



BRIEFS

CLUBLINK BUILDING "PREDATOR" COURSE

KING CITY, Ontario — ClubLink has commenced construction of The Predator at GreyHawk in Ottawa, marking the arrival of a second ClubLink member club in the Canadian capital region. The course is being designed by Paul Takahashi, who was the on-site architect for ClubLink's RattleSnake Point Golf Club, Rocky Crest Golf Club and The Lake Joseph Club. The par-72 moorland-style layout will measure more than 6,900 yards with a variety of tee decks for all levels of golfers, bentgrass greens, tees and fairways, white sand bunkers and a full practice facility.

DUININCK GRANTED CHARTER STATUS IN GCBAA

LINCOLN, Neb. — Duinick Brothers Golf has been granted charter member status in the Golf Course Builders Association of America. Charter members have expressed a vested interest in

the continuing growth of GCBAA and have made a one-time contribution of \$5,000 or more above annual dues. Founded in 1926, the contractor, based in



Prinsburg, Minn., has been building courses nationwide since the early '80s and has a bonding capacity of more than \$100 million. "The GCBAA is comprised of the world's premier golf contractors, and we're pleased to garner this level of membership among our peers," said Dave Munkvold, general manager of Duinick Brothers Golf.

JACKAL TO OFFER MOUNTAINSIDE DRIVES

BRIGHTON, Mich. — The Jackal, a 6,700-yard layout built directly on a ski hill, will open here in June. The Matthews & Nelhiebel design features a large waterfall and four tee shots with vertical falls of at least 100 feet, including one on the highest point of Mt. Brighton. "Golfers will stroll along fairways that skiers glided in the winter," said W. Bruce Matthews. "Few courses are built directly on ski hills. The Jackal will please the eye, with miles of views, and challenge the seasoned golfer." An eight-acre pond, a peninsula green and 72 bunkers pose additional obstacles. Joe Bruhn owns the course, which is being built by Contours Inc.

Lost Canyons, a public 'crown jewel,' opens near L.A.

By JAY FINEGAN

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — The new crown jewel of daily-fee golf in Southern California is hitting its stride. Set in rugged mountain terrain where the TV show "Gunsmoke" was once shot, both Pete Dye courses at Lost Canyons have opened to popular acclaim and heavy play.

"It's the best new course in Los Angeles in 30 years," said Mike Finnell, club manager at Lakeside Golf Club in Toluca Lake.

Developed by Landmark National — its first L.A. venture — and built by Landscapes Unlimited, the 36-hole complex is only 30 minutes from downtown. Yet, there's a peaceful serenity at this spectacular layout in the Santa Susana Mountains that belies its location. "You feel you could be in Montana or Wyoming," said head professional John McCook.

NO BAD HOLES

The two tracks here — the Sky Course and the Shadow Course — cruise through 300 acres of the 8,000-acre site, part of the historic Big Sky Ranch. So much land is left that residential building lots, part of the master plan, will range up to 100 acres.

For Dye, the design work wasn't so much in taming the environment as gen-



The 17th hole at the Sky Course, which stretches to 7,250 yards, with a slope rating of 79

tly snuggling in the layout without disturbing the stunning natural topography.

Course consultant Fred Couples, touring the complex, declared that Dye has produced a "remarkable" course without

a single bad hole. "I don't know anyone who could come up here and not be enthralled by the place," said the 1992 Masters champion.

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The seventh hole at Lohmann's Merit Club in Gurnee, Ill., designed as a personal course

Lohmann designing 'estate' course

MARSHALL, Ill. — Lohmann Golf Designs has developed a nice little niche for itself: golf course architects to the anti-NIMBY crowd.

Whereas NIMBYs say "not in my back yard," certain LGD clients say, "By all means, build a golf course in my back yard!"

That's the case here in Marshall, just across the border from Terre Haute, Ind., where Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) is building a personal course on the estate of energy magnate Gerald Forsythe. Initial clearing has been completed for nine holes, and course feature work begins this spring.

Bob Lohmann isn't new to this sort of project. He designed The Merit Club in Gurnee, Ill., as a personal layout for wealthy investor Bert Getz. This project eventually morphed into a more traditional private club which played host to the U.S. Women's Open last July.

Lohmann was featured in the Sept. 11, 2000 issue of *Fortune*, which published a story on the proliferation of these personal, or estate, golf courses. "You have to be kind of a rebel to do this sort of project," Lohmann told the magazine. "Sometimes it's a lifelong dream, sometimes it's ego. Sometimes it's just someone who has a piece of land he doesn't know what else to do with."

MOVING LOTS OF DIRT

That wasn't the case with Gerald Forsythe. He knew exactly what he wanted to do with his 290 acres: build 18 holes of primo golf for his personal use.

