BRIEFS

ELDREDGE JOINING RAINMAKER
COLUMBIA, Md. — Paul Eldredge, who retired in December as president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., will join The Rainmaker Group, a golf course and residential development concern, as a principal. Eldredge will serve part-time as executive vice president, assuming business development and project management responsibilities on both golf and residential projects. He worked 37 years for Wadsworth and was involved in building more than 500 golf courses around the country. "After nearly 40 years in construction, I wanted to take a broader role in development," Eldredge said.

SASSER JOINS WEITZ
NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Weitz Golf International has hired Warren T. "Tommy" Sasser as vice president of development. Sasser's primary responsibility will be to direct the company's golf course construction marketing efforts. Prior to joining Weitz Golf, Sasser was president of Golf Development Consultants. Sasser is on the board of directors of the Golf Course Builders Association of America, and is a member of the National Golf Foundation, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Urban Land Institute and Society of American Foresters.

PHELPS LANDS VAIL JOB
VAIL, Colo. — The Eagle-Vail golf course district has received $3.5 million of bond financing for improvements to the Eagle-Vail golf course. The golf course design firm of Richard M. Phelps, Ltd. has been asked to plan significant improvements, including new tees, greens and sand bunkers. The goal is to make the course stand out in Vail valley's competitive market. It is expected to take three to four years to complete the job, not including the work currently under construction at the practice range. The remodeled practice range includes a new 10,000-square-foot putting green, 5,000-square-foot chipping green, 50-station tee line; two new grass tees and target greens.

Fledgling Tillinghast Association growing
BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — Their two books on A.W. Tillinghast were hits, now Bob Trebus and Richard and Stuart Wolff have formed the Tillinghast Association, creating a website and newsletter as well as a repository for information on the famed golf course architect.

"When we published the first two books "Course Beautiful" and "Reminiscences of the Links"", we found that there is a great interest in Tillinghast," said Trebus, who is the association's first president. "There is a Donald Ross Society. And, especially at Pinehurst during the U.S. Open, Ross was getting a lot of recognition, so we thought Tillinghast should get just as much."

The designer of such highly regarded tracks as Winged Foot's East and West Courses, San Francisco Golf Club and Quaker Ridge Golf Course, Tillinghast was a prolific writer. While researching a book for the 100th anniversary of their club, Baltusrol Golf Club - Trebus and the Wolffs discovered enough fodder on its designer, Tillinghast, to publish their two books — with a third awaiting the wings.

Tillinghast's interesting treatises will also

Nancy Lopez aims for name in 2nd career: design

In her rookie season on the LPGA, in 1977-78, Nancy Lopez won nine tournaments, including five in a row and setting a standard for winning that has not been equaled since. Elected into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1987 at the age of 30, she is still active on the Tour, but has set her sights on a new challenge: golf course design. Working with her agent, IMG, she has launched Nancy Lopez Course Design and is already awaiting contracts for two projects. In the meantime, she has been selected to receive the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award in February from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Editor Mark Leslie found her during one of her few quiet moments at home in Albany, Ga., where she lives with her husband, former Major League player Ray Knight, three daughters, stepson Brooks, three dogs and three cats.

GNC: Part of the Old Tom Morris Award is to acknowledge your helping to "mold the welfare of the game." How do you feel you have done that?

Lopez: It's difficult for me to talk about myself, but character and sportsmanship have always been important to me. You can always be a good player, but if you're a jerk it's not worth it; you've not accomplished what you should have because golf is a gentleman's sport. It is a game that tests you, that builds your character. I've always totally respected

Architects society plans remodeling seminars

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has created a series of golf course remodeling seminars under the title of "Remodeling University: A Short Course to a Better Course." The one-day symposiums have been created to educate golf course decision-makers about the basics of remodeling.

The inaugural event will take place in Chicago at North Shore Country Club on Jan. 28. Similar programs will be held in Atlanta (Atlanta Athletic Club, March 2); New York (Westchester Country Club),

Purgatory Golf Club... It's out of this world
Purgatory Golf Club in Niblick, Ind., designed by Ron Kern, is nearing completion in this Indianapolis suburb, and opening day is targeted for late spring. See story, page 36.

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Q&A with Lopez

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golf. It's a great game. Everyone can play golf — and you can play it for a long time and play it with your family. I've enjoyed playing it all my life, with my Dad and Mom growing up.

