

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.

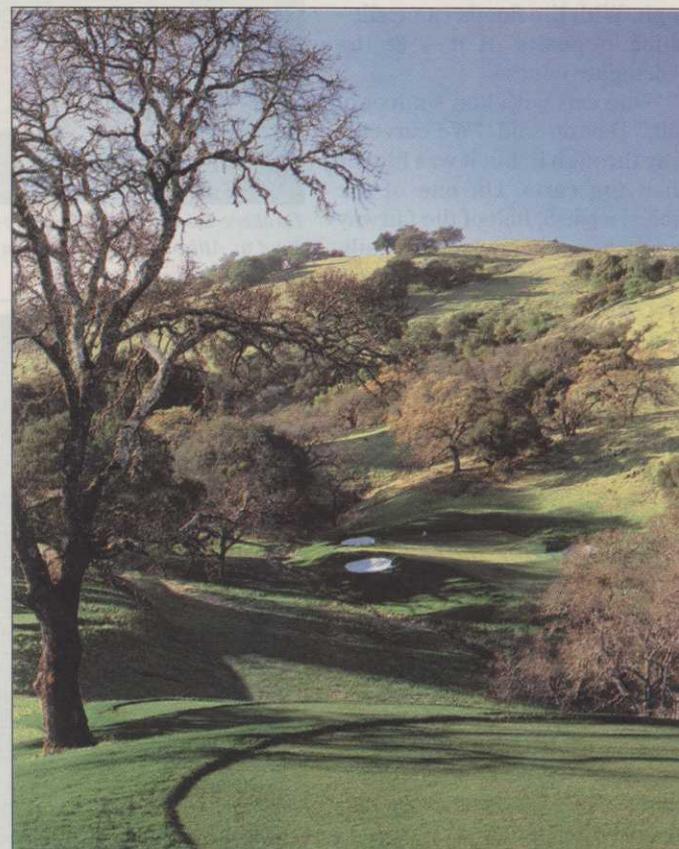
"This was an exciting piece of property to work on, and I think it will be a great experience for the members of the club," he said.

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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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Fazio's Oaks

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allowed us to build the course more quickly than you normally can in New England, with all the rock and ledge," he said. "We did some minor blasting on the first hole, and that was it."

The Oaks has no residential component. "That's the reason Tom Fazio agreed to do the project," Lynch said. "He loves pure golf. When people try to squeeze out that one last building lot, by moving a tee someplace else, that can jeopardize the integrity of the course."

PARACHUTE DROP ON FOUR

Fazio's design wraps around the original course. It stretches to 6,945 yards over rolling terrain, plays at par 72, and provides multiple tee locations.

'The people in the area actually assisted us in the permitting process.'

— Brian Lynch

The signature hole is the par-3 fourth, running 175 yards and featuring a 100-foot drop from tee to green. "It's a lot of fun, and it gives you a 90-mile view to the northwest that shows three mountain ranges," Lynch said. "So standing on that tee you have a breathtaking vista, and combined with the quality of the golf hole, it's just stunning. You hit your shot and you feel like the ball is hanging out there, being dropped down by parachute."

The Arklow partners opted for a second layout to accommodate the club's higher level of play. "We have an upwardly mobile membership here," Lynch explained, "and the use of golf as a business tool has risen dramatically in the last six or seven years. During the week we have a high level of business entertainment going on, and on weekends it reverts to a more socially driven club."

The Pines Course has 225 members and 10 corporate members. The new 36-hole complex will have a combined membership of about 500, Lynch said, plus 25 corporate members. Fees run from \$60,000 for an individual membership (plus annual dues of \$6,200) to corporate memberships (for three people) at \$42,500 per year.

CLUB AMENITIES

The International boasts all the trappings of a major golf facility. While building The Oaks, the owners also installed a 12-acre practice area, complete with four putting and chipping greens and three bunkers.

The 40,000-square-foot clubhouse can accommodate a large business gathering in one place without disturbing individual

members. "We built a special guest locker room, so if a member is hosting a large corporate outing on one course, we have a separate locker room, pro shop and dining facility for them," Lynch said. "They are separate from the onesy, twosy members who are entertaining a few clients."

"We've built two different structures for the different uses of the club, and that makes the facility work very well," he added. "It is

unique in this country in business golf, the way it's set up."

