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 Stephen Snead, 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-style courses that I love are not possible today. 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.”

Snead 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 Jack Snead have played together, Jack has been instrumental in the development of his father’s course design philosophy, and endeavors to instill those ideas into every Sam Snead design.

Coruzzi has a comprehensive career in the business of golf, including golf real

By MARK LESLIE

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 his first major win in 1962, has returned home after building a reputation as one of the country’s leading architects.

“Engh is a master at taking the natural elements and turning them into a masterpiece,” said John D. Seavert, president of Hawktree Golf Club.

Engh is known for his ability to work with the natural topography of a site. “I want to create a course that is unique to the area,” Engh said. “I look at each site as a blank canvas and work with the landscape to create something special.”

Engh’s design for Hawktree, a 18-hole par-72 course, features a variety of challenging holes. “Every hole is its own unique challenge,” Engh said.

The new 4th hole at Samoset Golf Club runs down to the Atlantic Ocean, nearly meeting the resort’s famous breakwater.

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Samset’s 4th meets ocean

By MARK LESLIE

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 a new seaside 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.”

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**Miller joins Gill as partner**

RIVER FALLS, Wis. — Garrett Miller has taken on a long-term assistant role at Gill Miller, Inc., Golf Course Architects.

The partner who "recognizes the contributions of Miller to the firm" formerly known as Williams, Gill & Associates, Inc. of River Falls, said Gill Miller has collaborated with Gill on course designs since August 1990.

Miller, a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects since 1981, worked with Gill's father, David Gill, into the profession and established his own design practice in 1985. He is a registered landscape architect in Wisconsin and Texas and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in landscape architecture from Texas A&M University.

Miller is a registered landscape architect in the states of Minnesota and South Dakota. He holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota.

**Engh in N.D.**

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meadows, valleys, woods, ponds — the full spectrum," Engh said.

The black coal slag, reminiscent of Jack Nicklaus' Old Works Golf Course in Montana, is a by-product of the power plant in Elgin, Wind and dust were factors in selecting the slag, a striking visual effect, Engh said.

Five area businessmen — Steve McCormick, Bill Fleck, Mike Halpern, Rob Sattler and Dan Waldoch — developed the project with the hope of bringing world-class golf to Bismarck.

Hawktree will offer daily-tee play — from eight different yardages — and limited membership programs.

Fleck developed a system through which golfers could use the four and five tee boxes per hole to drive eight different course yardages. By allowing golfers to change teeing areas within an 18-hole round, "we are able to create eight unique ways to play and enjoy the course," he said.

A 20-handicapper, for instance, could play from the Eagle tees, and the course will play 5,640 yards. The next time, the golfer could mix in some Hawk tees and play the course at 6,042 yards. The golfer is not forced to play all the more difficult tees.

"It can make a lot of difference," Fleck said. "We want to get gender, age, or ability out of the equation. There's too much pride about what tee you're playing."

The North Dakota Golf Association told the owners it could make a lot of difference, with too much pride about what tee you're playing.

"We were incredibly fortunate to have an incredible piece of land at South Hampton. With room for six sets of tees, it can be enjoyable for the high-handicapper, while also challenging the better golfers."