"Plans exist for 18, but we're doing nine holes to start with," explained senior architect Mike Benkusky, who's overseeing the project for LGD. "Mr. Forsythe

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New Cowboys GC to recall great football moments

By JAY FINEGAN

GRAPEVINE, Texas — In a first for the National Football League, the Dallas Cowboys are getting a golf layout to call their own — almost.

The daily-fee, 18-hole Cowboys Golf Course, designed by Jeff Brauer, is a 50-50 joint venture between Evergreen Alliance Golf Limited (EAGL) of Irving, Texas, and the Dallas Cowboys' Blue Star Investments, a Jerry Jones company.

"People are looking for signatures on golf courses," Brauer said, "and nothing says Dallas like the Dallas Cowboys. They felt that had a little more pop to it than just getting another 'name' pro."

The clubhouse is stock-full of Cowboys memorabilia and souvenirs, he added, but there's not much of that on the course. "We're still a little leery of putting Cowboys insignia and so forth out on the golf course," he said, "because there's some fear that the stuff will get stolen. Once you get off the first tee it's just going to be a good, upscale golf experience."

The holes will be named for the 18 greatest moments in Cowboys' history, Brauer said. "The most famous is probably the Hail Mary pass to Drew Pearson, so I'm sure there will be a hole out there called the Hail Mary. We'll sit down over a few beers and figure that out later this spring."

MASSIVE OAK AND PECAN TREES

The course winds over "some of the nicest land I have seen in the area," Brauer said. "It cried out for a low-profile, traditional design to complement its beauty and let nature dominate. It has the feel of a country club that has been in play for many years. And there are lots of massive oaks and pecan trees."

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Lost Canyons

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A resident of nearby Santa Barbara, Couples said he was pleased to see a high-end public course with a resort atmosphere built in the area. "There's a real need for public courses in Southern California," he said. "And this one has some incredible views. It's just a fantastic spot."

COUNTRY CLUB AMBIENCE

There's no question that the views are striking. "You couldn't get any better unless you had an ocean," said Jeff Pritchard, director of agronomy at the facility. "It's really awesome. You meander through all these canyons, and there's a lot of target golf. Of the 300 acres of golf corridors, we planted 173. Pete tried to leave it as natural as possible, so it looks like we just planted out

these fairway areas and God built the rest of it."

Both courses were planted with 328 Bermuda, then overseeded with ryegrass. The greens feature A-4 bentgrass, a Penn State product renowned for its hardiness.

"We wanted to create a country club-type atmosphere," Pritchard said. "The A-4 provides the opportunity to cut the grass much lower for faster green

speeds, without having to do double cutting. We want to feature championship greens 12 months a year without causing undue stress on the grass. Right now we're cutting it at 5/32nds of an inch, and we're running consistently at a speed of 10.5.

"Pete Dye built a lot of movement into these greens," he said, "so we're afraid to get too much faster than that. It wouldn't take much effort at all to move them to

the 12 range. If we started cutting at 1/8th of an inch or lower, we could get these greens blazing."

\$10-MILLION CONSTRUCTION TAB

Fortunately for a golf development in Southern California, Lost Canyons has no water worries, at least for the time being.

"We're in a pretty good aquifer," said Pritchard. "We have a well that flows at 1,600 gallons a minute. We buy the water from the city and hold the water for both courses in a five-acre lake, which is on the ninth hole of the Sky Course. We're not obligated to use any effluent at this point, though that's always a possibility."

Pritchard had high praise for Landscapes Unlimited, of Lincoln, Neb., which built the 36 holes in less than a year. "With every project these days, there is such a demand to get the course built quickly to start generating revenue. Under the circumstances," he said, "they did a great job. They are very good to work with. Their people are very nice and cordial, and they have great attitudes."

The total construction tab came in at \$10 million, he added, not counting structures except the pump station.

Not surprisingly for Dye designs, these two courses play long and tough. The Sky Course, for example, stretches to 7,250 yards, with a slope rating of 79 – and that appears to be the easier of the two.

"Canyons are more numerous on the Shadow Course, so there's more target golf," Pritchard said. "It's not as long as Sky, but it's more mentally demanding. If you miss the fairway, you're out in the native areas."

Besides a driving range and extensive practice facilities, the complex features a rustic, 20,000-square-foot ranch-style clubhouse with all the trimmings. ■

Lohmann

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wants the course to be as dramatic as something like Blackwolf Run, so this layout is really going to be something special. We're planning to move some 330,000 cubic yards of dirt for the first nine alone."

Golf Creations, LGD's sister construction division, is involved in building the course, which hasn't been officially named yet. The first nine should open come spring 2002.

"As I told the reporter from *Fortune*, there's nothing more fun than taking a piece of property and sculpting it to your own dreams," Lohmann says. "I'd love to be able to say, 'I don't care what anyone else thinks. I want it that way'. But then, I design courses for a living. I do have a 7,500-square-foot green in my backyard, but that's probably as close as I'll get to having my own personal course." ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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