Crenshaw, Coore on top of their ‘design’ game

Ben Crenshaw has been in demand this year. Most people are following his captaincy of the American team leading up to September’s Ryder Cup. The challenges were intriguing. But the PGA Tour great also has been busy designing golf courses, including the recently opened Cuscowilla in Eatonton, Ga., and tracks at Notre Dame University and on Long Island (East Hampton Golf Club, see accompanying story), which will open next spring. Crenshaw and design partner Bill Coore have achieved their greatest acclaim for Sand Hills in Mullen, Neb., Kapalua Golf Club’s Plantation Course in Hawaii and Barton Creek in Austin, Texas, where Crenshaw was born. Editor Mark Leslie caught up to Crenshaw and Coore on a job site in Texas, just before the Ryder Cup.

Golf Course News: Coore and Crenshaw are no longer rookies of golf course design. Have you changed your designs over the years?

Ben Crenshaw: We continue to do a couple projects at a time and still feel comfortable with that and with the people who work for us. We can’t see that changing too much in the future...

Bill Coore: If you look at the work we did 14 years ago, you’ll see some differences. We make each course different. We don’t want a stereotyped style.

When we did Kapalua and Barton Creek, they had some sizzles greens. The tendency was for people to say, ‘These guys do big fairways and big greens.’ We only did that because of the clientele and Kapalua — the conditions, the land, the wind. Anything smaller would have been unplayable. But we’ve built small greens as well.

Continued on page 28

Green, Aaron and Mahaffey design 9s for 27 in Florida

LADY LAKE, Fla. — Hubert Green, Tommy Aaron and John Mahaffey are designing separate nine-hole golf courses as part of the new Glenview Champions Country Club being developed by The Villages retirement community here. H. Gary Morse, chief executive officer of The Villages, selected Green, Aaron and Mahaffey to collaborate with Villages Golf Architecture Group of Clifton, Ezell and Clifton on the 27-hole complex.

The Villages had 126 holes of golf already in use. The Champions complex is being targeted as the venue for future professional tournaments. The Villages recently hosted the 1998 LPGA Samsung World Championship. It also is home to the 1999 Villages Charity Challenge between Juli Inkster, Nancy Lopez and Helen Alfredsson.

“Carefree travel,” said McClung, “no luggage or cleaning up when arriving and leaving. It’s like a private resort.”

He and his wife belong to six clubs, McClung said, “and all are wonderful, but none has all the elements we think would fit a certain niche in the market.”

Besides two courses designed by Rees Jones and Greg Norman, Quintero’s 826 acres will include a wide variety of properties: large estates up to 20 acres; one- to two-acre lots; and numerous other residential opportunities. The project provides two courses, a completely renovated clubhouse, a new pro shop, and a modern energy-efficient, 14,000-square-foot cart storage facility that includes storage space for 1,200 bags.

Continued on page 30