Rulewich set to refurbish Palmetto Dunes

BERNARDSTON, Mass. — Golf architect Roger Rulewich has signed aboard to perform a complete makeover of the Robert Trent Jones Sr. course at Palmetto Dunes Resort on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Construction will start in May 2001 and will involve all 18 holes, including the rebuilding of the greens, tees and bunkers, along with drainage work.

"Robert Trent Jones Sr. gave me my start in this business. We spent more than 30 years together, so this is a special project," Rulewich said. "I'm excited about adding our touch to the tradition and heritage of this vintage golf course."

Established in 1969, the Roger Rulewich Group is a golf course design and construction firm based in Bernardston, Mass. It has provided services for courses including Medinah, Bellerive and Valderrama. Prior to forming the firm, Rulewich spent 34 years as a design associate with Robert Trent Jones, Sr., including 21 years as senior designer.

"One of Robert Trent Jones, Sr.'s greatest talents was inspiring dedicated people to help him fulfill the obligations of completing an incredible list of new and remodeled courses. His courses took shape more from his 'eye' on site than from the detail of his plans," Rulewich explained. "He taught me the value of a hands-on approach to design that involves the skills of many others to interpret and execute your ideas."

The Roger Rulewich Group has also teamed with Jaime Ortiz-Patino, president of the Valderrama Golf Club in Spain. Rulewich implemented Ortiz-Patino's plan to remodel the third, seventh, and 17th holes. The changes were made to add length to the course for future professional tournaments, including European Tour events and November's American Express World Golf Championship. Previously, Valderrama played 6,818 yards; it now plays 6,993 yards.

"We're extremely pleased with the way the project turned out," Rulewich said. "We achieved our goals of adding significant yardage without compromising the integrity of the course."

Currently, the Rulewich Group is completing construction of four 18-hole layouts—Grande Dunes Resort CG, in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Fox Hopyard GC, in East Haddam, Conn.; Saratoga National GC, in Saratoga, N.Y.; and Wild Turkey GC, in Hamburg, N.J. The firm also is remodeling the Yale University course, in Connecticut.