

BRIEFS

CUBA PLANS FOR 28 GOLF COURSES

HAVANA, Cuba — The Cuban government may be Communist, but it's not about to let the Caribbean golf boom pass it by. Rumbos, the state-owned company that manages the Varadero Golf Club, will start building a course in Cayo Coco early next year. It has plans for three more courses, once foreign financing is secured. In addition, Cran Caribe, a hotel company, breaks ground on a new course in Jibacoa this September. Several other courses are in the planning stage. The government's short-term goal is to build one course in each of Cuba's nine tourism zones, according to Raul Martin, a Rumbos manager. Long-term plans put the total number of courses at 28. Cuban revolutionaries Fidel Castro and Che Guevara were avid golfers before overthrowing the Batista government in 1959. Among their first moves was to bulldoze nearly all of the island's golf courses to make way for schools.

RYANGOLF BUILDING NEW NICKLAUS COURSE

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Ryangolf, based here, has been awarded the construction contract for a new 27-hole Jack Nicklaus-design golf course. The Prestwick Plantation Golf Course will be built in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Construction got under way recently and the layout is expected to open in April 2002.

The Links at Outlook brings Scottish flavor to Maine

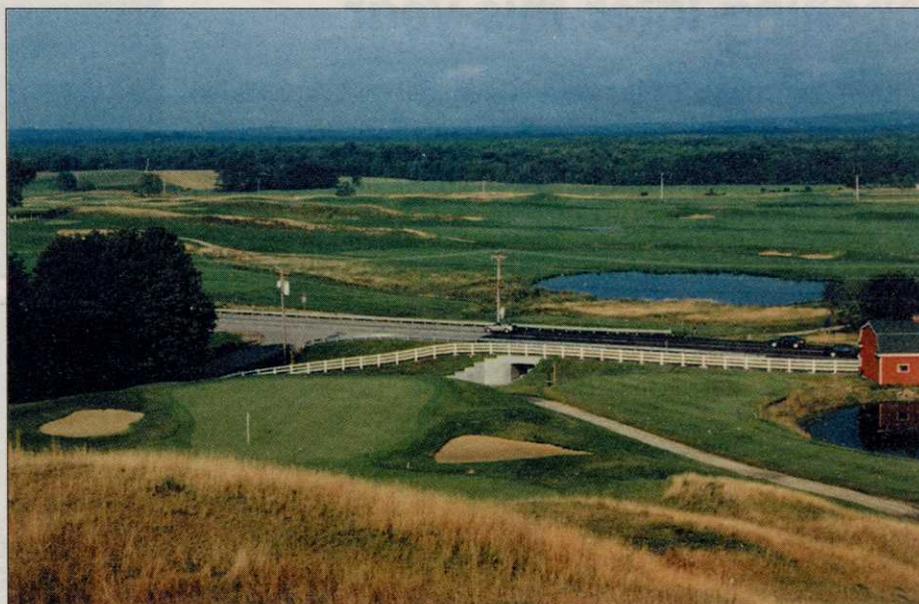
By JOEL JOYNER

SOUTH BERWICK, Maine — Ever since King James IV of Scotland lost 14 shillings to the Earl of Bothwell in a golfing wager back in 1502, the sport of golf has continued to grow — and grow, and grow. It may be a gamble for a new course to open, what with upscale public golf courses proliferating and competing for golfers' attention. But The Links at Outlook, owned and operated by the Flynn family, just might have what it takes by bringing a Scottish touch to Maine.

A onetime dairy farm, the 140-acre property was considered — and even zoned — for an industrial park in the early 1980s, but the creation of a driving range in 1988-89 set in motion a chain of events.

"It just took off from the driving range," said Tim Flynn III, general manager. "We originally intended to place all 18 holes on the east side of Route 4, which would have made for some narrow fairways, but when we bought an additional 30 acres on the other side of the road it really opened up the layout possibilities."

