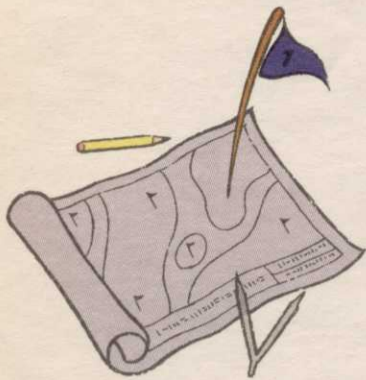


## Briefs

**REES JONES LOOKS WEST**

Golf course architect Rees Jones will design his first course in the western United States — in the Oregon coastal community of Florence.

Jones will lend his talents to the Florence Resort Community (FLORECO), a 242-acre development that began construction in February. The development will include housing parcels and a hotel/commercial site, but the Jones course will be its center.

Working with Jones' team will be The Design Professional Group of Grants Pass, Ore. Engineer T.J. Bossard, community and land use planner Alex Forrester and designer/architect Ken Snelling have worked on numerous coastal residential communities.

"It's a great site with incredible potential," said Snelling.

**WALKER JOINS BURNS GOLF DESIGN**

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.—Thomas E. Walker has joined Burns Golf Design.

Walker has been in the golf business for more than 20 years, most recently as vice president of construction services for Gary Player Design Co.

He also spent five years as a construction manager with Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. He worked several years as a superintendent at various courses, including the Key West Resort, where he was also golf general manager. He earned his bachelor of science degree in agriculture, with a minor in landscape architecture, from Kansas State University.

Burns Golf Design was started three years ago by Steve Burns, a former designer with Tom Fazio.

**RENOVATIONS AT PALMAS DEL MAR**

HUMACAO, Puerto Rico—The Gary Player-designed 18-hole championship golf course at Palmas del Mar Resort, located on the Caribbean coast of Puerto Rico, has undergone \$750,000 in improvements.

The par-72, 6,960-yard course and all other resort operations have been managed by Dallas-based Club Resorts Inc. since last May when the firm was selected by Houston-based owner MAXXAM Properties Inc.

Improving the drainage and irrigation systems throughout the course was one of the most significant projects undertaken, said Mark Tallmadge, superintendent. An extra 300 yards were added to the course through redesign of the tee boxes on the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th holes. Each of the 18 holes features two to four tee boxes.

# Finishing a tourney track with style



The 18th at Doral's Green Monster course (above) garnered the respect of PGA Tour players, as did the finishing hole at Augusta National (below).



## PGA players comment on how to build a tough but fair 18th hole

By Bob Seligman

Creating a great finishing hole encompasses a variety of ingredients, according to PGA Tour professionals. Take a heaping of toughness, although the exact amount is debatable. Measure shot making values and whether the hole is for a scratch or high-handicap player. Enclose in natural elements. Broil in a pressure-cooker situation that demands the best out of the player, particularly in a tournament situation. Top with tradition.

"You try to give the people something to remember, not necessarily in a negative note to carry water 250 yards," said Hale Irwin, a three-time U.S. Open champion. "You want to test them for that they can achieve."

Touring professionals differ on the degree of toughness required of a great finishing hole to make a player's achievement possible. Some said a great finishing hole should be one of the toughest holes on a course, while others feel it shouldn't be that difficult.

"It ought to be difficult," said Irwin, who has his own golf course design business. "You should close any course with a hole that's in the top 20 percent or 30 percent in difficulty."

"It doesn't have to be the toughest hole," said Steve Ballesteros, a former British Open and Masters champion who has designed 12 courses in Spain and France "but it should be tough to make birdie."

"You want a real tough finishing hole, no matter what the par may be," said former U.S. Masters and PGA champion Raymond Floyd.

But some players feel that less-difficult holes can still make great finishers.

"It should be relatively easy," said Paul Azinger, one of the PGA Tour's leading money winners, "You want to leave a good taste in the mouth of the guy who plays there every

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## Europeans beginning to experience growing pains on development front

By Peter Blais

An influential member of the European golf industry fears the many government and golf industry committees trying to establish course construction guidelines could hinder new development in the region.

