**DEVELOPMENT**

**DRAMATIC DOONBEG TAKES SHAPE ON IRISH COAST**

**BY JAY FINEGAN**

DOONBEG, Ireland — Set hard by the Atlantic Ocean on the rugged, windswept coast of southwestern Ireland, Greg Norman’s new Doonbeg Golf Club appears destined to match up well to its two fabled neighbors, Ballybunion and Lahinch.

The links layout, sprawling over a mile and a half of beachfront, is unfolding amid a dramatic combination of huge dunes, crashing surf, and a landscape of extravagant gorse and greenery.

Doonbeg is a joint development of Landmark National, of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Kiawah Resort Associates, of Kiawah Island, S.C. The two companies have previously collaborated on high-profile courses. As the major financial partner, the Kiawah group will hold title to the property.

Norman, winner of two British Open titles, is the lead designer, although the design was basically a matter of blazing an 18-hole trail through a nearly perfect linksland. “On the majority of fairways, we literally mapped out where we wanted to go and just brought out lawn mowers,” said Bill Norton, public relations director for Kiawah Resort Associates.

A soft opening is planned for the fall, with regular play slated to begin in spring 2002.

**SUPERLATIVES FLYING**

Superlatives start to fly when anyone associated with Doonbeg talks about the project.

**NEW ‘LABORATORY COURSE’ UNDER WAY IN NEBRASKA**

**BY GARY BURCHFIELD**

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. — The National Arbor Day Foundation has teamed up with golf course builder Landscapes Unlimited and Arnold Palmer Golf Course Design to build a “laboratory-type” course adjoining Arbor Day Farm on the outskirts of Nebraska City.

According to Landscapes Unlimited’s CEO Bill Kubly, the new ArborLinks Golf Course will truly be a practical testing laboratory for golf course design and construction. “We want to demonstrate that you can build a great golf course at reasonable cost, so that more people can afford to play, and incorporate sound environmental features in the process,” Kubly said.

While there has been a lot of discussion about golf course contributions to the natural environment, little hard data has ever been collected. The partners involved in ArborLinks aim to change that. Even before construction started last fall, Landscapes Unlimited specialists were taking soil samples across the 300-acre course area and water samples from Table Creek, which runs through the course. Soil and water samples will be taken periodically throughout the construction process and after the layout is completed. Samples will be analyzed at the University of Nebraska’s turfgrass laboratory in Lincoln.

**A LIVING LABORATORY**

A variety of turf and landscape plantings are being incorporated into the course, ranging from native species to some exotic plants not native to the Plains environment. “We will actually have different “plant communities” around the golf course,” said Kubly. “Not like a patchwork quilt, but aesthetically designed to be a bit o’ Scotland in Texas**

**BY JAY FINEGAN**

THE COLONY, Texas — Golf course architect Tripp Davis is a huge fan of Scottish golf. He’s logged lots of time not only playing Scotland’s courses but studying their design. When American Golf Corp. asked him to build a Scottish-style course here at The Colony, Davis was more than ready.

“They wanted me to take my 18 favorite Scottish holes and build a course that reflects their influence,” Davis said. “The idea was to use it as a marketing tool, and that’s where they’ve gone with it. For me, as an architect, it was a dream project.”

The recently opened final product, called The Tribute Golf Club — a tribute to Scottish golf — is challenging but plenty of fun. It checks in at just over 7,000 yards from the tips and 5,352 from short pegs, and it features holes inspired by some of Scotland’s most storied courses: St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Royal Troon, Nairn, Prestwick and six others. The Old Course at St. Andrews rates four “appearances,” and Carnoustie and Prestwick two apiece.

**BAR MOVED FROM SCOTLAND**

To enhance the linksland look on this one-time cotton Continued on page 22