

Baird course first in Turkey

Gary Roger Baird will design the first golf course in Turkey.

Baird of Nashville, Tenn., who has been logging miles and months working on a course he has designed in Thailand, said being chosen for the Turkish course is a privilege he looks forward to. He said Turkish government officials are excited about the prospects of the course, which is being planned as a feature of the new Five Star Ramada Renaissance Resort Hotel at Antalya.

Baird will work with New York-based McLoughlin Group,

which serves as project manager, and with Turkish clubhouse and villa architect Faruk Yorgancioglu for developer Gama Industries of Ankara.

"It looks like we will be literally introducing the game of golf to the Turkish people," Baird said. Yet developers expect many visitors to be Europeans familiar to the game.

Saying the site is spectacular, Baird compared it to Spyglass Hill Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif.

"We are carving the course out of a solid pine forest," he

said. "The course is on a bluff overlooking the Mediterranean, and 10,000-foot Mount Olympus rises upright next to it.

"People can ski in the morning, drive an hour to play golf, and then take a swim in the Mediterranean."

Baird said construction on the \$4-million 6,600-yard course will start in four months. He is designing the 18-holer so that it "will not intimidate the many novices we expect would use it" but also to be "in a league to attract the European PGA Tour circuit and befit a major resort."

Sod research funded

The American Sod Producers Association is making \$25,000 in research funds available for 1989-90.

Research Committee Chairman Richard Schiedel said letters of invitation seeking specific proposals have gone to 103 individuals and institutions. The committee has set a Dec. 15 deadline for proposals.

Schiedel said ASPA is particularly interested in

research that focuses on the role turfgrass plays in environmental issues such as water and air-quality improvement and conservation of water and topsoil.

Schiedel, owner of Compact Sod Farms in Cambridge, Ontario, said his committee intends to make its recommendations to the ASPA board of trustees this winter and announce funded projects in early spring.

Conference will focus on management

Experts on various aspects of golf course management will speak at the week-long 7th Annual National Institute of Golf Management starting Jan. 14 at Oglebay Park Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, W.V.

Sponsored by the National Golf Foundation and the center's Department of Continuing Education, the institute will feature instructors from its Board of Regents and from municipal golf facilities, the USGA, NGF, PGA of America and PGA Tour.

The program will teach such topics as golf course economics, maintenance, the philosophy of public golf, clubhouse and golf shop operations and merchandising, recruiting and motivating employees, and customer relations.

To complete the program, students must attend the institute for two years, attending a different session each year. The course carries five continuing education units from North Carolina State University and qualifies PGA of America members for recertification credits on the basis of three points for each year completed.

Registration is limited, and NGF Vice President of Golf Course Development Angelo Palermo said, "This year we had to turn away people who wanted to attend but who waited until the last minute to contact us."

More than 500 public golf course personnel have attended the institute since its inception in 1983, when it was called the Golf Management School at Oglebay.

To register, people should contact the NGF's Golf Course Development Department at 1150 U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, Fla. 33477, 407-744-6006, or National Institute of Golf Management, Wheeling Park Commission, Oglebay, Wheeling, W.V. 26003, 800-624-6988.

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