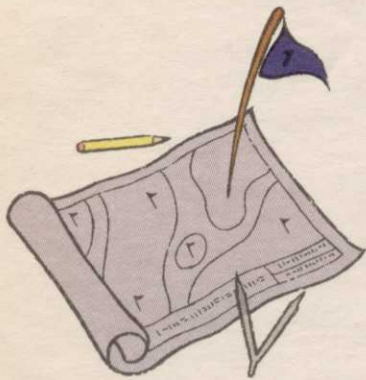


Briefs

**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 MAXAM 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

Continued on page 46

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-

Continued on page 26



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.

European development

Continued from page 24

sign standards of British courses and setting guidelines on how they should be built.

Patino is worried about remarks by fellow committee member Brian Pierson, chairman of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. Pierson said the builders' group is considering developing English standards for building greens to "combat" USGA specifications, according to Patino.

"We're not at war. So why the word combat?" he asked. "When I read these reports, I get very worried. I can't see why we just can't adopt what works. I don't mean we should just accept everything the USGA says. But why not use what has worked for many years as guidelines? The European PGA Tour is also very concerned with this approach."

The European Golf Environmental Committee was also formed recently. Among its members are the Golf Course Wildlife Trust and the European Golf Association.

The group's objectives include setting national standards for building and maintaining golf courses; developing turfgrass research institutes; establishing the position of golf relative to environmental groups; introducing measures to popularize golf; establishing the committee as an independent subsidiary of the European Golf Association; and organizing an international golf institute controlled by the EGA.

"They will be duplicating a lot of existing efforts. What it is they are planning to do I really have no idea," Patino said.

Finally there is the "big dagger hanging over everybody in Europe," the European Committee for Uniform Standards. Working out of Brussels, it aims to establish uniform standards for all sports in the 12 European Community member countries.

So far, the committee has concentrated on soccer, cricket, field hockey, tennis and other sports. But within two years, it will be studying golf, including how courses should be built

and maintained.

"We have to get them information about golf so they don't come up with some crazy edict about the way courses should be built and maintained," Patino said. "It's a very big concern. We have to get them to come up with something sensible."

"If, in the meantime, we are all fighting among ourselves, it's going to be very difficult."

Concerted efforts to establish common standards in other sports have been occurring in Europe for some time, Patino said. But that is not so with golf.

American groups like the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and U.S. Golf Association have long-established golf standards. Patino believes the European uniform standards committee would be better off incorporating these tried-and-true guidelines rather than adopting a little of each European country's standards.

While borrowing some of each nation's expertise may be politically easier, it may result in poor standards, he said.

The major danger is the various golf associations dissipating their efforts in uncoordinated and under-resourced programs, he said.

While somewhat bearish on future development, Ortiz-Patino is bullish

on the immediate past.

In 1990, 250 new European courses opened. France, 73, and the United Kingdom, 59, accounted for more than half, Ortiz-Patino said.

In 1991, Europe opened 240 courses. The UK took the top spot with 67 new facilities, followed by France and Sweden with 40 and 25, respectively.

