Irwin crafting gem of a course in Minnesota

By JERRY POLING

LAKE CITY, Minn. — In lovely Lake City, Minn., the biggest name in town always has been the Mississippi River, which flows by the city in a broad channel about 65 miles south of Minneapolis.

Much of the town's business, tourism and heritage are connected in some way to the river. In fact, it was in this city in 1922 where water skiing was invented, the city claims.

Lately, a couple new names in town are all that residents seem to talk about. A short drive above downtown and the Mississippi, bulldozers are clearing land for the biggest planned urban development project in Minnesota history. The Jewel at Lake City, an 18-hole semi-private golf course and residential development.

Residents aren't just talking about the Jewel, but they're talking about who it has brought to town: golf

Firm stresses view to future in renovation projects

By DOUG SANDERS

RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif. — It is a scenario that is being played out in markets around the country. As an established private golf club in a fast growing region sees their membership aging, they are having a tough time drawing new members as newer high-end daily-fee facilities go after the golf club spend money to upgrade their course to be more competitive or should they put their funds into a new clubhouse instead?

This is just one of the examples of how existing courses, both private and public, are assessing their situation and struggling to decide how to move forward.

Harvey completes Berkshire Valley design

Jefferson Township, N.J. — Golf course architect A. John Harvey of The RBA Group has completed the design of Berkshire Valley Golf Course for the Morris County Parks Commission.

The 6,900-yard 18-hole layout was built on an abandoned gravel mine.

The first five holes play along a terrace carved into a mountain, while the rest of the course lies in the base of the pit, bounding several large ponds that were once used during mining operations for material screening and silt containment.

The tee at the 193-yard 12th hole was constructed within the ruins of a stone building used in the 1910s by Ringling Brothers to house circus elephants.

Berkshire Valley is scheduled to open in spring 2004, according to Harvey.