Fream
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patterned Nine Bridges after a Scottish Highlands style, specifically the Kings Course at Gleneagles. Twenty-five revetted (sod-faced) bunkers punctuate the track, which features creeping bentgrass greens, tees and fairways. Bluegrass and rye semi-roughs fade into fine fescue true roughs.

“We brought in 150,000 cubic yards of sand, by barge, from the Yangtze River in China for all seedbeds,” Fream said. “Even the fairways have eight to 10 inches of sand. We also moved more than 2,000 large trees, up to 30 feet tall, as a conservation and transplanting effort. Autumn leaf color is like New England, Japanese maple and Kryptomeria - a type of pine - are the primary trees.”

Summer typhoons can pose weather difficulties, Fream pointed out, but the area receives only a foot or two of snow in the winter.

“There’s nothing else like this in Korea,” he said. “The course is initially for invited guests, but it will accommodate limited holiday play for tourists. The LPGA is slated to play a major international tournament here on Oct. 15. All the leading female players, including some rising Korean stars, will compete for a $1.5-million purse.”

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION

The owner of Nine Bridges, a Korean corporation called Cheil Jedang, is a major pharmaceutical manufacturer, with other interests in movie theaters, restaurants and film production. It formerly held a stake in Steven Spielberg’s Dreamworks.

Orange Construction, a Korean group, handled the heavy work. “They did a fine job. It’s a quality outfit,” said Fream’s partner David Dale, who did much of the architectural drafting work for the course.
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