**New Tom Fazio complex in Virginia spotlights junior golf**

**By JAY FINEGAN**

RICHMOND, Va.—When the Independence Golf Club opens here next summer, junior golfers will have an upscale course to play on. Designed by Tom Fazio, the 18-hole course will be part of a new complex that also includes a 300-room hotel, a conference center, and a 15,000-square-foot event center. The course will be open to the public, but it will also offer special rates for junior golfers. The complex is expected to attract golfers from across the region and beyond.

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**Keystone’s second 18-hole layout opens in Rockies**

**By ANDREW OVERBECK**

BOSTON — After almost three years of work and more than 500,000 truckloads of dirt, developer Charles Gellich and architect John Sanford are finally ready to start construction on Quarry Hills Golf Course in Quincy. Gellich insists that all of the money they are being paid to take the fill is being eaten up by construction and engineering costs.

“By our estimates, we are saving the Big Dig $150 million,” he said. “We are working three shifts around the clock and the staff is enormous. Our engineering costs alone are upwards of $7 million. Every dime we’ve been paid has all gone into the project.”

Regulatory pressures have also added costs to the project, according to Gellich. “There isn’t a regulatory body that we haven’t dealt with,” he said. “Between federal, state and local authorities, we have an inspection by somebody every week.”

As a result, Sanford estimated that he has done more than 30 different routing plans for the project.

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**BRIEFS**

**LAYTON JOINS PALMER GOLF DESIGN**

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.— Newly graduated landscape architect Thad Layton has joined Palmer Design Company as part of the design staff. While studying at Mississippi State University, Layton interned with the Palmer group and also worked on construction on several courses.

“Over the past three years, Thad has proven himself to be an extremely valuable player on our team,” said Ed Seay, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Palmer Design.

“We look forward to having him around on a full-time basis.” Palmer Design is a complete course planning and design organization with more than 250 active projects and open courses in 30 states and 20 countries.

**SCHRICKEL JOINS TRENT JONES II INT’L**

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Bettina Schrickel has joined Robert Trent Jones II International as a design associate. Previously, she was a design associate with Santa Rosa-based Fream & Dale Golfplan.

**TPC SNOQUALMIE VOTED TOP COURSE IN WASHINGTON STATE**

SEATTLE—The Jack Nicklaus-designed TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club has been voted the number-one course in the state by Washington’s golf professionals, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported. The private membership course, open for only a year, is located about 30 minutes east of Seattle. Western Golf Properties, of Scottsdale, Ariz., manages the course, which is focal point of the 1,343-acre Snoqualmie Ridge Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company’s golf community. It offers membership to community homeowners, non-residents and corporations. The superintendent is Tom Wolff.

**GOLF COURSE NEWS**

**Sanford ready to play in Big Dig’s dirt**

**By ANDREW OVERBECK**

BOSTON — After almost three years of work and more than 500,000 truckloads of dirt, developer Charles Gellich and architect John Sanford are finally ready to start construction on Quarry Hills Golf Course in Quincy.

In total, Boston’s “Big Dig” underground highway project has supplied 7.7 million cubic yards of fill that was used by the developers, Quarry Hills Associates, to cap two former landfills and fill in an abandoned granite quarry to make the 450-acre golf course project a reality. In order to facilitate the delivery of materials, trucks made an average of 900 trips a day to the site—so many that the Massachusetts Highway Department built a separate exit off the highway just for the trucks.

Gellich and his group worked a deal with the highway authority and the towns of Milton and Quincy whereby they would be paid about $12 per ton to take the material, cover the landfills and develop the golf course. The developers will lease the land from the city of Quincy for 50 years.

In the face of continued scrutiny over the $1.4-billion cost over-run of the Big Dig project, the developers maintain that the highway authority has saved money by trucking the fill a mere eight miles to Quincy. Gellich insists that all of the money they are being paid to take the fill is being eaten up by construction and engineering costs.

“By our estimates, we are saving the Big Dig $150 million,” he said. “We are working three shifts around the clock and the staff is enormous. Our engineering costs alone are upwards of $7 million. Every dime we’ve been paid has all gone into the project.”

