

P.G.A. NATIONAL GOLF CLUB RETURNS TO SOUTH FLORIDA

By DAVID BAILEY

The Professional Golfers Association of America has happy news on the horizon. Their goal of a national headquarters with a golf complex will become a reality with the opening of a golf course in January 1980 at their Palm Beach Gardens location. The P.G.A. facility is the heart of the total project to be developed under the leadership of Llwyd Ecclestone, Jr. The finished product will be completed in the early 1990's and will be the largest in Palm Beach County history. On completion the 23 acre site will house the P.G.A. Headquarters, three golf courses, a resort hotel and a community of 15,000 people. Land for the new complex was purchased from the late billionaire John D. MacArthur.

Since 1974 the P.G.A. Headquarters has been in neighboring Lake Park, Florida. The desire for more than just an office led to numerous site studies in Palm Beach and Mar-

tin Counties. In 1977 the agreement with Llwyd Ecclestone, Jr. was announced with two years work in planning, zoning and environmental clearance . . . thirty-two agencies were involved and their approvals obtained. The firm of George Fazio was chosen as golf course architect with Tom Fazio leading the site work after a ground breaking ceremony in March 1979.

In June 1979 Mr. Ecclestone announced the appointment of Donald Padgett as Director of Golf, a key decision. Padgett has been well schooled in golf and administrative matters. This immediate past President of the P.G.A. comes to South Florida from the 63 hole Callaway Gardens Resort in Georgia. For twenty-three years Don was head professional at Green Hills County Club in Muncie, Indiana.

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Reading clockwise, starting left we see Larry Weber and Dan Jones, Editor of SOUTH FLORIDA GREEN, standing in a "wash-out" on one of the green slopes . . . forty inches of rain in forty days is more than adequate.



Center top, Don Padgett and Larry Weber standing where huge observation area is being build. Since this photo was made 18 feet of fill now cover a 10-acre area.



Top right, Giant earth movers work long hours to complete the enormous construction job.



Bottom right, "Casual Water" covering the pre-fabricated metal that will be one of the maintenance buildings.