

Golf Digest opens instruction center at Sea Island Golf Club

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. — The Golf Digest Instruction Schools Learning Center, offering state-of-the-art video swing analysis and an expanded practice facility, has opened at the Sea Island Golf Club.

Andy Nusbaum, schools director, said: "Its prime location, right on the Atlantic Ocean, and the club's affiliation with the renowned Cloister Resort makes it one of the top instruction centers in the world."

The practice range embraces a 300-yard tee area in a circular pattern with five target greens, two cut fairways, an aiming chute for shots between trees, a 10,000-square-foot pitching green with bunkers, a putting green and fair-

way bunker.

Yardage-marker plaques are placed around the tee to indicate distance to the target greens.

Inside the center are two video studios, editing room, meeting and conference rooms, club repair

area and a book and video library.

The teaching staff includes director Jack Lumpkin, who spearheaded the final design and development of the facility, head professional Scott Davenport and pro Gale Peterson.

Columbus puts five muni courses on 'go-it-alone' operating basis

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Columbus' five municipal golf courses will, for the first time in seven years, be on a go-it-alone policy.

Any profit will be theirs, said the

Recreation and Parks Commission after approving fee increases at all courses.

Accompanying announcement of surprise financial independence was

word that Turnberry, the first new city course in 20 years, is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. Turnberry is near Rt. 256 and Tussing Road on the Far East side.

Play also is due to open Memorial Day at Wedgewood, a private club in Powell, and in July at Royal American Links, a public course in Galena.

Fees at Turnberry will be somewhat steep, \$18 to \$20 per round, because of the quality of the course and other amenities, officials said.

Brevard County says Savannahs short on income

MERRITT ISLAND, Fla. — The new Savannahs at Sykes Creek golf course here in its first four months didn't make enough money to cover expenses, but Brevard County officials aren't panicking.

Said Tom Jenkins, county administrator, "To say the Savannahs is in trouble is premature." He thinks course activity will pick up.

County officials expected the course, which opened in May 1990, to bring in \$1.2 million during the 1990-91 budget year that started Oct. 1. That amount would cover operating expenses and two bond payments of \$172,092 each.

During the first four months, greens fees, cart rentals and pro shop sales realized \$278,814. This was \$121,186 less than needed to stay on track.

County officials are cutting back employees' schedules and offering discounts to attract more golfers.

"If it keeps up like now, we'll be fine," said Dave Pemberton, director of golf course operations.

Franklin aboard as Cherokee Ridge construction starts

ARAB, Ala. — Construction of Cherokee Ridge golf course has begun, and superintendent Odell Franklin is aboard.

Local businessman Sid McDonald, president of Brindlee Mountain Telephone Co. here, said the course would meet all design criteria of the United States Golf Association and would be open for play in the spring of 1992. Annual memberships will be available and the course open to the public on a daily-fee basis, he said.

Development would include a residential area between Arab and Huntsville.

Cherokee Ridge will be located six miles north of Arab and 11 miles south of Huntsville, about one mile off U.S. Route 231.

Total project investment will be about \$4 million. Development will begin with 545 acres, with options on an additional 100 acres.

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