

BRIEFS

ECKENRODE LAUNCHES ORIGINS GOLF DESIGN

IRVINE, Calif. — Todd Eckenrode, former lead designer for Gary Roger Baird, has struck out on his own. The 32-year-old designer has formed a new company called Origins Golf Design that

will be based here. In addition to his design skills, Eckenrode is an accomplished golfer. He played collegiate golf at the University of California at Santa Bar-

bara, the University of Arizona, and has qualified in the past for the U.S. Amateur. Eckenrode said his experience with Baird, his playing background, and his interest in the works of early architects such as Alister Mackenzie have given him a unique insight into designing courses for the modern game. His last project with Baird was Shadow Lakes Golf Club in Brentwood.

ROUGH GRADING GOING AT STONEHAVEN GOLF CLUB

BECKLEY, W. Va. — Clearing and rough grading has begun at Stonehaven Golf Club, an 18-hole golf course designed by Ault, Clark & Associates. The new 7,228-yard course will join the existing Cobb Course at the Glade Springs Resort. The all-bentgrass layout will loop around both sides of a new 70-acre lake which will also provide water for irrigation. Rock unearthed during construction will be turned into rock gardens planted with fescue and wildflowers. With all of the readily available rock, walls and man-made outcroppings will be the main theme that runs through all 18 holes.

SEVEN LAKES UNDERWAY IN ONTARIO

LASALLE, ONTARIO, Canada — Work has begun at the Matthews & Nelhiebel-designed Seven Lakes Golf Course here 10 minutes away from downtown Detroit. The new layout will complement the existing par-35, nine-hole course at the site. True to its name, Seven Lakes will feature 20 acres of water, with six new lakes being created. The par-71, 6,800-yard layout will also have 100 bunkers, some of which will be 150 feet long and others that will be 20 feet wide and six feet deep. Ten of the holes will have water in play and seven will be cut out of a mature woodlot. Work at the course is slated to be completed by the end of 2002.

Panks developing a Native American niche

By DAVID HUBBARD

PHOENIX, Ariz. — More than a few sovereign Indian nations across America are building golf courses in their desire to direct the phenomena of Indian gaming into a major hospitality and entertainment industry. With two such projects behind him, Gary Panks would like nothing better than to be the golf course architect they call.

In Phoenix, Ariz., the tribal officials from the Gila River Indian Community liked what they saw in Panks' work at the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain, and invited him to design the community's 36-hole Whirlwind Golf Club as the feature amenity to the Sheraton Resort Hotel-Casino now under construction. Managed by Troon Golf, the first course, Devil's Claw, opened in late 2000 to rave reviews.

"We have always envisioned a very high-end destination resort for this area, and find it very reassuring that Mr. Panks shares our enthusiasm for this venture and can work so easily with the community to make it happen," stated Steven Heeley, deputy general council for the community.



Panks' Twin Warriors Golf Course, built for the Santa Ana Pueblo in Beranillo, N.M., recently opened

For Panks, the commission has turned into to far more than the next project on his to-do list.

"The opportunity to design on Reservation land, essentially free of state and federal intervention has opened a new

world of possibility for our firm," said Panks.

As the second course at Whirlwind, Cattail, moves closer to completion, Panks' recently opened his second project on In-

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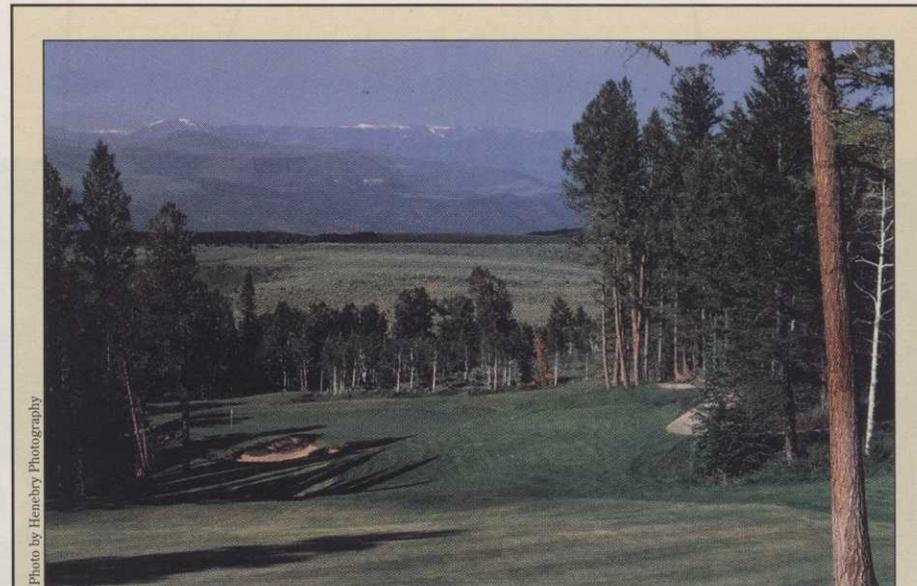


Photo by Hensby Photography

The second hole at the Summit Course

Nicklaus' Summit Course offers 360-degree views of the Rockies

By JOEL JOYNER

EDWARDS, Colo. — The Summit Course, a new Jack Nicklaus signature layout here, was challenging to build due to drastic elevation changes.

The effort, however, was worth it as the layout offers 360-degree views of the rugged Rocky Mountain terrain. Opened in August, the course is situated just 20 miles west of Vail. It is the newest addition for the Cordillera Group that now owns four upscale courses in the area.

The terrain at the Summit layout drops down to about 8,600 feet along the course, only to climb the side of the ridge again to reach up to 9,100 feet at the 18th fairway — its highest point.

