

opening at Ohio hospital and Arkansas range

spinal cord injuries and muscular disorders. Three six-week training sessions are held annually, and this year a private ski club attended a separate session.

Tristano said the hospital will promote the facility to the public, reserving times for the physically challenged.

"The goal is to allow people to get into a mainstream activity, to continue to get the therapeutic benefit physically and emotionally," he said. "And they can go at their own

pace."

GOLF FOR LIFE

Meanwhile, Hicks, a retired Navy nurse and one of a handful of people licensed as a teaching pro by both the PGA and LPGA, will fulfill a goal she has looked forward to for a number of years.

"I love golf. I love to teach. And I wanted to incorporate my medical background with golf," Hicks said. One way was to become involved with rehabilitation.

"It's been wonderful," she said.

Hicks, who in June oversaw the opening of the only golf clinic for the deaf in the United States in San Jose, Calif., is moving from her Dublin, Calif., home to Arkansas on Aug. 10.

That project has "absolutely gone wild. It's growing by leaps and bounds," she said, hoping the same success awaits her in Berryville.

Set on a 53-acre site, the Arkansas facility

now includes a 15-acre driving range with a huge sand bunker, along with a 15-by-45-foot artificial-turf putting green fringed with Bermudagrass.

She said the trap was sloped to be easily accessible to all types of trauma patients.

Hicks will be on site to teach and will also use video teaching aides.

She has already made a two-story building handicap-accessible and plans to build a 25-station driving range next year.

Arkansas, she said, is the third-largest retirement area in the country and "golf is booming" there. That leads her to high hopes for the life of Golf for Life.

Many firms contributed to hospital course construction

AKRON, Ohio — Construction of Edwin Shaw Challenge Golf Course here started as a seed in the minds of hospital officials and grew to embrace the entire state and, indeed, national corporations.

Ron Tristano, director of the course for the physically challenged, lauded everyone from local contractors to national golf equipment manufacturers for helping the effort without charge.

Initial tree clearing was done by the local firm of Keller/Hall Inc., he said.

That was followed by clearing and rough grading work donated by the Ohio Contractors Association, who "did a marvelous job and were here for quite some time," Tristano

said.

Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, Ohio, designed the course, making it wheelchair-accessible from tee to green.

Wadsworth Construction Co., a national golf course builder based in Plainville, Ill., performed the final grading and shaping and provided Tom Kluck as project manager for the three-hole course and 12-acre driving range.

Kurtz Brothers of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, provided all the greens and tees mix, while Commercial Pump of Swanton, Ohio, donated the pump station.

LESCO, Inc. of Rocky River, Ohio, provided all the grass seed, fertilizer, cups and ball

washers.

Since the rehabilitation program was started, Wilson and MacGregor sporting goods companies have given equipment for the golfers.

Meanwhile, a group of area PGA professionals has given continued support through lessons, and therapists from the hospital as well as Akron residents have volunteered time in the program.

"Without all their help, and the funding of Akron Golf Charities, this would never have happened," said Tristano, himself a former volunteer pro.

"We owe a lot to a lot of people in the community and beyond."

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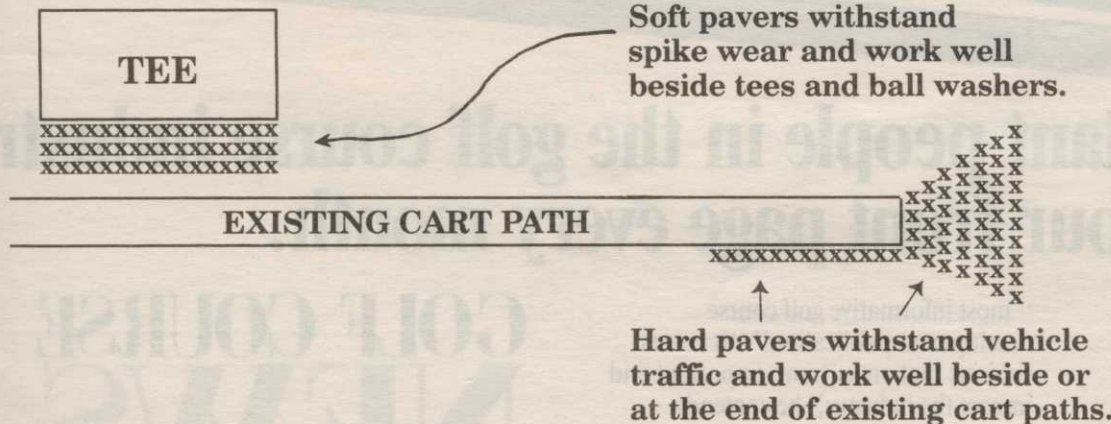
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