Designed with 11 holes of rolling mounds, fescue grass, and strategically

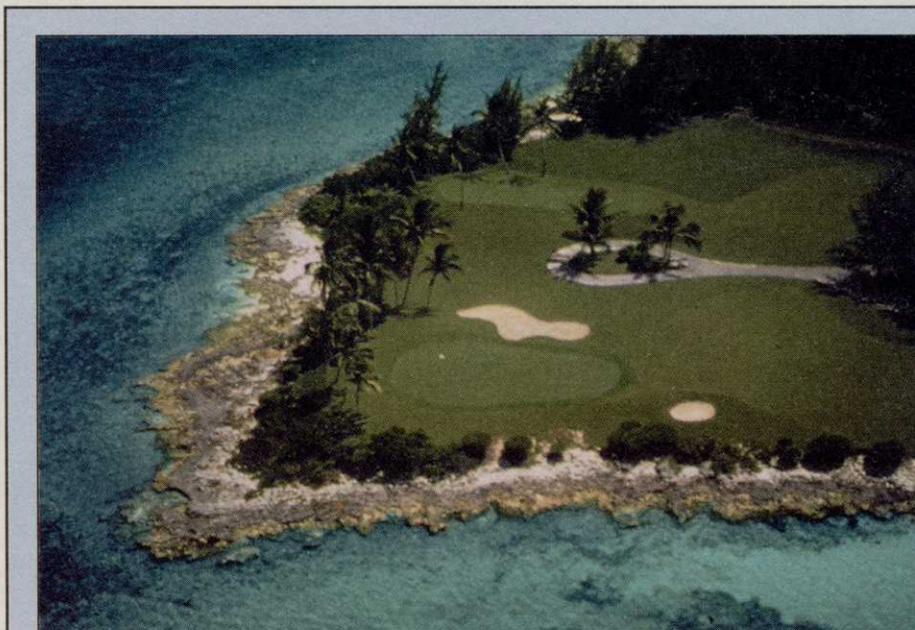


The outlook from the 17th fairway affords views of the 17th green and the links layout of the front nine.

placed sand bunkers, the east side makes for a challenging but manageable game for the average golfer. The classic style of firm and fast greens and fairways requires cautious drives and fairway play in order to safely reach the greens.

The architect for the course, Brian Silva, said that "the greens can be attacked only from certain areas of the fairways, and the low-handicapper won't score unless he recognizes and finds

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The Ocean Course plays along the cerulean waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Nassau Harbour.

Weiskopf's Ocean Club nears opening

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — In December, the famed Paradise Island resort, the Ocean Club, will unveil a scenic 18-hole golf course as part of Sun International's \$100-million renovation and expansion of the property. Designed by Tom Weiskopf, the Ocean Club Golf Course has been completed and grassed and will be ready for play by year-end.

Set on the eastern end of the island, Weiskopf's par-72 layout takes advantage of the magnificent Bahamian landscape and island crosswinds, challenging golfers' accuracy. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Nassau Harbour,

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After forty years, Jim Fazio still designing courses worldwide

SARDINIA, Italy — From a career spanning 40 years, Jim Fazio's designs can be found throughout the United States and in 10 foreign countries. Growing up in the Philadelphia area he learned the business from the ground up working with his uncle, George Fazio, and brother, Tom.

Golf Course News correspondent Trevor Jackson recently met up with Jim to discuss his design philosophy, experiences and ongoing international projects, which include LeMezzane Golf Country in Sardinia, Italy, and the Bahamia Club in Freeport, Bahamas.

GCN: Coral Harbour Golf Club on



Jim Fazio

New Providence in the Bahamas was your first overseas work. What was that like?

Fazio: We started that course at Coral Harbour in 1962 for the developer Lindsay Hopkins, the Miami Coca-Cola bottler. I lived at the hotel for two years to build the course. I didn't have any maps or surveys to work from and ran off the property a bit, and we lost a couple of building lots this way. There was a little ridge in there and no topsoil. We crushed the coral rock and dug shallow lakes, testing every day not to take too much out of them to go back to salt water.

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Meadowbrook National to open this year

LAKELAND, Fla. — Meadowbrook Golf Group, Inc., has announced that its new 27-hole resort course in Las Vegas will be called Meadowbrook National Golf Club.

