

BRIEFS


**FOUR-COURSE PROJECT PLANNED
FOR GERMANY**

FLEESEENSEE, Germany — A major golf project is on schedule for an April opening, 100 miles north of Berlin. The Fleesensee golf resort has been managed by Phil Griffin of Halifax, England with the four 18-hole courses designed by European Golf Design. In addition to the four 18-hole

courses (one of which is a short 'starter course'), the resort will include an indoor 'Golfodrome' training facility, two hotels, a 200-bedroom

'family holiday concept center', 17 tennis courts (indoor and out), squash courts and health center. The first of the golf courses, the Schloss Course, is a par-72, 6,340-meter layout. The architect is Stan Eby. Approximately 1,600 meters shorter is the second Eby design, the Sud Course, which has numerous streams and ponds. Eby is also responsible for the 18-hole short course. The fourth of the courses, the West Course, is again a full-length, 18-hole layout suitable and designed by Ross McMurray. Golf operations at Fleesensee will be run by European Tour Courses, a sister company of the PGA European Tour.

FOSTER BREAKS GROUND IN UTAH

ST. GEORGE, Utah — SunCor Golf has broken ground on Coral Canyon Golf Club, an 18-hole daily-fee course here. Located in "Color Country" in southwestern Utah, Coral Canyon sits on the doorstep to some of the world's most famed natural wonders, including Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park and the Grand Canyon. Keith Foster designed the 7,135-yard, par-72 track with 100 acres of turf, 55 sand bunkers, two lakes and a labyrinth of dry washes. Said Foster: "The holes work with the surrounding environment, providing game strategy challenges as well as opportunities for some very scenic holes."

**WEISKOPF COURSE PLANNED
FOR LOS CABOS**

LOS CABOS, Mexico — The Day Group has acquired 50 percent of the general partnership in Cabo del Sol here, and will invest \$25 million with partner Empresas ICA, S.A. de C.V. for development of a new Tom Weiskopf course, residential lots and related infrastructure on the property.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

MONTEREY, Calif. — Jack Nicklaus is designing a new golf course at Pasadera Country Club, a new 565-acre master-planned community being built by New Cities Development Group (NCD) of California.

"This is one of the best natural sites for a golf course left in California, and Jack Nicklaus is the perfect designer for this project," said Chuck Reeves, project manager for NCD. "The location features a wonderful blend of hills, mountainsides and canyons. It has great sweeping views, and ideal natural backdrops for green settings. Jack has a unique sensitivity for how this type of golf course should be developed, and what he's creating here is going to be very, very special."

Crews recently began rough grading and shaping for the 6,827-yard, par-71 course. When completed in spring, Pasadera will greet players with a design that challenges every aspect of their games while blending seamlessly with the natural surroundings.

During a recent visit to the construction site, Nicklaus spent more than six hours walking each hole of the course with development team members, making a variety of subtle alterations in order to take better advantage of the site's character.

The changes Nicklaus made to the design include creating an elevated green site on No. 5 that will enhance the strat-

Nicklaus lays hands to Monterey landscape



Pasadera Country Club.

egy of the hole and building a creek on No. 18 to accentuate the hole's character and add drama.

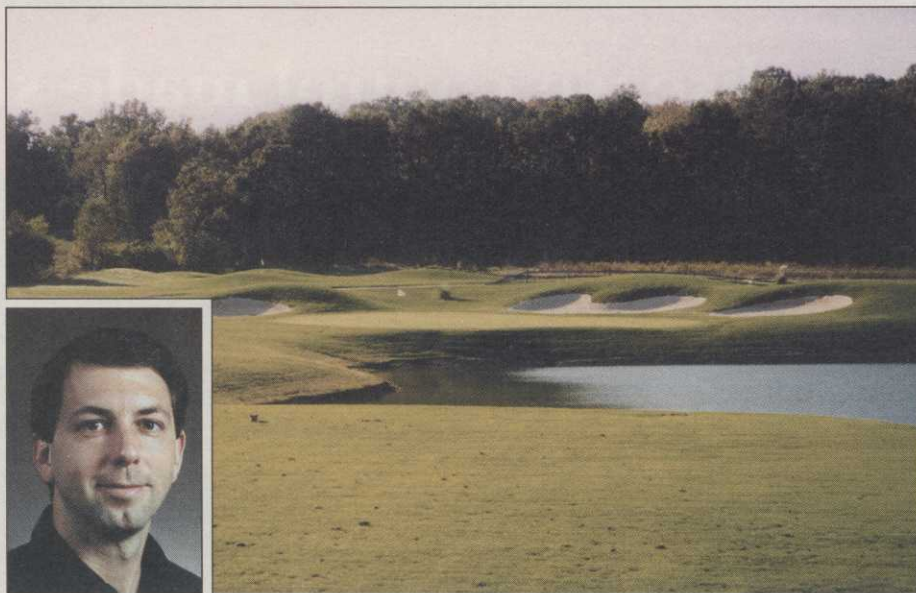
"This is going to be a very strong golf course that will draw its character from the natural flow of the land. All of the holes are unique with their own set of circumstances. I think the 14th here will remind many players of the famous 16th at Cypress, but without the ocean. It's that kind of golf course," said Nicklaus.

