

## Baird lauds Korean course

By MARK LESLIE

CHUNG-NAM, Korea— Construction is resuming this spring on Daiwood Corp.'s \$150-million East Lake Country Club, a 27-hole project that will include a \$30-million clubhouse and nine holes that American course architect Gary Roger Baird calls "another Paradise."

"We have a vertical tram to get from one 18 to the third 9 so we don't destroy the mountain," Baird said. "We call it the Hidden Valley Nine. You feel like you're in Eden. It's been a great, great experience."

### Grand Tour

Continued from page 3

in San Francisco and end April 23 in Fort Worth, Texas. In that time the students will visit 16 golf courses including San Francisco Golf Club, Los Angeles Golf Club, Sanctuary Golf Club in Sedalia, Colo., and Prairie Dunes Golf Club in Hutchinson, Kan. The Eastern route will commence on April 7 in Orlando and wind down on May 4 in Boston. The route covers 22 courses including the TPC at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Augusta National, Oakmont Country Club in Ardmore, Pa., and The Country Club in Brookline, Mass. The students will be required to keep a travel log book in which they describe every day the most interesting aspects observed on each golf course.

Helping Schrickel make this year's selections and shape the scope of the scholarship were Rolf Krueger, Rain Bird International, Howard Swan, president of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, Steven M. Wright, superintendent at Long Cove Club, Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Edward C. Horton, vice president of the Pebble Beach Co. Rain Bird International is funding the 2000 scholarship.

"The scholarship has already gained wide recognition amongst colleges and companies related to golf course design, development and maintenance as well as golf courses," said Schrickel.

Schrickel expects the Grand Tour Scholarship to continue and will make an announcement for the 2001 scholarship by September. She is also considering moving course visits to late May or June, which would be more convenient for most full-time students. "The idea was also raised to extend the Grand Tour Scholarship by creating further routes to the British Isles and, perhaps, even to other countries," said Schrickel. "The 2000 candidates will be invited to contribute to the realization of those routes."

This all sits about 10 miles from the DMZ, and is being built as a companion to Daiwood's 27-hole Pochun Adonis Country Club, north of Seoul.

"When they resume construction," said Baird, "it will be completed very quickly. A lot of the sod is already down."

Baird said about 6 to 8 million

cubic yards of dirt will be moved. Much of the construction, over canyons and mountains, is on a 2-to-1 slope. And Baird, an expert on difficult terrain, said the project will serve to prove that golf courses can improve the environment.

Enormous dams, and huge pipes in the fairways, were installed to redirect runoff away from populated areas into rice paddies.

Baird cited Korean engineer Jae Lee as "the best civil engineer in the world in this field."

Another challenge was retaining the area's vegetation and avoiding "mountain scars," he said.

Abounding in boulders, and boasting 800 to 900 feet of elevation change, East Lake's Hidden Valley Nine "may be the best nine holes I've ever done," Baird said. "It has water holes, lakes,

water features, and thousands of azaleas reflecting off the lakes."

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Pochun Adonis Country Club, north of Seoul, is open now. "Everyone in Asia got hit by the economy a couple years ago. They had a soft opening through this period," Baird said. "The course is now being played and is absolutely awesome. Not just because of our efforts but everyone's."

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