The new course, scheduled to open before the end of the year, will be marketed nationally and will become a flagship property for Meadowbrook Golf, which owns or manages more than 100 courses across the country.

Meadowbrook National is located about 25 minutes from the heart of the Las Vegas strip. The site adjoins Floyd Lamb State Park and gives unobstructed views of the Sheep Mountains from most of the golf holes. The new golf club is adjacent to the proposed Mountain Spa residential and resort development, but is being developed independently.

The new layout features three championship nines designed by golf architect

Robert Cupp. Each 18-hole combination will play to approximately 6,900 yards from the championship tees. The 24,000-square-foot clubhouse, designed after a Mediterranean villa, will overlook a lake and the finishing holes for all three nine-hole layouts.

Construction of all 27 holes is nearly completed, and the turfgrass has matured to the point where many holes are virtually playable. A company spokesman said the course is expected to be open for play before Christmas, and that reservations are already being accepted for 2001 golf events.

Meadowbrook National is a joint project of Meadowbrook Golf and Apollo Real Estate Investment Fund III. Apollo Real estate is a New York investment firm that also holds a major equity position in Meadowbrook Golf Group, which will operate the club for the partnership.

Second Brauer course in Minnesota aims for 'north woods experience'

By MARK LESLIE

BIWABIK, Minn. — Flush with three years of success with its first golf course, Minnesota's Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) is adding a second 18 holes to its mix here as it continues efforts to turn the Giants Ridge area into a recreation destination.

"The demand for this caliber of golf course is so high that we decided to go ahead with a second," said IRRRB development director Mike Gentile, who has overseen operations of Giants Ridge Golf Course since it opened in 1997.

Officials had hoped Giants Ridge Golf Course would host about 22,000 rounds by the fourth full year of operation. "We did 22,000 between July 1 and Oct. 15 of that first year," Gentile said. "Last year we did 30,000 rounds and still turned away between 12,000 and 15,000 golfers."

Building on that success, the IRRRB has chosen Giants Ridge course designer Jeffrey Brauer/Golf Scapes of Arlington, Texas, as "the natural choice to do the second course."

"The charge we gave Jeff," Gentile said, "is to build a golf course that will be equal to or better than the first course, difficult as that may be. We want the golfer, when he is traveling from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, where 90 percent of our golfers come from, to play two rounds of golf at least and get two quality, yet distinctively different, experiences."

OLD QUARRY SITE

Gentile described Giants Ridge Golf Course as "a Minnesota North Woods experience, with a lot of pines, a lot of birches, a lot of boulders and rocks." The second course, tentatively called The Quarry at Giants Ridge, will be built three

miles away on rugged topography that straddles former taconite and sand-and-gravel quarries.

Brauer and Gentile said design plans will be complete in August, construction bids will go out in September and construction will be underway by the first part of October. "We will probably be playing golf in two years," Gentile said.

Since Giants Ridge Golf Course opened, the IRRRB has opened a hotel on the property, enticing visitors to stay and play.

Gentile expects The Quarry course will deliver on expectations. "Jeff Brauer uses the land and topography very, very well," he said. "He creates something out there that all levels of golfers, from the rank beginner to the experienced low-handicap golfer, are going to have a great experience."

"The golf course is very fair," he added. "Whereas the existing course is not walkable because of certain environmental constraints we were under, this course will be walkable. We want to attract the State Amateur and Mid-Amateur-type tournaments and so forth to northeastern Minnesota and Giants Ridge."

Jeffrey D. Brauer and his firm, Golf Scapes, have designed 40 golf courses and remodeled 80. Canterbury Golf Course in Parker, Colo., and Giants Ridge are rated among the best affordable public courses in the United States, while his Avocet Course at Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was a *Golf Digest* best new course winner. His Champions Country Club in Nebraska is highly ranked, as is the Brauer-designed TangleRidge Golf Club in Texas.

President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects during its 50th anniversary year in 1995-96, Brauer also designed Colbert Hills Golf Club at Kansas State, which opened in June 2000 as the cornerstone golf course for The First Tee program as well as the first collaboration between the PGA of America and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Ocean Club

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the course offers panoramic views of lush vegetation and cerulean waters. The 17th hole plays entirely along the scenic Snorkelers Cove.

