Aurora, Ohio. The Borland Family has asked that people send donations to one of three places: Palm Beach Community Church Bruce E. Borland Building for Life Fund 3970 RCA Boulevard, Suite 7009 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 or First Union National Bank Memorial Fund to Benefit the Bruce E. Borland Children 2000 PGA Boulevard, Suite 2200 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33408 or Wycliff Bible Translators c/o Mark/Deb Borland and Linda/David Captain P.O. Box 62000 Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Arthur Davis dies

GAINESVILLE, Ga. — Golf course architect Arthur Davis, 59, died on Jan. 31. Mr. Davis was a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) since 1974 and was involved in the design and/or construction of over 150 golf courses.

Born in Georgia, Mr. Davis attended Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton. He received a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia in 1963. Davis began his career with ASGCA Fellow Willard Byrd, striking out on his own in 1967. In 1970, he formed a partnership with ASGCA member Ron Kirby, which soon included tour golfer Gary Player. In 1973, Davis established his own practice, which continued to be based in Georgia and eventually included his son, Lee.

Most of his work through the years was in the Southern Belt of the United States, from Georgia on the east to New Mexico on the west, but also included Asia, South America, Africa and Europe. His designs include Lake Lanier Island Golf Course (now Stouffer's Pine Isle) in Buford, Ga.; River North in Macon, Ga.; Cartersville Country Club in Cartersville, Ga.; El Paraiso in Marabella, Spain; and Alto Village in Alto, N.M. Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Joyce, mother LaRue, daughter and son-in-law Cindy and Chris White; son Lee and three grandchildren.

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