Moreover, Nicklaus said his approach

to designing this golf course is to let the natural challenges and beauty of golf in Monterey dictate the layout and hole characteristics.

"We won't change the landscape to accommodate the golf course, but rather we will be adapting the golf course to complement what Mother Nature has already created," said Nicklaus.

"By doing so, we will give players an opportunity to experience the truly unique qualities of golf on the Monterey Peninsula."



David Johnson (inset), formerly of Cupp Design and Medalist Golf, designed Hooch Golf Club (above) in Duluth, Ga., while with Medalist. Johnson recently opened his own design firm.

Former Cupp understudy David Johnson opens own design firm

ATLANTA — David Johnson, who has worked with Cupp Design, and Medalist Golf, Inc. has been established his own design company, providing complete golf course design services.

The philosophy of David Johnson Course Design "emphasizes classic golf course designs, meant to evoke the feel and character prevalent during the golden age of golf design when strategy was the guiding principle behind the way holes were designed," Johnson said.

Johnson's desire to design golf courses began at an early age. The majority of his spare time was spent playing golf, sketching and creating golf holes on paper, and actually building a number of short holes in his back yard. While attending college, he worked summers on the maintenance staff at Ford's Colony Country Club in Williamsburg, Va.

After graduating from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in architecture, he apprenticed under golf course designer Robert E. Cupp for eight years. After departing Cupp Design in 1997, he spent 2-1/2 years building golf courses with Medalist Golf, with whom he designed Hooch Golf Club in Duluth.

Younger Azinger busy north and south of the border

Jed Azinger's parents met on a golf course — Manchester (Conn.) Country Club — so you might say golf is,

QA
&A

literally, in the Sarasota, Fla., architect's blood. Azinger's older brother, the PGA Tour's Paul Azinger, turned pro in 1981. A year later, Jed got his first golf course job as a laborer in Naples, Fla. He later enrolled at Lake City (Fla.) Community College and received his associate's degree in golf course operations in 1987. He worked as assistant superintendent at Quail Creek Golf Club in Naples, head superintendent at Naples Shores (now Boyne South) Country Club and superintendent of Lely Resort's Flamingo course in Naples. Jed, Paul and their father, Ralph, pooled their resources to form Paul Azinger Golf Course Design in 1990. Frustrated with interference by Canadian environmentalists on a project in Otterville, Ontario, Paul opted to leave the design business in 1993 to concentrate on his personal battle with cancer and his golf game. Gordon Lewis — a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects with more than 90 course designs to his credit — has been working with Jed since the beginning and has co-designed a number

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Azinger Q&A

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of courses with the younger Azinger. The two designed several layouts for developer U.S. Homes Corp., including Heritage Oaks (Sarasota), Heritage Harbor (Lutz, Fla.), Heritage Isles and Heritage Greens (Tampa, Fla.), Heritage Palms (Fort Myers, Fla.), Heritage Sound (Bradenton, Fla.), Cedar Ham-

mock (Naples, Fla.) and Stoneybrook Golf Club of Estero (Fla.). Azinger and Lewis still do solo designs, with Azinger's Shadow Ridge Country Club in Hattiesburg, Miss. "the first I've done 100 percent on my own." Under the Azinger Golf Course Design Co. banner, Jed is also designing several Canadian projects with assistance from Canadian agronomist Robert Calder.

Golf Course News (GCN): What was your first design job?
Jed Azinger (JA): Otter Run Golf Club in Otterville, Ontario in 1991. We completed the job and were getting ready to send it out for bid. But there were some problems with the environmental people in Canada. They didn't permit the job and we had to start over after six months of work. We had no idea the environmental

laws were so tough. In the United States, we depend on engineers. Unfortunately, this engineering firm didn't give us the guidelines to do it the right way. Our client bought another 40 acres and we redesigned it... That was a real learning experience for me.

GCN: How has business been in Canada?

