

Florida Golf Council drive reaches halfway point

Seay, Yount, Pate, others in industry add time and expertise to initiate lobbying arm in state

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The fledgling Florida Golf Council, about halfway to its seed money goal of \$25,000, by the end of January had held 15 meetings statewide with organizations involved in Florida's \$5-billion golf industry.

The meetings were a swift follow-up to the council's initial Florida Golf Summit in Orlando.

Meetings centered on issues most critical to the golf industry, and how the council, founded last

October, might be most effective as a viable trade association representing course owners, operators and other golf-oriented organizations.

The council's Nancy Oliver described these sessions as "very productive." Particularly fruitful was a workshop session attended by representatives of each of the association's major golf and related business groups.

They included PGA of America,

North and South Florida sections, PGA Tour, LPGA, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, Florida Turfgrass Association, National Golf Foundation, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Florida State Association, and Florida Council of 100.

The broad range of interests was evident in the wide mix of attendees.

Ed Seay of Palmer Golf Course Design presided over the initial

session at Jacksonville. Robert Yount, executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association, and Tony Austin of Marriott Golf did the honors at Orlando.

Cal Korf, Florida State Golf Association executive director, chaired the meeting at Sarasota, while the law firm of Holland N. Knight hosted the meeting at Tampa, touring pro Jerry Pate the session at Sandestin, and the LPGA's Becky Sauers and Ron Safford, director of

sports development for the state of Florida, the gathering at Killlearn in Tallahassee.

Other meetings were at Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Ft. Myers, Naples, Sebring and Gainesville.

Council memberships now are being offered. People may contact Oliver at Florida Golf Council, 1401 Forum Way, Suite 100, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401; telephone 407-688-0800.

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N. California GA offers \$8M for Mather AFB golf course

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Soon after the Mather Air Force Base closes in 1993, its 18-hole golf course may double its wing span.

The Northern California Golf Association is offering to spend up to \$8 million to purchase and eventually boost the course to 36 holes.

At the same time, the Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation is urging that the Pentagon convey the golf course free of charge to the county as part of a proposed 1,000-acre regional park at Mather.

Hugh A. Evans, retired Sacramento judge and NCGA immediate past president, said, "We can turn Mather into a truly outstanding golf course that the public could play for a reasonable fee."

Evans said his group is prepared to offer the government \$2 million to buy the facility, then immediately spending \$6 million on improvements, including a new clubhouse and the design and construction of an additional 18.

According to the county proposal, an estimated \$1.5 million would have to be spent to upgrade the golf course, with "perhaps a second golf course" built on adjacent undeveloped land.

\$850M resort with two courses OK'd in Florida

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council has approved an \$850-million resort in Osceola County.

The 708-acre World Golf & Tennis layout just southwest of a main entrance to Walt Disney World would encompass two 18-hole golf courses, a 25-court tennis complex, 475 golf villas, and 325,000 square feet of commercial or retail space located along a 63-acre lake.

Scott Banta, president of Telesis Developments Inc., said World Golf & Tennis is backed by a group of U.S., German and Swiss investors, but declined to identify them.

Construction is scheduled to begin in July.