DEVELOPMENT

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, heather grass, and strategically 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 outlook from the 17th fairway affords views of the 17th green and the links layout of the front nine.

The Links at Outlook
Meadowbrook National to open this year

LAKEWOOD, 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 a joint project of Meadowbrook Golf and Apollo Real Estate Investment Fund III. 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 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 venture 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 Gentle's father's TangleRidge Golf Club in Texas.

Jeffrey D. Brauer and his firm, Golf Scapes, have designed 40 golf courses and remodeled 80. Canterberry 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.

First Tee

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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.

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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.

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