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**Keystone’s second 18-hole layout opens in Rockies**

KEYSTONE, Colo.—The Rocky Mountains’ newest 18-hole course opened last month at Keystone Resort. Situated at 9,300 feet above sea level and surrounded by soaring peaks, the River Course at Keystone was designed by Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry to compliment the natural beauty of the area and to minimize any impact on wildlife and native vegetation.

“With the opening of the River Course, Keystone will take its place as one of the premier mountain golf destinations in North America,” said John Ratter, chief operating officer. Combined with the highly ranked Ranch Course, Keystone now offers 36 holes of championship golf in a spectacular setting.

The par-71 River Course stretches to 6,886 yards, with a rating of 70.3 and a 131 slope. The front nine meanders along the Snake River, while the back nine provides superb views of the Continental Divide, Lake Dillon, and the Gore Range. The course also offers a 194-foot vertical drop on the par-4 16th hole and a challenging navigation through 12 bunkers on the 18th.

“There’s a breathtaking view from every hole on the course,” said Steve Cornelli, director of golf at Keystone. “It’s more than just a natural design. We used environmental principles for this design. It looks as if the course was air-lifted in.”

According to Cornelli, Hurdzan and Fry were selected because of their

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Nicklaus
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“They want to leave the intensity of the Bay Area and retire to the relaxed lifestyle the Monterey Peninsula affords,” says managing general partner Lee Newell. “The schools there, public and private, are outstanding, and the city’s growth limitations restrict density and traffic. Plus, most of these young millionaires realize that real estate in Monterey adjacent to a Jack Nicklaus-designed course is a sound investment for the future.”

Frequent Nicklaus collaborator Chuck Reeves was charged with the construction and operation of the project. Reeves was saddled with the task of creating a playable, enjoyable course for club members on top of a drastically uneven landscape.

The par-71 layout maintains a natural feel with transition areas planted with native grasses. The fairways and tees are straight rye, and the roughs have a combination of rye and native fescue. The greens are standard bent.

WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

The terrain provided an interesting challenge for Reeves. In addition to difficulties presented by the unevenness of the property, wilderness preservation restrictions limited the amount of land that was legally workable. These significant obstacles and Reeves’ design experience generated the character of the course. Narrow landing areas for tee shots and confidence-testing carries over wilderness areas are Pasadera’s signature.

There is a total elevation change of 375 feet across the course, with many holes having significant slopes. Nearly half of the holes are upward sloping and present players with difficult choices on how much of the slope they want to eliminate with their tee shots. Long drives are challenged by evergreened-foot-deep canyon in order to reach safety. The views from this hole, and many on the course, especially on the back side, are spectacular. Glimpses of the white-capped Monterey Bay and nearby Mt. Toro abound on the 565-acre property.

Still, the Golden Bear is tentative about calling his creation a difficult course. He quickly retools efforts to label it “tremendously difficult.” “This is a golf course for people to enjoy, not for tournament players to enjoy,” said Nicklaus. “I don’t do golf courses for Jack Nicklaus—I do golf courses for the people who are going to play them.”

The road from conception to completion has not been a quick one. The property was first looked into as a possible course location nine years ago. Though Pasadera’s city ordinances did not prevent the team’s plans to build 255 new homes on the Pasadera grounds, the California Coastal Commission did intervene and have much to say about what could be built, and where they could build it. Although the restrictions presented a design challenge, the course more than retained the terrain’s natural beauty.

Keystone
Continued from page 19

expertise in designing environmentally sensitive courses. For the River Course, the architects incorporated native plant species, such as sagebrush, native grasses, and 12 different kinds of wildflowers. The course was also designed for players of all levels — each hole has five or six tee boxes, allowing beginners to play alongside experienced golfers.

“Keystone isn’t just a world-class ski resort,” Rutter said. “We’re truly a year-round resort that offers world-class golfing, mountain biking, hiking and many other recreational amenities.”

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