



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.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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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Cowboys GC

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Keeping with the traditional feel of the course, Brauer let the woods frame holes. "We moved about 160,000 yards of earth," he said, "but about 70,000 of that was just filling in an old sand quarry above flood-plain elevation."

Construction was handled by Golf Works of Austin, and the total budget for the layout was \$5.5-million.

Holes two and four play 100 feet downhill, a rarity in Texas. The greens will be moderately sized, averaging around 6,000 square feet, "to convey that old-time feeling," Brauer said, and the course will just tip 7,000 yards from expert pegs. It will meander through woods on the front nine and near Lake Grapevine on the back nine.

"To have this great a site in this particular spot is an unbelievable opportunity," said Brauer, president of the golf course architectural firm Golf Scapes, in Arlington, Texas. "It is a rare combination of being a perfect site in the perfect location. You usually have to go way out of town to get a property like this that is fully wooded and has dramatic elevation changes. It's got big hills and great topography."

EARLY INDIAN SETTLEMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property sat unused for years after construction of the Grapevine Lake dam. Evergreen Alliance had the foresight to inquire if it could be used for golf. The Corps agreed that was consistent with its mission for the property, which has been leased to the city of Grapevine and now subleased to EAGL for development.

Employing current technology in his design and construction, Brauer ensured that all environmental laws were closely adhered to on the ecologically sensitive property. Among other challenges, he had to work around an early Indian settlement and an active heron rookery.

Steven Jones, Cowboys vice president and the son of owner Jerry Jones, is spearheading the organization's involvement in the golf club, which he said is unprecedented for any NFL franchise.

"We're highly enthusiastic about pioneering this golf concept and its potential," he said. Cowboys players are expected to tee it up often and the organization intends to hold various activities there year-round—from press conferences and Cowboy appearances to charity tournaments and other events.

NEW HOTEL HUB ENVISIONED

Just minutes from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the property sits below the dam for

Lake Grapevine. In three years developers expect a half dozen hotels to be built in the immediate vicinity, which already boasts the Bass Pro Shop Outdoor World and Grapevine Mills Mall.

"The Opryland-Texas Hotel is just starting construction there," Brauer said, "and we're designing their course, which will be right across the street from the Cowboys course. They will run out of the same clubhouse. The

courses will mostly cater to hotel and convention guests just north of the airport."

According to Brauer, the Cowboys Golf Club will formally open in mid-June, with a week-long string of festivities. "Jerry Jones will have his celebrities one day. The city and the Corps of Engineers will have their dignitaries the next, and Evergreen Alliance will have their dignitaries the third day," the architect said. ■



The 17th hole at Cowboys Golf Club

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