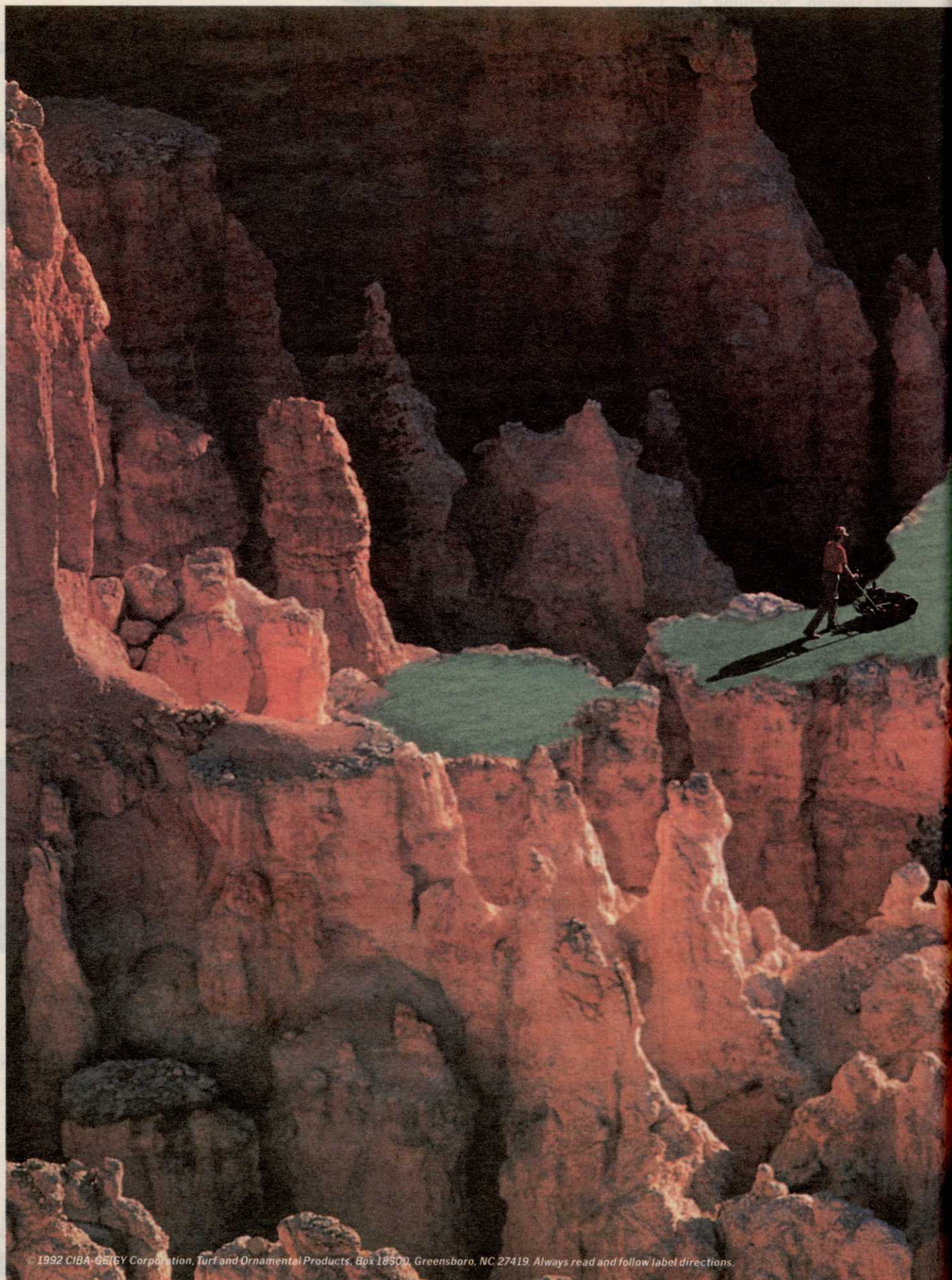
At the start of 1991, there were 3,678 courses throughout Europe. Sixty percent were in Britain, with one 18-hole course per 26,600 citizens. That's far better than the 112,000 people per course in continental Europe, but slightly behind the one course for every 23,000 inhabitants in the United States.

While Britain was Europe's most

prolific golf course builder last year, the gap between continental Europe and the British Isles is narrowing. By 1997, the rest of Europe should have as many golfing facilities as the United Kingdom.

But Europe is unlikely to ever catch the United States, which has about 10,000 more courses and is growing at a slightly faster rate, Patino said.

"I wish in the meantime they (Europe) would find ways to just keep them (courses) in as good playing condition (as in the United States)," he added during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Forum at its annual conference and show in New Orleans.



Openings

Country	1990 New	1991 Projected
Austria	2	7
Belgium	6	4
Denmark	4	7
England	49	50
Finland	10	10
France	73	40
Germany	20	26
Greece	0	0
Ireland	6	10
Italy	10	12
Luxembourg	0	1
Netherlands	6	11
Norway	5	4
Portugal	1	3
Scotland	2	5
Spain	26	12
Sweden	25	35
Switzerland	1	1
Wales	2	2
Yugoslavia	0	0
Total	248	240

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