JA: I'm doing a lot of design/build work as well as some design



consulting. Right now I'm working on a 27-hole project in Bracebridge, Ontario, with an architect named Jason Miller. I think they'd like to start construction this year.

Otterville will start construction this year. And we've got a nine-hole course in Wellington, Ontario, that will open by late summer.

GCN: You say you like to be "pro-active" in terms of the environment in your designs. What does that mean?

JA: A strong effort must be made to identify environmentally sensitive areas on a golf course before you get started. We try to design around those features, but expose them to golfers so they can see and enjoy them. You have to do your research to find out what plants are indigenous to an area and find ways to enhance wildlife habitat. We try not to do anything imposing. Golf courses aren't supposed to be imposed on the environment. They are supposed to be a part of the environment. Courses are designed by God, laid out by architects, and built by a contractor.

There are all sorts of studies out there that show golf is good for the environment. We keep preaching to ourselves about how good we are and how well we take care of the environment. But what hasn't happened is to take that message outside our industry and let people know what we are doing. There should be an article in the paper every day to let people know how good golf courses are for the environment.

GCN: How has being a superintendent influenced your golf course designs?

JA: You may know some things if you haven't been a superintendent, but they become more important to you if you have actually been one.

I try to do my bunker and tee designs in shapes that are actually mowable. Tee mowers have a turning radius and you try to stay within that radius so you don't wear out the tees when you mow. I try to make sure there is plenty of sunlight getting to the green complexes.

I'll go to bat for the superintendent every time. The less money you have to spend maintaining your course, the more money ends up as profits, or as money to spend in other areas, like keeping greens in shape.

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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Azinger Q&A

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GCN: Architects get a lot of credit for what they do. The superintendents' association has hired a public relations firm to help elevate its members' professional image. Now builders want golfers to realize the importance of what they do. Do builders deserve more credit for their contribution to a new course?

JA: Yes. We [architects] provide a palette for the builders. They are the true artists. They are the ones who do the shaping and the sculpting.

GCN: How does your relationship work with Gordon Lewis?

JA: We work on the plans together and split the fee. Gordie is my mentor. He's the one I leaned on to learn how to become a golf course architect. He has more than 30 years experience and has been involved with more than 300 golf courses. His office is in Naples and mine is in Sarasota.

GCN: Is there a course you've done that put you on the map as a golf course designer?

JA: I have four that have put me on the map.

Heritage Palms in Fort Myers is a spectacular course. It has beautiful scenery and is just a fun course to play.

Stoneybrook of Estero is 7,350 yards. That's a long course.

Heritage Isles has 16 acres of upland restoration and was built by Barbaron, the same guys who did the shaping for Black Diamond Ranch.

And then Shadow Ridge. That's one of those cases where the site makes the course. We surveyed the site, found the best places for greens, staked them, had those shot and surveyed, and then laid out the course from those points. The grand opening is this year.

GCN: The United States opened more than 500 new courses last year and more than 400 almost every year during the 1990s. Do you see new course development slowing soon?

JA: I don't see it slowing down at all, at least not in the near future. People are looking at golf as a way to make money. Golf courses are profitable, a good business venture.

What Tiger Woods is doing is wonderful. He's bringing everyone to the game of golf. Golf should not be looked at as a rich man's sport being played at the expense of the environment anymore. It's a game that builds character and is available to everyone.

My niche in this game should bring me a lot of business. The strongest niche in this golf market for the next five to 10 years will be building affordable golf courses. That's what I design. My courses are not only affordable for the owner, but also for the guy who wants to bring his children

out and teach them the game.

GCN: Being a husband and father, does it bother you being away from home as much as you are?

JA: It gets to you, being on the road all the time. But the thing that keeps it in perspective is that my dad was in Vietnam for a year. And we didn't know if he was coming back or not. It's a part of making a living. We all have to play the cards we're dealt. ▶

Ryan Golf, Fazio team up in Florida

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — Ryan Golf is building two golf courses in Florida designed by Tom Fazio — Mediterra in this community and Olde Collier Golf Club in Naples.

Construction of the first 18 holes at Mediterra will be the centerpiece of a new residential community developed by Bonita Bay Properties. Ryan Golf will excavate more than 2 million cubic yards of rock and sand, installation a

drainage system, and built the course. Work will be completed during the summer.

Meanwhile, Ryan Golf has broken ground on Olde Collier Golf Club, an exclusive golf property being developed by Collier Enterprises, developer of Collier's Reserve.

The course is a members-only 18-hole facility enhanced with preserve areas and bird sanctuaries.



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