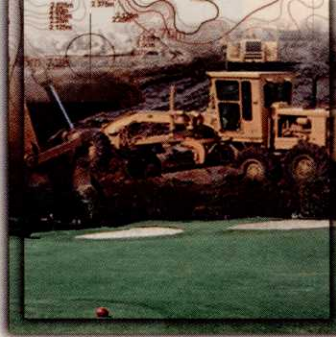


# DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



## BRIEFS

### BRIAR COMPLETES CATHEDRAL CANYON RENOVATION

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Briar Golf has completed its \$1 million renovation of Cathedral Canyon Golf and Tennis Club in Cathedral City, a semi-private 27-hole course designed by David Rainville. Capital improvements to the club were completed under the direction of its new general manager, Howard Whiteside.

### THE DUKE AT RANCHO EL DORADO TO OPEN

MARICOPA, Ariz. — The Duke at Rancho El Dorado, a new 18-hole course managed by OB Sports Management, will open to the public later this month. Designed by David Druzinsky, the course encompasses 200 acres with 90 acres of turf. The Santa Rosa Wash winds through the golf course, providing interesting boundaries to the fairways and increasing the course's challenge.

### FREELAND'S POLO CLUB REDESIGN COMPLETE

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Architect Tim Freeland of Freeland Golf Group recently completed a \$5.2 million redesign at the Polo Club here, which reopened Dec. 4. According to Freeland, the course was "too short, too tight, too hard and too hard to maintain." RyanGolf handled the construction.

### WEITZ GOLF COMPLETES RECENT RENOVATIONS

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla.— Weitz Golf International recently completed two renovation projects. At Rancho Santa Fe Club in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Weitz renovated tees, greens and bunker complexes extensively, as well as lakes and streams, car paths, bridges and new turf in recontoured areas. At Weston Hills Country Club, in Weston Hills, Calif., Weitz provided expertise to help the club's maintenance staff improve bunker conditions on the Players Course.

## 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 Jewel at Lake City, a Hale Irwin design, is attracting a lot of attention just outside Minneapolis.

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

Continued on page 12

## Firm stresses view to future in renovation projects

By DOUG SAUNDERS

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 give golfers another option. Should



This drainage pond, located in front of a Safeway store under construction near a PGS client's golf course, solved major issues for all parties involved.

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.

Continued on page 12

## Guest Commentary

### Recognize 'red flags' now, avoid future headaches

By BOB PINSON

If superintendents and course owners haven't noticed by now, let me spell it out for you: The course construction business is getting pretty tight, and by that I mean too many contractors for too few projects. If



Bob Pinson

you've put a new construction or renovation job out to bid during the last six months, you know exactly what I'm talking about. I bet you never thought you'd have so many friends in the construction trade.

I've been in the course contracting business more than 10 years, and I can tell you this: When things get this tight, the bidding process becomes hyper competitive—meaning contractors will do almost anything to secure the low bid. I don't mean they'll start sending flowers to your wife (though they might); I mean they will promise a price so low, you'd be crazy to refuse it.

Now, I'm not saying you should refuse it. I'm just saying there are times when a bid price is so low, something isn't right. Something has been left out or ignored, and accepting that bid, as is, might risk

Continued on next page

## Harvey completes Berkshire Valley design



Berkshire Valley GC is built atop an abandoned gravel mine in Jefferson Township, N.J.

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 195-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.