VONAS NAMED HEAD PRO AT JOHN DALY COURSE

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — TSC Golf, based here, has named Rion Summers as the new head golf professional at John Daly's Wicked Stick Golf Links. Summers, who previously worked as head pro at Diamond Back Golf Club in Loris, S.C. has worked at TSC Golf-managed courses for four years. For a period of one year prior to working at Diamond Back, Rion was the first assistant at Wicked Stick.

VONA MOVES UP WITH MARRIOTT

ORLANDO, Fla. — Marriott Golf has appointed Dan Vona director of golf at The Frog at Georgian Resort in Atlanta. Vona, who was hired as the club's head professional last September, will replace Tom Gray, who has accepted the director's job at the company's Camelback Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. A graduate of Penn State, where he captained the golf team, Vona joined Marriott Golf in 1991. He previously served as head professional at The Golf Club at Marco, on Marco Island, Fla., where he set the course record in 1993.

RED TAIL GC JOINS KEMPERSPORTS FOLD

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Red Tail Golf Club, a private 18-hole course in Avon, Ohio, near Cleveland, has become part of the KemperSports-managed portfolio. The company began operating the Robert von Hagge layout in the spring. "KemperSports has worked throughout the years to create a balanced portfolio of golf facilities," said KemperSports CEO Steve Lesnik. "Part of that equation includes private clubs." Melinda Meltezos has been named general manager at the Red Tail complex. Eventually, more than 600 homes will be built when the 120-acre community is completed.

MCKINNEY ADVANCES AT PALMER GOLF

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management has named Glen McKinney, regional director for the Mid-Atlantic region. In two years with Palmer Golf, McKinney has ascended from general manager of the Penderbrook Golf Club to area manager to his most recent promotion. McKinney will oversee Palmer Golf's private Crofton Country Club and Walden Golf Club, as well as the region's daily-fee Bay Hills Golf Club and Penderbrook Golf Club.

Troon Golf adds 'retro' Black Creek to management portfolio

By JAY FINEGAN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Troon Golf never seems to rest. The fast-growing golf course management firm has added another layout to its portfolio.

The newest member of the Troon family, Black Creek Club in Chattanooga, Tenn., features a number of intriguing holes packaged in a "traditional" golf course design. Designed by golf architect Brian Silva and built by Stein Construction, Black Creek shows strong evidence of the influence of Charles Blair (C.B.) Macdonald and Seth Raynor, as the course repeats such classic golf holes as Redan, Cape, Short and Punch-Bowl, which were signatures of their design styles.

There is more to creating a traditional golf experience than mere appearance, Silva said. "It's one thing for a course to look old school; it's quite another for a course to play that way. "At Black Creek," he said, "all the design elements and strategies are there. The bunkers, for example, are certainly retro in their appearance, but it's their placement, their integration into the golf hole and landscape, that influences decision-making. That's what Raynor did so well, and that's what we've done at Black Creek."

Layout features range from deep bunkers surrounding the greens to blind shots and large green complexes. The fairways pose a challenge unfamiliar to the modern day "rip-it-and-rap-it" golfer, in that choices need to be made to avoid the strategically placed deep-faced fairway bunkers. The Black Creek, for which the course is named, comes into play on holes nine and 18.

"While creating this masterpiece, it was evident that we had to offer our members the best golf experience each time they play," said Doug Stein, Black Creek's founder. "We are very excited to have engaged Troon Golf due to their proven ability to deliver quality and service demonstrated by Landmark sets the standard for everyone else."

EAST COAST PRESENCE

Landmark Golf East is a newcomer to the area. Last February, Gill and two vice presidents—Tom Sullivan and Joe Huff—moved to Myrtle Beach from Landmark Golf's main headquarters in Indian Wells, near Palm Springs, Calif. They set up shop in Myrtle Beach, landing Barefoot as their first client.

"We felt we really needed a presence on the East Coast, rather than being three,000 miles away," said Gill, who formerly ran Donahue, Hamill headline promotions at Palmer Golf

PONTA VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Brian Donahue and Chris Hamill have been named vice presidents of Palmer Golf, heading a slew of changes at the course management firm. As vice president of sales and marketing, Donahue will continue his day-to-day work with the sales and marketing teams in the field. In addition, he will assume more long-term strategic planning responsibilities within the sales and marketing department.

In his short tenure with Palmer Golf, Donahue has championed the decentralization of the sales and marketing efforts. In addition, he has been an important part of the effort to implement the "Palmer Values." Hamill advances to vice president of development, where he will evaluate new business opportunities. As the most traveled Palmer Golf team member, Hamill has consistently demonstrated one of the most selfless attitudes of anyone I've ever worked with. His impact on the Palmer Golf portfolio is often in a behind-the-scenes manner," said Tim Tierney.