**Snead opens design firm**

STUART, Fla. — Sam Snead has formed Sam Snead Course Design, heralding the entry of the Hall of Famer into the golf development arena. Snead won 185 tournaments, including seven major championships on the regular Tour and 11 majors on the Senior Tour. He competed on 10 Ryder Cup teams, including four as a playing captain.

Heading up the firm will be Sam’s son Samuel “Jack” Jackson Snead Jr., along with President Ronald Coruzzi and design associates Edward Carton and Scott Applegate.

Citing a desire to be more active in golf course design endeavors, Snead said: "I hear from players all the time about how difficult a course is and how they will never go back there again. The classic-styled courses that I love don’t have those problems. Most of the courses being built today do. I’m just an old mountain boy from the hills of Virginia and I’ve probably played more golf than anyone alive. I know what it takes to design golf courses that are challenging for the low-handicapper as well as fun and enjoyable for the high-handicapper, for the guy who pays the freight."

Sam Snead Course Design will provide golf course architectural services for Sam Snead Signature course designs, redesigns, and renovations. Additionally, extensive consulting services will be available through Sam Snead Golf Management and Sam Snead Golf Academies.

Through countless rounds of golf and golf course design experience, Snead and Jack Snead have played together. Jack has been instrumental in the development of Snead’s work and the architect’s love for the game. "I had high expectations," Engh said of the course that opened May 1. "But when we finished, I missed it." The course really blew me away. It’s amazing how the site came together. It fits so well within the natural topography."

From the unexpected elevation changes to the tendril of water, to the black lignite coal slag that serves as bunker sand, Engh believes Hawktree stands out as a grand experience.

"The exciting thing to me is the diverse character of the site," he said. "Burnt Creek runs through the property and forms a small valley with a stream bed. The creek has fingers of very sharp or severe valleys that run perpendicular to the bigger valley. We ran holes up and down the valleys and used the open areas to create some ponding features."

Areas on both nines jump in and out of woods, and the 4,830- to 7,117-yard, par-72 layout features "open

By MARK LESLIE

**Samoset’s 4th meets ocean**

ROCKPORT, Maine — One of the top-ranked resort courses in the country just got better. On June 1 Samoset Resort Golf Club here will unveil new oceanside 4th and 5th holes that golf course architect Brad Booth and superintendent Greg Grenert feel transform the layout into a tougher and more eye-catching venue.

Winter work has become Grenert’s trademark over the last six years as he has taken advantage of frozen ground to dig ponds, create bunkers and completely rebuild long lengths of breakwater to dramatically upgrade Samoset.

Although he has more work ahead that will, in the end, mean eight or nine rebuilt holes on the 1973 Robert Elder design, the crowning creation could be the new 4th and 5th.

"That whole complex now is unbelievable," said Grenert, "with the contours and the sloping we put in." Booth and Grenert brainstormed and Booth drafted a final product which sends the golfer almost into the ocean to the green on the par-5 4th, then along the rugged shoreline on the uphill, par-3 5th.


The stone wall breakwater along the left side of the 4th hole now continues on toward Rockland Harbor. Above the 4th green, three new sets of tees face up the hill, with a series of bunkers stepping up the slope to a green impregnated into the hill.

The bentgrass approach frames the bunkers. As Grenert said, the green "looks like it has always been there; a beehive hole."

**By MARK LESLIE**

**Engh returns home for Hawktree**

ISMARCK, N.D. — Native son and golf course architect Jim Engh, who gained fame in his hometown of Dickinson when he startled the world with The Sanctuary in Sedalia, Colo., surprised even himself when he beheld his finished product here — 18-hole Hawktree Golf Club.

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Continued on page 33

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Continued on page 33