Superintendent Bishop changes titles with help of friends

Recruits Bobby Knight, Randy Wittman, Rohn Stark, others for finances

By Mark Leslie

FRANKLIN, Ind. — One super brought together several greats, and they all hope to have a legend of a golf course here.

Ted Bishop, the superintendent and golf pro at Phil Harris Golf Course in Linton, has lined up Indiana University coach and Basketball Hall of Famer Bobby Knight, former National Football League All-Propunter Rohn Stark, Indiana Pacers basketball great Randy Wittman, Indiana University Director of Golf Sam Carmichael and 20 other investors.

Bishop has also pushed through all necessary approvals, signed on architect Jim Fazio, and is ready to build the \$3.8-million Legends of Indiana course.

The 18-hole daily fee course is the first phase of a master plan that will include 27 holes, a separate par 3 course and a practice facility.

"Johnson County is the fastest-growing county in Indiana," said Bishop, a 1976 Purdue University graduate who is on the PGA board of directors. "I spent 13 months doing market research and putting together a financial

prospectus and, then, in January, February and March raised the money and picked Fazio."

Bishop knew Knight and the other investors through Knight's years of involvement in Indiana golf.

He has not chosen a course builderyet, but hopes to start construction in May and to open in the summer of 1992.

The site is 384 acres of mostly open farmland, but Bishop expects nine lakes to be dug and 60 bunkers to add zest to a layout that will span 6,100 to 7,000 yards from multiple tees.

"We want to play a lot of outings and tournaments, so we need the course to be flexible," Bishop said. "I hope someday it can host the Indiana Open or state amateur championships."

"With Jim Fazio involved, we know it will be a great design. It will be unique to Indiana in that it will be the first Fazio course built here. George didn't do any here and Tom hasn't. We wanted the classic, traditional Fazio design," he said.

Though the course will be daily fee, a limited number of memberships will be sold, Bishop said.

The nearest course, Hillview Country Club, has a 2 1/2-year waiting list for membership and has not opposed the new development.

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