BANDON Dunes Resort adding Pacific Dunes layout

By JAY FINEGAN

BANDON, Ore. — Hot on the heels of one of the most acclaimed new courses, Bandon Dunes Resort here on the southern Oregon coast is preparing to introduce another new layout, this one by golf architect Tom Doak.

Last year, the big news was Bandon Dunes, which quickly zoomed up the charts to be ranked as the number-one resort course built after 1960; the best upscale daily-fee course of 1999; the 44th-best golf course in the United States and number 80 in the world. All that in its first year.

The noise this year is coming from Pacific Dunes, set to open in July. The par-71 layout, measuring 6,700 yards from the back tees, rests on a stretch of Pacific Ocean coastline that draws comparisons to the revered Alister MacKenzie course, Cypress Point.

Doak, who heads up Renaissance Golf Design, of Traverse City, Mich., has cut a jewel from the coastal terrain and inland dunes.

Humongous Bunkers

The course, just north of its sister Bandon Dunes track, features undulating fairways, small but thoughtful greens, and a landscape that blends seamlessly with native vegetation and with the tract's wind-whipped sand masses.

Bunkers are another highlight. Two of the largest bunkers on any golf course in America rest along the par-4 second hole and on the 18th, a strong, par-5 finishing hole.

Empire Golf opens Pine Hill

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PINE HILL, N.J. — Developer Eric Bergstol has added another course to his Empire Golf stable with the opening of the Tom Fazio-designed Pine Hill Golf Club here.

The new layout, which is a short drive from downtown Philadelphia, is in keeping with Bergstol's strategy to build quality public courses in underserved areas. "You have some of the best private courses in the country here," he said. "But I've always believed the public should have the opportunity to play quality golf courses."

Stephen Kay's Architects' Golf Club nearly completed

By JAY FINEGAN

PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. — For 18 years, Stephen Kay harbored a plan to design a course commemorating the great architects of the past. His idea wasn't to copy their layouts but to capture their styles - the way they fashioned their bunkers, the way they shaped their greens, the subtle nuances and contours that gave their courses distinct personalities.

"I wanted to take golfers on a history lesson, starting in order from Old Tom Morris, who began doing golf architecture in Scotland in the 1860s," Kay said. "But I never found a client who was willing to do it."

Finally he did find an accommodating group of developers who wanted to build a course here in northwest New Jersey. They told Kay, "Stephen, you're the architect, you do what you want to do."

With carte blanche clearance and 175 acres of farmland to sculpt as he chose, Kay finally brought his old dream to life. The Architects' Golf Club, inspired by the artistic genius of 17 of the game's greatest designers, will open here inPhillipsburg next summer. The daily-fee course is nearly finished, and Kay seems pleased with the outcome.

Built to Modern Norms

The par-71, 6,844-yard layout, featuring five par-3 holes, will...