What I've always tried to do on the golf course is enjoy what I did. When I'm playing, well or not, I'm still enjoying it. Sportsmanship has always been important to me because I know how I want to be treated if I win, or if I did not win. My Dad taught me good sportsmanship. He made me realize as long as I played my hardest, that is what people see. And they see that even if I finished second or third I never gave up. I never walked away from a golf event feeling bad. A lot of people can't handle losing. They walk away feeling defeated and don't learn and rejoice from their play. Playing golf was something I enjoyed so much, and I was so grateful to God that He allows me to play this sport and to walk golf courses and enjoy it the way I do.

GCN: There are only two female members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects — Alice Dye and Jan Beljan. Why haven't there been more female golf course designers?

Lopez: Perhaps it's the credibility of a woman designing a golf course. I don't know if people have felt we could do that. I think IMG asked me to because of the competitor I have been all my career. Maybe they feel that I can develop a course that people can play and enjoy and be competitive.

My courses won't just cater to women. They will cater to men, also — because with the different tees you can put trouble in different areas. But women want to be made to feel special, also. To do that, I will give women a back tee and a forward tee. Men don't have that. Let the women have a choice.

GCN: But a decade ago, Alice Dye started a campaign for forward tees and all courses now are being built with several sets of tees. You play old and new courses. Have you not seen a significant trend in course designs to shorten courses for women, youths and beginners?

Lopez: Yes, there are more tees. But I want to make sure that women feel these are their tees. Tell them: "These are for women only."

And put some trouble out there for the ladies, yet give them a bailing-out point. Some courses don't have any bailing-out point at all for women. They have to carry the ball 150 yards to get over water. You can build a course that has trouble and gives women a chance to go for it, but doesn't force them to. Golfers want to have to hit that great shot. They will test themselves. But there are some courses that are so tough. People play them but they walk off them frustrated and beaten; they've lost a bunch of balls, played horribly and not had fun. My objective is to build a course that is tough and yet is fun to play; it's not boring and when they walk off they can remember the golf holes.

I would like to make a couple of tough holes in a row, and then one that's easier — to give you that emotional up-and-down feeling, which is part of golf. You should be able to feel a little relief. I want to make the type of course that plays with people's emotions as much as the mental part of their game.

GCN: How involved will you be in the actual design work?

Lopez: Heavily. I will really walk the site and give them my ideas and work with Brit [Stenson, IMG's lead architect] and get his thoughts.

It will not be like Northwestern golf clubs. They built the clubs and put my name on them. I didn't really have anything to do with it. Now I have my own line of golf clubs and I did have a lot to do with it. That's what I'm doing now [in design]. I'm going to give them my ideas and learn more and more about architecture. I think it will be a great experience. But I do have a lot of pressure to design my first golf course the best that I can. I want people to walk away and say, "Boy, I can't wait until Nancy builds another one."

I want to be really proud of the courses I develop and bring en-

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**DEVELOPMENT**

**Women & golf a mutual attraction**

Judy Bell became the first woman president of the U.S. Golf Association two years ago, the same time that Alice Dye was elected the first female president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Now that Nancy Lopez is receiving the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, what does she feel this says about the involvement of women in golf?

"I think women's involvement has grown tremendously over the last five or six years," Lopez said. "We've come a long way. A lot of people say, 'Why aren't you getting paid as much as the men?' or 'Why, why, why. You can only do what you can do.'

"I think there are many more women playing it and enjoying it. I think even in the corporate world, they realize a lot of things get done on a golf course. It's a quiet place. It's away from phones. It's peaceful. Yet, you do realize who you want to do business with, because you learn more about their character on a golf course than anywhere. And I think women, especially corporate top executives, are finally catching on to that."

Lopez said that women are also getting involved "so they won't be golf widows. They enjoy being with their husbands more, and want to play golf with them and hopefully be the kind of golfer their husbands enjoy playing with."

"It's fun for me," she added. "I like to go to pro-ams and see groups of women playing, and the men really accepting that. Many years ago, when I was coming up I was not allowed to play on some golf courses because I was a woman."

"As for Alice Dye and Judy Bell, "they are quality women in golf," Lopez said. "They respect the game. They respect the male game and yet they respect the women's game, also. When you have women who can do that, they have a lot of sense about golf. It's not an attitude [declaring] 'Women should be doing this or that.' It's more a statement: 'We can do it together' — for both men and women."

Lopez has always respected Judy Bell very much, and tried to play with Alice Dye when she was an amateur. "I'm flabbergasted that I can even put my name beside theirs. It's an honor. When I started playing golf I just wanted to be the best I could be."