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Tour pro Wrenn, George design first course together

By MARK LESLIE

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — PGA Tour pro Robert Wrenn Jr. and Lester George have joined forces to design their first course together — The Colonial.

Construction begins this spring on the championship daily-fee facility. The par-72 course will measure from 5,500 to 6,900 yards off four sets of tees. A range will be surrounded by a three-hole practice area consisting of a 3, 4 and 5.

"Hopefully, we'll do a number of additional courses together,"

said Wrenn, a native Richmond where George's Colonial Golf Design is headquartered. "I hope to do a couple a year with him."

"I'm working as a consultant on this one [The Colonial]. My greatest input will come when we actually start clearing land and I can help make some field decisions with [George]... Obviously, field changes get expensive and you want to avoid them if you can. But to build a good course you have to go out with an open mind and make adjustments to get the best

bang for your buck."

At The Colonial, Wrenn and George are working with a property bordered on one side by more than 4,000 feet of tidal marsh.

"We have worked very hard to preserve the sensitive wetlands, habitats and specimen trees that exist on the site, while creating a memorable, challenging golf course," Wrenn said.

"From a golf course architecture perspective, the terrain has a rare blend of transitional slopes and predominantly flat ridges that

make for challenging and beautiful golf," George added. "We are extremely fortunate to have a piece of land so perfectly suited for golf."

"The entire design has been predicated on 'uncovering' a golf course, not fabricating one with enormous earth movement."

The 33-year-old Wrenn took the PGA Tour by storm when he nearly caught the record 27-under-par while winning the Buick Open in 1987.

That kind of impact on the world of course architecture is not on Wrenn's mind, as he continues to concentrate on playing the Tour. But he does have definite ideas of a well-designed golf track.

"I've always been a real fan of traditional-type golf courses. I'm not a fan of target golf courses," he said.

Wrenn said too many courses were built the last 20 years that were "too difficult and severe for the average player. The 15-handicapper is the backbone of golf and he's the one you have to really cater to."

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He said he likes "subtle greens — not huge mounds, undulations and elephants buried."

When golfers tee off from Wrenn's holes, he wants them to see "that it's nice-looking, that there's trouble out there and you have to stay from it. But it's not confusing."

Cocoa Beach CC opens 3rd nine to finish remake

COCOA BEACH, Fla. — The total renovation of the old Cocoa Beach Country Club is complete, with opening of the final nine holes for the 27-hole facility.

In March 1992 the former Cocoa Beach Municipal Golf Course re-opened its original 18-hole course, now a full-blown upscale public recreation facility with clubhouse and sports complex.

Then course architect Charles Ankrum went to work on the new nine, designing distinctive holes with abundant mounds and lakes.

City residents voted in 1989 to spend \$4.3 million to overhaul the facility to meet the demands of tourists to the resort community. The windswept terrain borders on a mile and a half of Banana River shoreline about a half mile from the Atlantic Ocean.

The three new nines are the River Course, featuring eight water holes; Dolphin Course, with water on all holes; and Lakes Course, with seven water hazards.

The Audubon Society has inventoried 41 species of birds on the property, and dolphins and manatees inhabit the river.

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