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Golf Trust saga continues

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INTRAWEST TAKES ON COYOTE MOON

Coyote Moon Golf Club, (hole number 16, above) has hired Intrawest Golf to provide management services. The popular daily-fee layout, designed by PGA Tour pro Brad Bell, opened last fall in California's High Sierras. The 18-hole layout winds through piney forests and sweeps over valleys, ravines and lakes. See story on page 15.

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PERIODICAL

E-commerce struggles for golf foothold

By A. OVERBECK

While e-commerce may actually revolutionize business-to-business transactions someday, the message for now is clear: Don't believe the hype.

In the past year, e-ideas have been scratched and retooled and company strategies have been rethought and rejected. In the process, gobs of money has been raised and spent developing software and Web sites and rolling out lavish marketing and promotional schemes.

Some companies, such as Carl M. Freeman Golf Solutions, never got off the ground. Still other companies, including Golfsat, GreenIndustryOnline.com and Greentrac.com, have

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Workers laying bluegrass sod on the front nine of the Fazio Course at Red Sky

Photo: Jay Finegan

\$100-million Red Sky Golf Club unfolding in the Colorado Rockies

By JAY FINEGAN

WOLCOTT, Colo. — One of the most lavish golf development projects in history is unfolding amidst stunning alpine scenery here in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Vail Resorts, best known for its ski operations, is pouring \$100 million into Red Sky Golf Club, currently under construction in the Vail Valley. The 36-hole complex, featuring signature designs by Tom Fazio and Greg Norman, promises not only eye-popping vistas but two long layouts providing plenty of challenge.

"This place is unbelievable," said director of golf Jeff Hanson, formerly head pro at nearby Beaver Creek Golf Club, also run by Vail Resorts. "I think it's going to be the best club anywhere in the West. From the standpoint of playabil-

ity and aesthetics, it will rival anything in the country. We're targeting for each course to be in the top 100 right away."

The 700-acre property, formerly ranch land, slopes steeply up a mountainside from I-70, Colorado's major east-west artery. The club lies about two hours west of Denver and 20 minutes from Eagle County Regional Airport.

HIGH-ALTITUDE GOLF

The Fazio Course, slated to open next summer, stretches an impressive 7,400 yards. Players will make their way through sage-covered hills, dense forests of aspen and juniper, and around a highland lake.

"You'll get two different feels on the Fazio side," said Hanson. "You get a Troon, Scottsdale type of look on the

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Superintendent Mike Valiant

Development slowdown a healthy trend, experts say

By ANDREW OVERBECK

JUPITER, Fla. — The downturn in golf course development that was predicted by the National Golf Foundation's 2001 facilities report is becoming evident. The foundation recently reported that for the first half of 2001, just 176 courses were completed. The updated prediction for the year is 378 course openings, down from a record 524 in 2000. This will bring total development numbers back to early 1990s levels.

The significant drop in development, however, is not seen as a negative

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CONSTRUCTION DOWN

FIRST 6 MONTHS
2000: 245

FIRST 6 MONTHS
2001: 176

Source: National Golf Foundation

Fought-Lehman design team fast out of the gate

By JAY FINEGAN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The new design team of John Fought-Tom Lehman Golf Course Architecture is off to a strong start, with three projects in Arizona, one in California and another in Minneapolis.

Fought and Lehman first came together in 1997 to design The Gallery, an 18-hole private course north of Tucson that opened to high praise. More recently, they completed a total renovation of The Farms, an exclusive club near San



Lehman (left) and Fought

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Golf cart vandals nabbed in Washington

By JAY FINEGAN

BREMERTON, Wash. — Three joyriding teenagers who trashed 16 golf cars at Gold Mountain Golf Course here have been arrested and are being prosecuted.

"They're getting hammered pretty good because they did about \$10,000 in damage around here," said PGA pro Scott

Alexander, director of golf at the 36-hole club. "They ended up driving three carts down the road about five miles and we couldn't find them for a week. That turned out to be grand theft — a felony deal."

According to Alexander, the culprits were the same youths who had broken

Continued on page 20

Fought, Lehman

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Diego.

