Coldwater developers bring affordable public golf to Iowa

By DEREK RICE

AMES, Iowa — At this time next year, golfers will be playing Coldwater Golf Links, which is nestled between the athletic fields at Iowa State University and the business district of Ames on 150 acres of former farmland and land leased from the university.

Touring and construction of the Tripp Davis-designed links course has been completed and seeding is underway. Despite a string of bad-weather days in mid-September, the developers said the course opening would be on time next year.

Niebur Golf Construction Services took on the building and shaping of the course, which required moving 450,000 cubic yards of dirt to give the flat farmland some definition.

For developers Marvin J. Walter and Scott Randall of the Randall Corp., the experience of building a golf course was a new one. The two owned ad-joining tracts of land on the site and decided to pool their resources to form Legacy Golf Associates Inc. In order to build an 18-hole course, they leased 50 acres from Iowa State. That land sits adjacent to the football over-flow parking area in the shadow of Jack Trice Sta- dium, where Iowa State plays its home games.

Under the agree-ment with the university, should a larger stadium be built, which would require more parking, the university may park cars on the golf course. But Matt Randall, vice president of the Randall Corp. said he's not worried about that.

niebur keeping busy despite building slowdown

COLOMBUS SPRINGS, Colo. — While work continues on Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, Iowa (see story above), golf course builder Niebur Golf has several other ongoing projects proceeding coast to coast in spite of a slowdown in course construction.

The housing market has been keeping us alive,” said president Joe Niebur. “All but eight of our 10 projects are in housing de-velopments.

Current projects include:
• Trilogy at Redmond Ridge for Shea Homes in Redmond, Wash. Work on the Gary Parks-designed 18-hole course will be completed this year.
• An 18-hole course designed by Nicklaus in Falcon, Colo. It is due to open in fall 2003.
• Highland Meadows GC in Windsor, Colo. Work just started on the 18-hole course designed by Art Schaupeter.
• Art Hills' White Clay Creek GC in Wilmington, Del. The course will be finished this fall.
• 18-hole addition by Robert Current projects include:

East West Partners breaks ground in Truckee

By DOUG SAUNDERS

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Site prepa-ra-tion began last month on a new Nicklaus Signature golf course in this small railroad town in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Old Greenwood Golf Course marks the beginning of a new era for this hamlet that for years has been the gateway to nearby Lake Tahoe. Old Greenwood is the first of two courses to be built as the linchpin to an ambitious resort undertaken by East West Partners, which will feature 3,000 home sites, the cre-ation of a European-style ski village at nearby Northstar at Tahoe and complete recreational amenities for pro-ductive club members.

The project will signal a trans-formation for the small mountain community and also mark an ex-pansion of the resort concept that has now

The stadium they have now doesn’t fill up for most games,” he said. “But if it happens, I’ll be out here parking cars and taking money.”

The search for an architect who

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AUSTIN, Texas — Taylor Woodrow Communities and the University of Texas have partnered to bring a golf course and real es-tate project to Austin.

Construction is underway at the University of Texas Golf Club at Steiner Ranch, a club that will serve university alumni, Steiner Ranch residents and the city of Austin.

Dallas businessman Mike Myers, a longtime supporter of academic and athletic programs at the University of Texas, is spearheading the project. November 2003 is the target date for the course opening.

Bechtol Russell Golf Inc. de-signed the 7,008-yard, par-71 course, and plans to seek additional input from several former Univer-sity of Texas golfers.

Taylor Woodrow, which is a lim-ited partner in the project, along with Lincoln Property Co. and Steiner Ranch Ltd., has developed country club living components around the world, including T he Legacy Club at Alaqiu Lakes in Orlando, Fla., and Mirasol in Palm Gardens, Fla., home of the PGA Tour’s Honda Classic.

Upon completion of the course, Taylor Woodrow will assume man-agement of the course and will de-velop the land surrounding it.
Desert Challenge
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MacCurrach’s attorney, Sarah McHugh, refutes these allegations, and a common pleas court has ruled

for MacCurrach in the case. Sparagowski’s attorneys appealed to the appellate court, which upheld the lower court’s decision. They are now appealing to the Ohio Supreme Court. McHugh expects the Supreme Court to reject the appeal.

After MacCurrach left the job, Sparagowski brought in local construction firm Bihn Excavating, but work stopped when the money ran out. The course is mostly rough shaped and nine holes are largely completed, though the turf has died out. The course is mostly rough

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Coldwater could transform their land into an inviting golf course led them to Davis, who is based in Dallas.

“We thought we really needed to bring in a name architect. We chose Tippy Davis because of his background on projects like The Tribute.” Walter said. “He was also very helpful in the search for a contractor.”

The main reason Walters and Randall decided to build a golf course was to help the need for affordable public golf in the Ames area. According to Walter, there are some nine-hole courses that farmers have built on their land, but very few truly public 18-hole courses nearby.

“We haven’t decided on a definite price range yet, but it will be competitive with the other courses in the area,” Walter said. “We want this course to be competitive with higher-end golf courses with a country club feel but at a daily-fee price.” Brian Maloy, Coldwater’s superintendent, said it is commendable that developers would think of affordable public golf when building a course, rather than building an upscale private club.

“Affordable golf that is available to the public is important to the success of the game,” he said.

In order to build the course, a flood was needed to be moved, which required permits from the state Department of Natural Resources. Walter said the goal all along has been to keep the course in tune with the surrounding environment.

“We have made use of the considerable wetlands on the property,” Walter said. “Coldwater will blend into the environment.”

When it came time to hire a superintendent, the owners had to look no farther than Ames native and Iowa State graduate Maloy, who had been working as an agronomist for the USGA Green Section for the past several years. Maloy

show and said he was looking for a superintendent for a course he was building in Ames,” Maloy said. “I thought, ‘This is perfect,’ so I jumped at the chance.”

To complete the decision-making team, Coldwater will look to hire a business manager sometime in the near future.

“We’re probably looking at around the first of the year,” Randall said. “We don’t want to be making too many decisions until the team is in place.”

Under Maloy’s employment agreement, some of his salary is based on the course achieving certain performance levels. While this could mean lower than average pay at times, Maloy said he relishes the opportunity to work under that structure.

“I am all for this kind of agreement,” Maloy said. “I think more superintendents ought to work like this.”

Another main draw for Maloy to return home was the opportunity to work closely with Iowa State again. Through the relationship with the university, Maloy will have access to a steady stream of employees through the university’s turfgrass research department.

“We’ve got students working for us part-time, and it’s really a win-win situation,” Maloy said. “I can hire five or six turf students for less than it would cost to hire full-time staff, and they’re getting the hands-on experience they’re going to need in the future.”

Partly because of this arrangement, the course owners were able to get John Deere to give them a discount on equipment.

“John Deere was smart about this,” Maloy said. “They want these kids to be using their equipment so that when they’re working on their own courses, they’ll be familiar with the company.”

Walter agreed, adding, “John Deere really stepped up and we worked together to develop a unique program with them.”

The course design includes an alternate fairway, where Iowa State students and professors will conduct turf research, Maloy said.

“It will serve as a lab of sorts where they can get a hands-on feel for turf management,” Maloy said.