

BRIEFS

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Cimarron Golf Resort has opened for play. The 36-hole complex consists of executive-length and regulation-length 18-hole layouts. John Fought designed the courses, which are owned and operated by O.B. Sports.

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MARIN COUNTY, Calif. — StoneTree Golf Club is on schedule to open in June. Located in the northern part of the county near the Sonoma and Napa valleys, the 18-hole, daily-fee facility was designed by the team of Sandy Tatum, Johnny Miller, Jim Summers and Fred Bliss. Western Golf Properties will operate the facility.

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NAPLES, Fla. — The Naples Grande Golf Club has opened for play. The private, 18-hole Rees Jones design was developed by Boca Resorts Inc., owners of The Registry Resort and Edgewater Beach Hotel. Boca Resorts Inc. also operates Grande Oaks Golf Club in Fort Lauderdale and the Boca Hotel and Resort in Boca Raton.

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BRADENTON, Fla. — Waterlefe Golf & River Club has opened for play. Ted McAnlis designed the 18-hole course.

Grip-it-and-rip-it fun on the way at PTI's FarmLinks

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Many fertilizer companies build one or two "model" golf holes to use in research and development and to showcase wares to superintendents and end users. While Pursell Technologies, Inc. (PTI) intends to use its facility as a testing site, the company is upping the ante by constructing FarmLinks, an 18-hole course that will include a First Tee component.

"We will use the course to showcase our fertilizer technology, entertain guests and offer area golfers and corporations an opportunity to experience the game of golf in a truly pastoral setting," said David Pursell, chief executive officer of PTI.

Hurdzan/Fry Design Group had full reign over 2,700 acres of the Pursell family's land which is nestled into the southern foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. It has taken Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry and associate David Welchel more than nine months and several visits to route the course over a 200-acre area.

"It is awesome land. Even if you just had a portion of it, you would go, 'Oh wow!' When they say, 'Take what you need and we'll make everything else work,' that is pretty rare," said Hurdzan. "It speaks to the fact that the Pursells have been around golf and they understand what it takes to make a great golf course."

As a result of the design freedom, there will be minimal earth-moving and land-clearing. A central lake will provide the fill and Hurdzan expects to clear only 20 to 25 acres as opposed to the usual 90 acres.

"One of the things we want to do is enhance what is already there," he said. "We want to show that golf courses can be great diverse recreation and habitat areas. Our intent is to make the land better."



Pursell Technologies CEO, David Pursell tees it up on what will become the 18th tee.

While his list of special holes at FarmLinks is constantly evolving, Hurdzan already has a few favorites.

"The 9th hole is going to be tremendous. It sits down below the clubhouse with a creek that winds through the fairway," he said. The 18th hole makes the short list as well, and was, according to Hurdzan, "almost just sitting there."

Holes four, five and six wind up into the hills on the property, featuring tremendous views of the surrounding mountains and river valley. The par-3, 5th hole was added to the design after

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Colin Montgomerie to design Zhuhai Golden Gulf in China

Colin Montgomerie has signed on to design the golf course at the Zhuhai Golden Gulf project in Zhuhai, China. Located a short ferry ride away from Hong Kong, and just across the border from Macau, the 27 holes of golf at Zhuhai Golden Gulf will be part of a larger destination resort and real estate project

being developed by Zhuhai Providence Real Estate Co. Ltd. Zhuhai Golden Gulf will be the first golf course project on mainland China for Colin Montgomerie Design. He is designing the Haikou Meishi International Golf Club which is currently under construction on Hainan Island just off the main-

land. Colin Montgomerie Design also is involved in golf course projects in Korea, U.A.E., Lanzarote and Ireland.

"Following my first ever visit to China last November, I am very pleased that my next design project will be at Zhuhai Golden Gulf," commented Montgomerie. "I have been very

impressed with the vision of the developer, Zhuhai Providence, for the overall resort project and am convinced Zhuhai Golden Gulf can become one of the best courses in all of China and we are designing it as a potential future venue of world-class golf tournaments."

Guo Zhi Hang, managing di-

rector of Zhuhai Providence Real Estate Development Co. Ltd., commented, "As our aim is to develop Zhuhai Golden Gulf as a world-class project in all aspects, we are very proud to announce our association with Colin Montgomerie and his design company to help us create a world-class golf course. Colin's dedication to perfection is reflected in his results as a professional golfer and we have also been impressed with his work to date as a golf course designer."

While initial earthworks have already begun on site, the actual golf course construction is expected to begin in the second half of 2000. The anticipated opening of the first 18 holes for play is expected by the end of 2001.



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Pursell

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Jim Pursell, PTI's chairman of the board, showed Fry and Welch a rocky outcropping. "Once we saw those rocks, we decided to integrate the rocks into the hole," said Hurdzan.

FarmLinks will be a wide-open, parkland-style layout. There will not be any nasty white stakes unnecessarily constraining the big hitters. "There is no reason to have out-of-bounds," said Hurdzan. "Half the fun of the game of golf is to take a good whack at the ball. We want it to play fast and fun."

The lack of out-of-bounds markers should make it easier for youngsters learning about golf through the First Tee program to take their first whack at golf. The First Tee component will include a driving range, practice area, short-game area with hazards and a five-hole practice course.

According to David Pursell, once they pass the certification program, First Tee participants will be able to play the FarmLinks course for a nominal fee.

"I recognize that many kids do not have access to golf and we'd like to provide an opportunity for others to enjoy a game that we love," said Pursell.

Integrated into the FarmLinks First Tee program will be an environmental education center. Several environmental monitoring stations will be spaced throughout the site, allowing students to, for example, test the water quality of a stream as it enters and exits the property.

The course will also be used as a demonstration and testing area for PTI products and for the recreation of the company's guests. As a result, the course will not be open to the public at all times and Pursell plans to use price to control play.

Earthworks have already begun and Hurdzan expects that construction will be going full speed ahead come spring. FarmLinks is expected to open in mid-2002.