"I feel that the Ocean Club is a perfect location for my first Bahamian project," Weiskopf said. "The classic design of the resort, coupled with the spirit of Paradise Island, creates an ideal backdrop for a golf course that I feel will be memorable, dramatic and a fair challenge to all levels of golfers. My goal is to design the best course in the Caribbean."

Weiskopf, an internationally renowned PGA and Senior PGA professional, has designed 37 courses since 1983 in destinations throughout the United States, as well as South Africa, Japan, Scotland and the Philippines.

"We chose Tom because of his dedication to quality and design," said Sol Kerzner, chairman of Sun International. "The design will reflect the continuing legacy of the resort, providing a classic and memorable course for our guests."

The facility will be managed by Troon Golf, of Scottsdale, Ariz., which is involved in several Weiskopf's projects. ■

First Tee

Continued from previous page

room for error. Therefore, you are more focused on that target," Bealert explained. "At a regulation course, when they don't get close to the target, they are still on the green."

Chesterfield First Tee is, in fact, a regulation course. "We are not considered an executive course, just a short course," Bealert said. An important aspect of the Chesterfield course, George said, is that "we have a realistic golf setting: three par-5s, six par-4s and nine par-3s."

The course is complete with menacing bunkers (although there's no water), U.S. Golf Association-spec greens with L-93 bentgrass, and 419 Bermudagrass tees, fairways and roughs.

In addition to the 18-hole course, the facility includes a full-scale practice range, complete with a bunker-flanked putting green and a three-hole beginner's course with each hole measuring from 70 to 118 yards. Other features include a pro shop/clubhouse, and a teaching classroom for the Life Skills Program.

Grand opening ceremonies will be held on Oct. 23. ■

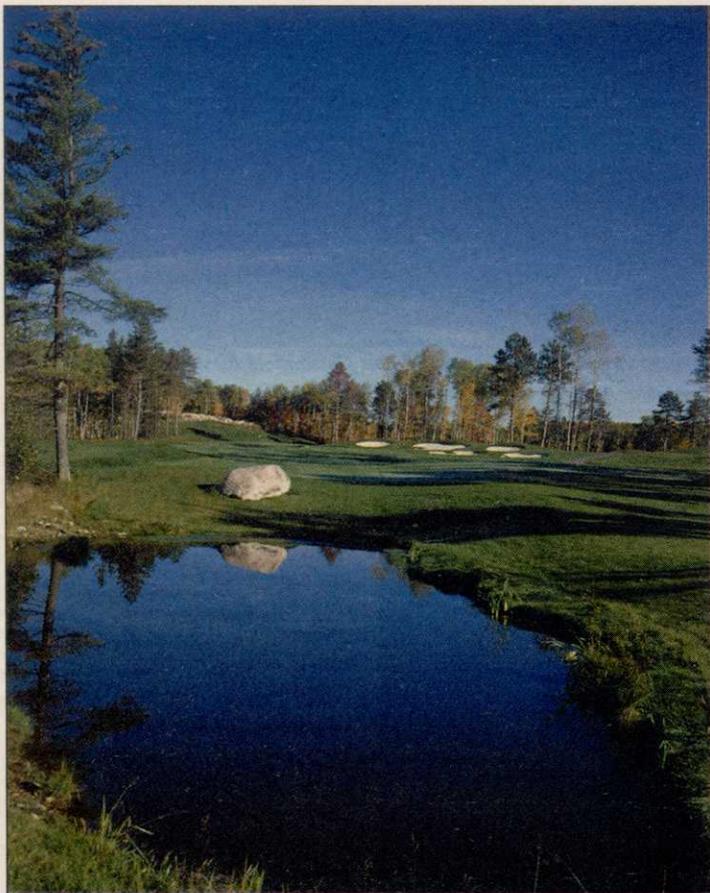


Photo by Mike Klemme

Giants Ridge Golf Course in Biwabik, Minn.

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