PUNCHBOWL GREEN

There are some 70- to 80-foot drops from tee to green on the course, and par-3s that range from 40- to 50-feet in elevation changes. "There's a lot of vari-

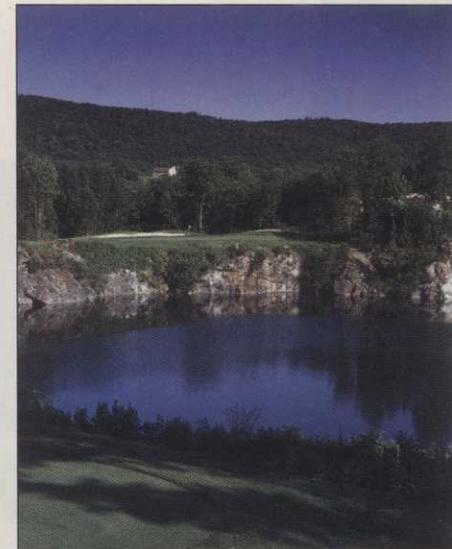
ety here," said Glenn Samuelson, superintendent. "We're very exposed on a few holes, and very protected on others. Everything from tall stands of fir 120 feet high to wide open sagebrush."

For the first time at any of the Cordillera courses, flat drainage was used on the greens. "We didn't pitch the greens or anything unusual to try to remove water," said Samuelson. Jack's pinable areas are quite flat, around one or two percent." However, the 8th green, a par-5, sports a punchbowl design.

A fair amount of blasting was required to get the main line in for irrigation and drainage. "There's a lot of rock. That's why they call it the Rocky Mountains," Samuelson said. "It was a chore to get down four or five feet sometimes."

The final cost for building the Summit course fell between \$11 and \$12 million,

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Rulewich's new Wild Turkey Golf Course

Rulewich 'stitched' new Wild Turkey layout together

By JOHN TORSIELLO

HAMBURG, N.J. — Crystal Springs Resort has opened its second Roger Rulewich-designed layout, Wild Turkey, here in northwestern New Jersey.

Rulewich's first layout at the five course resort, Ballyowen Golf Course, opened four years ago and was much easier to design and build according to the architect. At Wild Turkey, which opened in June, Rulewich had to piece together several distinct parcels of land into one seamless golf course.

"If Ballyowen was a piece of cloth, then Wild Turkey was like a closet full of clothes," he said. "We were able to cut Ballyowen from one type of land, while we had several very different sections of property at Wild Turkey that we had to stitch together."

The different sections Rulewich

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Wild Turkey

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stitched together at Wild Turkey included an abandoned quarry, several open field ponds, woodlands, and hilly terrain. The result is a course that offers pleasantly unique holes.

Wild Turkey's "basin holes," number three and 12 through 17, incorporate ponds left behind

from the quarry operation and have a links feel to them, reminiscent of nearby Ballyowen. The course's "ridge holes," numbers one, four, 10 and 18, offer a number of spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

The greens at Wild Turkey are moderate in size and demand precision approaches, as Rulewich created sometimes severe slopes at the sides of many of the putting

surfaces. The greens, fairways, and tee boxes are of creeping bentgrass, while the rough is a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fescue. There are 55 bunkers and water on four holes.

Rulewich and his team overcame a number of design challenges at Wild Turkey, which was constructed by Sussex National Development, Inc. of Ham-

burg, N.J. The builders undertook demanding grading work in several sections of the course and also solved the tricky proposition of having to cross over a railroad track.

"We believe we've created a course that is user friendly," said Rulewich. "You can stretch it to over 7,000 yards from the tips or move up and play it from around 6,000 yards. I wanted to build a

course that better players find challenging, but also one where higher handicappers will have fun."

There are several startling holes at Wild Turkey. Perhaps the best of which is number seven, a par-3 that plays a knee-knocking 208 yards from the tips. The hole demands almost a full carry over a yawning quarry pond to a green that sits atop a cliff.

While number seven could easily be the signature hole, Rulewich prefers number 17, a monstrous 625-yard par-5.

"There's a large pond to carry on the drive, which runs far down the left side, fairway bunkering all the way up, and an elevated green which is well bunkered," said the architect. "I like 17, I think it's a bear of a hole."

The par-71 layout has four sets of tees, ranging 7,233 yards from the tips to 5,024 from the forward tees.

A 'LITTLE PINEHURST'

The operators of Crystal Springs, owned by Gail Mulvihill and Rosalind Dazidowitz, believe Wild Turkey gives golfers yet another reason to spend several days in the Great Gorge area of New Jersey.

"Our goal is to be a little Pinehurst right here in northern New Jersey," said general manager, Art Walton. "We appeal to people who want to get away and enjoy an upscale and well-rounded resort experience." ■

Summit

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according to Samuelson.

Construction at the course started two years ago, with the majority of the grassing completed last year. There's a variety of bluegrasses in the fairways and roughs, Penncross on the tees and Dominant bentgrass for the greens.

Because of the short playing and construction season, the majority of the course was sodded. "The greens and tees were seeded though," said Samuelson. "Jack doesn't like to sod putting surfaces if he can help it. We also try to keep the greens consistently quick here."

'DESIGNED IN THE FIELD'

Nicklaus' design associate, Ken Baker, moved his family here from Florida during construction. "He was onsite almost everyday," Samuelson said. "Ken and I did the nuts and bolts work of putting the course together, and when Jack came he tweaked it."

Wadsworth Golf Construction was the course builder. "We did the bulk of earth moving in house," said Samuelson. "Wadsworth did a lot of the finish work, and grassed the course out for us." ■

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