BARBARON BUILDING TWO BY LAGREE

INVERNESS, Fla. — Barbaron Inc. has been selected to build two Florida golf courses designed by Terry LaGree. The first, Skyview Golf Club, in Citrus Hills, is a nine-hole addition to the existing nine completed by Barbaron in 1998. When finished, the full 18-hole championship course will boast some of the highest green elevations in the state. The second layout, Glen Lakes Golf Club, in Weeki Wachee, will be a new 18-hole championship course. Both projects are expected to be completed next spring.

PALMER OPENS 11TH N.C. LAYOUT

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Palmer Course Design Company, based here, has opened its 11th course in North Carolina and is working on number 12. Company president and CEO Arnold Palmer played nine holes at Brier Creek Country Club when it opened in late September. Brier Creek, developed by Toll Brothers Inc., is a luxury golf course community set on 140 acres along the Neuse River Basin in Raleigh; it features spectacular woodlands and wetlands. The 18-hole, 6,945-yard, par-72 layout was designed by Kory Williams, an architect with the Palmer Group. "Brier Creek was designed with the classic, traditional golf courses in mind," he said. "Use the existing terrain and a good, fair but challenging round of golf will follow."

MATTHEWS & NELHIEBEL HIT CANADA

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Golf course architects Matthews & Nelhiebel are headed across the border to expand the semi-private Sutton Creek Golf and Country Club, in Essex, Ontario. Sutton Creek will be the first Canadian project for the firm, which has designed more than 25 courses in Michigan. "We're working on an 18-hole master plan for Sutton Creek that emphasizes strategy and visual impact," said Howard Nauboris, who is heading up the design work under the direction of Bruce Matthews, ASGCA. "The proposed bunkers will be larger and more numerous, adding challenge to the layout. We will be adding additional tee surfaces for flexibility of length and challenge for all skill levels.

Ex-pro Brad Bell opens third course at Coyote Moon

By DOUG SAUNDERS

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Coyote Moon Golf Course, which recently opened in this town in the High Sierras, is the third golf course designed by Brad Bell of Sacramento, Calif. The 18-hole layout is rare in this state as it is a stand-alone project, built strictly for golf, not to sell building lots.

Although the course is located on a ridge 200 feet above Route 80, the main east-west interstate, it feels like it's miles away from anywhere. The layout winds through piney forests and sweeps over valleys, ravines and lakes. The only sounds heard come from birds, the streams, and the wind through the woods.

Golfers are teased to play shots into greens protected by huge rock outcroppings, hit to pins 80 feet below over creeks, and nail drives over tantalizingly long lakes. Throughout the course the challenge of shaping shots to negotiate nature's purest challenges adds to the sheer pleasure of playing on such a unique piece of property.

SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING

It took more than six years and a firm commitment for Bell and his partner Chris Steele to complete Coyote Moon.

Steele, whose true profession is high-rise construction, got into the golf course construction business in 1994. Commercial construction had slowed, and Steele—who is not a golfer—had learned of a golf course shortage in the Sacramento area. He knew he could secure land and financing, but he also needed to secure people who understood golf to make his foray into the field successful.

Red Sky Ranch to pair Fazio and Norman designs

By JAY FINEGAN

WOLCOTT, Colo. — Vail Resorts Development Company (VRDC) has broken ground on the first of two championship courses here in Wolcott, near Interstate 70 west of Vail and just outside White River National Forest.

The 780-acre project, known as Red Sky Ranch, will unfold over rolling Rocky Mountain terrain flush with sagebrush, juniper, aspen and dramatic rock outcroppings. Plans call for some 500 acres to be left in their natural state. The views of the Gore Range to the east and Castle Peak to the west promise to give the complex a stunning visual dimension.

The first of the two 18-hole tracks, a Tom Fazio design, will feature an 800-foot elevation change over the par-72 track. This is a monster layout, measuring 7,305 yards from the back pegs. The front and back nines will return to the Resort Clubhouse, a 20,000-square-foot ranch-style structure that will also house a golf academy. A 40-acre practice facility will sit nearby.

The second course, designed by Greg Norman, is awaiting approval by Eagle County zoning authorities. Christine Richards, a VRDC spokeswoman, said that county officials were expected to rule on the project in early October. "We hope to have all of our approvals done this fall," she said.

The Norman layout will be another 18-hole championship course. It will feature a private Members' Clubhouse, another western-style building. The New York firm of Robert Lamb Hart is designing both clubhouses.

The par-3 13th hole at Coyote Moon in Truckee, Calif.

An aerial view of Thistle Golf Club on the Myrtle Beach's Grand Strand.

Thistle Golf Club adds new nine and provides service with a twist

By JAY FINEGAN

SUNSET BEACH, N.C. — Already recognized along the Myrtle Beach Grand Strand for outstanding course design, conditioning and service, Thistle Golf Club has added another nine holes to the layout, bringing the total to 27. The original 18 went operational in 1999, becoming the 101st golf course to open in the Myrtle Beach area.

The new nine – the South Course which opened in late summer, nicely compliments the West and North courses. All three were designed by Tim Cate and feature a Scottish links type feel. "The whole complex is just a really good, very solid golf course," said Dan Oschmann, head professional and director of golf at the facility.

For the first two nine-hole layouts, Cate was instructed to create a design that is ferocious, yet fair." Golfers who've had the chance to play the first 18 agree that the architect met the objectives, with wide, rolling fairways, five sets of tees, and large green complexes that permit bump-and-run approaches on most holes.

NEW NINE MORE CHALLENGING

The new South Course possesses a similar look and feel, but plays a bit longer, at 3,351 yards from the Thistle
Steele turned to Bell, a former professional golfer with Sacramento roots. After competing for UCLA in 1985, he played on the European circuit, then joined the PGA Hogan Tour in 1989, winning the South Texas Open in 1990 earning a spot on the PGA Tour in 1991. By 1995, however, the level of competition on the big tour forced Steele to reassess his future.

"I wasn't making a grand living on the Tour, and I began to look for other ways to be involved in the golf business," Bell said. "That's when I first met Chris Steele. At the time - 1995 - I was interested in any segment of the golf business. I was ready for anything, from being a club pro to being a playing ambassador. I was fortunate that Chris wanted help in the design and construction phase of golf courses."

Their first project, Teal Bend in Sacramento, was built on a relatively flat piece of ground near the Sacramento River. Steele wanted to build the same way he built high-rise buildings, in control of the project to keep costs down.

"Chris could have gone the route of hiring an established course designer, but I felt that would be an extra expense," Bell explained. "When I joined him we walked the property and talked about what a golf course should include. Chris liked my ideas and felt that we could do the design on our own. We found out just how challenging course development and construction can be - and very quickly."

The Teal Bend project was begun at a time when golf course construction was coming under intense regulatory scrutiny. After the challenge of the permit process, it was a relief to get a course to grow-in. Transfilm® was a registered trademark of PBI/Gordon Corporation. Transactions for winter

For some 15 years we have used Transfilm for winter protection of new evergreen transplants and specimen stock in vulnerable sites. Road salt and salt vapors coming from ice melt plus exposure to drying winter winds can create conditions that are dissatisfied customers and problems for us. Transfilm reduces these risks. We view it as winter insurance.

Eric Moore, President
Moore Landscape
Grimes, IA

"During the construction of this course in 1995, we bought a nearby tree farm, a spade truck and enough Transfilm for 2,700 Scotch pines 6 to 15 feet tall. Also, over 700 deciduous trees were planted. We were told to expect losses of around 300 trees, but thanks in part to Transfilm, our replacements totaled less than a hundred."

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