"I am very concerned about the future of golf in Europe, unless we get our act together and properly organize," said Jaime Ortiz-Patino, president of the Club de Golf Valderrama in Sotogrande, Spain, recently voted the top course in Europe by the European magazine *Golf World*.

Ortiz-Patino is also founder of the Valderrama Award, given annually to a Spanish turf student to study at a U.S. turf school.

One of Ortiz-Patino's major concerns involves the United Kingdom's Joint Golf Course Committee, which includes the four national golf unions — British, Welsh, Scottish and Irish. The committee's goal is to work with the four unions and other European associations to improve the quality of European golf.

Patino is a member of a JGCC technical committee, charged with improving de-

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The 4th hole of The Boulders' new nine features an elevated tee overlooking the fourth fairway with a vista all the way to Pinnacle Peak. The par-4, 409-yard hole has a natural wash to the left that is home to quail, mule deer and a family of bobcats. Saguaro cacti line the fairway and a two-level green is tucked away behind a rock formation.

## Morrish designs new nine holes for The Boulders

CAREFREE, Ariz. — In case The Boulders had not won enough plaudits, Westcor Co.'s private-resort course has opened a new nine holes designed by architect Jay Morrish.

The new nine joined the existing Boulders Nine, creating The Boulders South Course. The nine-hole Lake and Saguaro layouts are now The

Boulders North Course.

Morrish designed the new nine for golfers of all skills and strengths.

The original Boulders Nine was designed by Robert Lawrence in 1969. Arthur Jack Snyder added nine holes in 1974, revised the original nine, and made occasional changes for several years.

# Opinions differ on just what makes a great finishing hole

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day, but you should have a hole where one guy can make an eagle and one guy can make a par. Why would the tournament be over if a guy has a two-shot lead (going into the 18th hole?)

"It can't be too hard," said Howard Twitty, a consultant on the Tournament Players Clubs in Cromwell, Conn., and Scottsdale, Ariz. "There has to be good shot reward."

Touring pros cited many ways for great finishing holes to create

good shot reward. Ben Crenshaw, a former Masters champion who is designing classical-type golf courses, said that great finishing holes should be exceptionally trapped and could play into the wind.

"They all have a great flair of individuality to them," said Crenshaw. "They fit the puzzle."

Other pieces go into the figsaw of great 18th holes. Nick Faldo, a two-time British Open and Masters champion, said there should be a big bunker to make players avoid hitting to a certain side of the hole.

"There's got to be the scare factor in it," said Faldo. "You're playing the 18th hole under pressure so you have to hit it where you intend to hit it. The hole should just demand two or three shots you have to hit and if you don't hit them, then you'll be struggling."

Azinger likes to see bunkers around the green, but not necessarily in front of the putting surface. He doesn't feel a great finishing hole should be a par-5 that demands that has to be a shot carried over a bunker.

"The greatest finishing holes should be par-5's that can be reached in two with an element of risk after a great drive," said Azinger.

Ballesteros favors smaller greens with more definition, which can be gained by having bunkers on the side of the greens. Ballesteros's fellow countryman, and course designer Spanish sensation Jose Maria Olazabal, said a great finishing hole should have a well-protected green capable of having multiple pin placements.

"It has to be tough to really put

the pressure on the guy leading," said Olazabal. "It doesn't need to be long, but it needs to be tight, with fairway traps. You're forcing everyone to hit a good shot off the tee and into the green."

Olazabal said that the best finishing hole in golf is the 18th at Augusta National Golf Club, which has decided the fate of many Masters winners and losers. He said a precise tee shot is needed on the dogleg right hole because of the trees on the right and the fairway bunkers on the left. Olazabal added that the sloping, two-tiered green offers many tough pin placements while traps on the right and left protect the green.

While Olazabal favors Augusta National's 18th, Floyd called the 18th hole at Doral Country Club's Blue Course in Miami, Fla. "the best finishing hole I've ever played."

"It's beautifully designed. It plays into the prevailing wind," said Floyd, a two-time winner of the former Doral Eastern Open Invitational (currently the Doral Ryder Open). "A lake sits down around the driving area. Very few players can hit it over the water, and have to fit their drive into a 20-yard area on the right. There is a tendency to bail out to the right. If you miss the green to the left, you're down in the water again."

