Lake Las Vegas takes next step

Owners hope third 18-hole course adds to attraction as golf destination

BY DOUG SAUNDERS
HENDERSON, Nev. — Lake Las Vegas Resort, the ambitious $4 billion development 17 miles south of Las Vegas, has been emerging from the shores of a 320-acre manmade lake for the past 10 years. This massive development project already boasts two Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses and a 425-room Hyatt Regency hotel. It takes its next big step toward becoming the premier golf destination in the Southwest this month with the opening of its second public golf course, The Falls Course designed by Tom Weiskopf.

“The Falls course is built on a very dramatic stretch of mountainside that offers over 400 feet of elevation change. Tom Weiskopf did a masterful job blending the layout into this rugged terrain and this course will be a great compliment to our Reflection Bay Golf Club which opened in 1996,” said director of golf John Herndon.

The driving force behind Lake Las Vegas is a partnership of visionaries that include Transcontinental Properties of Santa Barbara, Calif., former chairman and CEO of Caesar’s World Harry Gluck, and Sid and Lee Bess of Fort Worth, Texas, who own the property.

The Falls Course will join Reflection Bay Golf Club as an amenity for resort guests at Lake Las Vegas, as well as the private South Shore Club that hugs the shoreline of Lake Mead, which was built above the Edwards Aquifer.

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Environmental friendly Talking Rock Ranch to open in Arizona


Built on one of the most historic ranches in Yavapai County, which occupies a little-known canyon with hundreds of ancient petroglyphs (drawings chipped into rocks that tell stories of those who passed before), Talking Rock will feature a ranch compound with small clusters of territorial-style buildings in lieu of a large clubhouse.

Harvard Investments deeded the property to the Yavapai Prescott

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Timing, coordination, teamwork are keys to renovation’s success

BY KEVIN DOWNING, CGCS

Editor’s note: This is the fourth in a series of articles by Willoughby Golf Club superintendent Kevin Downing outlining the renovation process at the Stuart, Fla., club. His final installment later this fall will cover the events leading up to the club’s re-opening.

STUART, Fla. — With all the renovation planning and discussions with members complete here at Willoughby Golf Club, the question I’m fielding now is: “How are we doing, and are we on schedule?”

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Bates to design complex on Olympic site

SALT LAKE CITY — More than six months after the Olympic Games ended in Salt Lake City, construction is underway at Soldier Hollow Olympic Golf Complex, a 36-hole facility to be built at the site of the Olympics.

Located in Utah’s Wasatch Mountain State Park, adjacent to the Olympic Nordic ski trails outside Salt Lake City, the Gene Bates-designed Olympic and Midway courses will be open for public play.

The natural terrain of the land plays heavily in the design of the course, Bates said.

““There is 400 feet of elevation changes through the course, with dramatic views on every hole of the surrounding Wasatch Mountains,”” he said.

Bates received approval for the facility from the state of Utah prior to the 2002 Winter Olympics. Grow-in is scheduled for completion in August 2003, with play expected to begin in October 2003.

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Development & Renovation

BRIEFS

PGA PULLS OUT OF SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — In a late-July letter to San Antonio mayor Ed Garza, the PGA of America withdrew its plans to build a golf resort in the city. The project, which received city council approval in April, was to have been built atop an Edwards Aquifer recharge area. Because the aquifer is the sole source of water for San Antonio environmental groups and residents lined up in opposition to the development, slated for the southern and western shores of Onondaga Lake.

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JACOBSEN TO DESIGN BROWNFIELD COURSE IN WILLIAMSBURG

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Golf course architect Rick Jacobsen will design the new Hawk’s Nest Golf Club in Williamsburg, Va. Hawk’s Nest is part of a larger brownfield redevelopment project, which will ultimately include an office campus near the 18-hole daily-fee facility. The golf course will feature a 10-acre practice facility, including a driving range, short game area and putting greens. Jacobsen said Hipp Pond, a nine-acre water hazard on the property, will come into play on several holes. The land has been used since World War II to house 23 bombproof storage tanks underground.

Current plans call for Govco Builders to begin construction in March 2003 in anticipation of a 2004 opening.

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PALMER SEeks Three-Course Design Deal

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Palmer Course Design Co. is a front runner to design three golf courses on urban brownfields as part of a proposed $22 billion development. The three courses would be an 18-hole tournament course and possibly an 18-hole resort course and a nine-hole executive and practice course. Arnold Palmer reportedly wants the project and met with developer Robert Congel to discuss the development, slated for the southern and western shore of Onondaga Lake.

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