Tripp Davis teams with Craig Stadler in Colorado

By ANDREW OVERBECk
GRANBY, Colo. — The development boom in Colorado is continuing here with the construction of the $420 million Grand Elk Ranch and Club. The 520-acre mountain resort community will include 800 residential units, a 35-acre retail center and a variety of recreational facilities. However, the centerpiece of the community will be an 18-hole golf course designed by Tripp Davis and Associates and PGA Tour fixture Craig Stadler.

While Stadler’s schedule is still geared towards making a living as a professional golfer, he is now a resident of Denver and has visited the course site several times so far. “He has made every effort to get up there,” Davis said. “A couple of weeks ago he went up there and I told him to take some notes and send them back to me. No one was around because it was a Sunday so he sent me notes on a golf ball box that he had ripped up so he could write on it.”

Construction of the course, which sits in the Fraser River Valley, is well underway with shaping completed and workers putting the finishing touches on greens and green surrounds before the winter weather hits.

HUGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROPS
“Stadler has been great to work with,” said Davis. “It is a pretty collaborative effort.”

Grand Elk LLC and golf course builder Joe Neibur struck the deal that paired Stadler with Davis. Neibur, who is building the course, said, “I’ve assisted on a couple of course designs such as the addition of nine holes at the Boothbay Country Club [Maine], but this is my first official design,” he said.

Myshrall, who owns Horizon Golf Course Design’s three key markets: the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and the Midwest regions.

Having won the bid to provide an affordable, upscale 18-hole golf course for the Lower Makeda Township in Bucks County, Penn., just north of Philadelphia, the design firm is busy putting together a master plan. The course, yet to be named, is Jacobson’s first in the Philadelphia area.

The par-72 layout will have multiple sets of tees ranging in length from 4,900 to 7,000 yards. “We’re currently putting together a budget and doing a lot of diligence work relative to water availability and the underlying geology of the site,” Jacobson said. “There is rock in the area, and we’re busy investigat-

Rick Jacobson on design fast track

By JOEL JOYNER
MIDDLETOWN, Md. — Chicago-based golf course architect Rick Jacobson has been on a fast track to meet the demand in Jacobson Golf Course Design’s three key markets: the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and the Midwest regions.

Challenging Layout
According to director of golf Michael
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Rick Jacobson on-site

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Nelson to complete Puakea layout

KAUAI ISLAND, Hawaii — Puakea Golf Course, owned by America Online founder Steve Case’s Grove Farm Properties, is finally expanding to a full 18 holes. Groundbreaking on the daily fee course, managed by Billy Casper Golf, is scheduled for this winter. Golf course architect Kohn Nelson, who designed Puakea’s first 10 holes, is completing the remaining eight holes, with modifications to his original design. Set in lush landscape adjacent to the Jurassic Park movie set, Puakea is located on the former Grove Farm sugar plantation on Hawaii’s Kauai Island.

While Puakea is one of the Rolling Farmlands, the Daily-Fee Fox Ridge development boom in Colorado is continuing here with the construction of the $420 million Grand Elk Ranch and Club. The 520-acre mountain resort community will include 800 residential units, a 35-acre retail center and a variety of recreational facilities. The layout, which stretches to almost 320 acres of natural rolling hills and will feature fescue roughs, creeks and bentgrass greens. A preview opening date is set for late summer of 2003 with the grand opening scheduled for spring of 2004.

Builder Joe Neibur, PGA Tour veteran Craig Stadler, and architect Tripp Davis on-site at Grand Elk Ranch and Club in Granby, Colo.

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Rookie architect Lennie Myshrall bursts onto design scene at Fox Ridge

By JOEL JOYNER
AUBURN, Maine — Situated here on more than 200 acres of what was once rolling farmland, the daily-fee Fox Ridge Golf Course opened here in late summer. The layout, which stretches to almost 6,900 yards, was the first complete design for architect C. Lennie Myshrall.

“My first design,” the 35-year-old architect said. “I’ve assisted on a couple of course designs such as the addition of nine holes at the Boothbay Country Club [Maine], but this is my first official design,” he said.

Myshrall, who owns Horizon Golf Course Design in Freeport, built the course with his partner, Fox Ridge superintendent Edmund Michaud, and holds a 29 percent interest in the development. “We tried to make every hole different,” said Myshrall. “I found it to be a boring play courses where holes look the same.”

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Myshrall debuts in Maine

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Ross, the course is very demanding. "We've cut back some of the tall fescues a bit to make some penalties not so severe in areas where players might miss shots," he said, "but we're not looking to make any extreme changes. The course plays fairly, it's just a little bit more challenging than most public courses."

Other beautification projects and a paved cart path are also planned for the future. "We made great time opening all 18 holes in about 14 and a half months," said Michaud. "One of my biggest challenges was keeping up with Lennie. "The front nine was mostly completed by mid-July - seeded and with irrigation," Michaud explained. "The back nine is fairly wide open with very few cuts and fills required, so Lennie just laid it into the ground. It wasn't easy getting the back nine seeded while maintaining and growing in the front nine. I didn't have a large crew, so we were scrambling there for a while."

Mystall and Michaud are currently on the look out to build another course together here in Maine. "We're looking for the right piece of land," said Michaud. "I'll stay on at Fox Ridge until another course project gets underway."

The assistant superintendent, Ryan Elliott, who followed Michaud from his previous position at the Sugarloaf Golf Course, is more than capable to take over, said Michaud.

Golden Isles

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The Sea Palms Golf and Tennis Resort also has completed a three-year, $4-million renovation project on its three nine-hole courses: Tall Pines, Great Oaks, and Sea Palms West. Work began in 1998 with the Tall Pines layout followed by Great Oaks in 2000. Sea Palms West was closed this fall for a one-year renovation. The $2.5 million project by designer Clyde Johnston will include new lakes and bunkers, new irrigation system and cart paths, redesigned greens and an upgraded drainage system.

Stadler, Davis

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the elevation changes are very subtle," said Davis. "At its highest it is 7,920 feet and at its lowest it is 7,450 feet. "It will have sort of a heathland style look to it," continued. "There are not many trees, the course plays along the valley wetlands and Ten Mile Creek and has huge mountain backdrops."

The course, which is due to open in August 2002, will feature Dominant bentgrass greens and tees, a bluegrass and ryegrass mixture in the fairways and fescue in the roughs. Native grasses and sage will frame the fairways.

Tripp Davis and Associates has also broken ground at Raven Nest Golf Course in Huntsville, Texas. The City of Huntsville will operate the municipal course when it opens in fall 2002. "This is the first project that we have done with pine trees and sandy soil," Davis said. "We got started in late summer and plan on grassing the course next summer."

The par 71, 7,001-yard course is being built on 183 acres of land owned by Sam Houston State University. The layout will serve as the home facility for the university's golf teams.

Raven Nest, which is being built by Duinink Brothers Golf, will feature TifSport fairways and TifEagle greens.

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