BRIEFS

SEASIDE AMONG FASTEST-GROWING
Seaside Golf Development, Inc. Founder and President Scott Pate reported that his firm was recently ranked by Dunn & Bradstreet and Entrepreneur Magazine as the 44th fastest-growing small businesses in the nation. The rankings were listed in the June issue of Entrepreneur Magazine. Seaside Golf Development, Inc. is a golf course construction company that was formed in October 1997. It is currently working at The Mountain Brook Club and Shoal Creek, both in Birmingham, Ala.; Limestone Springs in Ononta, Ala.; and Spanish Oaks in Brooksville, Fla.

JOHNSTON SIGNS S.C. DESIGN DEAL
FORT MILL, S.C.—Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole daily-fee golf course here, called Springfield Golf Course. The course is owned and will be managed by Leroy Enterprises, Inc. It is a golf course construction company that was formed in October 1997. It is currently working at The Mountain Brook Club and Shoal Creek, both in Birmingham, Ala.; Limestone Springs in Ononta, Ala.; and Spanish Oaks in Brooksville, Fla.

PLAYER OPENS WOLVERINE
GRAND TRAVERSE, Mich.—Gary Player has opened the Wolverine, an 18-hole layout at KSL-owned Grand Traverse Resort here. The front nine is routed through a landscape that incorporates the large wetlands that have been protected, as well as expanded. The second nine holes feature a substantial elevation change that offers views of Traverse Bay and the entire property. Hardwoods and spruce trees line many of the fairways. The Wolverine's bunkering is some of the most dramatic of all Michigan courses with bold faces and bright white sand, which is in contrast to the darker-colored sands that more often are used in the state's designs.

SHARK HIRES HORBOW
JUPITER, Fla.—Great White Shark Enterprises has retained Rick Horbow as its development advisor. The announcement was made by Greg Norman and Great White Shark President Bart Collins. Horbow is president of the South Florida-based Horrow Sports Ventures.

Sandy Lyle has his designs on course architecture

Alexander Walter Barr Lyle, MBE-AKA Sandy Lyle - knows a thing or two about golf. Having turned professional in 1977, he has since won the British Open and the U.S. Masters as well as 21 other tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, not to mention five Ryder Cups. Having dipped his toes in the art of designing golf courses some years ago, he is now ready to take a deeper plunge. Golf Course News International Bureau Chief Trevor Ledger caught up with Lyle during his preparation for the 128th British Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.

GCN: Tell me about your partnership with Strategic Golf Design of Colorado, which has formed Sandy Lyle Golf Design.

Sandy Lyle: It started last year. It was something that had been on the sidelines that I wanted to do, other than just playing tournament golf. The guys at Strategic Golf were keen to team up, also to use my name I suppose, and I was keen to get more into the design side of golf. It's a very competitive market, obviously, with [Greg] Norman, [Nick] Faldo, [Arnold] Palmer, [Jack] Nicklaus and [Tom] Weiskopf out there. But we are looking to do a few "facelifts" and I'll try and make something work out of it.

GCN: Does this increased design activity mean you will play in fewer tournaments?

Lyle: I don't think it will do that actually. I'm not playing the maximum amount of tournaments as it is. I'm not playing 34, 35 tournaments per year. I'm down to the low twenties and there is less pressure every week trying to make the cut.

GCN: So, when you finally quit the Tour, will you go full tilt into golf course design?

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Yale grad Rulewich restoring alma mater's course

C.B. Macdonald's original bunkers get new life, facelift

BY MARK LESLIE

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Yale University Golf Course, the last project completed by the "Father of American Golf Course Architecture," C.B. Macdonald, is undergoing a facelift of its 42 bunkers after decades of neglect. "We have none of Macdonald's drawings or plans, but we do have 1924 construction photos and some old aerials," said golf course architect Roger Rulewich of The Rulewich Group, a Yale alumnus who is overseeing the project.

Saying university officials "do not know what they have here" in a design by one of the great classic architects, Rulewich said of Macdonald: "I love him. The Yale course is the first I ever played golf on."

By Seth Raynor and Charles "Josh"

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Honours jumps into golf market

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—With an eye toward becoming an immediate, active force in the golf industry, Honours Golf Co. LLC officials say they will move toward development, acquisition and management of first-tier golf course facilities.

Principals are Bob Barrett of Birmingham and Rob Shults of Atlanta. The company will maintain offices in both cities. Chairman of the board is Robert E. Julian of Omaha, Neb. Julian retired from Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc., in 1995 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Julian continues to be involved in his business investments and serves on the board of directors for Level Three Communications.

The company has raised $50 million in equity, which it will use to acquire and develop golf courses. It will focus on high-end daily-fee facilities in metropolitan markets and resort areas.

Barrett has had a long career in golf, as a professional, manager, and developer.
Highly ranked Pole Creek adds another Griffiths 18

INTER PARK, Colo. — Pole Creek Golf Course has added holes to the award-winning 18-hole layout here in the Fraser Valley.

The addition was designed by Denis Griffiths, who designed the original 18 holes that Golf Digest voted the best new course in America in 1985 and "the number-one place to play in Colorado" for 1996-97.

"The first time I saw Pole Creek valley with its meadows of wildflowers, the creek, and the meandering tree line, it was almost as if you could mow the tall grasses, set flags out and be ready to play," said Griffiths.

"The site was a natural; with 18 holes fitting quite nicely on the terrain framed by the perfect mountain backdrop."

Griffiths has designed the new nine holes to be significantly different and at the same time to compliment the current playing experience. Trees line the entire course but golfers still have plenty of room on most holes.

Griffiths' use of elevation changes and natural land forms make an assortment of challenging holes. The culmination of the design is the arrival on the 9th tee with a panorama of the valley. Tee shots over 300 yards will be frequent due to the 100-foot drop on this 561-yard finishing hole.

The grand opening of the new nine holes was July 31.

The Fairways at Pole Creek commissioned Griffiths to design the new nine holes and formally gifted this addition to the Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District, owners of the Pole Creek Golf Club, on Aug. 1.

Kay to renovate Panther Course

VENICE, Fla. — New York-based Stephen Kay Golf Course Architects is putting the final touches on an 18-hole master plan renovation of the Panther Course at Plantation Golf and Country Club here.

Plantation holds the distinction of being the longest-running qualifier site for the LPGA Tour. All 18 greens complexes have been completely re-designed to offer golfers a different style than they are used to in this area of Florida.

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$50M in hand Honours jumps into golf

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Honours recently began development of Carolina's first $50M golf course. With the recent announcement of Tiger's Eye unique for the Carolinas.

"There has been a lot of curiosity about the course from the first day we began construction," said Tom Plankers, director of golf at Ocean Ridge. "Visiting golfers and even passers-by have marveled about its unusual look and the breathtaking beauty of the boulder-lined ponds and rolling fairways. A lot of folks have told us that it is more reminiscent of the great layouts of Pinehurst than the coast. Many have asked to book tee times, and now we feel that we are at a stage where we can accommodate those requests."

Tiger’s Eye represents a labor of love for Ocean Ridge owner Ed Gore and Cate, who worked on the course design for more than six years before beginning construction in 1998. Sixty feet of natural elevation changes were the foundation for Cate’s shaping of boldly rolling fairways. More than 10,000 coquina boulders—many as large as five tons — were mined and brought to the site to give the layout a unique look. In addition, a 250-gallon-per-minute waterfall was built next to the 18th tee, designed by Cate.

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