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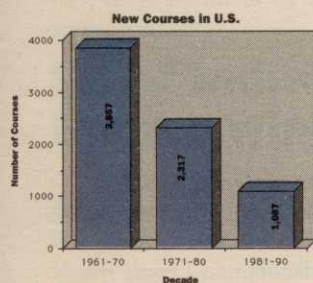
The Best of 1989!

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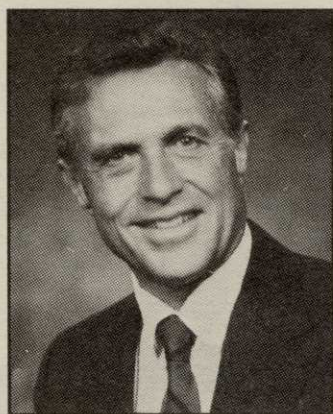
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Wadsworth voted No. 1 builder of '89

BY PETER BLAIS

"We've always felt that how well we've done our job depends on how the architects see what we've accomplished. We want to see them get what they want out of their design."

That's how company founder and chairman of the board Brent Wadsworth explains the success of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., voted 1989 Builder of the Year in *Golf Course News*' survey of architects.



Brent Wadsworth
Voted Best Builder of 1989

Wadsworth received nearly one-fourth of the votes cast, more

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Fazio named top architect of the year

BY PETER BLAIS

This has been a good year for Tom Fazio. But so was last year, and the year before that and the year before that and...

"They all kind of blend together for me," answered the man voted the 1989 Architect of the Year in *Golf Course News* 'first survey of course designers, when asked if this year was special.

"I'm just amazed at the quality of products we (architects)



Tom Fazio
Voted Best Architect of 1989

are able to build today. High quality is what developers and owners

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Subsurface injection project wins raves

BY MARK LESLIE

The success of work on equipment that injects pesticides below the surface of the turf where grubs live should prod researchers to develop a wide range of new products to fight pests.

Ohio State University Professors Harry Niemczyk, an entomologist, and Erdal Ozkan, an agricultural engineer, have completed a season of research on their project and are excited by its prospects.

Niemczyk cited data showing that the "liquid injection subsurface placing system" they are developing can put the product

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A panoramic view of Pinon Hills Golf Course in Farmington, N.M., shows the 11th green in the foreground and the elevation changes on No. 15 tees in the background. For more information on this course, designed by Finger Dye Spann of Houston, Texas, and others, see pages 10 and 11.

Florida project targets families

BY MARK LESLIE

The family orientation of a proposed golf facility turned it from a loser to a winner in the zoning process and will turn it into a reality this spring in Orlando, Fla.

Golf Unlimited will start construction in January on the Lake Under Hill Golf Center, which will include a fully lighted, nine-hole par 3 course, complete driving range, putting course and miniature golf layout.

But the 26-acre facility was a wipeout in June when heavy opposition from neighbors contributed to an Orange County Commission denial of zoning approval on the grounds the project was too commercial for the mainly residential area.

"We got an extension of the request," said

Golf Unlimited's Jack Irwin, "and met with homeowners and told them the facility would enhance, not hurt, their neighborhood. We went back to the commission with neighborhood support and got unanimous (5-0) approval."

The turning point, Irwin believes, came when neighbors realized the project will stress the family.

"We planned it with the family in mind," he said. "Dad can bring the kids out and teach them or let them play miniature golf while he and his wife are playing."

It is a concept Irwin expects to continue working with. He already plans a second family golf center in Orlando and may look for other opportunities working out of his

Orlando and Knoxville, Tenn., offices.

The idea of lighting a course has been successful at two facilities in Myrtle Beach, N.C., and another in Daytona, Fla.

But the Orlando project is believed the first with its particular amenities.

"We'll give the average player — who can't afford to belong to a country club and works all day — and the beginner a chance to play in the winter and summer. It will be great for seniors," Irwin said.

The longest of the nine holes will be 160 yards, and Irwin said: "The lights will be very high-quality; you'll be able to follow the flight of the ball all the way. It will be a first-class course with wall-to-wall irrigation..."

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Fazio

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ers want. I get six to eight prospects every week. It's incredible the way the industry continues to grow. The prospects just get better and better. So I can't say this has been an unusually good year. They've all been good lately."

The North Carolina architect completed three courses in 1989 — Shadow Creek in Las Vegas; Thorne Blade in Greenville, S.C.; and Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Shadow Creek alone might have been enough to earn Fazio the year's best architect designation. A whole-new environment had to be created out of the barren desert site. The \$13-million course required trucking in record amounts of soil (2.5 million cubic yards), sod (110 acres) and trees (7,000).