Earlier this year, the two formalized their partnership, setting up shop here in Arizona. So far, it looks like a winning combination.

SEPARATE PATHS

Fought, the PGA Tour's Rookie of the Year in 1979, left the pro circuit in 1985. Sidelined by a vertebrae problem, he began design-

ing courses and renovations with Bob Cupp.

Later, from 1995 through 2000, he designed a number of courses while working with OB Sports, including Washington National, in Seattle; Cimarron, near Palm Springs; and Langdon Farms, just outside Portland, Ore.

"I resigned from OB Sports last fall," Fought said. "Tom [Lehman] was doing projects with other architects. He came back to me a year

and a half ago, and said he particularly enjoyed working with me."

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

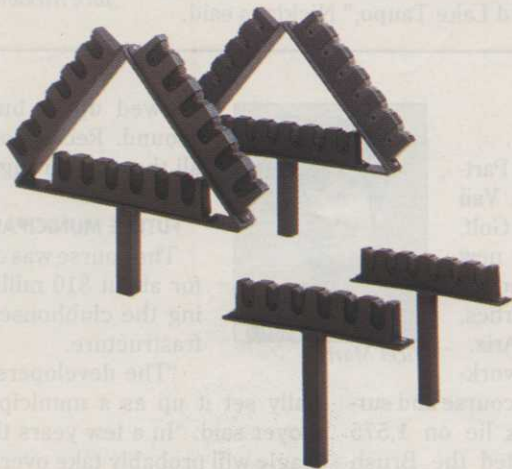
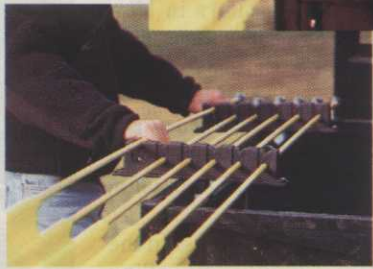
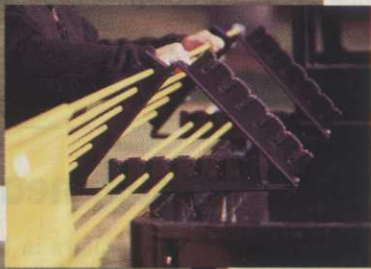
Lehman, winner of the 1996 British Open and multiple other PGA Tour events, had honed his design skills working with Arnold Palmer and the Hurdzan, Fry team.

"Maybe our biggest asset as a team is that John has all the technical expertise one needs as a designer," Lehman said. "I'm learning and steadily growing in that area."



Fought and Lehman rebuilt The Farms (above) in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

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Six months into their partnership, Lehman and Fought have landed some high-profile projects. They've begun design work for WhiteStone (Phoenix), The Preserve (east of Scottsdale), WindSong Farm (Minneapolis), and Andreas Ranch (Indio, Calif.). They're also crafting a second course at The Gallery.

WINNING NOTORIETY

Lehman, for his part, is deeply involved in the new venture. This is not a deal where he simply lends his name and prestige, "We go look at sights together," Fought said. "We do planning together. He visited The Farms 12 times. This is a real business, and he's involved with the whole thing." ■

Eagle Ranch

Continued from previous page

course where locals can sometimes get on – Beaver Creek – where green fees run in the \$140 range.

Unique to golf courses in the area, Eagle Ranch features the Uplink GPS system on each cart. The unit not only provides golfers with exact yardages, it also allows them to order food from the clubhouse.

Course construction and development were managed by superintendent John Martin, with his two assistants – Derek Rose and Pat Nunn.

"The crew worked very hard here and I was extremely pleased with the grow-in," Martin said. "The contrast of the bluegrass tees and fairways and the bentgrass greens, the many native areas, the restoration of old wetlands and the overall beauty of this area will be very memorable to golfers." ■

Mirabel

Continued from previous page

places the larger home lots back away from the fairways.

The 25,000-square-foot clubhouse complex, complete with swimming pools and tennis courts, will provide the crowning touch to Mirabel's luxurious lifestyle. Construction on the other club amenities will begin once the golf course opens. Membership here is by invitation only, and the 375 members will fork over an \$85,000 initiation fee. ■