

Jacobson, Cochran complete Borland signature course

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Two prominent golf course architects have agreed to donate their services to finish a golf course designed by their late friend and colleague Bruce Borland, who died tragically Oct. 25 in a plane crash with golfer Payne Stewart and four others.

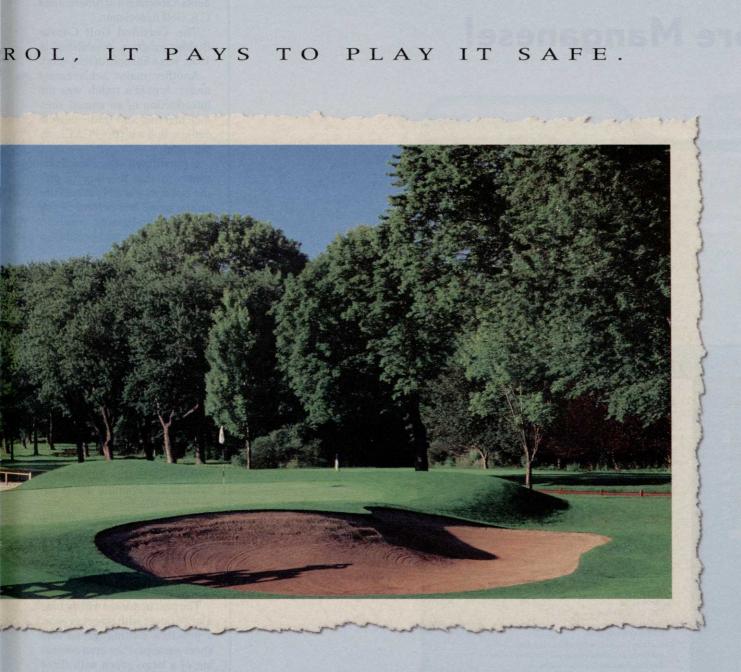
Chris Cochran, a senior de-

sign associate with Jack Nicklaus Golf Services in North Palm Beach, Fla., and Rick Jacobson, president of Jacobson Golf Course Design here, have volunteered to finish the design work and oversee construction of Coyote Creek Golf Club.

The course is located in unincorporated Limestone Township five miles outside Borland's hometown of Peoria.

Cochran and Borland shared an office at Nicklaus Golf Services for seven years until the time of Borland's death. Jacobson had worked with Borland and Cochran at Nicklaus in 1990 prior to starting his own firm. The men and their families had been friends for 10 years.

"Nicklaus Design wanted to make sure that Bruce's design was completed and that the course got built," said Cochran, who will be the lead architect on the project. "I have some work in Kansas City and other places in the Midwest, so with the course being in Peoria, it made



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At the memorial service for Bruce, several of us decided to pool our resources to fulfill his contract with the golf course developer so that the funds would still be donated to the church.' — Rick Jacobson

sense for me to do it."

Cochran and Jacobson offered to finish Coyote Creek because Borland had agreed to donate his entire design fee for the project to the Palm Beach Community Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., where he was an active member. By agreeing to finish Borland's work without compensation, Cochran and Jacobson ensured the church will receive the full amount of the donation.

"At the memorial service for Bruce (on Oct. 28), several of us decided to pool our resources to fulfill his contract with the golf course developer so that the funds would still be donated to the church," Jacobson said. Jacobson's firm is based in suburban Chicago. He plans to travel to the site frequently.

The involvement of Cochran and Jacobson also ensures that Coyote Creek will be the world's only Bruce Borland Signature Course and will fulfill the realization of his dream of building a course near his hometown.

"Bruce attended high school in Bartonville just outside Peoria, and it was a lifelong dream of his to come back to his hometown and build a golf course," said Stephen Chitwood, president of Coyote Creek Development Corp. "It's really great that they can do this in honor of Bruce."

Borland had largely completed the design of the rolling, 6,700yard, par-71 upscale daily-fee course and had been to the site four times. He had been scheduled to travel to Peoria on Oct. 26, the day after the fatal crash.

Because of extensive wooded areas and the rolling terrain, some massaging will be necessary during the construction phase, which began in September, according to Jacobson. Shaping of greens and bunkers to blend with the existing topography of the site also will be necessary, he said.

The club will have a full practice facility and elevation changes of up to 80 feet from tee to green in some areas. The course is scheduled to open in 2001.

Cochran and Jacobson visited the site together for the first time on Dec. 8.

"It'll be a nice golf course," Cochran said. "It has a lot of character. Everybody involved from the developers to the construction company is highly motivated to finish the project."