But no matter how many traps in the fairways, undulations in the greens, and water hazards that an 18th hole may have to make it tough, a finishing hole's greatness may be determined by the architects' ability to work with the natural terrain.

"You've got to have the natural elements," said Crenshaw. "Some come off naturally. Some looked forced."

"Any hole has to fit into the land," said Twitty. "You can't fit a round peg into a square hole."

Crenshaw and Twitty cited the 18th hole at Pebble Beach, which dares players to flirt with the Pacific Ocean that borders its left side, as a prime example of dealing with what is there.

"The 18th hole at Pebble Beach is a great hole," said Twitty. "Obviously, my 10-year-old daughter could have built a great hole there."

While PGA Tour professionals spoke of the conditions that make a finishing hole great, Ted Horton, the former head groundskeeper at Winged Foot Golf Club and currently the director of Sports and Grounds at Westchester Country Club in Harrison, N.Y. (where these interviews were conducted) mentioned the tradition that can make an 18th hole extraordinary.

"A great finishing hole has to have history, which takes time to develop - something like Bob Gilder's double eagle (in 1982 on Westchester's par-5 18th hole)," said Horton.

"If it's a par-5, there has to present an opportunity for two phenomenal shots for someone to turn the tide," added Horton. "There has to be risk and reward. It has to require the absolute best of you."

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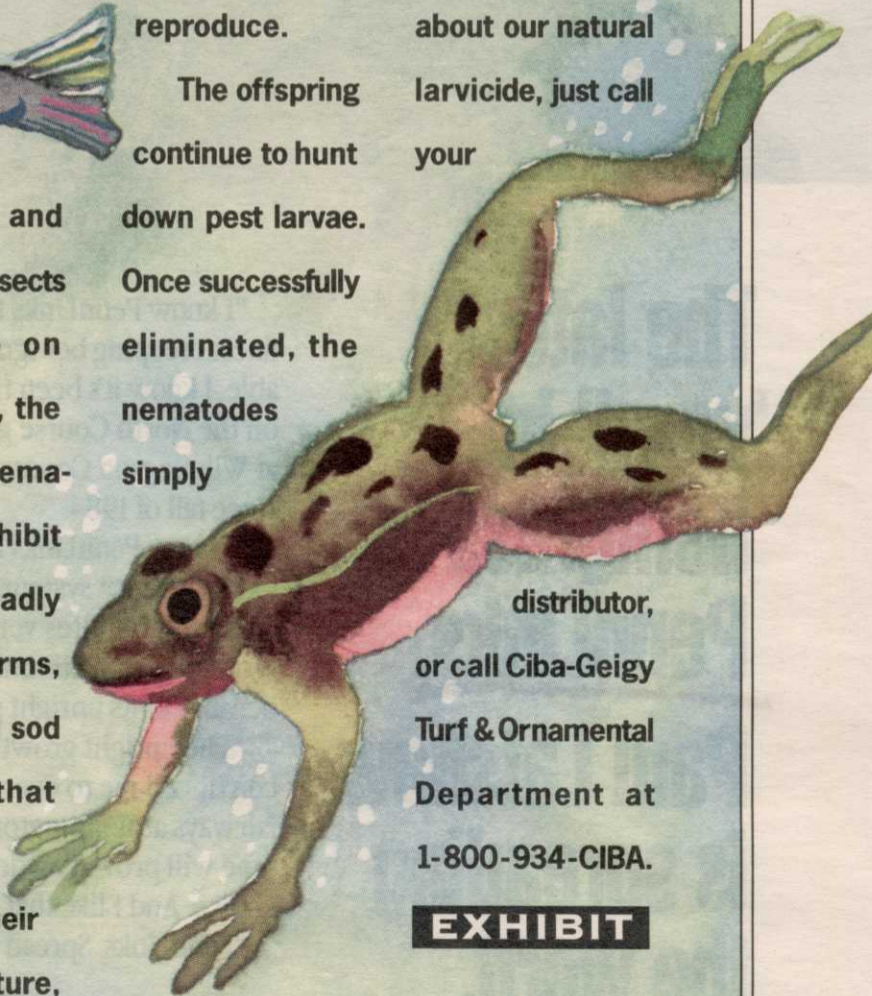
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