Lowry "builds" true island green

OGRIN DESIGNING FIRST TRACK
HOUSTON, Texas — Community leaders and friends joined President Jack Frey of Jack Frey Properties and PGA Tour professional David Ogrin to celebrate the groundbreaking for High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. The course, co-designed by Ogrin, sits on a rolling terrain of sandy soil and features more topographical differences than other courses in the area. The first golf course designed by Ogrin, a 15-year PGA Tour veteran and winner of the 1986 Texas Open championship, is co-designing the course with Nugent Golf Associates. The daily-fee golf club will feature an 18-hole course stretching to over 7,400 yards and features more than 180 acres of land, the course project, Southern Dunes Golf Club, near Nagoya, Japan. A fourth member of the new partnership, Steve Sirmons, is co-designing the course with Ogrin for the Ill's vice president of operations.

"From my perspective,” it gives me the chance to do more hands-on work on quality middle-to-upper-end projects,” Jones said. "We have had kind of a machine, grinding out a lot of golf courses because we had good people. I’d rather do six or eight projects a year that are very hands-on."

The change — for Jones as well as Knott, Linn and Charlton — is "a Continued on page 42

HARBOTTLE GETS WIS. DESIGN
MADISON, Wis. — John F. Harbottle III is beginning a new golf course design at Hawk’s Landing, a 520-acre upscale real-estate development near Madison. The 7,000-yard layout sits on about 200 acres of gently rolling farmland, winding through hardwood groves and around three large ponds. Haen Real Estate of Madison is developing the project. Construction will be completed by Oliphant Golf Construction, Inc., also of Madison. A late summer/fall construction start is planned. Other new Harbottle projects include a new 27-hole course of the Ralph Ranch in Livermore, Calif., and another 27-hole facility, Harra Country Club, near Nagoya, Japan.

$14M PROJECT PLANNED IN FLA.
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Fla. — Capital Golf Development Corp. has announced plans for a new golf club in Indian River County. The $14 million project, Southern Dunes Golf Club, will feature a course designed by Kenneth Kavanaugh. Southern Dunes is located on the natural sand dune parallel the Indian River Lagoon in Indian River County. Situated on more than 180 acres of land, the course provides 7,200 yards of golf from championship tees. It encompasses pine forests, water and sand dune topography. A special area of the course offers links-style golf. To accommodate golfers who enjoy walking, a caddie program will be in place. Construction is scheduled to begin in April. Course opening is set for January 2000.

Golf’s future bright
BY DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN
I disagree, often, with people in the golf business who fail to see the big picture — or if they see it, refused to believe or to present a balanced view. Call it “the cup is half empty, half full” syndrome if you will. The fact is the damn cup is neither half empty or half full, rather it is both. Stick with me while I rebut an article from the sports section of the USA TODAY that appeared on Tuesday, January 19, 1999 titled "Glut of Layouts Forces Creative Marketing.”

The essence of the story was a gloom and doom report about how the supply of golf courses has exceeded demand, and how operators have had to resort to marketing gimmicks to pull in customers. There are the views of the “half-empty” crowd.

But in a side bar chart it showed the rounds of golf for 1997 (the last year reported) had reached a record high of 50.9 million rounds, 14% higher than the previous year, and 18% higher than any year in the last century. This is how "half-full" folks see golf.

I unabashedly am one of the world’s great optimists (read half-full), that believes that golf can grow at a reasonably high, sustainable rate if — if, we remember three Continued on page 44

Northwest Angle: Golf like nowhere else

By TIMOTHY LYON
The hole hole at Timber Lakes Golf Course presents a tough challenge to finish up the front nine

The island hole at Timber Lakes Golf Course presents a tough challenge to finish up the front nine

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IN THE WAKE OF SPLIT
Jones pickier; KLC eye diversity

By MARK LESLIE
PALO ALTO, Calif. — In the wake of his lead architects’ departure, Robert Trent Jones Jr. said his golf course design firm will continue to work around the world, but on fewer projects.

Jones’ statement came on the heels of an announcement that Don Knott, Gary Linn and Bruce Charlton have left the firm to form their own company, Knott, Linn, Charlton Design. The three had all worked for 18 years or longer with Jones in designing many of his 200 projects from Canada to China and from Fiji to Russia. A fourth member of the new partnership, Steve Sirmons, is co-designing the course with Ogrin for the Ill’s vice president of operations.

"From my perspective,” it gives me the chance to do more hands-on work on quality middle-to-upper-end projects,” Jones said. "We have had kind of a machine, grinding out a lot of golf courses because we had good people. I’d rather do six or eight projects a year that are very hands-on."

The change — for Jones as well as Knott, Linn and Charlton — is "a Continued on page 42

commentary

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Whereas the Jones organization was looking for 18-hole, "international standard" golf courses, we hope to take on other types of projects.

— Don Knott

Having referred to the split as "sort of the natural evolution of the business," and pointed to Nicklaus Design as a similar circumstance, where major designers left to pursue their own firms,

"Everybody here is very appreciative of the opportunity Bob has given us," Schroeder said. "We have enjoyed working for him. That's clear. But we think it's going to be fun to go into this new uncharted water and have the freedom to work on our own."

Jones referred to his own departure from his father's famous firm in 1972 and said the evolution to doing solo work took four years.

And, he added, "It could be an epiphany. It could be something wonderful, where I can spend time on wonderful projects that I want to do, we'll complete the work we are already involved with together this year, and by the new millennium I think you will get more than one announcement which will give you a clearer direction of my efforts."