BRIEFS

MCCUMBER REHABBING COURSE AT HUNTER’S RUN

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — The South Course of Hunter’s Run, part of a 54-hole golf complex here on the Atlantic coast south of Palm Beach, is getting a facelift from 19-time PGA Tour champion Mark McCumber. Renovation of the course, built in the late 1970s, got under way in May. “The project was initiated by the club to incorporate improvements in construction technology and to implement several new design enhancements,” said McCumber. A member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, McCumber is based in Jacksonville, Fla.

LONGABERGER DELAYS SECOND COURSE

NEWARK, Ohio — Longaberger, a basket-making company, has delayed work on its second 18-hole course, citing a slowing economy. In April, the firm laid off 400 of its 2,600 workers. The project towards a private club — with a generous schedule to begin with — will now be delayed.

WEED RESTORING ROSS LAYOUT

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Weed Design has begun renovation on the Linville Golf Club (N.C.), designed in 1929 by Donald Ross. Architect Bobby Weed said initial work will involve bunker restoration and customized irrigation. The first adjustment will be to obtain permits, the group sold the property to the new owners that has created Mayacama Golf Club. Schultz, unfortunately, passed away before completion of the course, but his widow has been given an honorary membership.

WALK, DON'T RIDE

Designed for walking only, members will use carts solely to travel to the private “casitas” being constructed for overnight stays. In contrast to most private golf developments, only 31 homes will be sited at Mayacama; even these will be hidden away from the course to preserve the secluded atmosphere.

This was an exciting piece of property to work on, and I think it will be a great experience for the members of the club,” he said.

New Nicklaus course in Sonoma for walkers only

By DOUG SAUNDERS

HEALDSBURG, Calif. — Mayacama Golf Club, the newest Jack Nicklaus signature course, opens this summer in the wine country near Healdsburg, and it promises to be one of the more distinctive private golf courses of 2001. The 6,759-yard track features an intriguing blend of five par-5s and five par-3s that fit the landscape like a glove. Only 150,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be moved to bring the layout to life. The course has no yardage markers except at the tees, and golfers will learn to rely on caddies and their own judgment to play the correct shots.

The 650-acre property is a blend of three rolling hillsides dotted with mature oaks, madrones, redwoods and firs — the terrain lends itself perfectly to golf. On monthly visits to the site, Nicklaus saw the opportunity to design a traditional golf course that relies on early design concepts to create a top-level experience.

"This was an exciting piece of property to work on, and I think it will be a great experience for the members of the club," he said.

Frontier, Love break ground on municipal track near Pittsburgh

By PHILIP HALL

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Construction is well underway here at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, an 18-hole collaboration between Frontier Construction Co. and course architect Bill Love. The first spade of dirt was turned March 1. A grand opening for this upscale, municipal facility has been scheduled for the fall of 2002, according to Frontier president Nick Scigliano.

“We're really looking forward to working with Bill Love on this project,” said Scigliano. “His design here is very strong. When it's finished, Cranberry Highlands is going to be one of those courses that looks as if it's always been there.”

MUNICIPAL COURSE

Cranberry Township lies about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. In 1999, the municipality floated the idea of building a golf course, a portion of which would sit on a former sludge-disposal site. A feasibility study conducted by the National Golf Foundation in 2000 confirmed the project's viability.

The site is gently rolling and not heavily wooded. Indeed, Frontier is clearing only 19 acres to accommodate Love's design. “We're moving only about 175,000 cubic yards of dirt,” Scigliano added, “and just an acre of wetlands will be impacted.”
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Ocean Trails

**PLANNING THE COMEBACK**

The massive landslide was triggered primarily by an ancient, underlying layer of volcanic ash, which weathered into a clay called bentonite. When it became saturated with water, apparently from a broken sewer pipe, it gave way, opening fissures as deep as 90 feet.

Dye was enroute to the course the day of the slide to give it his final stamp of approval. "When I got there the next day, it looked like the shoreline had been there for a million years," he said. "I could see the fairway, the bunkers and the green. I have never seen anything like it."

It took 18 months to devise a restoration plan acceptable to the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**SIX-STAGE RECONSTRUCTION**

Rebuilding the 18th hole is tough and expensive work, although insurance is covering the $35-million project. J.W. Sutter Co., a construction and geological firm, is handling the heavy lifting. "They have about 30 people out here, with bulldozers, earthmovers — you name it," said Vandergoes.

He added that Pete Dye, Perry Dye, and one of their designers, Jeff Potts, visit periodically to inspect the restoration. "Once we get closer to completion, we'll need the actual maps and renderings and shaping, and they'll be on-site daily," Vandergoes said.

For now, 15 holes are open for play. The public course has caught on with area golfers willing to fork over green fees of $125 to $195, cart included, to play an oceanside layout sometimes called Southern California's answer to Pebble Beach. According to Ken Zuckerman, Ocean Trails is the only course in the continental United States with ocean views on every hole.

**ACID TEST FOR SUPERINTENDENT**

The level of play has been strong, all things considered. The Southern California Golf Association conducted a course rating for the 15 playable holes. "They took three of the holes — one, two and three — and entered them into an 18-hole conversion chart to make it like an 18-hole course," Vandergoes added.

"The course rating is 72.6, with a slope rating of 146." Superintendent Saul Serrato will face an acid test to get the 18th ready for play. When construction wraps up this fall, he'll be scrambling to have it grassed up by December. The layout features ryegrass fairways, fescue for the primary rough and natural habitat for the secondary rough. Greens are bentgrass, and tee boxes sport a blend of bent and fescue.

The sprawling, Spanish-style clubhouse is now fully operational, with fine restaurants, a golfers' deli and lounge, and a ballroom that seats 300 people. The Zuckerman brothers are selling 75 homesites near the course, with prices starting at $1 million.

Ocean Trails is 35 minutes south of Los Angeles.