By ANDREW OVERBECK

HOPWOOD, Pa. — So far this year, golf architect Ron Forse has been busy on both coasts renovating four Donald Ross-designed layouts.

The project lineup has taken him to the Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo, Calif. — the farthest west Ross ever designed a course — and to Penobscot Valley County Club in Orono, Maine — the farthest east. Forse is also renovating the Country Club of Mobile in Alabama and Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London, N.H.

RESTORING ROSS TOUCHES

On each project, Forse is updating the layout, while at the same time trying to restore some of the original Ross touches that have been lost over time. This includes reinstating bunkers that have been filled in, redesigning green complexes and thinning trees. To justify the changes, he relies on old photographs, member’s memories and, when he gets lucky, a routing plan.

All changes, however, are not easy, said Forse, whose firm has worked on 25 Ross courses since 1988.

“The challenge is that none of the members have seen the course that way before,” he said. “We’ll get to a course and find a green that has shrunk in and the members refuse to change it because they think all Ross greens were small,” Forse said. “Ross greens on average are 6,000 square feet.”

Before (above) and after (below) views of the par-3 fifth hole at the Country Club of Mobile. Note the change in bunker style.
McBroom moving beyond Canada, designing in Caribbean and Finland

BY JAY FINEGAN

TORONTO — Golf architect Tom McBroom, well-known for his award-winning designs across Canada, is making his debut as an international designer with commissions to build courses in Finland and in the Caribbean island state of St. Kitts & Nevis.

The Royal St. Kitts Golf Course will be built adjacent to a new beachfront resort to be operated by the Marriott Hotel group.

The par-71, 6,944-yard course will include a driving academy and teaching facility. Two sides of the property offer stunning ocean views.

Construction of the 18-hole course started in June with a scheduled opening in November 2002, coinciding with the opening of the Royal St. Kitts Beach Resort, a 650-room development already under construction.

"Royal St. Kitts will be a sensational resort course that will rank among the best courses in the Caribbean," McBroom said.

The par-72 Mountain Course will play to 7,079 yards, while the par-72 Lake Course will check in at 7,030 yards.

This North American-style facility includes a country hotel and is located on an 11,000-acre estate owned by the prominent Laakkonen family of Joensuu, Finland.

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