

Architect Smyers forms management firm, buys Kokopelli

MARION, Ill. — Golf course architect Steve Smyers and a group of investors have bought Kokopelli Golf Club here and created a management company that will operate the semi-private, Smyers-designed facility, which opened in 1997.

William Troyanoski, CEO of the newly formed Smyers Golf LLC, will oversee operation of Kokopelli and development of its management team. Troyanoski, who will continue as general manager at the 36-hole Smyers-designed Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, N.J., said the Smyers group will pursue purchase or management of "marquee properties."

Smyers, who has three golf courses listed among the top 80 modern designs, feels Kokopelli fits the marquee description, calling it "one of our stronger designs."

MEMBERSHIPS 50 PERCENT SOLD

"We are the only championship golf course in the lower third of the state. Kokopelli is head and shoulders above any of the courses in this area from a layout standpoint," said Aaron Fisher, head professional since Kokopelli opened. "Smyers' bunker style is very distinctive, and there are 96 bunkers on the course."

The Smyers group purchased the course from Marion Golf LLC, which is comprised of a group of 25 local investors.

Heritage portfolio grows to nine

SAN DIEGO — Heritage Golf Group has acquired White Columns Golf Club in Alpharetta, Ga., from Summit Pointe Partners. White Columns, located 35 minutes from downtown Atlanta, is known for the beauty of its pristine setting and continues to garner accolades for its design and premium golf course conditioning.

Designed by Tom Fazio, the 18-hole golf course, which opened in 1994, plays to a par of 72 and measures 7,000 yards.

"White Columns Golf Club is truly a world-class facility, and the quality of this property simply underscores our mission to acquire and operate the finest golf facilities in the country," said Bob Husband, Heritage's president and CEO. "Based on the number of awards it has received, we're obviously not the only ones who feel that White Columns Golf Club is very special."

White Columns was voted sixth-best new course in America" by *Golf Digest* in 1995 and placed 27th in *Golf Magazine's* "Best Among the Top 100 Courses" to play in America.

Kokopelli is a core golf course, with 135 homes on its periphery.

The club is halfway toward a projected 400 members, and Fisher predicted 27,000 to 32,000 rounds will be played at the facility, which is open all year.

"The memberships are structured financially to open it up to people of all ages, genders and

caliber golfers," said Smyers. Public play will no longer be available to residents within a 25-mile radius of the club. Upon achieving membership goals, qualifying public play will then be limited to Mondays and Tuesdays at moderate greens fees. A family membership runs \$1,725 per year.

AFFORDABLE GOLF

"Owning a course has always been something I want to do," Smyers added. "I have always wanted an active role in a golf course. I also saw the need at Kokopelli. I built the course for Gary Mayer, who became a close friend. He and the other investors wanted to focus on the residential component of the development.

We felt it would be a good marriage if I focused on the golf.

"Kokopelli, I think, is perfect," he allowed. "It is exactly what golf needs today. It is affordable. And with distances ranging from 7,200 to 5,315 yards, it is friendly to women and kids as well as being an all-world golf course."

Troyanoski will assemble the management team at Kokopelli to join Fisher and course superintendent Pete Ferguson.

Tools of the Trade

The advertisement shows a collection of Nutramax products including a large blue barrel of QUELANT-Ca, several white jugs of QUELANT-K, two red jugs of MACRO-SORB radicular, and two green jugs of MACRO-SORB foliar. The products are arranged on white boxes in a golf clubhouse, with a doorway in the background showing a golf course with trees in autumn. The Nutramax logo is at the bottom center.

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