"Shadow Creek is simply indescribable," said Fazio about the course built by Golden Nugget owner Steve Wynne as a private playground for him and selected friends.

Thorne Blade opened last spring. A 45-minute drive from his home, "it's very special to me," said Fazio. "It's a local course that will be used mainly by those living in the community. It won't be advertised nationally because it's been sold out locally. It was a fun project."

Emerald Dunes reunited Fazio with Ray Finch. Finch was one of the principals in Wild Dunes in South Carolina, a course completed in 1980 that helped launch Fazio into this decade.

Fazio's memories of Wild Dunes, and all his courses, are vivid. Part of the reason is that, partly because of personal beliefs and mainly

because of family commitments (six children), he only takes on six to eight projects a year. Most of those are within a two-hour private jet ride of his home.

"He embodies my philosophy," explained Arthur L. Davis of his vote for Fazio as the year's best. "He does quality work on a few courses. He doesn't do volume like a lot of other architects are doing today. And I just like him personally."

Along with Wild Dunes, some of Fazio's better-known courses are The Vintage Club in California, Barton Creek in Texas, PGA National in Florida and Wade Hampton in North Carolina. But he is equally fond of lesser-known projects like John's Island in Florida. ("The Jupiter Hills of the 1980s" — Fazio); Long Point at Amelia Island, Fla.; Golden Eagle

in Tallahassee, Fla.; Lake Nona in Orlando, Fla.; Golf Club of Oklahoma in Broken Arrow; and Ventana Canyon in Tucson, Ariz.

"They've all made me feel good," said Fazio.

And most all have received favorable publicity. In fact, Fazio has been one of the darlings of the golf media for some time.

"I voted for him primarily because of all the publicity he's received," said Lindsay Ervin.

"It seems he's received more coverage than anybody in some of the journals," added Edward M. Beidel Jr. of Hassenplug Associates.

Actually, the Fazio name has been in the news for more than 40 years. George Fazio, Tom's uncle and the founder of Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc., was a top-flight pro golfer in the 1940s and 1950s before getting into course architecture in the early 1960s. Tom joined the company in 1962 at age 17 and took on increasing responsibility until George died in 1986.

"Probably not," responded Tom when asked if publicity might be a major reason for his selection as best architect. "My uncle was very well recognized, so we've always gotten a lot anyway. I don't try to separate the George Fazio name from Tom Fazio. Even though he's passed away, he's still very much here. . . I never think about the publicity. Although it's nice to have because it helps keep the company going."

The company is going strong into the next decade. He is already working on projects in Baltimore, Nashville, Pinehurst, N.C., Naperville, Texas, and Chicago.

"My 1990 calendar is already committed," said Fazio.

With a half-dozen offers coming in every week, and his personal policy of accepting no more than eight projects a year, Fazio should have no problem keeping busy into the next century.

The same can be said of Rees Jones, who finished runner-up to Fazio in the voting.

The son of Robert Trent Jones Sr. has emerged from the shadow of his legendary father to do some first-class work of his own. Among his more famous courses are the seventh course at Pinehurst and his restoration of The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., in preparation for the 1988 U.S. Open.

"It's nice to have friends among your peers. We all have the same common goal — to build the best possible facility within the constraints of the job," said Rees Jones.

1989 saw the completion of Charleston National in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; Southbridge in Savannah, Ga.; Bryan Park in Greensburg, N.C.; a nine-hole restoration at Haig Point on Daufuskie Island, S.C.; Sea Trail Rees Jones course at Sunset Beach, N.C.; remodeling of Congressional Country Club's Blue Course in Bethesda, Md.; and renovation of Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minn., in preparation for the 1991 U.S. Open.

Work under construction or scheduled to begin this year includes The Peninsula Club on Lake Norman in Cornelius, N.C.; Golden Horseshoes No. 2 in Williamsburg, Va.; Cherry Valley in Montgomery Township, N.J.; Atlantic in Bridgehampton, N.Y., on Long Island; Greenspring near Richmond, Va.; and Brant Island in Mattapoisett, Mass.

"I'm a big Rees Jones fan," said Fazio. "We visit each other occasionally and I consider him a personal friend. We're both members of the same club in New Jersey (Pine Valley). His situation is similar to mine in terms of family and the number of courses he'll take on."

"I don't want to take on too many projects at a time," explained Jones. "I'm a hands-on architect. If you take on too many jobs, you just can't get to the job site enough to make the improvements to the course at the proper time, or make changes in time without costing the client more money."

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