



## 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 10-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. Tom Weiskopf had roughed out a design for the course, next to an Arthur Hills-designed Longaberger layout that opened in 1999 to rave reviews. *Golf Digest* rated it the best new upscale course in the country last year. Work may resume on the second course next spring. Postponing the scheduled work on irrigation and shaping "seemed like the right thing to do," said Mike Kaido, Longaberger's director of golf operations. Weiskopf said he was working with a generous schedule to begin with and should be able to finish the course in time to open in 2003.

### WEED RESTORING ROSS LAYOUT

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Weed Design has begun renovation on the Linville Golf Club (N.C.), designed in 1924 by Donald Ross. Architect Bobby Weed said initial work will involve bunker restoration and customized irrigation. The first adjustment will be to enlarge greens by changing mowing patterns back to those from the 1920s. Weed Design has renovated several Ross courses, including Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville, Fla., site of the 2002 Senior Amateur, and Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. Weed Design also will create a course for Washington National Golf Club in the Celebrate Virginia North golf complex, a 640-acre project being developed by Deane Beman, former PGA Tour commissioner, and Gary Schaal, former president of the PGA of America. Construction of the public course will begin this summer.

## 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.

### 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.

The property was formerly owned by a partnership that included the late Charles Schultz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip and an avid golfer. But after struggling for 11 years to obtain permits, the group sold the property to the new ownership that has created Mayacama Golf Club. Schultz, unfortunately, passed away before completion of the course, but his widow has been given an honorary membership.

Final permit approvals were secured when the new plans toned down the development aspects for the site. Steering the project towards a private club — with little addition of roads and



The fifth hole at Mayacama Golf Club, north of San Francisco

infrastructure — helped to move Mayacama towards reality.

"Our desire was to create the finest private club imaginable," said general manager Phillip Norfleet. "The combination of Jack Nicklaus as our architect and this wonderful site has

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The 18th hole at Ocean Trails after the big slide. Repairs cost \$35 million.

## Disaster-struck Ocean Trails Golf Club nearing full play

By JAY FINEGAN

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — One of the most unfortunate golf development adventures ever seen in Southern California will draw to a close in December, when all 18 holes at the dazzling Ocean Trails Golf Club are expected to open for play.

The original opening was scheduled for July 1999. But on June 2 of that year, at 10:30 a.m., some 3.5 million cubic yards of earth — much of the 18th hole — suddenly broke free from the rest of the course and slid toward the

ocean. Owner Ken Zuckerman remembers it as "the day the earth moved."

It was a nasty break for Zuckerman and his brother, Bob Zuckerman, Woodland Hills-based developers, who had been working on the project since 1991. This was their first golf course, and it was to be a gem — a Pete Dye design running cliffside along the crashing Pacific surf.

"The property itself is every bit as dramatic as Pebble Beach," Dye said. "It was a Scottish links course, just

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## 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

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laying out there."

### 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 fis-

tures 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. "You 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,

they've got it," said director of golf Mike Vandergoes.

Sutter's crew has divided the slide area into six slots, or phases. "They have taken slot one out of the ground and used the adjacent ninth and 12th fairways as storage sites for massive mounds of dirt," Vandergoes said. "Now they're onto slot two. They compact five feet of dirt pulled from slot three and then put down MSEs

- mechanically stabilized earth meshing.

"They'll keep going up like that in five-foot increments," he added, "and they'll continue going all the way up to the original height of the 18th fairway. Right now it looks like a big lasagna."

The workers will take dirt from slots four and five to fill in slot three, he explained. Slot six material will fill in four and five, and the sixth and final slot will receive the dirt currently piled on the nearby fairways.

Some 115 shear pins - pipes three feet thick - descend 20 feet down below the slide layer and rise 20 feet above it to provide additional support.

### CARBON COPY OF ORIGINAL

When finished, "the 18th fairway will be identical to what it used to be," 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 rye.

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. ■

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