GOLF

UPDATE

Golf to flourish in ’83 says ASGCA’s Snyder

The current recession doesn’t seem to be bothering the golf industry, in fact the game is flourishing, according to Jack Snyder, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

“In the past,” Snyder said, “golf play and development declined when the economy slowed, but play has been up in 1982 and many new projects were started despite the high cost.” He predicts 1983 will be an outstanding year for golf in all sectors—real estate, resort, daily fee and municipal.

With the growth in the number of players also comes the growth in the need for modernization of courses. Snyder said many courses are now outmoded because modern equipment allows players to avoid the hazards that were installed 30 or 40 years ago. Many older courses are now adopting master plans and phasing-in improvements over several years. Although there are more than 13,000 golf courses in the United States, nearly half are nine-holes and prime candidates for remodeling as part of a master plan to develop a full 18-holes, according to Snyder. Approximately 15 percent of the counties in the country do not even have one course.

“Real estate and resort developers have learned that golf is their number one drawing card and a major development must have a golf course if it is to be successful,” Snyder points out. “In many cases, the golf course is built before the housing or hotel is developed.”

Municipalities and daily fee operators have found that golfers have continued to play in record numbers during the recession and that has encouraged more to consider new layouts.

“A skilled golf course architect can design a course on almost any site, and work within the budget that has been mutually agreed upon. In recent years, we have seen golf courses built on landfills, swamps, flood plains, abandoned strip mines and other ‘undesirable’ sites. There is land available for golf development, but it often takes the combined efforts of several parties to make it available,” Snyder said.

Cable TV golf lessons available

Golf Schools, Inc. has developed a series of golf lessons being shown on the national SPN Cable Television network. “The Name of the Game is Golf” is shown at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays and at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays (EDT). Each television segment is edited from five, one-hour tapes which include 50 lessons from nine men and women professionals on putting, short irons, medium and long irons, sand lessons and special shots and wood and tee shots. The tapes are available for home video with VHS, Beta or U-Matic Tapes from Golf Schools, Inc., P.O. Box 9199, Canton, OH 44711.

Author and strategist for the instructional series is Ben Sutton, Director of Golf School for Seniors at Sun City Center, FL. In his third year as founder and director of Golf School for Seniors, Sutton and his staff of over 15 PGA and LPGA teaching professionals have conducted weekly golf schools for over 13,000 men and women golfers since 1968.

During the ’82-’83 season, there will be 33 fall, winter and spring weekly schools running through May, 1983. Advanced teaching aids such as color, stop action and instant replay camera and a sequence graph-check camera are used. Facilities at the school include 11 greens exclusively designed for putting, chipping, approaching and playing sand shots, as well as a large practice tee and two, 18-hole golf courses for playing after class. For more information, write to the Golf School for seniors at the above address.