

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 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.

SCHRICKLE 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.



Bettina Schrickel

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.



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 Geilich 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 800 trips a day to the site—so many that the Massachusetts Highway Department built a separate exit off the highway just for the trucks.

Geilich and his group worked a deal with the highway authority and the towns of Milton and Quincy whereby they would be paid around \$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. Geilich 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 Geilich.

"There isn't a regulatory body that we haven't dealt with," he said. "Between federal, state and local authori-

ties, 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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It took an average of 800 trucks a day for three years to bring 7.7 million cubic yards of fill from the Big Dig to Quarry Hills. A view of the Boston skyline from the site. (inset)

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 of their own, designed by award-winning architect Tom Fazio. The 9-hole layout is only part of a major new \$17-million golf center taking shape on 250 acres of rolling countryside southwest of this state capital.

The brainchild of the Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) and 15 years in the planning, Independence also will feature an 18-hole, Fazio-designed championship course, complete with four man-made lakes. An elegant, Jeffersonian-style clubhouse, 20,000 square feet, will anchor the complex and house everything from the pro shop and grill to a museum of Virginia golf history and a library. An education center will provide a place for seminars and conferences for superintendents, golf professionals, and club

managers.

The so-called Kids' Course, however, along with other youth-oriented amenities, makes the new facility the first of its kind on the East Coast. "The emphasis on kids has been the focus from day one," said David Norman, executive director of the VSGA. "We think it's going to be a really neat atmosphere for them."

Measuring 1,326 yards, the Kids' Course is a par-3 layout, with multiple tee boxes on each hole. "It's going to be for everyone from toddlers up to the early teens," Norman said, "but it will look like a championship course. You will definitely have the feel of a regular course, with hazards and all. It has bunkers, but not pot bunkers, and it actually crosses a creek twice, but from the shortest tees you don't have to shoot across water. The holes range up to 192 yards, but we'll have some tees down to 60 yards for the

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Brian Ault voted new president of ASGCA

CHICAGO—Course designer Brian Ault, of Kensington, Md., was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's annual meeting, held recently in Ireland.

A member of the ASGCA since 1977, Ault has earned a reputation for developing award-winning residential and resort courses. Among the layouts he has designed or remodeled are: the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Avenel, in Potomac, Md.; Eagle Ridge Golf Club, in Lakewood, N.J.; South

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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 also to minimize any impact on wildlife and native vegetation.

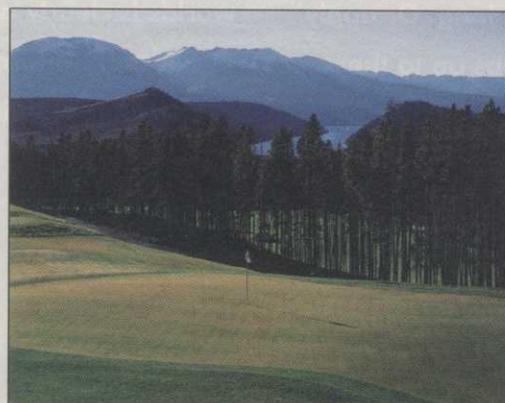
"With the opening of the River Course, Keystone will take its place as one of the premier mountain golf destinations in North America," said John Rutter, chief operating officer. Combined with the highly rated Ranch Course, Keystone now offers 36 holes of championship golf in a spectacular setting.

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 Corneillier, 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 Corneillier, Hurdzan and Fry were selected because of their



Keystone's back nine provides breathtaking views.

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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 here, both 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 ever narrowing fairways and strategically placed traps.

"What made Jack great as a player was strategy. The same

thing makes him great as an architect," Reeves says. "He always wants you to think off the tee, but not take the driver out of your hand."

The course has some interesting design features. The fairways of the par-3 sixth and the short par-4 fifth criss-cross.

"I think we did it safely," Nicklaus said with a wry grin.

The signature hole at Pasadera is the 211-yard par-3 14th, which requires golfers to carry a hun-

dred-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 rebuts efforts to label it "tournament 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 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 Monterey's city ordinances did not prevent the team's plans to

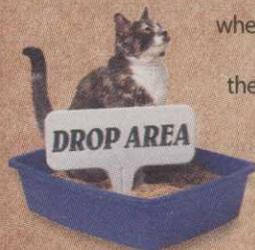
build 255 new homes on the Pasadera grounds, the California Coastal Commission did intervene and have much to say about what could be built, and where they could build it. Although the restrictions presented a design challenge, the course more than retained the terrain's natural beauty. ▽

Isaac Hillson is a GCN contributor based in San Francisco.

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Keystone

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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." ▽