

Mexican developers eye market, ink architects

Burns plans course near Mexico City while elsewhere...

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. — Burns Golf Design has signed to design the golf course for Club de Golf Malinalco, located south of Mexico City.

The project will be an upscale weekend home community for residents of Mexico City. The course, which should begin construction late this summer, is intended to be the best in Mexico. Other amenities will include a large tennis complex and a 60,000-square-foot clubhouse.

The par-72 golf course will be challenging, but playable for all levels of golfers.

It will have several sets of tees ranging from approximately 5,000 to 7,000 yards, but will play shorter due to the property's 6,500-foot elevation.

The course, located in a scenic valley, surrounded by mountains, has roughly 180 feet of elevation change, and will be built to take advantage of the terrain.

Water, including several waterfalls, will come into play on eight holes, but the average golfer will be confronted by few, if any, forced water carries.

Burns Golf Design is also working on a municipal course in Ohio and a state park course in Georgia. Plans have been completed for both projects, and they await construction.

Pete Dye's two Blackwolf Run courses open

KOHLER, Wis. — Blackwolf Run's two Pete Dye-designed 18-hole golf courses, the River and Meadow Valley courses, are open.

Course officials tried to jump the official April 19 opening day by a week, but Mother Nature was too strong a player in the form of a sudden snowstorm.

One golfer managed three holes. A twosome was booked the next day.

This year will mark Blackwolf Run's first full season offering 36 holes of golf. Introduction of a fourth nine and the restructuring of play into two 18-hole courses occurred at mid-season in 1990.

A major improvement to Blackwolf Run for this year is installation of "Golf Central," a state-of-the-art computer reservation system.

Blackwolf Run is believed the first facility in the Midwest to install the system originally developed for Pebble Beach in Monterey, Calif.

Golf Central will speed the reservation process by allowing faster searches of available tee times.

...Nicklaus and Koll Int'l will work on course on tip of Baja California Peninsula

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Jack Nicklaus will collaborate with Koll International, one of the largest real-estate developers in the Western United States, to build what they hope will be Mexico's most challenging golf course at Palmilla in Los Cabos at the tip of the Baja California Peninsula.

The site has ocean, desert and mountain views on a desert terrain that gradually sweeps down to the Sea of Cortez.

Palmilla will be Nicklaus' first venture in Mexico.

The 7,000-yard, 18-hole facility will feature an additional nine-hole course that plays around lakes; and an 18-hole putting course, all designed by Nicklaus.

Opening is scheduled by mid-1992.

Walking the course for the first time, Nicklaus said, "Palmilla will be a 30-year dream come true." He recalled flying over the tip of

the peninsula three decades ago and imagining what great courses could be built in the breathtaking area.

"Many people have approached me regarding designing courses in Mexico," he said, "but nothing else matched the potential for unparalleled golf that the Koll property possesses."

He said each hole will be dramatically different to provide golfers with a wide selection of playing

environments for players of all skill levels.

A par 3 will be on a bluff with a spectacular view of the ocean. A par 4 is in an arroyo elevated above the beach.

The Nicklaus courses are part of the new 900-acre Palmilla resort being developed by Koll International.

Koll International also owns the flagship Hotel Palmilla that pioneered the area.

