

Tour 18 recreates selection of best holes in the nation

HOUSTON — Orville and Wilbur Wright never dreamed their flying machines would make it possible to reconstruct No. 6 at Bay Hill in a Texas oil field. But that's just the case outside Houston, where a group of businessmen is using aerial photos and computer technology to recreate 18 of the nation's top golf holes.

The course in question — and currently under construction — goes by the name Tour 18, and it's located 1-1/2 miles east of U.S. 59 on top of an old oil field purchased

from Texaco. Arnold Bruns, former greens superintendent at Pinehurst, has been hired as groundskeeper.

Recreational Development Consultants of Maryland hit upon the fly-by technology out of necessity because most courses and architects keep their blueprints under lock and key. In addition, most courses do not allow land surveys.

The technology involves photographing a particular hole, then feeding it into a computer. The computer converts the photo into a three-

dimensional color image, showing the exact dimensions of the hole and its topographical changes.

The three-D images are so accurately detailed a construction engineer driving a bulldozer can look at the photograph and know the exact dimensions of greens and bunkers.

Low-flying planes are not allowed over Pebble Beach, Augusta National and Colonial, so the Houston group bought engineering plans from the original builders and construction companies involved in the projects.

The only thing builders won't recreate are bentgrass greens. Texas heat and heavy traffic dictated the use of Tiff Dwarf Bermuda.

The group started with a list of 300-plus holes and narrowed it to the following 18:

- No. 1: 18 at Harbour Town
- No. 2: 6 at Bay Hill
- No. 3: 3 at Pinehurst No. 2
- No. 4: 18 at Inverness
- No. 5: 11 at Augusta National
- No. 6: 12 at Augusta National
- No. 7: 13 at Augusta National
- No. 8: 4 at La Costa

No. 9: 17 at TPC-Sawgrass

No. 10: 10 at Desert Inn

No. 11: 6 at Disney World

No. 12: 3 at Colonial

No. 13: 14 at Pebble Beach

No. 14: 3 at Oakmont

No. 15: 10 at the Olympic Club

No. 16: 11 at Merion

No. 17: 8 at Oak Tree

No. 18: 18 at Doral

RDC has copyrighted its name and plans to build at least 10 similar tracks all over the country, each with different holes depending on the available terrain.

PGA sponsors minority summer intern program

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.— The PGA Tour has established an annual summer internship program for minority students that begins this year.

Fifteen paid internships will be available from June 15 through Aug. 14 for male and female African-American, Asian-American, Native American and Hispanic students.

Eight of the internships will be based in or around PGA Tour headquarters. Two are with PGA Tour Productions, one is in the communications department, another is in data processing, and one is available in golf course design. Three others are available at the TPC at Sawgrass in the food and beverage, professional services and course maintenance areas.

Two internships have been established with the Tour's promotions area, and will involve traveling the Tour week-to-week. Another position will be based in Pinehurst, N.C., and will focus on helping organize/promote the Tour championship.

Four other opportunities have been arranged outside the PGA Tour. Single positions are available at both Golf Digest and Golf World Magazine in Trumbull, Conn.; one in Princeton, N.J., with the Merrill Lynch Shoot-out program; and one will be based with the Centel Western Open in Chicago.

"One of the goals of this program is to increase awareness in the minority community of the wide range of business opportunities within the golf industry, beyond just the competitive side," said PGA Tour Commissioner Deane R. Beman. "We're pleased with the diversity of opportunities we're able to make available in the first year of the program."

Qualifying criteria for the positions vary, but in general the program seeks juniors and seniors with interests in golf and solid academic histories.

The Tour has retained Stringer Marketing Group to help process applications and administer the program. Parties interested in receiving an application form should contact Karen Durden at: PGA Tour, 112 TPC Blvd., Ponte Vedra, Fla.

