Perot invests $40M with developer

NEW ALBANY, Ohio — Hillwood Development Corp., which is run by H. Ross Perot Jr., has invested $40 million in developer Landmark National to construct more courses.

"Landmark National will provide Hillwood a platform from which we can increase our investment in golf properties both nationally and internationally," Perot, whose father is Texas billionaire and two-time presidential candidate H. Ross Perot, said in a statement.

New Albany-based Landmark said the money from Hillwood will go towards projects in Los Angeles, Houston, Washington D.C., and Doonberg, Ireland.

Va. Beach TPC course humming

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — PGA Tour Properties has invested an additional $2 million in the Virginia Beach Tournament Players Club in order to increase the size of clubhouse facilities, install a computer-controlled irrigation system and make up for lost construction time.

Hurricane Bonnie slowed construction and knocked down hundreds of trees. As a result, the PGA Tour decided to sod the course instead of sprigging it to allow for a shorter grow-in time.

The PGA Tour has invested $10 million in the club and will pay the city $300,000 a year for 40 years to lease the 200-acre property.

The city, encouraged by this agreement, aims to turn the area into a golfing destination and is involved in the development of Heron Ridge Golf Course that will be designed by Arnold Palmer.

The Tournament Players Club is due to open May 28.

Irishman brings links to Montreal

MONTREAL — Montreal developer Denis Trancrede has teamed with Irish golf architect Pat Ruddy to build a 36-hole public golf facility on reclaimed land in the city's East End.

The Montreal Island Golf Club will include construction of 600 housing units.

The two courses will cost $8.5 million and are to be built on land leased from the city of Montreal for 50 years. The North and South courses will be divided by Highway 40 and connected via a pedestrian tunnel.

In the center of the two courses will be a clubhouse, golf school, and practice area.

Although Ruddy has designed more than 30 courses in his native country, the Montreal Island courses will be his first project outside of Ireland. Ruddy plans to work in many classic links features. The South course, for example, will feature three double greens.

Construction on Montreal Island is due to begin in October 1999 and the courses are slated to open in the summer of 2001.

RTJ II introduces himself to Boston

HUDSON, Mass. — Developer Fred Daley III, of Southborough, Mass., will be bringing the Boston area its first Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course. Daley's latest golf course development, the exclusive Charter Oak Country Club, awaits final approval of the town of Hudson, but has already begun soliciting memberships.

The Trent Jones Jr. course, which will sit on a 220-acre wooded site adjacent to Goodale Farm, will be a 6,900-yard, par-71 course featuring rolling terrain and two small ponds. Construction is slated to begin in early summer and the course is due to open in spring 2001.

The Daley family owns several courses in Massachusetts and Vermont and recently completed the Wedgewood Pines Golf Club in Stow, Mass.