CADDIE PROGRAM

Twenty-five caddies, recruited from local high school golf teams, handle some 4,000 caddie rounds a year, earning \$30 a bag, plus tip. "We have a high school outreach program we're very happy with," Lynch said. "They're usually good players with a good understanding of the game." ■

Frontier, Love

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LOVE ACTIVE IN ALASKA

Love has designed several courses in Pennsylvania, including Tom's Run at Chestnut Ridge and Iron Forge at Penn National. His firm also has projects in Alaska, California, Nebraska and Virginia.

"It will be good to work in the Pittsburgh area again," Love

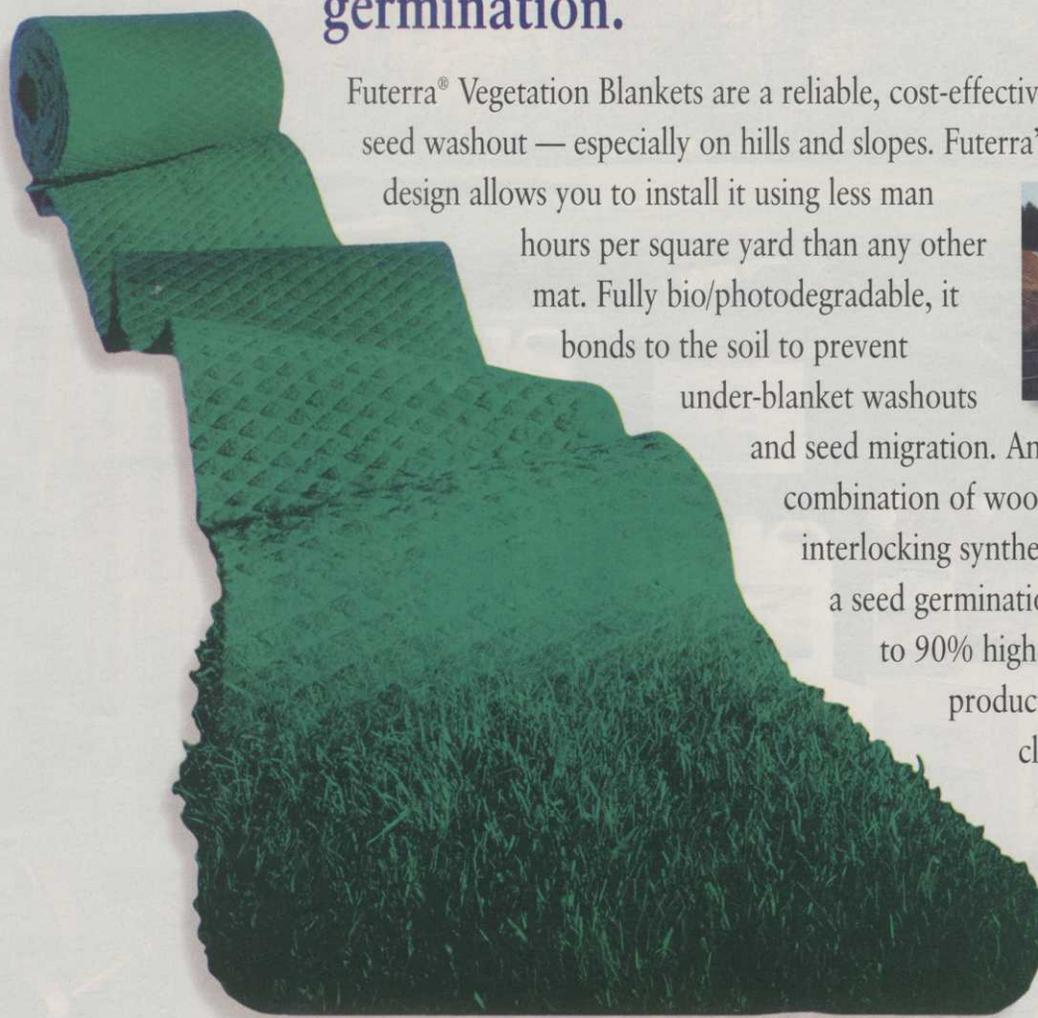
added, "especially since it's close to home for Nick and his crew. I am confident that Frontier will produce a great course for Cranberry Township."

The par-70 layout at Cranberry Highlands will measure 6,400 yards. Frontier will build two lakes to accommodate a double-row irrigation system, designed by Brian Vinchesi of Pepperell, Mass.-based Irrigation Consulting, Inc. ■

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